



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Algeria Country Brief May 2025



In Numbers

133,672 rations

provided in May 2025.



1,604 mt of food assistance was distributed, in May as General Food Assistance (GFA)

US\$ 148,865 cash-based transfers (CBT) in May

US\$ 11.2 m six months net funding requirements (June to November 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 May, WFP distributed** a total of **133,672 food rations, amounting to 70 percent of the total ration requirements**, which included: 8 kg of wheat flour, 2 kg of barley, 2 kg of rice, 0.6 kg of chickpeas and 1 kg of gofio (a flour made from roasted cereals that is rich in vitamins, proteins, and minerals). **The remaining 30 percent was complemented by partners**, consisting of: 1 kg of lentils, 0.92 kg of vegetable oil and 1 kg of sugar. This allowed for beneficiaries to receive approximately 2,105 kcal per person per day, meeting the minimum daily nutritional requirement of 2,100 kcal.
- Prior to school summer breaks, **WFP provided daily mid-morning snacks to 27,348 students** across 44 primary, intermediate and Quranic schools in the five camps, for 14 school days. Each snack provided 436 kcal per child, through fortified biscuits and a serving of nutritious porridge made from gofio, dried, skimmed milk, vitamin-enriched vegetable oil, and sugar.
- Moderately Acute Malnourished (MAM) children, and pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW)** received **WFP targeted supplementary feeding**, constituting:
 - 872 PBW**, receiving daily rations of 200 g wheat soy blend plus (WSB+) with added sugar and 20 g of vegetable oil.
 - 899 children aged 6-59 months** receiving daily food rations of 100 g of Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF).
- To **support the prevention of MAM and Anaemia**:
 - 7,680 PBW** (96 percent of planned beneficiaries) redeemed individual monthly cash top-ups with a value of US\$ 19 on their electronic nutrition vouchers allowing them to purchase fresh food from a pre-selected list of nutritious products at 76 selected retailers in the camps.
 - 8,420 PBW** received micronutrient tablets to contribute to the prevention of micronutrient deficiencies, especially Anaemia.
 - 14,523 children** aged 6-59 months received daily rations of 50 g lipid-based Nutrient Supplements- Large quantity (LNS LQ).

Algeria Interim Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – June 2025)	
Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
180 m	135 m
2025 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (June to Nov. 2025)
35.1 m	11.2 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.
 - To **promote self-reliance and enhanced access to fresh vegetable supplies**, WFP is reviewing its Assets Creation for Livelihoods programme to design and implement innovative and sustainable models that could be easily owned and managed by local communities.

Monitoring
During May, WFP initiated data collection for the first round of Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) for 2025. The exercise aims to assess the effectiveness, relevance, and accountability of food assistance provided, including beneficiary satisfaction, food consumption, and coping strategies. Data is collected across all five camps, targeting households receiving GFA. Preliminary findings, expected in June, will inform programmatic adjustments in the second half of the year.

Multi-morbidity survey underway in the camps
In May, data collection for the 2025 multi-morbidity survey, led by University College London, was completed across the five camps. The survey is a joint effort by key Nutrition

Sector stakeholders, including WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF, and WHO, which aims to generate evidence on the prevalence of malnutrition and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), identify key risk factors, and inform targeted interventions to improve health and nutrition outcomes. It follows the Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) methodology, adapted for UNHCR refugee settings, with preliminary results expected in June 2025.

External missions visiting the refugee camps
From 4 to 6 May, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) representatives conducted a field visit to WFP’s operations across food assistance, nutrition, school feeding, and livelihood activities, meeting with local authorities, UN agencies, NGO partners, and assisted population representatives.



From 6 to 9 May, the Spring donors’ mission, jointly organized by UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF and WHO, took place, covering key sectors: food security, nutrition, education, livelihoods, water and sanitation (WASH), and energy, in Laayoune and Awserd camps. Delegations participated in focus group discussions with beneficiaries and people with disabilities.
On both occasions, WFP shared updates on the food security and nutrition situation in the camps, outlining the net funding required to meet the basic food and nutrition needs of refugees.

On 15 May, Under-Secretary-General and Special Coordinator on Improving the UN’s Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) visited the field site to raise awareness among UN agency staff, INGOs and local authorities and to assess protection challenges in refugee camp settings.

Challenges
In May, due to funding shortfalls, WFP reverted to distributing 70 percent of ration sizes, to sustain pipeline continuity, with complementary assistance from partners covering the remaining gap to provide full rations. If no additional funding is received, significant shortfalls are expected as of October 2025, with a near-complete pipeline break anticipated in December.

Donors
Andorra, Brazil, ECHO, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, USA.

Photo Caption: WFP team members briefing donor mission participants at a food distribution point © WFP Algeria/Abderezak