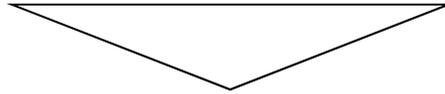




**ALGERIA TRANSITIONAL INTERIM COUNTRY
STRATEGIC PLAN
(2018)**

Duration	12 months (1 January – 31 December 2018)
Total cost to WFP	USD 19,386,218
Gender and Age Marker Code	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Algeria has hosted refugees from the Western Sahara for over four decades in camps near the Algerian town of Tindouf, some 2,000 km southwest of Algiers. While insufficient data is available regarding the exact numbers and vulnerabilities of affected refugees due to political sensitivities, the longstanding refugee context necessitates humanitarian support to ensure access to food, prevent malnutrition and improve livelihoods of vulnerable refugees. Malnutrition has been highlighted as a significant public health concern, and thus is the strategic focus of the transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan. Major nutritional challenges hinder progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2. The joint nutrition survey conducted by WFP and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in late 2016 highlighted the double burden of malnutrition in refugee camps, necessitating immediate attention.

In line with WFP strategic objectives 1 and 2, the transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan aims to meet refugees' basic food needs and improve their nutrition status. Four activities are planned as follows:

1. General food assistance to food insecure refugees
2. Complementary activities/livelihood to Sahrawi refugees
3. Nutrition sensitive school meals for Sahrawi refugee children
4. Provision of MAM treatment and prevention to Sahrawi refugees, pregnant and lactating women and girls and children aged 6 – 59 months

The transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan builds on the lessons learned from WFP's operational experience in Algeria and on results from the 2013 and 2016 joint assessments, and the 2016 nutrition survey.

The transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan will facilitate the continuation of activities while allowing for the introduction of new activities and modalities, including piloting livelihoods interventions and cash based transfers. A Country Strategic Review is expected to be conducted in 2018, after which a Country Strategic Plan will be agreed upon with the Government to support the achievement of agenda 2030, particularly with regards to Sustainable Development Goal 2. Should it not be possible to carry out a Country Strategic Review, an extension to the transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan or an Interim Country Strategic Plan will be sought.

1. COUNTRY ANALYSIS

1.1. COUNTRY CONTEXT

1. Algeria is classified as a middle-income country, ranked 83 out of 188 in the 2016 Human Development Index (HDI).¹ With a total area of 2.4 million sq km, of which the Sahara desert occupies 2.0 million sq. km, Algeria is the largest country in Africa. Algeria has a population of 40.4 million people (2016),² of which 43.6 percent are under the age of 14. The urban population makes up to 70.7 percent of the total population, and is expected to grow in the short to mid-term.
2. In 1975, thousands of refugees from the Western Sahara settled near the town of Tindouf, approximately 2,000 km southwest of Algiers. There, five refugee camps, Auserd, Boujdour, Dakhla, Layoune, and Smara, are located in an area characterized by extreme heat and very low rainfall. The agro-ecological environment is harsh and living conditions are very difficult with limited access to livelihood opportunities.
3. The Government of Algeria has hosted refugees since their arrival, and provided humanitarian assistance until 1986, when the Government of Algeria requested the United Nations humanitarian agencies to provide humanitarian assistance. It is critical that the United Nations agencies maintain commitment to respond to the humanitarian situation until a durable solution is found.
4. The Government of Algeria has provided extensive support for the education and health sectors in the refugee camps, in addition to ensuring an adequate road network and electrical supply to all camps. The Government has granted special status to the Sahrawi authorities for the administration of the territory temporarily occupied by them.
5. Refugees remain largely dependent on humanitarian assistance, including food assistance to cover their basic food needs. In the absence of formal registration of refugees by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), WFP humanitarian assistance provides 125,000 monthly entitlements for the most vulnerable refugees. Out of the 125,000 assisted refugees, 75,847 are women, and 49,153 are men. Girls and boys under five constitute 9,842 and 9,416 respectively, girls and boys aged between 5 and 18 years are 26,337 and 24,311 respectively.

1.2. PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL (SDG) 2

6. The Government indicated its desire that the United Nations coordinates the four result groups emanating from the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) approved in 2015. Cooperation towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is overseen by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who has not been a strong advocate of accepting United Nations support in addressing the SDGs. Regardless, the United Nations, including WFP, has initiated discussions on its availability to provide assistance to the Government.
7. The Government considers that Algeria is a hunger-free country and is therefore less likely to intensify discussions around SDG 2, which is not perceived as a priority. The Government does not see a role for WFP except to provide humanitarian assistance to the Sahrawi refugees living in the five camps.

