



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	87.5	11.7 m

*June – November 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 feeding

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 targets 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 fortified blended food (CSB+) to treat approximately

Highlights

- WFP Algeria urgently requires USD 11.7 million to ensure food distribution of 125,000 rations to vulnerable Sahrawi refugees for the next six months
- Food rations for May were reduced by almost 20 percent due to insufficient funding level
- Since January 2017, due to significant funding constraints for WFP's nutrition programmes, no specialized nutrition products were available for the treatment and prevention of malnutrition and anaemia
- Food distribution currently continues thanks to WFP advance financing (USD 5.3 million from IRA and IPL) that will need to be reimbursed by future donor contributions.

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 vitamins and minerals (Plumpy'Sup).

Prevention: An additional 8,000 pregnant and nursing women with anaemia 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, 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 (50 g). In May, WFP distributed the

In Numbers

90,000 General food rations

35,000 additional general food rations

1,776 kcal per ration per day*

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

*reached in May 2017. (Planned daily caloric intake of 2,166 kcal/ration/day)

Operational Updates

- Due to funding constraints, the May food rations had to be reduced by almost 20 percent. Despite this, and thanks to WFP advance financing (Immediate Response Account-IRA and Internal Project Lending-IPL), WFP Algeria was still able to distribute 125,000 rations, consisting of 8 kg wheat flour, 2 kg barley, 1 kg yellow split peas, 1 kg lentils, 1 kg sugar and 900 g of fortified vegetable oil. No Corn Soya Blend (CSB+), nor rice were distributed, as a result, the monthly calorie intake reached a daily average of 1,776 kcal per person, below the planned value of 2,166 kcal per person. This reduction comes only a few weeks before Ramadan.
- In addition to the monthly food ration provided by WFP, the refugees received a one-time ration of 1.5 kg of Dates; a special Ramadan contribution from Saudi Arabia, the dates play an important role in breaking of the fast during the Holy month.
- Under its nutrition activity, WFP distributed daily rations of 100 g CSB+, 10 g vegetable oil and 7.5 g sugar to treat 572 malnourished pregnant women and nursing mothers. 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

- WFP Algeria is facing serious funding constraints. Unless additional contributions are received, there will be no food commodities for distribution in the coming months with reductions starting in June. WFP is intensifying advocacy efforts to close the funding gap, through regular meetings with donors and visits to the camps. This year, representatives of the embassies of Canada, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Poland, Angola, Brazil, Italy, Spain, Russia, United Kingdom and Belgium have visited the camps.
- Since January, WFP has been unable to distribute specialised nutritious food (SNF) needed to prevent and treat malnutrition 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, as well as delays in contributions which complicate funding forecasts for the coming months. In addition, the majority of SNF have to be purchased internationally and have long lead purchase times. In particular, the lack of Plumpy'Sup to treat malnutrition in children is problematic; WFP is trying to mobilise resources for this activity. Around USD 45,000 is required every month to cover this activity.

Other activities:

- On 17 May, WFP Algeria held a special brief for its donors in Algiers to inform them about the serious funding situation and the resulting reduction of basic food rations.
- Through a [press release](#) issued on 15 May, WFP Algeria appealed to donors and informed the public of the difficult funding situation and the need to reduce food rations.

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 preliminary 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

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

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