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PROJECTS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVAL

Agenda item 4

For approval



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PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION – ALGERIA 10172.1

Assistance to Western Saharan Refugees

Number of beneficiaries	158,000
Duration of project	24 months (1 September 2004–31 August 2006)
Cost (United States dollars)	
Total cost to WFP	39,508,190
Total food cost	23,326,286

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the WFP staff focal points indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WFP has assisted the Government of Algeria since 1986 in meeting the basic food needs of refugees living in desert camps in southwestern Algeria, near Tindouf. The United Nations Security Council has adopted a peace resolution, but an agreement on its implementation will require time. Therefore, since the refugees are entirely dependent on external aid, humanitarian food assistance will continue.

WFP has been providing basic food rations to 155,430 refugees under protracted relief and recovery operation 10172.0, approved by the WFP Executive Board in May 2002. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the European Community Humanitarian Office and various international non-governmental organizations have provided non-food items and supplementary food. The European Community Humanitarian Office has established a three-month buffer stock to ensure continuity of food provision in case of gaps in the pipeline.

Although this operation has had a positive donor response, delays in pledges and deliveries have caused pipeline breaks. Nevertheless, WFP has generally been able to provide an average of 2,100 kcal per person per day by borrowing from the European Community Humanitarian Office buffer stock. Almost 95 percent of refugee households have no alternative means of fulfilling their food requirements or procuring fresh food. Malnutrition rates are high: 10.6 percent of children between 6 and 59 months old are acutely malnourished; more than 30 percent of children under 5 are chronically malnourished; and about 35 percent of preschool children and 47.6 percent of women of childbearing age suffer from anaemia.

Since the voter registration in 2000, conducted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in collaboration with the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, no registration exercise has taken place and repatriation has not been considered an option. As the caseload of refugees has increased, the Government has requested their inclusion under the operation.

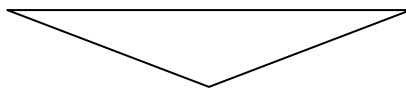
A joint WFP/UNHCR assessment mission by WFP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was carried out from 20 to 26 January 2004. Fifteen major donor representatives participated as observers. Given refugees' limited opportunity for self-support, the mission recommended the continuation of food aid and endorsed the planning figure of 158,000 refugees for the expansion phase of this operation.



The Government has designated the Algerian Red Crescent as the implementing partner for WFP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. This humanitarian organization will continue to receive WFP food shipments at the port of Oran and ensure delivery to the extended delivery point at Rabouni, near Tindouf. It will work with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and camp authorities to deliver food to the camps. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its non-governmental partners will also implement supplementary, therapeutic and school feeding programmes.

PRRO 10172.1 will require 68,898 tons of commodities valued at US\$23.3 million for a total cost of about US\$39.5 million to assist 158,000 refugees.

DRAFT DECISION*



The Board approves PRRO Algeria 10172.1, “Assistance to Western Saharan Refugees” (WFP/EB.2/2004/4-B/4).

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



CONTEXT AND RATIONALE FOR THE ASSISTANCE

Context of the Crisis

1. Since 1975, tens of thousands of Western Saharan refugees have been living in desert camps in the southwest part of Algeria as a result of the dispute over territory. Between 1975 and 1984, the Algerian Government sustained the refugee burden on its own, but in 1985 it requested the international community and the United Nations to provide relief assistance to the refugees.
2. The United Nations Settlement Plan for Western Sahara was back on track with the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1495 on 31 July 2003 approving the Peace Plan of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General. It is difficult, however, to predict when the parties to the conflict will agree upon the settlement plan. In the event of a political solution, WFP will work with partners to plan for the repatriation of the refugees. Until that time, WFP will continue its assistance to the Western Saharan refugees since they depend almost entirely on the international community to meet their basic food needs. WFP has been providing food aid to these refugees since 1986, and the value approved to date is US\$111.3 million including the ongoing protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 10172.0 scheduled to terminate in August 2004.

