



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Algeria Country Brief February 2023

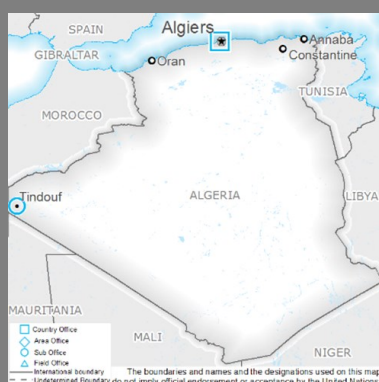
Operational Context

Algeria has been hosting refugees from Western Sahara since 1975. These refugees are in camps in the harsh and isolated desert environment of western Algeria, where opportunities for self-reliance are limited, forcing them to depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival.

The latest 2018 Food Security Assessment confirmed the dependence of the Sahrawi camp population on food assistance; 30 percent of the population is food insecure, while 58 percent is vulnerable to food insecurity. A mere 12 percent of the Sahrawi population is food secure.

Findings of the 2022 Nutrition Survey showed an increase of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence among children aged 06-59 months from 7.6 to 10.7 percent since 2019, while stunting prevalence rose from 28.2 to 28.8 percent. Since 2016 anaemia prevalence among the same group rose from 39 percent (2016) to 50 percent (2019) and increased further to 54.2 percent (2022).

WFP currently represents the main regular and reliable source of food for the Sahrawi refugees in Algeria. Upon the request of the Algerian Government, WFP has been present in the country since 1986. WFP Algeria Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) for 2019-2021 was extended to December 2024. The ICSP continues to focus on helping meet the basic food and nutrition needs of the refugees in camps and improve their nutrition status.



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

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

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

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

In Numbers



133,672 rations distributed
in February 2023

2,228 mt of food assistance distributed

2,319 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket

US\$ 13.5 million six-month (March 2023– August 2023) net funding requirement.

Operational Updates

- In February, WFP distributed 133,672 food rations that included: 8 kg of wheat flour, 2 kg of barley, 2 kg of lentils, 2 kg of rice, 1 kg of gofio, 0.92 kg of vegetable oil, 0.75 kg of sugar – total of 2,319 kcal per person per day.
- For the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and anaemia of pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG), 8,389 PLW in the refugee camps received fresh food e-vouchers to provide them with a more nutritious diet and to prevent MAM and anaemia. The e-voucher had the value of DZD 2,600 (USD 19) to purchase additional commodities from a pre-selected list of diversified products. WFP distributed the daily rations of super cereal wheat soy blend with sugar (200 g per person per day) and vegetable oil (20 g per person per day) to 805 PLW.
- WFP distributed the Multiple Micronutrient Supplements MMS (1 tablet per woman per day) targeting 8,363 pregnant and lactating women.
- For the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in children, 821 children aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of specialised nutritious food (PlumpySup) throughout February.
- School feeding in the refugee camps continued and WFP distributed nutritious gofio porridge (made from gofio, dried skimmed milk, vitamin-enriched oil, and sugar) plus the 50g packet of high energy biscuits to 39,223 children every school day. Gofio is a flour made from roasted grains that is rich in vitamins, proteins, and minerals.
- In February, WFP participated with UNHCR, UNICEF and other humanitarian actors in a Joint Rapid Assessment in Smara and Awserd camps to assess the situation, after the recent heavy rain and sandstorm that affected the camps. Overall, the damage to the visited schools and dispensaries was minor. However, individual houses visited were assessed as severely damaged.

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Photo caption: food distribution point in the refugee camps
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WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (July-2019-February-2024)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received (in US\$)
159 m	80 m
2023 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (March2023 – August 2023)
38 m	13.5 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome #1: Targeted food-insecure Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf meet their basic food and nutrition needs all year

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide general food assistance to targeted food-insecure refugees in camps near Tindouf.
- Provide nutrition-sensitive school feeding.
- Provide refugees with complementary livelihood opportunities that benefit women and men equitably.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome #2: Targeted Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf have improved nutrition status by 2022

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls with assistance for the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition.

The Situation in the Camps

- WFP continues to monitor the camp through field visits. WFP's collected data in the last quarter of 2022 showed that 75 percent of beneficiaries have an acceptable food consumption score. This is mainly due to the full ration distributed by WFP which started in September after eight months of receiving reduced rations. However, combined analysis with other food security indicators showed that households' reliance on food coping strategies to maintain regular access to food has also increased compared to previous years mainly because of food price increases locally and globally.
- WFP's operation continues to face challenges due to the rising prices of food commodities and shipping, as well as the lack of food in international markets especially for nutrition products.
- The needs in the refugee camps continue to outpace levels of funding, widening the resourcing gap.

- The Cash-Based Transfer electronic vouchers project scale-up continued in February with the inclusion of 22 new retailers, bringing the overall list to 61 CBT retailers.
- WFP is partnering with NGO MUNDUBAT for the rehabilitation and connection of a well at the regional garden in Laayoun camp to ensure the supply of water for the irrigation of the plots of land of 4 hectares.



Regional Garden in Laayoun camp ©WFP/Karl Friedrich Glombitza

Swiss Delegation's Visit to the Camps

In February 2023, WFP Algeria Country Office hosted a delegation from the *Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)* in the Sahrawi refugee camps near Tindouf. The program of the visit was organized by WFP and covered all WFP's activities in the camps. The delegation was able to meet and talk with beneficiaries as well as with WFP's cooperating partners. Discussions included the crucial role Sahrawi women play within their social environment in maintaining solidarity and the improvement of living conditions in their neighbourhoods and families. They shed light on their role in leading and organizing the reception of humanitarian assistance by the beneficiaries in the camps.



WFP staff conversing with refugee schoolgirls ©WFP/Marwa Obeid

Refugee Response Plan for more Advocacy

WFP together with UNHCR and key humanitarian stakeholders are finalizing the Refugee Response Plan (RRP), which will be the plan for two years until end of 2024 and includes the following key pillars: food security, nutrition and health, livelihoods, wash and environment, education, protection. The Sahrawi Refugee Response Plan (RRP) outlines the comprehensive response and activities to support the humanitarian efforts to protect and assist Sahrawi refugees in the five camps near the town of Tindouf, in Algeria.