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de Alimentos

Executive Board  
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## REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

### Agenda item 8



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## PROTRACTED REFUGEE AND DISPLACED PERSON PROJECT ALGERIA 4155.07

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

Total cost to WFP	3 434 568 dollars
Total food cost to WFP	1 683 190 dollars
Total cost to Government	2 445 000 dollars
Number of beneficiaries	49 000
Duration of project	Twelve months

All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars. One United States dollar equalled 56 Algerian dinars in August 1997.

### 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 the prospects of any imminent return of the refugees to their homelands. In an effort to rectify this situation, the United Nations Secretary-General has charged his official representative, Mr. James Baker, with reactivating the peace process in Western Sahara. The draft United Nations peace agreement was accepted by both the Government of Morocco and the *Polisario* as a basic document for reopening negotiations.

The project is based on the findings of the nutritional survey conducted by the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) in February 1997 and the WFP food assessment mission of May 1997 to the refugee sites in the Tindouf area. The mission recommended that food aid be continued for a period of one year to benefit a targeted number of 49,000 persons belonging to most vulnerable groups (out of an estimated total of 122,000 refugees, according to the 1995 ECHO evaluation report), as part of an integrated relief aid package provided by UNHCR, ECHO, bilateral donors and NGOs.

Women's committees distribute food (on a volunteer basis, as for all related humanitarian tasks) to heads of households residing in the four camps. Some productive activities (livestock raising, agriculture, handicrafts) continue to be undertaken with the assistance of the Algerian authorities. The appointment of a second international officer to be placed in Tindouf is recommended, in order to improve targeting of the most vulnerable groups among the refugees, help the WFP Officer-in-Charge in Algiers coordinate external food aid, strengthen cooperation with implementing partners, and ensure nutritional as well as logistical follow-up.

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

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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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