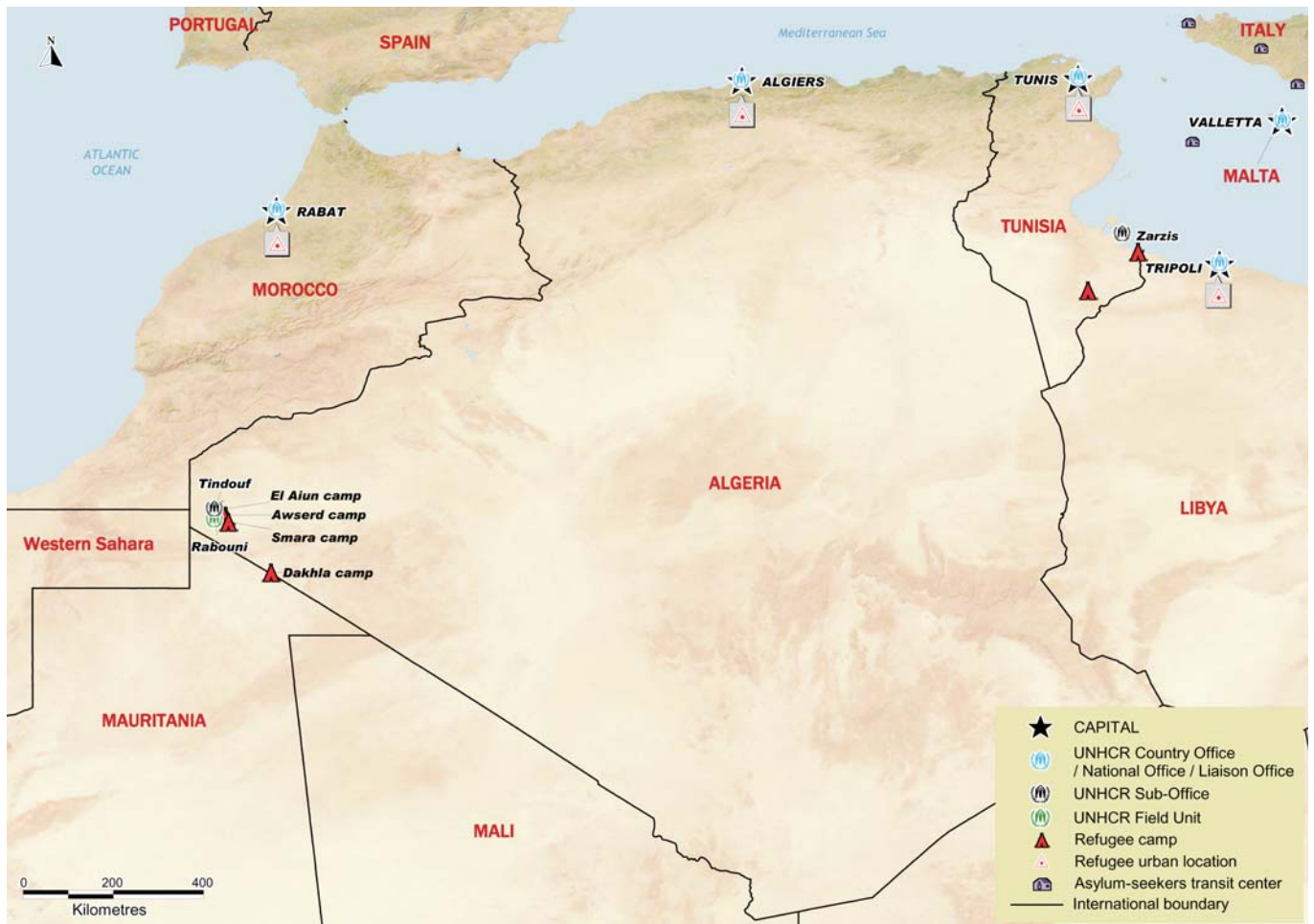


# ALGERIA



## Working environment

### The context

Algeria is confronted with the effects of mixed migration flows and often serves as a transit point for human smuggling. Among them are people who fall under UNHCR's mandate. Algeria is a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, and has approached UNHCR for assistance in developing a national asylum system. UNHCR conducts refugee status determination (RSD) under its mandate.

