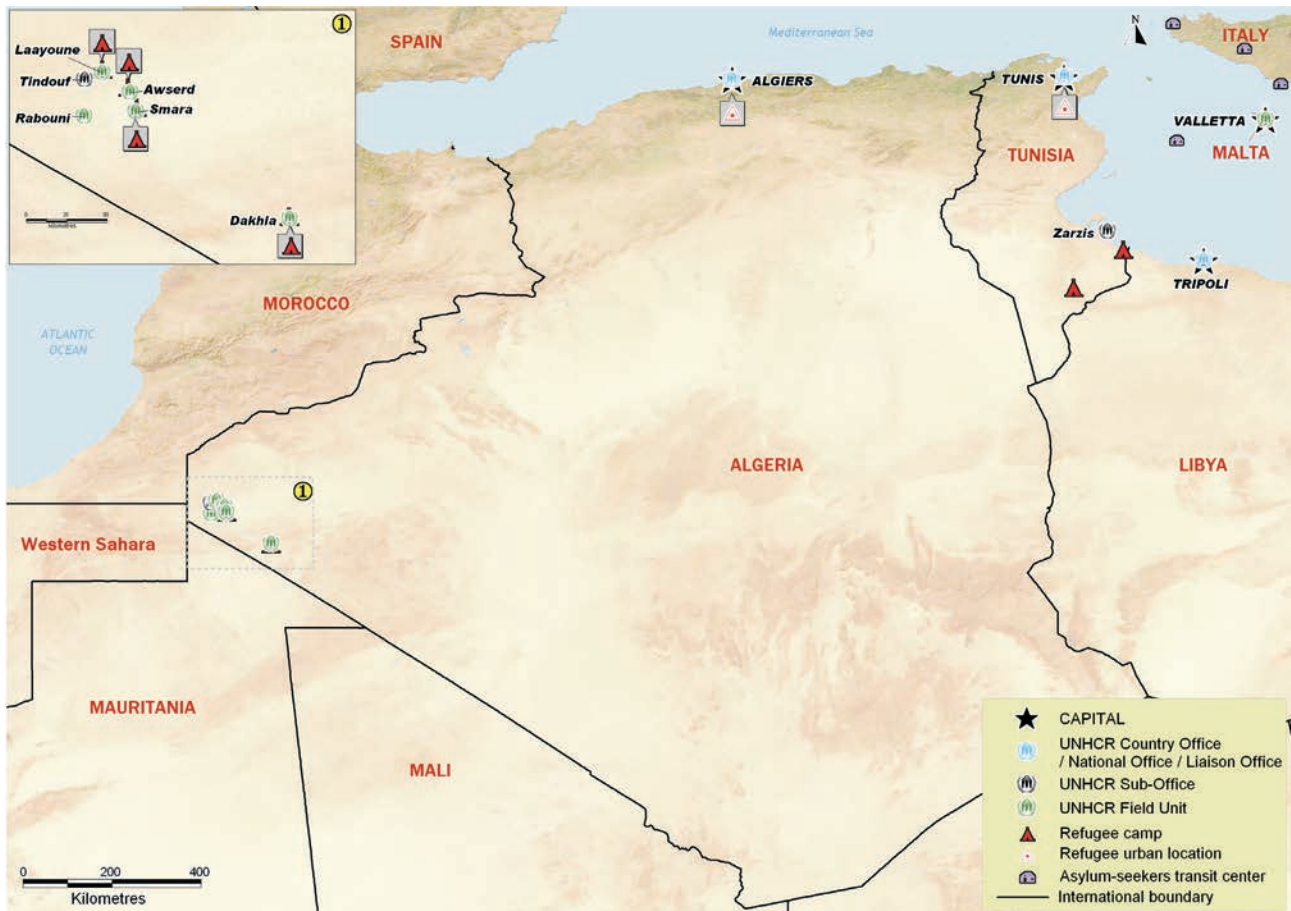


ALGERIA



Operational highlights

- UNHCR had productive discussions with the Algerian Government about the establishment of a national asylum system. UNHCR offered its legal expertise to support the development of a new refugee law and expressed its willingness to train Government officials.
- Refugees in urban areas were assisted by UNHCR to obtain housing, food, health services, education and vocational training.
- UNHCR invested in the key sectors of water, nutrition, health and education in the Sahrawi refugee camps. Improvements were made in the quantity and quality of water provided to the refugees and in the nutritional status of certain vulnerable groups.

