

# ALGERIA

January 2024

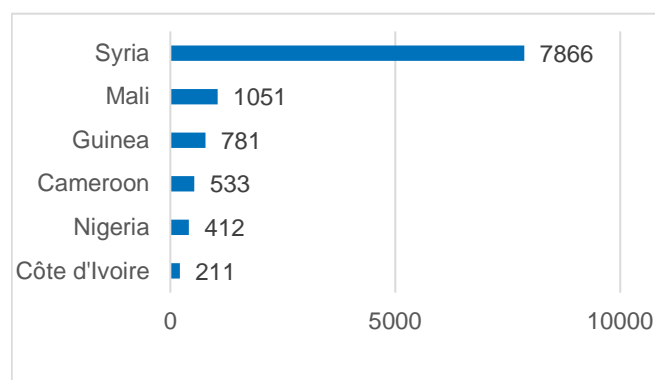
Algeria is composed of two refugee situations: A nearly 50-year-old displacement of Sahrawi refugees in five camps near Tindouf in the south-west of the country and a typical urban asylum-seeker and refugee population of diverse origin in Algiers and other governorates.

In the camps near Tindouf, UNHCR and 27 partners provide humanitarian support for the Sahrawi refugee population. A resumption of conflict, inflation, climate change has all exacerbated the needs in the camps as has the extreme longevity of the situation.

For urban asylum-seekers and refugees, UNHCR conducts registration and refugee status determination and seeks durable solutions for those found to be in need of international protection.

## NON-SAHRAWI DISPLACED POPULATION

### TOP 6 NATIONALITIES BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

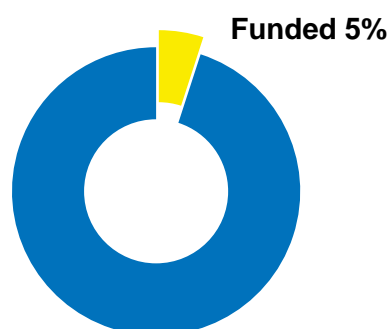


As of 31/01/2024

## FUNDING (AS OF MID-FEBRUARY 2024)

# USD 42,2 Million

requested for the Algeria situation.



**Unfunded 95%**

## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

58 National Staff

14 International Staff

### Offices:

1 Branch Office in Algiers

1 Sub Office in Tindouf



Three Sahrawi refugees share a moment of camaraderie outside a shop in Awserd refugee camp Tindouf, Algeria. Credit: UNHCR

## Tindouf

### Working with Partners

In **Tindouf**, UNHCR operates in close collaboration with UN agencies with established operations within the camps, namely the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organization (WHO). Additionally, UNHCR collaborates with the Algerian Red Crescent societies, along with various non-governmental organization (NGO) partners. Together, these entities coordinate efforts to provide essential humanitarian aid to the 173,600 Sahrawi refugees residing in the region.

UNHCR coordinates the humanitarian activities in the camps through mechanisms at:

- **Camp level:** Administered by the Sahrawi refugee leaders.
- **Sector level (Thematic Groups):** Technical and functional expertise for sector-specific needs in the camps.
- **Inter-Sector level:** Connecting the different sectors.
- **Inter-Agency Working Group:** Heads of UN agencies and Operational Partners in the field.

In partnership with 27 dedicated organizations committed to addressing the humanitarian needs of the displaced Sahrawi population, UNHCR has developed a comprehensive Refugee Response Plan (SRRP). With a total financial requirement of 214,401,591 USD, the plan aims to outline the essential interventions and improve the assistance provided to the displaced Sahrawi community throughout the years 2024 and 2025.

