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.

Operational Updates

For the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and anaemia in December, WFP distributed daily rations of super cereal wheat soy blend, sugar and vegetable oil to 746 pregnant and lactating women (PLW). In addition, around 7,482 PLW (in the refugee camps of Dakhla, Smara, Laayoun and Awserd), received fresh food vouchers to provide a more nutritious diet and to prevent MAM and anaemia. In the camp of Boujdour, WFP distributed 788 e-vouchers to purchase additional commodities from a pre-selected list of diversified products. Moreover, 599 children aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of specialised nutritious food (PlumpySup). MAM prevention activities reached 13,791 boys and girls aged 6-59 months, who also received specialized nutritious food (Nutributter) in health centres.

- WFP continued the distribution of the Multiple Micronutrient Supplements MMS (1 tablet per woman per day) targeting 8,423 pregnant and lactating women.
- School feeding in the refugee camps continued as WFP distributed nutritious gofio porridge made from gofio, dried skimmed milk, vitamin-enriched oil and sugar to 39,864 children, every school day. WFP will continue to distribute a daily 50g packet of high energy biscuits.
- WFP Algeria continues to face critical wheat flour shortages. A solution is being discussed with the host government to tackle this issue.
- Over the last quarter of the year, and in line with WFP agreement with partners to ensure that food needs of the most vulnerable in the camp continued to be met throughout the year, additional food rations were provided to 4,749 people for the months of October, November and December—of whom WFP verified to be in urgent need of food assistance. The assistance was through unconditional resource transfers, reaching a total of 138,421 monthly beneficiaries for each of these. Food rations included 2 kg of lentils, 1.8 kg of rice, 4 kg of barley, 750 g sugar, 920 g of fortified vegetable oil. About 1,243 kcal per person per day were received by beneficiaries during the month of December.

In Numbers

138,421 rations distributed in December 2021
1,243 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket
US$ 8.5 m six-month (January 2022– June 2022) net funding requirement.
WFP Country Strategy

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in US$)</th>
<th>Total Received (in US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>64 m</td>
<td>53 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 m</td>
<td>8.5 m</td>
</tr>
</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.

The situation in the camps

- UNHCR and Triangle Generation Humanitaire (TGH) maintained their decision for the Weather Haven Base to remain open and keep the normal working hours while respecting strict COVID-19 prevention measures.
- WFP's field monitoring visits continued in December 2021, with the prevention measures in place to stop the spread of the Covid-19.
- In coordination with UNHCR, WFP continues to assess the COVID-19 situation in the camps. As of 26 December, 48 active cases were recorded in the refugee camps.
- 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 problematic water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) situation.
- The COVID-19 vaccination campaign continues in the refugee camps.

WFP’s post distribution monitoring
In December 2021, WFP conducted its second bi-annual Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise to assess the food security situation in the camps focusing on beneficiaries receiving WFP nutritional assistance. WFP provided training to the cooperating partner’s enumerators. Data collection took place between 19 and 23 December.

From vouchers to e-vouchers!
WFP started the transition to electronic food vouchers in the month of December 2021 (the rollout had been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic). The project was launched officially in Boujdour camp, one of the Sahrawi refugees camps, and the other four camps will follow in the coming months. WFP is rolling-out its digital beneficiary information and transfer management platform, SCOPE.

16 days of activism against gender-based violence!
WFP Algeria continued its activities as part the international campaign of 16 days of activism against gender-based violence that kicked off on 25 November, the International Day for the elimination of violence against Women, and ended on the 10 December, which is the Human Rights Day. Awareness sessions on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and gender-based violence were provided, jointly with UNHCR and UNICEF, for NGOs and local associations working in the refugee camps.

International Day of Persons with disabilities: 3 December 2021
WFP observed the International Day of Persons with disabilities by organizing sports and recreational activities such as football and drawing competitions in Awserd refugee camp.

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

Photo caption: focus group discussion to share the campaign’s key messages on gender-based violence.
©WFP/ Souha Guennoun