WFP Assistance

### Assistance to Refugees from Western Sahara

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Total Received (in USD)</th>
<th>6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRRO 200301</td>
<td>98.4 m</td>
<td>84.5 m (86%)</td>
<td>5 m (60%)</td>
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<td>(Jan 2013 – March 2017)</td>
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*January – June 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:

1. improve the food consumption of the most vulnerable refugees;
2. reduce acute malnutrition and anaemia in children under 5 years and in pregnant and nursing women; and
3. 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 6,500 pregnant and nursing women with anaemia receive Micronutrient Powder to prevent malnutrition. WFP also plans to target 13,500 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. In the last Budget Revision, the provision of High-Energy Biscuits was added to this activity.

### In Numbers

- **General food rations**: 90,000
- **Additional general food rations**: 35,000
- **kcal per ration per day**: 2,166
- **mt of mixed commodities needed on a monthly basis (valued at USD 1.9 million)**: 2,248

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**Main Photo**

Credit: WFP/Katharina Meyer-Seipp

Caption: Sahrawi boy with orange WFP balloon during Human Right’s Day on 10 December, marking the end of 16 Days of Activism Campaign

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**Highlights**

- WFP Algeria urgently requires an additional USD 5.6 million to ensure food distribution to vulnerable Sahrawi refugees for the next six months.
- Due to funding shortfalls in 2016, WFP Algeria does not have sufficient funds to continue food distribution in January 2017.
- PRRO 200301 will be extended by three months until 31 March 2017.
- The Western Sahara refugee crisis ranks top among forgotten crises, according to the ECHO Forgotten Crisis Assessment 2015.
**Innovation**

- Though food distributions for early 2017 have not yet been assured, due to significant funding constraints, WFP was able to provide full food rations for December. The monthly calorie intake for December reached a daily average of 2,128 kcal per person. WFP distributed 125,000 rations consisting of 8 kg of wheat flour, 2.5 kg barley, 1.5 kg rice, 2 kg pulses, 1 kg sugar and 1 kg corn-soy blend and 0.92 kg of vegetable oil.

- Under its nutrition activity, in December, WFP distributed daily rations of 100 g CSB+, 10 g vegetable oil, and 7.5 g sugar to treat 541 malnourished pregnant women and nursing mothers. WFP provided PlumpySup to 645 malnourished children, each receiving 92 g per day for 31 days. For the prevention of malnutrition of approximately 7,690 Pregnant and Lactating Mothers (PLW) received Micronutrient Powder (MNPs). In addition, as part of an initiative to improve PLW’s micronutrient intake, and as an incentive to attend health screenings, 8,769 women received a daily ration of 13.7 g of cheese, received as in-kind contribution.

**Challenges**

- WFP Algeria is facing serious funding constraints. Unless additional contributions are secured, there will be no food commodities positioned for distributions during the first quarter of 2017. WFP is intensifying efforts to secure additional funding through regular meetings with donors and a joint appeal with other humanitarian actors active in the camps.

**Operational Updates**

- In November and December, WFP in collaboration with UNHCR organized 16 Days of Activism Campaign on sexual and gender-based violence in the Sahrawi camps. Activities included art competitions, sporting activities, and multimedia sessions to raise awareness on gender-based violence. The campaign came to an end on Human Right’s Day on 10 December.

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**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 Sahrawi refugees in the foreseeable future. The political status quo is fueling anxiety and disillusionment, especially among the young population, which could lead to an increased insecurity and tensions in the sub-region.

WFP started providing basic food support to the most vulnerable refugees upon the request of the Government of Algeria in 1986. The 2016 Joint Assessment Mission report confirmed that most refugees from Western Sahara are still highly reliant on humanitarian assistance. The November 2012 Nutrition Survey indicated a slight improvement in the overall nutrition situation of women and children, and while global acute malnutrition among children of 06-59 months remains under 8 percent, chronic malnutrition is at 25 percent.

WFP currently represents the major regular and reliable source of food for the refugees in Algeria.

WFP has been present in the camps since 1986.

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**Donors**

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

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