

EN
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Answer given by Mr Stylianides
on behalf of the European Commission
(2.7.2019)

The Commission is fully aware of the outcomes of the 2018 census conducted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the Sahrawi refugee population living in Tindouf as well as the dialogue that followed it. The UNHCR is now conducting a vulnerability assessment of the population. The Food Security Assessment (FSA)¹ conducted by the World Food Programme (WFP) in 2018 shows that 63% of households have an acceptable food consumption, while 30% of the population is food insecure. Crossing the two data sets (UNHCR refugee population census and WFP FSA²), it is estimated that there are 52 080 food insecure people in the camps.

The Commission provides humanitarian aid solely based on needs, not on status. Hence, the main beneficiaries among the Sahrawi population living in the refugee camps are people that are food insecure, people without safe access to water or lifesaving medicines, children and disabled people.

The European Union is already using its external instruments to help the refugees living in Tindouf. In 2018, the Instrument contributing to Security and Peace (IcSP) started funding an additional programme on livelihood and self-reliance for the Sahrawi refugees. The initiative of such a programme, originally started in 2016 with humanitarian funding, provides employment perspectives and sports activities for the Sahrawi youth.

Sahrawi students in Algeria already benefit from the opportunities offered by Erasmus+.

¹ Food Security Assessment for Sahrawi Refugees, Algeria, 2018, <https://www1.wfp.org/publications/algeria-food-security-assessment-sahrawi-refugees-august-2018>

² *ibid.*