

KEY FIGURES

90,000

Vulnerable Sahrawi refugees living in five camps near Tindouf

6,188

Urban refugees registered with UNHCR Algiers; 5,405 are Syrians

240

Syrians approach UNHCR on a monthly basis for registration

100

Per cent of school-aged children (32,028) in Tindouf are enrolled in primary education

18

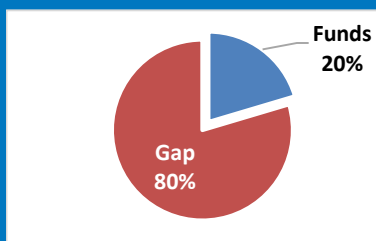
Litres of potable water available per person per day in Sahrawi refugee camps

FUNDING

USD 33.2 Million

Requested for the operation

The operation is **20%** funded



ALGERIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE - AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS 1 May - 31 July 2015

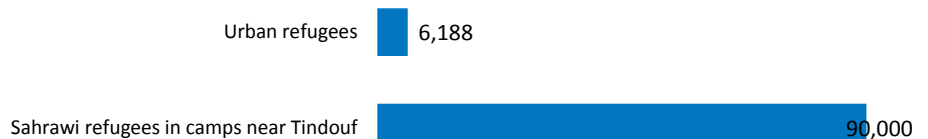
- From 11 to 14 May 2015, UNHCR, jointly with WFP and UNICEF, organized a 3 day mission for donors and potential donors to visit Sahrawi camps in Tindouf. The objective was to raise awareness, highlight budget constraints and their potential impact on the refugees.
- UNHCR is facing funding constraints. Of particular concern for the second half of 2015 is food and nutrition for the Sahrawi refugees. In light of this, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP have recently been approaching donors in order to ensure funding until the end of the year.
- In June, UNHCR conducted an SGBV training for the Sahrawi leadership, targeting high level representatives from different entities, notably the Sahrawi Ministries.
- 2,328 tent materials were distributed in all the Tindouf camps, in June, in order to respond to urgent shelter needs.
- UNHCR through its partner Algerian Red Crescent distributed fresh food for Sahrawi refugees during Ramadan: 62.5 metric tonnes (MT), 0.5 kg/person, of potatoes and 125 MT of apples - 1 kg/person, to improve food security and diversification of food.
- During this period, UNHCR began implementation of its new livelihoods approach in order to improve the opportunities of income generation and employment for Sahrawi refugees, particularly youth.



"Giraffe" system at borehole for filling water trucks. UNHCR undertook many water interventions during the hot summer months. UNHCR/M.Kachebi

Population of concern

A total of **96,188** people of concern



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

The operational context for UNHCR's activities in Algeria is characterized by the protracted situation of the Sahrawi refugee community living in five camps near Tindouf and a south-north mixed migration situation with more than 6,000 urban refugees and asylum-seekers in Algiers, registered, processed (RSD) and assisted by UNHCR.

UNHCR continues to provide protection and undertake activities in care and maintenance to 90,000 most vulnerable Sahrawis living in five camps in the Tindouf region pending a durable solution to their plight. An additional 35,000 food rations are distributed to address the poor nutritional status in the camps. UNHCR, in coordination with WFP and the Sahrawi leadership, launched a livelihoods initiative to establish the basis for sustainable income generating and employment opportunities. Five Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) will be implemented in 2015. Additionally, the youth associations will be strengthened, particularly as related to identification of their needs (economic, psychosocial, and cultural) as well as to prepare them to develop income-generating activities.

Of particular concern for the second half of 2015 is food and nutrition for the Sahrawi refugees. In light of this preoccupation, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP have recently been approaching donors in order to ensure funding until the end of the year.

With regard to the general situation in Algeria, UNHCR has recognized 144 refugees mainly originating from Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Iraq. 272 registered individuals are pending RSD. There are also 5,405 Syrians and 315 Palestinians, registered as asylum-seekers with UNHCR in Algiers.

One of the reasons why Syrians approach UNHCR is to obtain a refugee certificate when their residence permit with the local authorities has expired. The Algerian Red Crescent is responsible for assistance to Syrian nationals. Estimates of Syrians present in Algeria range however from 35,000 (recent media article) to 43,000 (GoA). Most of those Syrians have arrived before 2015, when the Government of Algeria introduced visa requirements for Syrian nationals and tightened border controls, especially to Tunisia and Libya. While the influx of Syrians into Algeria has significantly slowed down since the beginning of the year, UNHCR is likely to keep receiving applications for registration from Syrian nationals.

