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Draft Algeria interim country strategic plan (2019–2022)

Duration	1 July 2019–30 June 2022
Total cost to WFP	USD 58,965,759
Gender and age marker*	3

* <http://gender.manuals.wfp.org/en/gender-toolkit/gender-in-programming/gender-and-age-marker/>.

Executive summary

Algeria has hosted Sahrawi refugees from Western Sahara since 1975. This prolonged and forgotten refugee crisis is the second longest-lasting in the world. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 173,600 refugees live in camps in Algeria: 33,000 boys, 32,300 girls, 52,900 women and 55,400 men.¹ There are five refugee camps – Awserd, Boujdour, Dakhla, Laayoun and Smara – near the town of Tindouf, 2,000 km southwest of Algiers. The Sahrawi authorities based in Rabouni are responsible for camp administration: a situation that is without parallel worldwide.

The camps are in an arid region, characterized by extreme temperatures and very low rainfall, and livelihood and economic opportunities are limited. The refugees are highly dependent on humanitarian assistance, including food. Humanitarian interventions are coordinated by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, local and international non-governmental organizations, the Sahrawi Red Crescent and the Algerian Red Crescent.

¹ Data from 31 December 2017.

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The WFP interim country strategic plan for Algeria (2019–2022) has two strategic outcomes and four activities that contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2. The strategic outcomes are derived from stakeholder consultations and have the aim of ensuring the food security and nutrition of Sahrawi refugees, in collaboration with WFP's partners.

In this interim country strategic plan, consideration of nutrition issues will be systematically mainstreamed into all WFP interventions. General food assistance will be designed to provide as nutritious and diverse a food basket as possible. School feeding activities will be nutrition-sensitive and gender-responsive in order to address nutrition concerns. A new approach will be taken to resilience building, supporting institutional and individual capacity strengthening through various complementary livelihood activities, and enhancing synergies and cross-fertilization among activities and with partners' operations.

Under strategic outcome 1, WFP will meet refugees' basic food needs through the provision of general food assistance, nutrition-sensitive school feeding and complementary livelihood activities. Strategic outcome 2 has the aim of improving the nutrition status of refugees through the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition and the prevention of malnutrition in pregnant and lactating women and girls, women and girls of reproductive age and children aged 6–59 months. WFP will address malnutrition and anaemia by improving prevention and treatment, raising awareness of good nutrition and ensuring that all of its interventions are nutrition-sensitive. Efforts will be made to revitalize discussion and coordination of nutrition activities with stakeholders.

WFP will seek to diversify its complementary activities, reaching more households by scaling up existing projects and exploring new livelihood opportunities, based on a mapping exercise to identify resilience opportunities. Complementarity and synergies with partners' activities will be explored throughout the implementation of the interim country strategic plan. An emerging new resilience approach will foster improved food security and nutrition for Sahrawi refugees, in partnership with the Sahrawi authorities (including the national union of Sahrawi women and youth groups) and other actors including United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Draft decision*

The Board approves the Algeria interim country strategic plan (July 2019–June 2022) (WFP/EB.A/2019/8-B/1) at a total cost to WFP of USD 58,965,759.

* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the decisions and recommendations document issued at the end of the session.

1. Country analysis

1.1 Country context

1. Algeria is an upper-middle-income country with a population of 40.6 million people.² In the last two decades, the country has achieved a 20 percent poverty reduction and has made significant improvements in the well-being of its people.³ According to the most recent data, 5.5 percent of the population was living below the national poverty line in 2011, with only 0.5 percent living below the international poverty line of USD 1.90 a day.⁴ The largest country in Africa, Algeria covers 2.4 million km², including 2.0 million km² of the Sahara desert. The urban population constituted 72 percent of the total population in 2017 and the proportion is expected to grow in the short to medium term.⁵
2. The oil boom has enabled the Government to clear Algeria's foreign debt, invest in human capital and infrastructure and improve the country's human development indicators. Declining international oil prices are, however, threatening the sustainability of social programmes and Algeria needs to continue making progress towards the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
3. Algeria has hosted Sahrawi refugees from Western Sahara since 1975. This prolonged and forgotten refugee crisis is the second longest-lasting in the world. The refugees live in five camps – Awserd, Boujdour, Dakhla, Laayoun and Smara – near the town of Tindouf, 2,000 km southwest of Algiers. In a move without parallel elsewhere in the world, the Government of Algeria has granted special status to the Sahrawi authorities enabling them to administer the territory they temporarily occupy. Sahrawi authorities based in Rabouni are therefore responsible for camp administration.
4. The Government of Algeria provided Sahrawi refugees with humanitarian assistance until 1986, when Algeria requested the support of the United Nations humanitarian agencies. It is critical that the agencies maintain their commitment to responding to the humanitarian situation until a lasting political solution is found.
5. In March 2018, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) published data indicating that 173,600 refugees were living in the five camps: 33,000 boys, 32,300 girls, 52,900 women and 55,400 men.⁶ These figures provide humanitarian agencies with more evidence for addressing the particular needs of each group, by sex and age and by camp.
6. The camps are in an arid region, characterized by extreme heat and very low rainfall; livelihood and economic opportunities are limited. No formal banking system is in place. This leaves the refugees highly dependent on humanitarian assistance, including food.

1.2 Progress towards SDG 2

7. A United Nations country team mission visited Algeria in December 2016 to meet the Algerian Government and discuss Algeria's plans for achieving the SDGs. The Government has created six thematic working groups with remits that together encompass all SDGs. Although none of these groups focuses directly on food security and nutrition, interest in these areas has been shown, as described below.

² Please note that disaggregated data for the population of Algeria are not provided as Algerians are not the target of WFP's assistance in the country.

³ World Bank Group. *Algeria overview*. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/algeria/overview>.

⁴ Reported data is not always disaggregated by gender and age.

⁵ World Bank Group. *Algeria overview*. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/algeria/overview>.

⁶ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2018. *Sahrawi Refugees near Tindouf, Algeria: Total In-Camp Population*. http://www.usc.es/export9/sites/webinstitucional/gl/institutos/ceso/descargas/UNHCR_Tindouf-Total-In-Camp-Population_March-2018.pdf. Data from 31 December 2017.

8. WFP aims to support the Government in meeting SDG 2 targets. Discussions were launched at a one-day event organized jointly by WFP and the National Institute of Strategic Global Studies on 2 July 2018. During the event, the Research Centre in Applied Economics for Development presented a synthesis report on food security and nutrition in Algeria and WFP highlighted several of its areas of expertise. WFP is discussing opportunities for collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' interministerial committee responsible monitoring and coordinating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in synergy with other United Nations agencies. A national director for the SDG project has also been designated. The work plan of the United Nations country team for 2018 and 2019 includes work on the development of a zero hunger strategic review to be carried out by WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). At this time, discussions on terms of reference for the review are under way.

