

Algeria

September 2017

UNHCR is providing international protection and basic assistance and services to **refugees and asylum-seekers** in urban areas, mainly Algiers.

UNHCR is providing international protection and basic assistance and services to 90,000 of the **most vulnerable Sahrawi refugees** in five camps near Tindouf in south-western Algeria.

UNHCR is the lead humanitarian agency for the care and maintenance of Sahrawi refugees, which involves **coordination** with all humanitarian actors in Tindouf.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

95,200

Most vulnerable refugees in Sahrawi camps

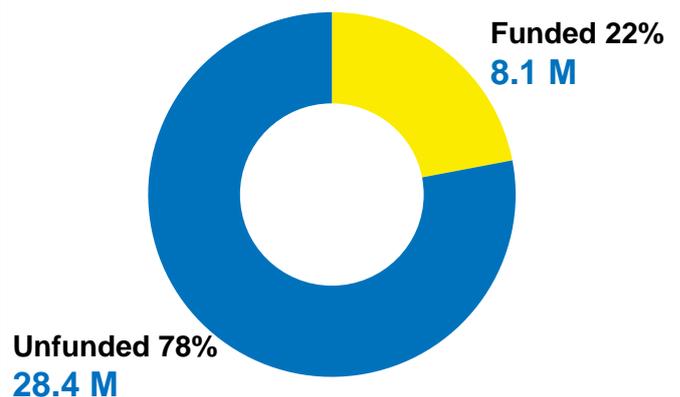
90,000

5,200 Total registered in Algiers (from Syria, State of Palestine, Yemen, Mali & other locations)

FUNDING

USD 36.5 M

requested for Algeria Operation



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 42 National Staff
- 18 International Staff
- 2 National UNVs

Offices:

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



Inauguration of the Smara borehole, Smara camp. UNHCR / R. Fraser

Working with Partners

Implementing Partners:

Algeria Red Crescent (ARC) | *Association des Femmes Algériennes pour le Développement* (AFAD) | *Association d'Information et de Communication pour la Solidarité* (INFOCOM) | *Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli* (CISP) | Danish Refugee Council (DRC) | *Enfants Réfugiés du Monde* (ERM) | Green Tea | Infocom Jeunes | Movement for Peace, Disarmament & Liberty (MPDL) | *Réseau algérien pour la défense des droits de l'enfant* (NADA) | OXFAM-Solidarité Belgique (OXFAM) | *Solidaridad Internacional – Andalucía* (SI-A) | *Triangle Génération Humanitaire* (TGH) | *Universidad Autónoma de Madrid* (UAM)

- UNHCR works closely with the Algerian Government through the Office for Refugees and Stateless Persons (BAPRA) and with 14 partners in Algeria (3 in Algiers and 11 in Tindouf).
- In **Algiers**, UNHCR participates actively in the United Nations Country Team. UNHCR is in the process of building a Civil Society Network for Refugees.
- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR leads inter-agency efforts to support the Sahrawi refugee programme in Tindouf, in close coordination with WFP for food assistance and with UNICEF for health, education and activities for children. UNHCR leads the Inter-Agency Working Group and Inter-Sector Working Group, monthly sector coordination meetings for the Protection, Livelihoods and WASH sectors, as well as Health, in coordination with the Sahrawi refugee community. UNHCR works closely with the Sahrawi leadership in the five refugee camps, and engages community participation in the majority of activities implemented.

Main Activities

Protection

Pending the establishment of a national asylum system in Algeria, UNHCR undertakes a range of protection and assistance activities through its offices in Algiers and Tindouf. UNHCR also provides training for partners, local authorities, and government officials.

- In **Algiers**, UNHCR conducts registration for asylum-seekers as well as refugee status determination and intervenes in cases of detention. UNHCR also provides targeted assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers with specific protection needs.
- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR assists some 90,000 vulnerable Sahrawi refugees located in five refugee camps, through participatory approaches to encourage engagement and self-management, in particular for youth. UNHCR conducts outreach activities and regular home visits to identify persons with specific needs and adapt its assistance. This includes specific assistance for some 3,000 persons living with disabilities. UNHCR also offers training

opportunities for officials from Sahrawi legal institutions, social workers and partner staff to reinforce local capacities.

Education

- In **Algiers**, UNHCR actively supports the enrolment of refugee children in public schools, where access to education is free. UNHCR provides transport, school supplies and a daily meal. Throughout the year, UNHCR also provides support classes for all essential subjects to all refugee children and organizes recreational activities.
- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR provides financial incentives to 1,719 education staff and offers material, equipment, and training opportunities. School-aged children studying locally are enrolled in primary and intermediate schools in Tindouf camps. UNHCR also supports 30 university students in Algiers through the DAFI scholarship programme.

