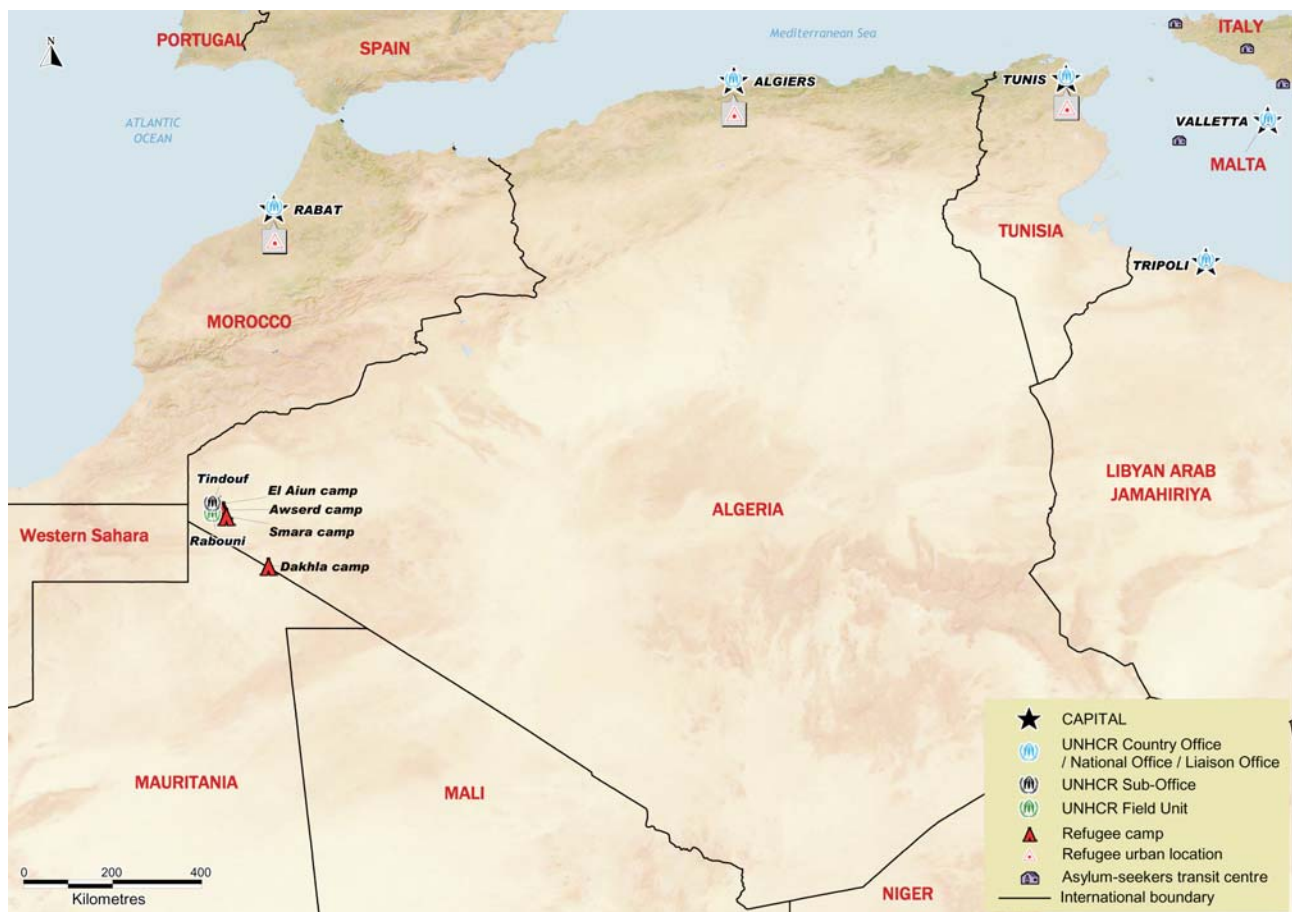


# ALGERIA



## Operational highlights

- The Government created an inter-ministerial drafting committee to establish a national asylum law and requested UNHCR to provide a legal expert.
- UNHCR developed contacts with various police stations in Algiers and other major cities, allowing it to intervene on behalf of people of concern. No refugee was *refouled* in 2010.
- Housing assistance for urban refugees in Algiers decreased their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse.
- Following the visit of the High Commissioner in late 2009, the assistance programme for the Sahrawi refugees in Tindouf was re-oriented to focus on their long-term welfare, particularly in health, nutrition and education. A survey conducted with WFP at the end of

2010 showed significant improvement in the nutritional status of the refugees. Considerable improvement was also achieved in the quality of the education provided to them.