Situation Analysis

3. The conflict over the Western Sahara has lasted for more than 29 years, despite sustained attempts to resolve it. The Western Saharan refugees have been living in Algeria in temporary camps near Tindouf. Refugee families have to cope with the harsh desert climate and difficult environmental conditions. They have survived because of support from the Government and the international community.
4. The Government estimates the refugee population at 165,000. WFP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) carried out a population assessment during their joint mid-term evaluation in September 2003. Using child vaccination and primary school attendance records together with the list of eligible voters compiled by the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, they concluded that the total number of refugees was closer to 158,000.
5. The protracted situation of the refugees has left its mark, particularly on vulnerable groups affected by years of hardship and instability. Various nutritional studies have documented trends in acute malnutrition and anaemia. WFP and UNHCR commissioned the Institute of Child Health in London to conduct a nutritional survey in September 2002. Results revealed that 10.6 percent of children between 6 and 59 months old suffered from acute global malnutrition and more than 30 percent of children under 5 from chronic malnourishment. These findings led UNHCR to launch a therapeutic feeding programme in the camps in 2003. The prevalence of iron-deficiency anaemia has been about 35 percent among preschool children and 47.6 percent among women of childbearing age. Although the anaemia level among women has decreased compared with the 1997–2001 level (49.8 percent), it continues to be a cause of concern because anaemia negatively affects birthweight and increases the risk of maternal mortality.
6. The school attendance level is almost 100 percent among refugee children. Families value education as the best investment they can make to prepare children for their return home once the conflict has been resolved. No gender disparities occur until the upper primary classes and beyond, when household chores and lack of women's sanitary



materials compel older girls to drop out or to attend school irregularly. Occasionally, poor management of food rations at the household level means that refugee children go to school without eating. Inadequate food intake and limited opportunity for diversification of the diet with fresh foods contribute to very high levels of chronic malnutrition and micronutrient deficiency among children.

7. The long-term effect of undernutrition on the refugee population continues to be of prime concern to implementing partners and donor agencies. In line with the joint UNHCR/WFP memorandum of understanding, the nutrition programmes are the responsibility of UNHCR, but funding constraints have limited their effective implementation. Under PRRO 10172.0, UNHCR has had an annual budget of US\$3 million. In response to the needs of the vulnerable groups, WFP started a supplementary feeding programme in September 2002, but resource and technical capacity constraints have hindered its effective implementation.
8. WFP assistance is an important component of a multi-donor humanitarian relief package for the camp population. Thanks to a combination of WFP-supplied commodities, bilateral contributions and buffer stock established by the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO), it has been possible to distribute a monthly food basket providing 2,100 kcal per person per day. WFP is committed to providing food assistance to the refugees given their limited capacity for self-reliance and their lack of alternative coping mechanisms.

Government Policies and Development Considerations

9. The Government has continued to provide support and assistance, particularly for the improvement of basic infrastructure, logistics and human resources development. In July 2003, it contributed 10,000 tons of rice to the refugees through WFP. It has also mobilized external resources and facilitated the channelling of international donations. UNHCR, the European Community and a number of bilateral donors and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been supporting special projects for water supply, environmental rehabilitation, health, nutrition, education, transportation and housing. These activities benefit the entire camp population and contribute to enhancing refugee self-reliance and self-esteem.
10. The arid nature of the land and remote location of the camps are the two main factors preventing refugees from pursuing income-generating activities. The political status of Western Saharan refugees in Algeria, which determines their movements inside the country, and the lack of economic opportunities have determined their dependency on external assistance.