¹ Human Development Index, 2016

² Office National des Statistiques, 2016

1.3. HUNGER GAPS AND CHALLENGES

8. To date, a formal registration of refugees has not been carried out due to the highly politicized nature of the humanitarian assistance. WFP has been engaging in discussions on the need for more clarity on the number of rations, vulnerability categorization, monitoring needs and assessments to provide an increased evidence base. Discussions should involve all stakeholders including UNHCR, WFP, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the Sahrawi Red Crescent (SRC) and refugee authorities. WFP requires more evidence on the level of vulnerability to food insecurity, the confirmation over time of the nutritional status improvement, continued monitoring of the prevalence of anaemia, diabetes and obesity among other things to inform programme design.
9. The 2016 joint WFP-UNHCR nutrition survey conducted in the refugee camps estimated global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates at five percent, stunting at 17 percent and anaemia at 39 percent among children aged 6-59 months.³ Accordingly, sensitization in nutrition practices and infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices needs strengthening. Among women, 70 percent were found to be overweight or obese, and 45 percent among women of reproductive age were found to be anaemic.
10. After decades of food distribution, the food consumption score (FCS) was found to be acceptable for 80 percent to 91 percent of refugees, improving from 59 percent according to the 2012 nutrition survey. Similarly, the dietary diversity score has increased from 5.88⁴ in 2014 to 9.00⁵ in 2016.
11. Girls' and boys' attendance and enrolment in kindergartens and primary schools showed consistent parity in rates though slightly favourable to girls. Although, enrolment and attendance rates are high, short-term hunger remains an issue. The water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) status of schools was found to be poor however, mostly due to lack of water.
12. Traditionally, the Western Sahara people are semi-nomadic with a diet based primarily on meat and dairy products. Their dependence on food assistance for most of their intake has changed their traditional eating habits. Living in tents and temporary shelters without electricity, conservation of fresh food is difficult, particularly in the extreme summer when temperatures can easily rise above 50 degrees centigrade. Due to this, Sahrawi refugees typically do not consume the recommended amounts of fresh fruit and vegetables.
13. Due to lack of affordable animal fodder, households typically face issues with animal death, poor meat and milk quality and quantity, which further exacerbates the issues of malnutrition, particularly anaemia.
14. Private initiatives to start businesses are on the increase, including for bakeries. Local markets rely mostly on Tindouf for supply but offer a good variety of goods in spite of low cash availability.

³ 2016 Joint WFP-UNHCR Nutrition Survey

⁴ 2014 PDM reports

⁵ 2016 PDM reports

1.4. KEY COUNTRY PRIORITIES

15. A United Nations mission visited the country in December 2016 to identify possible areas of support. The delegation and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) met with the Algerian authorities to discuss Algeria's plan to achieve the SDGs. The Government of Algeria has created six thematic groups encompassing all SDGs, therefore not prioritizing specifically any SDG at this time. The coordination of the six groups is under an inter-ministerial committee. The creation of thematic groups benefitted from a Government comparison of achievements against the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which comes out rather positive. There is thus no clear focus on food security and nutrition, but rather on economic diversification and agribusiness.

2. STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS FOR WFP

2.1. WFP'S EXPERIENCE AND LESSONS LEARNED

16. For the past 30 years, WFP has been providing General Food Assistance (GFA), nutrition and school meals to refugees from the Western Sahara. WFP helped: i) maintain regular access to food and contributed to food security; ii) improve the nutrition status of vulnerable refugees, especially with regards to acute malnutrition as demonstrated by the preliminary results of the 2016 nutrition survey; and iii) contribute to higher enrolment and attendance rates among primary school and kindergarten boys and girls.
17. The 2016 nutrition survey's preliminary results indicate improvement in the overall prevalence of GAM and stunting. However, anaemia prevalence has increased and is increasingly of public health significance in children aged 6-59 months, women of reproductive age and especially pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG). Both overweight and obesity have been identified as an emerging malnutrition issue, affecting women in particular. Two years ago, WFP nutrition activities were fully integrated in the Sahrawi National Programme on Reproductive Health in an effort to provide a comprehensive health care package that includes nutrition prevention and treatment services. To enhance the use of micronutrient powders (MNPs) in the prevention of anaemia, WFP agreed with cooperating partners and the Sahrawi health authorities to conduct four sensitization campaigns for PLWG on the use and benefit of MNPs. In spite of the intensified sensitization campaigns, the utilization of MNPs remains a challenge and WFP and its cooperating partners still need to further investigate and identify a suitable strategy to ensure increased uptake in the use of MNPs. WFP plans to conduct a decentralized evaluation of the nutrition activity in mid-2017 in order to inform the reformulation of the nutrition activity.
18. WFP has been exploring the possibility to use the cash-based transfers (CBT) modality, in combination with GFA. In spite of the hesitation of authorities towards using a new transfer modality, WFP has made some progress with regards to piloting the use of CBT. For example, several assessment missions visited the camps and formulated a pilot phase for implementation in Layoune camp. European Commission Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) provided funding for a two-month pilot covering 7,007 households. WFP purchased equipment for use with WFP's corporate digital beneficiary and transfer-management platform (SCOPE) that would serve as the cash management platform, and several missions took place towards initiating the new distribution modality.

Information was provided to address Sahrawi authorities' concerns regarding the CBT modality, for example: the role of the SRC in managing supply chain and GFA; traders' transport; storage capacity limitations; and payment delays. The pilot cannot be implemented unless guarantees are given on the impact of CBT on funding levels. WFP is exploring the possibility to provide direct exposure to CBT through a field visit to another WFP country where the CBT modality is being successfully utilized.

19. WFP broadened its intervention package, aiming to reinforce its food assistance with complementary activities, focusing on small-scale, low-tech projects that build on existing and external expertise to improve food security and contribute to resilience in the camps. The results of the ongoing hydroponic pilot are encouraging, opening opportunities for scale-up.
20. The Munich-based Innovation Accelerator financed phase one of the hydroponic pilot to develop a low-tech hydroponic production of green animal fodder. One electrical and one solar production unit served to train selected households. WFP used barley seeds, in a partially controlled environment, to produce green fodder in 7-day cycles. Then, refugees received training and material to produce their own animal fodder using several locally adapted solutions. The accelerator has approved a second phase of the same project to test a household and cooperative-based approach, and to provide more equipment for scaling-up local solutions. The progress exceeds WFP's earlier expectations and donors are increasingly interested.
21. WFP presented funding proposals to donors with the aim of scaling-up the hydroponics pilot and initiating two additional pilot projects. Firstly, to pilot the use of reversed osmosis wastewater rejection for fish farming, providing trainings to households and cooperatives, and secondly to pilot a household level dairy production system to increase households' access to goat milk through adapted breeding.