- A comprehensive protection strategy was developed with the cooperation of the Sahrawi refugee leaders to address protection gaps in the camps, and the establishment of field units in all four camps was started.

## Working environment

The security situation continued to be fragile, and the state of emergency remained in force. Tight surveillance prevailed, affecting sub-Saharan Africans in particular. People recognized as refugees by UNHCR continued to be treated as illegal migrants, making them susceptible to arrest and detention.

## Persons of concern

Type of Population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
<b>Refugees<sup>1</sup></b>	Western Sahara	90,000	90,000	-	-
	Occupied Palestinian Territory	4,000	-	-	-
	Various	140	140	43	33
<b>Asylum-seekers</b>	Various	300	300	26	10
<b>Total</b>		<b>94,440</b>	<b>90,440</b>		

<sup>1</sup> According to the Government of Algeria, there are an estimated 165,000 Sahrawi refugees in Tindouf camps.

No major changes occurred in the composition of the refugee population, which mainly originates from sub-Saharan Africa. Towards the end of the year, an increase in the number of asylum claims by Ivorian nationals was observed.

In the absence of a political solution to the long-standing conflict over the status of the Western Sahara territory, the Sahrawi refugees remained completely dependent on international assistance.

## | Achievements and impact |

### ● Main objectives and targets

#### Favourable protection environment

- Greater recognition of UNHCR attestations by national law enforcement structures allowed for timely intervention on behalf of people of concern. A 24-hour hotline was established to enable refugees and asylum-seekers to contact UNHCR in the event of arrest, imminent deportation or other protection emergency. Partnership with a local NGO ensured that experienced and trained lawyers intervened with the relevant authorities on behalf of arrested people of concern.
- UNHCR ensured that the most vulnerable individuals were provided with shelter, thereby decreasing their exposure to protection problems and arrest. Food and non-food items, such as hygiene kits for women and girls, were distributed regularly.

#### Fair protection processes

- UNHCR ensured access to asylum through registration and refugee status determination (RSD). Some 50 asylum-seekers were registered each month. UNHCR provided support for legal representation in courts, police stations and *gendarmeries*. It also sought to ensure issuance of birth certificates for refugee children born on Algerian territory, and intervened with local administrative and health structures on behalf of victims of sexual and gender-based violence.
- With few prospects for local integration or voluntary repatriation for the urban refugees in Algeria, UNHCR began to identify individuals who met the criteria for resettlement. Special attention was paid to those who are extremely vulnerable.

#### Security from violence and exploitation

- A psychosocial support scheme for female refugees and asylum-seekers in Algiers helped UNHCR to identify victims of sexual and gender-based violence and human trafficking. A partnership agreement was concluded with a local NGO in Algiers that works with women who are victims of domestic violence. The NGO provided counselling sessions for refugee and asylum-seeker women in 2010.
- As part of its comprehensive protection strategy, UNHCR conducted human rights training and sensitization among the Sahrawis in Tindouf. It also reinforced its field



Sahrawi refugee children playing football in Smara camp, Tindouf.

UNHCR / P. MATEU

presence by opening offices in each of the refugee camps and increasing missions to them.

#### Basic needs and services

- Through its implementing partner, *SOS Femmes en Detresse*, UNHCR provided shelter to 107 urban refugees living in the Algiers area. Some 1,400 monthly food baskets, 4,400 hygiene kits, 6,700 powder milk boxes and 1,200 diapers for 235 children among the refugees and asylum-seekers were also provided. All children of concern (22 students, of whom 12 are female) were enrolled in private schools with school fees covered and supplies provided.
- Furthermore, UNHCR concluded an agreement with a pharmacy and laboratory to provide medicines and medical tests for people of concern in Algiers. Some 347 people of concern benefited from medicines and 36 from medical analyses.
- In Tindouf, UNHCR distributed 2,200 tents and provided almost 34,000 jogging suits for all youths enrolled in school; textbooks to cover 80 per cent of the needs; incentives for 90 per cent of schoolteachers; and the rehabilitation of two primary schools. UNHCR also delivered over 115,000 refills of cooking gas, covering four months' needs, and provided dry yeast and tea for six months in the camps.
- UNHCR's supplementary feeding programme supported some 10,000 children below five years of age, and

pregnant or lactating mothers suffering from acute malnutrition. New measures were introduced to combat anaemia and severe malnutrition.