RELIEF AND RECOVERY STRATEGY

Beneficiary Needs

11. A joint WFP/UNHCR assessment mission was fielded from 20 to 26 January 2004. Fifteen major donor representatives participated. The mission examined the food and nutrition requirements and factors directly affecting the refugees' well-being. The mission concluded that in the absence of durable solutions and given the economic and environmental constraints of the area, the refugees will continue to be dependent on the provision of food rations. Food aid is, and has been, essential for refugee survival. General basic food rations will be provided to all refugees. Pregnant and lactating women and malnourished children under 5, two at-risk groups, will require blended food through a



supplementary feeding programme. Moderately malnourished children under 5, who are between 70 and 80 percent of the median weight for height, may also be considered eligible. For pregnant and lactating women, the selection criteria will be based on the level of anaemia (a haemoglobin level lower than 11.0 g per decilitre). These selection criteria are in accordance with established UNHCR/WFP guidelines on supplementary feeding programmes.

12. The dietary requirements of 34,000 primary schoolchildren is not fully met through the general ration, possibly due to poor management of food at the household level. A snack of fortified high-energy biscuits (HEB), provided through the school feeding programme, will help to alleviate short-term hunger, boost children's energy levels and provide micronutrient supplements.

Camp Population

13. The Western Saharan refugees in Algeria are accommodated in four large camps near Tindouf in the southwestern part of the country. The nearest camp is Awserd, 40 km away; the furthest is Dakhla, about 180 km away. La'youn is 65 km from Tindouf and Smara 50 km.
14. In the absence of any other reliable figures and based on the Government's request and estimates made during the September 2003 mid-term evaluation, WFP and UNHCR have agreed to a planning figure of 158,000 refugees for PRRO 10172.1. These estimates are slightly higher than the planned number of 155,430 under both PRRO 6234 and 10172.0, and reflect normal population growth.

Age category	General distribution		Total	School feeding		Total	Supplementary feeding		Total
	Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female	
0-4 years	14 741	13 925	28 666				3 600	3 400	7 000
5-17 years	30 583	26 303	56 886	17 800	16 200	34 000			
18-59 years	24 870	23 209	48 079					4 200	4 200
60 and over	10 444	13 925	24 369						
Total	80 638	77 362	158 000	17 800	16 200	34 000	3 600	7 600	11 200
Percentage	51	49	100	52	48	100	32	68	100

Role of Women/Gender

15. Women contribute significantly to the management of the camp environment and participate in all aspects of camp life. Men own limited assets; most of what is in the tent belongs to the women. UNHCR, through its implementing partner the Association of Algerian Women for Development, established vocational training centres for women to enhance their income-generating skills.
16. Women play an important role in food distribution and decision-making in Western Saharan communities. The ration card system has not been established, but women have sole responsibility for food management and distribution. They are listed as food entitlement holders on the food distribution list and are considered as the household head even in the presence of their husbands. Saharan society is primarily matriarchal and



the women are totally empowered. Women are also in charge of overall camp administration, occupying leading positions in community affairs, including public health, environmental and sanitation activities.

17. Some 80 percent of health workers in the 29 health centres are women, as are 60 percent of the medical and paramedical staff, including two hospital directors and several doctors; 60 percent of camp teachers are women volunteers. Several camp social, cultural, youth and public information committees are composed of and chaired by women. The National Union of Saharawi Women organizes training courses in health and nutrition education, accounting, and the sewing of tents. Branches of the union continue to implement special programmes for children with physical disabilities and for the elderly.

Food

18. Under PRRO 10172.0, WFP has provided food aid to 155,430 refugees in the camps. ECHO and bilateral donors have complemented the food basket and covered pipeline breaks and delays in delivery against WFP contributions. Occasional pipeline breaks were encountered due to delays in donor pledges and shipments. The establishment of a three-month buffer stock by ECHO in July 2001 has been a decisive factor in maintaining the regular supply of food rations and has enabled WFP to provide the standard ration of 2,100 kcal per person per day. The joint assessment mission noted this as a remarkable achievement.
19. The supplementary feeding programme became operational in December 2003, but was marked by irregular distributions because of limited availability of blended food. Donor representatives on the mission accorded high priority to the activity, and expressed their willingness to support it through the provision of blended foods. Under this PRRO, the target beneficiary number will be 11,200 vulnerable women and children, based on the findings of the joint assessment mission.

