



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Algeria Country Brief May 2020

In Numbers

152,768 people assisted
In May 2020



2,547 mt of food assistance distributed under GFA

2,104 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket

US\$ 3.3 m six months (July 2020 – December 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 1996.



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

- In May, WFP increased the number of general food rations to 152,768 to include Sahrawi refugees who suffer from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The food basket consisted of 8 kg of wheat flour, 1.5 kg pasta and 500 g rice, 2 kg barley, 2 kg of lentils, 750 g sugar, 1 L of vegetable oil and 1 kg of corn soy blend. The ration reached 2,104 kcal/day, 100 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 653 women. In addition, around 8,000 PLWGs received fresh food vouchers to prevent MAM and anaemia.
- For the treatment of MAM in children, 459 children aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of 100g of specialised nutritious food. To prevent MAM in children resumed, 13,317 boys and girls aged 6-59 months received specialized nutritious food in health centres.
- 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.

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Photo Caption:

Monitor staff from WFP's partner CISP monitors a food distribution, while wearing a mask to protect herself and beneficiaries WFP/Amel Derras

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

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
59 m	29 m
2020 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (July – December 2020)
20 m	3.3 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.

WFP response to COVID-19

- 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.
- 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 food price increases across the refugee camps.
- For more information on the response to COVID-19 in the Tindouf refugee camps, read [this](#).

COVID-19 Household Impact Assessment

- An assessment was launched by WFP, UNHCR and the Tindouf camp leadership to gather data on the potential impact of COVID-19 on Sahrawi refugees' access to humanitarian assistance and their food security. Data was collected with support of NGO CISP from 24 to 30 April 2020 in all 5 refugee camps through 517 interviews.
- The [preliminary results](#) show that the poor food consumption score (FCS) has increased in the camps where 81 percent of interviewees are worried about food stocks. Of those interviewed 46 percent cited that their main concerns are food related.
- Only 16 percent of respondents have a regular source of income, 36 percent count on informal daily/casual labour. 88 percent admitted that they are affected by a disruption of work, of which 81 percent declared a reduction in revenue/income.
- These results show that the adopted response of increasing food assistance is justified within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its far-reaching consequences.

New contributions

- WFP [welcomes a contribution](#) of EUR 1 million from the Spanish region of Gran Canaria to complement the general food assistance with the Canarian staple *Gofio* (roasted maize).
- WFP thanks Brazil for its response of USD 50,000 to the [joint COVID-19 response](#) appeal by WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF and NGOs.

Vehicle donation

- WFP has donated one of its vehicles to the partners at the Algerian Red Crescent and the refugee organization *Media Luna Roja Saharaui* (MLRS). The car will support the cash-based transfer project that provides pregnant and nursing women with fresh food vouchers. The car will play a key role to support movements around the camps for monitoring, in particular during the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing measures in place.

Donors

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