



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Algeria Country Brief July 2020

In Numbers

152,768 people assisted
In July 2020



2,699 mt of food assistance distributed under GFA

2,166 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket

US\$ 1.2 m six-month (September 2020 – February 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

- WFP in Algeria extended its General Food Assistance for three months (May-July) to around 20,000 additional refugees who suffer from the economic impact of the crisis.
- In July, the food basket consisted of 8 kg of wheat flour, 2 kg pasta, 2 kg barley, 2 kg of lentils, 750 g sugar and 1 L of vegetable oil. The ration was complemented by 2 kg of Saudi Arabian dates. Thanks to this nutritious complement, the ration reached 2,166 kcal/day, 103 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 642 women. In addition, around 8,000 PLWGs received fresh food vouchers to prevent MAM and anaemia.
- For the treatment of MAM in children, 443 children aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of 100g of specialised nutritious food. To prevent MAM in children, 13,410 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.
- WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF and NGO CISP are coordinating with local authorities to prepare the safe return of children to school in September. An action plan is being formulated.

Contact info: Katharina Meyer-Seipp (katharina.meyerseipp@wfp.org)
Country Director: Imed Khanfir
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Algeria

Photo Caption:

The H2Optimal project allows refugee families to grow their own vegetables in the harsh desert context.
WFP/Wafaa Soussi

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

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
59 m	30.4 m
2020 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Sept. 2020 – Feb. 2021)
20 m	1.2 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.

The situation in the camps

- On 27 July, the first four COVID-19 cases were confirmed in the Tindouf refugee camps. WFP assistance in the camps is ongoing. Movement between the refugee camps and Tindouf city is once again limited. A nightly curfew between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. is in place.
- UN staff including WFP only visit the camps for urgent matters. The UN base in the camps is also closed.
- WFP is continuing its life-saving assistance (General Food Assistance, nutrition support) while other activities remain limited or suspended since March. Remote monitoring remains in place.
- Other humanitarian actors such as UNHCR continue to sensitize the refugees about the pandemic. Personal protective equipment such as masks are distributed.

Challenges

- The COVID-19 crisis continues to pose a threat to the Sahrawi refugees, as high anaemia prevalence and malnutrition rates might make many refugees less resistant to the virus.
- The camps health system has seen a lot of support by partners to prevent and decrease the virus' spread, but 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 this isolated desert environment.
- While food prices have not increased, the camps months-long lockdown 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.

First community training in Fish farm

- The world's first fish farm in a refugee camp continued its operations despite the camps' COVID-19 lockdown.
- The farm not only provides Sahrawi refugees with access to fish (animal protein) but aims to serve as a training center for young Sahrawis for new livelihood opportunities.
- The first training session for 20 refugee youths and the 15 fish farm staff was conducted in July by a team of Algerian experts. The training was conducted outside and following social distancing guidelines, participants wore masks to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

New contributions:

- WFP welcomed a contribution of 350 metric tons of dates from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia worth USD 723,000. Originally planned for distribution during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in April and May, the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the dates' shipment. WFP is happy to have distributed this nutritious dried fruit just in time for the holy festival of Eid al-Adha at the end of July.
- WFP thanks the Spanish government and the Spanish Development Agency (AECID) for a generous contribution of EUR 1.3 million and an additional EUR 100,000 for the COVID-19 response.
- A second contribution by 11 Spanish regions (Asturias, Canarias, Cantabria, Castilla y León, Extremadura, Galicia, Islas Baleares, La Rioja, Madrid, Murcia, Valencia) of EUR 500,000 was received at the same time. This contribution is critical to cover food needs for the coming months.

Donors

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