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**Joint needs assessment of Sahrawi refugees in Algeria
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94, rue de Montbrillant, 1211, Genève 2 Dépôt, Suisse

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Mission team

Mission leaders

Yaver Sayyed	Regional Programme Officer in WFP Iraq
Heiko Hering	Senior Regional Public Health and HIV Officer, UNHCR Cairo

Observers

Khaled Halouane	Programme Officer, ECHO Algeria
M ^a Amparo Salvador Climent	Responsible for Development Projects, AECID Algeria
	Algerian Red Crescent
Said Nouaoura	Reception responsible, Algerian Red Crescent, Tindouf.

Participants

Amr Marei	Field Officer, UNHCR Tindouf
Natalia Al-Bani Asensio	Associate Field/Protection Officer, UNHCR Tindouf
Chafik Meziani	Associate Public Health Officer, UNHCR Tindouf
Djillali Temzi	Associate Water and Sanitation Officer, UNHCR Tindouf
Madjoub Boulanouar	Senior Field Associate, UNHCR Tindouf
Ibrahim Ibrahim	Head of Sub Office, WFP Tindouf
Irene del Río Huerta	Programme Officer, WFP Tindouf

Household data collection teams

Hmida Daoudi	Field Associate, UNHCR Tindouf
Najia Riche	Field Associate, UNHCR Tindouf
Karim Tarouadada	Field Associate, UNHCR Tindouf
Sabiha Zehraoui	Field Associate, UNHCR Tindouf
Karima Djazairi	Field Assistant, UNHCR Tindouf
Zoubir Dekhili	Field Assistant Monitor, WFP Tindouf
Gabanaha Nouidjem	Field Assistant Monitor, WFP Tindouf
Mbarek Aichi	Field Assistant Monitor, WFP Tindouf

The mission was accompanied by

Yahia Buhobeini	President of the Sahrawi Red Crescent
Mohamed Lamin	Assistant to the President SRC

Executive summary

Background to the Assessment

In 1975, tens of thousands of Sahrawi refugees started arriving to the harsh desert area of Tindouf, in the West of Algeria. While the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in the Western Sahara (MINURSO) continues to monitor the ceasefire, UN brokered negotiations are currently in an impasse making a political solution to the conflict unlikely in the near future. WFP and UNHCR are using a planning figure of 90,000 refugees; in order to address the problems of chronic malnutrition and anaemia, 35,000 supplementary rations have been provided since 2006.

For the first ten years of the refuge, the Government of Algeria assisted the refugees in Tindouf. In 1986, given the protracted character of the conflict, the Government requested assistance from the international community. UNHCR and WFP started assisting the Government of Algeria in meeting the basic food and non-food needs of the refugees, through the main national implementing partner, the Algerian Red Crescent (ARC).

The protracted refuge in such a harsh, desert, remote area and the political background of the situation has resulted in some particularities. The refugees are very well organized and the organization of the camps relies heavily on women. The weather conditions are those of a desert and the environment is not conducive to productive activities of any kind, or integration in the local host community, very remote itself. The refugees remain mostly dependent on humanitarian assistance for their survival.

Assessment findings

A Nutrition Strategy was elaborated in May 2009 by the refugee camp health authorities. The Strategy is complemented by a major initiative, the Integrated Sahrawi refugee Child Health Program (PISIS by its Spanish acronym), led by the camp health authorities, and supported by all the stakeholders working in the nutrition sector including donors, UN agencies and NGOs. The creation of the PISIS was the result of a joint effort to integrate on-going activities aimed at improving the health and development of Sahrawi refugee children. It was integrated in 2009 and some of the key activities which are now under the PISIS remit, are expected to positively impact the nutritional profile of the beneficiaries such as: growth monitoring, vaccination, several nutritional protocols (anaemia, stunting, Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM)), nutrition and health education for mothers, and capacity building on most frequent childhood diseases.

The 2010 Nutrition Survey showed a sharp decrease in the Global Acute malnutrition (GAM) levels compared to the 2008 survey (from 18 percent to 7.9 percent) as well as a slight non-significant decrease in stunting rates (from 31.7 percent to around 29.7 percent). The high anaemia levels among children under five years of age, as well pregnant and lactating women (53 percent, 56 percent and 67 percent respectively), are still much higher than acceptable levels recommended by WHO. GAM is covered by the WFP-UNHCR supplementary and MDM community based treatment programmes. In December 2010, UNHCR launched a specific programme to tackle anaemia and chronic malnutrition, through its implementing partner, ARC. The programme will be evaluated at end of 2012, and WFP will take over the procurement of products if the evaluation is positive.

The team noticed that despite the very good status of the visited infrastructures, the obvious lack of water and electricity in the health facilities played a pivotal role in the aggravation of the current situation.

The lack of coordination between the periphery health structures and the central pharmacy was evident in the distribution of medicaments. The waste management at the regional hospitals and health clinics is a major concern in order to fulfil the normative standards. However, the implementation of medical waste collection at the facilities, the transport, incineration and disposal are sub-optimal.

Food distributions have taken place more regularly in 2010 and 2011 than in previous years, with only delays and small shortfalls, which contrast with major shortfalls in 2008 and before. This regularity plays an important role for the refugees. A security stock managed by ARC and Spanish Red Cross was established in 2010 to prevent delays/shortfalls in WFP distributions. However, the mission noted that the security stock is not yet completely funded.

Regular food distributions that take place in the camps comprise of the monthly WFP basic food distribution (implemented through the Algerian Red Crescent and their partner the Sahrawi Red Crescent Society (SRC)), fresh food distribution funded by ECHO (implemented through NGOs) and AECID (implemented directly), a monthly distribution of canned fish which takes place during most of the year, and irregular food distributions through “caravans”, a bilateral aid which is sent by Associations mainly in Spain and Italy and managed by the Sahrawi Red Crescent. However, this last food assistance represents around 2-3 percent of the total food distributed.

All families interviewed during the household survey had an acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS). An average of 90 percent of families interviewed during post distribution monitoring (PDM) had acceptable FCS in any given month, so both indicators are consistent. Most families are dependent on food aid: general food distribution commodities account for an average of 52 percent of the FCS and additional fresh products account for some 10 more percentage points.

Some families are able to complement the food basket with milk and meat, but most of them also buy items provided in the food basket such as tea, sugar, pulses and fresh products to fill the gap, as the food rations do not cover 30 days per month. This short duration is due to several reasons, depending on the product; i.e. the sugar consumption is much higher than the ration provided, whereas the rations of cereals, notably wheat flour, seem to last for most of the month, except in the case of small families.

No apparent relation was noted between FCS and the size of the household; the vulnerability of the families due to its (reduced) size might be covered by the very well established sharing practices and social solidarity. In terms of food security, there are no significant differences among the camps, although more in depth analysis is needed, particularly in the case of Dakhla, in which a slightly different consumption pattern might indicate different availability/access conditions.

The logistics chain is well under control. The mission examined warehouses capacity and food aid management at the EDP warehouse, although WFP logistics unit and implementing partners discussed on the whole logistics chain. Information regarding food management and the food and non-food items received by all donors, discharge and dispatch for distribution and receipt at final distribution points is available in a properly maintained database. These data are shared with the UN and NGOs directly or through ARC reports on a monthly basis.

WFP's distributions require some 2,115 mt of assorted commodities per month, with an approximate cost of USD 2.5 million (although this might change according to change in prices of the commodities). Given the long lead times in the operation (commodities take from 3 to 5/6 months to arrive to EDP warehouse) and the limited possibilities for local purchase, timely confirmation of contributions is the main factor to avoid shortfalls in the operation.

Regarding the warehouses, since the last JAM, two additional covered warehouses have been built; one of them (1,200 m²) financed by private donors, and another one (2,400 m²) by WFP. These two structures will avoid storing in containers, which has been a concern in the past, given the extreme temperatures in the area. There are still some improvements to be made in the warehouses, notably the rehabilitation/construction of some 10 platforms currently used to store cereals.

Since 2008, the respective responsibilities of partners involved in food distributions are formalised in a tripartite agreement between ARC, UNHCR and WFP. This agreement constitutes the official UN legal framework for this operation. This agreement covers all responsibilities from arrival to port, import and internal transport, reception at extended delivery point (EDP), transport up to Final delivery point (FDP), distribution and monitoring. This agreement has been automatically extended to accommodate extensions in time of the current WFP PRRO; within the framework of the new PRRO, the tripartite agreement and possibly

subsequently the bilateral agreement between ARC and SRC, need to be revised and updated to include some changes in the global MOU between WFP and UNHCR (February 2011).

According to the above mentioned agreements, a monthly coordination meeting is held at Algiers level. The meeting, chaired by WFP and UNHCR with participation of ARC / SRC, Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, donors with field presence (mainly ECHO and AECID) and some NGOs of the food sector (such as Spanish Red Cross, who manages the security stock in collaboration with ARC), is the forum to discuss events during the month, pipeline situation and revise the distribution of the coming month, as well as other general business affecting the food sector.

After the meeting, the food release note is issued and sent to ARC, who with the SRC, proceed to prepare and send the distribution calendar to UNHCR and WFP, which is then used to programme monitoring activities. Under normal circumstances, targeted distributions (school feeding and nutritional products) are carried out in the first two days of the month. GFD takes 15 working days, and is immediately followed by distributions of complementary and fresh foods. The transport is coordinated between partners and the Transport base, managed by the Spanish NGO AATSF (Asociación de Técnicos y Técnicas sin Fronteras), with AECID funding.

During all interviews, it was noted that the distribution mechanism has improved significantly since the last JAM, particularly in terms of coordination and communication between different actors involved, efficiency in the transport and general satisfaction of beneficiaries.

With regard to food distribution and post-distribution monitoring systems, they were redesigned and implemented in 2008 and have been further improved since April 2009. Joint UNHCR/WFP monthly monitoring reports present quantitative and qualitative information data on food delivery, dispatch, distribution and post distribution. They provide also an overview of the various programmes, the monitoring activities and make recommendations on improvements on the whole food distribution chain. The reports are shared in a timely manner with the “Cellule de Coordination” prior to their monthly meeting.

The monitoring system was upgraded in 2010 and will be almost fully operational by the end of the year. A database was set-up, and the data entry is done simultaneously for data collection activities.

Qualitative and quantitative data (based on a statistically representative sample at household level), including partner monitoring information is regularly compiled and analyzed, and includes information on partner’s activities in the food sector, such as fresh products distributions or Ramadan special distributions. Systematic monitoring of food distributions is undertaken at warehouses during the dispatch of products and during the camp level distribution. Monitors follow up on the composition of the ration, its quality and the appreciation by refugees. It is complemented by beneficiary contact monitoring at household level and regular visits to health clinics, schools and other institutions. The monitoring team consists of two UNHCR and three WFP staff.

Since 2009/2010, an Italian NGO, CISP, with WFP funding, has been supporting a monitoring team within the SRC, with the aim of building the capacity of the organization and complementing WFP/UNHCR monitoring on the qualitative side, mostly through the social insight of the monitors as well as refugees. Both monitoring teams often collaborated during the two years. In 2011, UNHCR has signed an agreement with CISP with the aim of maximising, through monitoring, the impact of the humanitarian aid in the camps, and to provide both local stakeholders and international agencies and donors with a comprehensive framework to collect, analyse and utilize data. Data collected includes population needs, quality and quantity of the aid, services made available in the camps through humanitarian interventions, and perceptions from the beneficiaries about the aid received.

Recommendations

The majority of the Sahrawi population living in the refugee camps in Tindouf remains chronically food insecure and their nutrition situation is not satisfactory. Therefore, it is recommended to continue providing assistance to this population (general food distribution, school feeding and mother and child healthcare and nutrition interventions). The food basket of 2,100 kcal should be adjusted reintroducing barley and pasta, and

advocating for gofio distributions and diversification of pulses. Whilst fresh product distributions continue, in the meantime, other sources and modalities of complementary food assistance need to be explored.

The implementation of the nutrition programmes should be continued. However, there is a need to find specialized NGOs to manage nutritional projects (SFP and Chronic malnutrition and anaemia). Implementation should be complemented by introducing a monitoring system and encouraging information sharing and joint planning. The sensitization component of the nutritional programmes needs to be enhanced.

In line with the report "Revision of the School Feeding Programme" (WFP 2011), it is suggested to consider adjusting the commodities and rations for different educative centres, which may eventually include kindergartens, special needs centres and pedagogical institute, in order to ensure the continuity of nutritional interventions to tackle high rates of micronutrient deficiencies. It is also recommended to include de-worming activities in school feeding and rehabilitate or construct kitchen and refectory facilities (including adequate WASH). The introduction of an adequate monitoring system of the school feeding programme is also recommended.

The capacity of health workers at all levels, but in particular for clinical management and medical care, should be improved by recruiting/seconding qualified medical doctors to work at the regional hospitals. They would provide ongoing training to health workers in health clinics and community health workers and further improve the quality of the teaching centre for nurses and mid-wives. The supply management of medicines and medical materials from the central pharmacy to the regional hospitals and health clinics also needs to be improved. Moreover, the drug management at the provider level needs to be enhanced by conducting training for nurses, pharmacies and health workers in the regional hospitals and health clinics.

The implementation of the strategic plan to increase water availability to the camps needs to continue by drilling additional boreholes, setting up water treatment/storage facilities, and expanding water pipe network and distribution points. In addition, further support and capacity building of refugee staff is planned within a yearly sensitisation programme.

The water quality monitoring has to continue, and the regular maintenance of water trucks and water reservoirs needs to be improved. Furthermore, subject to available funding, it is foreseen that the old water truck fleet will be gradually renewed.

There is a need to expand the sanitation programmes in schools, also to kindergartens, education centres for persons with special needs, vocational schools and women and youth centres. At the same time, a responsible stakeholder should be identified to carry out the maintenance and cleaning of sanitation facilities in education, health and social centres. It is very important to develop a joint work plan for health and hygiene promotion between health, education and water and environment authorities, by setting up a technical working group.

It is also recommended to assess the feasibility of undertaking human asset development activities that would enhance refugee self-reliance, including market and production development opportunities (animal husbandry, FFW or cash/voucher activities, food processing activities, gardening activities, etc).

As a coordination mechanism, general coordination meetings in Tindouf on food/non-food programmes, organized by UNHCR with the participation of WFP, partners and donors, should be resumed. At the same time, the roundtables in health and food aid shall continue taking place with the participation of all actors in the operation, in which UNHCR and WFP are regular members. UNHCR and WFP are also members of the working groups.

In order to have proper monitoring and reporting mechanisms, the joint UNHCR and WFP M&E system has to continue to be strengthened. In addition, ARC and MDM Spain nutrition reports should be provided using the updated templates. Regular training on nutrition M&E system to the PISIS staff should be provided, the coordination with other M&E systems (partners) has to increase (having regular coordination meetings) and the monitoring in the school feeding has to be improved.

At the same time, an implementing partner to undertake Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) activities on nutrition programmes has to be identified, and the monitoring plan on the Anaemia programme established jointly with the Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN) in August 2011, needs to be activated.

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Abbreviations and acronyms

ACM	Anaemia and chronic malnutrition
AECID	Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional al Desarrollo
AGDM	Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming Assessment
ARC	Algerian Red Crescent Society
ATTSF	Asociación de Técnicos y Técnicas Sin Fronteras (Spain)
BCC	Behavioural Change Communication
BCM	Beneficiary Contact Monitoring
CISP	Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (Italy)
CSB	Corn Soya Blend
DSM	Dried Skimmed Milk
DZA	Algerian Dinar
ECHO	European Commission, Humanitarian Aid
EDP	Extended Delivery Point
FDP	Final Delivery Point
FFW	Food For Work
FRN	Food Release Note
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GFD	General Food Distribution
GoA	Government of Algeria
HEB	High Energy Biscuits
IP	Implementing Partner
JAM	UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Mission (official acronym)
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude and Practice
LNS	Lipid based Nutrient Supplements
MCHN	Mother and Child Health and Nutrition
MNP	Micronutrient Powder
MDM	Médicos Del Mundo (Spain)/(Greece)
MINURSO	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MUAC	Mid-Upper Arm Circumference
NCHS	National Centre for Health Statistics
NFI	Non Food Item
PDM	Post Distribution Monitoring
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
PRRO	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation
PISIS	Programa Integral de Salud Infantil Saharawi – Integrated Programme for Saharawi Child Health
SI-A	Solidaridad Internacional – Andalucía (Spain)
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
SRC	Spanish Red Cross Society
SRC	Sahrawi Red Crescent

Chapter 1 - Objectives and Methods

1.1 Objectives

According to the terms of reference of the joint assessment, the overall objectives of the mission aimed at addressing the following issues: a) review the implementation of the operation since the last JAM of 2009; b) assess the needs for continued support, propose the framework of the food and non-food interventions, and suggest improvements in the programme management; and c) provide an analysis of the food security situation that will support the formulation of the next phase of the PRRO (see the terms of reference in annex 1).

More specifically, the mission had to achieve the following:

- a) Evaluate the implementation of the three components of the food assistance programme by WFP, UNHCR and their partners, in particular ARC and its partners and determine whether the programme objectives were achieved. Identify good practices, main constraints, lessons learned and areas for improvements, i.e. compliance with WFP/UNHCR policies, rules and procedures, including transparency, standards and gender; analysis of programme, logistics systems and processes; evaluation of monitoring, evaluation and reporting;
- b) Assess the needs for and framework of continued food assistance interventions, including the identification of actual food needs in terms of rations and food basket composition, stock monitoring and effective and transparent food distribution;
- c) Evaluate the nutritional situation of the population in the camps and determine the continued need for supplementary feeding for vulnerable groups and people at risk, in order to ensure their access to sufficient and quality food and micro-nutrients. Assess the needs for related non-food items and basic health services to maintain their nutritional health for the period of the planned PRRO;
- d) Identify/assess existing self-reliance activities, possibilities to develop them and necessary support for their promotion. Determine also the required continuous assistance to refugees to reach a certain level of self-reliance while awaiting a durable solution;
- e) Review the coordination strategy and mechanisms with the bilateral donors for food assistance;
- f) If continued assistance is recommended, determine the most appropriate form of WFP assistance for the next PRRO, including duration of the assistance programme and the best means of implementation (food, cash, vouchers, etc.)

The review of refugee numbers and demographic statistics were not part of the JAM terms of reference, the mission members therefore worked on the basis of the current planning figures for beneficiaries receiving humanitarian assistance.

1.2 Methods

The JAM members stayed 14 days in Algeria, including ten days in Tindouf to undertake field visits to four camps (Laayoune, Awserd, Dakhla and Smara) and the 27th February settlement site. They had, together with the participants and the observers, extensive briefing and debriefing sessions with the Country and Sub Offices of UNHCR and WFP, Sahrawi refugee senior representatives and officials in charge of cooperation, health, education and culture, camp leaders, the collaborating partners, in particular ARC and its partner SRC, donors (representatives of embassies attended the debriefing session in Algiers), other UN agencies, in particular the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and NGOs providing support to the Sahrawi refugees. The assessment team included two representatives of donors (ECHO and AECID), who participated as observers to all field work and meetings. The report presents findings and recommendations of the assessment resulting from an analysis based on a review of secondary data, the compilation of qualitative primary information and comments provided by participants, authorities and donors, as described below:

Review of secondary information

The secondary information was mainly provided by WFP and UNHCR country and field offices and complemented by documents made available by partners: the former JAM report, nutrition and food security surveys and reviews, nutrition strategic documents and guidelines, basic programme documents, logistics reviews and proposals, distribution plans and reports, monitoring reports, and progress/evaluation reports from collaborating partners and donors.

Primary data collection

The scope of the assessment covered more than 120 field sites and a total of 107 interviews (81 households, 21 key informant interviews and 5 thematic focus groups). The household interviews were carried out by four household interview teams and the key informant interviews and thematic focus groups were carried out by two sector teams (one mainly for food and education and another mainly for health and water).

