

ALGERIA

October 2019

UNHCR is providing international protection, assistance and services to **Sahrawi refugees** in the five camps near Tindouf in south-western Algeria.

UNHCR provides protection and assistance to **refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas**. In 2019, 71 refugees have departed for resettlement to third countries.

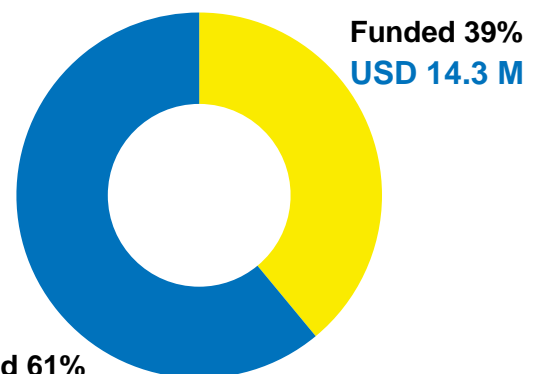
UNHCR leads the provision of humanitarian assistance to Sahrawi refugees, which involves **coordination with all humanitarian actors** in Tindouf.



Relay Race as part of the UNHCR global campaign #StepWithRefugees during celebration of World Refugee Day in Algiers © UNHCR / A. Nazef

FUNDING

USD 37.1 M requested for Algeria Operation received as of 8 October 2019:



Unfunded 61%
USD 22.8 M

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 48 National Staff
- 10 International Staff
- 2 National UNVs

Offices:

- 1 Representation in Algiers and
- 1 Sub-Office in Tindouf



Students of Cantabria primary school in Laayoune camp © UNHCR / R. Fraser

Working with Partners

- UNHCR is a member of the United Nations Country Team and **works closely with the Algerian Government** and with **12 partners in Algeria**, three in Algiers and nine in Tindouf. UNHCR's partners are: Algerian Red Crescent (ARC), *Association des Femmes Algériennes pour le Développement* (AFAD), *Asociación de Trabajadores y Técnicos sin Fronteras* (ATTSF), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), *Humanité et Inclusion* (HI), *Enfants Réfugiés du Monde* (ERM), Green Tea Association, Movement for Peace, Disarmament & Liberty (MPDL), *Réseau algérien pour la défense des droits de l'enfant* (NADA), *Solidaridad Internacional Andalucía* (SI-A), *Triangle Génération Humanitaire* (TGH) and *Universidad Autonoma de Madrid* (UAM).
- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR **leads inter-agency efforts** to support the Sahrawi refugee programme in close coordination with WFP (food assistance and resilience) and UNICEF (health, education and child protection). UNHCR leads the Inter-Agency Working Group and Inter-Sector Working Group, the monthly sector coordination meetings for the Protection, Livelihood, WASH and Health sectors, in coordination with the Sahrawi refugee community, as well as participating in the Education and Food sector coordination meetings. UNHCR works closely with the Sahrawi community representatives and civil society across the five refugee camps, using a participatory-based approach.

Main Activities

Protection

- **Pending the establishment of a national asylum system in Algeria**, UNHCR undertakes a range of protection activities in the areas where it has access, through its offices in Algiers and Tindouf. UNHCR also provides capacity building for partners and the authorities.
- In **Tindouf** province, UNHCR assists Sahrawi refugees through strengthening the protection coordination mechanisms and participatory approaches that encourage community-based engagement, self-management and empowerment, in particular for youth, women and civil society organizations. UNHCR ensures that assistance reaches persons with specific needs. This includes specific assistance for some 3,054 persons with disabilities. UNHCR also promotes a favourable protection environment through provision of capacity building opportunities for Sahrawi legal institutions, social workers, education staff and partners; as well as support for the Identification Centre.
- In **Algiers**, UNHCR conducts registration of asylum-seekers and refugee status determination, and issues documentation to asylum-seekers and refugees. UNHCR provides capacity building for authorities and other partners. It also monitors and advocates with the authorities for the release of refugees and asylum-seekers arrested and detained for illegal entry and stay, and provides legal assistance to individuals of concern. UNHCR provides specialized assistance to persons of concern with specific needs, including mental health and psychosocial support, housing, and cash assistance. Additionally, UNHCR raises awareness among populations of concern on the importance of birth registration and receiving birth certificates to prevent the risk of statelessness, and advocates with the authorities for the ratification of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Education

- In **Tindouf**, all school-aged children are enrolled in primary and intermediate schools in the camps. UNHCR supports the sector to ensure a safe learning environment through provision of equipment, stationery, books and capacity building for education staff. UNHCR provides **financial incentives to 1,070 education staff**. UNHCR supports 192 university students in different universities in Algeria through the DAFI scholarship programme for the 2019/2020 school year. Psycho-social and mental health support are also provided for students including children with specific needs in special education centres.
- In **Algiers**, UNHCR supports the **enrolment of refugee and asylum-seeking children in public schools**, where access to education is free, ensuring equal access for girls and boys. UNHCR provides transportation, school supplies, and a daily meal. UNHCR also organizes recreational activities and provides refugee children with support classes for all essential subjects. UNHCR also supports enrolment in early childhood education, with particular attention to single parent families.

