

WFP EVALUATION



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Evaluation of Algeria WFP Interim Country Strategic Plan 2019-2022

Centralized Evaluation Report

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Disclaimer

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Key personnel for the evaluation

OFFICE OF EVALUATION

Anne-Claire Luzot	Deputy Director of Evaluation
Michael Carbon	Senior Evaluation Officer
Vivien Knips	Evaluation Manager
Aboh Anyangwe	Research Analyst

EXTERNAL EVALUATION TEAM

Lezlie Caro Morinière	Team Leader
Madani Belhafiane	Evaluator
Leila Bent Mustapha	Evaluator
Marlène Pra	Data Analyst and Project Manager
Tino Smail	Quality Assurance Director

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Executive Summary

INTRODUCTION

Evaluation features

1. The evaluation of the Algeria interim country strategic plan (ICSP) for 2019–2022 was conducted between January 2021 and March 2022 and is the first evaluation that covers the entire portfolio of WFP activities in the country. It provides evidence and lessons to inform the adjustment of programming under the current ICSP, which is being extended to 2024, and the development of the next country strategic plan (CSP). While the evaluation considered the opportunities explored by WFP to have broadened the geographical scope of WFP operations in Algeria, it is focused on operations in support of the Sahrawi refugees living in five camps near Tindouf.
2. The evaluation covers the implementation period of the transitional interim country strategic plan (T-ICSP) for January 2018 to June 2019 and the implementation of the ICSP between July 2019 and April 2021 in order to assess the transition and strategic shift envisaged by the ICSP. It assesses WFP's relevance and strategic positioning, WFP's contribution to strategic outcomes, the timeliness, coverage and cost-efficiency of WFP operations, and the factors explaining performance. The evaluation also looks at WFP's response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.
3. An independent external evaluation team conducted the evaluation using a theory-based, mixed-methods approach, drawing on monitoring data and document review and engaging through photovoice, semi-structured interviews with key informants, home visits and focus group discussions with more than 200 stakeholders. Primary and secondary data were systematically triangulated to ensure the validity of findings. Gender and social inclusion were fully integrated into the methodological approach and ethical standards were applied to ensure the dignity and confidentiality of the people involved in the evaluation. Findings, conclusions and recommendations were discussed in two workshops, with internal stakeholders in November 2021 and with external stakeholders in March 2022.
4. An evaluability challenge was that all the participants in interviews, focus group discussions and home visits were selected by the camp authorities. As a consequence, the evaluation team could not ensure that the perspectives of all refugee groups were included. Approaches used to mitigate this shortcoming were an in-depth literature review, the use of home visits to capture the household context and the systematic triangulation of sources to ensure the overall validity of the findings presented in the report.
5. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), "the Sahrawi refugee situation is one of the most protracted refugee situations in the world. Refugees from Western Sahara have been living in camps near Tindouf in southwest Algeria since 1975. The Government of Algeria recognized them as prima facie refugees, and has been hosting them in five camps, enabling access to public services, and providing infrastructure such as roads and electricity"¹.
6. The Sahrawi refugees in Algeria live in five camps near the town of Tindouf, 2,000 km southwest of Algiers. The five camps are located in a remote and arid landscape characterized by extreme temperatures and very low rainfall. Social and humanitarian services are delivered and managed by the camp leadership through the Sahrawi Red Crescent, the main partner of the Algerian Red Crescent on the ground, with support from international and civil society organizations.
7. The harsh agroecological environment, infertile soils and scarce, heavily mineralized water resources make life and agricultural production conditions difficult in the camps. For the past 45 years, the population living in the camps has continued to suffer food insecurity and malnutrition, with high rates of anaemia due to the scarcity of fresh and diverse food and the limited access to water, and therefore continues to depend on external food assistance.

¹ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2016. *Humanitarian needs of Sahrawi refugees in Algeria 2016–2017*.

WFP interim country strategic plan

8. WFP has provided assistance to Sahrawi refugees in Algeria since 1986, mainly through general food assistance, school feeding and nutrition activities. The WFP ICSP for Algeria for 2019–2022 identified two strategic outcomes aimed at ensuring food security for Sahrawi refugees through general food assistance, nutrition-sensitive school feeding and complementary livelihood activities, and improving nutrition status through the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (figure 1).

9. Innovations under the ICSP were the introduction of cash-based transfers, the distribution of specialized nutritious foods for pregnant and lactating women and children of 6–59 months of age, and additional complementary pilot livelihood activities.

10. The period covered by the ICSP was extended for eight months, from July 2022 to February 2023, through a budget revision approved in June 2022. Another budget revision was to further extend the ICSP to December 2024, aligning it with an envisioned United Nations-wide refugee response plan or humanitarian response plan, expected to be elaborated by the United Nations country team in 2023 and to start in 2024.

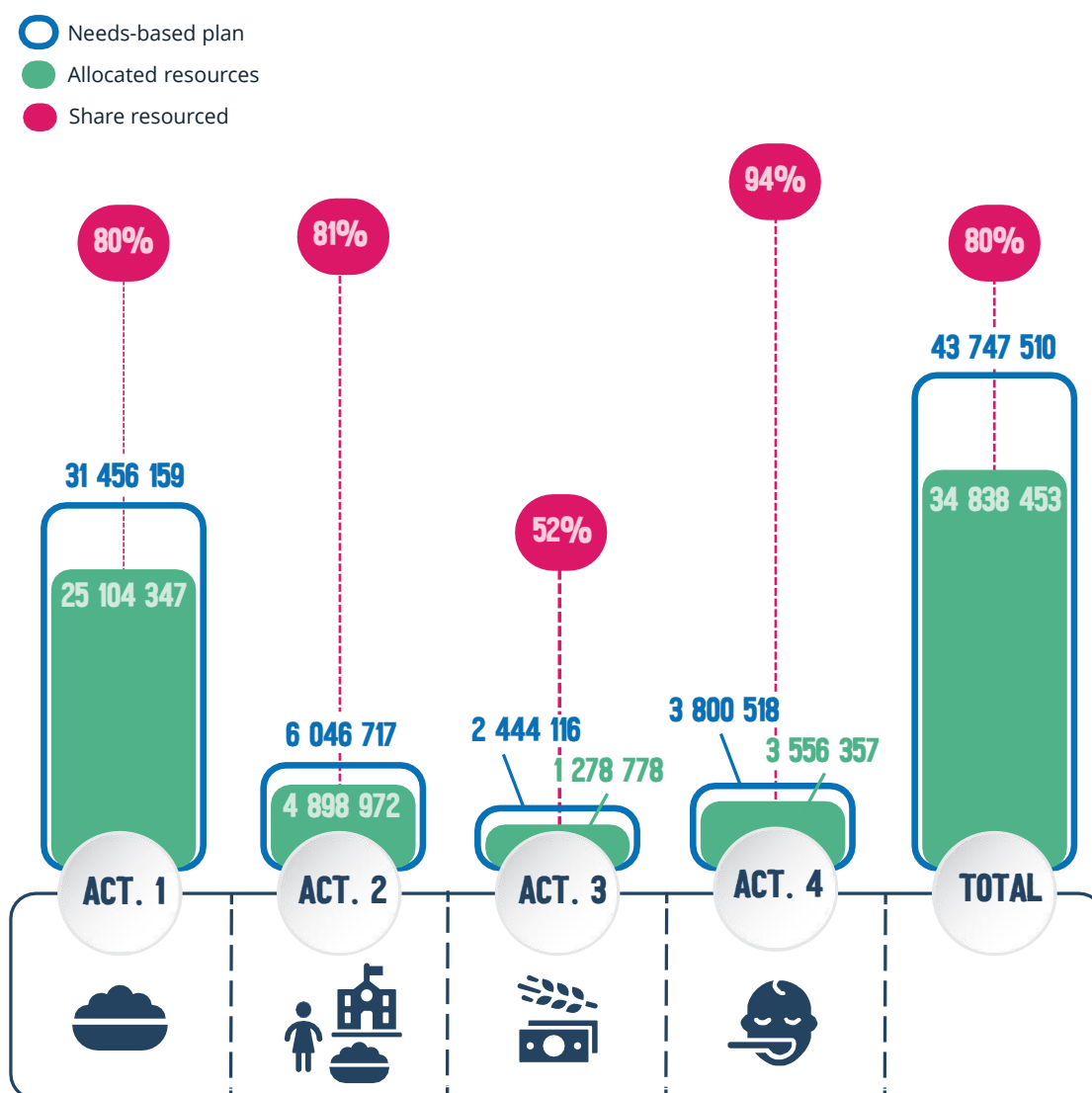
Figure 1: Interim country strategic plan line of sight



Source: Algeria ICSP line of sight and ICSP (2019–2022) document.

11. The total cumulative operational requirements under the needs-based plan for the original ICSP period (July 2019 through May 2021) was USD 43.7 million, with the bulk – USD 39.9 million – for strategic outcome 1 and USD 3.8 million for strategic outcome 2 (see details by activity in figure 2). As of June 2021, 68.5 percent of the entire four-year ICSP needs-based plan had been funded, leaving a shortfall of USD 18.5 million.

Figure 2: Allocated resources by activity, 2018–2021



Source: Integrated Road Map analytics, annual country report 1, cumulative financial overview as of 7 May 2021.

Notes:

- Needs-based plan and allocated resource figures are cumulative, covering the period from 2018 to 2021. The needs-based plan for the period 2018 to 2021 is USD 43.7 million and for the whole ICSP period it is USD 58.97 million.
- Allocated resources by activity do not add up to USD 34.8 million because resources were also allocated to non-activity-specific purposes (USD 0.002 million). The percentages of resources allocated compared with the needs-based plan have been calculated at the activity level and exclude direct support costs (USD 1.9 million) and indirect support costs (USD 2.1 million).

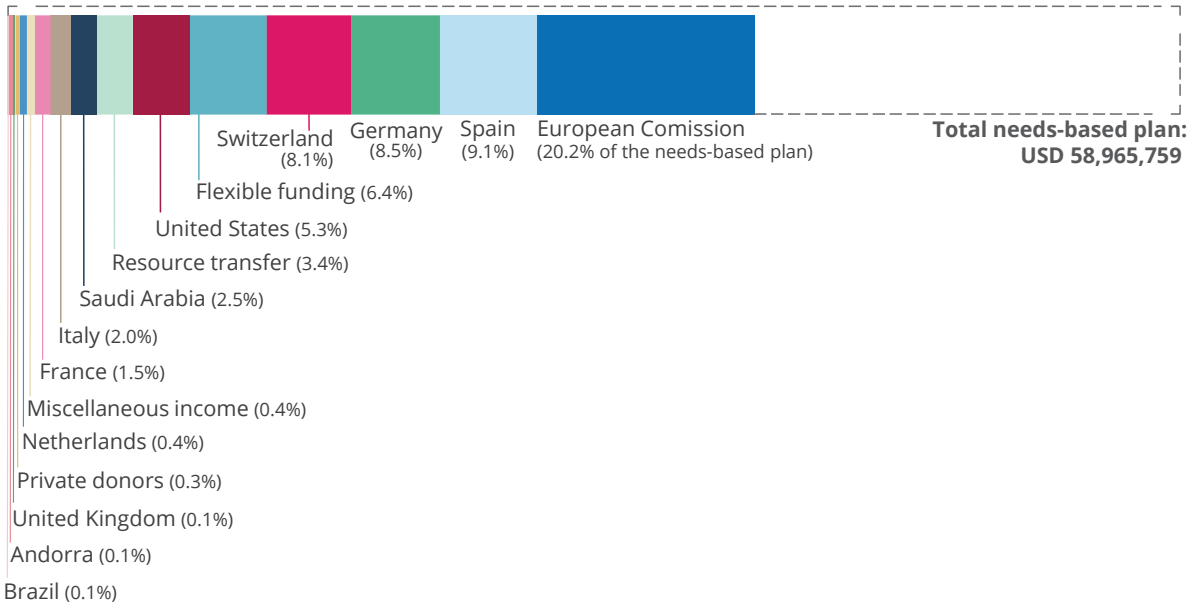
12. WFP operations in Algeria have relied on 12 donors. The funding of activities has varied each year, and multi-year funding has been provided by only Germany and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations. The European Commission is by far the largest donor with contributions from the start of the ICSP period until June 2021 accounting for 20 percent of the needs-based plan of USD 58.97 million. Spain, Switzerland, Germany and the United States of America are the four next largest donors, together accounting for another 31 percent of the needs-based plan. Activities under the ICSP have also benefited from a carry-over of funds from the preceding T-ICSP, ensuring the timely

distribution of food assistance at the start of ICSP implementation. Most donors have allocated funds at the activity level in support of food transfers and nutrition activities (activities 1, 2 and 4).

Figure 3: Main donors to the interim country strategic plan, July 2019–June 2021

Funding sources of the ICSP Algeria (2019-2022) (as of 21 June 2021)

68.49 percent of the needs-based plan funded (USD 40,386,289 out of USD 58,965,759)



Source: WFP The Factory, data accessed on 21 June 2021.

EVALUATION FINDINGS

To what extent are WFP’s strategic position, role and specific contributions based on people’s needs and WFP’s strengths?

Relevance

13. The introduction of the ICSP marks an attempt to improve WFP’s programming strategy to better meet the needs of refugees and combine humanitarian assistance with resilience building and nutrition sensitization activities. The ICSP builds directly on the T-ICSP with the two strategic outcomes unchanged and new activities added to the strategic outcomes. The most visible changes include the extension of school feeding to preschools and special needs centres, the gradual addition of programming for livelihoods and the introduction of a new delivery modality – vouchers – to promote access to fresh products and reduce the prevalence of anaemia among pregnant and lactating women.

14. The strategic relevance of the current WFP programme relies heavily on the official status of the refugee camps as a “humanitarian emergency”. The year 2021 is the 45th since the first camp started to receive humanitarian aid from Algeria in 1976 and the 35th year since WFP started to provide support in 1986. The focus of the ICSP is on “crisis response, which provides relief” to conflict-affected people as part of a coordinated humanitarian response. While humanitarian logic holds that WFP should provide food for all vulnerable refugees, WFP has not been in a position to design operations as a generational solution that tackles the root causes of food insecurity.

Identifying needs

15. WFP has actively sought to understand and address certain aspects of the needs of refugees living in the camps. Through food security assessments, nutrition surveys, a gender analysis and other assessments WFP identified refugees who are food-insecure, vulnerable, disabled, older or in one of the gender and age groups most likely to be malnourished.

16. The design and implementation of the ICSP was informed by a series of evaluations and reviews. Many partners and donors cited WFP as a good example of an agency commissioning research and applying learning.

17. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic WFP participated in several joint surveys and assessments to monitor the food security situation and its impact on food consumption in the camps. This allowed WFP and its United Nations and non-governmental organization partners to collectively define a strategy for responding to emerging health needs triggered by the pandemic.

Addressing the needs of the most vulnerable

18. WFP programming demonstrated a strong appreciation of vulnerability based on gender, age or disability. Based on the assessments discussed in the previous subsection, activities implemented by WFP either target specific beneficiary profiles (based on visible traits such as age, gender or pregnancy status) or use self-targeting mechanisms such as interest in a complementary activity. The targeting of vulnerable children for school feeding has been enhanced through the inclusion of preschools and special needs centres in school feeding programmes. While complementary activities are very pertinent in enhancing access to less available fresh foods, they do not target, nor do they directly reach, the most food-insecure people.

19. On the other hand, WFP targeting based on food security status is less well documented. There is no evidence that WFP targets only, or mainly, the most food-insecure refugees, nor that community-based targeting is used as intended. Instead, it appeared that general food assistance was distributed to all refugees, independently of their food security status.

20. While WFP holds regular discussions with the Algerian Red Crescent and its main partner in the camps, especially following food security assessments, there was no indication that WFP has insisted on rations being provided only to a specific subset of refugees according to their assessed food security status. Furthermore, no community-based targeting materials for publicizing entitlements were found in the camps. The blanket distribution of food assistance results in the inclusion of households that are not food-insecure or are much less food-insecure than others. This possibly explains the widely voiced concern of refugees about the insufficient ration size.

Alignment and partnerships

21. The T-ICSP and ICSP are consistent and complementary with the strategies and interventions of other United Nations partners working in the camps. WFP, UNHCR and the United Nations Children's Fund are the only three United Nations agencies operating in the camps, and there is evidence of strong collaboration between WFP and both of the others, while no duplication of work has been noted. WFP and UNHCR have been collaborating on joint food security assessments, joint nutrition surveys and rapid assessments. The United Nations consolidated evidence in support of vulnerability-based targeting puts WFP in a strategic position to work with partners on nutrition and gender issues.

22. WFP has maintained a strong presence in clusters and other United Nations working groups and plays a central and active role in the humanitarian donors' group. It has managed to establish a working relationship with the main partner of the Algerian Red Crescent on the ground, the Sahrawi Red Crescent, a critical actor in programme implementation as it organizes the food distribution in the camps on behalf of WFP's partner the Algerian Red Crescent. WFP has struggled to build a strong relationship with the Algerian Red Crescent, when it comes to the transport of commodities from the port of Oran to the camps.

What are the extent and quality of WFP's specific contribution to interim country strategic plan strategic outcomes in the refugee camps?

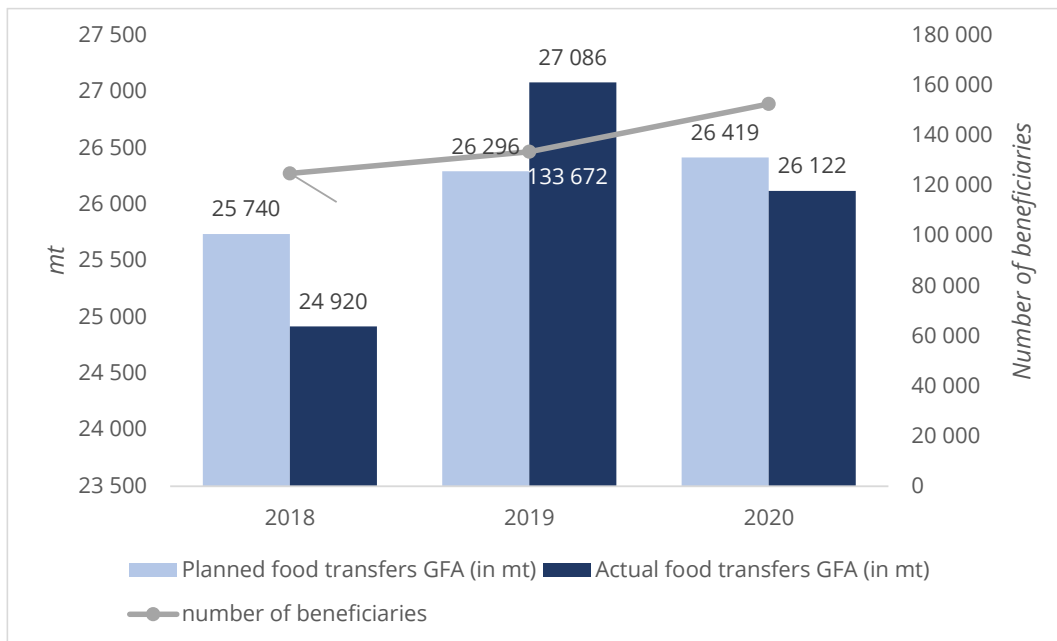
Delivery of outputs and contribution to outcomes

23. **Under strategic outcome 1, activity 1, general food assistance**, WFP ensured that basic food and nutrition needs were met all year round by providing general food assistance to the planned number of beneficiaries. Planned quantities of food were slightly higher than actual quantities distributed in 2018 and 2020 (see figure 4). In 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP distributed an additional 19,097 rations during the months of May, June and July. Despite this, the percentage of households with acceptable food consumption scores never rose beyond 63.3 percent, while the ICSP target was 80 percent. Nevertheless, there was a marked favourable shift in most food security indicators between 2019 and 2020.

Data show that the average number of consumption-based coping strategies applied by households decreased from more than 8 to an average of 1.3 in 2019–2020.

24. The beneficiaries interviewed unanimously mentioned the importance of the rations in their daily lives. Rations were designed to provide between 2,100 kcal and 2,200 kcal per day per beneficiary. However, a large share of beneficiaries perceived the distributed rations as too small. From a nutritional perspective the rations provided a very high proportion of carbohydrates, but did not address daily requirements in vitamins, vegetable-based fibres, proteins and iron.

Figure 4: Planned versus actual food distributed under activity 1 – general food assistance (mt/year)



Source: WFP Algeria annual country reports for 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Abbreviation: GFA = general food assistance.

25. Beneficiaries have appreciated the range of commodities included in the rations provided but expressed a desire to receive fresh foods such as dairy products, meat, eggs, fresh or canned fish and vegetables. Vegetables have been provided for many years by other partners, but in steadily diminishing quantities.

26. **Under strategic outcome 1, activity 2, nutrition-sensitive school feeding** WFP provided snacks (milk and high-energy biscuits) to schoolchildren of 5–17 years of age, with the objective of improving nutrition and reducing anaemia. The contribution of this activity to the overall nutrition-related objectives of the ICSP is uncertain given that school feeding was limited to a snack and beneficiaries highlighted the variety and choice of snacks as areas for improvement. Enrolment and retention rates have remained high during the period under review, but it was difficult for the evaluation to assess the extent to which school feeding contributed to those results. The snacks may be most valuable to the poorest families for whom breakfast is not affordable.

27. Beneficiary targets were exceeded in 2018 but not fully met in 2019 and 2020. All targeted schools were reached with snacks, but interruptions in the delivery of high-energy biscuits occurred from January to June 2018 and in November 2019, owing to the late confirmation of donor funding, and during the closure of schools from March to May 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of the interruptions, WFP distributed only 19.6 percent of the high-energy biscuits planned in 2018 while school feeding activities occurred on only 72 percent of school days in 2019 and 56 percent in 2020.

28. **Under strategic outcome 1, activity 3, complementary activities** to facilitate the production of fresh food, WFP implemented livelihood-focused activities that included hydroponics, fish farming and

Waterboxxes. The effects of complementary activities have been limited so far, although the positive results in terms of the production of fruits and vegetables achieved by the introduction of Waterboxxes in 2020 should be acknowledged. The implementation of those activities faced challenges, and output achievements varied, while the activities involved only a very small number of refugees. Despite the absence of conclusive evidence, the complementary activities present high potential to improve the nutrition situation in the camps as they were designed to produce food items missing from the refugees' diet.

29. **Under strategic outcome 2, activity 4**, WFP sought to address moderate acute malnutrition by providing special nutritious foods through feeding programmes targeting pregnant and lactating women and children of 6–59 months of age, and by promoting access to fresh food from local markets through value vouchers.

30. While it is too early to see conclusive results, the combination of increased coverage by prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition activities, the provision of fortified food and increased investment in social and behaviour change communication could have the potential to address the worrying long-term trends in anaemia. The vouchers and food transfers have been an incentive for pregnant and lactating women to visit dispensaries, which has led to more systematic medical screenings and an increased exposure to sensitization promoting healthy diets. Social and behaviour change communication is likely to positively influence dietary choices, which could help reduce anaemia, obesity and malnutrition in the long term. This activity has been the most affected by pipeline breaks caused by funding shortfalls, and the quantities of food distributed have varied substantially over the period but increased in 2020.

Cross-cutting themes

31. WFP has made solid investments in the achievement of the cross-cutting aims of protection and accountability to affected populations. The evaluation found no evidence of beneficiaries being put at risk as a result of WFP activities and no protection concerns have been linked to WFP activities while the radio show "Cooking with Dignity" has been a laudable effort to reduce the stigma of receiving assistance. A complaints and feedback mechanism has been under development since 2018 and in 2020 the Algerian authorities granted permission to launch a toll-free anonymous hotline. This critical instrument is expected to ensure greater accountability for activities and to provide a channel for refugees to voice their concerns directly with WFP. There is little evidence of refugees' participation in the design of WFP programmes.

32. WFP has specifically targeted women through the introduction of a voucher programme aimed at improving the nutrition and health status of pregnant and lactating women and their children. WFP has inherited and continues to support the strong inclusion of women in many aspects of programme implementation, such as through their role as "jefe de barrio" ("neighbourhood leaders") leading food distributions, helping with school feeding and as monitors coordinated by the Italian International Committee for the Development of Peoples (*Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli*).

33. Inclusion is promoted through the targeting of women, children and the disabled. Gender and diversity assessments conducted by, or with the involvement of, WFP have been somewhat superficial and have explored existing gender dynamics to only a limited extent. Findings appear to have been only partially applied in the implementation of activities, and WFP programming was found to have insufficient insight into gender dynamics for programming to be gender transformative.

The humanitarian–development–peace nexus

34. Complementary activities, such as fish farming, hydroponics and Waterboxxes, had the aim of providing a coherent link between humanitarian action and development and – after initial resistance from camp leaders, who were wary about location-specific activities, the high initial investment costs and a perceived risk of the diversion of resources from general food assistance – WFP was able to introduce a set of activities focused on resilience building and aimed at responding to identified needs for fresh and protein-rich foods to enhance refugees' diets. Challenges faced in following this approach included the limited availability of funds and donor scepticism and heavy reliance on partners for the quality of implementation. Local environmental conditions were another constraint to the development of sustainable resilience building activities strengthening the humanitarian–development–peace nexus.

35. An ongoing challenge is the view of some donors and United Nations entities that WFP should limit its assistance to general food distributions as other activities distract WFP and donor funding from the priority needs of the refugees.

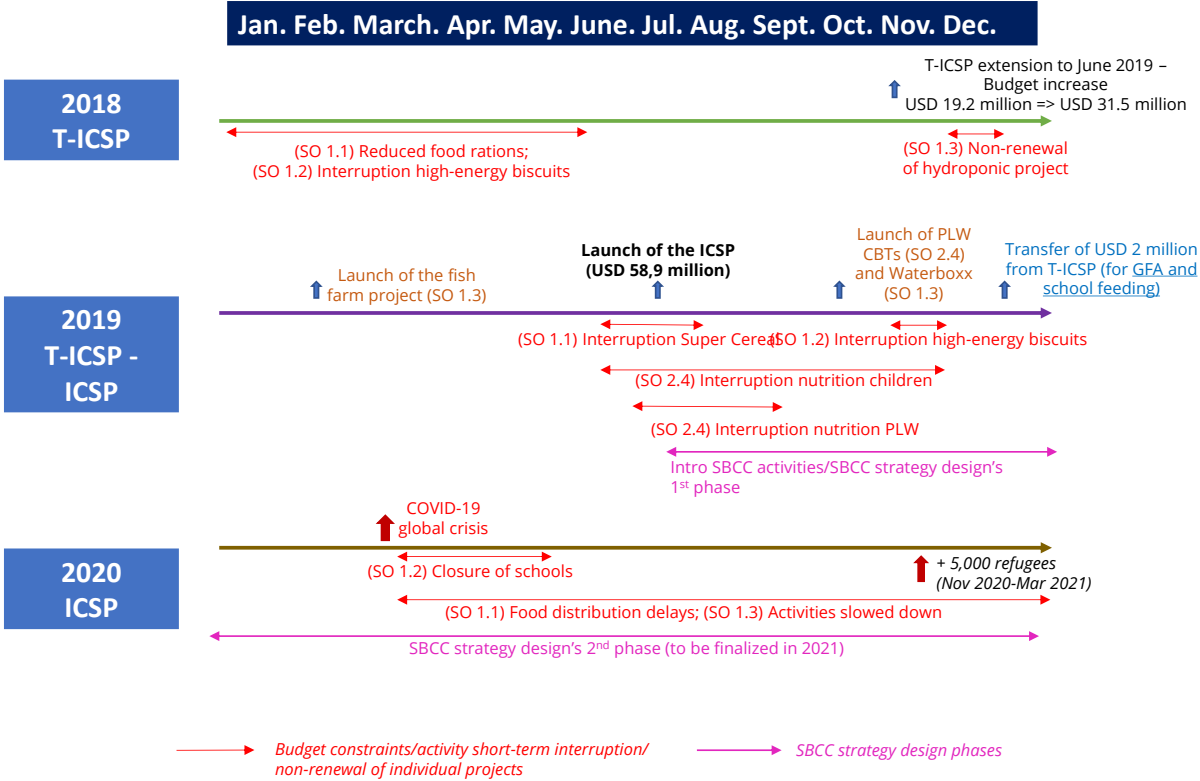
To what extent has WFP used its resources efficiently in delivering interim country strategic plan outputs and contributing to strategic outcomes?

Timeliness

36. The delivery of outputs was frequently interrupted, mainly owing to a lack of funding, but WFP managed to resume activities relatively quickly and pipeline breaks were short-lived (figure 5). General food assistance faced no major interruptions, but WFP faced challenges in adhering to distribution schedules owing to delays in the delivery of commodities and inefficient logistics arrangements with partners.

37. The COVID-19 pandemic affected the whole portfolio, in particular the school feeding activity. The pandemic also slowed down complementary activities, postponing training and coordination meetings and creating challenges for the procurement of inputs for fish farming. It also delayed the development of the five-year social and behaviour change communication strategy.

Figure 5: Overview of the main changes and implementation challenges under the transitional interim country strategic plan and the interim country strategic plan, 2018–2020



Source: Elaborated by the evaluation team based on information from the country office.

Abbreviations: CBTs = cash-based transfers; GFA = general food assistance; PLW = pregnant and lactating women; SBCC = social and behaviour change communication; SO = strategic outcome

Efficiency and cost-effectiveness

38. High expenditure rates indicate that resources have been used efficiently, especially considering the volatile funding situation. Despite significant context-specific limitations, WFP made efforts to improve the efficiency of activities, for example, by moving from paper vouchers to an e-voucher programme for pregnant and lactating women.

39. WFP has used existing resources effectively, but the complementary activities (except for the Waterboxxes) have yet to prove their cost-effectiveness. Those activities have been characterized by high start-up costs and a considerable time lag before measurable outcomes are generated. As pilot projects, the continuation of the activities relied on tangible results that often did not materialize within the anticipated time frame.

What factors explain WFP's performance and the extent to which it has made the strategic shift expected under the interim country strategic plan?

Human resources

40. WFP staff were found to be highly appreciated by partners at all levels. Strong progress was made in programming despite understaffing at the sub-office in Tindouf, where it was difficult to attract qualified staff. An organizational alignment exercise in 2020 led to an increase in the number of positions in both the Algiers and Tindouf offices. While some human resource challenges persist, the current situation offers significant opportunities to enhance the mobilization of dedicated expertise in the future. In particular, the recruitment of vulnerability analysis and mapping and monitoring and evaluation staff for the Tindouf sub-office is likely to spark innovation and knowledge, further boosting WFP's role as a leader in assessments that benefit the refugees and the entire humanitarian community.

Resource mobilization

41. Funding has been inconsistent and unpredictable and there is evidence that donors do not all abide by the principles of good humanitarian donorship. Most donors continue to earmark their contributions to specific activities, which hampers the sustained delivery of all activities while also imposing specific spending rules and reporting requirements. In 2018 and 2020 donor resources did not meet the WFP needs-based plan and WFP had to contact partners to advance the funds or commodities needed to sustain operations.

42. Donors had differing views on WFP's role in the camps. While some donors want WFP to focus solely on general food assistance, others have deliberately wound down their support for general assistance either over concerns about targeting or to encourage innovation and enhancements in programming. Nonetheless, donor expectations towards WFP are high and multiple donors voiced the opinion that WFP should increase its efforts to coordinate, advocate and share its vision with donors and United Nations partners in order to find solutions.

Monitoring

43. The ICSP had the aim of improving the monitoring of operations, but WFP's monitoring arrangements do not allow for the identification of inclusion and exclusion errors. WFP monitoring is designed to confirm output achievement but does not seek to monitor targeting processes and outcomes or assess gaps.

44. WFP has been implementing monitoring activities for the four ICSP activities in close collaboration with its partners (UNHCR, the Italian International Committee for the Development of Peoples, the Algerian Red Crescent and Oxfam). Despite WFP's significant efforts to strengthen monitoring activities through training, the recruitment of new staff and collaboration with partners, there have not yet been improvements in the monitoring of targeting processes and outcomes. The sources of income and purchasing power of households are not assessed, and households with poor or borderline food consumption are not tracked and provided with more tailored assistance.

Other factors

45. The political setting that determines the situation of the refugees is a major factor influencing the performance of WFP and partners. Until an internationally agreed long-term solution is secured for the Sahrawi refugees in Algeria, it is not realistic to expect that the humanitarian actors mandated to serve them can bring about any fundamental improvement in that situation.

46. Nutrition outcomes are strongly influenced by the health status of the targeted population group, which is in turn affected by limitations in the health services in the camps and insufficient access to drinking-water of adequate quality.

CONCLUSIONS

47. The situation of Sahrawi refugees has not fundamentally evolved over the last 45 years. On one hand, camp leaders want to improve the lives of the refugees, but on the other hand, they do not want the refugees to engage in activities that could be perceived as an acceptance of the status quo. In this context, humanitarian entities (United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations) are mandated to provide life-saving assistance in a context that still lacks an internationally agreed long-term solution.

48. **Overall, WFP operations have demonstrated numerous strengths.** WFP has built strong partnerships, is a leader in assessments and actively seeks to enhance monitoring capacity and mechanisms. Innovations are encouraging and include the introduction of cash-based transfers and livelihoods programming. Local food fortification and more efficient processes for distribution monitoring are currently being explored. WFP's United Nations partners recognize the organization's leadership role in clusters and working groups, its advocacy for a focus on nutrition and its sustained efforts to assess, monitor and learn. WFP has established a working relationship with the main partner of the Algerian Red Crescent in the camps that merits further attention so as to ensure that WFP assistance genuinely benefits the most vulnerable refugees.

49. WFP has made considerable efforts to assess and understand the needs of the refugees but has sidestepped the important element of targeting refugees based on level of food insecurity. General food assistance appears to be distributed to all refugees, which results in smaller rations affecting, in particular, those most in need. Complementary activities lack a clear strategy for addressing the needs of the most food-insecure. Where feasible WFP has adapted its programming strategy in response to evolving needs, thereby ensuring continued relevance in assisting refugees. Additional activities have been designed to meet specific gaps identified in prior assessments. WFP also anticipated the need for additional rations due to the COVID-19 pandemic and retained a presence in the Tindouf sub-office throughout the pandemic.

50. Overall, the T-ICSP and ICSP have not succeeded in attracting stable funding and this has directly affected ICSP implementation. The need for WFP constantly to advocate resources for the forgotten emergency has been to the detriment of more impactful work, including efforts to consolidate partner positions that would enable more sustainable programming. WFP has learned to navigate rapidly evolving challenges and funding shortages, but the late arrival of funding, and pipeline management issues cause constant concerns for WFP and the refugees.

51. **In the face of funding challenges WFP has used its limited resources carefully.** It has sought to reduce costs and explore efficiencies, for example by considering e-voucher and community distributions as a way of reducing the transfer costs related to general food assistance. Complementary activities are insufficiently funded and have yet to prove to be cost-effective.

52. **Outputs achievement vary widely across activities.** General food assistance has been delivered to the planned number of beneficiaries, providing a varied basket of commodities with substitutes as needed. School feeding activities have been interrupted several times owing to funding shortfalls and school closures at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Complementary activities have been carried out as innovative pilots with strong potential, but most have faced crippling challenges, with the exception of the Waterboxxes intervention. Food quantities and cash-based transfer values provided under nutrition activities have fluctuated, with output achievements below planned targets. The voucher programme for pregnant and lactating women is a highly valued activity and its introduction has been a major success for WFP.

53. **Contributions to strategic outcomes are less visible and mixed.** The limited size and composition of rations (resulting in part from the use of blanket distribution) affect the impact on the food security and nutrition status of the most vulnerable refugees. A positive trend in food security indicators did not start to be observed until 2020. Although it is still too early to assess results, the combination of an increased coverage of the cash-based transfer programme for pregnant and lactating women, the provision of fortified food and the introduction of awareness campaigns may be helping to curb the trends in anaemia among children and pregnant and lactating women. School feeding outcomes may be more visible at the level of household economies than measurable among individual students. School closures aimed at controlling the spread of COVID-19 have reduced enrolments in school and it is unlikely that the programme has had a considerable influence on attendance and retention rates during the period 2018–2020. Despite their huge potential, pilot livelihood activities were too short-lived to have produced the intended outcomes; each faced a set of challenges that included the resistance of camp leaders, the targeting of less vulnerable households, a need for high initial investments and results that were unsustainable once the funding ceased.

54. **The gender dynamics within the refugee camps are currently insufficiently understood.** To date, gender-focused studies have failed to provide an in-depth analysis of gender dynamics owing to a lack of free access to the camps. WFP needs to ascertain the actual extent of gender equity in the camps and to strengthen its understanding of gender dynamics in order to implement gender-transformative programmes. The ability of WFP to do so will depend on improved access to the camp population.

55. WFP has made solid investments in the achievement of the cross-cutting aims of protection and accountability to affected populations. Community feedback mechanisms are only starting to be explored and should have huge potential to strengthen accountability. While the dignity of the recipients of assistance was generally respected, there is little evidence of recipients' inclusion in programme design. WFP has limited ability to ensure that humanitarian principles are respected in the absence of direct control over the general food assistance distributions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

56. The suggested steps forward for WFP are mainly strategic in nature. They are underpinned by the need to have reliable funding that enables a long-term focus on key humanitarian and resilience issues. The recommendations focus on seeking greater accountability for the identification of suitable, locally-led solutions that benefit Sahrawi refugees.

Recommendations

Recommendation	Recommendation type	Responsible WFP offices and divisions	Supporting entities	Priority	Deadline for completion
<p>Recommendation 1: Address funding challenges.</p> <p>1.1 WFP country office and headquarters should identify a more forceful fundraising strategy and continue to seek long-term flexible donorship and to enlarge the donor base.</p> <p>1.2 WFP should advocate with donors for them to play a stronger role as humanitarian leaders with reliable, multi-year and unearmarked funding.</p>	Strategic	Country office	Regional bureau and headquarters	High	End of 2023
<p>Recommendation 2: Clarify WFP's strategic position regarding the accountability constraints posed by the current working relationship with the Algerian Red Crescent and its partners on the ground.</p> <p><i>Coordination of efforts with partners:</i></p> <p>2.1 WFP and partners should develop a harmonized and clear message about priorities, including in particular a position on the need for greater accountability to refugees and the needs-based versus the universal targeting of general food assistance.</p>	Strategic	Country office	Headquarters	High	Before the start of the next CSP
<p>Recommendation 3: Enhance needs-based targeting.</p> <p>3.1 WFP should clarify its position regarding the current universal or blanket targeting versus vulnerability targeting (of the cash-based transfer programme for pregnant and lactating women) versus food insecurity targeting; assess the cost effectiveness and cost-benefit ratio of each; and include young refugees in the assessment.</p> <p>3.2 In tandem with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, WFP should explore, design and conduct a protection assessment with the goal of ensuring that protection, accountability to affected populations and access are comprehensively assessed for all the groups within the camps and that findings are reflected in the design of more tailored activities based on consultations with the refugee community.</p> <p>3.3 WFP should conduct a stronger analysis of the gender dynamics prevailing in the camps in order to inform gender-transformative programming. Until this is achieved, WFP should treat assertions about gender equity with caution.</p>	Strategic	Country office	Headquarters	High	End of 2023

Recommendation	Recommendation type	Responsible WFP offices and divisions	Supporting entities	Priority	Deadline for completion
<p>Recommendation 4: Strengthen the effectiveness of complementary activities.</p> <p><i>Targeting:</i></p> <p>4.1 To promote the sustainability of complementary activities and their impact, rethink the targeting approach, foresee an increased role for WFP in the selection of participants, and document more clearly how benefits will trickle down or reach the most food-insecure refugees.</p> <p><i>Synergies:</i></p> <p>4.2 Build more visible synergies between complementary and school feeding and nutrition activities. Adopt a longer-term perspective that enables the realization of outcomes. Seek additional financing opportunities and explore new partnerships with other actors present in the camps with a view to scaling up complementary activities.</p> <p>4.3 Clarify the expectations and explore the options for the handover to refugees of each activity (with the exception of general food assistance).</p>	Operational	Country office	Regional bureau	Medium	End of 2024
<p>Recommendation 5: Improve the design and implementation of activities and strengthen integration among activities.</p> <p>5.1 Explore new opportunities for providing access to fresh foods (such as through the use of the cash-based transfer modality in various programme activities).</p> <p>5.2 <i>School feeding:</i> Rethink the timing and composition of school meals (for example, provide breakfast).</p> <p>5.3 <i>Cash-based transfers:</i> Review the value of vouchers in line with expected nutrition outcomes.</p> <p>5.4 <i>Social and behaviour change communication:</i> Maintain and expand social and behaviour change communication, including advocacy aimed at minimizing the sharing of food items intended for pregnant and lactating women with other household members.</p>	Operational	Country office	Regional bureau	Medium	End of 2023

Recommendation	Recommendation type	Responsible WFP offices and divisions	Supporting entities	Priority	Deadline for completion
<p>5.5 Map logistics arrangements from the port to the household, including the responsibilities of the various actors, and assess the risks and cost-efficiency.</p> <p>5.6 Improve logistic arrangements with the Algerian Red Crescent, streamline contracts and advocate an extended planning time frame with donors and partners along the value chain.</p> <p>5.7 Consolidate knowledge management, building on the strong position and visibility developed by WFP in recent years.</p>					

1 Introduction

1.1 EVALUATION FEATURES

1. The evaluation of the Algeria interim country strategic plan (ICSP) was conducted between January 2021 and March 2022 and is the first evaluation that covers the entire portfolio of WFP activities in the country. It provides evidence and lessons to adjust programming under the current ICSP, for which an extension to December 2024 has been requested, and to inform the preparation of the new country strategic plan (CSP) for Algeria (see the terms of reference of this evaluation in Annex 1). The evaluation was mandated by the Office of Evaluation (OEV) to cover activities undertaken under the transitional interim country strategic plan (T-ICSP) (January 2018- June 2019) and the ongoing ICSP between July 2019 and April 2021. While the evaluation considered the opportunities explored by WFP to broaden the geographical scope of its operations in Algeria, it is focused on operations implemented to support the Sahrawi refugees living in five camps near the Algerian town of Tindouf, where WFP has conducted its operations since 1986.

2. The evaluation matrix (see Annex 5) had 4 main questions and 11 subquestions that guided the exercise to: i) assess the relevance of the ICSP and the strategic positioning of WFP, including to what extent it has made the strategic shift expected under the ICSP; ii) assess WFP contributions to strategic outcomes and any unintended consequences resulting from its activities; iii) analyse the timeliness of the latter, as well as the coverage and cost efficiency of WFP operations, and iv) identify and analyse factors that explain the performance of WFP.

