



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Algeria Country Brief August 2022

In Numbers



133,672 rations distributed
in August 2022

758 mt of food assistance distributed

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

US\$ 16.5 million six-month (September 2022– February 2023) 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.

Preliminary findings of the 2022 Nutrition Survey showed an increase of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence among children aged 6-59 months from 7.6 to 10.7 percent since 2019, while stunting prevalence rose from 28.2 to 28.8 percent. Since 2016 anaemia prevalence among the same group rose from 39 percent (2016) to 50 percent (2019) and increased further to 54.2 percent (2022).

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. WFP Algeria Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) for 2019-2021 was extended to February 2023. The ICSP continues to focus on helping meet the basic food and nutrition needs of the refugees in camps and improve their nutrition status.



Anaemia prevalence: **54.2%**
among children 6-59 months

Global acute malnutrition: **10.7%** of
children between 6-59 months

Anaemia prevalence: **53.5%** for
women 15-49 years

Chronic malnutrition: **28.8 %** of
children between 6-59 months

Operational Updates

- In August, WFP distributed 133,672 food rations that included: 2 kg of barley, 2 kg of lentils, 0.92 kg of vegetable oil, and 0.75 kg of sugar (representing 34 percent of the standard ration of 16.67 Kg) – total of 806 kcal per person per day. Due to funding shortfalls, WFP has reduced its food assistance since the first quarter of 2022, which decreased the beneficiaries' calorie intake.
- 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 with sugar (200 g/person/day) and vegetable oil (20 g/person/day) to 798 PLW. In addition, around 8,000 PLW in the refugee camps received fresh food e-vouchers to provide them with a more nutritious diet and to prevent MAM and anaemia. The e-voucher has the value of DZD 1,400 (USD 9.6) to purchase additional commodities from a pre-selected list of diversified products. Due to the delay in the e-voucher assistance in July, the beneficiaries received two-months' value (DZD 2,800) in August.
- Moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) prevention activities reached 13,996 boys and girls aged 6-59 months. In health centres, they received a half ration of Nutributter, covering 15 days, while 1,797 children of the same age group living in Dakhla camp received a ration covering 17 days. However, for the treatment of MAM of children, the distribution of specialised nutritious food (PlumpySup) has been suspended since June due to a production issue from the supplier.
- With the opening of the schools after the summer break, the school feeding activities resumed in September targeting to serve 40,000 children in the schools in refugee camps.
- A sandstorm hit Awserd camp on Friday 5 August, resulting in three casualties and material damage to houses, schools and a health centre. WFP participated in a joint rapid assessment carried out on 7 August with UN agencies, NGOs and local authorities to assess needs and draw a response plan accordingly.

Photo caption:

WFP staff is preparing the general food distribution with beneficiaries. ©WFP/Geraldine Baijot

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WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (July-2019-February-2023)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received (in US\$)
89 m	69 m
2022 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (September 2022 – February 2023)
32 m	16.5 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 field monitoring visits continued in August 2022.
- In coordination with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), WFP continues to assess the COVID-19 situation in the camps. The COVID-19 situation is stable, but few active cases were recorded in the refugee camps.
- The needs in the refugee camps continue to outpace levels of funding, widening the resourcing gap.

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.
- 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.

The United Nations team in Algeria appeals for the international community's increased support

Faced with a deteriorating nutrition situation in the camps in Tindouf, including over 75 percent cuts in food rations due to the serious funding shortfalls, on 24 August the United Nations team in Algeria, including WFP, appealed for the international community's increased support for lifesaving food and nutrition assistance to refugees facing serious food insecurity and malnutrition. [Online link](#)



Photo caption: press conference organized by the UN Resident Coordinator, accompanied by the representatives of UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP. © WFP/Abderezak Bouhaceine

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