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**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

**Rome, 15–17 May 2002**

## PROJECTS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVAL

### Agenda item 6

*For approval*



Distribution: GENERAL  
**WFP/EB.2/2002/6/4**  
15 April 2002  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

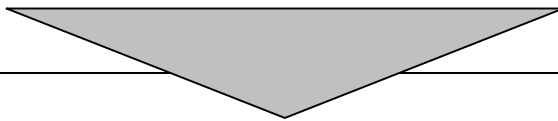
## PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION— ALGERIA 10172.0

### Assistance to Western Sahara Refugees

<b>Number of beneficiaries</b>	<b>155,430</b>
Duration of project	24 months (1 September 2002–31 August 2004)
<b>Cost (United States dollars)</b>	
Total cost to WFP	29,765,704
Total food cost	16,703,547

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# Note to the Executive Board



**This document is submitted for approval by the Executive Board.**

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 the Supervisor, Meeting Servicing and Distribution Unit (tel.: 066513-2328).



# Executive Summary

Since 1975, tens of thousands of Western Sahara refugees have taken refuge in temporary desert camps in the southwestern part of Algeria, near Tindouf, because of the dispute over Western Sahara. WFP has assisted the Government of Algeria in meeting the basic nutritional needs of the refugees since 1986. Despite continued United Nations efforts, the current situation suggests that the contending parties will not soon solve the conflict. Until they do, the refugees will remain in Algeria, almost completely dependent on humanitarian assistance from the international community.

WFP has been providing food aid to 155,000 refugees under protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 6234, which was approved by the WFP Executive Board in May 2000. WFP supplied basic food and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) provided non-food items and supplementary food. ECHO established a three-months buffer stock to ensure that food was available when there were breaks in the WFP pipeline.

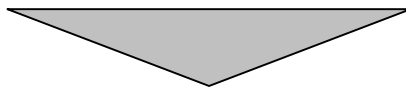
PRRO 6234 received limited donor response, however, which caused delivery delays and pipeline breakdowns. There have consequently been chronic imbalances in the refugees' monthly food intake. An estimated 95 percent of households in the camps have no means of meeting their food requirement or procuring fresh food. Malnutrition rates are high: an estimated 13 percent of children under 5 are acutely malnourished and 35 percent suffer from stunting. About 44 percent of children under 5 and more than 48 percent of mothers suffer from anaemia.

Between March and July 2000, UNHCR conducted a preliminary registration using lists of eligible voters from the *Mission des Nations Unies pour l'organisation d'un référendum au Sahara occidental* (MINURSO). The results show that there are 155,430 refugees in the camps who continue to require humanitarian assistance. This includes about 4,000 children and 2,380 women suffering from various degrees of malnutrition. Under the new operation, WFP will provide assistance to these refugees and supplementary feeding for 6,380 children and vulnerable women. The Government, UNHCR, ECHO, bilateral donors, NGOs and local camp authorities will cooperate with WFP.

The Government has designated the Algerian Red Crescent (ARC) as the implementing partner for WFP and UNHCR. ARC will continue to receive WFP food shipments at the port of Oran and deliver them to the extended delivery point (EDP) at Rabouni, near Tindouf. It will work with UNHCR and camp authorities to deliver food to the camps. Women committees will be responsible for distribution to the groups of households under their management. UNHCR and its NGO partners will implement the supplementary feeding programme and provide transport to deliver the food. The food requirement for this PRRO for two years is 66,654 tons at a cost of US\$29,765,704.



# Draft Decision



The Board approves PRRO for Algeria 10172.0—Assistance to Western Sahara Refugees (WFP/EB.2/2002/6/4).



