



# WFP Iran Country Brief

## WFP Assistance

Food Assistance and Education Incentive for Afghan and Iraqi Refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200310 (July 2013- Dec. 2017)	16.9 m	17.1 m (101%)	-

\*November 2017 – April 2018; considering projected requirements for the ICSP

GENDER MARKER **2A** PRRO 200310

WFP aims to ensure basic food security for vulnerable Afghan and Iraqi refugee households living in refugee settlements in Iran. WFP, UNHCR and the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs (BAFIA) assess, through vulnerability criteria, those households eligible to receive full food basket meeting 100 percent of daily energy requirements for vulnerable refugees. This includes female-headed households; with an elderly, or chronically ill person; with a person living with disabilities; with one breadwinner considered "extremely vulnerable". Currently 45 percent of the targeted refugees are considered extremely vulnerable. The food basket consists of fortified wheat flour, fortified vegetable oil, rice, sugar and lentils.

A partial entitlement is provided to the vulnerable households (covering 55 percent of the people targeted) who are able to meet some of their food needs through other sources. The partial entitlement includes fortified wheat flour, fortified vegetable oil and lentils, covering over 60 percent of their daily caloric requirements. Since this group has at least one breadwinner in the household, it is assumed that they are able to provide their remaining 40 percent of food requirements.

WFP supports girls and young people from the assisted refugee settlements in completing their education. Take-home entitlements of fortified vegetable oil are provided as an incentive for families to encourage the enrolment and continued attendance of girls in primary and secondary schools and young male and female beneficiaries who attend skills training courses. Youth from the settlements receive an incentive of vegetable oil to attend technical

## Highlights

- In October, WFP Iran assisted 12,978 refugees with full entitlements and 16,076 with partial entitlements.
- WFP Iran organized the Interim Country Strategic Plan Workshop on 22-23 October for staff members of the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA).

training courses to increase their livelihood opportunities. The implemented activities are consistent with WFP Strategic Objective 1, to save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies and 2, to support or restore food security and nutrition and establish or rebuild livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies. Through this operation, WFP aims to improve food consumption and dietary diversity of vulnerable refugee households and to increase access to education and human capital development for refugee children and youth.

WFP and UNHCR conducted a Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) in May 2016, which recommended periodic review of all joint operations to assess refugees' food vulnerability, capacities and nutritional needs, and to ensure they are adequately addressed through the ongoing operation. The JAM recommended an inter-sectorial assessment be conducted to ascertain the feasibility of transitioning the transfer modality of assistance from in-kind to cash-based transfers (CBT). A follow-up inter-sectorial assessment was conducted in August 2016, of which one key recommendation was the adoption of a hybrid system to provide refugees with unconditional cash alongside in-kind distribution of wheat flour. The recommendations will be implemented with the start of Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) on 01 January, 2018.

## In Numbers

**30,000** targeted refugees

**29,054\*** refugees received WFP food assistance in October

\* October and November distributions of fortified vegetable oil for will take place jointly in the latter month.



Main Photo

Credit: WFP/M. Khodabakhsh  
Caption: WFP warehouse/ distribution center in Rafsanjan settlement, Kerman Province



October 2017

## Operational Updates

- In October, all five food commodities were available in all settlements and all refugees received full entitlements. In total, WFP food distributions reached 8,135 women, 8,135 men, 6,101 girls and 6,682 boys.
- In October, 74 female and 70 male refugees participated in skills training courses that included embroidery, sewing, plumbing, in four settlements of Bardsir, Ardakan, Meybod and Torbat e Jam. The participants received four bottles of vegetable oil.
- WFP Iran organized a two-day workshop in Tehran from 22 to 23 October 2017. The purpose of the workshop was to formally introduce the new hybrid transfer modality (cash and wheat flour), which will be launched on 01 January 2018, and to familiarize BAFIA with necessary criteria to register the refugees in the cash component programme. The assistance package will comprise of unconditional cash assistance of approximately 10 USD/person combined with 9 kg of wheat flour per person/day. Refugee girls will receive a cash incentive for their regular attendance in school. The workshop was attended by 40 staff members from the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA), who assist with WFP food commodities in 20 settlements, in 13 provinces across the country where 30,000 Afghan and Iraqi refugees receive assistance.

## Partnerships

- All international humanitarian assistance for refugees is administered by BAFIA, the government department responsible for refugee affairs. BAFIA is accountable to and responsible for WFP customs clearance, storage and distribution of WFP commodities. The Refugee Council at each settlement constitutes the Food Management Committee, where men and women refugee members participate in food storage and distribution under the supervision of BAFIA. WFP's PRRO is implemented in close cooperation and coordination with UNHCR.

## Gender

- WFP, together with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrant Affairs (BAFIA), continues to advocate for greater participation of women in social, and cultural activities through arranging meetings with provincial authorities, refugee councils, settlement authorities and men and women themselves during monitoring visits. The issuance of WFP entitlement cards under the name of women for each household, which has become standard practice for WFP over the years, has in part contributed to the empowerment of women at household level.

## Country Background & Strategy



The Islamic Republic of Iran, is an upper-middle income country with a population of 80,481,000 people, and is the world's fourth largest refugee-hosting country. Despite efforts to facilitate the repatriation of refugees living in Iran, a significant number of poor and food insecure refugee households continue to require humanitarian support, including WFP food assistance. Currently 30,000 of the most vulnerable refugees, live in the 20 settlements throughout the country receiving WFP Food assistance since 1987. The organization is now planning to shift most of its food assistance with cash. While families continue to receive a small amount of wheat flour, the bulk of the assistance is handed out in cash, which can be spent in shops and markets inside the settlements. This restores the dignity and diversifies the dietary intake of refugees, who are now able to buy food of their own choice; benefits the community as a whole by encouraging purchases in local shops; and increases the efficiency of assistance. In another shift from its traditional modus operandi in the country, WFP is also supporting activities that will enhance the livelihoods of refugees and equip them with better skills to rebuild their lives once they go back to their countries.

Total refugees: 979,410

2015 Human Development Index:  
69 out of 188

Income Level: Middle income

Gender Inequality Index: 69 out of  
188

## Donors

Germany, People's Republic of China, Multilateral funds, Republic of Korea and private sector

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