



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Algeria Country Brief October 2020

## In Numbers

133,672 people assisted  
In October 2020



2,228 mt of food assistance distributed under GFA

2,099 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket

US\$ 5.4 m six month (November 2020 – April 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: **28.2%** of  
children between 6-59

## Operational Updates

- WFP in October distributed a complete food basket that included 8 kg of wheat flour, 2 kg rice, 2 kg barley, 2 kg of lentils, 1 kg of corn soy blend, 750 g sugar and 1 L of vegetable oil. The ration reached 2,099 kcal/day, 100 percent of the planned value.
- Despite funding deficits, WFP was able to distribute a full ration thanks to the generous support of the prepositioned stock managed by the Spanish Red Cross and Algerian Red Crescent that allowed to borrow wheat flour, lentils, sugar and vegetable oil for this month's entitlement.
- For the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and anaemia in pregnant and lactating women (PLWGs), WFP distributed daily rations of wheat soya blend mixed with sugar and vegetable oil to 645 women. In addition, around 8,000 PLWGs received fresh food vouchers to prevent MAM and anaemia.
- For the treatment of MAM in children, 474 children aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of 100g of specialised nutritious food. To prevent MAM in children, 13,510 boys and girls aged 6-59 months received specialized nutritious food in health centres.
- WFP's school feeding programme encouraged 39,098 boys and girls in all the camp schools to enrol and attend the schools through the distribution of a mid-morning snack consisting of high energy biscuits and a glass of milk. The schools remained open in October and special safety and hygiene protocols established by the camp leadership in collaboration with UNICEF and other humanitarian actors remain in place.

### Photo Caption:

One of WFP partner monitors during a visit to a Sahrawi refugee household to ask questions about the assistance received.  
Photo: CISP partner

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

Total Requirements (in US\$)		Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
59 m		30.7 m
2020 Requirements (in US\$)	2021 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (November 2020 – April 2021)
20 m	20 m	5.4 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

- No new cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in the Tindouf refugee camps since early September.
- Prevention and safety measures remain in place for WFP activities, including the adjusted distribution procedures for food and voucher projects that encourage social distancing to avoid overcrowding and the use of personal protective equipment. Remote monitoring activities also remains in place for the time being.
- The UN base (Weather Haven) remained partially open in October with strict safety measures, including limited working hours, daily temperature controls, limiting movement and reception of external visitors and conventional protective measures like mask wearing, social distancing and handwashing.

## Challenges

- WFP urgently requires additional funding to cover food needs until the end of the year and US\$ 5.4 million for the next 6 months. WFP is forced to cut its general food rations starting in November while this assistance is vital for the refugees' survival and even more important during the global pandemic.
- 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 is 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.

## Post Distribution Monitoring Exercise

- WFP conducted a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey with the help of its field partner, the Italian NGO *Il Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli* (CISP) in all five refugee camps.
- About 500 households were interviewed between 18 and 22 October 2020. WFP is reviewing the data and analysing the findings; the final results and report are expected by the end of November.
- This PDM exercise is a critical part of WFP Algeria's monitoring framework in the Tindouf camps that provides important beneficiary feedback on the entitlements and allows to compare results over time to identify trends related to food security and WFP food assistance.
- Two such surveys are planned per year (in March and October) but due to the COVID-19 outbreak in the first quarter of 2020, the first planned PDM was replaced by a [COVID-19 Household Impact Survey](#) in April 2020.

## WFP support to Algeria 's COVID-19 response

- WFP is participating in the United Nation's (UN) support to the Algerian Government's response to COVID-19.
- The Government has begun a socio-economic impact study with UN support that will provide data to calibrate public policies for Algeria's socio-economic recovery during and after the health crisis.

## Donors

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