2.2. OPPORTUNITIES FOR WFP

22. WFP food assistance is provided under protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO 200301) "Assistance to Refugees from Western Sahara", which began on 1 January 2013 for an initial duration of two years and ending on 31 December 2017, following several extensions in time. The past portfolio included three main activities: GFA, nutrition, and school meals.
23. In an effort to broaden and innovate its intervention package, WFP Algeria is already piloting a small complementary livelihood activity of hydroponic production of green animal fodder, with a view to scale it up. Two other livelihood pilot activities are envisaged, including fish farming and improving household dairy production through adapted goat breeding. WFP Algeria is also preparing to pilot the use of the CBT modality, coupled with GFA.⁶

2.3. STRATEGIC CHANGES

24. Under the transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP), WFP will continue to implement its current intervention package targeting only refugees from Western Sahara as outlined in the PRRO 200301 project document and subsequent budget revisions.
25. In preparation for the next Country Strategic Plan (CSP), WFP Algeria plans to facilitate a national review process during the implementation of the transitional ICSP with a view

⁶ Subject to outcome of ongoing discussions with local authorities.

to i) discuss the Government development plans regarding SDG 2; ii) conduct a hunger analysis jointly with partners; iii) identify potential new intervention areas for WFP to support Government efforts towards SDG 2; and iv) carry out capacity development initiatives with the Algerian Red Crescent and exchange of experience in relation to the SDGs. Potential intervention areas could include social protection, support to small farmers, and to the national school meals programme. WFP Algeria plans to align the transitional ICSP with the Gender Policy (2015-2020) and inform the implementation of a gender-transformative agenda.

3. WFP STRATEGIC ORIENTATION

3.1. DIRECTION, FOCUS AND INTENDED IMPACTS

26. In line with WFP Strategic Outcome 1 and 2, the transitional ICSP aims to improve the food consumption and nutrition status of Sahrawi refugees in Algeria.

3.2. STRATEGIC OUTCOMES, FOCUS AREAS, EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND KEY ACTIVITIES

3.2.1. Strategic Outcome 1: Food insecure Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf in Algeria meet their basic food and nutrition requirements all year long.

Outcome description

27. The role of WFP's food assistance is to meet the basic food and nutritional needs of the most vulnerable refugees and support their livelihoods. With the exception of households receiving remittances from relatives overseas, most refugees remain highly dependent on humanitarian assistance for their survival.

28. This strategic outcome contributes to SDG target 2.1: everyone has access to food.

Focus Areas

29. The focus of this outcome is crisis response due to the continued presence of refugees in the Tindouf area.

Expected outputs

30. This outcome will be achieved through the following outputs:

- Sahrawi refugees receive food assistance and benefit from nutrition sensitization to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements (Tier 1; category A; E; SR 1)
- Sahrawi refugees benefit from livelihood and asset creation activities including hydroponic production of green animal feed to increase meat and milk quantity and quality in order to meet their basic food and nutrition requirement. (Tier 1; category A; D; SR 1)
- Children enrolled in refugee camps school receive mid-morning snacks to relieve short-term hunger and benefit from nutrition sensitization in order to meet their food and nutrition requirement. (Tier 1; category A; E; SR 1)

Key activities

31. *Activity 1: Provide unconditional General Food Assistance (GFA) to food insecure refugees:* WFP will continue to supply basic food commodities to the refugees through GFA on a monthly basis, while other humanitarian organizations provide complementary fresh fruit and vegetables, canned fish, yeast and tea. Additional distributions of meat and other supplies may be donated on an ad hoc basis through other humanitarian organizations.
32. GFA will be aligned with WFP's corporate commitment to the protection of vulnerable groups and accountability to affected populations (AAP), which will involve regular consultations with affected populations, information provision and a complaints and feedback mechanisms. Staff, cooperating partners and contractors will be trained on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. GFA will take into account gender-equality including the targeting of rations and incorporation of a community-based participatory planning approach to adequately understand and respond to the needs and expectations of the diverse women, men, girls and boys living in refugee settlements, and to improve their participation in all aspects of WFP activities. Nutrition sensitization will be conducted through TV shows and cooking demonstrations.
33. *Activity 2: Provide complementary activities/livelihood to Sahrawi refugees:* WFP will continue to pilot the hydroponic production of green animal fodder in two camps, Smara and Layoune. The activity assists refugees in setting up and managing hydroponic systems to grow fodder in the form of barley, which helps to ensure healthier livestock, improved meat quality and greater milk production. In the second phase of the project WFP will locally procure all the equipment and materials to make local hydroponic units to be managed by refugees organized in cooperatives.
34. WFP aims to pilot new activities to support refugees' livelihoods including using reverse osmosis wastewater rejection for fish farming and helping households to set up their own dairy production systems to increase households' access to goat milk through adapted breeding. These activities were identified after preliminary consultations with population groups and ad hoc technical feasibility assessments.
35. *Activity 3: Nutrition sensitive school meals for Sahrawi refugee children:* WFP will continue to provide mid-morning snacks to primary school students and kindergarten children in the form of high energy biscuits (HEBs) and milk. These snacks aim to improve enrolment and attendance. Under a complementary intervention to the school meals, WFP will start the renovation of school kitchens with the support of its cooperating partners. Nutrition sensitization campaigns will be conducted targeting both school children and teachers in the refugee camp schools.

