



Algeria
Libya
Mauritania
Morocco
Tunisia
Western Sahara

A sea of tents near Ras Djir in Tunisia,
on the border with Libya.



North Africa

| OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS |

- The Libya crisis in 2011 resulted in the massive outflow of some 900,000 people from the country. Most were third-country nationals, but some 20 per cent were Libyans. In addition, more than 550,000 Libyans were internally displaced. Throughout the conflict, UNHCR provided protection and assistance to the affected population at the Tunisian and Egyptian borders.
- The Governments of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia requested UNHCR's support for the development of national refugee legislation, including through technical assistance and capacity building.
- In the Sahrawi refugee camps near Tindouf, Algeria, UNHCR enhanced its protection presence through the regular monitoring of refugees and the construction of new field units in all of the camps to bring services closer to the refugees.
- By 2011, UNHCR and its partners had brought home some 22,000 Mauritanian refugees from Senegal through the voluntary repatriation operation that began in 2008.



Working environment

The working environment in the North Africa subregion continued to be one in which government policies and practices were largely influenced by political and security considerations.

Most countries in the region lack formal asylum systems making UNHCR's work significantly more complicated. Though there is a deep-rooted tradition of hospitality towards refugees and other forcibly displaced people, much remains to be done to improve the protection climate and strengthen assistance to beneficiaries.

Mixed migration continued to characterize population movements to and through the entire North African subregion.

In Tunisia and Libya, security remained tenuous. While the post-conflict transition in those countries was expected to present significant new opportunities in the area of human rights protection, the overall operational environment remained uncertain and unpredictable.

Achievements and impact

UNHCR and IOM jointly evacuated and repatriated more than 300,000 third-country nationals from the border areas with Tunisia and Egypt. UNHCR established a presence at both borders and, by the end of 2011, was protecting and assisting some 3,000 people of concern who remained at Shousha transit camp in Tunisia.

In April 2011, UNHCR launched the Global Resettlement Solidarity Initiative, actively calling upon States to provide solutions, including resettlement places for non-Libyan refugees hosted at the Tunisian and Egyptian borders. By the end of 2011, over 3,000 non-Libyan refugees had been submitted for resettlement from Shousha transit camp to a total of 14 resettlement countries. Of the more than 600 people accepted for resettlement, some 500 had departed by the end of the year.

In Libya, UNHCR provided emergency humanitarian assistance to displaced Libyans and other people of concern affected by the crisis. UNHCR helped the National Transitional Council (NTC) to assist Libyan returnees and identify interim solutions for IDPs unable to return to their areas of origin.

After ten months of suspension, family visits that form part of the Confidence-Building Measures (CBM) aimed at addressing the effects of prolonged separation between Sahrawi refugees in Tindouf, Algeria, and their families in Western Sahara, resumed in January 2011.

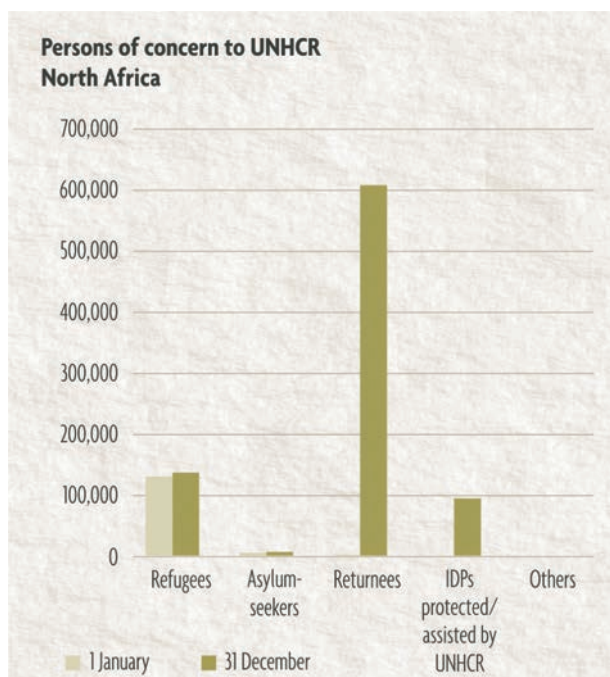
Constraints

Instability and insecurity in some of the North African countries remained a serious concern, as did the lack of national or regional strategies to manage mixed-migration flows. Weak or non-existent asylum structures and legal frameworks hampered UNHCR's work in the subregion.

Operations

UNHCR's operations in **Algeria**, **Libya** and **Tunisia** are covered under separate chapters.

Following the 15th meeting of the Tripartite Commission (Mauritania-Senegal-UNHCR) held in October 2011 in



Dakar, Senegal, the voluntary repatriation of the remaining Mauritanian refugees in Senegal resumed in November 2011. By the end of the year, the number of refugees who had returned to **Mauritania** since the operation began in 2008 stood at 22,000. The voluntary repatriation operation from Senegal is expected to be completed by the end of March 2012. Meanwhile, the final draft of a new national asylum law was presented to the Government of Mauritania for endorsement and submission to Parliament at its 2012 session.

Discussions were held with the Government of **Morocco** concerning the adoption of a comprehensive national asylum system. UNHCR strengthened its partnerships at all levels of the administration and established constructive relationships with most of the key ministries, including the inter-Ministerial Delegation on Human Rights and the Ministries of Justice and of Foreign Affairs. UNHCR's collaboration with the inter-Ministerial Delegation on Human Rights and the Ministry of Justice were especially fruitful and allowed for numerous new joint capacity-building initiatives to be undertaken; these initiatives were aimed primarily at strengthening national expertise in the areas of asylum and refugee law.

