

Press Release: Dajla Floods (Sahrawi Camps)

The Consortium of NGOs working in the Sahrawi Refugee Camps in southwestern Algeria issues this call regarding the alarming humanitarian situation generated by the recent rains that have affected the area.

As has been previously warned, the last few weeks have been concerning in the Tindouf camps due to adverse weather conditions. After several days of continuous rain, a heavy storm struck the Dajla camp on September 22 and 23, causing severe flooding, which has already been declared a disaster zone by the Sahrawi government.

The NGOs, along with international UN agencies and the Sahrawi Red Crescent (MLRS), have deployed to the affected area and have been able to assess the devastating situation firsthand. According to MLRS reports, it is estimated that **around 3,000 people have been affected, with at least 850 having lost everything**. Damage assessments are ongoing and **it is expected that the number of affected individuals will increase as days go by**.

The initial humanitarian response from the Algerian government, NGOs, and international agencies has allowed for the coverage of basic needs through the distribution of tents, basic food supplies, and water, in addition to primary medical care and sanitation. However, these contributions are not sufficient to alleviate the extreme vulnerability of more than 500 Sahrawi families in the Dajla camp.

In light of this dramatic situation, which reminds the Sahrawi population of the severe floods experienced in 1995, 2006, and 2015, the Consortium of NGOs warns of the possibility that the situation may become more critical in the coming weeks.

As a result, we issue this humanitarian **call of EXTREME URGENCY to mobilize funds through the United Nations, international donors, NGOs, social movements, and civil society in response to the imminent need to act to prevent hunger, epidemics, and other risks that threaten the survival of the Sahrawi population**.

In Rabuni, September 30, 2024.

Consortium of NGOs in the Sahrawi Camps

For more information: consorciosahara@gmail.com

The NGOs that are part of the Consortium and endorse this call are:

Africa '70, Asociación de Amistad con el Pueblo Saharaui de Sevilla (AAPSS), 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), Enfants Réfugiés du Monde (ERdM), Federació d'Associacions Catalanes Amigues del Poble Saharauí (ACAPS), Fundación Mundubat-Mundubat Fundazioa, Medica Mundi Mediterrània (MMmed), Movimiento por la Paz (MPDL), Ojos del Mundo, Oxfam, Solidaridad Internacional Andalucía (SI-A), Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH).