



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Algeria Country Brief March 2024



## In Numbers

**133,672 rations**  
provided in March



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

**US\$ 155,414** cash-based transfers (CBT) in March 2024.

**US\$ 17.5 m** six months net funding requirements (April to September 2024)

## 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**



## Operational Updates

- WFP is preparing for its new three-year Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP), which is planned to commence in January 2025.
- In March, WFP distributed 133,672 monthly 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, 0.5 kg of beans, 1 kg of pasta and 0.75 kg of sugar.
- WFP distributed, for every school day in March, nutritious mid-morning snacks**, composed of porridge (made from gofio<sup>1</sup>, dried skimmed milk, vitamin-enriched oil, and sugar) and a 50 g packet of fortified biscuits, to **31,455 school girls and boys**.
- The integrated and sustainable farming project (ISFP)** continued in the harvest season as food products reached maturity stage.

## Nutrition interventions in March

**For nutritional supplementation for moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and anaemia** WFP provided:

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

**For the prevention of Moderate Acute Malnutrition:**

- 14,192 children** received support through Lipid-based nutrient supplement medium quantity (LNS MQ). **8,420 PBW** received support for the prevention of micronutrient deficiencies, especially anaemia.
- Through the Cash-based transfer (CBT) modality 8,473 PBW** received electronic voucher nutrition top-ups 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.

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

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**Photo Caption:** Harvesting fodder from a regional garden in the refugee camps in Algeria. This is part of the WFP integrated and sustainable agriculture project WFP/Hadi KHALLOUCH

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

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
<b>159 m</b>	<b>102 m</b>
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (April to September 2024)
<b>39 m</b>	<b>17.5 m</b>

**SDG Target 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

**SDG Target 2: End 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

**Monitoring**

WFP is continuing its efforts with local partners to strengthen monitoring processes 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 point levels. This is part WFP Algeria’s established reassurance action plan that prioritizes automation of beneficiary data collection, distribution tracking and monitoring to improve accountability, transparency, and trust. These enhancements will be integrated in the programmatic design of the next ICSP (2025-2027).

**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). The situation is assessed regularly as significant food commodity shortages are expected for July 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.

**WFP Algeria Annual Country Report (ACR)**

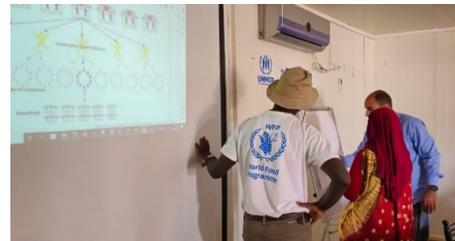
WFP Algeria’s Annual Country Report (ACR) covering its operations throughout 2023 was launched in March. The report is a key accountability document produced by the country office annually to tell WFP’s performance story and context towards achieving its ICSP objectives in pursuit of zero hunger during the reporting year, against the funding provided by donors.

[View the 2023 Algeria Annual Country Report here.](#)



**Social Behaviour Change Strategy implementation**

In collaboration with UNHCR, UNICEF and the Algerian Red Crescent, WFP helped raise awareness of favourable nutrition eating habits by rolling out its Social Behaviour Change (SBC) strategy and community-level interpersonal promotion approaches. This was done by the training of Algerian Red Crescent trainers who then cascaded the training to community health workers and care group leaders.



**WFP’s integrated and sustainable farming project: harvest season**

In both family and regional gardens, beneficiary families continued harvesting the matured products in their gardens such as: carrots, turnips, beets as well as fodder production.



**Photo Caption:** The regional garden of Laayoun camp. WFP/Hadi Kahlouch

**Donors**

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