



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



# WFP Algeria Country Brief May 2022

## In Numbers



**133,672 rations distributed**  
in May 2022

**825 MT** of food assistance distributed

**886 kcal/person/day** provided through the general food basket

**US\$16.6 million** six-month (June 2022– November 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 May, WFP distributed 133,672 food rations that included 2 kg of rice, 0.75 kg of sugar, 1 kg of Corn-Soy Blend plus (CSB+), 1.5 kg of Gofio and 0.92 kg of vegetable oil (which represented 37 percent of the standard ration of 16.67 Kg). Beneficiaries received about 886 kcal per person per day during this month.
- 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 764 women. In addition, around 2,818 PLW in the refugee camps received fresh food paper vouchers to provide them with a more nutritious diet and to prevent MAM and anaemia, as well as 5,782 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 8,210 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 May, while MAM prevention activities reached 13,901 boys and girls aged 6-59 months, who also received specialized nutritious food (Nutributter) in health centres.
- 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 resumed distribution of the daily 50g packet of high energy biscuits in May, which has been suspended due to stock shortages.

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**Photo caption:** Sahrawi retailers from Smara camp trained on the use of the mobile point of service (mpos) device.  
©WFP/ Ayoub Boudjella

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

| Total Requirements<br>(in US\$) | Total Received<br>(in US\$)  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>64 m</b>                     | <b>60 m</b>  |
| 2022 Requirements<br>(in US\$)  | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements<br>(in US\$) (June 2022 –November 2022) |
| <b>13 m</b>                     | <b>16.6 m</b>  |

### 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 field monitoring visits continued in May 2022.
- Preliminary results of the joint UNHCR / WFP nutrition survey conducted in the camps in March to assess malnutrition, anaemia, and obesity showed a decrease in the Food Consumption Score (FCS) of households from 60.3 percent in 2019 to 55.3 percent in February 2022 while the global acute malnutrition rate among children under 5 years old, increased from 7.6 percent in 2019 to 10.7 percent in February 2022. The findings were shared with the camps' leadership and presented to the E.U. Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) on 31 May.
- In coordination with UNHCR, WFP continues to assess the COVID-19 situation in the camps. The COVID-19 situation is stable, and no active cases were recorded in the refugee camps.

## Global Food Crisis Impact

- WFP is increasingly challenged by the rising prices of food commodities and shipping, as well as the lack of food in the local and international markets. For instance, WFP's

purchases of wheat flour post-onset of the Ukraine conflict show an almost fivefold increase of prices compared with the first half of 2021.

- Sahrawi refugees living in a context of weak health system and poor water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) situation, have been struggling with the COVID-19 consequences, now compounded by the increasing food costs, induced by the impact of the global food crisis.

## Spring Donors' Mission

In the third week of May 2022, a group of 40 delegates, representing different current and potential donors, visited different United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WFP projects in the refugee camps. The programme of the visit was organized jointly by the three humanitarian agencies and covered most of WFP respective activities. Delegates commended the joint UN efforts and the community-based approach adopted across all the projects.



**Photo caption:** The donors' mission visiting a health centre as part of WFP Cash-Based Transfer project. ©WFP/ Abderezak Bouhaceine

## The Scale-up of the E-vouchers Project

The e-vouchers (SCOPE) project scale-up continued, with the inclusion of all beneficiaries from the Smara camp through e-cards (e-vouchers).



**Photo caption:** Sahrawi retailers from Smara camp receiving training as part of the final phase of the e-vouchers project scale-up. ©WFP/ Ayoub Boudjella

## The Sustainable Farming Project

WFP finalized planning the farming capacity building activities of the integrated & sustainable farming project in the refugee camps funded by the Howard G. Buffet Foundation and published a call for proposals for the selection of cooperating partners. Four proposals were received and a cooperating partners committee will be organized in the first week of June to finalize the selection and prepare the field level agreements for signature.

## Donors

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