

UNHCR 2003 Country Operations Plan

Executive Summary

Algeria

Context and beneficiary population

The complexity and magnitude of the asylum problem in Algeria is two-fold: First, Algeria has the largest refugee population of concern to UNHCR in the Arab world; second, Algeria has borders with six countries and one disputed Territory. Most of the borders are extremely difficult to control, as it is rather easy to pass through the desert at unofficial crossing points. Most routes between sub-Saharan Africa and the Mediterranean pass through Algeria to Europe. An increasing number of migrants (possibly asylum seekers) pass through Tamanrasset causing concern to UNHCR and the host country.

UNHCR's protection strategy for the year of 2003 is comprised of two objectives: (a) full and effective application of the provisions of the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol with a functioning refugee-status granting body in Algeria; and (b) promotion of international refugee law, capacity-building and training of the government officials with a view to updating national refugee legislation in Algeria.

First, UNHCR will provide protection and assistance to urban refugees of different nationalities and seek durable solutions for them. This will include the provision of protection to refugees and medical and financial assistance to vulnerable cases. UNHCR will promote the granting of refugee status to eligible applicants. Asylum-seekers and urban refugees are protected against refoulement and possible deportation respectively. Voluntary repatriation will be promoted and facilitated for the urban caseload. Resettlement activities will be carried out when other durable solutions are not available.

Second, UNHCR will carry out activities relating to the promotion of international refugee law, capacity-building and training of the government officials with a view to facilitating the establishment of effective asylum frameworks for the provision of protection and assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees in Algeria. UNHCR will continue working closely with the Algerian authorities for the full and effective application of the provisions of the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol in Algeria, with the objective of updating national refugee legislation and establishing a functioning refugee status granting body.

UNHCR, in co-ordination and collaboration with the host country, will also continue its mandated responsibilities for refugees from the Western Sahara territory, residing in four camps in Tindouf area.

The Western Sahara refugee situation has all the characteristics of a protracted refugee situation, and therefore, has presented UNHCR with a number of constraints:

- A protracted refugee situation often makes the role and responsibilities of other organisations in the operation become unclear. Thus, an establishment of a co-ordination mechanism is imperative.
- A protracted refugee situation often produces a donors' fatigue and shifting priorities, thus, ongoing sensitisation campaigns are needed.
- A protracted refugee situation tends to suffer from low visibility, thus, becoming more protracted, which then weakens the financial and political support from the international community.

Pending a political solution, UNHCR continues implementing a multi-sector care and maintenance programme in the Tindouf camps and monitoring the refugees' welfare. UNHCR works in full coordination with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara (SRSG), the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), WFP, ECHO and a number of national and international NGOs. UNHCR continues to maintain an adequate level of preparedness, in conformity with the various UN Security Council resolutions, in the event of a political breakthrough. The vast majority of the refugees are women, children and elders. In 1998, UNHCR carried out a comprehensive pre-registration in the camps, which was completed in 2000.

Refugees	FMIS Project Code 03/AB/ALG/CM/201
Main Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pending a durable solution, continue to maintain an adequate level of preparedness for facilitate a durable solution. • Pending a durable solution, continue to co-ordinate the implementation of a multi-sectoral assistance programme. 	

<p>Principle Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue activities in core sectors and enhance self-support of vulnerable refugees in sectors of health and nutrition, education services, strengthen co-ordination role, ensuring the active involvement of the refugee community and refugee leaders in the planning and allocation of assistance • Ensure full and unhindered access to the refugee population, and strengthen the local capacity. • Organise several workshops/information-sharing sessions with UNHCR's implementing partners to ensure co-ordination. 	<p>Related Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Plan of Action • Increase in well-being of refugees in the four camps • Comprehensive needs assessment in all major sectors carried out and accepted by all • Quarterly strategic meetings at the Algiers level • Monthly co-ordination meetings in the field (with sector-specific Working Groups) • regular camp visits to conduct protection monitoring • effective protection monitoring.
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<p>Urban Refugees</p>	<p>FMIS Project Code 03/AB/ALG/CM/200</p>
<p>Main Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first goal for the Urban caseload is to provide protection and assistance to urban refugees of different nationalities and seek durable solutions for them. • To facilitate the establishment of <u>effective asylum framework</u> for the provision of protection and assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees in Algeria. 	
<p>Principle objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full and effective application of the provisions of the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol with a functioning refugee-status granting body in Algeria • Promotion of international refugee law, capacity-building and training of the government officials with a view to updating national refugee legislation in Algeria. 	<p>Related outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Granting of refugee status to eligible applicants by the Government of Algeria • Treatment of asylum-seekers and refugees in accordance with international legal norms and standards; • Updated national refugee legislation; and • A functioning refugee-status granting body.