## CONTEXT AND RATIONALE FOR PROVIDING ASSISTANCE

### Context of the Crisis

1. Since 1975, tens of thousands of Western Sahara refugees have taken refuge in temporary desert camps in the southwest part of Algeria because of dispute over the territory. Between 1975 and 1984, the Algerian government sustained the burden of aid to the refugees. In 1985, the Government asked the international community and the United Nations to provide relief assistance. The expectation was that assistance would be of a short duration, particularly after the ceasefire in 1991 and a United Nations settlement plan. The United Nations Security Council is still deliberating on a resolution to this problem.
2. Any decision adopted by the Security Council will require time for negotiations and an agreement on implementation mechanisms. In the meantime, refugees continue to suffer in camps under harsh climatic conditions. They depend exclusively on the international community for basic humanitarian necessities, including food. WFP has been providing food assistance to them since 1986; the value approved to date is US\$81.3 million. This figure includes the ongoing PRRO 6234, approved by the Executive Board in May 2000 and scheduled to terminate in August 2002.

### Situation Analysis

3. The conflict over Western Sahara has lasted for more than 26 years, despite attempts to resolve it. Tens of thousands of Western Saharans have been living in Algeria since 1975 in temporary camps in the desert near Tindouf in the southwest. The refugee families have had to cope with very harsh climatic and environmental conditions, and have managed to survive only with the support of the Government and humanitarian assistance from the international community. The protracted emergency situation of the refugees has left its mark, particularly on vulnerable groups who have been affected by years of hardship.
4. An unpublished health and nutritional survey conducted by the Italian National Institute of Nutrition in January 2001 shows that the health and nutritional status of the refugees is poor. The survey was based on a sample of 694 children under 5 and 978 women of child-bearing age. The results revealed a high prevalence of acute malnutrition—13 percent—among children under 5 and chronic malnutrition among 35 percent of all children. The prevalence of iron-deficiency anaemia is particularly alarming: it affects 48 percent of women of reproductive age and 44 percent of sampled children. The potential long-term consequences of this population's poor nutritional status are of great concern among implementing partners and donor agencies. Although UNHCR and its bilateral and NGO partners are responsible for supplementary feeding and nutritional programmes, funding constraints have limited their ability to respond to the high rates of malnutrition in the camps.
5. WFP food assistance is part of a multi-donor humanitarian relief package for the camp population. WFP has covered the basic needs of 155,000 beneficiaries and ECHO, UNHCR and international NGOs have been providing regular food and non-food assistance. With the formulation of PRRO 6234, a decision was taken to entrust WFP supplying basic food and the bilateral NGOs with supplying non-food items and supplementary food. Lack of adequate contributions to the PRRO meant that the supply of food was erratic and often inadequate.



6. Delays in mobilizing relief commodities have adversely affected the refugees' food security throughout the operation, and resulted in food shortages in the camps. The PRRO has become a hand-to-mouth operation. In August 2001, the Government had to take immediate action to supply pulses and sugar to complete the refugees' food basket, which in July 2001 provided only about 1,393 kcal per day.
7. The donor visit organized by WFP and UNHCR in February 2001 was followed by consultations between UNHCR, WFP and ECHO. As a result, ECHO established a three-month buffer stock. This does not compensate for lack of food donations, however, because commodities are released only if WFP has equivalent quantities in its pipeline to replenish the stock. The buffer stock nevertheless kept distribution disruptions to a minimum. WFP-supplied commodities and bilateral contributions have made it possible to distribute a monthly food basket providing 1,935 kcal per day, representing 92 percent of refugees' nutritional requirements. This hides imbalances between monthly distributions, however. Shortages in prescribed caloric levels ranged from 177 kcal (May 2001) to 707 kcal (July 2001) in six of the thirteen distributions. The remaining seven provided or slightly exceeded 2,100 kcal per day.
8. Despite resourcing difficulties and the limited prospects for an early settlement of the conflict, WFP remains committed to seeking food assistance for refugees who have limited capacity for self-reliance and no alternative coping strategies. This PRRO will cover the basic food needs of 155,430 refugees and the supplementary food requirements of 6,380 children and vulnerable women for two years, from 1 September 2002 to 31 August 2004.

