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Mundial  
de Alimentos

**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

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# REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 10

*For information\**



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## PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2010) — ALGERIA 200034

### Assistance to Western Saharan Refugees

Number of rations	90,000 general food rations 35,000 supplementary general rations Additional targeted assistance
Duration of project	18 months (1 May 2010–31 October 2011)
WFP food tonnage	40,446 mt
<b>Cost (United States dollars)</b>	
WFP food cost	18,712,909
Total cost to WFP	31,118,100

\* In accordance with the Executive Board's decisions on governance, approved at the Annual and Third Regular Sessions, 2000, items for information should not be discussed unless a Board member specifically requests it, well in advance of the meeting, and the Chair accepts the request on the grounds that it is a proper use of the Board's time.

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## NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

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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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact Ms I. Carpitella, Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

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## ABSTRACT

1. Protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200034 is a follow-up to PRRO 101722, which assisted Western Saharan refugees from 2008 to 2009, following similar previous operations. Under its relief component, the PRRO provides 90,000 general food rations plus 35,000 supplementary general food rations to cover the basic food needs of Western Saharan refugees living in camps in Tindouf. The other components provide targeted assistance to pregnant and lactating women, moderately malnourished children under 5, and primary school students.
2. The conflict over control of the Western Sahara territory reached a humanitarian turning point in 1975, when tens of thousands of Western Saharan people fled to Algeria. These refugees were assisted by the host government until 1986, since when WFP has taken the lead in providing humanitarian food assistance. WFP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have thus been providing basic food and essential non-food assistance to the refugees for the last 24 years.
3. The refugee camps are situated in a harsh, arid, barren desert environment where livelihood and self-reliance opportunities are extremely limited. As a result, with the exception of a few households receiving remittances from relatives overseas – particularly in Spain – most refugees remain highly dependent on humanitarian aid from the international community for their survival.
4. The UNHCR/WFP joint assessment mission, fielded in September 2009, confirmed the need for continued food assistance. Accordingly, WFP continues to provide general food rations for the most vulnerable refugees residing in the camps. To address identified nutrition deficiencies, WFP has included corn-soya blend with improved fortification in the food basket and will diversify the basket's composition when possible, depending on available resources. WFP also provides additional fortified commodities for malnourished children under 5, as part of the integrated programme for child health initiated in 2009. Fortified foods are also provided to all primary schoolchildren and all pregnant and lactating women. WFP is working with UNHCR on a pilot initiative to address chronic malnutrition and anaemia through the blanket distribution of NutriButter<sup>®</sup> to all children between 6 and 36 months of age, and micronutrient powders to all children between 36 and 59 months and to women of child-bearing age. Depending on the outcome of the pilot, WFP might take over the provision of these commodities during the second year of the PRRO. The WFP basic ration is complemented by fresh fruits and vegetables and high-value food items contributed by bilateral donors.
5. The PRRO addresses Strategic Objective 1 through its relief component, and ensures that the refugees' basic food needs are met. It is also in line with Millennium Development Goal 1 – Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.