



# WFP Algeria Country Brief

June 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.

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 6-59 months reduced. However, anaemia rates are at 39 percent among children 6-59 months and 45 percent among women of reproductive age.

WFP currently represents the major regular and reliable source of food for the Sahrawi refugees in Algeria.

Upon the request of Algerian Government, WFP has been present in the camps since 1986.



Camp population:  
**173,600**

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

Camp anaemia prevalence:  
**45% for women 15-49 years**

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

Main  
Photo

Credit: Chiara Herold/WFP  
During 2018 World Refugee Day, Sahrawi refugee women listen to speeches in Rabouni.

## In Numbers

**125,000** General food rations distributed

**2,270** kcal per ration per day reached in June

**13,736** boys and girls received products to treat and prevent malnutrition

**USD 4.3 m** six-month (July-December 2018) net funding requirements

**125,000 people assisted**  
in June 2018

61%

39%



## Operational Updates

- In June, despite funding constraints, WFP distributed an almost complete food basket, distributing 125,000 rations consisting of 8kg wheat flour, 1kg barley, 2kg rice, 1.5kg lentils, 0.5kg yellow split peas, 1kg CSB, 1kg sugar and 1 litre fortified vegetable oil.
- Refugee women, men, boys and girls also received 2kg of dates as part of the general food assistance. The distribution of an energy-packed commodity like dates increased the rations' overall energy intake to 2,270kcal per person per day (vs. 2,100kcal planned).
- WFP distributed daily rations of pre-mix 100g Corn Soya Blend (CSB+) with sugar and 10g vegetable oil to treat Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) amongst 588 pregnant women and nursing mothers.
- 359 children under five received daily rations of 100g of a specialized nutrition product (Plumpy'sup) to treat their malnutrition.
- To prevent chronic malnutrition, 12,789 boys and girls under five took home daily rations of 10g of a special spread (Nutributter).
- The provision of micronutrient powders (MNPs) to prevent micronutrient deficiencies in pregnant and nursing women (PNW) is pending results of the ongoing decentralized evaluation of the nutrition activity.
- WFP will soon resume distribution of fortified wheat flour to counter the high prevalence of anemia.

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## WFP Country Strategy

Total Requirement  
(in USD)

Confirmed Contributions  
(in USD)

Six-Month Net Funding  
Requirement (in USD)  
(July-December)

### Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2017-2018)

19.3 m

18.0 m

4.3 m

## WFP Country Activities

General food assistance to food insecure refugees

### SO 1

Complementary activities/livelihood to Sahrawi refugees

Nutrition sensitive school meals for Sahrawi refugee children

### SO 2

Provision of MAM treatment and prevention to Sahrawi refugees, pregnant and lactating women and girls and children aged 6 – 59 months

## Challenges

- Many refugees rely on food assistance as their main source of food. However, a lack of predictable funding, resulted in the reduction of food assistance over the last months.
- Funding predictability allows WFP to plan and make shipping arrangements. There is normally a three-to-four-month lead time for internationally procured commodities.
- Based on the current funding and pipeline situation, WFP Algeria expects the situation to deteriorate further in July and the coming months. An overall food deficit of 58 percent is foreseen for the second half of 2018.
- The latest nutrition survey in 2016 has shown challenges related to high anemia prevalence among children and women, as well as the emergence of new issues of public health concerns such as overweight and obesity.

## Assessments

- The analysis of the Food Security Assessment is expected to be completed soon. The report will provide WFP with a better understanding of the food insecurity amongst the refugee population and better inform programme response. The final report and results will be shared and discussed with the authorities, donors and partners.
- The final report of the decentralized evaluation of WFP's nutrition activity is being finalized. The evaluation findings and recommendations will inform the reformulation of WFP's nutrition activity to better address the high anemia prevalence and other challenges of public health significance, including the double burden of overweight and obesity, as well as diabetes. The report is soon to be shared with the authorities, partners, donors and the public.

## World Refugee Day 2018

- World Refugee Day honors the strength, courage and perseverance of refugees around the world. After over 40 years of encampment, this day is particularly important for refugees from Western Sahara. This year, the event was celebrated on 25 June due to the celebration of Eid and the end of the Holy month of the Ramadan.
- Refugee women and men, and humanitarian workers from UN agencies and NGOs came together to commemorate the day in Rabouni. Humanitarian organizations presented their work and different interventions through small exhibitions. It was an opportunity for WFP staff to speak with the women and men who were supported by WFP.



WFP/Chiara Herold

- WFP also presented its [low-tech hydroponic project to grow fresh animal fodder in 7-days](#), implemented with OXFAM. A small hydroponic family kit costing USD 250 showcased the approach: animals that feed on the fresh fodder provide more milk and meat. Since 2016, WFP is aiming to diversify its intervention package with small-scale, low-tech projects that reinforce the refugees' resilience and improve food security in the camps.



WFP/Chiara Herold

- WFP believes that in a protracted refugee situation, innovative approaches should play a greater part in humanitarian assistance.