



World Food Programme

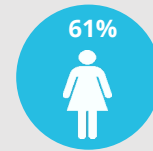
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Algeria Country Brief June 2024



In Numbers

133,672 rations provided in June



1,627 mt of food assistance was distributed in June as General Food Assistance (GFA)

US\$ 156,479 cash-based transfers (CBT) in June 2024.

US\$ 13.6 m six months net funding requirements (July to December 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 2024 Food Security Assessment confirmed that over 80 percent of the Sahrawi camp population depend on food assistance among which 7 percent are severely food insecure, 57 percent are moderately food insecure and 15 percent are most vulnerable to food insecurity.

Findings of the 2022 Nutrition Survey showed an increase of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence among children aged 06-59 month, from 8 to 11 percent since 2019, while stunting prevalence rose from 28 to 29 percent. Since 2016 anaemia prevalence among the same group rose from 39 percent (2016) to 50 percent (2019) and increased further to 54 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

- **In June, WFP distributed 133,672 food rations** constituting a total of 1,621 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, 1 kg of Gofio, 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 rice.
- Due to the schools' seasonal break, WFP paused provision of daily snacks to 31,455 school girls and boys until schools reopen in September.
- **The integrated and sustainable farming project (ISFP)** continued in the harvest season as food products reached maturity. Data findings at the family gardens level indicated:
 - **53 percent** of households (HH) declared that men and women are jointly responsible for the garden.
 - **100 percent** of the interviewed HH have an acceptable Food Consumption Score.
 - **For 67 percent** of the HHs, the main vegetable source comes from their gardens.

Nutrition interventions in June

Tackling Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and anaemia, WFP provided nutritional supplementation:

- **832 Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women (PBW)** with daily food rations of 200 g of super cereal wheat soy and 20 g of vegetable oil.
- **854 children aged between 6-59 months**, with daily food rations containing 100 g of Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF).
- **For the prevention of Moderate Acute Malnutrition:**
- **8,420 PBW** received food assistance in the form of micronutrient tablets for the prevention of micronutrient deficiencies, especially anaemia.
- **8,091 PBW** received electronic voucher nutrition cash top-ups with a value of US\$ 19 per month per person to purchase fresh food from a pre-selected list of nutritious products at selected retailers in the camps.

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Photo Caption: Khadija and her daughter, sahwari refugees, both benefit from the WFP assistance.
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Algeria Interim Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – December 2024)

| Total Requirements (US\$) | Total Received (US\$) |
|---------------------------|--|
| 159 m | 112 m |
| 2024 Requirements (US\$) | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) July to December 2024 |
| 39 m | 13.6 m |

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

- **14,247 children aged between 6-59 months** received daily rations of 50 g lipid-based Nutrient Supplements-medium quantity (LNS MQ).
- Community-level interpersonal Social Behaviour change (SBC) promotion continued in the Saharawi camps to help address the barriers of uptaking desired maternal, infant and young child nutrition practices. **Over 7,000 PBW and related childcare givers** were reached with focused nutrition messaging on exclusive breastfeeding, optimal complementary feeding and maternal nutrition practices.
- The UN Nutrition Cluster in the refugee camps triggered the **Multisectoral Nutrition Strategy** consultative and formulation process.

Monitoring

Under its reassurance action plan, WFP Algeria continued efforts with local partners to strengthen monitoring processes during distribution starting from Rabouni warehouse in Tindouf, all the way to beneficiary households. Accompanied by physical stock inventory and monthly spot-checks the plan 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

In the context of limited funding contributions received in 2024, WFP faced challenges leading to reduced food rations by around 30 percent starting November 2023. Excluding the ARC provisions, the total dry food basket provided by WFP is now around 12 kg (70 percent of the standard basket). The situation is assessed regularly as significant food commodity shortages are expected for the response in October 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 the camps near Tindouf.

Building resilience for local food production and refugee capacity building



Photo Caption: Ahmed harvesting vegetables from his family garden in the refugee camps in Algeria. This activity is part of WFP's integrated and sustainable agriculture project.

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Meet Ahmed Bulahi from Laayoun refugee camp. In 2022, he began his journey with WFP, cultivating a family garden. Despite having no prior farming experience, Ahmed's dedication paid off during the 2023-2024 season when he harvested 445 kg of fresh produce like beets, carrots, and tomatoes, and continues to yield crops today.

Ahmed credits his success to his motivation to improve his family's food security, his willingness to learn new skills and the strong support received by the project's manager.

Previously, a rare consumer of vegetables, Ahmed now enjoys a diversified diet thanks to his garden's bounty, which he finds fresher and tastier than market offerings. He is also able to use the savings made on growing his own vegetables to buy other food for his family.

Proud of his chemical-free harvest, Ahmed hopes his story inspires others to start their own gardens, just as he did, creating healthier and more sustainable lifestyles.

The family garden initiative is a part of WFP Algeria's Integrated and Sustainable Farming Project (ISFP) which aims to improve food security and nutrition of beneficiaries by creating a source of fresh and diverse agriculture produces and increase the farming capacity of the beneficiaries.

Donors

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