



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	100 m (89%)	4 m

*November 2017 – April 2018

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 monthly 125,000 food rations to refugees. The composition of the food basket can vary from five to nine commodities depending on funding. However, the daily caloric value of 2,166 kcal per ration is on average maintained.

Nutrition: WFP nutrition activities are fully integrated into the Sahrawi Programme on Reproductive Health, of which WFP supported the formulation. 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 aims to target around 22,360 women and children under the Mother and Child Health (MCH) activity through 29 health centers.

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

Highlights

- Whilst WFP thanks donors for their generous contributions - allowing the current operation to continue distributions until the end of 2017 - there are concerns for 2018 funding outlook.
- No funding forecasts or projections have been committed for 2018. To avoid procurement and distribution breaks in food assistance and specialised nutrition foods, WFP Algeria must secure USD 4 million for the first three months of 2018.
- Until the end of 2017, WFP Algeria has most specialized nutritious foods (SNF) to treat and prevent malnutrition and anaemia in young children, and pregnant and nursing mothers, however Micronutrient Powders are still unavailable due to lack of funding. Starting January 2018, no SNFs will be available.

vitamins and minerals (Plumpy'Sup).

Prevention: An additional 8,000 pregnant and nursing women with anaemia receive Micronutrient Powder to prevent malnutrition.

WFP also targets 13,200 boys and girls aged 06-59 months with the monthly provision of a special spread (Nutr butter) to prevent chronic malnutrition.

Additionally, pregnant and nursing women receive a daily ration of dates and/or cheese, when available, 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: WFP distributed a mid-morning snack consisting of 80 ml of milk and High-Energy Biscuits (50g) to 41,426 primary, intermediate schools and kindergarten children, to maintain school enrolment and retention of refugee children. Over the summer, new intermediate schools were built in the camps to accommodate children that used to go to Algerian schools outside the camps. In the new scholastic year 2017/2018, over 600 additional children are now studying in the camps and receiving WFP mid-morning snacks.

In Numbers

125,000 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 October 2017. (Planned daily caloric in-take of 2,166 kcal/ration/day)

Operational Updates

- In October, WFP distributed 125,000 full rations consisting of 8 kg wheat flour, 2 kg barley, 2 kg rice, 2 kg yellow split peas, 1 kg of sugar, 1 kg of corn soya blend (CSB) and 1 liter of fortified vegetable oil. Due to the late arrival of the locally-purchased wheat flour, two partial distributions of this commodity took place at the beginning and end of the month. Despite this, by the end of October each of the 125,000 rations reached an average energy intake of 2,128 kcal per person per day.
- 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 580 moderately malnourished pregnant women and nursing mothers. WFP also distributed Plumpy'sup, a specialised nutrition product for the treatment of malnourished children, to 372 children who received daily rations of 100 g for 30 days. A special spread (Nutributter) to prevent chronic malnutrition in 12,512 children under five was also distributed (20g every 2 days).

Challenges

- WFP has been unable to distribute a number of the specialised nutritious food (SNF) in 2017 needed to prevent and treat acute malnutrition (MAM) in children and women. The lack of these products seriously impacts the most vulnerable and might lead to an increase of MAM in the camps. Since August, WFP Algeria has stocks of most SNF, with the exception of Micronutrient Powder for women. Additional funding of USD 0.4 million is needed to fully cover this activity until the end of the year.
- In order to continue the distribution of life-saving assistance, WFP Algeria urgently requires USD 5 million for the first three months of 2018. To prevent ration cuts and diminished food baskets, as was the case in early 2017, WFP Algeria must secure these funds before the end of the year to allow sufficient procurement time.

Other:

- WFP organized a donor mission from 16 to 19 October in collaboration with UNHCR and UNICEF. Representatives from embassies and donor capitals, including Spain, Switzerland and Russia visited the camps during a two day stay to learn more about the situation on the ground and the humanitarian efforts. These visits are part of WFP's resource mobilization and advocacy efforts conducted in collaboration with other UN humanitarian agencies and NGO partners.
- WFP's hydroponic project was selected by German research center Fraunhofer Venture for the [Fraunhofer "F Days"](#), to participate in a number of workshops in Munich, Germany. These workshops will provide technical support to face challenges e.g. high/low temperature, recycling of water, production of nutrients to permit growth of other crops and vegetables, etc.

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

Contact info: Katharina Meyer-Seipp
(katharina.meyerseipp@wfp.org)

Representative: Romain Sirois

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Algeria