



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Algeria Country Brief June 2023



In Numbers

133,672 rations
provided

in June



2,095 mt of food assistance distributed in June
under general food assistance (GFA)

US\$ 161,811 cash-based transfers made in June

US\$ 13.2 m six-month net funding requirements
(July- December 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 South-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 food security assessment is planned in 2023, which is under discussion by WFP and partners.

Findings of the 2022 Nutrition Survey showed, Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence among children aged 6-59 months reached 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, and particularly of fortified foods 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- 2022 was extended to December 2024 with a budget revision. 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**

Operational Updates

- **In June, WFP distributed 133,672 food rations** consisting of: 8 kg of fortified wheat flour, 2 kg of barley, 2 kg of lentils, 2 kg of rice, 0.92 kg of vegetable oil, 0.75 kg of sugar. This constitutes 2051 kcal per person per day, less than the planned calories of 2051 kcal due to lack of gofio¹.
- **For the treatment of moderately acute malnutrition (MAM) and anaemia of pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW)**, in June, WFP distributed daily rations of super cereal wheat soy blend (200 g per person per day) and vegetable oil (20 g per person per day) to 812 PBW.
- **For the treatment of MAM in children**, WFP provided 831 children, aged between 6-59 months, each with 100 g of daily rations of Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) throughout June.
- **For the prevention of MAM and anaemia among PBW**, in June, WFP provided cash-based transfers (CBT) through e-vouchers to 8,441 PBW. The e-voucher had the value of USD 19 per month per woman to purchase fresh food from a pre-selected list of nutritious products at selected retailers in the camps.

Additionally, in June, WFP distributed to 8,373 PBW, daily Multiple Micronutrient Supplements (MMS) in the form of one tablet per woman per day.

- **WFP Algeria continued school feeding activities in the refugee camps in May**, distributing nutritious mid-morning snacks daily during school days, that are composed of porridge (made from gofio, dried skimmed milk, vitamin-enriched oil, and sugar) and a 50 g packet of high-energy biscuits to 39,223 children in 86 schools and educational centres. Additionally, all the enrolled children received two separate doses of Albendazole² in May as part of the antiparasitic campaign organised by WFP and its Cooperating Partner, the Italian INGO, CISP (Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli). Due to schools being out for summer, school feeding distribution stopped in June.

¹ Gofio is a flour made from roasted cereals that is rich in vitamins, proteins, and minerals.

**Algeria Interim Country Strategic Plan
(July 2019 – February 2024)**

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
159 million	90 million
2023 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$) (July–Dec 2023)
38 million	13.2 million

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 breastfeeding women and girls with assistance for the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition.

- **Under the Asset Creation & Livelihoods activities,** in June, WFP and its partners aimed to ensure local food production through regional and family gardens and livestock activities (camel, sheep, and goats' farm). Some results include the following:

The regional garden has started its second harvest of the year, for distribution to vulnerable families in Layoune camp.

During the end of the school year in the camps, a competition was held to award the best School Garden.

Milk distribution has been temporarily halted due to the seasonal/biological decrease in camel milk production.

The N'khaila regional farm had its first crop of green fodder.

Tilapia² has been added to the list of products that can be bought using WFP CBT to expand the market for fish farming in support of direct sales in the refugee camps.

Monitoring

In June, WFP continued its monthly joint Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) with UNHCR to comprehensively capture beneficiaries' feedback on the received assistance for food and non-food items. Distribution checks through PDM showed that all surveyed households (HH) had received WFP food assistance in the previous month: 94 percent reported that dry food distributions are regular.

The two main feedback points obtained from the surveyed HH are the need for diversification of the food basket, through more fresh and canned food – 41 percent of respondents, and the need to increase sugar and oil quantities – 70 percent of respondents.

Other survey results showed that while 83 percent of men are the head of HH, females make decisions about the use of food assistance in 100 percent of the HH surveyed. 78 percent of respondents replied with NO when asked about any incurring costs to transport the food home and 44 percent of them communicated that they carry it on foot while 22 percent use wheelbarrow and 22 percent of respondents use donkeys to transport it.

Challenges

WFP operation continues to face pipeline funding challenges unmatching its increased requirements due to the rising prices of food commodities and shipping costs. Also, inadequate supply of fortified nutritional foods as reported from international markets. WFP Algeria is expecting a pipeline break in November, leaving the stockpiles partially depleted if the funding situation remains unchanged.

VAT tax exemption is not yet fully obtained from the Government of Algeria authorities. This is a serious issue for local transportation costs and discussions are in progress at WFP to address this long-standing issue.

Multi-Donors Mission to Refugees Camps

In May 2023, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO and WFP welcomed several donors' delegation to the refugee camps near Tindouf, visiting various humanitarian projects and gaining direct feedback from beneficiaries on the food assistance received from WFP.

World Refugee Day Celebration

UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, WHO, and several NGOs participated in the celebration of International Refugee Day in Algiers and in Tindouf to showcase their contributions towards the betterment of the refugees' situation.

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

² Tilapia refers to several species of freshwater fish found in the wild in Africa and the Middle East