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Gender Analysis Report

Sahrawi Refugees, Tindouf Algeria

Sahrawi Refugee Camps, Tindouf, South Western Algeria

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Executive Summary

The WFP country office in Algeria commissioned a gender analysis of operations in Tindouf, Algeria which was undertaken in the first quarter of 2019. The analysis was designed to identify strategic and systematic measurable gender responsive actions across all operations and to contribute to the implementation of the Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) 2019-2022 over the next three years, with gender as a core element of assessment, implementation and monitoring of all programmes.

The analysis had three main objectives:

1. Gender analysis of the food security and nutritional context in which WFP Algeria's operations are carried out.
2. If WFP staff and partners in Algeria are to be in a position to provide gender-responsive assistance they need knowledge on how to apply gender in the following main areas of operations:
 - a. Nutrition and food security
 - b. Education and school feeding
 - c. Resilience and livelihoods
3. Provide recommendations that can be used to develop a Gender Action Plan to translate the ICSP commitments into concrete actions.

While much sex and age disaggregated data is available on the food security and nutrition status of Sahrawi households there are gaps in understanding who within given households are food insecure or malnourished and why they are food insecure or malnourished. Gender analysis can help close some of these gaps if questions about sex and age are used to analyse household food security issues. The report is based on face to face interviews with Sahrawi refugees, WFP staff, partners and local authorities as well as a comprehensive literature review. Findings suggest that WFP operations can improve the design, implementation and monitoring of its operations by systematically placing gender analysis at the core of all operations.

The following summary of the recommendations made to assist the country team are provided herewith: all data needs to be analysed using a gender lens for deeper understanding of individual food consumption and how that impacts women, girls, boys and men's food security and nutrition. Needs assessment and monitoring should include gender equality measures in the design, implementation and monitoring of projects. Participatory Community Targeting and Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) should be used to systematically promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

To ensure that staff are appropriately equipped to mainstream gender-responsive activities they will need support from HQ and the Regional Bureau in accessing thematic training on gender and on the job training or mentoring, so that application is accompanied by analysis, for improvement. To strengthen the Gender Results Network (GRN) the members need a clear understanding of what it means for WFP to work on gender. Part of this can be achieved through dialogue with others working on gender and in the GRN in other countries. This approach could also eventually be included as a partnership platform at the operational level to ensure that joint action is encouraged for gender equality and women's empowerment across different sectors.

1: Introduction

Rationale

WFP has committed, through its Gender Policy and other regional and country instruments, to ensuring that all of its operational activities are gender responsive and orientated towards promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in the food security and nutrition sector. Gender analysis was a core element in the formulation of the WFP Algeria Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) 2019 - 2022 and played a significant role in how analysis and presentation of findings from the 2018 Food Security Assessment were shared, with local partners, corporate stakeholders and donors. The country office commissioned this gender analysis of operations, which was undertaken in the first quarter of 2019, to enable the identification of strategic gender responsive action and ensure that gender would be systematically a core element of assessment, implementation and monitoring of all programmes.

While gender analysis and women's empowerment are not always seen to be goals in and of themselves in the food security and nutrition sector, they are essential elements in ensuring that everyone women, girls, boys and men of all ages have visibility, a voice and agency to advance their own wellbeing, that of their household and their community at large, for zero hunger.

There are, at a very minimum, two universal factors of inclusion or exclusion, visibility or invisibility, agency or lack thereof in gender analysis and these are: the sex and age of a person. The fact that you are male or female, young or old, influences how and if you are seen and can be contributing factors to your vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition. A comprehensive gender analysis requires us to understand a broad spectrum of issues that affect people's vulnerabilities and ought to include analysis of other factors, as well as sex and age, such as, the specific needs of people living with a handicap either physical or mental, as well as ethnicity, or other issues that limit or prevent people's access to services and opportunities.

The scope of this gender analysis is focussed on understanding the impact of a person's sex and age on their food security and nutrition, but where possible interviews with the Sahrawi Authorities of Social Affairs, Education and Health,

as well as with the International Committee of the Red Crescent (ICRC) included discussions on how to ensure synergies in assisting people living with handicaps within the refugee camps, especially in terms of their access to education and training and understanding the challenges faced by the people who care for them, in meeting their specific needs and accessing necessary assistance, including food.

The analysis has three main objectives:

1. Gender analysis of the food security and nutritional context in which WFP Algeria's operations are carried out.
2. If WFP staff and partners in Algeria are to be able to provide gender-responsive assistance they need knowledge on how to apply gender in the following main areas of operations:
 - a. Nutrition and food security
 - b. Education and school feeding
 - c. Resilience and livelihoods
3. Provide recommendations that can be used to develop a Gender Action Plan to translate the ICSP commitments into concrete actions.

It was deemed important also to understand where WFP can offer leadership with partners on gender issues and when WFP can depend on other partners to lead, i.e. UNHCR on protection and the Sahrawi Authority of Public Health on mainstreaming gender into the public health system, so as to ensure a common platform for coordination around gender in the coming years.

The analysis also included evaluation of the WFP Algeria Gender Results Network so as to understand how to scale up its contributions during implementation of the ICSP, as well as exploring opportunities to create a broader gender platform with partners in the future, once WFP Algeria has identified where it adds value in addressing gender inequality for zero hunger. This initial gender analysis is seen as providing the building blocks for gender responsive, and eventually gender transformative, work in future CSPs in Algeria.

Please note that the resulting analysis is the fruit of close collaboration and participation between the reporting consultant and the Algeria Country Team, the resident experts on WFP operations in-country.

Targeted Users:

The intended users of this report are: first and foremost, WFP Algeria Country office staff, where the findings and recommendations should inform decision-making. At the regional bureau (RB) and headquarters (HQ) levels, the target audience for this review includes all units working on general food distribution, school feeding programmes, nutrition, resilience and livelihoods as well as gender, protection and other people-centred initiatives. Outside WFP the target audience includes: WFP donors, UN-partners (UNHCR, UNICEF) and cooperating partner (CISP, Sahrawi and Algerian Red Crescents and NGOs such as Oxfam, Mundubat etc.).

Most importantly, Sahrawi refugees who benefit directly from WFP's assistance have a major stake in the outcome of the analysis, as WFP works to ensure more active and meaningful participation from the women, girls, boys and men refugees in Tindouf, so that assistance is appropriate, effective and leaves no one behind.

2: The Sahrawi Refugee Camp Context

Algeria has been hosting refugees from the Western Sahara since 1975. The refugee crisis of the Sahrawi people is a prolonged and forgotten one and the second oldest in the world. According to the latest refugee population figures from December 2017, the total number of refugees living in the camps is 173,600, 51 percent of whom are male and 49 percent female. Adults aged 18 to 59 (women: 44,200, men: 46,600) make up the majority of the population, followed by children aged 0 to 17 years (girls: 32,300, boys: 33,000) and older people (women: 8,700, men: 9,800)¹.

WFP's support to Sahrawi refugee women, girls, boys and men is unique, indeed the response required could be deemed an outlier in terms of how assistance is framed for the camp residents. The Tindouf camps in South Western Algeria, where the Sahrawi refugees live, differ from the majority of refugee camps globally as most affairs and camp organization is run by the refugees themselves, with little outside interference. Assistance provided is emergency assistance administered through the Sahrawi Authorities and the Sahrawi Red

¹ Sahrawi Refugees in Tindouf, Algeria: Total In-Camp Population, UNHCR 2018

Crescent but the prolonged nature of the response (over three decades) means that over the past decade responders are being impelled to adapt that response into a more resilience focussed approach.

For the past 40 years or more, the Sahrawi population living in these camps have continued to suffer from persistent levels of food insecurity and malnutrition, with high rates of anaemia, a fact that continues to be of major concern. Refugees are largely dependent on humanitarian assistance, including food assistance to cover their basic needs. WFP currently provides 125,000 monthly food entitlements for the most vulnerable refugees and in the ICSP 2019-2022 has plans to raise that number to 133, 670, adjusted upwards to reflect the findings of the 2018 Food Security Assessment and the latest refugee population figures for the five camps. The number of refugees being assisted by WFP disaggregated by sex and age are 75,847 women, and 49,153 men; the figures for girls and boys under five are 9,842 and 9,416 respectively, and those between 5 and 18 years are 26,337 and 24,311. Results from the 2018 WFP Food Security Assessment show that only 12 percent of Sahrawi households are food secure, 58 percent are vulnerable to food insecurity and 30 percent are food insecure².