#### Implementing partners in Tindouf:

- **Algerian Red Crescent (CRA):** Documentation, health and nutrition, support services, WASH initiatives, well-being, and community support.
- **The Association of Workers and Technicians without Borders (ATTSF):** WASH activities and NFI's. essential non-food items for the Sahrawi refugee population.
- **Women, Action, and Development Association (AFAD):** Support to education.
- **Danish Refugee Council (DRC):** Support or accessing livelihood opportunities, including vocational training and youth-led startups.
- **Child Refugees of the World (ERM):** Support to Health.
- **Movement for Peace, Disarmament & Liberty (MPDL):** Support to WASH, Justice, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV), aiming to improve protection.
- **Oxfam Solidarity (ASBL):** Support to WASH, enhancing water access and availability for residents in the Boujdour refugee camp.
- **Andalusian International Solidarity (AIS):** Support to WASH, focusing on strengthening water production capacity, treatment, storage, and distribution across the five refugee camps.
- **Triangle Humanitarian Generation (THG):** Justice, support services, health, mental health, hygiene promotion, assistance for people with special needs, and humanitarian logistics.
- **University of Madrid:** This institution's project focuses on Education and Livelihood, aiming to build the capacities of young Sahrawi entrepreneurs and teachers to support sustainable development initiatives.

## Main Activities

### Protection

- UNHCR enhances protection coordination mechanisms and fosters participatory approaches among Sahrawi refugees, promoting community-based engagement, self-management, and empowerment, particularly targeting youth, women, and civil society organizations.
- UNHCR offers psychological support to individuals with special needs, ensuring that tailored assistance reaches them effectively.
- UNHCR facilitates capacity building initiatives for legal institutions that offer services for Sahrawi refugees, social workers, education staff, and partners, while also providing support to the Sahrawi Identification Centre.
- Social workers ensure that disabled persons and unaccompanied elderly individuals have access to UNHCR service delivery, addressing their specific needs and ensuring inclusivity.

### Education

- UNHCR implements diverse interventions to bolster Sahrawi refugee education, including the provision of schoolbooks tailored for primary and lower-secondary levels.
- UNHCR supports the capacity building of teachers, inspectors, and school directors, enhancing their professional capabilities and ensuring quality education delivery.
- Quarterly incentives are allocated to education staff members in collaboration with the education department in the camps, recognizing their dedication and contribution to the educational system.

### Health

- UNHCR reinforces the local healthcare system by enhancing healthcare workers' capacities, providing incentives for medical personnel in the camps, supplying medical equipment, and ensuring regular rehabilitation and maintenance of health facilities.
- UNHCR extends support to the medical referral system by maintaining and renewing the fleet of ambulances. A specific referral system is established for the most vulnerable cases, particularly individuals suffering from kidney failure and those in need of palliative care (cancer patients) outside Tindouf province.
- UNHCR offers Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) through a community participation approach, which includes group therapy sessions and discussions to address mental health challenges within the refugee population.
- UNHCR provides technical support to enhance the Sahrawi refugee camps' Health Information System (HIS), encompassing data collection, analysis, capacity building, and logistical support.
- UNHCR supports the community-based management of acute malnutrition by supplying necessary equipment and supplies, building the capacity of nutrition workers, providing incentives, and procuring treatment for severe acute malnutrition cases.
- UNHCR extends support to the local nursing and midwifery school, contributing to the enhancement of healthcare services and professional development opportunities in the community.

### Food Security and Nutrition

- UNHCR supports a supplementary feeding program specifically designed for malnourished, pregnant, and lactating refugee women, aiming to address their nutritional needs during critical stages.
- UNHCR supplies therapeutic feeding products such as Plumpy'nut and therapeutic milk for the treatment of severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) among refugees, ensuring access to essential nutrition for those most in need.
- UNHCR provides complementary feeding options with fresh foods such as yeasts, dates, and vegetables, enhancing the nutritional diversity and quality of refugee diets.

