



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Algeria Country Brief July 2019

In Numbers

133,672 people assisted
In July 2019



2,228 mt of food assistance distributed

2,096 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket

US\$ 3.8 m six months (August 2019 – January 2020) 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 aged 6-59 months. However, the anaemia prevalence is at 38.7 percent among children aged 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 July, WFP reached 133,672 Sahrawi refugees through its General Food Assistance (GFA). The July food basket consisted of 8 kg wheat flour, 2 kg rice, 2 kg barley, 1 kg of yellow split peas, 1 kg of lentils, 750 g sugar, 1 litre of fortified vegetable oil as well as 1 kg of pasta. The pasta replaced corn soy blend (CSB+), a commodity with a high energetic value that is currently not available. This replacement allowed WFP to distribute complete rations, with an energy intake of 2,096 kcal/day, 99 percent of the planned 2,100 kcal.
- The fresh food distribution by other humanitarian actors such as the Spanish Red Cross and OXFAM did not take place in July, due to a broken refrigeration system. The fresh food complements the WFP food basket and is critical for diet diversity. Fresh food distribution is expected to resume in August.
- WFP was unable to distribute specialised nutritious foods to prevent acute malnutrition and treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in children and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) due to long procurement lead times. The specialised products for both prevention and treatment of MAM will not be available for distribution before the fall. WFP is currently planning an additional ration of Corn Soya Blend (200 grams) to compensate the lack of supplementary products dedicated for treatment and prevention.
- For the prevention of acute malnutrition in PLWG, WFP is preparing the distribution of fresh food vouchers through a new cash-based transfer modality, which is planned to start in September 2019 targeting 8,000 pregnant and lactating women.
- In July, the School Feeding Programme was not implemented due to school closure for the summer holidays. Nevertheless, high energy biscuits were distributed to children traveling out of the camps.

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Photo Caption:

A young Sahrawi woman is being measured to assess whether she suffers from malnutrition and/or anaemia as part of the data collection for the 2018 nutrition survey.
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Interim Country Strategic Plan (mid-2018-mid-2022)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
59 m	8.9 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (August 2019 – January 2020)
20.4 m	3.8 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome #1: Targeted food-insecure Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf meet their basic food and nutrition needs all year

Focus area: *Crisis response*

Activities:

- Provide general food assistance to targeted food-insecure refugees in camps near Tindouf
- Provide nutrition-sensitive school feeding
- Provide refugees with complementary livelihood opportunities that benefit women and men equitably

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome #2: Targeted Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf have improved nutrition status by 2022

Focus area: *Crisis response*

Activities:

- Provide children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls with assistance for the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition.

Challenges

- The lack of predictable funding for the operation remains an issue. Funding predictability allows WFP to plan ahead of time for the timely distribution of complete rations. There is normally a three-to-four-month procurement lead time for internationally procured commodities.
- Specialised nutritious foods to prevent and treat MAM in children is not available due to prolonged procurement lead time and will only arrive in the fall.
- The complementary activities (fish farm, hydroponics, H2Optimal) require dedicated funding to continue.

Start of Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) and closure of T-ICSP

- On 1 July, the 3-year [ICSP](#) came into effect, resuming the four activities under the T-ICSP.
- All resource transfers (funds and commodities) from the old to the new project were finalized by the closure on 30 July 2019.

Monitoring

- Data collection for the bi-annual post-distribution monitoring (PDM) exercise was finalized. The analysis of the data is ongoing with the support of the WFP Regional Bureau in Cairo. The final report is expected in August.
- WFP Algeria is planning to train its monitoring staff on SPSS data analysis to enable them to analyse data directly in the future. The training is planned in the third quarter of 2019.

Accountability to Affected Populations

- WFP is setting up a telephone hotline that allows beneficiaries to provide direct feedback and the possibility to report issues and file official complaints regarding food assistance. The service will be free for the refugees.
- The country office is currently awaiting the authorization for a toll free number from the national regulatory body.

Voucher project (Cash-Based Transfers)

- A transfer voucher pilot that will provide pregnant and nursing women and girls with access to fresh food is being under development. WFP is currently reviewing with the Camp Management the details of implementation of this first CBT project.
- In connection with the pilot project, a local retailer assessment will be conducted in the coming weeks to determine the capacity of the local retail market to cope with potential further demand. The start of the pilot project is planned for September.

Donors

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