

# ALGERIA

31 December 2019

## Key figures:

### Refugees from Western Sahara

**133,672**

monthly food rations distributed<sup>1</sup>

**39,383** children enrolled in primary education (31,190) and kindergarten (8,193)

Anaemia:

**50 per cent**

rate for children

**52 per cent** rate for women

### Urban Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

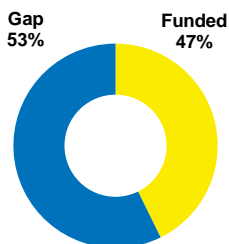
**10,362** Persons of Concern:

**8,607** Refugees

**1,755** Asylum-seekers

### Funding

USD **37.1 M** required for 2019 operations



USD **17.3 M** received as of 31 December 2019

## Refugees from Western Sahara

From 1 October to 31 December:

**WASH:** UNHCR Algeria received a contribution of NOK 4.3 million (roughly USD 471,000) from Innovation Norway for a waste processing and recycling project in Tindouf. The project will begin in 2020. Additionally:

- A topography study began, and will continue until end of January 2020. The results will be used to design the water distribution network in the camps.
- UNHCR completed the WASH strategy and multi-year plan for improving the water supply for the Sahrawi refugees. The strategy was developed by Oxfam in 2019 at the request of UNHCR as a follow up on the preliminary design study undertaken in August 2018, and the document describes the five-year plan developed with stakeholders in Tindouf.
- A Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) WASH survey began in December, and is continuing into January 2020 – among 3,300 Sahrawi families living in the camps. This survey will inform indicators on water, sanitation and hygiene.

**Youth:** UNHCR held a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop under the Youth Initiative Fund (YIF) for the Coordination Body of Youth Initiatives (CBYI), a group of Sahrawi youth from different camps including representatives from the Youth Union and the Students' Union. The workshop raised awareness among the group of UNHCR's mandate, which they will share with the community. The project aims at the empowerment and leadership of youth.

**Multi-Donor Mission:** A joint mission was carried out successfully with WFP and UNICEF from 4-7 November and consisted of two days of site visits and meetings in Smara camp, Boujdour camp, Nkheila, Rabouni, and Tindouf. Twenty-two countries, organizations and other agencies participated in the mission: Andorra, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Ethiopia, the European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO), Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Poland, Russia, Spain, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), Sweden, Tanzania, the UK, UN Resident Coordinator, UN Volunteers (UNV), and USA.

**16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence:** UNHCR organized events for this campaign including for World AIDS Day, World Volunteer Day, and Human Rights Day, and sought to involve all actors and refugees from different sectors, ages and backgrounds. Training sessions and conferences about the situation of women were conducted in all camps, developed by the Technical Mechanism for Women's Empowerment (MTEM), and a short film about Sahrawi women was produced and shared through social media.

**MENA Roundtable on the Role of Art and Culture in Addressing Displacement:** UNHCR facilitated the participation of a Sahrawi refugee artist, traveling from the camps, at the First MENA Roundtable on the Role of Art and Culture in Addressing Displacement, 3- 4 December, in Amman, Jordan. The purpose of the Roundtable was to provide a platform for artists and cultural

<sup>1</sup> by the World Food Programme (WFP)

actors to frame their roles in issues related to displacement in the MENA region. Acknowledging the skill set and capacities that refugees bring with them ensures that refugees have the opportunity to enrich and strengthen intercultural and artistic engagement while simultaneously highlighting the need for more protection space, livelihoods, solutions, funding and social cohesion, particularly in protracted displacement – which exactly describes the Sahrawi refugee situation.

**Nutrition/Livelihoods:** UNHCR is collaborating with the Algerian Red Crescent and relevant stakeholders to support Sahrawi families suffering from malnutrition. A total of 263 severely affected households received lactating goats, feed and veterinary services for the goats, to improve the nutrition of the 263 families. The health and nutritional status of these targeted families is being monitored on a regular basis. The results of the 2019 Nutrition Survey has shown a worsening of the majority of nutrition indicators, especially those related to chronic malnutrition, i.e. stunting and anaemia. The prevalence of global acute malnutrition is now at 7.6% (vs. 4.5% in 2016). A significant increase was noticed for stunting with a prevalence of 28% (vs. 18% in 2016). Anaemia prevalence stands at 50% in children (vs. 38% in 2016) and at 52% among women of reproductive age (vs. 43% in 2016). The same survey indicated also that prevalence of undernutrition in pregnant and lactating women was relatively high, at 16%.

## Urban Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

From 1 October to 31 December:

**Durable Solutions/Complementary pathways for admission to third countries:** In the last quarter of 2019, ten refugees of several different nationalities departed for resettlement to third countries: four refugees to Canada, four to Norway, and two to Sweden. As of end-of-year, 109 refugees departed Algeria for resettlement to third countries in 2019, with the majority going to Canada, but also to Sweden, USA and Norway. As part of its complementary pathways activities, UNHCR facilitated the departure in December of two Syrian persons of concern for family reunification to Luxembourg.

**16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence:** UNHCR with its partners planned and organized several activities for the 16 Days of Activism campaign, involving 247 refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR partners and UN agencies (UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNWOMEN). Activities included showing videos, sharing messages via SMS, awareness-raising group discussions on SGBV and available services to survivors; distributing hygiene kits to 100 women of concern, containing soap, sanitary napkins, sanitary pads, towels, disinfectant, and anti-aggression whistles; and two activities with refugee youth for International Human Rights Day on 10 December on the 2019 theme “Youth Stepping Up for Human Rights”.

