

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003027/26
to the Commission**

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(16 July 2026)

Subject: Humanitarian situation of Sahrawi refugees, inadequate EU humanitarian assistance and the growing water crisis in the refugee camps

For nearly five decades, around 170 000 Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps have relied entirely on humanitarian assistance while facing worsening food insecurity, inadequate access to essential services and a growing water crisis. Despite increasing humanitarian needs, the Commission's funding has remained largely unchanged since 2016, and significant funding gaps continue to prevent humanitarian organisations from meeting basic needs. In light of the above:

1. How does the Commission assess the current humanitarian situation in the Sahrawi refugee camps, and does it intend to strengthen EU humanitarian assistance, including funding for food security, nutrition, healthcare and sustainable access to safe drinking water infrastructure, in order to address the growing needs of, and ensure adequate support for, the refugee population?
2. How does the Commission intend to ensure that the protracted humanitarian crisis affecting the Sahrawi refugees receives adequate and sustained attention within the EU's humanitarian response and international donor coordination efforts?
3. Does the Commission intend to renew the agreement between its Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations and the World Food Programme to ensure the continuation of essential food assistance for Sahrawi refugees?

Submitted: 16.7.2026

Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission

(27 August 2026)

The EU has been a leading humanitarian donor to the Sahrawi refugee population in Algeria since 1993. It continues to provide humanitarian assistance based on needs and in line with humanitarian principles, addressing essential sectors, including food assistance, nutrition, health, water, sanitation and hygiene.

The Commission is pursuing a strategic approach that combines immediate humanitarian relief with efforts to strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerabilities over time, including support for more sustainable water solutions, improved service delivery, while fully respecting the humanitarian character of the response.

The Commission will continue to monitor the humanitarian situation closely and to adapt its assistance, within available resources, according to evolving needs and the operational assessments of its humanitarian partners and its teams on the ground.

The level and scope of EU support are decided through annual humanitarian programming and remain subject to identified needs, partner capacity and budgetary availability.

As regards sustained attention to this protracted crisis, the Commission remains engaged with key humanitarian partners, including UN agencies, international organisations and non-governmental organisations, as well as with Member States and other donors. It also continues to advocate for adequate and predictable funding for forgotten and underfunded crises.

The Commission values the longstanding role of the World Food Programme (WFP) in delivering food assistance in the camps and will consider support for WFP food assistance within its regular humanitarian decision-making, alongside efforts to promote the continuity of life-saving assistance for Sahrawi refugees.