1.3 Hunger gaps and challenges

9. Sahrawi refugee households depend on external food assistance for meeting their basic food needs. During a WFP food security assessment mission in 2018, 94 percent of households reported external assistance as their main source of income; 17 percent of this group had no other source of income. For more than 90 percent of households, staple food items come from food assistance, gifts or borrowing, none of which are considered sustainable food sources.⁷
10. The same assessment showed that after decades of food distribution, 63 percent of households have acceptable food consumption. Acceptable food consumption is more common among households headed by men (65 percent of them) than those headed by women (57 percent). On the other hand, a greater percentage of women-headed households have inadequate food consumption (3 percent poor and 18 percent borderline) compared to male-headed households (respectively 1 percent and 16 percent). An overall total of 4 percent have poor food consumption and 33 percent have borderline food consumption, which indicates that 37 percent of the households have inadequate food consumption (poor and borderline). Household diets lack diversity and the intake of nutrient-rich foods is low. Dietary diversity has been declining: 19 percent of households have low dietary diversity scores and 64 percent have medium scores. Low dietary diversity is more prevalent among households headed by women (28 percent) than those headed by men (15 percent).
11. The food security assessment revealed that 12 percent of Sahrawi households (20,832 people) are food-secure, 58 percent (100,688 people) are vulnerable to food insecurity and 30 percent (52,080 people) are food-insecure. Of the households that are vulnerable to food insecurity, 47 percent would become food-insecure in the event of a shock such as a flood, price increases or a change in the provision of assistance and only 11 percent are considered capable of withstanding minor shocks. The assessment recommends providing food rations to the 30 percent of households that are food-insecure while assisting the 58 percent that are vulnerable with either food rations (47 percent) or other forms of food assistance (11 percent) such as complementary livelihood activities.
12. Households headed by women are more vulnerable to food insecurity: 35.2 percent of female-headed households are food-insecure, compared with 27.8 percent of households headed by men. Only 7 percent of households headed by women are food-secure, compared with 13.5 percent of those headed by men.
13. The most recent joint WFP/UNHCR nutrition survey⁸ estimated that among children aged 6–59 months the global acute malnutrition rate was 4.7 percent⁹ and stunting

⁷ WFP. 2018. *Food Security Assessment for Sahrawi Refugees*. Not available online.

⁸ UNHCR and WFP. 2016. *Joint Nutrition Survey*. Not available online.

⁹ Global acute malnutrition rates are reported to be slightly higher for boys.

prevalence was 18.6 percent. The survey revealed that global acute malnutrition had declined slightly since 2010 and that stunting was significantly lower than in 2012 and recommended continued monitoring. Despite the improvements, the survey reported that the nutrition status of Sahrawi refugees had deteriorated overall. Anaemia prevalence had worsened, affecting 45.2 percent of women and girls of reproductive age and 37.8 percent of children aged 6–59 months, while overweight and obesity had also become a public health concern.¹⁰ The prevalence of malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women and girls was 6.6 percent overall: 8.1 percent among pregnant women and girls and 4.5 percent among those who were lactating.

14. According to the nutrition survey, the rise in anaemia prevalence since 2012 can be partially attributed to insufficient availability and consumption of iron-rich foods. In recent years, fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil have not been included in general food rations, which may have contributed to this situation.¹¹ It has also been reported also that iron absorption during metabolism can be impeded by customs such as heavy tea drinking before and after meals. Households' limited purchasing power could also have impeded access to iron-rich foods such as meat. WFP reverted to procuring fortified vegetable oil in September 2016 and is currently identifying local suppliers with the capacity to fortify wheat flour for use in humanitarian assistance.
15. Adult Sahrawi refugees now face greater risk of diet-based non-communicable diseases than previously. The prevalence of overweight and obesity among women and girls of reproductive age has risen sharply and currently stands at 67 percent.¹² The 2016 nutrition survey presents the situation as a public health challenge and further studies incorporating gender and age analyses are needed.
16. There is a need to raise awareness of good nutrition practices among the general population, including for infant and young child feeding. Campaigns should target men and boys, as well as women and girls of reproductive age and schoolchildren. Findings and recommendations from a January 2019 gender analysis and the nutrition literature reveal how gender disparities may affect nutrition-related behaviour, including with regard to the high prevalence of anaemia among pregnant and lactating women and girls.
17. Sahrawi women and men enjoy societal equality and equity. Nonetheless, there are gaps in our understanding of how women and men manage their roles and responsibilities at the household level when it comes to food security and nutrition. We need a more detailed understanding of persistent food insecurity and anaemia among Sahrawi refugees and its root causes, including with regard to sex and age. There are challenges to achieving gender equality among the Sahrawi, and WFP needs to build evidence, together with the community, that shows how gender inequalities affect food security and nutrition. Gender has not yet been fully mainstreamed in WFP operations, and renewed efforts are needed to move from the theory of gender equality to the practice of implementing programmes that are gender responsive. Recommendations from the gender analysis are based on several opportunities identified with regard to the WFP programme, as described in this interim country strategic plan (ICSP).
18. Women and girls play an influential role in Sahrawi society. They are involved in household and community decision making: 2017 post-distribution monitoring shows that more than 60 percent of women make all household decisions regarding food. This role for women is

¹⁰ Please note that the nutrition survey gathered data on anaemia among women and children only. There are no data available on malnutrition in men.

¹¹ Because of budget constraints, WFP increased the proportion of wheat flour it procures locally. Fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil are not readily available locally because national legislation does not require the fortification of these products.

¹² Disaggregated data are not currently available.

- encouraged by the Sahrawi refugee leadership. All humanitarian assistance at extended distribution sites is managed by women through committees in which they, as neighbourhood leaders (*jefas de barrio*), influence the targeting of food assistance at the community level.
19. Sahrawi people are traditionally semi-nomadic, with a diet based primarily on meat and dairy products. The refugees' dependence on food assistance has changed their eating habits. Access to and availability of fresh and iron-rich foods are challenging in all five refugee camps. The lack of knowledge of good nutrition practices has an impact on anaemia and malnutrition (especially obesity and overweight) and is likely to continue exacerbating the situation. WFP will work on raising awareness of nutrition in all its activities and will emphasize the need to examine malnutrition from a multisector perspective while seeking more sex-disaggregated information from partners. Efforts will also be made to further diversify the food basket.
 20. Attendance and enrolment rates in kindergartens and primary schools are slightly higher for girls than for boys. School enrolment and attendance rates are high, as education is encouraged in Sahrawi culture. Through the ICSP, WFP will provide mid-morning snacks to 41,500 children (20,903 girls and 20,597 boys) attending school. The snacks lack dietary diversity, however, and their nutritional value is not optimum. There is potential to use primary schools as a platform for raising awareness of nutrition among schoolchildren. Water, sanitation and hygiene practices in schools need to be monitored and improved over time, mainly because of a lack of water, storage and kitchen facilities.
 21. The main finding of the review of school feeding is that there is a need to increase school feeding's impact on improving nutrition. The mid-morning snacks have become less appreciated by refugee children over the years and need to be better adapted to the local context. WFP is looking at alternatives to make the school feeding programme increasingly nutrition-sensitive and reflective of Sahrawi eating habits while diversifying the menu. While serving hot meals could become an option in time, opportunities linked to the local production of fortified biscuits, piloting home-grown school feeding, occupational opportunities and other new modalities, linking school feeding to agriculture, and finally using schools as a platform for changing nutrition-related behaviour are also possible. The review will allow the creation of synergies with resilience activities and other stakeholders involved in school feeding.
 22. Sahrawi refugees are in a protracted situation with limited income and livelihood prospects. The 2018 food security assessment reports that 35 percent of households (36 percent of households headed by men and 39 percent of those headed by women) living in camps own livestock, albeit ill-adapted to desert conditions, but the scarcity of affordable fodder results in animal deaths and the low quality and quantity of meat and milk. Fodder scarcity consequently adversely affects animal protein intake in the camps. Goats remain culturally important, however, because the possession of livestock is perceived as a valid strategy for coping with future shocks and in the meantime provides a source of milk. These challenges exacerbate the already limited dietary diversity of camp residents.
 23. In their 2016 joint strategy on self-reliance,¹³ WFP and UNHCR recognize that to become self-reliant in food security and nutrition, refugees require more robust livelihoods, although in the Sahrawi refugee context there is clearly no intention to settle refugees in camps. WFP has already launched two complementary livelihood activities for Sahrawi refugees: the hydroponic production of green animal fodder, which has the aim of diversifying diets by increasing the availability of milk and meat; and the construction of a fish farm for the

¹³ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, World Food Programme. 2016. *Joint Strategy: Enhancing Self-reliance in Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Refugee Situations*. <https://www.unhcr.org/5c3c6d584.pdf>.

production of fresh fish. Other activities are under discussion and will require dedicated funding.