3.2.2. Strategic Outcome 2: Targeted Sahrawi refugees have improved nutrition status in line with the Sahrawi Authority's standards by 2019.

Outcome description

36. WFP will continue to tackle moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), chronic malnutrition and anaemia through appropriate treatment and prevention programmes in line with existing standards. WFP Algeria will ensure that activities are tailored in order to engage and inform men and women alike to promote shared responsibility for nutrition.

37. This strategic outcome contributes to SDG target 2.2: no one suffers from malnutrition.

Focus Areas

38. The focus of this outcome is crisis response as it entails supporting vulnerable refugees to enhance their nutritional status and combat malnutrition.

Expected outputs

39. This outcome will be achieved through the following outputs:

- Targeted refugees receive specialized nutritious foods (SNFs) as appropriate and sufficient for MAM treatment (Tier 1; category A; B; SR1).
- Targeted refugees receive SNFs as appropriate and sufficient to prevent chronic malnutrition and anaemia (Tier 1; category A; B; SR1).
- Health workers benefit from evidence based policies and receive nutrition training to enhance their nutrition knowledge and skills in order to prevent and treat malnutrition (Tier 1; category C; SR2).
- Targeted beneficiaries benefit from nutrition sensitization to address the double burden of malnutrition. (Tier1; category E; SR2).

Key activities

40. *Activity 4: Provision of MAM treatment and prevention to Sahrawi refugees, PLWG and children 6-59 months:* WFP will provide SNFs to malnourished children aged 6-59 months and SuperCereal and fortified vegetable oil to malnourished PLWG through a targeted supplementary feeding programme. All distributions are channelled through health clinics as part of the comprehensive inter-agency strategy to address and reduce the high levels of malnutrition. Treatment and prevention activities will follow local protocols developed with support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), WFP and other actors active in the nutrition sector.

41. As part of an initiative to tackle high levels of chronic malnutrition and anaemia, WFP will distribute NutriButter® to all children aged 6-59 months, including through sensitization.

42. WFP will continue to train local health workers on nutrition and sensitize refugee health authorities and Sahrawi communities on nutrition issues, including both under nutrition and over nutrition with a focus on issues related to nutrition overall, anaemia, diabetes and obesity.

3.3. TRANSITION AND EXIT STRATEGIES

43. A phasing out of humanitarian assistance is entirely dependent on finding a durable solution to the territorial conflict that has kept the refugees in exile for 41 years. Once a negotiated agreement materializes, WFP would reorient its strategy and resources towards the repatriation of the refugees to their places of origin and the resumption of their livelihoods. This strategy would be implemented in close coordination with UNHCR. Institutionalizing gender equality will be pursued as a requirement for sustained food and nutrition policy and the ability to successfully implement, transition and exit.
44. Over the duration of the transitional ICSP, WFP Algeria will continue to carry out activities as outlined above while working with the Government and partners to complete a national strategic review. Based on the findings of the review, WFP Algeria will tailor a country strategic plan or interim country strategic plan as appropriate.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. BENEFICIARY ANALYSIS

45. *General food assistance*: Pending the outcome of the ongoing discussions on vulnerability of Sahrawi refugees to food insecurity, WFP will continue to provide monthly food entitlements to 124,960 of the most vulnerable refugees in the five camps, particularly women and girls who make up 61 percent of recipients benefiting from assistance. These entitlements continue to be supplemented by fresh produce and high-value food items contributed by bilateral donors.
46. WFP is not provided with lists of beneficiaries receiving commodities under GFA, as this is highly politicized and perceived as linked to the Sahrawi referendum for self-determination. Given the delicate political context, no official registration has been conducted by UNHCR or the host country. Discussions are still ongoing on vulnerability categorization and assessment including targeting criteria. A food security assessment is planned as a basis to review and improve upon the targeting criteria and vulnerability categorization. Meanwhile, WFP continues to take every possible steps for increased evidence of vulnerability to food insecurity. Planned gender analyses will inform the design and beneficiary selection for programmatic planning and implementation.
47. *Hydroponic production of animal fodder*: The pilot project will initially benefit 1,080 people, including 657 women and 423 men. WFP is further exploring other types of livelihood activities and options to scale-up the pilot should funding be available.
48. *School meals*: All enrolled schoolchildren (20,399 girls and 20,101 boys in primary schools and kindergartens) in the Sahrawi refugee camps will receive a mid-morning snack to reduce their short-term hunger.
49. *Nutrition*: 6,360 Sahrawi PLWG and 13,200 Sahrawi children aged 6-59 months and living in the camps receive nutrition support to prevent anaemia and stunting, through knowledge-sharing and dissemination of nutrition prevention messages. For treatment of malnutrition, 1,800 children aged 6-59 months and 1,000 PLWG with MAM living in the camps will be targeted. Sensitization will target health sector authorities and staff.

TABLE 1: FOOD & CASH TRANSFER BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME & ACTIVITY				
Strategic Outcome	Activities	Female	Male	Total
Strategic Outcome 1 Food insecure Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf in Algeria meet their basic food and nutrition requirements all year long	1. General Food Assistance to Food insecure refugees	75 807	49 153	124 960
	2. Complementary activities/livelihood to Sahrawi refugees	657	423	1 080
	3. Nutrition sensitive school meals for Sahrawi refugees children	20 399	20 101	40 500
Strategic Outcome 2 Targeted Sahrawi refugees in Algeria have improved nutrition status in line with the Sahrawi authorities standards by 2019	4. Provision of MAM Treatment and prevention to Sahrawi refugees, PLWG and children 6-59 months	14 860	7 500	22 360
TOTAL		75 807	49 153	124 960

*All beneficiaries are supported with GFA and thus removed from total to prevent double counting.

