WFP Algeria
Country Brief
May 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.

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.

In Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>133,672 people assisted in May 2021</td>
<td>61%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2,270 mt of food assistance distributed</td>
<td>39%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2,098 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>US$ 8.9 m six-month (June – November 2021) net funding requirement</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Operational Updates

- In May, WFP distributed 133,672 food rations that included 8 kg of wheat flour, 2 kg rice, 2 kg of lentils 1.5 kg barley, 750 g sugar, 2 kg gofio and 720 g of fortified vegetable oil. About 2,098 kcal per person per day were received by beneficiaries during the month of May.

- For the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and anaemia of pregnant and lactating women (PLWGs), WFP distributed daily rations of super cereal wheat soy blend and vegetable oil to 633 women. In addition, around 8,345 PLWGs received fresh food vouchers to provide them with a more nutritious diet and to prevent MAM and anaemia.

- As part of treatment of MAM in children, 522 children aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of specialised nutritious food (PlumpySup) throughout May, while MAM prevention activities reached 13,718 boys and girls aged 6-59 months, who also received specialized nutritious food (Nutributter) in health centres.

- In May, 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: 50 gr of high energy biscuits (HEB) and 40 gr of dried skimmed milk (HEB only in kindergartens).

- Complementary school feeding activities, funded by the Brazilian Trust Fund continued in May, through weekly distributions of sandwiches with cheese, eggs and a juice, for the last month of the academic year. 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.

The situation in the camps

- According to the local authorities, there was a decrease of cases of COVID-19 in the Tindouf refugee camps in May. On 23 May, a total of six active cases were reported in the last 72 hours.

- To prevent the spread of coronavirus, WFP and partners continue 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 social distancing and the use of personal protective equipment.

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Algeria

Photo caption: Two girls receiving their morning snack during the WFP school feeding activity. WFP/ Geraldine Bajot
**WFP Country Strategy**

**Interim Country Strategic Plan (mid-2019-mid-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>40 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021 Requirements (in US$)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US$) (June – November 2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 m</td>
<td>8.9 m</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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.
- 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 May.

**Challenges**
- The COVID-19 crisis with its many health, social and economic implications continues to pose a threat to the Sahrawi refugees who find themselves in a difficult context with a weak health system and challenging water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) situation.
- Limited funding due to delayed confirmation of new funds and donor restrictions not allowing WFP advanced financing mechanism remains a challenge. The CO is taking necessary measures to avoid negative implications on the operation.

**Covid19 vaccination campaign**

Vaccination continues in the refugee camps with priorities given to members of the local authorities, medical personnel, old people and people with chronicle diseases.

**Additional WFP corporate contribution**

WFP Algeria received a “Strategic Resource Allocation Committee” (SRAC) contribution to overcome 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 in order 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.

**The fish farm project**

WFP Algeria will extend the agreement for one year with its partner TGH (Triangle Generation Humanitaire) to continue the fish farming activities. The extension will allow the cooperating partner to prepare the phase out of the project and handing over to the Sahrawi refugee leaders.

**Cash-based transfer (CBT) activity: from paper vouchers to electronic vouchers**

WFP Algeria is preparing to shift from the paper vouchers to electronic vouchers. Simulation and training exercises took place with the Sahrawi Red Crescent MLRS staff. A mission from the Regional Bureau is expected in mid-June 2021 to launch the enrolment in the SCOPE platform, WFP’s beneficiary and transfer management platform that supports the WFP programme intervention cycle from beginning to end (beneficiary registrations, intervention setups, distribution planning, transfers and distribution reporting).

**WFP’s Country Director (CD) in the city of Oran**

The CD and the logistics team visited the port of Oran to meet with the port authorities and attend the reception of some shipped commodities such as Gofio and Barley. The CD was also accompanied by the Secretary General of the Algerian Red Crescent and the Sahrawi Red Crescent. The mission also visited local miller company to discuss the wheat flour fortification plans.

**Photo caption**: WFP team visit to the port of Oran.
**Credit**: WFP/Khireddine Medjani

**Donors**

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