24. A new resilience approach opens up new opportunities for strengthening livelihoods and addressing nutrition challenges, in collaboration with the Sahrawi authorities, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations. The new resilience approach includes the improvement of access to local fresh produce by supporting integrated and innovative agriculture production systems at the community and institutional levels and creating opportunities for processing and distribution through micro-enterprises. The approach also supports the refugee population and its institutions, not only by strengthening capacities but also by reinforcing complementarities and synergies between the sectors having an impact on malnutrition and anaemia. Reinforcing local expertise in related fields through partnerships with technical institutions, universities and the Algerian private sector will also be part of the new resilience approach.

1.4 Key country priorities

25. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has created an inter-ministerial committee for the coordination and implementation of efforts to achieve the SDGs in Algeria. An evaluation of implementation of the United Nations development assistance framework (UNDAF) began in late 2018 with the aim of improving the UNDAF's alignment with the 2030 Agenda. The 2018–2019 work plan for the United Nations country team includes a zero hunger strategic review, to be carried out by WFP and FAO. Algeria will present a voluntary national review at the seventh session of the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, held under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.
26. The Sahrawi authorities have shown increasing interest in complementary livelihood activities and the Sahrawi economic development authority participates in discussions on food security and nutrition-related interventions, including with regard to the new resilience approach initiated by WFP. The Secretary General of the Polisario attended the inauguration of the fish farm in N'Khaila in February 2019, together with other high level representatives. The Sahrawi education authority is keen to explore the adoption of a nutrition-sensitive approach to school feeding and to foster interconnectedness with other activities and partners.
27. The Sahrawi public health authority developed a strategic health plan for 2016–2020, following the findings of the 2016 WFP/UNHCR nutrition survey. The priorities identified in the strategic health plan include improving the quality of basic preventive and health care services, mainstreaming consideration of gender issues into health care services and strengthening intersectoral coordination with the providers of reproductive health services. Consultations are being held with education and cooperation authorities with a view to creating synergies among all activities for better nutrition results among women, men, boys and girls. WFP's new approach to resilience building will guide collaboration among all stakeholders, under the leadership of the Sahrawi authorities.
28. The Sahrawi authorities have welcomed the evidence provided by the recent assessments and are working with WFP to formalize community-based targeting through the distribution of general food rations, drawing on the evidence provided by the food security assessment.

2. Strategic implications for WFP

2.1 WFP's experience and lessons learned

29. WFP has been providing basic food assistance to Sahrawi refugees since 1986 through general food assistance, nutrition-specific interventions and mid-morning snacks in primary schools and kindergartens. Since 2006, WFP has been providing food assistance to 125,000 refugees: 66,000 women, 39,750 men, 10,000 girls and 9,250 boys. Based on the food security assessment, this figure has been revised to 133,672 refugees for the ICSP,

representing the food insecure refugee camp population (30 percent) and a good proportion of the population vulnerable to food insecurity (47 percent). WFP relied on a series of assessments, many of which are mentioned above, providing evidence for the design of the ICSP:

- a UNHCR/WFP joint assessment mission and joint nutrition survey (2016);
 - a WFP decentralized evaluation of nutrition activities under the protracted relief and recovery operation for 2012–2017 (2018);
 - a UNHCR report on Sahrawi refugees' in-camp population (2018);
 - a WFP food security assessment (2018);
 - an analysis of opportunities for a new resilience approach (2019);
 - a school feeding review (2019); and
 - a gender analysis (2019).
30. The 2018 decentralized evaluation of nutrition activities found scope for improving the definition of WFP's role in nutrition.¹⁴ The evaluation recommended that WFP reposition its nutrition work by reinforcing its internal capacities and reviewing nutrition strategies and activities, in collaboration with stakeholders in all sectors. The evaluation also highlighted the need for additional information on aspects of nutrition, particularly studies of anaemia among pregnant and lactating women and girls and children under 5, and better joint data collection and analysis through enhanced inter-sector mechanisms and complementarity. Good infant and young child feeding practices and breastfeeding should be promoted. Based on evidence gathered by WFP, both at the corporate level and in Algeria,¹⁵ a stronger nutrition focus will be fostered in all activities under the ICSP, starting with nutrition sensitization, increased consideration of gender issues in activities that use nutritious foods and monitoring and data management.
31. The 2016 nutrition survey revealed an alarming prevalence of anaemia, especially among pregnant and lactating women and girls. The prevalence has worsened despite efforts to combat anaemia, including the distribution of micronutrient powder. The nutrition survey report recommended increasing efforts to raise awareness of good nutrition practices and analysing the feeding practices and behaviours that contribute to anaemia among children and pregnant and lactating women and girls.
32. WFP has presented several proposals for piloting the use of cash-based transfers (CBTs) in Algeria¹⁶ and organized a 2018 visit to Somaliland with the Sahrawi Red Crescent (*Media Luna Roja Saharawi*, or MLRS) to observe the use of CBTs in humanitarian response. In agreement with the Sahrawi health authority and MLRS, WFP has proposed the use of vouchers to complement the diet of pregnant and lactating women and girls with a view to improving their access to fresh food from local markets as a way of addressing malnutrition and anaemia. Women and men refugees and the staff of health centres will be consulted through participatory focus group discussions during implementation of the pilot phase to ensure fine tuning.
33. WFP's livelihood activities for Sahrawi refugees are focused on building skills and improving food security and nutrition for men and women while also providing opportunities to young

¹⁴ WFP. 2018. *Evaluation of the Nutrition Components of the Algeria PRRO 200301*. <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-000099835/download/>.

¹⁵ WFP. 2018. *Synthesis report on four impact evaluations of WFP programmes on nutrition in humanitarian contexts in the Sahel*. <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/80ec7f0c-bd3b-4689-ad2e-c5254e98066b/download/>.

¹⁶ Unfortunately, the Sahrawi authorities did not agree to the use of both in-kind food and cash-based transfers as a hybrid modality for general food assistance.

people. One project has the aim of producing green fodder using a low-tech hydroponics technique; another involves farming fish in the newly constructed fish farm for increasing the availability of animal protein. Fodder production has been scaled up but continues to require dedicated funding, as well as fish production over the next two years to ensure self-sustainability of the fish farm, which will also be a training centre. The formulation of a nutrition-sensitive and gender-responsive resilience approach will allow WFP and partners to enhance synergies among complementary interventions and explore new ways of improving livelihoods from common grounds.

34. Based on findings from the school feeding review, WFP will establish and implement a nutrition-sensitive and gender-responsive school feeding programme that is linked to other nutrition and livelihood activities in communities and centres on the promotion of local food systems and the sharing of institutional arrangements with the Sahrawi authorities.
35. Because of funding and pipeline challenges, in recent years WFP has relied on three-month pre-positioned food stocks funded by the Spanish Red Cross (*Cruz Roja Española*, or CRE) and managed by the Algerian Red Crescent (*Croissant-Rouge Algérien*, or CRA) and MLRS to ensure the continuity of basic food distributions. An emergency stock was recently set up by CRA and MLRS to help stabilize the supply and diversity of the WFP food basket. UNHCR has overall responsibility for the secondary distribution of food, including transportation of food to refugees, which is carried out by the Spanish Association of Workers and Technicians without Borders (*Asociación de Trabajadores y Técnicos sin Fronteras*, or ATTSF). WFP has overall responsibility for the delivery of food to the humanitarian storage site of Rabouni, which is carried out by private transporters contracted by the CRA. The storage site is managed by the MLRS.

