

# Algeria

1 January – 31 March 2018

Following an assessment by an expert UNHCR technical mission in January, UNHCR released the findings, with the in-camp population put at 173,600 refugees. Targeted population figures will be determined on the basis of a multi-agency vulnerability assessment to be conducted by the end of the year.

UNHCR through its partner Algerian Red Crescent (ARC) refilled 28,092 gas cylinders for Sahrawi refugee families on a monthly basis. UNHCR conducted capacity-building for the Gendarmerie.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

181,073

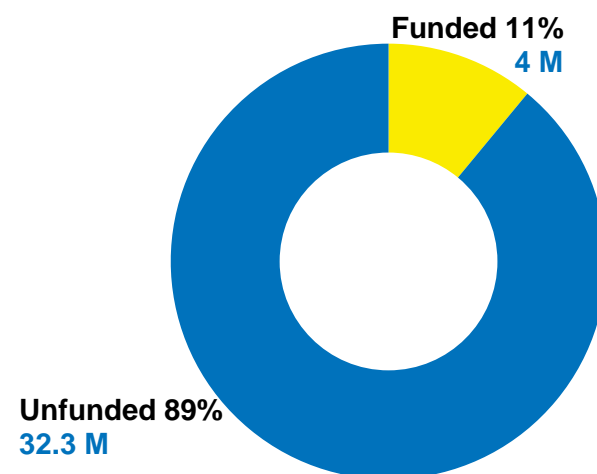
Refugees in Sahrawi camps **173,600**

7,473 total registered in Algiers (from Syria, Yemen, DRC, Ivory Coast, State of Palestine, Mali, CAR & other locations)

## FUNDING

USD 36.3 M

requested for Algeria



Musical performance during the celebration of International Women's Day, 8 March, Awserd camp. © UNHCR / R. Fraser

## KEY INDICATORS

7,473

Persons of concern in urban areas **registered with UNHCR**, of whom **6,557** are Syrian nationals.

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

**44** per cent **anaemia rate for women**

32,507

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

# Update on Achievements

## Operational Context

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

- In **Algiers**, a challenging urban context of mixed-migration (both migrants and refugees), UNHCR registers, conducts status determination and assists individuals who seek international protection. In total, 7,473 persons are registered with UNHCR in urban areas, the large majority of whom originate from Syria (6,557 at the end of the reporting period). Those recognized as refugees by UNHCR are mostly from Syria, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali and Ivory Coast. 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 (see 'Durable Solutions' section below) as well as other legal pathways.
- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR continues to provide protection and assistance to 173,600 Sahrawi refugees, who have been living in a protracted displacement situation in five camps near Tindouf for more than 42 years. UNHCR until only very recently was using a planning figure of 90,000 most vulnerable refugees. Following an assessment by an expert UNHCR technical mission in January, UNHCR released the findings through a report, with the in-camp population at 173,600 refugees. The figure will be updated at least every two years. The reduction of monthly food rations has been of particular concern over recent 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 2018, while continuing to provide essential humanitarian assistance, UNHCR, in coordination with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Sahrawi refugee community, is also implementing livelihoods initiatives, with a focus on youth.

## Achievements



### PROTECTION

#### Algiers

- From January to March, UNHCR registered 880 individuals, the majority of whom are from Syria. During the same period, UNHCR recognized 10 individuals as refugees.
- In January, UNHCR organized one sensitization session for internal staff and members of the key implementing partners (Green Tea and Adwaa Rights) focused on SGBV in the context of human trafficking.
- In February, for the meeting for the civil society network with various associations and partners operating in Algiers to strengthen the coordination mechanisms, a training on the legal and psychosocial aspects related to SGBV and the need to create an efficient referral pathway was facilitated by UNHCR, as well as the psychological aspect in the context of SGBV.
- UNHCR organized several meetings with partners Green Tea, Adwaa Rights and a lawyer to consolidate the Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) referral pathway on medical, psychological and legal support, with a specific focus on survivors of rape.
- In February and March round-up operations of sub-Saharan African resumed, including dozen UNHCR Persons of Concern (PoCs), conducted by law enforcement authorities and followed by deportations to Niger and Mali

took place in Algiers and others cities in Algeria. UNHCR monitored the situation and made interventions seeking the release of UNHCR PoCs.

- In March, a three-day training workshop for the benefit of the Gendarmerie Nationale for 30 senior Gendarmes officers from different regions took place at the *Ecole Supérieure de la Gendarmerie Nationale* with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence. At this occasion, UNHCR’s mandate, UNHCR Algiers Office’s activities, main principles on international refugee protection, reconciliation between national security and refugee protection particularly in the context of mixed migration were presented.



**Training for the Gendarmerie.**  
 © UNHCR / W. Khemri

#### Tindouf

- In January and February, a 3-week training was conducted in Laayoune and Awserd camps for the workers in the eight specialized education centers – for persons with specific needs. The training was carried out by specialists from Spain.