There are a number of contributory factors to the persistent rates of food insecurity and malnutrition, namely: a) prolonged and necessary reliance on food assistance, which has suffered intermittent pipeline breaks over the years and limited amounts of fresh food products being distributed since 2016; b) high levels of monthly expenditure on supplementing food assistance; c) crisis coping mechanisms that include high levels of asset depletion; d) some dietary practices that are harmful³; coupled with the fact that e) the agro-ecological context in which the Sahrawi live does not favour agriculture. Furthermore, sedentary agricultural production is not part of Sahrawi culture.

The Sahrawi are a semi-nomadic people who place great value on livestock both as a source of food and as a source of wealth where the selling and buying of animals is a means of shoring up family wealth that can also provide a safety net in times of crisis. The camps are located in an arid region characterized by extreme heat and very low rainfall, where water for households and their livestock has to be trucked in for individual household consumption. UNHCR data for each of the camps show that water for household consumption and

² FSA , WFP 2018

³ For example: consumption of tea, (a central and socially important component of Sahrawi diet and tradition) during mealtimes can have a leaching effect on minerals and vitamins in food and the customary practice of fattening young teenage girls for marriage (how widespread this practice is among the Sahrawi is not known currently) compromises their future wellbeing and can potentially make them prey to diabetes and other diseases in later life.

animal feeding is on average 10 litres per person per day, that is, half of the minimum international standard⁴.

Opportunities for livelihoods and employment that offer a living wage are few and economic activities are limited for women, men and young adults of both sexes. Options available within the camps do not offer more than token payments (“incentives”) for work carried out within the administration, as well as in the field of medicine, education and social outreach. Skills building options offered to those who do not continue to third level education include dressmaking, hairdressing and cooking for women and mechanics and plumbing skills for men, as well as taxi driving between the five camps, as a means of income generation⁵. No formal banking system is in place which leaves the refugees highly dependent on humanitarian assistance, including food⁶.

3: Analysis

3.1 Gender, Food Security and Nutrition

The WFP food security assessment (FSA)⁷ for 2018 shows that 63 percent of Sahrawi households have acceptable food consumption levels. Acceptable food consumption levels are more common among households headed by men (65 percent) than those headed by women (57 percent). A greater percentage of female-headed households have inadequate food consumption (3 percent poor and 18 percent borderline) compared to male-headed households (respectively 1 percent and 16 percent). An overall total of 4 percent of households have poor food consumption and 33 percent have borderline food consumption, which indicate that 37 percent of the households have inadequate food consumption (poor and borderline). Many household diets lack diversity which has been declining over the past few years: 19 percent of households register low dietary diversity scores and 64 percent have medium scores, lack of diversity being more prevalent

⁴ UNHCR Algeria Fact Sheet, July 2018

⁵ Information obtained during the course of exchanges with the Sahrawi Ministry of Social Affairs in Rabouni, Administrative center for the Sahrawi in Tindouf, Algeria

⁶ WFP Algeria Interim Country Strategic Plan 2019 – 2022, 2019

⁷ WFP, August 2018. Food Security Assessment for Sahrawi Refugees

among households headed by women (28 percent) than those headed by men (15 percent)⁸.

The traditional diet of the Sahrawi is based primarily on meat and dairy products. Their dependence on food assistance for most of their intake has changed their eating habits, something that continues to be a struggle for them to this day, according to exchanges during the focus group discussions (FGDs). Access to and availability of fresh and iron-rich food products remain a great challenge across the five refugee camps. The lack of knowledge on good nutritional practices has an impact on levels of anaemia and malnutrition (obesity, overweight) and is likely to continue to worsen the situation⁹. There are some socio-cultural practices that are thought to contribute to the prevalence of anaemia and obesity especially among women of child-bearing age and this is the practice of fattening young teenage girls up, in preparation for marriage. Once again, there are no reliable data available currently on the extent of this practice among the Sahrawi, but it is something that could be added to future nutritional surveys, if at all possible.

Tea is a central dietary item among Sahrawi women and men. It is always taken with family and is the first thing that is offered to guests and friends alike, on arriving at someone's home. The tea consumed is offered in increments of 3 glasses, each one sweeter than the last, hence the high levels of sugar consumption noted in the FSA 2018 and the associated concerns about the leeching effect on nutrients caused by constant consumption of tea during meal times. All of the above practices are believed to contribute to the high levels of anaemia and early on-set diabetes, especially among women. In the ICSP there is a proposal for Cash Based Transfers (CBT) to distribute vouchers aimed at improving access for pregnant and nursing women to fresh food from local markets to address malnutrition and the high prevalence of anaemia, women and men will be sensitized and consulted on the benefits of the programme through participatory focus group discussions, together with health centres staff, the majority of whom are women.

While much is known about the nutritional status of Sahrawi women, the same cannot be said about Sahrawi men. Thanks to systematic and

⁸ WFP Algeria Interim Country Strategic Plan 2019 – 2022, 2019

⁹ Ibid

specific assistance provided for pregnant and nursing women there is a great deal of data on their state of wellbeing, or lack thereof. The same details are not available about men. This is a gap in knowledge that needs to be closed and merits some attention in the future, together with better understanding of the vulnerabilities for food insecurity and malnutrition linked to age. For example, there are no details provided in the literature on the food security or nutrition status of older women and men, this gap could be closed by cross-referencing existing data sets on demographics with food consumption data, food security data and coping strategies data, readily available through the 2018 FSA.

The FGDs revealed that girls and boys¹⁰ often arrive at school not having eaten since the previous evening, as breakfast is not part of the Sahrawi dietary tradition. The children receive their snack between the hours of 10.00 – 11.00 in most of the schools, when the school day begins at 9.00. Some of the children must walk for 30 minutes to an hour to reach their school and will sit in class on an empty stomach until the snack is prepared and distributed, impairing their concentration and learning abilities.

Based on findings from the school feeding review and the corporate School Feeding Strategy (currently under development) school feeding interventions with the Sahrawi could be scaled-up to close some of the nutritional gaps for girls and boys as envisioned in the ICSP. While the goal of using school feeding to help to keep boys and especially girls there, may not be a priority in the Sahrawi setting, the goal of ensuring that once the children are in school that the programme can contribute to their learning, is still of paramount importance. This goal could be achieved by avoiding hunger and enhancing cognitive abilities through access to good nutrition. Together with some changes in the food being provided by WFP, future SBCC activities outlined in the ICSP can enhance messages on good nutrition and food security not only for children, their parents and teachers, but for the community as a whole, emphasising the roles and responsibilities of everyone, including men and boys in managing household food security and nutrition for themselves and their families and aimed at contributing to social change along gender lines.

¹⁰ No specific data on the percentages of girls and boys who go without breakfast is currently available

The FDG discussions with adults and children, both male and female revealed that they would welcome more information that is specifically geared towards them, directly from WFP. WFP has been working with the Italian NGO Comitato Italiano per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP) on a series of initiatives, including school feeding, but also on a television programme called 'Cooking with Dignity' that shares recipes based on the WFP food basket and other food assistance. The programme is designed to assist families to change their dietary habits for the better. A 2014 study¹¹ showed that the programme, which is aired once a week, is mostly viewed by women, so current strategic plans, with financial backing and encouragement from WFP, are being put in place to ensure that the programme will include SBCC specific segments on nutrition, health, gender equality, geared to appeal to all segments of the populations, by sex and age.

3:2

Gender Roles & Responsibilities

Given the complexity inherent in interpreting some of the dissonance around gender equality messages being shared about the Sahrawi, in terms of women's and men's agency, it was sometimes difficult to understand the real picture. This being said, gender analysis has allowed for some light to be shed on what the situation is and opens up the space for further assessment to confirm initial findings, described herein.

