



## WFP Algeria Country Brief June 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.



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 rations distributed**  
in June 2021



**2,308.6 mt** of food assistance distributed

**2,117 kcal/person/day** provided through the general food basket

**US\$ 9.9 m** six month (July – December 2021) net funding requirement.

### Operational Updates

- In June WFP distributed 133,672 food rations that included 8 kg of wheat flour, 2 kg rice, 2 kg of lentils 1.6 kg barley, 750 g sugar, 1 kg gofio and 720 g of fortified vegetable oil. About 2,117 kcal per person per day were received by beneficiaries during the month of June.
- For the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and anaemia of pregnant and lactating women (PLW), WFP distributed daily rations of super cereal wheat soy blend and vegetable oil to 612 women. In addition, around 8,243 PLW received fresh food vouchers to provide a more nutritious diet and to prevent MAM and anaemia.
- WFP started the sensitization about the Multiple Micronutrient Supplements MMS (1 tablet per woman per day). The pilot phase of the MMS distribution took place in one of the refugee camps from the 30th May to 13th June 2021. MMS are essential for normal physiological function, growth and development for a pregnant woman and her unborn baby.
- For the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in children, 509 children aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of specialised nutritious food (PlumpySup) throughout June, while MAM prevention activities reached 13,784 boys and girls aged 6-59 months, who also received specialized nutritious food (Nutributter) in health centres.
- School feeding in the refugee camps stopped given that the school year ended on the 9<sup>th</sup> June. The school feeding activity will resume in the next school year starting from September 2021.

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

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
<b>59 m</b>	<b>41 m</b>
2021 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (June – November 2021)
<b>20 m</b>	<b>9.9 m</b>

**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 were no new Covid19 cases reported in the refugee camps during the month of June.
- In June, WFP continued to limit movements to the camps to essential movements only to prevent the spread of virus and limit the risk of contagion.
- WFP and its partners' monitoring teams continued their regular monitoring activities in the camps during June.

**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.
- Limited funding due to delayed confirmation of new funds and donor restrictions not allowing WFP advance 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 chronic diseases.

**The H2Optimal project**

WFP with its partner OXFAM have been selecting beneficiaries for the H2Optimal project at household level. Sensitization and training has already started for the newly selected beneficiaries and a new round of selection will take place in July. The H2Optimal project in the refugee camps in Tindouf uses innovative techniques for agriculture in the desert.

**Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM)**

WFP started to conduct the bi-annual post distribution monitoring to assess the food security situation in the camps. On 16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> June, WFP held a two-day refresher training on PDM for CISP's (Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli) enumerators conducted the data collection which started on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and finished on the 28<sup>th</sup> June. The final PDM report will be shared with all the involved stakeholders.

**World Refugee day: 20<sup>th</sup> June**

WFP team in Tindouf joined UNHCR and other UN agencies and partners to celebrate the World Refugee Day. Sports activities (football, volleyball) and drawing contests were organized by UNHCR in the Boujdour refugee camp.



Credit: WFP Algeria

**“Cooking something nice with little!”**

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, WFP team attended the award ceremony of the cooking competition at household level as part of the “Min chay naadel chi zein” (cooking something nice with little) TV show funded by WFP. The chef uses all commodities provided in the food basket and addresses malnutrition, anaemia, stunting, diabetes through the promotion of healthy cooking practices. The TV show is very appreciated by the communities and has a real impact on the refugee community regarding their culinary habits and diversification of dishes.

**Donors**

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