

MOROCCO

February 2019

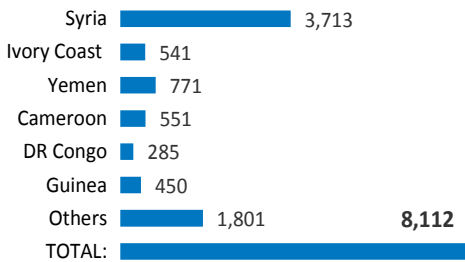
The procedure for the regularization of refugees by the Inter-Ministerial Regularization Commission resumed on 4 December 2018, after 20 months' suspension.

In 2018, UNHCR assisted the creation of 80 new micro-projects to support the socio-professional integration of 120 refugees. In 2017, UNHCR supported the creation of 81 micro-enterprises.

In 2018, UNHCR in Morocco has registered 3,835 new asylum application. In January 2019, 155 new asylum applications have been submitted.

POPULATION OF CONCERN UNDER UNHCR MANDATE

8,112 refugees and asylum-seekers as of 1 February 2019, including 6,199 refugees and 1,913 asylum-seekers

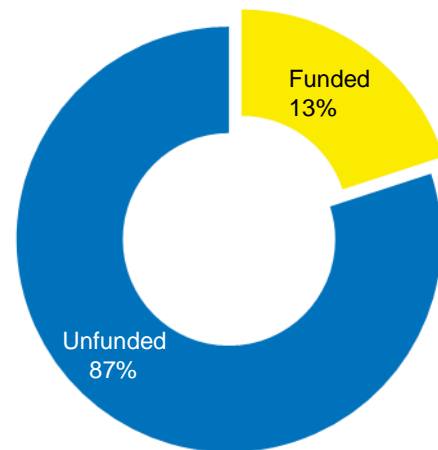


Refugees reside in **52 locations** across the country.

FUNDING REQUIREMENT

USD 8M

requested for UNHCR operations in Morocco in 2019



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 31 National Staff
- 6 International Staff
- 1 UNV
- 1 International Volunteer (Monaco)

Offices:

- 1 Branch Office in Rabat

Drawing workshop for refugee children at FOO – World Refugee Day
June 2018



Working with Partners

- **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is UNHCR's main official counterpart.** UNHCR also collaborates with the Delegated Ministry to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in charge of Migration Affairs and the ministries of Interior, Justice, Education, Health and Labour and as well as with the National Council for Human Rights, the National Mutual Aid ("Entraide Nationale") and its public social centres, the Inter-Ministerial Delegation for Human Rights, the Higher Institute of the Judiciary ("Institut Supérieur de la Magistrature"), the Police, the Royal Gendarmerie and academia.
- **UNHCR works with non-governmental organizations throughout Morocco, including:** Fondation Orient-Occident (FOO), Association Marocaine de Planification Familiale (AMPF), Caritas, Association de Lutte contre le Sida (ALCS), Organisation Marocaine des Droits de l'Homme (OMDH) and Association Marocaine d'Appui et de Promotion de la Petite Entreprise (AMAPPE). During the reporting period, UNHCR organized eight monthly coordination meetings with its implementing partners in addition to site visits of project activities by the Multi-Functional Team.
- **In Oujda (Oriental region), Tangiers (North region) and Casablanca, UNHCR has supported the establishment of Protection Working Groups,** with NGOs, the regional commissions for human rights, the regional branches of the National Mutual Aid and IOM, to identify - in mixed migration flows - persons in need of international protection, with a view to referring them to the UNHCR registration procedure in Rabat.
- **UNHCR is a member of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Morocco** and is involved in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) as well as with relevant thematic end impact groups on Governance, Education, Socio-Economic Inclusion, Migration, Gender, HIV-Aids, Communication and Monitoring & Evaluation. In September 2016, an MoU was signed between the Migration Ministry and interested UN agencies for the support to the **National Immigration and Asylum Policy**.
- UNHCR works with donors, journalists and civil society to improve the protection environment for refugees and asylum-seekers and to provide assistance and access to basic social services.

Main Activities

Protection

- **Registration & RSD:** Pending the establishment of a national asylum system, UNHCR continues to register new asylum-seekers and to conduct refugee status determination (RSD). All positive cases are referred, for validation, to the *Bureau des Réfugiés et des Apatrides* (BRA) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Inter-Ministerial Commission in charge of the regularization process. Regularization by Moroccan authorities includes an interview with UNHCR-recognized refugees and the issuance of a refugee card. UNHCR attends all the auditions and presents the cases.
- **Regularization:** The procedure for the regularization of refugees by the Inter-Ministerial Regularization Commission resumed in December 2018, after 20 months' suspension. The regularization of refugees is essential to allow their access to the formal labour market and be able to earn a living.
- **Legal assistance:** UNHCR works with a private law firm (Cabinet Lemseguem) to provide legal aid services to refugees and asylum-seekers, including counselling, legal assistance (e.g. for issuance of birth certificates, for filing complaints) and representation in Moroccan courts. In 2018, 173 refugees and asylum-seekers received legal assistance.
- **Accommodation & Cash transfers:** UNHCR supports refugees with specific needs (single women, unaccompanied children, persons in need of physical and legal protection, victims of gender-based violence, victims of trafficking, persons with medical needs) with cash transfers as a contribution to their accommodation and food costs (based on needs assessment conducted by FOO and UNHCR). In 2018: 2,981 cash assistance payments were made on a monthly basis.
- **Emergency housing:** Through FOO, UNHCR has an emergency shelter and protection programme. Emergency housing is meant to meet immediate needs, while protection houses respond to longer-term needs. This programme benefits refugees and asylum-seekers in extreme vulnerability: unaccompanied minors, at-risk women, single mothers with children, victims of trafficking, LGBTI. In 2017, **70 highly**

vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers have been accommodated. In 2018: **45** refugees and asylum-seekers with specific needs have been placed in emergency shelters.

