



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Algeria Country Brief November 2019

In Numbers

2,362 mt of food assistance distributed under GFA

2,290 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket

US\$ 6.3 m six months (January - June 2020) net funding requirements

133,672 people assisted in November 2019



WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

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. TGlobal 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) activity, 133,672 Sahrawi refugees in November received a diverse food ration. In November 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 2,290 kcal/day, exceeding the 2,100 kcal initially planned by 9 percent.
- Other humanitarian actors such as the Spanish Red Cross and OXFAM distributed fresh food, including 1 kg onions and 0.5 kg carrots. 800 celiac patients received a double ration of fresh foods, and 1 kg of gluten free wheat flour. UNHCR distributed 200 grams of yeast per family.
- WFP's nutrition support to treat Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) in pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) and children 06-59 months was halted this month due to the unavailability of the specialised products. While this activity has seen many breaks in 2019, the distribution is expected to resume in December. Challenges include funding shortfalls and long production and transport times.
- For the prevention of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and anaemia in PLWGs, WFP continued the distribution of fresh food vouchers through the new cash-based transfer modality.
- In November the distribution of reduced mid-morning snacks in all schools and kindergartens for over 39,000 children continued. Boys and girls only received 50g of milk due to the late arrival of the High-energy biscuits (HEB) that complete the snack. The distribution of HEB will resume in December.

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

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
59 m	3.4
2019 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (January – June 2020)
20.4 m	6.3 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 General Food Assistance. The existing stocks cover only 64 percent of the ration, and WFP must request loans from the prepositioned stock managed by the Spanish Red Cross and Algerian Red Crescent which are funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation. WFP plans to use the recently confirmed contributions to complement the December ration through local purchases.
- However, for January 2020, deficits are foreseen, due mainly to the long lead and transport times and limited availability of products on the local market. WFP is exploring several options to mitigate the identified gaps. WFP will still be able to distribute 1kg of gofio per beneficiary in January to complement the food basket.

- The School feeding activity will be suspended from March 2020 onward if no additional contributions are received within the next two weeks.
- 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.

New contributions

- WFP thanks ECHO for an increase of its contribution by EUR 1.3 million to cover the nutrition activity that targets children 06-59 months. This generous contribution will allow WFP to stabilize this chronically-underfunded activity until August 2021. It comes at an opportune moment when the latest nutrition survey shows a deterioration of the nutrition situation of children and women in the camps, and WFP's plan to revise the activity.
- WFP welcomes the Netherlands as a new donor that provides key funding to start the H2Optimal complementary activity that introduced 3,000 [Groasis waterboxxes](#)® to help plant trees and plants in the desert conditions of the camps.
- WFP thanks the Spanish International Development Cooperation (AECID) for their continued support and their recent contribution of EUR 1.3 million that is key to cover the pending shortfalls.
- WFP thanks Germany for its multi-year pledge of EUR 1 million for 2020 and 2021 for General Food Assistance and School Feeding.

16 days of activism against Gender based Violence (GBV)

- The 16 days of activism is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day.
- To prepare the campaign, on 18 November, WFP, UNHCR and UNICEF organized a Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse training that also included sessions on gender and GBV. 13 NGO partners (15 men and 10 women) and UN staff participated.
- The Tindouf WFP office and UNICEF had a joint event on GBV on 28 November.
- A presentation on GBV for WFP staff in Tindouf and Algiers on 5 December raised awareness about the issue, challenged discriminatory attitudes, and highlighted how to prevent and respond to incidents.
- A last event is planned for 10 December with an interagency sport competition to raise awareness about GBV among UN staff in Tindouf.

Donors

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