Nutrition and Health

20. The nutrition situation in the camps continues to be precarious. A nutrition survey conducted in September 2002 by the International Child Health Institute (London) on behalf of UNHCR and WFP revealed increased levels of stunting and micronutrient deficiencies among the refugees. Consequently, in 2003 UNHCR initiated a therapeutic feeding intervention for 600 children in hospitals and health centres. The planning figure for the new expansion is about 900 children. The rate of anaemia among women of childbearing age remains a serious concern because anaemia negatively affects birthweights and increases the risk of maternal mortality. Anaemia also remains a serious problem among preschool refugee children, affecting about 35 percent of this group. Seasonal variations cause pulmonary infections, influenza and diarrhoea among the refugee population.
21. There are two central hospitals, four regional hospitals, 29 health centres and five pharmacies in the refugee camps. UNHCR and its implementing partner, *Medico International*, continue to support the health services. ECHO provides funds for the overall health programme, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)/World Health Organization (WHO) provide vaccines for routine vaccination of children under 5.



Water and Sanitation

22. On average, refugee households receive 12 litres of water per person per day, or 80 percent of their daily requirements. The supply of drinking water has been gradually increasing. Trucks carry water to two camps, where it is stored and supplied to the refugees. UNHCR continues to construct piped water systems in all camps except Smara.
23. Sanitation has improved dramatically and most households are equipped with pit latrines. The camps are known for their cleanliness and good sanitary conditions. Sanitation committees, headed by women in each neighbourhood, are in charge of keeping neighbourhoods clean, which includes responsibility for daily refuse collection and disposal.

Shelter

24. The refugees live in tents that they have made themselves using materials provided by UNHCR and ECHO. A brick structure near each tent serves as a kitchen. As a result of severe weather conditions, many refugee tents are worn and need replacement. UNHCR will provide material for the new tents.

Education

25. Camp authorities assign high priority to the education sector. There are 28 primary schools, 2 boarding schools and 25 preschool centres. UNHCR has provided some school materials including textbooks, desks and blackboards. The physical conditions of the schools are adequate, but classes have from 40 to 50 students each. Although no gender gap is evident at the primary level except in higher classes, notably in grades 5 and 6, the quality of education is compromised by the acute shortage of trained teaching staff, high student-teacher ratios and the lack of electricity. No gender disparities occur until the upper primary classes and beyond, when household chores and lack of women's sanitary materials compel older girls to drop out or to attend school irregularly. To make qualitative improvements, UNHCR plans to train refugee men and women so that they can increasingly assume responsibility for primary school teaching.

Livestock Production and Self-Reliance Activities

26. Refugees consider their livestock, mainly goats and sheep, to be valuable assets. Women own most of the livestock in the camps, and many refugees own only one or two goats or sheep. Livestock provide an important nutritional supplement of fresh milk and meat, and occasionally small income for the household through the sale of milk or milk products. Though livestock production is recognized as an important activity, expansion is constrained by the high cost of animal feed and limited water and fodder availability. A French NGO, *Comité catholique contre la famine et pour le développement* (CCFD), is running an animal husbandry pilot project for breeding small ruminants, which are then distributed to families owning few or no animals. The project has been successful, and possibilities are being explored for its expansion.

Role of Food Aid

27. The role of food aid will be to cover the basic food needs of all refugees in the camps and sustain their lives and livelihoods. The nutritional requirements of malnourished children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women at risk will be met through the supplementary feeding programme. Food aid will also alleviate the short-term hunger and improve the micronutrient intake of primary schoolchildren.