The roles and responsibilities of Sahrawi women and men of all ages were analysed using the following gender analysis theoretical framework¹² aimed at understanding the triple burden of work¹³ most people are responsible for in one way or another. The analysis also affords insights into how power is manifested in gender relations, especially in decision-making and is based on the premise that we are all socialised into our gender roles, not born into them. The analysis separates women and men's productive, reproductive and community roles so that they can be analysed to yield the following information:

¹¹ Interview with CISP 23/1/19

¹² For further details please see A Guide to Gender-Analysis Frameworks, Oxfam, 1999

¹³ This triple burden of work refers to the productive, reproductive and community roles carried out by women and men within a given context/community. Productive roles: the production of goods and services for income or subsistence; Reproductive roles - encompasses the care and maintenance of the household and its members, such as cooking, washing, cleaning, nursing, bearing children and looking after them, building and maintaining shelter. It is mostly done by women: Community roles - Community Managing Role: refer to the reproductive, productive and community managing roles to ensure the provision and maintenance of scarce resources of collective consumption such as water, health care and education/Community Politics Role: Activities undertaken for organizing at the formal political level, work that may be paid for directly or result in increased power and status.

Productive Roles: Outside of the household both men and women play significant productive roles, however with little or no remuneration within the Sahrawi camps setting. Work opportunities are for the most part voluntary or a small stipend, referred to as incentives, is offered to people carrying out the following activities: authorities' employees, teachers, doctors, lawyers, pharmacy assistants, school cooks and a slew of other activities. During the course of interviews and the FGDs held with women, girls, boys and men, it was agreed that there were no obstacles to equal opportunities to fulfil these roles based on sex.

The introduction of livelihood activities by UNHCR and some INGOs, through grants to set up small businesses, especially those targeting young women and men to enhance their productive roles, have met with some degree of success. WFP activities in this area aim to provide support to male and female youths and Sahrawi women from targeted households¹⁴ through complementary activities, directly linked to increasing food security and reinforcing resilience. These include innovations such as hydroponics activities for small-scale household-level fodder production, fish farming and goat-breeding, seeking to provide Sahrawi refugees, especially women and youths with small-scale and low-tech projects that build on needs, existing skills and external expertise. These projects are designed to close the gap in food security and malnutrition and to contribute to skills building for resilience within the camps, as well as promote gender equality and women's empowerment. The activities identified aim not only to improve local food production but also to create economic opportunities through small-business initiatives that specifically target women and men. Activities are complemented by partner's initiatives aimed at creating opportunities for refugee self-reliance that has been articulated through agreements such as the Global UNHCR-WFP Joint Strategy for Refugee Self-Reliance¹⁵. Within this joint strategy WFP focusses on self-reliance/resilience activities to improve food security and nutrition in the camps, with UNHCR focussing on any other type of resilience activity, all accounting for the particular context and life-style and traditions of the Sahrawi people, who are semi-nomadic, even within the camp setting.

¹⁴ Those 11 percent of people described in Figure 3 of the most recent Food Security analysis have revealed to belong to that percentage of households that are on the cusp of being food secure. FSA, Algeria 2018

¹⁵ Global, UNHCR-WFP Joint Strategy 2016: Enhancing Self-Reliance in Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Refugee Situations, p 5

Reproductive Roles: Both a thorough literature review and exchanges with Sahrawi women and men of all ages, shows that the burden of reproductive roles (i.e. all non-paid domestic activity that contributes to a household's wellbeing and includes cooking, house repair, cleaning, washing, looking after children, the elderly and the sick) falls almost exclusively on the shoulders of women and girls. Women are the ones who decide everything when it comes to their *Khaima*, the traditional Sahrawi tent/home. Both women and men agree that the home is the exclusive preserve of women both before and since their time in the refugee camps. Women decide who does what at the household level and who eats what and while men are responsible for constructing the *Khaima*, women own the structure and are responsible for its maintenance. Some of these roles change when families spend time in the traditional pasture lands. According to the women and men encountered during the FGDs, some of the roles reverse as men are in charge of looking after the animals, including milking and they fetch water and charcoal '*dans la brousse*'. Once milking is done the women are in charge of traditional processing, a labour-intensive activity that needs to be done each day, so that the men and boys can take the resulting semi-dried milk product with them when they head out with the herd early in the morning. Sahrawi families usually spend an average of between 90 to 30 days away from the camps with their herds. This period is seen as a time of hard work but also of more freedom.

When a young couple marries, they live near the women's family home where she is expected to continue on her reproductive contributions to her family. The man is expected to continue assisting his family from afar and make financial contributions to his in-laws when needed and possible. However, lack of economic opportunities in the camps for young women and men are affecting these patterns and giving rise to increasing frustrations among the young. WFP's resilience strategy is seeking to address some of these shortfalls through its complementary activities that target these groups of young women and men, often highly educated but with no immediate prospects in the current context, which adversely affects their abilities to become self-reliant and so, food secure. Ongoing work with these groups will require further gender analysis and provides a strong entry point for WFP's work on social behaviour change communication (SBCC) to raise awareness on gender equality in the home and the work place, while also providing skills on small-business ownership and management.¹⁶ This is important in terms of reducing the drudgery of

¹⁶ For more details on these exchanges during the FGDs, please see Annex 4

housework for women and girls and in also guaranteeing that they too can actively participate in complementary activities sustainably. Learning self-reliance and improved food productions skills should contribute to moving this targeted group of women and men into food security and improve their dietary diversity.

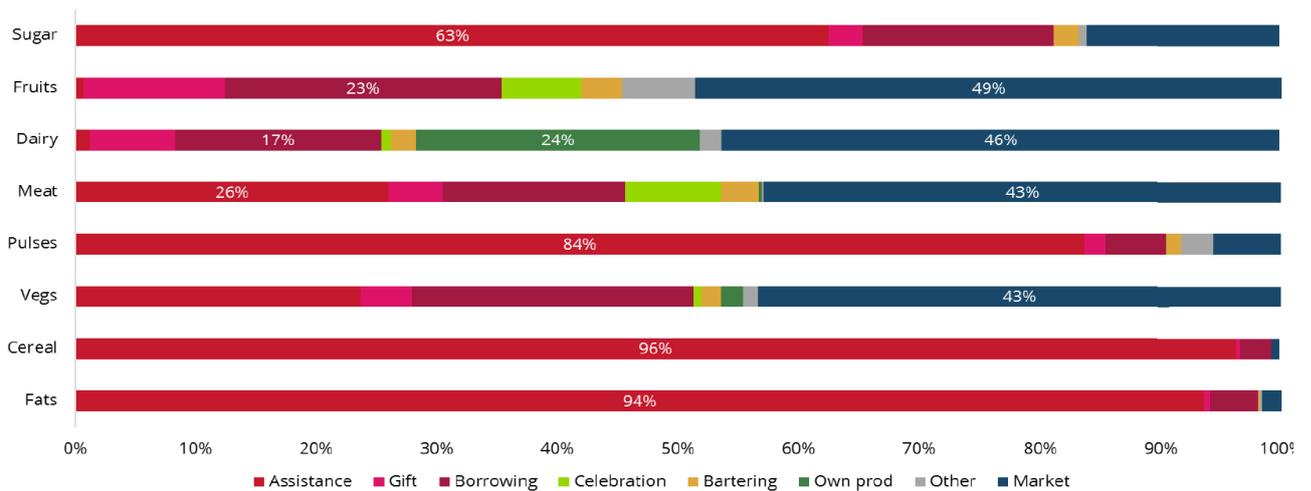
Community roles: The sense of community is the very thread which binds the Sahrawi together. Each and every member of the community male, female, old and young have a distinct and very clear understanding of their responsibilities in their community. It is almost impossible to discuss Sahrawi women's and men's community roles without a brief discussion of the politics of community. The idea that the Sahrawi are a homogenous group of men and women, working side by side for a common goal of self-determination in their homeland, is the *leitmotiv* that informs all formal dialogue around resilience, self-sufficiency, equality, assistance etc., often influencing the outcome of discussions with agencies like WFP.

When analysing community roles and responsibilities from a food security and nutrition perspective the following issues should be taken into consideration. Please note the issues mentioned below may or may not affect Sahrawi communities in the camps but merit analysis for better understanding of issues that have the potential to greatly affect household food security and nutrition.

