

NORTH AFRICA



UNHCR

2012 GLOBAL REPORT

Algeria

Egypt

Libya

Mauritania

Morocco

Tunisia

Western Sahara



A Syrian refugee and his family register at the UNHCR offices in Cairo, Egypt

UNHCR / S. BALDWIN



| Overview |



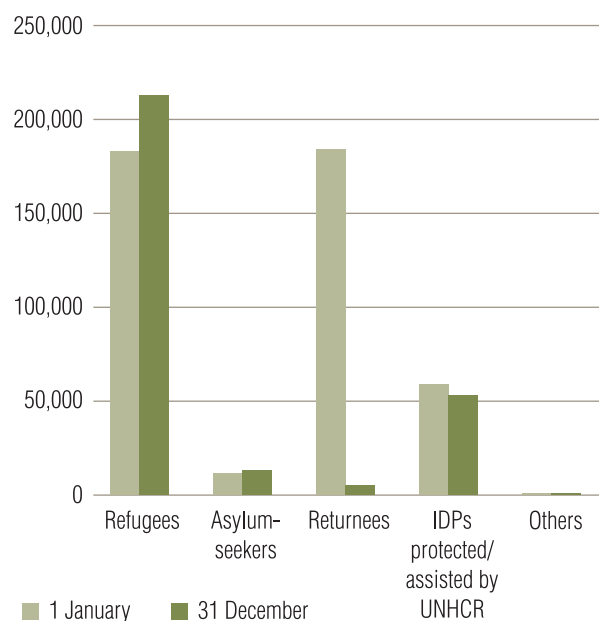
Highlights

- UNHCR registered 31,400 new refugee arrivals from Mali in Mauritania’s Mbera camp during 2013. The Office provided protection and life-saving assistance to 66,400 Malian refugees in that camp.
- Some 131,700 newly-arrived Syrian refugees were registered in Egypt. With partners, UNHCR provided accommodation, food assistance, non-food items, healthcare and education.
- Another 18,350 Syrian refugees were registered in other countries in the sub-region in 2013, although the governments estimated higher numbers of Syrian refugees.
- In Algeria, the organization reduced the refugee status determination (RSD) backlog from approximately 1,500 cases to 250 in 2013.
- The living conditions of some 90,000 vulnerable Sahrawi refugees in camps near Tindouf, Algeria, were ameliorated following efforts to bolster the provision of healthcare, nutrition, water, and sanitation.
- Refugees from Shousha and Saloum camps at the Tunisian and Egyptian borders with Libya were resettled, with the Office’s help. UNHCR closed Shousha camp in June and provided financial

assistance and vocational training to refugees transferring to urban areas of Tunisia.

- In total, the organization protected and assisted some 90,000 urban refugees and asylum-seekers across its North African operations in 2013.

People of concern to UNHCR in North Africa | 2013



Working environment

Fragile security and political unrest in many North African countries in 2013 created a challenging operational environment for UNHCR.

In Egypt, additional security measures were implemented for staff owing to domestic unrest, while an influx of Syrian refugees during the year put additional pressure on regional operations, particularly in Egypt and Libya.

The crisis in Mali continued to cause people to flee to Mauritania, with some 31,400 arriving in 2013 – the majority in January and February.

The number of people of concern to UNHCR departing from North Africa by sea to reach Europe increased dramatically. More than 27,300 people left Libya in 2013, compared to 5,000 in 2012. Some 9,200 also departed from Egypt, and more than 900 left Tunisia. Through the Tunisian Red Crescent, UNHCR provided emergency assistance to 600 survivors of boat incidents.

In Morocco, a renewed migration and asylum policy led to positive changes for people of concern to UNHCR. The Government formally recognized UNHCR-documented refugees and issued residence permits to them.

Achievements and impact

With the exception of large camps in Algeria (near Tindouf) and in Mauritania (Mbera), the majority of refugees and asylum-seekers in North Africa resided in urban areas. There was a growing population of Syrian refugees, mainly in Algeria, Egypt and Libya.

In 2013, UNHCR focused on establishing national asylum systems through capacity building for national authorities. It collaborated with relevant line ministries to advocate for the adoption of asylum laws. In addition, UNHCR drastically reduced the RSD backlog in several operations, including Algeria, Egypt and Libya.

In Mbera camp, UNHCR worked with the Government to begin biometric registration of people of concern, which is expected to be completed in 2014. The aim is to improve assistance to the most vulnerable people of concern, and eliminate fraud or double registration.

