



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Algeria Country Brief May 2019

## In Numbers

125,000 people assisted  
In May 2019



1,990 mt of food assistance distributed

2,268 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket

US\$ 0.3 m six months (June–November 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 Decentralised 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 the Algerian Government, WFP has been present in the country since 1986.



Anaemia prevalence: **39%** among children 6-59 months

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

## Operational Updates

- In May, under General Food Assistance (GFA), WFP distributed 125,000 rations consisting of 7.5 kg wheat flour, 2 kg rice, 2.5 kg barley, 1 kg of yellow split peas, 1 kg of lentils, 1 kg sugar, and 1 litre of fortified vegetable oil. Corn Soy Blend (CSB) was not distributed following a WFP-wide directive to halt distribution of this product, pending an investigation into food safety. WFP followed the protocol, and no issues or incidents have been reported.
- The ration was complemented with 700g gofio (roasted maize meal), which is part of an in-kind donation from the Spanish region of Gran Canaria. In addition, refugees received 2 kg of Saudi Arabian dates for the celebration of Ramadan. However, due to delays, the dates could only be distributed in the last week of May. Thanks to the complementary gofio and dates, the energy intake of the May ration reached 2,268 kcal/day, 108 percent of the planned 2,100 kcal.
- Under the nutrition activity, a total of 454 children received specialised nutritious food for the treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). However, the remaining stocks were only sufficient to cover this month's distribution.
- WFP was unable to distribute products to prevent chronic malnutrition in children, since the specialised nutritious food is not available and has long lead times (6 months).
- Due to the halt of CSB distribution, WFP was not able to provide pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with products to treat MAM. WFP is exploring possibilities to replace the CSB with other products for next months' distributions.
- For the prevention of acute malnutrition in PLW, WFP is planning the distribution of fresh food vouchers.
- 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. May is the last month of school in the camps and many children will spend the summer in Spain as part of exchange programmes. The remaining stocks of biscuits will be distributed to children traveling in the next months, as agreed with the local partners.

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

### Photo Caption:

A mother and her three children in front of their hydroponic unit that allows them to grow fresh fodder for their animals.  
©WFP/Tineke D'haese

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

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>31.5 m</b>	<b>27.2 m</b>
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June–November 2019)
<b>20.4 m</b>	<b>0.3 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

## 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 specialised nutritious foods to prevent and treat MAM in children is not available. While WFP has recently received funding for this activity, the long lead times mean the specialised products for both prevent and treatment of

MAM in children will not be available for distribution in the next months.

- The complementary activities (fish farm, hydroponics) require dedicated funding to continue.

## TV show for Ramadan

- WFP and its partner *Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli* (CISP) recorded special TV cooking shows that were shown during Ramadan on the local TV channel, with two shows per week. The shows included a cooking contest between refugees from the different camps, as well as nutrition tips.

## Preparation of ICSP 2019-2022

- The three-year Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) was finalised and will be presented to members of the Executive Board during the June 2019 session.
- Starting in July, the ICSP resumes the current four activities, but with two strategic shifts: mainstreaming gender and nutrition, and diversifying interventions through innovations.
- WFP discussed the new ICSP with the host country, local authorities, donors and member states.

## Evaluation of WFP People Strategy

- WFP is conducting at the global level a decentralised evaluation aimed at assessing the stated goals of WFP's People Strategy and the mechanisms developed to implement it in order to identify what has or has not been achieved, understanding the challenges or enabling factors and making tailored recommendations.
- A consultant visited WFP Algeria on 20-21 May to conduct interviews with all staff members.
- The evaluation will help inform the preparation of a future Human Resources Strategy at the corporate level.

## Cash-based transfer (CBT)

- The local authorities have agreed to a new distribution modality, cash-based transfer (CBT), for nutrition support. A pilot project will distribute fresh food vouchers to PLW to help prevent malnutrition and anaemia.
- WFP is mobilizing resources to start implementing the project in the coming months.

## High level UN visit

- On 12 May, WFP met with Mr. Jack Christofides, the Director of Northern Africa Division, United Nations Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations, who visited the refugee camps to familiarise himself with the situation.

## Donors

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