Health and Nutrition

- Refugees registered in **Algiers** enjoy the same access to basic healthcare as Algerian nationals. Where necessary and possible, UNHCR supports medical treatment not covered by the national scheme, for instance specific medication and laboratory tests. UNHCR provides individual psychological support to refugees in need of such services.
- In **Tindouf**, in the five regional hospitals in the camps, UNHCR covers some 75% of the medical costs as well as incentives for 20 Sahrawi refugee doctors. UNHCR also covers the running costs of the Saharawi midwife and nursing school (64 students enrolled last year) 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 not available in the camps, UNHCR supports eight medical commissions of specialists coming from abroad to the camps annually and backs the Sahrawi referral system to send patients elsewhere in Algeria – notably by maintaining the ambulance fleet and renting a recovery house in Algiers. UNHCR supports the Saharawi Health Information System and implements, jointly with WFP, a nutrition survey in each camp every two years.
- UNHCR supports the supplementary feeding program for malnourished children and pregnant or lactating women, jointly with WFP and the Algerian Red Crescent. UNHCR also conducts awareness and prevention campaigns on issues such as anaemia, chronic malnutrition and mental health.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- In **Tindouf** UNHCR, through its partner SI-A, is actively engaged in enhancing the water management system through the maintenance and repair of the existing water facilities (boreholes, treatment stations, pumping stations, reservoirs and water distribution network and water truck fleet, as well as the drilling of new boreholes) to continue providing at least 18 litres of drinkable water per person per day.
- UNHCR, through partner MPDL, continues to 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.

- UNHCR, through its partner TGH, distributes hygiene kits for women and girls, and supports the local production of soap to cover the needs of public institutions as well as 50% of the camp population's need. Bleach is also produced locally for the five camps, notably for the treatment of water.

Shelter and NFIs

- In **Algiers**, UNHCR provides shelter, a monthly food basket and basic items to vulnerable urban refugee families. Some 234 refugees, including unaccompanied minor refugees and asylum-seekers, women at risk, and from the LGBTI community are provided with shelter or receive cash to pay their rent each month.
- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR provides shelter materials for refugee families among the most vulnerable with 3,000 traditional tents distributed in 2016, and more than 3,000 to be distributed in the fall of 2017. UNHCR also distributes construction materials to build or rebuild houses.

Access to Energy

- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR refills gas cylinders for 28,000 Sahrawi families every month. Cooking stoves and new gas cylinders are also provided on an annual basis.

Logistics

- UNHCR maintains the large fleet of trucks required to provide assistance to Sahrawi refugees and organizes the delivery of assistance from Oran harbour to **Tindouf**.

Community Empowerment

- In **Algiers**, Focus Group Discussions are conducted with at least one fourth of the refugee population in order to better assess refugee needs and enhance community-based protection. Focus Group Discussions on different topics are organized every three months.
- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR encourages the refugee community's involvement in the humanitarian assistance programme, with a particular focus on women and the youth. UNHCR supports three women's centres, youth centres, a library, and cultural activities and workshops on the rights of Sahrawi women and the preservation of Sahrawi cultural heritage.

Self-Reliance

- In **Algiers**, UNHCR supports refugees to achieve self-reliance, for instance, through vocational trainings. UNHCR also provides legal assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees who are eligible to acquire legal residency in Algeria.
- In **Tindouf** camps, UNHCR supports a soap factory, a sewing workshop, five construction cooperatives, six vocational training centres and the rehabilitation of various bakeries. Vocational training centres provide courses on electricity, carpentry, sewing, pastry production, digital media and computers, all covering a period of 9 to 18 months (depending on the specialty). Through partners, UNHCR is also providing grants for business projects to over 100 Sahrawi youth and a blended course on entrepreneurship for 58 Sahrawi youth.

UNHCR's livelihoods strategy is focusing notably on developing livelihoods capabilities, assets and activities for small enterprise development and employment promotion.

Durable Solutions

■ For the urban refugee caseload in **Algiers**, UNHCR supports voluntary return. UNHCR uses resettlement as a protection tool for vulnerable cases. In 2016, 16 individuals were resettled. In 2017, a total of 34 refugees departed for resettlement, and 21 cases were submitted and are pending the decision of resettlement countries.

External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds

United States of America (266 M) | Sweden (76 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | Priv Donors Spain (41 M) | Norway (41 M) | Japan (25 M) | Denmark (23 M) | Priv Donors Republic of Korea (20 M) | Australia (19 M) | Canada (16 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | Priv Donors USA (14 M) | France (14 M) | Priv Donors Italy (13 M) | Germany (12 M) | Priv Donors Japan (12 M) | Priv Donors Sweden (10 M) | Italy (10 M)

As well as thanks to donors who have directly contributed to the operation in Algeria

United States of America | European Union | Germany | Spain | Sweden | Canada | France

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LINKS

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