



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Algeria Country Brief April 2022

In Numbers



133,672 rations distributed
in April 2022

970 mt of food assistance distributed

845 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket

US\$15.8 million six-month (May 2022– October 2022) net funding requirement.

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

Global acute malnutrition: **> 7%**
of children between 06-59 months

Anaemia prevalence: **52%** for
women 15-49 years

Chronic malnutrition: **28%** of children
between 6-59 months

Operational Updates

- In April, WFP distributed 133,672 food rations that included 2 kg of lentils, 2 kg of rice, 0.75 kg of sugar, 1 kg of Corn-Soy Blend plus (CSB+) and 1.5 kg of Gofio (which represented 43.5 percent of the standard ration of 16.67 Kg). Beneficiaries received about 845 kcal per person per day during the month of April.
- 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 747 women. In addition, around 4,583 PLW in the refugee camps received fresh food paper vouchers to provide a more nutritious diet and to prevent MAM and anaemia and 4,017 received e-vouchers with the value of DZD 1,400 (USD11) 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 8,210 pregnant and lactating women.
- For the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in children, 603 children aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of specialised nutritious food (PlumpySup) throughout April, while MAM prevention activities reached 13,849 boys and girls aged 6-59 months, who also received specialised 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 didn't distribute the daily 50 g packet of high energy biscuits due to stock shortages.
- WFP is still facing big challenges of increased prices and shipping of food commodities, as well as the lack of availability in the local and international markets.

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Photo caption: a group of Sahrawi women attending the workshop on gender equality.
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WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (July-2019-June-2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
63.7 m	59 m
2022 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (May 2022 –October 2022)
13 m	15.8 m

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

WFP's purchases of wheat flour post-onset of the Ukrainian crisis show an almost fivefold increase of prices compared with the first half of 2021 and barley, lentils, and vegetable oil also experienced price hikes. The increased food prices and shipping costs, in addition to the consequences of COVID-19, are increasing the strain on the Sahrawi refugees who already struggle with a weak health system and problematic water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) situation.

A joint workshop on gender equality and women empowerment

On the 18 April, UNHCR and WFP organized a joint workshop on gender equality and women empowerment in the refugee camps. The theme was: "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow".

The aim of the workshop was to discuss and recognize women's

contribution to climate change adaptation, mitigation, and response, to build a more sustainable future for all. WFP has also rewarded 15 women enrolled in the WFP Waterboxxes project with certificates of recognition. The Waterboxxes is an innovative technique for households to grow vegetables, fruits and trees despite the dry and arid climate of Tindouf.

Deworming campaign in schools

A deworming campaign for all children who benefit from the school meals programme (39,864 children) was conducted on the 24/25 April. Awareness campaigns on the impact and importance of deworming were conducted alongside the intake of antiparasitic treatment.



Photo caption: a school-girl taking the deworming pill.
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Call for proposals for the integrated & sustainable farming project

WFP finalized planning the activities which will be funded by the Buffet Foundation's contribution and the call for proposals for the selection of implementing partners was announced. The project's overall objective is to improve the livelihood of households through increasing their farming production capacity and creating work opportunities, thereby promoting food security and enhancing self-reliance in the longer term.

ECHO donors' meeting

WFP Algeria was invited by ECHO (E.U. Humanitarian Aid) to join a donors' meeting on the 21 April to present all the challenges faced recently, especially the increased food commodities prices and shipping costs, and their impact. If the current funding remains at the same level, WFP will be able to cover only 10 percent of its needs for the coming 6 months. General food assistance will be affected the most, as it represents 84 percent of WFP's needs-based plan. This shortage will continue to directly impact the caloric intake of the vulnerable refugees.

Donors

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