2.2 Opportunities for WFP

36. In addition to providing basic food assistance, WFP will explore opportunities for diversifying its assistance in response to the needs of Sahrawi refugees.
37. WFP will seek to enhance its focus on addressing malnutrition and anaemia by making the following adjustments to its activities:
 - Food rations and basket: reducing the amount of sugar in the food basket in compliance with World Health Organization (WHO) standards, and gradually decreasing the quantities of cereals and SuperCereal provided, once the provision of fortified wheat flour is resumed, to address malnutrition and anaemia while maintaining acceptable dietary diversity, recommended kilocalorie intakes and overall costs;
 - School feeding activity reformulation: reformulation is necessary to make school feeding more nutrition-sensitive and gender-responsive and to increasingly use primary schools as platforms for activities aimed at raising the awareness of the Sahrawi population with regard to nutrition and gender dynamics through social and behaviour change communication with parents' associations;
 - Nutrition activity reformulation: reformulation has become necessary to better address malnutrition and anaemia taking into account new evidence. The changes, including a much stronger focus on behavioural changes, awareness raising and including intersectoral coordination of nutrition activities, will be introduced gradually. The food basket has been revised and nutritious foods substituted in response to insufficient impact to date;
 - Awareness raising in nutrition: launching campaigns for raising awareness of the nutritional value of specialized food products distributed by WFP to children and pregnant and lactating women and girls at health centres, ensuring that the campaigns tackle gender roles and relationships as they affect nutrition. Focus group discussions

- and publications will be complemented by a series of TV and radio programmes on food utilization and the preparation of nutritious meals for improving nutrition status;
- promoting healthy nutrition behaviour and practices through social and behaviour change communication as a means of overcoming social barriers faced by women, girls, boys and men, including cultural and dietary habits; and
 - cash-based transfers: using CBTs (e- and other vouchers) for pregnant and lactating women and girls to reduce the prevalence of anaemia by improving access to fresh produce for increased dietary diversity.
38. Through its resilience approach, WFP will continue to engage authorities and partners in capacity-strengthening activities for institutions and individuals in support of innovative livelihood projects that equitably engage and benefit women and men, including young people, as mentioned earlier. This will complement the food rations for addressing food security and nutrition challenges.
39. WFP will improve its monitoring of general food distributions through formalization of community-based targeting that systematically takes into consideration the recommendations of the food security assessment, as well as gender and age. WFP will work with neighbourhood committees and leaders (*jefas de barrio*) to identify refugees who are food-insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity, including those participating in livelihood activities.
40. WFP will continue to explore opportunities for providing technical support to the Government of Algeria in the areas of school feeding, nutrition awareness, social protection and support for Algerian smallholder farmers, in synergy with other United Nations agencies. The joint WFP/FAO zero hunger strategic review will reveal opportunities for WFP to support the Government in reaching the SDGs.

2.3 Strategic changes

41. WFP will assume a greater role in nutrition and work with partners on improving inter-sector coordination in nutrition. WFP will also ensure that nutrition challenges are addressed in all of its activities with a view to obtaining more effective results, including through the raising of awareness of nutrition issues. A new approach to resilience will support institutional and individual capacity strengthening through the diversification of complementary livelihood activities and will increase synergies and cross-fertilization among activities and partners. The food basket for general food assistance will be as nutritious and diverse as possible. School feeding activities will be nutrition-sensitive and gender-responsive.
42. The evidence already obtained from assessments has informed programme design and decision making to an extent not previously achieved for this operation.¹⁷ Additional information will be obtained during implementation of the ICSP as further nutrition-specific studies, with integrated gender and age analyses, are carried out to provide deeper insights into the drivers of malnutrition and anaemia. This input will inform the fine-tuning and improvement of the ICSP.
43. Experience from social and behaviour change activities will foster improved understanding of the underlying causes of malnutrition and any cultural habits that contribute to anaemia and overweight. Social and behaviour change communication will also facilitate the

¹⁷ Recently, the Sahrawi operation has benefited from an unprecedented number of assessments, including a 2018 UNHCR survey of in-camp population numbers (http://www.usc.es/export9/sites/webinstitucional/gl/institutos/ceso/descargas/UNHCR_Tindouf-Total-In-Camp-Population_March-2018.pdf), a 2018 WFP food security assessment (not available online) and a 2018 WFP decentralized evaluation of nutrition (<https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000099835/download/>).

enhancement of dietary diversity through nutrition education and awareness, tailored messaging campaigns and innovative targeted activities.

3. WFP strategic orientation

3.1 Direction, focus and intended impacts

44. The strategic objectives of the ICSP are to continue providing food assistance to help meet the basic food and nutrition needs of Sahrawi refugees (strategic outcome 1) and improve their nutrition status (strategic outcome 2) by 2022.
45. Under the ICSP, WFP will help to improve the nutrition status of refugees through activities that are nutrition sensitive and gender-responsive. WFP will also continue to tackle malnutrition and the high prevalence of anaemia among pregnant and lactating women and girls. New complementary livelihood activities will help enhance the livelihood opportunities of women and men refugees, also providing opportunities to young people.
46. WFP will mainstream gender considerations into all its food assistance activities, including by disaggregating data by sex and age; undertaking gender analyses for informing the design, implementation and monitoring of activities, while meeting the food security and nutrition needs of women, men, girls and boys; and implementing activities that foster the gender equality and women's empowerment needed to make sustained progress towards SDG 2.

3.2 Strategic outcomes, focus areas, expected outputs and key activities

Strategic outcome 1: Targeted food-insecure Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf meet their basic food and nutrition needs all year

47. Activities under this strategic outcome will seek to meet the basic food and nutrition needs of the most vulnerable refugees and support their livelihoods. The outcome contributes to SDG target 2.1: everyone has access to food.

Focus area

48. The focus area of this strategic outcome is crisis response.

Expected outputs

49. This strategic outcome will be achieved through the following four outputs:
 - Food-insecure refugees receive food transfers that meet their basic food and nutrition needs.
 - Preschool and primary and intermediate schoolchildren receive food transfers on the days they attend school.
 - Refugees benefit from appropriate social and behaviour change communications and raised awareness of adequate nutrition, food preparation and food utilization.
 - Refugees benefit from diversified capacity strengthening and livelihood activities that enhance their skills and improve their food security and nutrition through a new resilience approach.

Key activities

Activity 1: Provide general food assistance to targeted food-insecure refugees

50. WFP will continue to supply refugees with a diversified food basket of nine basic foods, including several types of cereal and at least two types of pulse when possible, delivered through monthly distributions of general food assistance. Other humanitarian organizations such as Oxfam and the CRE will provide fresh fruit and vegetables, while WFP increases its focus on resilience to increase access to fresh food. The food basket has been revised in

response to the need to respond more effectively to malnutrition and anaemia and will meet the main micronutrient requirements of beneficiaries.

51. General food assistance will be designed and delivered in accordance with WFP's commitments to protecting vulnerable people, demonstrating accountability to affected populations and promoting gender equality, with regular and inclusive consultations with affected people and the provision of information and safely accessible mechanisms for registering complaints and feedback. Staff, cooperating partners and contractors will be trained in the principles of protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. General food assistance will be based on gender and age analyses informed by community-based targeting. Clear nutrition messages will be shared through gender-responsive awareness raising campaigns on television and social media platforms.

