



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Algeria Country Brief November 2022

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.

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.



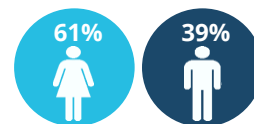
Anaemia prevalence: **54.2%**
among children 6-59 months

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

In Numbers



133,672 rations distributed
in November 2022

2028 mt of food assistance distributed

1920 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket

US\$ 14.7 million six-month (December 2022– May 2023) net funding requirement.

Operational Updates

- In November, WFP distributed 133,672 food rations that included: 8 kg of wheat flour, 1.5 kg of barley, 2 kg of lentils, 2 kg of rice, 0.92 kg of vegetable oil, 0.75 kg of sugar – total of 1,920 kcal per person per day.
- For the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and anaemia of pregnant and lactating women (PLW), Due to stock shortage, WFP was not able to distribute the daily rations of super cereal wheat soy blend with sugar (200 g/person/day) and vegetable oil (20 g/person/day) for PLW. However, 8,393 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 had the value of Algerian Dinar (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, 791 children aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of specialised nutritious food (PlumpySup) throughout November.
- WFP continued school feeding activities in the refugee camps. WFP distributed nutritious gofio porridge plus the 50g packet of high energy biscuits to 39,223 children every school day. Gofio is a flour made from roasted grains that is rich in vitamins, proteins and minerals. The porridge is made from gofio, dried skimmed milk, vitamin-enriched oil and sugar.

Global Food Crisis Impact

- WFP is challenged by the rising prices of food commodities and shipping, and 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.

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Photo caption: the Sahrawi chef *Haha* cooking with the Italian chef Eleonora Andriolo ©WFP/Abderezak Bouhaceine

WFP Country Strategy

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

Total Requirements (in US\$)		Total Received (in US\$)
89 m		74 m
2022 Requirements (in US\$)	2023 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Dec 2022 – May 2023)
32 m	38 m	14.7 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 November 2022. Findings showed that nearly 20 percent of the general food distribution points need rehabilitation. WFP and its partners in the field started the planning of the required rehabilitation work.
- A joint UNHCR-WFP Nutrition Survey report was conducted in 2022 and findings were shared with all the stakeholders.
- 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.

The fusion of Sahrawi and Italian cuisines

- *Haha*, a popular Sahrawi refugee chef of TV cooking show "Min chway naadel chi zein" (cook something nice with little) participated in the Italian cuisine week in Algiers in

November. Chef Haha cooked with the Italian chef Eleonora Andriolo from commodities distributed by WFP. The TV show is funded by WFP and is among the most popular in the camps.

Autumn Donors' Mission

In the third week of November 2022, a group of 40 delegates, representing current and potential government 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 activities. Delegates commended the joint UN efforts and the community-based approach adopted across all the projects.



Photo caption: the whole delegation visiting the food commodities warehouse ©WFP/Abderezak Bouhaceine

WFP's Deputy Director of Operations Management Support Unit and WFP Regional Programme Advisor visited WFP Algeria

WFP's Deputy Director of Operations Management Support Unit, David Bulman and the Regional Programme Advisor, Siemon Hollema, visited the Tindouf refugee camps in November. The visit included all the WFP activities across the camps, including the school feeding activity, and the warehouse in Rabouni where WFP commodities are stored. Furthermore, the delegation visited the nutrition prevention and treatment projects at health dispensaries for pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6-59 months and chatted with some refugee beneficiaries. Mr Bulman and Mr Hollema visited some retailers who are participants in the cash-based transfer project. They also visited the fish farm project in N'khaila in the refugee camps near the town of Tindouf. The visit extended to port Oran and had meetings in Algiers with the Algerian authorities, donors and United Nations colleagues.

Donors

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