Achievements



Achievements and Impact

Algiers

UNHCR conducts registration, RSD, protection activities such as monitoring, intervening on detention cases, providing assistance to survivors of SGBV and carrying out sensitization campaigns to prevent human rights violations. UNHCR also carries out Best Interest Determination for unaccompanied minors and provides training for partners, local authorities, and government officials.

- From May to July 2015, seven cases were recognized as refugees and 88 cases were rejected in first instance. 670 individuals, among whom 570 Syrians, were registered during the same period.
- No. of interventions (detention): 17 interventions with the police, gendarmerie, and prosecutor's office.
- No. of SGBV case interventions (every kind of assistance): 3 medical, 2 psychosocial, 0 legal.
- 1 presentation for national police (June)

Tindouf

UNHCR is supporting the Sahrawi protection system and overall protection environment, as well as addressing the protection needs of more than 3,000 persons living with disabilities through outreach activities and regular home visits in order to identify and provide for their specific needs.

- In close collaboration with the Sahrawi leadership, in May UNHCR organized and conducted a seminar to review and improve the Sahrawi protection mechanisms. The seminar was attended by more than 151 representatives.
- UNHCR conducted an SGBV training for high level Sahrawi representatives from the different institutional entities in order to reinforce understanding and awareness of the concept of SGBV concepts and occurrences, and their role in the prevention and response.
- UNHCR through its partner Association des Femmes Algériennes pour le Développement (AFAD) started rehabilitation and provision of equipment to women's centres in the camps.

Education

Achievements and Impact

Algiers

- Access to education for child refugees and asylum-seekers is generally free and all refugee children are enrolled at school: 14 in the French teaching school in Algiers and 7 in regular public schools. UNHCR provides transport, school supplies and a daily meal in schools to refugee children.



Tindouf: (L) UNHCR Rep. Hamdi Bukhari meeting children at Dakhla camp primary school during multi-donor mission in May; (R) children at Dakhla camp primary school. UNHCR/R. Fraser

Tindouf

UNHCR is supporting the school system as a whole, by providing financial incentives to some 1,700 school teachers and offering material and training opportunities. 30,979 students were enrolled in primary and intermediary schools at the beginning of the school year.

- 68% of 30,979 primary and intermediary students passed.
- Of 264 trainees enrolled in vocational training centres (studying two-year courses in Information Technology, foreign languages, audio visual, electricity, carpentry, sewing, knitting and weaving), 71 were provided with accredited certification and an end of training kit.
- UNHCR conducted a monitoring visit to 14 of the 20 university students currently benefitting from DAFI scholarship in five universities in Algeria. For the school year 2014-2015, five students under the DAFI program graduated, ten successfully completed their courses, and the results for the others are pending. 5 new DAFI students are being recruited.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Algiers: Problems exist for sub-Saharan children without command of Arabic because of only one public school that teaches in French and level test requirements before enrolment. This makes access to education for children who arrive at the age of 15 or above very difficult. UNHCR refers children asylum-seekers to a partner organization specialized in establishing their school level and subsequent referral to the French school.



Health

Achievements and Impact

Algiers

Refugees in Algiers and other urban centres enjoy the same free access to public health-care facilities as Algerian nationals including free access to HIV/AIDS ARI treatment. Certain medications as well as laboratory tests and X-Rays, which are not provided free of charge, are covered by UNHCR for mandate refugees and the most vulnerable asylum-seekers.

Tindouf

UNHCR is supporting 60% of the costs associated with medical materials and consumables in Tindouf camps and supporting some 20 Sahrawi doctors working in five regional camp hospitals. Jointly with WFP and the Algerian Red Crescent (ARC), UNHCR is providing supplementary feeding for malnourished children and pregnant or lactating women. UNHCR is also improving access to mental and psychosocial support. Additionally, UNHCR is supporting a nursing school as well as international medical commissions, and the ambulance service in the camps.


- 11 nurses and seven midwives graduated from the Nursing School funded by UNHCR through ERM (Enfants Réfugiés du Monde) after of three years of studies for nurses, and two years for midwives. The midwife graduates received individual kits as part of the academic programme, to facilitate their self-employment.
- A joint mission consisting of UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO (in May) was carried out in the camps in order to strengthen the camps' Health Information System.
- 135 health workers were trained by UNHCR and its partners on "child and mother health"; a training was held in each camp.

