



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Algeria Country Brief March 2025



## In Numbers

133,672 rations

provided in March.



2,093 mt of food assistance was distributed, in March as General Food Assistance (GFA)

US\$ 160,886 cash-based transfers (CBT) in March 2025

US\$ 10.7 m six months net funding requirements (April to September 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 depends on food assistance. 6.5 percent are severely food insecure, 57.2 percent are moderately food insecure, and 14.6 percent are most vulnerable to and/or at risk of food insecurity.

Findings of the 2022 Nutrition Survey showed a Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence among children aged 6-59 months of 10.7 percent since 2019, while chronic malnutrition (stunting) prevalence stood at 28.8 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 June 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 improving 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 March, WFP** increased food rations to nearly 16 kg per person (95 percent of the full ration). Despite critical shortfalls, WFP had prioritized resources to mitigate food insecurity during Ramadan. The Algerian Red Crescent has been filling the gap of 30 percent from late 2023 until February 2025. <sup>1</sup>
- A total of **133,672 food rations** were distributed, each providing 2,040 Kcal per person per day out of 2,100 Kcal required, which included: 7 kg of fortified wheat flour, 2 kg of barley, 2 kg of rice, 1 kg of chickpeas, 1 kg of lentils, 1 kg of Gofio, 0.91 kg of vegetable oil, 0.75 kg of sugar.
- **In March, WFP provided daily mid-morning snacks to 27,348 students** across 44 primary, intermediate and boarding schools in the five camps. Each snack provided 437 Kcal per child and included a serving of nutritious porridge made from gofio\*, dried skimmed milk, vitamin-enriched vegetable oil, and sugar and fortified biscuits.
- To tackle **Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)**, WFP provided **nutritional supplementation** to:
  - **868 Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women (PBW)**, providing daily rations of 200 g wheat soy blend plus (WSB+) with added sugar and 20 g of vegetable oil.
  - **885 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.
- To support **the prevention of MAM and Anaemia**:
  - **8,225 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. **8,420 PBW received micronutrient tablets** to contribute to the prevention of micronutrient deficiencies, especially Anaemia.
  - **14,474 children** aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of 50 g lipid-based Nutrient Supplements-medium quantity (LNS MQ).

<sup>1</sup> WFP has only been providing 70 percent of the rations since late 2023 due to resource shortfalls, while the Algeria Red Crescent (CRA) covered the 30 percent gap.

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

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Photo Caption: WFP food distribution: Women refugees receiving their food assistance. © WFP Algeria

**Algeria Interim Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – June 2025)**

| Total Requirements (in US\$) | Total Received (US\$)  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 180 m                        | 129 m  |
| 2025 Requirements (in US\$)  | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (April to Sept. 2025) |
| 35.1 m                       | 10.7 m   |

**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 nutritional supplementation and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition.

**Monitoring**

During March, WFP conducted planned monitoring visits to the five camps, covering 18 schools, eight clinics, 17 general food distribution points and 36 groups, one warehouse, and 26 retailers' shops.

Schools were visited in the first two weeks before they were closed for the Spring holidays by 13 March 2025, with no significant issues reported.

General Food Assistance (GFA) distributions encountered noticeable delays in March due to logistical challenges (workers and trucks' unavailability), meaning distributions took place up until the end of the month. The main concern raised during monitoring visits was the need to diversify the food basket during Ramadan, as beneficiaries affirmed that this was the first Ramadan without any complementary fresh food received.

**Complaint and Feedback Mechanism**

In March, WFP finalised the 2024 annual report on the Complaint and Feedback Mechanism (CFM), allowing refugees to voice concerns and provide feedback on food assistance. The report highlighted that, in 2024, only a few cases were recorded, mainly related to Nutrition-CBT inclusion, general food distribution, and the Dakhla flood emergency. It also shows that most refugees raise concerns via community representatives rather than by direct contact with the CFM number.

Challenges with hotline visibility due to weather conditions have impacted its effectiveness. WFP is working with partners to enhance signage, update communication materials, and increase community engagement. Despite these issues, 70 percent of refugees indicated awareness of the hotline, though only 25 percent have used it. All registered complaints were resolved. WFP also advanced with UN agencies to finalise the standard operating procedure (SOP) for the common CFM, which will strengthen existing CFMs and facilitate referral systems to better meet beneficiaries' needs.



**Photo caption:** Displayed at every food assistance distribution point, the Complaint and Feedback Mechanism (CFM) phone number allows beneficiaries to share their concerns.  
 © WFP Algeria

**Challenges**

Due to funding constraints, WFP sustained reduced food rations (approximately 30 percent) until February 2025. While temporary improvements were made in March to respond to increased needs during Ramadan, these measures remain unsustainable without additional funding. Significant shortfalls are expected to begin in May 2025, with a near-complete pipeline break by July 2025.

In response, WFP is strengthening its advocacy and fundraising efforts through diversification of its donor base, as well as exploring other funding streams/sources jointly with other UN agencies present in the camps near Tindouf.

**Donors**

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