

Algeria

May – September 2017

17 refugees departed to various countries for resettlement. Please see the story (Annex I) 'From DRC to the U.S - Two Twin Brothers Ready to Conquer the World'.

On the occasion of Ramadan, UNHCR through its partner Algerian Red Crescent (ARC) provided 700 metric tonnes of fresh food, aimed at diversifying refugees' food intake.

UNHCR, with partner *Solidaridad Internacional – Andalucía*, has worked to ensure proper functioning of the water facilities for the summer months.

KEY INDICATORS

5,200

Persons of concern in urban areas **registered with UNHCR**, of whom **4,545** are Syrian nationals.

39 per cent **Anaemia rate for children;**

44 per cent **Anaemia rate for women**

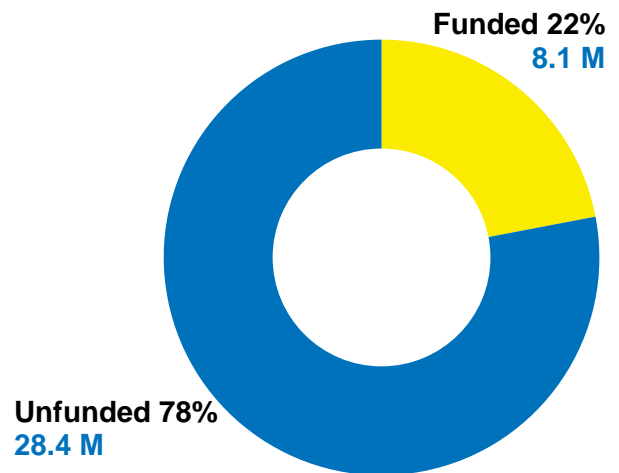
32,100

School-aged children in Tindouf camps are **enrolled in primary education**.

FUNDING

USD 36.5 M

requested for Algeria



A musical performance during the celebration of World Refugee Day in Algiers, 20 June.
© UNHCR / A. Fautsch

POPULATION OF CONCERN

95,200

Most vulnerable refugees in Sahrawi camps

90,000

5,200 Total registered in Algiers (from Syria, State of Palestine, Yemen, Mali & other locations)

Update on Achievements

Operational Context

UNHCR's activities in Algeria focus on providing protection and assistance to refugees and asylum seekers:

- In **Algiers**, UNHCR registers, conducts status determination and assists individuals who seek international protection. In total, 5,200 persons are registered with UNHCR in urban areas, the large majority of whom originate from Syria (4,545 at the end of the reporting period). Those recognized as refugees by UNHCR are mostly from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Central African Republic and Mali. UNHCR provides asylum-seekers and refugees with documents for identification and protection purposes. In terms of longer-term solutions, and in the absence of voluntary repatriation and local integration, UNHCR pursues resettlement opportunities to third countries.
- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR continues to provide protection and assistance to the 90,000 most vulnerable Sahrawi refugees, who have been living in a protracted displacement situation in five camps near Tindouf for more than 40 years. The reduction of monthly food rations has been of particular concern over the last two years, given its impact on the nutritional health of Sahrawi refugees. UNHCR's multi-sectoral activities focus primarily on community-based protection, education, health and nutrition, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), shelter, and livelihoods. In 2017, while continuing to provide essential humanitarian assistance, UNHCR, in coordination with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Sahrawi refugee community, is strengthening livelihoods initiatives, with a focus on youth.



UNHCR Representative with young refugee fashion show participants. © UNHCR / A. Fautsch

Achievements



PROTECTION

Algiers

- From June to August, UNHCR registered 398 individuals, the majority of whom are from Syria. During the same period, UNHCR recognized 34 refugees.
- On 20 June, UNHCR attended a workshop on refugee protection organized by the Algerian National Human Rights Council (*Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme*) on the occasion of World Refugee Day. UNHCR Representative for Algeria addressed over 100 participants from Government and civil society, followed by a presentation on the complementarity of human rights and refugee rights by the Senior Protection Officer. The workshop highlighted the need for Algeria to adopt refugee legislation.
- Also, on 20 June, UNHCR celebrated an "iftar" with the urban refugee community and guests from the Algerian Government, agencies and civil society at the *École des Beaux-Arts*. Professional dancers from the Algiers based school 'Profil' performed 'El Hidjra', a music group presented Andalusian music and refugee children participated in a fashion show and dancing.
- Focus Group Discussions on Mixed Migration were conducted with 20 individuals (refugees and asylum seekers) to collect information on migratory routes and incidents requiring protection in the south of Algeria.

