



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Algeria Country Brief October 2019

In Numbers

133,672 people assisted
In October 2019



2,362 mt of food assistance distributed under GFA

2,216 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket

US\$ 6.8 m six month (December 2019 – May 2020) net funding requirements

Operational Context

Algeria has been hosting refugees from Western Sahara since 1975. Refugee men, women, boys and girls live in five 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 2018 Food Security Assessment found that 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. The 2019 nutrition survey indicates a deterioration of women's and children's nutritional status. The global acute malnutrition (GAM) among children of 6-59 months increased from 4.7 percent in 2016 to 7.6 percent. The anaemia prevalence among children 6-59 months is 50.1 percent, and 52.2 percent among women of reproductive age.

In July, the 2019-2022 Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) came into effect that aims to cover the refugees' basic food and nutrition needs through four activities. While the activities haven't changed from the previous Transitional ICSP, all activities have a stronger focus on nutrition and the aim to create synergies with other WFP and partner activities.

WFP currently represents the main 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: **50%** among children 6-59 months

Global acute malnutrition: **> 7%** of children between 06-59 months

Anaemia prevalence: **52%** 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 October the food basket consisted of 8 kg wheat flour, 2 kg rice, 2 kg barley, 2 kg of lentils, 1 kg corn soya blend (CSB+), 750 g sugar, and 1 L of 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. The distribution of a complete food basket, in addition to Gofio as a complementary product, allowed the energy intake to reach 2,216 kcal/day, exceeding the 2,100 kcal initially planned by 5 percent.
- Other humanitarian actors such as the Spanish Red Cross and OXFAM distributed fresh food, including 2 eggs, 1 kg onions and 0.5 kg potatoes. 800 celiac patients received a double ration of fresh foods.
- In October, WFP restarted its nutrition support to pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) after months of breaks due to the unavailability of the products. 735 malnourished PLWGs received daily rations of 100g corn soya blend (CSB+) and 10g vegetable oil.
- For the prevention of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and anaemia in PLWGs, WFP started the distribution of fresh food vouchers through the new cash-based transfer modality.
- For the treatment of MAM in children 06-59 months the distribution has not yet resumed due to an issue of long procurement lead times. The specialised nutritious food will arrive in the camps in November.
- In October the distribution of mid-morning snacks in all schools and kindergartens for over 39,000 children continued. Boys and girls received 50g of milk. The High-energy biscuits that complete the snack were not available in October but will arrive in the caps of next month's distribution.

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Photo Caption: Pregnant and lactating women and girls receiving fresh food vouchers, as part of the new Cash-based Transfer (CBT) project.
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Interim Country Strategic Plan (mid-2019-mid-2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
59 m	11.6 m
2019 Requirements (in US\$)	Five-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Dec. 2019 – May 2020)
20.4 m	6.8 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

- WFP Algeria is facing a shortage of funds (63 percent, USD 3.8 million) to cover the needs for the General Food Assistance until April 2020. For cereals, which present more than half of the food basket, the deficit is greater than 80 percent. WFP Algeria has received USD 1 million in flexible funding to help bridge the most immediate needs, however additional funds are needed.
- 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.
- The complementary activities (fish farm, hydroponics, H2Optimal) require dedicated funding to continue.

Launch of Cash-Based Transfers project

- In October, WFP launched its first Cash-Based Transfers (CBT) project in the Tindouf refugee camps. 8,000 pregnant and lactating women and girls are given vouchers in the local health centres that provide them with access to fresh food in local shops.
- The objective of this pilot is to address malnutrition and anaemia in PLWG by diversifying their diet.
- Monthly, beneficiaries will receive 4 vouchers of USD 2.75 (total USD 11), that they can redeem in local shops for nutritious products such as vegetables, fruits, eggs, meat and fish products that are high in iron and vitamins.
- The women are sensitized on the use of the voucher and the importance of a balanced diet. This is also part of WFP's Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) activities in the camps.
- WFP has been advocating for the introduction of CBT in the camps for several years and thanks its donor USAID Food For Peace (FFP) for the support to start this important pilot.

Start of H2Optimal pilot - Groasis' waterboxx©

- On 27 October, WFP launched the H2Optimal pilot in coordination with its implementing partner OXFAM with the arrival of 3,000 Groasis [waterboxxes](#) that will benefit 250 refugee families.
- The Groasis' waterboxxes are an innovative technique that allows for optimal tree and plant growth under hydric stress. WFP plans to test the technique to grow fruit trees, and fast-growing resilient trees that can protect other agricultural projects from the harsh conditions in the camps.
- It is an innovative solution suitable to the camp context to tackle issues of food security and nutrition of the Sahrawi refugees. At the same time, it presents opportunities for synergies with other WFP and partner activities.
- A dedicated team will oversee the planning, implementation and monitoring of the activity.

Health coordination meeting

- On 30 October, the camps' health authority and Spanish Cooperation jointly organized a meeting in Algiers inviting the humanitarian UN agencies and main donors.
- The aim was to discuss the global health situation in the refugee camps, and to present achievements reached under the current Strategic Health Plan.
- WFP played a key role in sharing the results of the 2019 Nutrition Survey. It also presented its response to the deteriorating nutritional situation in the camps, including the new voucher project (CBT).

Donors

Andorra, Brazil, ECHO, Germany, Switzerland, USA, flexible funding