### **Government Policies and Developmental Considerations**

9. The Government continues to provide support and assistance, particularly for infrastructure and logistics improvements and human-resources development. The Government is mobilizing external resources and handling international donations. UNHCR, the European Union, bilateral donors and international NGOs are supporting special projects for water supply, environmental rehabilitation, health, nutrition, education, transport and housing, which benefit the refugee-camp population.
10. The arid nature of the land and the remote locations of the camps are the main constraining factors on the refugees' participation in income-generating and productive activities. The special political status of the Western Sahara refugees in Algeria, which regulates their movement inside the country, and the lack of economic opportunities in neighbouring localities, have also increased their dependency on external assistance.
11. International humanitarian assistance is therefore aimed primarily at sustaining the lives of the refugees. Various agencies are carrying out pilot development activities in training, health, nutrition, education and agriculture. These activities help to enhance self-help potential and raise self-esteem among people who have been living in temporary accommodation for more than 26 years. Uncertainty regarding resolution of the conflict and eventual repatriation has meant that significant investment in development has been limited.



## RECOVERY STRATEGY

### Beneficiary Needs

12. A joint WFP/UNHCR assessment mission visited the refugee camps near Tindouf from 1 to 5 February 2002, with donor participation. The main objectives were to assess beneficiaries' needs for the next phase, review current implementation modalities and recommend improvements in monitoring, reporting and coordination among partners. Two UNHCR staff members participated as resource experts. Representatives of ARC and ECHO accompanied the mission, which met refugee men and women in different camps, visited the main warehouses and met food committee heads. There were extensive meetings with local authorities.

### Camp Population

13. The Western Sahara refugees in Algeria have been accommodated in four large camps near Tindouf in the southwestern part of the country. The nearest camp is Aousserd, 40 km away; the most distant is Dakhla, about 180 km away. La'youn is 65 km from Tindouf and Smara 50 km. The refugee population lives in harsh conditions characterized by an inhospitable climate, extreme temperatures in summer and winter, isolation and chronic lack of economic opportunities.
14. According to population estimates, women and girls constitute 60 percent of the refugee population in the camps. Average household size is 5.2 persons. An estimated 40 percent of the population are under 14, so the rate of household dependency is high. Women have contributed to a significant improvement in camp conditions. They are known to be assertive and to participate in all aspects of camp life.
15. Women oversee administration of the camps and play a leading role in public health, environmental and sanitation activities and food distribution. They constitute 80 percent of health workers in the 29 camp health centres. Sixty percent of medical and paramedical staff are women, including two hospital directors and several doctors. Sixty percent of camp teachers are women volunteers. The numerous camp social, cultural, youth and public-information committees are composed of and chaired by women. The Union of Western Sahara Women organizes training courses in health and nutrition education and accounting, and is responsible for sewing tents and distributing them to the district committees. Branches of the Union have been implementing special programmes for physically handicapped children and the elderly.

### Food

16. WFP has provided food assistance to some 155,000 people in the camps during the last two years. ECHO and bilateral donors complemented the food baskets and covered pipeline breakdowns and delivery delays. The last such contribution was in February 2001, consisting of 1,789 tons of wheat flour. Basic family rations are distributed to camp residents, subject to availability. Between December 2000 and December 2001, deliveries have been erratic. Monthly distributions have averaged 1,935 kcals per day for basic food, 92 percent of requirements.
17. In July 2001, ECHO established a three-month buffer stock to allow distributions against WFP-confirmed contributions. Delivery delays, however, have resulted in depletion of stocks, which need replenishing.



