WFP Algeria
Country Brief
January 2022

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

- **133,672 rations distributed** in January 2022
- **1,900 mt** of food assistance distributed
- **1,732 kcal/person/day** provided through the general food basket
- **US$ 11.4 m** six month (February 2022– July 2022) net funding requirement.

Operational Updates

- In January, WFP distributed 133,672 food rations that included 8 kg of wheat flour, 2 kg of lentils, 2 kg of rice, 1 kg of barley, 750 g sugar, 460 g of fortified vegetable oil. Beneficiaries received about a 1,732 kcal per person per during the month of January.

- For the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition and anaemia of pregnant and lactating women (PLW), WFP distributed daily rations of super cereal wheat soy blend, sugar and vegetable oil to 732 women. In addition, around 7,789 PLW in the refugee camps received fresh food vouchers to provide a more nutritious diet and to prevent moderate acute malnutrition and anaemia. 788 PLW received e-vouchers with the value of DZD 1,400 (USD 11) to purchase additional commodities from a pre-selected list of diversified products.

- WFP continued the distribution of the Multiple Micronutrient Supplements (MMS) (1 tablet per woman per day), targeting 8,423 pregnant and lactating women.

- For the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in children, 589 children aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of specialised nutritious food (PlumpySup) throughout January, while MAM prevention activities reached 13,814 boys and girls aged 6-59 months, who also received specialized nutritious food (Nutributter) in health centres.

- School feeding in the refugee camps continued and 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. In January, schools were closed for a week because of the COVID-19 pandemic peak.
**WFP Country Strategy**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in US$)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63.7 m</td>
<td>55.8 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022 Requirements (in US$)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US$) (February 2022 – July 2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.1 m</td>
<td>11.4 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.

**Nutrition survey**

The nutrition survey started in the last week of January 2022. This is a joint exercise of UNHCR and WFP to assess the nutritional situation in the camps (anaemia, obesity, malnutrition, and food consumption score).

The Nutrition Survey began with the first phase, which is the training by WFP and UNHCR of CISP enumerators and staff from the local health authorities in the Weather Heaven base. WFP and UNHCR are ensuring strict COVID-19 Protocols during the training sessions and all the remaining phases of the survey.

**The scale-up of the e-vouchers project!**

WFP started to transition to electronic food vouchers in the month of December 2021. The project was launched officially in Boujdour camp, one of the refugee camps. It is now scaled up to Layoune camp where 11 selected retailers were trained about the SCOPE platform. More than 2,000 beneficiaries from Boujdour and Layoune camps are enrolled on the platform now. The full roll out is expected to be completed by April 2022.

**Visit of the Regional Director, Corinne Fleischer**

WFP’s Regional Director Corinne Fleischer visited the Tindouf refugee camps late January. The visit included all the WFP activities across the camps, including the school feeding activity, a visit to the warehouse in Rabouni where WFP commodities are stored. Furthermore, the nutrition prevention and treatment projects at health dispensaries for pregnant and lactating women and children from 6-59 months were visited followed by a discussion with women enrolled in the value vouchers project. The Regional Director visited some retailers who participated in the cash-based transfer project and visited the fish farm project in N’khaila. The Regional Director also visited the port of Oran and had meetings in Algiers with the Algerian authorities, donors and some United Nations colleagues.

**The situation in the camps**

- UNHCR and Triangle Generation Humanitaire (TGH) maintain 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 January 2022, with the prevention measures in place to stop the spread of COVID-19.
- In coordination with UNHCR, WFP continues to assess the COVID-19 situation in the camps. The COVID-19 situation is worsening; as of 16 January, 25 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 that find themselves in a difficult context with a weak health system and problematic water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) situation.

**ECHO visit to the refugee camps**

Representatives from the EU's Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) conducted a visit to the Tindouf refugee camps, accompanied by WFP staff. WFP’s nutrition and cash-based transfer (e-vouchers) projects funded by ECHO were part of the itinerary.

**Photo caption:** Regional Director, Corinne Fleischer, meeting with refugee women beneficiaries during her visit to the camps. ©WFP/ Geraldine Baijot

**Donors**

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