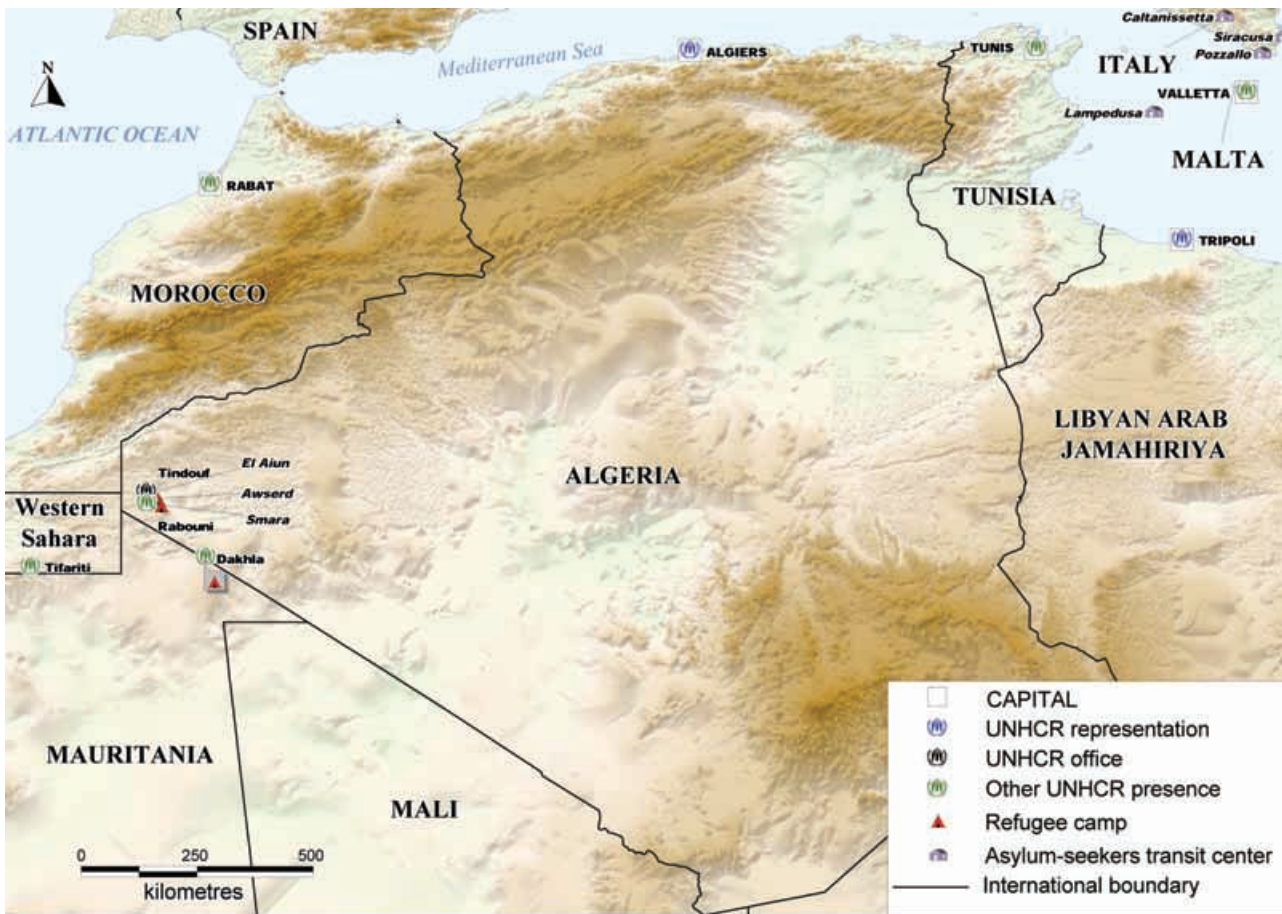


ALGERIA



Operational highlights

- UNHCR resumed operations gradually after the December 2007 terrorist attack on the United Nations in Algiers, and assisted urban refugees and asylum-seekers throughout the second half of the year.
- Efficient status determination procedures under UNHCR's mandate resumed in October 2008, with an average of 50 cases processed per month. At the end of 2008, the law enforcement authorities permitted UNHCR to intervene on behalf of detained refugees and asylum-seekers. A telephone hotline for protection was activated in 2008 to enable 24-hour contact with the Office. Three lawyers were recruited and trained to assist detained people of concern.
- The installation of a water pipeline network in the Awserd camp in Tindouf provided safe drinking water for refugees in the camp. Water facilities were maintained in the Awserd and Dakhla camps in Tindouf.
- Efforts to improve nutrition in the Tindouf camps continued in 2008 with the distribution of fresh food to refugees. Campaigns to reduce anaemia and malnutrition targeting 170 Sahrawi medical staff were conducted in the four camps of Dakhla, Smara, Laaoune and Awserd. Hospitals and laboratories in the camps were provided with equipment and a maternity ward was renovated.

- UNHCR continued to support education activities in the Tindouf camps and in some private institutions benefiting refugees and asylum-seekers, as refugee children do not have access to public schools. A pilot project provided incentives to some 240 teachers in Dakhla camp, improving the quality of teaching.

Working environment

Security concerns resulting from the December 2007 terrorist attack on the United Nations in Algiers that directly affected UNHCR staff and destroyed the organization's offices were felt throughout the implementation period. Although the attack did not have a serious impact on the humanitarian operation for Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps, it forced the Office to limit its programme for urban refugees. However, by mid-2008 all operations with respect to urban refugees were resumed.

A number of refugees and asylum-seekers from sub-Saharan Africa were arrested and deported in the aftermath of the terrorist attack. In June 2008, the Government passed a new restrictive law on the entry, stay and movement of foreigners in the country. However, the law enforcement authorities gradually became more responsive to UNHCR's protection interventions. The humanitarian situation of the Sahrawi refugees remained dire in the absence of a solution to the Western Sahara conflict.



Refugee boys in physical education class at 12 October boarding school, Tindouf, Algeria