Activity 2: Provide nutrition-sensitive school feeding

52. WFP will continue to provide children in primary schools and kindergartens with mid-morning snacks in the form of a glass of milk and high-energy biscuits or locally baked fortified biscuits. Findings and recommendations from the 2019 review of school feeding will inform better implementation and ensure that the activity is nutrition-sensitive. Any changes made will be in synergy with other ICSP activities, such as livelihood and nutrition activities. Synergies will be strengthened by an increased focus on gender-responsive awareness raising on nutrition using schools as a sensitization platform, and WFP will pursue new partnerships with the media, NGOs and local authorities for this purpose. Findings and recommendations from the gender analysis will be reflected in this activity, fostering evidenced-based, equitable and effective engagement with the diverse population groups involved in school feeding activities. WFP will continue to support school renovation in partnership with other actors involved in the education sector and the improvement of water availability in schools.

Activity 3: Provide Sahrawi refugees in Tindouf with complementary livelihood opportunities that benefit women and men equitably

53. Livelihood activities will primarily benefit refugees who are vulnerable to food insecurity and excluded from general food distributions. They may also target young people for selected and adapted activities. WFP will strengthen the capacities of institutions and individuals to conduct complementary livelihood activities that improve access to diversified and nutritious food.
54. WFP took a close look at several potential resilience opportunities, based on past experience and future prospects. This resilience analysis provides insights on several opportunities for a common resilience approach. The new resilience approach will help to create complementarities and synergies among all ICSP activities, particularly school feeding and nutrition-sensitive activities, and with the work of other stakeholders. The aim is to ensure better access to diversified food for all refugees to improve their food security and nutrition. With community participation and in collaboration with all stakeholders, WFP will consider how to expand livelihood opportunities equitably for men and women, including young people, through income generation and capacity-strengthening projects.
55. At the national garden site of N'Khaila,¹⁸ where research on arid environment agriculture is carried out, WFP will work with the Sahrawi economic development authority on enhancing production from fish farms,¹⁹ providing technical expertise and support. The farm will be a training centre for women, men and young people, promoting private initiatives for setting up small-scale fish farms at the household, community and cooperative levels. More broadly,

¹⁸ For more information on N'Khaila (in Spanish), see <https://cerai.org/una-produccion-piloto-de-zanahoria-y-remolacha-en-los-campamentos-saharais-logra-excelentes-resultados/>.

¹⁹ The infrastructure for fish farming has been built, but funding is needed for its operation.

the centre will provide an experimental ecosystem for fish farming, poultry and egg production, vegetable gardening and the production of camel milk and meat.

56. WFP will support the expansion of the green animal fodder production project by providing more hydroponic units to households, communities and institutions, including schools. In parallel, WFP will support the production of organic fertilizers for household crops such as vegetables.
57. A livestock project on the improvement of local goat breeds and animal husbandry techniques will provide technical support and inputs for the strengthening of local expertise. This activity will be implemented in partnership with the Sahrawi economic development authority and with expertise from Algerian and international technical institutes, such as the University of Blida. Other project proposals are expected to arise from current discussions on the new resilience approach and may foster the expansion of WFP's livelihood activities.

Strategic outcome 2: Targeted Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf have improved nutrition status by 2022

58. WFP will tackle moderate acute malnutrition, chronic malnutrition and anaemia through tailored treatment and prevention programmes that comply with current standards and protocols. WFP's approach to addressing malnutrition and anaemia is likely to change based on a clearer understanding of gender inequalities in roles, relations and responsibilities related to nutrition. This work will be undertaken in collaboration with the Sahrawi health authority and other partners. Strategic outcome 2 contributes to SDG target 2.2: no one suffers from malnutrition.

Focus area

59. The focus area for this strategic outcome is crisis response.

Expected outputs

60. This strategic outcome will be achieved through the following four outputs:
 - Sahrawi refugee pregnant and lactating women and girls, and children aged 6–59 months receive special nutritious foods and food supplements that prevent moderate acute malnutrition and anaemia.
 - Sahrawi refugee pregnant and lactating women and girls, and children aged 6–59 months receive special nutritious foods and food supplements that treat moderate acute malnutrition and anaemia.
 - Targeted beneficiaries benefit from appropriate social and behaviour change communication for improving their dietary diversity.
 - Refugees benefit from diversified capacity-strengthening activities that enhance their skills and improve their food security and nutrition.

Key activity

Activity 4: Provide children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls with assistance for the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition

61. Working with health centres, WFP will provide special nutritious food through a blanket supplementary feeding programme that targets pregnant and lactating women and girls and children aged 6–59 months. Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition will be implemented jointly with CRA, UNHCR and the Sahrawi health authority.
62. Research will be conducted during the ICSP with a view to identifying and understanding the drivers of high rates of anaemia and obesity. Based on the findings, WFP will design social and behaviour change communications and activities that address harmful dietary habits in

order to reduce the prevalence of anaemia among children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women and girls and to tackle obesity and overweight.

63. WFP will continue to train health workers and partners in nutrition issues and will sensitize the Sahrawi health authority to issues such as under and overnutrition, anaemia, diabetes and obesity.
64. WFP wishes to pilot the use of vouchers for providing pregnant and lactating women and girls with access to fresh foods from local markets. The vouchers will be valid for purchasing specified vegetables, fruits, meat and fish products that are high in iron and vitamins. The project is expected to have an impact on the diversification of the diet of refugees under the nutrition activity and to contribute to reductions in the prevalence of anaemia by meeting the energy and micronutrient requirements for a healthy pregnancy.

3.3 Transition and exit strategies

65. Humanitarian assistance for the Sahrawi refugees can be phased out only if a durable political solution to the territorial conflict that triggered their exile 43 years ago is found. For the Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf, resettlement in the camps or self-reliance are not options. Once a political solution materializes, WFP will adjust its strategy and resources in coordination with other United Nations agencies.
66. In order to foster a successful transition to an improved diet for the refugees, under the ICSP, WFP will enhance food security and nutrition through food fortification; ensure a coherent approach to nutrition across activities; strengthen local capacities in vulnerability assessment, data collection and evidence creation; and develop interventions for social and behaviour change that contribute to the advancement of nutrition outcomes, gender equality and the empowerment of women.
67. Throughout the ICSP, in addition to providing humanitarian assistance to Sahrawi refugees, the WFP country office in Algeria will continue to engage with the Government and partners on SDG 2.

4. Implementation arrangements

4.1 Beneficiary analysis

68. UNHCR reports that the Sahrawi refugee population is 49 percent women and girls and 51 percent men and boys: children under 17 years of age make up 38 percent of the total population, adult women account for 30 percent and adult men for 32 percent. The largest camps are Smara and Laayoune, each with 29 percent of the refugee population. These are followed by Awserd with 21 percent, Dakhla with 11 percent and Boujdour with the remaining 10 percent.²⁰
69. The 2018 food security assessment in the five camps found that 12 percent of Sahrawi households (20,832 people) are food-secure, 58 percent (100,688 people) are vulnerable to food insecurity and 30 percent (52,080 people) are food-insecure. Among the households that are vulnerable to food insecurity, 11 percent are classed as “least vulnerable”, 14 percent as “marginally vulnerable”, 18 percent as “moderately vulnerable” and 15 percent “most vulnerable”. Of the refugees who are vulnerable to food insecurity, only those classed as “least vulnerable” (19,096 people) would withstand a shock; the remaining 47 percent (81,592 people) would become food-insecure in the event of a shock.

