

Annual Results Report

2023

Algeria

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- 4.1 - Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

Algeria is a transit and destination country, that hosted about 13,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in the urban context, and 90,000 most vulnerable Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf in 2023. The regional context is characterized by increasing security and political fragility, including an escalation of the conflict in Mali and a recent coup d'état in Niger.

The Government of Algeria has indicated that new asylum legislation will be finalized soon. Without an asylum framework, reception, or referral mechanism, access to asylum and risk of refoulement remain the main protection concerns.

UNHCR continues to carry out registration and RSD strategically, and issues documentation to all registered populations, whilst advocating for improved protection. The protection environment deteriorated in mid-2023. An increase in arrests and expulsions of both refugees and asylum-seekers as part of broader campaigns targeting migrants in an irregular situation was observed with those holding refugee cards no longer released from detention as in previous years. This severely impacted other protection impact areas and outcomes related to access to basic rights. Approximately 50,000 Malians are estimated to be displaced in the country's south. As they have not approached UNHCR Algiers, and given stable recognition rates, as well as registration and RSD processing capacities, the number of recognized refugees in Algeria remained relatively stable, with arrivals from the Sahel region, Central African Republic, Cameroon, and Nigeria and inactivation mainly related to no shows, onward movements and resettlement departures.

The Sahrawi refugees live in the five camps near Tindouf, characterized by extreme heat and very low rainfall with limited economic inclusion prospects, leaving the refugees highly dependent on humanitarian assistance. Nutrition amongst the Sahrawi refugees is deteriorating; global acute malnutrition affecting almost 11 per cent of children under the age of five and anaemia affects more than 50 per cent of children under the age of five and women of reproductive age. The political impasse on the Sahrawi refugee situation continues to cause frustration among the Sahrawi refugees, particularly the youth. The inter-agency Sahrawi Refugee Response Plan 2024-2025 was launched in November 2023, consolidating the needs and activities of 28 response actors and to appeal for \$214 million to meet the needs of the 173,600 Sahrawi refugees, a figure revised up from 90,000 previously deemed to have been the most vulnerable that will guide the response from 2024, reference is made to footnote 4 in the SRRP: "UN agencies use different points of reference for the population living in the camps. For example, UNHCR uses the number 90,000 to refer to the 'most vulnerable refugees' although recognizing that assistance figures should be calculated differently. For the purposes of the SRRP, the higher 173,600 number will be used as a planning figure to ensure humanitarian assistance is comprehensive".

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

By 2024, refugees enjoy asylum in line with international and regional protection standards.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	83.56%	75.49%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	87.89%

In 2023, limited progress was achieved in engaging State responsibility. Meetings with key government counterparts took place quarterly. A draft Data Sharing Agreement was presented to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) for their review, to strengthen the protection of urban asylum-seekers and refugees. Seven in-country training sessions on international protection of refugees benefited 167 representatives from the different ministries. There was no progress regarding identification and referral mechanisms, joint documentation, or transition to a State asylum system between UNHCR, the MFA, and the Office for Refugees and Stateless Persons. UNHCR refugee documentation appears to provide increasingly limited protection against arrests and expulsions. The forcibly displaced face restrictions on accessing the country, and there are no accessible, safe or fair identification, referral, and registration arrangements upon admission to the territory. The proportion of individuals seeking international protection who were able to access asylum procedures remains stable in 2023. UNHCR does not have access to the south of the country, where an estimated 50,000 Malians have been displaced since mid-2023. It is assumed that a proportion of the Malian populations displaced in the south would have sought asylum if asylum information and systems had been available in the south of Algeria. There were two confirmed cases of refoulement. Further, 217 asylum-seekers and 23 recognised refugees were expelled to Niger also reported as cases of refoulement, bringing the reported total of refouled and expelled individuals to 242. While Algeria made no reservations to Article 26 of the 1951 Convention, in practice, the freedom of movement of urban refugees is restricted by the requirement to hold valid identity documents in line with law 08-11 on foreigners. The urban refugee population is not considered to fall within the scope of the term “refugee”. While UNHCR-issued documents used to enable refugees to satisfy the legal requirements applying to foreigners generally, refugee documentation provides increasingly lesser protection. The Sahrawi refugees are recognised refugees on a prima facie basis and not subjected to refoulement in 2023. By law, the Sahrawi refugees require a formal authorisation to leave their camps and Tindouf with a valid reason which may include e.g., a medical or educational ground.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

By 2024 UNHCR, UN humanitarian agencies, partners and the authority will provide life-saving assistance to everyone concerned.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.06%	88.84%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	88.84%

Refugees' and asylum-seekers' access to health services increased from 63.66% in 2022 to 89% in 2023. As opposed to 2022, UNHCR observed increased access to health services due to the confidence in visiting the health services after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and the awareness-raising sessions related to the use of the health facilities, but also the advocacy efforts for better inclusion in the national

health system, and the strategic partnership with Algerian Red Crescent in the urban setting. The health services are free of charge in the five refugee camps and, due to the health awareness sessions, refugees resumed visiting the health facilities despite the limited availability of medicines for chronic diseases. UNHCR continues to partially mitigate hardships faced in the urban setting through cash assistance. Most refugees in urban areas cannot afford to pay for decent housing due to limited livelihood opportunities. The prohibitive cost of renting and documentation issues also limit their access to safe urban settlements. UNHCR continued to lack access to national social protection structures managed by the Ministry of Solidarity, Family, and Women Issues, which limits the services UNHCR provides. Emergency shelter to women at risk and survivors of gender-based violence is needed. UNHCR continued to seek protection and solutions and made efforts to mitigate accommodation needs within the available funds, providing cash assistance to 715 refugees to support them with safe and secure shelters and access to basic facilities, amounting to 4 % of the refugee population assisted in the urban context. With most refugees and asylum-seekers living under the poverty line, the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers such as unaccompanied and separated children, women-at-risk, gender-based violence survivors, female heads of household, persons with disabilities, and other persons with specific needs received exceptional assistance to meet their basic needs.

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

By 2024, refugees become more self-reliant through an improved socioeconomic inclusion, community mobilization and the promotion of gender equality.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	0.00%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	96.88%	95.86%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	98.50%	97.18%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	75.00%	87.89%

In the urban context, UNHCR supported 630 refugees on a case-by-case basis in overcoming barriers to accessing education. The support included assistance with documentation, registration and transport fees. 27% are enrolled in primary education and 42% in secondary education. UNHCR surveyed the community to understand their needs, skills and professional goals and to identify training tailored to their professional aspirations.

UNHCR registered a deteriorating sense of safety in the community, as safety and security were among the main concerns raised by refugees and asylum-seekers in terms of legal and physical protection. 85% of the refugees and asylum-seekers felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood.

The refugees' economic and livelihood opportunities in Tindouf remain limited. The primary and secondary school enrolment rate slightly decreased in 2023 due to teachers' low incentive rates, low-quality teaching, and congested classrooms. The observed trend in school dropout rates over the past few years is concerning.

