



World Food Programme

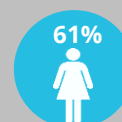
SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## WFP Algeria Country Brief August 2019

## In Numbers

**133,672 people assisted**  
In August 2019



**2,362 mt** of food assistance distributed

**2,201 kcal/person/day** provided through the general food basket

**USD 5.7 m** six months (October 2019–March 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

- The General Food Assistance (GFA) provided 133,672 Sahrawi refugees with a diverse food ration. The August 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. In addition, the food basket was complemented with 1 kg of Gofio, a roasted maize that is funded by the Spanish region of Gran Canaria. The replacement of CSB+ and addition of Gofio allowed WFP to distribute complete rations, with an energy intake of 2,201 kcal/day, 104 percent of the planned 2,100 kcal.
- 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.
- 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 PLWG.
- The School Feeding Programme was not implemented in August due to school closure for the summer holidays. School Feeding activities are due to resume in mid-September.

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**Photo Caption:** WFP works closely with its partners on the ground.  
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## Interim Country Strategic Plan (mid-2018-mid-2022)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>58.97 m</b>	<b>9.4 m</b>
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (October 2019 – March 2020)
<b>20.4 m</b>	<b>5.7 m</b>

### 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 for the timely distribution of complete rations ahead. There is normally a three-to-four-month procurement lead time for internationally procured commodities.
- Specialised nutritious foods to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition in children are not available due to prolonged procurement lead time and is expected to arrive by October.

## New contributions

- WFP Algeria welcomes a contribution of USD 50,000 by Brazil to support the food and nutrition needs of Sahrawi refugees in Algeria through the complementary activities.
- In 2016, WFP Algeria started the low-tech hydroponics project H2Grow that allows refugees to grow their own animal fodder, and that has been replicated in several other countries like Chad, Jordan and Sudan. In February 2019, the world's first fish farm in a refugee camp went operational to give refugees access to fresh fish.
- The Brazilian funds will help kickstart the next innovative pilot project: H2Optimal that uses the innovative [Groasis waterboxx](#)® to grow trees and plants faster and help reduce water usage for food production.

## Gender Mission

- A support mission of WFP's regional Gender team visited Algeria from 18 – 21 August 2019. The mission's objectives included finalising the WFP Algeria 2019-2022 Gender Action Plan in line with the gender analysis and to the Gender Result Network (GRN) annual activities plan for 2020. The experts held a series of meetings and working sessions with WFP management, staff and partner staff.
- Under the new ICSP 2019-2022, WFP Algeria plans to incorporate gender as a key element of assessment, implementation and monitoring of all programmes to addresses the particular needs and priorities of women, men, girls and boys.

## Arrival of new Head of Programme

- The new Head of Programme, Mr. Francis Bere, arrived in Tindouf on 15 August. With extensive experience working for WFP in different countries, Mr. Bere will be an invaluable member of the team. His arrival at the start of the new Interim Country Strategic Plan 2019-2022 is timely. The Country office welcomes its newest member.

## Support to local partners to facilitate logistics operations

- As part of the new food security strategy, WFP Algeria purchased and delivered an electric forklift that will facilitate the logistics operations for the fresh food in cold chain storage in the partners' warehouses.
- The distribution of fresh food by OXFAM and the Spanish Red Cross are a key complement to the WFP food basket. They provide men, women, boys and girls with important micronutrients and vitamins.