Household interviews

Interviews with households were undertaken in all visited camps (approximately 20 households in each camp). Sufficient time was available for households' interviews. In the interviews, the following information was collected: access to food in terms of quantity, quality and regularity, food consumption, including in times of food shortage; wealth ranking; self-reliance, in particular with regard to family gardening; education; employment opportunities and access to water (see questionnaires in annex 2).

Focus Group discussions

Focus groups discussions were organized in all camps with various selected groups of population: women, *jefas de barrio/grupo* (heads of neighbourhood/heads of distribution groups), social and community health workers. The issues raised with each group had been previously agreed by the team, with the required level of flexibility, on the basis of a checklist of suggested topics. The discussions focused on wealth ranking; access to food, in terms of food basket (including fresh foods and other food items provided by bilateral donors) and food consumption; other basic needs; issues related to distribution and transport to beneficiaries and self-reliance opportunities.

Interviews with key refugee representatives

In each camp, after the visit to the camp leader, the mission team usually split into two groups to carry out visits and interviews covering the various aspects of refugee support and services. Interviews took place with key refugee representatives such as staff of hospitals and health clinics, the director of the pharmacy, school heads and teachers, special needs people' centres staff, women and youth vocational training centres staff, and market traders. With regard to self-reliance activities, a gardening centre was also visited in Dakhla camp.

The mission team received a technical briefing on the water system and observed water tanks and taps in Smara camp. Finally, the team attended one food distribution.

1.3 Limitations

A relatively small sample was used for household questionnaires. The current analysis relies on a cross check with monitoring data (over 100 interviews per month). The problem of willingness to answer certain questions was partially addressed by using more experienced and well trained staff.

Unlike in other data collection exercises, such as the Nutrition Survey 2010, the Food Consumption Score (FCS) data collection took place the week immediately after a complete distribution, which slightly improved the results of the indicator. However, monitoring continuous data collection of this indicator shows that in any given month, except in the cases of shortfall of two or more commodities, between 80 and 90 percent of the families have acceptable FCS, and results were considered comparable for analysis, given the similarities in the consumption pattern.

Regarding expenditures, the dates of the recall during the data collection were the prior thirty days to the interview, meaning that the Eid, a holiday during which families spend more in food, clothing and social events than in any other moment of the year, might have biased the data on income, borrowing and expenditures. While some analysis was carried out for the JAM, the recommendation to collect more routinely these data might help in future analysis.

Chapter 2 – Assessment Findings

Part 1 - Socio economic background

In 1975, tens of thousands of Sahrawi refugees from the armed conflict in Western Sahara started arriving to the harsh desert area of Tindouf, in the West of Algeria. A cease fire was agreed in 1991, under the United Nations fostered negotiations. A United Nations peace keeping mission, the United Nations Mission for the Organization of a Referendum on the Western Sahara (MINURSO by its French/Spanish acronym), was established and continues to monitor the ceasefire till now. However, the United Nations brokered negotiations for a full resolution to the crisis are in an impasse, so a political solution to the conflict is therefore unlikely in the near future. For the first ten years of the refuge, the Government of Algeria (GoA) assisted the refugees in Tindouf. In 1986, giving the protracted character of the conflict, the Government requested the assistance of the international community. Therefore UNHCR and WFP started assisting GoA in meeting the basic food and non food needs of the refugees, through the main national implementing partner, the Algerian Red Crescent.

The protracted refuge in such a harsh, desert, remote area and the political background of the situation has resulted in some particularities. The refugees are very well organized and consider themselves as a government in exile, the refugee camps are organized and calm and food and non food item distributions normally take place orderly and efficiently. However, the environment is not conducive to productive activities of any kind, or integration in the local host community, very remote itself. The protracted refuge situation has also affected refugee's traditions, essentially nomadic, limiting even further their self reliance capacities. Therefore, refugees remain mostly dependent on humanitarian assistance for their survival.

The organization of the camps relies heavily on women, who have an essential role in decision taking at all levels of society. This very good female participation is due to the traditional customs of the Saharawi population, already a matriarchal society to a certain extent, which were enhanced by the first years of refuge, during which most of the men were absent. As a result, most of the heads of households are women and women have key responsibilities in the community and in the management of the camps.

The weather conditions are those of a desert. There are sharp temperature differences between day and night, very high temperatures (over 50°C in the shade during day) in summer (May-October) and relatively cold (can be below 0° during the night) in winter (November-January). Sandstorms, during which winds can reach 180 km/h, and dust in suspension, are frequent phenomena all along the year. Finally, there are infrequent and irregular rains along the year and the few rainy incidents often cause damages in construction. The camps are located in extremely harsh desert (rock desert) with two underground water layers, the bigger of which is heavily salty and mineralized, affecting the city of Tindouf itself and three of the four camps (Dakhla, the further camp has also a sweet water layer). The surrounding conditions are not conducive to agriculture as soil is also very salty and infertile.

The camps are situated in a range of 20 to 180 km from the city of Tindouf – Aaiun 20 km, Awserd 40 km, Smara 45 km, Dakhla 180 km. All of the camps except Awserd are accessible by road (until the entrance) and scattered depending of geography on the location. Refugees move from camp to camp depending on marriages and other family issues.

Part 2 – Health and Nutritional Status, and Food Security

2.2.1 Health and Nutritional Status

The assessment team reviewed the JAM reports of October 2009 and March 2007, the updated activities following the 2009 JAM recommendations, the nutrition and food security survey of October/November 2010, and the PISIS guideline.

The 2010 Nutrition Survey showed a sharp decrease in the GAM rates comparatively with the 2008 survey (from 18 percent to 7.9 percent) as well as a slight, non-significant decrease in stunting rates (from 31.7 percent to around 29.7 percent).

The team noted with concern the high anaemia rates among children under five years of age, as well pregnant and lactating women (53 percent, 56 percent and 67 percent respectively), which is still much higher than acceptable rates recommended by WHO.

Anaemia and Stunting have always been considered as one of the major public health issues in the Sahrawi refugee camps. Efforts were deployed to address this issue, including improvement in the food basket and the introduction of fresh foods, however, the situation remains without significant changes.

In order to tackle this problem, the 2009 JAM and Nutrition Mission recommended an additional high-impact project of micronutrient supplementation. This was launched by UNHCR via its implementing partner ARC in December 2010. The implementation of this project started just after the 2010 nutrition survey, which served as a baseline. The anaemia programme targets all children under five who are not enrolled in the CTC or SFP, as well as all the pregnant and lactating women.

The supplementation is ensured by the distribution of two products already tested and adapted to the local context; a Lipid-based Nutrient Supplement (LNS - Nutributter®/Ghazala) to children aged 6-35 months, and a Micro-Nutrient Powder (MNP - Chaila) to children aged 36-59 months as well as pregnant and lactating women (PLW).

ARC is in charge of deliveries from the central pharmacy and monitoring of the distributions at the dispensary level, while and Italian NGO CISP (Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli) are doing the monitoring at the household level.

The impact evaluation of this intervention will be assessed in October 2012. Following the results of this evaluation, the decision to either continue or stop the intervention will be taken. Meanwhile, it was agreed that WFP will take over the procurement of the two products if the evaluation is positive.

A mini KAP survey on the consumption of these products is planned to be implemented with CISP before the end of the current year.

Moreover, the team noted with concern the issue of obesity and the huge risk of metabolic disease among refugee women in the reproductive age; it was revealed during the 2010 Nutrition survey that more than 68 percent of this category presents a high predisposition for metabolic and chronic diseases. The high consumption of sugar, chronic malnutrition, lack of diversification in the food basket, sedentary lifestyle, and some wrong food practices were in part behind this situation. BCC activities on this topic should be urgently planned jointly with the local health department, and to be implemented as soon as possible.

A Nutrition Strategy was elaborated in May 2009 by the refugee health authorities as follow up to the recommendations of the March 2009 Nutrition Mission by UNHCR and WFP. The Strategy is complemented by a major initiative, the Integrated Sahrawi refugee Child Health Program (PISIS by its Spanish acronym), led by the camp health authorities, and supported by all the stakeholders working in the nutrition sector including the main donors (AECID, UNHCR, WFP), and NGOs. This strategy is supposed to be reviewed and updated before the end of 2012.

The creation of the PISIS, was the result of a joint effort to integrate on-going activities aimed at improving the health and development of Sahrawi refugee children. It was integrated in 2009 and some activities are currently being rolled-out in all health clinics in the camps. Some key activities that are now under the PISIS remit, which are expected to positively impact the nutritional profile of the beneficiaries, are: growth monitoring, vaccination, several nutritional protocols (Anaemia, Stunting, MAM and SAM), as well as nutrition and health education for mothers, and capacity building on most frequent childhood diseases.

The indicators for health and nutrition were reviewed and harmonized in line with WHO, UNHCR and UNICEF guidelines, as well, the nutrition protocols have been endorsed and the last version of the PISIS guide was issued after many adjustments in 2011.

For the time being, four big training sessions have been implemented in all the dispensaries, targeting all the staff working under the PISIS.

To strengthen screening activities, the PISIS will also promote growth monitoring in all clinics, using the new WHO nutritional standards instead of the previous NCHS standards.

Regarding the Maternal and child health program, MDM Spain is providing technical support for a maternal health programme in all 27 health dispensaries. The programme provides support to the refugee health authorities for the follow-up of pregnancy and delivery.

The team has noticed during the field visits to several dispensaries that despite the very good status of the visited infrastructures; the number of deliveries insured in the dispensaries remains negligible in comparison with those realized at the household level. The cultural aspect and local traditions as well the lack of doctors could explain this situation, but on the other hand, the obvious lack of water and electricity in the health facilities played a pivotal role in the aggravation of the current situation.

Concerning the drugs and medical waste management, MDM Greece was in charge since 2007. The main stock of drugs is located in the central pharmacy of Nkhila.

The distributions are held every two months, to provide drugs to the existing 04 regional pharmacies and the dispensaries that depend on them. The team has emphasized some differences in the availability of drugs among the visited health facilities; as well, many gaps were noticed in the organization and drug management at the central pharmacy level, furthermore, the lack of coordination between the periphery health structures and the central pharmacy was very evident.

The incineration of the medical consumables is done in good conditions in the 4 regional hospitals where the incinerators were built according to the norms. But the management of the other wastes remains precarious (such as the expired drugs: tablets, liquids, powders).

The waste management at the regional hospitals and health clinics is a major concern. The infrastructure, i.e. solid waste pits and incinerators are functional in all facilities and fulfil the normative standards required. The medical waste collection at the facilities, the transport, incineration and disposal are implemented sub-optimal, however more capacity building and supervision is needed.

2.2.2 Food security

This section builds on the household surveys realized during the mission, pre-existing monitoring information and to some extent, the nutritional survey carried out in October 2010.

2.2.2.1 Food Assistance

The main actors of food aid are WFP, donors as ECHO and AECID (who implement through NGOs or directly respectively), and UNHCR. Details of food distributions in 2010 and 2011 can be found in annex 3

Basic food basket: is provided by WFP, up to around 2,100 kcal per day per ration, with a food basket containing wheat flour, rice, Corn Soya Blend (CSB), lentils, vegetable oil and sugar. Barley was part of the regular food basket up to November 2009, in which GoA changed its agricultural policy and prevented WFP from purchasing barley at subsidised prices, which are substantially more competitive than the international price of the commodity. Negotiations with the Government are ongoing to resume local purchases of barley, but if these are not concluded, WFP will start international purchases.

Pulses are often diversified in the food basket and therefore lentils are partially substituted by beans or chickpeas if contributions in kind are received of local market conditions are favourable. In the same sense, wheat flour is partially substituted by pasta in some distributions.

Fresh products: Since 2008, the fresh product distributions covered a monthly regular distribution during 11 months of the year, and an additional distribution during Ramadan. This special distribution is complemented by other distributions of more fresh products, dates and camel meat, distributed by UNHCR, AECID and ECHO (through OXFAM Belgium and Mundubat). In these distributions, onions and potatoes are regularly

distributed, in addition to one seasonal vegetable and one seasonal fruit. The ration varies between 3,5 and 4,5 kg.

In addition, irregular distributions of eggs (from a poultry farm in N'kheila) take place. In September 2011, Oxfam started a targeted distribution of these eggs through a voucher-style scheme.

Complementary distributions: General food distributions are complemented by tea and yeast distributions carried out by UNHCR, and by canned fish distributions (tuna, substituted by mackerel in 2009), by the Swedish NGO Praktisk Solidarität in collaboration with the Italian NGO CISP. The Spanish Government has been funding since 2009 the purchase and distribution of gofio, a toasted maize meal very appreciated by the refugees. In 2009 and 2010 the project was implemented through WFP, in 2011 the project is implemented by the Spanish Red Cross and in 2012 will be implemented by WFP again. During Ramadan, a special distribution takes place including extraordinary rations of fresh products, camel meat and dates by ECHO, AECID and UNHCR, and in kind contributions such as cheese by WFP.

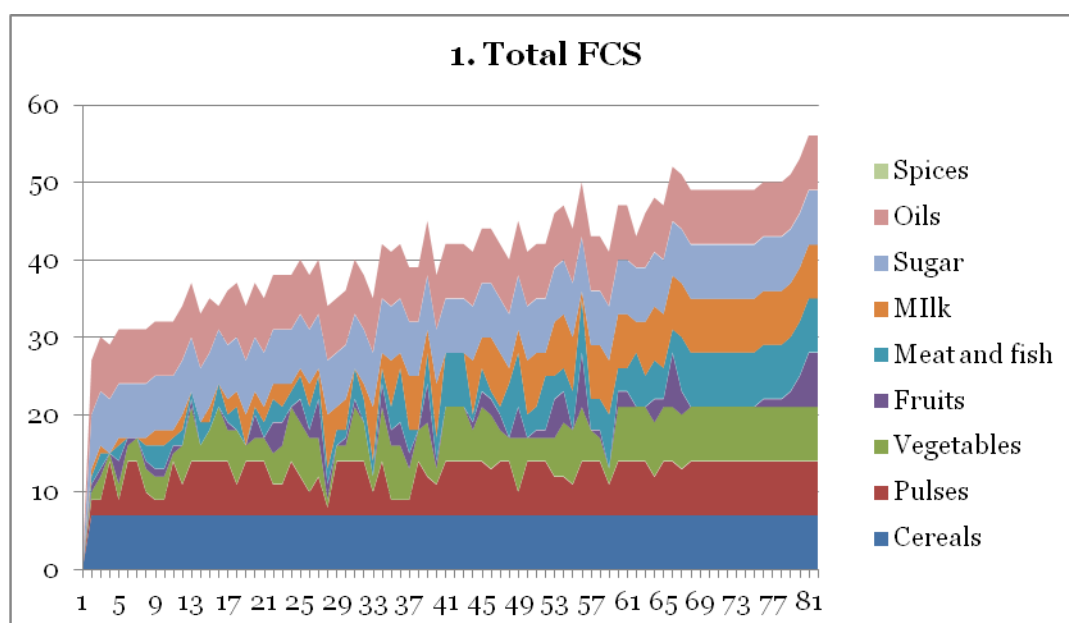
Caravans: Several times a year, civil associations in Spain and Italy organize the so called “caravans”, through which food and non food items arrive to the refugee camps, directly donated to the Sahrawi Red Crescent. These caravans are ad hoc in terms of composition and its frequency has reduced as a result of economic crisis in Europe. According to best estimations, the quantities of food received do not exceed 2-3percent of the total distributions.

2.2.2.2 Food consumption

There are several ways to measure food insecurity; the ultimate goal of this analysis is to understand the situation in the camps. The food consumption score (FCS) is routinely used in WFP food security assessments and monitoring and is based upon dietary diversity, food frequency, and nutrition (see annex 4).

All families interviewed during the household survey had acceptable FCS, as shown in graphic 1. An average of 80 to 90 percent of families interviewed during Beneficiary contact monitoring (BCM) has acceptable FCS in any given month, so both sources are consistent.

This high level of families with acceptable FCS is due to the fact that most families are dependent on food aid: GFD commodities account for an average of 52percent of the FCS and additional fresh products account for some more 10 percentage points. For the families in the lower percentiles, the GFD products account for higher rates of the FCS. This dependency is also supported by the analysis in the Nutrition Survey 2010, in which the periods in which food distributions suffer interruptions or delays, acute malnutrition rates among population increase.



Cereal consumption is uniform for all families, as well as sugar and oil (which is consistent with monitoring info and focus groups answers), pulses are regular for the higher FCS but not regular for lower percentiles, indicating that part of the families in the lower percentiles might be bartering or giving away the pulses rations (although evidence from the survey is not very strong, see annex 5). Vegetables and fruits, which are also provided are consumed for all categories: given the size of the ration distributed (3-4 kg), the monitoring information and the answers in focus groups, is likely that families that are better off, complement the basket on vegetables with purchases (see annex 5). Meat and milk, traditional components of the refugee diet (nomadic pastoralist), are not distributed. Is likely that the families in the lower percentiles exchange a small part of the ration for these items (which are nonetheless present), whereas families in the high percentiles complement the food basket with them on a more regular basis through purchases or own production.

There are no significant differences among the refugee camps. However, more in depth analysis is needed, particularly in the case of Dakhla, in which a slightly different consumption pattern might indicate different availability/access conditions (see annex 5). This is also supported by different nutritional status reported in the Nutritional Survey 2010.

Then, in addition to the food distributions, some families are able to complement the food basket with milk (mostly) and meat, but most of them also buy items provided in the food basket such as tea, sugar, pulses and fresh products to fill the gap, as the food rations do not cover 30 days per month, as can be seen in table 1.

Table 1: Duration of products	
Commodity	Days
Wheat flour	20.60
Barley	13.94
Pulses	14.74
CSB	17.53
Rice	17.52
Pasta	14.53
Sugar	8.77
Oil	13.78

This duration is, according to beneficiaries and their representatives, due to the fact that not all beneficiaries are covered by the distributions. However, there is no apparent relation between FCS and the number of members of the family (see annex 5) neither in the JAM household sample nor the monitoring information and therefore the reduced duration might be more related to the sharing practices and the consumption patterns of beneficiaries. Indeed, these very well established sharing practices and social solidarity might also help reducing the vulnerability of families due to its (reduced) size. Families do not mention “sending members to eat elsewhere” as a coping strategy, which might mean is a practice and not a coping strategy.

According to the household survey, 95 percent of the households were headed by women, and the average size of the family (defined as people sleeping in the same tent/mud house) was 5.8 members. These two parameters are consistent with monitoring information. 49 percent of the families declared having some members living outside the camps; 66 percent of those for schooling reasons (in Algeria for secondary school or abroad mostly for university and higher), and 12 percent due to work. There are no differences in FCS by gender or civil status of the head of household; if any, widows/widowers’ families tend to be slightly better, which might be due again to very well established solidarity practices.

During trader’s interviews, it was pointed out that prices in Tindouf, and therefore in the refugee camps, as traders in the camps get their supplies from the host city, have risen up sharply during the last two to three years. Although evidence must be sought for this increase, the evolution of the prices in the refugee camps needs to be checked on a regular basis, as a part of the families complement their food rations in the market. A sample of prices collected during the interviews is detailed in the table below:

Table 2: Price of commodities in the camps

Product	Price DZA	Price USD
Sugar	100-180 DZA/kg	1.4-2.5 USD/kg
Oil	100-110 DZA/l	1.4-1.5 USD/kg
Tea	100-250 DZA/kg	1.4 – 3.5 USD/kg
Lentils	100 DZA/kg	1.4 USD/kg
Rice	70-100 DZA/kg	1-1.4 USD/kg
Pasta	80-90 DZA/kg	1.1-1.25 USD/kg
Tuna	30-40 DZA/tin (200 gr)	0.4 - 0.5 USD/tin (200 gr)

2.2.2.3 Food Production

Environment is not conducive for food production activities in sufficient scale to cover needs of the population. However, some small scale activities can be found in the four different camp locations, mainly husbandry and family gardens.

