



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Algeria Country Brief January 2019

In Numbers

125,000 people assisted
in JANUARY 2019



2,301 mt of food assistance distributed

2,247 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket

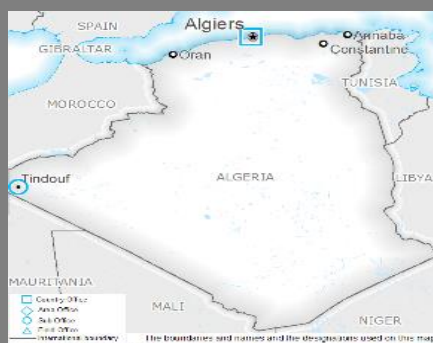
US\$ 5.6 m six months (February-July 2019) net funding requirements

Operational Context

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

The results of the 2016 Nutrition Survey indicate an improvement in the overall nutrition situation of women and children since 2012, with a reduction of both global acute malnutrition and chronic malnutrition among children of 6-59 months. However, the anaemia prevalence is at 38.7 percent among children 6-59 months and 45.2 percent among women of reproductive age. The 2018 Decentralized Evaluation of the nutrition activity recommends WFP to clarify its role in nutrition and improve intersectoral coordination. The 2018 Food Security Assessment confirmed the dependence on food assistance: 30 percent of the population is food insecure, while 58 percent is vulnerable to food insecurity, and only 12 percent of the Sahrawi camp population is food secure.

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 country 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**

Operational Updates

- In January, as part of the General Food Assistance, WFP distributed 125,000 rations consisting of 8 kg wheat flour, 2 kg rice, 2 kg barley, 1 kg lentils, 1kg yellow split peas, 1 kg CSB, 1kg sugar, and 1litre of fortified vegetable oil. The ration was complemented with 1 kg gofio (roasted maize meal), which is part of an in-kind donation from the Spanish region of Gran Canaria. The food basket reached a daily energy intake of 2,247 kcal/person, which is higher than the planned 2,100 kcal per day, due to the inclusion of Gofio.
- WFP distributed daily rations of pre-mix 100g corn soya blend (CSB+) and 10g vegetable oil to treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) among 709 pregnant and nursing mothers.
- For the prevention of malnutrition in pregnant and nursing women, WFP Algeria halted the purchase of Micro Nutrients Powder (MNPs) pending the reformulation of the nutrition activity. WFP is exploring better approaches to prevent malnutrition in this particular context.
- To prevent chronic malnutrition, 13,078 boys and girls under five took home daily rations of 10g of a special spread (Nutributter). Additionally, 419 children received the specialized nutrition product (Plumpy'sup) for the treatment of MAM.
- WFP distributed mid-morning snacks consisting of only 80g of milk to 30,843 boys and girls in primary schools and 8,113 children in kindergartens.

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Photo Caption: Fatou is a 12-year old Sahrawi refugee girl who lives with her family in Smara refugee camp. Find out more about her life under WFP Insight "Tea with Fatou"
WFP/Chiara Herold

**Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan
(2018-mid-2019)**

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
31.5 m	23.5 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February – July 2019)
10.5 m	5.6 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

Challenges

- Predictable funding for the operation remains an issue. 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 anemia prevalence among children and women, as well as the emergence of new issues of public health concerns such as overweight and obesity. WFP will

redirect the focus of all activities to tackling malnutrition.

- As part of the new resilience approach, WFP requires dedicated funding to continue its complementary livelihood activities: hydroponic production of green fodder, fish farming and other activities.

Gender Analysis

- WFP Algeria is paying renewed attention to the centrality of gender analysis as a core element in ensuring that assistance is tailored to meet the specific needs of women, girls, boys and men who are vulnerable to food insecurity. Since mid-January, a consultant has been visiting the camps to conduct a general analysis to improve the understanding of the gender dynamic among the Sahrawi refugee population in the camps. The consultant is conducting focus group discussions with different actors and population groups, and will present the preliminary results to all stakeholders in February. The report will assist WFP operationally and institutionally to design, deliver and monitor operations in a more gender-responsive way.

School Feeding Review

- WFP plans to render the school feeding activity more nutrition-sensitive and put a greater focus on nutrition sensitisation in schools. A WFP consultant is visiting the camps from mid-January to conduct a review of the activity to inform decision-making and reformulate the school feeding activity. Information is collected during focus group discussions and interviews with partners and stakeholders. The preliminary results will be shared with all stakeholders on 07 February, and the final report is expected in March.

New Resilience Strategy

- WFP Algeria is formulating a resilience strategy to coordinate and create synergies between resilience and livelihood activities with a focus on food security and nutrition. A consultant visited the camps in January to meet stakeholders and collect information; the strategy will be finalised in March.

Beneficiary story: Tea with Fatou

- During a camp visit, WFP staff met 12-year old Fatou, a Sahrawi girl who lives with her family in Smara camp. Fatou is a student at "12 June" school and dreams of becoming a Spanish teacher when she grows up. Her favourite part of the day are the meals, since they bring everybody together.
- Click [here](#) to find out more about Fatou's life, and WFP's assistance to her family.

Donors

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