



World Food Programme (WFP)

Vision

The vision of WFP is to end global hunger. Every day, WFP works worldwide to ensure that no child goes to bed hungry and that the poorest and most vulnerable – particularly women and children – can access the nutritious food they need.

WFP supports national, local and regional food security and nutrition plans. It partners with other United Nations agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector to enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food needs.



Afghan refugee children residing in Shahid Beheshti settlement, Fars Province.

In November and December 1961, the FAO and the UN General Assembly adopted parallel resolutions establishing the WFP. In 1962, the new organization was up and running in response to an earthquake in Iran, a hurricane in Thailand and newly-independent Algeria overwhelmed by five million returning



Food distribution to Afghan refugees in Torbat-e Jam settlement, Khorasan Province located in eastern Iran.

refugees. Food aid was needed urgently and WFP was tasked to supply it. Ever since its foundation in 1963, WFP headquarters has been based in Rome, Italy. WFP fights hunger in least-developed and low-income countries where victims of natural disasters, refugees, displaced people and the hungry face severe food shortages. Each year, on average, WFP feeds more than 90 million people in more than 70 countries.

WFP four strategic objectives are:

1. Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies.
2. Support or restore food security and nutrition and establish or rebuild livelihoods in fragile settings or following emergencies.
3. Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs.
4. Reduce under-nutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger.

Work in Iran

The first ever WFP-assisted emergency Operation worldwide dates back to



The 19 settlements under WFP assistance are spread all across the country in 13 provinces ranging from North Western to Southern Iran.



WFP administers an education incentive of take home rations to some 3,000 refugee schoolgirls to ensure their participation in classes.

September 1962 in Iran and in response to the devastating earthquake of Boein Zahra, Qazvin Province which killed more than 12,000 people in September 1962. WFP first opened an office in Iran in 1971 and was active in several projects concerning food assistance until 1979. At the request of the Government, WFP resumed activities in 1987 by providing food assistance to Afghan refugees and later to Iraqi refugees.

Currently, WFP is providing food assistance and education incentive for Afghan and Iraqi refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran through a Protracted Relief and Recovery Project (PRRO).



WFP truck being loaded with food heading towards refugee settlements assisted by WFP Iran.

The food basket provided consists of wheat flour, rice, sugar, oil and pulses and is distributed on a monthly basis to up to 30,000 Afghan and Iraqi refugees living in 19 settlements. Under this project, approximately 2,500 refugee schoolgirls attending primary and secondary schools and 190 female teachers receive take home rations of vegetable oil per month as an education incentive. Approximately 200 refugee youth also receive take home rations for attending skills-training classes in an effort to better equip them with skills for their ultimate return to their homeland.

WFP has continued to assist in emergency operations (EMOP) in Iran, the last of which was in December 2003 when a massive earthquake struck the historic city of Bam in Kerman province, in the southeast of Iran. WFP provided emergency food assistance to up to 100,000 needy people who were living in tents in Bam and its surrounding villages within a radius of 16 km for three months, during which time the beneficiaries were able to gradually re-establish their livelihoods or find other sources of support.