Tindouf

- UNHCR, in conjunction with partner *Triangle Génération Humanitaire* (TGH), conducted a joint assessment of the eight specialized centers in the five camps, which are hosting and assisting persons with specific needs.



One of the youth football teams participating in International Children's Day festivities. © UNHCR / R. Fraser

- Throughout May and in close coordination with UNICEF and the Sahrawi scouts, and also attended by Sahrawi leadership engaged with youth and sport, UNHCR organized the 2017 International Children's Day based on this year's theme "Together for childhood".

- UNHCR, through Movement for Peace, Disarmament & Liberty (MPDL), conducted training for 25 outreach workers on how to counsel individuals with psychological needs.

- UNHCR conducted community-based protection

sessions with social workers in Awserd and Laayoune camps on 24 July and 19 June, to advocate for community actors to expand community engagement as well as mapping out community assets and capacities.

- UNHCR, through partner TGH, distributed diapers to persons with specific needs in all camps; namely those with cerebral palsy (168) and elderly bedridden individuals (340). Each individual received three per day over a period of 3 months.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR's activities in urban areas are limited to Algiers province. UNHCR is exploring ways to expand its partnership network and to conduct country-wide outreach missions to persons of concern.



EDUCATION

Algiers

- From June – August, UNHCR and its partner *Réseau algérien pour la défense des droits de l'enfant* (NADA), in collaboration with two volunteer teachers, put in place support classes for refugee children. English classes are still ongoing on a weekly basis.

Tindouf

- The official closing of the school year 2016/2017 was marked on 20 May 2017. UNHCR, through partner *Association des Femmes Algériennes pour le Développement* (AFAD), contributed by providing gifts to distinguished students as a means of motivation and encouragement.
- UNHCR and partner AFAD conducted home visits in the camps to 15 DAFI (UNHCR's higher education scholarship programme) students to assess their situation at the universities, and monitor any challenges they faced in continuing their post-secondary education.



HEALTH

Algiers

- UNHCR partner Green Tea is providing counselling to refugees and asylum seekers and accompanying them to ensure access to health services. Since its involvement with UNHCR in April 2017, a total of 63 cases have been referred to this organisation.
- UNHCR has also partnered with a psychologist to provide individual counselling to refugees. 31 refugees and asylum-seekers have benefitted from this assistance so far.

Tindouf

- UNHCR through partner *Triangle Génération Humanitaire* (TGH) distributed laboratory equipment for the five regional hospitals as well as the central hospital of Rabouni.
- UNHCR donated four ambulances for the benefit of four hospitals (Smara, Awserd, Boujdour and the psychiatric centre in the 9 June location). This new fleet will be managed and maintained by TGH.
- UNHCR partner TGH has started the construction of a new dispensary in Boujdour camp, as well as rehabilitation of the roof of Dakhla camp hospital.
- UNHCR with TGH has launched the third sensitisation campaign on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. This campaign targets Sahrawi students coming to the camps for summer holidays.
- UNHCR, through *Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli* (CISP), provided information and communications technology equipment to support the Sahrawi Health Information System (HIS).



WATER AND SANITATION

Tindouf

- UNHCR through its partner *Solidaridad Internacional – Andalucía* (SI-A), with the collaboration of Sahrawi leadership, rehabilitated five boreholes (four in Laayoune camp, one in Dakhla camp) and two reservoirs in Smara camp.
- Hydraulic and electrical connections of the new borehole in Smara camp were achieved and borehole was inaugurated in June 2017.



- UNHCR, through partner Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH), distributed soap to camp populations (128,450 bars) and to health institutions (8,106 bars to cover two months). The soap is locally produced in two refugee camp workshops in the refugee camps in two workshops. In addition, UNHCR provided 4,012 soap bars to dispensaries and hospitals; and 50 litres (L) of bleach to hospitals, 10 L to dispensaries, and 100 L for the main hospital.

