



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Algeria Country Brief February 2026



In Numbers



133,672 rations
provided in January 2026.

1,675 mt of food assistance was distributed

US\$ 191,120 cash-based transfers (CBT) delivered

US\$ 5.3 m six months net funding requirements
(February 2026 - July 2026)

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.



Operational Updates:

- **In January**, General Food Assistance distributions were significantly affected by maritime shipping delays and in-country transportation challenges, resulting in reduced commodity availability and an uneven food basket across the camps. Four camps out of five were particularly affected due to the limited wheat flour stocks which forced a substantial adjustment to their ration resulting in beneficiaries receiving 1,632 kcal per person out of the 2,100 kcal recommended daily intake.
- **Under school feeding**, due to shortages of Gofio and fortified biscuits, WFP provided sandwiches for 22,421 primary school children, alongside the hot milk drink. The sandwiches comprised bread, eggs, and cheese, ensuring that children continued to receive a balanced snack. Bread availability was also a major constraint, disrupting the regular distribution of sandwiches and limiting consistent coverage for all children. The situation highlighted the need for reliable supply chains while demonstrating the programme’s adaptability in addressing unforeseen logistical challenges.
- **Children suffering from Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG)** enrolled in **targeted supplementary feeding** were assisted as follows:
 - o **658 PBWG** received daily rations of 200 g wheat soy blend plus (WSB+) with added sugar and 20 g of vegetable oil.
 - o **675 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 acute malnutrition and Anaemia:**
 - o **8,519 PBWG (97 percent of planned beneficiaries)** redeemed individual monthly cash top-ups with a value of USD 24 through electronic nutrition vouchers to purchase fresh food from a pre-selected list of nutritious products at 76 selected retailers in the camps.

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

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
235 m	153 m
2026 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Feb 2026 - July 2026)
32 m	5.3 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.

- **8,430 PBWG** received micronutrient tablets to contribute to the prevention of micronutrient deficiencies, especially Anaemia.
- **14,575 children** aged between 6-59 months received daily rations of 50 g lipid-based Nutrient Supplements-medium quantity (LNS-MQ).

Monitoring

In January, as part of WFP's process monitoring, field team conducted visits to 8 barrio (neighbourhood level) distribution sites, four groups, 16 schools, 13 clinics, one warehouse and 11 shops to oversee market prices.

2025 Nutrition Post Distribution Monitoring report

WFP conducted post-distribution monitoring in October–November 2025 across 667 households to assess the outcomes of its prevention nutrition programme in the Sahrawi refugee camps. Preliminary findings show that while food assistance remains widely well received, 40 percent of households still have inadequate food consumption, with female headed households particularly affected.

Diet quality challenges persist among young children, as only around 11 percent of those aged 6–23 months meet the Minimum Acceptable Diet, mainly due to low feeding frequency. Among school aged children, however, dietary diversity improved, with 51 percent meeting the minimum threshold—an increase of 10 percentage points compared to 2024, noting that 2024 survey was done during school holiday, meaning that the school meal have improved the dietary diversity for school aged children.

Only 38 percent of women of reproductive age meet the Minimum Dietary Diversity indicator despite high participation in WFP nutrition activities. Encouragingly, 75 percent reported receiving social and behaviour change messages, demonstrating good recall of recommended nutrition practices. Beneficiary satisfaction remains high, particularly for CBT (93 percent) and specialized nutritious foods, while crosscutting indicators show strong programme acceptance, with nearly all beneficiaries reporting safe, barrierfree and respectful access to assistance. Cutting indicators show strong programme acceptance, with nearly all beneficiaries reporting safe, barrier-free and respectful access to assistance.

Planning the new Joint Assessment Mission (JAM)

WFP is coordinating with UNHCR on the upcoming Joint Assessment Mission (JAM), to take place in the first half of 2026. The draft plan for the assessment will be completed by February. The overall objective of the JAM is to reassess and update the basic needs and evaluate the on-going assistance.

Interim Country Strategic Plan extension

WFP's Interim Country Strategic plan (ICSP) for Algeria has been extended until the end of February 2027 allowing additional time to engage with the Government and partners on strategic priorities and activities, while ensuring uninterrupted operational continuity.

Challenges

WFP continues to face logistical challenges affecting timely food deliveries, mainly delays in moving commodities from ports to warehouses, compounded by some international shipping delays. These constraints have increased storage costs due to port congestion and prolonged clearance procedures extend the duration for which goods remain in storage. School feeding also faces local challenges, particularly bread shortages, disrupting regular sandwich distribution.

In response, WFP is working on mitigation measures, such as distributing substitute commodities, when delays occur. 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.