3. The main users for this evaluation are the country office in Algiers (CO), the sub-office in Tindouf, the regional bureau for the Middle East and Northern Africa in Cairo (RBC), technical divisions at WFP headquarters, the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and WFP main partners, at both local and global levels.

4. The independent external team used a mix of methods, including literature and documentary reviews, remote and in-person key informant interviews (KII), focus group discussions (FGD), and on-site case studies with ten families (called “home visits” in this report). The field mission took place from 21 March to 6 April 2021. During that time, two team members based in Algeria carried out the data collection in the five refugee camps and Rabuni, the administrative capital. During that same period, the team based outside Algeria undertook remote key informant interviews with WFP staff at country office, the regional bureau in Cairo and headquarters (HQ) and with main WFP partners. In addition, the team mobilized six young women and six young men (two per camp and two from Tindouf) and requested them to take photos of what they found positive and negative about their life in the camps with a brief accompanying narrative.

1.2 CONTEXT

1.2.1 Algeria: General and demographics

5. The short overview of the Algerian national context below sets the stage for the more detailed presentation of the context of the Sahrawi refugees in Algeria (see Section 1.2.4). Algeria is classified as an upper middle-income country. It is the largest country in Africa, covering 2.4 million km², including 2 million km² of the Sahara Desert. With a population of 43.1 million people growing at 1.9 percent per year, Algeria has an almost equal share of men and women (49.5 percent women, 50.5 percent men). Concentrated in urban areas (73.7 percent of the total population in 2020), growth is expected in the short to medium term.²

6. In 2019, Algerian healthy life expectancy at birth was of 75.6 years for men and 78.1 years for women.³ Algeria is considered to have achieved universal primary education with a 99.6 percent adjusted

² World Bank, 2020. Urban population (% of total population) – Algeria Data. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS?locations=DZ> (accessed on 14 July 2021).

³ World Bank, 2020. Life expectancy at birth – Algeria Data. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.FE.IN?locations=DZ> (accessed on 14 July 2021)

net enrolment rate in primary school in 2018 (with gender parity) and equally elevated higher education enrolment rates.⁴

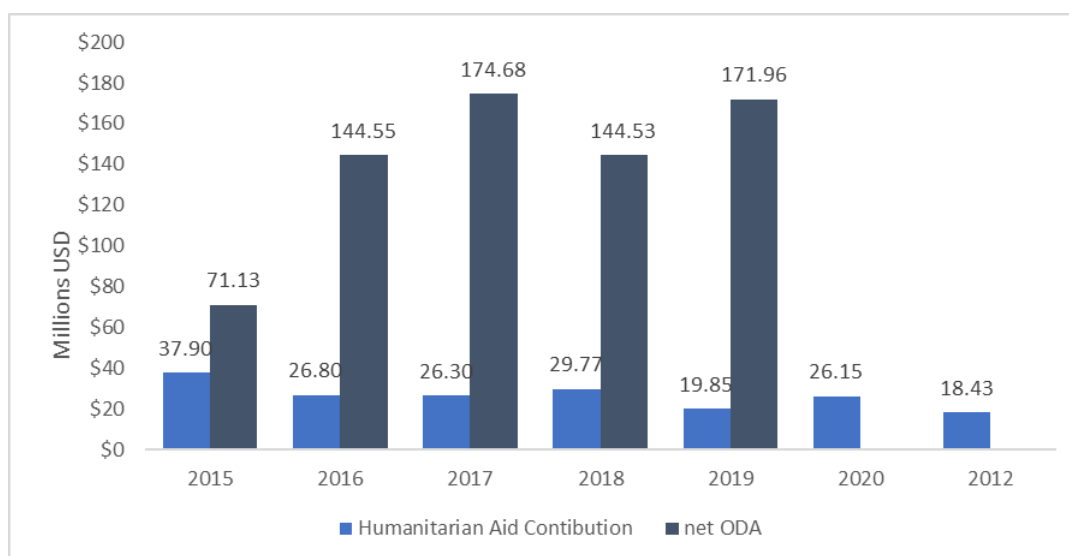
7. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 1.2 million people were undernourished in Algeria in 2017-2019, though this number has been reduced by half since 2000. The prevalence of severe food insecurity also dropped in recent years, from 13 percent in 2014 to 9 percent in 2019. A considerable share of women refugees who are of reproductive age suffer from anaemia (33 percent in 2019). Obesity is a growing concern in Algeria as its prevalence among the adult population has increased by 10 percent between 2000 and 2016, reaching 27.4 percent that year.⁵ Food availability is highly dependent on imports, especially for wheat, milk, sugar and oil, which accounted for 50 percent of total food imports in 2019.⁶ Wheat is the main staple of the Algerian diet, contributing 43 percent of total calories and 46 percent of total protein consumed.

8. Gross domestic product (GDP) growth driven by the oil boom enabled the Government to clear Algeria’s foreign debt, invest in human capital and infrastructure, and improve human development indicators. However, the fall in the price of hydrocarbons from 2014 and the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 have led to a substantial reduction in the standard of living and an increase in the proportion of the Algerian population existing below the national poverty line. The job market has been impacted by the pandemic, exacerbating an already high unemployment rate (36.3 percent), including in the 15-24 youth age group (29.5 percent).⁷

1.2.2 International assistance to Algeria

9. Algeria received a yearly average of United States dollars (USD) 133.9 million net official development assistance (see Figure 1), which is a very small share of the 2019 gross national income, calculated at USD 166.891 billion.⁸ Humanitarian contributions to the country were small in comparison, except for 2015 when official development assistance was low.

Figure 1: International assistance to Algeria (2015-2021)



Source: OECD DAC QWIDS website, UN OCHA-FTS website (data extracted on 8 June 2021).

⁴ UNESCO Institute for Statistics. 2020. *Enrolment rate – Algeria*,

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.PRM.TENR?locations=DZ> (accessed on 14 July 2021).

⁵ FAOSTAT. 2021. *Selected Indicators – Algeria*, <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#country/4>, (accessed on 14 July 2021).

⁶ Daoudi and Bouzid. 2020. *La sécurité alimentaire de l’Algérie à l’épreuve du COVID-19*. Les cahiers du Cread.

⁷ UNDP. 2021. *Human Development Indicators -Algeria*, <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/DZA#>, (accessed on 14 July 2021).

⁸ World Bank. 2021. *GNI (current USD) – Algeria*, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GNP.MKTP.CD?locations=DZ>, (accessed on 14 July 2021).

1.2.3 National policies and the Sustainable Development Goals

10. A United Nations mission visited Algeria in December 2016 to identify potential support. The delegation and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) met with the Algerian authorities to discuss plans to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Subsequently, the Government of Algeria created six thematic groups encompassing all Sustainable Development Goals, none of which explicitly focuses on food security and nutrition.⁹ Additionally, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs created an inter-ministerial committee for the coordination and implementation of efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. A mid-term review of the 2016-2020 United Nations development assistance framework (UNDAF) progress was carried out in late 2018; it confirmed the overall relevance of this strategic orientation in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda). Based on recommendations, the UNDAF was revised to include four main strands and one that was cross-cutting: i) economic diversification; ii) social development; iii) environment; iv) good governance; and v) cross-cutting issues (youth and South-South cooperation).¹⁰ The still unfinished 2018–2019 work plan for the United Nations Country Team includes a zero-hunger strategic review, to be carried out by WFP and FAO.¹¹

11. The Government of Algeria published a voluntary national review in 2019, which noted tangible results for a majority of the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically for those directly addressing basic needs, which had been promoted through considerable public investment in social services. Algeria also supported the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at regional and international levels by engaging in South-South cooperation, training and sharing of good practices.¹²

1.2.4 Sahrawi refugees in Algeria

General context

12. The Government of Algeria independently provided humanitarian assistance to Sahrawi refugees from 1975 until 1986, when it requested support from the United Nations agencies. According to the UNHCR, “the Sahrawi refugee situation is one of the most protracted refugee situations in the world. Refugees from Western Sahara have been living in camps near Tindouf in southwest Algeria since 1975. The Government of Algeria recognized them as *prima facie* refugees, and has been hosting them in five camps, enabling access to public services, and providing infrastructure such as roads and electricity”.¹³

13. The Sahrawi refugees in Algeria live in five refugee camps: Awserd, Boujdour, Dakhla, Laayoun and Smara – near the Algerian town of Tindouf, 2,000 km southwest of the host country’s capital, Algiers (see map in Annex 2). The five camps are located in a remote and arid hamada landscape characterized by extreme temperatures and very low rainfall. The largest of the five camps are Smara and Laayoune. These are followed by Awserd, Dakhla and Boujdour. Differences between the camps are many, but these differences are only lightly documented.

14. Each of the refugee camps is considered a *wilaya* (province) with its own administration and basic services, including public health and education.¹⁴ The refugee camps are managed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Segouia al-Hamra and Rio de Oro (Frente Polisario henceforth called Polisario). The official partner of the United Nations agencies in the camps, is the Algerian Red Crescent (CRA) who is responsible for the delivery of social and humanitarian services, through his partner the Sahrawi Red Crescent (*Media Luna Roja Saharaoui - MLRS*), with whom WFP has established a working relationship. The high levels of self-management and autonomy, distinguish the Sahrawi camps from most refugee contexts.

⁹ République Algérienne Démocratique et Populaire, 2018. Rapport de revue de la préparation du gouvernement à la mise en œuvre des objectifs de développement durable. December 2018. Group 1; “mettre fin à la pauvreté et parvenir à l’égalité des sexes”, Group 2; “Garantir à tous de vivre en bonne santé et le savoir-faire”, Group 3; “Développement d’une économie forte, durable et moderne”, Group 4; “Protection des écosystèmes”, Group 5; “Favoriser l’édification des sociétés pacifiques fortes et équitables”; Group 6; “Renforcer la solidarité internationale pour un développement durable”.

¹⁰ Nations-unies Algérie. RADP. 2018. Cadre de coopération stratégique révisé 2019-2021.

¹¹ In August 2021, this review has not been done yet.

¹² Government of Algeria. 2019. *National Voluntary Review*.

¹³ UNHCR. 2016. Humanitarian needs of Sahrawi refugees in Algeria 2016-2017.

¹⁴ WFP. 2019. Annual Country Report Algeria 2019.

15. Pending the establishment of a national asylum system in Algeria, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) undertakes a range of protection activities.¹⁵ Agriculture, food and nutrition security

16. The harsh agroecological environment, infertile soils and scarce, heavily mineralized water resources make life and agricultural production conditions difficult in the refugee camps. Given a traditionally semi-nomadic lifestyle, the WFP 2018 food security assessment¹⁶ found that 35 percent of households living in the refugee camps owned livestock (mostly goats or sheep) with a positive correlation to increased income.

17. For the past 45 years, the population living in these refugee camps has continued to suffer from persistent levels of food insecurity and malnutrition, with high rates of anaemia, exacerbated by a scarcity of fresh and diverse food and limited access to water. Most refugees in the camps depend on external food assistance. A 2018 WFP food security assessment (FSA) found that 79 percent of food sources were food assistance, gifts or borrowing. Of the refugees, 63 percent had acceptable food consumption levels;¹⁷ this was found to be more common among households headed by men (65 percent) than by those headed by women (57 percent). Nonetheless, the assessment recommended that WFP “continue providing food assistance in the camps for food insecure individuals while the marginally food insecure may need either food or other kind of assistance that supports their food security and nutrition.”¹⁸

18. The 2018 food security assessment used three broad categories to describe the food security situation in the camps: i) food secure groups (12 percent of the refugees); ii) groups vulnerable to food insecurity (58 percent); and iii) food insecure groups (30 percent). Of the households that are “vulnerable to food insecurity”, 47 percent would become food-insecure in the event of a shock such as a flood, market price increases or a change in the provision of assistance, and only 11 percent were considered capable of withstanding minor shocks.¹⁹ Given that refugees live in tents and temporary shelters with limited electricity, conservation of fresh food is difficult, particularly in the extreme summer when temperatures rise above 50 degrees Celsius (C). Not all refugee households have constructed permanent walls around their tents nor have electricity or refrigerators to store perishable foods.²⁰ The Algerian company SONELGAZ has recently installed an electric power plant and distribution poles, aiming to supply all five refugee camps with electricity.²¹ Currently, each refugee camp has a generator to supply power for a few hours a day. Some refugees use small generators powered by diesel or solar panels.

19. Due to poor availability of, and access to, fresh produce and low purchasing power, household diets lack diversity, and the intake of nutrient-rich foods is low.²² As mentioned in the food security assessment, dietary diversity has been declining, with 19 percent of households characterized by low dietary diversity scores and 64 percent with medium scores. Low dietary diversity is more prevalent among households headed by women (28 percent) than by those headed by men (15 percent).

20. Child and maternal mortality rates are high and specialized health care is limited in the camps. A joint nutrition survey conducted by UNHCR, the Italian non-governmental organization (NGO) *Il Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli* (CISP) and WFP in 2019 found that global acute malnutrition (GAM) affects almost 7.6 percent of children aged 6-59 months, while stunting prevalence was 28.2 percent. The

¹⁵ UNHCR. 2020. Fact Sheet Algeria. September 2020.

¹⁶ WFP. 2018. Food Security Assessment for Sahrawi Refugees.

¹⁷ Food Consumption Score informs the adequacy of households’ food consumption during the week prior to being surveyed. An acceptable FCS increases the probability that the household had an adequate nutrient intake during the past week, borderline food consumption shows that there may have been a nutrient gap, whereas for poor food consumption there are definitely gaps in the nutrition of the household.

¹⁸ The 2018 FSA distinguishes between: i) a food secure group; ii) a group vulnerable to food insecurity; and iii) a food insecure group. The group “vulnerable to food insecurity” is defined as: “having minimally adequate food consumption without engaging in irreversible coping strategies and unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures”. The food insecure group is defined as “having significant or extreme food consumption gaps or being able to meet the minimum food needs only by adopting irreversible coping strategies.”

¹⁹ WFP. 2018. Food Security Assessment for Sahrawi Refugees.

²⁰ WFP. 2018. Algeria Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan 2018.

²¹ To date, the number of households who will benefit from this is not available.

²² UNHCR. 2017. Humanitarian Needs of Sahrawi Refugees in Algeria 2016-2017.

prevalence of anaemia was found to be very high, with more than half of the children aged 6 to 59 months suffering and slightly higher rates for women of reproductive age.

21. The excessive consumption of low-nutrient, high-calorie food entails the coexistence of overweight and obesity alongside undernutrition in the refugee camps. The survey found a combined 66.1 percent prevalence of overweight and obese non-pregnant and non-lactating women. Overall, 39.4 percent of households reportedly had an adult suffering from diabetes, or high cholesterol or high blood pressure, confirming societal exposure to non-communicable diseases.

22. Although the five refugee camps near Tindouf were deliberately built near a large aquifer,²³ water is a growing concern in the camps. Access to water is reported to be insufficient for most refugee camp residents, as only 41.5 percent had water provision that satisfies the UNHCR standard of 20 litres/person/day.²⁴ The water supply in the refugee camps is organized into three zones: Laayoune and Awserd, where each *wilaya* receives treated water 20 days and raw water another 20 days; Smara, and Boujdour, (and including the administrative hub of Rabuni), which receive treated water continuously; and Dakhla, which receives raw water continuously.

Education

23. Education is mandatory and free for all Sahrawi refugee children from 6 to 16 years of age. Each refugee camp has kindergartens, primary and intermediate schools and there are three secondary schools, as well as one Koranic school. According to UNHCR, all school-aged children are enrolled in primary and intermediate schools in the refugee camps. Sahrawi students had pass rates of 71 percent from primary to lower secondary school, 56 percent from lower secondary to secondary school, and 52 percent at the Baccalaureate. Sahrawi in the refugee camps have a level of education (measured by literacy rate and schooling) that is higher than most countries in the Maghreb. A UNICEF mission in 2018 noted a 95 percent literacy rate with high enrolment rates but also persistent dropout rates.²⁵ As indicated in the WFP school feeding review of 2019, each camp also has special-needs centres established to assist children living with disabilities and their families.

24. The quality of the education provided is limited, due to low qualifications of teachers, inadequate infrastructure and unavailability of education supplies and equipment. Poor incentives provided to refugee teachers lead to a high turnover of staff and this instability affects learning progress.²⁶ A review found problematic water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) conditions in schools due to a lack of running water, with 51 percent of latrines not working properly and 27 percent of schools lacking gender-separate latrines.²⁷

25. Regarding secondary education, children aged between 12 and 13 years have often had to leave their families to study in Algerian boarding schools due to a lack of teachers and overcrowding of classrooms in the refugee camps. To attend secondary school, many students need to travel to other cities, the closest being several hundred kilometres away from the camps, or abroad (for example, Spain). Being forced to travel far partially explains high dropout rates for children (those with health issues or who do not want to be separated from their families often drop out).²⁸ These secondary school dropout rates are generally higher for girls than for boys.²⁹

26. Despite a strong focus on acquiring an education, there are limited vocational training opportunities within the camps for those unable to study abroad³⁰ and therefore a large number of Sahrawi refugees pursue higher education abroad. While no reliable statistics exist, thousands of children or young

²³ Porges, M., 2020. Environmental challenges and local strategies in Western Sahara. Climate crisis and local communities. *Forced Migration Review*, v64. www.fmreview.org/issue64.

²⁴ UNHCR, CISP, WFP. 2019. Nutrition Survey Sahrawi Refugee Camps. Tindouf, Algeria.

²⁵ Aboura, N.Y. et al. (2018) : Projet d'assistance technique pour le renforcement des capacités du personnel de l'éducation, Mission pour l'UNICEF.

²⁶ WFP. 2019. *School Feeding Review*. Tindouf refugee camps, Algeria.

²⁷ UNHCR. 2016. Humanitarian needs of Sahrawi refugees in Algeria 2016-2017.

²⁸ WFP. 2019. *School Feeding Review*. Tindouf refugee camps, Algeria.

²⁹ WFP. 2019. *Gender Analysis Report*. Sahrawi refugees, Tindouf Algeria.

³⁰ UNHCR. 2016. Humanitarian needs of Sahrawi refugees in Algeria 2016-2017.

people have completed primary, secondary and tertiary studies in Spain³¹ and over 4,000 Sahrawi refugee students have graduated from Cuban secondary and tertiary-level institutions since 1975.

Livelihood opportunities and incomes

27. Given the harsh climatic conditions and remoteness, opportunities to engage in livelihood and economic activities are extremely limited, hampering the capacity of refugees to improve their socioeconomic situation. Refugees cannot be legally employed in Algeria and the remote location of the camps does not allow for any integration into the local economy or host communities.³² There are limited market activities and no banking system in the refugee camps.³³ This situation is reflected in findings from the 2018 WFP food security assessment suggesting that overall 94 percent of households in camps reported external assistance as being their main source of income. Secondary income sources consisted mainly of informal and formal labour and income from small businesses.³⁴ The absence of opportunities is of particular concern for young people born in the refugee camps, who are often well educated and skilled, but who struggle to find employment and create stable livelihoods.³⁵

28. Refugees have produced capital inflows over the years into the camps through remittances and an informal economy. Travellers to Europe and elsewhere have sent back funds for basic necessities and also for household commodities. A literature review³⁶ and direct observations by the evaluation team confirm the presence of commodities such as “televisions, computers, mobile phones, and even old all-terrain vehicles”, goods all visible during evaluation visits. These support the image of an informal economy across the camps centred around consumables and vehicles crossing “*the permeable Mauritanian and Algerian borders*”³⁷. These systems enable some trade between the camps and the border cities. Small food and clothing shops, call centres and workshops have emerged over the years in the refugee camps, along with refugee businesses such as taxi drivers, mechanics, masons, carpenters, bakers and butchers. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC), UNHCR and other actors focus on promoting small-scale livelihood start-ups among refugees.³⁸

Gender

29. A WFP gender analysis in 2019 confirmed a general perception shared by many actors that the Sahrawi refugee society is relatively free of gender inequality – a view that is widely communicated by Sahrawi leadership in the camps. Women and girls traditionally hold important decision-making roles at both the household and community levels. The 2019 WFP monitoring shows that almost 70 percent of women make all household decisions regarding food. This strong role is seen as a result of the absence of men during the conflict years of 1975-1991 when women were almost exclusively responsible for establishing and managing the refugee camps. Today, however, refugee men outnumber women in the camps (51 percent).

30. In lieu of paying taxes, adult refugees are strongly encouraged to play visible roles in the community. As indicated in the gender analysis report, women are therefore actively involved in food delivery processes or as distribution committee leaders, known as *Jefes de Barrios* (neighbourhood leaders). These are exclusively women in charge of coordinating the distribution of assistance to households. According to WFP 2019 monitoring, women made up the majority (77 percent) of members in food assistance decision-making committees. In addition to community work, non-paid domestic work, such as food preparation, house repair, cleaning, washing and caring for children and relatives falls almost exclusively on women. Women also assure the main labour required in the weekly hygiene/camp cleanliness committees across the five camps. Women reportedly have equal access to non-remunerated

³¹ See, for example: Chatty D. 2010. Epilogue - Dispossession and Forced Migration in the Twenty-first-century Middle East and North Africa: The Way Forward.

³² WFP. 2008. *PRRO 10172.2*.

³³ WFP. 2019. Algeria Annual Country Report 2019.

³⁴ WFP. 2018. Food Security Assessment for Sahrawi Refugees.

³⁵ UNHCR. 2016. Humanitarian needs of Sahrawi refugees in Algeria 2016-2017.

³⁶ Martín C.G. 2017. Rethinking the Concept of a "durable Solution": Sahrawi Refugee Camps Four Decades on. *Ethics and International Affairs*, 31(1).

³⁷ *ibid*

³⁸ Source: KII.

employment opportunities within the camps, such as teacher, doctor, lawyer, pharmacy assistant, and school cook. There is little evidence to show how they are incentivized for these positions.

31. According to UNHCR, gender-specific challenges and discrimination are generally amplified for women and girls in the context of displacement and day-to-day life in refugee camps. While it is reported as very insignificant, the extent to which this is prevalent among Sahrawi refugees remains unclear, as the 2019 gender analysis³⁹ encountered challenges in assessing the presence of gender-based violence (GBV) or sexual exploitation and abuse in the camps. As one reason, the gender analysis stated that it was difficult “to penetrate the veil of community solidarity” and noted a further need for research.

32. Women and girls suffer from high rates of anaemia and overnutrition. Scholarly literature suggests that 67.5 percent of refugee women are overweight or obese,⁴⁰ which exposes them to the risk of non-communicable diseases. While biologically, anaemia is more prevalent in women and affects child health, there is no data on the nutritional status of boys above 59 months and men; a comparison of status by sex is not possible.

33. Women of reproductive age depend on the distribution of hygiene kits throughout the year as they are not available in the markets and most refugees could not afford them if they were.⁴¹ Furthermore, contraceptives are almost non-existent. A main concern is the situation in the community medical centres where women giving birth are regularly confronted with a lack of water supply or electricity. Insufficient water supply is also a common concern expressed by refugee youth.

Climate change and vulnerability

34. The refugee camps are located in a desert environment with extreme conditions of heat and cold and virtually no rain, which challenges regional agriculture production and food security. In summer, temperatures can rise to 50 degrees Celsius, while during winter temperatures fall below 0 degree Celsius at night. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projects regional mean temperature to increase between 0.5C to 5C by the late 21st century.⁴² Climate change is causing longer droughts scattered with short periods of intense precipitation. The area is prone to frequent sandstorms and flooding; the latter occurring almost on an annual basis. Homes and infrastructure constructed with mudbricks are vulnerable to heavy rainfall and flooding, such as occurred in October 2015 and August 2016, destroying tents, mudbrick homes and camp infrastructure, including schools.⁴³

35. In 2014, the IPCC reported observed decreases in rainfall in northwest Africa from 1951 to 2020, with projections for annual precipitation to decline over the next 80 years. Groundwater supply is reducing and at risk of further decreases due to prolonged drought, pushing Sahrawi refugee communities to rely on ephemeral water sources.

COVID-19

36. The COVID-19 pandemic has spread throughout Algeria with stronger prevalence in the northern *wilayas*.⁴⁴ In Algeria, as in the refugee camps (with the help of the international community), a system of prevention was set up as soon as the first cases appeared.

37. According to the COVID-19 Household Impact Survey conducted jointly by UNHCR, *il Comitato Italiano per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli* (CISP) and WFP in April 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had a strong impact on food security in the camps. In April 2020, the number of persons with poor consumption scores tripled compared to December 2019 with figures showing an increase from 7.5 to 24 percent for men and from 10.2 to 30 percent for women. The same study also highlighted a strong increase of vegetable prices, (up to a 14.1 percent increase), while the price of breads and cereals, meat, fish, dairy products and eggs, fats, fruits and sugar remained stable. Nonetheless, the purchasing power of the Sahrawi refugee populations

³⁹ WFP. 2019. Gender Analysis Report, Sahrawi Refugees, Tindouf Algeria.

⁴⁰ Henjum S., Aakre I., Strand T.A., Torheim L.E., 2018. Excessive iodine status among Saharawi refugees. *Journal of Trace Elements in Medicine and Biology*, 45.

⁴¹ UNHCR. 2016. Humanitarian needs of Sahrawi refugees in Algeria 2016-2017.

⁴² IPCC. 2014. Climate Change 2014 - Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability.

⁴³ Forced Migration Review 2020. Environmental challenges and local strategies in Western Sahara.

⁴⁴ The first COVID-19 cases were detected in the *wilaya* of Blida in northern Algeria on 02 March 2020.

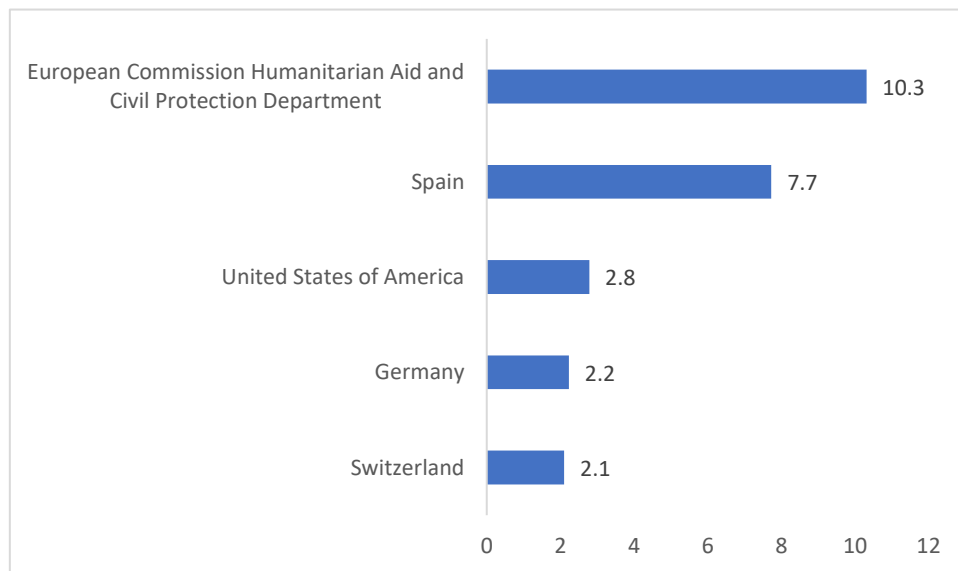
was impacted with 45 percent of respondents⁴⁵ indicating loss of jobs and for 6 percent indicating a reduction in revenues.

38. It is reported that 42 people died of COVID-19 in the camps and 732 people tested positive between July 2020 and May 2021. The Algerian health authorities launched the vaccination campaign on 31 January 2021 with an aim to vaccinate 60 to 70 percent of the population. It has donated 50,000 vaccine doses to the Sahrawi refugees.

International humanitarian assistance to the Sahrawi refugee operation

39. The vast majority of humanitarian assistance to Algeria is directed at the Sahrawi refugee operation. During the period 2016-2021, the operation received a yearly average USD 26.4 million in international assistance with the bulk of the assistance directed towards United Nations operations. Main humanitarian donors include the European Commission Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations Department (ECHO), Spain, the United States of America (USA), Germany and Switzerland (see Figure 2). Humanitarian assistance provides food, water, education, health supplies and emergency shelter to Sahrawi refugees.⁴⁶ Over the period 2016-2021, a large share of the total funds disbursed in the refugee camps targeted food security. For 2016 and 2018, this was more than half of the total disbursed, all actors combined (see Figure 3).

Figure 2: Top donors to Sahrawi refugee operations- 2016-2021 (annual average in million USD)

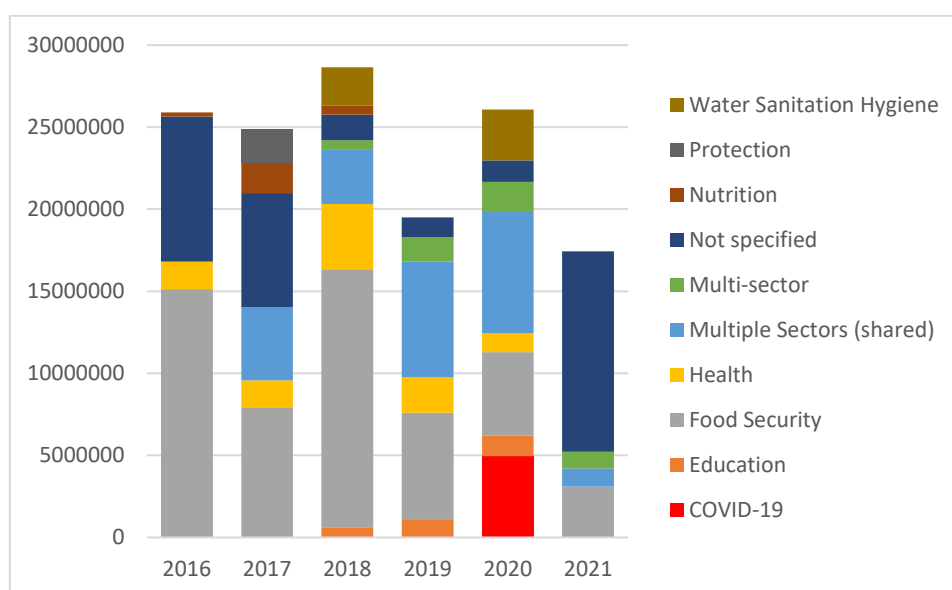


Source: OCHA FTS website, data extracted on 17/09/2020 – updated on 3.6.2021.

⁴⁵ 99 percent of the respondents were women. The survey was conducted the last week of April 2020.

⁴⁶ OCHA. 2020. Financial Tracking Service: <https://fts.unocha.org/countries/4/flows/2020> (accessed in June 2021).

Figure 3: Funding disbursements across top sectors (2016-2021, all donors/recipients, USD)



Source: OCHA FTS website, data extracted on 17/09/2020 – updated on 3.6.2021.

1.3 SUBJECT BEING EVALUATED

1.3.1 Evolution of the strategic focus

Overall evolution of WFP assistance in Algeria

40. WFP has been providing support to Algeria since 1986. Throughout the years, operations have remained concentrated in the southwest corner of the country where the Sahrawi refugee population resides. WFP has shifted from a one-year T-ICSP launched in January 2018 (and extended to June 2019) to the adoption of an ICSP in July 2019 that had been intended to end in June 2022 but was extended for eight months, from May 2022 to February 2023 through a budget revision approved in June 2022. Another budget revision was submitted for approval in December 2022 to further extend the ICSP to December 2024 to align to an envisioned UN-wide refugee response plan or humanitarian response plan, with work expected to commence in 2023. Before the shift to the CSP framework — between 2000 and 2017 — WFP mainly provided general food distributions (or general food assistance - GFA) through successive two-year protracted relief and recovery operations (PRRO).⁴⁷ General food assistance is still the main and widest reaching component of WFP activities, followed by school feeding (SF) and nutrition activities. A complementary activity of hydroponics was introduced in 2016 through to the end of 2018. From 2018, WFP has also broadened its scope to focus on: i) malnutrition prevention and treatment through cash-based transfers (CBT) targeting pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLW) and 5–59-month-old children and the distribution of specialized nutritional foods; and ii) greater support through complementary activities.

Transitional interim country strategic plan and interim country strategic plan objectives, activities and modalities

41. The 2018 T-ICSP was structured around two strategic outcomes (SO), SO1: “Food insecure Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf in Algeria meet their basic food and nutrition requirements” and SO2: “Targeted Sahrawi refugees have improved nutrition status”. Both strategic outcomes focused on crisis response and aimed to help refugees meet their food and nutrition requirements and improve nutritional status. The T-ICSP underwent a revision in November 2018, extending it to June 2019 and increasing the budget from USD 19.2 million to USD 31.5 million. The period allowed the country office to continue

⁴⁷ The last PRRO was extended to four years through multiple budget revisions.

discussions with the Government of Algeria on the planned ICSP and to introduce the cash-based transfer programme (paper vouchers) for pregnant and lactating women and girls in October 2019.

42. In mid-2019, the country office was able to launch a three-year ICSP covering the period July 2019 to June 2022 (see strategic framework in Annex 4). While the two strategic outcomes and activities remain the same in both the T-ICSP and the ICSP, the key new feature of the ICSP was “strategic horizontal orientation”⁴⁸ to be achieved through enhanced monitoring, sensitization (that is, social behavioural change communications – SBCC), nutrition (especially anaemia prevention), complementary activities (via livelihood efforts), gender (for example, through the cash-based transfer system) and improved partnerships. While the ICSP kept the general orientation and structure of the T-ICSP, the design was strongly informed by a series of assessments and reviews,⁴⁹ which recommended both inward strengthening (internal, WFP/country office capacities) and outward strengthening (collaborating more widely with stakeholders) to develop a joint cross-cutting synergistic and multifaceted nutritional strategy with shared roles in knowledge management.⁵⁰

43. Activity 1 is provided through unconditional food distributions to refugees. The WFP food basket includes six to ten commodities such as cereals, sugar, flour, pulses, vegetable oil and Super Cereal (CSB) for a total caloric value of 2,100 kcal per day.⁵¹ Activity 2 encompasses nutrition-sensitive school meals, which are delivered to students (3 to 17-year-old boys and girls) in attendance in all of the schools across the five refugee camps and every school day.⁵² The school meal consists of 80g skimmed milk powder, equivalent to one glass of milk, and 50g of high energy biscuits.

44. Activity 3 consists of three livelihood activities: hydroponics, fish farming and WaterBoxxes.⁵³

45. Hydroponics: Three different hydroponic methods were tested during a pilot phase of the project in 2016-2017, all enabling the daily production of green fodder used to feed goats, camels and sheep in the camps. The use of kits was determined to be most appropriate as these required less water. In the kits, barley matured in seven days, producing 15 to 20 kg of green fodder per day, sufficient to feed five animals.⁵⁴ The use of green fodder aimed to improve animal health (through better quality and weight gain) and to increase the quantity of milk produced. The objective of the activity was to improve refugees’ nutrition, through consumption of more meat and milk rich in iron and proteins, which are essential to fight against anaemia.

46. Fish farms: The fish farm project consists of the production of tilapia, a fish particularly resistant to water salinity and to variations of temperatures.⁵⁵ A formation and production centre was built in the N’khaila farm, located close to Rabuni, where 15 refugees were trained to run the annual production of 21,000 kg (target) of fish. The plan projected that a share of the production could be distributed to vulnerable refugees, including those suffering from anaemia, while the rest could be sold in the local markets (in the refugee camps or in Tindouf). The retailers participating in the cash-based transfer programme were given priority. A further 20 percent of the project’s product could be distributed to specialized education centres in the refugee camps.⁵⁶ The centre also features a training facility where families can share knowledge to develop their own micro-enterprise of fish production.

47. WaterBoxxes: The WaterBoxxes are cases storing water underground made available for plants and trees. This technique avoids water evaporation as boxes are closed and buried. Plants and trees absorb only the water they need. The boxes also contain dry fertilized granulates that swell in the water and stick to the roots of the plants and trees to boost their growth. This system not only shortens the growth period

⁴⁸ WFP Algeria. 2019. *ICSP: Country Portfolio Budget Explanation*.

⁴⁹ Nutrition survey 2016, decentralized evaluation Nutrition PRRO 200301/Nutrition, Dec 2017, school feeding review mid Dec 18 – Jan 2019 and strategic reviews of resilience in Oct/Nov 2018, and the 2018 decentralized evaluation of nutrition activities under WFP PRRO 200301 (2012-2017).

⁵⁰ WFP. 2018. Evaluation of the Nutrition Component of the Algeria PRRO 200301.

⁵¹ “Algeria Interim Country Strategic Plan” (WFP/EB.A/2019/8-B/1/Rev.1*).

⁵² Programme introduced in 2013, in partnership with CISP.

⁵³ According to WFP KII, these activities are directed at refugees not receiving GFA.

⁵⁴ WFP. May 2019. Brief on Innovation with Hydroponics.

⁵⁵ In 2018, two experts confirmed the feasibility of such projects in the camps.

⁵⁶ Source: KII

but also strengthens the roots to reach water deeper in the soil. The aim of the project is to boost the production of fruits and vegetables consumed by the refugees in order to improve their health and nutrition status through the absorption of vitamins and fibres.

48. Activity 4 features multiple activities focused on the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). Modalities include access to child nutritional screenings (including capacity development of medical workers) and paper vouchers for pregnant and lactating women to acquire fresh foods from approved merchants based on attendance at awareness-raising sessions. In addition, this activity features SBCC and the distribution of specialized nutritional foods to both pregnant and lactating women and to 6 to 59-month-old children. Table 1 displays the quantities and type of rations planned for these two groups.

Table 1: Defined ration size for children (5-59 months age) and for pregnant and lactating women under activity 4, in grams per day

Beneficiaries	Prevention of acute malnutrition		Treatment of acute malnutrition	
	Product	Start date of distribution	Product	Start date of distribution
Children	Nutributter: 20g	April 2020-ongoing	Supplementary Plumpy: 92g	July 2019-ongoing
Pregnant and lactating women	Dates: 66g Micronutrient powder: 1g Micronutrient tablets: 0.84g	ICSP period	Dates: 66g	July 2019-Sept 2019
		ICSP period	CSB: 200 g /Veg. oil: 20g/ Sugar 15 g	October 2019-May 2020
		June 2021-ongoing (only)	CSB+ with sugar: 200 g /Veg. oil: 20g Wheat soya blend plus (WSB+) with sugar: 200g/Veg. oil: 20g	June 2020-ongoing

Source: WFP data provided by country office in June 2021.

Implementation arrangements

49. As of March 2021, WFP staff in Algeria included 19 staff in Tindouf (sub-office) and 18 staff in Algiers (country office). Activities in the field are implemented by a team of programme officers and monitoring assistants⁵⁷ located in the Tindouf sub-office and supervised since 2019 by a Deputy Country Director. Administration functions (logistics/procurement and human resources), as well as officers in charge of partnerships and communication are based in Algiers. Efforts to build a partnership with the Government of Algeria are steered by the Country Director and a dedicated policy officer newly recruited in 2021.

⁵⁷ The M&E function is headed by a programme associate also in charge of the largest portfolio activity: GFA.

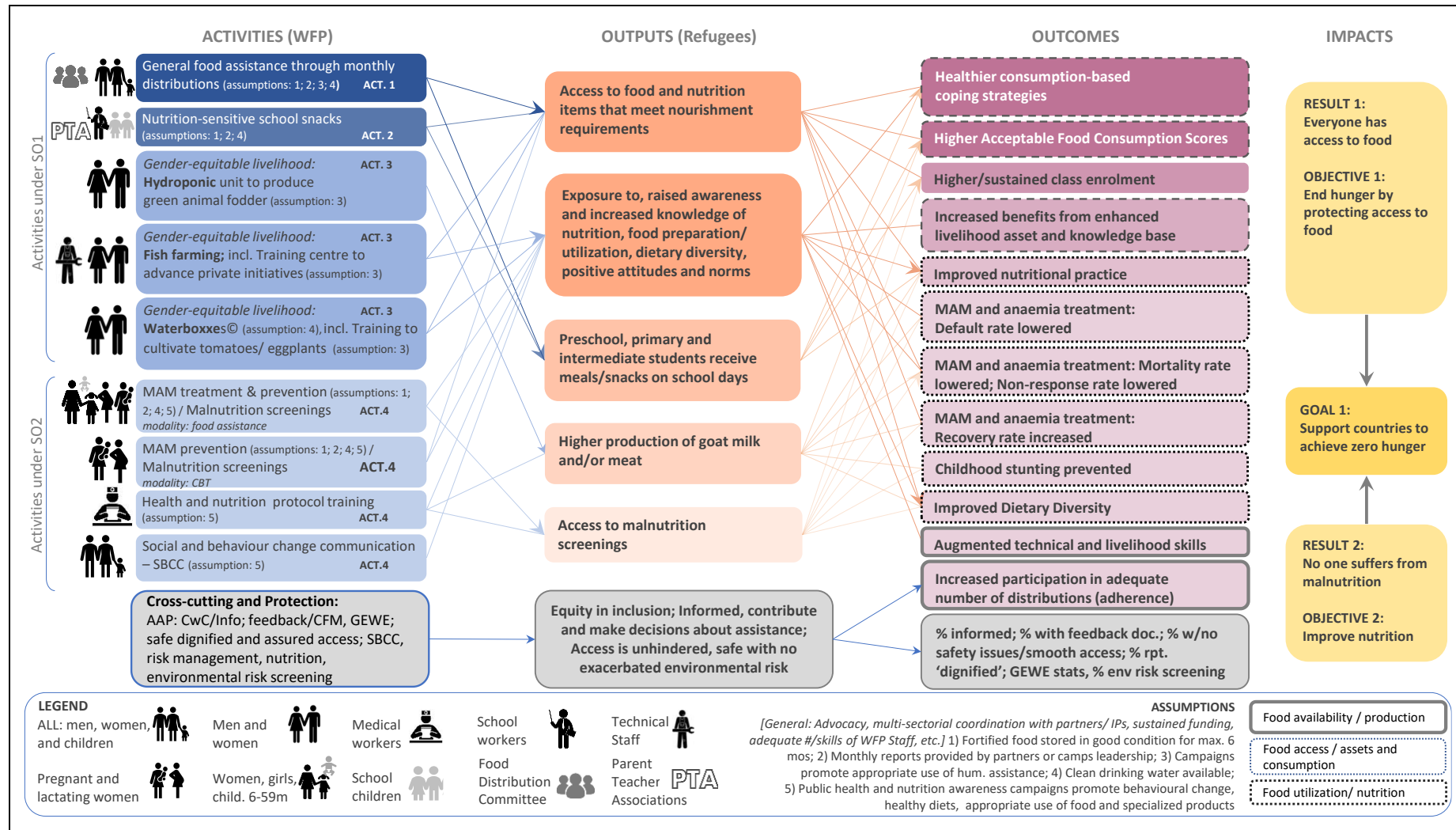
1.3.2 Theory of change

50. Based on a review of the documentation as well as inception briefings, the evaluation team reconstructed a theory of change (ToC) (see Figure 4), building on the ICSP strategic framework (see Annex 4 Table 10).⁵⁸ The theory of change suggests that if WFP conducts the four main activities and sub-activities, they will lead to five main outputs, a range of measurable outcomes and eventually improved access to food, reduction of malnutrition and ultimately zero hunger. Graphically, this theory of change features all WFP activities or inputs in the first column (blue, on the left). Thereafter, outputs are visible in orange — expressed as what refugees receive or access. Subsequently, refugee outcomes (in purple) align to the official indicators grounded in the ICSP log frame. On the far right (in yellow) are the impact statements and Sustainable Development Goals.

