

# ALGERIA

February 2019

UNHCR provides **international protection, humanitarian assistance** and **services** to refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas (mainly in Algiers).

UNHCR is providing international protection, assistance and services to **90,000 most vulnerable Sahrawi refugees** in five camps near Tindouf in south-western Algeria.

UNHCR is the lead humanitarian agency for humanitarian assistance to Sahrawi refugees, which involves **coordination** with all humanitarian actors in Tindouf.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

98,906

Most Vulnerable Refugees in Sahrawi camps

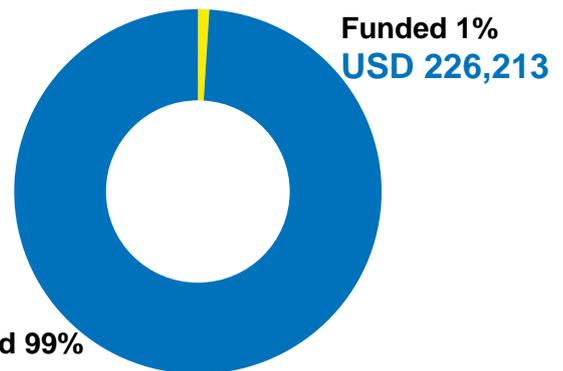
90,000

8,906 Total registered in Algiers (from Syria, State of Palestine, Yemen, Mali & other locations)

## FUNDING

USD 37 M

requested for Algeria Operation



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

- 45 National Staff
- 10 International Staff
- 2 National UNVs

### Offices:

- 1 Representation in Algiers and
- 1 Sub-Office in Tindouf



DAFI Annual Meeting in Tindouf. © UNHCR / R. Fraser

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR is a **member of the United Nations Country Team** and **works closely with the Algerian Government** and with **11 partners**, three in Algiers and eight in Tindouf. UNHCR's partners are: Algeria Red Crescent (ARC), Association des Femmes Algériennes pour le Développement (AFAD), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Humanité et Inclusion, Enfants Réfugiés du Monde (ERM), Green Tea, Movement for Peace, Disarmament & Liberty (MPDL), Réseau algérien pour la défense des droits de l'enfant (NADA), Solidaridad Internacional Andalucía (SI-A), Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH) and Universidad Autonoma de Madrid (UAM).
- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR **leads inter-agency efforts** to support the Sahrawi refugee programme in close coordination with WFP (food assistance and resilience) and UNICEF (health, education and child protection). UNHCR leads the Inter-Agency Working Group and Inter-Sector Working Group, the monthly sector coordination meetings for the Protection, Livelihood, WASH and Health sector, in coordination with the Sahrawi refugee community. UNHCR works closely with the Sahrawi civil society in the five refugee camps, and engages in community participation.

## Main Activities

### Protection

- **Pending the establishment of a national asylum system in Algeria**, UNHCR undertakes a range of protection activities in the areas where it has access. UNHCR also provides capacity building for partners and the authorities.
- In **Algiers**, UNHCR conducts registration of asylum-seekers, refugee status determination, issues documentation to asylum-seekers and refugees, advocates for release from detention and provides specialized assistance to persons of concern with specific needs, including psycho-social support, housing, and cash assistance.
- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR assists 90,000 most vulnerable Sahrawi refugees located in five refugee camps, through strengthening protection coordination mechanisms and participatory approaches to encourage community-based engagement and self-management, in particular for the youth and civil society organizations. UNHCR ensures that assistance reaches persons with specific needs. This includes specific assistance for some 3,054 persons with disabilities. UNHCR also promotes a favourable protection environment through the provision of capacity building opportunities for Sahrawi legal institutions, social workers, education staff and partners.

### Education

- In **Algiers**, UNHCR supports the **enrolment of refugee children in public schools**, where access to education is free. UNHCR provides transportation, school supplies and a daily meal. UNHCR also organizes recreational activities and provides refugee children with support classes for all essential subjects.
- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR provides **financial incentives to 1,719 education staff and offers material, equipment, and training opportunities**. School-aged children are enrolled in primary and intermediate schools in the camps. UNHCR supports 142 university students in Algiers through the DAFI scholarship programme. UNHCR supports the sector to ensure a safe learning environment through the provision of equipment, stationery, books and capacity building for education staff. Psycho-social and mental health support are also provided for students.

