



WFP Algeria Country Brief

Highlights

- WFP and UNHCR organized advocacy events "Together Against Violence" for youth and women as part of the 16 days of activism.
- No funding forecasts or projections have been committed for 2018.
- Starting January 2018, there will be no specialized nutritious foods (SNF) will be available for the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition and anaemia in children, and pregnant and nursing women.
- High Energy Biscuits are in short supply due to funding shortfalls

**WFP
SAYS
NO to
GENDER
BASED
VIOLENCE**

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	4 m
Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (January 2018-December 2018)	19.3 m	n.a.*	

*Will be reported starting January 2018
** December 2017 – May 2018

Since 1986, WFP has supported the most vulnerable refugees from Western Sahara in 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 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 intake per ration is on average maintained above 2,100 throughout the year.

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 vitamins and minerals (Plumpy'Sup).

Prevention: An additional 8,000 pregnant and nursing women with anaemia receive Micronutrient Powders to prevent malnutrition. WFP also targets 13,200 boys and girls aged 6-59 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.

In Numbers

125,000 General food rations

2,138 kcal per ration per day in November

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

People Assisted
November 2017



Main Photo

Credit: Katharina Meyer-Seipp/WFP
Caption: Sahrawi refugee women during a joint event from WFP and UNHCR on women's rights.



November 2017

Operational Updates

- In November, WFP distributed 125,000 full rations consisting of 8 kg wheat flour, 2 kg barley, 2 kg rice, 1.5 kg lentils, 1 kg of sugar, 1 kg of corn soya blend (CSB) and 1 litre of fortified vegetable oil. Each of the 125,000 rations reached an average energy intake of 2,138 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 593 moderately malnourished pregnant women and nursing mothers. WFP also distributed Plumpy'sup, a specialised nutrition product for the treatment of malnourished children, to 334 children who received daily rations of 100 g for 30 days. A special spread (Nutributter) to prevent chronic malnutrition in 12,625 children under five was also distributed (20g every 2 days).

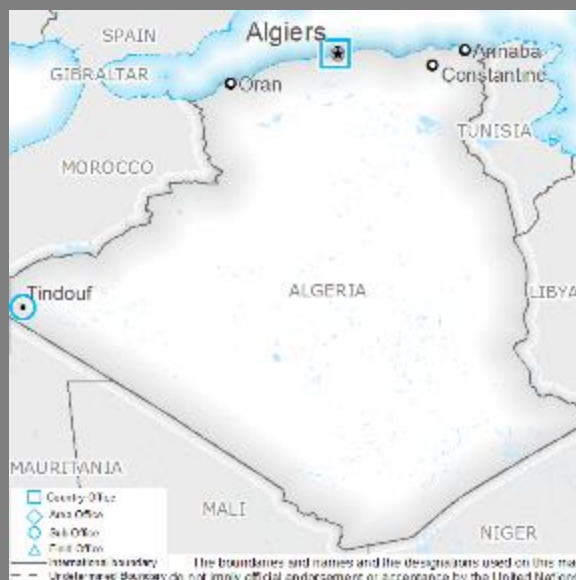
Challenges

- In order to continue the distribution of life-saving assistance, WFP Algeria urgently requires USD 4 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 2017 to allow sufficient procurement time.
- Funding predictability would also contribute to ensuring continued coverage of food assistance throughout the year, in light of the 3 to 4 months lead time for commodity procured on the international markets.

Other:

- WFP organized a donor mission from 28 to 30 November, in collaboration with UNHCR, UNICEF and NGO partners. Representatives from the embassies of Sweden, Germany, Japan and South Africa visited the camps during a two day stay to learn more about the situation on the ground and humanitarian efforts thus far. These visits are part of the WFP resource mobilization and advocacy strategy.
- WFP is currently conducting a decentralized evaluation of its nutrition activity, in light of unsatisfactory results from the 2016 joint nutrition survey. The findings and recommendations of the evaluation will be available in early 2018 and contribute to the reformulation of the WFP nutrition activity. A team of external experts visited the camps from 21 November to 6 December, as part of the data collection phase, including through interviews with partners and beneficiaries.
- WFP, UNHCR and OXFAM organized an advocacy session for refugee youth on 29 November, as part of the 16 days of activism against violence against women. There were also workshops organized for NGO partners as well as WFP staff.

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