



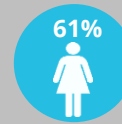
SAVING  
LIVES  
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LIVES



## WFP Algeria Country Brief March 2019

## In Numbers

**125,000 people assisted**  
in MARCH 2019



**3,005 mt** of food assistance distributed

**2,246 kcal/person/day** provided through the general food basket

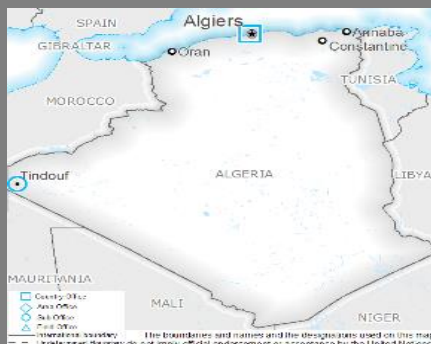
**US\$ 5.6 m** six months (April–September 2019) net funding requirements

### 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 Dec 17): **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 months**

### Operational Updates

- In March, as part of General Food Assistance (GFA), WFP distributed 125,000 rations consisting of 8 kg wheat flour, 2 kg rice, 2 kg barley, 2 kg of yellow split peas, 1 kg CSB, 1kg sugar, and 1 litre 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. Thanks to the complementary Gofio the energy intake of the March ration reached 2,246 kcal/day (2,100 kcal planned).
- Delays in the arrival of locally-procured wheat flour delayed the distribution process, however all commodities were distributed through the 116 final distribution points by the end of the month.
- Other humanitarian actors complemented WFP's food assistance through the distribution of fresh food (1kg of onions, 1 kg of potatoes), 200g yeast and 1kg of gluten free flour for celiac patients.
- Under its nutrition activity, WFP distributed daily rations of pre-mix 100g corn soya blend (CSB+) and 10g vegetable oil to treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) among 741 pregnant and lactating women (PLW).
- For the prevention of malnutrition in PLW, WFP is exploring the distribution of fresh food vouchers. WFP is searching for funding for this activity.
- To prevent chronic malnutrition, 13,076 boys and girls under five took home daily rations of 10g of a special spread (Nutributter) as part of a blanket supplementary feeding activity in health centres. Additionally, 403 children received the specialized nutrition product (Plumpy'Sup) for the treatment of MAM.
- As part of its School Feeding Programme, WFP distributed mid-morning snacks consisting of 80g of milk and 50g of High Energy Biscuits to 30,843 boys and girls in all primary and intermediary camp schools, and 8,113 children in camp kindergartens.

**Contact info:** Katharina Meyer-Seipp ([katharina.meyerseipp@wfp.org](mailto:katharina.meyerseipp@wfp.org))  
**Country Director:** Romain Sirois  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/Algeria](http://www.wfp.org/countries/Algeria)

#### Photo Caption:

Sahrawi refugee women hold their beneficiary cards during a general distribution in La'youn camp.  
*WFP/Wafaa Soussi*

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

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>31.5 m</b>	<b>26.0 m</b>
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (April–September 2019)
<b>20.4 m</b>	<b>5.6 m</b>

### 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

Funding predictability allows WFP to plan and make shipping arrangements. There is normally a three-to-four-month lead time for internationally procured commodities.

## 2018 Annual Country Report

- On 31 March, WFP Algeria published its [2018 Annual Country Report](#) that informs how the resources donated to WFP have been used to achieve results in 2018.

## Evidence-based Programming:

- After decades of a stable programme response, WFP is making substantial changes to all activities based on findings and recommendations of evidence-based assessments. In March, the Country Office worked on several reports and assessments:
- The report "[Analysis and opportunities for a resilience approach in the Sahrawi refugee camps in Algeria](#)" (available in French) was published and shared with stakeholders.
- The **gender analysis** that will enhance WFP's understanding of gender dynamics among the Sahrawi refugee population was finalized. The report will be made public in April.
- The data collection phase of the **school feeding review** was completed in March. The report is being finalized and will be shared soon. The review will help WFP render this activity more nutrition-sensitive and put a greater focus on nutrition sensitization in schools.
- WFP prepared the **2019 nutrition survey** which will provide an important snapshot of the nutrition situation in the camps. The data collection by a team of consultants is planned for April and the final report will be shared with all stakeholders.
- WFP Algeria also prepared the **formative research on nutrition behaviors** that will be conducted by a consultant in April. This report is key for the new approach of addressing nutrition challenges in the camps through nutrition awareness-raising (Social and Behavior Change Communication - SBCC) across all activities.

## 2018 Annual Retreat

- WFP Algeria held its annual retreat on 4 and 5 March in Tunis, Tunisia, to discuss strategic planning and annual goals.
- Following the retreat, the programme unit had a 2-day exchange with the WFP Tunisia team focusing on their national School Feeding Programme.

## Donors

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

## Challenges

- WFP is facing a funding shortfall for the next months with activities currently only funded at 39%. If WFP does not receive additional contributions soon, it will be forced to reduce food rations in the coming months. In addition, both specialized nutritious foods to treat and prevent MAM in children are unavailable. The complementary activities (fish farm, hydroponics) require dedicated funding to continue.
- Predictable funding for the operation remains an issue.