18. The local food-aid coordination committee, composed of representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, WFP, UNHCR and ARC, plans monthly distributions. It adjusts the standard ration to reflect quantities available in the warehouses at Rabouni, near Tindouf, which constitute the EDP serving the four camps. The warehouses have a storage capacity of about 15,000 tons. Most of the warehouses are in need of repair, however. WFP will provide funding for these repairs and construction of additional capacity. Work is expected to begin in May 2002.
19. UNHCR is responsible for deliveries to the four main camps from the EDP. Deliveries start with the nearest camps and take about two weeks to complete. Shortages of trucks, spare parts and fuel and poor road conditions have caused delivery delays.
20. The distribution chain in the camps is managed by women. Commodities are handed over to the district distribution committees, who deliver them to sub-committees and neighbourhood groups. There are 3,108 groups of 50 beneficiaries each, among whom 29,830 women receive household rations.
21. Nutrition surveys conducted in 1997 and updated in 2001 revealed high levels of stunting and micronutrient deficiencies among the refugees. Only 10 percent of camp households could afford to buy fresh food; UNHCR has not been able to provide fresh food in its programmes. ECHO targeted about 3,340 children suffering from malnutrition in 2001, providing them with groundnuts and vitamin-rich porridge for six months. To address nutritional deficiencies, particularly anaemia, among expectant and nursing mothers, UNHCR has provided biscuits enriched with iron and folic acid for 1,976 women. Both feeding programmes, however, are facing resource constraints and will require support if they are to continue after June 2002. This comes at a time when the operation is facing difficulties supplying basic food needs. The number of children and women vulnerable to malnutrition is therefore likely to increase. The high prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies indicates the need to include fortified blended foods in the ration.

### ***Nutrition and Health***

22. Pulmonary infections, anaemia, flu and diarrhoea are common among the refugees, particularly during the cold and hot seasons.
23. In principle, the health facilities, comprising a central hospital, a regional hospital in each of the four main camps and 29 health centres at district level, could provide adequate services to the refugee population. Medical and paramedical staff are fully aware of prevailing health problems and work closely with the health committees at district level. Lack of essential equipment and frequent shortages of medicine, however, hamper the functioning of these facilities.

### ***Water and Sanitation***

24. The minimum daily water requirement is 15 litres per day. In the first half of 2001, about 65 percent of this amount was supplied to the camps. Since then, supplies of drinking water in the camps have been increased. UNHCR and camp authorities are working to improve the water supply by implementing new projects. Trucks carry water to two camps, where it is stored in tanks that service neighbourhoods in each sub-district. Boreholes have been drilled in the distant camps, and work is in hand to establish a water system in all the camps. Renewed emphasis on refugees producing complementary food to reduce their dependency on external assistance would lead to an increased need for water. UNHCR and





Norwegian Church Aid have made a full-time hydrologist available to improve water supply and quality.

25. The camps are known for their cleanliness and good sanitary conditions. Most households have pit latrines. Sanitation committees headed by women in each neighbourhood are in charge of daily refuse collection and disposal and are responsible for keeping neighbourhoods clean. Animals are kept in makeshift barns on the outskirts of each camp.

### **Shelter**

26. The refugees live in tents, which they make themselves. Materials are provided by UNHCR and ECHO. There is a brick structure near each tent that serves as a kitchen. It should be noted, however, that many tents are old and worn-out and need replacing.

### **Education**

27. Camp authorities give education top priority. Efforts have been made to ensure basic education for all school-age children. Illiteracy exists mainly among the elderly. There are elementary schools in each camp; two boarding schools offer primary and intermediate education. One of these is currently being refurbished. About 40,000 children attend primary school. No gender gap is evident at this level. Every year, about 5,000 young people who have completed seven years of schooling in the camps move on to secondary and higher education in Algeria or elsewhere. UNHCR, in cooperation with NGOs, has established a vocational training centre for women. A centre for training young people over 15 in carpentry and vehicle mechanics and repair is being established.

