



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Algeria Country Brief 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 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.

The 2025 Nutrition Survey revealed unprecedented spike in acute malnutrition, with 13.6 percent of children aged 6–59 months affected – the highest rate recorded in over a decade. One in three children is stunted, reflecting long-term nutritional deficiencies, while anaemia remains widespread, affecting 65 percent of children and 69 percent of women of reproductive age.

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 2026 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.



In Numbers

133,672 rations

provided in June 2025.



1,658 mt of food assistance was distributed as General Food Assistance (GFA)

US\$ 160,000 cash-based transfers (CBT)

US\$ 9.3 m six months net funding requirements (July to December 2025)

Operational Updates, June 2025

- In June, WFP distributed** a total of **133,672 food rations**. WFP provided **74 percent of the total ration requirements**, which included: 8 kg of wheat flour, 2 kg of barley, 1.45 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 0.6 kg of lentils, 0.92 kg of vegetable oil, 1 kg of sugar, 1 kg of rice and 1 kg of pasta. This enabled beneficiaries to receive an estimated 2,173 kilocalories per person per day, thereby fulfilling the minimum daily requirement of 2,100 kilocalories.
- Prior to the summer school break, **WFP provided mid-morning snacks to 27,348 students across 44 primary and intermediate schools in the five camps**, covering two school days. In addition, **WFP extended this support to 3,462 students sitting for their final exams and 500 children** enrolled in French language courses and exams. For the latter group, WFP and cooperating partners piloted a mixed distribution of sandwiches and fortified biscuits.
- WFP's **management of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) continued** for malnourished children and pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW), as follows:
 - 883 PBW** received daily rations of 200 g wheat soy blend plus (WSB+) with added sugar and 20 g of vegetable oil.
 - 932 children aged between 6-59 months** received daily food rations of 100 g of Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF).
 - Due to delays in the arrival of the LNS-LQ commodity, WSB+ was distributed as a temporary substitute for **932 children aged 6-59 months**.
- To **support the prevention of MAM and Anaemia**:
 - 8,288 PBW (96 percent of planned beneficiaries)** redeemed their individual monthly cash top-ups, valued at USD 19, using their electronic nutrition vouchers 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 helping them to prevent micronutrient deficiencies, especially Anaemia.

Algeria Interim Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – February 2026)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
180 m	137 m
2025 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (July to Dec. 2025)
37.5 m	9.3 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

In June, WFP completed data collection for the first round of Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) for 2025, targeting households receiving GFA across the five Sahrawi refugee camps. Analysis is currently underway and will provide an updated overview of the food security situation among WFP beneficiaries. Findings are expected to inform potential programmatic adjustments in the second half of the year.

Meanwhile, process monitoring conducted in May indicated that most beneficiaries were generally satisfied with the food assistance received. However, several recurring issues were reported, including delays in wheat flour deliveries and concerns over the quality and quantity of certain items, particularly chickpeas and lentils.

WFP's community feedback mechanism remained fully functional throughout May and June. Most of the feedback received during this period was related to activities implemented by other partners, as well as WFP's cash-based

transfer programme supporting PBW. All cases were referred and addressed in real time. It is also worth noting that many beneficiaries continue to favour traditional communication channels, primarily sharing their feedback through local community and authority representatives.

Interim Country Strategic Plan extension

WFP's Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) for Algeria has been extended until the end of February 2026 to ensure continued assistance Sahrawi population in Tindouf. This extension enables WFP to sustain its core activities, including general food assistance, nutrition, school feeding and resilience-building efforts.

2025 Nutrition survey

In June, preliminary findings from the 2025 Nutrition Survey were officially presented, confirming a sharp deterioration in the nutritional status of the Sahrawi refugee population. Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) among children aged 6 to 59 months has reached 13.6 percent, the highest level recorded since 2010, while one in three children is stunted. Anaemia affects over 65 percent of children and nearly 69 percent of women of reproductive age. These levels reflect a serious public health emergency and raise concerns over increased risks of illness and mortality among the most vulnerable.

The survey also revealed that only one in four households had an acceptable food consumption score, indicating poor dietary diversity of households. In response, UN agencies and partners have jointly developed a Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy (2025–2030), aimed at addressing the root causes of undernutrition through integrated actions across food security, health, WASH, education and livelihoods sectors. As a next step, a mass nutrition screening is planned for September 2025 to enhance the existing nutrition surveillance mechanism including not only periodic but timely detection and management of malnutrition. WFP and its partners continue to call for urgent and sustained donor support to respond to this growing crisis.

Challenges

Due to funding constraints, WFP sustained reduced food rations (approximately 30 percent) in January and February 2025. WFP was able to prioritize resources to provide almost a full ration during the months of Ramadan (March and April). From June to July 2025, WFP and local partner coordinated to ensure complementarity to pursue the provision of full dry food basket to targeted population. If no additional funding is received, significant shortfalls are expected to begin in October 2025, with a near-complete suspension of WFP assistance anticipated in December.

Donors

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