Programme Approaches

28. WFP will assist refugees in Algerian camps through general food distribution consisting of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil, sugar and salt. Wheat flour and vegetable oil will be fortified with micronutrients. WFP will also support supplementary feeding programmes through the provision of fortified wheat-soya blend (WSB), vegetable oil and sugar.
29. In addition, WFP will initiate a school feeding programme providing fortified HEB to primary schoolchildren during the morning break. This is expected to reduce children's short-term hunger and improve their attention spans.
30. UNHCR will provide tea and yeast for bread as complementary foods for adults. It will maintain its therapeutic feeding programme, increasing the number of malnourished children reached per month through hospitals and health centres from 600 to 900. It will also provide non-food items needed for refugee subsistence such as tents, wool blankets, water and sanitation, cooking gas and school supplies.

Risk Assessment

31. In 2002–2003, contributions from multilateral and bilateral sources and the availability of ECHO buffer stock enabled WFP to provide standard rations regularly. Several donor representatives who participated in the January 2004 joint assessment supported the expansion phase of the PRRO. Resource shortfalls and delayed shipments can cause erratic distribution and contribute to a fragile nutritional situation in the camps; insufficient provision of non-food items can further deplete the food basket, because food is occasionally exchanged for other household needs. Improved funding and delivery of non-food items by UNHCR and bilateral NGOs could reduce this risk.
32. The United Nations Security Council's adoption of Resolutions 1495 and 1523, the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara to 30 April 2004, and prospects that the parties to the conflict will accept the peace plan are promising developments for a peaceful resolution. These developments will eventually result in the repatriation of the refugees and a need for reintegration assistance at the new location.

Goals and Objectives

33. The goal of PRRO 10172.1 will be to provide care and maintenance assistance to the refugee population pending the realization of a durable solution to their situation and repatriation to their homeland. Its objectives will be to:
 - sustain lives and maintain the nutritional and dietary standards of dependent refugee populations living in the four camps;
 - improve the nutritional status of malnourished children under 5 and of pregnant and lactating women through a supplementary feeding programme; and
 - alleviate short-term hunger and boost the energy of primary schoolchildren through the provision of fortified HEB.



IMPLEMENTATION PLAN BY COMPONENT

Food Basket Ration Scale and Distribution

Activity	Commodity (g/person/day)							Kcal	Nutritional value			
	Cereal	Pulses	Oil	Sugar	Salt	WSB	HEB		Protein		Fat	
									(g)	(%)	(g)	(%)
General food distribution	450	67	25	30	5			2 144	65	12.2	32.2	13.5
Supplementary feeding			20	15		200		977	40	16.4	32	29.5
School feeding							30	135	4	(11)	5	(30)

Total Food Requirements

34. The PRRO will require 68,898 tons of commodities for the three components: general food distribution 66,551 tons; supplementary feeding 1,922 tons; and school feeding 425 tons.

General Food Distribution

35. The general food ration totals 577 g; it will provide over 2,144 kcal and 65 g of protein per person per day. The food coordination committee will organize monthly food rations and distribution dates. WFP, UNHCR and NGO partners will ascertain the availability of food commodities and ensure prompt deliveries from warehouses in the Rabouni extended delivery point (EDP) to the final delivery points (FDPs) in the camps. Camp authorities and food distribution committees will be informed in advance of delivery times, quantities allocated and the level of rations to be distributed.
36. In the camps, food will be handed over to the district distribution committees and passed on to neighbourhood groups. It will be weighed and apportioned according to the prescribed ration and distributed among the groups of households sharing the ration. WFP and UNHCR have ensured that women are fully involved in managing food aid in the camps. Women will continue to head all district and neighbourhood food distribution committees, and will be present during the whole distribution period.

Supplementary Feeding

37. Supplementary rations will be distributed through the health centres in the form of a dry take-home ration. The rations provide 977 kcal and 40 g of protein per person per day. The programme will support malnourished children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women. The health NGOs will oversee distribution and monitor beneficiaries' nutritional status.



School Feeding

38. Through the school feeding programme, children attending primary schools in the four camps will receive a snack of fortified HEB. UNHCR will receive the commodities at the EDP for distribution to the primary schools. The consignments will be stored in the schools, and the head teacher will arrange distribution to the pupils during the morning break.