The Sahrawi refugee community effectively self-manages camps with structured leadership in all sectors. The Accountability of Affected People (AAP) framework, including participation and inclusion, communication and transparency, feedback, complaints and response mechanisms, and organizational learning and adaptation was implemented. UNHCR ensured free, confidential access to gender-based violence (GBV) response through counselling, and hotlines. Capacity building was extended to the women's protection centre, department of justice, civil society groups, community leaders, and law enforcement.

Awareness campaigns on women's rights were supported.

UNHCR provided vocational training opportunities for 144 refugees, e-learning opportunities for 239, entrepreneurial skills training for 926 individuals, and 23 youth business startup grants. 70% of the participants in the trainings were women. Sense of safety was reported to be a concern by young females.

UNHCR supports the Tindouf camps' education system by focusing on quality enhancement and ensuring access to a safe and inclusive learning environment. This support encompasses various initiatives, including the provision of incentives to 1250 for teachers and educational staff, facilitating training sessions primarily for teachers to enhance their skills, procuring essential school furniture and equipment, supplying didactic materials, equipping conference rooms in the camps for seminars, and aiding in the production of school uniforms through sewing workshops, accounting for 49% and 21% enrolment rates for the Sahrawi children in primary and secondary schools across the five camps, respectively.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

By 2024, refugees will enjoy their rights in the host country or in a third country in safety and dignity.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1	0
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	73	121
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7	6
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0

UNHCR promoted and facilitated safe and dignified third-country solutions for refugees. 121 refugees departed on resettlement, and six refugees and asylum-seekers departed on complementary pathways, including family reunification, education pathways, and private sponsorship. 171 refugees were recommended for resettlement to third countries based on a proactive identification mechanism of resettlement needs. UNHCR continued to use resettlement strategically to enhance protection outcomes for individuals, as well as leverage protection space. Some 26% of all submissions were under emergency or urgent priority, providing protection and solutions to refugees with pressing legal and physical protection or medical needs. The operation supported US selection missions, as well as pre-departure and departure arrangements with IOM. The operation continued to manage the expectations of refugees by transparent and efficient two-way communication, including reception days, dedicated email correspondence and a hotline.

UNHCR reviewed and adopted Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on complementary pathways to ensure systematic identification of eligible refugees and asylum-seekers and to establish clear and efficient procedures. In 2023, UNHCR facilitated two departures for education pathways and one for private sponsorship, thereby starting to diversify access to various pathways from 2022, when all departures took place on family reunification grounds. UNHCR also advocated for government-issued travel documentation, such as CTDs, in which the government showed positive interest. While local integration remains difficult to non-existent for most refugees, UNHCR continued its efforts and supported 13 cases related to mixed marriages to Algerian nationals and residency status. All cases remained in progress as of the end of 2023, as the associated administrative procedures are complex. No refugees repatriated voluntarily in 2023; however, the office continued referrals to IOM for rejected asylum-seekers interested in returning to their country of origin.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

In the Tindouf camps, the key obstacle is the lack of a political solution. Other major obstacles that prevented achieving the key impacts were limited funding, which affected basic needs and services like food security, nutrition, health, and quality education. The limited funding also affected the identification centre run by the Sahrawis leadership with the support of UNHCR, and the production of documents such as birth certificates and identification cards. Limited progress towards refugees' identification and documentation issuance was achieved due to the production equipment having been out of use for eight months. The limited livelihood opportunities, the lack of youth involvement in community decision-making, and durable solutions remained challenging.

In the urban context, the operation is challenged by:

- a limited national asylum framework regulating the presence and enjoyment of rights;
- lack of accessible, safe, and fair identification, referral, and registration upon entry, as well as limited mutual understanding between the government and UNHCR on who is a refugee, and lack of UNHCR access to territory outside Algiers and Tindouf, which is of relevance in the context of displacement from Mali to the south of Algeria.

The decreased recognition of UNHCR-issued documents led to an increase in expulsions of refugees and asylum-seekers of approximately 25% in comparison with 2022. Limited data on the scale of mixed movements hindered UNHCR's effectiveness in preventing expulsions.

There is no access to legal representation to support asylum seekers in the RSD procedures. The reduced presence of civil society remained a challenge. Limited access to work remained a critical challenge, with vocational training continuing as a mitigating measure. Cash-based interventions only covered a limited number of the most vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees. Shelter assistance did not cover all shelter needs. Challenges in health ranged from long travel times to public hospitals to limited mental health and psychosocial support services, particularly in relation to new referrals and post-mental health crisis care. Access to education remained a critical challenge: children access education on a case-by-case basis, with 40% out of school. Incidents of violence, arrest, theft, and expulsion remained key concerns. The opportunities to further community empowerment and gender equality were limited. Gender-based violence programmes are implemented almost entirely through direct implementation. Partner support and capacity in this area of work are limited. Efforts are made to improve access to birth registration including through community awareness and capacity development of the judiciary. Barriers such as complex procedures, remain.

The authorities have denied exit permits to unaccompanied and separated children departing on resettlement since mid-2023.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

In 2023, UNHCR Algeria established 17 partnership agreements with a total of 13 partners (five national and eight international partners). Three of these partners are involved in urban programs; eight are dedicated to supporting Sahrawi refugees in the five camps near Tindouf, and two are involved in both urban and Sahrawi refugee camps.

UNHCR realigned its efforts to enhance coordination, visibility, and donor support for both the Sahrawi refugees hosted in the five camps and the urban refugees and asylum-seekers. The Sahrawi Refugees Response Plan (SRRP) was launched in November 2023 and UNHCR established the Sahrawi Refugee Partners (SRP) Platform in Algiers, aiming to raise the refugee situation's profile and to showcase the good practices of the refugees.

UNHCR leads the coordination of humanitarian activities of UN agencies and NGOs in the Sahrawi refugee camps through the Refugee Coordination Model. Under this model, in 2023, UNHCR and partners held eight inter-sector working group meetings and more than 32 sector working group meetings in Tindouf for the 8-sector working groups on protection, education, health, nutrition, shelter energy, and non-food items, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food security, and livelihoods and economic inclusion. The inter-

sectoral and sector-specific working group meetings were pivotal in leading the refugee response plan, ensuring appropriate coordination with partners, information sharing, and knowledge management for the sectors.

Additionally, four Sahrawi Refugee Partners Platform meetings took place in Algiers through 2023 with the participation of UN Agencies, embassies in Algiers, donors based in Algiers, the Sahrawi leadership, and the Algerian Government.

UNHCR also strengthened its coordination with the Algerian Red Crescent, Sahrawi Red Crescent, Algeria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Office for Refugees and Stateless Persons, UN Agencies, and non-UN entities in Tindouf. The enhanced coordination should boost funding for humanitarian, sports protection, livelihood, and youth development projects. UNHCR is a UN Country Team member contributing to the UN humanitarian response in Algeria and advocates to be included in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

By 2024, asylum-seekers are able to enter Algeria and access asylum in a safer manner and obtain joint registration procedures and joint or government issued documentation.

