



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Algeria Country Brief October 2024

## In Numbers

133,672 rations provided

in October 2024



1,431 mt of food distributed as General Food Assistance (GFA)

US\$ 167,837 cash-based transfers (CBT) made

US\$ 13.8 m six months (November 2024 to April 2025) net funding requirements

## 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 WFP 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 months, 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 October, WFP distributed 133,672 monthly food rations**, constituting a total of 1,366 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, 0.46 kg of vegetable oil, 0.75 kg of sugar. The Algerian Red Crescent (CRA) complemented WFP's dry food ration with 3 kg of wheat flour, 0.5 kg of lentils, and 1 kg of rice.
- **In October, WFP provided daily mid-morning snacks to 27,348 students** across 44 primary, intermediate, Quranic and boarding schools in the five camps. Each snack included a serving of nutritious porridge made from gofio<sup>1</sup>, dried skimmed milk, vitamin-enriched oil, and sugar. Additionally, WFP distributed fortified biscuits to school children in primary, Quranic, and boarding schools.
- **The integrated and Sustainable Farming project**, saw the launch of the winter planting season for family and community gardens in October.

## Nutrition interventions in October

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

- **836 Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women (PBW)**, providing daily rations of 200 g of wheat soy blend plus (WSB+) with added sugar and 20 g of vegetable oil.
- **861 children aged between 6-59 months**, with daily food rations of 100 g of Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) to support their nutritional needs.

**For the prevention of MAM and Anaemia:**

- **7,584 PBW** received food assistance in the form of 1.5 kg of WSB+ with sugar to contribute to MAM prevention. Although there was a temporary disruption in the supply of micronutrient tablets (MNTs) in October, distribution to PBW is expected to resume in December.

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

Contact info: [Zoe Malone \(zoe.malone@wfp.org\)](mailto:zoe.malone@wfp.org)  
Country Director and Representative: [Aline Rumonge](#)  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/algeria](http://www.wfp.org/algeria)

Photo Caption: [A group of beneficiaries congregating with some livestock as part of WFP's livelihood programme](#)  
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**Algeria Interim Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – December 2024)**

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
159 m	118 m
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Oct. 2024 – March 2025)
39 m	13.7 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.

- **8,023 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.
- **In October**, there was a disruption in the supply of lipid-based nutrient supplements in medium quantity (LNS-MQ), preventing children aged 6–59 months from receiving their daily rations. Distribution is scheduled to resume as normal in November.

**WFP's Social Behaviour Change (SBC) Promotion**

As of October, care group volunteers from the camps have completed the training module on 'Exclusive Breastfeeding' and will continue sharing their acquired knowledge and insights through nutrition counselling sessions within their community during November.



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- In October, WFP Algeria conducted its post-distribution monitoring (PDM) plan over GFA via its third-party monitoring (TPM) partner (CISP) with report findings anticipated to be ready to inform operations by November.
- WFP conducted a workshop for TPM partners in October to ensure alignment on WFP's standards in monitoring coverage and updated monitoring arrangements, covering PDM, process monitoring sampling, and related tools.
- WFP also participated in a three-day workshop organized by the Resident Coordinator, bringing together all UN agencies and NGOs operating in the Sahrawi camps. The workshop concluded with a decision to form a monitoring & evaluation (M&E) Working Group to support the Sahrawi Refugee Response Plan (2024-2025) technical groups.

**WFP's response to floods in the Dakhla camp**

In response to the flood emergency in the Dakhla camp, preparations are underway to support **538 flood-impacted households** through CBT. This assistance will complement the one-month in-kind ready-to-eat (RTE) food distribution conducted in October. As part of this activity **impacted households will receive an unrestricted voucher of DZD 15,000 (US\$ 112) per person, helping cover their basic needs for a period of two months.**



**Challenges**

Food rations have gradually reduced by around 25 to 30 percent since November 2023 for all beneficiaries. Considering the current funding forecast, the reduction in rations will continue until the end of 2024. Significant food commodity shortages for GFA are expected starting January 2025.

In response, WFP is strengthening its advocacy and fundraising 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.

**First Photo Caption:** Care group volunteers as part of the SBC promotion activity in discussion. ©WFP/Algeria

**Second Photo Caption:** Refugees awaiting RTE distribution as part of WFP's response to the Dakhla floods. ©WFP/Algeria