

# ALGERIA REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN FOR FLOOD DAMAGE IN CAMPS

October – December 2015



2 November 2015

Cover photo:

*Sahrawi refugee children in Awserd camp following severe flooding that destroyed their shelter.*  
© Sahrawi refugee community / October 2015

# Strategic Overview

<b>Period</b>	October – December 2015
<b>Population Planning Figures</b>	57,500* (11,500 families)
<b>Target Beneficiaries</b>	Sahrawi refugees affected by floods
<b>Financial Requirements</b>	USD 19,896,000

*\* for the purpose of this appeal, family size of 5 has been applied*

# Table of Contents

---

Response Plan .....	5
Background and Achievements.....	6
Humanitarian Needs and Vulnerabilities.....	7
Response Strategy and Priorities.....	7
Partnership and Coordination.....	9
Planned Response .....	10
Financial Requirements Summary .....	11



## ***Background and Achievements***

Since 17 October 2015, heavy rains in South-western Algeria have caused severe floods in the five Sahrawi refugee camps (Awserd, Boujdour, Dakhla, Laayoune and Smara) near Tindouf, where some 90,000 vulnerable refugees are sheltered. The resulting damage is massive, with shelters destroyed, latrines flooded, and food stocks, shops, hospitals, schools and roads badly damaged or destroyed.

Consequently, in partnership with the Government of Algeria, local authorities and the refugee communities themselves, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are appealing for emergency assistance.

The Sahrawi refugee situation is one of the most protracted refugee crises in the world. Pending political solution, the refugee population remains extremely vulnerable and fully dependant on international assistance. Options for economic activities are extremely limited due to the harsh environmental conditions and the remote location of the camps. Child and maternal mortality rates are high; anaemia is widespread because of the lack of fresh food; and adequate infrastructures for basic education are often lacking. Due to its protracted nature, the refugee programme has also suffered from declining funds in recent years.

This flooding has affected some 11,500 families. The great majority of those affected are vulnerable children and women, who constitute 70 to 80 per cent of the total refugee population. Dakhla camp, the most isolated and distant from the city of Tindouf, was the worst affected and the situation is rapidly worsening in all camps.

The humanitarian partners already present in the camps are quickly responding to the crisis. Thousands of bottles of drinking water along with fresh food commodities are being distributed and emergency family tents airlifted, and other relief items. To respond to the most urgent humanitarian needs and to avoid long-term negative consequences of this crisis, the response needs to be further expanded in a rapid and comprehensive manner.



*Figure 1: Destroyed house, Awserd camp. UNHCR/N.Riche*

## ***Humanitarian Needs and Vulnerabilities***

Rapid needs assessments in the immediate aftermath of the flooding have revealed that there is an urgent need in all sectors such as shelter and NFIs, food, WASH, health and nutrition, and education.

The heavy rains have partially or completely damaged houses built of mud in the five refugee camps, making most of them inhabitable. It is estimated that up to 11,500 families need emergency shelter and essential relief items. People lack safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene supplies. The floodwater risks contaminating underground water sources and hygiene and sanitation standards are in short supply.

Household food stocks have been lost: it is estimated that the equivalent of 85,000 food rations, distributed a few days prior to the floods, have been destroyed. This has worsened the refugees' food security and nutrition status, which had already been affected due to the limited food basket diversity and fortified food since early 2015. Since August, the reduction of monthly food rations has also impacted on the kilocalorie (kcal) intake, which fell under 2,000 kcal, while the recommended minimum is 2,100 kcal.

Urgent action is also required to prevent an upsurge in cases of diarrhoea and other water-borne public health risks. Up to 30 per cent of hospitals and health centres may have been damaged.

Children have lost their basic learning material, and up to 30 per cent of schools may have been severely damaged, preventing an estimated 6,500 children to pursue their schooling. At least three centres for children with disabilities were fully destroyed, depriving extremely vulnerable children from appropriate care and psychosocial support.

## ***Response Strategy and Priorities***

### **Education**

As an immediate response, UNICEF will set up temporary learning spaces that will ensure the continuation of educational activities for primary school and young children. UNICEF will supply school tents, schooling supplies, and recreational materials for children. "Child friendly tents" will be supplied to replace the destroyed centres caring for the most vulnerable children, particularly for children with disabilities, who will receive psychosocial support. UNICEF will also progressively ensure the light rehabilitation of some of the damaged schools, notably in Dakhla camp. UNHCR will rehabilitate 20 schools that were seriously damaged in the floods.

### **Food**

In light of the urgency of the situation, WFP has decided to carry out the food distribution of 200 MT between the 21 and 27 October through its partners, to cover immediate food requirements with 73 MT of several commodities from the limited stocks (wheat flour, rice, Corn Soya Blend + (CSB+), vegetable oil, sugar) to cover partial requirements for 7 days (25,000 rations). Another distribution of 100 MT of the same commodities was carried out to cover 4 days (60,000 rations). Distributions were carried out in Dakhla camp (15,000), Boujdhour camp (10,000), and in the three remaining camps of Ausserd, Smara and Laayoun (60,000). Finally, a remaining stock of 33 MT of dates were distributed to the same affected refugee population, covering 12 days (85,000 rations).