By 2024, the Sahrawi Central Statistics and Documentation Centre (SCSD) will be upgraded to an optimal standard of personnel, facilities, types of equipment and software to issue birth certificates, ID cards, driving licenses and travel documents for Sahrawi refugees.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	97.27%	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	49.12%	70.00%	97.39%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.10%	100.00%	74.62%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023 and beyond, registration by the UNHCR or the host country remained elusive. Many Sahrawi refugees possess personal documentation issued by the Sahrawi authorities through the Sahrawi Identification Centre supported by UNHCR. The Identification Centre received UNHCR assistance in issuing, renewing, and replacing ID cards and passports, and gathering official documentation.

In the urban context, UNHCR ensured access to asylum through digital and printed material, provided information on registration and refugee status determination procedures, and implemented remote pre-registration modalities. In the context of the Malian influx, UNHCR informed the local authorities through the Resident Coordinator's Office and planned for an inter-agency needs assessment mission in the country's south. In 2023, 3,749 new asylum applications of various nationalities were received and 3,217 new refugees and asylum-seekers were individually registered. UNHCR provided new or renewed documentation to all registered refugees and asylum-seekers. However, asylum –seekers document, and increasingly, refugee documents, provide lesser or no protection. The operation strengthened continuous registration through a targeted verification exercise of all Syrians, Yemenis, and Palestinian refugees outside Algiers; 3,121 refugees had their data verified and updated during this exercise, all of whom received cash for transport. UNHCR also approved joint procedures with IOM on cross-referrals, thus increasing the possibility to access to asylum through identification and referrals by IOM.

According to Article 61 of the Algerian Civil Code, a child born on Algerian territory must be registered with the civil status in the council of the place of birth within five days (12 days in the south). There are generally no administrative barriers to child registration. Parents must present themselves at the civil status office with an ID document, and UNHCR documentation (refugee card or asylum-seeker certificate) is generally accepted. If the child is not registered within the prescribed timelines, late birth registration is possible and UNHCR provides legal assistance through its contracted lawyer. In 2023, UNHCR referred 24 children of concern to a legal partner for late birth registration and withdrawal of birth certificates with the assistance of a UNHCR legal partner, as well as conducting capacity development of the judiciary to reduce the risk of statelessness

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

By 2024, asylum-seekers have access to fair and efficient RSD processes and national asylum capacities are strengthened

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	300.00	180.00	315.00
2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	5.00%	0.00%
2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

168 persons with international protection needs were granted refugee status on the first instance in 2023 out of 502 first-instance decisions. All asylum-seekers notified of the first instance rejection of their claim had access to an effective appeal mechanism and UNHCR endorsed 178 appeal decisions. UNHCR used refugee status determination (RSD) strategically and continued to adapt and review its case processing modalities based on emerging trends and the overall protection environment. The operation designed and implemented new simplified procedures for Central Africans and further simplified existing procedures for Malians and claims from other nationalities deemed manifestly unfounded. UNHCR processed cases under accelerated modalities based on the protection needs identified. The waiting period between registration and first instance interview for cases undergoing simplified or accelerated procedures was under six months. The operation processed cases with compelling and urgent protection needs normally within three months. A case backlog reduction plan was designed and implemented during the reporting period. As a result, at the end of 2023, the backlog of pending interviews was 2,868 cases compared to 3,312 at the end of 2022, despite the significant number of new registrations in 2023.

The operation continued to progress toward full implementation of the Procedural Standards for Refugee Status Determination under UNHCR's Mandate, including provisions related to child-friendly procedures, with the launch of the project related to support persons for unaccompanied and separated children during RSD. Communication on asylum procedures included a regular update of the Algeria information help site, leaflets and specific counselling lines on RSD procedures. Asylum-seekers could obtain regular information on the status of their case through the hotline and mailbox. UNHCR trained law enforcement officials on inclusion and exclusion criteria, including during a Training of Trainer for judges and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, providing a better understanding of the refugee definition and related protection needs of refugees.

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

By 2024 the legislative framework and public policies in Algeria are strengthened to enable access to protection services for persons of concern and discrimination against persons of concern has decreased through the improvement of public attitude.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Not yet aligned: ≤69 points	Broadly aligned: =90 points	Not yet aligned: ≤69 points

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Algeria is a signatory to several international instruments and conventions, including the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugee, its 1967 Protocol, the 1969 Organisation of African Union Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, and the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons. However, it is not a party to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. While Algerian law is not gender discriminatory, significant gender inequalities remain in the Family and Penal Code (inheritance in the Family Code and provisions on femicide in the Penal Code. It could also be interpreted to bar persons with disabilities from naturalization. It contains no pathways to ensure the right to acquire nationality for children born in the country of asylum. There are no dedicated provisions for the naturalisation of stateless persons, or procedures to identify stateless persons. UNHCR, in agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, delivered eight training sessions to Algerian law enforcement, police, and gendarmerie; 167 participants were trained in international refugee law and statelessness-related topics. In addition, UNHCR sponsored the training of one Ministry of Foreign Affairs and one Ministry of Justice official in the Arabic language Statelessness Course offered by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Sanremo, Italy. A new asylum law is reportedly about to be finalised and UNHCR offered its assistance in reviewing the proposed bill. UNHCR remains committed to working with national counterparts to address these issues and ensure that all programmes can meet the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

GBV risks are prevented and mitigated by GBV mainstreaming, community empowerment and engagement, and persons at risk or GBV survivors have timely access to quality response resources to develop resiliency.

Persons at risk or GBV survivors have access to support to build resiliency and GBV risks are prevented and mitigated through GBV mainstreaming and community empowerment and engagement.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	50.00%	100.00%	71.00%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	49.96%	65.00%	60.00%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	69.87%	75.00%	73.08%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a core protection risk faced by the forcibly displaced people in Algiers, physical assault and rape being the most frequent incidents recorded. UNHCR supported 92 persons out of 120 persons who reported a GBV incident, with timely individual quality case management service, of which 89% also received specialised medical interventions. UNHCR distributed information on services related to gender-based violence to individuals and community members including women, girls, and LGBTIQ+ individuals through focus group discussions and online tools such as the UNHCR Algeria help website, email, and a hotline. UNHCR and its partners implemented prevention activities focused on both individual and community-based interventions which consisted of awareness sessions, group informative sessions, and campaigns, attended by 150 refugees and asylum-seekers. The activities aimed at influencing the social behaviour and attitudes towards no acceptance of violence against women. The Tindouf camps had a low prevalence of disclosed gender-based violence despite the few accurate data

available due to the legal framework and the cultural sensitivities associated with GBV. However, unmarried women who had children were subjected to societal stigma and marginalization due to conservative norms and received tailored support through dedicated services promoting personalized healthcare and well-being. In Tindouf, 100% of the refugees have access to available gender-based violence services. The Technical Mechanism of Women Empowerment (MTEM) is pivotal and has psychologists and sociologists offering counselling to empower women, including to survivors of GBV. In 2023, the MTEM organized an Awareness raising and sensitization of Sahrawi refugees targeting a total of 300 participants and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign. The 16 Days of Activism provided the opportunity to raise awareness and foster social behaviour change against violence among the urban community as well. In total, the MTEM group received five training courses in 2023 aiming at building their capacity to support refugees against GBV within the five camps.