- On 7 and 8 March, UNHCR celebrated International Women’s Day jointly with UNICEF and WFP in close collaboration with the refugee community. On 7 March, UNHCR partner InfoCom organized a workshop with focus group discussions with participants from the three vocational centers, to review the management recommendations raised during the annual inspection conducted. On 8 March, International Women’s Day was celebrated the cultural club in Awserd camp. Around 250 women attended the event.



**Participants at the celebration of International Women’s Day, 8 March, Awserd camp.** © UNHCR / R. Fraser

**EDUCATION****Algiers**

- In January, the Representative attended the official donation ceremony jointly with NADA network and the Director of the francophone Cheikh Bouamama School (Descartes school) in Algiers.



**L) The Representative at Cheikh Bouamama School; R) children in the classroom, Cheikh Bouamama School. © UNHCR / R. Fraser <https://twitter.com/unhcralgeria/status/953641505369059328>**

- In January, a BID panel took place to determine the best interest of 5 refugee children in the research of the most suitable durable solution. UNICEF and partner Green Tea were invited to participate to the panel.

**Tindouf**

- In December, UNHCR partner *InfoCom Solidarité* (InfoCom) distributed 6,340 school uniforms for students in Smara and Dakhla camps.

**HEALTH****Algiers**

- UNHCR partner Green Tea is providing counselling to refugees and asylum-seekers and accompanying them to ensure access to health services. The patients are oriented and accompanied towards the available public services for prevention/diagnosis, primary and secondary health care. From January to March 30 individuals received individual counselling on medical issues. A specific referral mechanism with pharmacies and hospitals is currently in place.
- 33 refugees and asylum-seekers have benefitted from the assistance of a UNHCR psychologist in 2018.
- During the reporting period, Green Tea organized three events with refugees, asylum seekers and Algerians – from a play to drawing workshops and football games – in order to encourage resilience, promote peaceful coexistence and sensitize on issues such as the benefit of sport activities and on reproductive and sexual health.

**Tindouf**

- UNHCR through partner *Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH)* equipped the dentistry care ward at the central hospital (including dental chair and annexes, small x-ray machine and autoclave for sterilisation). This came as a follow up to the recommendations made by the technical missions led by *Enfants Réfugiés du Monde (ERM)* in late 2017.

- UNHCR jointly with *Médicos del Mundo* (MDM), Algeria Red Crescent and the Sahrawi health experts organized a 2-day training in each camp. The training covered topics related to IYCF (infant and young child feeding) and nutrition (growth monitoring, reporting and supervision)
- TGH with UNHCR funds rehabilitated Dakhla camp hospital, mainly the roof of the hospital, walls as well as water installation; and ERM with UNHCR funds rehabilitated the roof of the students' and teachers' accommodations within the nursing school.
- Haemodialysis services are provided at Tindouf hospital for free for the benefit of around 30 Sahrawi refugees. TGH with UNHCR funds are in charge of transporting patients from the camps to Tindouf every other day and covering the cost of laboratory analysis.
- UNHCR through TGH rented another house in Algiers, closer to central hospital of Algiers, in order to accommodate Saharawi patients referred from Tindouf to Algiers in order to get palliative care.



## WATER AND SANITATION



Water distribution in Awserd camp. © UNHCR / R. Fraser <https://twitter.com/unhcralgeria/status/963492666007842816>

### Tindouf

- A hydrogeological field mission by the UNHCR HQ hydrogeologist was carried out in March, addressing the issue of sustainable groundwater management in all its facets. It was confirmed that the water exploitation zone which is under highest stress is Zone 1, which provides water to both Laayoune and Awserd camps

- During the first trimester of 2018, UNHCR through partner *Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH)* produced locally and distributed soap to camp populations (128,450 bars) and to health and education institutions (25,398 bars to cover three months). In addition, UNHCR provided bleach for water chlorination (8,750 litres) and to dispensaries and hospitals (3,615 litres).

#### **Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- With the recent confirmation of the official in-camp population figure, UNHCR is only providing on average about 10 litres per person per day (L/P/D), well below the minimum international standard of 20 L/P/D.
- With regard to the hydrogeological mission, it is clear that the existing boreholes cannot provide sufficient water to Zone 1. The feasibility and groundwater exploration, both in Awserd and in Laayoune have been assessed, and reveals that groundwater extraction for Awserd in the vicinity of the camp would substantially decrease the water stress on Laayoune, which could then provide groundwater from the existing wells. However, the possibility of remaining with the existing infrastructure and implement new wells in the western area of Laayoune is another feasible option.