### **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

- UNHCR takes the lead in the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector within the Sahrawi refugee camps, employing a consultative approach and flexible operations tailored to the specific needs of the refugee population.
- UNHCR provides operational and maintenance support for water supply facilities to ensure consistent daily water distribution across the five camps, addressing the fundamental need for clean water access.
- UNHCR continues to expand water supply infrastructures, aiming to enhance access to safe and reliable water sources for refugees residing in the camps.
- UNHCR supports waste management efforts by providing incentives to waste management staff, distributing hygiene and protective gear, and operating and maintaining a fleet of garbage trucks.
- UNHCR facilitates community engagement through voluntary clean-up campaigns and awareness-raising activities.
- UNHCR supports the operation of a plastic recycling workshop, which aims to remove recyclable plastics from the waste stream and generate revenue for the refugee population, contributing to both environmental sustainability and economic empowerment.
- UNHCR supports local soap and bleach production, ensuring the distribution of soap to all beneficiaries and healthcare and education facilities across the five camps. Bleach is utilized for water treatment and disinfection purposes in healthcare facilities, contributing to improved hygiene and sanitation practices.

### **Shelter and Non-Food Items**

- UNHCR distributes gas cylinder refills to households within the Sahrawi refugee camps, ensuring access to cooking fuel for numerous families.
- UNHCR provides shelter materials to Sahrawi refugees, facilitating the assembly of traditional tents that are resilient to the harsh weather conditions prevalent in the camps.
- Additionally, UNHCR maintains an emergency stockpile of tent accessories and Refugee Housing Units (RHUs), enabling a swift response to shelter needs during adverse weather events that may damage homes and infrastructure in the camps.

### **Livelihoods and capacity building**

- UNHCR offers incentives to workers across various sectors within the refugee camps, recognizing and rewarding their contributions to the community.
- UNHCR supports workshops, vocational training centres, and women's promotional centres within the camps, fostering skill development and empowerment opportunities for refugees.
- UNHCR facilitates skill acquisition courses in diverse areas such as secretarial studies, sewing, carpentry, office computing, auto mechanics, welding, digital marketing, and more, equipping refugees with practical skills for employment and entrepreneurship.
- UNHCR provides support to existing businesses and offers grants for the establishment of new ventures, promoting economic stability and self-reliance among refugee populations.

## Algiers

### Working with Partners

- **In Algiers**, UNHCR plays an active role within the UN Country Team and the UN migration network. Additionally, UNHCR partners with the Government of Algeria, the Algerian Red Crescent, and four NGOs with whom it collaborates to implement various projects. These collaborative efforts are aimed at addressing the needs of refugees and displaced persons, fostering humanitarian assistance, and promoting stability and support within the region.

The following partners implement specific sectors of activities:

- **Adwaa Rights for Democracy and Human Rights**: Implements cash assistance programs to assist the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers. Support to education.
- **Women, Action, and Development Association (AFAD)**: Provides educational support and guidance to urban refugees and asylum-seekers, facilitating their enrollment in educational institutions.
- **National Association for Youth Exchange (ANEJ)**: Focuses on supporting the access of urban refugees and asylum-seekers to vocational training opportunities. Engages in micro-projects aimed at enhancing livelihood opportunities.
- **Algerian Red Crescent(ARC)**: Prioritizes providing assistance by ensuring that refugees and asylum-seekers have access to healthcare facilities and services.
- **Association of Information and Communication among Youths (Info-Com Jeunes)**: Implements emergency accommodation initiatives aimed at resettling the most vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers.

