



WFP Algeria Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Assistance to Refugees from Western Sahara	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200301 (Jan 2013 –December 2017)	112 m	98.6 m (88%)	2.1 m

*August – December 2017

Since 1986, WFP has supported the most vulnerable refugees from Western Sahara meeting their basic food and nutritional needs.

The strategic objectives of WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) are to:

- i) improve the food consumption of the most vulnerable refugees,
- ii) reduce acute malnutrition and anaemia in children under 5 years and in pregnant and nursing women,
- iii) maintain the enrolment and retention of refugee girls and boys targeted through school meals.

Food Distribution: WFP provides 125,000 food rations to refugees on a monthly basis. The composition of the food basket can vary from five to nine commodities depending on funding. However, pending contributions, the daily caloric value of 2,166 kcal per ration is on average maintained.

Nutrition: WFP nutrition activities are fully integrated into the Sahrawi National Programme on Reproductive Health, which WFP supported to formulate. While UNHCR and partners target severely acute malnourished children, WFP combines prevention and treatment approaches to address anaemia, stunting and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) among children under 5 years, and pregnant and nursing women. Every month WFP plans to target around 22,360 women and children under the Mother and Child Health (MCH) activity through 29 health centers, if funding is available.

Treatment: WFP plans to provide vegetable oil, sugar and Corn Soya Blend (CSB+) to treat approximately 1,000 malnourished pregnant and nursing women. In addition, WFP usually provides 1,800 acutely malnourished children aged 06-59 months with a special

Main Credit: WFP

Photo Caption: WFP works with the Algerian and Sahrawi Red Crescent to ensure warehouse management.

Highlights

- WFP Algeria received almost USD 10 million in the last weeks. Thanks to these contributions, WFP will be able to distribute full rations until the end of 2017. The funding shortfall remains at around USD 2.1 million, excluding funding needs for complementary activities like hydroponics.
- WFP's advance financing (IRA, IPL) allowed food distribution to continue in the first half of 2017. Even after the recent contributions, USD 1.6 million still need to be reimbursed until end of 2017.
- Since beginning of 2017, due to significant funding constraints for WFP's [nutrition programmes](#), no specialized nutrition products have been available for the treatment and prevention of malnutrition and anaemia in children. WFP requires an additional USD 0.5 million to fund this activity until the end of 2017.

spread fortified with vitamins and minerals (Plumpy'Sup).

Prevention: An additional 8,000 pregnant and nursing women with anaemia are meant to receive Micronutrient Powder to prevent malnutrition. WFP also plans to target 13,200 boys and girls aged 06-59 months with the monthly provision of a special spread (Nutr butter) to prevent chronic malnutrition.

Additionally, around 8,000 pregnant and nursing women receive a daily ration of dates and/or cheese, if received as in-kind contributions, as part of an initiative to improve their micronutrient intake and to encourage them to attend the screening at the clinics, based on the Sahrawi authorities' 2014 protocol.

School Meals: In order to maintain school enrolment and retention of refugee children, WFP distributes a mid-morning snack to 40,500 primary school and kindergarten children (20,101 boys and 20,399 girls) consisting of 80 ml of milk and High-Energy Biscuits (50g). This activity is currently halted until the start of the new scholastic year 2017/2018 in September.

In Numbers

90,000 General food rations

35,000 additional general food rations

2,128 kcal per ration per day*

2,248 mt of mixed commodities needed on a monthly basis (valued at USD 1.9 million)

*reached in July 2017. (Planned daily caloric in-take of 2,166 kcal/ration/day)

Operational Updates

- In July, WFP was able to distribute 125,000 full rations consisting of 8 kg wheat flour, 2 kg barley, 2 kg rice, 2 kg split peas, 2 kg barley, 1 kg of sugar and 900 g of fortified vegetable oil. The rations had an average energy intake of 2,128 kcal per person (versus 2,166 kcal planned). The slight decrease is due to the month of July having 31 days.
- Under its nutrition activity to fight Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), WFP distributed daily rations of 100 g Corn Soya Blend (CSB+), 10 g vegetable oil and 7.5 g sugar to treat 512 moderately malnourished pregnant women and nursing mothers. These women and an additional 7567 pregnant women and nursing mothers received 33g of dates for 30 days to increase their energy intake. These dates are part of an in-kind contribution by Saudi Arabia. No products were available for the treatment and prevention of MAM in children, nor for the prevention of MAM in women due to funding constraints.

Challenges

- In light of severe funding constraints in the first six months of 2017 that led to ration reductions on multiple occasions, WFP intensified advocacy efforts, including through special donor briefs and a press release. In the last weeks, contributions from China, ECHO, Germany, Spain and USA, totaling almost USD 10 million, were received, which will allow the general food distribution to continue until the end of 2017.
- Parts of these contributions are used to reimburse internal WFP loans (total of USD 5.3 million from Immediate Response Account and Internal Project Lending) that had bridged funding gaps in the last months and thus allowed food distribution to continue. An additional USD 1.6 million need to be paid back.
- Since early 2017, WFP has been unable to distribute specialised nutritious food (SNF) needed to prevent and treat acute malnutrition (MAM) in children and women including Plumpy'Sup and Nutributter. The lack of these products seriously impacts the most vulnerable and might lead to an increase of MAM in the camps. These products are not available due to funding constraints, WFP requires an additional USD 0.5 million to fund this activity until the end of 2017. The majority of SNF have to be purchased internationally and have long lead purchase times. In particular, the lack of Plumpy'Sup to treat acute malnutrition in children is problematic, however a shipment of this SNF arrived in July and distribution will start in August.

Other

- WFP would like to thank its 2017 donors: Algeria, Canada, China, ECHO, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia and USA for the generous support that will enable it to continue food assistance to this vulnerable refugee population.

Country Background & Strategy



Algeria has been hosting refugees from Western Sahara since 1975. These refugees are located 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.

Despite continued negotiations, there is little sign of a durable solution to the political stalemate and encampment remains the only feasible option for the refugees from Western Sahara in the foreseeable future. The political status quo is fueling anxiety and disillusionment, especially among the young population, which could lead to increased insecurity and tensions in the sub-region.

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, both global acute malnutrition and chronic malnutrition among children of 06-59 months reduced. However, anaemia rates are at 39 percent among children 6-59 months and 45 percent among women of reproductive age respectively.

WFP currently represents the major regular and reliable source of food for the refugees in Algeria. Upon the request of Algerian Government, WFP has been present in the camps since 1986.

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

Chronic malnutrition: 19% of children 6-59 months

Donors

Algeria, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, ECHO, Germany, Italy, Korea, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, UN CERF, and USA

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