



## 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	14.8 m (86%)	-

\*March - August 2017

**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 households headed by women; with an elderly, or chronically ill person; with a person living with disabilities; with one breadwinner considered "extremely vulnerable". Currently 27 percent of the target group 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 73 percent of the target group) 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 have at least one breadwinner in the household, 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.

## Highlights

- Recent negotiations with the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs indicates a high forecast contribution of EUR 1 million to PRRO 200310, to be confirmed in April 2017.
- In February, WFP assisted 12,751 people with full entitlements and 15,927 with partial entitlements (8,030 woman 6,022 girls, 8,030 men and 6,596 boys).

Youth from the settlements receive an incentive of vegetable oil to attend technical 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 main recommendations of this mission are to simplify the existing targeting criteria for food assistance and consider a shift to a new modality of food assistance through conducting a multi-sectoral assessment. The previous JAM was conducted in July 2012.

## In Numbers

**30,000** targeted refugees

**28,678** refugees received WFP food assistance

**3,433** girls receiving take-home entitlements

February 2017



**Main Photo**

Credit: WFP/Yalda Ashtari  
Caption: Iraqi refugees at distribution center at Bani Najjar settlement in Khuzestan Province.



**February 2017**

## Operational Updates

- In February, 171.2 mt of locally purchased pasta, as well as the first tranche (15 mt) of textured soy protein (TSP), were delivered to all settlements. The pasta will cover three months of the refugees' food requirement until the end of April. The inclusion of TSP was to compensate the shortfall of February lentils requirement.
- Due to inevitable shortfall of fortified wheat flour and fortified vegetable oil in some settlements in April, the Country Office has initiated the local purchasing of 231 mt of fortified wheat flour and 57 mt of fortified vegetable oil to avoid any shortfall, dispatching process will start in March.
- In February, four key food commodities: rice/pasta, lentils/textured soy protein, wheat flour, and vegetable oil were available in all settlements without any reductions. Of this, some 4,500 refugees in three settlements of Dalaki, Rafsanjan and Saveh received almost half of their sugar entitlement due to a delay in custom clearance of this commodity.

## 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. A shift in the perception of decision making regarding the use of food was observed during the 2016 post distribution monitoring (PDM) whereby the proportion of households in which women are the perceived decision makers has decreased from 87 percent previously to 73 percent, simultaneously the perception of equal responsibility between men and women has doubled. 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



Civil and military conflicts in neighbouring countries have impacted Iran ever since its own war with Iraq came to an end in the late 1980s. Although the resource-rich country was able to recover from the war with Iraq, the continuous influx of refugees, especially from Afghanistan and Iraq, has strained domestic capacity, requiring international assistance.

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.

At present, 840,500 Afghan refugees and 45,000 refugees from Iraq are registered in Iran. Although the majority of them live in urban areas, approximately 30,000 of the most vulnerable live in 19 refugee settlements with very limited livelihood options.

WFP has been present in Iran since 1987.

Total refugees: 885,000

2015 Human Development Index:  
69 out of 188

Income Level: Middle income

Gender Inequality Index: 69 out of  
188

## Donors

Republic of Korea, Germany, multilateral funds and private sector