

# Algeria

1 January – 31 March 2019

## Seventeen urban refugees

departed on resettlement to third countries (16 to Sweden and 1 to Canada). Departures were arranged with the support of, and in coordination with IOM.

A **referral pathway** has been put in place with UNHCR's partners for cases of **SGBV survivors** to ensure prompt referrals and medical follow-up.

UNHCR continued the provision of 5,918 metric tonnes of dried yeast to **28,000 Sahrawi families** – for families to be able to bake their own bread.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

99,163

90,000 Most Vulnerable Sahrawi Refugees in Tindouf

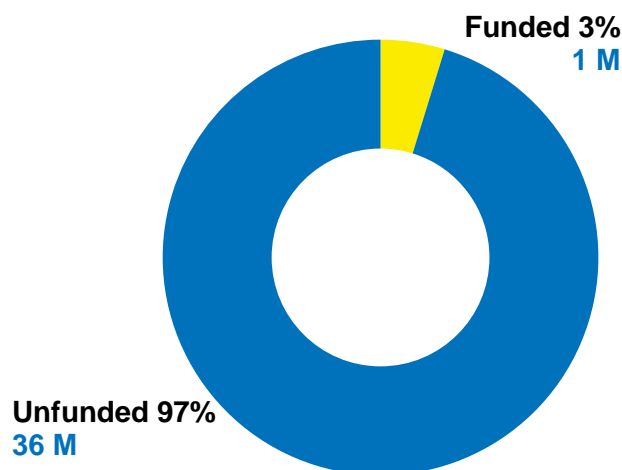
90,000

9,163 total registered Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Algiers

## FUNDING

USD 37 M

requested for Algeria



*Celebration of International Women's Day in Awserd Camp. © UNHCR / Russell Fraser*

## KEY INDICATORS

### ANAEMIA RATES FOR SAHRAWI REFUGEES

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

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

**29,972**

School-aged children in Tindouf camps were **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**, UNHCR registers, conducts refugee status determination, and provides asylum-seekers and refugees with documentation. As of 31 March, 9,163 persons of concern were registered with UNHCR, the large majority of whom originate from Syria. Limited access outside Algiers represents a major constraint in terms of reaching out to people in need of international protection across the country with challenges and constraints in the management of mixed flows through protection-sensitive measures. In the context of mixed movements of migrants and refugees, UNHCR cooperates closely with IOM. Integration in the urban context remains challenging for a number of refugees, who rely mostly on UNHCR assistance. UNHCR submits cases of refugees who meet the criteria for resettlement to third countries.
- In **Tindouf**, UNHCR continues to provide protection and assistance to Sahrawi refugees, who have been living in a protracted displacement situation in five camps near Tindouf for 43 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 2019, while continuing to provide essential humanitarian assistance, UNHCR, in coordination with the World Food Programme and the Sahrawi refugee community, is also implementing livelihoods initiatives, with a focus on youth.

## Achievements



### PROTECTION

#### Refugees from Western Sahara

- UNHCR partner *Triangle Génération Humanitaire* (TGH) provided incontinence kits to persons with specific needs (168 individuals with cerebral palsy and 340 elderly), who received 3 kits per day covering a 3-month period.
- TGH conducted a two-day training in the Sahrawi Central Hospital for a physiotherapy team (1 doctor, 4 nurses, 1 educator, and 2 psychologists). The training dealt with the causes and treatment of cerebral palsy, and included a practical component.
- UNHCR partner *Movimiento por la Paz* (MPDL) and in close coordination with the Sahrawi refugee community active in Social Affairs, and UN agencies (WFP and UNICEF), commemorated International Women's Day, with around 60 individuals attending from the community.
- UNHCR through partner Algeria Red Crescent (ARC) provided equipment and furniture for the Sahrawi Youth Union's new youth hall.
- In coordination with the refugee community, 15 UNHCR refugee housing units (RHUs) were allocated to the Sahrawi Scouts for their spring camping activity, in which 100 children will be active.

