



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Algeria Country Brief August 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, with a reduction of both global acute malnutrition and chronic malnutrition among children of 6-59 months. However, the anaemia prevalence is 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 (UNHCR, 31 Dec17): **173,600** refugees

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

Anaemia prevalence: **45%** for women **15-49** years **39%** among children **6-59** months

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

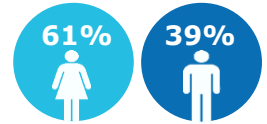
In Numbers

2,264 mt of food assistance distributed

2,228 kcal/person/day provided through the food basket

US\$ 5.3 m six months (September 2018 - February 2019) net funding requirements

125,000 people assisted in August 2018



Operational Updates

- WFP is preparing for its new three-year Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP), which will start in July 2019. The current Transitional ICSP (TICSP) is being extended by six months to June 2019. Several assessments are already being completed and others are planned to inform the ICSP.
- In August, as part of the General Distribution, WFP distributed 125,000 rations consisting of 8 kg wheat flour, 2 kg rice, 1 kg pasta, 2 kg yellow split peas, 1kg CSB, 1kg sugar and 1litre of fortified vegetable oil, 1 kg of dates and 1 kg of gofio (roasted maize meal). The dates and gofio were in-kind donations from Saudi Arabia and the Spanish region of Gran Canaria. The food basket reached a daily energy intake of 2,228 kcal/person compared to the planned 2,100 kcal per day, with the inclusion of these additional commodities.
- To treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) among 607 pregnant and nursing mothers, WFP distributed daily rations of pre-mix 100g corn soya blend (CSB+) and 10g vegetable oil.
- A daily ration of 65g of Saudi Arabian dates were also distributed to 8,166 pregnant and nursing mothers to provide them with additional energy during pregnancy and breastfeeding. Dates and gofio received as in-kind contributions are used to target pregnant and nursing mothers, in lieu of micronutrient powders (MNPs). This was not planned for in the TICSP; however, both commodities act as an excellent complement to the monthly rations to treat and prevent micronutrient deficiencies. Pending the results of the decentralized evaluation of the nutrition activity, WFP Algeria halted the purchase of MNPs.
- To prevent chronic malnutrition, 12,884 boys and girls under five took home daily rations of 10g of a special spread (Nutributter). Additionally, 369 children received the specialized nutrition product (Plumpy'sup) for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition.

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (September 2018 – February 2019)
19.3 m	19.7 m	5.3 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

- The technical report of the Food Security Assessment in Algeria, which was conducted by the WFP Regional Bureau Cairo, is near completion and will be available shortly.
- The final report of the decentralized evaluation of the nutrition activity is also near completion. It examined predominantly WFP's role in nutrition, as well as the sectoral coordination mechanism.
- These assessments will inform programmatic decision-making, in addition to others to be carried out in the fall.

Challenges

- Many refugees rely on food assistance as their main source of food. However, a lack of predictable funding resulted in the periodic reduction of food assistance.
- Funding predictability allows WFP to plan and make shipping arrangements. There is normally a 3-4-month lead time for internationally procured commodities, while the local procurement of wheat flour and vegetable oil can be

concluded in 3-4 weeks.

- WFP received a significant consignment of rice (over 1,700 MT) which presented two specific unusual characteristics (odor, color). Following feedback from the beneficiaries (August), WFP has activated a protocol to address the situation (laboratory analysis, conduct ad-hoc post-distribution monitoring (PDM), suspension of distributions), until laboratory analysis results reassures WFP in terms of fitness for human consumption.
- The latest nutrition survey in 2016 has identified challenges related to the high anaemia prevalence among children and women, as well as overweight and obesity as new issues of public health concerns. WFP is exploring ways to address the high anaemia prevalence, including ensuring all wheat flour is fortified, and the food basket composition is more adequate. A cash-based transfer (CBT) pilot project has also been proposed to the Sahrawi authorities, as part of the nutrition activity to increase access to specific food commodities to address anemia.

Other Updates

- WFP has received an allocation of USD 1.6 million from multilateral funds to bridge an urgent funding shortfall.
- A field level agreement (FLA) was signed with Italian INGO CISP for the school meals programme and sensitization of children and Parent-Teacher Associations at school and community level. CISP will also support the upcoming PDM survey planned for the end of October. The partner has produced TV shows to reach out to the refugee population on cooking practices using WFP food basket.
- The Government of Algeria has formally endorsed the mid-2018–mid-2019 United Nations Country Team's work plan, which comprises a SDG2 Zero Hunger Strategic Review (ZHSR). Discussions are ongoing between WFP and the Government to move forward on the completion of this important exercise to which FAO has offered to contribute. The ZHSR could provide some indications on where WFP could support the Government in achieving SDG 2.
- Discussions with the Government have recently culminated during a one-day event, organized jointly by WFP and the National Institute of Strategic Global Studies (INESG) on the 2nd July 2018 where the Applied Economics for Development Research Centre (CRÉAD) presented a synthesis of the Algeria Food Security and Nutrition situation and WFP presented areas of expertise. Further discussions are likely to take place in the next months. The following areas were identified for possible collaboration:
 - vulnerability assessment and mapping
 - health related interventions
 - national school meals programme
 - support to smallholders.