51. WFP activities are delivered through multiple modalities as described above. Cross-cutting themes are seen in grey in the lower portion of the theory of change with all required indicators. Key among them is the use of SBCC as an opportunity to better understand and promote gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE). The assumptions that underpin the activities and the links between them, outputs and outcomes (featured at the bottom of Figure 4) were verified during the field phase of the evaluation and analysed in the Findings section of the report. These assumptions were translated into specific lines of inquiry under the relevant evaluation subquestions. For example, sustained funding and adequate numbers and skills of WFP Algeria staff are explicit avenues of inquiry in Evaluation Question 4.

⁵⁸ The latter was reviewed by the WFP country office and sub-office and adjusted to reflect their views during the inception phase.

Figure 4: Reconstructed theory of change



Source: Evaluation team

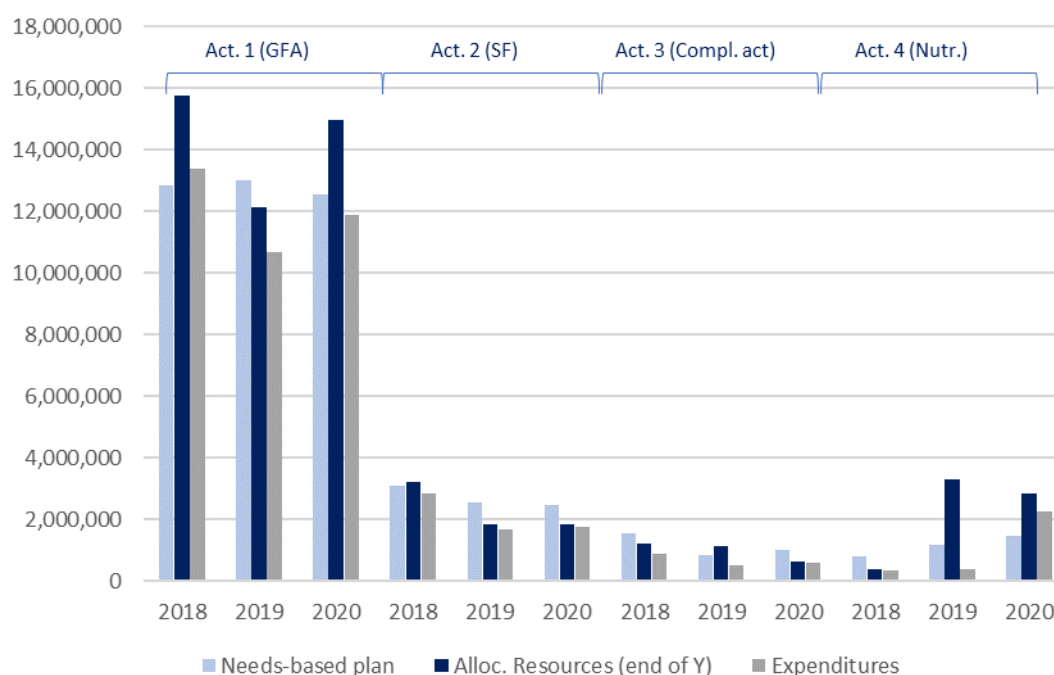
1.3.3 Funding and allocation of resources

52. The total needs-based plan (NBP) for the T-ICSP has been USD 29.4 million (21 million for 2018 and 8.9 million for the period Jan-Jun 2019). It has been funded at 82.7 percent (see detail in Table 2). The total cumulative requirement under the needs-based plan for the ICSP period (July 2019 through to May 2021) was USD 43.7 million⁵⁹ – USD 39.9 million for SO1 and USD 3.8 million for SO2 (see details by activity in Figure 5). As of June 2021, 68.49 percent of the needs-based plan had been funded, leaving a shortfall of USD 18.5 million.⁶⁰ Resources available (in grey in figure below) have been generally lower than the needs-based plan, especially for Activity 1.

Table 2: Needs-based plan, allocated resources and expenditures by year for the T-ICSP and ICSP.

	Needs-based plan	Allocated resources	Expenditures	Ratio Exp/NBP
2018 (T-ICSP)	21 011 358	23 932 702	19 533 407	93%
2019 (T-ICSP)	8 932 769	5 439 401	5 226 281	58.5%
2019 (ICSP)	8 032 757	9 681 835	7 644 274	95.2%
2020 (ICSP)	17 499 302	20 277 781	16 485 095	94.2%

Figure 5: Needs-based plan, allocated resources and expenditures by activity for the period July 2019-May 2021 (in million USD).



Source: WFP Cumulative country portfolio budget (CPB) – as of May 2021.

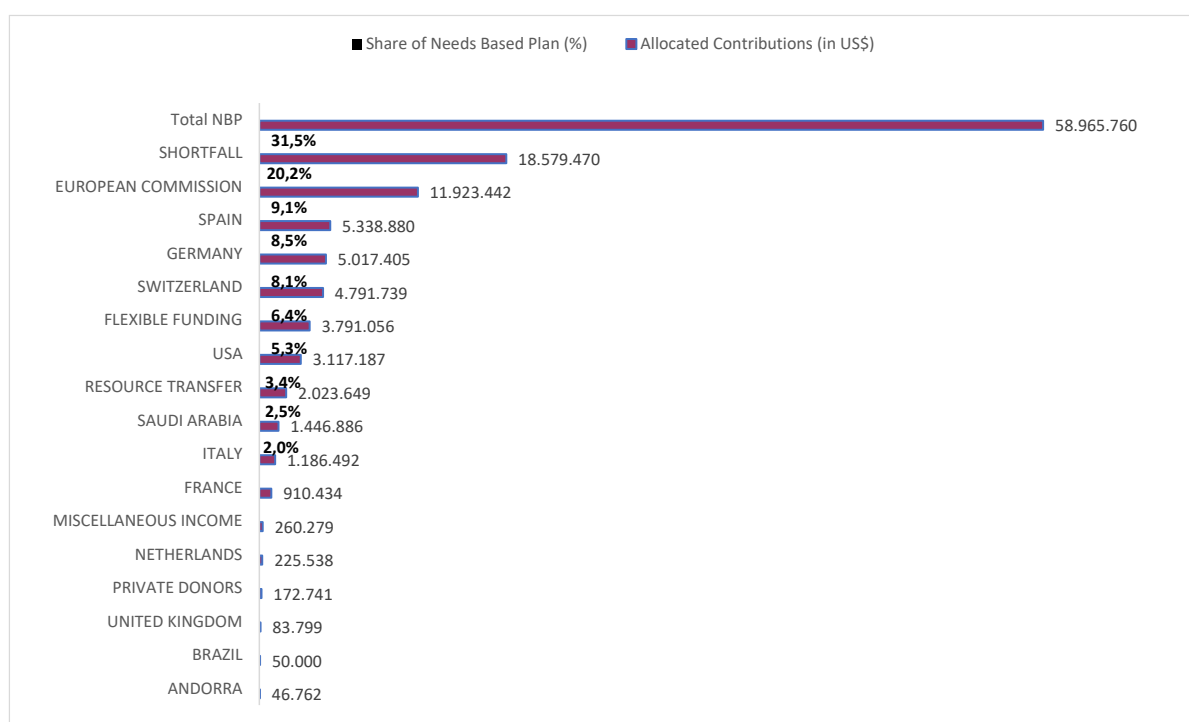
53. WFP operations in Algeria rely on 12 donors. Funding of activities varies each year and Germany and ECHO are the only donors that have provided multi-year funding. The European Commission is by far

⁵⁹ Or USD 49.1 million with direct and indirect support costs

⁶⁰ WFP, June 2021. Resource situation Algeria ICSP.

the largest contributor; contributions since the start of the ICSP until June 2021 have accounted for 20 percent of the WFP needs-based plan of USD 58.97 million (ICSP 2019-2022). Spain, Switzerland, Germany and the United States make up the four largest donors after the European Commission and account together for another 31 percent of the needs-based plan. Activities under the ICSP have also benefitted from a carry-over of funds from the preceding T-ICSP, ensuring timely distribution of food assistance at the start of the ICSP. Most donors allocated funds at activity level in support of food transfers and nutrition activities (activities 1, 2 and 4).⁶¹ Since 2019, contributions from the United States have enabled the start-up of the cash-based transfer programme. The United States, Germany and Andorra have supported the launch of the first pilot of a complementary activity implemented between 2016 and 2018 (hydroponics). The Netherlands and the United States are major contributors to fish farming and WaterBoxxes (see more details in Section 1.3).

Figure 6: Resources allocated by contributor under the ICSP (between Jul 2019 and June 2021)



Source: Particip GmbH based on WFP resource situation documents (June 7th 2021) - Algeria Resource Situation ICSP Algeria (2019-2022).

1.3.4 Overview of beneficiary numbers

54. The number of people targeted by WFP with assistance has evolved relatively little, but in 2019, this number rose from 125,000⁶² to 133,672⁶³ women, men, girls, and boys. In 2020, to face the COVID-19 pandemic, rations for an additional 19,097 individuals were added in May, June, and July. Dry food rations (Activity 1) were provided to the planned number of beneficiaries for the period evaluated, with small variations in the numbers of men and women reached (see Table 3 and Table 4).

55. The numbers of beneficiaries reached under the three pilot livelihood activities were more difficult to determine and numbers provided in reporting documents have not been disaggregated by sex or age. Lastly, 6- to 59-month-old children and the pregnant and lactating women beneficiaries reached were fewer than planned in 2018. Since 2019, 8,000 pregnant and lactating women have been targeted with the cash-based transfer programme, which provided them access to fresh food. Pregnant and lactating women, and

⁶¹ In a few cases (three donors), allocations were made at country level (unearmarked contributions) or at SO level.

⁶² Up to 2018, the working figure for WFP was 90 000 vulnerable people plus 35 000 rations for a total of 125 000 rations.

⁶³ In 2019, based on the 2018 FD Report, WFP shifted to a planning figure of 133,672 “food insecure individuals” based on its Food Security Assessment.

boys and girls also received nutrition support, but numbers were not systematically disaggregated by type of modality (prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition). The total number of beneficiaries did not vary much (also see Section EQ.2.1 in Section 2.2) over the period under evaluation.

Table 3: Planned and actual beneficiaries by activity under the T-ICSP (January 2018-June 2019)

Jan 2018- June 2019	ACTIVITY	PLANNED BENEFICIARIES		ACTUAL BENEFICIARIES	
		M	F	M	F
SO1	Act. 1: GFA	49 153	75 807	49 125	75 875
	Act. 2: SF	20 101	20 399	20 561	20 865
	Act. 3: Compl. activities	423	657	200	
SO2	Act. 4: Nutrition	7 500	22 860	6 635	15 494

Source: Data from WFP (2018) Annual Country Report, T-ICSP document (and terms of reference).

Table 4: Planned and actual beneficiary numbers by activity under the ICSP and associated planned and actual costs

2019	ACTIVITY	PLANNED BENEFICIARIES		ACTUAL BENEFICIARIES	
		M	F	M	F
SO1:	Act. 1: GFA	68 092	65 579	68 092	65 579
	Act. 2: SF	19 505	21 995	18 627	21 005
	Act. 3: Compl. activities	400		360	
SO2:	Act. 4: Nutrition	215	8 785	261	8 916

2020	SO1:	Act. 1: GFA	68 093	65 579	77 820	74 948
		Act. 2: SF	19 505	21 995	18 627	21 005
		Act. 3: Compl. activities	500		235	
	SO2:	Act. 4: Nutrition (CBT)	0	8 000	0	8 421
		Prevention acute malnutrition	0	0	5 993	7 627
		Treatment of MAM	215	185	265	229
2021 (Jan-April)	SO1:	Act. 1: GFA	68 092	65 579	68 068	65 604
		Act. 2: SF	19 505	21 995	18 493	20 854
		Act. 3: Compl. activities	n/a		n/a	
	SO2:	Act. 4: Nutrition (CBT)	0	8 000	0	n/a
		Prevention acute malnutrition/Treatment of MAM	215	185	n/a	n/a

Source: Data from annual country reports (2018, 2019, 2020) and extracted from COMET (May 2021).

1.4 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY, LIMITATIONS AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

56. This evaluation is theory-based and features a mixed method approach with qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis methods structured around a limited number of evaluation questions (EQ) and subquestions defined in the terms of reference (see Annex 1) and refined by the team during the inception phase (see Findings section below and Annex 5). The analysis covers the evaluation

criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability, in addition to coverage, coherence and connectedness.

57. The subquestions in all four EQs were refined, leading to a more concise and streamlined set inspired by both the strict focus of WFP as a humanitarian actor in the five refugee camps as well as learning from the wide range of inception briefings. Adjustments made to the subquestions are justified in Annex 5, where the full evaluation matrix can be found.

1.4.1 Data collection methods

58. Six independent methods were used to perform this evaluation (see Table 5). While essential qualitative, quantitative (or quantifiable) data were gathered from secondary sources (literature review and portfolio analysis) and primary sources (key informant interviews, focus group discussions and home visits). In total, 11 focus group discussions with 65 participants, against the six initially planned, and ten home visits meeting with 41 persons (serving as case studies) were completed across the five refugee camps (see full planning in Annex 1). The methods enabled a focus on each main WFP activity and on a diverse set of refugee households. A total of 83 key informant interviews were performed (see list in Annex 79), both in the field and remotely, covering all evaluation questions. Details on data collection tools used are available in Annex 1.

59. Home visits aimed to get a rare close-up and as intensive as possible a view of the daily lives of ten individual refugee households selected for a unique profile of vulnerability. This technique did not entail constant questioning for four hours, but more importantly engaged in less formal exchanges. Once gaining the confidence of the households to understand the dynamics of their lives as refugees, the team conducted “participant observation”. Evaluators spoke with everyone present in the household and took notes and photos when acceptable to the families.

Table 5: Data collection tools and methods

TOOL/METHOD	DESCRIPTION (SUB-TOOL/METHOD, LOCATION, TARGET NUMBER, ETC.)
1. Literature review	<p>a. Comparative desk review of pertinent strategies and policies (WFP, partners, donors) and scholarly literature (mined using MaxQDA /and coding of key words in the evaluation matrix)</p> <p>b. Portfolio assessment of WFP/country office activities (by evaluation question)</p>
2. Key informant interviews (KII)	<p>a. Inside refugee camp: leadership, central and per camp</p> <p>b. Tindouf/Rabuni: partners active inside refugee camps (CISP, UNHCR/CRA (and its partner in the camps) , Oxfam, <i>le Triangle Génération Humanaire</i> (TGH), UNICEF)</p> <p>c. WFP (remote interviews): WFP/country office in-depth semi-structured interviews</p> <p>d. Other (remote interviews): United Nations-country office/donor semi-structured interviews</p>
4. Activity-based FGD	<p>Inside refugee camps: FGD 1: Fish farming activity, FGD 2: CBT programme, FGD 3: WaterBoxxes activity, FGD 4: Youth, FGD 5: Nutrition (youth), FGD 6: Nutrition (youth), FGD 7: Youth, FGD 8: School feeding activity (parents and children), FGD 9: Nutrition activity (Women) FGD 10: Nutrition activity-children, FGD 11: Nutrition activity</p>
5. Profile based-home visits (case studies)	<p>Inside refugee camps: Two home visits with two households per camp; total ten (five conducted by each of the two field team members). Home visits consisted of participatory observation and informal interviewing for approximately 4 to 6 hours each. See Annex 1 for the detailed profiles.</p>
6. Youth photo voice	<p>Inside refugee camps and in Tindouf: i) 1 girl/1 boy school youth per camp (N=5 total: 10 refugee youth); ii) 1 girl/1 boy Algerian school youth in Tindouf (2 Algerian youth). Total: 12 students (gender balanced) and 120 photos supported by short descriptions; 2 cameras or telephones loaned by the team to the youths to take the pictures.</p>

1.4.2 Limitations and ethical considerations

60. Access to refugees in the five refugee camps was organized by WFP, as per the evaluation team’s plan, in coordination with the CRA partner in the camps the MLRS, which organized the entry into the camps as well as all focus group discussion, key informant interviews and home visits. All participants in interviews, focus group discussions and home visits were selected by MLRS. During the first three days of visits, MLRS staff did not leave the evaluation team alone with the interviewees as initially requested, however, this request was respected for the following visits. It is difficult to assess to what extent the team has missed certain groups of refugees. To compensate, the evaluation deeply explored a wide range of literature on the Sahrawi population, used the longer home visits to qualitatively absorb physical clues and pick up on differences in perspective and experience, and employed structured triangulation on every evaluation question and subquestion to ensure the overall validity of the evaluation findings. Unfortunately, despite the application of these techniques the evaluation team is concerned that some voices might have been missed.

61. While a large number of refugee phone contacts were requested by the evaluation team (that is, a wide range of sex/age/camp disaggregated refugees with phone numbers so that the team could make a random selection to interview remotely assisted by telephone) the request was denied based on reported refugee concerns over anonymity and confidentiality.

62. The field phase took place when schools were closed (holiday period). While this limited the extent to which the team was able to visit schools, the home visits collected beneficiary feedback on the school feeding activity. On the last day of the field phase, lessons in schools resumed and the team held a focus group discussion and made observations in one of the 82 schools.

63. The evaluation team ensured ethical standards were applied at all stages of the evaluation and respected cultural sensitivities and avoided political issues. Before the start of each camp visit and data collection event, the evaluation team made sure to have the consent of all relevant stakeholders. The evaluation team protected the privacy of participants and ensured their anonymity so that the evaluation

resulted in no harm to participants. The evaluation also sought a fair recruitment of participants to ensure representation of different social gender and age groups.

64. Due to COVID-19, the international team leader was not able to travel to the camps but data collection in the field has been possible for the two national experts.

2 Evaluation findings

2.1 EQ1: TO WHAT EXTENT WAS THE WFP STRATEGIC POSITION, ROLE AND SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTION BASED ON REFUGEE NEEDS AS WELL AS WFP STRENGTHS?

2.1.1 (EQ1.1) To what extent has WFP sought to understand and has the ICSP addressed the needs of the most vulnerable people in the camps, including the distinct needs of women, men, boys and girls, to ensure that no one is left behind?

WFP seeking to understand needs

65. **WFP has actively sought to understand and address certain aspects of the needs of refugees living in the refugee camps.** WFP identified and described refugees who are food insecure, vulnerable, disabled, elderly and of a gender and age group most likely to be malnourished. The 2018 WFP food security assessment⁶⁴ used the WFP standard Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI)⁶⁵ methodology to identify refugees who were currently food insecure as well as those deemed “vulnerable to food insecurity”. The 2019 WFP Gender Analysis Report⁶⁶ highlighted the special needs of households headed by women, those who are disabled, and elderly refugees. The 2019 WFP Nutrition Survey⁶⁷ and the 2019 WFP Social Behaviour Change Formative Assessment⁶⁸ both looked at the nutritional status of children 6 to 59 months and women of reproductive age (15 to 49 years). They found malnutrition, anaemia and obesity and this highlighted the need for micronutrients and more food diversity.

66. **The design and implementation of the ICSP was informed by a series of evaluations and reviews.** In fact, many partners and donors cited WFP as a good example of an agency seeking both to commission research and to apply learning.⁶⁹ In addition to the 2018 decentralized evaluation on nutrition, other sources that informed the preparation of the ICSP included: i) a UNHCR/WFP joint assessment mission and nutrition survey (2019);⁷⁰ ii) a WFP food security assessment (2018); iii) an analysis of opportunities for a new resilience approach (2019); iv) a school feeding review (2019); and v) a gender analysis (2019). WFP and UNHCR also jointly conducted a diversity assessment (focused on status-based vulnerability such as gender, age and disability).

67. In 2020, several joint surveys and assessments were undertaken to monitor the food security situation and impacts of the pandemic on food consumption in the camps. The COVID-19 Household Impact Survey was conducted jointly with UNHCR and the non-governmental organization CISP in April 2020. This complemented a broader comprehensive COVID-19 needs-assessment,⁷¹ which allowed WFP, the United Nations and non-governmental organization partners to collectively define a strategy to respond to emerging health needs due to the pandemic. Donors expressed keen interest in receiving the results of regular WFP nutrition assessments, generally conducted every two years. The next nutrition assessment planned for 2021 had not yet started due to the COVID-19 outbreak when the evaluation team was in the

⁶⁴ WFP 2018. Food Security Assessment for Sahrawi Refugees.

⁶⁵ Guidance for the Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI) methodology can be found at www.vam.wfp.org As one key variable, it derives economic vulnerability from either the food expenditure share (including the value of all non-purchased food, i.e., food aid in both the numerator and the denominator) or the poverty line.

⁶⁶ WFP 2019. Gender Analysis Report. Sahrawi Refugees, Tindouf Algeria.

⁶⁷ WFP, CISP and UNCHR. 2019. 2019 Nutrition Survey - Sahrawi Refugee Camps, Tindouf, Algeria.

⁶⁸ WFP 2019. Social and Behaviour Change Formative Assessment for Anaemia and Obesity.

⁶⁹ Source: KII.

⁷⁰ Another JAM was planned to be carried out in 2020 but was postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19.

⁷¹ Conducted by UNHR, WFP, UNICEF, CISP, Medicos del Mundo, Movimiento por la Paz, Oxfam and Solidaridad internacional Andalucía in April 2020.

field. There is a strong appetite among WFP partners to see the results of forthcoming assessments on nutrition, the cash-based transfer programme, the SBCC and livelihoods, particularly in terms of scalability of these activities. The review process for assessments, including by the regional bureau and an examination and approval by MLRS, slows the release of such assessments.⁷²

WFP addressing the needs

68. WFP programming and messaging have demonstrated a strong appreciation of physical status-based vulnerability (for example, gender, age and disability). Based on the assessments discussed above, activities implemented by WFP either target specific beneficiary profiles (based on visible traits such as age, gender or pregnancy status) or use self-targeting mechanisms (that is, those showing interest in a livelihood activity). Women are clearly targeted in nutrition activities based on their status of being pregnant or lactating (under SO2). Children who attend school are explicitly targeted in school-based activities and those below 59 months in nutritional clinics (under SO1 and SO2), as per needs regularly monitored and reported on in nutritional assessments (for example, anaemia and stunting, food security and nutritional adequacy).⁷³ Both profiles were identified as suffering anaemia and micronutrient deficiencies. Disabled children are provided with snacks that are distributed in the special-need centres in the camps.

69. Beyond the general food assistance/Activity 1, men, reported to be less food-insecure than women (see paragraph 17) and youth (above school age), are only explicitly targeted in livelihood activities. The 2019 Gender Analysis Report stressed that data were rarely available on men, and on older cohorts of the refugee population. Data on gender disparities in livestock ownership are also missing. Targeting schemes for livelihood activities are not well-defined (see Section 2.2.2). Targeted beneficiary profiles and evidence on the extent to which men are being reached is explored further in Table 6.

Table 6: Targeting aims as per T-ICSP and ICSP and evidence for success

STRATEGIC OUTCOME/ACTIVITY	TARGETED PROFILES (PLANNED AS PER T-ICSP AND ICSP)	EVIDENCE FOR REACHING TARGET IN PRACTICE (Sources: Key informant interviews, focus group discussion, literature/reports)
SO1.1: General food assistance (GFA)	Most “food insecure” No targeting of groups with specific illnesses e.g., celiac or chronic disease, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partially achieved: most refugees appear to receive GFA (unconditional food transfers). Some new-borns or new arrivals in the camps reportedly have to wait to be put on the community list (at the <i>barrio</i> level) or for a ration ID,⁷⁴ which allows them to receive rations. As the number of rations distributed is not frequently revised,⁷⁵ this suggests that newcomers have to “wait their turn”. Some WFP commodities were found in Mauritanian markets in 2019.⁷⁶ Most beneficiaries interviewed said GFA rations were insufficient in volume.
SO1.2: Nutrition-sensitive school snacks	School children (5–17 years-old), pre-school children and disabled children (in special-needs centres)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieved except for any children who did not attend school or dropped out. Some biscuits were found in local markets by the evaluation team in large enough quantities to indicate some boxes were diverted.

⁷² Source: KIIs from multiple humanitarian actors.

⁷³ WFP, CISP, UNHCR. 2019. Nutrition Survey Sahrawi Refugee Camps, Tindouf, Algeria.

⁷⁴ According to WFP documentation, beneficiary households have an annual food ration card issued by the camp authorities. However, information gathered during the field mission suggests that the food distribution based on a community list established at the *barrio* level. In theory, this list would be revised each month, taking into consideration population movement, hospitalization, etc. The *jefe de barrio* in charge of the distribution assumedly knows all the families, which may be seen to make the card (either an ID card or an annual ration card) obsolete or not relevant for the distribution.

⁷⁵ The percentage of the population classified as food insecure is determined in the food security assessments performed every two years.

⁷⁶ Source: WFP, 2019. Guidance Note: Treatment of acute malnutrition preventing the sale of specialized nutritious foods.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME/ACTIVITY	TARGETED PROFILES (PLANNED AS PER T-ICSP AND ICSP)	EVIDENCE FOR REACHING TARGET IN PRACTICE (Sources: Key informant interviews, focus group discussion, literature/reports)
SO1.3a: Fish farming	Men/women/youth and technical fish farming staff (refugees trained to manage the farm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved: Women represent 25 per cent of those trained to run the farm (15 young men and 5 young women). Most beneficiaries (staff and trainees) are young, new graduates. • Despite a specific request by the evaluation team, it was not possible to get information on how the refugee staff for the fish farm were recruited. Few women beneficiaries were interested in the training sessions. • For the micro fish farm income-generating project in Dakhla, one young man and one young woman were chosen.
SO1.3b: Hydroponics	Women, men and youth who own livestock Selection based on: a semi-random selection of individuals showing commitment and possessing livestock, space and ability to implement etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved for planned target. • Families invited to register in each <i>daira</i>. • Oxfam and camp leaders make the selection. • In certain <i>dairas</i>, the demand exceeded available spots; otherwise, all the refugees interested were accepted up to the total.
SO1.3c: WaterBoxxes	Women, men and youth with access to garden space Selection also based on: commitment, capacities and location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved up to pre-defined total number of beneficiaries. • Families were invited to register in each <i>daira</i>. • Local authority/Oxfam decide on selection. • After several tests and trainings, 2 WaterBoxxes beneficiaries (young men and women 18 to 35 years old) are chosen per <i>daira</i>.
SO2.4a: CBT and SBCC	PLW (Every pregnant woman is registered at the camp dispensary and in theory can benefit until 2 years postpartum)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved except when women do not attend or are put on a waiting list to be included in the programme later on. • Reportedly the voucher programme volume is insufficient to target every PLW.
SO2.4b: Malnutrition screenings and treatment	Children 6 to 59 months (All Sahrawi children born in camps are registered at dispensaries; each is monitored monthly (weight, height, MUAC ⁷⁷ and cranial perimeter)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved except when children do not attend or when they are not registered in camps (i.e., those who arrived in November 2020 and were thus not captured in local registries).

Source: Evaluation team (based on all evaluation sources).

70. As per the T-ICSP/ICSP design, WFP provides general food assistance rations to the most food insecure using community-based targeting. Based on the Food Security Assessment conducted in 2018⁷⁸, WFP has provided rations for 133,672 people, which includes 90,000 most vulnerable refugees as per UNHCR figures, since the start of the ICSP in 2019, while 125,000 rations were distributed under the T-ICSP (Jan 2018 to June 2019).

71. The ICSP 2019-2022 states that general food assistance “will be based on gender and age analyses informed by community-based targeting” and later that “stakeholders [...] are working with WFP to

⁷⁷ Mid-upper arm circumference measure.

⁷⁸ According to the FSA: “Significant correlation was found between inadequate food consumption and high reliance on external assistance, no income from formal labour, no livestock ownership, income from informal labour, less use of food-based coping strategies and unmarried household heads [single, divorced, separated or widowed]”.

formalize community-based targeting”.⁷⁹ WFP confirmed during Executive Board discussions of the Algeria ICSP, in subsequent answers to inquiries from donors⁸⁰ that “community-based targeting *is used* to identify the most insecure based on the FSA results” and that “to ensure vulnerable [...] households (headed by women) are supported, targeting of food rations *will be* improved through community targeting”.

72. There is no evidence that WFP food assistance is targeted only or mainly to the most food insecure refugees, nor that community-based targeting is used as intended. While WFP has reached status-based profiles for certain activities based on identified needs, it has demonstrated little appreciation for differences in socioeconomic vulnerability among refugee households in any activity. Rather, general food assistance appears to be distributed universally, and the other activities are targeted according to physical traits such as nutrition status, sex and age (for example, activities designed to target women and children). Indeed, all beneficiaries met during the field visit reportedly received the general food assistance instead of only the most food insecure or most vulnerable. Evidence is strong that the food is distributed evenly per person pro-rated for all people living in the camps, independent of the WFP criteria or their socioeconomic status. None of the beneficiaries interviewed by the team could name anyone who was not receiving rations, except for household members who were away from the camps (for example, studying) or new arrivals. When the evaluation team sought to identify a wide range of selection criteria for the home visits and explored, among other things, wealth differences, camp leaders stated that there were no “wealthier refugee households”. The literature provides additional evidence for the Sahrawi-preferred view of an “even income distribution”.

Who is most in need?

73. The implementation of blanket general food distributions by MLRS on behalf of CRA results in the inclusion of households that are not — or are much less — food insecure. This offers a possible explanation for the widely voiced concern that rations distributed by WFP were too small.⁸¹ WFP holds regular discussions with MLRS, the main partner of the CRA on the ground especially following food security assessment results.⁸² While requested by the evaluation team, the WFP country office did not provide evidence of advocacy for a shift from blanket general food assistance rations to targeted food assistance to a specific subset of refugees (that is, not distributed to all refugees due to the WFP calculation of total rations based on the percentage of those who are food insecure). Furthermore, no community-based targeting materials were found in the camps to publicize such entitlements. Informants reported that ECHO wanted to distribute fresh products to the most vulnerable refugees, but finally cancelled the donation because MLRS insisted on targeting everyone, on the grounds that they were all considered vulnerable.

74. A 2018 WFP food security assessment revealed stark economic differences between refugee households and these differences were also confirmed by the evaluation team.⁸³ Incomes and visible assets differed widely across the ten households with whom the team spent time as part of the evaluation. Half of the households met had second or even third income streams beyond general food assistance.⁸⁴ Two households had no electricity while others had flat screen TVs and air conditioning. Non-governmental organizations and other humanitarian actors in Rabuni reported that there are hundreds of refugees employed in their offices,⁸⁵ and that remittances from abroad are a common income stream. Indeed, literature is replete with evidence of a growing diversity in the refugee camps.

75. Researchers claim that humanitarian agencies and donors supporting the refugee camps may not be paying sufficient attention to these differences and to potential refugee marginalization. Many entities continue to target the same profiles of “vulnerable refugees” without being able to verify targeting criteria and methods or monitor assistance delivery. Informants to one research project suggested that all international actors “should go to see the families who hardly have anything, they should look more closely, try to find the marginalized people, try to help them directly... [there are] people who don't participate, [...]

⁷⁹ WFP. 2019. Algeria ICSP 2019-2022.

⁸⁰ WFP. 2019. EB-A Comment matrix. Q6 from USA, p16, with answers from WFP.

⁸¹ FGD and most of the households visited.

⁸² Source: KIIs.

⁸³ WFP. 2018. Food Security Assessment.

⁸⁴ WFP. 2018. *Food Security Assessment*. Quotes: “About one quarter of the households reported to have three income sources” and “61 percent households who reported having two income sources”.

⁸⁵ UN staff mentioned that the UN organizations present in the camps are not allowed to hire refugees (Source KII).

who are in the margins politically”.⁸⁶ Others suggest that more comparative analyses would help overcome a “somewhat blinding idiosyncratic bias”.⁸⁷ The evaluation evidence confirmed these statements but also a slow but certain progress towards increasing WFP contact with the refugees through monitoring.

76. The evaluation attempted to explore what groups of refugees may have been unintentionally overlooked or excluded from WFP assistance (especially but not exclusively for general food assistance). The systematic literature review helped to explore this. However, little evidence was found that brought forward the voices of people like men and boys who were not camp leaders. While every refugee the evaluation team spoke with (excepting new arrivals), and also those featured in most WFP reporting, confirm having received the general food assistance, there is no way to determine whether some refugees are marginalized, and hence at risk of being excluded from assistance transfers even if they are food insecure. It is not clear whether the evaluation team managed to interact with the most food insecure refugee households. All evaluation visits and respondents (individuals, households, dairas, schools, dispensaries) were selected by the camp leaders (including participants in focus group discussions, key informant interviews, youth and households for home visits). Given these inherent limitations in access to the refugees there is no evidence for or against the possibility of exclusion. It is therefore important to simply recognize that some groups could be missed, such as refugees less active in camp activities, those less aligned with camp leadership positions, those living in the outskirts of the camps, new arrivals, youth and returnees.

77. **Few of the WFP studies were found to have a specific focus on refugee youth.** To gain more information on potentially missed groups, the evaluation team captured the views of 12 youth⁸⁸ through photos taken by them of five things that make them optimistic and five others that represent something they worry about. The most prominent concern voiced by refugee youth was portrayed in photos of children and captions conveying a stolen youth, or the lack of a future. In stark contrast, the Algerian Tindouf youth pair seemed to be more concerned with poor urban planning and garbage. The second most common concern of the refugee youth, mainly for the boys, was the issue of garbage and pollution. Symbols of exile were another frequent concern among refugee youth. Culture and tradition were often depicted by girls, but never by boys, and in most cases were seen as positive (especially for the Algerian youth of Tindouf). Elements linked to food and health were common for refugees and more often positive. Education was very commonly suggested as a positive aspect across the groups, even more so for refugees and girls. In contrast, the non-refugee youth in Tindouf think much more rarely about exile, homes, the physical environment, food/health and jobs.

78. One photo taken by a young refugee woman from Boujdour⁸⁹ portraying what she was least hopeful about was representing the UNHCR office with the caption “the longest exile in the world”. UNHCR staff in turn, expressed concern for refugee youth and for possible escalation of demonstrations in the camps. A few non-government organizations based in Rabuni focus directly on youth. For instance, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) supports 245 micro-enterprise projects (out of 3,000 candidates) and Oxfam also has programmes (outside their cooperation with WFP) that target youth — especially young men.

2.1.2 (EQ1.2) To what extent has WFP strategic positioning remained relevant throughout the implementation of the ICSP in light of changing context, capacities, and needs in particular in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

79. Compared to pre-ICSP and T-ICSP, WFP has improved its programming strategy to better match the needs and combine humanitarian assistance with resilience and sensitization activities. The most visible changes include extending school feeding to pre-schools and special-needs centres, the gradual addition of programming for livelihoods starting in 2016 and the introduction of a new delivery modality, cash-based transfer (vouchers), to promote access to fresh products and reduce the prevalence of anaemia among pregnant and lactating women, starting in 2019. Many of these changes can be traced directly to

⁸⁶ Finden, A. 2018. Active women and ideal refugees: dissecting gender, identity and discourse in the Sahrawi refugee camps (37–53) *The Feminist Review Collective*. 0141-7789/18.

⁸⁷ Ojeda-García R., Fernández-Molina I., Veguilla V. 2016. Global, regional and local dimensions of Western Sahara's protracted decolonization: When a conflict gets old.

⁸⁸ Six young women and six young men; two from each camp and one pair from Tindouf town (non-refugee).

⁸⁹ Boujdour is the newest of the five camps and it also hosts a museum of Sahrawi culture.

assessment results and enhanced learning about refugee vulnerabilities (for example, the 2018 food security assessment, the 2019 nutrition assessment). Other adjustments in the ICSP have included a stronger focus on awareness-raising and SBCC, especially to overcome social barriers, including cultural and dietary habits and solutions for women's empowerment. Importantly, the ICSP was designed to strengthen the resilience approach and support innovative livelihood projects as well as to improve monitoring of general food assistance, systematically taking into consideration gender and age.

80. WFP has not been able to address the needs of new arrivals in a timely manner due to delays in the new arrival recording process. A total of 4,749 individuals corresponding to 809 families⁹⁰ arrived in the camps in November 2020 and had not yet received official assistance at the time of the evaluation visits, despite a rapid WFP assessment carried out in December 2020 completed by a survey in February 2021.⁹¹ In April 2021, UNHCR was still awaiting an official list of the newcomers from MLRS and WFP suggested the need for a more in-depth assessment of the newcomers' income sources and livelihood activities.

81. **During COVID-19, the operations of WFP have continued with only slight pauses and the volume of food rations has increased.** The COVID-19 pandemic had significant effects on the food security situation of refugees (see paragraphs 37-40). From May to July 2020, WFP provided an additional 19,097 rations to address this.⁹² WFP is recognized for having stayed active longer than other United Nations partners in the camps near Tindouf, which is proof of WFP commitment despite a context of increased risk.

82. The strategic relevance of the current WFP programme relies heavily on the official status of the refugee camps as a humanitarian emergency. While donors and aid practitioners in Algeria hold mixed opinions on that status, humanitarian interventions normally occur for very limited periods and only in extreme cases lasting up to 12 years.⁹³ The year 2021 marks the 45th year since the first camp received humanitarian aid by Algeria in 1976⁹⁴ and the 35th year since WFP started to provide support in 1986. The ICSP 2019-2022 focuses on "crisis response, which provides relief" to conflict-affected populations, as part of a coordinated "humanitarian response". While humanitarian logic holds that WFP should provide food for all vulnerable refugees, WFP has not been in a position to design operations as a generational solution to tackle the root causes of food insecurity.

83. While fine tuning and consolidating activities, the ICSP does not demonstrate a significant shift in strategy compared to the T-ICSP, especially in its relevance for the most food insecure. The two main strategic objectives have remained static throughout the period under study. New activities (compared to the T-ICSP) seem to be arranged into the strategic outcomes in an ad hoc manner so as not to disrupt the existing approach.

- Under SO1 ("Targeted food-insecure Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf meet their basic food and nutrition needs all year"): beneficiaries are not only those who are the most food insecure under any activity included in this strategic outcome. For the general food assistance, the ICSP in reality seems to provide blanket assistance (see EQ1.1). Under the school feeding component, the targeting of vulnerable children has been enhanced through the inclusion of pre-schools and special-need centres. While complementary activities are very pertinent to enhance access to less available fresh foods, these are not targeted nor directly reach the most food insecure.⁹⁵
- Under SO2 ("Targeted Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf have improved nutrition status by 2022"): with the addition of the cash-based transfer programme, the ICSP directly targets pregnant and lactating women in response to the findings of a 2019 nutrition assessment highlighting the

⁹⁰ WFP.2021. Food Security Meeting Minutes Jan 2021. Internal report. Not published.

⁹¹ WFP.2021. WFP Complementary Survey to the Joint Rapid Assessment- Sahrawi Refugee Camps- Algeria.

⁹² WFP.2020. Country Brief May 2020.

⁹³ Abrisketa, J. and Pérez de Armiño, K. 2000. *Acción humanitaria: concepto y evolución*. In K. Pérez de Armiño (Ed.), *Diccionario de Acción Humanitaria y Cooperación al Desarrollo*. Icaria y Hegoa: País Vasco.

⁹⁴ Ojeda-García R., Fernández-Molina I., Veguilla V., 2016. Global, regional and local dimensions of Western Sahara's protracted decolonization: When a conflict gets old.

⁹⁵ In principle, livelihoods activities are directed at refugees not receiving GFA (source: KII). A pre-requisite to be eligible is to have a garden or some livestock, depending on the activity.

anaemia and malnutrition outcomes of this group. Through the vouchers, pregnant and lactating women can access fresh foods aiming to address/prevent anaemia.

2.1.3 (EQ1.3) To what extent is the ICSP coherent, aligned with the wider United Nations and inclusive of appropriate strategic partnerships based on the comparative advantage of WFP?

84. The T-ICSP and ICSP are consistent and complementary to other United Nations partners' strategies and interventions in the refugee camps. WFP is the lead agency on food assistance and nutrition in the refugee camps, while UNICEF and UNHCR respectively concentrate their efforts on health and education (UNICEF) and on WASH and protection (UNHCR), providing non-food items.⁹⁶ WFP is actively engaged with UNICEF especially in the education sector through joint efforts to assist school children. UNICEF provides school materials to children enrolled in the WFP school feeding programme and both agencies work together on school rehabilitation. In 2020, the innovative Groasis© WaterBoxx technology as part of the H2Optimal project included a joint programme with UNICEF to develop school gardens. In addition, UNICEF has been associated with the design of the WFP SBCC strategy to be implemented from mid-2021 onwards and has recently set up a beneficiary feedback mechanism. According to key informant interviews, feedback referring to the WFP snacks will be shared with WFP.

85. WFP, UNHCR and UNICEF are the only three United Nations agencies operating in the refugee camps,⁹⁷ and no duplication of work has been noted. WFP and UNHCR have been collaborating to perform joint food security assessments, joint nutrition surveys and rapid assessments (that is, food security assessment during the COVID-19 pandemic). The United Nations consolidated evidence in support of vulnerability-based targeting puts WFP in a strategic position to work with partners on nutrition and gender issues.