Husbandry: 57 percent of the families declared having some animal; most of them, sheep and goats (an average of 3 goats/sheep). Very few families (2.5 percent) own some chicken in addition to the goats. In the household survey, the only own production reported is milk, chicken and eggs, accounting for a total of 0.4 percent of the consumption. Own production of milk accounts only for 1.2 percent of the consumption (see annex 4).

For those families who do not have animals, the main constraint is not having money to purchase the animals. For those families who have them, the main constraints to have more animals or increase their production are limited access to grazing lands or inputs (including fodder), no adequate space to shelter animals or lack of knowledge and limited access to veterinary services.

Family gardens: Around 18 percent of the interviewed families had a garden (the extended family works and takes advantage of the garden in most cases). This percentage has notably increased since last data collection (JAM 2007) as several projects have aimed to increase homestead gardening, with the double aim of increasing refugees' livelihood capacities and allowing some production of vegetables to diversify diet.

However, during focus group discussions, most of the families declare that their gardens are not producing due to lack of support (none of the interviewed families signalled any fresh products as own production, although it is not the season). The main constraint identified both in focus groups discussions and in household interviews were lack of tools/materials, notably seeds, quality of soil, limited access to water and lack of knowledge. Weather conditions that in some cases have damaged the crop after six or seven months' work has been an important factor in decreasing interest of some families in keeping the gardens. Most of the constraints signalled by the beneficiaries are actually due to lack of a consistent approach in the sector: more appropriate seeds/crops to the climate (salt resistant – in need of less water) and more intensive follow up of the gardens (as population does not have agricultural tradition) would solve most of the constraints. Indeed, in spite of the constraints, 79 percent of the families without garden would be interested in having one with adequate support.

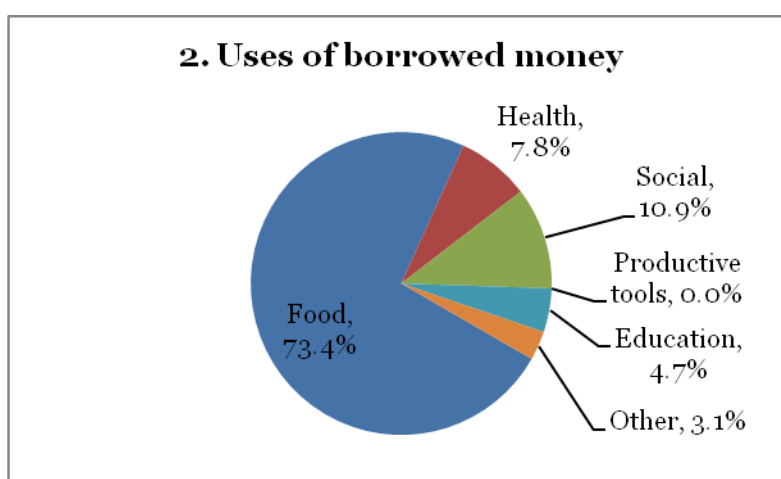
There's a structure in place (supported by Cooperation Authorities – Agricultural section): each camp has a community garden, in which technical staff are trained (in some cases the gardens are also used to select seeds) and are supposed to provide extension services to the families. The staff is however, very limited (in the focus group in Dakhla one staff was in charge of following some 500 gardens) particularly considering the heavy follow up needed by some families. Other experiences with community workers in Smara and Awserd have had more success. There is also an experimental centre in which higher level technical staff is trained, seed selection is done on a regular basis: this centre should be providing materials to the community gardens; it has counted with the support of AECID, which is now considering a more consistent approach with a technical implementing partner; a coordinated approach in family gardens remain an open collaboration possibility.

However, the position of the authorities is that local production to complement the food basket is still very far away, if possible at all. The sector is more seen as a capacity development area, as most of the refugees have not agricultural tradition.

2.2.2.4 Sources of income and expenditure¹

Only 24.4 percent of the families declared not having any source of income, whereas 75 percent declared having one or more members at least working on a casual basis. There are no differences in FCS average between both groups, although there are substantial differences in general expenditures; families with no income source declared having spent an average some higher than DZA 16,000 (USD 222) and families with one or more income source declared having spent around DZA 28,000 (USD 385). This might indicate that most sources of income are spent in other than food, as confirmed by the expenditures pattern, as well as indicate that some families actually borrow to cover food and other basic needs.

However, any conclusions on the expenditure have to consider the bias in the dates of the data collection; the presence of the Eid in the thirty days prior to the data collection might have resulted in higher indebtedness of the families to pay for the social events instead of only relying on their regular resources. More in depth and regular data collection would be desired to confirm this trend².

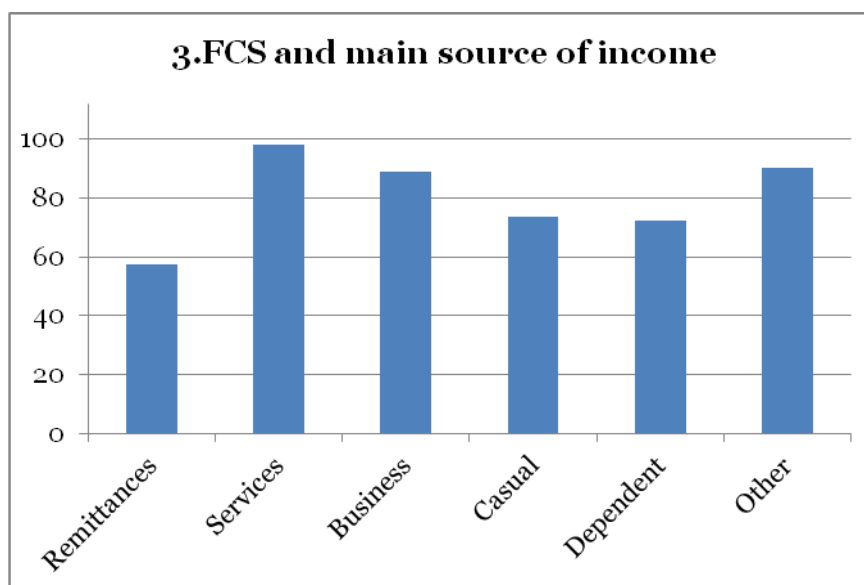


Looking at sources of income, there are small differences between the different groups, being those families who declare remittances as their first source of income the ones with lower FCS and lower level of expenditures (as can be seen in graphics 3 and 4). This contrasts with the conclusions of the household survey fielded during the JAM 2007, however can be explained by a substantial reduction of the remittances mainly of Spanish and Italian sponsor families, which have reduced significantly their contributions in the last four to five years due to the financial and economic crisis³. No more detailed quantitative data are available on this issue.

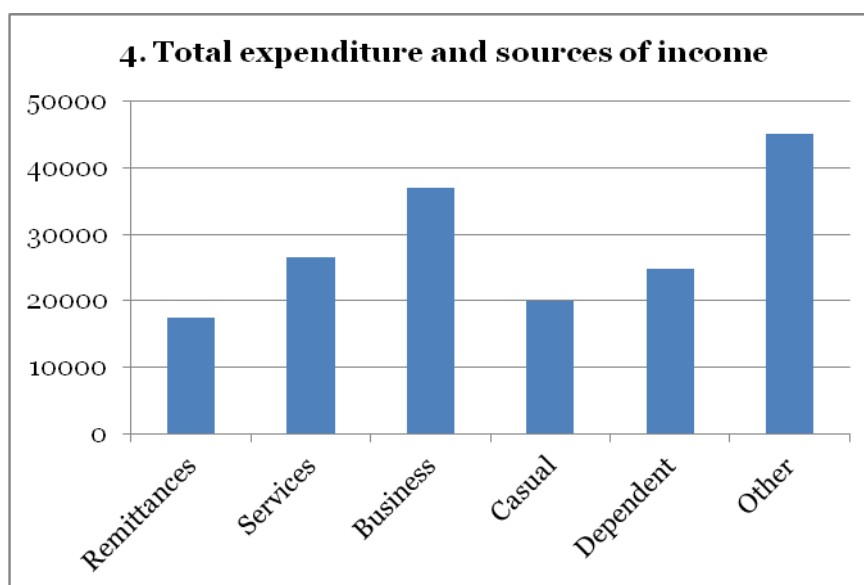
¹ In all calculations with expenditures, anomaly data have been eliminated, leaving a sample of 76 households.

² See graphic 10 on uses of the borrowed money; although food purchase accounts for three quarters, social events are still more than 10 percent of the total.

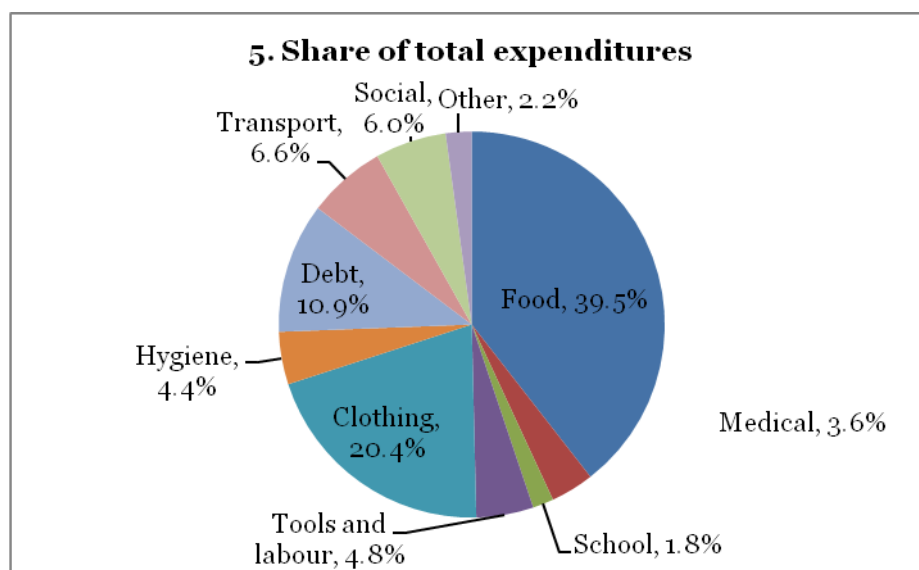
³ Caravans, as mentioned in the food aid section have also been significantly reduced in the last two/three years. The civil society associations promoting the holidays programme for refugee children and sponsorship of refugee families are the same which mobilize resources for these caravans.



The rest of the groups present similar patterns of FCS and expenditures. If these two indicators are used as proxy of purchase power; the income source “services” and “casual” seem to have better FCS than expenditures level, which might be related to the stability of the source (in both cases it is defined as seasonal) and to the fact that part of the work might be remunerated in kind, particularly for the services, or as reimbursement of credit. On the other side, more stable sources of income, such as dependent work and business have relatively lower FCS (although always more than acceptable) but higher level of expenditure, which supports the hypothesis of extra remuneration covering diversification of the food basket and other needs. Given the period of the data collection, it might also mean that the more stable source of income allows having credit in special moments of the year, such as during Eid.



There is a positive correlation between level of expenditure of the family and the FCS; although still is not significant. As can be seen in graphic 5, clothing and social events represent a high percentage of expenditures. However, this is probably due to the dates of the data collection, which in the one month recall on expenditures, severely biased due to Eid (end of Ramadan). In general, beneficiaries interviewed reported the level of expenditure is higher than in other seasons of the year. Data collection and analysis in different moments of the year might enlighten these points.



In terms of expenditure, special attention should be paid to debt repayment, which represents almost 11 percent of the expenditures. In case of any cash/voucher intervention is designed, this will be an important dimension to observe.

According to trader's interviews, most families buy on credit and repay later, most of them within months of the purchase, and when they receive cash from one or another source. Trust seems to play a very relevant role, as small and medium traders, whose clients live in the neighbouring area to the shop, just trust on the clients' goodwill for repayment. Bigger shops, who also play a reduced role as wholesalers for smaller shops in the camps, tend to grant more credit before the payment session of workers in the different sectors and in particular seasons of the year, such as the moment in which sponsor families from Europe visit the camps (both hosts and visitors spend money in the shops), when children come back from holidays in Europe (also coincides with the start of the school year), during Ramadan and Eids and often quarterly, when staff from the different sectors (health, education, etc) receive their salaries. Most traders reported these as the sales peaks in the year.

The visits to traders showed that hygiene and storing conditions are less than ideal, but shops seem to be flexible to demand and some of them had spare space for additional storing and employees. Some of the shops might count with support from the camp leaders as a source of employment, and might be willing to enter into voucher schemes, although a more in detail assessment on their capacities would be needed.

2.2.2.5 Coping strategies

The household survey showed that the least preferred coping strategies are to skip entire days without eating (94 percent of the families declared never having done it) and sending members to eat elsewhere (81 percent of the families declared never having done it and 12 percent declared doing it seldom), although some families have members eating out of the household on a regular basis, such as students in boarding schools.

The most frequent coping strategies were to reduce the number of meals and relay on less preferred or less expensive foods (each declared having been practiced on a daily basis for the last month by 25 percent of the families). The second most frequent strategies are related to credit and borrowing money or food; between 30 and 40 of the families declared having used these strategies sometimes during last month. This matches with the analysis on income/expenditures and FCS as well as reflects the comments reported by women in focus groups and monitoring information about food sharing practices among the extended families and neighbours.

According to trader's interviews, small and medium size shops in the camps often sell on credit; repayment on the debts is not done on a regular basis, but more based in when the families receive their income (even in the

case of dependent workers, this can happen every three months). However, according to traders, most of the debts are actually repaid within some months. As shown in graphic 14 percent debt repayment actually accounted for 11.3 percent of average expenditures of the families.

2.2.2.6 Food rations

Unlike in many refugee operations, refugee leaders have been very active in advocating for the needs of their population and have obtained bilateral food and non-food contributions as well as financial and technical support from various donors and NGOs, mainly from Spain and Italy. This has been done in a context where the populations in the camps have been relying on external aid for more than 36 years in an environment that does not provide for viable alternatives.

During the interviews, refugees and their authorities repeatedly highlighted the importance of the quality, diversity and regularity of the distribution of the basic food ration. It was also mentioned that the food distribution has improved significantly in the last four years, in terms of regularity and stability of the distributions; full rations are monthly distributed since November 2008, new items have been introduced since 2009 and a close follow up on the quality has led to distribution of preferred varieties of most food commodities (see table 3).

Table 3: Rating of products	
Product	Appreciation (from 1 to 10)
Wheat flour	8.17
Barley	8.9
Pulses	8.78
CSB	9.67
Rice	6.58
Pasta	9.1
Sugar	9.94
Oil	9.91

Monthly food basket is provided with base in the target of 2,100 daily kcal and most micronutrient needs, and includes 400 grams of cereals (wheat flour, rice and when possible, barley), 67 grams of pulses (lentils, beans and recently, chickpeas), 31 grams of vegetable oil, 33 grams of sugar and 33 grams of CSB (included in 2009 to improve micronutrient value of the food basket).

During interviews, it was noted by the beneficiaries that rations, particularly sugar and oil do not cover monthly needs (see table 1), although these might be due to a number of reasons, particularly for sugar, overconsumption. The rations of pulses and cereals were noted as sufficient, although the products have to be combined to cover the whole month, according to beneficiaries. The increase of the tea and fresh products rations provided was also a recurrent request.

As per preferences, which are shown in table 3, appreciation of several products is relatively high and has improved over the last two years as specifications had been adapted to beneficiaries' requirements. Wheat flour is more appreciated since its distribution is complemented by yeast throughout the year (up to 2010, only 6 months were covered). CSB, introduced in the food basket in 2009, is now very much appreciated by the families thanks to several sensitization campaigns on its properties and uses. Pulses, of which specifications have been changed several times since 2009 and which tend to be as much diversified as possible, are also appreciated. Rice still remains problematic.

During the field mission, beneficiaries requested in several occasions the re-introduction of pasta (particularly spaghetti) and barley in the food basket. Also, requested the introduction of additional commodities, such as milk, although the limits to milk distribution were explained in all interviews. Olive oil was also a recurrent request. Diversification of the food basket and increasing of the complementary distributions remain the main

objective, as well as the need to continue ensuring regularity of the distributions, for which timely funding is essential to avoid any pipeline breaks.

2009 was an exemplary year in terms of funding, regularity of the pipeline and distributions. In 2010, the protracted process of approval of the current PRRO paralyzed the confirmation of funds for two months causing several pipeline breaks during the second half of the year, in spite of availability of funds. In addition, the need to change specifications of the CSB+ (introduced in January 2010 in all WFP operations) to eliminate iodine from the fortification formula caused a three months pipeline break, reducing considerably the energetic value of the rations provided and the nutritional activities. In 2011, funds have been available and only delays have been noted.

In 2010, an agreement for a security stock was signed by ARC, the Spanish Red Cross and WFP and the stock will be functional by end of 2011. The stock will have three months' rations of four commodities (wheat flour, barley, rice and pulses) and so far has been funded by the AECID, which has contributed with funds for two of these three months. WFP expects reduce delays in the distribution thanks to this mechanism. It also contributes to the stability of the camps, in which dependence of irregular stocks was a source of major concern in the past.

2.2.3 Distribution and Monitoring system

DISTRIBUTION

Since 2008, the respective responsibilities of partners involved in food distributions are formalised in a tripartite agreement between ARC, UNHCR and WFP. This agreement is complemented by a bilateral agreement by ARC and SRC. These agreements cover all responsibilities from arrival to port, import and internal transport, reception at extended delivery point (EDP), transport up to Final delivery point (FDP), distribution and monitoring. The agreements have been automatically extended to accommodate extensions in time of the current WFP PRRO; within the framework of the new PRRO, the tripartite agreement, and possibly subsequently the bilateral agreement between ARC and SRC need to be revised and updated to include some changes in the global MOU between WFP and UNHCR (February 2011).

According to the above mentioned agreements, a monthly coordination meeting is held at Algiers level. The meeting, chaired by WFP and UNHCR and with participation of ARC/SRC, Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, donors with field presence (mainly ECHO and AECID) and some NGOs of the food sector (such as Spanish Red Cross, who manages the security stock in collaboration with ARC), is the forum to discuss events during the month, pipeline situation and revise the distribution of the coming month, as well as other general business affecting the food sector.

After the meeting, which takes place the last Wednesday of each month, the Food Release Note (FRN) is issued and sent to the ARC and SRC, who proceed to prepare the distribution calendar and send it to UNHCR and WFP, who use it to programme monitoring activities. Under normal circumstances, targeted distributions (school feeding and nutritional products) are carried out in the first two days of the month. GFD takes 15 working days, and is immediately followed by distributions of complementary and fresh foods.

The SRC, with the support of ARC, has a good control of the distribution process. The *jefas de barrio* and *jefas de grupos* (neighbourhood/group leaders) in charge of up to 150 people, master the distributions well. Beneficiaries sign-off the receipt of the rations by providing the family ration cards, which started being distributed in April 2011. The mission members could observe the use of these cards. After the distribution, the signed lists are returned centrally to SRC. However, neither the list of heads of groups at neighbourhood level, as agreed by the last JAM, nor the lists of beneficiaries are shared with the partners.

During the interviews, it was noted that in spite of delays and small pipeline breaks in 2010, the systems works much better than in the past, and distribution time is more stable and regular than in the past. Coordination for the transport with the support of the Base of Transport, supported by AECID through its implementing partner ATTSEF, has contributed to this improvement, as this fleet (most of trucks are new and regularly maintained) now covers most of the food distributions. The plans for the base are actually to increase the fleet to provide transport also for NFIs.

While recognising improvements in the system, the JAM noted a further improvement measure to this mechanism: to set the date of issue of the FRN at the 25 of each month to the following, to allow the partners some four to five days of preparation of the distribution calendar to start on the 1st each month, and therefore increase regularity of the distribution. An additional improvement discussed during the mission was the need for increase of coordination between field and country offices of WFP and UNHCR to ensure that FRNs are in line with physical stock and programme/operative needs and that all decisions taken at Coordination Cell level are received by implementing partners at field level.

