

برنامج  
الأغذية  
العالمي



Programme  
Alimentaire  
Mondial

World  
Food  
Programme

Programa  
Mundial  
de Alimentos

**Executive Board  
First Regular Session**

**Rome, 18–19 February 2013**

# REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 9

*For information\**



Distribution: GENERAL  
**WFP/EB.1/2013/9-C**  
17 January 2013  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

## PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2012) — ALGERIA 200301

### Assistance to Refugees from Western Sahara

Number of rations	Average monthly: 90,000 general food rations plus 35,000 supplementary general rations
Duration of project	18 months (1 January 2013–30 June 2014)
WFP food tonnage	40,524 mt
<b>Cost (United States dollars)</b>	
WFP food cost	19,842,501
Total cost to WFP	31,694,690

\* 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.

Regional Director, OMC\*                      Mr D. Belgasmi                      tel.: 066513-3561

Country Director, Algeria, OMC: Mr U. Osman                      E-mail: [ussama.osman@wfp.org](mailto:ussama.osman@wfp.org)

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).

\* Regional Bureau Cairo (Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia)

## ABSTRACT

1. Algeria has been hosting refugees from Western Sahara since 1975. The refugee camps are located in the harsh, isolated desert environment of western Algeria where opportunities for self-reliance are extremely limited.
2. The refugees were supported by the Algerian Government until 1986, when WFP started providing basic food support to the most vulnerable. According to the latest nutrition survey the prevalence of global acute malnutrition decreased sharply from 18 percent in 2008 to 8 percent in 2010. But malnutrition levels remain a concern: stunting has decreased only slightly, from 32 percent to 30 percent, and the prevalence of anaemia among children aged 6–59 months and non-pregnant women remains high.
3. Following a government request for continued WFP support, WFP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) carried out a joint assessment mission in October 2011. The mission confirmed the need for continued food assistance; most refugees remain highly dependent on humanitarian aid from the international community for their survival.
4. The specific objectives of this protracted relief and recovery operation are in line with WFP's Strategic Plan (2008–2013) and build on the achievements of the previous operation. In the absence of formal registration by UNHCR, WFP followed UNHCR's planning figure to provide 90,000 general food rations plus 35,000 supplementary rations per month to the most vulnerable refugees. The main role of WFP's food assistance is to meet basic food and nutrition needs, improve food consumption and support the livelihoods of the most vulnerable refugees, under Strategic Objective 1.<sup>1</sup> Other humanitarian organizations provide complementary fresh foods, canned fish, yeast and tea.
5. WFP also aims to reduce acute malnutrition and anaemia in 10,000 children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women through nutrition support. To treat moderate acute malnutrition, WFP will continue to provide fortified food rations to malnourished children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women through a targeted supplementary feeding programme. All distributions are channelled through health clinics as part of the comprehensive inter-agency strategy to reduce the high levels of malnutrition.
6. WFP will continue to provide fortified date bars as mid-morning snacks to 31,900 primary-school refugee girls and boys. These snacks aim to improve enrolment and retention under Strategic Objective 3.<sup>1</sup>
7. Given the extreme weather conditions and environmental threats, WFP will continue to improve outdoor food storage facilities.
8. WFP's cooperating partner is the Algerian Red Crescent, which is the official implementing agency designated by the Government of Algeria for all humanitarian assistance provided to refugees.

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<sup>1</sup> Strategic Objective 1 – Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies; Strategic Objective 3 – Restore and rebuild lives and livelihoods in post-conflict, post-disaster or transition situations.