Since 2004, some 42,000 Sahrawis from the refugee camps in Tindouf, Algeria, and *Western Sahara*, have registered to take part in family visits that form part of the CBM. However, in view of the limited carrying capacity of the aircraft available this purpose, only some 12,000 persons had benefited from such visits by the end of 2011. In order to allow a greater number of people to benefit from the visits, UNHCR proposed an expansion of the CBM programme to include transportation by land or by means of a larger aircraft.

Following the conclusions reached at the February 2011 CBM meeting with the concerned parties (Morocco and the *Frente Polisario*), and with Algeria and Mauritania as observers, a multifunctional team, composed of UNHCR and MINURSO staff, conducted a road reconnaissance mission in April 2011 to assess the proposed routes between Algeria and *Western Sahara* for family visits by land; however, it was concluded that considerable investments would be required to rehabilitate the roads. Following the meeting, UNHCR organized a cultural seminar in Madeira, Portugal, in September 2011 on the theme of Hassaniya culture in order to promote an exchange of views between the two Sahrawi communities.

Financial information

Owing to the dramatic changes that swept through North Africa in 2011, the comprehensive needs for the region more than doubled those for 2010. Following the outflow of people into the countries neighbouring Libya, a Supplementary Appeal of USD 110 million, covering mainly Egypt, Libya and Tunisia, was launched. The requirements covered the costs of evacuating third-country nationals fleeing Libya; sustaining basic services for persons of concern at the Egyptian and Tunisian borders; supporting Tunisian host communities; and protecting and assisting refugees and IDPs inside Libya. They also included the costs for the RSD and resettlement operations in Egypt and Tunisia, which required the deployment of a considerable number of additional staff. The Supplementary Appeal was only 66 per cent funded by the end of 2011.

Budget and expenditure in North Africa | USD

Country/Territory		PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
Algeria	Budget	25,729,823	0	25,729,823
	Expenditure	14,768,388	0	14,768,388
Libya	Budget	14,894,907	10,848,957	25,743,864
	Expenditure	8,341,562	2,565,042	10,906,604
Mauritania	Budget	7,185,528	0	7,185,528
	Expenditure	4,367,815	0	4,367,815
Morocco	Budget	2,755,140	0	2,755,140
	Expenditure	2,147,166	0	2,147,166
Tunisia	Budget	45,742,856	0	45,742,856
	Expenditure	35,650,495	0	35,650,495
<i>Western Sahara</i>	Budget	12,333,208	0	12,333,208
	Expenditure	4,037,734	0	4,037,734
Regional Activities	Budget	25,654,079	0	25,654,079
	Expenditure	18,303,824	0	18,303,824
Total budget		134,295,541	10,848,957	145,144,498
Total expenditure		87,616,984	2,565,042	90,182,026

Voluntary contributions to North Africa | USD

Earmarking / Donor	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
NORTH AFRICA SUBREGION				
Liechtenstein			107,527	107,527
Private donors in Sweden			38,688	38,688
Spain			14,000	14,000
United States of America			6,250,000	6,250,000
North Africa subtotal	0	0	6,410,215	6,410,215
ALGERIA				
European Union	3,246,333			3,246,333
Ireland			178,063	178,063
Private donors in Italy	118,857			118,857
Spain	614,719		263,196	877,915
United States of America			850,000	850,000
<i>Deutsche Stiftung für UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe</i>	71,225			71,225
Algeria subtotal	4,051,134	0	1,291,259	5,342,393
LIBYA				
Charities Aid Foundation			275	275
European Union	670,135	576,667		1,246,802
Japan Association for UNHCR			122,309	122,309
Private donors in Greece			485	485
Private donors in the United Kingdom			40	40
Republic of Korea	200,000			200,000
United Kingdom	619,890			619,890
Libya subtotal	1,490,025	576,667	123,109	2,189,801
MAURITANIA				
European Union	716,214			716,214
Mauritania subtotal	716,214	0	0	716,214
MOROCCO				
Amitie sans Frontieres			32,852	32,852
Monaco	65,703			65,703
Switzerland	173,724			173,724
Morocco subtotal	239,427	0	32,852	272,279
TUNISIA				
African Union			100,000	100,000
Belgium	140,845		1,428,571	1,569,416
Brazil	224,000			224,000
CERF	1,346,328			1,346,328
European Union	3,380,872			3,380,872
France	734,442			734,442
Germany	1,427,554			1,427,554
Ireland	173,464			173,464
Lions Club International	149,400			149,400
Luxembourg	328,515			328,515
Norway			95,159	95,159
OPEC Fund for International Development	500,000			500,000
Spain	300,556		336,195	636,750
IKEA Foundation	2,080,566			2,080,566
Sweden			92,204	92,204
Switzerland	181,900			181,900
Turkey			1,000	1,000
United Arab Emirates	300,000			300,000
United Kingdom	562,600			562,600
United Parcel Service	170,000			170,000
USA for UNHCR	127,000			127,000
Tunisia subtotal	12,128,042	0	2,053,129	14,181,171

Earmarking / Donor	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
<i>WESTERN SAHARA</i>				
France	480,769			480,769
Germany	273,598			273,598
Ireland	178,063			178,063
Italy	42,857			42,857
Spain	343,407			343,407
<i>Western Sahara subtotal</i>	1,318,693	0	0	1,318,693
Total	19,943,536	576,667	9,910,563	30,430,766