- Sahrawi hospitality is legendary and guests, including strangers, must be made welcome and provided with food, drink and even shelter, should the need arise. This practice raises specific concerns for vulnerable households on the potential impact it may have on their household food security. In the 2018 FSA specific attention was paid to understanding how vulnerable households are often forced into selling assets, spending savings and obtaining credit. This money is often used to buy more nutritious food items such as meat, dairy products and vegetables.¹⁷
- Community events such as marriages, births and funerals can often bring expectations of in-kind contributions of food from limited food assistance stocks. This merits reflection in future gender-sensitive vulnerability assessments to understand their impact on households that are vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition.

¹⁷ FSA Sahrawi Refugees, Algeria 2018, page 30.

Figure 14 Main food sources, by food group



*Table from the 2018 WFP Food Security Assessment with the Sahrawi Refugees

3:3 Gender-based violence and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

The strong sense of community solidarity, mentioned above, also influences how gender-based violence (GBV) is dealt with, as well as potential cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) that may or may not be linked to assistance received. UN agencies and partners are committed to addressing these issues as part of their mandated roles within the humanitarian community. WFP and others work to translate commitments on Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) into concrete messages and actions (such as the establishment of complaints and feedback mechanisms, designed to also manage confidential complaints linked to potential abuse) and UNHCR together with WFP conducts an annual campaign in the camps to raise awareness on GBV within the communities. In December 2018, Oxfam successfully raised awareness on issues pertaining to GBV with their own staff and that of partners and within the Sahrawi community during the Sixteen Days of Activism to end GBV, through specific workshops. UNHCR and WFP mark the 16 days of activism jointly through awareness raising and a series of events that highlight the long-term harmful effect of GBV. But it is difficult to penetrate the veil of community solidarity to understand the extent to which GBV or SEA are prevalent in the camps and consequentially, to analyse their direct or indirect impact on food security and nutrition. This will need to be addressed during the implementation of the ICSP and discussed with other UN and non-UN entities through a potentially expanded GRN.

3:4

Resources

Gender and livestock: The Sahrawi are semi-nomadic pastoralists and as such place great importance on having herds of animals to rear as a source of income or family wealth. As stated in the ICSP, the Western Sahara people are traditionally semi-nomadic, with a diet based primarily on meat and dairy products. Indeed, when asked about food preferences everyone mentions meat (especially camel meat) and milk products, closely followed by tea as essential elements in people's daily diets. However, within the livestock sector there is usually great disparity between women and men in terms of the distribution of roles and the access/control over resources generated.

Traditionally among pastoralists the division of roles are as follows: men and boys manage the herds of camels, donkeys, sheep and goats, as well as the sale of livestock or meat at local, national level and/or international levels. Women and girls carry out the following tasks: breeding of small ruminants and poultry, providing water, fodder and care for sick animals, processing and selling milk and dairy products, dried meat, and processing hide into leather and other by-products. During exchanges with women and men in the FGDs across the five camps, many of the above roles were confirmed within the Sahrawi tradition, but would benefit from further analysis, especially in terms of decision-making around the sale of animals, the use of income for food security and other purposes.

Why is this important in connection with food security? More detailed analysis of access to resources by women and men of different ages and control over those resources would contribute to better understanding of food consumption patterns by gender and age. For example, within Sahrawi tradition is it acceptable for women and younger women and men to buy and sell large ruminants or is this considered to be the domain of men who are heads of families? Indeed, is the ability to set up a household contingent on having a herd of animals, being a certain age? This type of assessment is essential in understanding if certain groups are more vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition because of their sex and age and also in allowing programmes to tackle these issues head on through improved targeting and awareness raising in communities, to close these gaps.

Having more gender-specific information on these roles and responsibilities would help with community-based targeting for the ICSP 2019-2022 planned pilot project to improve goat breeding – the community targeting will need to ensure that the

above issues inform how the selection process is undertaken so as to fully understand who traditionally does what and what community perceptions will be about specifically targeting young men and women for inclusion in this project. The criteria for targeting young women and men for these initiatives should include objectives that highlight how important it is to offer young people the opportunity of engaging in small to medium scale enterprises that will not only improve community self-reliance but will provide them with entrepreneurial skills and will help narrow the gap on economic empowerment for young women and men.

Women are also the planned target for this initiative and that is because at the household level they are most frequently the only ones responsible for household food security. The women targeted in this instance are those whose households are on the cusp of being food secure. It is believed that with this kind of support they will successfully transition into food security. The entrepreneurial skills gained through the programme should also contribute to their economic agency and decision-making role and this should improve overall understanding of gender equality within the context of the Sahrawi refugee response.

Gender and Education: Sahrawi women and men have equal access to educational opportunities. Education is mandatory and free for girls and boys up to the age of 16 in the camps and covers primary school education and lower secondary. Those girls and boys wishing to do so, can also pursue their studies free of charge in Algerian educational institutions in the North, from secondary to tertiary levels.

Primary school teachers are for the most part women (96 percent according to the Education Authorities) and they do not receive a salary in exchange for their work, rather they are paid an incentive to continue their work in schools that are often crowded, lacking basic equipment, despite the valiant efforts of the education authorities and partners over the past few years to improve conditions and reconstruct after the devastating floods of 2015.

The Sahrawi Authorities are responsible for the educational system within the camps and are supported in this work by UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP and a number of NGOs¹⁸. Once girls and boys reach the age of 16 some have to move into the Algerian system or go abroad to continue studying as there are only three secondary schools in the camps, not enough to meet needs. This transition is linked to why many girls and boys drop out of education after the age of 14,

¹⁸ UNICEF provides capacity strengthening and infrastructure support, UNHCR incentives and NFIs and WFP a midmorning nutritious snack. Other NGO partners provide support to pre-primary schools through food assistance.

associated with fears of parents over sending their young children to parts unknown (in the past girls and boys as young as 9, went as far afield as Cuba to get an education and frequently did not get to come back and see their families until they were young adults) and also because of economic considerations. Figures provided to UNICEF from the Education Authorities for the 2018/19 school year show that there is a total of 650 dropout students from third and fourth years, 407 of whom are girls and 243 of whom are boys. For the same school year there is a total of 686 high school drop outs, 369 of whom are girls and 317 of whom are boys¹⁹. For the moment these remain numbers only, but would merit further analysis to understand what has made them drop out from school.

To close the gap for young women and men who do not attend secondary or tertiary educational institutions there are vocational training centers within the camps offering courses on mechanics and sewing for young girls and men.

3:5 Power & Participation

There is an underlying supposition in the vast majority of gender analysis frameworks that is premised on the fact that women and girls are always more vulnerable to food insecurity and other factors, which indeed is most often the case. However, in conducting a gender analysis with the Sahrawi this premise is tested as it comes into sharp juxtaposition with how the Sahrawi perceive gender equality within their camp communities. In all exchanges with the Sahrawi, both male and female women's agency is seen as an established fact and it is accepted that women hold considerable sway politically as well as within their households.

Women and girls are traditionally influential in Sahrawi society and hold important decision-making roles at both the household and community level, a fact which is repeatedly communicated by the Sahrawi refugee leadership. From 1975 – 1991 with men fighting at the front, women were almost exclusively responsible for establishing and running the camps. In this role they were instrumental in setting up schools, hospitals and providing the necessary personnel to run these institutions. This fact reinforces the central role that women continue to play in camp administration. However, while political representation in the Sahrawi society was not the main focus of this assessment it behoves us to understand the important weight of having political representation by all, and among the Sahrawi, men still dominate the political arena.

¹⁹ Data provided by UNICEF and the Ministry of Education, communicated by e-mail 4/3/19

Women continue to play a central role in household food management, whereby in the camps, access to and control over food is attributed to women. In most households, food-related decisions are made by women, and the percentage of households where decisions are made exclusively by men has decreased since 2017²⁰. Women are also actively involved in food distribution processes as food distribution committee leaders. They were responsible for coordinating the distribution of rations, in addition to managing the dispatch and delivery of food at final distribution points to all targeted households. These distribution committee leaders are known as *Jefe de Barrios* (neighbourhood leaders) and are all women, numbering 116 in total, across all five camps (WFP works directly with them, through the Sahrawi Red Crescent), they are charged with managing all assistance both food and non-food items. Therefore, women hold great sway when it comes to decisions about the distribution of assistance, which 94 percent of the camp population report as being their main source of income²¹.

