



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Algeria Country Brief December 2024



## In Numbers

133,672 rations

provided in December.



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

US\$ 157,581 cash-based transfers (CBT) in December 2024

US\$ 10.2 m six months net funding requirements (January to June 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. 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 a Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence among children aged 6-59 months, of 11 percent since 2019, while stunting prevalence stood at 29 percent. Anaemia prevalence has increased over the years and was 54 percent in 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 February 2025 with a budget revision for operational adjustments. 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 December, 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 with 1 kg of rice and 0.5 kg of lentils.
- **In December, WFP provided daily mid-morning snacks to 27,348 students** across 44 primary, intermediate 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. The snacks were complemented by an additional distribution of fortified biscuits to the school children. The school winter break lasted two weeks and classes resumed on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January.

## Nutrition interventions in December

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

- **835 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.
- **867 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:

- In December, due to procurement challenges, **8,037 PBW** did not receive their usual micronutrient tablets (MNT). Next MNT distribution is expected to resume in February 2025.
- **8,578 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.
- **14,389 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 – February 2025)

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\$) (January to June 2025)
<b>40 m</b>	<b>10.2 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 December, in addition to the regular nutrition activity monitoring, WFP conducted a “Post Distribution Monitoring” (PDM) focused on nutrition interventions targeting women of reproductive age, pregnant and breastfeeding women, children under 5 years old and school children. Data analysis is being conducted and the report is planned to be shared in early 2025.

Regarding PDM focused on GFA, key findings were presented during the last Food Security Meeting and the final report will be circulated in early 2025.

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

Care group volunteers sensitized 50,000 refugees (8,400 households) on messages related to promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding. Nutrition outcome-focused monitoring, incorporating knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) assessment, was conducted with key findings expected to be disseminated in the first quarter of 2025. The aim is to evaluate the level of assimilation of the SBC messages represented by the different psycho-social metric measures including knowledge (skills necessary to perform a desired behaviour), intention (perceived likelihood of performing a

desired behaviour) and self-efficacy (confidence in one’s ability to successfully carry out a desired behaviour).

## WFP raising awareness of the importance of fighting Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

As part of the 16 days of Activism, the fight against violence against women and girls continues to be an everyday duty to all WFP and partners’ staff. Under this year’s theme: “#NoExcuse! UNiTE to End Violence against Women”, WFP Algeria organized GBV awareness-raising sessions with women and men from the refugee population.

## WFP’s response to floods in Dakhla camp

In response to the flood emergency in the Dakhla camp, in December, 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 (November and December). This effort complemented the one-month in-kind ready-to-eat (RTE) distribution conducted in October.

## Challenges

Due to limited funding, WFP kept the reduced food rations by around 30 percent. Excluding the CRA provisions, the total dry food basket provided by WFP is now around 12 kg (70 percent of the standard basket).

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