- UNHCR partner *Association Femmes Algériennes pour le Développement (AFAD)* provided raw materials and maintained eight sewing machines in the sewing workshop at Boujdour camp. ARC also provided raw materials and sewing machines for the two youth centres, in Dakhla and Awserd camps.



*Sahrawi workers in the Boujdour sewing workshop. © UNHCR / Ishaq Chakar*

### Urban Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

- From January to March, UNHCR registered 614 asylum-seekers, the majority of whom are from Syria (57%). The remaining 43% are from Guinea, Nigeria, Cameroon, Côte D'Ivoire, Mali, Yemen, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Central African Republic, among others. During the same period, UNHCR recognized 34 individuals as refugees.
- UNHCR advocated with the authorities to enhance protection for refugees and asylum seekers in Algeria, and improve access to asylum procedures by persons in need of international protection across the country, including the establishment of referral mechanisms to be implemented with the relevant authorities.
- Thirteen Persons of Concern to UNHCR were provided with free legal assistance, representation and counselling through UNHCR-contracted lawyers on various matters such as late birth registration procedures, residence permit applications, and police complaints, among others.
- UNHCR referred five cases to ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) for family tracing.

**EDUCATION****Refugees from Western Sahara**

- UNHCR with partner *Association Femmes Algériennes pour le Développement* (AFAD) carried out home monitoring visits for 20 DAFI students in Dakhla and Smara camps.
- UNHCR partner *Triangle Génération Humanitaire* (TGH) conducted awareness sessions on “mental and psycho-social health for adolescents” in Boujdour and Smara camps, as part of the mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) project. Around 120 parents attended the session.
- Since January, 36 female teachers are taking part in a capacity-building training provided to them by UNHCR partner Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM). The training aims to improve their teaching capacity and contribute to their retention rates.

**Urban Refugees and Asylum-Seekers**

- UNHCR through its partners continued activities to support access to primary education for urban refugees, integrating them within existing national systems as well as expanding access to secondary education for young people. Between January and March, 80 children registered with UNHCR were assisted with enrollment in primary schools in Algiers and with transportation to and from school. Other assistance included the provision of school supplies, learning support, and recreational activities.

**HEALTH****Refugees from Western Sahara**

- UNHCR partner *Triangle Génération Humanitaire* (TGH) began a maintenance program for medical equipment, with a first round of maintenance carried out in all health centres and regional hospitals.
- A one-week training on mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) was organized for 15 psychologists from health and education departments. It was facilitated by an Algerian consultant with the support of TGH's MHPSS project manager. The main topics covered were related to child and adolescent psychology as well as psychological care for personal issues including depression and low self-esteem.
- The first sensitization campaign on MHPSS was organised in two camps, dealing with child and adolescent psycho-social care. More than 130 individuals attended the two sessions, and 72 children with learning difficulties benefited from psychological follow-up and support.
- As part of the preparedness plan for the summer season, UNHCR through TGH procured 17 air conditioners as a third phase of a multi annual intervention aiming to equip all health centres and hospitals with adequate cooling devices. This intervention will allow better access to health services during the summer season.
- UNHCR partner Algeria Red Crescent (ARC) carried out the second distribution of PISIS equipment (child health programme). By March, all community health centres had been equipped with medical devices to detect and monitor anaemia in children and pregnant and lactating women.



*A junior nurse carries out a consultation for an 18-month old infant in Awserd camp. © UNHCR / Chafik Meziani*

### Urban Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

- UNHCR through its partner Green Tea referred and/or accompanied 112 urban refugees and asylum-seekers for health care services (primary and secondary). In addition to this, UNHCR provides psychological counselling and support through its partners to persons of concern.
- A referral pathways has been put in place with UNHCR's partners for cases of SGBV survivors to ensure prompt referrals and medical follow-up. Discussions were undertaken with other UN Agencies (UNICEF, UNFPA and UNAIDS) and Algerian health specialists on issues related to clinical management of rape, including for young survivors, and to identify possibilities for bigger cooperation and capacity building.