This perception of women's decision-making power merits a second look, when compared to women's actual representation at the political level within the Sahrawi Authorities hierarchy. For instance, out of 19 Authorities/Institutions only two are headed by women and there is only a 12 percent representation of women in parliament. This raises questions about political voice through political representation which is a basic tenet of understanding if people within a given society enjoy gender equality. This is something that can be further analysed from a women's empowerment perspective during implementation of the ICSP over the next few years and can be specifically addressed through the proposed Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) approach envisaged under each of the proposed activities. Especially those activities to be undertaken with the *Jefe de Barrios*, who will be targeted directly by WFP, through its community-targeting initiatives.

Within the Sahrawi political arena there are other entities that work directly with women and youths, one such entity is the National Union of Sahrawi Women (Spanish: *Unión Nacional de Mujeres Saharauias*, UNMS), the women's wing of the Polisario Front, created in 1974, with an estimated 10,000 members currently²². The organization is mostly active in the Sahrawi refugee camps in Tindouf, Algeria, where it is a powerful force within the Polisario. It is

²⁰ WFP SPR 2017

²¹ FSA, WFP 2018

²² Wikipedia site visited 3/319

internationally active in organizing support for Sahrawi women and the Sahrawi cause and campaigns for women's rights within the community and in political decision-making. The UNMS seeks primarily to:

- Sensitize Saharawi women about their role in the struggle for the liberation and independence of the Western Sahara.
- Orient women in social and political fields to improve their level of education and training (literacy campaigns, scholastic and professional training, political seminars, etc.).
- Raise awareness among women about their social and political rights.

During this gender analysis an interview was held with the UNMS person in charge of social issues and women's development who described some of the initiatives being undertaken with Sahrawi women in the camp through the UNMS. They work with groups of women to teach them management skills for income generating activities ranging from hairdressing to setting up retail outlets within the camps, using a cooperative model approach. They are instrumental in assisting women in accessing loans to set up income generating activities, the objective being to encourage women's economic self-reliance. Within the educational system and in the promotion of food security they are involved in raising awareness on food safety issues. While WFP does not currently have much direct contact with the UNMS, this is a potential partnership from within the camps that could assist the Organization in refining its knowledge on gender equality and women's empowerment among the Sahrawi in a holistic manner that encompasses zero hunger goals.

There is also a political entity that represents the interests of young women and men among the Sahrawi refugees and that entity is the Sahrawi Youth Union, also known as UJSARIO²³ (its Spanish abbreviation for *Unión de la Juventud de SAgua el Hamra y Rlo de Oro*), the youth organization of the Polisario Front founded in 1984, which organises youth and students within the Sahrawi community. It campaigns for a free Western Sahara, and tries to organize international youth exchanges and opportunities for refugee Sahrawis to study abroad. While its mandate is mostly political in defence of Sahrawi self-governance, it also promotes education and training for young people to ensure that they are equipped with the skills to contribute

²³ Wikipedia site visited 3/319

economically and politically to Sahrawi society. Dialogue between the UJSARIO and WFP in connection with the complementary activities described in the ICSP could reveal potential synergies and help reach a broader audience for the SBCC gender, nutrition and food security messages across a broad spectrum of sectors that include health, nutrition, education and agriculture.

4: Challenges & Opportunities for Gender Equality

There are many opportunities for WFP Algeria to enhance the work it is already doing to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the Sahrawi refugee camps. There remain some challenges too that directly and indirectly are governed by gender inequality issues.

Opportunities:

1. WFP's core commitment to gender equality and how that has been translated through the ICSP.
2. Sahrawi refugees' willingness not only to engage in dialogue on gender equality but their conviction that theirs is a society where women and men enjoy the same rights, opportunities and responsibilities – there is room to broaden the dialogue through SBCC to address socio-economic agency, household division of labour and food consumption and utilization, using a gender lens.
3. The Sahrawi authorities has shown increasing interest in complementary livelihood activities: Education authorities agree with looking at school feeding through a nutrition sensitive lens; and the Sahrawi Public Health Authorities have developed a 2016-2020 Strategic Health Plan based on the 2016 Nutrition Survey, as well as a Gender and Health Action plan 2018 -2022, to mainstream gender in the health sector.
4. WFP Algeria has an asset in its keen and intelligent staff who are willing to learn more about gender equality and how it can improve results from ongoing and future operations.
5. WFP already collaborates closely with UNICEF, UNHCR and Oxfam on gender issues especially those concerning GBV and AAP and this

collaboration can be strengthened, especially as there seems to be an upsurge of work on gender among those agencies currently.

Challenges:

There are two major challenges:

6. The very conviction shared by Sahrawi women and men that their society is free of gender inequalities could continue to prove a challenge, but building evidence, with their participation, should help to overcome this obstacle.
7. While staff is very willing, indeed eager to tackle gender mainstreaming, there is still some way to go to make sure that they are equipped with the knowledge and tools to move from the theory to the practice of gender responsive activities and further steps need to be taken to ensure that partners are on the same page.

Recommendation below seek to reduce these challenges and scale up the opportunities identified.

5: Recommendations

The following recommendations are directly linked to activities described in the ICSP and are designed to be practical in their application. At first glance they may appear somewhat modest, but they are aligned with the purpose of an interim CSP, to understand the issues that need to be tackled for zero hunger and creating the enabling environment to address them internally, externally and operationally.

Recommendations are divided into three groups, the first concerning recommendations for gender mainstreaming in operations, the second on building internal know-how for WFP staff in Tindouf and Algiers and the third concerning scaling-up partnerships with others to promote a common and shared approach to gender responsive operations and responses.

Operations:

1. WFP already have much of the needed information disaggregated by sex and age in data sets, but this data needs to be analysed using a gender lens to provide a deeper understanding of individual food consumption and how that impacts food security and nutrition. How the different roles and behaviour expected from women and men can influence access to assistance.
2. Questionnaires for needs assessment/monitoring need to be reviewed so that they include gender equality measures in the design, implementation and monitoring of projects. For example, some questions could be included that would assist in completing the monitoring part of the WFP corporate gender marker. This may assist in understanding if the sex and age of people has an impact on their food consumption at the household level. It would also help to improve targeting for WFP and partners as more granular information is made available on who is most vulnerable and why.
3. The use of Participatory Community Targeting and SBCC that are planned for in the ICSP should be used to systematically promote gender equality and women's empowerment as well as ensure community participation that seeks active participation from all targeted people, by sex and age.
4. WFP's nutrition work can be used to ensure that men's roles and responsibilities are clearly communicated and that everyone has basic knowledge on nutrition and gender.
5. Understanding and using the WFP Gender and Age Marker (GaM) throughout the process of programme implementation will help staff to monitor progress in making all operations gender-responsive and advance gender equality as well as women and men's participation in all activities. The ICSP shows itself to be aligned with the design phase of the WFP corporate GaM, therefore monitoring of implementation from a gender perspective will be greatly enhanced if the monitoring phase of the GaM is used to gather, analyse and use gender-sensitive information that seeks to survey the levels of satisfaction of the target group(s) by sex and age. For example, qualitative information that shows if targeted people received the assistance they need, if they are satisfied with the assistance and the way that it is delivered, and if they are equitably satisfied (women vs men and girls vs boys). These measures will increase participation from women and men beneficiaries as well as improve impact.

Human Resources:

The most precious asset that WFP has in Algeria, to advance gender responsive operations, is its staff on the ground

1. HQ and the Regional Bureau should support training on gender, not simply workshops but on-the-job training or mentoring so that application is accompanied by analysis for improvement. Including on WFP's commitment to Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV).
2. Every effort should also be made to include the drivers working in Tindouf in awareness raising and information gathering as they have insights and contacts within the camps that others do not. They are already well informed and are willing to contribute in an official capacity, which needs to be formalised in some way through the gender action plan.
3. A list of gender-based training on assessment, monitoring and reporting in the region should be drawn up and assessed for the potential to have WFP staff attend. These training events do not necessarily need to be run by WFP, other agencies and NGOs organise this type of training, so WFP Algeria could negotiate one or two places for its own staff, funding permitting.
4. To strengthen the Gender Results Network (GRN) the members should take the time to develop a clear understanding on what it means for WFP to work on gender. Part of this can be achieved through dialogue with others working on gender and in the GRN in other countries – potentially through an informal gender Facebook group addressing issues to do with protracted crisis, looking to other GRNs to find examples of those that are making a difference.
5. This informal gender group could also eventually be included as a partnership platform at the operational level to ensure that joint action is encouraged for gender equality and women's empowerment across different sectors.

