



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP Algeria Country Brief September 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.

Findings of the 2022 Nutrition Survey showed an increase in 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, particularly 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**

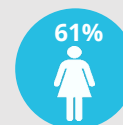
Chronic malnutrition: **28.8 % of children between 6-59 months**



### In Numbers

**133,672 rations**

provided in September



**2,095 MT** of food assistance was distributed in September as General Food Assistance (GFA)

**US\$ 154,000** cash-based transfers (CBT) in September

**US\$ 15.1 m** six months net funding requirements (October 2023 - March 2024)

### Operational Updates

**In September, WFP distributed 133,672 food rations** constituting a total of 2,051 kcal per person per day which included: 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. Gofio<sup>1</sup> has not been provided since June due to limited supply reducing the total calories consumed by 122 kcal.

### Nutrition interventions

In September, WFP Algeria provided nutrition assistance to **Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women (PBW)**, and **children aged 6-59 months old** for the prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) totalling **22,185** people and the treatment of MAM and anaemia totalling **1,655** people.

- **For the prevention of MAM and anaemia,**
  - **8,016 PBW received CBT** e-vouchers with a value of USD 19 per month per person to purchase fresh food from a pre-selected list of nutritious products at selected shop retailers in the camps.
  - **14,169 children aged 6-59 months received daily rations** of 50 g of Lipid-based Nutrient Supplement-Medium Quality (LNS-MQ).
- **For the treatment of MAM and anaemia,**
  - **830 PBW** received daily rations of 200 g super cereal wheat soy and 20g vegetable for September.
  - **825 children aged between 6-59 months**, received daily rations containing 100 g of Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) throughout September.

### Livelihoods response

- **Under the Asset Creation & Livelihoods response,** activities began with the start of the new agricultural season in September, with all participants in a family-garden livelihood project, receiving training on topics such as soil and seeding preparations as well as replanting.

<sup>1</sup> 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\$)
<b>159 m</b>	<b>94 m</b>
2023 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (October 2023- March 2024)
<b>38 m</b>	<b>15.1 m</b>

**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 2024.

**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

Rehabilitation work continued with cooperating partners and gardening participants to improve and sustain the 'regional garden' (a large garden in the camp of Laayoun that lacked maintenance for several years and was re-activated in 2022 by WFP Algeria). This included the addition of wells, the preparation of plots, and the repair of fences.

The CBT intervention under the Nutrition Programme for PBWs is being integrated into the Fish Farm project; currently, 7% of the total retailers included in the CBT for PBW intervention purchased the fish.

The CBT will enable retailers to sell the fish produced at the Fish Farm to the PBWs receiving cash vouchers.

**Monitoring**

In September, WFP Algeria continued its monthly distribution and post-distribution monitoring (PDM) activities by visiting and assessing food assistance distribution points including health centres, retailers' stores, and schools.

The latest PDM results from August indicated that all interviewed 49 refugee households (HHs) received their monthly rations from WFP. Beneficiary respondents inquired about the absence of Gofio and expressed their dissatisfaction with its removal, as it is a highly valued commodity by the refugees. Notably were no protection-

related challenges reported concerning WFP's food assistance. These insights will continuously inform and improve the quality of WFP's programmes as well as the transparency of its operations.

- In September, data collection for the Market Functionality Index (MFI) <sup>2</sup>exercise was completed in the five camps. The findings are expected to be available in November 2023 to help inform decisions related to CBT in markets.

**Challenges**

With the current financing forecast until the end of the year, WFP Algeria will only be able to sustain its level of distribution by reducing ration sizes by 25% (excluding Gofio, which has been unavailable since the middle of 2023).

Considering the funds anticipated for 2024, the ratio's reduction will only allow to cover the first two months of 2024. Significant food commodity shortages for General Food assistance are expected beginning of March 2024.

**WFP and UNICEF participate jointly in the schools reopening within the camps.**

**Photo Caption:** WFP and UNICEF representatives' participation in the schools reopening in the camps. WFP/Arisoa Raha rinjatovo

Representatives from WFP and UNICEF visited refugee camps to attend the reopening of schools for the academic year 2023/2024. Following a brief pause during the summer vacation, WFP, in partnership with its Cooperating Partner "Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP)," has resumed its school feeding program. For 39,223 children, WFP provided a mid-morning snack of Gofio Porridge (Gofio, dried skimmed milk, vegetable oil, and sugar) and a fortified biscuit.

**Donors**

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

<sup>2</sup> The Market Functionality Index (MFI) is designed by WFP's Research, Assessment & Monitoring and Supply Chain divisions and is part of the new Business Process Model for cash-based transfers. It is made to support the 'Market assessment and risk identification'

and 'Market situation monitoring' processes of cash-based assistance operations. The full package will help WFP make informed transfer modality decisions and detect changes in market functionality over time.