By the end of August 2011, UNHCR had registered some 140 refugees and 670 asylum-seekers living in urban areas, mostly nationals of sub-Saharan African countries. More than 4,000 Palestinians and an unknown number of Iraqis also live in Algeria. As they are well integrated, they do not approach UNHCR.

Tens of thousands of refugees from Western Sahara arrived in Algeria in 1975-1976 and were recognized on a *prima facie* basis. Since then, they have continued to live in four camps and one settlement in the south-western province of Tindouf. The Algerian Government estimates their number at around 165,000. Pending registration, UNHCR's programme is based on a planning figure of 90,000 vulnerable refugees in the camps.

## Planning figures for Algeria

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2012		DEC 2012 - JAN 2013		DEC 2013	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees <sup>1</sup>	Palestinian	4,020	15	4,030	25	4,040	35
	Côte d'Ivoire	30	30	60	60	80	80
	Various	200	200	250	250	300	300
	Western Sahara	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
Asylum-seekers	Cameroon	300	300	350	350	400	400
	Côte d'Ivoire	200	200	250	250	280	280
	Nigeria	120	120	180	180	210	210
	Various	240	240	290	290	340	340
<b>Total</b>		<b>95,110</b>	<b>91,105</b>	<b>95,410</b>	<b>91,405</b>	<b>95,650</b>	<b>91,645</b>

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

## ◉ The needs

Recent political events in North Africa and the Government's growing security concerns have had a negative impact on the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers, in particular from sub-Saharan Africa, considered as illegal migrants, and those at risk of detention and expulsion.

In the Sahrawi refugee camps, UNHCR provides assistance covering basic needs and services. However, food is generally lacking essential micronutrients, resulting in high rates of anaemia and malnutrition among infants and children, as well as pregnant and lactating women. To combat these problems, additional funds have been allocated to provide nutritional supplements for those at risk, but further efforts are required.

Existing health and educational facilities require constant rehabilitation due to the harsh climatic conditions. The lack of specialized training opportunities and gainful employment affect the level of health care and education being provided. Income-generation and livelihood activities are scarce and difficult to implement in the desert, reinforcing the Sahrawi refugees' dependence on international aid.

## | Strategy and activities |

The 10-Point Plan of Action will continue to serve as a framework for ensuring the protection of refugees in mixed migratory movements. UNHCR will build on the momentum created by the Government's request for support in drafting a national asylum law. It will also strengthen communication and partnership with the authorities and assist in the establishment of efficient asylum and migration management structures. Capacity-building initiatives will target governmental and civil-society institutions.

UNHCR's operational capacity will be strengthened to ensure protection, while the provision of assistance will range from documentation, including issuance of birth certificates to newborn refugee children, material support and the search for durable solutions. UNHCR will intervene with law enforcement authorities and health structures on behalf of victims of sexual and gender-based violence. It will also identify the most vulnerable refugees and submit them for resettlement. In addition, under a joint project with the *Consiglio Italiano per i Rifugiati* (CIR) and the Algerian National Commission for Human Rights, UNHCR will

### Main objectives and targets for 2012

#### FOR REFUGEES IN URBAN SETTINGS:

##### Fair protection processes and documentation

- Reception conditions are improved.
  - ☞ Access to asylum is improved by a 20 per cent increase in UNHCR's capacity to register asylum-seekers and determine their claims.
- Civil registration and civil-status documentation capacity are strengthened.
  - ☞ Recognition of UNHCR documentation by national law enforcement structures results in positive responses to interventions on behalf of detained people of concern.

##### Favourable protection environment

- Access to legal assistance and legal remedies improved.
  - ☞ No refugees are deported for reasons of illegal entry or stay in the country.
  - ☞ Legal interventions are made in all cases of arbitrary detention.
- Laws and policies relevant to protection are developed and strengthened.
  - ☞ National authorities are assisted in the drafting/adoption and subsequent implementation of an asylum law consistent with international standards.

