



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Algeria Country Brief August 2020

## In Numbers



**133,672 people assisted**  
In August 2020

**2,273 mt** of food assistance distributed under GFA

**2,131 kcal/person/day** provided through the general food basket

**USD 2 m** six month (October 2020 – March 2021) net funding requirements

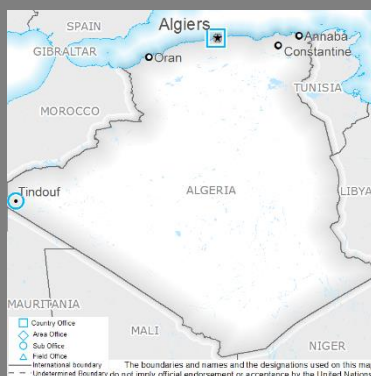
## Operational Context

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. Global acute malnutrition (GAM) among children of 6-59 months increased from 4.7 percent in 2016 to 7.6 percent. The prevalence of anaemia 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

- In August, WFP distributed a complete food basket that included 8 kg of wheat flour, 600 g pasta and 1.4 kg rice, 2 kg barley, 2 kg of lentils, 750 g sugar and 1 L of vegetable oil. The ration reached 2,131 kcal/day, 101 percent of the planned value.
- WFP distributed daily rations of super cereal mixed with sugar and vegetable oil to 618 pregnant and lactating women (PLWGs) for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and anaemia. In addition, around 8,000 PLWGs received fresh food vouchers to prevent MAM and anaemia.
- For the treatment of MAM in children, 458 children aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of 100g of specialised nutritious food. To prevent MAM in children, 13,520 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 NGC CISP are coordinating with local authorities to prepare the safe return of children to school in September.

## The situation in the camps

- On 27 July, the first four COVID-19 cases were confirmed in the Tindouf refugee camps. At the end of August there were 25 cases, 20 of which recovered while 2 deceased.
- Movement between the refugee camps and Tindouf city remains limited. UN staff including WFP only visit the camps for urgent matters. The UN base in the camps remains closed.
- WFP is continuing to provide life-saving general food assistance and nutrition support, while livelihood activities have partially resumed. Remote monitoring remains in place.

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### Photo Caption:

WFP staff and partners from the Algerian Red Crescent donning face masks in front of the food warehouse in the refugee camps. WFP/Armand Ndimurukundo

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

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>59 m</b>	<b>31 m</b>
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July– December 2020)
<b>20 m</b>	<b>2 m</b>

**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 the Sahrawi refugees, as high a high prevalence of anaemia 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 the isolated desert environment in which the refugee camps are located.

- SBCC is the use of communication to change behaviours and promote social change by positively influencing knowledge, attitudes and social norms. The development of a context specific SBCC strategy and subsequent activities is part of WFP Algeria's Interim Country Strategic Plan and its strategic shift with greater focus on nutrition throughout all of WFP activities. The strategy aims at influencing behaviour and changing attitudes and social norms in the camps regarding nutrition and healthy eating practices.

- The development of the SBCC strategy has gained momentum after a five-month delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Activities started with the organization of a barrier analysis training for enumerators who then proceeded to collect data in the Tindouf refugee camps. A workshop on SBCC was designed for all nutrition actors in the camps which is scheduled for September.

- Immediate activities for September and October include the drafting of a SBCC strategy which aims at guiding all actors who carry out behaviour change activities in the camps. Twenty-four behaviour change and communication lessons will be developed during this period.

**2020 Back to school campaign**

- WFP is preparing for the reopening of the schools for the new scholastic year 2020/2021, which is anticipated for 13 September 2020. This year's return to school is marked by the COVID-19 pandemic and efforts to reduce the risk of contagion for students, teachers and staff.
- In collaboration with UNICEF and other partners, WFP is contributing to the 'back to school campaign', which supports local efforts to offer comprehensive support to the health and nutrition status of learners. Specifically, WFP is going to work with its implementing partner Italian NGO CISP on COVID-19 sensitization in the schools, which includes the provision of information material and messaging on COVID-19 related health and safety measures to teachers, students and the cooks preparing school meals. Parents and caretakers are targeted with messages through a local TV show, radio and posters. WFP will also provide hydroalcoholic gel for the school kitchens.
- WFP will also resume its school feeding programme that provides high energy biscuits and dried skimmed milk as part of a mid-morning snack to all 39,632 boys and girls enrolled in camp schools and kindergartens. The activity aims at encouraging children to enrol in schools and continue their education.

**Donors**

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