86. **A lack of coherence is manifest in the use of different figures in WFP and UNHCR programming.** WFP and UNHCR base their planning on different figures and a lack of beneficiary verification (or registration) has been increasingly factored into donor positions.⁹⁸ While it is common for WFP and UNHCR to use different targeting figures for their respective operations, not having a common denominator is extremely unusual. This is not a trivial issue and appears to cause misunderstandings and tension in the relationship of the two agencies, which does not go unnoticed by partners.⁹⁹ Camp management is understandably inclined to favour WFP, the agency that provides for refugees more generously than others. The different or preferential treatment accorded to agencies remains a challenge to assess, but could be manifest in facilitating United Nations support, granting United Nations staff access to camps and entry privileges¹⁰⁰ (that is, access to reduced flights due to COVID-19) or simply coordinating more efficiently.¹⁰¹ While many informants suggested it would be deleterious to reopen the issue of population figures, in early 2021, WFP and UNHCR developed a "Population Figure note" to explain the differences and identify potential solutions. At the time of the interviews, none of the informants were aware of any further progress on this question. No information was found to support a coordinated multi-agency approach to working through CRA with MLRS on this issue.

87. **WFP has sustained a strong presence in clusters and other United Nations working groups** (nutrition, health, livelihoods, agriculture & livestock) and is leading the "*Maison des NU*" process in Algiers.¹⁰² WFP plays a leading role in the coordination of the food sector by chairing monthly strategic Food Security and Nutrition Coordination Cell (CdC) meetings in Algiers as well as the monthly operational Food Sector Meeting in Tindouf. The CdC brings together United Nations agencies, Algerian authorities,

⁹⁶ UNHCR also provides yeast on a monthly basis and some food items during the month of Ramadan. (source: literature review).

⁹⁷ A KII informed the World Health Organization (WHO) has provided a punctual support during COVID-19. No further information could be found by the evaluation team.

⁹⁸ Source: KIIs with donors and WFP.

⁹⁹ Source: KIIs.

¹⁰⁰ Source: KIIs with WHO report that the camp leadership has an influence on them getting approved for the limited flights to Algeria from outside due to COVID-19 to work in the camps.

¹⁰¹ Source: KIIs.

¹⁰² United Nations agencies in Algiers plan to work in the same building and share administrative costs.

implementing partners and donors to provide strategic guidance to humanitarian efforts regarding food security and nutrition. Additionally, WFP also initiated calls for joint assessments (for example, the call to assess needs of new arrivals in the camps). UNHCR remains the leading United Nations agency to coordinate the protection, livelihoods, WASH and health working groups. Since 2016, UNICEF coordinates the education working group.

88. **WFP plays a central and active role in the humanitarian donors' group.** WFP helps to organize donor missions in the spring and autumn. An annual joint donor meeting is also conducted in coordination with UNHCR, UNICEF and the non-governmental organization community to update partners on the humanitarian situation in the camps and future requirements. United Nations partners regularly speak highly of WFP commitment and professional behaviour calling them "very important players".

89. **WFP partnership with the Algerian Red Crescent (CRA) is mandated by the Algerian Government.** CRA plays a key role in logistics (reception of goods in Oran and transport of commodities to Tindouf before hand-over to its partners on the ground), while WFP is in charge of food procurement and involved in the controls of stocks in Rabuni. According to interviews, CRA operates at a competitive price for WFP, but its delivery capacity has been limited (see Section 2.3.1). Concerning logistics WFP has struggled to build strong relationships with the Government of Algeria and CRA.¹⁰³ This appears to be linked, for example, to the fact that WFP operations are mainly outside Algiers; a limited number of WFP staff in the capital until recently; high staff turnover and competing priorities.

90. WFP has managed to establish and maintain a good working relationship with the Sahrawi Red Crescent – *Media Luna Roja Sahraoui* (MLRS) the Algerian Red Crescent's partner in the camps.¹⁰⁴ No other counterpart is as critical to programme implementation as MLRS and the importance for WFP to maintain a positive relationship should not be underestimated as MLRS organizes food distributions in the camps on behalf of the CRA. If the relationship with international actors and donors is accepted as "a delicate power play, the importance of the upkeep of a particular construction of Sahrawi society [as equitable, active and peaceful refugees] becomes apparent".¹⁰⁵ WFP does have to consult with MLRS to implement and adjust operations. Although food assistance is sourced from external funds, it is exclusively distributed under the direction of MLRS on behalf of WFP's partner CRA.

91. **Given the distinctive role of MLRS WFP has limited options for influencing decision making.** Evidence shows that WFP has developed a fluid communication with MLRS. However, to protect the relationship, WFP may be limiting its advocacy for change, for example, while WFP determines the percentage of food insecure refugees to be targeted under Activity 1, the evaluation team did not find any evidence of attempts by WFP to make sure the most food insecure were prioritized for rations (see section 2.1.1 on targeting). While WFP calculates general food assistance rations based on the percentage of food insecure refugees, it has no system in place to ensure that only the most food insecure refugees receive the food.

92. Non-governmental organization partners, CISP, Oxfam and *Triangle Génération Humanitaire* (TGH) have been positive about their collaboration with WFP. They have expressed both frustration and optimism in their work with WFP. Informants suggest that it is often a struggle to work as a partner at design stage versus just implementing pre-packaged United Nations solutions. They report that partnerships with WFP are gradually improving in both design and implementation phases; for example, WFP is starting to be more inclusive when exploring new ideas such as for complementary activities.

93. Extending the scope of interventions of WFP in Algeria beyond the assistance provided to the Sahrawi refugees has led to some promising pilots. In 2019 and 2020, WFP invested efforts and resources to explore opportunities to collaborate with the Government of Algeria. In early 2021, WFP co-organized a pilot mission across the country with the Algerian Agriculture and Rural Development Ministry and the Forest Authority (*Direction Générale des Forêts*) during which a total of 1,600 GrowBoxxes were installed in

¹⁰³ Source: KII with WFP and challenges to organize interviews with CRA

¹⁰⁴ WFP's official partner is the CRA. It has no direct partnership agreement but works closely with MLRS under the framework of the WFP/UNHCR/CRA tripartite agreement, which appoints MLRS as the "*partenaire conjointement désigné*" (jointly appointed partner).

¹⁰⁵ Finden, A. Active women and ideal refugees: dissecting gender, identity and discourse in the Sahrawi refugee camps (37-53) 2018 The Feminist Review Collective. 0141-7789/18.

four provinces (*wilayas* of Tindouf, Adrar, Illizi, and Skikda¹⁰⁶). Though still too early to measure results, this replication from the refugee camps around Tindouf highlights opportunities for WFP to broaden the activity focus from humanitarian action to resilience and capacity strengthening and to develop partnerships with new actors.

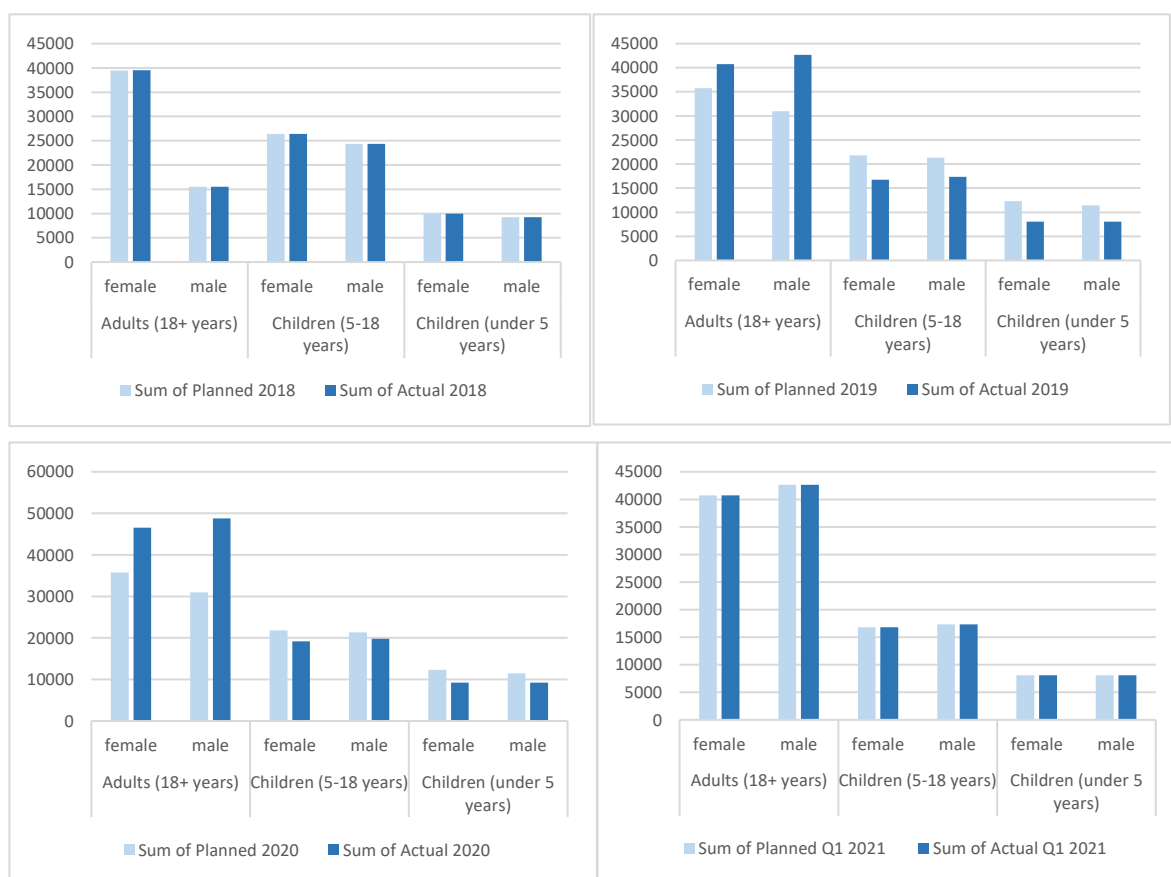
2.2 EQ2: WHAT HAS BEEN THE EXTENT AND QUALITY OF THE SPECIFIC WFP CONTRIBUTION TO ICSP STRATEGIC OUTCOMES AMONG THE REFUGEE CAMPS?

2.2.1 (EQ2.1) To what extent has WFP delivered expected outputs and contributed to the expected ICSP strategic outcomes?

Delivery (activities and outputs)

94. **General food assistance (SO1/activity 1) was provided on a regular basis and the planned number of rations were delivered.** Monitoring data shows that the number of actual general food assistance beneficiaries corresponded to close to 100 percent of those planned.¹⁰⁷ In 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP added an additional 19,097 rations during the months of May, June and July. Beneficiaries interviewed shared their appreciation of the regularity of delivery, although there were some concerns with the timing of distributions (see EQ3.1). Except for 2018, the share of men and boy, and women and girl beneficiaries was almost equal (see Figure 7).

Figure 7: Number of beneficiaries of general food assistance, disaggregated by group age and by sex (2018-Quarter 1 of 2021)



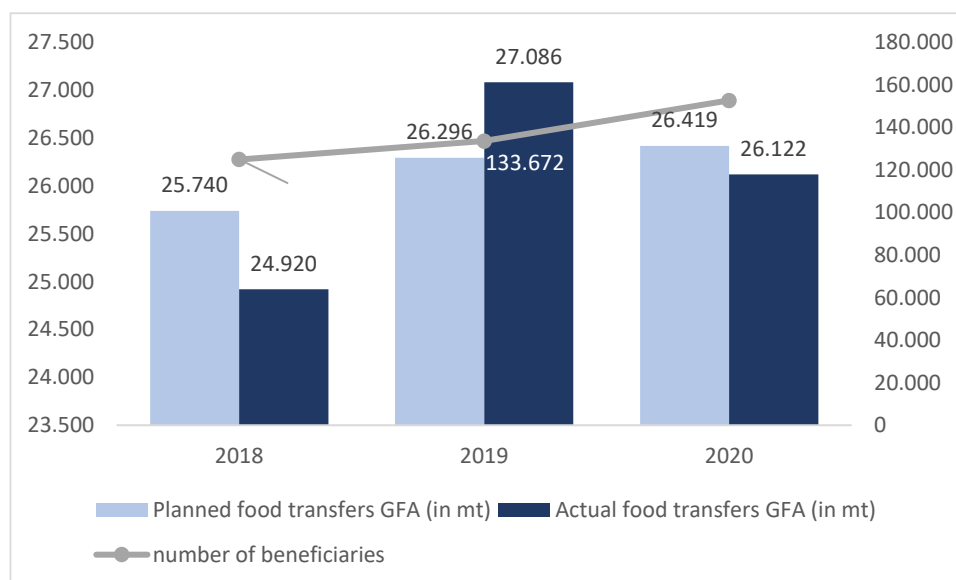
Source: Particip GmbH based on data from WFP annual country reports (ACRs).

¹⁰⁶ H2Optimal. 2021. Partenariat Technique entre le PAM et le Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural Algérien. Direction Générale des Forêts, Présentation/PPT.

¹⁰⁷ The number of beneficiaries reached is determined based on the number of rations delivered.

95. **Planned quantities of food were slightly higher than actual quantities distributed in 2018 and 2020** (see Figure 8). These differences are explained by the irregularity of commodity purchases; the latter being dependant on donor funding confirmation. Indeed, as funds were mostly confirmed towards the end of the year, WFP had to borrow commodities from partners holding stocks¹⁰⁸ (CRE and CRA/MLRS) and adjust quantities to ensure a regular delivery of food. In 2019, food distributed was slightly above the planned quantities. *Gofio* (roasted maize flour) and dates were provided as additional commodities.¹⁰⁹

Figure 8: Planned versus actual food distributed for Activity 1 (general food assistance (in mt/year)



Source: Particip GmbH- data extracted from ACRs 2018,2019,2020.

96. In general, beneficiaries have appreciated the range of commodities included in the rations provided (see Figure 9) but have expressed desire to receive fresh products such as dairy products, meat, eggs, fish or canned fish, and vegetables. Vegetables have been provided for many years¹¹⁰ by other partners such as the Spanish Red Cross (CRE), but in steadily diminishing quantities (from 3 to 1.5 kg) over the last years. Oxfam stopped the distribution of fresh food in 2018 because funding ended. From 2018 onwards, it resumed the distribution of onions, carrots, and potatoes only during the summer.¹¹¹ Some refugees in home visits reported receiving vegetables, while others did not.¹¹²

¹⁰⁸ CRE has established a three-months buffer stock for food assistance to be able to cover needs in case of natural disasters and other emergency situations. The CRA/MLRS aims at averting potential pipeline breaks, which the CRE stocks is also doing although this was not its primary intention.

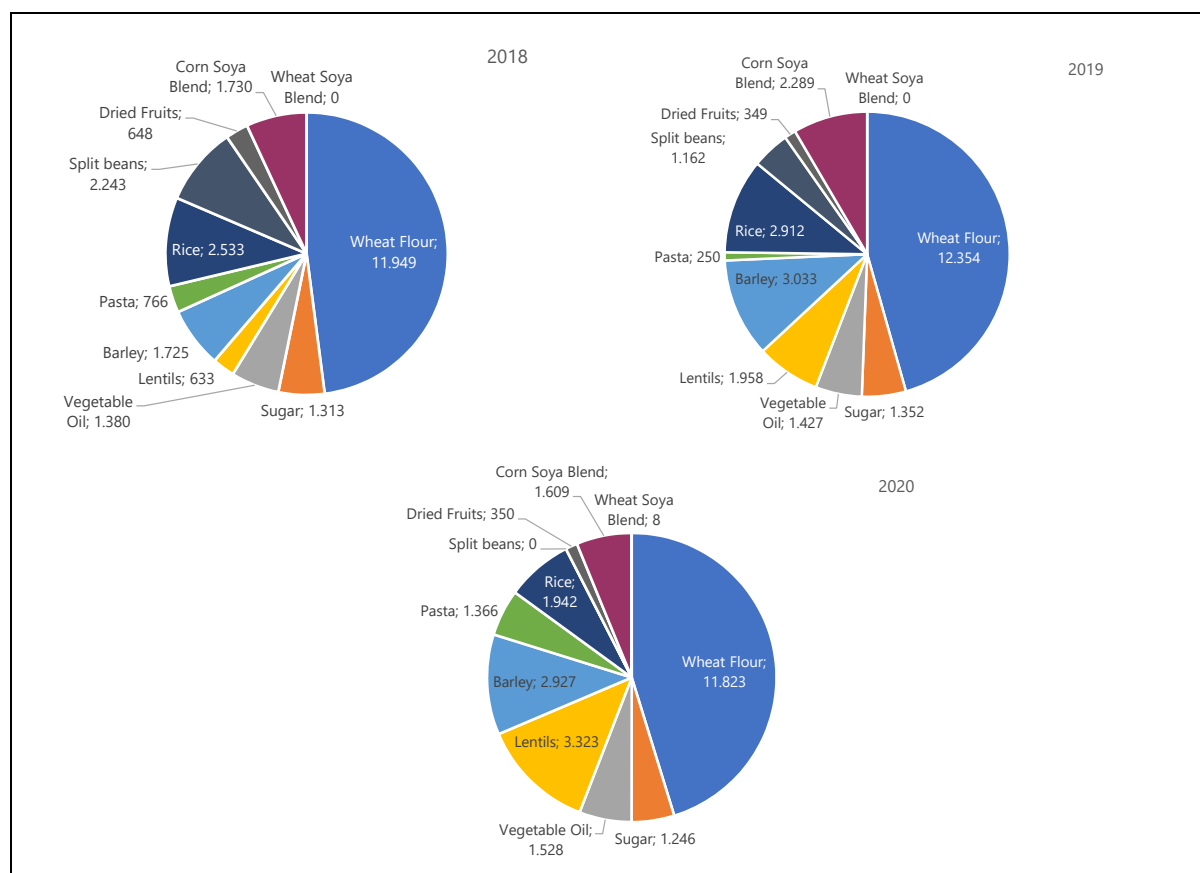
¹⁰⁹ This information was shared by WFP staff and appears in the ACR narrative but quantities were not published.

¹¹⁰ A report from Oxfam suggests fresh food has been distributed from 2000 to 2005 and then again from 2009. More precise information could not be found nor was any reported in KII. The WFP Decentralized Evaluation of the Nutritional Component (2018) confirms that fresh products were distributed at least from 2013.

¹¹¹ Source: KII.

¹¹² In January 2021, distribution of fresh food was still ongoing to the camps according to information provided by WFP. In average, 0.5kg each of onions, carrots and potatoes were distributed monthly by CRE to the beneficiaries of GFA. The Food Sector Meeting minutes of January 2021 indicate that WFP is following up on the quantities of fresh food distributed by the CRE. Key informants, however, expressed the view that the distribution was organized separately and none of them reported WFP as advocating for this.

Figure 9: Quantities of food distributed (general food assistance) by food products per year in metric tons



Source: Particip GmbH- data extracted from ACRs 2018,2019,2020.

97. Rations were designed to provide between 2,100 and 2,200 kcal per day per beneficiary on average, which corresponds to the daily caloric intake recommended for women by the World Health Organization (WHO). The ration size and composition were not tailored to specific caloric and nutrition needs determined by age, gender or disability. The perception of a significant share of beneficiaries interviewed was that the rations were too small, especially quantities of sugar and oil.¹¹³ From a nutritional perspective, the rations have furnished a very high proportion of carbohydrates, but did not address daily requirements in vitamins, vegetable-based fibres, proteins, and iron – not even when completed by the vegetable rations supplied by partners as one third of the fresh rations was made up of carbohydrates (potatoes).

98. According to WFP data, rations distributed were on average (per day and per person) 66.7g of barley, 66.7g of rice, 267g of wheat flour, 20g of sugar, 33g of Super Cereal, 31g of vegetable oil and 67g of lentils. WFP delivered dry rations providing refugees a monthly average of 2,198 kcal/day. Figure 9 portrays variation in the ration composition according to availability of the food items, though on a yearly average, the 2,100 kcal per planned beneficiary per month was achieved. This is partially explained by the inclusion of dates, which have a high calorific value.

99. The TV programme “Cooking with Dignity”, broadcast on local TV and supported by WFP in partnership with CISP since 2018,¹¹⁴ aims to show refugees different ways of cooking with foods available in the refugee camps and to promote healthy dietary habits. While WFP annual reporting for 2020 confirms that half of the number of beneficiaries targeted through this media were reached,¹¹⁵ evidence was not

¹¹³ In 2019, the ration of sugar was reduced from 1kg to 750g per person and per month to align with the recommendations from the WHO; this measure was not welcomed by the refugees.

¹¹⁴ Though this partnership has started in 2018, the TV show itself had begun in 2011 with the support of CISP.

¹¹⁵ The reported numbers are not disaggregated by gender.

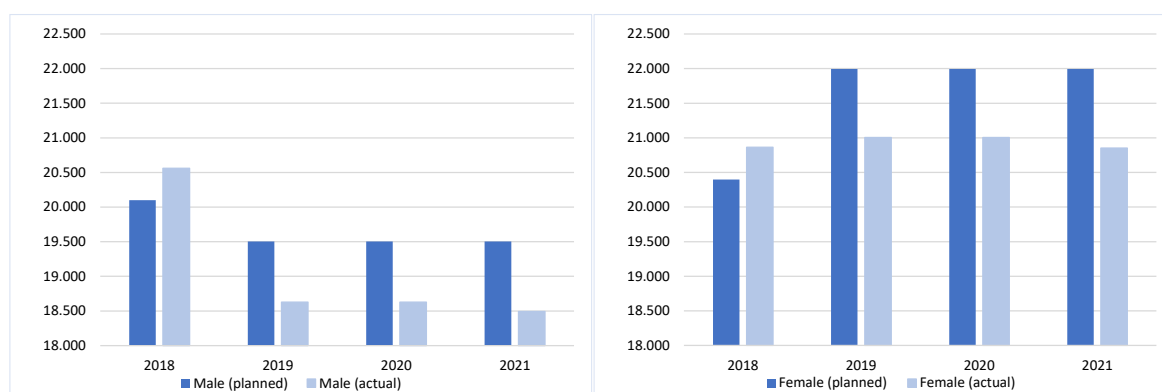
found to shed light on how this was monitored and what the impact of refugee perceptions were on the TV programme. Nonetheless, youth interviewed during the data collection indicated that the TV show was well-known among the Sahrawi people but that the cook often used spices not available in the refugee camps for her recipes.

100. School feeding (SO1/activity 2): All targeted schools were reached with snacks, but with two interruptions in delivery of high energy biscuits during the period (see Figure 14 in EQ3). Interruptions occurred from January to June 2018 and in November 2019 due to late confirmation of donor funding. WFP has been implementing school meals in partnership with CISP and the camp leaders since 2012, after a pilot effort. WFP has provided 5 to 17-year-old school children¹¹⁶ with snacks (milk and high energy biscuits) with the objective of improving nutrition and especially reducing anaemia among children. The activity has evolved very little over the last nine years. As shown in Figure 10, beneficiary targets were exceeded in 2018 but have been below target since then. In 2018, new middle schools were opened in the refugee camps and new students formerly studying outside the refugee camps were included as beneficiaries. During the second half of 2018, a dropout of teachers affected schooling and some middle schools closed. As planning figures for 2019 were based on the increase in students that had occurred in the first half of 2018, actual beneficiaries were fewer that year and planning figures were also not revised for the following years. Interruptions in delivery were triggered by the absence of funding. In 2018, WFP distributed only 19.6 percent of high energy biscuits planned--a total of 81 mt of products (see Figure 11). In 2019, school feeding activities occurred on only 72 percent of the total school days. In 2020, the snacks were only provided for 56 percent of total school days, mainly due to the COVID-19 crisis and the associated closure of schools from March to May 2020.¹¹⁷

101. The number of planned and reached girl students was higher compared to boy students (see Figure 10).¹¹⁸ The only explanation found for this difference was the higher dropout rates for boys. Outcome indicators demonstrate that the retention rate is indeed slightly lower for boys (see outcomes indicators in Annex 9 Table 20). This difference between boy and girl students in schools merits additional investigation as the shares do not align with the ratio of boy to girl refugees overall.

102. WFP planned to launch awareness-raising activities (that is, SBCC) on dietary habits in 2019. However, these started only in 2020. Information to analyse the impact these sessions might have had so far is still unavailable. Specific monitoring activities at this stage were not planned.

Figure 10: Students receiving school meals (planned versus actual per year and for the first quarter of 2021)



Source: Particip GmbH based on ACR data.

103. **Students and their parents highlighted as areas for improvement the lack of variety and choice in snacks.** Key informants and beneficiaries suggested alternating the snacks with bread and

¹¹⁶ Preschool, primary and middle school children.

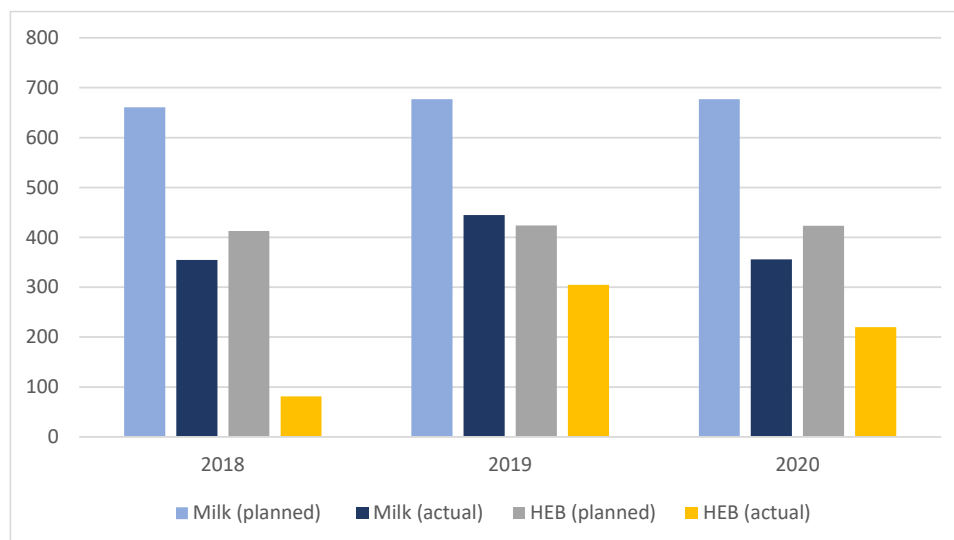
¹¹⁷ This output indicator was not provided for 2018.

¹¹⁸ A difference of around 2,000 more girls.

cheese. Children also reported a preference for milk with sugar, which is currently not provided.¹¹⁹ The lack of variety is a problem that was already identified during the design of the ICSP. According to interviews with staff, WFP is exploring this issue (for example, it may provide *gofio* porridge in the near future).¹²⁰

104. Milk hygiene controls were performed in all schools once a week by the partner CISP. According to key informant interviews, no hygiene issues triggered interruptions in the distribution of milk. Nonetheless, two families reported childhood diarrhoea cases, associating it with the consumption of milk or *gofio* at school.¹²¹

Figure 11: Quantities of milk and high energy biscuits (HEB) planned versus distributed to schools (mt/year)



Source: Particip GmbH with data extracted provided in ACRs and by WFP country office/strategic outcome.

105. Despite the reputation of WFP in implementing diversified and innovative complementary activities oriented towards the production of fresh food to complement dry rations, implementation of SO1/Activity 3 faced challenges. Complementary activities supported by WFP are livelihood-focused and include hydroponics, fish farming and WaterBoxxes (see description in Annex 7). The achievement of planned outputs varied from one activity to another, with the WaterBoxxes project being the most successful so far in terms of implementation of planned activities and output delivery. For hydroponics, evidence was promising that the production of green animal fodder led to a higher production of goat milk and meat. These activities accounted only for a very small share of the WFP budget (only 4 percent of total funds allocated)¹²² and they involved a very small number of refugees.

106. WFP diversified modalities to address moderate acute malnutrition by providing special nutritious foods through feeding programmes targeting pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6-59 months as well as fresh food through cash-based transfers (SO2/Activity 4). In October 2019, WFP started providing paper vouchers of 1,400 Algerian dinar (DZD around 11 USD) to 8,000 pregnant and lactating women to access fresh foods from local markets (that is, dairy products, fruits, vegetable, meat, fish and canned fish). The programme was still ongoing in 2021. In addition to the vouchers, pregnant and lactating women received dates (as part of the prevention and treatment of malnutrition) as well as pre-mix rations

¹¹⁹ According to KIIs, the distribution of fresh milk to the refugee camps has been discarded as it requires transport conditions more demanding (and costly) than for powder milk. Algeria is heavily dependent on fresh and powder milk imports. WFP sourced the powder milk from international markets.

¹²⁰ Cases of diarrhoea were reported by beneficiaries during the field mission and mentioned in the monitoring report of the first quarter of 2020, (*Gofio* was distributed for five days in one school in Anserd, but the mix was difficult to cook and diarrhoea cases were reported, therefore authorities preferred to stop its distribution.) (Source: Quarter Monitoring Report Jan-March 2020. WFP).

¹²¹ Source: KII and WFP. 2020. Quarter Monitoring Report Jan-March 2020.

¹²² The activities also directly involve a very small number of refugees.

of vegetable oil, Super Cereal and sugar (as part of the treatment of malnutrition). WFP distributed lipid-based nutrient supplements or Nutributter (as part of the prevention of acute malnutrition) as well as ready-to-use supplementary food (Plumpy) to treat moderate acute malnutrition in 6-59-month children.

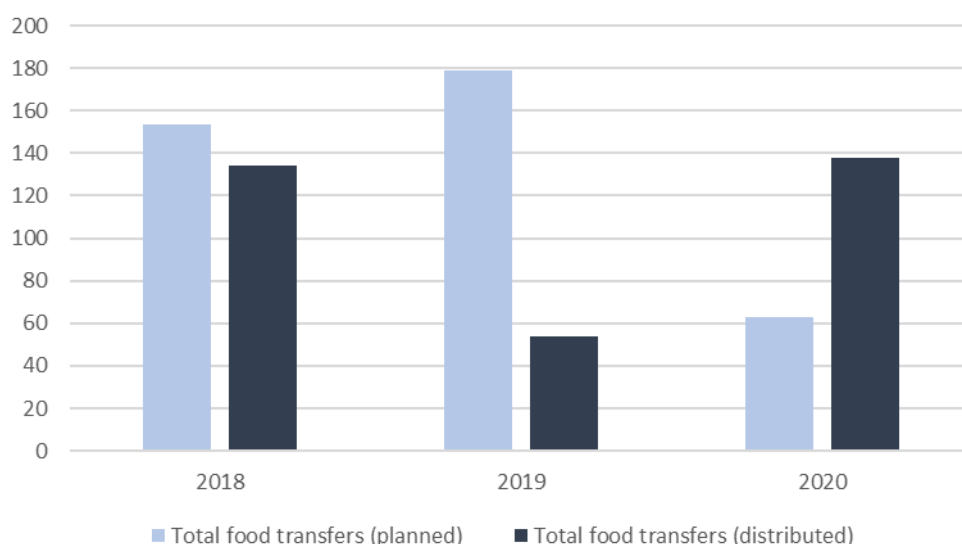
107. The quantities of food distributed have varied substantially over the period (2018-2020).

Activity 4 has been the most affected by pipeline breaks caused by funding shortfalls and in some cases by entitlement issues reported by beneficiaries concerning distributions in the first quarter of 2020.¹²³ The distributions for the rest of 2020 were smoother and nutrition activities were fully funded at the end of the year. As such, more food than planned was distributed (see Figure 11). Particularly, the distribution of Nutributter to children was increased. In 2019, food transfers to children were interrupted for two months due to lack of funding. In the case of the CSB+ mixture provided to pregnant and lactating women, the treatment was also stopped in June and May 2019 upon request of WFP headquarters, due to a quality issue with the product.¹²⁴

108. The cash-based transfer programme was perceived very positively among beneficiaries.¹²⁵

Nevertheless, discussions also highlighted that the monthly voucher value of DZD 1,400 was insufficient to ensure access to a wide variety of food products. Several beneficiaries from the Dakhla refugee camp also claimed that local prices were higher than in other locations. The team was able to only partially verify this statement. Monthly food prices monitored by WFP for the period Jan-March 2020 show that prices of the main commodities varied across the refugee camps (for example potatoes and carrots were more expensive in the Dakhla refugee camp, while eggs and canned fish were cheaper). According to other informants, the food is always shared with the whole family, reinforcing the perception of low individual voucher value. The value was determined using a “minimum expenditure basket” analysis, monitoring the prices of several fresh commodities in the refugee camps, specifically, eggs, canned fish, dates, dairy products, meat and vegetables.¹²⁶ Food prices were monitored monthly but the quantities of food corresponding to the prices given were not indicated. It was not possible to determine which and what quantities were affordable with DZD 1,400. Though the prices varied slightly across time and camps, the voucher value was not adapted due to limited funding.

Figure 12: Trends in food transfers under Activity 4 (in mt/year)



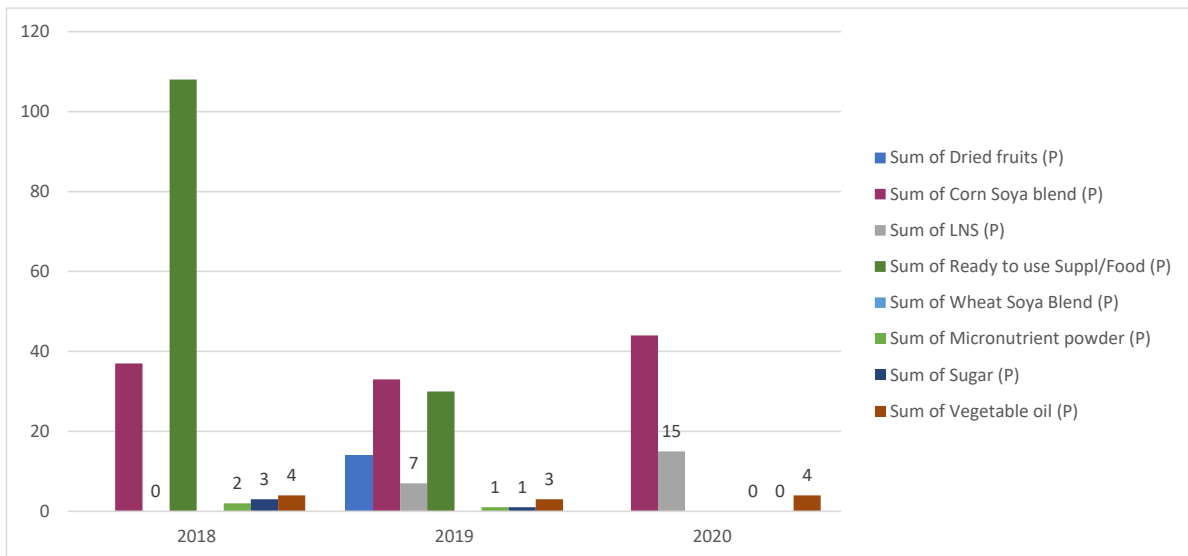
Planned quantities of fortified food (in grams per year)

¹²³ WFP. 2020. Quarterly Monitoring Report (January-March 2020); WFP. 2019. Mid-year M&E report Jan-June 2019.

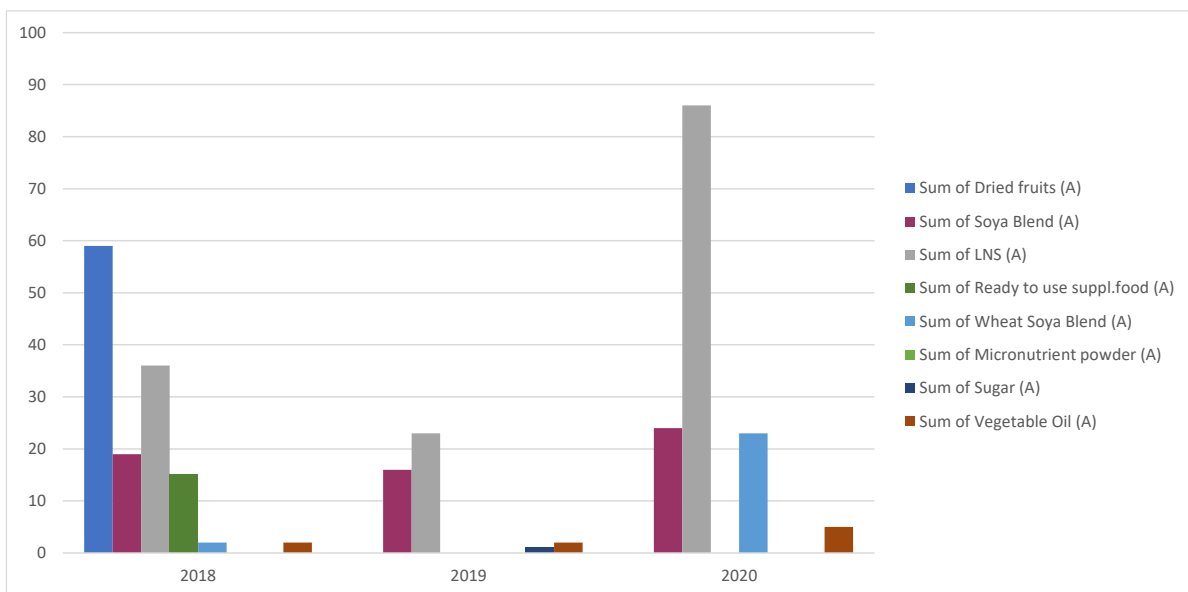
¹²⁴ The product was kept in stock during the months of May and June due to a problem caused by this product in another operation.

¹²⁵ Source: FGDs with PLW.

¹²⁶ At the time of the analysis, 30 eggs cost DZD 300 to 350.



Actual quantities of fortified food (in grams per year)



Source: Particip GmbH, WFP data on quantities of food distributed (June 2021).

109. **The introduction of the cash-based transfer modality is an important and impressive achievement.** It took WFP a few years to convince the Sahrawi camp management that the programme was useful and safe (in terms of data protection). In 2018, a study tour to Somaliland was organized, which allowed two Sahrawi leaders to gain insights on cash-based transfers; eventually, they accepted a limited pilot using paper vouchers (but WFP needed donor insistence to reach an agreement). The efforts bore fruit, as more refugees than planned received the vouchers in 2020 and 2021 (8,400 women) and others reported being on a waiting list to access the voucher programme, which demonstrates generated interest. However, funds for the first phase of this programme were totally consumed by February 2021.

110. All planned capacity-strengthening and SBCC activities were implemented but they reached a lower number of participants than planned. Cash-based transfer/Activity 4 also encompassed capacity-strengthening and SBCC activities to improve dietary diversity and food security. This prevention component is conducted by training and sensitizing health workers and partners on nutrition issues, as well as addressing unhealthy dietary habits leading to obesity and anaemia. Capacity-strengthening activities relate to prevention of acute malnutrition. Over the period 2018-2020, all planned training sessions took place. However, fewer local partners received technical assistance than foreseen in 2019 (113 individuals instead of 250) and in 2018 (420 instead of 500). In 2020, targets for output indicators were overachieved, reaching 272 local partners (against the 250 planned). While the data shows that all women targeted

through interpersonal SBCC approaches were reached in 2019 and 2020, none of the men initially targeted for this activity benefitted in 2019 and only half the men were reached in 2020.

111. Overall, looking at the entire WFP portfolio, there is variation in terms of number of activities that each household benefitted from. Households benefitted from a range of zero to four different WFP activities. In the ten home visits, one household benefitted from four activities: general food assistance, child nutrition screening, school feeding and cash-based transfers. Three households benefitted only from general food assistance – due to their advanced age or not having children or pregnant and lactating women in the household. One household had arrived with the November 2020 wave of new arrivals in the camps and had no access even to general food assistance. The remaining five households benefitted from two or three activities, with only one household benefitting from a livelihood activity (WaterBoxxes). This variation aligns to expectations and standard practice and activity targeting criteria outside general food assistance.

Contribution to outcomes

112. WFP helped Sahrawi refugees meet their basic food and nutrition needs all year; this has been mostly achieved through general food assistance. Key informants and focus group discussion participants unanimously voiced the importance of the rations in their daily lives. Many informants described general food distributions as the most essential operation implemented in the refugee camps.

113. Figure 13 provides trends of food consumption scores (FCS).¹²⁷ The percentage of households with acceptable food consumption scores never rose beyond 63.3 percent, while the ICSP target was 80 percent. On average for the period 2018-2020, 5 percent of the households surveyed had poor food consumption scores, which is above the ICSP end target of 1.2 percent. Poor and borderline food consumption scores can be explained by the low consumption of meat and fish, as this food group is most important in the food consumption score calculation.¹²⁸ Data on food consumption scores from preceding years (2013, 2010 and 2008) suggest that the food security situation has deteriorated in recent years.¹²⁹

114. On a more positive note, there is a marked favourable shift in most indicators between 2019 and 2020 (all categories of food consumption scores improved).¹³⁰ Data show that the average number of consumption-based coping strategies applied by households decreased from more than 8 to an average of 1.3 for 2019-2020. However, it is too early to affirm that this corresponds to an established trend. Moreover, the high annual fluctuations in figures reported may indicate potential bias in measurement.

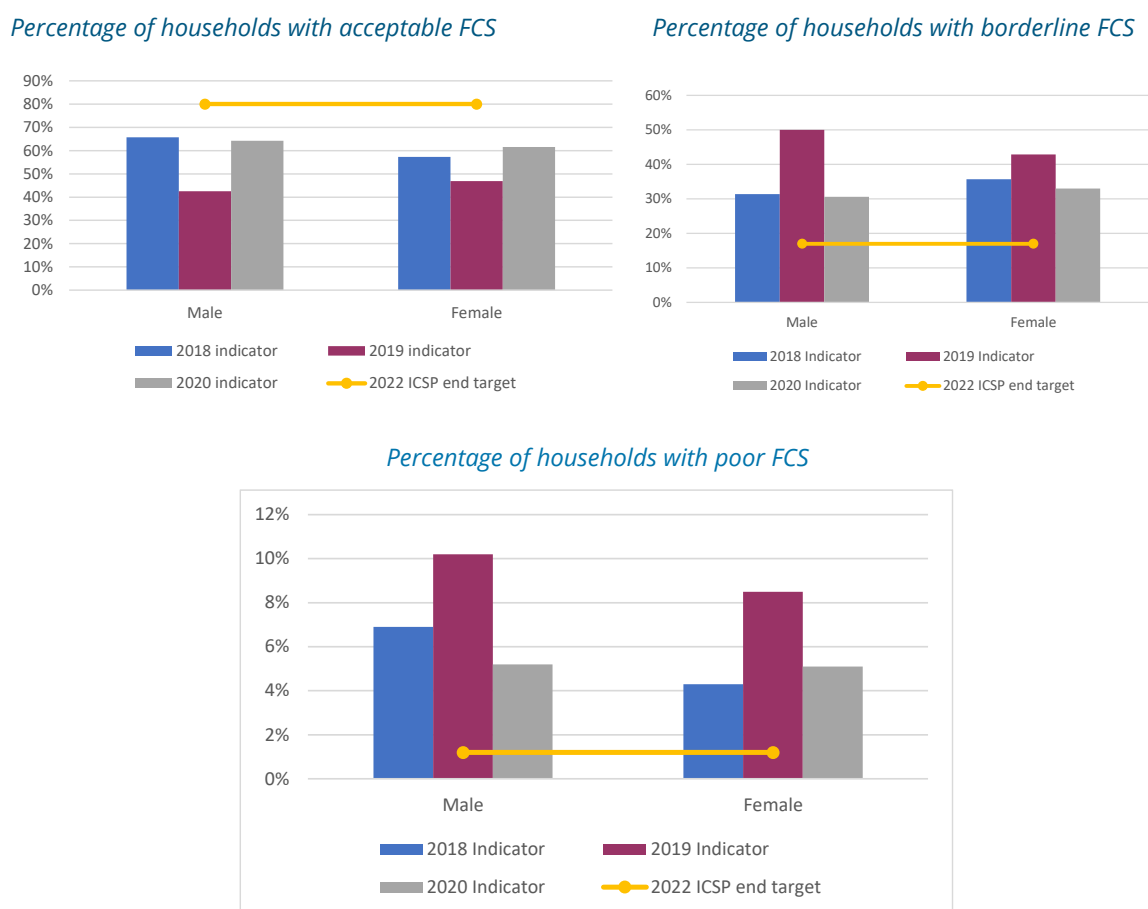
¹²⁷ The FCS is a composite score based on dietary diversity, food frequency and the relative nutritional importance of different food groups. It is calculated by inspecting how often households consume food items from the different food groups during a seven-day reference period. (WFP, VAM, 2019).