- As part of its strategy to strengthen protection and monitoring in the four refugee camps, UNHCR established field units in each of them. The units became fully operational in 2011.

Working environment

In the absence of national asylum structures, UNHCR registered, documented and conducted refugee status determinations (RSD) for people of concern in Algeria. By the end of 2011, some 140 refugees and 820 asylum-seekers, the majority of whom were from sub-Saharan Africa, were registered with UNHCR in Algiers. The number of asylum-seekers approaching UNHCR increased significantly in 2011; most were from Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire or Nigeria.

Persons of concern

| Type of Population | Origin | Total | Of whom assisted by UNHCR | Per cent female | Per cent under 18 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Refugees | Western Sahara ¹ | 90,000 | 90,000 | - | - |
| | Occupied Palestinian Territory | 4,000 | 10 | - | - |
| | Various | 130 | 130 | 41 | 34 |
| Asylum-seekers | Cameroon | 300 | 300 | 37 | 13 |
| | Côte d'Ivoire | 210 | 210 | 28 | 8 |
| | Various | 310 | 310 | 19 | 12 |
| Total | | 94,950 | 90,960 | | |

¹ According to the Government of Algeria, there are an estimated 165,000 refugees in the Sahrawi camps near Tindouf.

Urban refugees and asylum-seekers are often perceived as illegal economic migrants, making them vulnerable to arrest and detention. Most refugees cannot access the formal labour market. However, refugees and asylum-seekers have access to the public health system in Algiers and other urban areas.

In the absence of a political solution to the long-standing conflict over the status of *Western Sahara*, the Sahrawi refugees living in four camps in the Tindouf region remained entirely dependent on international assistance. Pending a registration exercise, UNHCR's assistance programme was based on a planning figure of 90,000 vulnerable refugees in the camps.

| Achievements and impact |

● Main objectives and targets

UNHCR continued to implement two main programmes in Algeria: one for the urban refugees and asylum-seekers and another for the camp-based Sahrawi refugees. In relation to the first group, the main objective was to enhance the protection space for urban refugees and asylum-seekers while meeting their basic needs. With respect to the Sahrawi refugees, the key objectives were to enhance protection and to reorient the assistance programme towards greater investments in vital sectors such as water, nutrition, health and education.

Favourable protection environment

- The dramatic developments in neighbouring countries, most notably Tunisia and Libya, affected the protection climate in Algeria. Three urban refugees and four asylum-seekers were *refouled* at the border with Mali, despite UNHCR's objections, while some refugees and asylum-seekers were subjected to arrest and detention. In response to this situation, UNHCR intensified its sensitization campaigns for the police and gendarmerie, and shared with the authorities an explanatory note on the documentation issued by the Office.
- UNHCR developed procedures to deal with sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in urban areas. It also disseminated an information leaflet on the mechanisms available to deal with SGBV among refugees and asylum-seekers.

Fair protection processes

- UNHCR conducted registration and RSD under its mandate. All asylum-seekers who were over 18 years old and all unaccompanied minors were interviewed individually. All asylum-seekers were issued with temporary attestations, renewable until their final RSD decision. The average waiting period between registration and the final decision was six months.

Security from violence and exploitation

- UNHCR improved its access to the Sahrawi refugee population by establishing field units in the four camps.