The mission members noted that FRN was authorized on constant figures of beneficiaries that seemed to indicate that the presence of vulnerable refugees in the camps was stable, although there was some evidence of fluctuations of refugee population living there. As per key informant interviews, some persons, such as students or children leave the camps over a certain period of time (the summer or university year) and then return. There was neither any return of commodities to the warehouse nor justification for special distributions of the stock balance, possibly to very vulnerable groups, nor any other explanation for the systematic distribution of all quantities released. The distribution records always perfectly match with the FRN.

The same observations apply to the planning and reporting on the school feeding programme and nutrition activities. In both of them, however, changes to be implemented in the monitoring, distribution and prepositioning of commodities will result in changing of beneficiary numbers.

MONITORING

With regard to food distribution and post-distribution monitoring systems, they were redesigned and implemented in the beginning of 2008 and have been further improved since April 2009. Joint UNHCR/WFP monthly monitoring reports present quantitative and qualitative information data on food delivery, dispatch, distribution and post distribution. They provide also an overview of the various programmes, the monitoring activities and make recommendations on improvements on the whole food distribution chain. The reports are shared timely with the “Cellule de Coordination” prior to their monthly meeting.

The monitoring system was upgraded in 2010 and is currently almost fully operational by end of the year. A database was set-up, and the data entry is done simultaneously to data collection activities.

Qualitative and quantitative data (based on a statistically representative sample at household level), including partner monitoring information is regularly compiled and analyzed, and includes information on partner's activities in the food sector, such as fresh products distributions or Ramadan special distributions. On the thematic side, the JAM noticed the need to include more food security indicators (FCS is routinely collected, but no information on income or expenditures is) and to integrate price monitoring in the camps, which would help any feasibility study on new interventions under cash/voucher modalities.

In practical terms, systematic monitoring of food distributions is undertaken at warehouses during the dispatch of products and during the camp level distribution. Monitors follow on the composition of the ration, its quality and the appreciation by refugees. It is complemented by beneficiary contact monitoring at household level and regular visits to health clinics, schools and other institutions. The monitoring team is made up of two UNHCR and three WFP staff.

Since 2009/2010, an Italian NGO, CISP, with WFP funding, has been supporting a monitoring team within the SRC, with the aim of building the capacity of the organization and complementing WFP/UNHCR monitoring on the qualitative side, mostly through the social insight of the monitors, also refugees. Both monitoring teams often collaborated during the two years. In 2011, UNHCR has signed an agreement with CISP with the aim of maximising, through monitoring, the impact of the humanitarian aid in the camps, and to provide both local stakeholders and international agencies and donors with a comprehensive framework to collect, analyse and utilize data. Data collected includes population needs; quality and quantity of the aid and services made available in the camps through humanitarian interventions; and perceptions from the beneficiaries about the aid received.

This project will build on a number of analyses and evaluations that have been already conducted in the camps during the last ten years. The relevant literature will be carefully reviewed and examined in order to use it for further data collection and analysis process.

Currently operational monitoring and post-distribution monitoring teams have been trained by CISP in the framework of its collaborative agreement with the SRC. These teams are currently guaranteeing regular distribution monitoring and post-distribution monitoring of all food aid delivered in the camps and orientating its best use within the households.

It is believed that this project will greatly contribute to building local capacity, further valorising the role of local monitoring and post-distribution monitoring, adding to the existing data collection and analysis scheme related to food aid, as well as regular collection and analysis of data on water and sanitation.

A monitoring workgroup, constituted in the framework of the Food Aid roundtable (see coordination section) is also working at the technical level to integrate the monitoring activities carried out by the different organizations, reduce duplication and data collection fatigue and ultimately improve the humanitarian assistance to the refugees.

2.2.4 Selective feeding programmes

Field visits conducted during the mission to some dispensaries have revealed an acceptable level of organization, and a good coordination between the community health workers, the head of dispensaries and the local PISIS coordinators. The community outreach activities related to screening of malnourished children at the household level, using Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) started to be implemented in 2010; in addition, the main criteria of admission for both nutrition programmes is “Weight for Height” (WHZ). These two mentioned points were big achievements of the PISIS implementation.

All children aged less than 59 months have a PISIS card “white card” which is kept at the dispensary level, this card contains all the health/nutrition information. These cards are organized per Barrio and by programme (CTC, SFP, and Anaemia).

Since 2008, MDM Spain provides technical support to the refugee health authorities in the management of severe acute malnutrition in the CTC centres. Standardised protocols for SAM admissions, without complications, are currently in place, as part of PISIS, and admitted children are managed at the health centre with a ready to use therapeutic food called Plumpy’nut®. UNHCR is responsible for procuring Plumpy’nut® in sufficient quantities every year. Children suffering from SAM with medical complications are referred to the Central Hospital in Rabouni, where small quantities of f-75, F100 should be available, in order to insure proper medical care of the above mentioned cases. A standardised protocol for SAM is not in place at the central hospital.

In addition, an MDM Spain-supported component of Community Mobilization through the “Jefas de Barrio” assists directly in screening of MAM and SAM cases measuring mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC). Current programme coverage is unknown; the last SAM coverage survey (December 2008) offered no coverage results as no sufficient SAM cases were found.

WFP and UNHCR are jointly implementing a supplementary feeding programme since 2004 (now also under the PISIS remit) through their implementing partner ARC. Approximately 10, 000 dry rations are distributed monthly.

The dry ration provides 1037 kcal and includes 200g of CSB, 20g of vegetable oil and 15g of sugar; corresponding to 13.0percent of proteins and 27.8 percent of lipids.

In April 2010, the conventional CSB was changed to CSB Plus “Iodine free” to better meet the micronutrient needs of children under five suffering from Moderate Acute Nutrition as well as for PLW.

Children discharged from SAM programme care are automatically admitted into MAM programme care for follow-up for a period of two months.

Big improvements were noticed in the management, reporting, and organisation of CTC and SFP after the training sessions that have been organized every six months since the launching of PISIS, while further efforts are needed to enhance the monitoring system of the programmes.

The joint 2009 UNHCR/WFP nutrition mission, the UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Mission (JAM), as well as the Sahrawi Nutrition Strategy recommended an activity aimed at reducing the very high anaemia prevalence in children aged 6-59 months and PLW, as well as to reduce the high levels of stunting in children. The activity, designed and integrated as part of the PISIS, is a blanket supplementary feeding programme which will provide Micro-Nutrient Powder (MNP) to PLW and children aged 36-59 months and a Lipid-based Nutrient Supplement (LNS) to children aged 6-35 months. This programme started in December 2010 after an acceptability trial conducted in the camps in August 2009. Currently more than 22000 beneficiaries are enrolled in this programme.

The 2010 nutrition survey will serve as the baseline assessment to evaluate the programme's impact after a year of implementation. The next survey is scheduled for October 2012.

The Monitoring of the Anaemia project is ensured by ARC and CISP. ARC is in charge of the monitoring of activities, carried out at the dispensary level, which are related to the anaemia project (Quantitative monitoring), as well the monitoring of stocks and distributions. CISP will be in charge of monitoring at the household level (Qualitative monitoring).

More efforts should be engaged in order to increase and improve the BCC activities related to the intake of the supplementary products, especially for MNP.

2.2.5 School feeding programmes

The JAM 2009 recommended a technical in depth review of the activity, in order to review objectives of the programme, ration size and composition, probably extension to pre-school children and improvement of the overall management of the activity. In the meantime the activity should be continued as it was at the moment.

WFP has been providing high energy biscuits to school children in primary schools since January 2008. The ration, initially 33 gr per children per day, was increased to 50 gr in October 2009, and has been distributed up to June 2011⁴. The number of schools and school children is adjusted on a yearly basis, according to registered school children number provided by refugee education authorities every October (once registration is finished). See table below, containing details on primary and intermediate school children (from 7 to 15 years old):

Table 4: School children figures			
School year	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
School boys	13,354	14,922	15,599
School girls	14,007	15,605	15,882
Total ⁵	27,631	30,527	31,481

The mission noted the same gaps in the implementation of the school feeding activity that were noted during the revision of the activity.

There are barely complementary elements such as nutrition and hygiene trainings promoted by either WFP or its collaborating partners with a comprehensive approach, safe water is not available in most schools and facilities are below minimum standards in around half of the centres.

⁴ School year in the camps follows Algerian calendar, starts in September and ends in June.

⁵ Change in numbers reflects increase in number and also increase on schools years (4 intermediate schools have opened in the last three school years).

There are no de-worming activities carried out in the camps and prevalence is suspected very high in schoolchildren and other age groups (through indirect proofs such as prevalence of diarrheic diseases, prevalence in children going to Europe on holidays during summer and standard prevalence in this area of Algeria).

The current inclusion of primary and intermediate schools implies only partial coverage of educational centres, leaving out precisely members of the most vulnerable groups, such as special needs people's centres. In addition, there is a gap in the coverage of groups with nutritional needs, as children are covered under nutrition activities up to the age of five, but are not covered again until the age of seven at schools, where the objective is no longer in nutritional, in spite of the nutritional deficiencies (particularly in terms of micronutrients) of the children.

The commodity distributed under the activity, HEB, is no longer appreciated by the beneficiaries (children and teachers request some liquid to be distributed with it) and ration is not enough to tackle nutrition problems of the population, and cannot be increased because of acceptability. However, short term hunger is noted when HEBs are not distributed and according to monitoring information around half of the children do not have a proper breakfast before going to school (although most eat/drink something).

The design of the activity aims at improving attendance without providing right tools for it and to reduce gender gap, which is unnecessary (gender ration in schools at registering is 105) considering the context, although might be an objective to achieve in intermediate/boarding schools, which are not covered with an adequate tool in the activity.

The activity, designed long time ago and included with slight changes in the follow up PRROs for its implementation is no longer in line with WFP new guidelines on school feeding in terms of rations, monitoring and reporting, complementary activities (notably hygiene, sanitation and de-worming) and objectives.

The recommendations included in the revision of the school feeding activity which took place in April 2011 were the following:

- Provision of snacks consisting of date bars (80 gr) and two glasses of milk (84 gr DSM) to children in kindergartens and primary schools– these new commodities will respond to beneficiaries requests' and traditional diet, fulfil nutritional requirements and have more acceptance to donors, who have shown interest in contributing to the activity (the Government of Switzerland has already contributed in-kind with DSM).
- Provision of a hot meal for lunch at intermediate schools and special needs people's centres (daily ration of 125 gr pasta, 100 gr rice, 67 gr lentils and 10 gr vegetal oil – some 1100 kcal, according to SF guidelines) – This recommendation has two aims: first, tackle the intermediate schools' problem, in which the challenge is a) to increase enrolment and attendance as very few children (relatively) continue into secondary education and b) to get those students who are officially enrolled to return to afternoon classes following their going home for lunch; WFP/UNHCR monitoring and JAM interviews show that they do not return. The second objective is to include special needs people's centres, in which most attendees are of school age but are not provided with any food support (and families with special need's members are considered among the most vulnerable according to focus groups and the AGDM exercise). Intermediate school children would also receive milk (but not date bars), as facilities are the same as primary schools (it would be difficult to exclude them with a product so appreciated as milk). No need to provide it in special needs' people centres, as the WFP products can be complemented by the social affairs authorities.
- Provision of full general food distribution rations to boarding schools and other boarding educational centres, also in addition to milk (but not date bars). These schools are already assisted informally with GFD, as children stay the whole school year in the schools. The rations will now be formally part of the school feeding activity.
- Inclusion of de-worming activities in school levels (kindergarten, primary, intermediate schools and boarding schools) and adequate training of staff.

- Inclusion of parallel activities on hygiene and nutrition promotion and waste management, in coordination with activities that are already in place.
- Coordination for provision of structures to support the school feeding and sanitation facilities at schools and other educational centres – WFP will undertake the kitchens and refectories part through an implementing partner and the sanitation and water part should be discussed under was coordination (following previous point).
- Inclusion of productive and vocational activities in intermediate and higher level educational centres whenever possible.
- Carry out a baseline of the activity and establish a complete monitoring system of the activity in coordination with education authorities, and based on the new objectives and outcome/output indicators of the activity.

Distribution mechanism should not change: as in the GFD, commodities are stored in the EDP and distribution is carried out by partners to the schools at the beginning of the month. Distribution monitoring should also be in place for the activity, though.

Up to now, distributions did not change along the year; WFP counts on including a more detailed monitoring at school level, with the schools revising the number of schoolchildren at least three times a year and requesting food rations accordingly, as well as using food stocks from one month as prepositioned for the following, which is not currently done (the stores are cleared up by the end of each month at schools).

2.2.6 Food Supplies

The planning figures of the beneficiaries of the current PRRO were 90,000 rations plus 35,000 additional rations distributed for vulnerability reasons. This beneficiaries receive general food distribution rations and, in addition, supplementary feeding and other nutritional interventions, and school feeding.

In 2011 (January – October), the total tonnage distributed under the general food distribution amounted to 21,154 mt and averaged 2,115 mt per month. It was complemented by 4,026 mt of bilateral contributions through various agencies, including WFP, for commodities such as gofio, cheese, fresh foods and canned fish. Up to October 2011, full basic food rations were provided by WFP with a diversified food basket including pasta and chick peas in some of the months, and providing 2,151 kcal/day/ration on average. The recorded bilateral contributions averaged 56 daily kcal thereby ensuring the distribution of daily rations of 2,263 kcal on average. Fresh products were regularly distributed by Mundubat supported by ECHO and AECID (directly), providing a very valuable source of vitamins and minerals for the refugees. A detailed table of delivered commodities is attached in annex 3 and details on the energetic values of the rations distributed from January to October 2011 can be found in table 5.

Table 5: Energy value of rations										
2011										
MONTH	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.
GFD	2,121	2,324	2,094	2,170	2,168	2,168	2,099	2,099	2,169	2,099
Fresh products	62	66	62	64	42	56	44	89	178	54
Complementary products	54	4	44	43	0	0	0	1	135	121
TOTAL	2,237	2,394	2,200	2,277	2,210	2,224	2,143	2,189	2,482	2,274

Since mid 2010 and in 2011, the operation has been well resourced, which has contributed to a healthy pipeline with no breaks, in spite of the long lead times, which have caused delays and shortfalls in the past, in absence of timely confirmation of contributions. The regularity of the distributions and the existence of a buffer stock of two months requirements in WFP's pipeline highly contribute to increase trust between WFP, local authorities and beneficiaries.

Algeria is a net importer of food and wheat flour and other cereals are highly subsidized in order to ensure supply in country and promote internal production. Therefore, the Algerian authorities are reluctant to authorize WFP's local purchases at subsidized price. Although WFP has been successful purchasing wheat flour, oil and other commodities in 2011 and previous years, WFP has faced obstacles in the purchase of other products, such as barley.

In order to maintain the pipeline and regular distribution of a ration that includes a wider range of food items, following actions should be considered:

Further improvements in documentation and food management will increase confidence in the capacities of the partners in particular, in handling the operation in general and the food aid in particular. The mission was impressed by the transparency and accountability evident in the warehouse delivery and dispatch documentation. It contributes to increasing security in food management. As already mentioned under the distribution and monitoring systems, further progress can be made with regard to the reporting on distributions. Being in a position to show results and impact helps resource mobilisation and advocacy.

In addition to WFP existing stock at warehouses at the extended delivery point, a Security Stock, handled by the Spanish Red Cross and ARC will avoid shortfalls and delays in WFP's general food distribution. The stock, planned to have three month's requirements of four of the commodities in the food basket is so far funded to cover only two months. The additional funding required should be mobilized.

The Government of Algeria may also consider contributing to the resourcing of the operation when urgent needs arise, or propose alternatives with regard to local purchases and access to their food stocks.

2.2.7 Self-reliance opportunities and strategies

As highlighted on repeated occasions as well as in the 2009 JAM report, the possibilities of introducing sustainable self-reliance activities are indeed quite limited due to environmental and climatic conditions as well as a lack of raw materials. In addition, the continued expectation of a political solution to the Western Sahara issue limits the scope of any development inclined planning and strategies. In most discussions, the refugee leadership as well as the population favoured the continuation of humanitarian assistance as opposed to diverting much needed funds into projects that are deemed unsustainable. Indeed and most importantly, they stressed that any introduction of self-reliance initiatives should not be made at the expense of current humanitarian interventions.

Refugees, however, realise the benefit of introducing strategies that would broaden and enhance their skill level and ensure the maintenance of a sustainable society. The objective here is to improve education and increase transferrable skills rather than generating income.

A number of initiatives were undertaken over the years to foster the livelihoods of refugees aiming to improve their access to food and diversify their food consumption. The projects essentially supported family gardening and animal husbandry. However, the results are varied as natural conditions; in particular soil salinity and water quality are not conducive.

Given that animal husbandry is a traditional activity and that access to more diversified foods is essential to improving the refugee population's nutritional status, this sector requires continued attention. In some discussion groups, the idea of camel herding was introduced as a potential project. Camel meat, milk and other by-products are traditionally valued sources of nutrition and medicine. It has also been noted that GoA is subsidising camel herders and providing fodder at substantially reduced prices. This is an opportunity that should be explored and its technical and financial feasibility determined.

The objective to increase the dietary diversity of the refugee population according to the plan of action recommended by the Joint Nutrition Mission in March 2009 determined that a desired output would be an adequate food diversity including green leafy vegetables made available to over 30 percent of the population. The required activities included the assessment of the feasibility to introduce cash/voucher systems as an alternative or complement to food aid. This is conditional on an analysis of the market response capacity and product quality issues as well as the feasibility considering the social context. It will also raise the issue of targeting criteria to be applied to such an intervention. Traders interviewed by the mission members acknowledged that during the distribution of fresh products, they would not sell any vegetables or fruits. Based on that experience, they would refrain from supplying these products for at least a week.

With regard to family gardening, though interest by the refugee population was reiterated, the results are in general not encouraging, with the exception of the Dakhla camp where the soil and water salinity are lower and the water table is more accessible. Five hundred households have a garden and the regional garden centre provides some vegetables to half the camp every year. That said, quantities produced are nowhere near sufficient to support feeding the population or generating income.

UNHCR continues to fund a number of activities in favour of refugee women, youth and the handicapped, in order to strengthen their social integration and autonomy. Women's centres have been established in the 4 camps and are providing vocational training and social and legal advisory services. Training is provided in audio-visual techniques, computer/ word processing, languages, knitting and sewing, etc. Refugees believe that these skills, while not immediately marketable in the camps, help maintain their productive capacities and can be transferred once a political solution is implemented.

Micro-credits have been introduced in the camps to fund women and youth related initiatives. While welcomed, further discussions with refugee leaders did not foresee a positive future for this scheme, not least due to the fact that purchasing power in the camps remains almost negligible.

Livelihood activities enhancing local production while responding to the needs of beneficiaries would stimulate the economy and foster the markets. In focus group discussions proposals were discussed regarding cooperatives for the production of meat and milk. Jointly with partners, WFP will assess the feasibility of such activities.

Discussions with key refugee representatives/staff have also taken place on the possibilities to introduce voucher or cash programmes to cover basic food and non-food items. Such interventions would also contribute to enhancing market activities while giving more leverage in choices to the beneficiaries. These programmes could be targeted at specific groups that will have to be determined. They could thus also function as social safety nets. Such programmes would require a careful market analysis and feasibility study with regard to acceptability, focus, targeting and resourcing.

