



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Algeria Country Brief September 2018



Operational Context

Algeria has been hosting refugees from Western Sahara since 1975. These refugees are in camps in the harsh, isolated desert environment of western Algeria, where opportunities for self-reliance are limited, forcing them to depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival.

The 2016 UNHCR-WFP Joint Assessment Mission report confirmed that most refugees from Western Sahara are still highly reliant on humanitarian assistance. The results of the 2016 Nutrition Survey indicate an improvement in the overall nutrition situation of women and children, with a reduction of both global acute malnutrition and chronic malnutrition among children of 6-59 months. However, the anaemia prevalence is at 39 percent among children 6-59 months and 45 percent among women of reproductive age.

WFP currently represents the major regular and reliable source of food for the Sahrawi refugees in Algeria.

Upon the request of Algerian Government, WFP has been present in the camps since 1986.



Camp population (UNHCR, 31 Dec17): **173,600** refugees

Global acute malnutrition: **< 5%** of children between **06-59** months

Anaemia prevalence: **45%** for women **15-49** years **39%** among children **6-59** months

Chronic malnutrition: **19%** of children between **6-59**

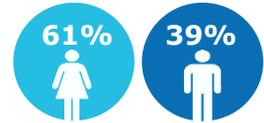
In Numbers

2,263.6 mt of food assistance distributed

2,208 kcal/person/day provided through the food basket

US\$ 1.3 m six months (October 2018 - March 2019) net funding requirements

125,000 people assisted in September 2018



Operational Updates

- In September, as part of the General Food Assistance, WFP distributed 125,000 rations consisting of 8 kg wheat flour, 2 kg rice, 1 kg pasta, 2 kg yellow split peas, 1kg CSB, 1kg sugar, 1litre of fortified vegetable oil. The ration was complemented with 1 kg of gofio (roasted maize meal), which is part of an in-kind donation from the Spanish region of Gran Canaria. The food basket reached a daily energy intake of 2,208 kcal/person, higher than the planned 2,100 kcal per day due to the inclusion of an additional commodity.
- WFP distributed daily rations of pre-mix 100g corn soya blend (CSB+) and 10g vegetable oil to treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) among 614 pregnant and nursing mothers.
- A daily ration of 65g dates were also distributed to 8,116 pregnant and nursing mothers to provide them with additional energy during pregnancy and breastfeeding. The dates, received as in-kind contribution from Saudi Arabia, are used to target pregnant and nursing mothers, in lieu of micronutrient powders (MNPs). Dates are very nutritious and act as an excellent complement to the monthly rations to treat and prevent micronutrient deficiencies. WFP Algeria halted the purchase of MNPs, pending the results of the decentralized evaluation of the nutrition activity and its reformulation.
- To prevent chronic malnutrition, 12,754 boys and girls under five took home daily rations of 10g of a special spread (Nutributter). Additionally, 369 children received the specialised nutrition product (Plumpy'sup) for the treatment of MAM.
- The new scholastic year 2018/2019 started on 15 September in the camps. WFP distributed milk and dates to 38,720 boys and girls in primary schools and kindergartens. Children in special needs centers will also receive mid-morning snacks as part of the school meals programme from October onwards. The lists of students for the latter institutions had not been available yet in September.

WFP Country Strategy

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (January – December 2018)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (October 2018 – March 2019)
19.4 m*	22.4 m	1.3 m

*A Budget Revision is underway to extend the TICSP and increase the total requirements.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome #1: Food insecure Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf in Algeria meet their basic food and nutrition requirements all year long.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide unconditional General Food Assistance (GFA) to food insecure refugees
- Provide complementary activities/livelihood to Sahrawi refugees including hydroponic production of animal fodder and fish farming
- Nutrition sensitive school meals for Sahrawi refugee children in primary schools and kindergartens

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome #2: Targeted Sahrawi refugees have improved nutrition status in line with the Sahrawi Authority's standards by 2019.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition and anaemia in pregnant women and nursing mothers and children 06-59 months.
- Prevention of moderate acute malnutrition and anaemia in pregnant women and nursing mothers and children 06-59 months.
- Nutrition training to health workers to enhance their nutrition knowledge and skills
- Nutrition sensitization to targeted beneficiaries to address the double burden of malnutrition.

Food Security Assessment

- The technical report of the Food Security Assessment (FSA) is published and has been shared with all stakeholders to enable humanitarian actors to more effectively plan their programmes and activities based on accurate and updated evidence of the food security situation in the camps.
- A total of 1,935 households were interviewed in March and April 2018 in the five refugee camps Awserd, Boujdour, Dakhla, Laayoun and Smara.
- Using the standard WFP approach to determine the level of food security (CARI methodology), the assessment found that 12 percent of the Sahrawi camp population is food secure (20,832 people), 58 percent is vulnerable to food insecurity (100,688 people) and 30 percent are food insecure (52,080 people). In relation to food access, the assessment found that there is a very high reliance on external assistance to cover basic needs, making the households vulnerable to even smaller shocks. Ninety-four percent of the households reported external assistance as

their main income source and 99.9 percent of the household received food assistance during the month prior to the assessment, showing that the households are largely sharing the food rations provided by WFP.

Based on the findings, it is recommended to:

- continue providing food assistance in the camps for 52,080 food insecure individuals while the 100,688 marginally food insecure may need either food or other kind of assistance that supports their food security and nutrition;
- to expand the livelihood opportunities to improve resilience and ability to cope with future shocks based on qualitative discussions between community, local authorities and humanitarian partners;
- to improve nutrition by increasing the availability of animal protein in diets and conduct studies to better understand how the high intake of sugar and tea is affecting obesity and anaemia rates;
- to continue to closely monitor the food security situation including prices, availability and assistance levels.

In the coming weeks, WFP will discuss with partners how the results of this assessment will influence the programmatic response in the future.

WFP's School Meals Programme

- On 15 September, thousands of boys and girls in the Sahrawi refugee camps returned to school for the 2018/2019 scholastic year. In the coming year, WFP will continue supporting Sahrawi refugee children by distributing mid-morning snacks consisting of 80g of milk, and either dates, or high-energy biscuits, depending on availability.
- To celebrate the start of school on 15 September, WFP assisted in a "back to school" event organized by UNICEF and the education authorities in the camps.
- Education is the one sector that WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, and several NGOs work together in. Strengthening education in the camps is a key strategic objective.
- WFP will soon review its school meals programme to render it more nutrition-sensitive.
- Switzerland and Italy have been the main donors for this activity in the past. WFP thanks both countries for their continued support.
- WFP hopes to attract more donors after the reformulation of the activity in early 2019.

Donors

Andorra, Brazil, ECHO, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, USA, multilateral funds