### WATER AND SANITATION

#### Refugees from Western Sahara

- UNHCR has been making preparations for the upcoming mission of Norwegian Engineers without Borders, the objective of which is to support finding solutions in waste management and in the development of a roadmap for their implementation. The mission has been confirmed for the end of April.
- UNHCR contributed to a Risk Mapping Study conducted by Spanish Red Cross. The study will guide the upcoming topographic exercise and the subsequent hydrological study – both of which will allow for the finalisation of a water strategy.

- UNHCR through its partner *Triangle Génération Humanitaire* (TGH) regularly distributed bleach for water chlorination in all camps to ensure the purification of drinking water, as well as soap for public institutions (i.e. schools and health facilities).

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- UNHCR is only providing on average about 12 litres per person per day (L/P/D), well below the minimum international standard of 20 L/P/D.



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

**Refugees from Western Sahara**

- Responding to the need mentioned below, UNHCR in February inaugurated and equipped a tent sewing workshop in Awserd camp in order to help the refugees sew their tents at reasonable prices and also transmit to younger generations the knowledge on how to sew the fabrics making up the traditional Sahrawi-style family tents.



*Inauguration of tent sewing workshop. © UNHCR / Russell Fraser*

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- UNHCR post-distribution monitoring revealed that 50% of the families did not build their tents in time due to lack of required financial resource (20,000 DZD) to sew the tents. In addition, the new generations are not adequately trained in stitching and sewing tent fabrics.

### Urban Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

- UNHCR manages through its partners an accommodation program for urban refugees with specific needs in Algiers. Between January and March, UNHCR provided accommodation in apartments to 123 vulnerable refugees. Cash assistance for rent is provided to the remaining refugees (to be delivered in April).



### FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

#### Refugees from Western Sahara

- UNHCR continued the provision of 5,918 metric tonnes of dried yeast to 28,000 Sahrawi families.
- UNHCR and WFP agreed to carry out the 2019 nutrition survey in the next quarter. The survey is expected to be launched by the first week of April 2019. UNHCR and WFP implement a nutrition survey every two or three years in order to regularly monitor the health and nutrition status of Sahrawi refugees and orient the relevant programmes accordingly.

#### Urban Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

- UNHCR through its partners distributed monthly cash assistance to 180 urban refugee households (308 refugees in total) for the period January-March 2019 – to meet their basic needs. Cash assistance for food is distributed to refugees on a quarterly basis.



### ACCESS TO ENERGY

#### Refugees from Western Sahara

- UNHCR re-filled 28,000 gas cylinders per month to all refugees in the 5 camps.
- UNHCR has also readapted the new truck provided in 2017 to fit the transportation of gas cylinders. The truck will be operational in April.



### LIVELIHOODS AND SELF RELIANCE

#### Refugees from Western Sahara

- UNHCR continues to facilitate access to self-employment and business development in Sahrawi refugee camps through enhancement of livelihoods capabilities and provision of productive and financial assets:
- UNHCR completed the mapping of all livelihood projects in the camps established since 2016, including those implemented by Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and OXFAM. There are currently 123 active youth business projects.
- In March UNHCR partner DRC offered a business management training to a total of 672 young Sahrawi refugees, including 518 females and 154 males.



*Business management training in Dakhla camp. © DRC*

- UNHCR has been providing, since late 2016, a blended course on entrepreneurship in the Sahrawi camps in partnership with the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM). A total of 30 young Sahrawi men and women are taking part in the training which started in January.
- UNHCR also supports a soap factory, a sewing workshop, a tent sewing workshop, five vocational training centres, a business innovation centre, and the rehabilitation of various bakeries.

#### **Urban Refugees and Asylum-Seekers**

- Nine urban refugees were registered into several public institutions providing vocational training in various fields, such as aesthetics and information technology, while two refugees who graduated were provided with tools and equipment to start self-reliance activities.



