



Operational Context

Algeria has been hosting refugees from Western Sahara since 1975 in camps near the town of Tindouf in South-Western Algeria. Situated in harsh and isolated desert environment, opportunities for self-reliance in the camps are limited, forcing people to depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival.

The latest 2024 Food Security Assessment confirmed that over 80 percent of the Sahrawi camp populations dependent on humanitarian food assistance to meet their needs, with 6.5 percent severely food insecure, 57.2 percent moderately food insecure, and 14.6 percent 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 provides the main regular and reliable source of food, particularly fortified food, in the camps. 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 2027 to allow for additional consultations with the Government and other stakeholders on the new ICSP. The ICSP continues to focus on helping address the basic food and nutrition needs in camps.



In Numbers



133,672 rations
provided in December 2025.

2,121 mt of food assistance was distributed

US\$ 177,500 cash-based transfers delivered

US\$ 6.3 m six months net funding requirements
(January to June 2026)

Operational Updates

- **In December, WFP distributed 133,672 food rations, amounting to almost 17 kg per person per month.** This amounted to approximately 2,050 kcal per person per day out of the recommended 2,100 kcal. (Rice was substituted by Couscous at the same ration of 2 kg per person). The food basket consisted of 8 kg of fortified wheat flour, 2 kg of lentils, 2 kg of barley, 2 kg of couscous, 0.75 kg of sugar, 1 litre of vegetable oil and 1 kg of Gofio.
- **In December, under the school feeding programme,** WFP continued the distribution of sandwiches as a complement to the regular Gofio porridge and fortified biscuits (but only until 18 December when the school holidays started). A total of **29,140 children in primary and intermediate schools** were served fortified biscuits and Gofio mixture, while **22,421 primary school children** received sandwiches composed of bread, eggs, and cheese. However, challenges in procuring eggs affected the consistency of sandwich distribution.
- **Children suffering from Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) enrolled in targeted supplementary feeding** were assisted as follows:
 - **668 PBWG** received daily rations of 200 g wheat soy blend plus (WSB+) with added sugar and 20 g of vegetable oil.
 - **759 children aged between 6-59 months** received daily food rations of 100 g of Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF).
- **To support the prevention of MAM and Anaemia:**
 - **8,469 PBWG (98 percent of planned beneficiaries)** redeemed individual monthly cash top-ups with a value of USD 22 through electronic nutrition vouchers to purchase fresh food from a pre-selected list of nutritious products at 76 selected retailers in the camps.
 - **8,430 PBWG** received micronutrient tablets to support the prevention of micronutrient deficiencies, especially Anaemia.
 - **14,561 children** aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of 50 g lipid-based Nutrient Supplements-medium quantity.

Algeria Interim Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – Feb. 2027)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
203 m	153 m
2026 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (January to June 2026)
32 m	6.3 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 December, WFP has monitored 29 first distribution points (Barrios), nine groups (final distribution sites), one warehouse, and conducted one physical inventory, monitored 17 schools, 14 clinics, and 11 different shops. These visits aim to ensure accountability, assess service delivery, and monitor food security and nutrition indicators across the five camps.

WFP conducted the Nutrition Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise in the camps. Data collection was completed and the analysis is finalised. Preliminary findings will inform programme adjustments, with final results to be presented in early January. This PDM aimed to assess the effectiveness of nutrition interventions, including the use of specialized nutritious foods and cash-based transfers, and to identify areas for improvement in supporting vulnerable groups.

WFP and partners raising awareness on 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: "End digital violence against all women and girls" and the "UNiTE campaign to stop digital abuse", WFP Algeria organized GBV awareness-raising sessions with women and men in the refugee camps.



Fortified Gofio Acceptability Testing in the Refugee Camps

In December, fortified gofio acceptability testing was conducted in the three targeted refugee camps: Laayoun, Smara, and Boujdour. The activities began with training the enumerators, followed by data collection at both households' and schools' levels, as well as focus group discussions. The findings will be used for decision-making in early 2026. (Gofio is a flour made from roasted cereals that is rich in vitamins, proteins, and minerals).



Challenges

WFP continues to face logistical challenges that affect the timely delivery of food assistance. The movement of commodities from the port to the warehouses takes significantly longer than planned, and some international shipping delays have been observed too. These delays pose a risk to the availability of certain food items and can disrupt the distribution schedule. To mitigate these challenges, WFP is implementing measures such as distributing double rations of available commodities when others are delayed. With the support of the host government, WFP is also exploring local procurement options to shorten delivery times and improve supply reliability.

Donors

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

Photo Caption: Gender base-violence awareness-raising session in the refugee camps © WFP Algeria