



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Algeria Country Brief September 2024



## In Numbers

133,672 rations provided in September



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

US\$ 158,680 cash-based transfers (CBT) in September 2024.

US\$ 13.8 m six months net funding requirements (October 2024 to March 2025)

## 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 September, WFP distributed **133,672 food rations** constituting a total of 1,499 kcal per person per day which included: 5 kg of fortified wheat flour, 1.5 kg of barley, 1.5 kg of chickpeas, 1.5 kg of rice, 0.91 kg of vegetable oil, 0.75 kg of sugar. The Algerian Red Crescent (CRA) complemented WFP's dry food ration by 3 kg of wheat flour, 0.5 kg of lentils, 1 kg of rice.
- In September, WFP resumed its daily snack assistance to **31,455 school girls and boys** as schools have reopened after the summer break. The **daily snack** includes nutritious gofio porridge (made from gofio \*, dried skimmed milk, vitamin-enriched oil, and sugar), in addition to the 50 g packet of fortified biscuits

## Nutrition interventions in September

To tackle **Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)** WFP provided **nutritional supplementation to:**

- 820 Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women (PBW)** with daily food rations of 200 g of wheat soy blend plus (WSB+) with sugar and 20 g of vegetable oil.
- 869 children aged between 6-59 months**, with daily food rations containing 100 g of Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF).

### For the prevention of MAM and Anaemia:

- 8,420 PBW** received food assistance in the form of micronutrient tablets for the prevention of micronutrient deficiencies, especially anaemia, as well as 1.5 kg of WSB+ with sugar to contribute to MAM prevention specifically.
- 8,492 PBW** received individual monthly cash top-ups with a value of US\$ 19 on their electronic nutrition vouchers to purchase fresh food from a pre-selected list of nutritious products at selected retailers in the camps.
- 14,346 children aged between 6-59 months** received daily rations of 50 g lipid-based Nutrient Supplements-medium quantity (LNS MQ).

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

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Photo Caption: a refugee boy crossing a flooded area in the Dakhla camp.

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

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
<b>159 m</b>	<b>113 m</b>
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) October 2024 to March 2025)
<b>39 m</b>	<b>13.8 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

To promote community-level **interpersonal social and behaviour change (SBC)**, **789 care groups** have been established across the five camps to disseminate nutritional messages. These efforts aim to address key challenges including: (i) inadequate exclusive breastfeeding, (ii) sub-optimal complementary feeding practices, and (iii) insufficient maternal dietary diversification. Some Care Groups were visited in Smara camp to ascertain the implementation progress.



Social and behaviour change promotion in the refugee camps. © WFP Algeria

In preparing to launch the **Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy**, WFP held a theory of change (ToC) workshop in September with key partners. The strategy aims to enhance food security and nutrition amongst Sahrawi refugees, particularly PBW and children under five by 2030. Set for completion by year-end, the initiative targets significant improvements by 2030, reinforcing WFP’s commitment to stability in this protracted crisis.

**Monitoring, Targeting and Assessments**

WFP Algeria continued ongoing efforts with local partners to strengthen monitoring processes during last-mile distribution. In September, WFP continued the implementation of the new strategy focused on monitoring final distribution points at group-level. WFP is integrating "Social Behaviour Change" activities in the monitoring process and enhancing monitoring for nutrition activities.

**Floods in the Dakhla refugee camp**

Unprecedented rainfall hit the Sahara desert in Algeria, leading to widespread material damage with 520 households in the Dakhla refugee camp affected by the heavy rains. The Dakhla camp, located 180 km from Tindouf, remains accessible by road. Local authorities established an emergency committee for all five camps. A delegation from the UN agencies and NGOs, including WFP, conducted a rapid assessment in the Dakhla camp on 23 September. Immediate assistance was prioritized for 520 displaced households in that camp, (3,120 people), to meet essential food and non-food needs. WFP, in collaboration with the local authorities provided ready-to-eat food packs (bread, canned tuna and milk) enough for three days.



**Challenges**

Due to limited funding, WFP faced challenges leading to reduced food rations by around 30 percent starting November 2023. Excluding the CRA 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 GFA starting in December 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.

**Donors**

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

**Photo Caption:** refugees crossing a flooded area in the Dakhla camp. © WFP Algeria