Part 3 – NFI and technical Areas

2.3.1 Situation and Gaps in Non-food items

UNHCR, in collaboration with donor agencies, is supporting the distribution of cooking gas to around one third of the camp households on a regular basis. The Spanish Balearic community is also supporting with cooking gas. It is not clear if there are any gaps. That said, UNHCR Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming (whenever possible) exercise revealed that refugees requested at least 2 gas cylinders per month, which could indicate that UNHCR and other donors' contributions are covering only half of the real needs. Spanish NGOs are providing some cooking utensils through the clinics. The distribution of cooking gas and cooking utensils are seen to contribute to the stability of food preparation in camp household and provide tools to improve the hygiene in household kitchens. It had earlier been observed that old unhygienic cooking pots were in use. Recently UNHCR and WFP identified a gap in mixing pots for the supplementary feeding program in the clinics and at household level. Discussion is ongoing with donors to fill the gap. The data in the following page reflects information at the time of writing (November 2011).

Table 6: Non-food items						
Item	Total need	Quantity already planned to cover	Supplying organization	Camp	Gap	Comment
Gas cookers	4,050 total needs end of 2010	2,670 (September 2011)	Spanish Red Cross	No specification	1,380 at end of 2011	Data refers to end of 2011
Cooking gas refills	112,000 refills (Request from camp authorities)	Four months' gas supply to be covered by UNHCR. No data available for contribution from other sources.	UNHCR through Algerian Red Crescent	All camps	Unknown as no data available on contributions from other sources.	
Cooking gas (new cylinders)	1,060 cylinders	1,060 families	UNHCR through Algerian Red Crescent	All camps		New bottles required for distribution when new families formed.
Hygienic Kits for women		3 months between Oct. 2009 - June 2010	TGH (ECHO funding)	All camps		
Hygienic products for hospitals and health clinics		4 months between Dec 2011 - April 2012	UNHCR through Algerian Red Crescent	All camps		

2.3.2 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The mission evaluated the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector in broad terms, primarily looking at water quantity and quality issues, infrastructure, sanitation and waste management at health facilities and schools and institutional and personal hygiene.

The sectors are led by respective government bodies, the water authorities, the environment authorities and health authorities. Each of them in its own right has set up efficient structures. However, in terms of coordination of intersectoral issues there is limited coordination. This is particularly obvious in relation to water quality testing, sanitation monitoring and hygiene interventions.

In terms of water infrastructure, UNHCR has made major investments both in terms of quantity and quality. In collaboration with the camp water authorities and Solidaridad Internacional Andalucía (SI-A), the water supply system now covers 100 percent of refugees, with 50 percent through pipe network and 50 percent through water trucks.

The lack of sufficient water from deep boreholes continues to be of concern. There is a clear laid out plan of drilling additional boreholes and installing an extended water network. Work is ongoing, but it is logistically challenging and time consuming and progress is slow. Support from the Algerian water authorities could facilitate the process considerably.

Although it was recommended by the 2009 JAM, no progress has been made to replace the zinc-iron family tanks with polyethylene tanks, as this would require a considerable investment. Many of the family tanks are corroded to the point of allowing contamination, including from animals. A comprehensive medium-term plan for the replacement of the old tanks in all camps should be mapped out, with a clear deadline set.

Water quality monitoring at the source and storage facilities is well implemented and regular. The laboratory of the water department is well equipped, but needs some additional investments to increase capacity to keep up with the increasing infrastructure. Monitoring at the community/household is less regular, but still mostly sufficient. A problem that remains is the regular cleaning of trucks (institutional) and family tanks (personal).

On a positive note, most if not all dwellings now have family latrines. The quality, functionality and cleanliness of those that were observed are in general satisfactory. The construction of latrines in schools funded by ECHO has just finished. Unfortunately, there has not been a clear handing over of responsibilities for maintenance and cleaning. This has been debated between the health and education authorities, with some schools taking a proactive approach of putting pupils in charge. Janitors should be hired in the schools to make sure toilets remain clean and functional. Unfortunately, this programme did not include special schools and kindergartens. UNHCR should advocate with ECHO and SRC to continue rehabilitating latrines in these centres.

Personal hygiene continues to be problematic. Reasons for this are numerous, ranging from traditional practices to lack of water and sanitation or quality issues. A strong sanitation and hygiene promotion campaign is recommended to raise awareness and change behaviour. The use of radio, TV and print media is recommended to reach out. School children should be targeted in particular, because of the recently installed latrines.

Part 4 - Logistics

The logistics chain is well under control and the mission examined mostly warehouses capacity and food aid management at the EDP warehouse, although discussions were undertaken with WFP logistics unit and implementing partners on the whole logistics chain.

All WFP supplied food commodities are handed over upon arrival at Oran port to ARC and ARC is responsible for transportation to Tindouf and warehouse management at EDP (located in Rabouni, some 30 km from Tindouf and closer to the refugee camps). This arrangement is in agreement with the MOU signed by GoA and WFP and is reflected in agreements with ARC, as primary implementing partner of WFP. In turn, ARC has arrangements for the management of the warehouses and the distribution to final beneficiaries with the SRC. WFP Logistics, present on a daily basis at EDP warehouse, monitors the logistic activities of ARC/SRC, verifies the financial claims, assists ARC/SRC with its delivery schedules and builds the capacity of ARC and SRC in logistics.

WFP's distributions require some 2,115 mt of assorted commodities per month with an approximate cost of USD 2.5 million per month (although this might change according to change in prices of the commodities). Given the long lead times in the operation (commodities take from 3 to 5/6 months to arrive to EDP warehouse) and the limited possibilities of local purchase, timely confirmation of contributions is the main factor to avoid shortfalls in the operation.

Information regarding food management is available in a properly maintained database and information on the food and non food items received by all donors, discharge and dispatch for distribution and receipt at final distribution points is well kept and maintained by SRC. These data are shared with the NGOs directly or through ARC reports on a monthly basis.

Regarding the warehouses, since the last JAM, two additional covered warehouses have been built; one of them (1,200 m²) financed by private donors directly to SRC and another one (2,400 m²) by WFP. These two structures will avoid storing in containers, which given the extreme temperatures in the area, has been a concern in the past. There are still some improvements to be made in the warehouses, notably the rehabilitation/construction of some 10 platforms currently used to store cereals. Those were built in 2004 and were in a precarious state when in April a particularly severe sandstorm caused six of them to collapse. The current storing capacity at EDP warehouses is around 13,000 mt, but with the establishment of the security stock managed by SRC/ARC (around 6,000 mt) and WFP's policy of keeping a healthy pipeline of three months requirements (up to 6,400 mt), this capacity needs to be increased further.

In this operation, food is delivered to the Algeria Red Crescent (ARC) (the main implementing partner) directly from Oran port transiting to Rabouni Warehouse following Algerian custom procedures (D15). For sensitive commodities, Algerian customs carry out Q&Q. In Local purchase WFP carries out Q&Q at the factory and then delivers to cooperating partner. In such cases there is no need for additional quality control.

The secondary transport is hampered by the aging fleet of trucks. The base of transport, managed by ATTSE in close collaboration with SRC, and funded with AECID funds has renewed most of the fleet used to distribute food, and there plans to increase this fleet to cover also NFI distributions. However, coordination of the different distributions as well as conditions of some of the trucks sometimes affects the distribution cycle of the operation, prolonging it from 15 to up to 16/27 days.

Part 5 – Partnership and Planning

2.5.1 – Coordination arrangements

The main implementing partner for UNHCR and WFP in food aid is the Algerian Red Crescent (ARC). Other actors include AECID, ECHO as donors and a number of implementing NGOs. The Sahrawi Red Crescent operates as the official partner of ARC.

Continuity of the food assistance for the Sahrawi refugees was enabled by contributions committed by major donor countries. Other donations are received from time to time, which contribute to the diversification of the food assistance to refugees. It is very important to maintain the food pipeline, and to regularise the other donations to create some stability, both on the nutritional and psychological level, for the refugees.

The *Cellule de Coordination de l'Assistance Alimentaire* (Coordination cell) has been meeting on a monthly basis in Algiers and the flow of information to and from Tindouf regarding pipeline, resource mobilization, and deliveries is efficient. In addition, better coordination at the field level and between ARC and SRC as well as UNHCR and WFP has enhanced the quality information on specific issues, including on bilateral donations and food security indicators.

The regularity of other global and sector coordination meetings varies. The *Mesas de concertación* (Coordination roundtables) supported by AECID took place on health and food aid. They are organised every 6 months and are fora for reviewing sectoral strategies, plans of actions, interventions, and activities. As they have been extended to all participating partners, including the multilateral agencies, they should prompt the coordination of sectors at operational level. A roundtable is also planned in November on the water, sanitation and hygiene sector.

Coordination should have clear objectives and be seen as bringing an added-value with regard to complementarities, by optimizing financial and human resources and creating opportunities while avoiding overlap and duplication. As a step to further the coordination efforts, UNHCR Sub-Office in Tindouf has been meeting on a monthly basis with all NGO implementing partners to review progress and discuss future plans. Furthermore, UNHCR conducts twice yearly sector-specific meetings and two plenary sessions to determine budget allocations across the various sectors. These meetings include refugee representatives, NGO implementing partners, as well as other operational partners on the ground, including WFP, WHO, AECID, and ECHO.

2.5.2 – Specific issues

One of the main points mentioned by authorities and refugees' representatives in all sectors in meetings during the field mission was the improvement in the relations between humanitarian organizations and refugees' representation and population in general.

These relations, which were already noted as improving in last JAM in 2009, have resulted in increased exchange of information, established coordination platforms and ultimately in improved implementation of operations. During the discussions, the main reasons identified by all parties for these improvements were increase of number of staff in the organizations, appropriate specialization of staff in charge of sectors, slight change in approach into a more information-sharing and open to discussion one and funding stability of the operation in the last two to three years. The mission members recognize the important role of this increased trust among the parties in the implementation of the operation.

Chapter 3 - Conclusions and Recommendations

3.1 Conclusion: To continue the PRRO Interventions

The findings of the JAM are based on primary information obtained through key informants interviews (officials, refugee representatives and households' representatives) and focus group discussions. According to those findings, the majority of the Sahrawi refugee population living in camps in Tindouf remains chronically food insecure and their nutrition situation is not satisfactory. Therefore, it is recommended to continue providing assistance to this population (general food distribution, school feeding and mother and child healthcare and nutrition interventions).

3.1.1 General Food Basket

The food distributions in the camps will continue based on previous modalities; however the food basket of 2,100 kcal should be adjusted reintroducing barley and pasta, and advocating for gofio distributions and diversification of pulses. Distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables should be continued and their access facilitated in general, and the feasibility of their distribution in the school feeding programme needs to be studied. As for the period of Ramadan, the advocacy for special distributions should continue.

In order to improve the availability of a diversified basket on a regular basis with products such as rice, pasta, fish, cheese, etc. the deliveries of WFP and bilateral contributions need to be coordinated.

As an alternative to complement the food basket, the possibility of FFW or cash/voucher schemes or similar activities with particular attention to people with special needs could be explored.

3.1.2 Nutrition: address micronutrient deficiencies

The implementation of the nutrition programmes should be continued. However, there is a need to find specialized NGOs to manage nutritional projects (SFP and Chronic malnutrition and anaemia). Regarding monitoring of nutritional programme implementation, information sharing and coordination of nutrition programmes should be improved by introducing a monitoring system and encouraging information sharing and joint planning.

Based on the positive results of the impact evaluation of the anaemia programme, the procurement of products will be handed to WFP in the next operation.

It is recommended to adapt protocols for therapeutic feeding for children with SAM and medical condition at hospital level; to keep a small stock of therapeutic feeding products such as F100 and ready-to-use foods; to continue training and awareness raising with health workers under the PISIS framework; and assess the possibility of changing the ration of CSB to other alternative products in 2013 (SFP).

Furthermore, general awareness raising campaigns should be increased using the available media (including TV and radio) to: discourage the consumption of tea by children under 5 and pregnant/lactating women, reduce the sugar consumption, encourage the appropriate breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices, sensitize pregnant women at household level about the importance of regular clinic visits, improve the water sanitation and hygiene in general, prevent chronic diseases, such as diabetes, encourage the iron and folic acid consumption for the pregnant and lactating women, and to consume nutritional products, especially MNP.

3.1.3 School Feeding

In line with the 2011 report "Revision of the School Feeding Programme" it is suggested to consider changing the commodities and rations for different educative centers, which may eventually include kindergartens, primary, intermediate and boarding schools, introducing a hot lunch for full day schools and a complete food ration for boarding schools; and enlarge the scope of the activity to include kindergartens, special needs centres and pedagogical institute, in order to ensure continuity of nutritional interventions to tackle high rates of micronutrient deficiencies.

It is also recommended to include de-worming activities in the school feeding, rehabilitate or construct kitchen and refectory facilities (including adequate WASH), and assess the feasibility of including productive/vocational activities and of including fresh fruits on the school feeding programme.

The introduction of an adequate by a monitoring system of the school feeding programme is also recommended, particularly given the changes needed in implementation.

3.1.4 Health

The capacity of health workers at all levels, but in particular for clinical management and medical care, should be improved by recruiting/seconding qualified medical doctors to work at the regional hospitals, providing ongoing training to health workers in health clinics and community health workers and further improving the quality of the teaching centre for nurses and mid-wives.

The supply management of medicines and medical materials from the central pharmacy to the regional hospitals and health clinics needs also to be improved (ECHO should address the supply management of MDM Greece and implement monitoring and quality assurance tools at central and hospital pharmacies).

Moreover, the drug management at the provider level needs to be enhanced by conducting training for nurses, pharmacies and health workers in the regional hospitals and health clinics.

3.1.5 Water Sanitation and Hygiene

The implementation of the strategic plan to increase water availability to the camps needs to continue by drilling additional boreholes, setting up water treatment/storage facilities, and expanding water pipe network and distribution points. As well, further support and capacity building of Sahrawi staff is planned within a yearly sensitisation programme.

The water quality monitoring has to continue, and the regular maintenance of water trucks and water reservoirs needs to be improved. In addition, subject to available funding, it is foreseen to gradually renew the old water truck fleet.

There is a need to advocate with the Spanish Red Cross, in order for them to expand the sanitation programmes in schools, also to kindergartens, education centres for persons with special needs, vocational schools and women and youth centres. At the same time, a responsible stakeholder should be identified to carry out the maintenance and cleaning of sanitation facilities in education, health and social centres.

It is very important to develop a joint work plan for health and hygiene promotion between health, education and water and environment authorities, setting up a technical working group.

In doing so, the awareness raising initiatives on WASH need to be improved (exploring the use of media and conduct targeted campaigns in schools, health centres, food distribution points and social centres) and a WASH survey should be carried out (developing a methodology).

3.1.6 Support Self-reliance Activities

It is recommended to assess the feasibility of undertaking human asset development activities that would enhance refugee self-reliance. While considering the environmental constraints, if feasible such activities would include market and production development opportunities such as animal husbandry, FFW or cash/voucher activities, food processing activities, gardening activities, etc...

3.1.7 Coordination mechanisms

As a coordination mechanism, general coordination meetings in Tindouf on food/non-food programmes, organized by UNHCR with the participation of WFP, partners (ARC/S and NGOs) and donors should be resumed. At the same time, the roundtables in health and food aid shall continue taking place with the participation of all actors in the operation, in which UNHCR and WFP are regular members. UNHCR and WFP are also members of the working groups.

Another important recommendation is the improvement of the communication between the Country Office and sub-offices in Tindouf in regards to the Coordination Cell. In order to achieve this, the timely sharing of the note for the record of all meetings in the sectors is recommended.

Moreover, the inter-sectoral cooperation between the refugee authorities themselves (health, water, sanitation and education) needs to improve. UNHCR shall meet the authorities to encourage them to improve their communication at the technical level.

In addition, a WFP/UNHCR Joint Action Plan with clearly established agency responsibilities should be prepared; and timelines for 2012 be monitored.

3.1.8 Pipeline Management

WFP, UNHCR, the Spanish Red Cross and SRC need to advocate with donors for the full funding for 3 months of the security stock under the management of ARC and the Spanish Red Cross.

It is also recommended to continue the local purchases and negotiate the purchase of subsidized products with the Government of Algeria; as well as to support partners in local purchases, particularly in diversifying procurement sources, by providing technical advice in procurement and assist in the supply chain management.

3.1.9 Distribution Management

The tripartite agreement between UNHCR, WFP and ARC needs to be updated in accordance to the last MOU between UNHCR and WFP; and implemented in timely manner to enhance the management of secondary transport and food distribution and monitoring.

In addition, the support to partners in monitoring the receipt of food commodities by the neighbourhood group leaders and beneficiaries sign-off a document upon receipt of the ration has to continue being supported. Furthermore, logistical support should be provided with, but the mechanisms for the support need to be found.

The food release note should be prepared by the 25th of each month at latest; the mechanism to change the coordination in his regards needs to be discussed with senior management.

3. 1.10 Monitoring and reporting

In order to have a proper monitoring and reporting mechanisms, the joint UNHCR and WFP M&E system has to continue to be strengthened; in addition, ARC and MDM Spain nutrition reports should be provided using the updated templates.

Regular training on nutrition M&E system to the PISIS staff should be provided, the coordination with other M&E systems (partners) has to increase (having regular coordination meetings) and the monitoring in the school feeding has to be improved.

At the same time, an implementing partner to undertake Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) activities on nutrition programmes, has to be identified, and the monitoring plan on the Anaemia programme established jointly with the Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN) in August 2011, needs to be activated.