Partnerships:

Once the GRN has a clear picture of what WFP can do to advance gender equality in all of its operations, discussions can ensue on how to strengthen

those partnerships that exist already and how to seek new ones to advance gender goals. Partnerships could identify joint actions for implementation above and beyond food distributions and could include water and sanitation, as well as nutrition and complementary activities, with gender goals as core elements in measuring impact and success.

Financial Resources:

Depending on which recommendations are prioritized and translated into action during implementation of the ICSP, a budget revision to reflect costs will be required. Current funding for gender activities in the ICSP represent less than five percent of the overall budget for the next three years. This will require fine tuning during implementation and perhaps an overall increase for all gender-responsive activities that should be reflected in the gender action plan. For further details on the gender budget, please refer to the Algeria ICSP.

List of Acronyms:

| | |
|--------|--|
| AAP | Accountability to Affected Populations |
| CBT | Cash-based transfer |
| CISP | Comitato Italiano per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (NGO) |
| FGD | Focus Group Discussion |
| GBV | Gender Based Violence |
| HGSF | Home-grown school feeding |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| ICRC | International Committee of the Red Cross |
| ICSP | Interim Country Strategic Plan |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commission for Refugees |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |

6: Annexes

ANNEX 1:

| Date | Time | Person/Group/place | Purpose of meeting |
|---------|--------------------------|---|--|
| 15/1/19 | 14.00 | GRN Algiers Office | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To speak to Algiers colleagues about their role and that of their office on establishing the network and rendering visible WFP's work on gender in humanitarian response. Teleconference with Tindouf (Gabenaha) |
| | 19.30 | Flight to Tindouf | |
| 16/1/19 | 09.45 Rest of the day | Security Briefing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDSS Briefing on the GRN, work with the Sahrawi and looking at the plan for the mission |
| | | Introduction to staff | |
| 17/1/19 | 8.30 – 18.00 | Individual meeting with WFP staff Tindouf | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review continued One on one meetings to understand scope of WFP work Review of the Gender feedback for the ICSP Initial meeting with UNICEF on SBCC and C4D synergies |

| | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff meeting to discuss the scope of the gender analysis and who does what. |
| 18 – 19 | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review continued over the weekend |
| 20/1/19 | 8.00 18.00 | WFP Tindouf | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting of questionnaires for the FGDs with the concerned individuals Incorporation of gender comments into the ICSP Meeting with DCD and GRN and monitors to plan the field visits and visits with partners for the coming week |
| 21/1/19 | 8.30 – 16.30 | Rabouni Tindouf | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with SRC – Mr. Bouhabini to get the green light Meeting with Oxfam |
| 22/1/19 | 8.30 – 15.00 15.00 – 16.30 | UNHCR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalization of questionnaires and review with monitoring officers for FGDs Finalization of field visits planning for logistics etc. Meeting with Alex G to discuss details of mission and complementarities with UNHCR Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) work. Review of AGD work |
| 23/1/19 | 8.30 – 12.30 | Rabouni | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FSM monthly meeting Meeting with CISP to discuss the TV cooking programme they transmit on Sahrawi TV. Meeting with the Ministry of Social Affairs Second meeting with CISP about school feeding |
| 24/1/19 | | Tindouf | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and preparation of field visits finalized for Sunday and Monday |
| 25 – 26/1 | | Tindouf | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk review of documents and drafting of report |
| 27/1/19 | 8.00 – 19.00 | Dakhla Camp | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FDGs with girls and boys – on School Feeding and nutrition |
| 28/1/19 | 8.30- 12.30 13.00 – 18.30 | Bujour Camp Tindouf | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FDGs with girls and boys – on School Feeding and nutrition Review of materials and planning of meetings with partners and community members |
| 29/1/19 | 14.00 15.30 | ICRC – their office UNICEF -WFP office | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To discuss a system-wide gender network and other issues on promoting gender equality and equity.... |

| | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|
| 30/1/19 | 10.00 – 11.15 12.30 – 13.30 14.00 – 15.30 | Ministry of Education National Union of Sahrawi Women Ministry of Health Rabuni | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To discuss the School Feeding programme and gender issues in education including pupils and teachers. To discuss how they assist Sahrawi women and what their objectives are. To discuss implementation of their Gender Strategy and where they might see synergies with WFP's work on food security and nutrition |
| 31/1/19 | 8.30 – 12.30 13.30 – 18.30 | FGD in Boujour WFP Tindouf | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with a group of women and men to discuss issues around complementary activities and poverty or wealth of time to undertake these activities Roles and responsibilities of women and men for unpaid work. Options for employment open to women and men? Review of materials from NGO counterparts on divorce etc... |
| 1/1/19 | 13.00 – 17.00 | WFP Tindouf | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on mapping exercise of partners Review of GRN ToRs and Gender Action Plan |
| 2/1/19 | 8.30 – 12.30 | Smara Camp | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with a group of women and men to discuss issues around complementary activities and poverty or wealth of time to undertake these activities Roles and responsibilities of women and men for unpaid work. Options for employment open to women and men? |
| 3/2/19 | 8.30 – 12.30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laayoune Camp Gabanaha, ElMahadi and Wafaa | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with a group of women and of men to discuss issues around food security and nutrition. Review the GRN ToRs Review Country Gender Action Plan Discuss mapping partners in Tindouf and Algiers who can be included in our gender work. |
| 4/2/19 | 8.30 – 12.30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awserd Camp | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with a group of women and of men to discuss issues around food security and nutrition. |
| 5/2/19 | 8.30 – 12.00 | Rabuni | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ARC: 10h00 Oxfam: 11h00 |

| | | | |
|--------|--|---|--|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MUNDUBAT: 12h00 • Debriefing session with all Tindouf Staff |
| 6/2/19 | | Tindouf | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of debriefing content for the session with Algiers CO staff • Teleconference with Barbara from UNHCR • Drafting of report |
| 7/2/19 | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Departure for Algiers 2. Meeting in CO Algiers' office 3. Rome | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return to Algiers • Debriefing with Algiers staff • Return to Rome |

ANNEX 2



Camps covered: Laayoune, Bujdour, Awserd, Smara, Dakhla
 Number of FGD's conducted: 6
 Number of participants: 44



Women participants: 44 (52%)
 Men participants: 8 (9%)
 Girls Participants: 17 (20%)
 Boys Participants: 16 (19%)

Please note that the information presented below is a collated document based on the information gleaned during the course of the FDGS with Sahrawi women, girls, boys and men.

FGD School Feeding

1. **What do like about going to school? (friends, learning, the food you eat etc.):**
 Most of the kids like learning first and foremost and playing with friends.
2. **What do you like to eat?**
 Children voiced a preference for eating eggs, cheese, milk, dates, lentils, beans and tortillas.
3. **What food do you think gives you energy (to play, to study, to help your mother and father at home)?**
 Orange Juice, eggs, rice with fish, HEB, DSM.
4. **What do you know about the food you get at school?**
 The children know that the HEB and DSM are rich in vitamins, Iron and Calcium to help them being active and concentrated.
5. **Does everyone eat the food you get at school?**

Children confirmed that they all eat the HEB and DSM.

6. Do you like what you get at school?

All the answers provided were similar, yes, we like what we get at school however we need some diversification, they affirmed being bored of eating same school snack every day.

7. Do you learn about nutrition in the classroom?

Yes, such as the necessity of drinking a lot of water during the day, not eating too sweet or too salty food, and the benefits of a diversified diet rich in fruits and vegetables

8. Would you like to learn more/something about the food you eat? / What would you like to know about the food you eat (at home and at school)?

All of the children interviewed showed interest in having more information about the food they eat- essentially more information on the benefits of the vitamins contained therein, and on understanding what makes a healthy diet.