### Main Activities

#### Protection

- In the absence of a formal national asylum system until the moment, UNHCR carries out registration of refugees and asylum-seekers and Refugee Status Determination (RSD), to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers are identified and documented.
- UNHCR conducts capacity-building programs with members of the Algerian government, lawyers and judges on the principles of international protection and refugee rights, in order to create a de facto protection space for persons of concern to UNHCR present in the country.
- UNHCR advocates for the effective inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in urban settings, focusing on facilitating their access to national education and healthcare systems.
- UNHCR monitors and intervenes in cases of arrest and expulsion of asylum-seekers and refugees through a 24-hour/7 days emergency hotline, email, and in-person reporting system, ensuring swift response and protection of individuals in distress.
- UNHCR prioritizes the protection of refugee children from violence, abuse, exploitation, and separation, while upholding the principle of the Best Interest of the Child in Algeria. Best Interest Procedures (BIP) are implemented for unaccompanied and separated children receiving protection services.
- UNHCR fosters two-way communication with refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas through an active outreach program and Engagement with Outreach Volunteers (OVs), facilitating community engagement and access to information.
- UNHCR works to ensure safe and dignified third-country solutions for refugees by promoting and expanding resettlement and complementary pathways, facilitating opportunities for refugees to rebuild their lives in secure environments.

### Education

- UNHCR and its education partner assist refugee and asylum-seeking children during the school enrolment process in urban settings. UNHCR provides essential school supplies such as scholar kits, offers school transportation services, and arranges tutoring lessons to facilitate their integration into the education system.
- UNHCR endeavours to secure scholarships for refugees and asylum-seekers both within and outside Algiers, promoting educational opportunities and encouraging the pursuit of complementary pathways to higher education and skill development.

### Health

- UNHCR and its health partner offer medical information and orientations to urban refugees and asylum-seekers requiring healthcare services, ensuring they are aware of available resources and how to access them.
- UNHCR supports refugees and asylum-seekers in accessing medical care not covered by the national public health scheme, ensuring they receive essential healthcare services.
- Regular health education sessions covering reproductive health, nutrition, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and communicable and non-communicable diseases are conducted for refugees and asylum-seekers by UNHCR and its partners, promoting health awareness and preventive measures.
- UNHCR supports the clinical management of rape and GBV survivors through a multi-year convention with the central university hospital of Algiers. Capacity building and logistical support are provided in collaboration with the Algerian Red Crescent (CRA).
- UNHCR provides emergency shelter for patients in need of convalescence, utilizing a dedicated CRA center to ensure they receive appropriate care and support during recovery.
- Through the joint UN program on HIV, UNHCR supports refugees and asylum-seekers living with HIV, facilitating free access to treatment and medical follow-up, including voluntary testing.
- UNHCR engages in continuous advocacy efforts to ensure better inclusion of persons under its mandate in national health policies, programs, and plans. Full inclusion is guaranteed within the national plan against HIV/STIs and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), as well as primary and secondary healthcare services, haemodialysis, and palliative care.

### Shelter and Non-Food Items

- UNHCR, in collaboration with its partners, establishes safe houses for the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers, offering refuge and protection. Additionally, an alternative care program is provided for unaccompanied or separated children and other at-risk profiles, ensuring their safety and well-being.
- The operation delivers cash assistance to vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers, enabling them to secure shelter and meet other basic needs, fostering their resilience and self-sufficiency.

### Livelihoods and capacity building

- UNHCR through its livelihood implementing partners supports urban refugees and asylum seekers by providing professional training as well as accompanying registered individuals in starting small business projects.

## Key Priorities

### In Tindouf:

- Address the issue of underfunding to adequately meet the comprehensive needs of Sahrawi refugees, ensuring they have access to essential support.
- Foster active engagement with government partners, donors, NGOs, UN agencies, and refugee leaders to bolster collaboration and coordination efforts.
- Provide Sahrawi refugees with unrestricted access to fundamental rights and essential services.
- Prioritize the promotion of livelihood opportunities while concurrently preserving the natural ecosystem, thus contributing to the resilience of Sahrawi refugees and empowering them towards self-sufficiency.

**In Algiers:**

- Continue profiling, registration, and refugee status determination to identify persons in need of international protection. And ensuring the Delivery of dedicated protection services to the most vulnerable,
- Play an active role in enhancing government capacities by strengthening governmental responsibilities and aligning them with international protection standards through capacity building initiatives.
- Advocate for collaborative engagement with stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental, to ensure the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers within the national system, thereby safeguarding their rights and overall well-being.

## Funding:

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