UNHCR also worked with authorities throughout the region to enhance protection-sensitive border monitoring and sought to obtain formal, regular access to detention centres – intervening for people of concern when required.

Meanwhile, UNHCR continued providing life-saving assistance to refugees across the region. Camp-based refugees in the region had access to energy, education, healthcare, nutrition, sanitation, shelter and potable water. Working with partners, UNHCR also improved food, non-food and shelter distribution systems in Mbera camp.

Some 131,700 Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas of Egypt relied on emergency assistance. UNHCR conducted mobile registration, issued identity cards, and provided accommodation, food assistance, non-food items, and healthcare. Livelihood and cash-assistance projects, as well as skills training and job placements, were also available to refugees of working age (18-59 years).

While durable solutions options were limited for many in North Africa, UNHCR continued to pursue resettlement as a long-term solution to their plight. The Office increased resettlement processing of refugees in Egypt's Saloum camp, with some 1,100 people departing for resettlement countries in 2013 – the largest number since the start of the operation in 2011.

The Shousha camp in Tunisia was formally closed in June 2013, and more than 3,500 refugees from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan departed for resettlement since 2011. Consequently, UNHCR provided former Shousha residents who had moved to urban areas with vocational training, employment opportunities and access to micro-finance services. It also focused on increasing livelihood opportunities for refugees in Mbera camp and in camps near Tindouf, in an effort to improve their self-reliance and reduce food insecurity and vulnerability.

Approximately 2,000 Malian refugees returned home voluntarily from Mauritania during 2013, however return was not an option for the vast majority.

Constraints

Five of the subregion's six countries (Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) are signatories to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. Nonetheless, the protection space for refugees and asylum-seekers in North Africa remained limited owing to the lack of national asylum frameworks in many countries.

North Africa continued to be a major transit route and final destination for people of concern to UNHCR in a complex mixed migration context, making it extremely difficult to target assistance to them. Nonetheless, UNHCR provided protection and assistance to large numbers of urban refugees and asylum-seekers throughout the region. Durable solutions for these

populations were limited, with few possibilities for voluntary repatriation or resettlement.

UNHCR also dealt with two situations with limited durable solutions options in North Africa, namely that of Sahrawi refugees in Algeria and Malian refugees in Mauritania. The Sahrawi refugees continued to rely heavily on humanitarian assistance, as they have for almost four decades. For Malian refugees in Mauritania, the possibility of voluntary return was limited, further protracting this humanitarian situation.

Operations

Operations in **Algeria, Egypt and Mauritania** are covered in separate country chapters.

In **Libya**, UNHCR faced a difficult operating environment of insecurity and internal turmoil. Nonetheless, the Office ensured protection and assistance to newly arriving Syrians, and intervened for asylum-seekers held in detention centres and people of concern migrating by sea. UNHCR carried out protection monitoring for the 59,000 IDPs and promoted their immediate physical safety, intervening in cases of arbitrary arrest, advocating their civil and social rights, and promoting peaceful coexistence.

In **Morocco**, UNHCR worked with the Government on a draft national asylum law (expected to be adopted in 2014) following the renewed migration and asylum policy adopted in 2013. For refugees

and asylum-seekers in urban areas, the organization ensured access to healthcare, education (up to tertiary level), shelter, financial assistance, response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and legal assistance. In addition, 48 people were accepted for resettlement.

In **Tunisia**, the organization focused on resettling refugees to third countries under the Global Solidarity Resettlement Initiative. By year-end, only 81 refugees from Shousha camp awaited resettlement departure after some 3,500 had departed between 2011 and 2013. UNHCR worked closely with the Ministry of Justice on a draft asylum law, providing expertise and advice, and conducting workshops for the capacity-building of Government officials, lawyers and magistrates. The Office, in collaboration with the Tunisian Red Crescent, provided emergency assistance to 600 survivors of boat tragedies, some 200 of whom were asylum-seekers.

UNHCR pursued the confidence-building measures (CBM) programme for **Western Sahara**, organizing family visit flights between the refugee camps near Tindouf (Algeria) and the Territory for relatives who have been separated by the dispute for nearly four decades. Two cultural seminars were held in Portugal, with the participation of refugees from the camps and Sahrawi people from the Territory, as well as delegations from the Moroccan Government and the *Frente Polisario*. UNHCR also organized two coordination meetings in Geneva to bring the parties together, and invited the neighbouring countries (Algeria and Mauritania) as observers, to discuss the CBM programme.