4.2. TRANSFERS

4.2.1. FOOD AND CASH-BASED TRANSFERS

50. Under the GFA, WFP will distribute from five to nine commodities depending on funding and pipeline constraints, though efforts will be made to maintain a daily caloric value of 2,100 kcal per entitlement. Given the persistence of high levels of acute and chronic malnutrition and anaemia, WFP's general food entitlement includes fortified wheat flour and SuperCereal. The distribution of fresh foods by bilateral donors complements WFP's food assistance.

51. Under the targeted supplementary feeding programme, WFP will provide SuperCereal, vegetable oil and sugar to PLWG and PlumpySup to children aged 6-59 months. Nutributter® and MNPs will be distributed for prevention of stunting and anaemia.

TABLE 2: FOOD RATION (g/person/day) or CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUE (USD/person/day) BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY						
Strategic Outcome	Strategic Outcome 1			Strategic Outcome 2		
Activity	Activity 1 (GFA)	Activity 3 (School meals)	Activity 4 (Prevention)		Activity 4 (Treatment)	
Beneficiary type	Refugees	Schoolchildren	PLWG	Children aged 6 – 59 months	PLWG	Children aged 6 – 59 months
modality	In kind	In kind	In kind	In kind	In kind	In kind
Cereals	400					
Pulses	67					
Veg oil	31				10	
Sugar	33				7.5	
SuperCereal Plus	33				100	
Dried Skimmed Milk		80				
HEB		50				
Micronutrient powder			1			
PlumpySup						92
NutriButter				20		
Total kcal/day	2 100	468	94	108	500	989
% kcal from protein	12	8		10	16	10
Number of feeding days	365	204	365	180	365	365

TABLE 3: TOTAL FOOD/CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS & VALUE		
Food type / cash-based transfer	Total (mt)	Total (US\$)
Cereals	18,260	4,077,506
Pulses	3,056	2,424,854
Oil and Fats	1,418	1,701,087
Mixed and Blended Foods	2,063	1,281,069
Other	2,171	3,180,765
TOTAL (food)	26,967	12,665,281
Cash-Based Transfers (US\$)		0
TOTAL (food and CBT value – US\$)	26,967	12,665,281

4.2.2. CAPACITY STRENGTHENING INCLUDING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

52. WFP plans to organize a visit to another WFP operation that uses CBT to offer a better understanding of this modality to the Algerian Red Crescent and the SRC. It is expected that this would increase the likelihood to obtain the authorities' agreement for use of the CBT modality.
53. As part of their coordination role, UNHCR has set up a working group on emergency preparedness with a view to conduct a gap analysis and propose an action plan especially on capacity strengthening of local actors on emergency preparedness.

4.3. SUPPLY CHAIN

54. WFP's commodities will be procured both nationally and internationally. WFP will opt for local purchases if deemed cost-effective or to avoid imminent pipeline breaks following unexpected delays in the delivery of internationally procured commodities.
55. Imported commodities will be delivered to the port of Oran. The Government has appointed the Algerian Red Crescent (ARC) to receive WFP's food, handle customs clearance and transport the commodities to the extended delivery point (EDP) at Rabouni, some 1,700 km from the port. For local purchases, WFP is responsible for delivering the food to the EDP using commercial transporters. WFP supervises all aspects of the logistics chain including monitoring the performance of ARC, coordinating, and providing support and backstopping in Algiers and Oran when necessary, including facilitating documentation for the timely loading and delivery of commodities from Oran to Rabouni.
56. At the EDP in Rabouni, WFP and ARC monitor the arrivals and dispatches of food through frequent visits to the warehouses, providing guidance on food handling and storage and ensuring proper tracking and reporting.
57. UNHCR is directly responsible for secondary transport and distribution of food, and participates in the joint WFP/UNHCR monitoring of food interventions. UNHCR, in coordination with ARC and SRC, organizes the transport of commodities for GFA from Rabouni to the various camps. School meals date bars are delivered by SRC to the schools, while the commodities for the nutrition interventions are delivered to the clinics. Trucks used for these distributions are maintained in two workshops funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and other donors.
58. The movement of commodities is monitored through WFP's logistics execution support system (LESS), which captures data for the port of Oran, Tindouf sub-office and Algiers.
59. As part of its efforts to improve the storage infrastructure, WFP supported the rehabilitation of existing warehouses and rebuilding food storage platforms destroyed by devastating floods in October 2015.

4.4. COUNTRY OFFICE CAPACITY AND PROFILE

60. WFP Algeria is located in Algiers and has one sub-office in Tindouf, in close proximity to the refugee camps. WFP Algeria has a total of 30 staff, among which 15 are in Algiers and 15 in Tindouf. There are six international staff (four in Algiers and two in Tindouf).
61. The administrative and representative office is in Algiers, where the Country Director and Deputy Country Director are based, together with the support units of reporting, finance & administration, information & communications technology (ICT) and supply chain. The operations office in Tindouf includes the programme unit and the support of ICT and supply chain.

