



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Algeria Country Brief December 2019

## In Numbers

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



**2,361.98 mt** of food assistance distributed under GFA

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

**US\$ 3.9 m** six months (February - July 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 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.

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.

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 December 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, roasted maize funded by the Spanish region of Gran Canaria, which enabled WFP to distribute a complete food basket that allowed for an energy intake of 2,216 kcal/day, exceeding the 2,100 kcal initially planned.
- Other humanitarian actors such as the Spanish Red Cross and OXFAM distributed fresh food, including 2 eggs, 1 kg onions and 1 kg potatoes. Further, 800 celiac patients received a double ration of fresh foods a gluten free wheat flour.
- For the prevention of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and anaemia in PLWGs, WFP maintains the distribution of fresh food vouchers through the new cash-based transfer modality.
- For the treatment of MAM in children aged between 6-59 months, a total of 1.51 mt of specialised nutritious food were distributed.
- In December the distribution of mid-morning snacks in all schools and kindergartens for over 39,000 children continued. Boys and girls received 50g of milk and 80g of High-energy biscuits.

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**Photo Caption:** The first distribution of fresh fish bred in the world's first fish farm in a refugee camp took place in December. 30 kg of fish were given to 85 patients in the local hospital ©WFP

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

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
<b>59 m</b>	<b>18.2 m</b>
2020 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (February– July 2020)
<b>19.6 m</b>	<b>3.9 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

- WFP Algeria is facing a shortage of funds for general food assistance (GFA). In December, in-country stocks covered only 64 percent of the ration through loans. A request for advance financing against a high probability forecast will be used to complement the food basket through a local purchase. The distribution of Gofio, which complements the GFA food basket, will cover January with the distribution of a 1 Kg per recipient ration.
- For January 2020, shortfalls in the general food assistance component are foreseen, due mainly to the long lead time and limited availability of the products in the local market. WFP is exploring several options to mitigate the identified gaps.
- The School feeding activity will be suspended from March onward if no contribution is received by January 2020.

## Monitoring survey (PDM)

- In December, WFP in cooperation with INGO CISP conducted a post distribution monitoring survey covering the five refugee camps in Tindouf.
- 500 household visit interviews were conducted to determine the food security situation and outcome measurement for the end of 2019.

## Cash-Based Transfers project

- In December, WFP launched the second round of Cash-Based Transfers (CBT) project in the Tindouf refugee camps. 8,000 pregnant and lactating women and girls are provided with paper vouchers in the local health centres that gives access to fresh food in local shops. The objective of this pilot is to address malnutrition and anaemia among pregnant and lactating women by diversifying their diet.
- Beneficiaries are receiving four vouchers amounting to US\$ 2.75 (total US\$ 11), that they can redeem in local shops for nutritious pre-selected products such as vegetables, fruits, eggs, meat and fish products that are high in iron and vitamins.

## Resilience and livelihoods

- A total of 3,000 [waterboxes](#) will be distributed in the coming weeks to beneficiaries to allow them to grow plants and trees using less water.
- [A first distribution of fresh fish bred in the camps' fish farm took place](#). Around 30 kg of fresh fish were distributed to 85 patients in the local hospital. For

## 2019 Nutrition Survey

- The 2019 [Nutrition Survey](#) conducted between March and May 2019 by WFP, UNHCR and CISP, established a detailed mapping of the current nutritional profile of the Tindouf refugee camps.
- The results suggest a worsening of the nutrition of the refugee population in particular in regard to Global Acute Malnutrition and anemia. The survey includes recommendations to improve the nutritional status and health of the Sahrawi refugees.
- The survey's findings will inform WFP's response to the deteriorating nutritional situation in the camps and will serve as basis for a nutrition strategy.

## 16 days of activism against Gender-based Violence (GBV)

- A training on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and gender-based violence has been conducted jointly with UNHCR for partners and refugees in the camps.

## Donors

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