

برنامج  
الأغذية  
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Programme  
Alimentaire  
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World  
Food  
Programme

Programa  
Mundial  
de Alimentos

Executive Board  
First Regular Session

Rome, 21 - 23 January 1997

## PROTRACTED REFUGEE AND DISPLACED PERSON PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Agenda item 9 c)



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## PROJECT ALGERIA 4155 (Exp. 6)

(WIS No. ALG 0415506)

### Food assistance to vulnerable groups among Western Sahara refugees

Duration of project	Twelve months
Number of beneficiaries	80 000
Total cost to WFP	5 536 405 dollars
Total cost to Government	2 445 000 dollars

All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars, unless otherwise stated.  
One United States dollar equalled 55 Algerian dinars in December 1996.

### ABSTRACT

A referendum to decide on the future of Western Sahara had been announced by the United Nations Secretary-General for October 1995. However, the difficulties encountered in organizing this referendum led to its postponement, thus limiting both the prospect of any imminent return of the refugees to their homelands and any reassessment of the number of beneficiaries, which remains at the planning figure of 80,000. The PRO is based on the findings of the WFP/UNHCR assessment mission of December 1995 to the refugee sites in the Tindouf area. This mission recommended the continuation of food aid for a period of one year to benefit 80,000 vulnerable persons (out of a total of 144,000 refugees), as part of an integrated relief aid package provided by UNHCR and NGOs. Since January 1996, stocks in-country and shipments against confirmed pledges have allowed distributions to take place. Vulnerable groups (children, expectant and nursing mothers, the sick, and the elderly) are the priority target among beneficiaries. Eighty percent of food aid is distributed by women's committees to heads of households residing in the four camps; the remaining allotment is provided to health centres and schools, where emphasis is placed on increasing girls' school enrolment and attendance rates. Food distribution and all other related humanitarian tasks are carried out by the Sahraouis on a volunteer basis. Some productive activities (livestock, agriculture, handicrafts) continue to be undertaken. Given the magnitude of WFP's presence (the largest among United Nations agencies), the WFP office in Algiers is now headed by an international officer, to help streamline operations, ensure follow-up, coordinate external food aid and strengthen cooperation with implementing partners.

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## NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

**This document is submitted for information to the Executive Board.**

Pursuant to the decisions taken on the methods of work by the Executive Board at its First Regular Session of 1996, the documentation prepared by the Secretariat for the Board has been kept brief and decision-oriented. The meetings of the Executive Board are to be conducted in a business-like manner, with increased dialogue and exchanges between delegations and the Secretariat. Efforts to promote these guiding principles will continue to be pursued by the Secretariat.

The Secretariat therefore invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document, to contact the WFP staff member(s) listed below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting. This procedure is designed to facilitate the Board's consideration of the document in the plenary.

The WFP focal points for this document are:

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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documentation and Meetings Clerk (tel.: 5228-2641).