4.5. PARTNERSHIPS

62. The Direction Générale des Affaires Politiques et de la Sécurité Internationales (DGAPSI), within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is the host Government's main interlocutor of WFP, UNHCR and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) related to humanitarian activities in support of refugees. The government of Algeria, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, designated the ARC as the implementing agency for all humanitarian assistance provided to refugees. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ARC and WFP defines the roles, responsibilities and budget. WFP covers all port, storage and transport costs. In addition, a tripartite agreement between ARC, UNHCR and WFP is regularly renewed delineating the respective responsibilities of each agency. ARC report on food movement, distribution, and use of WFP food using WFP/UNHCR reporting formats.
63. The SRC is ARC's implementing partner on the ground, in charge of warehouse management, dispatching transports and distributing the food to over 116 distribution points in the camps. UNHCR, ARC and SRC regularly participate in the monthly coordination meetings at both Algiers and Tindouf levels. The meeting in Algiers, the *cellule de coordination*,⁷ is organized by WFP and the one in Tindouf, the food security meeting, is co-chaired by WFP and SRC.
64. The Comitato Italiano per le Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP) has been a WFP partner for the past four years for the school meals activity and the post distribution monitoring (PDM). CISP trained and empowered 20 female Sahrawi food monitors which allows WFP to get closer to the Sahrawi community and to better understand their needs.
65. Other WFP major partners include Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (OXFAM) for the hydroponic project and the Association des Femmes Algériennes pour le Développement (AFAD) for schools meals in kindergartens.

5. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND EVALUATION

5.1. MONITORING AND EVALUATION ARRANGEMENTS

66. Field monitoring visits, including the distribution process and PDM/beneficiary contact monitoring conducted by WFP, CISP and UNHCR cover all aspects of the GFA provided by WFP. Field visits are conducted with the participation of ARC and SRC, to ensure transparency and dialogue. Appropriate data collection, analysis and dissemination mechanisms, as stipulated in the WFP 2015-2017 monitoring strategy and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan, have been established and are continuously

⁷ Refers to the French name of the coordination meeting

upgraded to show results and achievements, and allow the analysis of activity outcomes. To further ensure alignment with gender policy, M&E will be gender responsive.

67. Weekly monitoring planning meetings are held in Tindouf to ensure coordination and that all the camps are visited. As part of the PDM, households are visited at least a week after receiving the monthly food ration, and interviewed with questions that refer both to the WFP dry ration and fresh foods provided by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs). The second week of the month is dedicated to monitoring the school distributions, while dispensary visits are conducted during the fourth week.
68. Nutrition data is collected by health staff at the dispensaries and supplemented with monitoring data collected by WFP/UNHCR, camp health authorities and NGO partners in line with existing protocols. Interagency assessments and nutrition surveys are conducted every two years to measure the impact of the nutrition interventions on the prevalence of malnutrition. The last nutrition survey was undertaken in October 2016.
69. The school meals activity launched in 2012 in partnership between WFP and CISP is monitored on a monthly basis. Outcome measurements for enrolment and attendance are monitored jointly with education authorities.
70. M&E data is input in a joint WFP/UNHCR database and analysed monthly to inform various WFP Algeria reports including country briefs, M&E quarterly report, or WFP's standard project reporting. Monitoring information is used to discuss implementation issues and beneficiaries feedback and inform operational and programmatic decisions. A light review of the transitional ICSP is planned to take place mid-2018 with support of the regional bureau to document challenges and best practices of new activities and help provide additional evidence with which to build on for the future CSP.
71. WFP plans to introduce the use of tablets for PDM data collection in an effort to standardize data collection and facilitate analysis and reporting among partners active in food security.
72. The hydroponics livelihood project that was piloted during late 2016 has been extended in 2017, with local production modules installed in all camps. Beneficiaries selected will be monitored on monthly basis jointly with partners involved. A monitoring format for quantity produced has been developed and will be sharpened further to monitor the usage of the fodder produced and its impact on animals' consumption.

5.2. RISK MANAGEMENT

➤ Contextual Risks

73. The kidnapping of four NGO staff in 2011 has brought in stricter security regulations to ensure the safety of United Nations staff using government escorts when traveling to the camps. Given these increased security concerns, WFP has prepared a continuity plan that identifies ways in which life-saving interventions can continue despite further restrictions on the presence of WFP staff in Tindouf.
74. The last decade has seen an increased risk of extreme weather events such as heavy rains and flooding even in the Sahara desert. Severe flooding prompted WFP to launch an emergency operation in October 2015 in the aftermath of the flooding that resulted in food stock losses. WFP is addressing these potential risks through i) developing the capacity of Government staff to conduct emergency needs assessments; and ii)

improving food storage facilities to minimize food losses. WFP further aims to preposition sufficient food at the EDP, provided that resources are available, to meet any additional requirements for the refugees resulting from natural disasters.

➤ **Programmatic Risks**

75. The limited number of cooperating partners on the ground, and their reduced capacity since international NGO staff were withdrawn from the camps, represent a key programmatic risk. However, the enhanced security measures put in place are expected to allow the return of international staff. While the office of the Resident Coordinator is leading efforts to develop an Algeria-wide United Nations contingency plan, WFP, in collaboration with UNHCR, is enhancing the emergency assessment capacity of both agencies and counterpart staff.

76. Inadequate funding for complementary interventions may jeopardize the regular delivery of essential non-food items (NFI), and ultimately undermine the impact of WFP food assistance. WFP and UNHCR will invite traditional and new potential donors to take part in annual site visits, during which the overall needs of the refugees will be underlined. This will help ensure reliable and predictable funding for complementary interventions.

