



WFP Algeria Country Brief

Algeria 2018

Operational Context

Algeria has been hosting refugees from Western Sahara since 1975. These refugees are in camps in the harsh, isolated desert environment of western Algeria, where opportunities for self-reliance are limited, forcing them to depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival.

In line with WFP's new 2017-2021 strategic plan, WFP Algeria transitioned to a 12-month Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP), extending the previous PRRO's activities under the TICSP.

Despite continued negotiations, there is little sign of a durable solution to the political stalemate and encampment remains the only feasible option for the refugees from Western Sahara for the foreseeable future. The political status quo is fueling anxiety and disillusionment, especially among the young population, which could lead to increased insecurity and tensions in the sub-region.

The 2016 UNHCR-WFP Joint Assessment Mission report confirmed that most refugees from Western Sahara are still highly reliant on humanitarian assistance. The results of the 2016 Nutrition Survey indicate an improvement in the overall nutrition situation of women and children, both global acute malnutrition and chronic malnutrition among children of 06-59 months reduced. However, anaemia rates are at 39 percent among children 6-59 months and 45 percent among women of reproductive age respectively.

WFP currently represents the major regular and reliable source of food for the refugees in Algeria. Upon the request of Algerian Government, WFP has been present in the camps since 1986.

Global acute malnutrition: **< 5%**
of children between 06-59
months

Chronic malnutrition: **19% of
children between 6-59 months**

**Main
Photo**

Credit: WFP/Katharina Meyer-Seipp
Caption: WFP staff work with partners from the Algerian Red Crescent to unload commodities.

In Numbers

125,000 General food rations distributed
2,200 kcal per ration per day reached in April
985 children and women received nutritional support

USD 2.5 m six months (May-October 2018) net funding requirements, representing 13 percent of total

41,426 people assisted
in APRIL 2018

35%



65%



Operational Updates

- Poor funding continued to affect WFP's regular activities. Mid-morning snacks for children in schools and kindergarten only consisted of only half a glass of milk (40 g), without biscuits.
- WFP Algeria thanks ECHO for their recent contribution which will continue WFP's life-saving food assistance to the Sahrawi refugees in Algeria.
- In April WFP was able to provide a complete food basket, distributing 125,000 rations consisting of: 7.6 kg wheat flour, 2 kg barley, 2 kg rice, 2 kg of yellow split peas, 400 g pasta, and 1 litre of fortified vegetable oil. The rations' overall energy intake surpassed the planned requirements, providing 2,200 kcal per person per day.
- To treat Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), WFP distributed daily rations of 100 g Corn Soya Blend (CSB+) with sugar and 10 g vegetable oil to treat 569 moderately malnourished pregnant women and nursing mothers.
- WFP also provided a daily distribution of 100 g of Plumpy'sup, a specialised nutrition product, to treat malnutrition in 369 children.
- No distribution of Nutributter took place in April to prevent chronic malnutrition in children under 5, due to unavailability of the product.
- The provision of Micronutrient powders (MNPs) to prevent micronutrient deficiencies in pregnant and nursing women (PNW) has been suspended, pending results of the decentralized evaluation of the nutrition activity, due mid-year.
- Due to a lack of funding, some 41,426 children in school and kindergartens only received 40 g of milk every day (one glass of milk equivalent to half ration) and no high-energy biscuits.

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WFP Country Strategy

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Total Received (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 19.3 m | 17.7 m | 2.5 m |

WFP Country Activities

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

SO 2 Targeted Sahrawi refugees have improved nutrition status in line with the Sahrawi authorities' standards by 2019.

Complementary Activities

- In 2017, WFP Algeria successfully concluded its hydroponics pilot project. An innovative, low-tech soil-less cultivation of green animal fodder, aiming at reinforcing food security and nutrition amongst the refugee population, by improving the health of goats, as well as the quantity and quality of milk and meat. Some 330 refugees benefitted directly from the pilot project, with 50 low tech units distributed in all five camps. The low-tech unit costs one-tenth (USD 2,500) for a daily production of 60 kg of fodder, compared to the high-tech unit (USD 25,000) for 100 kg. The family kit costs one tenth of the low tech one (USD 250) for 15 kg daily. On average, one goat eats approximately 3 kg per day. WFP is also looking at reducing costs further for better affordability. WFP secured funding to scale up the hydroponics and expect to reach three times as many refugees, with an additional 170 units, and develop training material in several languages to facilitate replication.
- A fish farming cooperative is also being built, offering training in fish farming techniques, while addressing food security and nutrition concerns (increase animal protein intake). The fish production will require additional dedicated funding.

Monitoring

- Final results of the decentralized evaluation of WFP's nutrition activity will be ready by mid-year, this will better inform the nutrition activity reformulation.

- Data collection for the Food Security Assessment (FSA) is completed, preliminary results are expected end of May and final results mid-year.

Challenges

- Continued funding constraints affect the provision of complete school meals and procurement of specialized products, which prevents malnutrition in PNWs and children under five. These issues are likely to negatively affect refugees' nutritional status, increasing the risk of worsening moderate acute malnutrition rates, and further deterioration of the anaemia prevalence amongst children and PNWs.
- A lack of predictable funding often results in breaks of food assistance; due to a three-to-four-month lead time for internationally procured commodities, WFP requires advance notice to schedule accordingly. Fortunately, certain stocks have been made available thanks to prepositioning by the Spanish Red Cross.'

Other

- Certain contributions include restrictions which limit operational effectivity, this can include the number of rations distributed and the activities for which they can be used. In some instances, funding can only be used at the beginning of 2019.
- A proposal drafted by WFP for the use of the cash-based transfer modality is soon to be discussed with the Sahrawi authorities for the nutrition intervention specifically for tackling Anaemia among PLWs.

Donors

Gran Canaria (Spanish region), ECHO, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, United States of America