- The water network was extended to reach almost half the refugee population and the quality of the water was improved. A garbage system to improve sanitation in the camps collected an estimated 990,000 kg of waste per month.
- UNHCR continued to support the medical laboratories in Tindouf, covering 40 per cent of the needs, as well as the nursing and midwifery school that provides a three-year training programme for refugees. Eighteen graduates of the school now work in the camps.

### Community participation and self-management

- In the Sahrawi refugee camps, UNHCR supported four community centres, each for women and young people, three for the disabled and one for the visually impaired. It also started a pilot project to open an internet café in the remote camp of Dakhla. A UNHCR-supported network of 120 social workers provided services to more than 600 unaccompanied, extremely vulnerable refugees, including 86 refugees with reduced mobility. A library for refugees was rehabilitated.

### External relations

- UNHCR and WFP jointly organized a donors' mission to the Sahrawi camps in April 2010. The objective was to promote awareness of the humanitarian situation through field visits and dialogue with the Sahrawi refugees.

### Logistics and operational support

- In Tindouf, UNHCR maintained a fleet of 32 water tankers, 18 delivery trucks and 12 ambulances. The fleet enabled the distribution of water to 50 per cent of the refugee population and the distribution of WFP food and non-food items. UNHCR also procured four ambulances to transport refugees to and from the hospitals in the camps. Living quarters and offices for implementing and operational partners were provided.

### Constraints

National security concerns, as well as the absence of national refugee legislation and administrative structures, were major impediments to the delivery of protection to urban refugees and asylum-seekers in Algeria. Restrictions on UN staff movements made it difficult for UNHCR to reach people of concern residing outside Algiers.

Insufficient funds and implementing partners' inability to deliver at the necessary level were other constraints.

The lack of access to accurate statistics about the number of Sahrawi refugees continued to be a major obstacle to the effectiveness of the operation in the refugee camps.

### Financial information

While the operational budget has increased three-fold over the past four years, UNHCR's activities meet less than a tenth of the total needs of the Sahrawi refugee population.

Limited resources resulted in the denial of housing assistance in Algiers to a number of single male refugees, as priority was given to families and vulnerable cases. It also meant that UNHCR could not procure vehicles that were greatly needed by implementing partners.

### Organization and implementation

UNHCR offices in Algeria comprised a Country Office in Algiers and a sub-office in Tindouf. In 2010, UNHCR had a total of 38 staff, including 10 international and 27 national staff in Algiers and Tindouf (in addition to three national UNVs). Five international UNV posts in Algiers and Tindouf remained vacant due to the inability to obtain visas.

### UNHCR's presence in 2010

□ Number of offices	<b>2</b>
□ Total staff	<b>38</b>
International	<b>10</b>
National	<b>27</b>
JPOs	<b>1</b>

### Working with others

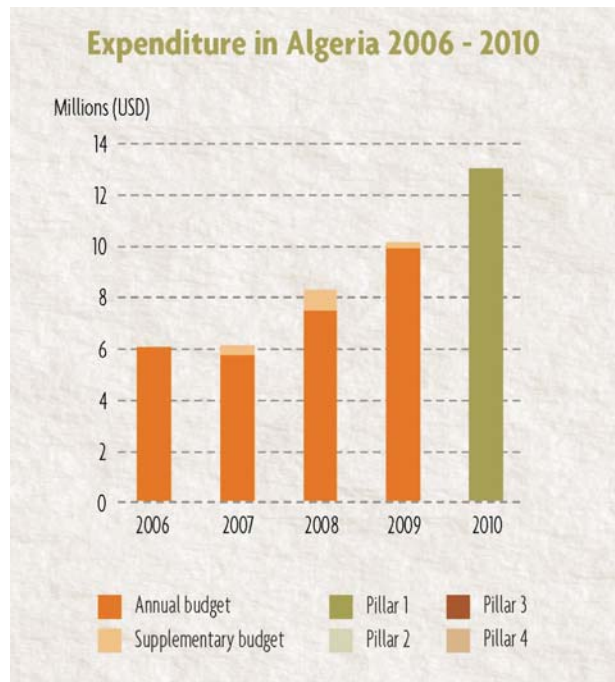
UNHCR worked in partnership with four local NGO implementing partners in Algiers and seven implementing partners in Tindouf. Other UN agencies, including WFP (food assistance), UNICEF (health and education), and WHO (health care) also supported the refugee programme in Tindouf.

