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 February 2022
- **1,961 mt** of food assistance distributed
- **2,135 kcal/person/day** provided through the general food basket
- **US$ 13.2 m** six month (March 2022– August 2022) net funding requirement.

Operational Updates

- In February 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, 0.75 kg sugar, 0.92 kg of fortified vegetable oil. About 2,135 kcal per person per day were received by beneficiaries during the month of February.

- 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, sugar and vegetable oil to 759 women. In addition, around 5,596 PLW in the refugee camps received fresh food paper vouchers to provide a more nutritious diet and to prevent MAM and anaemia, and 3,004 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, 596 children aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of special nutritional food (PlumpySup) throughout February, while MAM prevention activities reached 13,846 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.

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Photo caption: Wafaa Soussi from WFP distributing electronic cards to PLW beneficiaries of the cash-based transfers project.
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The joint UNHCR/WFP nutrition survey, aiming to assess the nutritional situation in the camps, focusing on malnutrition, anemia and obesity, continued during the month of February where all the training sessions took place and data collection conducted at camps level. Secondary data analysis started at the end of February.

**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) 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 February 2022, with 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 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.

Fish Farm

WFP is preparing for the third harvest, reaching its production target of 7 tons of Tilapia fish. The majority of the production was sold to the cooperation authorities who distribute it to local hospitals and some of the fish was distributed directly to the specialized education centres.

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

In February, WFP continued the rollout of the SCOPE project by delivering trainings for retailers and enrolling beneficiaries on the digital platform. WFP enrolled 100 percent of the PLW beneficiaries from Boujdour and Layoune camps on the SCOPE platform, covering 40 percent of all the pregnant and lactating women across the five camps. WFP also trained retailers from Dakhla camp on the use of the SCOPE platform, in preparation of the roll-out in this third camp.