



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Algeria Country Brief April 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 rely on humanitarian assistance for their survival.

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.

A nutrition survey conducted in 2019 indicated a deterioration of women's and children's nutritional status compared to 2018. Global acute malnutrition (GAM) among children aged 6-59 months increased from 4.7 percent in 2016 to 7.6 percent. The anaemia prevalence among children aged 6-59 months was 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

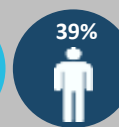
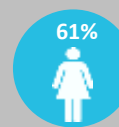
Anaemia prevalence: 52% for women 15-49 years

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

Chronic malnutrition: 28% of children between 6-59 months

In Numbers

133,672 people assisted in April 2021



2,228.38 mt of general food assistance distributed

2,105 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket

US\$ 8.9 million six-month (June - November 2021) net funding requirements.

Operational Updates

- In April, WFP assisted 133,672 people with food rations including 8 kg of wheat flour, 2 kg rice, 3 kg barley, 750 g sugar, 2 kg gofio and 920 g of fortified vegetable oil. Beneficiaries received around 2,105 kcal per person per day.
- For the treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and anaemia in pregnant and lactating women (PLWGs), WFP reached 658 women with daily rations of super cereal wheat soy blend and vegetable oil. In addition, around 8,154 PLWGs received fresh food vouchers to provide a more nutritious diet and to prevent MAM and anaemia.
- As part of the treatment of children MAM, 543 children aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of specialised nutritious food (PlumpySup) throughout April, while MAM prevention activities reached 13,856 boys and girls aged 6-59 months, who also received specialized nutritious food (Nutributter) in health centres.
- Schooling in the refugee camps resumed in September 2020 with a strict health and safety protocol. In April, 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.
- Complementary school feeding activities, funded by the Brazilian Trust Fund started on 6 April, with weekly distributions of sandwiches with cheese, eggs, and a juice, for the two remaining months of the academic year (April and May 2021). These weekly distributions reached children enrolled in primary and intermediate schools, coranic schools, and centers of children with specific needs across the five refugee camps.

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

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
59 m	40 m
2021 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (June - November 2021)
20 m	8.9 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 local authorities, there was an increase of cases of COVID-19 in the Tindouf refugee camps in April. WFP restricted movements to the camps to essential movements only, since 6 April, to prevent the spread of the virus and limit the risk of contagion.
- To prevent the spread of coronavirus, WFP and partners continued their prevention and safety measures for the different activities. This included adjusting the procedures for food and voucher distributions and school-feeding activities to encourage physical 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 April.
- The UN base (Weather Haven) was closed for 14 days in April due to the increase number of COVID-19 cases.

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.

COVID-19 vaccination campaign

Vaccination started in the refugee camps on 10 April, respecting WHO prioritization guidance: members of the government & administrations staff, medical personnel, old people, and people with chronic diseases.

Additional WFP corporate contribution

WFP Algeria received an “Immediate Response Account” (IRA) contribution to overcome the severe funding shortfalls under crisis-response activity 1 (general food assistance to food-insecure refugees) with a critical pipeline break which started in April. Funding was urgently required for WFP to continue providing life-saving food assistance to 133,672 Sahrawi refugees, for whom WFP’s monthly food assistance remains their main, regular, and reliable, source of food.

“Interim Country Strategic Plan” (ICSP) Evaluation Mission

The external evaluation team of Algeria ICSP (2019-2022) finished their field data collection phase. During the data collection, the team conducted field visits to the five refugee camps where they conducted meetings with WFP partners, key informative interviews with camp leaders and technical staff from the different sectors, focus group discussions with beneficiaries and family visits.

Isolation areas for drivers

WFP Algeria built five modular cabins for drivers, transporting commodities from the North of Algeria to the five refugee camps, to rest and isolate in order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

More resistant gardens in the camps

WFP Algeria signed an agreement with its partner Oxfam to implement the second phase of the innovative livelihood project “H2Optimal” of Waterboxx as of 1 April 2021 until 31 December 2021. This project presents a new innovative approach using Groasis® waterboxx, which is a cost-effective and water-saving way to plant trees and vegetables and allows to increase access of refugee families to fresh food through growth in their vegetable production. In the medium term, it has the advantage of creating protected and more resistant gardens in the camps.

Donors

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