**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 06-59 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.

**In Numbers**

- 133,672 rations distributed in October 2022
- 2,095 mt of food assistance distributed
- 1977 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket
- US$ 12.8 million six-month (November 2022–April 2023) net funding requirement.

**Operational Updates**

- In October, WFP distributed 133,672 food rations that included: 8 kg of wheat flour, 2 kg of barley, 2 kg of lentils, 2 kg of rice, 0.92 kg of vegetable oil, 0.75 kg of sugar – total of 1,977 kcal per person per day. This represents 100 percent of the standard ration.
- For the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and anaemia of pregnant and lactating women (PLW), WFP continued distributing daily rations of super cereal wheat soy blend with sugar (200 g/person/day) and vegetable oil (20 g/person/day) for 769 PLW. In addition, 8,262 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, including the top up from UNHCR, had the total value of DZD 2,800 (USD 18) to purchase additional commodities from a pre-selected list of diversified products.
- WFP distributed the Multiple Micronutrient Supplements MMS (1 tablet per woman per day) targeting 8,424 pregnant and lactating women.
- For the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in children, 772 children aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of specialised nutritious food (PlumpySup) throughout October.
- School feeding in the refugee camps continued. WFP distributed nutritious gofio porridge made from gofio, dried skimmed milk, vitamin-enriched oil and sugar to 39,223 children every school day. WFP resumed the distribution of the daily 50g packet of high energy biscuits to 8,291 children in kindergartens.
- WFP Algeria requires USD 12.8 million for the coming six months to provide this assistance uninterruptedly.

**Photo caption:** WFP staff explaining the innovative technique of Groasis Waterbox to the visiting US PRM team. ©WFP/Adila Rebib

**Contact info:** Abderezak Bouhaceine (abderezak.bouhaceine@wfp.org)

**Country Director:** Imed Khanfir (imed.khanfir@wfp.org)

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/Algeria](http://www.wfp.org/countries/Algeria)
## WFP Country Strategy

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in US$)</th>
<th>Total Received (in US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>89 m</td>
<td>69 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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 October 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 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 and the reduced income opportunities, now compounded by the increasing food costs induced by the impact of the global food crisis.

## WFP’s post distribution monitoring

In October, WFP conducted its second bi-annual Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise to assess the food security situation in the camps focusing on beneficiaries receiving WFP nutritional assistance. WFP provided training to the implementing partner's enumerators and the data collection started the last week of October.

## EU Ambassador and the EU Humanitarian Aid visit the refugee camps

WFP organised a field visit for the EU Ambassador and EU Humanitarian Aid team (from Algiers and Brussels). The delegation visited the nutrition cash-based transfers (CBT) project at a dispensary and retailer's level. The visit also included a general food assistance distribution in Awserd camp. Both visits were followed by focus group discussions with beneficiaries. The cooking studio was part of the visit programme too. The studio hosted a TV cooking show of a popular cook in the camps who cooks nutritious and healthy meals from the commodities distributed by WFP in camps.

**Photo caption:** the whole delegation visiting the cooking studio ©WFP/Adila Rebib

## The US Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (US PRM) in the refugee camps

The US PRM team visited the fish farm project (which the PRM funds). It was a good opportunity for its members to see the progress and discuss with the implementing partner day-to-day work and the challenges being faced. The team also visited one school in Laayoune camp during which the gofio porridge was distributed to the children. The visit also included the presentation of advice on nutrition prevention and treatment programme at dispensary level in Smara camp followed by a visit to a CBT retailer.

## Donors

Andorra, Buffet Foundation, Brazil, Bulgaria, ECHO, Germany, Italy, France, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, UK, USA.

---

**WFP Algeria Country Brief**
**October 2022**