**Training for PSEA focal points of UN agencies facilitated by UNHCR:** At the request of the Resident Coordinator, UNHCR Senior Protection Officer facilitated a training for Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) focal points of eight UN agencies. UNHCR developed TORs for PSEA focal points which were submitted to the heads of agencies. An inter-agency PSEA network has been created with designated focal points for each agency. Jointly with the Offices of WFP and UNICEF, UNHCR in Tindouf also held a PSEA workshop for partners active in the Tindouf operation. Workshops like this strive to ensure that very staff member working for UNHCR or its partners uphold the highest standards of personal and professional conduct at all times as required by the UN Charter, staff regulations and rules and other relevant guidelines and policies – and in line with the UN’s zero tolerance policy.

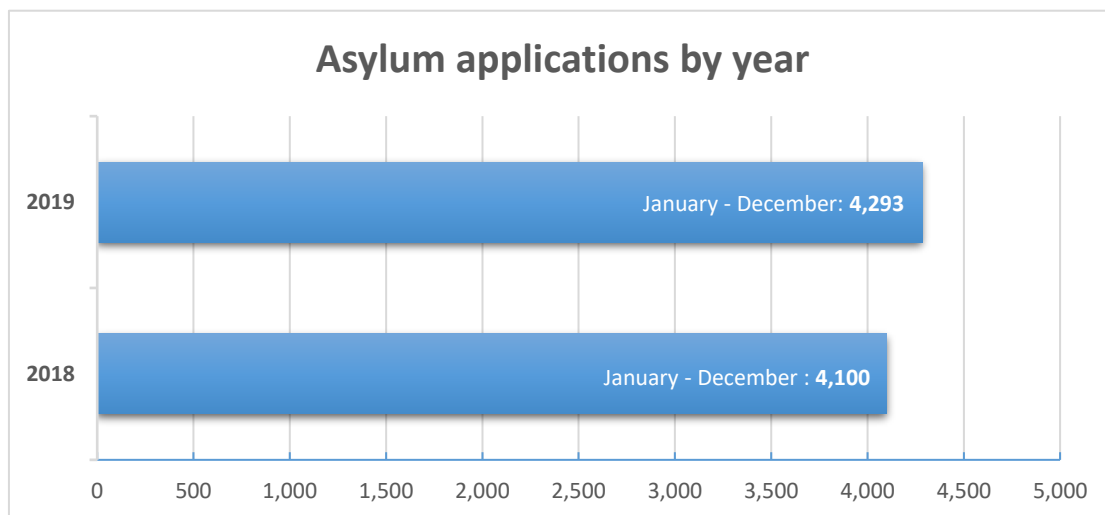
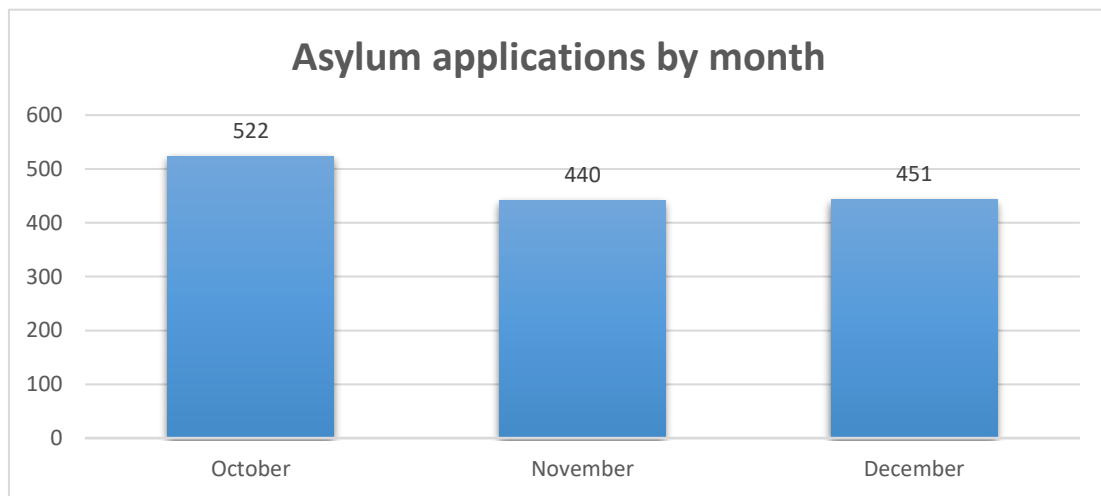
**Sanremo Refugee Law Courses:** As part of UNHCR’s activities to build capacity within the government, the Office sponsored the participation of four officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNHCR’s main government counterpart in its program to promote access to asylum and effective protection of refugees and asylum-seekers, to the 102<sup>nd</sup> and 103<sup>rd</sup> Refugee Law Courses at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Sanremo, Italy, in December.

**Protection Monitoring and Advocacy:** UNHCR continued to monitor and advocate with the authorities for the release of refugees and asylum-seekers affected by operations of arrest and return at the borders. When conducting participatory assessments with over 200 refugee and asylum-seeking women, men,

boys and girls of concern living in urban areas, one of the main concerns raised by refugees and asylum-seekers was the fear of experiencing expulsion, which is seriously limiting their freedom of movement and possibilities for self-reliance. At end 2019, 244 Persons of Concern to UNHCR (162 men, 25 women, and 57 children) had been expelled over the year.

**Asylum applications trends:** In the context of mixed population movements, 1,413 new asylum applications were received in the last quarter of 2019. In total, UNHCR received 4,293 asylum applications in 2019, compared to 4,100 for 2018. Among the 2019 applicants, the main countries represented were Guinea (767), Syria (701), Mali (616), and Cameroon (517).

### Asylum Trends



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