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

Child protection mechanisms are strengthened, and risks of violence, exploitation and abuse of children are prevented and addressed, while bolstering their participation in child protection programs.

Risk of violence, exploitation and abuse of children are prevented, identified and addressed, and inclusion in the national child protection services is strengthened .

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	66.67%	80.00%	57.62%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2.78%	30.00%	8.57%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	20.83%	40.00%	30.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The inclusion of refugee and asylum-seeking children at risk, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) into the national child protection system remains very limited in Algeria. UNHCR and partners delivered child protection services in Algiers, providing essential support for children at heightened risk through the best interest procedure, case management, psychosocial support, and alternative care arrangements for the UASCs through the foster family programme. The Best Interest Procedures (BIP) were composed of 105 best interest assessments (BIAs) and best interest determinations (BIDs) supported a total of 121 children (65 boys and 56 girls), which corresponded to 57.6 % of children at risk. Under alternative care arrangements, a total of 63 UASCs (27 girls and 36 boys) were supported with emergency shelters, while durable solutions were considered for each case, covering 30% of the shelter needs for children. Moreover, in terms of prevention of violence, children, and their families (8.5%) participated in focused group discussions and community awareness-raising activities with outreach volunteers (OVs) on topics linked to child protection.

In the context of the Tindouf camps, UNHCR has actively promoted inclusion and capacity development in child protection, collaborating with key stakeholders such as judges, Imams, and educators. Through the MTEM, awareness campaigns and focus group discussions have been conducted at special education centres, targeting 227 children with disabilities and their parents. UNHCR, along with its partners, continues to provide incentives to educators and essential materials for handicraft workshops in these centres. This comprehensive approach aims to foster intelligence formation, personality development, and social behaviour among children with disabilities, contributing to a more inclusive and supportive environment. The positive impact of these initiatives is evident in the improved well-being and development of these children, reinforcing UNHCR's commitment to ensuring their rights and protection.

6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

By 2024, access to justice is improved, with expanded access for women, youth, and the most vulnerable refugees, ensuring that Persons with Specific Needs have access to all social services and programmes.

Persons of concern enjoy freedom of movement and have effective access to legal remedies and appeal processes and persons of concern with specific needs are protected through specialized assistance services.

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

To facilitate the release and prevent the expulsion of refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR intervened in all cases of ongoing arrests and detentions either through legal assistance, direct intervention with law enforcement to advocate for the release of individuals, and formal communication with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through diplomatic correspondence. Some were also released directly when showing UNHCR documentation. Among the 529 arrested and detained, at least 82 were released through recognition of UNHCR documentation or UNHCR intervention. UNHCR and IOM also collaborated on releasing detained refugees with planned departures for resettlement.

Refugees and asylum-seekers have access to legal assistance through UNHCR-contracted lawyers, but knowledge of international refugee law is still limited among legal practitioners and public officials, and building capacity of the community of magistrates and law enforcement is still needed. To strengthen this capacity and UNHCR's collaboration with the authorities, a capacity-building work plan was finalised and approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the reporting period. The planned capacity training was implemented, with a total of seven training sessions, including one Training of Trainers, organised bringing together 167 magistrates, members of the national police and gendarmerie as well as a UNHCR legal partner and one official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition to these seven trainings, two representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as one from the Ministry of Justice, participated in the San Remo Course on Statelessness in Arabic to strengthen their knowledge of the protection of stateless persons.

UNHCR contributed to reinforcing the legal and judicial institutions by giving tools and incentives to the 296 judicial staff members in the Tindouf camps during the reporting period. UNHCR trained 105 judges and prosecutors, 18 protection centre staff and 75 imams. The training covered the topics of ethics in the judiciary, criminal procedure including the prison service and detention centres. The participants were also trained in human rights, the role of psychology in the prevention of aggressive behaviour, and professional management of case files. In addition to the judicial personnel, UNHCR supported the training of twenty lawyers on the roles and responsibilities of public defence lawyers by the National Commission of Human Rights CONASADH.

In addition to the training, UNHCR organized the 2023 Protection Seminar held on 25-26 December 2023, reaching the participation of 80 people throughout the camps, and two awareness-raising and sensitization campaigns on human rights and legal remedies carried out reaching 70 people. No refugees in Tindouf were arrested or detained related to immigration control or legal status throughout Algeria.

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

By 2024, refugees from Western Sahara participate more extensively and meaningfully in the various stages of the Operation Management Cycle by ensuring equal participation in community consultation, increasing gender representation in the existing community structures, and supporting the PSNs

PoC participate more extensively and meaningfully in the various stages of the OMC

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	88.00%	100.00%	81.93%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	50.00%	100.00%	77.00%
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	Extensive: =70 points	Extensive: ≥70 points

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR applies the UNHCR Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) Policy . In the Sahrawi refugee camps 560 persons (75% female) participated in various community-based structures and consultations. The representation of Sahrawi women has consistently exceeded 89% across various sectors, particularly in education and health, where female personnel constitute 90% and 80%, respectively. Women have also been promoted to leadership roles and management, with representation of 25% in the General Secretariat, 90% in departmental management, 50% as camp governors, 100% as district delegates, and 100% as mayors. The Sahrawi Department of Youth and Sport has implemented a range of initiatives to mitigate emerging risks among the youth, including the escalating incidents of drug trafficking and theft reported since the previous year. These initiatives encompass sports activities tailored for refugees. 267 students have benefitted from school sports activities (49% female). 400 youths benefitted from recreational activities, and 400 girls from the five camps participated in volleyball competitions.

UNHCR in Algiers promoted meaningful engagement of the forcibly displaced people through community-based structures and thematic consultations with 2,100 refugees and asylum-seekers (60% female). Consultations supported refugees and asylum-seekers to express themselves and participate in decision-making during the programme cycle. Communication took place through two-way channels with UNHCR, such as standard and hotline, protection email box, reception day and other channels that reached 996 persons. Urban refugees' and asylum-seekers' priorities were collected during participatory assessments (PAs), community leaders and outreach volunteers' consultations, feedback from communication channels, and other surveys. In 2023, UNHCR conducted PAs with 135 urban refugees and asylum-seekers, out of whom 40% women and 25% people with diverse SOGIESC % , to discuss priorities and main concerns from 13 different groups. Community engagement activities promoting female participation in leadership structures were either directly implemented or mainstreamed into the work of partners implementing activities. The community volunteer programme was expanded from five to eight volunteers, over half of whom were women. In 2023, UNHCR Algeria strengthened its CFM by developing SOP for the urban refugees context in Algiers, while Tindouf would adapt the applicable procedures for the Sahrawi Refugees in addition to different procedures that fit into the context of the Tindouf camps.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

By 2024, Sahrawi refugees have enhanced access to sustainable, safe, and affordable household cooking fuel and are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs.

