



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Algeria Country Brief 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.

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, particularly fortified 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- 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**

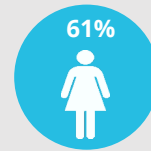
Global acute malnutrition: **10.7% of children between 6-59 months**

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



In Numbers

133,672 rations provided in December



1,492 mt of food assistance was distributed in December as General Food Assistance (GFA)

US\$ 151,137 cash-based transfers (CBT) in December 2023

US\$ 19.6 m six months net funding requirements (January to June 2024)

Operational Updates

- WFP is preparing for its new three-year Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP), which will start in January 2025.
- In December, WFP distributed 133,672 food rations** constituting a total of 1,528 kcal per person per day which included: 5 kg of fortified wheat flour, 1.5 kg of barley, 1.5 kg of lentils, 1.5 kg of rice, 0.91 kg of vegetable oil, 0.75 kg of sugar. The Algerian Red Crescent (ARC) complemented WFP's dry food ration by 3 kg of wheat flour, 1 kg of pasta and 0.5 kg of white beans.
- In December, WFP** provided nutritious gofio porridge (made from gofio¹, dried skimmed milk, vitamin-enriched oil, and sugar), in addition to the 50 g packet of fortified biscuits to **40,196 school children**.
- The complementary livelihood activity: the fish farm project** was handed over in December to the local community management, based on WFP's Resilience transition strategy.

Nutrition interventions in December

For the supplementation of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and anaemia WFP provided:

- 827 Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women (PBW)** with daily rations of 200 g of super cereal wheat soy and 20 g of vegetable oil.
- 815 children aged between 6-59 months**, with daily rations containing 100 g of Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF).

To help prevent MAM and anaemia:

- 8,420 PBW** received support for the prevention of micronutrient deficiencies especially anaemia while **7,842 PBW** received value voucher nutrition top-ups of US\$ 19 per month per person to purchase fresh food from a pre-selected list of nutritious products at selected shop retailers in the camps.
- 14,199 children** received Lipid-based nutrient supplement medium quantity (LNS MQ)

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

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Photo Caption: Harvests from a family garden in the refugee camps in Algeria as part of WFP's Integrated and Sustainable Farming Project (ISFP) funded by the Buffet Foundation. WFP/François Eyt

Algeria Interim Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – December 2024)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
159 m	101 m
2023 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (January to June 2024)
38 m	19.6 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 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

Nutritional Causal Analysis (NCA)

Data cleaning, analysis, and report writing started in December for the National Causal Analysis (NCA) study, jointly delivered by UN Agencies and WFP partners.

NCA findings will help identify the root causes for undernutrition and anaemia among the Sahrawi refugee population supporting nutrition interventions for the most vulnerable groups as well as inform the design of a five-year multisectoral Nutrition strategy.

Monitoring

WFP is continuing its efforts with local partners on strengthening monitoring from Rabouni warehouse in Tindouf to the final distribution points and all the way to households. This is accompanied by physical stock inventory and monthly spot-checks at both Rabouni warehouse and distribution points' levels.

Challenges

Due to challenges with received contributions, including delays in 2023 and gaps in early 2024, WFP had to reduce food rations by around 30 percent starting November 2023. The total dry food basket is now 11.17 kg (which represents 70 percent of the standard basket). Significant food commodity shortages are expected starting in April 2024.

In response, WFP is strengthening its advocacy and fund-raising efforts through diversification of the donor base

as well as, exploring other funding streams/sources, jointly with other UN agencies present in Tindouf, following the recent successful launch of the Sahrawi Refugee Response Plan (SRRP 2024-2025).

Joint efforts to increase awareness of fighting Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

As part of the 16 days of Activism, the fight against violence against women and girls continues to be an everyday duty to all WFP staff. Under [the year's theme](#), WFP Algeria organized GBV awareness-raising sessions with women and men from the refugee population on the principles and root causes of GBV and its effect on individuals, households, and communities. Additionally, jointly with UNHCR, WFP facilitated a training session for cooperating partners in the camps with particular focus on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse during the implementation of assistance interventions.



Photo Caption: Training session for the cooperating partners in the Sahrawi refugee camps. WFP/Karam Shaban

A qualitative study on gender

Following the completion of data collection for a qualitative Gender study in October 2023, progress was made in December on data cleaning, analysis, and report writing. Once finalized, the study will provide an updated overview of the gender landscape in the Sahrawi camps and help inform the planning and development of WFP Algeria's upcoming strategic plan.

Beneficiary Identity Management, Distribution & Monitoring cycle workshop

WFP, UNHCR, Algerian Red Crescent, and the Sahrawi Red Crescent (MLRS) held a three-day workshop in early December in Rabouni to review current assistance distribution and monitoring processes; ways of improvement and strengthening beneficiary identity management.



Photo Caption: WFP and partner participants in monitoring and distribution cycle workshop © WFP Algeria

Donors

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