##### Basic needs and essential services

- Shelter and infrastructure are established, improved and maintained.
  - ☞ All mandate refugees who need it have access to adequate shelter.
  - ☞ Some 130 vulnerable refugees receive basic food and non-food items.

##### Durable solutions

- The potential for resettlement is realized.
  - ☞ Some 30 extremely vulnerable refugees are submitted for resettlement.

#### FOR REFUGEES FROM WESTERN SAHARA:

##### Basic needs and services

- The supply of potable water is increased or maintained.
  - ☞ An average of 15 litres of water per person per day is distributed to refugees.
- The nutritional well-being of the population of concern is improved.
  - ☞ The global acute malnutrition rate is reduced to 5 per cent or under.
  - ☞ Anaemia among pregnant and lactating women and children below five is reduced by 20 per cent.
- The population has optimal access to education.
  - ☞ All children in the population of concern aged six to 11 years are enrolled in primary education.
  - ☞ Some 90 per cent of children of school age have school materials and text books.
  - ☞ One school is rehabilitated.
- The health of the population is improved.
  - ☞ Some 50 per cent of essential laboratory services are provided.
- The population has enough access to fuel supplies.
  - ☞ A four-month ration of cooking gas is provided to refugees.

##### Favourable protection environment

- Administrative institutions and practice are developed or strengthened.
  - ☞ All arrested refugees have access to fair and timely trials.

##### Logistics and operational support

- Logistics and supply are optimized to serve operational needs.
  - ☞ A fleet of 32 water tankers, 12 delivery trucks, 14 ambulances and 25 light vehicles is maintained.

## UNHCR's presence in 2012

□ Number of offices	2
□ Total staff	56
International	11
National	40
JPOs	2
UNVs	3

assist rejected asylum-seekers to return to their countries of origin.

The focus of UNHCR's programme for Sahrawi refugees has shifted from care and maintenance interventions to more development-oriented activities through increased support in sectors such as water, nutrition, health and education. This strategy includes strengthening protection monitoring and interventions. Field offices have been established in the four camps, where information leaflets are disseminated and human-rights workshops conducted.

### ○ Constraints

In the urban context, the main constraints include the absence of regional and national migration strategies, the lack of legal and administrative asylum frameworks, non-recognition of refugee status by the State, fragile security, and continuous threats to UN personnel.

In the absence of a political solution to the Western Sahara situation Sahrawi refugees will continue to depend on international assistance for survival.

## Organization and implementation

### ○ Coordination

UNHCR has concluded partnership agreements with local NGOs in Algiers and is part of a project with the CIR on mixed migration. More national civil society partners will be identified, even as UNHCR

A Sahrawi doctor is checking on refugee mother at the maternity ward at Rabouni Hospital, which was refurbished by UNHCR.



PHOTO: HASSANA ABEDI

seeks more Government involvement in asylum issues. Areas where activities can be implemented jointly with other UN agencies, particularly with regard to sexual and gender-based violence and trafficking, will be identified. The greater involvement of the media and academia in asylum issues will also be encouraged.

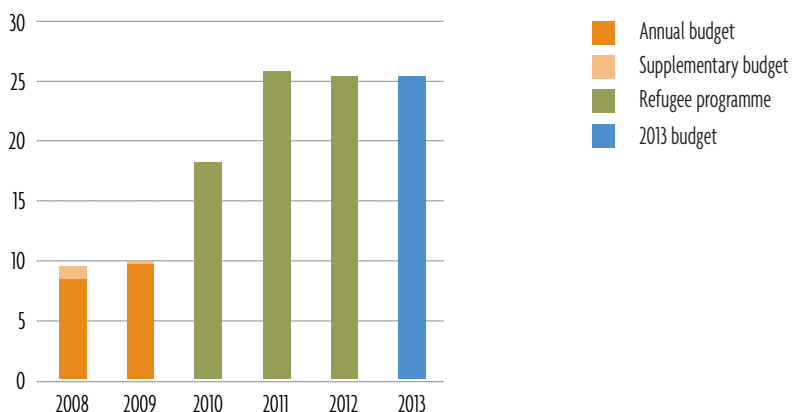
UNHCR has established a strong network of partners to implement programmes and has recently established a physical presence in the camps. To improve coordination with implementing and operational partners, including the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO), the Spanish International Cooperation and Development Agency, and the Sahrawi authorities, UNHCR has established an operational base in the compound of Weather Haven in Rabouni.