Persons of concern with heightened risk can meet their basic needs

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11.16%	8.00%	3.88%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.52%	13.00%	90.37%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, 3,977 urban refugees and asylum-seekers received at least one type of cash assistance. Among them, 3121 asylum-seekers received exceptional cash assistance reimbursing their transportation and travel expenses for the verification of Syrian, Yemeni, and Palestinian refugees in 2023. The purpose of this exercise was to update the personal and biometric data of the concerned populations, review the actual eligibility criteria, and adopt a new targeting approach based on specific needs in 2024.

The remaining 808 beneficiaries were regular beneficiaries who were eligible for other types of regular cash assistance, such as cash-for-shelter calculated based on household size and multi-purpose cash assistance to meet the basic needs of refugees and asylum-seekers, including food needs. Further, cash-based interventions included cash-for-hygiene to assist women and girls of reproductive age with their hygiene needs and departure assistance for refugees leaving Algeria for resettlement.

Continuing to provide cash assistance to vulnerable refugees remained a key element of UNHCR's Cash-Based Intervention strategy and policy. Refugees and asylum-seekers in Algeria have no access to formal job market or permits. Refugees and asylum-seekers with specific needs, including persons with disabilities, face significant challenges in meeting their basic needs and often resort to livelihoods that expose them to protection risks and exploitation, such as illegal activities, survival sex, and begging. Despite the challenges, UNHCR and its implementing partner provided cash assistance to the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers, enabling them to meet their daily needs while preserving their dignity. UNHCR is the only actor in Algiers assisting eligible urban refugees and asylum-seekers through cash assistance as a means supporting the recipients to meet their basic needs.

In the context of the Tindouf camps, during the 2023 Ramadan period, UNHCR successfully distributed 66,836 metric tons of dates across the five Sahrawi refugee camps, amounting to about 0.5 kg/person. UNHR provided in September-November assistance amounting to 1,166,176 kgs of vegetables (onion, potatoes, and carrots), about 3kgs/person. UNHCR, through these distributions, could diversify and bolster the nutritional content of the WFP general food basket, particularly in November 2023, when the daily intake of calories provided fell below the minimum standard of 2,100 kilocalories.

UNHCR has provided one cooking gas cylinder for 28,092 households per month and distributed 5.618 MT of dried yeast, which is an essential component of daily meals, to 28,092 families monthly (200g per household). UNHCR also distributed 581 good-quality cooking stoves to 581 Sahrawi families in need.

9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

Persons of concern have increased access to settlement infrastructure and women at risk and UASC have access to safe shelter

Promote environmentally friendly shelters and safe and sustainable access to energy.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11.16%	12.00%	25.35%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.52%	58.00%	92.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Refugees residing in urban areas often cannot afford to pay for decent housing due to a lack of livelihood and increasing housing costs. In 2023, UNHCR provided cash-based intervention for shelter for 715 refugees to ensure access to decent shelter. This corresponds to six per cent of the refugees and asylum-seekers population in the urban context.

In 2023, UNHCR, with its partners, provided livable and adequate housing to 119 individuals. The safe

shelter included 60 women at risk and 59 men. A portfolio of thirteen apartments provided safe accommodation for foster families caring for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). In other apartments, LGBTIQ+ persons at risk were also supported with temporary accommodation to address key protection needs.

In terms of emergency shelter in Algiers targeting minors, under alternative care, a total of 63 UASCs (27 girls and 36 boys) were supported with emergency shelter, covering 22% of the shelter needs.

The refugees reside in both mudbrick shelters and tents in the Tindouf refugee camps. Traditional Sahrawi tents are crucial to Sahrawi cultural identity and are best adapted to harsh environmental conditions with a gap representing 48% of the refugee households in need of adequate shelter. More than 40% of Sahrawi refugees have constructed mudbrick shelters not complying with construction standards which collapse during heavy rains or windstorms and are risky for occupants' lives. In 2023, UNHCR distributed 1,005 tent materials to vulnerable households. An emergency stock for shelter is kept comprising of 438 Refugee Housing units (RHUs) and 50 tents. UNHCR and its partners, mainly the Sahrawi Department of Transport and the Algerian Government made significant improvements in the energy sector. 50 electric generators used in different sectors as backups were maintained, and five new generators were installed in three hospitals and two water distribution points to support health and WASH facilities. The expansion of the electricity network in Laayoune camp was completed. Around 98% of households in all camps and 164 community facilities including hospitals, dispensaries, and schools are all connected to the electricity grid. UNHCR and its legal services partner through supported a two cases facing evictions from their rented apartments. In the absence of recognised identity documents, it was difficult to obtain notarised documentation to prevent evictions.

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

All PoCs will have full and free access to primary, secondary and tertiary health care (including reproductive health/STIs/HIV, mental health and palliative care), through advocacy for a more effective inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in the national health system.

Persons of concern have access to public health services (including primary, secondary, and tertiary care; HIV and reproductive health; and Nutrition).

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	95.87%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	97.83%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Through continued advocacy with the Ministry of Health and the strategic partnership with the Algerian Red Crescent, the integration of refugees and asylum-seekers in public health services was further enhanced, not only at the capital city level but across other cities out of Algiers. 15 Refugees and asylum-seekers suffering from kidney failure were integrated into the national programme of haemodialysis, and a centre was made at UNHCR's disposal to accommodate vulnerable patients in need of convalescence. UNHCR has created a network of five local associations specialised in health to support the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers. This network of friends of refugees contributed to integrating refugees and asylum-seekers in several community-based health activities designed for locals such as sensitisation, outreach health activities, medical support, breast, and cervical cancer screenings.

In 2023, a total of 4,273 medical referrals were made at the urban level, most of them to the public sector. UNHCR utilized the joint UN fund for HIV to supply three hospitals and three local associations with rapid sexually transmitted infection tests and organize four sensitisation campaigns. 1368 refugees and asylum-seekers were reached, 301 were voluntarily tested for HIV, 15 tested positive and referred to the specialised centres to receive the needed medical support/follow-up and treatment, free of charge.

In the Tindouf camps, UNHCR and its partners continued to support the local health system by improving infrastructure, providing medical supplies, paying incentives for health staff, and enhancing the referral system. Notably, 21 new nurses and midwives graduated from the local nursing school situated in Smara camp, where 94 students are currently enrolled.

