



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Algeria Country Brief December 2020

In Numbers

133,672 people assisted
In December 2020



1,426 mt of food assistance distributed under GFA

1,394 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket

US\$ 6.5 m six-month (February – July 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%** of children between 6-59 months

Operational Updates

- In December WFP distributed 133,672 food rations that included 2 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 6 kg of wheat flour and therefore the energetic value provided by WFP only reached 1,394 kcal/day, 63 percent of the planned value. UNHCR had contributed to complete the full ration and provided 6 kg of wheat flour, so that the energy intake received by beneficiaries was almost 2,100 kcal as planned.
- WFP Algeria received an allocation of USD 600,000 of flexible funding from headquarters to bridge the most urgent needs. The funding was 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 previous months' 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 649 women. In addition, around 8,148 PLWGs received fresh food vouchers to prevent MAM and anaemia.
- For the treatment of MAM in children, 494 children aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of 100g of specialised nutritious food. To prevent MAM in children, 13,595 boys and girls aged 6-59 months received specialized nutritious food in health centres.
- Schooling in the refugee camps resumed in September with a strict health and safety protocol and in December 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 or afternoon consisting of high energy biscuits and a glass of milk.

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

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
59 m	35 m
2021 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (February – July 2021)
20 m	6.5 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.

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.
- WFP monitoring team jointly with UNHCR resumed their monitoring field visits to the camps for all activities
- The UN base (Weather Haven) remained closed during December.

- Recent events at the border of Western Sahara had led the UN to temporarily limit humanitarian access to the camps due to 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 amounting to US\$ 6.5 million to cover food needs for the period of February – July 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.

Social Behaviour Change Communication Strategy (SBCC)

- WFP concluded the Sahrawi Social Behaviour Change Communication Strategy processes. A Nutrition and Health SBCC Strategy 2020 – 2025 was finalized and a series of training sessions were offered to relevant Sahrawi health personnel and Oxfam staff. Training on Care Group Methods was provided, which is a key recommendation of the strategy. Participants also received training on 24 Care Group Lessons and a facilitator guide on communication methods.

Inauguration of the Isolation Center in Awserd Camp

- WFP completed the construction of an isolation center in Awserd Camp using funding provided by Brazil. Awserd was one of the camps that where early cases of COVID-19 were identified. The construction of this centre was a relief to the local authorities as previously there were no isolation facilities in the camps. WFP with the presence of UNHCR, camp management, Triangle Generation Humanitaire (TGH), and the cooperating partner of the project, the Algerian Red crescent (CRA), inaugurated the isolation centre on the 16 December 2020.

Donors

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