



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Algeria Country Brief November 2020

In Numbers

1,827 mt of food assistance distributed under GFA

1,805 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket

US\$ 7.2 m six months (January-June 2021) net funding requirements, representing 72% of total

133,672 people assisted
In November 2020



WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

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**

Anaemia prevalence: **52% for women 15-49 years**

Global acute malnutrition: **> 7% of children between 06-59 months**

Chronic malnutrition: **28.2 % of children between 6-59**

Operational Updates

- In November WFP distributed 133,672 food rations that included 5 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 was missing 3 kg of wheat flour and therefore the energetic value only reached 1,805 kcal/day, 86 percent of the planned value.
- Due to a funding deficit, the first distribution at the beginning of the month did not include any wheat flour, which makes up almost half of the food basket. Fortunately, WFP Algeria received an allocation of USD 600,000 of flexible funding from headquarters to bridge the most urgent needs. Thanks to these funds, the office was able to quickly procure local wheat flour and complement the November food basket with 5 kg per person through a second distribution.
- The new funds were also partially used to reimburse for prepositioned stock managed by the Spanish Red Cross and the Algerian Red Crescent that had loaned different commodities including wheat flour, lentils, sugar and vegetable oil to allow the October ration to be complete.
- 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 662 women. In addition, around 8,000 PLWGs received fresh food vouchers to prevent MAM and anaemia.
- For the treatment of MAM in children, 483 children aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of 100g of specialised nutritious food. To prevent MAM in children, 13,620 boys and girls aged 6-59 months received specialized nutritious food in health centres.
- 39,347 boys and girls in all the camp schools benefitted of WFP's school feeding programme to encourage them to enrol and attend class. Every child received a mid-morning consisting of high energy biscuits and a glass of milk.

WFP Country Strategy

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

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
59 m	31 m
2021 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (January– June 2021)
20 m	7.2 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

- According to the authorities, no new cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in the Tindouf refugee camps since early September.
- To combat the spread of the virus, WFP and partners continued their prevention and safety measures for the different activities, including by adjusting the procedures for food and voucher distributions to encourage social distancing and the use of personal protective equipment.
- In schools and kindergartens, children were taught in two sessions to avoid overcrowding of classrooms. Also, regular handwashing is enforced.
- Remote monitoring activities remain in place for the time being.
- The UN base (Weather Haven) remained partially open until 12

November with strict safety measures, including limited working hours, daily temperature controls, limited movement and reception of external visitors and conventional protective measures like mask wearing, social distancing and handwashing.

- Recent events at the border of Western Sahara had led the UN to temporarily limit the humanitarian access to the camps for safety precautions. While no safety incidents were reported in the camps, the UN base has remained closed since mid-November but access to the camps has resumed.

Challenges

- WFP urgently requires additional funding of USD 7.2 million to cover food needs for the period of January – June 2021.
- The COVID-19 crisis with its many health, social and economic implications continues to pose a threat to the Sahrawi refugees that find themselves in a difficult context with a weak health system and problematic water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) situation.

Cash-based Transfer workshop

- On 18 November, a workshop was organized to assess the first year of the CBT project that provides pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWGs) with access to fresh food through vouchers. The participants included refugee organization *Media Luna Roja Saharawi* (MLRS), the local leadership, humanitarian actors and donors.
- The USAID-funded project is the first large-scale CBT activity in the camps and the workshop was aimed at examining the main challenges encountered, review lessons learned and discuss the projects' next steps. Representatives from the retailers and the beneficiaries (PLWGs) also presented their experiences.
- WFP presented the advantages of shifting from paper vouchers to electronic vouchers, which would solve many of the challenges identified during the meeting.
- The workshop recommendations include the formulation of a roadmap to transition to electronic vouchers by April 2021. Additional discussions with the partners are planned.

16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence (GBV)

- Unfortunately, due to the corona crisis and limited humanitarian access, no events can be organized in the camps this year.
- Online events to sensitize WFP and partner staff on GBV are planned for December.

Donors

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