

# Algeria

1 October – 31 December 2018

Seven refugees departed on resettlement to third countries including Sweden, USA and France, with 38 refugees in total departing in 2018, in coordination with IOM.

For Sahrawi infant and young child feeding (IYCF), 5 sensitization campaigns were held, to improve the exclusive breastfeeding in the community and IYCF practices and habits.

1,005 traditional Sahrawi style family tents were distributed to families in need in, and 348 Refugee Housing Units were distributed to the most vulnerable refugees.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

99,307

90,000 Most Vulnerable Sahrawi Refugees in Tindouf

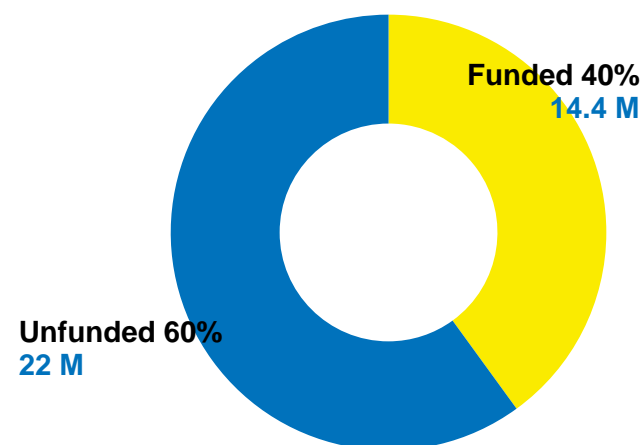
90,000

9,307 total registered Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Algiers

## FUNDING

USD 36.4 M

requested for Algeria



Delivery of school supplies for the Sahrawi Department of Education. © UNHCR / I. Chakar

## KEY INDICATORS

### ANAEMIA RATES FOR SAHRAWI REFUGEES

**39** per cent anaemia rate for children;

**44** per cent anaemia rate for women

**29,972**

School-aged children in Tindouf camps were enrolled in primary education.

# Update on Achievements

## Operational Context

UNHCR's activities in Algeria focus on providing protection and assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers:

- In **Algiers**, UNHCR registers, conducts refugee status determination, and provides asylum-seekers and refugees with documentation. As of 31 December, 9,307 persons of concern were registered with UNHCR, the large majority of whom originate from Syria. Urban refugees and asylum-seekers are exposed to various risks. Integration in the urban context remains challenging for a number of refugees, who rely mostly on UNHCR assistance.
- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR continues to provide protection and assistance to Sahrawi refugees, who have been living in a protracted displacement situation in five camps near Tindouf for 43 years. The reduction of monthly food rations has been of particular concern over recent years, given its impact on the nutritional health of Sahrawi refugees. UNHCR's multi-sectoral activities focus primarily on community-based protection, education, health and nutrition, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), shelter, and livelihoods. In 2018, while continuing to provide essential humanitarian assistance, UNHCR, in coordination with the World Food Programme and the Sahrawi refugee community, is also implementing livelihoods initiatives, with a focus on youth. UNHCR recently led an inter-agency multi-sector Vulnerability Assessment, which has been completed and is scheduled for release in early 2019.

## Achievements



### PROTECTION

#### Algiers

- From October to December, UNHCR registered 713 asylum-seekers, the majority of whom are from Syria (38%). The remaining 62% are from Guinea, Nigeria, Cameroon, Côte D'Ivoire, Mali, Yemen, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Central African Republic, among others. During the same period, UNHCR recognized 36 individuals as refugees.
- UNHCR continued to monitor and advocate with the authorities so that arrest and return at the border of persons in an irregular situation in Algeria do not impact upon populations of concern (asylum-seekers, refugees and others in need of international protection who have not had an effective opportunity to access UNHCR and seek asylum).
- Fourteen refugees and asylum-seekers were provided with free legal assistance, representation and counselling through UNHCR-contracted lawyers on different matters such as late birth registration procedures, residence permit applications, and police complaints, among others.
- UNHCR continued capacity building activities, with a professor from the Law Faculty of Algiers attending the third edition of a one-week refugee law course "*Le Maghreb protégé*" from 15 to 17 October in Tunis, sponsored by UNHCR.
- UNHCR referred four cases to ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) for family tracing.

