



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Algeria Country Brief February 2019

In Numbers

125,000 people assisted
in FEBRUARY 2019



2,349 mt of food assistance distributed

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

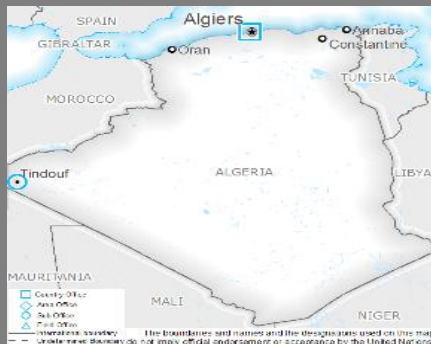
US\$ 3.4 m six months (March–August 2019) net funding requirements

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 (GAM) 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 that WFP 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 February, as part of General Food Assistance (GFA), WFP distributed 125,000 rations consisting of 8 kg wheat flour, 1.5 kg rice, 2 kg barley, 130g lentils, 1kg of 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. Due to the reduced rations of rice and lentils, the WFP food basket initially covered 2,097 kcal/person/day, against planned 2,100 kcal.
- The Algerian Red Crescent (CRA) decided to complete the missing quantities of rice (0.5 kg) and lentils (0.87 kg) with a bilateral contribution from South Africa. Thanks to these efforts, the food basket reached 2,247 kcal/person/day overall. WFP thanks the CRA and South Africa for the contribution.
- WFP distributed daily rations of pre-mix 100g corn soya blend (CSB+) and 10g vegetable oil to treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) among 698 pregnant and lactating women (PLW).
- For the prevention of malnutrition in PLW, WFP is exploring the distribution of fresh food vouchers.
- To prevent chronic malnutrition, 13,989 boys and girls under five took home daily rations of 10g of a special spread (Nutributter). Additionally, 391 children received the specialized nutrition product (Plumpy'Sup) for the treatment of MAM.
- WFP distributed mid-morning snacks consisting of 80g of milk and 50g of High Energy Biscuits to 30,843 boys and girls in primary schools and 8,113 children in kindergartens. Unfortunately, distribution could only start on 16 February due to operational delays.

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Photo Caption: WFP Algeria has built the first fish farm in a refugee camp context that produces Tilapia fish to give refugees access to animal protein.
WFP/Bilal Harfouchi

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

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
31.5 m	24.8 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (March–August 2019)
10.5 m	3.4 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

- The latest nutrition survey in 2016 shows challenges related to high anemia prevalence among children and women, as well as the emergence of new issues of public health concern such as overweight and obesity. WFP will redirect the focus of all activities to tackling malnutrition.
- WFP has analyzed past resilience activities and identified opportunities for the future, summarized in a report. As part of this new resilience approach, WFP requires dedicated funding to continue its complementary livelihood activities: hydroponic production of green fodder, fish farming and other activities.

Inauguration of the fish farm

- On 27 February 2019, WFP Algeria with its partner NGO *Triangle Génération Humanitaire* (TGH) and the Sahrawi Agricultural Training and Experimentation Center (CEFA) inaugurated a fish farm, its newest complementary livelihood activity.
- This innovative project is not only the first fish farm in the Sahrawi refugee context but in any refugee camp in the world. Once fully operational, it expected to produce 21,000 kg of fresh fish per year and will serve as a training centre for 3,000 refugee families to duplicate the approach at a smaller-scale at the household level.
- The objectives are (1) to increase the food security and diversify refugees' diets by providing them with access to fish with its important animal protein, (2) to build refugees' capacities and provide them with opportunities that contribute to their resilience, and (3) sustainability.
- Local ownership of the project is strong: members of the local authorities and refugee organizations were present at the inauguration. Representatives from the humanitarian community were also there.
- WFP thanks the US Bureau of Population and Migration (US BPRM) for its generous contribution that enabled the necessary infrastructure to be put in place.
- WFP requires additional dedicated funding to start the final fish farming phase of the project. Fish farming is currently being tested and is promising,. The farm is ready to enter into full production, pending funding.

Donors

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

Challenges

- WFP is facing a severe funding shortfall for the next months. Until June, 58 percent of the food under GFA is not covered. If WFP does not receive additional contributions soon, it will reduce food rations from March.
- 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.