9. Do you know what food helps to make you and your family healthy?

Fruits (lemons, oranges) vegetables (onions, potatoes, carrots) eggs, milk, lentils, white beans, rice and fish.

10. Do you know who gives the food to you and your friends at school?

The kids do not know who is providing food to the Sahrawi refugees.

11. What would you like to be/do when you leave school?

The answers were very interesting showing that children have big dreams despite the hard conditions they're living in, they want to be, scientists, Journalists, sport educators, doctors, musicians, architects, soldiers, and the best for the last, one of the girls in Bujdur wants to be the president!

Complementary Activities

1. In your home who does what? Everyone has responsibilities cleaning, cooking, collecting water, brings the children to school, who collects them etc.? :

Women take care of everything in the Khaima, cooking, collecting water, bring children from school, etc.

2. If someone is sick, who looks after them?

The women are expected to always be in a good health, if she ever falls sick her eldest daughter will take care of her and of the house if she doesn't have a daughter her neighbour or a woman from her family will come to help.

3. Can you describe a typical day in your life when you are at home here in Smara?:

We wake up early in the morning to prepare the breakfast, prepare the kids to go to school, then we start our daily tasks, cleaning cooking. etc. just a normal routine, as we live in the desert we don't have much to do

4. Can you describe a typical day in your life when you are out in the desert (Badia)? When you are at home in the camp?

What is different there compared to when you are in the camp? When we are in the desert some things change, for example man will take care of cooking and preparing tea, we share the tasks, and everyone contribute these are vacations for us as women. The traditional processing of milk is very time consuming but it is a central part of our traditions. When we are in the 'Brousse' we feel like we have more freedom. It is harder as we do not have access to electricity but it is worth it for the sense of freedom.

5. Ask the women/men: If you were a woman/man what profession would you like to have? Why?

As women in the Sahrawi community we are equal to men, we can do same jobs men do, women in our community are mechanics, they join the national army, they work in the police... etc. As men we think women can do all jobs but the household is their territory and they look after the family and its needs. Young men are involved in the ceremony of tea making and we often prepare tea for our family and friends.

6. Are there jobs you think men are better suited to? Why?

Taxi drivers, trading, as there are more men than women joining the national army, however it doesn't mean that women are not allowed, it is just a question of personal choice.

7. Are there jobs you think women are better suited to? Why?

Teaching, head of camps/barrio/ दौरا, representatives, but the main issue is that when a woman has the above jobs, she has more time to take care of her family and especially her children in comparison to a woman working in the army or police etc.

Nutrition and Food Security

1. Do you know WFP and the role of WFP?

Almost 99% of the beneficiaries do not know what WFP is nor its role in the Sahrawi refugee camps.

2. Within your community/household are there certain foods that are eaten only by certain people?

Everybody in the HH eat all the available food, because we are refugees and most of the time, we do not have other choice apart from the food assistance we receive from WFP and other NGOs and agencies.

3. Do different people eat different things if they are baby girls/ boys, young girls/boys, young adult women/men, pregnant women/breastfeeding women/older women/men, women and/or men or children living with an illness/chronic condition

We usually eat all the same food, unless if someone is sick, PLWs in the HH are mostly given a larger amount of foods to help support them. Some of families have children who are celiac, these Children cannot eat the same food as other members of their family.

4. **Why do you think that WFP distributes certain kinds of food in general? / Do you know why WFP provides certain kinds of food to specific groups?**

Because some children are suffering from malnutrition and anaemia and they need special assistance.

5. **How do you get information on food that you receive?**

Through the WSRC representatives in the camps, and sometimes through the TV show (Haha).

6. **How do you receive messages on the nutritional value of food distributed and consumed at the community/household level?**

Rarely through sensitization sessions in the camps, however we don't receive enough information and we would like to know more.

7. **If you were wanted to share information with different people on: a) food distribution, b) nutrition, c) good nutrition and hygiene and share recipes for meals, what should that information be for women/girls/boys and men.**

The women and men interviewed said that they would not know how to design these specific messages and that they need ideas and guidance from us.

8. **What is the best way to share that information also? TV, radio, you tube etc.**

The best way to share the information is through continuous sensitization sessions, but also radio and TV, two people even proposed distributing flyers for example after sensitization sessions to be given to those who could not make part.

ANNEX 3

TORs

Purpose:

To support the iCSP development process, WFP is seeking a gender specialist to undertake a comprehensive and participatory gender analysis in the context of food security and nutrition, from individual to institutional level, in the five Sahrawi refugee camps. The research will assess whether or not, and if so, the extent to which persisting and emerging gender inequalities hinder food security and nutrition for women, men, girls and boys. The analysis will also inform the development of a strategic plan designed to address the gender inequalities is key to achieving SDG 2 and meeting the Zero Hunger Challenge.

Description of assignment:

Aligned to the WFP Gender Policy (2015-2020) and the Gender Analysis section of the WFP Gender Toolkit, the key tasks of the assignment are to:

- undertake a participatory and comprehensive gender analysis, incorporating intersectionality with age, wealth/poverty, education and disability, of the food security and nutrition situation in the Sahrawi refugee camps near Tindouf, with regards to the targets of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 and, in reference to the targets of SDG 5
- collect, collate and present qualitative information, sex- and age-disaggregated data and analysis on the impact of gender inequalities on food security and nutrition
- determine the extent and nature of progress achieved, in relation to normative frameworks programmes, institutional capacities and resource flows aimed at improving food security and nutrition, for the diverse women, men, girls and boys; articulating gains and gaps; and
- list actions that will be required to advance gender equality and so accelerate progress toward zero hunger; indicating requirements for implementation (stakeholders; WFP entities; human, technical, technological and financial resources).

Activities include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- develop the research methodology, analytical framework and the report outline
- conduct a mapping exercise to identify relevant stakeholders to inform the analysis; and to guide possible strategic and operational partnerships in Gender specific/sensitive programming and implementation at wilaya (camp) and barrio (neighbourhood) levels
- conduct a desk review, ensuring examination of all relevant documents – reports, studies, statistics etc. – on food security, nutrition and gender, with attention to food production, marketing, distribution and consumption and food availability, access, utilization and stability, considering the dependency on food assistance
- conduct field visits to ensure inclusive consultations, carrying out focus group discussion, key informant interviews and observations, actively involving women and men, and girls and boys as relevant in the data and information gathering process
- submit a draft report
- review and incorporate comments, and submit a revised version of the report

- produce a final report that identifies existing gender gaps in current policies and practices related to food security and nutrition and to food availability, access, utilization and stability for women, men, girls and boys; and provides recommendations for targeted policy and programmatic actions, along with the need for further research and knowledge generation, with a view to develop and strengthen WFP gender-transformative approach to food security and nutrition in the five Sahrawi refugee camps near Tindouf.

Output and deliverables:

The final output should be a concise, but comprehensive, analytical report, that is well-structured, **written in English**, unless agreed otherwise, and directly supports both the development of the Algeria iCSP and implementation of the WFP Gender Policy. Description of the research methodology, analytical tools, list of documents reviewed, list of persons consulted, and stakeholder mapping should be annexed to the report.

ANNEX 4

Mapping WFP Partnerships

WFP has been working with the Sahrawi refugees since 1986 and has been a strategic and trusted partner of the Algerian Government, the Sahrawi Refugees Authorities, donors and other sectoral actors, when assisting crisis-affected and food insecure refugees and in mitigating the worst effects of food insecurity and malnutrition through school feeding, general food distribution, nutrition-sensitive initiatives with pregnant and nursing mothers, as well as children under five.

WFP also has a trusted and impeccable track record in providing technical expertise on gender-sensitive school meals programmes, nutrition, resilience strengthening and sustainable livelihoods support, social safety nets and emergency food assistance. Evaluations and dialogue with partners, as well as grassroots organizations shows that WFP adds value in:

1. Being the partner of choice as an active participant in multisectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination systems and platforms in the food security and nutrition sector.

2. Its role as a global leader in school meals programming based on lessons learnt and good practices for better nutrition and equitable access to primary education completion for girls and boys.
3. Logistical capacity and support in emergency response and beyond.
4. The Organization's ability to target the most vulnerable populations by sex and age, through its vulnerability assessments and its field presence and to provide tailored responses to their specific needs.