### Tindouf

- UNHCR through its partner *Movimiento por la Paz* (MPDL) supported judicial system, human rights commission and lawyers through capacity building and provision of equipment; and a Round Table on Legal Pluralism was held, with the participation of the judges, lawyers, *imams*, and human rights specialists.
- MPDL strengthened prevention of SGBV (Sexual and Gender Based Violence) and the mainstreaming of human rights in the camps through conducting different sensitization campaigns targeting refugees from different groups and backgrounds.
- Hygiene products, cleaning materials, capacity building and incentives were provided to the various centres, including centres dedicated to women and minors, and other vulnerable groups.
- UNHCR through partner *Triangle Génération Humanitaire* (TGH) delivered diapers for 168 individuals with cerebral palsy, and for 340 elderly individuals.
- Raw materials for building were provided for the workshops in the specialized centers for persons with specific needs.
- UNHCR carried out the 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence in the five camps from 25 November to 10 December through various activities, working closely with the Sahrawi community and leadership and partners from the NGO humanitarian community.
- UNHCR conducted a one-day training under the theme of Community-Based Protection, targeting different Sahrawi civil society groups (e.g. Women's Union, Students Union, Students' Parents Association, and Youth Union).



*Awareness campaign against illicit drugs and school dropout managed by Sahrawi youth, with UNHCR. © Mohamed Lamine*



### EDUCATION

#### Algiers

- UNHCR through its partners continued activities to support access to primary education for refugees, integrating them within existing national systems as well as expand secondary education for young people. Between October and December, UNHCR partner's *Réseau NADA* (*Réseau Algérien pour la défense des droits de l'enfant*) assisted 28 refugee children enrolled in primary school in Algiers with transportation to and from school, school supplies, learning support, and recreational activities.

**Tindouf**



*Training session for Sahrawi teachers on teaching methodologies.*  
© UNHCR / N. Boumaiza

- UNHCR partner *Association Femmes Algériennes pour le Développement (AFAD)* supported the teaching centre in Rabouni through provision of stationery, ink cartridges (to facilitate printing an additional quantity of books and teacher manuals to cover the shortage), office furniture, and three water tanks (capacity of 1,750 litres each).
- For post-secondary education, an additional 62 slots under DAFI scholarship project were added, making a total of 142 students currently being supported with DAFI scholarships. Monitoring visits were also conducted to assess the situation of the students in their universities, identify their challenges and find the proper solutions. A joint team from UNHCR and AFAD conducted five DAFI orientation sessions in the intermediate schools in all five camps, for 200 students.
- AFAD with the refugee community held the 2018 DAFI Annual Meeting, with 79 Sahrawi DAFI students attending. Newcomers were welcomed, updates and information were shared, and students discussed their experiences to identify challenges and find solutions. For an article on the experiences of two DAFI students, please refer to Annex I: ‘Young Sahrawis Brightening their Futures through Higher Studies’ at end of the Update.



*2018 DAFI Annual Meeting in Tindouf.* © UNHCR / R. Fraser


**HEALTH**
**Algiers**

- UNHCR's partner Green Tea Foundation (GTF) provides counselling to refugees and asylum-seekers and accompanies them to ensure access to public health services. Between October and December, GTF oriented and/or accompanied 70 refugees and asylum-seekers for health care services (primary and secondary).
- UNHCR referred refugees and asylum-seekers to GTF for psycho-social support. In addition to this, UNHCR provides psychological counselling through a psychologist. UNHCR developed with its partners a reporting mechanism and referral pathways for SGBV (Sexual and Gender Based Violence) survivors, to ensure survivors can obtain efficient access to services.