¹²⁸ The consumption frequencies are summed and multiplied by the standardized food-group weight: 2 for main staples; 3 for pulses; 1 for vegetables; 1 for fruit; 4 for meat/fish; 4 for mil; 0.5 for sugar and 0.5 for oil (<https://index.nutrition.tufts.edu/data4diets> Accessed on 12 May 2021).

¹²⁹ The proportion of households with acceptable FCS in 2013, 2010 and 2008 were respectively 93 percent, 63 percent and 77 percent, which overall constitutes better results than those reflected for 2018-2020 (Source: WFP. 2018. *Evaluation de la Composante Nutrition de l'IPSR 200301 (2013-2017)*).

¹³⁰ The evaluation could not identify the reason why indicators for 2019 reported negative trends. That year WFP attended more beneficiaries than in 2018 and provided more dry rations (Activity 1) than in 2018 and 2020. Linkage to food prices could not be established either (WFP market analysis for the second quarter of 2019 reported -1 percent of annual food inflation rate).

Figure 13: Outcome indicators on food security for the period 2018-2020 (by household head)



Source: Data extracted from annual country reports (2018, 2019, 2020) and provided by WFP country office/strategic outcome.

115. While overall results of implemented activities have been mixed, it is likely that the combination has contributed positively to nutrition-related outcomes. Mothers reported that food transfers (fortified food, provided under Activity 4)¹³¹ have reduced malnutrition and anaemia among children. Although evidence is premature,¹³² the combination of increased coverage for pregnant and lactating women in prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), and the provision of fortified food and increased investment in SBCC awareness-raising campaigns may help address the worrying long-term trends in anaemia. The cash-based transfer modality (Activity 4) and food transfers for moderate acute malnutrition prevention and treatment have been an incentive for pregnant and lactating women and girls to go to dispensaries. The need for participants to register in order to access transfers has led to more systematic medical screenings and an increased exposure to sensitization promoting healthy diets. SBCC activities are likely, in the long term, to positively influence dietary choices to help reduce anaemia, obesity and malnutrition. However, many informants expressed concern that vouchers may have been shared with beneficiary families, or values were too low in view of high local prices. This points to the need for future cash-based transfers¹³³ to consider higher voucher values and heightened sensitization on the specific dietary needs of pregnant and lactating women and girls.

116. The contribution of the school feeding activity to the overall nutrition-related objectives of the ICSP is uncertain given it is limited to a snack and reaches beneficiaries unevenly. Achieving the desired nutrition

¹³¹ Corn or wheat soya blend fortified with vitamins and minerals and generally mixed with sugar and oil and lipid nutrient supplements.

¹³² The team has not found any monitoring data on nutritional status or anaemia in WFP monitoring documents. The last nutrition survey was carried out in 2019. The next one is planned for early 2022.

¹³³ The activity stopped in February 2021 due to lack of funding.

outcomes of school feeding is limited by various factors. Parents reported that children were often not taking their milk at school. Despite WFP intentions to introduce fortified foods such as corn soya blend, dates and pulses rich in protein and minerals into the school feeding ration, this did not take place due to limited funding. While the high energy biscuits distributed are high in proteins and enriched in vitamins and minerals and have potential to contribute to malnutrition reduction, pipeline breaks and beneficiaries' dissatisfaction with the taste and monotony of milk and biscuits may lessen the likelihood of positive impacts. Anecdotal evidence suggests that, while some parents simply spend less time preparing early meals since snacks were provided at school,¹³⁴ the snacks may be most valuable to the poorest families for whom breakfast is not affordable.¹³⁵

117. **Enrolment and retention rates have remained high during the period under review** (see data on Annex 9 with differences between boys and girls). Since education is highly valued in Sahrawi society, it is difficult to assess to what extent school feeding contributed to results. Appreciation of the snacks was mixed: about half of households consulted appreciate it and the other half expressed displeasure regarding taste and monotony. Given these diverging views, it is unlikely that the programme had a considerable influence on attendance and retention. A few informants suggested that better timing of the distribution would lead to stronger impacts on child concentration at school: in other words, it would be better to distribute the snacks before starting the lessons, especially for children from the poorest households. When schools were closed for COVID-19, no biscuits were distributed.

118. The effects of complementary activities have been limited so far, although the positive results achieved with the WaterBoxxes activity in 2020 need to be acknowledged. Results have been seriously hampered by challenges faced during implementation and limited scope due to resource constraints. Concerning the WaterBoxxes activity, families reported considerable quantities of vegetables produced between January and July 2020, which they often said they shared with families and neighbours. Participants recognized the reduction in water required for production. The activity reportedly made a big difference in vegetable consumption for the participating households, especially during COVID-19. It also enhanced the livelihood asset and knowledge base because training included all technical aspects of planting, irrigating, maintaining gardens and increasing production.¹³⁶ However, due to the absence of outcome indicators for this activity, results cannot be quantified. The second phase of the project started in April 2021 and lasted for nine months, during which additional families and youth were trained to further develop the activity.

119. For hydroponics, the small set of participating households reported improved nutritional practice, dietary diversity and increased quantity of milk for household consumption.¹³⁷ Along with an increase in the weight of the animals, consumption of meat increased, especially for the Muslim celebration (Eid). These outcomes lasted until the end of the project in 2018 with the number of participants decreasing gradually in 2019 and 2020. In 2021 the activity was no longer visible in the refugee camps and the project's agronomist engineer could name no participants still using the hydroponic units (see Annex 7).

120. **Results of the fish farming were low in comparison to the WaterBoxxes activity.** The activity did not "increase access to food and nutrition items meeting nourishment requirements" as hardly any fish were produced. Except for the small number of fish distributed to hospitals and to persons with disabilities, the fish farm did not produce enough for a significant distribution to public institutions as planned.¹³⁸ The small quantity of fresh fish distributed in 2019 and 2020 was nonetheless highly appreciated.¹³⁹ Fish farm staff received salaries and continuous training both in the refugee camps and in two cities in Algeria, which resulted in enhanced livelihood assets and knowledge. Twenty new graduates in biology, water management, veterinary sciences, and agronomy attended a training on Nile tilapia breeding in July 2020.

¹³⁴ This unexpected result may have been difficult for WFP to anticipate, as the snacks are served around 11 am and not directly when the children arrive at schools. At home, children might be given tea with bread, tea with bread and margarine and, in some cases, milk with sugar or cacao powder (for the least poor). Some other families cannot afford to give a breakfast or give what remained from dinner.

¹³⁵ Source: Home visit.

¹³⁶ Source: KII, Home visits.

¹³⁷ Source: KII, FGD.

¹³⁸ Source: WFP and partner KII.

¹³⁹ Source: KII.

Participants from the Dakhla refugee camp were selected to participate in a tilapia breeding income-generating project in 2021. Some of them heard about the training via the radio and others through friends' Facebook pages. They said that the training was thorough, and they learned a lot¹⁴⁰— but much less about the management of an income-generating activity. Neither was aware that both the training and the project were funded by WFP.

121. Despite the absence of quantitative evidence, the complementary activities present a high potential to improve the nutrition situation in the camps. The three activities were designed to produce food items missing in the refugee diet: meat and milk with the hydroponics, fish with the fish farm project,¹⁴¹ and fruits and vegetables with the WaterBoxxes. One drawback is the scale of the projects is that they are too small and limited to those households that have a garden or some livestock (therefore, not the most food insecure), even though the sense of solidarity among the Sahrawi refugees has the potential to expand the benefits to a wider share of refugees. The activities can also improve availability of fresh foods in local markets.

122. There is some resistance to these complementary activities, but evidence points to resistance coming more from camp leaders than from refugees.¹⁴² A commonly heard explanation for camp leaders objecting to livelihood activities is the perception that such activities would anchor refugees to the refugee camps, thereby reducing the momentum to return to Western Sahara. This is refuted by other informants saying that the skills learned through the livelihood activities can be capitalized on once they return. Another explanation is that investment costs largely exceed the actual outcomes – something not uncommon to pilot efforts of any kind. Refugees consulted, who had participated or heard about the hydroponics activity, perceived a lack of need for livestock fodder given the normal practice of letting the animals scavenge around the camps. Others, having witnessed the WaterBoxxes activity of their neighbours, expressed interest and were disappointed not to be able to participate given limited WFP resources.

123. **While it is premature to assess the impact of the ICSP initiative to mainstream SBCC, important steps have been made.** The SBCC Formative Assessment for Anaemia and Obesity was completed in June 2019, marking phase I of a broader process to design a SBCC strategy and exploring key factors contributing to high rates of anaemia, overnutrition or obesity. Phase II started in 2020 and was still underway in April 2021; participatory activities with communities and partners helped determine key elements of a five-year SBCC strategy that will be finalized and implemented from mid-2021.

124. **Evidence of synergies across the four WFP activities is limited so far.** On paper they present complementarities to provide a food basket that would meet both the food and the nutrition minimal requirements. Indeed, although too soon for hard evidence, the ICSP states that the products of the fish farming, hydroponics and WaterBoxxes would eventually enhance what students and families consume at school or at home or contribute to the variety of food available to disability centres, dispensaries and neighbours in need (provision of proteins and vitamins). The SBCC strategy also unites the strategic outcomes, providing behaviour changing messages to direct and indirect beneficiaries.

125. The assumptions upon which the ICSP and its theory of change were founded were only partially met Table 7 below summarizes the evidence for each of the main assumptions (see also the theory of change presented in Section 1.3.2). Assumptions not fully met include: substantial advocacy for humanitarian principles among partners (and as a corollary their internal monitoring), sustained funding by donors and provision of clean water.

¹⁴⁰ At the time of the evaluation, fish breeding was already in motion but there was no harvest yet.

¹⁴¹ The project intended to distribute fish to those most in needs and to export the rest to Mauritania and the rest of Algeria.

¹⁴² Source: KII, home visits, and literature.

Table 7: Assessment of the assumptions underpinning the ICSP and its theory of change

ASSUMPTION	CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE
Advocacy and multisectoral coordination with partners/implementing partners	<p>Met: WFP has played a strong role in clusters and working groups, initiating nutrition exchanges.</p> <p>Met: WFP advocated for a strong relationship with CRA's partner MLRS.</p> <p>Unmet: WFP lobbying for more transparency/accountability in camp management on aspects directly related to WFP activities.</p>
SO1: Fortified food is stored in good condition and for not more than six months to preserve its nutritional value	<p>Met: A visit to the warehouses and KII produced no evidence of poor storage or damaged nutritional value of commodities.</p>
SO1 and SO2: Monthly reports are provided by partners or camp leadership	<p>Partially met: Local monitoring (organized by camp leaders) is by nature biased with inarguable conflicts of interest. Strong efforts are being made to strengthen monitoring by WFP directly and through CISP and their network of trained women refugee monitors. Robust monitoring is challenging as there is limited direct access to the refugees by WFP. In addition, the same people - camp leaders and refugees - are simultaneously the monitors of the assistance and the recipients of and advocates for it.</p>
Public health and nutrition awareness campaigns take place to: promote the appropriate use of the humanitarian assistance (SO1), and promote behaviour change, healthy diets, appropriate use of food and specialized products (SO2)	<p>Partially met: SO1, use of humanitarian assistance does not seem to be a key feature of SBCC and the strategy has been too recently introduced. While sensitization campaigns and trainings, including the radio show "Cooking with Dignity", are conducted and PLW are referred to health centres that WFP monitors and reports on attentively, these activities are not presented as a coherent strategy.</p>
SO1 and SO2: Clean drinking water is available	<p>Not met: water seems to be a key issue,¹⁴³ but was not included in the scope of the evaluation as an issue on its own.</p>

2.2.2 (EQ2.2) To what extent has WFP contributed to the achievement of cross-cutting aims (humanitarian principles, protection, accountability to affected populations, gender, other equity considerations and the principle of "do not harm")?

126. **WFP has invested solidly to achieve cross-cutting aims of protection and accountability to affected populations (AAP).** No evidence was found for beneficiaries being put in danger through WFP activities. Inclusion is promoted through profile targeting, especially of women, children and the disabled. A diversity assessment was conducted jointly by UNHCR and WFP to check on priorities and needs directly from refugees of different genders and ages.¹⁴⁴ A complaints and feedback mechanism has been under development since 2018 and, in 2020, Algerian authorities gave permission to launch a toll-free anonymous hotline, widely advertised at distribution sites in 2021 and directing those with questions or concerns to call a number to discuss issues with a staff operator in the WFP Tindouf sub-office. This is a critical instrument that will lend greater accountability to the activities and provide a channel for refugees to voice their

¹⁴³ UNHCR, CISP, WFP.2019. Nutrition Survey Sahrawi Refugee Camps. Tindouf, Algeria.

¹⁴⁴ UNHCR and WFP. 2020. Participatory Assessment Exercise: Age, Gender and Diversity. Tindouf, 2020.

concerns directly with WFP. Prior to the introduction of the hotline, an average of two refugees per month would reportedly post a complaint related to food to UNHCR, which then conveyed the complaints to WFP.¹⁴⁵ All households visited reported knowing where to turn should they have any concerns; most often their answers were “to the MLRS” or the school representatives. WFP is not familiar to many households by name. WFP roles related to neutrality and accountability to affected populations systems therefore may appear confusing to refugees who seem content with the existing internal lines of command (through camp managers) they already accept and obey.

127. **There is little evidence for refugee participation in the design of WFP programmes.** While they regularly receive monitoring visits, none of the refugees met by the evaluation team reported having been included, consulted or felt they had somehow influenced the design of the WFP activities. Capturing local voices at the start of a programme in time for them to influence design is a well-recognized challenge in humanitarian action. While focus group discussions organized as part of monitoring for an ongoing programme do exist, they often happen too late to influence design (although they can potentially inform changes to the programme, for instance stopping the distribution of one commodity when the latter is not appreciated by the community).¹⁴⁶

128. **The extent to which humanitarian principles can be adhered to is constrained by the context.** While WFP seeks to remain impartial and ensure assistance reaches those most in need its ability to do this remains constrained with the MLRS in control. An effort made by WFP to ensure impartial humanitarian aid, is the set-up of a monitoring mechanism both by WFP staff (four WFP monitors based in Tindouf sub-office and on rotation through the refugee camps) and third-party monitoring by CISP (working through a trained network of 29 women refugee monitors). In mid-2021 a community feedback mechanism hotline, with calls to be monitored by WFP (the results of which are premature for this evaluation), was successfully launched.

129. WFP has specifically targeted women through the introduction of a voucher programme aimed at improving the nutrition and health of pregnant and lactating women and their children. The SBCC also has a strong focus on women (and less on men). WFP has inherited, welcomed and sustained the already strong inclusion of women in many aspects of programme implementation such as in their role as *jefe de barrio* leading the food distribution, women helping with school feeding, and a set of CISP-led women monitors.

130. **Gender and diversity assessments conducted by or with WFP involvement have been somewhat superficial.** The 2019 gender analysis recommendations focus largely on gender-responsive data analysis and WFP staff awareness. Findings appear only partially applied in activities: for example, no enhanced “gender lens for deeper understanding” of intra-household dynamics in the camps was identified, nor any application of “participatory community targeting”.¹⁴⁷ Detailed insights from scholarly literature provide a deeper understanding, illuminating local gender dynamics. Sahrawi women have the right to own property (which they retain upon divorce) and to vote (through the women’s constituency and a quota system¹⁴⁸) and the society is generally matrilineal,¹⁴⁹ but there is a strong gendered division of labour in which domestic and communal labour, such as *jefe de barrio*, are given official recognition as primarily a woman’s domain¹⁵⁰. Women are regarded as vital cultural symbols by camp leadership who promote the image of the Sahrawi refugee women as modern, liberal and “exceptional”.¹⁵¹ This may help maintain the support of the international community.¹⁵²

¹⁴⁵ Source: KII.

¹⁴⁶ This was the case for instance in 2020 when beneficiaries reported Yellow Split Peas were not tasty.

¹⁴⁷ WFP, April 2019. Gender Analysis Report, Sahrawi Refugees. Tindouf Algeria.

¹⁴⁸ Wilson A., 2020. Ambiguities of Radicalism after Insurgents Become Rulers: Conflicting Pressures on Revolutionary State Power in Western Sahara’s Liberation Movement. *Government and Opposition*, 55(4).

¹⁴⁹ Ojeda-García R., Fernández-Molina I., Veguilla V., 2016. Global, regional and local dimensions of Western Sahara’s protracted decolonization - When a conflict gets old.

¹⁵⁰ Ibid.

¹⁵¹ Almenara-Niebla S., Ascanio-Sánchez C., 2020. Connected Sahrawi refugee diaspora in Spain: Gender, social media and digital transnational gossip. *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, 23(5).

¹⁵² Metelits C.M. 2018. Bourdieu’s capital and insurgent group resilience: a field-theoretic approach to the Polisario front. *Small Wars and Insurgencies*, 29(4).

131. WFP was not found to have sufficient insight into gender dynamics for programming to be gender transformative; this may be doing unintentional ‘harm’ by accepting existing gender stereotypes. The 2019 gender analysis report¹⁵³, while welcome as a useful start, was developed with a narrow focus on how to make WFP more gender responsive. As described above, additional research is lacking to make gender transformation an aim. WFP inherited a strongly gendered dynamic among the refugees, which it has sustained by continuing to promote active women leadership in the delivery of assistance, for example, the strong role of women in general food assistance. In fact, multiple scholars criticise the role of international aid actors (among them non-governmental organizations and WFP) in promoting an idealized image of “active women” that can cause harm if it means assuming that all Sahrawi women are “active” like those the evaluation was able to interview. This may also inadvertently marginalize Sahrawi men and youth. Evaluation evidence points to the need to seek a balanced target for involvement of women and men.

132. There is no evidence of harm caused to the environment and no breach of protection risks (safety, dignity, integrity) have been linked to WFP activities. There is little evidence that puts the dignity of programmes into question; one example was related to undignified general food assistance distribution related to standing in the heat with no shade, in response to which WFP took corrective action, restoring and increasing the number of distribution points.¹⁵⁴ The radio show “Cooking with Dignity” has also been a laudable effort to make food aid more relevant and less stigmatized. Informants expressed concern about the water trucking, which has been ongoing for 45 years and the huge water shortfalls common to such an arid zone.¹⁵⁵ Hydroponics and WaterBoxxes were proposed as WFP activities precisely because they use much less water. Refugee youth noted the natural environment in their photos; while a few photos portrayed the environment as promising (especially for boys), some also noted the destruction to homes and schools due to the 2015/2016 flood events.

2.2.3 (EQ2.3) To what extent has the ICSP facilitated and capitalized on strategic linkages on the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus?

133. While WFP did convince MLRS of the added value of a set of activities that focus on resilience – thereby also responding to identified needs for fresher and protein-rich foods to enhance refugee diets, there is a resistance to activities that feature a link to the land on which the refugee camps are located. Evidence shows that camp leaders fear a negative correlation between resources for general assistance and those for livelihood activities (in other words, that general food assistance funding will decrease if livelihood activities are supported).¹⁵⁶ However, this concern is not upheld by trends in resources presented earlier in the report and there is in fact a balance of voices for and against the livelihood activities.

134. With skills that are not dependent on one location, activities such as fish farming, hydroponics and WaterBoxxes provide a coherent link between humanitarian action and development. However, challenges were noted. As pilot activities, the funds allocated have been sporadic, and in the hydroponics activity this has proven to be unsustainable (that is, the activity stopped in 2018 and the investment in technical support and kits had no benefit beyond that period). The scope of these efforts has also been impacted by the low availability of agricultural resources in the region and cultural practices.¹⁵⁷

135. The environmental conditions of the Tindouf region were another constraint in the development of sustainable resilience activities promoting the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. These challenges have been well captured in the design of the activities and WFP managed to implement innovative agricultural techniques, adapted to a context under water stress. At this stage, the innovative dimension of these activities is limited and funded by few donor countries (USA, Netherlands, Brazil, Andorra) at a limited scale.

¹⁵³ WFP 2019, Gender Analysis Report

¹⁵⁴ WFP.2020. WFP Algeria Quarterly Monitoring Report Jan-Mar 2020.

¹⁵⁵ UNHCR periodically reports the lack of drinkable water (12 litres of drinkable water per person and per day in the refugee camps against the humanitarian standard of 20 litres per person and per day). The water network system in the refugee camps covered only 33 percent of the refugee camps in 2019. The remaining 70 percent needs to be supplied with trucks, which often need repairing.

¹⁵⁶ Source: KII with donors, NGOs and WFP.

¹⁵⁷ Barley seeds became rare and expensive in Tindouf in 2019 and evidence collected also revealed that the Sahrawi community was not used to spending money to feed their livestock and were therefore a bit reluctant to do so.

136. Although, implementation of complementary activities is monitored by WFP staff, quality of implementation depends heavily on partner performance. Interviews suggest that the involvement of WFP staff in these activities has been limited to date. Targeting was done without consulting WFP during the first phases of implementation and WFP acknowledged the lack of “follow up strategy” for the fish farm activity. While the autonomy of partners does not represent a problem as such, it nonetheless prevents WFP from being in the driving seat to ensure the successful implementation and sustainability of these activities.

137. The absence of beneficiary registration¹⁵⁸ presents a challenge to WFP in the implementation of its activities, including work to strengthen the nexus. Sahrawi camp leaders have shown reluctance to authorize the adoption of new (cash-based) modalities, to support the expansion into more transformational activities, to enable a more specific targeting for general food assistance, to allow a precise count of denominators and to grant regular unrestricted access to refugees and camps. While this reluctance can be understood as logical in a politically charged context leading to a protracted humanitarian emergency status, it obstructs some of the efforts to improve diets and living conditions for the refugees. WFP — which has skilfully navigated the political dynamics with no political role — appears to some informants as tolerant and willing to maintain the status quo. Some partners, including donors, suggest that there are many ways to arrive at a more precise denominator (such as starting with specific groups or profiles of the population in rotation each year or by assessment until a stronger figure is reached and aggregated). Insisting on humanitarian principles - in support of humanitarian access - may also be one step towards this end. While WFP can have no role in advocating for a particular political solution, it has a mandate to actively seek the best technical solution to promote food and nutrition security, prioritizing assistance to those most in need, always placing protection concerns above efficiency aims.

138. Another challenge is the view of specific partners (donors and United Nations) that seem to want WFP to limit its assistance to general food distributions. Some respondents suggest that other activities distract WFP and donor funding from the priority needs of the refugees. Together, the international community seems compelled to promote the path of least resistance, to continue operations more or less as per the 45-year status quo.¹⁵⁹

2.3 EQ3: TO WHAT EXTENT HAS WFP USED ITS RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY IN CONTRIBUTING TO ICSP OUTPUTS AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES?

2.3.1 (EQ3.1) To what extent have ICSP outputs been delivered within the intended timeframe?

139. Delivery of the planned outputs was frequently interrupted, mostly due to lack of funding, but WFP managed to resume activities relatively quickly. Figure 14 shows the main interruptions in activities that occurred. In 2018 and 2019, interruptions were related mainly to resource constraints. Pipeline breaks, while frequent, have generally been very short-lived as WFP managed to find solutions, including identifying partners in a position to advance funds or commodities. Regarding general food assistance (SO1.1), two stocks in Rabuni, one managed by the Spanish Red Cross (CRE) and the other one managed by the Algerian Red Crescent (CRA) and MLRS, have played an important role in responding to shortages in resources or problems related to the purchase of commodities. According to key informants, buffer stocks managed by the CRE are sufficient to cover three-months’ food distribution when needed. When international orders for commodities could not be made on time because of resource constraints, local procurement was used to reduce delivery times.¹⁶⁰ Although quantities delivered did not systematically reach monthly targets (see Figure 14 and 2.2.1) the established mechanisms allowed WFP and its partners to cover minimum daily nutritional requirements through general food assistance by compensating ration cuts with larger rations when food became available.

¹⁵⁸ Thereby allowing more accurate planning, more careful targeting, and even individually targeted cash-based programming, etc.

¹⁵⁹ Source: KIIs.

¹⁶⁰ It takes approximately three to four months to source commodities from international markets (source: WFP KII) and around three weeks to source local commodities.

140. Despite no major interruptions in general food assistance, changes in delivery timing and quantities distributed¹⁶¹ resulted in challenges to providing timely assistance to refugees. The refugees consulted often voiced concern on the timeliness of food delivery, especially for rice and flour. To improve the timeliness of the delivery, logistics arrangements between WFP and its partners could be enhanced. WFP leads the monthly food security meeting to report on distributions, energy intakes, stocks, balances and ration quantities planned for the following month. The meeting is also attended by WFP key partners; UNHCR, CRA (and its partner MLRS), CISP, CRE and Oxfam, some of which suggested that planning and logistics could be streamlined to make systems more effective and efficient. The logistics of food transport to the refugee camps involve CRA and its partner, *Asociación de Trabajadores y Técnicos sin Fronteras* (ATTsF) – in charge of the truck fleet, and MLRS, which takes over when commodities reach the refugee camps. Local procurement of food commodities, reception of commodities in Oran port and the transport to Tindouf, falls under the mandate of CRA by decision of the Algerian Government but key informant interviews reported limited CRA logistics and administration capacity.

141. **CRA reportedly faces challenges with high internal turnover and with the management of administrative processes.** Key informant interviews also expressed concern about bad fleet condition due to wear and tear and no plans for replacements due to lack of funding. Interactions between WFP and the CRA are constrained by a multiplicity of contracts, for example, one per commodity, characterized as time consuming and inefficient versus an overarching contract that explicitly describes responsibilities and promotes synergies.¹⁶²

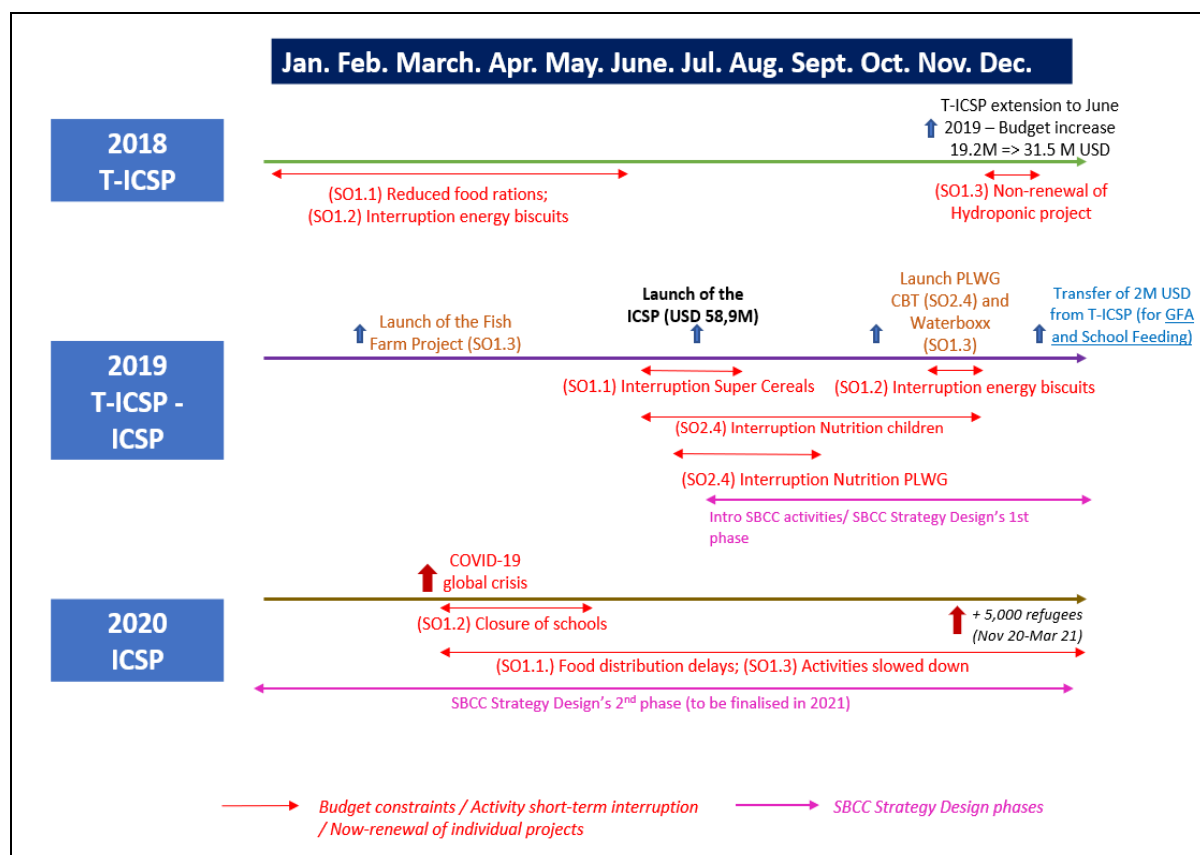
142. The work undertaken for the design of the SBCC strategy in collaboration with partners (Oxfam, CRA (and its partner MLRS), UNICEF) was delayed for about one year. This was due to the unavailability of key participants and the COVID-19 pandemic, which prevented meetings. The start of the cash-based transfer modality under Activity 4 was also delayed by more than one year due to the delayed MLRS authorization and disagreements regarding the integration of cash-based transfer into the general food assistance activity (cash-based transfer was ultimately provided through a separate mechanism). Cash-based transfers eventually started towards the end of 2019 but faced funding shortfalls at the beginning of 2021.

143. **COVID-19 affected the whole portfolio but, above all, the school feeding activity.** School feeding was interrupted for two months from March to May 2020. The delivery of biscuits and milk to schools resumed in September 2020 after the summer break (May-August). The pandemic also slowed down complementary activities, postponing training and coordination meetings and led to challenges to procure inputs for the fish farm. It also caused some delays to develop the five-year SBCC strategy, finalized in 2021. However, WFP and partners managed to maintain monitoring activities, including through the use of telephones and messenger apps.

¹⁶¹ When one commodity was missing, it was distributed later in the month, as explained for instance in the Food Sector Meeting minutes of January 2021. Beneficiaries also reported that different commodities were not always distributed the same day.

¹⁶² Source: KIIs.

Figure 14: Overview of main changes and implementation challenges under the T-ICSP and ICSP (2018-2020)



2.3.2 (EQ3.2) To what extent have resources been adequately defined and appropriately used?

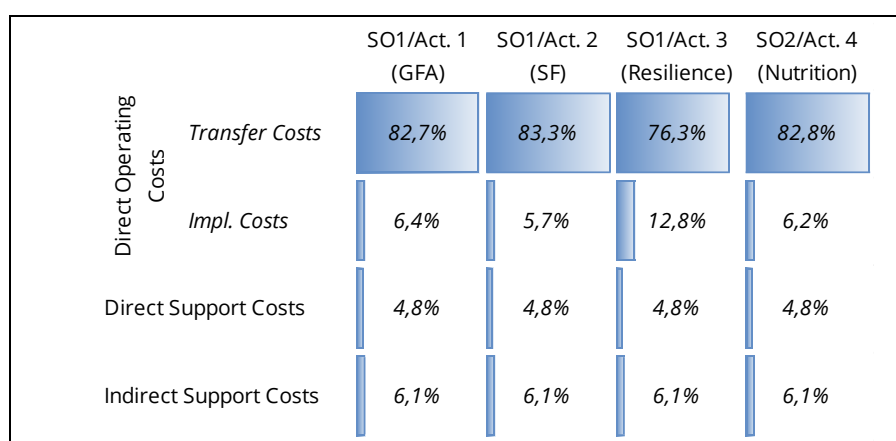
144. **WFP strategic resource allocation and the portfolio's cost structure followed similar patterns over the years.** Between 2018-2020, general food assistance absorbed most of the resources while other activities (for example, the school feeding programme, complementary activities and nutrition) received fluctuating and more sporadic funding from various donors. Due to donor earmarking, WFP has had very little flexibility to allocate resources strategically across its portfolio (see also EQ4.2).¹⁶³ Complementary activities relied on two donors, which promoted the use of "home-grown" pilot solutions (specifically, WaterBoxxes and hydroponic units from the Netherlands and fish farms funded by the USA). New tranches of funding have not been confirmed by donors.

145. **The evaluation team has found that the allocation of resources was made consistently and efficiently across the portfolio.** The cost structure of the ICSP country portfolio budget is summarized in the diagram below using data from the ICSP needs-based plan. The overall structure has not significantly evolved over the years and is consistent with the type of activities implemented and the context of the T-ICSP/ICSP. Most resources are absorbed by transfer costs related to general food assistance and, to a lesser extent, transfer costs related to nutrition-related activities under SO1 (school feeding) and SO2 (pregnant and lactating women and children/moderate acute malnutrition prevention) (see Figure 15). The relative share of implementation in total costs per activity has been higher for Activity 3 than for other activities,¹⁶⁴ which is consistent with the nature of the activity.

¹⁶³ Sources: KII and WFP annual activity reports.

¹⁶⁴ Logically, the share of transfer costs has been lower for Activity 3 (resilience) than for other activities.

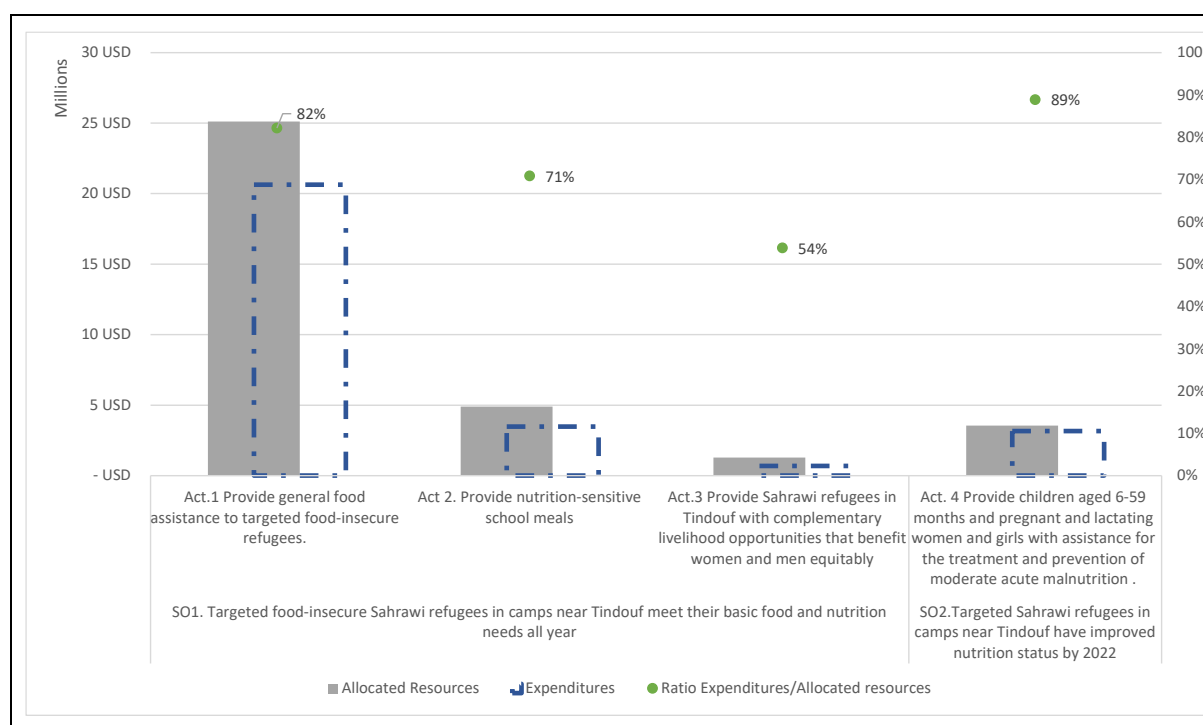
Figure 15: Cost structure of the ICSP country portfolio budget



Source: WFP CPB financial data (update 2021).

146. Figure 16 illustrates spending of allocated resources for each activity. High expenditure rates show that resources have been used quite efficiently (82 percent and 89 percent of the allocated resources have been spent for activities 1 and 4 respectively), especially considering the volatile funding situation discussed in Section 2.4. The spending level has not been as high for Activity 3 because a contribution was received at the beginning of 2021 and was therefore not yet spent as of May 2021, at the time of evaluation. For this reason, only slightly more than half of the available resources were used over the period.¹⁶⁵

Figure 16: Resources expended versus resources allocated under the ICSP (July 2019-May 2021) by activity (in million USD)



Source: WFP, cumulative financial overview as of 7th May 2021.

¹⁶⁵ As of December 2020, almost 100 percent of the allocated resources had been spent for this activity. The contribution received in 2021 is meant to be spent between April and December 2021 for the second phase of the WaterBoxxes activity.

147. WFP has used existing resources effectively, but the complementary activities (except for WaterBoxxes) still have to prove their cost-effectiveness. These activities have been characterized by high start-up costs and a considerable time lag before leading to measurable outcomes. As pilot projects, the continuation of the activities relied on tangible results that did not often materialize within the anticipated time frame. In the case of the fish farm, a human mistake resulted in the loss of the full 2019 production. Difficulties to implement remedial actions in 2020 were encountered due to COVID-19. Further funding for this activity was not in the pipeline when the team visited the refugee camps in April 2021 with no specific reasons provided.

148. Table 8 presents the costs per beneficiary by activity. Ratios are very high for Activity 3, which implied important costs in training and benefitted only a small number of beneficiaries. Net cost per beneficiary decreased for activities 1 and 2 as a result of a reduction of expenditures combined to an increase of beneficiaries. The opposite trend can be observed for Activity 4, as expenditures were much higher in 2020 than in previous years.¹⁶⁶

Table 8: Cost per beneficiary by activity (in USD)

	2018	2019	2020
Act 1	107	80	89
Act 2	69.1	41.7	44.2
Act 3	4 301	1 440	2 545
Act 4	16	40	100

Source: expenditures and beneficiary data from WFP ACR.

149. WFP was not able to identify a hand-over plan or find alternative funding to address the end of funding for the hydroponic activity in late 2019. Consequently, the investment in kits and training was lost after the project ended.¹⁶⁷ Overall, the considerable investment in training necessary for a successful roll-out of complementary activities did not yield the expected results. As one exception, WaterBoxxes in its first year of implementation required low labour to achieve sufficient production.¹⁶⁸

150. An example of WFP seeking to increase cost-effectiveness is manifest in WFP efforts to identify local solutions for biscuit fortification to fight anaemia. A consultant was commissioned to produce a roadmap for biscuit fortification in or near Tindouf, with the possibility of expanding the fortification throughout Algeria. While refugees also have micro-businesses that could be explored, the challenge is one of scale and capacity, that is, few bakeries can produce and fortify significant amounts of wheat, while 1,700 mt per month are needed to produce baguettes for schools. The WFP nutritionist has also been in discussion with non-governmental organizations such as DRC and CISP on this topic. If successful, localization will reduce costs of products while increasing local capacity (refugee and Algerian).

151. No cost-effectiveness studies were found to justify the choice of modality for general food assistance (SO1.1) as an in-kind unconditional transfer, nor the modality choice of any other activity.

152. **Despite significant context-specific limitations, WFP made efforts to improve the efficiency of activities.** WFP has sought to achieve a higher level of efficiency in the implementation of the T-ICSP and ICSP portfolio, as is visible in its efforts to move from the currently used paper vouchers to an e-voucher

¹⁶⁶ The increase in expenditures (which entailed the higher cost per beneficiary) is due to the implementation of the voucher programme from the end of 2019. Within this Activity 4, the evaluation could not differentiate between what was spent for in-kind distribution (fortified products to children and to PLW) and spending related to cash-distribution (vouchers distributed to PLW only) and hence cannot make any comparison between the two modalities.

¹⁶⁷ Key informants reported that, in 2021, no one was still using the hydroponic units anymore.

¹⁶⁸ Source: FGD.

programme for pregnant and lactating women under Activity 4 (in other words, providing women with an electronic card to use at point of sale). E-vouchers remove the need to print and transport the paper vouchers from Algiers to refugee camps, while also reducing the carbon footprint involved in the logistics.

153. At the time of the evaluation, CRA's partner MLRS had just agreed to implement the e-voucher modality. Transfers using cash would require a register of refugees (and for e- or mobile cash, telephone numbers or unique identifiers), which currently does not exist. Transfers using vouchers are restricted by default since vouchers inherently limit where and for which commodities they can be used. Such limitations typically require additional information about the beneficiaries (for targeting purposes, such as in voucher-for-training). The e-voucher modality could also be a suitable and more efficient option for Activity 1, allowing a saving in logistical costs linked to procurement and transport of commodities. However, for this option to be viable, WFP will have to ensure commodities are locally available in sufficient quantities and at competitive prices.

154. WFP is currently exploring the use of the WFP beneficiary information management SCOPE cards¹⁶⁹ for community-level deliveries.¹⁷⁰ Instead of providing SCOPE cards to each beneficiary (which is a politically sensitive subject, the SCOPE cards would be provided to the 160 *Jefe de barrios* and would be used/introduced into the digital interface device on each distribution day to register food delivered and received in each neighbourhood. Informants are hopeful that this system will be introduced in mid-2021 and will save time, paper and add efficiency to the system. Donor informants endorsed this avidly, despite it not addressing the need for community targeting.