²⁰ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2018. *Sahrawi Refugees near Tindouf, Algeria: Total In-Camp Population*. http://www.usc.es/export9/sites/webinstitucional/gl/institutos/ceso/descargas/UNHCR_Tindouf-Total-In-Camp-Population_March-2018.pdf. Data from 31 December 2017.

70. WFP will provide food assistance to 133,672 refugees from July 2019. Of these refugees 52,080 are food-insecure and 81,592 are at risk of becoming food-insecure because of limited coping capacities. The marginally vulnerable, moderately vulnerable and most vulnerable are considered unable to withstand shocks without external humanitarian assistance.²¹ The remaining 11 percent of refugees (19,096 people), those deemed capable of using coping strategies and withstanding shocks – the “least vulnerable” – will be able, on a voluntary basis, to take part in livelihood activities, along with other refugees, with priority given to women and young people in order to redress inequalities related to sex and age.
71. In line with WFP’s core commitment to following a people-centred approach to programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, the design of the ICSP has been informed by consultations with the Sahrawi authorities and feedback from men and women beneficiaries obtained through regular monitoring.
72. WFP will mainstream consideration of gender issues into all activities during implementation of the ICSP, increasing the use of gender analyses and protection assessments in order to translate the “do no harm” concept into actions that mitigate risks for everyone. Accountability to affected populations will be ensured through the increased use of community consultations and other feedback mechanisms, with a focus on capturing the voices of women and girls. WFP will prioritize training for WFP and partner staff on the do no harm concept and the importance of gender analysis in programme design and implementation.
73. All schoolchildren enrolled in primary schools and kindergartens in the camps will receive a mid-morning snack until further review.
74. For the prevention of malnutrition, WFP will assist 6,360 pregnant and lactating women and girls at risk of anaemia and 13,200 children aged 6–59 months at risk of stunting through specialized nutritious food, knowledge sharing and awareness raising. Pregnant and lactating women and girls would be reached at health centres and the pilot intervention would increase access to fresh food at local markets with a view to reducing the high prevalence of anaemia. WFP will treat moderate acute malnutrition in 400 children aged 6–59 months and 600 pregnant and lactating women and girls with nutritious food. All refugees would be indirect beneficiaries of activities that strengthen the capacities of the Sahrawi health authority.
75. The complementary livelihood activities in the ICSP are designed to reach 12,000 beneficiaries (75 percent of whom will be women), 2,000 directly and 10,000 indirectly through capacity strengthening in activities such as fish farming, hydroponics, goat breeding and other innovative endeavours. Young people will be prioritized.

TABLE 1: BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY (ALL YEARS)*						
Strategic outcome	Activity	Girls	Boys	Women	Men	Total
1	1	38 899	35 958	42 240	16 575	133 672
	2	20 903	20 597	-	-	41 500
	3	-	-			
2	4	7 600	6 000	6 960	-	20 560
Total		38 899	35 958	42 240	16 575	133 672

* Girls and boys are beneficiaries who are under 18 years of age.

²¹ The food security assessment’s recommendations were drawn at a time when a food assistance programme was for 125,000 refugees was under way.

4.2 Transfers

Food and cash-based transfers

	Strategic outcome 1			Strategic outcome 2			
	Activity 1 – general food assistance	Activity 2 – school feeding	Activity 3 – livelihoods	Activity 4 – prevention of malnutrition		Activity 4 – treatment of malnutrition	
	Refugees	Schoolchildren	Refugees	PLWG	Children aged 6–59 months	PLWG	Children aged 6–59 months
	Food	Food		CBTs and food	Food	Food	Food
Cereals	350*						
Pulses	67						
Vegetable oil	31					20	
Sugar	25						
SuperCereal	67						
SuperCereal with sugar						200	
Dried skimmed milk		80					
High-energy biscuits		50					
PlumpySup							100
CBTs (USD/person/day)				0.36			
Total kcal/day	2 117	468		233		964	989
% kcal from protein	12	8				16	10
Number of feeding days	1 096	612				1 096	1 096

* WFP will continue to provide 400 g of cereals and 33 g of SuperCereal in the general food distribution ration until fortified wheat flour or complementary foods become available

PLWG = pregnant and lactating women and girls.

TABLE 3: TOTAL FOOD AND CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS AND VALUES		
Food type/CBTs	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	51 277	12 474 859
Pulses	9 816	4 623 243
Oil and fats	4 555	4 440 922
Mixed and blended	11 261	5 797 175
Other	5 694	6 348 521
Total (food)	82 603	33 684 720
CBTs		3 156 480
Total (food and CBT value)	82 603	36 841 200

Capacity strengthening including South–South Cooperation

76. Discussions between WFP and the Government of Algeria on SDG 2 could result in opportunities for South–South cooperation with the Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil on school feeding and the Centre of Excellence in China on smallholder farmers and agriculture in semi-arid environments. There is also potential for CRA and WFP to exchange experiences related to humanitarian assistance, focused on institutional capacity strengthening. WFP will also pursue discussions on opportunities for cooperation in the targeting of social programmes, in centralized databases and common platforms, and in vulnerability analysis and mapping and initiatives for connecting smallholder farmers to markets.

4.3 Supply chain

77. WFP will seek to procure fortified wheat flour from targeted local suppliers that have the capacity to better address anaemia. Cost-effectiveness and lead times will be considered in procurement decisions. Regular supply chain monitoring will give early warning of any shortfalls in the supply of fresh foods to guide the use of vouchers.

78. Imported food items will be shipped to the port of Oran for subsequent transportation by road. The Government has made CRA responsible for receiving WFP food, handling customs clearance and transporting the food to the extended delivery point at Rabouni, 1,700 km from the port.

79. WFP is responsible for delivering locally purchased food to the extended delivery point using commercial transporters. WFP supervises all aspects of the logistics chain, monitoring the performance of CRA, coordinating activities and providing support and backstopping in Algiers and Oran when necessary, including in the facilitation of procedures for the timely loading of food at Oran and delivery to Rabouni.

80. At the Rabouni humanitarian storage site, WFP and CRA monitor the arrival and dispatch of food through frequent visits to warehouses, offering guidance on food handling and storage and ensuring proper tracking and reporting.

81. UNHCR is responsible for the second leg of transport from the Rabouni storage site to the final distribution points, schools and health clinics, in collaboration with CRA, MLRS and WFP. Food distribution is carried out by MLRS. UNHCR also participates in joint monitoring of food interventions with WFP.

82. ATTSF manages two vehicle maintenance workshops and a fleet of trucks for secondary transportation, with funding from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and other donors. Secondary distribution is organized by ATTSF. The CRE maintains a three-month stock of pre-positioned food, which is used to limit the risk of ration cuts caused by the late arrival of food.
83. MLRS delivers high-energy biscuits and milk to designated storage facilities within the camps, which are managed by the education authority. Schools' stocks of high-energy biscuits and milk are replenished by MLRS every week, while items for nutrition interventions are delivered directly to clinics.
84. The movement of food items is monitored through WFP's Logistics Execution Support System, which captures data from when the food arrives at the port of Oran until when it is received at the warehouse in Rabouni.
85. WFP will continue to provide support for the rehabilitation and expansion of warehouses, as needed and when feasible.

4.4 Country office capacity and profile

86. The organizational structure of the country office has been reviewed and its capacities to integrate consideration of nutrition into all activities and to implement the new resilience approach and institutional and individual capacity strengthening through livelihood activities have been increased.