#### **DURABLE SOLUTIONS**

##### **Urban Refugees**

- UNHCR uses resettlement both as a protection tool and as a durable solution for the urban refugee population according to their needs. During the reporting period, 17 refugees departed on resettlement to third countries (16 to Sweden and 1 to Canada). Departures were arranged with the support of IOM.



## Working in Partnership

### Tindouf

- UNHCR led two inter-sector working group (ISWG) meetings and two inter-agency working group (IAWG) meetings to discuss inter-sectoral and strategic operational issues, respectively. The ISWG is comprised of United Nations agencies UNHCR, WFP, and UNICEF; and organizations *Movimiento por la Paz* (MPDL), *Comitato internazionale per lo sviluppo dei popoli* (CISP), *Medicos del Mundo* (MDM), *Solidaridad Internacional– Andalucía* (SI-A), *Oxfam-Solidarité* (OXFAM), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and *Triangle Génération Humanitaire* (TGH); and the IAWG is comprised of UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, ICRC (observer status), Sahrawi Red Crescent, European Union Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), OXFAM, *Association Femmes Algériennes pour le Développement* (AFAD), CISP, MDM, and Spanish Red Cross (CRE).
- In February, the US Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration participated in the inauguration of a central bakery in Laayoune camp and the inauguration of a tent sewing workshop in Awserd camp. Both facilities were built and equipped by UNHCR and partners with funding from the Julia Taft Fund for Refugees.
- Also in February, UNHCR provided logistical and coordination support for a US Congressional Delegation (CODEL) visit to the camps, over the period of 21-25 February. The 30-person CODEL included a number of Congressmen, as well as the US Ambassador, with their visit to Rabouni taking place on 24 February.
- UNHCR worked on the Country Operations Plan 2020-2021 (COP), with participatory sectorial assessments from 5-19 March and a strategic planning plenary meeting on 20 March, at which time findings from sectorial assessments were presented. In addition to all partners, key operational donors attended (US Embassy, AECID and ECHO). The COP was finalized and submitted at end of March.

### Algiers

- Through the Regional Development and Protection Programme for North Africa (RDPP NA), co-funded by the European Union and the Government of Italy, UNHCR intends to intensify its cooperation, advocacy and capacity-building efforts involving key local authorities and civil society organizations through capacity building and sensitization initiatives aimed at providing a fair protection environment, and ensuring immediate protection to the most vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees.



- UNHCR's partner *Reseau Nada for Protection of Children's Rights* (NADA Network) attended the meeting of the 2019 MENA Civil Society Network for Displacement (MENA CSND), which took place on 26-27 February 2019 in Amman. This was an opportunity for MENA CSND members to review the progress and achievement, including initiatives as part of the network.
- UNHCR participated in the *Cellule de Coordination* meeting at Algiers, where a detailed briefing on UNHCR health, nutrition and WASH interventions was given to participants. A briefing on the 2020 Country Operation Plan (COP) process was also provided.

## Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 941,582**

### Earmarked contributions (USD)



**Sweden | Italy**

### Other softly earmarked contributions (USD)

**Germany** 56.6 million | **Sweden** 3.3 million

Malta | Private donors

### Unearmarked contributions (USD)

**Sweden** 90.4 million | **Norway** 44.5 million | **Netherlands** 37.5 million | **United Kingdom** 31.7 million |  
**Germany** 26.7 million | **Denmark** 24.4 million | **Private donors** **Spain** 19.5 million | **Switzerland** 15.1 million

Algeria | Argentina | Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Belgium | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Indonesia | Kuwait |  
Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia |  
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**CONTACTS:** **Russell Fraser**, Associate External Relations Officer, Algeria

[fraser@unhcr.org](mailto:fraser@unhcr.org), Cell +213 661 97 03 15

UNHCR Algeria on Twitter: [@unhcralgeria](https://twitter.com/unhcralgeria)