155. A case of misuse of WFP products (school snacks), was detected by WFP in 2020. The evaluation team reviewed WFP documents discussing solutions to address the 2020 sighting of WFP commodities on markets in Mauritania.¹⁷¹ The reports discussed the "leakage and sale of the nutritious foods (...) detected when ECHO-funded Super Cereal plus (CSB++) was sold in the Mauritanian markets in 2019. This incident was investigated, and it was established that the CSB++ came from the Sahrawi food assistance programme and resulted in an expression of displeasure from the donor (...)" and also cautioned that "more leakage and sale incidents of the nutritious foods can result in suspension of assistance of the nutrition programme and a suspension of donor funding". Recently, sources stated that the humanitarian assistance "has known major misappropriation over the years", with goods "substituted with ones of lesser quality, stolen or sold in the camps". One result of this was "a major shortage in essential food items, including necessary items for babies and new-borns".¹⁷² Donors interviewed also expressed concern over rations going to feed individuals beyond the refugee camps. The evaluation team took photos of WFP products (including biscuits) appearing in the local markets in Tindouf. While the fact that a certain proportion of goods are sold by refugees is to be expected due to refugee choice and needs for essential items other than food, the sale of biscuits distributed only inside school buildings and reportedly only consumed in situ¹⁷³ is significantly more concerning.

2.4 EQ4: WHAT FACTORS EXPLAIN WFP PERFORMANCE AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT HAS MADE THE STRATEGIC SHIFT EXPECTED IN THE ICSP?

2.4.1 (EQ4.1) To what extent did WFP have access to and adequately capitalize on the appropriate/requisite human resources and skills to achieve the expected ICSP outcomes?

156. In early 2020, shortly after the start of the ICSP, an organizational alignment mission was conducted to align human resources and office structure with the objectives of the newly approved plan.

¹⁶⁹ The SCOPECARD is a smartcard that can contain several vouchers and works with a point-of-sale (POS) device. Beneficiaries in other countries use the cards to purchase food in select retail locations and top-ups to the cards can be made for new distribution cycles. (WFP, 2014. SCOPE in 5 minutes).

¹⁷⁰ In other contexts, the WFP SCOPE cards are generally for each individual and not provided at community level.

¹⁷¹ WFP/Algeria, 2020. "Guidance note treatment of acute malnutrition preventing the sale of specialized nutritious foods". Internal report. Unpublished.

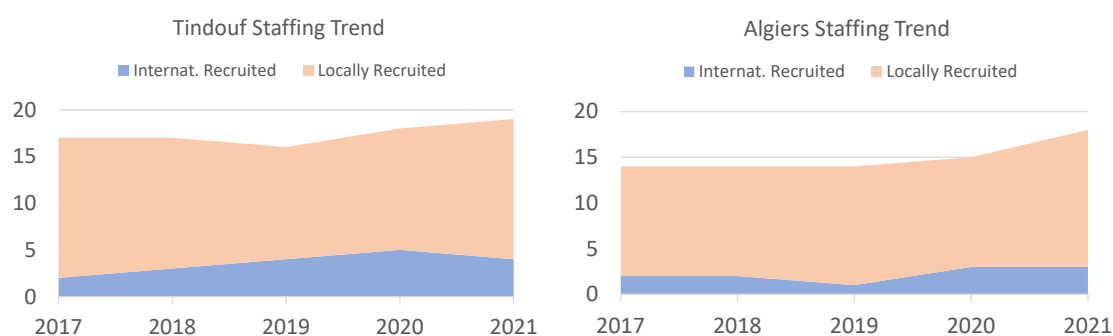
¹⁷² Observatory of Sahara for Peace, Democracy and Human Rights. 2019. *Universal Periodic Review Mechanism, Mid-Term Review – Algeria*, November 2019, Laayoune, Western Sahara.

¹⁷³ Source: KIIs, FGD, some home visits.

Later the same year, the organigram was further reviewed to align with the strategic shift of including new domestic (that is, in Algeria but not for Sahrawi refugee) activities (see below).

157. It is challenging to attract qualified WFP staff to the Tindouf sub-office, a hardship non-family duty station far from the country's capital, Algiers.¹⁷⁴ Figure 17 shows that the number of locally recruited staff slightly increased after 2019, in both the Algiers country office and the Tindouf sub-office. This reflects mainly the opening of monitoring assistant positions in the Tindouf sub-office and business support assistant, programme officer and communication officer positions in Algiers. In the Algiers country office, the number of international staff increased to three in 2020 and 2021 (including two consultants and the Country Director position). In the Tindouf sub-office, there were four international staff in 2021 (one P-4 grade, one P-2 grade and two consultants), which is double compared to 2017. The positions in the Tindouf sub-office include a newly created Deputy Country Director position that was first filled in 2019 but the critical P-3 grade Head of Programme and national officer monitoring and evaluation (M&E) positions in Tindouf sub-office remained vacant as well as an information technology (IT) position (national).¹⁷⁵ Once recruited, WFP has been generally successful in retaining key staff in the Tindouf sub-office long enough to allow them to gain the necessary understanding of the operation in order to contribute effectively to programme implementation.¹⁷⁶

Figure 17: Trends in staffing for WFP country office in Algiers and sub-office in Tindouf



Source: Graphs provided by WFP country office (July 2021).

158. **WFP staff are found to be very appreciated by partners at all levels.** Informants have described WFP staff as professional, knowledgeable and adaptable. There is almost unanimous appreciation for WFP staff and the structured, diplomatic and effective approaches used.

159. **Strong progress was made in programming despite an understaffed sub-office in Tindouf.**¹⁷⁷ One programme officer for complementary activities was recruited in 2019. Between 2017 and mid-2019, one single staff member oversaw the development of both resilience activities and the cash-based transfer programme. In February 2020, the nutrition officer was replaced. In 2021, a programme policy officer was recruited to fill a position that had remained vacant for a few months. The monitoring team has also been strengthened; one assistant was recruited in 2018, followed by two additional staff in 2020 and one more in 2021. Relative to other entities operating in the camps, such as UNHCR, WFP had only three international staff based in Tindouf sub-office, with two staff members being due for rotation in 2021.¹⁷⁸ A new monitoring and evaluation/vulnerability analysis and mapping (M&E/VAM) officer took office beginning in 2021,¹⁷⁹ but the IT position continued to remain vacant.

¹⁷⁵ The M&E and IT position were to be filled in 2021 but due to COVID-19 arrival of the new staff was delayed.

¹⁷⁶ Six staff working in logistics, administration and monitoring have been working with WFP in Algiers country office or Tindouf sub-office for more than 13 years.

¹⁷⁷ Source: KIs.

¹⁷⁸ UNHCR had a total of 35 staff in March 2021 (this includes 12 drivers) while WFP had 18 at the same period (this includes 5 drivers).

¹⁷⁹ Training of this staff member (who was former IT staff) by a regional VAM officer occurred in Algiers in 2021 before the staff member was to move to Tindouf.

160. Country office staff in Algiers have been building strong relationships with the Government of Algeria and donors, as well as nurturing partnerships with the CRA, non-governmental organizations and other United Nations entities. The distance between the country office in Algiers and the operations in the Tindouf sub-office often presents challenges that were managed with strong communication and innovative constellations of support. Recently, the country office in Algiers has benefitted from increased support from the regional bureau, through a VAM officer (who is training country office staff) while conducting analyses for non-refugee programming, a programme officer working on the common country analysis, and a school feeding technical assistant.

161. While some human resources challenges persist, the current situation offers significant opportunities to enhance the mobilization of dedicated expertise in the future. Two key positions in the Tindouf sub-office fell vacant in June 2021 and turnover time between current/new staff (specifically, the deputy position and the resilience/livelihoods officer in Tindouf sub-office) will reportedly be a challenge given COVID-19. The identification of staff to focus for the first time on VAM and M&E in Tindouf sub-office is likely to spark innovation and enhance knowledge, such as maps that demonstrate distribution points, warehouses, where hydroponics and WaterBoxxes are being used or products sold and more robust monitoring data. Products linked to these positions were highlighted as missing in many WFP assessments and missions, including in evaluation evidence.

162. **WFP is recognized for the knowledge it is generating and sharing.** The efforts of WFP in this area were positively perceived by key informants and can be seen as a cost-effective investment. An effective use of the WFP “platform” has advanced knowledge through analytical studies (see EQ1.1). WFP has been a leader in assessments benefitting refugees and the entire humanitarian community.

2.4.2 (EQ4.2) To what extent has WFP worked with donors to mobilize adequate, predictable and flexible resources to finance the ICSP?

163. **Predictability of funding for WFP assistance in Algeria is limited.** WFP in Algeria is struggling with one small- to medium-sized envelope after another to keep the Sahrawi operation afloat. Twelve different donors (not counting the private donors, and flexible funding) funded the ICSP operations over different periods, with widely different levels of funding provided, ranging from USD 46,000 to USD 11.9 million. While this total is not low, each donor imposes unique spending rules and reporting requirements. In 2018 (activities 3 and 4) and 2020 (activities 2 and 3) donor resources did not meet WFP need-based plans. In at least one documented situation, a United Nations or non-governmental organization partner was called upon to advance WFP the funds needed to sustain an operation. Most donors do not make contributions to the operation for multiple years – which is more common for development projects. Considering this, the multi-year field-level agreements that WFP offers to its local partners could be perceived as an overcommitment. Non-governmental organization informants reported this shift as positive.

164. **Donations have been inconsistent, and there is evidence that donors do not abide by “good humanitarian donorship” principles.** The Sahrawi refugees are often referred to as a “forgotten crisis” by ECHO but the budget allocated by the EU for Sahrawi camps has changed little over the last decade. Most donors continue to earmark their contributions to specific activities of the ICSP, which makes it difficult to ensure the delivery of all activities as portrayed by the theory of change. Multiple donors reported wanting WFP to continue with a pure focus on general food assistance. However, other major donors have deliberately wound down their support to general food assistance with one key deciding factor being concerns over targeting. Other donors encourage innovation and look forward to advances in programming, such as the use of digital cash. Most WFP informants expressed worry about the earmarking of resources and cited this as a limiting factor in evolving and developing the programme.¹⁸⁰ The assumption of the theory of change, (see Figure 4) “sustainable funding”, has been unmet.

165. The ICSP and T-ICSP, as compared to preceding projects, did not help to attract or establish a broader donor base. This appears to be more an issue with donor interest and confidence than with WFP fundraising skills, as suggested by the difficulty to even access donors for evaluation interviews. While no documented fundraising strategy was found, WFP shows ingenuity in mobilizing resources, for example

¹⁸⁰ Source: KII.

attracting funding to launch a pilot project for the production of crops for human consumption using hydroponics.¹⁸¹ But competition is strong, with constantly fluctuating priorities across the Maghreb.

166. The Government of Algeria is an important actor as the host of the refugee camps.¹⁸² The Government also provides in-kind donations (access to power and water, some food commodities), complementary to WFP and with key support channelled through the CRA. Multiple informants reported that support provided to the Sahrawi refugees by the Algerian Government was unconditional, never documented and hard to quantify. Key informants underscored the fact that strong relationships with the Algerian Government and CRA were challenging to build, likely due to limited WFP capacity and high turnover of CRA and government staff.

167. **Donor expectations towards WFP are high.** During the interviews multiple donors insisted that WFP should coordinate, advocate and share “the WFP refugee camp vision” even more with donors or other United Nations partners and find solutions. Some stakeholders interviewed likewise encourage WFP to play an advocacy role with donors. Interviewees state that many actors seem eager to shift the responsibility for the Sahrawi refugees to someone else, potentially pushing WFP into a role beyond its mandate.

2.4.3 (EQ4.3) What other factors can explain WFP performance and the extent to which it has made the strategic shift expected by the ICSP?

168. The political context influencing the refugee dynamics is a major contributor to WFP and partner performance. Until an internationally agreed long-term solution is secured for the Sahrawi refugees in Algeria, it is not realistic to expect that the humanitarian actors mandated to serve them can bring about any fundamental improvement in the situation.

169. Unanticipated outcomes of the efforts linked to the ICSP in Algeria include international renown for hydroponics and the fledgling success in expanding the WFP focus beyond the five camps. Despite little trace today in Algeria, hydroponics has become a phenomenon in at least three other countries¹⁸³ and can be traced back to the investment by WFP in the refugee camps near Tindouf with Oxfam’s technical support (the technical name was H2Optimal Grow under the Innovation Accelerator programme). The strength of lobbying in Algiers to expand the WFP portfolio beyond the Sahrawi refugee operation, using the WaterBoxxes, coupled with the experience of WFP in social protection and vulnerability analysis and mapping, have been welcome evolutions beyond the scope of the ICSP refugee camp-based theory of change.

170. Nutrition outcomes are strongly affected by the health status of targeted population groups. A surprising finding from the ten home visits was that among four of the households that had been participating in the cash-based transfer programme, two had recently lost a woman member, one in childbirth and another post-partum. This illustrates the precarity of refugee life and the limitations of the health services in the camps. Studies report that the Smara and Boujdour refugee camps, as well as Rabuni, have access to drinking water with adequate iodine levels but that raw water supply in the other refugee camps is of inadequate quality. Urinary iodine concentration in the water is reported to have adverse effects, for example, goitres or thyroid problems among lactating women and other refugees.¹⁸⁴ Results from sanitary inspections show that only half of the water supply installations at the hospitals are in an adequate condition.^{185,186} WFP is not responsible for health services and water provision to refugees, but should continue advocating for improving their quality as this directly affects the health and thus the

¹⁸¹ WFP submitted an integrated project proposal to Buffet Foundation with a pledge of USD 2 million.

¹⁸² Ojeda-García R., Fernández-Molina I., Veguilla V., 2016. Global, regional and local dimensions of Western Sahara’s protracted decolonization: When a conflict gets old.

¹⁸³ Chad, Jordan, Sudan.

¹⁸⁴ Aakre I., Lilleengen A.M., Lerseth Aarsand M., Strand T.A., Barikmo I., Henjum S., 2017. Infant feeding practices in the Saharawi refugee camps Algeria, a cross-sectional study among children from birth to six months of age. *International Breastfeeding Journal*, 12(1).

¹⁸⁵ Vivar, M. et al. 2016. An insight into the drinking-water access in the health institutions at the Saharawi refugee camps in Tindouf (Algeria) after 40 years of conflict. *Science of the Total Environment* 550 534–546.

¹⁸⁶ In 2013, it was reported that 62 percent of the population were drinking water at risk of contamination, due to poor tank conditions. Medical centres in *dairas* economically supported by external organisms or that are partnered or ‘sistered’ with towns located in other countries are in better condition. See Vivar et al, 2016.

nutrition status of the pregnant and lactating women and the children in the camps targeted by the voucher programme.

Monitoring of outputs and outcomes

171. The ICSP set out to improve the monitoring of operations, but the way WFP monitoring activities have been set up does not allow for identification of inclusion and exclusion errors. WFP monitoring tools need to be approved by CRA's partner MLRS. Tools generally aim to confirm output achievement, such as the number of beneficiaries receiving food assistance and the quantities distributed, and to collect valuable, often anonymous, feedback or complaints related to the distribution. Monitoring does not, however, verify targeting outcomes nor seek to assess gaps or exclusion errors.

172. WFP has been implementing monitoring activities for the four ICSP activities in close collaboration with its partners (UNHCR, CISP, CRA and Oxfam). WFP plays a key role in training partners and analysing monitoring data. CISP has played an increasingly important role for the monitoring of general food assistance and school feeding activities.¹⁸⁷ Limited WFP human resources and limited access to the camps (between 9am and 4:30pm), while distributions often take place after sunset, led to the decision to outsource the monitoring food distributions to CISP from 2018 onwards (as they had better access to the camps). In 2018, a total of 29 monitors were mobilized.¹⁸⁸ A monitoring and evaluation review performed by regional bureau staff during a visit to the Tindouf sub-office in November 2018 recommended performing two post-distribution monitoring (PDM) visits per year, training partners for on-site monthly reporting, and mobilizing additional human resources for monitoring activities.

173. Following the March 2019 review, WFP started training CISP monitors and, from June 2019 onwards, all distribution (general food assistance) points were reached by CISP.¹⁸⁹ Following recommendations made by the regional bureau, WFP and UNHCR performed the first post-distribution monitoring survey in June 2019. This has allowed WFP to report on key food security indicators encompassed in the corporate results framework (specifically, food consumption scores). Focus group discussions were also implemented from 2019, as a way to collect qualitative data.¹⁹⁰ Focus group discussions (mostly with women) in the five camps are also performed by CISP at non-regular frequencies, although, in theory, on a monthly basis.

174. In 2020, monitoring activities by partners continued reaching all distribution sites.^{191,192} Under Activity 3, the WaterBoxxes activity has been monitored in consultation with Oxfam and 24 families were met (12 in the Smara refugee camp and 12 in the Awserd refugee camp). The number of boxes delivered, the survival rate of plants and savings in water were reported.¹⁹³ The post-distribution monitoring survey was conducted by WFP only once in October 2020, due to COVID-19.¹⁹⁴ From 2019, WFP has expanded its monitoring and evaluation team, recruiting one additional monitoring assistant in 2019 and two in 2020.¹⁹⁵

¹⁸⁷ Before 2018 and still today, for half of the year distribution of food rations (GFA) were taking place in the late evening due to the very high day time temperatures in summer.

¹⁸⁸ One-woman refugee in charge per *daira*.

¹⁸⁹ Before June, WFP and UNHCR continued monitoring activities but managed to monitor only 30 percent of the distribution sites in the first quarter of 2019. Monitors checked quantities distributed and gathered feedback from beneficiaries on the quality of food provided. For Activity 4, 29 clinics were monitored twice by WFP and CRA. Schools (Activity 2) were visited only once by WFP during that same period while CISP visited schools every month and did weekly hygiene checks of school kitchens starting in the second half of the year. Still in 2019, the hydroponics activity (Activity 3) was also monitored by WFP with Oxfam in the Smara refugee camp, where refugees reported irrigation issues with their kits and the lack of barley and water needed to continue their activity.

¹⁹⁰ For instance, on the quality of the commodities or how the commodities are cooked.

¹⁹¹ CISP for school feeding and GFA activities, CRA for clinics under Activity 4, with additional monitoring activities performed by WFP and UNHCR reaching 30 percent of the sites for each activity.

¹⁹² Questionnaire used by WFP are similar to the ones CISP and CRA are using.

¹⁹³ The number of boxes delivered was reported in the 2020 annual country report while the survival rate and water saving data were not.

¹⁹⁴ Although the specific PDM report was not made available to the evaluation team, outcome indicators were available in the annual country report.

¹⁹⁵ A third monitor was also recruited in 2019.

175. Despite significant efforts by WFP to expand its monitoring activities, including through training and recruitment of new staff, this has not yet included any improvements in terms of monitoring of targeting processes and outcomes. Sources of income and the purchasing power of families are not assessed¹⁹⁶ and households with poor or borderline food consumption scores are not tracked and provided with a more tailored food assistance.

176. Enhanced monitoring continues to be a key solution suggested by informants to address wide concerns about impartiality of the general food assistance distributions in order to confirm who is receiving the food aid and other support. Monitoring was repeatedly recognized as a “moral imperative of the international community”. A careful scan of feedback received from refugees through a newly established complaints and feedback mechanism (CFM) is expected to provide an additional and more neutral or objective check on refugee dynamics in relation to the operations.¹⁹⁷

¹⁹⁶ Questions allow WFP to report on: quantities distributed and general satisfaction regarding the commodities; timeliness of delivery; and whether access to distribution points is safe.

¹⁹⁷ The CFM (hotline) had just been launched towards the middle of the present evaluation and results were not expected to be available before mid-2021 at the earliest.

3 Conclusions and recommendations

3.1 CONCLUSIONS

177. The Sahrawi refugee context has not fundamentally evolved over the last 45 years. Camp leaders, on one hand, want to improve the lives of the refugees but, on the other hand do not want them to engage in activities that could be perceived as accepting the status quo. Under these circumstances, humanitarian entities (United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations) are mandated to provide life-saving assistance in a context that still lacks an internationally agreed long-term solution.

178. WFP has worked hard to assess and understand the needs of the refugees but has sidestepped the important element of targeting refugees based on food insecurity. While the 2018 food security assessment identified the number and characteristics of food insecure refugees, there has been no visible effort to target the general food assistance to a set of food insecure households. Beyond the general food assistance, each activity targets a different profile, and as suggested by multiple assessments, has carefully maintained and protected a simple focus on women and children. Assuming that a blanket distribution (not supported by WFP plans but apparently tolerated) includes all refugees equally, then WFP assistance has also reached the most food insecure. However, in line with former WFP assessments, the evaluation found significant economic differences across refugee households, which point to the need for more careful needs-based targeting and a more deliberate attempt to define the characteristics of food-insecure refugees. Current general food assistance seems to be, in practice, a blanket distribution resulting in smaller rations available for those who need them most (based on calculated proportions of daily caloric needs). Livelihood activities also lack a clear strategy for how they may help the most food insecure.

179. Where feasible WFP has adapted its programming strategy in response to learning about needs underscoring sustained relevance to refugees. Each additional activity was designed to fit a specific gap identified in prior assessments. WFP has also anticipated the need for additional rations due to COVID-19. WFP retained a presence in the Tindouf sub-office throughout the epidemic. However, despite horizontal blending (for example, SBCC and nutrition) and ICSP enhancements (for example, the cash-based transfer voucher programme), the largest part of the programme remains the general food assistance justified to donors as an ongoing emergency. The political deadlock compels WFP and partners to work within a status quo, providing essential in-kind food support to nearly two generations of refugees trapped with little hope for transformative futures.

180. Overall, the T-ICSP and ICSP have not succeeded in attracting stable humanitarian donorship and this has not allowed for ICSP implementation as designed. WFP is forced to constantly advocate for resources, reminding potential donors of this forgotten emergency, strongly requesting flexible and multi-year envelopes. Fund raising takes time and distracts from more impactful WFP work – including efforts to consolidate partner positions that could lead to more sustainable programming. A clear WFP strategy for raising funds is lacking.

Implementation

181. **Necessity breeds innovation and WFP has learned to troubleshoot rapidly evolving complications and shortages with zest and tact.** However, timing of funding and pipeline management are an exhausting preoccupation for WFP — that takes a drain on job satisfaction while heightening refugee concerns. Hydroponics, SBCC and cash-based transfers all faced delayed starts or serious shortfalls. Most of the factors slowing delivery are outside the control of WFP, such as limited or inflexible funding. One area where WFP may be able to improve is in its partnership with CRA. COVID-19 has impacted the full portfolio, but WFP has carried on assistance by timely international purchases and remote monitoring.

182. **WFP has defined and used its limited resources carefully despite challenges.** WFP sought to find ways to reduce costs supported by assessments, for example, exploring local fortification of commodities. Efficiencies are also sought by exploring e-voucher and community distribution using the equivalent of a neighbourhood SCOPE card. While no cost-effectiveness studies were found to defend the

general food assistance food aid distribution (versus cash), it has continued to consume most of the funding. Additionally, the feasibility and acceptability of the general food assistance are continuously questioned at many levels. Importantly, more than half of the ICSP resources are spent on transfer costs related to general food assistance. Complementary activities have so far proven to be cost-ineffective and somewhat underfunded.

183. WFP staff are well appreciated by partners at all levels and a strong management presence in the Tindouf sub-office has been established. The immediate future, however, will be subject to changing dynamics that merit careful transitioning: staff turnover is planned for 2021 with incumbents of two key Tindouf sub-office positions changing. New arrivals will need to continue to accompany new ideas and approaches to build on foundations laid by predecessors; transitions between them need attention because of COVID-19.

Effects of the support

184. **WFP output achievement varied widely across activities.** Under Activity 1, general food assistance, food was delivered to the planned number of refugees, securing a varied basket of commodities and finding substitutes as needed. The quantity of food distributed, however, has not increased in line with the gradual increase of planned rations and number of people in need of assistance. School feeding activities have been interrupted several times because of lack of funding and school closure at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Parents and students alike are interested in having a greater variety of food provided and in receiving meals earlier in the school day, but WFP has not found donors interested in these changes. Complementary activities were innovative pilots with strong potential, but most (including hydroponics) faced crippling challenges — with the exception of WaterBoxxes. Food and cash values of the nutrition activities implemented fluctuated, with output achievements below planned targets. The voucher programme for pregnant and lactating women has been a prized activity and an impressive feat to achieve in the context.

185. **Outcome achievements are less visible and mixed.** The reduced size and composition of rations (caused in part by the decision to provide rations to all refugees universally) limits any impact to improve the food security and nutritious status of the most food insecure. No significant improvement in food security indicators can be observed over the period 2018-2020, except for food consumption scores between 2019 and 2020. Although it is still premature, the combination of an increased coverage of pregnant and lactating women with the cash-based transfer programme, the provision of fortified food and the awareness campaigns (that is, SBCC) may be contributing to curb trends in anaemia among children and pregnant and lactating women. However, the overall composition of the food ration (general food assistance) remains low in vitamins, minerals, proteins and iron. School feeding outcomes may be more visible at the level of household economies than measurable among individual students. COVID-19 has reduced enrolment and it is unlikely that the programme had a considerable influence on attendance and retention during the period 2018-2020. Despite huge potential, livelihood activity pilots were too short-lived to have produced intended outcomes; each had a set of challenges that included the resistance of camp leaders, that fact that they targeted the less vulnerable, high initial investment, and unsustainable results once the funding ceased.

186. **The current understanding of gender dynamics in the refugee camps is insufficient.** Gender-focused studies to date have failed — or been unable — to explore dynamics more deeply given the lack of transparent humanitarian access to the camps. The image of gender equity including that of an idealized woman or man refugee should not be promoted without stronger evidence. It is therefore critically important for WFP to strengthen its understanding of actual gender dynamics in order to deliver effective gender transformative programming. This will only be possible with improved access to the camp population rather than relying on second-hand information.

187. Assumptions underpinning the theory of change (for example, availability of clean drinking water, implementation of public health awareness campaigns, availability of sustained funding and an adequate number of skilled WFP staff) have only partially been anchored in reality, indicating that some outcomes related to SO1 and SO2 are unlikely to be achieved in the current context.

188. Unanticipated outcomes include: the international success of the hydroponics traceable back to the refugee camps near Tindouf; recent advances in expanding the piloting of WaterBoxxes beyond the

refugee camps; and progress in wider collaboration with the Government of Algeria (for example, through vulnerability analysis and mapping support; see Section 4.1).

189. **Major influencing factors include the concerns of camp leaders about changing and differing donor perspectives** While some donors are edging WFP on to more innovation, accountability and advocacy — even beyond its mandate — others seem to want to pull WFP back to a simpler role of handing out food aid.

190. WFP has invested solidly to achieve cross-cutting aims of protection and accountability to affected populations among refugees but was not gender transformative. Community feedback mechanisms (hotline; UNICEF boxes in schools) are just getting started and have huge potential to broaden accountability. While the dignity of the recipients of assistance was generally respected, there is little evidence for refugee inclusion in programme design. Respect for the humanitarian principles of impartiality and neutrality concerning WFP operations is not secured as long as the camp leadership have total control over general food assistance distributions. WFP has strongly maintained the inclusion of Sahrawi women and their children as a target of the activities, but gender assessments and/or their applications are superficial. No gender-transformative programming was found. Current programming is seen to promote the stereotypical image of a good active refugee to the detriment of women who may prefer to be less actively involved in camp management, men and perhaps also youth.

Overall assessment

191. **Overall, the strengths of the operations of WFP among the Sahrawi refugees are numerous and anchored.** WFP is working smoothly with a strong portfolio of trusted relationships that need to be nurtured. Outcomes in both child nutrition and anaemia are fledgling but positive. The SBCC strategy is a promising tool that is poised to build synergies across the portfolio. Activities aim to include most food insecure profiles, and especially women and children. WFP is a leader in assessment, even if slow to share results (specifically, its nutrition reports) and actively enhances monitoring capacity and mechanisms. Innovations are encouraging, including cash-based transfers and livelihoods, as well as local fortification and smartcard (for community distribution monitoring) all currently being explored; vulnerability analysis and mapping is finally coming to the Tindouf sub-office (specifically, a VAM officer with wider ideas on what can be monitored and mapped to support programming).

192. WFP is seen as a leader through its role in clusters and working groups, its push for a focus on nutrition, its sustained efforts to assess, monitor and learn. A view confirmed by United Nations partners in Algiers. WFP has established a strong working relationship with MLRS the main partner of CRA working in the camps — one that merits further attention to ensure that WFP assistance genuinely benefits the most vulnerable refugees. Maintaining this relationship puts WFP in a delicate position, to also ensure at the same time leveraging for more accountability and transformative change.

193. **Portfolio weaknesses deserve careful attention.** The ICSP has not leveraged synergies and donorship as expected. Humanitarian principles of impartiality is impossible to guarantee without greater access to the refugees. The lack of precise population figures comes at the cost of targeting effectiveness and adequate outcome tracking. Activities are not targeted to the most vulnerable/food insecure but general food assistance is distributed evenly and, sometimes, to those relatively more resilient are being targeted (for livelihood activities). Assumptions of homogeneity across the camps and refugee households may limit the programme's effectiveness and efficiency. Furthermore, accepting representations of gender relationships not based on in-depth analysis could result in affirming the status quo instead of promoting transformational change and empowerment. Donors are generally not adhering to good humanitarian donorship principles especially in relation to funding:¹⁹⁸ For the most part they continue to earmark funds and donate in a piecemeal manner.

3.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

194. Suggested steps ahead for WFP are above all strategic in nature. They are underpinned by the need for reliable funding that would provide a more solid basis for addressing food security, nutrition and

¹⁹⁸ Since 2003, the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) initiative has promoted 24 principles, with four of them related to funding. See: <https://www.ghdinitiative.org/ghd/gns/about-us/about-ghd.html>.

resilience challenges. The recommendations focus on seeking greater accountability for the benefit of future generations of Sahrawi refugees — to identify locally-led and suitable solutions that protect both WFP relationships (specifically, with CRA and its partner MLRS) and all refugees — even those whose voices are not captured by this evaluation or ongoing monitoring. The six recommendations are directed at the country office, with need for support from WFP headquarters and the regional bureau for the Middle East and Northern Africa in Cairo. WFP does not operate in a vacuum and strengthening or building genuine partnerships at all levels will add value. Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 in Table 9 below are the most wide-sweeping and high priority because their completion will have trickle-down effects on those that follow.

Table 9: Recommendations

Recommendation	Recommendation type	Responsible WFP offices and divisions	Supporting entities	Priority	Deadline for completion
<p>Recommendation 1: Address funding challenges.</p> <p>1.1 WFP country office and headquarters should identify a more forceful fundraising strategy and continue to seek long-term flexible donorship and to enlarge the donor base.</p> <p>1.2 WFP should advocate with donors for them to play a stronger role as humanitarian leaders with reliable, multi-year and unearmarked funding.</p>	Strategic	Country office	Regional bureau and headquarters	High	End of 2023
<p>Recommendation 2: Clarify WFP's strategic position regarding the accountability constraints posed by the current working relationship with the Algerian Red Crescent and its partners on the ground.</p> <p><i>Coordination of efforts with partners:</i></p> <p>2.1 WFP and partners should develop a harmonized and clear message about priorities, including in particular a position on the need for greater accountability to refugees and the needs-based versus the universal targeting of general food assistance.</p>	Strategic	Country office	Headquarters	High	Before the start of the next CSP
<p>Recommendation 3: Enhance needs-based targeting.</p> <p>3.1 WFP should clarify its position regarding the current universal or blanket targeting versus vulnerability targeting (of the cash-based transfer programme for pregnant and lactating women) versus food insecurity targeting; assess the cost effectiveness and cost-benefit ratio of each; and include young refugees in the assessment.</p> <p>3.2 In tandem with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, WFP should explore, design and conduct a protection assessment with the goal of ensuring that protection, accountability to affected populations and access are comprehensively assessed for all the groups within the camps and that findings are reflected in the design of more tailored activities based on consultations with the refugee community.</p> <p>3.3 WFP should conduct a stronger analysis of the gender dynamics prevailing in the camps in order to inform gender-transformative programming. Until this is achieved, WFP should treat assertions about gender equity with caution.</p>	Strategic	Country office	Headquarters	High	End of 2023
<p>Recommendation 4: Strengthen the effectiveness of complementary activities.</p> <p><i>Targeting:</i></p> <p>4.1 To promote the sustainability of complementary activities and their impact, rethink the targeting approach, foresee an increased role for WFP in the selection of</p>	Operational	Country office	Regional bureau	Medium	End of 2024

Recommendation	Recommendation type	Responsible WFP offices and divisions	Supporting entities	Priority	Deadline for completion
<p>participants, and document more clearly how benefits will trickle down or reach the most food-insecure refugees.</p> <p><i>Synergies:</i></p> <p>4.2 Build more visible synergies between complementary and school feeding and nutrition activities. Adopt a longer-term perspective that enables the realization of outcomes. Seek additional financing opportunities and explore new partnerships with other actors present in the camps with a view to scaling up complementary activities.</p> <p>4.3 Clarify the expectations and explore the options for the handover to refugees of each activity (with the exception of general food assistance).</p>					
<p>Recommendation 5: Improve the design and implementation of activities and strengthen integration among activities.</p> <p>5.1 Explore new opportunities for providing access to fresh foods (such as through the use of the cash-based transfer modality in various programme activities).</p> <p>5.2 <i>School feeding:</i> Rethink the timing and composition of school meals (for example, provide breakfast).</p> <p>5.3 <i>Cash-based transfers:</i> Review the value of vouchers in line with expected nutrition outcomes.</p> <p>5.4 <i>Social and behaviour change communication:</i> Maintain and expand social and behaviour change communication, including advocacy aimed at minimizing the sharing of food items intended for pregnant and lactating women with other household members.</p> <p>5.5 Map logistics arrangements from the port to the household, including the responsibilities of the various actors, and assess the risks and cost-efficiency.</p> <p>5.6 Improve logistic arrangements with the Algerian Red Crescent, streamline contracts and advocate an extended planning time frame with donors and partners along the value chain.</p> <p>5.7 Consolidate knowledge management, building on the strong position and visibility developed by WFP in recent years.</p>	Operational	Country office	Regional bureau	Medium	End of 2023

4 Annexes

Annex 1. Summary of Terms of Reference

Evaluation of Algeria WFP Country Strategic Plan 2019-2022

Summary Terms of Reference

Country Strategic Plan Evaluations (CSPEs) encompass the entirety of WFP activities during a specific period. Their purpose is twofold: 1) to provide evaluation evidence and learning on WFP's performance for country-level strategic decisions, specifically for developing the next Country Strategic Plan and 2) to provide accountability for results to WFP stakeholders

Subject and Focus of the Evaluation

WFP has provided live saving assistance to Sahrawi refugees based in five camps, close to the city of Tindouf in the south-western corner of Algeria since 1986. Under the current Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) for Algeria (2019–2022) this assistance is provided through two strategic outcomes and four activities focussing on crisis-response that contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2.

Strategic outcome 1: Targeted food-insecure Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf meet their basic food and nutrition needs all year. Activities include provision of general food assistance, nutrition-sensitive school feeding and complementary livelihood activities in the camps.

Strategic outcome 2: Targeted Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf have improved nutrition status by 2022. Activities include prevention and treatment of malnutrition in vulnerable camp residents such as pregnant and lactating women and girls and children aged 6-59 months.

Over 90 percent of resources were budgeted and received under Strategic Outcome 1.

The evaluation will assess WFP contributions to ICSP strategic outcomes, establishing plausible causal relations between the outputs of WFP activities, the implementation process, the operational environment and changes observed at the outcome level, including any unintended consequences.

It will also focus on adherence to humanitarian principles, gender equality, protection and accountability to affected populations.

The evaluation will adopt standard UNEG and OECD/DAC evaluation criteria, namely: relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability as well as connectedness and coverage.

Objectives and Stakeholders of the Evaluation

WFP evaluations serve the dual objectives of accountability and learning.

The evaluation will seek the views of, and be useful to, a range of WFP's internal and external stakeholders and presents an opportunity for national, regional and corporate learning. The primary users of the evaluation findings and recommendations will be the WFP Country Office and its stakeholders to inform the design of the new Country Strategic Plan.

The evaluation report will be presented at the Executive Board session in June 2022.

Key evaluation questions

The evaluation will address the following four key questions:

QUESTION 1: To what extent is WFP's strategic position, role and specific contribution based on refugee's needs as well as WFP's strengths?

The evaluation will assess the extent to which the ICSP addresses the needs of the most vulnerable people in the camps to ensure that no one is left behind; whether WFP's strategic positioning has remained relevant throughout the implementation of the ICSP in light of changing context, capacities and needs; and to what extent the ICSP is coherent and aligned with the wider UN and includes appropriate strategic partnerships based on the comparative advantage of WFP in the refugee context.

QUESTION 2: What is the extent and quality of WFP's specific contribution to ICSP strategic outcomes in the refugee camps?

The evaluation will assess the extent to which WFP delivered the expected outputs and contributed to the expected strategic outcomes of the ICSP, including the achievement of cross-cutting aims (humanitarian principles, protection, accountability to affected populations, gender equality and other equity considerations). It will also assess the extent to which the achievements of the ICSP are likely to be sustainable; and whether the ICSP facilitated more strategic linkages between humanitarian, development and, where appropriate, peace work.



QUESTION 3: To what extent has WFP's used its resources efficiently in contributing to ICSP outputs and strategic outcomes?

The evaluation will assess whether outputs were delivered within the intended timeframe; the appropriateness of coverage and targeting of interventions; cost-efficient delivery of assistance; and whether alternative, more cost-effective measures were considered.

QUESTION 4: What are the factors that explain WFP performance and the extent to which it has made the strategic shift expected by the ICSP?

The evaluation will assess the extent to which WFP analyzed and used existing evidence on hunger challenges, food security and nutrition issues to develop the ICSP. It will also assess the extent to which the ICSP led to: the mobilization of adequate, predictable and flexible resources; the development of appropriate partnerships and collaboration with other actors; greater flexibility in dynamic operational contexts; and how these factors affect results. Finally, the evaluation will seek to identify any other organizational and contextual factors influencing WFP performance and the strategic shift expected by the ICSP.

Scope, methodology and ethical Considerations

The unit of analysis is the Algeria Interim Country Strategic Plan, approved by the WFP Executive Board June 2019, as well as any subsequent approved budget revisions.

The evaluation covers all WFP activities (including cross-cutting results) from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020. The evaluation will also cover the Transitional ICSP (T-ICSP) from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2019 to allow for analysis over a longer time horizon and to better assess the extent to which the strategic shifts envisaged with the introduction of the ICSP have taken place.

The evaluation will adopt a mixed methods approach calling upon a variety of primary and secondary sources, including desk review, key informant interviews, surveys, and focus groups discussions. Systematic triangulation across different sources and methods will be carried out to validate findings and avoid bias in the evaluative judgement.

In light of recent developments related to the COVID19 pandemic, some phases of the evaluation will be conducted remotely.

The evaluation conforms to WFP and 2020 UNEG ethical guidelines. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring informed consent, protecting privacy, confidentiality and anonymity of participants, ensuring cultural sensitivity, respecting the autonomy of participants, ensuring fair recruitment of participants (including women and socially

excluded groups) and ensuring that the evaluation results in no harm to participants or their communities.

Roles and responsibilities

EVALUATION TEAM: The evaluation will be conducted by a team of independent consultants with a mix of relevant expertise related to the Algeria ICSP (i.e. political, social, economic and gender dynamics surrounding protracted refugee situations, humanitarian principles and protection, gender, food assistance and nutrition).

OEV EVALUATION MANAGEMENT: The evaluation will be managed by Vivien Knips, Evaluation Officer in the WFP Office of Evaluation. She will be the main interlocutor between the evaluation team, represented by the team leader, and WFP counterparts, to ensure a smooth implementation process and compliance with OEV quality standards for process and content. Second level quality assurance will be provided by Michael Carbon, Senior Evaluation Officer. The Deputy Director of Evaluation, Anne-Claire Luzot, will approve the final versions of all evaluation products.

INTERNAL REFERENCE GROUP: A cross-section of WFP staff from relevant business areas at country, regional and HQ level will be consulted throughout the evaluation process to review and provide feedback on evaluation products.

STAKEHOLDERS: WFP stakeholders are expected to engage throughout the evaluation process to ensure a high degree of utility and transparency. External stakeholders, such as beneficiaries, government, donors, implementing partners and other UN agencies will be consulted during the evaluation process.

Communication

Preliminary findings will be shared with WFP stakeholders in the Country Office, Regional Bureau and Headquarters during a debriefing session at the end of the data collection phase. A country learning workshop will be held in June 2021 to ensure a transparent evaluation process and promote ownership of the findings, preliminary recommendations by country stakeholders and to inform the new CSP design process.

Evaluation findings will be actively disseminated and the final evaluation report will be publicly available on WFP's website.