Sahrawi refugee girl in Smara camp, Tindouf region.



UNHCR / P. MATEU

Dispute-resolution mechanisms were strengthened through the training of employees of the Sahrawi authorities. Information technology training was also conducted to help modernize the management of legal case files.

Basic needs and services

- Refugees and asylum-seekers residing in Algerian cities do not have access to legal sources of income and thereby lack the means to purchase food and other basic domestic items. In 2011, UNHCR filled the breach by providing some 140 refugees and unaccompanied minors with monthly food baskets. These refugees were also provided with housing, a fixed subsidy for water and electricity, and cards that entitled them to a monthly account at a local store close to their homes. Some 40 refugee women received hygiene kits every month and 16 refugee children below two years of age received milk and diapers.
- UNHCR reinforced the water distribution networks in the Sahrawi camps and increased the quantity of water available to the refugees. A pilot training programme was conducted for the Sahrawi Water Department staff. In addition, a UNHCR expert helped develop a five-year strategy for water projects in the camps.
- After a survey in 2010 revealed high rates of chronic malnutrition and anaemia among children under five and pregnant and lactating women in the camps, in 2011 UNHCR, WFP and partners began providing therapeutic

feeding for severely malnourished children under five. This was in addition to a supplementary feeding programme that provided some 7,000 malnourished children under the age of five and some 3,000 pregnant and lactating women with special food items. Reports indicated a decline in the number of children transferred from the supplementary feeding scheme to the therapeutic programme. The reports also showed an increase in the number of children discharged from the supplementary feeding programme.

- UNHCR continued the distribution of green tea and yeast for bread among the refugees. In addition, fresh vegetables were distributed during Ramadan. Training sessions for some 150 health and nutritional personnel helped in the early detection and treatment of malnourished children and their mothers. Three Awareness and Behaviour Change and Communication sessions aimed at women in all the camps focused on the use of nutritional products distributed under the anaemia prevention programme.
- More than 56,000 school books and 26,000 children's jogging suits and bags were distributed. Six schools were enlarged to accommodate an additional 660 Sahrawi students who had returned from Libya following the crisis. One school was rehabilitated, and 1,600 Sahrawi education staff benefited from incentives. Twenty-five Sahrawi refugees enrolled in 10 Algerian universities received DAFI scholarships.
- Tent material was ordered for 1,300 families. In order to enhance camp sanitation and environment protection, two garbage trucks were purchased and environment-protection campaigns were conducted.

Community participation and self-management

- In order to support the eventual self-reliance of urban refugees, UNHCR provided them with training in ceramics, electrical systems, sewing and welding. Twenty-five refugees, including 15 women, benefited from such training in 2011.
- In the Sahrawi refugee camps, UNHCR worked with three Sahrawi administrations headed by women, related to social affairs and the promotion of women, as well as for education, and for culture. Vocational centres provided a series of activities for women, youth and disabled people in all camps. An income-generation project involving the small-scale manufacturing of sweets was implemented and a cyber-cafe was inaugurated in Dakhla camp.

Durable solutions

- With the support of the Regional Resettlement Hub in Beirut, 60 urban refugees were submitted for resettlement, of whom nine departed for their new homes in 2011.

Logistics and operational support

- In Tindouf, UNHCR supported a mechanical workshop at Rabouni in order to ensure the timely and efficient delivery of water and non-food items (NFIs) and the

collection of garbage. UNHCR's fleet also had ambulances and light vehicles. Mobile units conducted basic maintenance on the trucks in each camp. A fleet-management consultant was hired in the last quarter of 2011.