3.2 - Technical Recommendations

The table hereunder presents the recommendations made by the JAM of October 2011:

Table 1: General Technical Recommendations

1. General Food Basket				
Recommendations 2011	Actions	Deadline	Responsible	Remarks
1.1 Continue food distributions in the camps based on the previous modalities.	WFP activities	Continues	WFP	
1.2 Adjust general food basket of 2100 Kcal by reintroducing barley and introducing pasta. Advocacy for gofio distributions and diversification of pulses.	WFP & Donors	Continues	WFP, UNHCR and SRC and donors	
1.3 Distribute fresh fruits and vegetable.	Continue to distribute fresh fruits and vegetables. The modalities should be examined in more detail as in recommendation 1.7 e.g. exploring the use of vouchers for fresh foods in the camps.	On-going	ECHO and AECID	
1.4 Study feasibility of inclusion of fresh fruits in the school feeding programme.	Coordination meeting with concerned IPs and Authorities	Mar. 2012	WFP, UNHCR, ECHO and AECID	
1.5 Continue Advocacy of special distribution during Ramadan	Coordination meeting, ensuring Ramadan distributions	May 2012	WFP, UNHCR, SRC, IPs and donors	
1.6 Coordinate deliveries by WFP and bilateral contributions to improve availability of diversified food basket on a regular basis (with products such as rice, noodles, fish, cheese)	WFP to discuss with SRC and NGOs	Dec. 2011	WFP, UNHCR, SRC, IPs and donors	
1.7 Explore possibilities of complementing the food basket by FFW or cash/voucher schemes or similar activities with particular attention to benefiting people with special needs	WFP and partners to prepare a concept note	June 2012	WFP, UNHCR, ECHO and AECID	

2. Nutrition: Address micronutrient deficiencies				
Recommendations 2011	Actions	Deadline	Responsible	Remarks
2.1 Continue implementation of the nutrition programmes		Continuous	UNHCR, MDM and ARC	
2.2 Find specialized NGOs to manage nutritional projects (SFP and Anaemia)	Discussions with NGOs and local authorities	Dec. 2011	UNHCR, ENN	
2.3 Improve monitoring, information sharing and coordination of nutrition programmes	Implement monitoring system, encourage information sharing and joint planning	Dec. 2011	UNHCR, WFP, concerned NGOs, AECID and health authorities	
2.4 Based on the positive results of the impact evaluation of the anaemia programme, the procurement of products will be handed to WFP	Carry out the impact evaluation included in WFP's PRRO	Feb. 2012	UNHCR and WFP	If the intervention is not included in WFP's PRRO before approval it will be included through a budget revision
2.5 Adapt protocols for therapeutic feeding for children with SAM and medical conditions at hospital level	Develop protocol	Jun. 2012	UNHCR, ENN, MDM and health authorities	
2.6 Maintain a small stock of therapeutic feeding products such as F75, F100 and Plumpy'nut®.	Order supplies	Jun. 2012	UNHCR	

2.7 Continue training and awareness raising with health workers under the PISIS framework	Develop a training plan with health authorities. Implement the training and awareness campaigns	Dec. 2011 Jan. – Dec. 2012/ 2013	UNHCR, WFP, concerned NGOs and health authorities	
2.8 Assess the possibility of changing the ration of CSB to other alternative products in 2013 (SFP)	Explore alternatives Feasibility study and risk assessment Discussion with authorities	Dec. 2012	UNHCR, WFP, ENN and local health authorities	
2.9 Increase awareness raising campaigns:	Consumption of tea by children under 5 and pregnant/ lactating women should be discouraged; Awareness campaigns for the reduction of sugar consumption Campaign on appropriate breastfeeding and weaning practices; Sensitisation for pregnant women at household level about importance of regular clinic visits; Water sanitation & hygiene campaign. Campaign on dietary habits to prevent chronic diseases eg: Diabetes; Iron and folic acid intake for the pregnant and lactating women; Consumption of nutritional products specially MNP.	Continuous	UNHCR, WFP concerned NGOs, AECID and health authorities	Use the available media (including TV and radio)

3. School Feeding				
Recommendations 2011	Actions	Deadline	Responsible	Remarks
3.1 Provision of improved rations for on-site consumption in kindergartens, primary, intermediate and boarding schools (date bars, milk ⁶⁷) – full day schools (hot lunch) and boarding schools (complete food ration).	WFP activities	Jun.2012	WFP	
3.2. Consider the possibility to include kindergarten, special need centres, nursery school and pedagogical institute in the school feeding activity	Liaise with education and social affairs authorities and SRC	Jun.2012	WFP	
3.3. Include de-worming activities in school feeding	Find baseline data Train health/education staff Procure treatment	Jun.2012	WFP, UNHCR	
3.4. Rehabilitate/construct kitchen and refectory facilities (including adequate WASH)	Carry out a baseline Negotiate with implementing partner Carry out works	Jun.2012	WFP, UNHCR	
3.5. Assess feasibility of inclusion of productive/vocational activities in the school feeding	Carry out pilot intervention with gardens Liaise with NGOs to pilot different interventions	Jun.2012	WFP, UNHCR	

⁶ It is important that the DSM is appropriately monitored to ensure that there is no “leakage”, of the product into the community. The milk should be controlled and mixed up freshly on site before drinking at school. The risk is that the milk powder will then be used to feed young infant which not only distracts from appropriate breastfeeding practices, but it is also a very inappropriate and potentially dangerous form of milk for young children (unmodified and lacking in essential vitamins and fats).

⁷ This activity should also be conditioned upon their being enough water and sanitary facilities and equipment including soap both to prepare the milk safely and to ensure hygienic conditions of mixing and drinking vessels.

3.6. Study feasibility of distribution of fresh fruits in the school feeding programme.	Carry out assessment	Mar.2012	WFP, UNHCR, ECHO and AECID	
3.7. Establish monitoring system in school feeding	Carry out a baseline	Dec.2011	WFP, UNHCR	
	Discuss M&E system with authorities	Dec.2011		
	Train staff	Mar.2012		
4. Health				
Recommendations 2011	Actions	Deadline	Responsible	Remarks
4.1 Improve capacity of health workers at all levels, but in particular for clinical management and medical care.	Recruit/second qualified medical doctors to work at the regional hospitals. Provide ongoing training to health workers in health clinics and community health workers Further improve the quality of the teaching centre for nurses and mid-wives.	Mar 2012	UNHCR, ECHO, AECID, health authorities	
		Jan-Dec 2012		
		Jun 2012		
4.2 Improve the supply management of medicines and medical materials from the central .pharmacy to the regional hospitals and health clinics	ECHO to address the supply management of MDM Greece and implement monitoring and quality assurance tools at central and hospital pharmacies	Mar 2012	ECHO, MDM Greece, Medico Intl, health authorities	
4.3 Improve drug management at provider level	Conduct trainings for nurses, pharmacies and health workers in the regional hospitals and health clinics	Jan-Dec 2012	MDM Spain, UNHCR, health authorities	
5. Water Sanitation and Hygiene				
Recommendations 2011	Actions	Deadline	Responsible	Remarks
5.1. Continue implementation of the strategic plan to increase water availability to the camps	Drill additional boreholes and set up water treatment/ storage facilities	Dec 2012	UNHCR, Spanish Red Cross, water and environment	

	Expand water pipe network and distribution points		authorities, Algerian local authorities	
5.2. Continue water quality monitoring	Increase the laboratory capacity of the water and environment department	Dec 2012	UNHCR, water and environment dept.	
5.3. Improve regular cleaning and maintenance of water trucks and water reservoirs	Work with health and environment dept to increase the monitoring of tanker/ reservoir cleaning	Continuous	UNHCR, water and environment dept.	
5.4. Advocate with the Spanish Red Cross to expand their sanitation programmes to schools to also include kindergartens, education centres for persons with special needs, vocational schools and women and youth centres.	Meet with Spanish Red Cross	Dec 2011	UNHCR, Spanish Red Cross	
5.5. Identify responsible stakeholder to carry out maintenance and cleaning of sanitation facilities in education, health and social centres.	Meet with health, social, education and water and environment depts to identify needs and set up system of janitors and maintenance workers	Dec 2011	UNHCR, health, social, education and water and environment dept.	
5.6. Develop a joint work plan for health and hygiene promotion between the Sahrawi health, education and water and environment authorities	Set up a technical working group	Mar 2012	UNHCR, health, education and water and environment authorities	
5.7. Improve awareness raising initiatives on WASH	Explore use of media and conduct targeted campaigns in schools, health centres, food distribution points and social centres	Continuous	UNHCR, health, education and water and environment authorities	
5.8 WASH Survey to be carried out	Develop methodology and conduct survey	Dec. 2012	UNHCR, Local authorities and SRC	
6. Support Self-reliance Activities				

Recommendations 2011	Actions	Deadline	Responsible	Remarks
6.1. Increase the scope and possibility for human asset development activities that can support refugee self-reliance including market and production development opportunities	Coordinate effectively the self reliant/productive projects Provide support to community based gardening activities Explore animal husbandry small scale projects Study feasibility of FFW- cash/voucher activities Food processing activities eg: mills	Jun. 2012	UNHCR, WFP and concerned partners	
7. Coordination mechanisms				
Recommendations 2011	Actions	Deadline	Responsible	Remarks
7.1. Resume general coordination meetings in Tindouf on food/ non-food programmes, organized by UNHCR with participation of WFP, partners (ARC/S and NGOs) and donors.	Implementation schedule	Dec. 2011	UNHCR, WFP, ARC, NGOs and donors	
7.2. Roundtables in health and food aid continue taking place with participation of all actors in the operation; WFP and UNHCR are regular members and collaborate in the working groups	Continue	Continuous	UNHCR, WFP, ARC, SRC, NGOs, donors and local authorities	
7.3. Strengthen communications between Country Office and sub offices in Tindouf in regards to the Coordination Cell	Share timely the note for the record of all meetings in the sectors	Continuous	UNHCR and WFP	
7.4. Improve inter-sectoral cooperation between Sahrawi authorities (Health, Water, Sanitation and Education)	Meeting with the authorities to encourage them to improve their communication at the technical level	Dec. 2011	UNHCR and the refugee authorities	

7.5. Prepare Joint Action Plan with clearly established agency responsibilities and timelines for 2012 to be monitored by UNHCR and WFP	Draft and approve the plan Implementation Revision of the plan	Dec. 2011 Throughout 2012 Dec. 2012	WFP and UNHCR	
8. Pipeline Management				
Recommendations 2011	Actions	Deadline	Responsible	Remarks
8.1. Advocacy of security stock full funding for 3 months under management of ARC/Spanish Red Cross	Advocacy with donors	Continuous	WFP, UNHCR, Spanish Red Cross and SRC	
8. 2. Continue local purchases and negotiate purchase of subsidized products from the local authorities	Continue	Continuous	WFP	
8. 3. Support partners in local purchases (particularly in diversifying procurement sources)	Provide technical advice in procurement Assist in the supply chain management	Continuous	WFP and UNHCR	
9. Distribution Management				
Recommendations 2011	Actions	Deadline	Responsible	Remarks
9.1. Update tripartite agreement between UNHCR, WFP and ARC according to the last MOU (UNHCR & WFP) and implement in a timely manner to enhance the management of secondary transport and food distribution and monitoring.	Prepare draft document Negotiate with partners	Feb 2012	UNHCR and WFP, ARC	

9.2. Continue support of SRC in monitoring the receipt of food commodities by the neighbourhood group leaders and beneficiaries sign-off a document upon receipt of the ration.	Continue	Continuous	WFP, UNHCR and SRC	
9.3. Prepare food release note by 25 th of every month	Discuss with country office management	Dec. 2011	WFP	
9.4. Provide logistical support to ARC and its partner SRC	Find mechanisms for supporting operations of ARC and its partner SRC	April 2012	UNHCR and WFP	
10. Monitoring and reporting				
Recommendations 2011	Actions	Deadline	Responsible	Remarks
10.1 Continue to strengthen joint UNHCR & WFP M&E system	Continue joint monitoring and reporting in standard formats. Provide monthly reports and analysis. Ensure database is managed efficiently. Develop capacity of staff to analyze data. Introduce market dimensions in the system (households and traders)	Continuous	WFP and UNHCR	
10.2 Reports on nutrition to be provided by ARC and MDM Spain using the updated templates	Timely circulation of finalized reports Templates to be further improved with the monitoring system of the PISIS	Continuous	UNHCR, WFP, AECID, ARC, MDM and health authorities	
10.3 Provide regular training on nutrition M&E system to the PISIS staff	Prepare the joint schedule Provide the training	Dec. 2011 Jan – Dec. 2012/ 2013	UNHCR, WFP, concerned NGOs and health authorities	
10.4 Increase coordination with other M&E systems (Partners)	Regular coordination meetings to take place	Continuous	UNHCR, WFP, concerned NGOs and concerned authorities	

10.5 Improve monitoring in the school feeding programme	Discuss the monitoring system with the authorities Provide training to authorities on M&E	Continuous	WFP, UNHCR and SRC	
10.6 Identify an implementing partner to undertake Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) activities on nutrition programmes	Identify the NGO and discuss with the local authorities	Dec. 2011	UNHCR	
10.7 Activate the monitoring plan of the Anaemia programme already established jointly with Emergency Nutr. Network (ENN) in Aug. 2011	Coordinate with UNHCR, ARC and CISP	Dec. 2011	UNHCR	
10.8 Complete 1 st phase Nutrition programme impact evaluation	Conduct a Nutrition survey amongst the children and Women in the last quarter of 2012. Use the results to contribute to the evaluation of the impact of Ghazala/Chaila in the relevant population groups	Last quarter 2012	ENN, UNHCR, WFP, concerned NGOs and concerned authorities	

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Joint Assessment Mission Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference

Joint UNHCR / WFP Assessment Mission 2011

Evaluation of Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200034 and Needs Assessment for future programming

Background

The Sahrawi refugees first arrived to Algeria in 1975, since when they have been living in camps close to the city of Tindouf, some 2,000 km southwest of Algiers. UNHCR has supported the Government of Algeria's provision of assistance since 1975, implementing care and maintenance programmes for the vulnerable Sahrawi refugees living in the camps. WFP has assisted the Government of Algeria in meeting the refugees' basic nutritional needs since 1986.

The UNHCR / WFP Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) conducted in September/October 2009 recommended to continue food assistance through another Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) which was approved in April 2010 for the 18-month period from 1ST May 2010 to 31ST October 2011 and was later on extended up to 31ST December 2011.

The UNHCR/WFP nutrition survey undertook in October/November 2010 showed reductions in acute and chronic malnutrition rates amongst children under five and anaemia prevalence among children under five and women (both pregnant and lactating and not pregnant). However, the rates are still high and indicate the precarious nutritional status of the refugee population.

Since 2009, all agencies involved in the nutrition sector have come together under the leadership of the refugee health authorities to prepare an integrated nutrition strategy and unified protocols. This approach is reflected in the Integrated Saharawi Child Health Programme, which has been rolled out and is fully implemented since end of 2010. WFP and UNHCR are key players in this integrated approach and addressing the nutritional situation of the refugees remains a concern.

In April 2011, WFP intends to carry out an in depth revision of the school feeding activity, in close consultation with UNHCR and other partners in the field. The aim of the revision is to align the current programme to WFP standards including hygiene components, looking for complementarities with local production/purchase initiatives and addressing nutritional deficiencies in target groups which are not covered by the initiative above.

Given the current political situation, the number of beneficiaries has been subject to much discussion. Currently, WFP distributes 90,000 food rations plus 35,000 supplementary food rations added after the floods in 2006, for vulnerability reasons.

Therefore, the main activity under the food assistance is the provision of a total of 125,000 general food rations to the most vulnerable refugees in the camps to meet their basic food needs and support their livelihoods.

Nutritional support is also provided for approximately 10,000 pregnant women/lactating women and moderately acute malnourished children through supplementary feeding. Additionally, around 9,000 pregnant and lactating women and 13,500 children under five which are not under nutritional treatment for malnutrition are covered by blanket distributions to prevent chronic malnutrition and anaemia.

School feeding for around 30,000 primary school students aims to reduce short-term hunger and thereby enhance the children's education as well as address micronutrient deficiencies.

The UNHCR and other partners ensure support to basic services and the distribution of non-food items as well as the provision of fresh products.

Objectives of the mission

- 1) Evaluate the implementation of the three components of the food assistance programme by WFP, UNHCR and their partners, in particular the ARC and its partner SRC, and determine whether the objectives were achieved, identifying good practices, principle constraints, lessons learned and areas for improvement. This analysis will include among others:
 - a) Compliance with WFP / HCR policies rules and procedures including transparency, standards and gender
 - b) Analysis of programme, and logistic systems and processes in place
 - c) Evaluation of logistic and programme monitoring (M&E) systems being undertaken jointly by WFP and UNHCR including collection, analysis, reporting and use of data
 - d) Examination of management and other reports such as distribution reports and joint WFP/UNHCR monthly monitoring reports to determine whether they are comprehensive and enable programme management to meet the programme objectives;
- 2) Assess the need for, and framework of, continued food assistance interventions, including the identification of the actual food needs (rations and food basket composition), stock monitoring and effective and transparent food distribution;
- 3) If continued assistance is recommended (see point 2), determine the most appropriate form of WFP assistance for the next PRRO, including duration of the assistance programme and recommendations on how to enhance the impact of the assistance in terms of basic food basket, alternative means of distribution (food, vouchers, etc.) and attention to more vulnerable groups. These recommendations will also take into account UNHCR and other organizations' complementary distributions, such as yeast, tea, fresh products, etc.;
- 4) With reference to the nutritional survey October/November 2010, evaluate the change in the situation and the recommendations on implementation and evaluation of current UNHCR/WFP interventions in nutrition (particularly treatment of moderate acute malnutrition among under-fives and prevention of chronic malnutrition and anaemia amongst pregnant and lactating women and children under five). Also, assess the needs for related non-food items and basic health services to support the implementation of these nutritional interventions during the period of the planned PRRO;
- 5) With reference to the school feeding revision of April 2011, evaluate the recommendations of the report and determine related food and non-food items needs for the period of the planned PRRO;
- 6) Identify/assess the existing self-reliance activities, possibilities to develop them and the necessary support for their promotion. Determine also the required continuous assistance to refugees to reach a certain level of self-reliance while awaiting a durable solution;
- 7) Review the coordination strategy and mechanisms with the bilateral donors within this programme.

Methods

The assessment mission will take place from 17 -24 May 2011 with the participation of UNHCR and WFP Headquarters. In addition to the refugee representatives, the implementing partner Algerian Red Crescent and its partner the Sahrawi Red Crescent, representatives of donor countries will be invited to attend as observers. The mission will be expected to debrief their preliminary findings to the country offices of both WFP and UNHCR as well as members of the Cellule de Coordination at the end of their mission (25-26th May 2011). Given the timeline for preparation of the new programme, these recommendations will likely be reviewed for the new proposal before the submission of the mission's final report.

Besides the visits of the camps, the members of the mission will have access to the available documentation, such as the distribution reports, the notes for the record of the Food Aid Coordination Cell, nutrition surveys,

project monitoring reports, mission reports and other data. The format of the final report will be according to the model of the "UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Guidelines" and the report is expected to be submitted 10 days after the end of the mission.

Annex 2: Household questionnaire

UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Mission – Algeria 2011 –Household Questionnaire

Wilaya		Daira		Barrio	
Date/Time			Interviewer		

Guidance for introducing yourself and the purpose of the interview:

- My name is _____ and I am doing some survey work for WFP and UNHCR.
- Your household has been selected by chance from all households in the area for this interview. The purpose of this interview is to obtain information on the effects of the WFP and UNHCR programs in the camp. It helps us understand whether we are implementing our program properly and whether our intended objectives are met.
- The survey is voluntary and the information that you give will not be shared. The information will be used to prepare reports, but neither your, nor any other names, will be mentioned in any reports. There will be no way to identify that you gave this information.
- Could you please spare some time (around 30 minutes) for the interview?
- Please encourage just one person to answer the questions throughout the whole interview.

NB to enumerator: DO NOT suggest in any way that household entitlements could depend on the outcome of the interview, as this will prejudice the answers.

Respondent should be household head or spouse of household head or adult living in the house.

UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Mission – Algeria 2011 –Household Questionnaire

Section A: Household Demographics				
A1	Name of Respondent (for record only): _____			
A2	Sex of Head of Household	1 = Male		2 = Female
A3	Age of Head of Household	Age in years: ____		
A4	Marital status of Head of household.	1 = Married 2 = Partner, not married 3 = Divorced 4 = Living apart, not divorced 5 = Widow or widower 6 = Never married		
A5	Total Number of People Living in the Household	Males 0 to 5: ____ 6-17: ____ 18-59: ____ 60+ ____ Females 0 to 5: ____ 6-17: ____ 18-59: ____ 60+ ____		
A6	What is the level of education of the household members? For 3 rd and 4 th member – only if applicable	Household head ____	Spouse ____	3 rd adult member ____ 4 th adult member ____
Codes for A6	1 = Nothing 2 = Primary (Grade 1-6) 3 = Intermediate (Grade 7-10) 4 = Secondary (Grade 11-13) 5 = Higher education (University, college etc)			
A7	How many members of your HH are living outside the camp? IF 0, skip A10	____		
A8	What are the reasons they are living outside the camp?	1. ____ 2. ____ 3. ____ 1 = School 2 = Work 3 = Health 88 = Other (specify) 98 = No more reason 4 = Bedia		
A9	How many of your household members have been chronically ill and unable to work for at least 3 of the last 12 months?	____		
Section B: Household Circumstances				
B1	How many times did you change your place of living in the past 3 years? (all places)	____		
B2	In which year did your household move to this current camp?	Year ____		
B3	What is primary main source of drinking water for your household?	1 = Truck 2 = Public tap 3 = Individual well 4 = Buy water		
B4	What kind of toilet facility does your household use?	1 = Household latrine 2 = Family/shared latrine 3 = None		
B5	What is the primary source of lighting for this house? Note on car batteries	1 = Electricity 2 = Candle 3 = Generator 4 = Car battery 5 = Solar panels 6 = None		
B6	What is the primary source of cooking fuel for this household?	1 = Electricity 2 = Gas 3 = Charcoal		
B7	Are all of your children that are eligible for grade 10 and below attending school regularly?	A. Males: 1 = Yes, 2 = No		B. Females: 1 = Yes, 2 = No
B8	Are all of your children that are eligible for grade 11 to 13 attending school regularly?	A. Males: 1 = Yes, 2 = No		B. Females: 1 = Yes, 2 = No
B9	If the males are not attending regularly, list the 3 main reasons: A. ____ B. ____ C. ____ D. Other: _____	If the females are not attending regularly, list the 3 main reasons: E. ____ F. ____ G. ____ H. Other: _____		
Codes for B9	1 = Illness 2 = Has to work for food or 3 = Inaccessible of continuing 4 = Help with HH work 5 = Care for HH member 6 = Could not obtain permit 7 = Not interested in school 8 = Hunger 9 = Expensive/no money 10 = Pregnancy 11 = Marriage 88 = Other (specify) 98 = No (more) reasons			
B10	Are you receiving any school bursaries for your children? Enter number of children receiving bursaries	A. Grade 1-10 ____		B. Grade 11-13 ____

UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Mission – Algeria 2011 –Household Questionnaire

Section C. Household expenditures (not business-related expenditures) and debt				
C1	Please estimate the amount of money you spent on the following items over the last 30 days. Insert 00 for items on which no money was spent.	Medical expenses	_ _ DZA	
		School Expenses	_ _ DZA	
		Equipment, tools, seeds, fertilizers	_ _ DZA	
		Cereals (wheat flour, barley, rice, CSB, maize, others)	_ _ DZA	
		Relishes (e.g. legumes, veg, etc.)	_ _ DZA	
		Meat	_ _ DZA	
		Condiments (salt, pepper, spice)	_ _ DZA	
		Sugar,	_ _ DZA	
		Tea	_ _ DZA	
		Clothing, shoes	_ _ DZA	
		Cooking/lighting fuel (Charcoal, gas, etc.)	_ _ DZA	
		Hygiene articles - Soap, sanitary supplies etc (personal hygiene items)	_ _ DZA	
		Debt repayment	_ _ DZA	
		Transport	_ _ DZA	
		Fuel and car spare parts	_ _ DZA	
		Social events	_ _ DZA	
		Hiring of labour	_ _ DZA	
		Tobacco	_ _ DZA	
Renting	_ _ DZA			
Other items	_ _ DZA			
Total	_ _ DZA			
C2	In the last 12 months, did you or any member of your HH borrow money?	1 = Yes		2 = No (skip to Section D)
C3	What was the primary reason for borrowing?	1 = to buy food 2 = pay for health care 3 = pay for funeral	4 = pay for social event 5 = buy agricultural inputs 6 = pay for education	7 = to start a business 8 = renting 88 = Other (specify)
C4	From whom did you borrow? (primary source)	1 = friend/relative 2 = money lender 3 = bank/formal lending institution 4 = informal savings group 88 = Other (specify)		
D. Household income and agricultural production				
Please complete the table, one activity at a time, using the income source codes below		D1. During the past year, what were your household's most important sources of income? (use activity code, up to 3 activities)		D2. Using proportional piling or 'divide the pie' methods, please estimate the relative contribution to total income of each source (%)
D3. Does this income source mainly related to activities performed within or outside the camp? 1= within 2=outside				
1	Most important	_ _	_ _	_ _
2	Second	_ _	_ _	_ _
3	Third	_ _	_ _	_ _
Income source codes: 1 = Remittance (external) 2 = Sale of agricultural (excl home gardening) 3 = Sale of home gardening produce 4 = Sale of firewood/charcoal 5 = Sale of livestock/animal production 6 = Sale of woodcraft 7 = Providing services (hair dresser, cleaning, laundry, tailor etc) 8 = Business/trade within camp 9 = Trade with other towns/countries 10 = Casual labour 11 = Wage labour/employee 12 = Sales of food assistance 88 = Other 98 = No more sources				

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Support codes:			
1 = Financial support to purchase stock or equipment 2 = Training 3 = Land 4 = Agricultural inputs 5 = Animals 6 = Inputs for animal husbandry (fodder etc) 7 = Help with transport 8 = Work permit 88 = Other			
Please complete the table, one activity at a time		D4. Please indicate the three activities you or someone of your family would like to do in the future to earn more income (existing or new activities). Use the income source codes in page 3).	D5. Please indicate the primary support you would need to develop these activities. See codes above
1	Most important	___	___
2	Second	___	___
3	Third	___	___
D6	How many members of your household are involved in formal employment?		___
Agricultural Production (including vegetable gardening)			
D7	Do you have a vegetable garden?		1 = Yes, 2 = No
D8	If you do not have a garden, what are the three main reasons? A. ___ B. ___ C. ___	1 = No money for seeds 4 = Don't need a garden 7 = Don't know	2 = No land 5 = No one to take care of it 88 = Other
D9	What are the three main reasons that prevent you from producing more food for your household? A. ___ B. ___ C. ___		
	1 = Poor quality of land 2 = Land is too far away 3 = Lack of knowledge 4 = Lack of agricultural inputs 5 = Health reasons 6 = Lack of transportation means 7 = Do not need to work 8 = Do not want to work 9 = No market to sell produce 88 = Other (specify) 98 = No more reason		
D10	Would you like to have a family garden?		1 = Yes, 2 = No
E. Household assets and livestock			
E1	How many of the following assets are owned by you or any member of your household? If a specific asset is not owned, enter '0'		
Non-productive Assets		Productive & Transport Assets	
1. Chair	___	12. Spare tent for renting	___
2. Table	___	13. Vehicle	___
3. Blanket	___	14. Axe	___
4. TV	___	15. Hoe	___
5. Radio	___	16. Donkey Cart	___
6. Mobile phones	___	17. Hand Mill	___
7. Fridge	___	18. Bicycle	___
8. Oven	___	19. Sewing machine	___
9. Stove	___		
10. Mud house	___		
11. Tent	___		
E2	How many of the following animals do your family own?		
	1. Camel ___	2. Donkeys/Horses ___	
	3. Sheep/goats ___	4. Poultry ___	
E3	What are the three main constraints that you face in raising livestock and animal production? A. ___ B. ___ C. ___		
	1 = No money to buy livestock 2 = No access to grazing land 3 = Lack of inputs (fodder etc) 4 = No money to hire labour (Shepard etc) 5 = No space to shelter animals 6 = Too far to grazing land 7 = Lack of knowledge 8 = No market to sell produce 88 = Other (specify) 98 = No more constraints 9 = Lack of veterinary services		

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F. Food Consumption			
Please fill out the table below, one food item at a time.	F1. Over the last seven days, how many days did you consume the following foods?	F2. What was the source of the food? Put the two main where applicable.	F3. If purchase was the main source, what was the peak period of buying?
	Number of days (0 to 7)	Source(s)	Seasonality
1. Wheat flour, gofio, rice, barley, CSB	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2. Potatoes, sweet potatoes	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3. Sugar or sugar products	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4. Beans and peas	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5. Nuts and dates	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
6. Vegetables/ relish /leaves	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
7. Bread, pasta	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
8. Fruits	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
9. Beef, goat, camel or other red meat (also canned)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
10. Poultry	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
11. Eggs	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
14. Fish (also canned)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
15. Oils/fats/butter	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
16. Milk/yogurt/cheese/other dairy	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Source codes for F2: 1 = From own production 2 = Purchase 3 = Borrowed 4 = Exchange 5 = labour for food 6 = Gift 7 = Food aid 8 = Barter 88 = Other		Source codes for F3: 1 : Summer 2: Winter 3 =Eids 4 = Ramadan 5 = Family visits 6= Continuous	

G. Coping strategies						
In the past 30 days, how frequently did your household resort to using one or more of the following strategies in order to have access to food? CIRCLE ONLY ONE ANSWER PER STRATEGY.						
		Never	Seldom (1-2 days/month)	Sometimes (1-2 days /week)	Often (3-4 days a week)	Daily
G1	Skip entire days without eating?	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G2	Limit portion size at mealtimes?	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G3	Reduce number of meals eaten per day?	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G4	Borrow food or rely on help from friends or relatives?	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G5	Rely on less expensive or less preferred foods?	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G6	Purchase/borrow food on credit?	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G7	Send household members to eat elsewhere?	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G8	Reduce adult consumption so children can eat?	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G9	Rely on casual labour for food?	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

H. Food assistance			
H1	Did your household receive food aid at any time during the last 6 months?	1 = Yes 2 = No	
H2	If you have not received a food ration during any of these 6 months, what is the main reason? GO TO SECTION I AFTER THIS QUESTION	1 = Absent during distribution	5 = Eligible, but biased against
		2 = Am not registered	6 = Do not have new registration card
		3 = Did not need	7 = Other (specify)
		4 = Do not know	

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H3	What was the sex of the recipient who went and collected your most recent food ration?		1 = Male		2 = Female	
H4	When did you last receive food assistance?					
H5	What commodities did you receive in your most recent household ration? (Circle all that apply)		1 = Cereals 3 = Oil 5 = Sugar		2 = Pulses 4 = CSB 6 = Tea 7 = Yeast	
H7	Usage of commodities last month: For each of the commodities, please indicate how they were used (consumed, sold, bartered, or given away), by using the proportional piling method to estimate a percentage for each.		A. During the last month, what percentage did you consume	B. During the last month, what percentage did you sell?	C. During the last month, what percentage did you barter away?	D. During the last month, what percentage did you give away?
		1 = Cereals	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
		2 = Pulses	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
		3 = Oil	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
		4 = CSB	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
		5 = Sugar	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
		6 = Tea	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
		7 = Yeast	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
H8	To whom did you give the food?		<input type="text"/>			
	1 = Family 2 = friends and neighbours 3 = other families that are worse off 4 = Other					

I. Non-Food assistance

I1	What "consumable" NFIs has your household received during the last 3 months? (Circle all that apply)	1 = Soap 2 = Sanitary supplies	3 = Cooking fuel (gas)	4 = Education supplies 88 = other
I2	What "non-consumable" NFIs has your household received during the last 6 months? (Circle all that apply)	1 = Mattress / sleeping mats 2 = Blanket 3 = Plastic sheeting 4 = Tent / accessories (poles, ropes, spikes)	5 = Building materials 6 = Kitchen set 7 = Jerrycan	8 = Farming tools 9 = Stove 10 = Gas cylinders 11 = Clothes 88 = other
I3	What is your main source for the following NFIs?	Soap <input type="text"/>	Sanitary supplies <input type="text"/>	Gas <input type="text"/>
		Fuel <input type="text"/>	Education supplies <input type="text"/>	
Codes for I3: 1 = UNHCR, 2 = Government of Algeria, 3 = NGOs, 4 = Sahrawi authority, 5 = Market purchase, 6 = Barter for it, 8 = Gifts, 88 = Other				
I4	Which NFI should be the most urgent priority for distribution?	Consumables <input type="text"/>	Non-consumables <input type="text"/>	

J. Mobility

J1	How often do members of your household leave the camp?	1 = Daily	2 = Every week	3 = Every month	4 = Only occasionally	5 = Never
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J2	What are the three main reasons that make members of the household leave the camp? A. [] B. [] C. []	1 = Work in other camps 2 = Casual labour 3 = Trade with other areas 4 = For educational purposes 5 = For social reasons 6 = To sell animal/livestock production 88 = Other (Specify) 98 = No more reason				
J3	What are the three main reasons that prevent you from leaving the camp more often? A. [] B. [] C. []	1 = Issuance of permits 88 = Other (Specify)	2 = Security 98 = Nothing/No more reasons	3 = No need to leave	4 = No money for transport	5 = Lack of transportation means

K1	Would you be interested in supplementing your resources/income?	--
1= Food 2= Vouchers for food 3=Vouchers for other products 4=Cash 5= Other (please specify in the space below) 6= None of these		

Annex 3: Distribution data

Table 1a: Food distributions in 2010

2010													
Commodity	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
WFP General distribution	Wheat flour	1062.16	1124.64	999.68	1087.15	999.68	874.72	874.72	874.72	1262.09	1249.60	1249.60	12569.68
	Barley	249.92	374.88	374.88	387.88	249.92	249.92	249.92	249.92	74.97	0.00	0.00	2462.21
	Rice	124.96	0.00	0.00	36.61	249.92	374.88	249.92	249.92	162.44	249.92	249.92	2198.41
	Pasta	62.48	0.00	124.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	124.96	124.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	437.36
	Lentils	0.00	0.00	215.19	249.92	249.92	249.92	187.44	249.92	149.95	249.92	124.96	2177.06
	Beans	249.92	249.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	499.84
	Sugar	124.96	124.96	124.96	124.96	124.96	93.72	124.96	124.96	120.00	124.96	124.96	1463.32
	Vegetal oil	114.71	114.71	114.71	114.71	114.71	114.96	114.96	114.96	114.96	114.71	114.71	1377.52
	CSB	49.98	0.00	124.96	124.96	124.96	124.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	124.96	62.48	862.22
TOTAL		2039.10	1989.11	2079.34	2126.19	2114.07	2083.08	1926.88	1989.36	1884.41	2114.07	1926.63	24047.63
SCHOOL FEEDING		13.47	23.25	35.56	34.20	35.56	10.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.97	190.39
Nutrition	WFP	70.50	0.00	66.55	66.00	72.00	72.00	72.00	49.02	6.00	0.00	70.50	579.82
	Fresh products	1	124.96	124.96	124.96	187.44	187.44	125.75	0.00	250.00	125.00	124.96	1625.39
		2	124.96	124.96	124.96	187.44	187.44	188.61	0.00	250.00	125.00	124.96	1688.25
		3	62.48	124.96	124.96	62.48	62.48	62.87	0.00	125.00	63.00	159.34	972.53
		4	124.96	62.48	0.00	62.48	62.48	125.71	0.00	125.00	63.00	140.60	967.57
		5	0.00	0.00	0.00	236.18	0.00	14.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.38
	TOTAL		437.36	437.36	374.88	736.02	499.84	517.14	0.00	750.00	376.00	409.26	5504.12
Other distributions	Gofio	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	99.96	99.96	249.92	124.96	249.92	124.96	0.00	1074.64
	2	6.92	6.91	1.43	0.00	53.10	53.10	124.96	43.86	24.99	5.53	5.53	331.86
	3	0.00	0.00	63.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	95.00	53.10	24.99	24.99	286.86
	4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	53.10	0.00	53.10	106.20	265.50
	5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.99
	TOTAL		6.92	6.91	65.22	0.00	153.06	153.06	374.88	341.91	328.01	208.58	1983.85
TOTAL		2483.38	2433.38	2519.44	2862.21	2766.97	2753.28	2301.76	3081.27	2588.42	2731.91	2588.21	31535.60

Table 1b: Nutritional values of distributions in 2010

2010													
Commodity	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Weighted average
WFP General distribution	Wheat flour	960	1125	903	1015	933	817	790	790	1178	1129	1167	967
	Barley	217	361	326	349	225	225	217	217	67	0	0	183
	Rice	116	0	0	35	240	360	232	232	156	232	240	174
	Pasta	56	0	112	0	0	0	112	112	0	0	0	33
	Lentils	0	0	188	225	225	225	164	218	135	218	113	162
	Beans	216	239	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37
	Sugar	129	143	129	133	133	100	129	129	128	129	133	129
	Vegetal oil	262	290	262	271	271	271	263	263	271	262	271	268
	CSB	52	0	129	133	133	133	0	0	0	129	67	76
	TOTAL	2008	2158	2050	2162	2161	2131	1907	1962	1936	2099	1990	2029
Fresh products	1	25	28	25	39	39	26	0	50	26	25	26	28
	2	12	14	13	19	19	19	0	25	13	12	13	14
	3	7	15	79	4	4	3	0	10	7	101	7	20
	4	8	44	0	3	3	17	0	79	9	0	92	22
	5	0	0	0	154	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
	TOTAL	52	99	117	219	64	66	0	163	54	138	137	97
Other distributions	Gofio	0	0	0	0	96	96	40	116	240	116	120	69
	2	3	3	5	0	43	43	0	40	3	2	2	12
	3	0	0	118	0	0	0	0	85	43	3	3	21
	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	0	42	43	18
	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	3	3	123	0	139	139	40	285	286	163	168	121
TOTAL		2063	2261	2290	2380	2364	2336	1947	2411	2276	2400	2296	2246

Table 2a: Food distributions in 2011 (until October)

2011											
Commodity		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
WFP General distribution	Wheat flour	1274.00	1249.60	1437.04	1249.60	1249.60	1249.60	1249.60	1249.60	1249.60	1249.60
	Barley	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Rice	249.92	249.92	62.48	249.92	249.92	249.92	249.92	249.92	249.92	249.92
	Pasta	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Lentils	124.96	124.96	124.96	187.44	199.93	124.96	124.96	124.96	124.96	124.96
	Beans	124.96	124.96	124.96	62.48	49.98	124.96	124.96	124.96	124.96	124.96
	Sugar	124.96	124.96	124.96	124.96	124.96	124.96	124.96	124.96	124.96	124.96
	Vegetal oil	114.71	114.77	114.91	114.96	114.34	114.34	114.78	114.78	114.78	114.78
	CSB	124.96	124.96	124.96	124.96	124.96	124.96	124.96	124.96	124.96	124.96
TOTAL		2138.47	2114.13	2114.27	2114.32	2113.69	2113.70	2114.14	2114.14	2114.14	2114.14
Nutrition	CSB	45.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00
	Vegetal oil	4.50	6.00	6.00	5.51	5.52	5.51	5.49	5.51	5.51	6.00
	Sugar	3.38	4.50	5.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50
Fresh products	1	137.50	138.68	139.50	139.50	137.50	124.96	124.96	249.92	40.00	124.96
	2	137.50	138.68	138.68	138.68	137.50	124.96	124.96	249.92	124.96	124.96
	3	143.75	72.73	144.93	144.93	0.00	124.96	62.48	62.48	124.96	124.96
	4	620.00	157.37	78.77	78.77	0.00	62.48	0.00	62.48	124.96	0.00
	5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	62.48	0.00	0.00
	TOTAL	1038.75	507.44	501.87	501.87	275.00	437.36	312.40	687.28	414.88	374.88
Other distributions	1	5.53	5.53	5.53	53.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.49	10.09	124.96
	2	12.49	12.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.99
	3	53.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.54
	4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	TOTAL	71.21	18.02	5.53	53.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.49	10.09	155.49
TOTAL		3248	2640	2622	2669	2389	2551	2427	2814	2539	2645

Table 2b: Nutritional values in 2011 (until October)

GENERAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION	2011												
	Commodity		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	
	WFP General distribution	Wheat flour	1151	1250	1298	1167	1167	1167	1129	1129	1167	1129	
		Barley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Rice	232	257	58	240	240	240	232	232	240	232	
		Pasta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Lentils	109	121	109	169	180	113	109	109	113	109	
		Beans	108	120	108	56	45	112	108	108	112	108	
		Sugar	129	143	129	133	133	133	129	129	133	129	
		Vegetal oil	262	290	263	271	270	270	262	262	271	262	
		CSB	129	143	129	133	133	133	129	129	133	129	
	TOTAL	2121	2324	2094	2170	2168	2168	2099	2099	2169	2099		
	Fresh products		1	27	31	28	29	28	26	25	1129	1167	1129
			2	13	15	14	14	14	13	12	0	0	0
			3	15	9	15	16	0	9	7	232	240	232
			4	42	12	5	5	0	9	0	0	0	0
		5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	109	113	109	
	TOTAL	98	66	62	64	42	56	44	1470	1519	1470		
	Other distributions		1	2	3	2	43	0	0	0	1	10	116
			2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
			3	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
			4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
TOTAL	46	4	2	43	0	0	0	1	10	121			
TOTAL		2264	2393	2159	2277	2210	2224	2142	3570	3698	3690		

Annex 4 - Food Consumption Score

Definition: The frequency weighted diet diversity score or “Food Consumption Score” is a score calculated using the frequency of consumption of different food groups consumed by a household during the 7 days before the survey.