Financial information

By the end of 2013, the total financial requirements for North Africa stood at USD 168.2 million, some USD 28.5 million more than the initial USD 139.7 million budgeted at the start of the year. This included increases for Egypt under the Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP5); for Mauritania as part of the Mali Situation supplementary appeal; and for Libya for Syrian refugees.

Available funding, together with an internal reallocation of funds, allowed for total expenditure of USD 96.8 million across the subregion. The resulting gap affected in particular operations in Algeria (for the camps near Tindouf) and in Libya, as well as the *Western Sahara* CBM programme. The requirements for regular programme operations in Egypt also suffered, with the main focus being on the Syria crisis.

Budget and expenditure in North Africa | USD

Operation		PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
Algeria	Budget	28,170,158	0	0	28,170,158
	Expenditure	15,088,547	0	0	15,088,547
Egypt Regional Office	Budget	62,946,148	102,472	0	63,048,620
	Expenditure	37,567,010	83,502	0	37,650,512
Libya	Budget	13,346,745	2,162,516	2,790,418	18,299,680
	Expenditure	6,091,071	315,749	313,536	6,720,356
Mauritania	Budget	30,181,042	0	0	30,181,042
	Expenditure	22,208,685	0	0	22,208,685
Morocco	Budget	3,268,226	0	0	3,268,226
	Expenditure	2,187,642	0	0	2,187,642
Tunisia	Budget	14,578,650	0	0	14,578,650
	Expenditure	8,200,166	0	0	8,200,166
Western Sahara Confidence-building measures	Budget	10,381,830	0	0	10,381,830
	Expenditure	4,696,222	0	0	4,696,222
Regional activities	Budget	130,128	100,000	0	230,128
	Expenditure	28,973	46,065	0	75,037
Total budget		163,002,928	2,364,989	2,790,418	168,158,334
Total expenditure		96,068,315	445,316	313,536	96,827,166

Voluntary contributions to North Africa | USD

Earmarking / Donor	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
NORTH AFRICA OVERALL				
Liechtenstein			107,991	107,991
United States of America			6,980,000	6,980,000
NORTH AFRICA OVERALL Total			7,087,991	7,087,991
ALGERIA				
Central Emergency Response Fund	627,093			627,093
European Union	2,284,031			2,284,031
Italy	383,142			383,142
Private donors in Italy	144,937			144,937
Private donors in Switzerland	44,340			44,340
Spain	260,756			260,756
United States of America			4,400,000	4,400,000
ALGERIA Total		3,744,300	4,400,000	8,144,300

Earmarking / Donor	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
EGYPT REGIONAL OFFICE				
Canada	1,188,043			1,188,043
European Union	970,740			970,740
Germany	339,213			339,213
Kuwait	4,193,548			4,193,548
Private donors in Egypt	45,806			45,806
United States of America	9,700,000		3,700,000	13,400,000
United Kingdom	2,715,655			2,715,655
EGYPT REGIONAL OFFICE Total	19,153,005		3,700,000	22,853,005
LIBYA				
European Union	583,593			583,593
Italy	7,285			7,285
Private donors in the United States of America		24,500		24,500
Switzerland			998,902	998,902
LIBYA Total	590,878	24,500	998,902	1,614,281
MAURITANIA				
Central Emergency Response Fund	2,178,453			2,178,453
France	265,565			265,565
Germany	663,130			663,130
Japan	12,000,000			12,000,000
Private donors in Switzerland	37,250			37,250
Spain	1,423,326			1,423,326
United Kingdom	1,101,905			1,101,905
United Nations Development Programme	219,282			219,282
United States of America	2,300,000		2,400,000	4,700,000
MAURITANIA Total	20,188,911		2,400,000	22,588,911
MOROCCO				
Monaco	194,805			194,805
Private donors in Switzerland	4,600			4,600
Switzerland	134,409			134,409
MOROCCO Total	333,814			333,814
TUNISIA				
European Union	1,008,127			1,008,127
Germany	372,671			372,671
TUNISIA Total	1,380,798			1,380,798
WESTERN SAHARA: CBM				
Morocco			28,589	28,589
Norway	953,007			953,007
United States of America			1,600,000	1,600,000
WESTERN SAHARA CBM Total	953,007		1,628,589	2,581,596
Total	46,344,713	24,500	20,215,483	66,584,696

Note: Includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities – mandate-related" (NAM)