LEFT: Inauguration of the Smara borehole, Smara camp. © UNHCR / R. Fraser. The borehole has increased water production by approximately 25 per cent for zone 2 (Smara, Boujdour, and Rabouni) and its impact will be evaluated during the second semester of the year.

- UNHCR distributed hygiene kits to 38,450 Sahrawi female refugees of reproductive age. The hygiene kits are procured, packed and distributed by TGH, and comprised of one bottle of shampoo, three boxes of sanitary pads and one pack of soap powder. This distribution generally takes place twice a year to cover a period of six months. The July/August distribution was the first distribution of 2017.



SHELTER AND NON FOOD ITEMS (NFIS)

Algiers:

- UNHCR provided accommodation along with core relief items (CRI) (i.e. mattresses, blankets and kitchenware) to approximately 90 vulnerable refugees. Food baskets and CRIs are distributed monthly to all urban refugees.

Tindouf:

- 5,442 tons of cement were distributed in all five camps; and 14,000 sheets of corrugated metal and 6,000 timber beams distributed in Dakhla camp, as part of the response to the initial emergency following the October 2015 floods.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- **Tindouf:** On the occasion of Ramadan, UNHCR through its partner Algerian Red Crescent provided 700 metric tonnes of fresh food, namely carrots, potatoes and onions. The distribution was aimed at diversifying the food intake of the refugees and took place in late May, one week before the beginning of Ramadan; and in June during the last week of Ramadan. Each person received approximately 5.6 kg of fresh food ration.



ACCESS TO ENERGY

- **Tindouf:** Through partner Algerian Red Crescent (ARC), and on a monthly basis, UNHCR refilled 28,000 gas cylinders for Sahrawi refugee families.



LIVELIHOODS AND SELF RELIANCE

Tindouf

- UNHCR has been facilitating own business/self-employment of youth in Sahrawi refugee camps through the provision of grants, business skills training, guidance and mentoring, in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Oxfam Belgium. In 2016, 37 youth entrepreneurship projects were established with UNHCR support by a total of 122 young Sahrawi refugees: 13 projects supported in partnership with Oxfam, and 24 in partnership with DRC. Efforts are under way to fund and provide training for new youth businesses. In July, **Oxfam** launched a call for youth business proposals, and from the large number of applications received, 21 new business projects will be supported. **DRC** conducted trainings in employability skills and business development.
- In vocational training, a total of 65 young men and women graduated in IT and administration, carpentry, and sewing, with 21 students receiving starter kits to help them launch their own businesses.
- UNHCR is providing a blended course on entrepreneurship in partnership with the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM). By the end of May, a total of 28 students had completed the first half of the course, designed their entrepreneurial initiatives and presented them to a panel for grading. The five highest rated projects were selected to receive mentoring and a financial award to start their businesses.



Livestock project supported by UNHCR and DRC, Laayoune camp.
 © UNHCR / N. Omeira



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Algiers

- In June, a Syrian family of six departed for resettlement to Sweden. The case was submitted under emergency priority. Another eight refugees departed for resettlement to the USA during the same month. For more information, please see the story on two remarkable refugees in Annex I below. Finally, three refugees departed for resettlement to Sweden bringing the total of departures to 34 for 2017.
- 31 individuals (21 cases) originating from 12 different countries were submitted for resettlement to France, Finland, Sweden and the USA.

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 8.1 M**

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds

United States of America (266 M) | Sweden (76 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | Priv Donors Spain (41 M) | Norway (41 M) | Japan (25 M) | Denmark (23 M) | Priv Donors Republic of Korea (20 M) | Australia (19 M) | Canada (16 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | Priv Donors USA (14 M) | France (14 M) | Priv Donors Italy (13 M) | Germany (12 M) | Priv Donors Japan (12 M) | Priv Donors Sweden (10 M) | Italy (10 M)

As well as to donors who have directly contributed to the operation in Algeria:

United States of America | European Union | Germany | Spain | Sweden | Canada | France

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds

Algeria | Austria | Belgium | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Chile | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | Indonesia | Ireland | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Mexico | Monaco | Morocco | New Zealand | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Spain | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Zambia | Private Donors

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Annex I

From DRC to the U.S - Two Twin Brothers Ready to Conquer the World

*"Leave me; I am allowed to dream
I run to reach the summit
One day I'll have the level
One day I'll have everything time stole me
I'll eventually take off
For my success I want to give everything
I keep up, I will never give up"*

- extract from the song *Un Jour* (One Day) written by Jordi and Jordan



Jordan and Jordi rest on the basketball court in Algiers, between play. © UNHCR / M. Lesueur

Jordi and Jordan are twin brothers, unaccompanied refugee children in Algeria who fled the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 2014 due to persecution linked to Jordi's albinism and accusations of witchcraft. The two teenagers recently received their acceptance to the United States through the resettlement program.