Data collection module:

See attached household questionnaire (annex 2)

Calculation Steps:

I. Using the data collected from the household questionnaire, group all the food items into specific groups:

	Food Items (examples)	Food Groups (definitive)	Weight (definitive)
1	Maize, maize porridge, rice, sorghum, millet, pasta, bread, and other cereals	Main Staples	2
	Cassava, potatoes and sweet potatoes, other tubers, plantains		
2	Beans, Peas, groundnuts, and cashew nuts	Pulses	3
3	Vegetables, leaves	Vegetables	1
4	Fruits	Fruit	1
5	Beef, goat, poultry, pork, eggs, and fish	Meat and Fish	4
6	Milk, yoghurt, and other dairy	Milk	4
7	Sugar and sugar products, honey	Sugar	0.5
8	Oils, fats, and butter	Oil	0.5
9	Spices, tea, coffee, salt, fish powder, small amounts of milk for tea	Condiments	0

II. Sum all the values for each of the food groups, and multiply the value obtained for each food group by its weight (see weights in table above).

III. Sum the weighted food group scores together, thus creating the food consumption score (FCS).

IV. Using the appropriate thresholds (see below), group the food consumption scores into categories.

Once the food consumption score is calculated, the context-specific thresholds are determined based on the knowledge of the consumption behaviour in each country. In Southern Africa WFP has used the following thresholds throughout 4 years of data collection:

0-21 Poor consumption

21-35 Borderline consumption

>35 Acceptable consumption

However, as it is the case of the Sahrawi refugees, in case of daily consumption of sugar and oil, the thresholds might be increased in 7 points, in order to eliminate the bias this consumption would provide. Therefore, in the current JAM and in daily monitoring in the operation, the thresholds used are the following:

0-28 Poor consumption

28.5-42 Borderline consumption

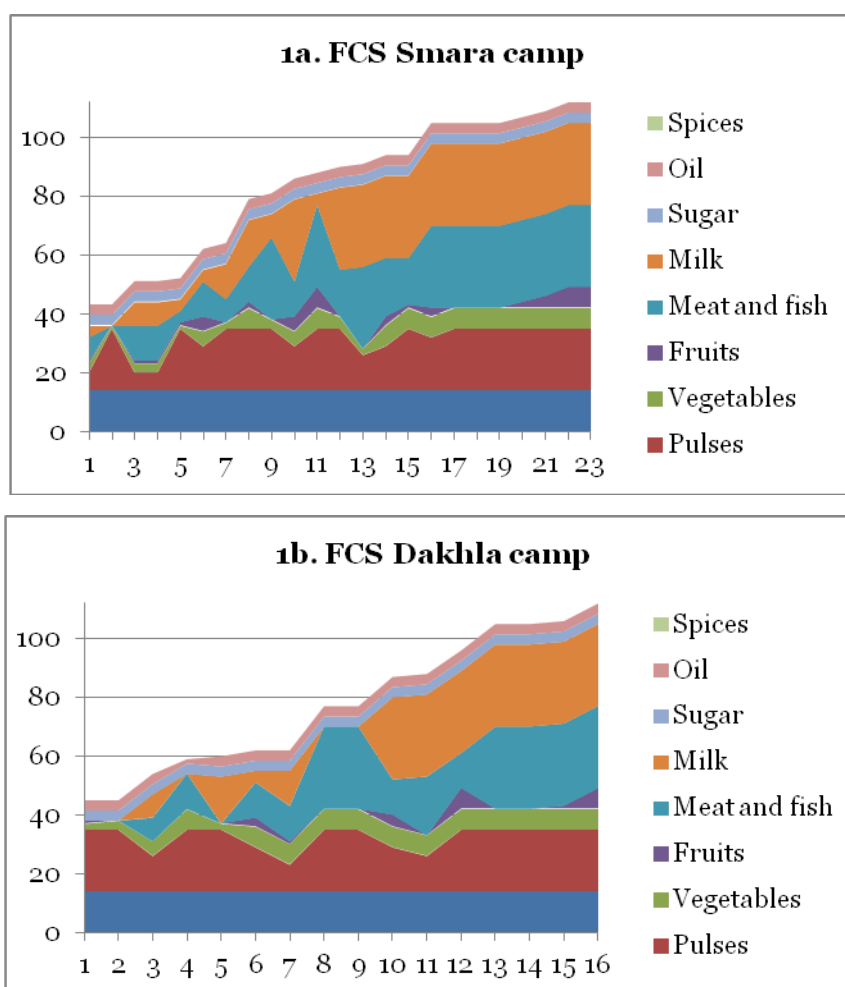
> 42 Acceptable consumption

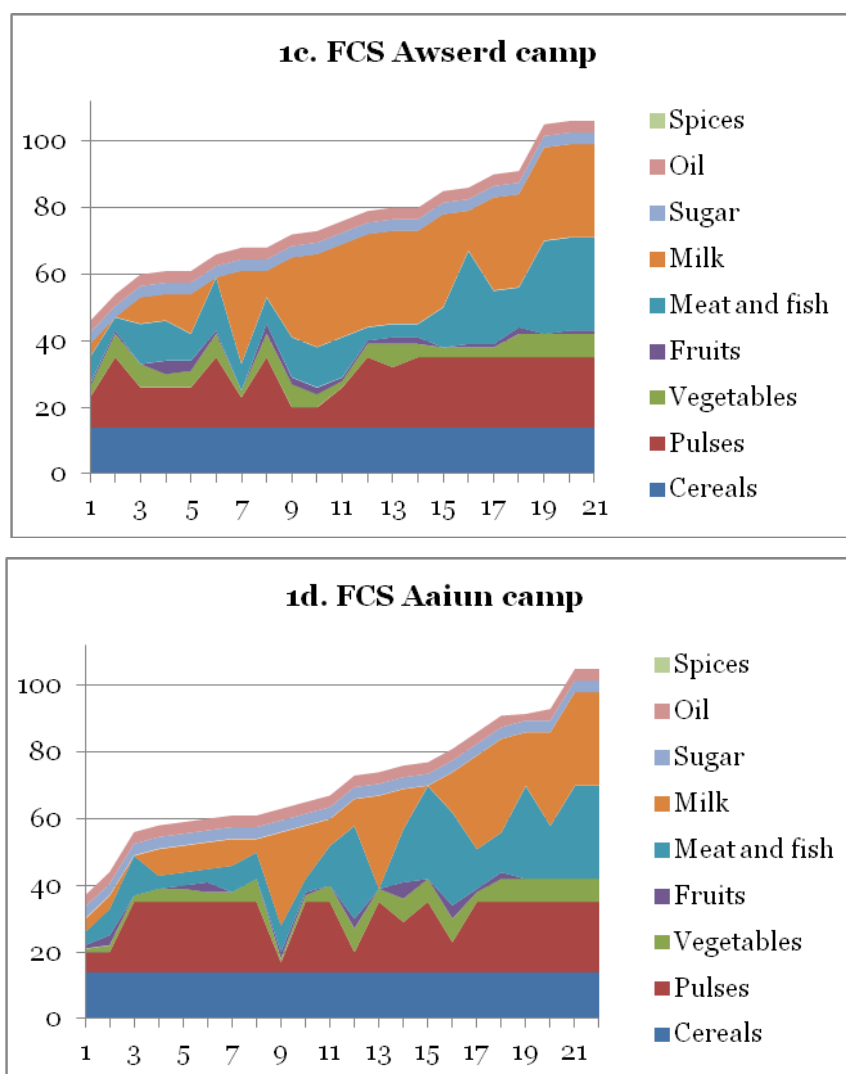
For more information, validation of the indicator as a proxy of food security, and discussion of these thresholds, please refer to the Food Consumption Score Technical Guidance Sheet, WFP Vulnerability Analysis Mapping Branch (January 2008).

Annex 5: Detailed food security

A. Differences per camp:

As can be appreciated in graphics 1a to d below, there are no significant differences in pattern. Dakhla, which is the further away camp, presents more stable consumption of pulses, suggesting that families consume a bigger part of the ration distributed, whereas in the other three camp a bigger share of the pulses ration might be bartered away or sold (although more in depth information is needed). Apart from the food basket, the complements to the diet in all camps are mostly milk and in the case of the higher FCS, meat, suggesting differences in access capacity of the families. Access to milk and meat in Dakhla seems slightly more uniform, which could indicate that families have better access. Given isolation of the camp, this suggests the presence more or more successful husbandry activities, which would increase availability and potentially reduce prices, making these two food items more available for a bigger number of families. This might also support results from the nutritional survey, in which Dakhla had higher malnutrition rates and lower diet diversification indexes (for children under five).

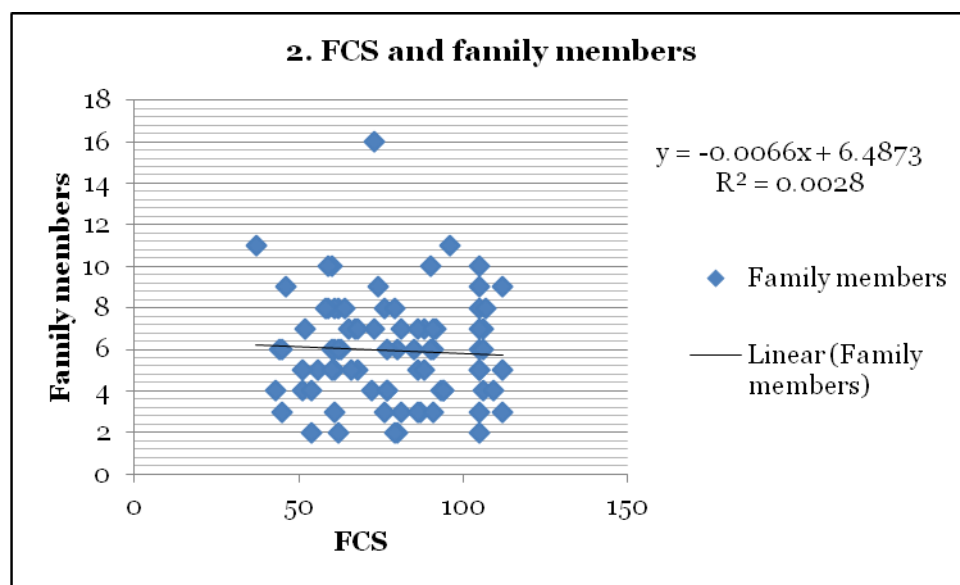




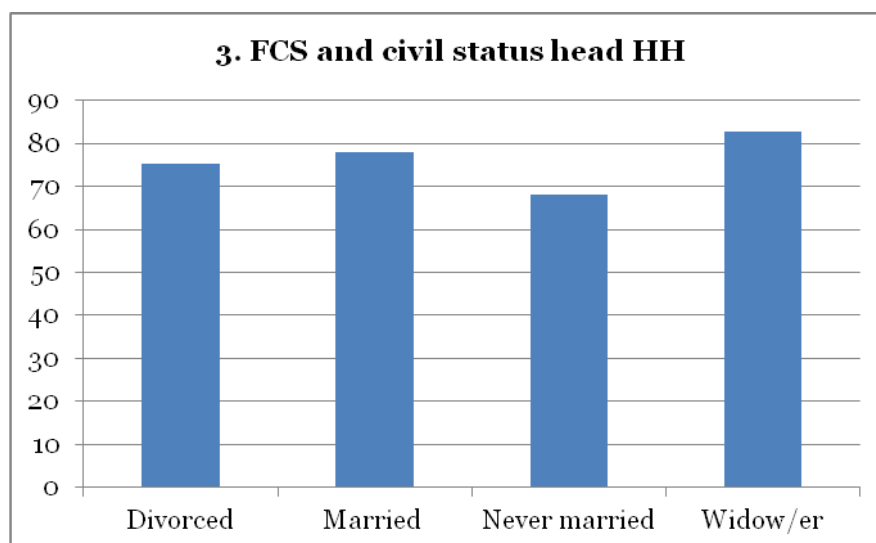
B. Correlation between FCS and social parameters:

FCS # family members – As can be seen in graphic 2, there is no strong correlation between number of members in the family and FCS, although the relation is inverse (therefore, more members, less FCS). This is in contrast with qualitative monitoring information and discussions with authorities (from JAM and daily monitoring), according to which smaller families often struggle. It is possible that widespread sharing practices compensate for smaller rations, ensuring a minimum of consumption. To confirm this, more information of sharing practices is needed in this case as well as consolidated data collection with clear definition of family (concept of restricted family vs. extended family, often used by beneficiaries).

However, this weak correlation indicates that (reduced) duration of products, as discussed in the main text, cannot be due only to the fact that all members of the family are not covered by GFD. If this was the case, given the reduced access to complementary basic products most families have, there would be a clear inverse relation between the size of the family and FCS.

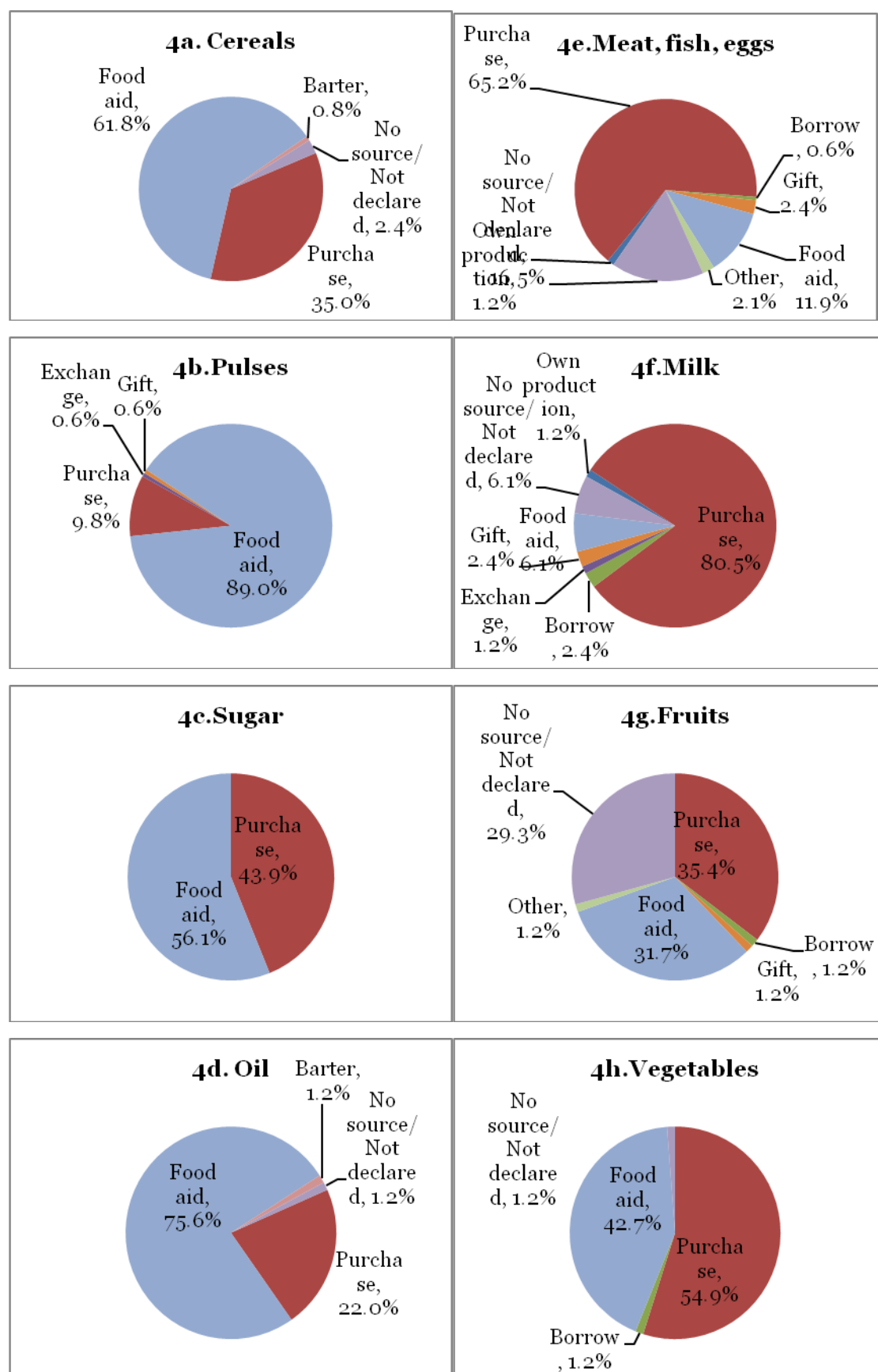


FCS and civil status of the head of the household: There are no substantial differences among different civil status; if any Widows/widowers-family headed households seem to have slightly higher FCS, which suggest they might be receiving additional support from community. Complementary information in monitoring is inconclusive; this dimension needs to be explored further, as it might help establishing targeting criteria for targeted interventions such as cash/vouchers in the future.

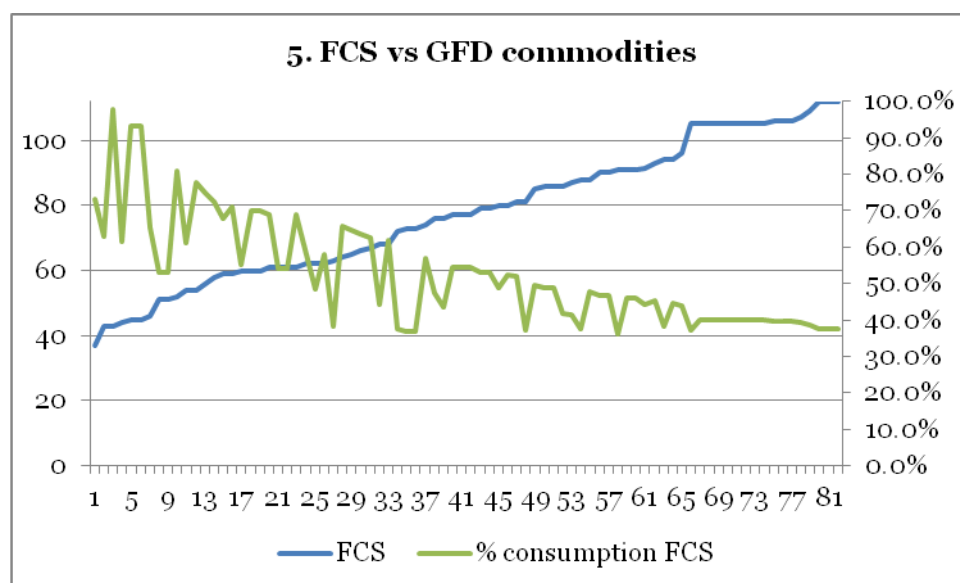


C. Food consumption and use of the distributed food:

As can be noticed in set of graphics 4 (a to h) in the next page, when looking at sources of food for GFD commodities, food aid accounts for 62 percent of cereals, 89 percent of pulses, 56 percent of sugar and 76 percent of oil consumption. It also accounts for 43 percent of the vegetables and 32 percent of the fruits. In the graphics 4, the left column details the sources of food or commodities distributed in GFD and in the right, the commodities on other distributions namely fresh products and canned fish (included in 4e) and not distributed, such as milk.



These patterns of sources of food products also match with monitoring information about duration of rations and comments by families during focus groups discussions. As per monitoring data, the average duration of products is the described in the main text. During the rest of the days of the month, families complement by purchasing, consuming the least preferred commodities and sharing with the extended family. When compared with sources of food in the graphics 4, the commodities with less duration, such as sugar, are more complemented by purchase than the commodities for which duration is longer, such as cereals (different cereals are combined along the month to fill the gap).



Therefore, GFD and other distributions are responsible for most of the FCS, and the refugee population is heavily dependent on food assistance, even families with a better FCS and able to complement the food basket which is distributed. Graphic 5 supports this; among families in the lower percentiles of FCS, GFD accounts up to 100 percentage of the consumption, whereas in families in the higher percentiles, it accounts for a non-negligible 40 percent.