

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



World Food Programme in the Islamic Republic of Iran

History

WFP's first ever operation was during the devastating earthquake in Boin Zahra, Iran in 1962. WFP was present in Iran until 1978 and reopened in 1987 to assist the asylum seekers who fled from Afghanistan and Iraq due to conflicts and insecurity in their homeland. Since then, the organization has been providing food assistance to the Afghan and Iraqi refugees residing in settlements located across the country.

Vision

The United Nations World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience.

Work in Iran

Iran currently hosts one of the world's largest population of refugees. WFP has worked alongside the Government of the I.R. Iran for the past 30 years to provide food assistance to the most vulnerable refugees with a food basket consisting of rice, sugar, pulses, cooking oil and wheat flour.

As of January 2018, the organization introduced a new transfer modality; a combining food with cash assistance. Under this modality families continue to receive their entitlement of wheat flour, oil and pulses in kind and the rest in form of cash, which can be spent in shops and markets inside and outside the settlements. This combination restores the dignity and diversifies the dietary intake of refugees who are now able to buy food of their own choice.



The new modality increases the efficiency of WFP assistance and is also beneficial to the community as a whole since the local shops in settlements are oftentimes run by refugees themselves. WFP also supports the Government of Iran in emergency operations, by providing logistics services and food assistance when required.

THE INTERIM COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN (I-CSP) 2018- 2022

This four-year Strategic Plan with the overall budget of USD 33,609,470 million, will achieve its intended objective ensuring that food insecure refugees in Iran are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs, through three activities:

Activity 1: Provide **unconditional** food assistance to food insecure refugees:

31,000 food insecure refugees living in 20 settlements in Iran are eligible for WFP assistance using the new transfer modality of combination of wheat flour and cash to support their daily food needs.



Activity 2: Provide **conditional** support to **women** and **girl refugees** to incentivize and facilitate **educational** and **livelihood** activities:

The Strategic Plan will continue striving to eliminate the gender gap by focusing more intensely on supporting and encouraging young girls to regularly attend school. 3,300 Girls who regularly attend school are eligible to receive conditional cash transfers as an incentive that will strengthen their individual capacity to learn and be more empowered. More than 7,000 refugee boys and girls receive healthy and nutritious

school snacks to help boost their nutritional intake and improve their concentration while studying at school. WFP also supports a variety of livelihood activities for refugees to help improve their self-reliance and generate income for the families, while they are in Iran, and ensure they have a sustainable means of income upon their return to their homeland once the situation is conducive for a safe and voluntary return. Tailoring workshop, greenhouse, welding workshop, bakery, fishery etc. are amongst the livelihood opportunities made available to refugee men and women.



Activity 3: Provide **support to the Government** on **emergency preparedness and response**:

In 2019, Iran was lashed by torrential rains, which caused massive flooding in most of Iran's 31 provinces. In response to flash flooding in 2019 and 2020, WFP delivered mixed commodities in the form of family emergency food packages worth [USD \\$1,500,000](#) to the affected people through the Iranian Red Crescent Society. These 30 kilogram emergency food packs catered to the food and nutritional needs of at least 143,000 persons for one month in Khuzestan, Lorestan, Sistan & Baluchestan, Ilam, Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad provinces.

WFP's latest emergency operation began with the COVID-19 outbreak in Iran. With USD 7 Million contribution from the Government of Japan WFP was able to purchase more than 3 million pieces of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to support Iranian health care workers and enhance its support to refugees residing in settlements with food and cash as well as PPEs and hygiene material.