- **Protection of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) victims:** A referral system is in place for SGBV survivors, to ensure their access to medical, social/psychological care and legal aid, as well as necessary services offered by UNHCR's implementing partners, civil society and public. The prevention is also conducted through outreach and community-based activities.

Outreach and community-based activities

- UNHCR collaborates with the *Organisation Marocaine des Droits de l'Homme* (OMDH) in Oujda, Nador and Tangier, and Protection Working Groups in order to identify and refer persons seeking international protection to UNHCR in Rabat. **Approximately two-thirds of all asylum-seekers registered by UNHCR in Rabat are referred by NGO partners in Oujda, Nador and Tangier.**
- UNHCR and staff from the **Ministry for Migration Affairs** and from the **National Mutual Aid**, as well as NGO partners, undertake regular, **joint outreach field visits** to assess the living conditions of refugees and asylum-seekers and to intervene when protection issues arise. Outreach activities include home visits, participatory assessments, thematic community meetings (on health, labour, housing, education). Numerous problems are solved through these joint interventions.
- **20 refugee community agents** across the country disseminate information among refugee communities and feed their needs and concerns to UNHCR and its partners.

Education

- Access to public education is free for refugees in Morocco. Under the UNHCR educational programme for children and young refugees, 87 per cent of the refugee children have been enrolled in primary schools. Enrolment is more challenging for middle school (67%) and high school (34 families are provided with cash assistance to enable children to attend school. By December 2018, **1,852 refugee children were assisted with cash payments for their education.**
- UNHCR's education allocation programme is implemented in the form of cash allowances through **bank transfers**, to contribute to stationary, transport and food expenses. Bank transfers allows to reach refugees wherever they reside - even the most remote locations. These education allowances are conditional upon keeping children in the academic system, in order to **prevent harmful practices for children** (street begging, under-age work or early marriage).
- As of January 2019, **612 students** were helped to reach university through scholarships and stipends. These include 50 DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) recipients.

Health

- Consultations in public primary health centres are free for refugees in Morocco. Through the NGO partner Association Marocaine de Planification Familiale (AMPF), UNHCR facilitates the referral of refugees to public primary health-care centres. Pending the extension to refugees of the national insurance medical system (RAMED), UNHCR ensures the medical coverage of refugees, including expenses related to drugs, lab tests and hospitalisation.
- In 2018, the UNHCR medical programme **benefited 3,454 refugees** (January – September 2018).
- With partners FOO and ALCS, UNHCR provides access to reproductive health services, mother-child care, preventing and treating HIV/Aids etc.

Livelihood and self-reliance

- With the Association Marocaine d'Appui à la Promotion de la Petite Entreprise (AMAPPE), UNHCR supports the enrolment in vocational trainings and the creation of income generating activities through micro-financing and capacity reinforcement. In 2018, UNHCR is working with two local partners: l'Agence Nationale de Promotion de l'Emploi et des Compétences (ANAPEC) et l'Office de Développement de la Coopération (ODCO) to help refugees create their own micro-enterprise in Morocco.
- In 2017, UNHCR contributed to the creation process of **81 micro-enterprises benefitting 115 refugees, all over the country**, to facilitate socio-professional integration, and three cooperatives were created for the benefit of 24 refugees. In 2018, **88 new micro-projects** were funded, in sectors such as catering, retail, IT repair & sale, craft industry, dental care, cosmetic services, gardening, water well drilling.
- **Private sector:** not all refugees have entrepreneurial talent and efforts have been displayed to support the employability of refugees in the private sector. Since 2017, some **80 refugees** have been placed in

enterprises by UNHCR and AMAPPE, across the country. In 2018, a Cooperation Agreement was concluded with the General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises, the Ministry for Migration Affairs and UNHCR. In 2018, **29 enterprises** hired refugees.

Capacity building and sensitization

- Capacity building is a key element in UNHCR strategy to support Moroccan authorities and civil society in taking over responsibilities related to asylum. UNHCR organizes regularly workshops on refugee law and related issues (trafficking, protection-sensitive border management) and partners with the National Council on Human Rights (CNDH) to strengthen civil society's capacities related to refugee protection. **From January to June 2018, 34 training courses were organized by UNHCR** in various locations for judges (Higher Institute of the Judiciary), lawyers, legal clinics and university students, executives of the National Mutual Aid, regional commissions for human rights, royal gendarmerie, police as well as civil society organisations and the Protection Working Groups in Oujda, Tangiers and Casablanca.
- UNHCR organizes events to promote a positive image of refugees as resourceful persons within the Moroccan society. UNHCR also develops its network of **journalists** to ensure a press coverage of asylum issues that is **refugee-sensitive and avoids amalgams**.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR provides support to refugees (and in some cases asylum-seekers) opting for **voluntary repatriation**, whenever conditions allow. Asylum-seekers who have been declined the RSD are directly referred to the International Organization of Migration.
- UNHCR implements a **resettlement** programme for refugees with specific protection needs. In 2017, 94 refugees left Morocco to the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain, France and Portugal through the resettlement programme. In 2018, **82 refugees** were resettled to the United States of America and to Canada.

External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2019

UN Human Security Trust Fund	380,311 USD
Switzerland	508,130 USD
Italy	272,297 USD
European Union	332,224 USD
Monaco	160,085 USD

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds

United States | Sweden | Netherlands | Private donors Spain | Norway | South Africa | Japan | Denmark | United Kingdom | Private donors Republic Korea | Private donors Italy | Canada | South Africa | France | Private donors Japan | Germany | Private donors United States | Private donors Sweden | Italy

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