External relations

- A donor mission to the Sahrawi refugee camps was organized jointly by UNHCR and WFP in April 2011. The main objective of the mission was to promote awareness of and support for the humanitarian situation in the camps; it included field visits and dialogue with the Sahrawi refugees. The participants witnessed first-hand the progress made and the critical unmet needs in the camps.

| Constraints |

The absence of a national asylum system, including refugee legislation and procedures, continued to impede the protection of urban refugees and asylum-seekers in Algeria. The lack of accurate statistics on the Sahrawi refugee population due to non-registration also hampered the operation in the camps.

| Financial information |

The comprehensive budget for Algeria in 2011 was more than USD 7 million higher than in 2010, reflecting programmes to improve protection and assistance for the Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps, particularly in the key sectors of water, nutrition, health and education. However, due to limited resources, only USD 14.8 million were made available to the operation.

| Organization and implementation |

UNHCR's operation in Algeria was managed by a Country Office in Algiers and a Sub-Office in Tindouf. In addition, four small field units were established in the Sahrawi refugee camps. A total of 51 staff were working in Algeria in 2011.

| UNHCR's presence in 2011 |

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| □ Number of offices | 2 |
| □ Total staff | 51 |
| International | 11 |
| National | 37 |
| JPOs | 1 |
| UNVs | 2 |

| Working with others |

UNHCR worked in partnership with four local NGOs in Algiers. In 2011, the Italian Refugee Council worked with UNHCR on a joint project to assist urban refugees. In Tindouf, UNHCR worked with nine implementing partners. Other UN agencies, including WFP, WHO and UNICEF, also supported the Sahrawi refugee programme.

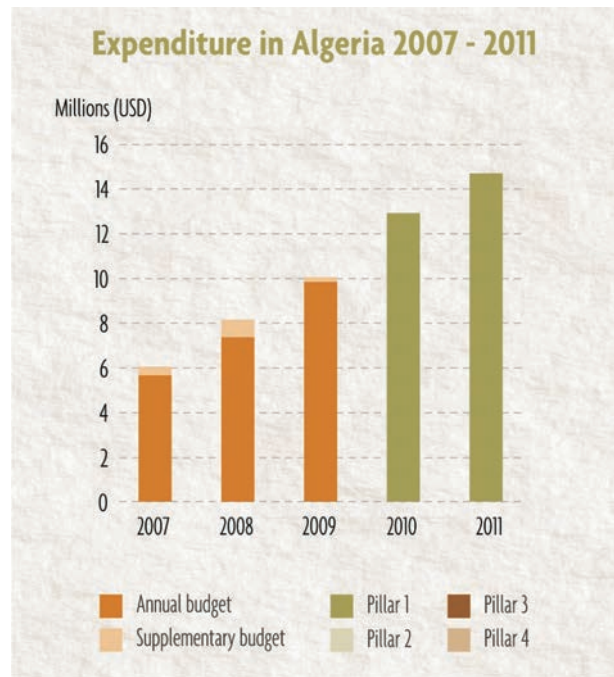
| Overall assessment |

Age, gender and diversity mainstreaming exercises conducted at the end of 2011 in Algiers revealed that the main problems faced by urban refugees and asylum-seekers were the absence of legal status and residence, as well as limits on access to economic, social and civil rights. Future programmes for this population will need to pay special attention to food security, access to services, psychosocial support, employment and income-generating activities.

Investments in the long-term welfare of the Sahrawi refugees in Tindouf resulted in some improvements in living conditions in the camps, particularly with regard to water and nutrition. The field units in the camps are now fully staffed and will improve protection monitoring and the coordination of humanitarian assistance.

| Unmet needs |

- Only limited health services could be offered to recognized refugees, and only life-saving medical assistance could be provided for asylum-seekers living in urban areas.
- UNHCR could provide only 40 per cent of the urban refugees with NFIs for the winter.
- The lack of an adequate number of hygienic kits and sanitary pads, coupled with the limited quantities of water available, exposed the camp population to difficult hygienic conditions.
- Toilets and sanitation facilities in most of the hospitals in the camps have not been rehabilitated for more than ten years.
- Primary schools in the camps continued to lack basic furniture.
- Minimal cooking gas for families in the camps could only be provided for eight months.
- More than 10,000 tents need to be replaced.