In 2023, around 186,677 medical consultations were performed by the Sahrawi medical personnel in the five camps and 529 individuals have benefited from MHPSS services. UNHCR achieved the construction and equipment of Smara camp hospital and ensured regular supply in terms of medical equipment and supplies, while MDM Spain supported drug supply and reproductive health services, reaching approximately 8,300 women, and UNICEF supported vaccination efforts, resulting in around 40,000 children being vaccinated according to the new immunisation plan, with almost 96% receiving the measles vaccine.

UNHCR and WHO provided support to the Health Information System (HIS) through staff training and logistical assistance. ANARASD supported mental health activities, AAPSIB contributed to the child health programme, and Ojos del Mundo supported the referral system to Bechar Hospital. The joint UNHCR/WFP/UNICEF nutrition causal analysis conducted in late 2023, revealed that the main root causes of malnutrition in the camps are lack of income, food insecurity, and poor infant and young child feeding. A multiyear multisector strategy will be elaborated based on the outcomes of the said survey

11. Outcome Area: Education

By 2024, enhanced learning environments and quality education will be available in the Sahrawi camps for primary, intermediate, secondary, vocational training, university, and continuous learning and maintaining scholarships in the host country and abroad.

Inclusion and retention of refugees and asylum-seekers in the Algerian national education system is strengthened.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	15.76%	22.00%	12.82%
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	57.98%	75.00%	77.55%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In urban settings, UNHCR supported the inclusion and retention of refugees and asylum-seekers in the Algerian education system, helping the enrolment of 34,5% of persons under UNHCR's mandate of school age. Access to schools and retention of refugees and asylum-seekers is carried out on a case-by-case basis, as the system and procedures are not facilitated and systematized for refugees and asylum-seekers, leading at times to difficulties in registering children. In 2023, refugees and asylum-seeking children in urban areas were individually supported by UNHCR's partner with integration into the Algerian public education system and benefited from educational assistance according to their needs. UNHCR provided transportation, school supplies, and daily meals for 319 refugee children currently enrolled in schools. While UNHCR's global target is 15% enrolment in higher education for refugee women and men by 2030, only 13% of refugees and asylum-seekers in Algeria had access to quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education, including university. UNHCR continued to provide financial support to refugee university students through the DAFI scholarship programme. In 2023, 197 students benefited from this support. In the Sahrawi camps, UNHCR and education stakeholders continued their efforts to increase student retention in schools and the quality of education provided in a secure learning environment. The prompt supply of textbooks to primary and lower secondary students represented progress in this regard. The goal of one book per child was accomplished. Quarterly incentive payments to some 1,250 teachers and non-education staff, with a slight increase of teachers compared to 2022, enabled the education system to reduce absenteeism. The enrolment rate for primary and secondary education remained around 90%. Teachers, inspectors, and school directors benefited from a training course with 15 thematic courses based

on the needs of innovative teaching techniques. 175 in total enrolled in the capacity development plan. The equipment of the two training centres in the camps with didactic materials for teachers contributed significantly to the smooth running of the training. Procurement of school supplies and equipment maintenance was provided for 38 schools. 3002 school uniforms for children and 290 uniforms for teachers were distributed. UNHCR, through partner AFAD maintained its support for the June 9 printing centre, with consumables for printing additional adapted learning manuals to the Sahrawi context, such as civil education, history, and geography. UNHCR has been able to support rewarding distinguished students and teachers at the end of the school year.

12. Outcome Area: Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Sahrawi refugees living in the five camps in Tindouf can access safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.52%	88.00%	98.67%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Throughout 2023, UNHCR maintained its leadership in the WASH sector within the Sahrawi refugee camps, utilizing a consultative approach and adaptable operations tailored to refugees' needs. This facilitated their involvement in decision-making and ensured inclusivity in daily activities, driving impactful outcomes.

In May 2023, UNHCR conducted a hydrogeological mission in Layoune camp. Inspections and pumping tests of eight boreholes provided valuable insights into groundwater conditions. Findings and recommendations for sustainable water usage contribute to long-term security and sustainability. As a result, the eight boreholes' production capacity increased by five liters per second.

UNHCR drilled two additional 100-meter boreholes in 2023, for Boujdour and Ausserd camps, aiming to increase water availability by over 500m³ per day after treatment, starting in 2024. This will significantly enhance water distribution network functionality, benefiting refugees living in the two camps.

Building on initiatives from 2020, UNHCR and partners continued the expansion of the water distribution infrastructure, Boujdour camp saw 5,185 meters of pipe installation, covering 8.5% of the planned network, and extending coverage to 70% of the camp. Layoune extended 2,342 meters of water network, with 14 water points installed, reaching 50% coverage. 18% of the water network in Smara camp was installed.

Additionally, two 240m³ reservoirs were installed in Dakhla to enhance the water storage capacity.

To guarantee daily water distribution across the five camps, UNHCR and partners provided operational and maintenance support for water supply facilities, including boreholes, reverse osmosis plants, pumping stations, communal reservoirs, and distribution networks. This comprehensive effort, complemented by ongoing support for tanker truck operations, has resulted in 60% of water being distributed through networks and 40% supplied by tankers to households.

In terms of waste management and hygiene, six large dumping areas were maintained to prevent garbage accumulation and vector-borne diseases. Sahrawi staff involved in waste management received incentives and safety materials. Solid waste collection amounted to 18,210 tons, with 13,058 dead animals buried.

UNHCR continued soap bar distribution to 138,421 refugees, including 48,400 women of reproductive age. Education and health institutions received 95,295 soap bars. Hygiene kits, including sanitary napkins and shampoo, were distributed to 48,400 women. Bleach at different concentrations aided in water chlorination and institution cleaning.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

By 2024 refugees and asylum seekers living in urban area have expanded access to job market.

Refugees have access to decent self-employment in the country of asylum.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	7.00%	1.22%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	6.88%	1.00%	7.70%
13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	1.00%	13.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Under the existing legal framework in Algeria, refugees and asylum-seekers face significant barriers to participating in the formal job market. The high cost of living and inflationary pressures further limit income-generating opportunities, impacting both the Tindouf camps' residents and those in urban settings. The Sahrawi refugees encounter unique challenges, including restricted economic inclusion and livelihood options exacerbated by harsh climatic conditions and the camps' remote location. To address these issues, UNHCR has undertaken efforts to collect systematic baseline and end-line data, collaborating with Sahrawi leadership to monitor intervention impacts. Initiatives such as a pilot organic farming project, driven by community requests, and start-up grants for new businesses aim to support income generation. UNHCR and partners conducted vocational training for 144 beneficiaries in the Tindouf camps, provided access to community technology for 2,177 refugees, and offered e-learning opportunities for 239 individuals throughout 2023. Entrepreneurial skills training involved 926 refugees, with a notable focus on empowering women. A commercial exhibition displayed 24 businesses, and 23 youth business start-up grants were distributed. Additionally, a pilot saving and loan association was established, and two organic farms were supported, benefiting vulnerable households with fresh produce for self-consumption. To enhance food security and nutrition in the Tindouf camps, UNHCR initiated various projects. The creation of 424 family gardens in four camps, nine pilot school gardens in five camps, and the reactivation of a regional garden in Layoune aim to supplement food rations. The N'khaila fish farm contributes to production consolidation, serving as both a training centre for young people and a source of diverse fresh produce for certain families.