Partnerships for Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment – an overview

Current Partnerships

| Partner | Activity |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Sahrawi Refugees Authorities | |
| Education Authority | School Feeding and SBCC for nutrition |
| Health | Nutrition and SBCC for nutrition |
| Social Affairs Authority | Activities with women - Gender |
| Economic Development Authority | Livelihood complementary activities |
| Donors | |
| Andorra | Complementary activities |
| Brazil | General Food Assistance |
| European Commission (ECHO) | General Food Assistance |
| Germany | General Food Assistance, school feeding |
| Italy | Nutrition, school feeding |
| Saudi Arabia | General Food Assistance (in-kind dates) |
| Spain (AECID and Spanish regions) | General Food Assistance, Nutrition |
| Switzerland | School feeding |
| USA | |

| | |
|--|--|
| USAID Food For Peace (FFP) Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM) | Nutrition (CBT pilot) Complementary activities |
| UN Agencies | |
| UNHCR | General food and NFI distribution; school feeding (NFI requirements); nutrition, gender, age and diversity assessments and GBV awareness campaigns; protection |
| UNICEF | Public Health and school feeding, SBCC for school going girls and boys and their parents |
| NGOs | |
| Sahrawi Red Crescent | All WFP camp related operations |
| Algerian Red Crescent | All food distributions related matters, Nutrition |
| Spanish Red Cross | Distribution of fresh food + co-management of pre-positioned food stocks (dry food basket) |
| CISP | Third-Party Monitoring (General Food assistance, school feeding programme), TV cooking show, Rehabilitation of school infrastructure |
| MPDL, HI, ICRC | Provide legal aid to targeted vulnerable groups including women and children, and provide support to community efforts to manage SGBV |
| Mundubat | School feeding in kindergartens |
| Oxfam | distribution of fresh food, hydroponics and gender |
| Triangle Generation Humanitaire (TGH) | Distribution of Hygiene Products, Fish Farming |

Partner Landscape and Profiles:

Sahrawi Refugee Authorities

Partnership with the Sahrawi authorities is the lynch-pin for WFP's ongoing activities in Tindouf. Currently, WFP maintains a strong partnership with the Education and Health Authorities. It plans to strengthen these partnerships further during the implementation of the ICSP 2019-2022. WFP will strengthen coordination with the Agriculture Authority, linked to its complementary activities and will forge stronger coordination with the Social Affairs Authority for its gender and community outreach work. WFP has an important role in creating the enabling environment for inter-ministerial dialogue and action, together with sister agencies from the UN system that promotes multi-sectoral livelihoods and nutrition programmes that address social and economic issues together.

Since the 1980s WFP has consistently collected, analysed and reported sex and age disaggregated data on its assistance to the Sahrawi, as well as providing updates on challenges and issues through its vulnerability mapping. Dialogue about gender issues have not always been systematically addressed so there is room for improvement that can be addressed throughout the implementation of the ICSP and through partnerships with the Sahrawi authorities.

UN partners

Other UN system organizations are partners with WFP in contributing significantly to the achievement of common gender goals and objectives, especially UNHCR on all aspects of operations that can achieve mutual gender-equality and gender-responsive goals. WFP is planning to consolidate its ongoing work with UNICEF on nutrition and school feeding from a gender perspective and is in dialogue about potential joint initiatives on SBBC (UNICEF has a communications programme called Communications for Development (C4D) which it uses to communicate with beneficiaries on social, gender and nutritional issues). At the Algiers level, some UN Country Team initiatives on gender could be analysed in terms of operations in Tindouf with the Sahrawi and in terms of the work that WFP wishes to undertake with the Government of Algeria on achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 and communicated through the GRN and shared with partners. These partnerships could include

UN agencies that are physically present in the country and those who have a regional representation.

Civil Society/NGOs

WFP maintains a strong working relationship with local NGOs as these organizations support the implementation of WFP's food distribution, nutrition, school feeding and livelihood activities, as well as its social behaviour change communication approach. This partnership is strong thanks to the field presence of these NGOs and their mandate to provide capacity strengthening in social behaviour change communication for good nutrition and food security, training and small-business management skills. WFP works closely with civil society through technical support to school feeding initiatives, complementary activities and nutrition work. Currently WFP's main NGO partners are Oxfam, CISP and Mundubat, Civil society partners are the Sahrawi and Algerian Red Crescents and the Spanish Red Cross.

Because of its commitment to doing no harm WFP also mainstreams issues such as accountability to affected populations (AAP) that includes the establishment of feedback and complaints mechanisms designed to monitor any form of abuse that may be directly linked to WFP assistance. Part of the commitment to AAP requires the Organization to hold itself and its partners accountable for any sexual exploitation and abuse that may arise out of its assistance. This is an area where WFP will need to design and deliver awareness-raising with these and other partners so that everyone knows what AAP means and what the consequences are for failing to protect women, girls, boys and men beneficiaries from harm.

WFP should continue to ensure that assistance provided to these groups also promotes gender equality and women's empowerment.

WFP will also need to ensure that its commitment to the core issues of gender equality, protection and community participation are translated into measurable actions through its work with NGOs and civil society so that interaction with the communities is based on a partnership of mutual respect and support.

Future opportunities

ICRC: ICRC provides physical rehabilitation services to the Sahrawi and while they do not have direct goals linked to gender equality, they guarantee service to all people living with a handicap without discrimination. ICRC says one of the barriers to having Sahrawi women avail of their services is the fact that they do not wish to be examined by male staff, so they have to ensure that staffing takes this into account. ICRC not only provide assistance (through the provision of prosthetic limbs and corrective surgery for permanent and temporary handicaps) to women, girls, boys and men living with a handicap, but, where possible, provide an occupation for handicapped members of the Sahrawi community (they currently have 9 Sahrawi volunteers: 6 women and 3 young men). There is potential for WFP to work closely with ICRC and the Ministry of Social Affairs on understanding the vulnerabilities of families with handicapped children or adults, especially when it comes to accessing food and other types of assistance, as they may not be able to easily access distribution points within their own camps. The 3rd of December every year marks the International day of Handicapped people, WFP could perhaps coordinate some joint messaging with ICRC designed to reach people living with handicaps and their families, on their food and nutrition services the Organization provides.

National Union of Sahrawi Women (UNMS): WFP does not currently have close ties with the UNMS, but, because of its social outreach programmes, WFP might engage in dialogue with the UNMS to see where there are complementarities in social protections approaches with Sahrawi women in the camp. The union works with groups of women to teach them management skills of cooperatives for income generating activities ranging from hairdressing to setting up retail outlets within the camps. They are instrumental in assisting women in accessing loans to set up these income generating activities, the objective being to encourage women's economic self-reliance. WFP might explore this potential partnership from within the camps, as it could assist the Organization in refining its knowledge on gender equality and women's empowerment among the Sahrawi.

Sahrawi Youth Union: A similar opportunity might be offered through partnership with the Sahrawi Youth Union, also known as UJSARIO²⁴ (its Spanish abbreviation for *Unión de la Juventud de SAgua el Hamra y Rlo de Oro*), the youth organization of the Polisario Front founded

²⁴ Wikipedia site visited 3/319

in 1984 and which organises youth and students within the Sahrawi community. While its mandate is mostly political it also promotes education and training for young people to ensure that they are equipped with the skills to contribute economically and politically to Sahrawi society. Future dialogue between the UJSARIO and WFP in connection with the complementary activities described in the ICSP could reveal potential synergies and help reach a broader audience for the SBCC gender, nutrition and food security messages across a broad spectrum of sectors that include health, nutrition, education and agriculture.

Academia

WFP does not currently partner with any academic institutions in Algeria, however, for research and advocacy purposes potential partnerships should be further explored, as described in the ICSP. The increased focus on strengthening food systems requires partnerships with national universities to lead research on the gender aspects of food assistance in the unique setting of the Sahrawi refugee response. The main goal would be to improve local, national and regional knowledge on the gendered nature of food security and nutrition within the specific context of the Sahrawi refugee camps. This should contribute to an organic system of knowledge sharing on achieving Zero Hunger that is national, regional and global.

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