In Algiers, each person who met Jordi and Jordan remembers them well. Inseparable 16 year-old twin brothers, smiling and almost 1.9 metres tall, their difference of skin color and their physical frames of basketball players make them visually remarkable. It is on their basketball court in Ain Allah (Algeria) that we watch them training on a hot June morning, before talking with them in the shade. By perseverance, they managed to be respected on the court and are now solid defense assets. Their idols are LeBron James, Tony Parker and, of course, Michael Jordan! Basketball is not their exclusive passion. Jordi and Jordan write and sing a mix of rap and R&B under the blazes of "Baba Cool" and "Jordan Black". It was Jordi who first felt the

connection with music. Jordan later followed in his brother's footsteps thanks to the advice of wise friends. Jordi and Jordan write songs not only to externalize their feelings, doubts and hopes – but also to reach people. The strength of the bond which links them is impressive and essential: "We support each other, we give each other hope when we need it," tells Jordi. "When you are alone, you can make wrong decisions. Together, we can share things, like the joy of learning that we will go to the United States," spurs on Jordi. A mutual support enabled them to go through all the great challenges they had to overcome. It also enabled them to maintain a good disposition and life-saving optimism.

Jordan brings up their difficult beginnings in Algeria when aged 14 years old, they arrived in Algiers after having crossed the Sahara desert. They had to quickly adapt to the Algerian culture and find work illegally, mainly in loading and unloading because construction work is too dangerous. They had to answer curious questions on Jordi's albinism and also learn how to be discreet in a society where xenophobic comments against sub-Saharan migrants are made daily. "As our appearance does not go unnoticed, we had to keep a low profile and be good neighbors" tells Jordan. Facing this, Jordan shows great maturity and humor: "For people, provocation or curiosity are ways to get entertained. When people ask us where we come from, I often say that I am Belgian or American because they do not understand that an African has red skin!" Far from being focused on the issues faced by them, the twin brothers are optimistic and Jordan even saw an improvement in recent months, notably with police officers who greet them and talk with them.

Their move to El Mouradia neighborhood (Algiers, Algeria) into accommodation provided by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in collaboration with partner Infocom Jeunes, contributed to this improvement, notably through living together with five other refugees that fostered a family relationship. "We support each other. There is a good atmosphere: we eat together, even during Ramadan, where we share the iftar, even if we are not Muslims." The prospect of leaving the co-location grieves them, but they will keep in touch through social media, and the twins incarnate in the eyes of their roommates an example of patience and hope rewarded by resettlement.

Jordi and Jordan also communicate with refugees, who left to the United States before them. Even if Jordan is a little apprehensive about the cultural gap with Americans and the difficulty of learning English, Jordi believes: "By directly immersing ourselves at high school, we will learn easily". And to continue with future projects full of responsibility: "I could become Ambassador for the albinos' cause. There is no group consciousness because when we are two albinos, insults are doubled. There is a need to raise awareness on that matter, fight prejudices and restore confidence to albinos who consider themselves inferior and think they have no chance of succeeding in life."

When the brothers learnt that they were leaving Algeria to be resettled in the United States, Jordi and Jordan were bursting with joy before worrying that they could not make their show for World Refugee Day in Algiers. However, they promised to leave a song to be played on that day.

Jordi and Jordan remind us that they "will eventually take off". The two young boys, on the verge of adulthood seem to have already started taking off and it appears that they will continue to inspire people they come across, while writing the next chapters of their life story.



On their way : The two brothers at Houari Boumediene Airport, Algiers, prior to their flight to the US. Jordi and Jordan departed on 14 June. © UNHCR / M. Lesueur



Jordan and Jordi pose on the court with some swagger. © UNHCR / M. Lesueur

Story by Marion Lesueur, Associate Protection Officer - Algiers, 6 June 2017