Self-Reliance Activities

39. Lack of a market trade in the camps and environmental constraints such as insufficient water have greatly limited beneficiaries' self-reliance. WFP will provide basic rations and address the nutritional needs of vulnerable groups, while UNHCR will promote capacity-building for self-support and income-generation through adult literacy courses and training in skills such as sewing, knitting and weaving. UNHCR trained 86 refugee women in various skills in 2003, and plans to train an additional 117 refugee women in 2004. It has also allocated US\$113,000 for training and microcredit projects.

Beneficiary Needs and the Food Basket

40. WFP and UNHCR have agreed to assist 158,000 refugees through general distribution. Of these, 11,200 beneficiaries will be targeted for a supplementary feeding programme. Through school feeding, 34,000 schoolchildren will receive a morning snack of fortified HEB for 208 days per year.
41. Several donors and NGOs have provided food to assist refugees during this operation. However, the level of commitment and the regularity of assistance have varied. These contributions have represented about 25 percent of the total food supply. To avoid duplication of resource allocations, the Executive Board agreed when approving PRRO 10172.0 in May 2002 that if bilateral donors or NGOs provided basic food assistance to refugees in the camps, WFP would reduce its deliveries accordingly. The same arrangement is proposed for the expansion phase.
42. The joint assessment mission took note of the beneficiaries' request to diversify the food basket. Subject to availability, the cereal components may include wheat flour, rice and barley; pulses may include lentils, beans and split peas. For budgeting purposes, the main commodities will be wheat flour and lentils. If resources permit, WFP will purchase rice and barley to diversify the basket. Savings from the purchase of cheaper foodstuffs such as barley will be used to buy rice, which is more expensive.

Institutional Arrangements and Selection of Partners

43. The proposed refugee operation is in line with the WFP/UNHCR memorandum of understanding, and will be reflected in a letter of understanding to be signed with the Government upon Executive Board approval of the PRRO. The Government will manage overall relief activities for Western Saharan refugees. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be responsible for policy with respect to the roles and contributions of donors and United Nations agencies. As in the ongoing operation, the Algerian Red Crescent (ARC) will be the implementing agency for all humanitarian assistance destined to the refugees. It will handle logistics and will be involved in monitoring. At the camp level, it will work closely with refugee authorities to ensure timely deliveries of WFP-supplied food assistance.



44. A food aid coordination committee has been established. It meets every month and is composed of representatives from the Government, ARC, ECHO, UNHCR and WFP. It serves as a forum for partners to review relief activities and exchange information on forthcoming contributions and projects. The committee has proved to be useful for coordinating and planning food deliveries from different sources.

Capacity-Building

45. WFP has provided training in warehouse management to all ARC staff at Rabouni, as well as extensive on-the-job training. These efforts need to be pursued further. WFP will therefore provide additional training on commodity management and tracking, fleet management, fumigation and enhancement of warehouse-keeping skills. In addition, it will arrange for training workshops in monitoring and reporting for the camp staff of implementing partners, in collaboration with UNHCR.

Logistic Arrangements

46. WFP food will be delivered to the port of Oran. ARC, on behalf of the Government, will take delivery of consignments and arrange transportation by truck to the EDP at Rabouni, near the refugee camps. WFP will monitor the performance of ARC, follow up the logistics chain and provide backstopping at Alger and Oran. To expedite the deliveries, the Government has granted WFP and ARC special customs privileges.
47. The corporate commodity tracking system, COMPAS, has been established and is fully functional. Nevertheless, for information to be fed into the system on a daily basis, the capacity of the implementing partner, ARC, needs to be strengthened further. Under PRRO 10172.1, budgetary provisions have been made for the purchase of computers and related equipment. This will effectively enhance the COMPAS data entry of standard waybills and transportation documents.
48. ARC has an office in Tindouf and cooperates with WFP in managing warehouses at the EDPs. It will work with UNHCR and local authorities to ensure the prompt transport of food commodities from central warehouses to the camp's FDPs. UNHCR organizes transport from the EDPs to FDPs. However, its fleet of 22 trucks needs to be increased to overcome transportation bottlenecks.
49. Substantial efforts have been made in warehouse management at Rabouni, but improvements are still required. WFP will continue to support ARC in logistic operations. One logistics officer will be assigned on a full-time basis to track commodity movements and streamline logistics procedures, including the establishment of COMPAS and the construction of a new warehouse at Rabouni using ECHO funding.