Timing and Key Milestones

Inception Phase: January 2021

Remote Data collection: March-April 2021

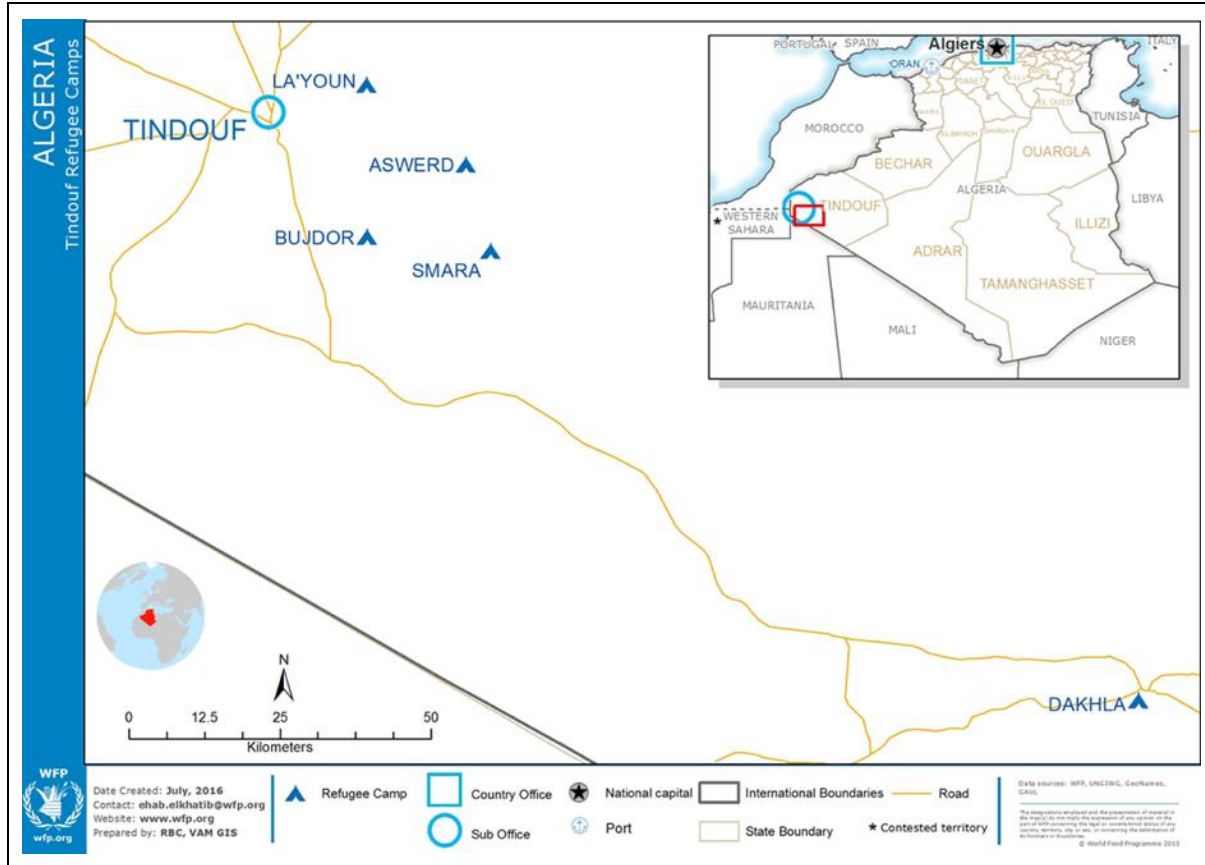
Remote Debriefing: April 2021

Reports: April-June 2021

Learning Workshop: June 2021

Executive Board: June 2022

Annex 2. Map of WFP Operations in Algeria (refugee camps)



Source: WFP OPweb - [Map Search Results \(wfp.org\)](https://www.wfp.org/locations/operations)

Annex 3. Evaluation Timeline

PHASE 1 – PREPARATION			
	Draft terms of reference (ToR) cleared by Director of Evaluation (DoE)/Depute Director of Evaluation (DDoE) and circulated for comments to country office and to long-term agreement (LTA) firms	Director of Evaluation (DoE)/Deputy Director of Evaluation (DDoE)	12 October 2020
	Comments on draft ToR received	CO	12 October 2020
	Proposal deadline based on the draft ToR	LTA firm	30 October 2020
	LTA proposal review	EM	1-5 November 2020
	Final revised ToR sent to WFP stakeholders	EM	15 November 2020
	Contracting evaluation team/firm	EM	4 January 2021
PHASE 2 - INCEPTION			
	Team preparation, literature review prior to headquarters briefing	Team	4-8 January 2021
	Headquarters & regional bureau inception briefing	EM & team	11-22 January 2021
	Inception briefings	EM + team leader (TL)	18 Jan–4 Feb. 2021
	Submit draft inception report (IR)	TL	15 February 2021
	The Office of Evaluation (OEV) quality assurance and feedback	EM	22 February 2021
	Submit revised IR	TL	1 March 2021
	IR review and clearance	EM	3 March 2021
	IR clearance	DoE/DDoE	10 March 2021
	EM circulates final IR to WFP key stakeholders for their information + post a copy on intranet	EM	17 March 2021
PHASE 3 – DATA COLLECTION, INCLUDING FIELDWORK			
	In country / remote data collection	Team	22 Mar-9 April 2021
	Exit debrief	Team	6 April 2021
	Preliminary findings debrief	Team	27 April 2021
PHASE 4 - REPORTING			
Draft 0	Submit high quality draft ER to OEV (after participatory quality assurance (QA))	TL	26 May 2021
	OEV quality feedback sent to TL	EM	1st June 2021
Draft 1	Submit revised draft ER to OEV	TL	23 July 2021
	OEV quality check	EM	September 2021
	Seek clearance prior to circulating the ER to internal reference group (IRG)	DoE/DDoE	25 September 2021
	OEV shares draft evaluation report with IRG for feedback	EM/IRG	30 September 2021

	Learning workshop (in country or remote): Give feedback to refugees and WFP on the evaluation results		22 November 2021
	Consolidate WFP comments and share with team	EM	19 October 2021
	Submit revised draft ER to OEV based on WFP comments, with team's responses on the matrix of comments	ET	24 November 2021
Draft 2	Review draft 2	EM	1st December 2021
	Submit final draft ER to OEV	TL	3 December 2021
Draft 3	Review draft 3	EM	10 December 2021
	Seek final approval by DoE/DDoE	DoE/DDoE	16 December 2021
SER	Draft summary evaluation report (SER)	EM	January 2022
	Seek DoE/DDoE clearance to send SER	DoE/DDoE	February 2022
	OEV circulates SER to WFP Executive Management for information upon clearance from OEV Director	DoE/DDoE	February 2022
PHASE 5 - EXECUTIVE BOARD (EB) AND FOLLOW-UP			
	Submit SER/recommendations to corporate planning and performance (CPP) for management response + SER to EB Secretariat for editing and translation	EM	February 2022
	Tail-end actions, OEV websites posting, EB round table, etc.	EM	May 2022
	Presentation of summary evaluation report to the EB	DoE/DDoE	June 2022
	Presentation of management response to the EB	D/CPP	June 2022

Annex 4. Strategic Framework Interim Country Strategic Plan

Table 10: Overview of the Strategic Framework Algeria ICSP (2019-2022)

STRATEGIC GOAL 1: SUPPORT COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE ZERO HUNGER									
Strategic Objective 1: End hunger by protecting access to food					Strategic Objective 2: Improve nutrition				
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food					Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition				
Strategic Outcome 1: Targeted food-insecure Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf meet their basic food and nutrition needs all year					Strategic Outcome 2: Targeted Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf have improved nutrition status by 2022				
Activity	Modalities	Outputs	Outcomes	Assumptions	Activity	Modalities	Outputs	Outcomes	Assumptions
1: Provide general food assistance to targeted food-insecure Sahrawi refugees in camp near Tindouf	Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food	Food transferred Nutritious food provided Social behaviour change communications (SBCC) delivered	Consumption-based Coping Strategy Index (Average) Food Consumption Score Food Consumption Score - Nutrition	- Fortified food is stored in good condition and for not more than six months to preserve their nutritional value - Monthly report is provided by	4: Provide children aged 6-59 months and PLW with assistance for the treatment and prevention of MAM	Nutrition treatment activities (SuperCereal, corn soya blend, other food rich in micronutrients)	Capacity development and technical support provided Resources transferred (prevention MAM) Resources transferred (treatment)	MAM treatment default rate MAM treatment mortality rate MAM treatment non-response rate MAM treatment recovery rate	- Monthly report is provided by the Ministry of Health (MoH) - Public health and nutrition awareness campaigns take place to promote the appropriate use of food
2: Provide nutrition-	Modality: school meals (skimmed	Food resources transferred	Retention rate						

STRATEGIC GOAL 1: SUPPORT COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE ZERO HUNGER									
sensitive school feeding	milk and energy biscuits)	School feeding provided SBCC delivered	Drop-out rate Enrolment Rate	Algerian Red Crescent (CRA)			Nutritious food provided SBCC delivered	Minimum dietary diversity – women Proportion of eligible population that participates in programme Proportion of target population that participates in an adequate number of distributions	and specialized products - Clean water
3: Provide Sahrawi refugees with complementary livelihood opportunities that benefit women and men equitably	Modality: training, technical support and distribution of kits (hydroponic, WaterBoxxes, fish farm)	Capacity development and technical support provided Assets created Resources transferred	Proportion of targeted beneficiaries reporting increased production of milk and/or meat	- Public health and nutrition awareness campaigns take place to promote the appropriate use of the humanitarian assistance - Clean drinking water is available					
Cross-cutting themes: AAP, protection, GEWE, environment				Cross cutting indicators					
Affected populations are able to hold WFP and partners accountable for meeting their hunger needs in a manner that reflects their views and preferences				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, length of assistance) Proportion of project activities for which beneficiary feedback is documented, analysed and integrated into programme improvements 					
Affected populations are able to benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that ensures and promotes their safety, dignity and integrity				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of targeted people receiving assistance without safety challenges Proportion of targeted people who report that WFP programmes are dignified Proportion of targeted people having unhindered access to WFP programmes 					

STRATEGIC GOAL 1: SUPPORT COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE ZERO HUNGER	
Improved GEWE among WFP-assisted population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality • Proportion of food assistance decision-making entity –committees, boards, teams, etc. – members who are women • Type of transfer (food, cash, voucher, no compensation) received by participants in WFP activities, disaggregated by sex and type of activity
Targeted communities benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that does not harm the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of activities for which environmental risks have been screened and, as required, mitigation actions identified
Total Cost: USD 58,965,759 (July 2019-June 2022)	

Source: WFP. 2019. Algeria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2022)

Annex 5. Evaluation Matrix

Starting with the evaluation matrix provided in the ToR, the evaluation team reworked many of the subquestions, based directly on learning from the briefings. While no theme was removed, many have been reshuffled to another subquestion thereby slightly lessening their focus. This also provides a manageable, concise, and streamlined set of questions with no duplication across the four evaluation questions (EQs). In particular, changes that are featured in the table below include:

- EQ 1.1 is slightly expanded to include former EQ 4.1 on coverage and targeting, and EQ 4.1 on the use of evidence. The new EQ 1.1. will assess both relevance and coverage as a factor of performance and will establish and explore the quality of evidence available, accessible and employed.
- EQ 1.2 is expanded to also reflect the flexibility afforded by the ICSP (formerly in EQ 4.4).
- EQ 1.3 is slightly expanded to include former EQ 4.3, thereby centralizing all focus on “partnerships” (i.e., removed from EQ4)

Former EQ 2.4 (now EQ 2.3 below) is expanded slightly to include aspects of the former EQ 2.3 on sustainability. While this topic will not be ignored, embedding it in a larger study of the nexus is deemed appropriate due to refugee sensitivities and the strict focus on “humanitarian” actions.

The aspect of “do no harm”—considered critical in this sensitive context-- is added to EQ 2.2.

EQ 3.4 on cost effectiveness has been deleted.

EQ 4 subquestions have been reduced to three: i) internal dynamics/human resources, ii) external focus on funding, and iii) other factors.

All rows below in the “Data analysis and visualization” column will benefit also from systematic cross-method triangulation (not mentioned in each row).

DIMENSIONS OF ANALYSIS	LINES OF INQUIRY	INDICATORS	DATA SOURCES	DATA COLLECTION COMPILATION/TECHNIQUES	DATA ANALYSIS AND VISUALIZATION
EQ 1: To what extent has the WFP strategic position, role, and specific contribution been based on refugees’ needs as well as WFP strengths?					
1.1 To what extent has WFP sought to understand and has the ICSP addressed the needs of the most vulnerable people in the camps, including distinct needs of women, men, boys and girls, to ensure that no one is left behind?					
Responsiveness : alignment of the ICSP line of sight and theory of	Extent to which WFP has compiled evidence to identify needs of, and the needs expressed by, the most vulnerable, including needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic Extent to which strategic outcomes (SOs) and	Inventory of WFP/country office assessments, documents or other sources that describe or measure needs of Sahrawi refugees (explicit/implicit)	Documents: all WFP/country office, and all strategic and implementing partners (food security assessments, WFP/UNHCR joint surveys and joint comprehensive needs assessment	1a. Literature review 1b. Portfolio review	Mind map portraying expressions of need (1 layer)

DIMENSIONS OF ANALYSIS	LINES OF INQUIRY	INDICATORS	DATA SOURCES	DATA COLLECTION COMPILATION/TECHNIQUES	DATA ANALYSIS AND VISUALIZATION
change to the evidence-based identification and expression of needs	activities/approaches to achieve them respond to specific needs of the population	Level of disaggregation of need descriptions Count of sources with needs described showing strong link to refugee voices/perceptions (versus standard indicators as proxies of need)	for COVID-19 prevention and response, VAM data, WFP assessments, etc). Focus on documents featuring assessment, policies and regular reporting/monitoring		
Reach: appropriateness of coverage and targeting profiles among WFP beneficiary populations	Extent to which WFP operations are expected to reach or deliver services to the profiles identified as most in need Extent to which activities and number of targeted beneficiaries were adapted in light of specific needs entailed by the COVID-19 pandemic	Tracking through time of the relevance of numbers and needy profiles reached Perceptions of reach Number of respondents who can identify a refugee household/ individual or profile that is in need but has not been supported by WFP programming (when pertinent, by activity, except A1 and A2) Changes that occurred at the level of beneficiaries' profile, beneficiaries' number, type of modalities, quantity and type of food delivered	Documents: see above WFP/country office monitoring datasets Respondents Participants	1a. Literature review Key informant interviews (KII) case studies	Mind-map above with second layer: concrete WFP delivery to meet "needs" Statistics/graphic showing visible trends or gaps, if any

DIMENSIONS OF ANALYSIS	LINES OF INQUIRY	INDICATORS	DATA SOURCES	DATA COLLECTION COMPILATION/TECHNIQUES	DATA ANALYSIS AND VISUALIZATION
1.2 To what extent has WFP strategic positioning remained relevant throughout the implementation of the ICSP in light of changing context, capacities, and needs in particular in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?					
WFP flexibility / response to (exogenous) changes	Changes in context: listing of concrete evidence-based changes that occurred in: i) economics (including due to the COVID-19 pandemic), ii) politics, iii) technology, vi) social tradition and v) the biological environment of the Sahrawi refugees	Existence of changes in each component of the refugees' political economy	Documents: external, from scholarly and grey literature (see bibliography in Annex 10 below) Press release	1a. Literature review 1b. Portfolio assessment	Timeline portraying key points in time signifying change
	Mapping WFP/country office reactions in relation to the contextual changes above, including COVID-19; the extent to which WFP has been able to adapt	Tracking through time the concrete actions/reactions of WFP/country office, in direct (when possible) relation to the data points above	Documents: all WFP/country office focus on documents featuring regular reporting/monitoring (e.g. joint household COVID-19 impact survey, WFP and partners country briefs) Respondents	1b. Portfolio assessment 2c. KII with WFP/country office (or group call to identify reactions and reconstruct timelines, etc.)	Second layer in the timeline to portray WFP actions Statement on visible trends
1.3 To what extent is the ICSP coherent, aligned with the wider United Nations and inclusive of appropriate strategic partnerships based on the comparative advantage of WFP?					
WFP coherence with other strategies, esp. UN and donors	Extent to which the ICSP is in synergy with pertinent UN objectives, policies and strategies, and donor priorities Extent to which synergies were	Level of strategic alignment Progress and potential for WFP focus in Algeria beyond the five refugee camps	Documents: all external and internal (Joint assessments reports, UNDAF, WFP	1a. Literature review 1b. Portfolio	Enhanced stakeholder analysis figures (strategic and implementation)

DIMENSIONS OF ANALYSIS	LINES OF INQUIRY	INDICATORS	DATA SOURCES	DATA COLLECTION COMPILATION/TECHNIQUES	DATA ANALYSIS AND VISUALIZATION
¹⁹⁹ (see also EQ 4.2)	strengthened to jointly address needs arising from COVID-19	Listing of apparent missed opportunities	strategic documents). Respondents	assessment KII: 2a, b, c, d	portraying any differences between WFP and partners
WFP synergy with other actors in camps, RCRC, NGOs, other	Extent to which the ICSP strategic outcomes and activities are in synergy with other actors' activities and plans	Level of alignment with implementing actors/partners Listing of missed opportunities			
Evaluation Question 2: What has been the extent and quality of WFP specific contribution to ICSP strategic outcomes among the refugee camps?					
2.1 To what extent has WFP delivered expected outputs and contributed to the expected ICSP strategic outcomes?					
WFP delivery	Portfolio assessment of the quantity and quality of outputs delivered versus planned	Level of alignment of plans with actual delivery Expressions of quality and predictability of support from beneficiaries and partners	Documents (e.g. WFP/country office internal monitoring, reports, accountability to affected populations (AAPs), etc., data from COMET) Respondents/participants	1b. Portfolio assessment KII: 2a, b, c, d	Stats on rubrics Triangulation of all sources: quantity and quality
Contribution of WFP delivery to outcomes	Portfolio assessment of WFP contribution to ICSP strategic outcomes	Comparison between ICSP outputs and other plausible factors that have contributed to changes observed at outcome level Perceptions on major unique contributions of WFP	Documents (e.g., monitoring and reporting) Respondents/participants	4. Focus group discussion (FGD) 5. Home visits/case studies 6. Youth photos	Statistical analysis; partial contribution analysis; observation check lists

¹⁹⁹ Donors are a clear focus in 4.3 below

DIMENSIONS OF ANALYSIS	LINES OF INQUIRY	INDICATORS	DATA SOURCES	DATA COLLECTION COMPILATION/TECHNIQUES	DATA ANALYSIS AND VISUALIZATION
Unanticipated outcomes	Extent to which the ICSP implementation has produced outcomes other than those planned, positive and negative	Unintended outcomes listed by SO Unintended outcomes generated by the response to COVID-19 crisis	Documents (all) Respondents/participants		Triangulation of lists by respondent profiles
2.2 To what extent has WFP contributed to achievement of cross-cutting aims (humanitarian principles, protection, accountability to affected populations, gender, other equity considerations and “do not harm”)?					
Safe delivery	Extent to which ICSP takes into account environmental change, potential effects of programming on the environment and avoids negative effects (do not harm)	Degree of integration of environment and potential effects on environment in the ICSP design and implementation Environment indicator of the ICSP Degree to which WFP/country office programming is “safe”, with no harm caused to beneficiaries or to the local contexts (including environmental/physical)	Documents (scan of programme design and reporting documents, see list above in 1.1) Respondents/participants	1a. Literature review 1b. Portfolio assessment KII: 2a, b, c 5. Home visits/case studies	Triangulation Statistical analysis Triangulation
Dignified WFP operations	Perception of refugees about the WFP activities and extent to which they contribute to their design	Level of participation of refugees in programme design and operations Perceptions: degree to which WFP/country office programming is considered	Documents (programme design and reporting, see above) Respondents/participants	1b. Portfolio assessment KII: 2a, b, c 4. FGD	Stats on rubrics Observation check lists Statistical analysis Triangulation

DIMENSIONS OF ANALYSIS	LINES OF INQUIRY	INDICATORS	DATA SOURCES	DATA COLLECTION COMPILATION/TECHNIQUES	DATA ANALYSIS AND VISUALIZATION
		"dignified" by beneficiaries		5. Home visits/case studies	
Inclusive WFP delivery	<p><u>Gender</u>: i) extent to which the ICSP design is based on a sound gender analysis; ii) extent to which GEWE objectives have been integrated into ICSP implementation; iii) extent to which WFP actions affect the context of gender inequality</p> <p><u>Diversity</u>: extent to which operations reach a justified range of profiles (age, tribe livelihood, ability, etc.)</p> <p><u>Accountability/participatory</u>: extent to which accountability mechanisms have been established and allowed beneficiaries to provide feedback and be listened to</p>	<p>Degree to which WFP/CO programming is based on and makes visible changes to GEWE (presence of evidence of assessment and mainstreaming; see also contribution above)</p> <p>Level of diversity among profiles of refugees directly supported (beyond general food assistance (GFA); see also EQ 1.1)</p> <p>Functionality of accountability mechanisms put in place by WFP</p> <p>Number and nature of complaints/feedbacks received through different mechanisms, response rate, average time to respond etc.</p> <p>CSP accountability indicator</p> <p>Level of awareness and representative use of complaints and</p>	<p>Documents (all) (data COMET, WFP gender assessment 2019, other gender analysis, parts of other evaluation reports, etc.)</p> <p>Respondents/participants</p>	<p>1b. Portfolio assessment KII: 2a, b, c</p> <p>4. FGD</p> <p>5. Home visits (case studies)</p>	<p>Stats on rubrics</p> <p>Observation check lists</p> <p>Statistical analysis</p> <p>Triangulation</p>

DIMENSIONS OF ANALYSIS	LINES OF INQUIRY	INDICATORS	DATA SOURCES	DATA COLLECTION COMPILATION/TECHNIQUES	DATA ANALYSIS AND VISUALIZATION
		<p>feedback mechanism (CFM) and hotlines (inter alia)</p> <p>Extent to which refugees feel WFP is listening to them</p>			
2.3. To what extent has the ICSP facilitated and capitalized on strategic linkages on the humanitarian, development and peace nexus?					
Coherence and synergies of WFP with development and/or peace principles and actors	<p>Extent to which ICSP finds an adequate balance between humanitarian and development actions and actors to promote coordination and synergies</p> <p>Extent to which WFP has positioned itself among humanitarian and development actors to promote coordination and synergies</p>	<p>Inventory and level of synergy achieved between WFP/country office humanitarian response programming and development/peace efforts in refugee camps (i.e., through resilience and social protection approaches)</p> <p>Participation and role played by WFP on pertinent coordination mechanisms</p>	<p>Documents (all, esp. development/peace actors)</p> <p>Respondents/participants</p>	<p>1a. Literature review</p> <p>1b. Portfolio assessment</p> <p>KII: 2a, b, c, d, FGD</p>	<p>Stats on rubrics</p> <p>Statistical analysis</p> <p>Triangulation</p>
Evaluation Question 3: To what extent has WFP used its resources efficiently in contributing to ICSP outputs and strategic outcomes?					
3.1 To what extent have ICSP outputs been delivered within the intended timeframe?					
Timeliness	<p>Extent to which activities were implemented within the intended work plan, at appropriate moments accompanied by an analysis of delays</p> <p>Extent to which COVID-19 has affected the ability of WFP to deliver</p>	<p>Inventory of planned and actual activity implementation plan</p> <p>Timeliness of activity implementation,</p>	<p>Documents (e.g., monitoring and reporting)</p> <p>Respondents/participants</p>	<p>1b. Portfolio assessment</p> <p>KII: 2a, b, c</p> <p>4. FGD</p>	<p>Stats on rubrics</p> <p>Quantitative analysis of lag times</p> <p>Statistical analysis</p>

DIMENSIONS OF ANALYSIS	LINES OF INQUIRY	INDICATORS	DATA SOURCES	DATA COLLECTION COMPILATION/TECHNIQUES	DATA ANALYSIS AND VISUALIZATION
	within the intended frame	considering seasons Causes of delays, including pipeline breaks, lead times and actions taken to overcome delays Measures taken by WFP/country office to save time Perceptions of stakeholders		5. Home visits (case studies)	Triangulation
3.2 To what extent have resources been adequately defined and appropriately used?					
Cost effectiveness	Extent to which required resources have been adequately defined Extent to which WFP has conducted appropriate economic analysis of options to deliver results and used this analysis to decide which options to follow	Level of spending of available resources for ICSP budget by SO Documents/analyses that defend the choice of in-kind and voucher distributions or the choice of the most effective livelihood activities	Documents and data (e.g., WFP/country office budgets and expenditures)	1b. Portfolio assessment KII: 2c	Stats on rubrics Statistical analysis
Cost efficiency	Extent to available resources have been appropriately used Comparison of cost-efficiency ratios over time and between locations, modalities, actual versus planned	Food and voucher distribution costs per beneficiary Direct support costs trends Evolution of economy over time (cost of inputs purchased, transaction costs and losses) Cost per beneficiary, direct support costs (DSC)/total direct	Documents and data (e.g., WFP/country office budgets and expenditures)	1b. Portfolio assessment KII: 2c	Stats on rubrics Statistical analysis

DIMENSIONS OF ANALYSIS	LINES OF INQUIRY	INDICATORS	DATA SOURCES	DATA COLLECTION COMPILATION/TECHNIQUES	DATA ANALYSIS AND VISUALIZATION
		costs, cost per mt of food distributed			
Evaluation Question 4: What factors explain WFP performance and the extent to which it has made the strategic shifts expected in the ICSP?					
4.1 To what extent did WFP have access to and adequately capitalize on the appropriate/requisite human resources and skills to achieve the expected ICSP outcomes?					
Internal: WFP/country office factors and human resources	<p>Extent to which WFP/country office was able to recruit/train/retain qualified staff in Algiers and Tindouf to reasonably achieve the intended results</p> <p>Extent to which COVID-19 triggered a need for additional human resources</p>	<p>Evolution of status (quantity and quality) of human resources available to WFP/country office over time, compared to profile/needs required by activities and country office in similar contexts</p> <p>Nature and appropriateness of recruitment strategies; positions with no staff</p> <p>WFP/country office and partner perceptions on the adequacy of WFP human resources and implications</p>	<p>Documents and data (e.g., WFP/country office organigrammes, hiring, ToR, contracts)</p> <p>Respondents/participants</p>	<p>1a. Literature review</p> <p>1b. Portfolio assessment</p> <p>KII: 2b, c, d</p>	<p>Stats on rubrics</p> <p>Statistical analysis</p>
4.2 To what extent has WFP worked with donors to mobilize adequate, predictable and flexible resources to finance the ICSP?					
External: WFP resource mobilization	<p>Extent to which resources mobilized represent an enabling or limiting factor for the achievement of ICSP SOs</p> <p>Extent to which the ICSP objectives are realistic considering</p>	<p>Level of resource mobilized compared to forecasted financial needs, ICSP budget, disaggregated by SO</p>	<p>Documents and data (e.g., WFP/country office fundraising strategies proposals, financial forecasts, correspondence with donors)</p>	<p>1a. Literature review</p> <p>1b. Portfolio assessment</p>	<p>Stats on rubrics</p> <p>Triangulation</p> <p>Statistical analysis</p>

DIMENSIONS OF ANALYSIS	LINES OF INQUIRY	INDICATORS	DATA SOURCES	DATA COLLECTION/COMPILATION/TECHNIQUES	DATA ANALYSIS AND VISUALIZATION
	potential available resources	<p>Evolution of resource mobilization strategy and resource structure (percentage of required resource mobilized, percentage or earmarked funds) across phases</p> <p>Level of earmarked funds and multi-year funding and evolution as compared to the pre-ICSP period</p> <p>Appropriateness of the resource mobilization strategy of the country office</p> <p>Comparative budget/level of resource mobilization of other UN agencies working with Sahrawi refugees and other WFP/country office in similar contexts</p> <p>Donor perceptions on the extent to which ICSP objectives match with their own priorities for the Sahrawi refugees</p> <p>WFP/country office and key stakeholder perceptions on the adequacy of the planned and</p>		KII: 2b, c, d	

DIMENSIONS OF ANALYSIS	LINES OF INQUIRY	INDICATORS	DATA SOURCES	DATA COLLECTION COMPILATION/TECHNIQUES	DATA ANALYSIS AND VISUALIZATION
		available financial resources			
4.3 What are the other factors that can explain WFP performance and the extent to which it has made the strategic shift expected by the ICSP?					
Strategic shift	What are the other factors that can explain WFP performance and the extent to which it has made the strategic shift expected by the ICSP?	<p>External or internal factors having positively or negatively affected the shift</p> <p>Partnerships and collaborations identified as successful and positively influencing results</p> <p>Degree of flexibility in the implementation of activities to adapt to a changing context (such as the COVID-19 pandemic)</p>	<p>Documents from WFP</p> <p>Respondents' feedback</p>	<p>Portfolio assessment</p> <p>KII</p>	<p>Triangulation</p>

Annex 6. Data Collection Tools

This annex contains the instruments used during data compilation and collection: a) a systematic portfolio review; b) a focus group discussion guide and an activity observation checklist; c) home visits (case studies); d) a youth photovoice form; and e) a key informant interview guide for four profiles (camp leaders, partners of WFP working directly with beneficiaries in camps, WFP staff and donors and partners).

Systematic portfolio review

Each team member completed one sheet (see Figure 18) prior to the field phase for the portfolio review of each activity.

Figure 18: Overview of the systematic portfolio review tool

PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS	Grant ID: XXX	Grant ID: XXX	Grant ID: XXX	Grant ID: XXX	Grant ID: XXX
	PRRO/Pre-2018 (resources allowing)	T-ICSP	T-ICSP Extension	ICSP (2019)	ICSP (2020-if differentiated)
EQ1: To what extent is WFP's Strategic Position, role, and specific contribution based on					
1.1 To what extent has WFP/CO sought to understand and has the ICSP addressed the needs of the most vulnerable people in the camps to ensure that no one is left behind ?					
1.2 To what extent has WFP's strategic positioning remained relevant throughout the implementation of the ICSP in light of changing context, capacities, and needs?					
1.3 To what extent is the ICSP coherent, aligned with the wider UN and inclusive of appropriate strategic partnerships based on the comparative advantage of WFP?					
EQ2: What is the extent and quality of WFP's specific contribution to					
2.1 To what extent did WFP deliver expected outputs and contribute to the expected ICSP strategic outcomes?					
2.2 To what extent did WFP contribute to achievement of cross-cutting aims (humanitarian principles, protection, accountability to affected					
	Activity 1 GFA	Activity 2 School Feeding	Activity 3 Livelihood	Activity 4	

Focus group discussions

A total of 12 focus group discussions across all camps were conducted during the field visit.

Participants were at minimum and at maximum X and were assembled with the help of the Sahrawi Red Crescent (MLRS). No WFP nor MLRS staff were present during these focus group discussions.

Table 11: Focus group discussion guide

WFP ACTIVITY:	CAMP/DAIRA NAME:	DATE:
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# FGD PARTICIPANTS (TOTAL): M: F:	# PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE BENEFITS: M: F:	# PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE NOT BENEFITS: M: F:
Guiding Questions for participants		Answers
1.	Tell us about “activity X” focusing specifically on what it has offered you personally <u>Prompts:</u> Positive, negative; does the activity help you only today, or does it also help your future?	
2.	How do you feel about WFP’s delivery of this activity?	
2a.	Has the implementation been safe? can you think of a way the activity or outputs could result in harm to you –or has?	
2b.	Has the implementation been dignified?	
2c.	Can you think of a better way to implement this activity? <u>Prompts:</u> Have you been asked to share your opinions on how it is implemented?	
3.	Does this activity reach everyone you think it should reach? Are there any households or groups of refugees you know of that should -but do not-benefit from this activity? Why? <u>Prompts:</u> gender, age, disability, economic levels, etc.	
4.	If you had any concern about this activity, what would you do? <u>Prompts:</u> do you know who to turn to? Would you feel comfortable to voice your concern? How? (CFM, hotline, other?) If you have voiced your concerns, do you feel WFP is listening –how do you know this?	
	Is there anything else you’d like to share with me about this activity?	
	Lead-in to observation visit: Can you please show me something linked to this activity?	

Activity observations

Table 12: Activity observation guide

WFP ACTIVITY:		CAMP/DAIRA NAME:	DATE:
Photos: any taken? Uploaded?		Who led the visit (name/gender/profile):	
Check list			
1.	Precisely what was shown to you related to this activity?	Process(es): describe Equipment/infrastructure(s): describe	
2.	Dynamics: did you see beneficiaries receiving WFP services?	Circle: NO YES → describe below:	
2a	How many beneficiaries?		
2b	Note their visible <u>diversity</u>	Age: Gender: Disability: Other:	
2c	Describe the <u>general atmosphere</u> during the actions: (positive neutral negative, but also ‘energetic, interested, bored, anxious’, etc.)		
3.	Visible “hardware”: comment on appropriateness of... (use: adequate, inadequate and explain)	Locale/spacing: Exposure to environment/weather: Equipment/infrastructure/materials, including SBCC:	
4.	Positives: what are the main <i>positive</i> take-aways from the visit?		

5.	Concerns: what are the main <i>challenges</i> you take-away from the visit?	
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Home visits (case studies)

The goal was to produce deep understanding about one household (in their home) during a normal day. Ten refugee households were chosen by MLRS, two for each camp (one for each of the field team evaluators). The overall set of ten represented the following profiles (see Table 13).

Table 13: Profiles of the ten households

1. Ménage dirigé par une femme seule (avec personnes à charge, pas de soutien d'un deuxième adulte et n'étant ni volontaire, ni impliquée dans les activités appuyées par le PAM.)
2. Ménage dirigé par un homme seul (avec personnes à charge, pas de soutien d'un deuxième adulte et n'étant ni volontaire, ni impliquée dans les activités appuyées par le PAM.)
3. Ménage dont un ou plusieurs enfants ont abandonné l'école (<16ans)
4. Ménage relativement large avec 2 chefs de famille (avec 4 enfants ou plus mais <u>aucun</u> membre qui ne soit volontaire / assistant dans les activités appuyées par le PAM)
5. Ménage âgé : une personne mariée ou célibataire de plus de 60 ans, vivant seule avec ou sans jeunes adultes (<u>aucun</u> membre qui ne soit volontaire / assistant dans les activités appuyées par le PAM)
6. Ménage dont au moins un membre est handicapé (<u>aucun</u> membre qui ne soit volontaire / assistant dans les activités appuyées par le PAM)
7. Ménage considéré parmi les plus pauvres et n'ayant absolument aucun envoi de fonds ni aucune source de revenus (<u>aucun</u> membre qui ne soit volontaire / assistant dans les activités appuyées par le PAM)
8. Ménage sans aucun membre qui ne voyage fréquemment en dehors des camps mais aussi avec des enfants qui n'ont jamais passé un été en Espagne / un semestre à l'étranger pour leurs études, etc. (<u>aucun</u> membre qui ne soit volontaire / assistant dans les activités appuyées par le PAM)
9. À titre de comparaison : un ménage considéré relativement plus aisé, avec d'autres sources de revenus (e.g., reçoivent des pensions, font des marchands, microentreprises) et des enfants qui ont étudiés à l'étranger , boursières) peut également avoir un volontaire / assistant dans les activités soutenues par le PAM.
10. À titre de comparaison : un ménage dont les membres se rendaient avant le COVID-19 fréquemment au Territoire libérée ou qui ont beaucoup de bétails (pour gagner leur vie, etc.) peuvent également avoir un membre bénévole / assistant dans les activités soutenues par le PAM.

The home visit was designed as a visit of four or more hour inside ten separate households. During the visit the evaluator was an active participant in the household's life, participating in and contributing to whatever the household had planned that day. During those hours, the evaluator informally asked questions to the household, aiming to complete the table below with facts and refugee perceptions. The evaluator took notes at intervals as needed to remember discussions, but no recording was done. Some photos were taken.

Table 14: Home visit interview guide

Household name:		Camp/Daira name:	Date:
Photos: any taken? Uploaded?		Profile (choose one from above)	
Factual information			
1.	How many members in the household and ages	Head 1 Head 2 Dependent 1	
2.	Which WFP activities do you participate in/benefit from (in addition to A1)?	A2 A3: which A4: which	
3	What livelihoods or other sources of revenue (incl. remittances) do you have?		
4.	Who in the household travels /has travelled outside the camp? <i>Why, when/frequency, how?</i>		
5	Do you know any individual or group that is in need but has not been supported by specific WFP programmes?		
Perceptions and opinions			
A1	a.What has the WFP activity contributed to your household?		
A1	b.How do you feel about the delivery of the activity? <i>Timeliness, dignity, safety</i>		
A1	c.Did you contribute in any way to the design of the activity? If you have concerns about it, how could you voice them?		
A2	a.What has the WFP activity contributed to your household?		
A2	b.How do you feel about the delivery of the activity? <i>Timeliness, dignity, safety</i>		
A2	c.Did you contribute in any way to the design of the activity? If you have concerns about it, how could you voice them?		
A3	a.What has the WFP activity contributed to your household?		
A3	b.How do you feel about the delivery of the activity? <i>Timeliness, dignity, safety</i>		
A3	c.Did you contribute in any way to the design of the activity? If you have concerns about it, how could you voice them?		
A4	a.What has the WFP activity contributed to your household?		
A4	b.How do you feel about the delivery of the activity? <i>Timeliness, dignity, safety</i>		
A4	c.Did you contribute in any way to the design of the activity? If you have concerns about it, how could you voice them?		
	Other Observations		

Good practice for home visits as an evaluative tool

This short list holds lessons that resulted from multiple uses of this/similar tools in Southern Africa/Indian Ocean and Ecuador since 2015.

- A home visit is a privilege for an evaluator. It asks already vulnerable households to open their lives up for external scrutiny. It opens a small window of reality to the evaluation for each unique profile visited.

- Be respectful and find ways to gain the household's confidence. Building trust and confidence is critical and the evaluator needs to cultivate this ability by being open, humble, ready to participate actively and a good listener.

Aim: spend 4 to 6 hours with a household as an *active participant observer* (and discussion guide) and leave the visit convinced that you understand life better from a unique perspective in a way that you can convey to directly enhance evaluative evidence

Before the home visit

- Communicate and as needed, get permissions ahead of time.
- Timing is important. To maximize on a 4 to 6 hours opportunity, communicate clearly to make sure the household head is not absent the moment you plan to begin.
- Language is key. The correct language has to be fluently spoken by the evaluator. People use very colloquial language to express feelings, impressions, emotions.
- Gender dynamics are important. Make sure the household profiles with only women heads are visited by female evaluation team members. And vice-versa.
- **Avoid differences.** Plan to wear clothes as similar to those the household will be wearing as you can be comfortable with. Such differences between evaluators and households construct barriers in communication that take time to break down.
- Before the home visit, obtain and study any data or descriptions you have on the family or the profile of the family.
- As soon as you arrive, find a way to confirm that the household's **profile conforms to the one planned for the visit.** This is especially critically if selection / recruitment /assignment of households was done outside the evaluation team. It is important to do this **before you invest much time.** The 10 household profiles were scripted to cover very different scenarios that together enrich triangulation and cross-profile comparison.

During the visit

- **A home visit** is not a 1-on-1 battery of questions seeking simple answers. Find an appropriate balance between time spent with you 'doing and observing' and time spent with evaluator "asking questions and listening".
- The visit does **not entail speaking only with the household head.** Explain that you want to speak to everyone in the family, and find way to do so (for example, at a distance from a household activity) that prevents the household head/parents from overhearing when you speak to a teenager. While there may not be any real secrets, gender/generational differences and dynamics are present in every household.
- **Participate actively** in whatever task they have organised and make sure they do not change their day's plans for you. "Participant observation" is one way to gain their confidence. Be ready to participate in:
 - manual chores (cooking, cleaning) around the home
 - livelihood or agricultural work: accompany them especially on any of their livelihood activities they may have
 - errands and, shopping, walking long distances as needed.
- **Sharing meals** is another key method to build an understanding about the profile's situation. In return, carry something inexpensive from your culture that you can share with the household.
- **Mirror the household's actions.** For example, if they sit on a rug on the floor, try not to sit above them. Remove as many differences between you as you can during the visit.

- Ask questions freely beyond the evaluation questions. Your role is to understand their perspectives, lives. Observation is crucial but partial.
- From a protection perspective: don't be left alone with minor children.

Recording your visit

- Get permission for photos and take lots of them.
- Get permission and record (audio or video) parts or all of your discussions, when possible. Home visits typically provide excellent quotes for evaluations. Recording frees up your hands and minds to notice new things.
- Have the main themes/evaluation questions in local language handy, in your pocket or on your phone/tablet.
- Take written (or dictated) notes whenever you see something or hear something you are afraid to forget. **It is just as important to note things you see with your eyes/observe than it is to note words/answers they have spoken.**
- Before you go to sleep that night, add more details to your home visit notes--especially details pertaining directly to the overall evaluation questions. This is especially important to not confuse one household with another conducted in a series.

Youth photo voice form

The goal was to produce a photo gallery depicting what life looks like from the points of view of 12 youths in/near the Sahrawi camps that WFP has served since 2018.

Two youths were chosen by MLRS for each camp, one girl and one boy, 21 years of age or younger. The youths were asked to work independently, providing photos from their personal perspectives - not aiming for a group or general perspective. Both young people needed to be available on the morning of the arrival of the evaluation team to the camp. The WFP sub-office in Tindouf was also asked to identify and connect the evaluation team to two Algerian youths from the town, for example, children of the cash-based transfer (CBT) merchants.

On the first day in the camp, the evaluation team provided each of the two designated youth representatives with one phone to be used to take the photos and also a printed form with the following table for the young people to complete.

Table 15: Photo voice form

J'ai..... ans. Je suis fille/garçon (barrer une des réponses).

J'habite..... (noms de daïra et camp).

S'il te plait, ajoute **une phrase** dans chaque cellule ci-dessous qui décrit les photos que tu as prises pour quelqu'un de l'étranger qui n'a jamais visité ce camp.

NO.	VOICI 5 CHOSES DONT JE SUIS LE PLUS HEUREUX/SE OU OPTIMISTE	NO.	VOICI 5 CHOSES QUI ME PREOCCUPENT LE PLUS POUR MON AVENIR
1		6	
2		7	
3		8	
4		9	

5		10	
General notes			

Before departing the camp on the second day (or before), the evaluation team picked up the forms and the phone devices from the youths. Spending approximately 30 minutes with each youth, they went through the list to make sure that the ten photos were accessible and that the phrases were clear and readily linked to them. In some cases, some photos were missing.

Key informants guide

A Sahrawi camp leaders

NAME:		ORGANISATION NAME:	DATE:
Role:		Gender: Male/Female	
Questions		Answers	
1.	To what extent and how do WFP activities align with the strategies, goals and plans of your organisation? To what extent do WFP and you coordinate and how?		
2.	What is the main contribution of WFP? Is there more it can do outside of humanitarian action (i.e., development)?		
3.	How do you view the quality of WFP service delivery?		
3a.	Is WFP's programming "safe"? Can you think of any time when it may have cause harm to beneficiaries or to the local contexts (including environmental/ physical)?		
3b.	Is WFP's programming dignified? How do you know? Were beneficiaries involved in its design? Do they know where to turn if they have any concerns about it?		
3c.	Is WFP's programming inclusive? Do activities reach the right profiles? How could it be improved? What can you share about the impact of WFP activities on gender equity/transformation etc? Are there visible changes?		
3d.	Is WFP's programming timely?		
4.	Did COVID-19 or another event cause any unintended linked outcomes you are aware of?		
	Do you have anything else you'd like to discuss or ask me?		