**Tindouf**

- UNHCR through *Triangle Génération Humanaire* (TGH) implemented the last distribution of medical reagents and consumables for laboratories, X-ray and dental care services. By December the rate of coverage in terms of health auxiliary services reached 75%.
- UNHCR through TGH launched the rehabilitation of the X-ray ward in Awserd refugee camp (the only camp that was without that service), featuring a new X-ray machine.
- In partnership with TGH and the Sahrawi health actors, UNHCR supported the organization of a one-week training for 16 psychologists working in the camps under different departments (Health, Education and Social Affairs). The training was facilitated by an Algerian specialist, with a special focus on child psychology and self-esteem.
- UNHCR, TGH and the Sahrawi health actors organized the third round of sensitization against HIV and STIs. This last campaign coincided with the 16 Days of Activism against GBV and targeted more than 250 women and men of reproductive age, adolescents and university students, on World AIDS Day.



World AIDS Day Ceremony in Laayoune camp. © UNHCR / R. Fraser

- UNHCR through its partner Algerian Red Crescent (ARC) continued the implementation of IYCF (infant and young child feeding) activities. Five sensitization campaigns were organized with the aim of improving the exclusive breastfeeding in the community and infant and young child feeding practices and habits.
- UNHCR and the Sahrawi health actors started working on a new coordination model for public health in order to adopt a more inclusive system, where thematic areas related to nutrition and other national health programs will be fairly reflected.



## WATER AND SANITATION

### Tindouf

- One hundred and twenty reinforced concrete water reservoirs were constructed for the most vulnerable families in four of the five camps. UNHCR procured and distributed 46 plastic storage tanks, each one with 1.5 thousand litre capacity, in Dakhla camp.
- One additional water tanker was received in the last quarter of 2018, for use in Awserd camp, to gradually renew the tanker fleet.
- UNHCR through its partner *Solidaridad Internacional – Andalucía* (SI-A) installed a water pumping station near the osmosis station in zone two to boost water from the station to Smara camp – a distance of 15 km; and extended the water distribution network in Smara camp, in the *daira* of *Mehbes*.
- UNHCR through its partner TGH distributed, on a regular basis, bleach for water chlorination in all of the camps to ensure the purification of drinking water; as well as soap for public institutions (i.e. schools and hospitals).

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR is only providing on average about 10 litres per person per day (L/P/D), well below the minimum international standard of 20 L/P/D.



## SHELTER AND NON FOOD ITEMS (NFIS)

### Algiers

- UNHCR manages through its partner an accommodation programme for vulnerable refugees in Algiers. Between October and December, UNHCR provided accommodation in apartments or temporary dormitories to 104 vulnerable refugees. Seven other refugees received cash assistance to cover shelter/housing needs, while 83 persons received a monthly food basket during the reporting period.

### Tindouf

- Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) – a total of 348 – were distributed to most vulnerable refugees in the camps, and 1,005 traditional style family tents were distributed to families in need.



## FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- **Algiers:** UNHCR distributed monthly food baskets to 108 vulnerable refugees.
- **Tindouf:** NTR

**ACCESS TO ENERGY****Tindouf**

- UNHCR re-filled 28,000 gas cylinders per month to all the refugees in the 5 camps.
- UNHCR is also procuring 2,000 new gas cylinders for the newlywed families in all the camps; 630 gas cylinders have already arrived and have been stored. The distribution will start once the whole quantity has arrived.

**LIVELIHOODS AND SELF RELIANCE****Algiers**

- Nineteen refugees were registered into several public institutions providing vocational training in various fields, such as aesthetics and information technology.

**Tindouf**

UNHCR continues to facilitate access to self-employment and business development in Sahrawi refugee camps through enhancement of livelihoods capabilities and provision of productive and financial assets:

- Regular monitoring visits, coaching and guidance are provided by partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC) to youth entrepreneurship projects established with UNHCR support. Around 100 youth entrepreneurship projects have been established in the camps with UNHCR and partner support in the last two years.
- In partnership with InfoCom, UNHCR continues to provide support for basic and diploma-based vocational training programmes targeting young men and women.
- UNHCR has been providing, since late 2016, a blended course on entrepreneurship in the Sahrawi camps in partnership with the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM).