Health and Nutrition

- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR covers 70 percent of the medical costs and incentives for **40 Sahrawi refugee doctors** in the five regional hospitals in the camps. UNHCR also covers the running costs of the **Sahrawi Midwife and Nursing school** and offers capacity building activities on the integrated management of childhood illnesses, psychosocial support and non-communicable diseases. To treat those in need of specialized care which is not available in the camps, UNHCR annually **supports eight specialist medical commissions coming from abroad to the camps** and backs the Sahrawi referral system to send patients elsewhere in Algeria – notably by

maintaining the ambulance fleet and establishing a recovery house in Algiers. UNHCR supports the Sahrawi Health Information System and implements, jointly with WFP, a **nutrition survey in each camp** (every two years). The last survey was completed this year.

- With WFP and the Algerian Red Crescent, UNHCR supports the **supplementary feeding program for malnourished children and pregnant or lactating women**. UNHCR also conducts awareness and prevention campaigns on issues such as anaemia, chronic malnutrition and mental health.
- Refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas have access to basic healthcare. UNHCR through its partners in Algiers provides information and facilitates access to existing national health facilities. Where necessary and possible, UNHCR supports medical treatment not covered by the national scheme e.g. specific medications and laboratory tests. UNHCR through its partner, Humanity and Inclusion, provides individual mental health and psycho-social support, as well as assistance to persons of concern with disabilities.

Food Security

- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR complements the monthly food distributions provided by WFP by adding **supplementary food products, namely yeast and fresh food**. In 2019, UNHCR distributed 375 metric tons (MT) of fresh food in Ramadan and has provided 68 MT of yeast, for baking bread. UNHCR jointly with WFP monitors refugees' access to food through monthly food basket monitoring at distribution points and post-distribution monitoring at household level.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR and its partner SI-A, engage in enhancing the **water management system through the maintenance and repair of the existing water facilities**, including support to the water truck fleet and construction of new boreholes, with the aim of eventually providing 20 litres per person per day. The multi-year water strategy for the camps is in the end stages of finalization, which should offer further guidance for this sector.
- UNHCR and its partner MPDL support the **waste management system in Sahrawi camps** through the procurement of garbage collection trucks, provision of necessary equipment and payment of incentives for workers. In addition, UNHCR and its partner TGH distribute bleach to health institutions and soap to schools.

Shelter and NFIs

- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR annually provides shelter materials to the most vulnerable refugee families. A total of **1,005 family tent kits** were provided in 2019.
- In **Algiers**, UNHCR provides shelter and quarterly cash assistance to urban refugee families. Since the beginning of the year, 478 refugees – including unaccompanied children, persons with disabilities and women at risk – have been assisted with safe housing or cash to pay their rent each month.

Access to Energy

- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR **refills gas cylinders for 28,000 Sahrawi families** on a monthly basis (covering 10 months out of 12). UNHCR provided 626 new gas cylinders and 1,500 fuel-efficient cooking stoves in 2019.

Logistics

- In **Tindouf**, **UNHCR maintains a large fleet of trucks** required to provide assistance to Sahrawi refugees and organizes the delivery of assistance from Oran harbour to Tindouf. A new waste management truck and gas distribution truck are also now in use.

Community Empowerment

- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR encourages the refugee community's involvement in humanitarian assistance programmes, with a focus on women and youth. UNHCR supports cultural activities and workshops on the rights of Sahrawi women; as well as sport activities for both men and women.
- In **Algiers**, focus group discussions are conducted regularly in order to better assess refugee needs and enhance community-based protection. UNHCR works with its partners to expand outreach activities to populations of concern living in and outside of Algiers, including through telephone information and protection hotlines and SMS (texting to phone) systems.

Self-Reliance

- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR supports a soap factory, sewing workshop (one for the production of school smocks and another for sewing tents), five vocational training centres, three artisanal production workshops, a business innovation centre, and the rehabilitation of various bakeries. Vocational training centres provide courses on auto mechanics, electricity, carpentry, sewing, pastry production, administration, languages, digital media and computers, all covering a period of 9 to 18 months. A multi-year strategy on vocational training has been developed recently and will start to be implemented shortly. Through partners, UNHCR is also providing 30 business grants and, coaching and business skills training to over 500 Sahrawi youth, a blended course on entrepreneurship for 30 Sahrawi youth, and training for 36 female teachers in school management and educational guidance.

Furthermore, UNHCR promotes the *Coursera for Refugees* opportunity which offers free, certificate-based, online distance learning from top universities. UNHCR's livelihoods strategy focuses on developing livelihoods capabilities, assets and activities for small enterprise development and employment.

- In **Algiers**, UNHCR encourages refugees to **achieve self-reliance**, for instance through vocational trainings, and supporting equal access of women and girls.

Durable Solutions

- In 2019 so far, a total of 98 refugees were submitted for resettlement and 71 departed from Algeria. UNHCR assisted two refugees to repatriate to their countries of origin in safety and dignity through its voluntary repatriation programme.

Thanks to donors who have directly contributed to the operation in Algeria in 2019

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Thanks to major donors of unearmarked contributions in 2019

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