➤ **Institutional Risks**

77. The risk of reduced funding, combined with global increase in food and fuel prices, will affect the level of resources available. Resource shortfalls and pipeline delays would have a major negative impact on the nutritional status of beneficiaries as well as their food security. The reestablishment of the security stock for a wider range of commodities will help prevent short-term pipeline breaks. WFP will be able to borrow commodities to cover immediate needs, while purchasing commodities when prices are lower. WFP, in collaboration with UNHCR, organizes annual site visits, inviting traditional and new potential donors in order to diversify the donor base. Furthermore, WFP will continue to widen the donor base, engaging new donors and exploring twinning opportunities.

6. RESOURCES FOR RESULTS

6.1. COUNTRY PORTFOLIO BUDGET

78. The overall budget for the transitional ICSP amounts to USD 19,386,218, including USD 18,828,932 as total direct costs for strategic outcome 1 and USD 557,286 as total direct costs for strategic outcome 2 as outlined in table 5 below.

COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN INDICATIVE ANNUAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT		
<i>(USD)</i>		
	Year 1 2018	Total
Strategic Outcome 1	\$18,828,932	\$18,828,932
Strategic Outcome 2	\$557,286	\$557,286
TOTAL	\$19,386,218	\$19,386,218

6.2. RESOURCING OUTLOOK

79. Overall, funding levels for the operation to assist the Sahrawi refugees has decreased from the last years. Competing humanitarian requirements, declining interest in the Sahrawi crisis and donor fatigue due to longevity of the operation partially explain the decrease. Other reasons include the change in the Euro to USD exchange rate with most of WFP Algeria's funding received in Euros.
80. WFP Algeria has a number of traditional donors, including ECHO, the United States of America, Spain, and Switzerland, that used to consistently provide funding. Stable contributions allowed WFP to plan and programme ahead and use the Spanish Red Cross security stock as a buffer against delays. However, the lack of sufficient funding emerged as an increasing concern in 2015 as WFP experienced increasing delays in the confirmation of contributions and conditionality, affecting its capacity to deliver timely assistance and necessitating the need to borrow from the security stock.
81. For the next few years, WFP Algeria forecasts an amount of funding slightly lower to that of previous years, resulting in contributions of USD 13.9 million annually. This estimation is based on the assumption that the funding from traditional donors will not continue at the current level.
82. In the past years, WFP used resources primarily to ensure food availability under GFA, negatively affecting the nutrition and school meals activities. New findings related to the nutrition situation in the camps, as well as recent efforts to collect additional, evidence-based information on differences in refugees' vulnerability levels might lead to a change in prioritization principles towards the most vulnerable beneficiaries.

6.3. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY

83. One of the biggest challenges is to keep donors' interest in this highly protracted, forgotten crisis, especially at a time of many competing humanitarian crises in the region. At the same time, the Sahrawi refugee crisis is politically extremely sensitive and thus a cautious approach to resource mobilization and donor relations needs to be applied.
84. WFP Algeria donors include Spain, the United States of America, ECHO, and Saudi Arabia, who have for a number of years contributed to operations to assist the Sahrawi refugees. WFP encourages these donors to continue their financial support, by providing regular updates and information on the humanitarian situation in the camps. Such efforts include:
 - a. Inviting donors to participate in monthly coordination meetings in Algiers, where they can directly participate in strategic discussion with different stakeholders (United Nations, NGOs, cooperating partners, and other donors).
 - b. Conducting regular donor visits to the refugee camps (between two to four visits a year), mostly comprised of representatives of embassies based in Algiers. WFP offers to organize special missions specifically for donors.
 - c. Organizing joint donor briefings with UNHCR, UNICEF and NGOs in Algiers every six months. These meetings are open to the entire diplomatic corps in Algeria.
85. WFP Algeria is actively looking into the diversification of its donor base, reaching out to non-traditional donors. This includes regular advocacy meetings with embassies and key figures. In order to attract new donors, funding proposals are specifically tailored to