**DURABLE SOLUTIONS**

**Algiers:** UNHCR uses resettlement both as a protection tool and as a durable solution for the urban refugee population according to their needs. During the reporting period, seven refugees departed on resettlement to third countries including Sweden, USA and France, with 38 refugees in total departing in 2018. Departures were arranged with the support of, and in coordination with, IOM. Sixty-eight individuals were submitted for resettlement from October to December, for a total of 103 since the in 2018.

## Working in Partnership

- **Algiers:** Through the Regional Development and Protection Programme for North Africa (RDPP NA), co-funded by the European Union and the Government of Italy, UNHCR intends to intensify its cooperation, advocacy and capacity-building efforts involving key local authorities and civil society organizations through capacity building and sensitization initiatives aiming to provide a fair protection environment, and ensuring immediate protection to the most vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees.



- **Tindouf:** UNHCR led two inter-sector working group (ISWG) meetings and one inter-agency working group (IAWG) meeting to discuss inter-sectoral and strategic operational issues, respectively. The ISWG is comprised of United Nations agencies UNHCR, WFP, and UNICEF; and organizations *Movimiento por la Paz* (MPDL), *Comitato internazionale per lo sviluppo dei popoli* (CISP), *Medicos del Mundo* (MDM), *Solidaridad Internacional – Andalucía* (SI-A), *Oxfam-Solidarité* (OXFAM), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), *Association d'Information et de Communication pour la Solidarité* (InfoCom), and *Triangle Génération Humanitaire* (TGH). The IAWG is comprised of UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, ICRC (observer status), Sahrawi Red Crescent, European Union Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), OXFAM, *Association Femmes Algériennes pour le Développement* (AFAD), CISP, MDM, and Spanish Red Cross (CRE).
- UNHCR led the 2019 Detailed Planning – with sectoral consultations and plenary review – from 24 to 31 October, focusing on Health, Nutrition, Reproductive Health, Food Security, WASH, Shelter, Energy, Non-Food Items, Logistics, Livelihoods, Education, Persons with Specific Needs, and other protection-related objectives. All partners and stakeholders participated.
- In October, UNHCR with UNICEF and WFP and the refugee community hosted a mission comprised of representatives from the Embassies of Germany, South Africa, Norway, the Netherlands, Nigeria, the UK, the EU, the USA, France, Spain, Indonesia, Zimbabwe, and Ethiopia – for donors and concerned countries.
- UNHCR celebrated UN Day in Awserd camp, on 7 November, with the ceremony jointly organized with the United Nations in Algiers, WFP, UNICEF, and the refugee community.



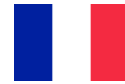
*First celebration of United Nations Day in the camps, on 7 November in Awserd camp – with the refugee community, UN in Algeria members, humanitarian agencies, and partners. © UNHCR / R. Fraser*



## Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 14.39 M**

### Earmarked contributions (USD)



European Union  
Civil Protection and  
Humanitarian Aid

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

### Other softly earmarked contributions (USD)

**Germany 45.4 million | Private donors Australia 14.9 million | Private donors Germany 8.8 million | Denmark 5.7 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 5 million | United States of America 4.8 million | Sweden 4.4 million | Finland 4.3 million | Private donors Switzerland 3.2 million | Norway 3.2 million | Private donors Sweden 2.8 million | Private donors USA 2 million**

Holy See | Iceland | Japan | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Poland | Romania | Spain | Private donors

### Unearmarked contributions (USD)

**Sweden 98.2 million | Private donors Spain 71 million | Netherlands 47.1 million | United Kingdom 45.3 million | Norway 42.5 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 38.7 million | Japan 26.5 million | Denmark 25.5 million | Private donors Japan 20.3 million | Private donors Italy 18.7 million | Switzerland 15.8 million | Private donors USA 14.2 million | France 14 million | Germany 13.7 million | Private donors Sweden 13.2 million | Italy 11.2 million**

Algeria | Argentina | Austria | Belgium | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Bulgaria | Canada | Chile | China | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | India | Indonesia | Ireland | Israel | Kuwait | Latvia | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | New Zealand | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

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## Annex I

### Young Sahrawis Brightening their Futures through Higher Studies

*Boujdour camp & Awserd camp, Tindouf province, Algeria*

For Sahrawi refugee students studying in any of the five refugee camps, education offers hope for the future. Despite the great value that Sahrawi society places on education, few students make it to university. Getting that far means overcoming obstacles such as crowded classrooms, lack of qualified teachers, distance from homes to schools, and shortages of textbooks – not to mention requiring a love of learning and great dedication.

