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de Alimentos

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REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 8

For information



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PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 1999)— ALGERIA 6099.00

Assistance to Western Sahara Refugees

Number of beneficiaries	80,000
Duration of project	Twelve months (1 April 1999 to 31 March 2000)

Cost (United States dollars)

Total cost to WFP	3,349,204
Total food cost	1,596,695
Estimated total cost	16,500,000 (WFP, UNHCR, other multilateral donors, and bilateral donors)

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted for information to 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 Documentation and Meetings Clerk (tel.: 066513-2641).



1. The proposed protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) in favour of Western Sahara refugees in south-western Algeria covers the period 1 April 1999 to 31 March 2000. The Western Sahara conflict, which is at the root of the refugee problem, is in the process of settlement under the auspices of the United Nations. The United Nations–sponsored Settlement Plan envisages the repatriation of all eligible refugees and members of their families to Western Sahara and a referendum for self-determination.
2. Based on the current settlement plan, repatriation would commence in March 2000, and the referendum would take place in July 2000. In the interim, the Sahraoui refugees in Algeria will continue to rely almost totally on humanitarian assistance from the international community, including the United Nations, in view of the very harsh and hostile geophysical environment where their camps are located.
3. Food assistance is required for 80,000 beneficiaries who constitute the vulnerable group among the refugees. WFP will cover the shortfall in basic food requirements for these beneficiaries based on projected carry–overs, pipeline, and commitments from all food aid donors to the operation.
4. The main objectives of this WFP operation are to:
 - a) provide 80,000 vulnerable people among the refugee population in camps in Tindouf with the basic daily food requirements to sustain them while awaiting their repatriation, with WFP ensuring the timely delivery of basic food commodities; and
 - b) assist 11,000 anaemic women and 8,000 severely malnourished children within supplementary feeding schemes to be implemented by NGOs, through the provision of a supplementary ration of corn-soya blend.
5. WFP will also promote female participation in food management.
6. Food requirements for this PRRO are 7,661 tons, with a food cost to WFP of US\$1,596,695 and a total cost to WFP of US\$3,349,204. The cost to UNHCR for the PRRO’s duration is around US\$3.5 million.