### **Livestock Production and Related Commercial Activities**

28. Production of livestock, mainly goats and sheep, is highly appreciated by many refugees. Women own most of the livestock in the camps. The activity provides an important nutritional supplement of fresh milk and meat, as well as income. The high cost of animal feed and limited availability of water are constraining factors, however. Only 10 percent of households can afford to raise more than three animals. Most refugees own only one or two, and at least a third own none.
29. A French NGO has initiated activities to promote self-sufficiency through animal husbandry. Attempts are being made to cultivate fodder to reduce animal mortality. If the initiative is successful, the refugees' dependency on food aid will eventually be reduced. Improved production should, in the first stage, provide milk for hospitals and schools and limited quantities of fresh meat for the refugees.
30. Given the refugees' special circumstances and the physical isolation of the camps, the possibilities for income-generation or commercial activities are very limited. Few refugees have access to cash. What they have is usually derived from occasional transfers from relatives living abroad or from the sale of livestock. Trade with itinerant merchants consists of buying and selling of garments, shoes, kitchenware, cleaning materials and other minor items. Women as well as men engage in trade.

### **The Role of Food Aid**

31. The role of food aid is to meet the basic food needs of all refugees in the camps. Wheat flour and vegetable oil fortified with micronutrients will be provided to address deficiencies in the basic ration and compensate for the limited intake of fresh foods. A



targeted feeding programme implemented by UNHCR and NGO partners will help to reduce malnutrition among children under 5 and expectant and nursing mothers.

### Intervention Approaches

32. WFP will cover basic food needs by providing cereals, pulses, vegetable oil, sugar and salt, to be distributed monthly through women's district and community committees. UNHCR will provide yeast to make bread and tea for the adults.
33. WFP will cover the special needs of malnourished children and women through a supplementary feeding programme providing wheat-soya blend, vegetable oil and sugar. This programme was designed in response to the high levels of micronutrient deficiencies and acute malnutrition. It will be supervised by UNHCR. Beneficiaries will be registered at camp health centres and subject to regular monitoring by the health authorities. Health-centre staff will demonstrate preparation methods for wheat-soya blend meals.

### Risk Assessment

34. During 2001, low levels of contributions to WFP and delayed deliveries resulted in food shortfalls and erratic distributions. Unless food contribution levels are increased and regularized, there is a risk of hunger among the refugees. Lack of resources for the supplementary feeding programme and limited availability of micronutrients could reduce the health and nutrition status of vulnerable and at-risk groups such as children, expectant and nursing mothers and the elderly.
35. Inadequate treatment of groundwater is likely to lead to high rates of parasitic infections, with serious health and nutritional consequences for the refugee population.
36. WFP primary transport has been satisfactory. UNHCR secondary transport, however, has often made late deliveries because of the limited size of its trucking fleet, lack of spares and the chronic fuel shortage. UNHCR is taking action to improve secondary transport by purchasing two new trucks and budgeting for the purchase of spare parts for the others.

### Objectives and Goals

37. WFP assistance objectives are in line with policies and strategies outlined in the WFP Mission Statement. Pending a durable solution to the conflict and repatriation of the refugees, the objectives of this operation are to ensure prompt delivery of basic food to sustain the livelihoods of the estimated 155,430 refugees in the camps and reduce malnutrition among at-risk children and women.

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

### General Food Distributions

38. Full rations of basic food commodities will be provided to the refugees resident in the four main camps. The coordination and planning committee in Algiers will set monthly food rations and a distribution calendar.
39. WFP, UNHCR and ARC will ensure that coordination committee decisions are implemented and that deliveries to the camps are made promptly. Food will be transported from the warehouses at the Rabouni EDP to final delivery points (FDPs) in the camps. The



camp authorities and food distribution committees will be informed in advance of delivery times, quantities allocated and the level of rations to be distributed.

40. In the camps, food will be handed to district distribution committees and passed on to neighbourhood groups. It will be weighed, apportioned according to the prescribed ration and distributed among the groups of households that will share the rations. WFP and UNHCR have helped to ensure 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

41. Supplementary rations will be distributed through the health centres in the form of a dry take-home ration. Distribution frequency will depend on the outcomes of monitoring. Malnourished children under 5 will receive a supplementary ration for six months. For women, assistance will be provided from the time a pregnancy is confirmed until six months after birth.
42. WFP will deliver supplementary food to the EDP, from where UNHCR will arrange transport to FDPs. The health centres will take delivery of the food and will distribute it according to monitoring schedules. Health and food receipts for each beneficiary will be kept and regularly updated.

