

# MOROCCO

13 February 2019

## Population movements

As a result of increased pressure on the Western Mediterranean route, the number of asylum-seekers registering with UNHCR increased by 23 per cent in 2018, for a total of 3,835 refugee applications. Newly arriving asylum-seekers are from Syria (18 per cent), Cameroon (18 per cent), Guinea (16 per cent), Yemen (7 per cent) and others countries, mostly sub-Saharan.

Refugees originate primarily from Syria (60 per cent), other Middle-East countries (15 per cent - Yemen, Iraq and Palestine) and sub-Saharan Africa (25 per cent - Central African Republic, Ivory Coast, and Democratic Republic of the Congo). Refugees are spread over 52 localities across Morocco, primarily in Rabat, Casablanca, Oujda, Kenitra, Tangiers, Temara, Meknes and Marrakesh.

## UNHCR Response

**Protection and humanitarian assistance** UNHCR supports the Government of Morocco's efforts to establish a national asylum system. At present, UNHCR continues to register new asylum applications and to conduct refugee status determination. Cases meeting the criteria for refugee recognition are being referred to the authorities for regularization. UNHCR has established regional protection working groups with NGO and institutional partners (in Oujda, Tangiers and Casablanca) in order to enhance coordination. NGO partners in border areas in Oujda, Nador and Tangiers identify persons with international protection needs and refer them to UNHCR for refugee status determination and assistance. UNHCR is providing emergency housing, access to health services, conditional cash allowances to support school enrolment as well as cash transfers to the most vulnerable. Legal assistance is provided for the issuance of birth registration documents (to avoid statelessness). Legal representation is facilitated before tribunals for those refugees who are survivors of violence.

**Education** UNHCR's educational programme for children and young refugees has ensured that 87 per cent of refugee children are enrolled in primary school. The enrolment rate is lower in secondary and tertiary levels – 67 and 34 per cent, respectively. 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. 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.

**Livelihoods and self-reliance** UNHCR supports income-generating activities through implementing partners. In 2018, more than 80 micro-projects were set-up supporting 108 refugees. For the provision of vocational training, referrals are made to the National Office of Professional Training and to the National Mutual Aid. In 2019, 113 refugees are enrolled in such trainings. A new programme for job placements has been initiated, primarily through the private sector, and often in the form of internships. Among refugees assisted with job placements in 2018, 46 found private sector employment and 13 received internships.

**Durable Solutions** UNHCR implements a resettlement programme for refugees with specific protection needs, most of whom are women at risk, unaccompanied or separated minors and LGBTI individuals. In 2017, 94 refugees departed Morocco for the United States, Canada, France, Portugal, and the United Kingdom through the resettlement programme. In 2018, 89 refugees departed through resettlement to the United States and Canada.

## Key figures:

**7,775** refugees and asylum-seekers in total registered<sup>1</sup>

**5,940** refugees from 38 countries (60% from Syria)<sup>1</sup>

**1,835** asylum-seekers<sup>1</sup>

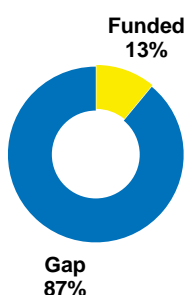
**2,346** refugee children/students receiving cash support for their education<sup>2</sup>

**1,300** households received multipurpose cash each month

**82** refugees resettled<sup>2</sup>

## Funding

USD **8** M required for 2019



<sup>1</sup> Data as of 29 January 2019

<sup>2</sup> Data as of December 2018

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