Monitoring and Evaluation

50. A WFP sub-office has been established in Tindouf with the assignment of one international programme officer and three national staff. The sub-office shares common premises with UNHCR and cooperates with UNHCR and NGO staff in the monitoring and evaluation of camp activities. WFP will monitor food movements by tracking deliveries and distribution. It will pay particular attention to the end-use of its commodities and prepare a consolidated report in consultation with implementing partners.
51. WFP will regularly oversee food distribution in the four camps. In accordance with the memorandum of understanding between UNHCR and WFP, both agencies will jointly monitor operational activities. They will continue to adopt the direct and random



beneficiary contact approach to ascertain whether beneficiaries have received their food entitlements and to collect information on the adequacy and suitability of the food basket.

52. A monthly food-aid situation report will be prepared and will cover areas such as food movement, number of beneficiaries by age group and gender, basic and supplementary food item distribution, stocks and losses. The report will also include information on the caloric value of the average ration compared with the planned rations, the nutritional situation of vulnerable groups and any related information.

Impact/Results Indicators

53. The PRRO will provide basic food rations to the refugees to save lives and mitigate short-term hunger. Supplementary feeding will help reduce malnutrition among children under 5 and pregnant and lactating mothers. School feeding will supplement the diet of primary schoolchildren. These results will be achievable with an adequate and timely contribution of resources to the PRRO.
54. Impact, output and activity indicators have been formulated for each project component through a results matrix (see Annex III). These will be finalized with the main stakeholders, taking into consideration the results-based management indicators used in tracking progress.

Security Measures

55. Algeria continues to be under United Nations security phase III because of political uncertainty. Access to the Tindouf area requires official clearance. The United Nations international presence is limited to essential staff. International staff in Algeria live in a hotel and work in common premises. Staff movements are restricted to official activities. A full-time field security officer supports the staff and monitors developments. All agency heads are members of the security management team headed by the resident coordinator. Security conditions have improved in the past few months, and the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator will review the security phase by mid-2004.

Exit Strategy

56. The only feasible exit strategy for the PRRO is resolution of the Western Saharan territorial dispute, which would lead to repatriation of the refugees and reintegration in their countries of origin.

Contingency Plan Mechanism

57. The uncertainties surrounding the repatriation of refugees have made it difficult to plan for the duration of the humanitarian assistance. WFP/UNHCR will continue to provide and monitor political developments on repatriation. A contingency plan already exists, which the WFP country office and UNHCR will regularly update.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

58. The PRRO is recommended for approval by the Executive Board within the budget provided in Annexes I and II.



ANNEX I

PROJECT COST BREAKDOWN			
	Quantity (mt)	Average cost per mt	Value (US\$)
WFP COSTS			
A. Direct operational costs			
Commodity ¹			
– Wheat flour	51 903	278	14 406 716
– Lentils	7 728	550	4 250 279
– Vegetable oil	3 047	860	2 620 437
– Sugar	3 583	220	788 225
– WSB	1 635	420	686 784
– Iodized salt	577	110	63 437
– Fortified HEB	425	1 200	510 408
Total commodities	68 898		23 326 286
External transport			6 473 685
Landside transport			3 917 149
Subtotal for ITSH			1 802 075
Total LTSH			5 719 224
Other direct operational costs			51 700
Total direct operational costs			35 570 895
B. Direct support costs (see Annex II for details)			1 352 646
Total direct support costs			36 923 540
C. Indirect Support Costs (7%)			2 584 650
TOTAL WFP COSTS			39 508 190
¹ This is a notional food basket used for budgeting and approval purposes. The contents may vary depending on the availability of commodities.			