4.5 Partnerships

87. The General Direction for Multilateral Relations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the host Government's main interlocutor of WFP, UNHCR and the United Nations Children's Fund on matters related to humanitarian activities in support of refugees. The Government of Algeria, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has designated CRA as the implementing agency for all humanitarian assistance programmes for refugees. A memorandum of understanding between the Government of Algeria and WFP defines their respective roles and responsibilities, while a tripartite agreement among CRA, UNHCR and WFP delineates the respective responsibilities of each agency. CRA reports on the movement, distribution and use of WFP food using WFP/UNHCR reporting formats. An operational contract between WFP and CRA includes a detailed budget. WFP covers all port, storage and transport costs incurred in dispatching commodities to the Rabouni humanitarian storage facility.
88. WFP has strong working partnerships with CRA and MLRS. The latter is CRA's implementing partner on the ground, in charge of managing warehouses, dispatching transport and distributing the food to 116 distribution points, clinics and primary schools in the camps. UNHCR, CRA and MLRS participate in monthly coordination meetings in Algiers and Tindouf. The meeting in Algiers, the *cellule de coordination*, is organized by WFP and the one in Tindouf, the food security meeting, is co-chaired by WFP and MLRS. WFP and the CRE will continue to collaborate on the stabilization of the pipeline using pre-positioned food stocks managed by the CRA and MLRS. Secondary transport is provided by ATTSF in coordination with UNHCR. To the extent possible, WFP will engage Sahrawi women's groups, such as the national union of Sahrawi women and youth groups.
89. The *Comitato Italiano per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli* has been a WFP partner since 2012, initially for third-party monitoring. Since 2016, the partnership has included the production of television shows that raise awareness of how to cook and utilize the WFP food basket.

90. WFP will collaborate with partners on strengthening the coordination of nutrition activities with work in other sectors such as water, sanitation and hygiene, education and health and will explore new partnerships for raising awareness of issues related to nutrition and food utilization.
91. Other major partners of WFP include Oxfam for the hydroponics project and *Triangle Génération Humanitaire* for fish farming. WFP will seek to create partnerships with specialized Algerian and international research institutes and private sector entities in order to implement new livelihood and other innovative initiatives that could contribute to better food security and nutrition.

5. Performance management and evaluation

5.1 Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

92. Implementation of the ICSP will be supported by a gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation system covering all WFP activities. Tools and data collection methods will comply with – and in most cases, exceed – the minimum monitoring requirements of WFP’s corporate results framework. The recent food security assessment will provide the baseline for general food assistance indicators, establishment of a livelihood baseline for the hydroponics activity is planned for early 2019 and secondary data will be used to establish baselines for nutrition and school feeding activities. Monitoring will comply with the WFP Gender Policy (2015–2020). A decentralized evaluation of one ICSP activity will be undertaken in 2021.
93. WFP will continue to conduct regular monitoring visits to activity sites, covering 100 percent of sites for general food assistance, school feeding, livelihood and nutrition activities at least once every three months. WFP will also continue to utilize third-party monitoring to complement site visits and will train monitors in conducting biannual post-distribution monitoring.
94. Operational issues such as distribution plans and field monitoring visits will be addressed and findings and performance reviewed with partners at monthly coordination meetings in Tindouf. WFP plans to improve meetings on the food sector by encouraging more frequent discussion of planning and challenges, which will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of food interventions. Monthly coordination meetings will be held in Algiers for addressing strategic matters.
95. WFP will continue to share monitoring responsibilities with UNHCR and to carry out joint visits with CRA and MLRS in order to build capacity and safeguard transparency.
96. Data collection, analysis, feedback and dissemination mechanisms will be adapted as required to ensure the efficiency of interventions and to gauge their results. WFP plans to establish a hotline for beneficiary feedback that will use a ticketing database to log and ensure follow up on issues in a systematic and timely manner. Referral mechanisms will also be established in order to ensure that beneficiaries are able to contact the right agency for responses to their queries.
97. Data related to nutrition are collected by health staff at dispensaries and supplemented with monitoring data collected by WFP, UNHCR, the Sahrawi health authority and NGO partners. Inter-agency assessments and nutrition surveys will be conducted in 2019 and 2021 to assess the nutrition situation of refugees. Additional studies will be conducted to provide insights into the underlying causes of malnutrition and anaemia for informing the cross-cutting strategy for social and behaviour change communication.

98. Primary monitoring and evaluation data will be captured through a new WFP platform for mobile data collection and analytics (MDCA). Qualitative analyses, including gender- and age-related aspects, will be performed monthly in order to inform internal reports such as country briefs, quarterly monitoring and evaluation reports and the annual country report. Biannual outcome monitoring reports will be produced and findings will be statistically representative of the Sahrawi refugees residing in camps.

5.2 Risk management

Strategic risks

99. The Sahrawi refugee camps are occasionally affected by extreme weather such as heavy rains and flooding, which affect food storage. This risk will be mitigated through disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness in coordination with CRA, MLRS and other humanitarian actors.
100. The Algeria country office is very small and with the increasing requirements of the ICSP there is a risk that insufficient staffing might hinder the quality and timeliness of programme delivery. To mitigate this risk, WFP will continuously monitor and adjust the staffing and organizational structure of the country office.
101. Unpredictable donor contributions and the conditions attached to their use may lead to a reduction in food assistance. To mitigate this risk, WFP will continue to advocate for multi-year, long-term and flexible funding arrangements with traditional and non-traditional donors including private sector entities.
102. WFP's livelihood activities complement its food assistance and require dedicated funds. WFP will advocate for funding diversification by tapping into humanitarian and development funding sources.
103. In the event of major funding shortfalls, WFP will prioritize life-saving interventions under strategic outcomes 1 and 2.
104. A failure to understand gender inequalities could undermine achievement of the strategic outcomes. Lack of adequate technical capacity and financial resources for achieving gender equality outcomes could compromise the sustainability of results. This risk will be mitigated through the gender analysis, which will inform a decision on how best to address gender issues.

Operational risks

105. The limited footprint and capacity of NGOs in the camps increases risks related to the quality and timeliness of programme delivery. WFP will continue to assess potential NGO partners before entering into agreements and will provide timely technical support in order to develop the capacities of partners.
106. Security escorts are currently mandatory: the service is provided by the *Agencia Saharaui de Protección* (Sahrawi Protection Agency). Any interruption to escort services could restrict humanitarian access and result in reduced protection at the guest house where NGO staff live. WFP also requires new office space in Tindouf, as the current location is not compliant with United Nations security standards and cannot be upgraded to meet such standards.

Fiduciary risks

107. The refugee camps are situated in the border region of southwestern Algeria, where volatile security conditions give rise to risks of kidnapping, organized crime and terrorism. Women and children are at greater risk in such contexts. Security regulations for ensuring the safety of United Nations staff were tightened after the kidnapping of three NGO staff members in 2011; among other mitigation measures, all United Nations personnel moving to and from the camps are escorted by the Algerian Gendarmerie and the Sahrawi Protection Agency. Business continuity and evacuation plans are in place.

6. Resources for results

6.1 Country portfolio budget

108. The budget for the ICSP is USD 59 million, comprising USD 54 million for strategic outcome 1 and USD 5 million for strategic outcome 2. Adequate financial resources will be allocated to the activities designed to support gender equality.

Strategic outcome	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
	2019	2020	2021	2022	
1	9 002 702	18 011 420	17 833 008	9 027 984	53 875 114
2	820 522	1 635 982	1 810 353	823 788	5 090 645
Total	9 823 224	19 647 402	19 643 361	9 851 772	58 965 759

6.2 Resourcing outlook

109. Over the past two years, the country office has received relatively good levels of funding for the three main activities from its traditional donor base, although a lack of predictable funding has affected the timeliness of food shipments and arrivals. The fundraising environment is challenging because of competing large-scale emergencies, donor fatigue and a shrinking donor base. The country office maintains positive relationships with core donors and anticipates strong advocacy with non-traditional donors, including Governments' development donor funds, private sector entities, for WFP programmes. There is also an urgent need to tap into development funding for new complementary livelihood activities.