Partners

Implementing partners

NGOs: *Association des Femmes Algériennes pour le Développement, Caritas-Algérie, Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli, Disarmament and Liberty, Enfants Réfugiés du Monde-Pays de la Loire, Info-com Jeunes, League Movimento por la Paz, Ligue Algérienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme, Movement for Peace, MUNDUBAT, Red Deporte Cooperación, Réseau Algérien pour la défense des Droits de l'enfant (NADA), Solidaridad Internacional Andalucía, Triangle Génération Humanitaire*

Others: Algerian Red Crescent Society

Operational partners

Government agencies: Bureau for Refugees and Stateless Persons (BAPRA) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Division of Human Rights, Social Development and Cultural, Scientific and Technical Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

NGOs: *Médecins du Monde – Greece, Médecins du Monde – Spain, Oxfam Solidarité, Spanish Red Cross Society*

Others: Italian Refugee Council, Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, WFP

Budget, income and expenditure in Algeria | USD

| | PILLAR 1 Refugee programme | Total |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| FINAL BUDGET | 25,729,823 | 25,729,823 |
| Income from contributions | 5,342,393 | 5,342,393 |
| Other funds available | 9,425,994 | 9,425,994 |
| TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE | 14,768,387 | 14,768,387 |
| EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN | | |
| <i>Favourable protection environment</i> | | |
| National legal framework | 56,549 | 56,549 |
| Cooperation with partners | 80,702 | 80,702 |
| Public attitudes towards persons of concern | 52,367 | 52,367 |
| <i>Non-refoulement</i> | 58,729 | 58,729 |
| Subtotal | 248,347 | 248,347 |
| <i>Fair protection processes and documentation</i> | | |
| Registration and profiling | 88,233 | 88,233 |
| Fair and efficient status determination | 93,013 | 93,013 |
| Civil status documentation | 64,983 | 64,983 |
| Subtotal | 246,229 | 246,229 |
| <i>Security from violence and exploitation</i> | | |
| Gender-based violence | 77,730 | 77,730 |
| Freedom of movement | 136,833 | 136,833 |
| Non-arbitrary detention | 79,127 | 79,127 |
| Access to legal remedies | 407,440 | 407,440 |
| Subtotal | 701,130 | 701,130 |
| <i>Basic needs and essential services</i> | | |
| Nutrition | 1,774,827 | 1,774,827 |
| Water | 1,102,422 | 1,102,422 |
| Shelter and other infrastructure | 584,229 | 584,229 |
| Basic domestic and hygiene items | 555,436 | 555,436 |
| Primary health care | 436,148 | 436,148 |
| HIV and AIDS | 90,078 | 90,078 |
| Education | 1,200,752 | 1,200,752 |
| Sanitation services | 242,582 | 242,582 |
| Services for groups with specific needs | 392,027 | 392,027 |
| Subtotal | 6,378,501 | 6,378,501 |
| <i>Community participation and self-management</i> | | |
| Community self-management | 617,434 | 617,434 |
| Subtotal | 617,434 | 617,434 |
| <i>Durable solutions</i> | | |
| Resettlement | 194,950 | 194,950 |
| Subtotal | 194,950 | 194,950 |
| <i>External relations</i> | | |
| Donor relations | 84,340 | 84,340 |
| Resource mobilisation | 83,572 | 83,572 |
| Partnership | 80,806 | 80,806 |
| Subtotal | 248,718 | 248,718 |
| <i>Logistics and operations support</i> | | |
| Supply chain and logistics | 2,069,702 | 2,069,702 |
| Programme management and coordination | 1,207,976 | 1,207,976 |
| Subtotal | 3,277,678 | 3,277,678 |
| Balance of instalments with implementing partners | 2,855,401 | 2,855,401 |
| Total | 14,768,388 | 14,768,388 |