## Financial information

From 2008 to 2011, the budget for UNHCR operations in Algeria increased three-fold for needs of people of concern, while still falling far short of total needs of the Sahrawi refugee population. As in 2011, the total budget for the programme in Algeria in 2012-2013 amounts to around USD 25.5 million per year.

## UNHCR's budget in Algeria 2008 – 2013

Millions (USD)



## 2012 UNHCR Budget in Algeria (USD)

BUDGET BREAKDOWN	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	TOTAL
<b>Favourable protection environment</b>		
Law and policy	74,997	74,997
National administrative framework	645,828	645,828
Access to legal assistance	199,995	199,995
Subtotal	<b>920,819</b>	<b>920,819</b>
<b>Fair protection processes and documentation</b>		
Reception conditions	129,995	129,995
Individual documentation	129,995	129,995
Civil status documentation	67,997	67,997
Subtotal	<b>327,986</b>	<b>327,986</b>
<b>Security from violence and exploitation</b>		
Prevention of and response to SGBV	166,994	166,994
Subtotal	<b>166,994</b>	<b>166,994</b>
<b>Basic needs and essential services</b>		
Health	1,697,381	1,697,381
Reproductive health and HIV services	128,154	128,154
Nutrition	905,459	905,459
Food security	1,768,599	1,768,599
Water	5,060,462	5,060,462
Sanitation and hygiene	2,675,048	2,675,048
Shelter and infrastructure	1,313,805	1,313,805
Access to energy	780,705	780,705
Basic domestic and hygiene items	97,097	97,097
Services for people with specific needs	596,509	596,509
Education	3,358,063	3,358,063
Subtotal	<b>18,381,282</b>	<b>18,381,282</b>
<b>Community empowerment and self-reliance</b>		
Self-reliance and livelihoods	1,234,029	1,234,029
Subtotal	<b>1,234,029</b>	<b>1,234,029</b>
<b>Durable solutions</b>		
Voluntary return	94,997	94,997
Resettlement	129,995	129,995
Subtotal	<b>224,992</b>	<b>224,992</b>
<b>Leadership, coordination and partnerships</b>		
Coordination and partnerships	166,308	166,308
Donor relations	180,462	180,462
Subtotal	<b>346,769</b>	<b>346,769</b>
<b>Logistics and operations support</b>		
Logistics and supply	1,353,097	1,353,097
Operations management, coordination and support	2,544,031	2,544,031
Subtotal	<b>3,897,128</b>	<b>3,897,128</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,499,999</b>	<b>25,499,999</b>
<b>2011 Revised budget</b>	<b>25,779,823</b>	<b>25,779,823</b>

## PARTNERS

### Implementing partners

#### NGOs

Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli  
 Consiglio Italiano per i Rifugiati  
 Enfants Réfugiés du Monde - Pays de la Loire  
 Movimiento por la Paz  
 Solidaridad Internacional Andalucía  
 Triangle Génération Humanitaire  
 MUNDUBAT.

#### Others

Association des Femmes algériennes pour le Développement  
 Association nationale d'Information et de Communication en milieu de Jeunes  
 Algerian Red Crescent  
 Réseau algérien pour la protection des Droits de l'Enfant  
 CARITAS

### Operational partners

#### Government agencies

Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID)  
 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Bureau Algérien pour les réfugiés et les apatrides (BAPRA)

#### Others

ECHO  
 WFP  
 WHO