



World Food Programme

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History of Agency in the World and Iran

In November/December 1961, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN General Assembly adopted parallel resolutions establishing the World Food Programme (WFP). The three-year experimental programme was not due to enter into operation until January 1963. In reality it was up and running several months early, as an earthquake hit Iran, a hurricane swept through Thailand and newly independent Algeria was overwhelmed by five million returning 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 poor face severe food shortages. The frontline stretches from sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East to Latin America and Asia Pacific. Each year, on average, WFP feeds more than 90 million people in more than 70 countries.

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

Priorities Globally and in Iran

WFP is the food aid arm of the United Nations system. Food aid is one of the many instruments that can help to promote food security, which is defined as access of all people at all times to the food needed for an active and healthy life. The policies governing the use of World Food Programme food aid must be oriented towards the objective of eradicating hunger and poverty. The ultimate objective of food aid should be the elimination of the need for food aid.

WFP strategic objectives are:

- Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies;
- Prevent acute hunger and invest in disaster preparedness and mitigation measures;
- Restore and rebuild lives and livelihoods in post conflict, post-disaster or transition;
- Reduce chronic hunger and under-nutrition;
- Strengthen the capacities of countries to reduce hunger, through hand-over strategies and local purchase.

Private Sector Partnership

WFP welcomes new and innovative partnerships with the private sector. These partnerships align WFP's core strengths as the largest humanitarian agency with the expertise and strategic objectives of some of the world's most outstanding corporate citizens. In turn, by helping WFP, corporations can engage their employees, customers and stakeholders in a life-saving mission.



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Main projects/activities in Iran

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 Programme (PRRO).

The food basket currently provided consists of wheat flour, rice, sugar, oil and pulses and is distributed on a monthly basis to up to 38,000 Afghan and Iraqi refugees living in 18 settlements.

Under this programme, approximately 2,500 refugee schoolgirls attending primary and secondary schools and 190 female teachers receive about 4 kg of vegetable oil per month as an education incentive.

WFP has continued to assist in emergency operations (EMOP) in Iran, the last of which was in December 2003 when a massive earthquake measuring 6.3 on the scale of Richter 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 Bam and its surrounding villages within a radius of 16 km. The EMOP 10332 was planned for a period of three months, during which time the beneficiaries were able to gradually re-establish their livelihoods or find other sources of support.



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