### Health and Nutrition

- Refugees registered in **Algiers** enjoy the same access to basic healthcare as Algerian nationals. UNHCR and its partners provides information and refer persons of concern to existing national health facilities. For specific cases, UNHCR supports medical treatment not covered by the national scheme, for example, specific medication and laboratory tests. UNHCR also provides individual psycho-social support.
- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR covers 70 per cent of the medical costs and incentives for **40 Sahrawi refugee doctors** in the five regional hospitals in the camps. UNHCR also covers the running costs of the **Sahrawi Midwife and Nursing school** and offers capacity building activities on the integrated management of childhood illnesses, psychosocial support and non-communicable diseases. To treat those in need of specialized care which is not available in the camps, UNHCR annually **supports eight medical commissions of specialists coming from abroad to the camps** and backs the Sahrawi referral system to send patients elsewhere in Algeria – notably by **maintaining the ambulance fleet and establishing a recovery house** in Algiers. UNHCR supports the Sahrawi Health Information System and implements, jointly with WFP, a **nutrition survey in each camp** (every two years).
- With WFP and the Algerian Red Crescent, UNHCR supports the **supplementary feeding programme for malnourished children and pregnant or lactating women**. UNHCR also conducts awareness and prevention campaigns on issues such as anaemia, chronic malnutrition and mental health.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR and its partner SI-A engage in enhancing the **water management system through the maintenance and repair of the existing water facilities**, with the eventual aim of 20 litres per person per day.
- UNHCR and its partner MPDL support the **waste management system in Sahrawi camps** through the procurement of garbage collection trucks, provision of necessary equipment and payment of incentives for workers. In addition, UNHCR and its partner TGH distribute bleach to health institutions and soap to the schools.

#### Shelter and NFIs

- In **Algiers**, UNHCR provides **shelter and monthly cash assistance** to vulnerable urban refugee families. Some 164 vulnerable refugees, including persons with disabilities and women at risk, are provided with shelter or cash to pay the rent each month.
- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR provides shelter materials to the most vulnerable refugee families. A total of 1,048 Refugee Housing Units and 1,005 family tents were distributed in 2018.

#### Access to Energy

- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR refills gas cylinders for 28,000 Sahrawi families on a monthly basis. UNHCR also provides new gas cylinders and cooking stoves through Algeria Red Crescent. In 2018, UNHCR provided 2,626 new gas cylinders and 1,600 cooking stoves to the most vulnerable families.

#### Logistics

- **UNHCR maintains the large fleet of trucks** required to provide assistance to Sahrawi refugees and organizes the delivery of assistance from Oran harbour to Tindouf. A new waste management truck and gas distribution truck are now in use.

#### Community Empowerment

- In **Algiers**, focus group discussions are conducted regularly to better assess refugee's needs and enhance community-based protection. In **Tindouf**, UNHCR encourages the refugee community's involvement in humanitarian planning, with a particular focus on women and youth. UNHCR supports three women's centres, youth centres, a library, and cultural activities and workshops on the rights of Sahrawi women; as well as sport activities for both men and women.

#### Self-Reliance

- In **Algiers**, UNHCR supports refugee **self-reliance**, for instance, through vocational trainings. UNHCR also provides legal assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees who are eligible to have residency.
- In **Tindouf** camps, UNHCR supports a soap factory, a sewing workshop, five vocational training centres, three artisanal production workshops, a business innovation centre, and the rehabilitation of various bakeries. **Vocational training centres** provide courses on auto mechanics, electricity, carpentry, sewing, pastry production, digital media and computers, all covering a period of 9 to 18 months. Through partners, UNHCR is also providing **grants, coaching and training for business projects** to over 200 Sahrawi youth and a blended course on entrepreneurship for 30 Sahrawi youth. UNHCR's livelihoods strategy focuses on developing livelihoods capabilities, assets and activities for small enterprise development and employment.

#### Durable Solutions

- In 2018, a total of **103 refugees were submitted for resettlement** and 38 departed.

#### Thanks to donors who have directly contributed to the operation in Algeria

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#### Special thanks to the major donors of un-earmarked contributions in 2018

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