B Partners of WFP working directly with beneficiaries in camps (Tindouf/Rabuni)

NAME:		ORGANISATION NAME:	DATE:
Role:		Gender: Male/Female	
Questions		Answers	
1.	To what extent and how do WFP activities align with the strategies, goals and plans of your organisation? To what extent do WFP and you coordinate and how?		
2.	What is the main contribution of WFP? Is there more it can do outside of humanitarian action (i.e., development)?		
3.	How do you see WFP as a partner/commissioner? Is WFP enabling you to deliver high quality services? In your partnership with WFP, is there anything that hinders you from delivering quality? , e.g., late payments, late signature of contracts (FLAs), excessive reporting requirements, low budget etc.		
3a.	Is WFP's programming "safe"? Can you think of any time when it may have caused harm to beneficiaries or to the local contexts (including environmental/ physical)?		
3b.	Is WFP's programming dignified? How do you know? Were beneficiaries involved in its design? Do they know where to turn if they have any concerns about it?		
3c.	Is WFP's programming inclusive? Do activities reach the right refugee profiles? How could it be improved? What can you share about the impact of WFP activities on gender equity/transformation etc? Are there visible changes?		
3d.	Is WFP's programming timely?		
4.	Do you feel your organisation has the right combination (quantity/skill over time) of human resources? (prompt: in recruiting, retaining, training, etc) What implications? What about WFP/CO skills?		
5.	Did COVID-19 or another event cause any unintended linked outcomes you are aware of?		
	Do you have anything else you'd like to discuss or ask me?		

WFP staff in Tindouf and Algiers - remote

NAME:		ORGANISATION NAME: WFP	DATE:
Role:		Gender: Male/Female	
Questions		Answers	
1.	To what extent and how do WFP activities align with the strategies, goals and plans of other organisations? How/with whom do you coordinate?		
2.	What is the main contribution of WFP? Is there more it can do outside of humanitarian action (i.e., development)?		
3.	How do you view the quality of WFP service delivery? What about the delivery of your partners?		
3a.	Is WFP's programming "safe"? Can you think of any time when it may have caused harm to beneficiaries or to the local contexts (including environmental/ physical)?		
3b.	Is WFP's programming dignified? How do you know? Were beneficiaries involved in its design? Do they know where to turn if they have any concerns about it?		
3c.	Is WFP's programming inclusive? Do activities reach the right refugee profiles? How could it be improved? What can you share about the impact of WFP activities on gender equity/transformation etc? Are there visible changes?		
3d.	Is WFP's programming timely? What have you done to save time or prevent breaks?		
4.	How does WFP fare on cost-effectiveness and cost-efficiency? Are resources available and used appropriately? costs reasonable?		
5.	Do you feel WFP/CO has the right combination (quantity/skill over time) of financial resources to get the job done? What about human resources? What implications?		
6.	Did COVID-19 or another event cause any unintended linked outcomes you are aware of?		
	Do you have anything else you'd like to discuss or ask me?		

D Donors and partners (outside Tindouf/Rabuni) - remote

NAME:		ORGANISATION NAME:	DATE:
Role:		Gender: Male/Female	
Questions		Answers	
1.	To what extent and how do WFP activities align with your strategies as a donor?		
2.	What do you see as WFP's main contribution among Sahrawi refugees? Is there more it can do outside of humanitarian action (i.e., development)?		
3.	How do you view the quality of WFP service delivery (direct or through partners)?		
3a.	Is WFP's programming "safe"? Can you think of any time when it may have caused harm to beneficiaries or to the local contexts (including environmental/ physical)?		
3b.	Is WFP's programming dignified? How do you know? Were beneficiaries involved in its design? Do they know where to turn if they have any concerns about it?		
3c.	Is WFP's programming inclusive? Do activities reach the right refugee profiles? How could it be improved? What can you share about the impact of WFP activities on gender equity/transformation etc? Are there visible changes?		
3d.	Is WFP's programming timely? How does WFP fare on cost-effectiveness and cost-efficiency? Are resources available and used appropriately? costs reasonable?		
4.	Do you feel WFP/CO has the right combination (quantity/skill over time) of financial resources to get the job done? What about human resources? What implications?		
	Do you have anything else you'd like to discuss or ask me?		

NAME:		ORGANISATION NAME:	DATE:
Role:		Gender: Male/Female	
Questions		Answers	
1.	To what extent and how do WFP activities align with your strategies as a donor?		
2.	What do you see as WFP's main contribution among Sahrawi refugees? Is there more it can do outside of humanitarian action (i.e., development)?		
3.	How do you view the quality of WFP service delivery (direct or through partners)?		
3a.	Is WFP's programming "safe"? Can you think of any time when it may have caused harm to beneficiaries or to the local contexts (including environmental/ physical)?		
3b.	Is WFP's programming dignified? How do you know? Were beneficiaries involved in its design? Do they know where to turn if they have any concerns about it?		
3c.	Is WFP's programming inclusive? Do activities reach the right refugee profiles? How could it be improved? What can you share about the impact of WFP activities on gender equity/transformation etc? Are there visible changes?		
3d.	Is WFP's programming timely? How does WFP fare on cost-effectiveness and cost-efficiency? Are resources available and used appropriately? costs reasonable?		
4.	Do you feel WFP/CO has the right combination (quantity/skill over time) of financial resources to get the job done? What about human resources? What implications?		
	Do you have anything else you'd like to discuss or ask me?		

Annex 7. Details on Implementation of Resilience Activities (SO1/Activity 3)

The hydroponic project was developed and implemented with Oxfam in 2016 and rolled out until the end of 2018, when funding stopped.²⁰⁰ As the leading partner, Oxfam was in charge of selecting the beneficiaries²⁰¹ and a total of 230 families benefitted from the activity in the five camps. A total of 174 refugees, mostly women,²⁰² were trained in producing green fodder in the hydroponic kits, until the end of the project in 2018. According to WFP figures,²⁰³ the hydroponic pilot project showed good results in 2018, with an increase of 18 percent in the production of milk and an increase of 9.6 percent of the weight of animals receiving green fodder. Interviews with key informants also confirmed it. However, funds for this project were not provided from 2019 onwards, which meant that beneficiaries had to source their own fodder at local markets (as no new kits were provided). Participants also ceased to receive technical assistance. According to key informant interviews, half of the participants stopped the activity in 2019 because technical support stopped, and the other half stopped in 2020. Barley seeds, which had so far been sourced locally, became difficult to find and expensive in the area. The lack of water and the inadequacy of targeting were mentioned as factors that contributed to the high drop-out rates of this activity as well. Some key informants stated that, in some cases, beneficiaries were picked randomly without prior assessment of their capacity and motivation to participate. During the evaluation field mission in Mach 2021, the evaluators could not find any refugee still using the kits in the camps.

The first fish farm in a refugee camp was set up as a pilot by WFP in partnership with the NGO *Triangle Génération Humanitaire* in 2018 and was inaugurated in the agricultural centre N'khaila (Rabuni) in February 2019. It aimed to enhance income, animal fodder and food sources (animal protein) through the production of Tilapia fish. In terms of production, the results of the fish farm project reported for 2019 and 2020 were well below expectations. The planned production of 21,000kg of Tilapia fish was not achieved. Only 30kg of fish were produced in 2019 and, due a technical mistake, all the fish were lost towards the end of the year. In 2020, production inputs were hard to access due to the COVID-19 pandemic and only 85kg were produced and distributed to people with disabilities and to hospitals. In terms of capacity strengthening, 15 youths in charge of running the farm were trained as planned in 2019. Among them, four were women. An additional 20 refugees were also trained in 2020 to start implementing small-scale fish projects at *dairas* level from 2021 onwards. The activity benefitted from the expertise of external national consultants, recruited in 2020 to produce a sector study,²⁰⁴ with a view to scale up the project from 2021.

The WaterBoxxes project was initiated in 2019 by WFP in partnership with Oxfam, to provide fresh fruits and vegetables. The most recent activities of WaterBoxxes (also called the H2Optimal project) demonstrated the best performance, as the technology used (growing plants and trees faster with less water) allowed a generous production of fruits and vegetables between January and July 2020, according to beneficiaries and WFP staff. A total of 3,000 WaterBoxxes²⁰⁵ were distributed to a total of 200 families owning gardens. Most of the boxes were distributed in 2019 (2,138) and the rest in 2020. Training was provided to 187 participants, the majority women, though figures to support this were not available. WaterBoxxes allow the use of an ecological water-saving technology patented in the Netherlands,

²⁰⁰ This activity has been financed by the governments of Germany, Canada and the USA.

²⁰¹ Persons were selected based on the results of a test of ten questions, testing knowledge. To benefit from the project, refugee had to have their own livestock. In some *Dairas*, where volunteers were not sufficient, Oxfam selected them randomly. WFP was not part of the selection process.

²⁰² Source: KII.

²⁰³ Baseline data was not available. Source of this information is: WFP. 2019. *Brief on hydroponics innovations*.

²⁰⁴ Academia Service (MOUSSAOUI, K., DENNI, O.). 2020. Etude Filière Valorisation et distribution de la production piscicole de la ferme N'Khaila.

²⁰⁵ 2,800 of the WaterBoxxes were plastic and 200 were cardboard.

enabling the use of 90 percent less water than traditional irrigation methods, such as drip irrigation. Monitoring data from 2020 confirmed that this technique used 90 percent less water than the drip irrigation technique.

Annex 8. Number of People Interviewed

ORGANIZATION	M	F
WFP Algeria	13	5
UNICEF Tindouf	1	1
UNHCR Tindouf	3	
UN Country Team	1	
Triangle Génération Humanitaire	2	
Oxfam	6	
MLRS (Sahrawi Red Crescent)	6	3
Camp Leadership	1	
Awserd Camp Leadership		3
Boujdour Camp Leadership	2	2
Dakhla Camp Leadership	1	1
Laayoun Camp Leadership	1	1
Smara Camp Leadership	1	1
Refugees	7	2
US Embassy (Donor)	1	1
AECID (Donor)		1
French Embassy (Donor)	1	
ECHO (Donor)	1	1
Danish Refugee Council		1
CRE (Spanish Red Cross)		1
CRA (Algerian Red Crescent)	1	1
CISP	2	3
Asociación de Trabajadores y Técnicos sin Fronteras (ATTSF)	1	
Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2	
Total	54	28

Annex 9. Performance Analysis

Table 16: WFP Algeria Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2022) Output indicators SO1 for 2019 and 2020

Strategic Outcome 01	Targeted food-insecure Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf meet their basic food and nutrition needs all year	- Crisis response - Nutrition-sensitive						
		Beneficiary group	Activity tag		Planned (2019)	Actual (2019)	Planned (2020)	Actual (2020)
Activity 01	Provide general food assistance to targeted food-insecure refugees	Beneficiary group	Activity tag		Planned (2019)	Actual (2019)	Planned (2020)	Actual (2020)
Output A, B	Food-insecure refugees receive food transfers that meet their basic food and nutrition needs							
Output E*	Refugees benefit from appropriate social and behaviour change communications and raised awareness of adequate nutrition, food preparation and food utilization							
A.1	Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	All	General distribution	Female	65,579	65,579	65,579	74,948
				Male	68,093	68,093	68,093	77,820
				Total	133,672	133,672	133,672	152,768
A.2	Food transfers			MT	13,282	13,751	26,419	26,122
B.1	Quantity of fortified food provided							
	Quantity of fortified food provided		General distribution	MT	7,956	1,546	13,392	1,438.31
B.3*	Percentage of staple commodities distributed that is fortified							
	Percentage of staple commodities distributed that is fortified		General distribution	%	57	66	60	22
E*.5	Number of people reached through SBCC approaches using media							
	Number of people reached through SBCC approaches using mass media (i.e. national TV programme)		General distribution	Individual	100,000	9,800	100,000	50,000
Activity 02	Provide nutrition-sensitive school meals	Beneficiary group	Activity tag		Planned	Actual		
Output A, N*	Preschool and primary and intermediate schoolchildren receive food transfers on the days they attend schools							

Output E*	Refugees benefit from appropriate social and behaviour change communications and raised awareness of adequate nutrition, food preparation and food utilization							
A.1	Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	Students (primary schools)	School feeding (on-site)	Female	21,995	21,005	21,995	21,005
				Male	19,505	18,627	19,505	18,627
				Total	41,500	39,632	41,500	39,632
A.2	Food transfers			MT	486	310	1,101	677
A.6	Number of institutional sites assisted							
	Number of institutional sites assisted		School feeding (on-site)	site	82	82	82	82
E*.4	Number of people reached through interpersonal SBCC approaches							
	Number of people reached through interpersonal SBCC approaches (female)		School feeding (on-site)	Number	8,000	0	500	286
	Number of people reached through interpersonal SBCC approaches (male)		School feeding (on-site)	Number	1,000	0	500	300
N*.1	Feeding days as percentage of total school days							
	Feeding days as percentage of total school days		School feeding (on-site)	%	100	72	100	56
N*.2	Average number of school days per month on which multi-fortified or at least 4 food groups were provided (nutrition-sensitive indicator)							
	Average number of school days per month on which multi-fortified or at least 4 food groups were provided (nutrition-sensitive indicator)		School feeding (on-site)	Days	22	16	22.6	17
N*.3	Number of children receiving deworming with WFP support							
	Number of children receiving deworming with WFP support (female)		School feeding (on-site)	Number	20,903	20,159	20,597	0
	Number of children receiving deworming with WFP support (male)		School feeding (on-site)	Number	20,597	18,021	20,903	0

N*.5	Number of schools with infrastructure rehabilitated or constructed							
	Number of kitchens or cook areas rehabilitated/constructed		School feeding (on-site)	Unit	4	0	4	0
Activity 03	Provide Sahrawi refugees in Tindouf with complementary livelihood opportunities that benefit women and men equitably	Beneficiary group	Activity tag		Planned	Actual		
Output A	Sahrawi refugees benefit from diversified capacity-strengthening livelihood activities that enhance their skills and improve their food security and nutrition through the new resilience approach							
Output C	Refugees benefit from diversified capacity-strengthening livelihood activities that enhance their skills and improve their food security and nutrition through a new resilience approach							
Output D	Sahrawi refugees benefit from diversified capacity-strengthening livelihood activities that enhance their skills and improve their food security and nutrition through a new resilience approach							
A.5	Quantity of non-food items distributed							
	Number of toolkits provided for construction-related trainees		Individual capacity-strengthening activities	Non-food item	3,000	2,138	1	1
C.4*	Number of people engaged in capacity-strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)							
	Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training		Individual capacity-strengthening activities	Individual	200	187	500	235
C.5*	Number of capacity-strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)							
	Number of training sessions/workshop organized		Individual capacity-strengthening activities	Training session	4	4	5	4

D.1	Number of assets built, restored or maintained by targeted households and communities, by type and unit of measure							
	Number of assets built, restored or maintained by targeted communities		Individual capacity-strengthening activities	Number	201	173	3,000	3,000

Source: Extracted from WFP Algeria Annual Country Report (2019 https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000113825/download/?_ga=2.247693313.788799310.1667833959-216939374.1637135384, WFP Algeria Annual Country Report (2020) https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/7f247e68954545e7af442747cac2e8a8/download/?_ga=2.160269499.788799310.1667833959-216939374.1637135384)

Table 17: Output indicators SO2 (2019)

Strategic Outcome 02	Targeted Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf have improved nutrition status by 2022	- Crisis response - Nutrition-sensitive						
		Beneficiary group	Activity tag		Planned	Actual		
Activity 04	Provide children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls with assistance for the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition							
Output A	Sahrawi refugees, pregnant and lactating women and girls, and children aged 6-59 months receive special nutritious foods and food supplements that prevent moderate acute malnutrition and anaemia							
Output A, B	Sahrawi refugees, pregnant and lactating women and girls, and children aged 6-59 months receive special nutritious foods and food supplements that treat moderate acute malnutrition and anaemia							
Output C	Refugees benefit from diversified capacity-strengthening activities that enhance their skills and improve their food security and nutrition							
Output E*	Targeted beneficiaries benefit from appropriate social and behaviour change communication to improve their dietary diversity							
A.1	Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	Children	Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition	Female	185	225	185	229
				Male	215	260	215	265
				Total	400	485	400	494
		Pregnant and lactating women	Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition	Female	600	754	600	732
				Male	0	0		
				Total	600	754		

Strategic Outcome 02	Targeted Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf have improved nutrition status by 2022	- Crisis response - Nutrition-sensitive						
A.1	Beneficiaries receiving cash-based transfers	Pregnant and lactating women	Prevention of acute malnutrition	Female	8,000	7,937	8,000	8,421
				Male	0	0		
				Total	8,000	7,937		
A.2	Food transfers			MT	31	10	63	138
A.3	Cash-based transfers			USD	529,920	180,004	1,054,080	989,384
A.6	Number of institutional sites assisted							
	Number of health centres/sites assisted		Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition	Health centre	29	29	29	29
B.1	Quantity of fortified food provided							
	Quantity of fortified food provided		Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition	MT	12	9	62.83	65.47
C.4*	Number of people engaged in capacity-strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)							
	Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training		Prevention of acute malnutrition	Individual	250	113	250	272
C.5*	Number of capacity-strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)							
	Number of training sessions/workshop organized		Prevention of acute malnutrition	Training session	2	2	4	4
E*.4	Number of people reached through interpersonal SBCC approaches							
	Number of people reached through interpersonal SBCC approaches (male)		Prevention of acute malnutrition	Number	1,000	0	2,000	1,000
	Number of people reached through interpersonal SBCC approaches (female)		Prevention of acute malnutrition	Number	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,400
E*.5	Number of people reached							

Strategic Outcome 02	Targeted Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf have improved nutrition status by 2022	- Crisis response - Nutrition-sensitive						
	Number of people reached through SBCC approaches using mass media (i.e. national TV programme).		Prevention of acute malnutrition	Individual	100,000	0	100,000	50,000

Source: WFP (2019) Annual Country Report.

Table 18: Output indicators SO1 (2018)

Detailed Indicator	Unit	Target Value	Actual Value	% Achieved
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food				
Strategic Outcome 01: Food insecure Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf in Algeria meet their basic food and nutrition requirements all year long				
Output A: Children enrolled in refugee camps school receive mid-morning snacks to relieve short-term hunger and benefit from nutrition sensitization in order to meet their food and nutrition requirement				
Act 03. Nutrition-sensitive school meals for Sahrawi refugee children				
Number of kitchens or cook areas rehabilitated/constructed	unit	4.0	8.0	200.0
Number of children in WFP-assisted schools who received deworming treatment at least once during the year	individual	41500.0	38956.0	93.9
Output A: Sahrawi refugees benefit from livelihood and asset creation activities including the hydroponic production of green animal feed to increase meat and milk quantity and quality in order to meet their basic food and nutrition requirement.				
Act 02. Provide complementary activities/livelihood to Sahrawi refugees				
Number of participants in beneficiary training sessions (livelihood-support/agriculture&farming;/IGA)	individual	174.0	200.0	114.9
Output A: Sahrawi refugees receive food and benefit from nutrition sensitization to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements				
Act 01. Provide unconditional General Food Assistance (GFA) to food insecure refugees				
Number of timely food distributions as per planned distribution schedule	Number	12.0	12.0	100.0
Output D: Sahrawi refugees benefit from livelihood and asset creation activities including the hydroponic production of green animal feed to increase meat and milk quantity and quality in order to meet their basic food and nutrition requirement.				
Act 02. Provide complementary activities/livelihood to Sahrawi refugees				
Number of assets built, restored or maintained by targeted communities	Number	174.0	200.0	114.9
Output E: Children enrolled in refugee camps school receive mid-morning snacks to relieve short-term hunger and benefit from nutrition sensitization in order to meet their food and nutrition requirement.				
Act 03. Nutrition-sensitive school meals for Sahrawi refugee children				
Number of men exposed to WFP-supported nutrition messaging	individual	-	-	0.0
Number of women exposed to WFP-supported nutrition messaging	individual	-	-	0.0
Output E: Sahrawi refugees receive food and benefit from nutrition sensitization to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements				
Act 01. Provide unconditional General Food Assistance (GFA) to food insecure refugees				
Number of men exposed to WFP-supported nutrition messaging	individual	-	-	0.0

Source: Extracted from WFP Algeria Annual Country Report (2018).

Table 19: Output indicators SO2 (2018)

Detailed indicator	Unit	Target value	Actual value	% achieved
Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition				
Strategic Outcome 02: Targeted Sahrawi refugees have improved nutrition status				
Output A: Targeted refugees receive specialized nutrition foods as appropriate and sufficient for MAM treatment				
Act 04: Provision of MAM treatment and prevention to Sahrawi refugees, PLW and children 6-59 months				
Number of health centres/sites assisted	Health centre	29	29	100
Output B: Targeted refugees receive specialized nutritious foods as appropriate and sufficient for MAM treatment				
Act. 04: Provision of MAM treatment and prevention to Sahrawi refugees, PLW and children 6-59 months				
Quantity of specialized nutritious foods provided	Mt	103.33	35.62	34.50
Output B: Targeted refugees receive specialized nutritious foods as appropriate and sufficient to prevent chronic malnutrition and anaemia				
Act. 04: Provision of MAM treatment and prevention to Sahrawi refugees, PLW and children 6-59 months				
Quantity of specialized nutritious food provided	Mt	49.84	98.48	197.60
Output C: Health workers benefit from evidence-based policies and receive nutrition training to enhance their nutrition knowledge and skills in order to prevent and treat malnutrition				
Act. 04: Provision of MAM treatment and prevention to Sahrawi refugees, PLW and children 6-59 months				
Number of capacity-strengthening activities with gender equality mainstreamed	Number	-	-	0.0
Number of training session/workshop organized	Train. session	4.0	4.0	100.0

Number of people trained	Individual	500.0	420.0	84.0
Output E: Targeted beneficiaries benefit from nutrition sensitization to address the double burden of malnutrition				
Act. 04: Provision of MAM treatment and prevention to Sahrawi refugees, PLW and children 6-59 months				
Number of men receiving WFP-supported nutrition counselling	Individual	-	-	0.0
Number of women receiving WFP-supported nutrition counselling	Individual	-	-	0.0

Source: Extracted from WFP Algeria Annual Country Report (2018)

Table 20: Outcomes indicators Temporary-Interim Country Strategic Plan and Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

		BASELINE (FOR 2020 FIGURES)	2018 FOLLOW-UP INDICATORS	2019 FOLLOW-UP INDICATORS	2020 FOLLOW-UP INDICATORS	2020 YEAR END TARGET	2022 ICSP END TARGET
SO1: Targeted food-insecure Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf meet their basic food and nutrition needs all year							
Activity 1: Provide general food assistance to targeted food-insecure refugees							
Consumption-based Coping Strategy Index (average)	Male	6	8	1.26	1.32	≤1	≤1
	Female	7	8.8	1.24	1.5	≤1	≤1
	Overall	6.5	8.3	1.25	1.41	≤1	≤1
FCS / Percentage of households with Acceptable FCS	Male		65.7	42.5	64.2	≥80	≥80
	Female		57.3	46.9	61.6	≥80	≥80
	Overall	60.3	63.0	44.2	63.3	≥80	≥80
FCS / Percentage of households with borderline FCS	Male		31.4	50.0	30.6	≤17	≤17
	Female		35.70	42.9	33.3	≤17	≤17
	Overall	38.5	32.80	47.20	31.6	≤17	≤17

		BASELINE (FOR 2020 FIGURES)	2018 FOLLOW-UP INDICATORS	2019 FOLLOW-UP INDICATORS	2020 FOLLOW-UP INDICATORS	2020 YEAR END TARGET	2022 ICSP END TARGET
Food Consumption Score / Percentage of households with poor FCS	Male		3	7.5	5.2	≤1.2	≤1.2
	Female		6.9	10.2	5.1	≤1.2	≤1.2
	Overall	1.2	4.3	8.5	5.1	≤1.2	≤1.2
FCS – Nutrition / percentage of households that consumed Hem iron rich food daily (in the last 7 days)	Male	1.6			1.7	>2.9	>2.9
	Female	1.5			0.6	>3.6	>3.6
	Overall	2			1.4	>3.1	>3.1
FCS – Nutrition / percentage of households that consumed protein rich food daily (in the last 7 days)	Male	35.4			49.6	≥76.2	≥76.2
	Female	41.8			49.1	≥83.5	≥83.5
	Overall	38			49.4	≥78.5	≥78.5
FCS – Nutrition / percentage of households that consumed vit A rich food daily (in the last 7 days)	Male	26			28	>41.4	>41.4
	Female	20			25.2	>24.5	>24.5
	Overall	24			27.1	>36.1	>36.1
FCS – Nutrition / percentage of households that never consumed Hem iron rich food daily (in the last 7 days)	Male	42			36.7	<11.7	<11.7
	Female	48			34.6	<6.5	<6.5
	Overall	43			36.1	<10.1	<10.1
FCS – Nutrition / percentage of households that never consumed protein rich food daily (in the last 7 days)	Male	2.6			1.7	≥14	≤5.2
	Female	2.6			1.9	≥20	≤2.2
	Overall	24			1.8	≥16	≤4.3
FCS – Nutrition / percentage of households that never consumed vit A rich food daily (in the last 7 days)	Male	15			14.9	>15	≥14
	Female	21			12.6	>21	≥20
	Overall	17			14.1	>17	≥16
FCS – Nutrition / percentage of households that sometimes consumed Hem iron rich food daily (in the last 7 days)	Male	56.2			61.5	≥85.3	≥85.3
	Female	50.5			68.4	≥89.9	≥89.9
	Overall	54			62.5	≥86.8	≥86.8
	Male	62			48.7	>18.6	>18.6

		BASELINE (FOR 2020 FIGURES)	2018 FOLLOW-UP INDICATORS	2019 FOLLOW-UP INDICATORS	2020 FOLLOW-UP INDICATORS	2020 YEAR END TARGET	2022 ICSP END TARGET
Food Consumption Score – Nutrition / percentage of households that sometimes consumed protein rich food daily (in the last 7 days)	Female	56.5			49.1	>14.4	>14.4
	Overall	60			48.8	>17.3	>17.3
Food Consumption Score – Nutrition / percentage of households that sometimes consumed vit A rich food daily (in the last 7 days)	Male	59			57.1	>32.2	>32.2
	Female	58			62.3	>33.8	>33.8
	Overall	59			58.8	>32.7	>32.7
Activity 2: Provide nutrition-sensitive school meals							
Enrolment rate	Male	1.33	5	1.33	-0.06	≤6	≤6
	Female	2.18	2.13	2.18	-0.08	≤6	≤6
	Overall	1.75	3.56	1.75	-0.07	≤6	≤6
Retention rate / drop-out rate (new) / retention rate	Male	94	94	96.15	94.8	=100	=100
	Female	96	96	98.60	96.5	=100	=100
	Overall	95	95	97.30	95.73	=100	=100
SO2: Targeted Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf have improved nutrition status by 2022							
Activity 4: Provide children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls with assistance for the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition							
MAM treatment default rate	Male	26	12	28	11.11	<15	<15
	Female	26	8	28	8	<15	<15
	Overall	26	10	28	9.55	<15	<15
MAM treatment mortality rate	Male	0.2	0	1	0	<3	<3
	Female	0	0	0	0	<3	<3
	Overall	0.2	0	0.50	0	<3	<3
MAM treatment non-response rate	Male	17	8	18	12.5	<15	<15
	Female	18.2	6	17	10.6	<15	<15
	Overall	17.6	7	17.50	11.82	<15	<15
MAM treatment recovery rate	Male	54.4	82	45.5	77.18	>75	>75
	Female	58	84	50	79	>75	>75

		BASELINE (FOR 2020 FIGURES)	2018 FOLLOW-UP INDICATORS	2019 FOLLOW-UP INDICATORS	2020 FOLLOW-UP INDICATORS	2020 YEAR END TARGET	2022 ICSP END TARGET
	Overall	56.2	83	47.75	78.09	>75	>75
Minimum dietary diversity – women	Male						
	Female						
	Overall	96.1		76	81.9	≥96.1	≥96.1
Proportion of eligible population that participates in programme (coverage)	Male	79.1	96	80	82	>90	>90
	Female	79.1	96	83	85	>90	>90
	Overall	79.1	96	81.50	84	>90	>90
Proportion of target population that participates in an adequate number of distributions (adherence)	Male	95	85	71	76	>66	>66
	Female	97	85	77	80	>66	>66
	Overall	96.2	85	74	78	>66	>66

Source: Extracted from WFP Algeria Annual Country Report (2018-2020)

Annex 10. Bibliography

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1. Evaluation process

1.1 Country Strategic Plan Evaluation - Evaluation Quality Assurance Guidance

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Quick Guide for Integrating Gender in WFP	WFP
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Interim Guidance for CBT Reconciliation & Transaction Monitoring	WFP	2017
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WFP Corporate Partnership Strategy (2014 -2017)	WFP	2014
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3.13 Audit		
Internal Audit of WFP's Country Capacity Strengthening	WFP	2016
Desk Review of the Implementation of Agreed Actions from the 2016 Internal Audit	WFP	2018
Internal Audit of the IRM Pilot Phase Management Comments	WFP	2018
Internal Audit of the IRM Pilot Phase	WFP	2018
Internal Audit of Food procurement in WFP	WFP	2019
3.14 School feeding		
School Feeding Policy	WFP	2009
Revised School Feeding Policy	WFP	2013
School Feeding Handbook	WFP	2017
School Feeding Strategy (1st draft)	WFP	2019
School Feeding Strategy (final draft for external comments)	WFP	2019
COVID-19 Guidance School Feeding	WFP	2020
3.15 COVID-19 (2)		
COVID-19 and Climate Final	WFP	2020
WFP COVID-19 Medium-Term Programme Framework	WFP	2020
WFP COVID-19 Medium-Term Programme Framework-Summary Note	WFP	2020
COVID-19 Gender Equality for Food Security	WFP	2020
Gender and COVID-19	WFP	2020
March 2020 Cash-Based Transfers Essential Needs Approach	WFP	2020
March 2020 Climate Change Disaster Risk Reduction	WFP	2020
March 2020 Guidance - Targeting and Prioritization	WFP	2020
Protection, AAP, Disability, Conflict Sensitivity	WFP	2020
3.16 ZHC advocacy frameworks		
WFP ZHC Advocacy Framework - February 2016	WFP	
WFP ZHC Advocacy Framework - July 2016	WFP	
3.17 WFP management plans		
WFP Management Plan 2016-2018	WFP	2015
WFP Management Plan 2017-2019	WFP	2016
WFP Management Plan 2018-2020	WFP	2017
WFP Management Plan 2019-2021	WFP	2018
3.18 Annual performance reports		
Annual Performance Report 2015-2019	WFP	2015
3.19 Monitoring and third-party monitoring		
Guidance Note on Beneficiary Definition and Counting	WFP	2002
SOPs for ME Final	WFP	2013
Third-Party Monitoring Guidelines	WFP	2014
Corporate Monitoring Strategy (2015-2017)	WFP	2015
Minimum Monitoring Requirements	WFP	2016

Corporate Monitoring Strategy (2017-2021)	WFP	2018
Guidance Note on Estimating and Counting Beneficiaries	WFP	2019
Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution Guidance	WFP	
Beneficiary Counting in COMET	WFP	
COMET and Integrated Road Map Notes	WFP	
COMET and Integrated Road Map PPT	WFP	
COMET Design Modules - Logframes Design & Results	WFP	
COMET Map and Integration with Other Systems	WFP	
COVID-19 Guidance Monitoring	WFP	
COVID-19 Adjusted Minimum Monitoring Requirements	WFP	2020
Monitoring Recommendations for COVID-19 Response	WFP	2020-05
Monitoring and Evaluation Guidance		

3.20 Nutrition

Management Response to Policy Evaluation WFP Nutrition Policy	WFP	2014
Policy Evaluation WFP Nutrition Policy (SER)	WFP	2014
Policy Evaluation WFP Nutrition Policy	WFP	2014
Evaluation of REACH Initiative 2011-2015 (SER)	WFP	2015
Management Response of the Evaluation of REACH Initiative 2011-2015	WFP	2015
Food and Nutrition Handbook	WFP	2005
Guidelines for Selective Feeding	WFP	2011
Programming for Nutrition-Specific Interventions	WFP	2012
Measuring Nutrition Indicators in the SRF	WFP	2014
Fill the Nutrient Gap Tool	WFP	2016
Guidance for Nutrition-Sensitive Programming	WFP	2017
Increasing the Nutrition Sensitivity of FFA Programmes	WFP	2017
Moderate Acute Malnutrition - A Decision Tool for Emergencies	WFP	2017
Nutrition-Sensitive Short Presentation	WFP	2017
Food and Nutrition Handbook	WFP	2018
Acute Malnutrition Exploring Simplified Protocols	WFP	2019
Guidance Substitution of Specialized Nutritional Foods in Situations of Temp. Commodity Shortfalls	WFP	2019
COVID-19 Nutrition Guidance	WFP	2020
Nutrition Monitoring and Evaluation Guidance	WFP	
Overview of Key Nutrition Supplements	WFP	
Technical Workshop on Nutrition	WFP	
Implementation Plan of the Nutrition Policy	WFP	2017
Nutrition Policy	WFP	2017
Guidance Note: Treatment of acute malnutrition - preventing the sale of specialized nutritious foods.	WFP	2019

3.21 Country capacity strengthening

Building Country and Regional Capacities (Capacity Development Policy)	WFP	2004
Capacity Development Policy - An Update on Implementation	WFP	2009
Operational Guide to Strengthen Capacity of Nations to Reduce Hunger	WFP	2010
National Capacity Index (NCI)	WFP	2014
Abilities and Readiness Index (ARI)	WFP	2015

Guidelines on Technical Assistance and Capacity Development	WFP	2015
Supply Chain Capacity Enhancement	WFP	2016
Capacity Development Policy 2009 Management Response	WFP	2017
Capacity Development Policy Evaluation Annexes	WFP	2017
Capacity Development Policy Evaluation	WFP	2017
Guidance on Capacity Strengthening of Civil Society	WFP	2017
M&E for CCS - Indicator listing	WFP	2018
Strengthening CCS Strategy Basic Steps	WFP	2019
COVID-19 PD Immediate Guidance CCS	WFP	2020
CCS Framework and Toolkit	WFP	2020
ToC for CCS	WFP	
WFP Capacity Needs Mapping (CNM)	WFP	
WFP CCS Activity Matrix	WFP	
WFP Corporate Framework for CCS	WFP	

3.22 Vulnerability analysis and mapping

Comprehensive Food Security & Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) Guidelines	WFP	2009
Market Analysis Framework Tools and Applications for FS Analysis and Decision-Making	WFP	2011
VAM Factsheet	WFP	2011-11
VAM Presentation FS Assessment Team	WFP	2016
COVID-19 Guidance Monitoring	WFP	2020

3.23 Access and principles

WFP Humanitarian Principles	WFP	2004
OSZ Advisory Group on Access ToR	WFP	2015
COVID-19 Guidance	WFP	2020
2015 WFP Evaluation Policy (2016-2021)	WFP	

3.24 Asset creation and livelihood support activities

FFA Annexes Manual	WFP	2016
FFA Core Manual	WFP	2016
FFA Guidance Updates	WFP	2017
FFA Key Aspects to Consider when Evaluating FFA Programmes	WFP	2017
Infobit - FFA Women's Empowerment and Nutrition	WFP	2017
Pro-Smallholder Food Assistance Background Paper	WFP	2017
Pro-Smallholder Food Assistance Paper	WFP	2017
The Potential of FFA to Empower Women and Improve Women's Nutrition	WFP	2017
The Potential of FFA to Empower Women and Nutrition Page Summary	WFP	2017
Brief on Resilience v150519	OSZPR	2019
Toward Systemic Food Assistance	WFP	2016
SysFOOD—The Systemic Food Assistance Initiative	WFP	
Systemic Food Assistance - Interim Strategic and Operational Guidance for WFP	WFP	

4. External documents

Water management in fragile systems	FAO, World Bank	2018
Power of inclusion	UNHCR	2019-11

4.1 COVID-19 documents

Communicating with Communities during COVID-19	UNHCR	2020-04
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Hygiene Baselines pre-COVID-19 - UNICEF Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa	UNHCR	2020
COVID-19 Emergency Response Update	UNHCR	2020

4.2 United Nations documents

Aperçu regionale de l'etat de la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition	FAO	2018
Drought characteristics and management in North Africa	FAO	2018
Regional overview of food security and nutrition	FAO	2018
Water and agriculture in the 2030 Agenda	FAO	2018
Appui À la Strategie Nationale de Développement des Peches et l'Aquaculture	FAO, UNDP	2019
Regional overview of food security and nutrition	FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, IFAD	2019
Évaluation 2018,19 des capacités statistiques relatives aux indicateurs ODD	FAO	
Integrated Agri-Aquaculture in Desert and Arid Lands	FAO	
Statistical Capacity Assessment for the FAO-relevant SDG indicators 2018,2019	FAO	
GIEWS country brief	FAO	
MENA OOSCI Regional Fact Sheet (2018)	UNICEF	
MENA-Generation 2030	UNICEF	
Progress for children En- Nov 2019	UNICEF	
UNSDG DTF report		2019
In-Brief-UN Sustainable Development Cooperation		
CDCS Algerie 2016-2020		
CDCS Algerie 2019-2021 version allégé		
UN System Chart		
UNDG-UNDAF Companion Pieces-7 Theory of Change		
Empowering people and building peaceful societies	UNDP	
Humanitarian needs of Sahrawi refugees in Algeria 2016-2017	UNHCR	2016

4.3 National Government documents

Plan d'action du gouvernement 2020		
Rapport Atelier Préparation Algerie Rio20 sur la conférence des Nations Unies des ODD		
<i>République Algérienne Démocratique et Populaire, 2018. Rapport de revue de la préparation du gouvernement à la mise en œuvre des objectifs de développement durable. December 2018</i>		
<i>Nations-unies Algérie, RADP. 2018. Cadre de coopération stratégique révisé 2019-2021.</i>		
H2Optimal. 2021. Partenariat Technique entre le PAM et le Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural Algérien. Direction Générale des Forêts, Présentation/PPT.		

4.4 Sahrawi refugee operations

2015 Factsheet	ECHO	2015
European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations- Algeria	ECHO	2018,19
DREF operations update	IFRC	2015,16
Protracted Sahrawi displacement	Refugee Studies Centre	2011
A review of the UNHCR confidence building measures programme	UNHCR	2013
40 years exile western Sahrawi refugees	Oxfam	2015
Refugee Women in the Sahrawi Camps - towards Gender Equality	Carolina Jiménez Sánchez	2016

Enquête exploratoire sur les enfants handicapés aux camps sahraouis	UNICEF, Handicap International	2016-09
Security Council Resolution 2494		2019
Food assistance Fact Sheet Algeria	USAID	2019
Algeria Operational Update 1 January-15 May 2020	UNHCR	2020
Year End Report	UNHCR	2015-2019
Algeria Factsheet 2020	UNHCR	2020
Humanitarian Needs of Sahrawi Refugees in Algeria 2016-2017 - June 2016	UNHCR	
Algeria Humanitarian SitRep on Sahrawi Refugees Camps-Tindouf	UNICEF	
Country Brief Algeria HPT	UNICEF	2019
Presentation EDUC Restitution Finale FR 28.04.2018	UNICEF	

4.5 Voluntary national review documents

Algeria Voluntary National Review		2019
Algeria Resume VNR Fre		2019-12
Algeria Voluntary National Review - Presentation		2019-07

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Annex 11. Findings and Recommendations Mapping

Recommendation	Conclusions	Findings
Recommendation 1: Address funding challenges	Conclusion para 181	95, 100, 106, 107, 139, 141, 142, 163, 165, 167
Recommendation 2: Clarify the strategic position of WFP regarding accountability constraints posed by the current partnership with MLRS	Conclusion para 179, 190	72Error! Reference source not found., 80, 86, 91
Recommendation 3: Enhance needs-based targeting	Conclusion para 178	76, 77
Recommendation 4: Strengthen the effectiveness of resilience activities	Conclusion para 185	105, 118, 119, 120
Recommendation 5: Support modifications to ongoing activities and strengthen the integrated approach	Conclusion para 184, 185, 193, 179, 182	96, 103, 110, 115, 140, 166, 162, 152, 153

Annex 12. Acronyms

AAP	Accountability to Affected Populations
ACR	Annual Country Report
AECID	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
ATTsF	<i>Asociación de Trabajadores y Técnicos sin Fronteras</i>
C	Celsius
CBT	Cash-Based Transfer
CCS	Country Capacity Strengthening
CdC	Food Security and Nutrition Coordination Cell
CdCS	<i>Cadre de Coopération stratégique</i>
CFM	Complaints and Feedback Mechanism
CISP	<i>Comitato Italiano per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli</i>
CO	Country Office
COMET	Country Office Tool for Managing Programmes Effectively
CPB	Country Portfolio Budget
CPP	Corporate Planning & Performance
CRA	Algerian Red Crescent
CRE	Spanish Red Cross
CRF	Corporate Result Framework
CSB	Super Cereal Plus
CSP	Country Strategic Plan
CSPE	Country Strategic Plan Evaluation
DoE	Director of Evaluation
DDoE	Deputy Director of Evaluation
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
DSC	Direct Support Costs
DSFP	District Surveillance Focal Person

DZA	The People’s Democratic of Algeria
DZD	Algerian Dinar
EB	Executive Board
ECHO	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
EM	Evaluation Manager
EQ	Evaluation Question
ER	Evaluation Report
ET	Evaluation Team
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCS	Food Consumption Score
FFA	Food Assistance for Asset
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FS	Food Security
FSA	Food Security Assessment
FTS	Financial Tracking Service (OCHA)
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
GFA	General Food Assistance
HEB	High energy biscuit
HQ	WFP Headquarters
ICSP	Interim Country Strategic Plan
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IR	Inception Report
IRG	Internal Reference Group
IT	Information Technology
KII	Key Informant Interviews
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation

MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MLRS	<i>Media Luna Roja Sahraoui / Sahrawi Red Crescent</i>
MoH	Ministry of Health
MT	Metric Ton
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NBP	Needs-Based Plan
OCHA	UN Office for Cooperation of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OEV	Office of Evaluation
PDM	Post-Distribution Monitoring
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women and Girls
PRRO	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation
PSEA	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
QA	Quality Assurance
RBC	Regional Bureau for the Middle East and Northern Africa
SBCC	Social Behavioural Change Communications
SCOPE	WFP Beneficiary and Management System
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SER	Summary Evaluation Report
SF	School Feeding
SFP	School Feeding Programme
SO	Strategic Outcome
TEC	WFP Technology Division
TGH	<i>Triangle Génération Humanitaire</i>
TL	Team Leader
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference

UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Aid International Development
USD	United States Dollar
VAM	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

Office of Evaluation

World Food Programme

Via Cesare Giulio Viola 68/70

00148 Rome, Italy

T +39 06 65131 wfp.org/independent-evaluation