



World Food Programme

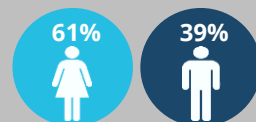
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Algeria Country Brief February 2020

In Numbers

133,672 people assisted
In February 2020



2,028 mt of food assistance distributed under GFA

2,053 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket

USD 6.7 m six months (April – September 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 recommended that WFP clarify its role in nutrition and improve intersectoral coordination. The 2018 Food Security Assessment confirmed the dependence of the Sahrawi camp population on food assistance; 30 percent of the population is food insecure, while 58 percent is vulnerable to food insecurity. Only 12 percent of the Sahrawi population is food secure.

The 2019 nutrition survey indicated 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

- WFP distributed food rations to 133,672 Sahrawi refugees in February 2020. The food basket consisted of 6 kg of wheat flour, 2 kg rice, 2 kg barley, 2 kg of lentils, 750 g sugar, 1 L of vegetable oil and 500g of corn soy blend. The food basket was complemented with 1 kg of gofio, roasted maize funded by the Spanish region of Gran Canaria, which enabled WFP to increase the average kilocalorie value of the reduced ration, reaching 2,028 kcal/day, 97 percent of the planned value.
- For the treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and anaemia in pregnant and lactating women (PLWGs), WFP distributed daily rations of super cereal, sugar and vegetable oil to 720 women.
- For the treatment of MAM in children, 458 children aged between 6-59 months received a total of 1.42 mt of specialised nutritious food.
- WFP did not distribute fresh food vouchers to prevent MAM and anaemia to around 8,000 PLWGs in February. This activity is still new, and WFP and partners continue to face operational challenges. The implementation of this new distribution modality is still being improved. The distribution will resume in March 2020.
- WFP distributed mid-morning snacks in all schools and kindergartens to over 39,000 boys and girls. Due to funding constraints, WFP reduced the mid-morning snack by distributing 70 percent of the planned dried skimmed milk and 55 percent of the planned High-energy biscuits.

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Photo Caption: Bags of rice in the WFP warehouse in Rabouni that will be distributed as part of the General Food Assistance ©WFP/ Katharina Meyer-Seipp

- The objective of the USAID Food for Peace (FFP) funded project is to improve the nutritional status of these women and to fight the high prevalence of anaemia.
- From 2 - 6 February, regional WFP experts visited the camps to conduct trainings with retailers.
- WFP and partners continue to adjust and improve the project implementation to better serve people receiving assistance.

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

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
59 m	19 m
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (April – September 2020)
20 m	6.7 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 for general food assistance (GFA) and the school feeding programme for the next months. Unless additional funds are made available, WFP will be forced to reduce rations under the GFA and school feeding programme in the spring of 2020.

Cash-based transfer (CBT) project

- Since October 2019, WFP and its partner the Algerian Red Crescent is implementing the first large-scale voucher project in the Tindouf refugee camps.
- 8,000 pregnant women and nursing mothers receive fresh food vouchers at their local health centre that they can redeem in camp shops for fresh foods like eggs and dates.

Food security sector strategy

- WFP and partners have finalized the Food security sector strategy for the Tindouf refugee camps. This document considers four essential points to ensure food security in the refugee camps: (1) the general distribution of food, (2) improving the nutritional status of beneficiaries, (3) coordination and communication, and (4) complementary activities related to resilience.

Reforestation project in Algeria

- WFP is reviewing its first project in Algeria outside the Tindouf refugee camps. WFP and the Algerian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) met to design a reforestation project in Algeria testing an efficient planting technology called Groasis waterboxx®.
- The project will be carried out in the different regions (*wilaya*) of Algeria including the southern regions of *Tindouf*, *Adrar* and *Illizi*, where water resources are limited. Another project site will be in the northern *wilaya* of *Skikda*. The plan is to plant a total of 1,600 endemic trees in the four wilayas.

Country office retreat

- The WFP Algeria team conducted a retreat from 26 - 28 February to discuss strategic issues and plan the activities for the implementation the Interim Country Strategic Plan in 2020.
- The programme unit had an additional two-day retreat to elaborate a work plan including for the CBT activity, starting social behaviour change communication (SBCC) activities and mainstreaming nutrition through all activities.

Coronavirus response in Algeria

- On 26 February Algeria reported the first coronavirus case. The Algerian Government is working closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) on an effective response to stop the spread of the virus.
- As of the beginning of March, there have been no confirmed cases in the Tindouf refugee camps. To date, the coronavirus has not affected WFP's operation in Algeria.

Donors

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