WFP Algeria
Country Brief
January 2021

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. Upon the request of the Algerian Government, WFP has been present in the country since 1986.

The latest 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. A mere 12 percent of the Sahrawi population is food secure.

WFP meets the basic food needs of refugees through the provision of general food assistance, nutrition-sensitive school feeding and complementary livelihood activities. WFP works on improving the nutrition status of refugees through the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition and the prevention of malnutrition in pregnant and lactating women and girls, women and girls of reproductive age and children aged 6–59 months.

WFP currently represents the main regular and reliable source of food for the Sahrawi refugees in Algeria.

In Numbers

133,672 people assisted
In January 2021

2,228 mt of food assistance distributed under GFA

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

US$ 6.5 m six month (February – July 2021) net funding requirement

Operational Updates

• In January WFP distributed 133,672 food rations 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 920 g of fortified vegetable oil. About 2,100 kcal per person per day were received by beneficiaries during the month of January.

• 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 672 women. In addition, around 8,209 PLWGs received fresh food vouchers to provide a more nutritious diet and to prevent MAM and anaemia.

• As part of treatment of MAM in children, 532 children aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of specialised nutritious food throughout January, while MAM prevention activities reached 13,795 boys and girls aged 6–59 months, who also received specialized nutritious food in health centres.

• Schooling in the refugee camps resumed in September 2020 with a strict health and safety protocol. In January 39,347 boys and girls in all the camp schools were able to benefit from WFP’s school feeding programme, which had the aim of encouraging and maintaining student enrolment and class attendance. Every child received a mid-morning or afternoon snack consisting of high energy biscuits and a glass of milk.

• In January, WFP’s implementing partner CISP (Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli) has started the rehabilitation of schools across the refugee camps to improve the conditions for the preparation of dried skimmed milk, which is provided as part of the daily school snack for children. WFP is funding the rehabilitation of kitchens in nine schools as well as the creation of refectories for school feeding activities in three of these schools. The rehabilitation works are expected to be completed in March 2021.
**WFP Country Strategy**

**Interim Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 to June 2022)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in US$)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in US$)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>59 m</td>
<td>35 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021 Requirements (in US$)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US$) (February – July 2021)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 m</td>
<td>6.5 m</td>
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**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, four new cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in the Tindouf refugee camps in January.
- To prevent the spread of coronavirus, WFP and partners continued applying prevention and safety measures for the different activities. These included adjusting the procedures for food and voucher distributions to encourage social distancing and the use of personal protective equipment.
- In schools and kindergartens, the students are taught in two separate sessions to avoid overcrowding of classrooms. Also, strict health & safety measures are enforced, including regular handwashing. Schools and kindergartens are equipped with hand sanitizer and all pupils wear masks during lessons. A comprehensive approach to protect students was formulated as part of the ‘safe back to school strategy’.
- WFP and its partners’ monitoring teams continued their regular monitoring activities in the camps during January.
- The UN base (Weather Haven) remained closed during January.

**Challenges**

- 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.

**EU ECHO visit**

- From 26 - 27 January, representatives from the EU’s Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) conducted a two-day visit to the Tindouf refugee camps. WFP’s warehouses and food security stocks in Rabouni as well as a MAM project site funded by ECHO in the Awserd refugee camp were part of the itinerary. The delegation also visited families in Laayoune camp who are benefiting from general food assistance as well nutrition interventions through cash-based transfers and spoke with the beneficiaries about their situation and the assistance received.

**CSP Evaluation**

- An evaluation of the Algeria Interim Country Strategic Plan (June 2019 – June 2022) is planned for 2021. The evaluation team started the inception phase in January, conducting a desk review, as well as briefings with WFP staff and partners. The data collection phase in the refugee camps is planned for the third week of March 2021.

**Photo caption:** One of WFP’s innovative livelihood activities are fish farms, which provide Sahrawi refugees with access to locally farmed fish and animal protein. Tilapia, a resilient fish that can withstand high temperatures, is bred in eight-month cycles in several basins. The fish farms also serve as a training centre to enable refugees to build smaller community level fish farms.

**Donors**

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