UNHCR participated in the organization of the following activities:

- Health staff, community health workers, adolescents in middle schools as well as traditional practitioners (healers) participated in a sensitization campaign on HIV, organized jointly with AFAD and the Sahrawi Department of Health.
- 130 health workers received a one-week training on the PISIS guide (Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses is locally called PISIS, Program Integral de Salud Infantil Sahrawi). This was a one week training in each camp/wilaya. This first training focused on topics related to follow up of children with malnutrition, and the reporting system.
- A workshop for the validation of the new "public health indicators list" and finalization of the design of the new "Sahrawi Health Information System". Both documents have been validated by health authorities and key health partners.
- The Senior Regional Public Health Officer visited the Tindouf operation. The purpose of the mission was to better understand the very specific and challenging health context in the Sahrawi refugee camps, and to advise the operation how to better design interventions and how to make them more efficient, especially in terms of basic health care services, HR management and HIS (health information system).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Algiers: UNHCR can only cover a limited amount of the costs of medical assistance to the most vulnerable asylum-seekers, for instance for medication, surgeries, X-Ray and laboratory tests.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

Tindouf

UNHCR is supporting and enhancing the Sahrawi water management system so as to provide 18 litres of drinkable water per person per day, with the aim of reaching 20 litres per person per day. UNHCR is also distributing hygiene kits for women and girls and supporting the local production of soap and bleach for the five camps. UNHCR works with the Sahrawi Water Department and UNHCR partner Solidaridad Internacional Andalucia (SIA) for all activities carried out in this sector.

- In May, UNHCR, the Sahrawi Water Department, and UNHCR's partner worked together to conduct many specific interventions in the water system in Smara camp, in response to a lot of breakdowns and shortages there.
- UNHCR is planning to construct 78 concrete water tanks this year and to install 115 plastic tanks for vulnerable families in all camps. The selection of vulnerable families began in May, in collaboration with SIA (Solidaridad Internacional Andalucia) and Sahrawi representatives.
- The exact need of soap in public institutions (hospitals, dispensaries, schools and kindergarten) was finally defined during May, thanks to the needs assessment campaign conducted by UNHCR field staff in the five camps. The results obtained will be used to fill the need of soap in these institutions.
- UNHCR continued to support the maintenance of the existing water systems in the Sahrawi camps and is carrying out ordinary interventions and implementing also extraordinary maintenance and repairs, for example in Smara camp, which faced water difficulties during the hot summer season. These activities included strengthening coordination and undertaking joint monitoring.
- Regular chlorination of all the common water points was done. Water analysis tests were carried out in all camps, and a number of disinfectants interventions were made after the detection of a number of inconsistencies.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The average quantity of potable water distribution for the Sahrawi refugees during the first half of 2015 is around 18 L/person/day. Due to the extreme climatic desert context, it is crucial that more investments are needed in finding sources to increase the quantity of water and to reach the international standards (minimum of 20 L/person/day).
- Also because of the climatic context, extending the water network and improving the sources of water is necessary. These require a technical study to improve the water system in the camps, as well as the construction of two additional boreholes.
- Strengthening the waste management system and the procurement of two trucks for the transport of waste out of the camps are other sectoral requirements.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

Algiers

UNHCR is providing shelter, a monthly food basket and some NFIs to urban refugee families on the basis of vulnerability assessments.

Tindouf

UNHCR is providing shelter and essential basic items to the most vulnerable refugees, and is working with the Sahrawi authorities and Algerian Red Crescent (ARC) in this sector.

- Distribution of the tent materials in all the camps (2,328 total) took place in June. Materials included ropes of 100% cotton, which is good for the camps' weather conditions; and stronger pegs and canvas than in previous distributions. UNHCR will launch a PDM (Post Distribution Monitoring) in all the camps to evaluate the quality of the tent materials.

Access to Energy

Achievements and Impact

Tindouf

UNHCR is refilling gas cylinders for 27,000 Sahrawi families every month. UNHCR contributes gas for eight of the 12 months. UNHCR also distributes cooking stoves (1,600 to be distributed later this year).

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and Impact

Algiers

UNHCR celebrated World Refugee Day (WRD) in June in Algiers by organizing a Ramadan “iftar” for refugees, government officials, diplomats and representatives of partner organizations. The event took place at the National Foundation Centre for the Promotion of Youth and Sport Initiatives in Algiers and was also attended by MoFA officials at directors level, ambassadors, other UN agencies, partners, as well as Algerian officials (including representatives from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Solidarity).

Tindouf

UNHCR supports community empowerment and is helping some refugees achieve self-reliance. UNHCR supports four women’s centres. Sahrawi women are well represented in all sectoral departments, including in executive positions (25%). UNHCR is also supporting youth centres, a library, and cultural activities and workshops on the rights of Sahrawi women and the preservation of Sahrawi cultural heritage.



