



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Algeria Country Brief November 2024



## In Numbers

133,672 rations

provided in November.



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

US\$ 156,631 cash-based transfers (CBT) in November 2024

US\$ 15.5 m six months net funding requirements (December 2024 to May 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 November, 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 2 kg of wheat flour and 0.5 kg of rice.
- In November, 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\*, dried skimmed milk, vitamin-enriched oil, and sugar. In addition, WFP distributed fortified biscuits to school children in primary, Quranic and boarding schools while a partner distributed biscuits in intermediate schools.

### Nutrition interventions in November

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

- 841 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.
- 878 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:

- 8,037 PBW** received food assistance in the form of 1.5 kg of WSB+ with sugar to contribute to MAM prevention. However, due to a pipeline break, micronutrient tablets (MNT) were unavailable in November, with distribution expected to resume in December.
- 8,528 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.
- 14,379 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.

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

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
<b>159 m</b>	<b>120 m</b>
2024 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (December 2024 to May 2025)
<b>38.8 m</b>	<b>15.5 m</b>

### 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: 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

In November, WFP Algeria conducted its post-distribution monitoring (PDM), through its third-party monitoring (TPM) NGO partner, Il Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP), focusing on General Food Assistance (GFA). The PDM report is scheduled for publication before the end of the year.

The WFP monitoring team delivered a two-day workshop for CISP's enumerators to explain the new monitoring arrangement in the field during the distribution of food commodities. WFP also explained the new and updated data collection tools, and their use.



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## WFP's Social Behaviour Change (SBC) Promotion activities

To support community-level social and behaviour change (SBC), 789 care groups have been established across the five camps to share nutritional messages. These groups address key challenges, including low rates of exclusive breastfeeding, suboptimal complementary feeding, and limited maternal dietary diversity. Following a structured

modular plan, volunteers complete training modules and then share learned messages within their communities. As of November, the exclusive breastfeeding module is complete, and volunteers will continue disseminating this information through nutrition counselling sessions within their community during December.

## Donors mission to the refugee camps

From 19 to 22 November, a donors' mission took place with nearly 50 participants, including five ambassadors from EU, France, Norway, Finland and Slovenia and other senior diplomats from the embassies of Spain, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, S. Korea, Poland, UK, Denmark. Other donors' participants travelled from their capitals and/or regional bureau: ECHO from Cairo, USBHA from both DC and Budapest, Spanish Cooperation Agency (AECID) from Madrid, German cooperation from Berlin.

This mission showcased key WFP activities addressing refugee needs in the camps, along with funding requirements and gaps. Donors visited the Dakhla refugee camp to witness the impacts of the recent floods and reinforce their support for affected populations.



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

In response to the flood emergency in the Dakhla camp, in November, WFP supported 538 flood-impacted households through cash-based transfers (CBT). As part of this activity, impacted households received an unrestricted voucher of DZD 15,000 (about \$112) for a period of 2 months. This effort complemented the one-month in-kind ready-to-eat (RTE) distribution conducted in October.

## 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 January 2025.

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, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, USA.

**Photo Caption:** donors' mission participants being briefed at the WFP warehouse in the camps. © WFP Algeria