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 March 2022

1,231 mt of food assistance distributed

1,145 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket

US$ 13 million six month (April 2022– September 2022) net funding requirement.

Operational Updates

- In March WFP distributed 133,672 food rations that included 2 kg of lentils, 2 kg of rice, 2 kg of barley, 0.75 kg of sugar, 0.46 kg of fortified vegetable oil, 1 kg of Corn-Soy Blend plus (CSB+) and 1 kg of Gofio. Beneficiaries received about 1,145 kcal per person per day during the month of March.

- 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 739 women. In addition, around 4,629 PLW in the refugee camps received fresh food paper vouchers to provide a more nutritious diet and to prevent MAM and anaemia. 3,882 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, 615 children aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of specialised nutritious food (PlumpySup) throughout February, while MAM prevention activities reached 13,866 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 did not distribute the daily 50g packet of high energy biscuits due to a shortage in stocks.

- WFP is facing big challenges of increased prices of food commodities and shipping, as well as the lack of availability in the local and international markets.
Interim Country Strategic Plan (Jul-2019-Jun-2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in US$)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in US$)</th>
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<tr>
<td>63.7 m</td>
<td>56.3 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022 Requirements (in US$)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US$) (April 2022 – September 2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.1 m</td>
<td>13 m</td>
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</tbody>
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**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 evaluation of WFP’s Interim Country Strategic plan ICSP (2019-2022)

On the 16 March, WFP organised a workshop where the key ICSP’s evaluation results and recommendations were presented to WFP staff, humanitarian actors, donors and partners. The summary evaluation report along with the management response to the evaluation recommendations will be presented to the WFP Executive board in February 2023.

**Nutrition Survey**

The joint UNHCR / WFP nutrition survey (which aims to assess the nutritional situation in the camps focusing on malnutrition, anaemia and obesity) ended in early March, all the training sessions took place and data collection was conducted at camps. The data analysis started and the final report is being prepared. The findings will be presented in a workshop to all the partners.

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

In March, 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, Layoune and Dakhla camps on the SCOPE platform, covering almost 50 percent of all of the pregnant and lactating women across the five camps.

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 March 2022, 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. The COVID-19 situation is stable and as of 28 March, no active cases were recorded in the refugee camps.
- In addition to the COVID-19 consequences, the increased food prices and shipping costs led the Sahrawi refugees to finding themselves in a more difficult context with a weak health system and problematic water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) situation.

Photo caption: WFP's deputy director of evaluation, Anne-Claire LUZOT, opening the evaluation workshop in Algiers ©WFP/ Abderezak Bouhaceine

Photo caption: A retailer receiving his SCOPE equipments from WFP staff. ©WFP/ Amel Derras

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