### Recovery Activities

43. In view of the refugees' special circumstances, it is beyond the scope of this operation to contribute significantly to beneficiaries' self-reliance while they remain in the camps. This PRRO will focus on providing a basic ration as a care-and-maintenance operation for the general refugee population and on addressing the special needs of vulnerable groups facing malnutrition. With the improvement of water supplies in the camps and increased resource levels, WFP, UNHCR and NGOs will promote greater self-reliance among the refugees by supporting animal husbandry, gardening and other income-generating activities. Partners implementing such activities will submit proposals to WFP for support for beneficiaries undertaking income-generation work. Subject to resource availability, WFP would consider a budget increase to provide targeted food assistance for those participating in self-help schemes.

### Beneficiaries, Needs and the Food Basket

44. WFP and UNHCR will programme assistance using the beneficiary caseload of 155,430 for general food distribution and 6,380—4,000 children and 2,380 expectant and nursing mothers—for the supplementary feeding programme. The general-distribution figure is based on the number of refugees registered by UNHCR between March and July 2000 using the MINURSO list of eligible voters. These people fall into two categories. About 130,000 are potential voters; their immediate families are included on the MINURSO identification list. The remaining 25,430 are the “non-voters” residing in the camps. The number of supplementary feeding programme beneficiaries is based on the current caseload plus an estimated 20 percent for malnutrition cases.
45. Several bilateral and NGO donors have provided food to assist refugees during this operation. Degrees of commitment and regularity of assistance, however, have varied. To avoid duplication and resource-allocation imbalances, the Executive Board agreed when approving the ongoing PRRO 6234 that if bilateral donors or NGOs provide basic food



assistance to refugees in the camps, WFP would reduce its deliveries accordingly. The same arrangement is proposed for this PRRO.

## Ration

46. The general food distribution (GFD) ration for the refugee camp population provides approximately 2,144 kcal per person per day and is consistent with WFP/UNHCR guidelines. Beneficiaries of the supplementary feeding programme (SFP) will receive a ration that provides an additional 977 kcal, in line with WFP's supplementary feeding guidelines.

Commodity	GFD	SFP	GFD	SFP	GFD	SFP	GFD	SFP
	g/day		Energy (kcal)		Protein (g)		Fat (g)	
Cereals	450	0	1 575	0	51.75	0	6.75	0
Pulses	67	0	228	0	13.40	0	0.40	0
Vegetable oil	25	20	221	177	0	0	25	20
Sugar	30	15	120	60	0	0	0	0
Iodised salt	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wheat-soya blend	0	200	0	740	0	40	0	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>2 144</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>65.15</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>32.15</b>	<b>32</b>

47. The joint WFP/UNHCR assessment mission took note of the beneficiaries' request to diversify the food basket. Subject to availability, the cereal component may include wheat flour, rice and barley; pulses may include lentils, beans and split peas. For budgeting purposes, however, the main commodities will be wheat flour and lentils. If resources permit, WFP will attempt to diversify the basket by purchasing rice or barley. Savings from the purchase of cheaper foodstuffs such as barley will be used to buy rice, which is more expensive. This operation will require 66,654 tons of food for two years at a cost to WFP of US\$29,765,704.

## Institutional Arrangements and Selection of Partners

48. The proposed refugee operation is in line with the WFP/UNHCR memorandum of understanding and will be reflected in the letter of understanding to be signed with the Government upon Executive Board approval. WFP will supply basic food to the targeted refugees and vulnerable groups in the supplementary feeding programme. Through its implementing partners, UNHCR will ensure the well-being of the camp population by providing water services, sanitation, fuel, education services and protection.
49. The Government is managing relief activities for the Western Sahara refugees near Tindouf. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for policy regarding roles and contributions of donors and United Nations agencies. ARC has been designated as the main implementing partner of both WFP and UNHCR. It will handle logistics and will be involved in monitoring. ARC will work with the refugee authorities to ensure timely deliveries of WFP-supplied food to the camps.
50. For the past seven years, some bilateral donors have been providing relief assistance in the form of basic food, supplementary food and non-food items. This assistance has been channelled through European NGOs that implement special health and nutrition programmes. No information is available, however, regarding the level of bilateral



commitments for 2002 and beyond. Bilateral contributions fell from 7,520 tons in the last quarter of 2000 to about 5,000 tons for the whole of 2001.

