

MOROCCO

February - May 2019

Population movements

As a result of increased pressure on the Western Mediterranean route, the number of asylum-seekers registering with UNHCR for the period January – April 2019 has risen to 488 newly registered asylum-seekers per month, a 52 per cent increase when compared to the same period in 2018. Newly arriving asylum-seekers come mainly from Cameroon (17 per cent), Syria (15 per cent), Guinea (14 per cent), Yemen (8 per cent) and others mostly sub-Saharan countries.

Refugees originate primarily from Syria (57 per cent), other Middle-East countries (18 per cent - Yemen, Iraq and Palestine) and sub-Saharan Africa (25 per cent - Central African Republic, Ivory Coast, and Democratic Republic of the Congo and other countries). Refugees are spread across 52 localities in Morocco, primarily in Rabat, Casablanca, Oujda, Nador, Kenitra, Tangiers, Temara 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 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 registration and refugee status determination. UNHCR provides 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. In April, UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Noufissa Pharma 5 Foundation, the Ministry of Migration, and the Moroccan Association of Family Planning (AMPF) establishing the basis for future joint programmes facilitating access to medicines, education and economic integration for refugees.

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 at the secondary and tertiary levels – 67 and 34 per cent, respectively. Based on the proof of school attendance, families are provided with cash assistance to enable children to continue 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, 88 micro-projects were set up to support 117 refugees and their families. For the provision of vocational training, referrals are made to the National Office of Professional Training and to the Moroccan Foundation on Education for Employment. As of March 2019, 16 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 2019, 12 found private sector employment and six acquired 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 2019, 21 refugees have departed Morocco through the resettlement programme. In 2018, 89 refugees departed through resettlement to the United States and Canada.

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Key figures:

8,994 refugees and asylum-seekers in total registered¹

6,489 refugees from 38 countries (57% from Syria)¹

2,505 asylum-seekers¹

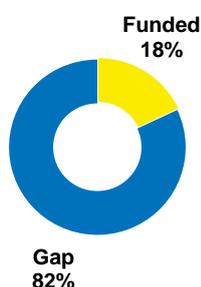
1,866 refugee children/students receiving cash support for their education²

715 households received multipurpose cash each month

21 refugees resettled²

Funding

USD **8** M required for 2019



¹ Data as of 31 May 2019

² Data as of 31 May 2019