

Sahrawi camps (Algeria), October 13, 2022

NGOs Consortium appeals for international response to the food crisis for Sahrawi Refugees in Tindouf (Algeria).

The NGOs Consortium working in the Sahrawi refugee population camps under the harsh conditions of the Algerian desert, alerts the international community of the critical humanitarian situation nearly 180,000 people are facing due to the alarming reduction of the international aid.

With the support of international agencies and other donors, NGOs have been supporting the Sahrawi population for more than 40 years, who are completely dependent on foreign aid for their survival. This humanitarian crisis has been continuously facing funding difficulties, which now have fallen drastically by almost 20% in the first six months of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021. Additionally, inflation has risen considerably throughout the year due to the global crisis, which has impacted the purchasing power of the population and the provision of basic services by humanitarian actors, already weakened by the effects of the pandemic.

This situation is aggravating the food and health crisis, causing aid instability and, consequently, increasing the fragility of the population.

Nutrition in the camps depends on the monthly distribution of a “basic food basket” per person that has been alarmingly reduced in both quantity and variety of products in recent months. As an example, in September 2022 this distribution consisted of 1 kg of vegetables (potatoes, carrots or onions), 2 kg of flour, 2 kg of barley, 2 kg of lentils, 0,75 kg of sugar, and 0,92 l of vegetable oil, leaving out essential products that were usually distributed such as rice, gofio or pasta. Furthermore, these monthly distributions did not include any source of animal protein. It is important to point out that this basic food basket reaches only 75% of the population, even though the percentage of vulnerable people has already reached 91% of the total population.

The Saharawi Red Crescent, who oversees the food distribution in the camps, warns that only a two-month emergency stock is currently available, and is therefore stressing the urgency in responding this crisis, which could impact all sectors of humanitarian assistance.

Given this shared concern, the NGOs consortium appeals to the responsibility of the international community, and to the solidarity of civil society, to rally

the necessary support to tackle this forgotten crisis, and thus avoid irreparable damages to the Sahrawi refugee population.

The NGOs belonging to the Consortium that adhere to the present call are: Asociación de Amistad con el Pueblo Saharaui de Sevilla (AAPSS), Federació d'Associacions Catalanes Amigues del Poble Saharauí (ACAPS), Association Femmes Action Développement (AFAD), Asociación Navarra de Amigos de la RASD (ANARASD), Asociación de Trabajadores y Técnicos Sin Fronteras (ATTSF), Centro de Estudios Rurales y de Agricultura Internacional (CERAI), Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Médicos del Mundo (MDM), Medicus Mundi Mediterrània (MMmed), Mundubat, Ojos del Mundo, Solidaridad Internacional Andalucía (SI-A), Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH).

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