51. To coordinate food assistance among partners, a food aid coordination committee has been established that meets monthly. The committee is composed of representatives from the Government, ARC, WFP, UNHCR and ECHO. It reviews the commodity pipeline and stock situation and verifies distribution reports. The committee is a forum for partners to review relief activities and exchange information on forthcoming contributions and projects. The committee has proved an essential tool for coordinating and planning food deliveries from different sources.

### Capacity-building

52. WFP contributed to building ARC capacity by recruiting a warehouse stock keeper and by strengthening its roles in logistics, food management, food distribution, monitoring and reporting. WFP will organize training workshops on reconditioning and fumigating facilities, and food and warehouse management for local ARC staff and their counterparts in the camps. Relevant parts of WFP manuals will be incorporated into the training programmes. WFP will arrange for special training workshops in monitoring and reporting for counterparts and the camp staff concerned.

### Logistics Arrangements

53. As with previous operations, WFP food will be delivered to the port of Oran. ARC takes delivery of consignments on behalf of the Government and arranges transportation by truck to the EDP at Rabouni, near the refugee camps. ARC has demonstrated its capacity to handle consignments from WFP and other donors and to ensure prompt delivery to the EDP at competitive costs and with minimal losses.
54. ARC as a permanent presence in Tindouf and cooperates with WFP in managing the warehouses at the EDP. It will work with UNHCR and local authorities to ensure prompt transport of food aid from central warehouses to the camp FDPs. Transport from the EDP to FDPs is organized by UNHCR, which has a fleet of 22 trucks. WFP is improving EDP storage facilities by constructing new warehouse space that will increase capacity by 8,520 tons. The work involves expanding the current warehouse by about 4,320 tons capacity and constructing seven platforms that will add another 4,200 tons. Work is expected to start in May 2002. Improvements of storage facilities are also underway through maintenance and repairs. WFP has earmarked over US\$100,000 to complete the improvements.
55. WFP will undertake a logistics evaluation mission to review all aspects of the food chain, from arrival at the port to delivery in the camps. Mission recommendations to improve the handling of food aid will be shared with all partners. Corrective measures will be taken prior to project start-up.

### Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

56. A WFP officer based in Tindouf will cooperate with the two UNHCR officers in charge of monitoring the operation in the camps and with NGOs distributing humanitarian assistance. WFP will ensure close monitoring of food-aid deliveries from all sources with a system for tracking deliveries and distribution. Particular attention will be given to the movement and end-use of WFP commodities and consolidated reporting used by the implementing partners.



57. Monitoring will focus on the involvement of women in camp management, decision-making and food distribution. Beneficiary contact monitoring will keep track of changes in conditions and verify receipts at household level. UNHCR will have the tasks of monitoring the nutritional status of the refugee population and tracking malnutrition rates among beneficiaries in the supplementary feeding programme. WFP will have full access to information on the nutritional situation of the refugees in the camps.
58. The monthly food-aid situation report (FASERP) for monitoring project implementation will cover the food chain from receipt of commodities at Oran and the Rabouni EDP to the FDPs, segregating WFP commodities. It will report on the number of beneficiaries by age group and gender, basic and supplementary food items distributed during each month, stock levels and losses. The report will include information on the caloric value of the average ration compared with the planned standard, observations regarding the nutritional situation of vulnerable groups and any misuse of food aid.