UNHCR/P. MATEU

| Achievements and impact |

● *Main objectives*

UNHCR's objectives in 2008 included the provision of protection and assistance to some 200 urban refugees and 250 asylum-seekers in Algeria, in addition to the Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps.

● *Protection and solutions*

In 2008, the majority of asylum claims from the urban population of concern in Algiers continued to be rejected, and asylum-seekers and some refugees were arrested or deported because they were not recognized by the Government. However, identification documents issued by UNHCR were accepted by the authorities and the Office was allowed to intervene in detention cases. Additionally, the Office established a psychosocial support programme to

identify and support incidents of sexual and gender-based violence and victims of human trafficking more effectively.

In Tindouf, UNHCR's activities focused on protecting the Sahrawi refugees and cooperating with refugee leaders and camp management in responding to protection problems. The Office also advocated for refugee rights and intervened in cases of sexual and gender-based violence and other abuses of human rights. Local administration and judiciary staff were trained to protect refugees and uphold their human rights.

● *Activities and Assistance*

Community services: UNHCR supported vocational training centres for women, youth and people with special needs, benefiting 140 refugees. The centres were run by 40 refugee staff members who received monthly incentives for their services.

Domestic needs and household support: UNHCR provided 58,000 cooking-gas canisters to the Sahrawi population, while the Government subsidized the gas supplied to the rest of the refugee population. Some 18,000 of 28,000 needy children in the camps received jogging suits, while another 70 urban refugees with specific needs were provided with basic assistance and housing support.

Education: UNHCR supplied some 36,000 textbooks, 300 notebooks, 16,000 school uniforms and 800 desks for Sahrawi refugee children. Incentives were provided to 200 teachers in Dakhla camp to improve the quality of teaching in the camp, while one boarding school was supported with basic items for 700 students. In Algiers, UNHCR paid the school fees for 40 refugee children in private schools. Some 20 Sahrawi refugees benefited from the DAFI university scholarship programme in 2008.

Food: To complement the food rations provided by WFP, the Office provided green tea, dried yeast and fresh vegetables, such as onions, carrots and potatoes. Camel meat and 125,000 litres of pasteurized milk were also supplied.