11% of the surveyed Sahrawi refugees previously reported a positive change in their income; though 75% of refugees surveyed have no job, only 9% were considered unemployed based on ILO's definition (unemployment refers to the share of the labor force that is without work but available for and seeking employment). Applying the ILO unemployment definition to camp setting where access to employment, and financial services is limited makes it challenging to portray the reality. When urban refugees are considered, the overall unemployment rate based on the ILO definition is estimated to be 13%.

In urban settings, refugees and asylum-seekers face limited opportunities for socioeconomic integration due to a constrained protection space. Despite challenges, UNHCR collaborates with local partners to promote vocational training, providing counseling and guidance to 176 individuals. Comprehensive assistance supported 67 graduates in enrolling in vocational courses, with 17 receiving additional aid for entrepreneurial ventures, including equipment and tailored training on essential business skills.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

By 2024, resettlement opportunities are increased and persons of concern have the option of settling in a third country through complementary pathways

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	220	350	171
15.2 Average processing time from resettlement submission to departure under normal priority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	365.00	365.00	517.00
15.3 Number of people admitted through complementary pathways from the host country	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7	50	6

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR used resettlement strategically as a durable solution and a protection tool, including for refugees with emergency and urgent, compelling protection needs (26% of submissions in 2023). In 2023, 171 individuals were submitted by UNHCR for resettlement to third countries. In parallel, 121 refugees departed for resettlement. Refugees at heightened protection risks, including LGBTIQ+, women-at-risk, or unaccompanied children, are prioritized. The operation strengthened its capacity to process resettlement cases, facilitated S selection missions and liaised with relevant embassies on post-submission case processing. UNHCR also coordinated with IOM to facilitate pre-departure formalities. UNHCR managed refugees' expectations by developing and updating counselling lines and FAQs, providing transparent information on identification, procedures, and limitations of resettlement. Refugees in the resettlement pipeline can obtain information on their cases during reception day through the hotline, email box, and email.

In 2023, UNHCR adopted new standard operating procedures on complementary pathways and facilitated six departures (for family reunification, education pathways, and private sponsorship). UNHCR also proactively identified refugees and asylum-seekers potentially eligible for family reunification. and the collection of complementary pathways-relevant data was enhanced at the registration level. Finally, UNHCR advocated with the Government of Algeria on the issue of travel documentation for refugees and asylum-seekers departing for education and labour pathways.

16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

By 2024, the strategy aims to increase opportunities for local integration and provide persons of concern with increased opportunities to settle in the host country

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
16.2 Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.50%	1.00%	0.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Local integration as a durable solution in Algeria remains limited in scope and requires further advocacy. No considerable progress was achieved during the reporting period. In collaboration with its legal partner, UNHCR supported 13 cases related to mixed marriages with Algerian nationals and residency cards. The procedures often stall due to the irregular entry of the refugees undergoing the process of recognition of their marriage or residency, as irregular entry is criminalised. All cases are in progress as the administrative

procedures are lengthy and complex. UNHCR remains committed to working with national counterparts to address these issues.

In the absence of a national legal framework on asylum, access to local integration via regularization of stay, obtaining a work permit, or permanent residence status remains unattainable for most refugees and asylum-seekers in the current context. Despite the challenges, UNHCR continues to work to further local integration in some specific cases of mixed marriages involving an Algerian national and an asylum-seeker or a refugee, with the objective to attain local integration where conditions for regularization of status in Algeria can be met.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

Age Gender and Diversity (AGD) is integrated into UNHCR Algeria Multi-Year Strategy 2022–2024 implementation, and progress was made towards the six primary objectives of the AGD strategy. In the urban context, community feedback was received through the annual Participatory Assessment (PA) conducted through 13 focus group discussions (FGDs) with 135 participants from the community with diverse AGD profiles. PA data supported planning and contributed to organizational adaptation. The outreach volunteers programme in the urban context promotes active community engagement and is another channel to receive feedback. Other important channels included protection e-mail and hotline numbers, which contributed to reorienting the response to protection risks.

40 key informant interviews and 40 FGDs with nearly 320 refugees from all five refugee camps were conducted as part of Tindouf's 2023 Age, Gender, and Diversity survey. FGDs involved Sahrawi refugee girls, boys, youth, adults, a, and persons with specific needs from different categories. The assessment process emphasized inclusion, particularly of persons with specific needs and disabilities, and revealed critical issues such as severe isolation, poverty, livelihood opportunities, the lengthy processing of the Sahrawi ID centre along with insufficient equipment, low quality of the education system, the needs for shelter provision, the environmental challenges like sandstorms and floods affecting both women and men equally. The drastic funding shortfall is exacerbating youth despair due to limited employment opportunities with concerns about negative coping mechanisms including mixed movement. Finally, persons with disabilities also reported during the FGD that they met barriers in gaining access to the feedback and complaints mechanisms to UNHCR and partners, which would need to consider their specific needs when developing systems.

Section 3: Resources

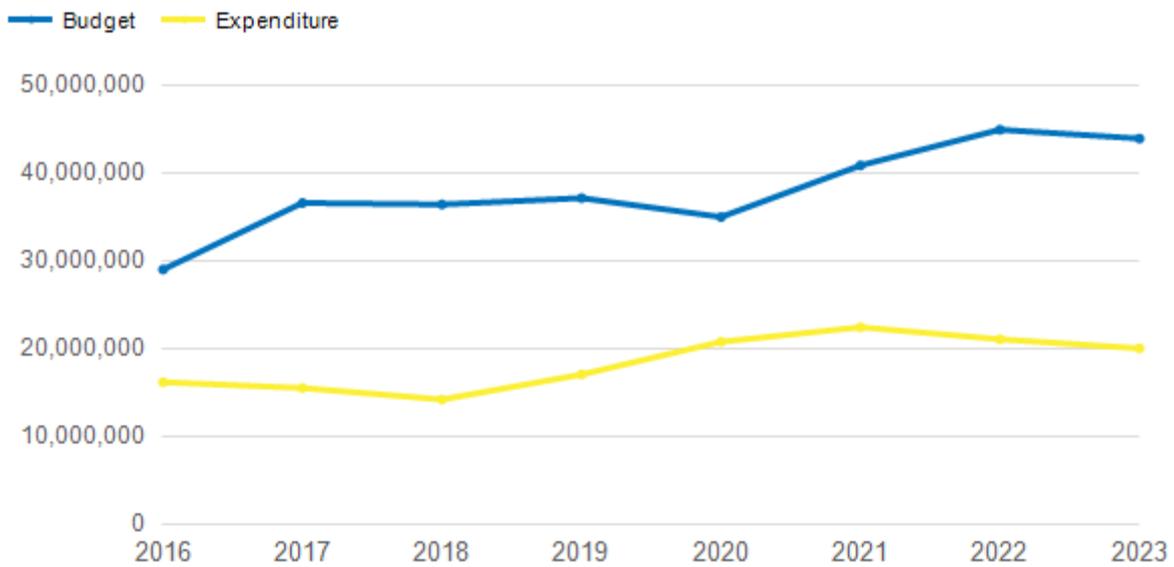
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

