



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Algeria Country Brief October 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**

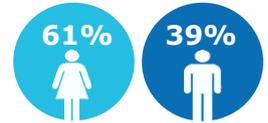
In Numbers

2349,424 mt of food assistance distributed

2,225 kcal/person/day provided through the general food basket

US\$ 5.5 m six months (December 2018 – May 2019) net funding requirements

125,000 people assisted in October 2018



Operational Updates

- In October, as part of the General Food Assistance, WFP distributed 125,000 rations consisting of 8 kg wheat flour, 2 kg rice, 2 kg barley, 2 kg yellow split peas, 0,83 kg CSB, 1kg sugar, and 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 2,225 kcal/person, higher than the planned 2,100 kcal per day due to the inclusion of Gofio.
- WFP distributed daily rations of pre-mix 100g corn soya blend (CSB+) and 10g vegetable oil to treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) among 635 pregnant and nursing mothers.
- A daily ration of 65g dates were also distributed to 8,191 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, 12,799 boys and girls under five took home daily rations of 10g of a special spread (Nutributter). Additionally, 369 children received the specialized nutrition product (Plumpy'sup) for the treatment of MAM.
- WFP distributed mid-morning snacks consisting of milk and dates to 38,909 boys and girls in primary schools and kindergartens. The transport of the high-energy biscuits that are usually distributed as part of this activity was delayed.

WFP Country Strategy

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018/mid 2019)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (December 2018 – May 2019)
31.5 m	22.4 m	5.5 m

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

Monitoring

- A Monitoring mission from the WFP Regional Office visited the camps from 28 October for two weeks. The objective of the mission was to support the Tindouf sub-office to review all the existing Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) tools and reporting, and to prepare for the coming post-distribution monitoring (PDM). The PDM is planned for the end of November 2018.
- The mission organized one-day-trainings targeting all the concerned partners working in food security monitoring activities in the Sahrawi refugee camps.

Donor Mission

- A donor mission visited the Sahrawi refugee camps from 15 October to 18 October with embassy representatives from Ethiopia, European Union, France, Germany, Netherlands,

Nigeria, Norway, Indonesia, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The two-day visit provided an overview of the humanitarian situation in the camps and showcased work by humanitarian actors including WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF and NGOs. Delegates also had the opportunity to interact with refugees during focus group discussions with women and youth.

- These jointly organized donor missions are part of the UN humanitarian agencies' resource mobilization strategy and are held regularly. The next visit is planned for early 2019.

2018 World Food Day

- On 16 October, WFP celebrated the 2018 World Food Day under the theme "A #zerohunger world by 2030 is possible" with participation of the donor mission. An event was organized in Boujdor camp, which included a cooking competition. Women from all five camps participated and a jury consisting of the WFP nutritionist, UNHCR health officer and representatives from partner organizations selected the winners.

New complementary activity: Fish farming

- WFP collaborated with partner NGO Triangle Generation Humanitaire (TGH) to put the first fish farm in the Sahrawi refugee camps in place. Once finished, the farm will produce 24,000 kg of fresh fish per year and act as a training centre for refugees to duplicate the approach at the household level.
- The objective of this innovative project is to increase food security in the camps and reinforce the refugees' resilience by providing access to fresh fish, and thus, animal protein. This is particularly important considering the high anaemia prevalence among refugee children and women in the camps.
- The approach has already successfully been implemented under similar conditions in the South of Algeria.



Donors

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