



WFP Algeria Country Brief

Highlights

- WFP Algeria urgently requires USD 5.9 million to ensure food distribution to Sahrawi refugees identified as most vulnerable to food insecurity over the next six months (March-August 2017).
- Due to funding constraint, no specialized nutritious food was available for the treatment and prevention of malnutrition and anaemia in children under five.
- WFP Algeria won the Jury's Choice Award at the WFP Innovator Accelerator Centre on Pitch Night, having submitted a low-tech hydroponic project that will grow locally produced animal fodder.
- PRRO 200301 is to be extended until December 2017 through Budget Revision 08.

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 –March 2017)	111.9 m	86 m (77%)	6.9 m (76%)

*April - September 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:

- improve the food consumption of the most vulnerable refugees
- reduce acute malnutrition and anaemia in children under 5 years and in pregnant and nursing women
- 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, the daily caloric value of 2,166 kcal per ration is generally 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 malnourished children, WFP combines prevention and treatment approaches to address anaemia, stunting and moderate acute malnutrition 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 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 6,360 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 (Nutributter) 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. This activity is based on a 2014 protocol developed by the Sahrawi authorities with the support from WFP.

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 milk and, if available, dates. Starting in April, the children will also receive High-Energy Biscuits, which were added to the activity through the last Budget Revision.

In Numbers

90,000 General food rations

35,000 additional general food rations

2,155 kcal per ration per day*

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

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

Operational Updates

- In March, thanks to advance financing WFP was able to distribute 125,000 complete rations, consisting of 8 kg of wheat flour, 2 kg of rice, 2 kg barley, 1 kg yellow split peas, 1 kg lentils, and 900 g of fortified vegetable oil. A second distribution of 1 kg Corn Soya Blend was provided following the delayed arrival of the shipment. At the end of the month, the monthly calorie intake reached a daily average of 2,155 kcal per person.
- Under its nutrition activity, WFP distributed daily rations of 100 g Corn Soya Blend (CSB+), 10 g vegetable oil, and 7.5 g sugar, to treat 549 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. 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 Sweden, Norway, Finland, Poland, Angola, Brazil, Italy, Spain, Russia and Belgium have visited the camps.
- Since January, WFP has been unable to distribute a number of specialised nutritious food (SNF), including Plumpy'Sup, Nutributter, needed to prevent and treat malnutrition in children and women. The non-availability of these products is a result of the funding constraints, as well as delays in contributions which complicates funding forecasts for the coming months. In addition, the majority of SNF have to be purchased internationally and have a longer lead purchase times. In particular, the non-availability 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

- From 07-10 March, a collaborative team from WFP Algeria and cooperating partner OXFAM travelled to the WFP Innovation Accelerator boot camp to showcase a low-tech hydroponics project, a WFP complementary activity, which produces locally grown animal fodder. The primary objective of the activity is to enhance food security in the camps, and to offer occupational opportunities by building on existing and external skills and expertise, in combination with small business management skills. During the four-day intensive workshop, the second phase of the project was discussed and planned, it includes a scale-up of the activity to benefit more refugees as well as testing different management styles (cooperative vs, household). On 09 March, during the Innovation Accelerator's Pitch Night the project was presented to an external audience and won the Jury's Choice Award. WFP Algeria is looking for additional funding for this and two other complementary activities (fish farming and goat breeding for increased milk production).
- From 12-14 March a stakeholder workshop (partners, authorities, NGOs) took place in Tindouf to discuss the findings of the 2016 nutrition survey and to finalize the document. WFP is planning to re-evaluate and reformulate its nutrition activity to respond to the needs.

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