### Security Measures

59. Algeria is still under United Nations security phase 3. Access to the Tindouf area requires official clearance. The United Nations international presence is limited to essential staff. International staff in Algiers reside in a hotel and work on common premises. Staff movements are restricted to official activities. A full-time field security officer supports the staff and monitors developments. All heads of agencies are members of the security management team headed by the resident coordinator. No staff family members are allowed in the country.

### Exit Strategy

60. The only feasible exit strategy for this PRRO is resolution of the Western Sahara question and repatriation of the refugees. In the meantime, WFP will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to ensure the refugees' survival and well-being.

### Contingency Mechanism

61. The uncertainties surrounding repatriation and its timing have made it difficult to plan humanitarian assistance. This two-year operation will provide more stable care and maintenance of food assistance to the refugee camps. WFP, in close coordination with MINURSO and UNHCR, will monitor developments to be ready for the refugees' eventual repatriation. In that event, food commodities from this operation will be transferred to the repatriation programme, as agreed with the Government and in accordance with the WFP principle that food should follow refugees. An emergency operation (EMOP) to assist repatriation can be rapidly put in place. A contingency plan already exists. The WFP country office and UNHCR will regularly update the contingency plan.

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## RECOMMENDATION

62. 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 ton	Value (dollars)
<b>WFP COSTS</b>			
<b>A. Direct operational costs</b>			
Commodity (mt) <sup>1</sup>			
– Wheat flour	51 129	210	10 737 027
– Lentils	7 612	360	2 740 498
– Vegetable oil	2 934	650	1 906 943
– Sugar	3 479	265	921 813
– Wheat-soya blend	933	365	340 456
– Iodized salt	568	100	56 810
<b>Total commodities</b>	<b>66 654</b>		<b>16 703 547</b>
<b>External transport</b>			<b>4 695 799</b>
Landside transport			3 380 113
Subtotal for ITSH			1 843 138
<b>Total LTSH</b>			<b>5 223 251</b>
<b>Other direct operational costs</b>			<b>165 620</b>
<b>Total direct operational costs</b>			<b>26 788 216</b>
<b>B. Direct support costs (see Annex II for details)</b>			
<b>Total direct support costs</b>			<b>823 754</b>
<b>Total WFP direct costs</b>			<b>27 611 970</b>
<b>C. Indirect support costs (7.8 percent of total direct costs)</b>			
<b>Subtotal indirect support costs</b>			<b>2 153 734</b>
<b>TOTAL WFP COSTS</b>			<b>29 765 704</b>

<sup>1</sup> This is a notional food basket used for budgeting and approval purposes. The mix and quantities of commodities as in all WFP-assisted projects, may vary depending on availability.





**ANNEX II****DIRECT SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS (*dollars*)****Staff**

International professional staff	248 000
National general service staff	120 000
Temporary assistance	600
Incentives	260 304
International consultants	6 000
Staff duty travel	49 000
Staff training and development	11 000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>694 904</b>

**Office expenses and other recurrent costs**

Rental of facility	9 600
Utilities	3 200
Office supplies	5 500
Communication and information technology (IT) services	34 500
Insurance	600
Equipment repair and maintenance	3 050
Vehicle maintenance and running costs	11 900
Other office expenses	15 000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>83 350</b>

**Equipment and other fixed costs**

Vehicles	25 000
Communications and IT equipment	13 500
Furniture, tools and equipment	7 000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>45 500</b>

<b>TOTAL DIRECT SUPPORT COSTS</b>	<b>823 754</b>
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## ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

ARC	Algerian Red Crescent
ECHO	European Community Humanitarian Office
EDP	Extended delivery point
FDP	Final delivery point
GFD	General food distribution
IT	Information technology
ITSH	Internal transport, storage and handling
LTSH	Landside transport, storage and handling
MINURSO	<i>Mission des Nations Unies pour l'organisation d'un référendum au Sahara occidental</i>
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PRRO	Protracted relief and recovery operation
SFP	Supplementary feeding programme
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