Health and nutrition: Some 7,500 malnourished children under five and more than 3,000 pregnant and lactating mothers benefited from supplementary feeding programmes. A health/nutrition coordinator was recruited, and training was organized for 58 nurses and 10 midwives.

Legal assistance: UNHCR provided equipment and legal textbooks and conducted training seminars for lawyers and judges. The Office also monitored and intervened as necessary in protection cases. In Algiers, UNHCR processed some 270 asylum claims and registered 70 new asylum-seekers

Operational support (to agencies): UNHCR provided financial and logistics support to enhance the capacity of its five NGO implementing partners, to ensure better quality services to Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps as well as to urban refugees and asylum-seekers in Algiers.

Sanitation: Two garbage collection campaigns took place in four camps and one settlement. Furthermore, sensitization campaigns concerning hygiene in the handling of water were also carried out. Over 35,000 liters of bleach were distributed at hospitals, schools and water points.

Shelter and other infrastructure: UNHCR provided materials for 175 tents, but refugee leaders estimated that at least 25,000 tents need to be replaced.

Transport and logistics: The Office ensured the timely delivery of food, non-food items and medical services to beneficiaries by keeping its fleet of trucks and ambulances in good repair. Two new trucks were received in 2008, to be used exclusively for food transportation.

Water: UNHCR completed the installation of a water pipeline system in the Awserd camp, and ensured that water systems in both the Awserd and Dakhla camps were maintained.

○ Constraints

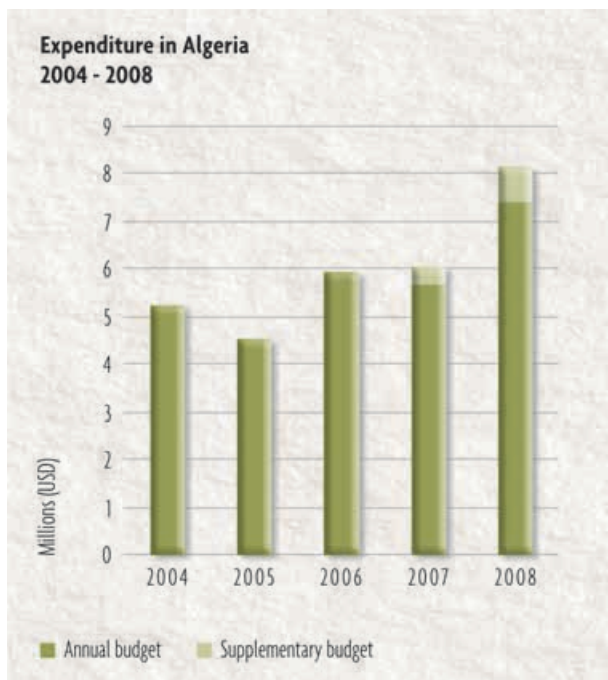
Overwhelming security concerns following the terrorist attack on the UN in Algiers; the absence of a national legal framework within a mixed migration context; and a new restrictive law regulating the entry and residence of foreigners limited the protection of people of concern. Harsh climatic conditions in the Tindouf desert undermined livelihood opportunities for refugees there. The increase in food prices, the protracted nature of the Sahrawi refugee problem and limited funds also posed major difficulties.

| Financial information |

In 2008, the operation received sufficient funds to implement the annual programme. Additional funds were provided to complement activities in the Tindouf region in the water, sanitation, health and nutrition sectors. Protection and assistance services were provided for both the Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps and other refugees and people of concern in urban areas

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees ¹	Western Sahara	90,000	90,000	-	-
	Palestinian	4,000	-	-	-
	Various	90	90	34	17
Asylum-seekers	Côte d'Ivoire	220	-	33	13
	Cameroon	210	-	21	8
	Liberia	160	-	15	3
	DRC	140	-	34	31
	Various	170	-	21	6
Total		94,990	90,090		

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



Organization and implementation

UNHCR offices in Algeria included a Representation Office in Algiers and a sub-office in Tindouf. In 2008, UNHCR had a total of 35 employees, including 13 international and 22 national staff in Algiers and Tindouf.