*Figure 2: Bread distribution in Dakhla camp, 23 October. UNHCR/M.Ibrahim*

### **Health and Nutrition**

UNICEF and WHO will focus on the needs of the most vulnerable refugees, with particular attention to women and children. As an immediate response, they will provide basic emergency obstetric and newborn care kits, crucial drugs for de-worming, vitamin A supplements, and temporary spaces (e.g. large tents) to enable beneficiaries to have access to health care. Moreover, in close collaboration with the hospital in Tindouf, the stocks and appropriate storage of needed vaccines will be assured. In addition to its existing interventions in support of the health sector UNHCR will fund the rehabilitation of all five hospitals damaged in the floods. The three agencies (UNHCR, WHO and UNICEF) will also jointly support the rehabilitation of some of the most damaged health centres. This intervention will be enabled by a strategic partnership with the Sahrawi refugee community.



*Figure 3: Structural damage to pharmacy, Dakhla camp. Triangle génération humaine/C.Baudoin*



### **Shelter and non-food items**

As an urgent action, UNHCR will distribute emergency family tents, tarpaulins, kitchen sets and jerry cans. This distribution will take place between the last week of October and the first week of November. As the emergency response is being delivered, UNHCR, international agencies and national partners and the Sahrawi refugee community are also assessing the rehabilitation needs of the most vulnerable families, as well as for affected community buildings. Taking into account the coming winter season, it is urgent to repair and rehabilitate severely affected houses. UNHCR will provide construction materials and, through partners and in coordination with the Sahrawi refugee leaders, the population will be mobilized to rehabilitate houses and community buildings. UNHCR will provide, in addition to the materials, incentives for refugees employed in these rehabilitation efforts.

### **WASH**

To reinforce the water distribution system in Dakhla camp, UNHCR will provide a new water truck to assure the availability of drinking water for all families.

## ***Partnership and Coordination***

The humanitarian response in the Sahrawi refugee camps near Tindouf is being coordinated by UNHCR in collaboration with local authorities and the following partners:

- *Croissant Rouge Algérien*
- International and national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- *Solidaridad Internacional (SI-A)*
- *Triangle génération humanitaire (TGH)*
- OXFAM-Solidarité Belgique
- *Association des Femmes Algériennes pour le Développement (AFAD)*
- *Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP)*
- *Médicos del Mundo*
- Medico International
- *Wilaya de Tindouf*
- *Bureau Algérien pour les Réfugiés et les Apatrides*
- Sahrawi refugee community

UNICEF, WFP and WHO will share responsibilities for the main sectoral humanitarian needs according to their capacities and mandate.

## ***Planned Response***

---

<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Set up temporary learning spaces for primary school children.</li><li>- Provide educational supplies and recreation materials for schools.</li><li>- Ensure child care for young children (0-5 years) by providing “child friendly tents” and kits for early childhood development.</li><li>- Provide psychosocial support for vulnerable children (including children with disabilities).</li><li>- Rehabilitate the most damaged schools, with a priority on Dakhla camp.</li><li>- Restore at least one centre for children with disabilities.</li></ul>
<b>Food</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Replace food stock losses, amounting to 85,000 rations.</li><li>- Provide 125,000 full food rations of 2,125 MT of several commodities for three months.</li></ul>
<b>Health and Nutrition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Set-up temporary health care spaces (large tents).</li><li>- Provide emergency health supplies and consumables: obstetric and new-born kits, crucial drugs for de-worming, vitamin A supplements.</li><li>- Ensure availability and storage of vaccines.</li><li>- Rehabilitate the most damaged health centres.</li></ul>
<b>Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Distribute emergency family tents.</li><li>- Provide emergency non-food items, including tarpaulins, kitchen sets and jerry cans.</li><li>- Support some initial repairs and rehabilitation of vulnerable families' damaged houses.</li></ul>
<b>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Provide a new water truck to ensure drinking water availability.</li></ul>

---

## Financial Requirements Summary

### Financial requirements by agency (in US dollars)

Organization	Total
UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	9,796,000*
UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund	1,700,000
WFP World Food Programme	8,100,000
WHO World Health Organization	300,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,896,000</b>

### Financial requirements by sector (in US dollars)

Sector	Total
Education	1,680,000
Food	8,100,000
Health and Nutrition	920,000
Shelter and NFIs	8,856,000
WASH	340,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,896,000</b>

### Financial Requirements by Sector and Agency (US dollars)

Sector	UNHCR	UNICEF	WFP	WHO	Total
Education	480,000	1,200,000			1,680,000
Food			8,100,000		8,100,000
Health and Nutrition	120,000	500,000		300,000	920,000
Shelter and NFIs	8,856,000				8,856,000
WASH	340,000				340,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,796,000*</b>	<b>1,700,000</b>	<b>8,100,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>19,896,000</b>

\* This amount is being managed within UNHCR's 2015 ExCom-revised budget for Algeria, through the reprioritization of certain activities.