World Refugee Day (WRD) was celebrated in June, with the participation of refugee representatives, refugees, UN agencies and NGOs. The refugees performed various cultural activities, from drama and dancing, to singing and music, as well as exhibiting their arts and crafts.

- 26 social workers were trained, in collaboration with the Sahrawi leadership and Triangle (TGH), in order to improve identification of, and support to, individuals with special needs.

*Cultural performances at World Refugee Day in Smara camp.
UNHCR/R.Fraser*

Livelihoods: UNHCR, in this period, began an action plan to strengthen the self-reliance and livelihoods activities focusing on youth in order to improve their opportunities. UNHCR reviewed already planned projects to integrate into these same projects an approach of income generation and access to employment for Sahrawi refugees. UNHCR will try to involve, to the extent possible, Sahrawi workers and companies. Also, specific projects with some youth associations will be started in 2015 to support them to identify and manage actions for future economic opportunities.

Innovation will be a main component of the livelihoods approach, in all the sectors, and new methodologies will be utilized to build refugee capacities and skills. UNHCR with the Sahrawi leadership has de-signed a pilot project for an innovation centre, targeting some of the most talented youth. These youths will take part in online courses designed for training of trainers, in order to build up business and management skills essential for successful entrepreneurial and

commercial activities, and these participants will play an active role in the design and management of livelihoods activities.

Durable Solutions

Achievements and Impact

Algiers

UNHCR is seeking durable solutions for refugees in Algeria through assisting voluntary return or organizing resettlement to a third country.

- The United States accepted 16 cases for resettlement in 2015, and UNHCR has identified another 14 resettlement cases, as of 31 July.

Working in partnership

UNHCR works with 11 partners in Algiers and Tindouf. UNHCR's overall government focal point is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Division for Human Rights, Social Development and Cultural, Scientific and Technical Affairs. UNHCR also works closely with the Bureau for Refugees and Stateless Persons (BAPRA), which is under the Division of the Legal and Consular Affairs of the same Ministry. UNHCR collaborates with other UN agencies supporting the Sahrawi refugee programmes in Tindouf including WFP in food assistance, and UNICEF in health and education and youth activities. UNHCR leads monthly sectoral coordination meetings in Protection, Community Services, Health and WASH sectors.

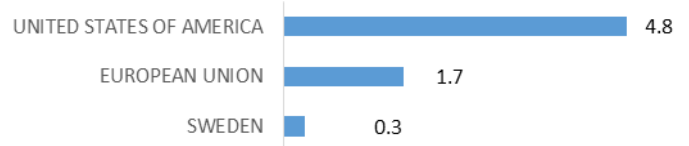
Tindouf

- UNHCR is facing severe funding constraints threatening continuity of basic humanitarian assistance, in particular in the camps in Tindouf area. A number of meetings and visits were held to raise the profile of Sahrawi refugee situation, including planning of joint advocacy with UN agencies and other partners for the 40th anniversary of Sahrawi refugees in Tindouf; a multi-donor mission to Tindouf in May; the visit of Tindouf operation by the Agencia Internacional de Cooperación y Desarrollo (AECID) from Spain in May, followed by UNHCR's visit to Madrid in July.
- UNHCR and WFP started working on the arrangements related to the upcoming nutrition survey. A working group was created to start the planning process for the implementation of the survey: budget, consultancy arrangements, procurement of needed equipment, and coordination with health authorities and partners.
- UNHCR met with the Sahrawi leadership and partners to discuss the new approach to livelihoods and coordination. UNHCR has begun an action plan in 2015 for strengthening the self-reliance and livelihoods activities focusing on youth in order to improve their opportunities, in addition to planning for livelihoods activities in 2016. UNHCR has begun also to improve coordination, both internally and externally. For the latter, this includes holding meetings with all partners, such as the joint advocacy meeting held in June and improving the bilateral meetings and coordination tools used, especially those using joint information collection.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 6.8 million**.

Funding received in 2015 (million USD)



UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds. Major donors of unrestricted and regional contributions in 2015: United States of America (133 M) | Sweden (80 M) | United Kingdom (53 M) | Netherlands (45 M) | Norway (44 M) | Denmark (28 M) | Australia (24 M) | Priv Donors Spain (22 M) | Japan (18 M) | Switzerland (16 M) | France (14 M) | Canada (11 M) | Germany (11 M)



Donors meeting with refugees at Dakhla camp during the May multi-donor mission. UNHCR/R.Fraser

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