



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES

WFP Algeria Country Brief July 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

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

Anaemia prevalence: **45% for women 15-49 years**

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

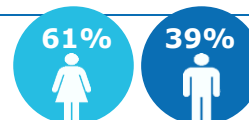
In Numbers

1,762,314 mt of food assistance distributed

1,753 kcal/person/day provided through the food basket

US\$ 5.2 m six months (August 2018 - January 2019) net funding requirements

125,000 people assisted in July 2018



Operational Updates

- In July, due to funding constraints, WFP distributed a reduced food basket, distributing 125,000 rations consisting of 8kg wheat flour, 0.5kg rice, 1kg lentils, 1kg CSB, 1kg sugar and 1liter fortified vegetable oil. The food basket only reached 1,753 kcal/person (vs. 2,100 kcal).
- Refugee women, men, boys and girls also received 1.5kg of dates as part of the general food assistance (GFA).
- WFP distributed daily rations of pre-mix 100g Corn Soya Blend (CSB+) and 10g vegetable oil to treat Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) amongst 633 pregnant women and nursing mothers.
- To prevent chronic malnutrition, 12,810 boys and girls under five took home daily rations of 10g of a special spread (Nutributter).
- The specialized nutrition product (Plumpy'sup) for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in children arrived late in the camps and thus was not available for distribution this month.
- Resuming the provision of micronutrient powders (MNPs) to prevent micronutrient deficiencies in pregnant and nursing women (PNW) is pending results from the ongoing decentralized evaluation of the nutrition activity on the role of WFP in the field of nutrition, the intersectoral coordination and the reformulation of the nutrition activity.
- WFP decided to resume distribution of fortified wheat flour to counter the high prevalence of anaemia. Since this wheat flour must be procured internationally at higher costs, WFP is trying to mitigate the impact on the GFA in the coming months to decrease the likelihood of distribution gaps.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (August 2018 – January 2019)
19.3 m	19.7 m	5.2 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

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

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide unconditional General Food Assistance (GFA) to food insecure refugees
- Provide complementary activities/livelihood to Sahrawi refugees including hydroponic production of animal fodder and fish farming
- Nutrition sensitive school meals for Sahrawi refugee children in primary schools and kindergartens

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

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

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition and anaemia in pregnant women and nursing mothers and children 06-59 months.
- Prevention of moderate acute malnutrition and anaemia in pregnant women and nursing mothers and children 06-59 months.
- Nutrition training to health workers to enhance their nutrition knowledge and skills
- Nutrition sensitization to targeted beneficiaries to address the double burden of malnutrition.

Monitoring

- WFP Algeria carries out process, output and outcome monitoring activities in all five refugee camps through monthly on-site monitoring (at schools, clinics and distribution points), and post-distribution monitoring (PDM) through household visits.
- A joint monitoring team, made up of UNHCR and WFP field monitors, conducts joint field monitoring visits, including visits to warehouses for physical inventories and during distributions. A partnership with NGO Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP) complements WFP-UNHCR monitoring to increase coverage, ensuring a larger sample size and data representative at camp level.
- With the assistance of WFP Regional Bureau Cairo, WFP Algeria updated its monitoring system to ensure alignment to WFP's Corporate Results Framework (CRF) 2017-2021 and the Sustainable Development Goals agenda 2030.

- Starting from this year, PDM at the household level will be conducted biannually and will collect more data regarding households' expenses and other food security related information.

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, including in July.
- Funding predictability allows WFP to plan and make shipping arrangements. There is normally a three-to-four-month lead time for internationally procured commodities.
- The latest nutrition survey in 2016 has shown challenges related to high anaemia prevalence among children and women, as well as the emergence of new issues of public health concerns such as overweight and obesity. WFP is exploring ways to improve how the anaemia prevalence is addressed and is adjusting its programme response.
- In early 2018, WFP conducted a Food Security Assessment to establish baseline indicator values and objectives. WFP will soon decide its GFA response, considering findings from the assessment. WFP aims to limit the impact on the intervention's yearly budget.

Partnership

- WFP works alongside NGOs to combine complementary strengths and expertise with the common goals to fight hunger and improve nutrition in the Sahrawi refugee camps.
- Italian NGO [CISP](#) is WFP's partner for the monitoring of the GFA activities. It also implements a TV cooking show for WFP that showcases different ways to prepare and cook the food distributed by WFP, and also provides nutrition information. CISP is also WFP's partner for the school meals programme in primary schools and kindergartens.
- WFP initiated discussions on a tripartite agreement with [UNHCR](#) and the [Algerian Red Crescent \(ARC\)](#). This agreement defines the roles, responsibilities and division of labor among the three organizations.
- For the hydroponic project, WFP partnered with NGO [OXFAM](#) to scale-up the number of units in the camps to 270 in 2018.
- WFP and French [NGO Triangle generation humaine \(TGH\)](#) build together the first fish farm in the Sahrawi refugee camps.

Donors

Andorra, ECHO, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, USA, multilateral funds