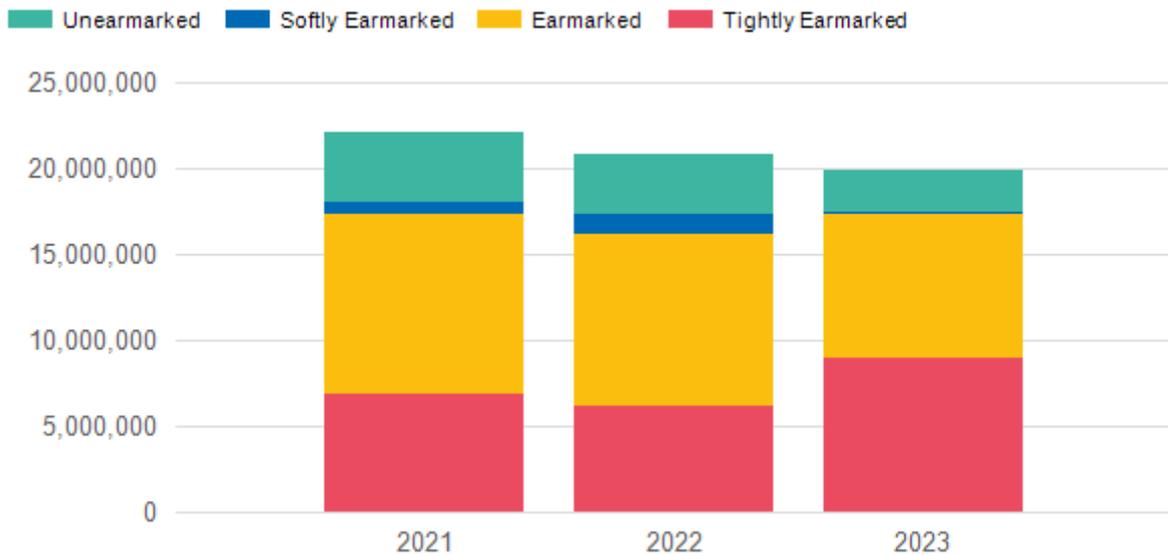
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	4,916,837	2,801,348	56.97%	2,696,507	96.26%
IA2: Assist	29,565,634	13,488,792	45.62%	13,488,792	100.00%
IA3: Empower	8,869,474	3,770,490	42.51%	3,770,490	100.00%
IA4: Solve	513,306	32,759	6.38%	32,759	100.00%
All Impact Areas		114,541			
Total	43,865,251	20,207,930	46.07%	19,988,548	98.91%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	1,363,721	646,715	47.42%	646,715	100.00%
OA2: Status	443,960	272,442	61.37%	272,442	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	500,210	337,343	67.44%	337,343	100.00%
OA4: GBV	451,859	401,603	88.88%	401,603	100.00%
OA5: Children	368,986	320,181	86.77%	215,340	67.26%
OA6: Justice	2,608,946	1,440,008	55.20%	1,440,008	100.00%
OA7: Community	957,161	452,345	47.26%	452,345	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	4,721,557	4,290,927	90.88%	4,290,927	100.00%
OA9: Housing	4,440,241	1,101,993	24.82%	1,101,993	100.00%
OA10: Health	6,405,858	2,329,184	36.36%	2,329,184	100.00%
OA11: Education	4,579,321	1,475,618	32.22%	1,475,618	100.00%
OA12: WASH	10,889,087	3,442,001	31.61%	3,442,001	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	2,512,147	1,225,583	48.79%	1,225,583	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	451,126	32,759	7.26%	32,759	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	62,180				
EA18: Support	2,747,379	2,034,549	74.05%	2,034,549	100.00%
EA20: External	361,512	290,138	80.26%	290,138	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		114,541			
Total	43,865,251	20,207,930	46.07%	19,988,548	98.91%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

UNHCR Algeria is a chronically underfunded operation. In 2023, the operation received 48% of the \$43.8 million financial requirement. This shortfall has had a direct impact on the operation's capacity to adequately address the needs of displaced people in several sectors, including protection, health and nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), livelihoods, shelter, energy, non-food items, education, and food security.

The operation employs a strategic approach to resource allocation that emphasizes the prioritization of the most urgent needs with the limited resources available. This approach involves the use of a Multi-Functional Team (MFT) and engages both partners and the refugee community, through their representatives, in the decision-making process. UNHCR will continue to prioritize lifesaving assistance and protection solutions despite the resource constraints.

The process for determining the needs and the resources required to address them is comprehensive. It incorporates data from nutrition surveys, Joint Assessments (JAM), Participatory Assessments (PA-AGD), reviews of the previous year's baseline data, and multisectoral monitoring reports. This detailed assessment approach is essential for accurately understanding the extent and nature of the needs on the ground.

Despite the systematic allocation of the available funds to cover the most critical needs, critical needs and gaps in funding remain across all sectors. This situation underscores the urgent need for increased financial support from the international community, donors, and other stakeholders. Enhanced funding and support are critical for ensuring that the humanitarian needs of displaced people in Algeria are met in a comprehensive and sustainable manner. Without an increase in funding, the operation risks being unable to deliver essential and basic services, potentially worsening the vulnerabilities and conditions of the displaced populations.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

UNHCR launched in cooperation with the office of the Resident Coordinator a Refugee Response Plan for Sahrawi refugees (SRRP) for 2024 and 2025. This plan is a joint effort of the different working groups in Tindouf with the support of the UN agencies and a good example of the coordination system which should be strengthened and supported. According to the SRRP, the new population figure is 173,600 refugees for Sahrawi refugees as advised by the host country and agreed by the humanitarian community would help to address the repeated request from donors on a revised planning figure. It should be noted that there is no refugee's registration in the saharawi camps. The Central Emergency Response Fund grant was pivotal in reducing food insecurity and improving the nutrition status of the refugees, especially pregnant and women who are breastfeeding. The unfavourable weather, a lack of funding, and limited employment possibilities all continued to worsen the living circumstances of refugees while the UN subgroup for fundraising could play a significant role in resource mobilization.

UNHCR Algeria conducted strategic review initiatives, moments of reflection, on the current strategy at the various MFT and stakeholders meeting in preparation for SRRP and new multiyear strategy. As a result, UNHCR Algeria will have one result chain in its future multi-year strategy, a reduction from the two separate results chains of the current strategy. UNHCR has also decided to deprioritize local integration in the upcoming new strategy and focus on advocacy for more protection space and other durable solutions, including resettlement to third countries.



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