



World Food Programme

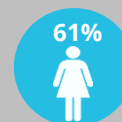
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Algeria Country Brief September 2019

In Numbers

133,672 people assisted
In September 2019



2,095 mt of food assistance distributed under GFA

2,052 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket

US\$6.2 million six months net funding requirements (November 2019 – April 2020)

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

- Under the General Food Assistance (GFA), 133,672 Sahrawi refugees received a diverse food ration. In September the food basket consisted of 8 kg wheat flour, 1 kg rice, 1 kg barley, 2 kg of pulses, 1 kg corn soy blend (CSB+), 750 g sugar, and 1 litre of fortified vegetable oil. The food basket was complemented with 1 kg of Gofio, a roasted maize that is funded by the Spanish region of Gran Canaria. While 2 kilos of cereals were missing, the additional Gofio led to the ration reaching an energy intake of 2,052 kcal/day, 98 percent of the planned 2,100 kcal.
- As in recent months, 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 the delayed confirmation of contributions and the resulting lack of funds. The specialised products for the treatment of MAM in PLWG (CSB+ with sugar) arrived by the end of September, while specialised product for MAM children (Plumpy'Sup) will arrive in the camps in October.
- 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 now planned to start in October 2019 targeting 8,000 PLWG.
- The School Feeding Programme resumed with the start of the camp schools on 15 September. Over 39,000 children in all schools and kindergartens received High energy biscuits and milk to encourage attendance.

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Photo Caption: Presentation of WFP's low-tech hydroponics project by Sahrawi refugee engineer Taleb Brahim during the 2019 Social Good Summit on 22 September in New York. ©WFP

Interim Country Strategic Plan (mid-2019-mid-2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
59. m	11.3 m
2019 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (November 2019 – April 2020)
20.4 m	6.2 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

- WFP Algeria is facing a shortage of funds to cover the needs for the General Food Assistance in the coming months. 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 treat moderate acute malnutrition in children are not available due to delayed confirmation of contributions and the resulting lack of funds. Another important factor is prolonged procurement lead time. Key nutritional products are expected to arrive by October.

Arrival of new Country Director

- Mr Imed Khanfir officially took up his duty as WFP Algeria's new Representative and Country Director on 20 September.
- Mr Khanfir already visited the refugee camps in Tindouf where he met partners, beneficiaries and the local authorities. During a visit to the port of Oran, he met representatives of WFP's main partner in Algeria: the Algerian Red Crescent.
- WFP Algeria thanks the outgoing Country Director Romain Sirois for 4 years of dedicated service to the Sahrawi refugees.

Taleb Brahim New York Visit

- [Taleb Brahim](#), the agricultural engineer and Sahrawi refugee who developed with WFP the low-tech hydroponics units, travelled to New York to attend several side events of this year's UN General Assembly.
- On 22 September, he presented his story of the low-tech hydroponic project during the 2019 [Social Good Summit](#), to see his talk click [here](#).
- On 23 September he gave a talk at the SDG Action Zone during the High-Level Week, for the video click [here](#).

Social and Behaviour Change Formative Assessment for Anaemia and Obesity

- [Formative research](#) explored key structural and behavioural factors that are contributing to high rates of anaemia in children aged 6-59 months and in women of reproductive age as well as high rates of overweight or obesity in women.
- The qualitative assessment through focus group discussions and key informant interviews was conducted in June 2019.
- The assessment represents Phase I of WFP's process to design a Social and Behaviour Change Communication Strategy.

Nutrition Coordination Platform Meeting

- On 8 September, the first meeting of the new inter-sectoral nutrition platform took place in Rabouni, convening different humanitarian actors and local authorities.
- The new platform is based on recommendations of WFP's Decentralized Evaluation of Nutrition activities (2012-2017) and the Annual Health Roundtable (MESA) held in December 2018.
- The aim of this platform is to improve and strengthen collaboration between all actors involved in nutrition and to allow better monitoring of nutritional interventions while creating synergies between nutrition and other sectors.

WFP Algeria retreat

- The WFP Algeria team met in Oran for a 3-day retreat from 17 -19 September 2019 to discuss strategic issues, challenges and visions with the new Country Director.

Donors

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