Mohammed Fadel Abdallah, 23, and Zeinabou Bullahi El Mahdjoub, 25, are two Sahrawis who have made it to the level of post-secondary education, and succeeded with help from UNHCR's university higher education scholarship programme, the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI). Zeinabou is a recent graduate and is now working, and Mohammed Fadel is in his third year of economics at Tindouf University. They have been studying outside the camps since intermediate school. The only secondary school in the camps is a Spanish language curriculum school.

The language of instruction for scientific and technical subjects in Algerian universities is French, whereas the languages spoken in the camps and studied in the camps' schools are Arabic and Spanish. For Mohammed Fadel, this challenge was too much. He studied French in secondary school, but decided to change his university specialty to economics as it was taught in Arabic. He is happy with his choice.

"I enjoy studying in Tindouf, because I am close to my family home, and can save money on transportation to and from the camps." Mohammed Fadel is also the youngest of five children, and the second of them to attend university. For him, family is the most precious thing in life, and the thing he misses most when away studying is his mother's couscous.

**"Ignorance is the enemy of the people. No one thinks ignorance is a good thing."**



*Fadel Mohammed in his grandmother's tent, in Boujdour camp. © UNHCR / R. Fraser*

Mohammed Fadel considers himself lucky. With unemployment being the norm for young people, he has a chance for a job after completing his degree. "Most young people drop out from school and have no opportunities for good work. They work in construction and other part time, physical jobs. I want to have a good impact on the community, through intellectual work." He adds, "Ignorance

is the enemy of the people. No one thinks ignorance is a good thing.”

At the recent 2018 Annual DAFI Meeting in Tindouf, Zeinabou was one of the speakers. She had the audience in stitches when she recounted her own struggles during her first year of post-secondary studies, in Oran.

Never having studied French before, she had difficulty communicating with her Nigerien roommate, who did not speak Arabic.

She recounts, “One day, after I returned from the campus cafeteria, she asked me what they were serving that day. I did not know the word in French. I told her djaj in Algerian Arabic, which she did not understand. Then dyuk in the Sahrawi dialect, also not understood. I tried Spanish: pollo, but this also was not a word she knew. Finally I flapped my arms like a chicken, and all was clear. After that, I never forgot the word poulet. Or even oeuf, which I once described as a petit poulet.”

Zeinabou is now working with a Sahrawi humanitarian organization active in the camps and using her telecommunications expertise in her work. Fluency in French was a prerequisite for her position of Coordinator of the Natural Disasters department, so her progress in French has clearly come a long way since her first year in Oran.

The DAFI scholarship programme has been essential to Zeinab's and Mohammed Fadel's academic success. Said Zeinabou, “The first thing I did when I received funds from DAFI was to buy a laptop, without which I don't know how I could have completed my studies.”



*Zeinabou showing her cousin Bashir, 9, a spreadsheet on her laptop that she was able to purchase from her scholarship funds. Zeinabou was the first Sahrawi student to attend the telecommunications engineering programme in Oran, Algeria. © UNHCR / R. Fraser*

## **“The DAFI Programme is a candle of hope that can help lead to a great path in refugees' futures.”**

There are currently 142 students receiving such scholarships, with the programme administered by UNHCR partner Association Femmes Algériennes pour le Développement (AFAD). The importance of the DAFI scholarship is summarized by Abdallah Leguemiri, DAFI Programme Associate. “It is a candle of hope that can help lead to a great path in refugees' futures.”

Zeinabou’s success means that she is a good example for her four younger brothers and sisters, and her cousins too. Her younger sister is now studying civil engineering in secondary school. “It is good to be a role model for my siblings, so they will be motivated to continue their studies,” she says.