



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Algeria Country Brief April 2020

In Numbers

152,768 people assisted
In April 2020



2,008 mt of food assistance distributed under GFA

2,071 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket

US\$ 2.3 m six months (June 2020 – November 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

Anaemia prevalence: **52%** for women 15-49 years

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

Chronic malnutrition: **19%** of children between 6-59

Operational Updates

- WFP distributed diverse food rations to 133,672 Sahrawi refugees in April 2020. The food basket consisted of 8 kg of wheat flour, 1.5 kg pasta and 500 g rice, 250 g barley, 2 kg of lentils, 750 g sugar and 1 L of vegetable oil. The ration was missing corn soy blend. However, 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 2,071 kcal/day, 94 percent of the planned value.
- WFP carried out two additional distributions this month to provide refugees with some additional food at the beginning of Ramadan. 250 grams of barley were distributed to 19,096 beneficiaries who were added to the distribution of general food assistance for 3 months to mitigate the economic shock of COVID-19. The remaining quantity of *gofio* that is about to expire was distributed to 9,300 families with elderly and special needs family members. These refugees received 1 kg of *gofio* and were already identified under social welfare programs by the refugee organization *Media Luna Roja Saharawi* (MLRS).
- 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 685 women. In addition, around 8,000 PLWGs received fresh food vouchers to prevent MAM and anaemia.
- For the treatment of MAM in children, 425 children aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of 100g of specialised nutritious food. The prevention of MAM in children resumed with the distribution of specialized nutritious food to 13,221 boys and girls aged 6-59 months.
- WFP's school feeding programme is currently suspended due to school closures following the onset of the COVID-19 crisis. The complementary livelihood activities are partially ongoing. 176 Refugee families participating in the H2Optimal project, continue to use Groasis waterboxxes© to grow vegetables and trees, remote monitoring continues through partner OXFAM. The fish farm operates with minimum staff to continue the growing and breeding of fish and remote monitoring from partner NGO TGH.

Photo Caption:

April distribution of general food assistance with protective measures including masks ©WFP/ Amel Derras

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

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
59 m	27 m
2020 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (June– November 2020)
20 m	2.3 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

- While there are currently no confirmed cases in the Tindouf refugee camps, the COVID-19 crisis with its many health, social and economic implications poses a particular threat to those living in the camps.
- As member of the UN Crisis Team and the UN Task Force on the “socio-economic impact of COVID-19”, WFP is advocating for an assessment of the economic effects of the pandemic, its impact on the food security of vulnerable populations, food systems at the macro level, as well as compensation plans and safety nets in general.

WFP COVID-19 mitigation measures

- Life-saving activities (general food assistance and nutrition support) will continue in the coming months with measures to reduce the risk of contagion for beneficiaries as well as for the staff of WFP and its partners.

- From May to July 2020, WFP Algeria is increasing the number of beneficiaries receiving general food assistance from 133,672 to 152,786 to include those refugees who had been identified as least vulnerable to food insecurity in WFP’s last assessment. These refugees are likely to suffer from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses and those that are self-employed.
- WFP revised the standard operating procedures for food and cash-based transfer (CBT) distributions to minimize the risk of exposure by WFP personnel, partners and beneficiaries by avoiding overcrowding at distribution points, direct physical contact and increasing hygiene measures. For the voucher project, WFP and partners are reviewing the provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) to retailers.
- WFP revised its monitoring approach, shifting to remote monitoring modalities, while access to camps and beneficiaries is limited.
- WFP is in the final stages of setting up a market survey for mitigation measures in case of local price increase across the refugee camps.

Joint COVID-19 appeal and response plan:

- WFP issued [a joint appeal document](#) with UNHCR, UNICEF and the NGO community working in the Tindouf refugee camps to mobilize resources (USD 15 million) to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the refugees.
- The strategy aims to respond to the public health needs and the immediate humanitarian impact of the epidemic in the sectors of education, food security, protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

COVID-19 household impact assessment:

- The assessment is looking into the impact of COVID-19 on aspect of household food security, health, access to energy, market access and income.
- Data collection took place between 19 and 23 April in the five camps and 517 questionnaires were completed through visits by WFP partner CISP. Data analysis is underway, and the first results are expected at the beginning of May.

New contributions

- WFP welcomes a [new partnership with France](#) and a first contribution of EUR 0.4 million for school feeding.
- WFP [thanks Switzerland](#) for its generous contribution of CHF 1.8 million for the general food assistance and school feeding.

Donors

Andorra, Brazil, ECHO, Germany, Italy, France, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, USA, flexible funding, Choithrams and Mastercard