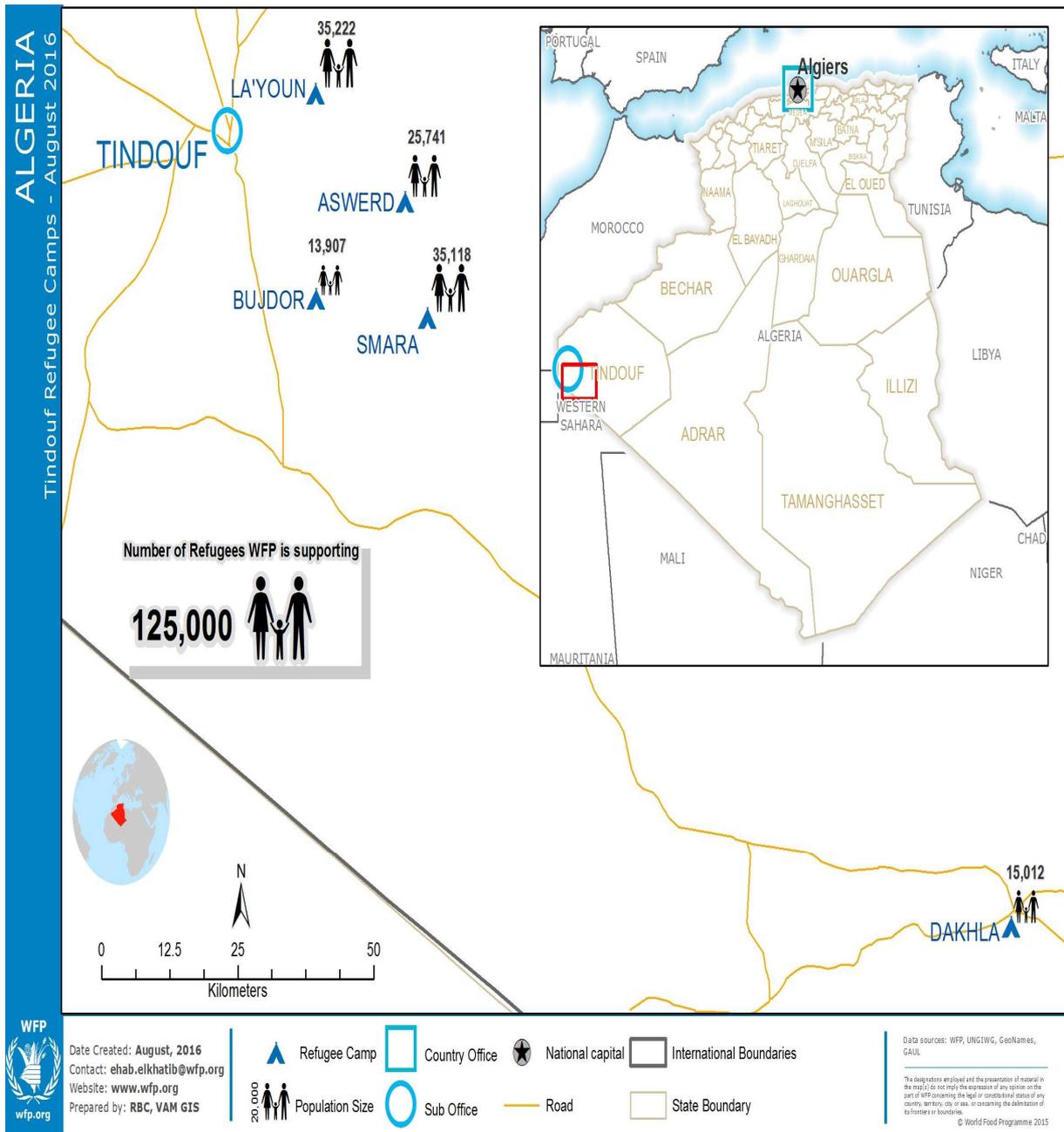
target the donor's specific interests. New and potential donors are encouraged to attend donor visits and meetings.

86. New innovative complementary activities that go beyond the traditional food assistance provide new opportunities to attract donors as well as to generally overcome donor fatigue and keep interest in the operation after 30 years. Funding for complementary activities will be sought over and above the project budget, as per discussions with the authorities.
87. To counter the decreasing funding trend, in the past WFP Algeria has followed an action plan that focused on organizing joint diplomatic missions with UNHCR and UNICEF to show donors and potential donors first-hand the difficult humanitarian situation in the camps. Furthermore, a number of joint donor briefs have been organized in Algiers (February 2016, September 2016, February 2017). Even though representatives of more than 35 embassies participated in missions and meetings, these efforts did not result in significant contributions. As a result, WFP Algeria plans to shift its approach and follow a new action plan for the duration of the transitional ICSP, which will focus on:
- a. Increase meetings with embassies to directly advocate for the operation in order to raise additional funds and attract new donors;
 - b. Invite WFP donor focal points from liaison and regional offices to visit the camps in order to increase visibility and understanding of the operation within WFP;
 - c. Explore possibilities to build new donor base within the Algerian private sector;
 - d. Focus on raising multi-year donations given the longevity of the operation;
 - e. Sensitize donors for the importance of twinning funds, since WFP Algeria is regularly offered in-kind contributions but lacks funds to cover associated costs;
 - f. Use new evidence of the decentralized evaluation of the nutrition activity to highlight the activity's significance and promote it among donors and potential donors.
88. This action plan could be elaborated into a resource mobilization strategy, including a donor analysis and mapping.

ANNEX I: INDICATIVE COST BREAKDOWN

INDICATIVE COST BREAKDOWN ALONG STRATEGIC OUTCOME (USD)			
WFP Strategic Results / SDG Targets	SR 1, SDG 2.1	SR 2, SDG 2.2	Total
WFP Strategic Outcomes	Strategic Outcome 1	Strategic Outcome 2	
Transfer	\$15,288,219	\$396,384	\$15,684,603
Implementation	\$908,660	\$83,000	\$991,660
Adjusted DSC (%)	\$1,400,254	\$41,444	\$1,441,697
Sub-total	\$17,597,133	\$520,828	\$18,117,961
ISC (7%)	\$1,231,799	\$36,458	\$1,268,257
TOTAL	\$18,828,932	\$557,286	\$19,386,218

ANNEX II: MAP



ANNEX III: ACRONYMS

AECID	Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional al Desarrollo
AFAD	Association des Femmes Algériennes pour le Développement
ARC	Algerian Red Crescent Society
CBT	Cash-based Transfer
CISP	Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (Italy)
CSP	Country Strategic Plan
DGAPSI	Direction Générale des Affaires Politiques et de la Sécurité Internationales
ECHO	European Commission Humanitarian Aid
EDP	Extended Delivery Point
FCS	Food Consumption Score
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GFA	General Food Assistance
HEB	High Energy Biscuits
ICSP	Interim Country Strategic Plan
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
JAM	UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Mission
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MNP	Micronutrient Powder
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OXFAM	Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
NFI	Non-Food Items
PDM	Post Distribution Monitoring
PLWG	Pregnant and Lactating Women and Girls
PRRO	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation
SCOPE	System for Cash Operations
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SNF	Specialized Nutritious Foods
SRC	Sahrawi Red Crescent

UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund
WaSH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization
WFP	World Food Programme