6.3 Resource mobilization strategy

110. Mobilizing resources for WFP operations is a top priority. WFP plans to continue nurturing relationships with the existing donor base, aiming to secure predictable funding. The country office will seek to diversify its donor base, leveraging advocacy support from partners in order to fill any funding gaps. To encourage the provision of cash-based and in-kind support for WFP operations, the country office will engage with WFP liaison offices in donor capitals in order to ensure that operational needs are continually communicated to major donors, particularly to those providing in-kind contributions. Further engagement with the host government, private sector entities, foundations and other development actors will be explored. WFP will also seize any opportunity for South-South cooperation, exchanges and engagement with standby partners. More details of WFP's approach to partner engagement can be found in its partnership action plan.

ANNEX I**LOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR ALGERIA COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN****Strategic Goal 1: Support countries to achieve zero hunger****Strategic Objective 1: End hunger by protecting access to food****Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food****Strategic outcome 1: Targeted food-insecure Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf meet their basic food and nutrition needs all year**

Outcome category:

Maintained/enhanced individual and household access to adequate food

Nutrition sensitive

Focus area: Crisis response

Assumptions

Fortified food stored in good condition and for not more than six month to preserve their nutritional value

Monthly report is provided by ARC

Public health and nutrition awareness campaigns take place to promote the appropriate use of the humanitarian assistance

Clean drinking water available

Outcome Indicators

Consumption-based Coping Strategy Index (Average)

Enrolment rate

Food Consumption Score

Food Consumption Score – Nutrition

Proportion of targeted beneficiaries reporting increased production of milk and/or meat

Proportion of the population in targeted communities reporting benefits from an enhanced livelihood asset base

Retention rate/Drop-out rate (new)

Activities and outputs

1. Provide general food assistance to targeted food-insecure refugees (URT: Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food)

Food-insecure refugees receive food transfers that meet their basic food and nutrition needs (A: Resources transferred)

Food-insecure refugees receive food transfers that meet their basic food and nutrition needs (B: Nutritious foods provided)

Refugees benefit from appropriate social and behaviour change communications and raised awareness of adequate nutrition, food preparation and food utilization (E*: Social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) delivered)

2. Provide nutrition-sensitive school feeding (SMP: School meal activities)

Preschool and primary and intermediate schoolchildren receive food transfers on the days they attend schools (A: Resources transferred)

Preschool and primary and intermediate schoolchildren receive food transfers on the days they attend schools (N*: School feeding provided)

Refugees benefit from appropriate social and behaviour change communications and raised awareness of adequate nutrition, food preparation and food utilization (E*: Social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) delivered)

3. Provide Sahrawi refugees in Tindouf with complementary livelihood opportunities that benefit women and men equitably (ACL: Asset creation and livelihood support activities)

Refugees benefit from diversified capacity strengthening and livelihood activities that enhance their skills and improve their food security and nutrition through a new resilience approach (C: Capacity development and technical support provided)

Refugees benefit from diversified capacity strengthening and livelihood activities that enhance their skills and improve their food security and nutrition through a new resilience approach (D: Assets created)

Refugees benefit from diversified capacity strengthening and livelihood activities that enhance their skills and improve their food security and nutrition through a new resilience approach (A: Resources transferred)

Strategic Objective 2: Improve nutrition

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic outcome 2: Targeted Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf have improved nutrition status by 2022

Outcome category: Improved consumption of high-quality, nutrient-dense foods among targeted individuals

Nutrition sensitive

Focus area: Crisis response

Assumptions

Monthly report is provided by MOH

Public health and nutrition awareness campaigns take place to promote the appropriate use of food a specialized products

Clean drinking water available

Outcome indicators

MAM Treatment Default rate

MAM Treatment Mortality rate

MAM Treatment Non-response rate

MAM Treatment Recovery rate

Minimum Dietary Diversity – Women

Proportion of eligible population that participates in programme (coverage)

Proportion of target population that participates in an adequate number of distributions (adherence)

Activities and outputs**4. Provide children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls with assistance for the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (NTA: Nutrition treatment activities)**

Refugees benefit from diversified capacity strengthening activities that enhance their skills and improve their food security and nutrition (C: Capacity development and technical support provided)

Sahrawi refugee pregnant and lactating women and girls, and children aged 6–59 months receive special nutritious foods and food supplements that prevent moderate acute malnutrition and anaemia (A: Resources transferred)

Sahrawi refugee pregnant and lactating women and girls, and children aged 6–59 months receive special nutritious foods and food supplements that prevent moderate acute malnutrition and anaemia (B: Nutritious foods provided)

Sahrawi refugee pregnant and lactating women and girls, and children aged 6–59 months receive special nutritious foods and food supplements that prevent moderate acute malnutrition and anaemia (A: Resources transferred)

Sahrawi refugee pregnant and lactating women and girls, and children aged 6–59 months receive special nutritious foods and food supplements that prevent moderate acute malnutrition and anaemia (B: Nutritious foods provided)

Targeted beneficiaries benefit from appropriate social and behaviour change communication for improving their dietary diversity (E*: Social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) delivered)

Goal 1: Support countries to achieve zero hunger**C.1. Affected populations are able to hold WFP and partners accountable for meeting their hunger needs in a manner that reflects their views and preferences****Cross-cutting indicators**

C.1.1: Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, length of assistance)

C.1.2: Proportion of project activities for which beneficiary feedback is documented, analysed and integrated into programme improvements

C.2. Affected populations are able to benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that ensures and promotes their safety, dignity and integrity**Cross-cutting indicators**

C.2.2: Proportion of targeted people receiving assistance without safety challenges (new)

C.2.3: Proportion of targeted people who report that WFP programmes are dignified (new)

C.2.4: Proportion of targeted people having unhindered access to WFP programmes (new)

C.3. Improved gender equality and women's empowerment among WFP-assisted population**Cross-cutting indicators**

C.3.1: Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality

C.3.2: Proportion of food assistance decision making entity – committees, boards, teams, etc. – members who are women

C.3.3: Type of transfer (food, cash, voucher, no compensation) received by participants in WFP activities, disaggregated by sex and type of activity

C.4. Targeted communities benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that does not harm the environment**Cross-cutting indicators**

C.4.1: Proportion of activities for which environmental risks have been screened and, as required, mitigation actions identified

ANNEX II

INDICATIVE COST BREAKDOWN BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME (USD)			
	Strategic Result 1	Strategic Result 2	Total
	Strategic outcome 1	Strategic outcome 2	
Transfers	44 405 328	4 215 551	48 620 879
Implementation	3 572 511	317 768	3 890 279
Direct support cost	2 609 123	246 630	2 855 753
Subtotal	50 586 962	4 779 948	55 366 910
Indirect support costs	3 288 153	310 697	3 598 849
Total	53 875 114	5 090 645	58 965 759

Acronyms used in the document

ATTsF	Spanish Association of Workers and Technician without Borders (<i>Asociación de Trabajadores y Técnicos sin Fronteras</i>)
CBT	cash-based transfer
CRA	Algerian Red Crescent (<i>Croissant-Rouge algérien</i>)
CRE	Spanish Red Cross (Cruz Roja Española)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ICSP	interim country strategic plan
MLRS	Sahrawi Red Crescent (<i>Media Luna Roja Saharaui</i>)
NGO	non-governmental organization
PRRO	protracted relief and recovery operation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNDAF	United Nations development assistance framework
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees