



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Algeria Country Brief June 2020

In Numbers

152,768 people assisted
In June 2020



2,508 mt of food assistance distributed under GFA

2,137 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket

US\$ 2.5 m six months (August 2020 – January 2021) 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

- As part of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP continued to distribute general food rations to a total of 152,768 Sahrawi refugees. For three months (May, June and July) WFP Algeria extended its General Food Assistance to around 20,000 refugees who suffer from the economic impact of the crisis.
- The food basket consisted of 8 kg of wheat flour, 2 kg pasta, 2 kg barley, 2 kg of lentils, 750 g sugar, 1 L of vegetable oil and 750 g of corn soy blend. The ration reached 2,137 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 mixed with sugar and vegetable oil to 671 women. In addition, around 8,000 PLWGs received fresh food vouchers to prevent MAM and anaemia.
- For the treatment of MAM in children, 451 children aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of 100g of specialised nutritious food. To prevent MAM in children, 13,321 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 situation in the camps

- The Algerian Government declared the end of confinement in the region and city of Tindouf on 28 May. Movement between the refugee camps and Tindouf city has resumed since early June and commercial activities in the camps are slowly starting to pick up, albeit limited and with social distancing measures in place.
- Throughout the month of June there have been no confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Tindouf refugee camps.

Photo Caption:

The Tindouf refugee camps, home to thousands of Sahrawi refugee families for over 40 years, are located in a harsh desert environment. WFP/Katharina Meyer-Seipp

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

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
59 m	28 m
2020 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (July- December 2020)
20 m	2.5 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

- The COVID-19 crisis continues to pose a threat to those living in the camps. High prevalence of anaemia and malnutrition rates may make many refugees less resistant to the virus.
- The health system in camps has seen a lot of support by partners to prevent and decrease the spread of the virus, but it remains relatively weak, especially facing a pandemic that has pushed the world's most advanced health systems to their limits. The water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) situation is also problematic in the isolated desert environment in which the people that WFP reaches live.
- While food prices have not increased, the several-month lockdown of the camp has led to most households suffering from reduced incomes. WFP has taken measures to ease the economic impact of this crisis by increasing the number of people who receive general food assistance.

- Life-saving activities (general food assistance and nutrition support) continue 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. Measures introduced include avoiding overcrowding at distribution points, direct physical contact and increasing hygiene measures.
- For the voucher project assisting pregnant and lactating women (PLWG) with fresh food, WFP and its partner, the Algerian Red Crescent, have purchased personal protective equipment (PPE) for partner staff and beneficiaries in health centres and at shops. Following delays in delivery, on 29 June 48,000 masks, 600 hydroalcoholic solutions and wipes as well as 50 portable disinfection pumps for the shop keepers were delivered.
- 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 price increases for food across the refugee camps.

TV show "Making Great Things from Less"

- The TV cooking show, supported by WFP and its partner NGO CISP, is produced by refugees for refugees and broadcast across the camps on local TV. Usually the show provides tips and recipes for making simple, healthy yet tasty dishes using the food distributed through humanitarian assistance.
- In the current crisis, WFP expanded the TV show's mandate to cover both the fight against hunger and the COVID-19 pandemic. "Making Great Things From Less" delivered tips on healthy eating to boost immune systems, including advice on cooking methods, nutrient content of various foods, and which foods to avoid.
- Local doctors and other guests joined the TV show host Madame Haha on the set and presented key messages and information on COVID-19 in terms familiar to their fellow refugees.

World Refugee Day

- On 21 June, WFP participated in an online event organized by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to commemorate World Refugee Day in 2020. No further events in the Tindouf camps were possible due to the COVID-19 crisis and restrictions put in place to protect the camp population and avoid the spread of the virus.

Donors

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