#### **SHELTER AND NON FOOD ITEMS (NFIS)**

##### **Algiers**

- UNHCR organizes and sustains in cooperation with partner Adwaa Rights the rental of 22 safe spaces where 98 vulnerable refugees (LGBTI, women at risk, unaccompanied and separated children, families with children) are accommodated. As part of the winter campaign, 280 shopping vouchers were distributed to urban refugees and asylum seekers. Eight extremely vulnerable and at risk asylum seekers were accommodated with temporary shelters in a dormitory.
- In February and March, UNHCR and Adwaa Rights conducted several field visits to get acquainted with the refugees and to monitor the rental apartment.

##### **Tindouf**

- In January, 1,048 Refugee Housing Units were provided and stored for later distribution. A UNHCR expert came in February and trained twelve volunteers from the refugee community and three UNHCR CBM staff on how to erect the units.
- 1,005 tent kits<sup>1</sup> were provided in February. The distribution in the camps will start in April.



#### **FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

- **Algiers:** UNHCR through its partner Adwaa Rights distributed food baskets to 98 refugees each month.
- **Tindouf:** UNHCR provided 68 metric tons<sup>2</sup> of dried yeast to the population. The dried yeast is mainly used by the refugees to make bread.

<sup>1</sup> Each kit is composed of 70 m of canvas, 70 m of blended cloth, 2 bamboo poles, 12 iron pegs and 120 m of cotton rope, for a complete tent.

<sup>2</sup> The monthly ration per family is 200 g.



## ACCESS TO ENERGY

- **Tindouf:** UNHCR through its partner Algerian Red Crescent (ARC) refilled 28,092 gas cylinders for Sahrawi refugee families on a monthly basis. The distribution of gas cylinders will start in April.

*Gas distribution, Awserd camp.*

© UNHCR / Y. Djoudi



## LIVELIHOODS AND SELF RELIANCE

### Algiers

- In 2018, 5 refugees were registered into a private institution providing vocational training in various fields. The refugees are therefore now enrolled in aesthetics, office studies, and computer maintenance.

### Tindouf

- Regular monitoring visits, coaching and guidance are provided by partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC) to youth entrepreneurship projects that were established in 2016 and 2017 with UNHCR support. Preparations are ongoing for the provision of a business training in April. Around 100 youth entrepreneurship projects have been established in the camps with UNHCR and partners support in the last two years.
- In partnership with InfoCom, UNHCR continues to provide support for basic and diploma-based vocational training programmes targeting young men and women<sup>3</sup>. InfoCom has started the procurement of productive assets for the enhancement of artisanal production in the camps, while the production of school smocks continues in Boujdour sewing workshop.
- UNHCR has been providing, since late 2016, to a blended course on entrepreneurship in the Sahrawi camps in partnership with the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM). The second edition of the course started in September 2017. In March, 28 students presented a total of 12 business projects in front of a jury panel composed of UAM professors. Business ideas included a language school, a driving school, in-camp and school transportation services, inclusive recreational parks for children, touristic facilities in the desert, a laundry, a sewing workshop, a pizzeria, and a jewelry business.



## DURABLE SOLUTIONS

### Algiers

- 27 individuals (23 cases) from Burundi, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mali, Syria and Yemen were submitted for resettlement.
- One child from the Ivory Coast departed to France within the framework of other legal pathway (family reunification) in order to reunite with her mother, a recognized refugee there.

<sup>3</sup> Training is offered in several disciplines including ICT, administration, carpentry, masonry, welding and metal work, car mechanics, automotive electricity, construction electricity, audio-visual, sewing, knitting, Spanish, and pastry making.

- During the reporting period nine refugees departed for resettlement to France and Sweden with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- On February-March, a USRAP pre-screening resettlement mission took place at UNHCR in order to interview 19 UNHCR cases (22 individuals) for the US resettlement programme.

## Working in Partnership

- UNHCR organized three coordination meetings on Health and Nutrition. The Who's doing What, Where and When (4Ws) were updated and the operational cost of health interventions was calculated based on the planned contributions of all health partners and cooperating associations.
- UNHCR led the meeting of two inter-sector working group (ISWG) meetings and two inter-agency working groups (IAWG) meetings to discuss inter-sectoral and strategic operational issues, respectively. The ISWG is comprised of UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, MPDL, CISP, MDM, SI-A, OXFAM, DRC, InfoCom, and TGH; and the IAWG is comprised of UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, ICRC (observer status), Sahrawi Red Crescent, ECHO, AECID, OXFAM, AFAD, CISP, MDM, and CRE.



*Participants at Inter-Agency Working Group Meeting in Rabouni, February. © UNHCR / R. Fraser*



## Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 4 M**

### Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds

United States of America (124 M) | Sweden (98 M) | Norway (43 M) | Netherlands (39 M) | United Kingdom (32 M) | Denmark (25 M) | Private donors Spain (19 M) | Australia (19 M) | Canada (16 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | Italy (11 M)

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

United States of America | Sweden | Italy | Canada | European Union

### Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds

Algeria | Argentina | Belgium | Bosnia and Herzegovina | China | Estonia | Finland | Germany | Government of India | Iceland | Indonesia | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Philippines | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private Donors

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