ANNEX II

DIRECT SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS (US\$)	
Staff	
International professional staff	496 000
National general service staff	164 326
United Nations volunteers	86 000
Overtime	2 400
Incentives	339 840
Staff duty travel	45 500
Staff training and development	31 000
Subtotal	1 165 066
Office expenses and other recurrent costs	
Rental of facilities	16 800
Utilities general	2 400
Office supplies	2 880
Telecommunications and information technology service	78 000
Insurance	1 200
Equipment repair and maintenance	2 400
Vehicle maintenance and running costs	5 400
Other office expenses	3 000
Subtotal	112 080
Equipment and other fixed costs	
Vehicles	45 000
Telecommunications and information technology equipment	25 500
Furniture, tools and equipment	5 000
Subtotal	75 500
TOTAL DIRECT SUPPORT COSTS	1 352 646



ANNEX III: STRATEGIC PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE RESULTS MATRIX FOR ALGERIA 10172.1 (September 2004 – August 2006)

Programme Goal: Improve the food security of people in crisis through food aid interventions targeted to the hungry poor

Strategic priorities	Outputs	Outcomes	Intervention types
<p>SP 1: Save lives of refugees in crisis situation (MDGs 1, 4, 5)</p>	<p>Increased access to food for highly food-insecure refugee population</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quantity of food distributed (by project category) ➤ Number of beneficiaries receiving WFP food assistance (by project category, age group, gender) 	<p>Lives saved, limited community assets protected</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Standard dietary requirements for refugees maintained ➤ Percentage of livestock holding increased ➤ Selling of assets limited (%) ➤ Reduced and/or stabilized prevalence of acute malnutrition in children ➤ Prevalence of under-5 acute malnutrition ➤ Stabilization of crude mortality among beneficiaries ➤ Crude mortality rate (yearly) 	<p>General food distribution</p> <p>Supplementary feeding activities</p>
<p>SP 3: Support the improved nutrition and health status of children and pregnant and lactating women (MDGs 4, 5, 6)</p>	<p>Participation of target population in nutrition interventions</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Percentage of fortified food delivered through WFP nutrition interventions ➤ Improved malnutrition status of targeted beneficiaries ➤ Number of children supported through food intervention ➤ Number of vulnerable women reached through nutrition intervention 	<p>Improved health and nutritional status of beneficiaries</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reduced level of anaemia (haemoglobin level) among pregnant and lactating women and targeted children (to be piloted on a quarterly basis) ➤ Reduced level of child malnutrition ➤ Prevalence of under-5 malnutrition (assessed using height, weight and age by gender) 	<p>Targeted supplementary feeding</p>
<p>SP3/SP4: Support to alleviate short-term hunger of primary schoolchildren (MDGs 2, 3)</p>	<p>Fortified HEB provided to schoolchildren in WFP-assisted primary schools</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of boys and girls receiving food aid in WFP-assisted primary schools ➤ Increased number of girls enrolling and attending grades 5 and 6 ➤ Number of boys and girls attending school (by class) ➤ Number of boys and girls completing grade 6 	<p>Reduced level of short-term hunger</p> <p>Increased enrolment, retention and completion of primary school</p> <p>Indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reduced gender disparity in higher grades (5 and 6) 	<p>School feeding through provision of fortified high-energy biscuits</p>



ANNEX IV



The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Food Programme (WFP) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its frontiers or boundaries.



ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

ARC	Algerian Red Crescent
CCFD	<i>Comité catholique contre la famine et pour le développement</i>
ECHO	European Community Humanitarian Office
EDP	extended delivery point
FDP	final delivery point
HEB	high-energy biscuits
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NGO	non-governmental organization
PRRO	protracted relief and recovery operation
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization
WSB	wheat-soya blend