Working with others

In 2008, UNHCR worked with six NGO implementing partners and closely cooperated with UNICEF, WFP and WHO in the areas of food assistance, health and education respectively. The Office also worked closely with the Government to protect and assist refugees.

Overall assessment

Implementation of the 2008 objectives was seriously affected by the December 2007 terrorist attack on the United Nations in Algiers and the loss of life and injuries among UNHCR staff. The global financial crisis had an

impact on the provision of food and other basic commodities. Throughout 2008, special attention was paid to security issues. The protection of urban refugees remained constrained by lack of official recognition of their status and the arrest, deportation and detention of people of concern.

Despite logistical and staffing constraints, UNHCR succeeded in establishing fair and efficient RSD procedures under its mandate, thereby ensuring that asylum claims were processed in a timely manner and that all persons of concern were given valid refugee and asylum-seeker certificates. These certificates have gained increasing recognition among the authorities. The Office also succeeded in strengthening the protection of refugees within the broader migration context by sensitizing government officials, the media and civil society to the need to establish a secure asylum space.

The protracted nature of the Sahrawi refugee situation and the lack of a political solution to the conflict led UNHCR to focus on livelihoods and strengthening local capacities.

Partners
Implementing partners
NGOs: <i>Association des Femmes Algériennes pour le Développement, Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli, Enfants Réfugiés du Monde-Pays de la Loire, Rencontre et Développement, Solidaridad Internacional Andalucía, Triangle Génération Humanitaire</i>
Others: <i>Croissant Rouge Algérien</i>
Operational partners
Government: <i>Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional al Desarrollo, Bureau Algérien pour les Réfugiés et les Apatrides</i>
NGOs: <i>Asociación de Técnicos y Trabajadores sin Fronteras, Médecins du Monde-Greece, Médecins du Monde-Spain, OXFAM Belgium, SOS Femmes en Détresse</i>
Others: ECHO, ICRC, UNICEF, WFP

Budget, income and expenditure in Algeria (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available ¹	Total expenditure
Annual budget	8,372,630	3,255,781	3,959,809	7,215,589	7,407,744
Western Sahara Confidence-Building Measures SB	448,232	0	340,867	340,867	340,867
Improvement of Refugee Protection within Broader Migration Movements in North Africa SB	268,327	296,131	110,040	406,171	209,802
Water and sanitation SB	250,000	305,988	(78,521)	227,468	227,468
Anaemia control and prevention SB	124,455	0	40	40	40
Supplementary budget subtotal	1,091,015	602,120	372,427	974,546	778,177
Total	9,463,645	3,857,900	4,332,236	8,190,136	8,185,921

Note: Supplementary programmes do not include seven per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

¹ Total funds available include currency adjustments.

Financial report for UNHCR's operations in Algeria (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Prior years' project
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,240,131	550,709	1,790,840	0
Community services	100,037	0	100,037	115,887
Domestic needs and household support	165,871	0	165,871	73,831
Education	355,395	0	355,395	35,443
Food	721,691	0	721,691	32,745
Health and nutrition	119,944	0	119,944	167,006
Legal assistance	63,168	0	63,168	31,369
Operational support (to agencies)	429,962	0	429,962	238,956
Sanitation	19,272	0	19,272	128,916
Shelter and infrastructure	45,643	0	45,643	0
Transport and logistics	356,875	0	356,875	451,276
Water	1,099,425	0	1,099,425	342,432
Instalments to implementing partners	1,819,414	227,468	2,046,882	(1,617,861)
Subtotal operational activities	6,536,828	778,177	7,315,005	0
Programme support	870,916	0	870,916	0
Total expenditure	7,407,744	778,177	8,185,921	0
Cancellation on previous years' expenditure				(45,357)
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	4,293,225	227,468	4,520,693	
Reporting received	(2,473,810)	0	(2,473,810)	
Balance	1,819,415	227,468	2,046,883	
Outstanding 1st January				1,633,347
Reporting received				(1,617,861)
Refunded to UNHCR				0
Currency adjustment				(845)
Outstanding 31st December				14,641