

MOROCCO

February 2020

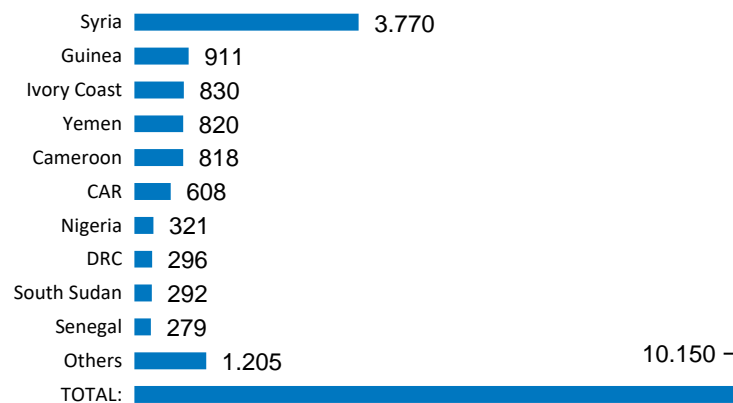
The procedure for the regularization of refugees by the Inter-Ministerial Regularization Commission resumed as of 5 December 2018, following a 20 month suspension.

Since 2007, UNHCR assisted in the creation of 793 new micro-projects to support the socio-economic integration of refugees. In 2019, UNHCR supported the creation of 85 micro-enterprises for 118 refugees.

In 2019, UNHCR in Morocco registered 5,349 new asylum applications. So far in 2020, 600 new asylum applications have been submitted.

POPULATION OF CONCERN UNDER UNHCR MANDATE

6757 refugees and 3393 asylum seekers
(as of 31 January 2020)



Refugees are located in 52 localities across the kingdom.

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 32 National Staff
- 6 International Staff
- 1 IUNV
- 1 International Volunteer
(Monaco)

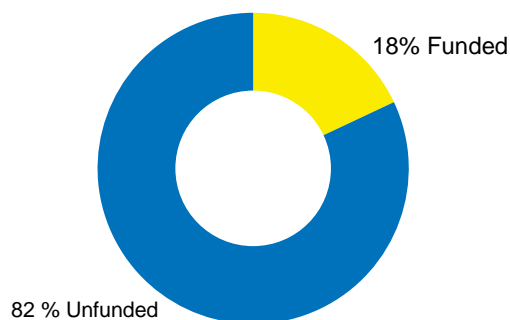
Offices:

- 1 Branch Office in Rabat

FUNDING

USD 8,5 million

requested for Morocco Operation, received as of 10 March 2020:



A shoemaking workshop run by a Syrian refugee in Casablanca.

Working with Partners

- **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is UNHCR's main government counterpart.** UNHCR also collaborates with the Delegated Ministry to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in charge of Migration Affairs, as well as the Ministries of Interior, Justice, Education, Health and Labour. UNHCR maintains partnerships 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 various academia partners.
- **UNHCR works with non-governmental organisations 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).
- **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 persons in need of international protection—particularly in mixed migration flows—with a view to referring them to UNHCR registration 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 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 to provide 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 services.

Main Activities

Protection

- **Registration & RSD:** Pending the establishment of a national asylum system, UNHCR continues to register new asylum-seekers and conduct refugee status determination (RSD). All positive cases are referred for verification 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.
- **Regularization:** The procedure for the regularization of refugees by the Inter-Ministerial Regularization Commission resumed on 5 December 2018, following a 20-month suspension. The regularization of refugees is essential for accessing the formal labour market and for personal livelihoods.
- **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, etc.) and representation before Moroccan courts. In 2019, over 150 refugees and asylum-seekers received legal assistance.
- **Accommodation & Cash transfers:** UNHCR supports refugees with specific needs (i.e. 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 towards their accommodation and food costs, based on needs assessment conducted by FOO and UNHCR. In 2019 3,590 families received unconditional cash assistance. In January 2020, 675 families received cash assistance.
- **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 with particular vulnerabilities, such as unaccompanied minors, at-risk women, single mothers, victims of trafficking, and members of the LGBTI community.

- **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 and civil society.

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 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, and thematic community meetings (on health, labour, housing, education, etc.).
- **22 refugee community agents** across the country collect and share information among refugee communities, relaying their needs and concerns to UNHCR and its partners.

Education

- **Refugees enjoy free access to public education in Morocco.** Under the UNHCR educational programme for children and young refugees, **87% of refugee children have been enrolled in primary schools**, however enrollment is more problematic 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 towards education.** In 2019, 3,593 children overall were assisted with their educational needs.
- UNHCR's education allocation programme is implemented in the form of **cash allowances through bank transfers** towards stationary, transport and food expenses. Bank transfers are able to reach refugees wherever they reside — even for the most remote locations. These education allowances are conditional upon keeping children in the educational system, in order to **prevent desperate coping mechanisms for children**, such as begging, child labour and early marriage.
- In 2019, the **DAFI programme** (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) continued to help 75 refugee students to access university education through scholarships and stipends.

Health

- **Refugees enjoy access to free consultations in public primary health centres in Morocco.** Through 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 hospitalization. **In 2019, 6,480 refugees were provided financial assistance towards health services.**
- Along with partners FOO and ALCS, UNHCR provides access to reproductive health services, mother-child care, and prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS.

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 2020, 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 establish their own micro-enterprises in Morocco.

- In 2019, **UNHCR contributed to the creation of 85 microenterprises benefiting 118 refugees** across Morocco to facilitate socio-professional integration. In total, **793 microprojects benefiting refugees have been created since 2007**.
- 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 2019, **63 refugees were hired by enterprises in Morocco**. For the year 2019/2020, **110 refugees are enrolled in vocational trainings**.

Capacity building and sensitization

- UNHCR organizes regularly workshops on refugee law and related issues (trafficking, protection-sensitive border management, etc.), partnering with the National Council on Human Rights (CNDH) to strengthen civil society's capacities related to refugee protection. **Several 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 organizations and the Protection Working Groups in Oujda, Tangiers and Casablanca.
- UNHCR organizes events to sensitize the general public and promote a positive image of refugees as capable and resourceful persons within Moroccan society. UNHCR also develops its network of **journalists** to ensure a press coverage of asylum issues that is **refugee-sensitive**.

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 refugee status are directly referred to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- **UNHCR implements a resettlement programme for refugees with specific protection needs**. In 2017, 94 refugees left Morocco for USA, Canada, UK, France and Portugal through the resettlement programme. In 2018, **82 refugees were resettled to third countries**, including USA and Canada. **In 2019, a total of 102 refugees were resettled**.

External / Donors Relations

UNHCR is grateful to major donors in 2020

UN Human Security Trust Fund | Italy | Monaco

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds

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