### Overall assessment

Success was achieved in expanding the protection space for urban refugees and asylum-seekers, and there were no reported cases of *refoulement*. In 2010, all UNHCR interventions on behalf of people of concern detained on grounds of illegal entry into or stay in the country were successful.

The increased investment in the long-term welfare of the Sahrawi refugees yielded positive results. The quantity and quality of water delivered to the refugee camps improved, as did the nutritional well-being of the refugees. Improvements were also noted in education. However, the harsh desert conditions made it difficult for the refugees in the camps to find opportunities to improve their livelihoods.

Partners	
<b>Implementing partners</b>	
<p><b>NGOs:</b> Association des Femmes Algériennes pour le Développement, Association Nationale d'Information et de Communication en milieu de Jeunes, Enfants Réfugiés du Monde-Pays de la Loire, Ligue Algérienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme, Movimento por la Paz, NADA, Rencontre et Développement, Solidaridad Internacional Andalucía, SOS Femmes en Détresse, Triangle Génération Humanitaire</p> <p><b>Others:</b> Croissant Rouge Algérien</p>	
<b>Operational partners</b>	
<p><b>Government:</b> Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional al Desarrollo, Bureau algérien pour les réfugiés et les apatrides</p> <p><b>NGOs:</b> Asociación de Técnicos y Trabajadores sin Fronteras, Médecins du Monde-Grece, Médecins du Monde-Spain, OXFAM Belgium</p> <p><b>Others:</b> ECHO, ICRC, UNICEF, WFP, WHO</p>	



### Budget, income and expenditure in Algeria | USD

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	Total
<b>FINAL BUDGET</b>	<b>18,743,196</b>	<b>18,743,196</b>
Income from contributions <sup>1</sup>	7,109,002	7,109,002
Other funds available	5,872,735	5,872,735
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>12,981,737</b>	<b>12,981,737</b>

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN		
<i>Favourable protection environment</i>		
Co-operation with partners	60,526	60,526
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	59,203	59,203
Non-refoulement	60,526	60,526
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>180,255</b>	<b>180,255</b>
<i>Fair protection processes and documentation</i>		
Reception conditions	31,186	31,186
Registration and profiling	54,643	54,643
Fair and efficient status determination	165,177	165,177
Individual documentation	54,643	54,643
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>305,650</b>	<b>305,650</b>
<i>Security from violence and exploitation</i>		
Gender-based violence	68,144	68,144
Freedom of movement	124,780	124,780
Non-arbitrary detention	72,146	72,146
Access to legal remedies	56,366	56,366
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>321,436</b>	<b>321,436</b>

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	Total
<i>Basic needs and essential services</i>		
Nutrition	1,098,950	1,098,950
Water	1,190,175	1,190,175
Shelter and other infrastructure	246,419	246,419
Basic domestic and hygiene items	554,541	554,541
Primary health care	482,408	482,408
HIV and AIDS	42,947	42,947
Education	1,255,805	1,255,805
Sanitation services	182,406	182,406
Services for groups with specific needs	336,822	336,822
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5,390,473</b>	<b>5,390,473</b>
<i>Community participation and self-management</i>		
Community self-management and equal representation	524,491	524,491
Self-reliance and livelihoods	284,834	284,834
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>809,324</b>	<b>809,324</b>
<i>External relations</i>		
Donor relations	52,316	52,316
Resource mobilisation	87,742	87,742
Partnership	47,217	47,217
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>187,274</b>	<b>187,274</b>
<i>Logistics and operations support</i>		
Supply chain and logistics	1,309,159	1,309,159
Programme management, coordination and support	775,599	775,599
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,084,758</b>	<b>2,084,758</b>
Instalments to implementing partners	3,702,567	3,702,567
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,981,737</b>	<b>12,981,737</b>

<sup>†</sup> Income from contributions includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities - mandate-related" (NAM) reserve. Contributions towards all pillars are included under Pillar 1.