

Morocco

April 2025

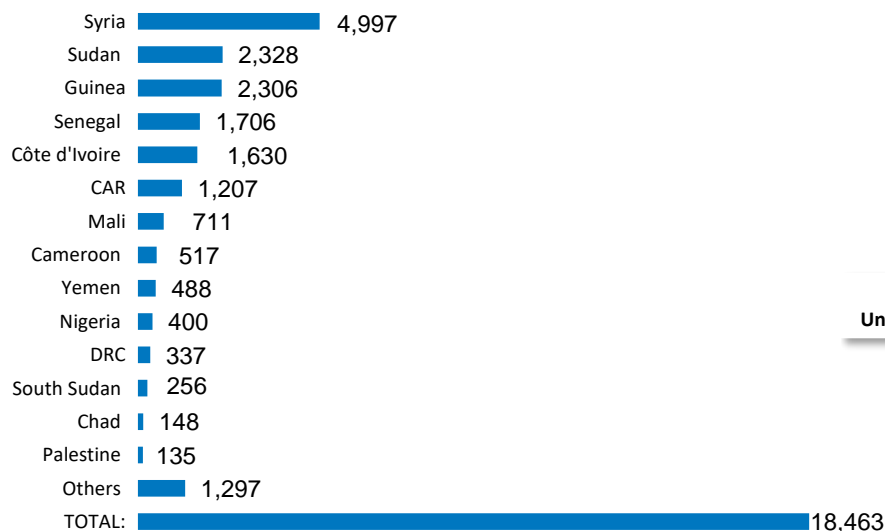
Morocco is both a transit and a host country for people seeking asylum, with **18,463 refugees and asylum seekers** registered with UNHCR from over 60 countries.

UNHCR works to ensure **access to asylum and protection for refugees and asylum seekers** in Morocco, working closely with Moroccan authorities under the framework of the National Strategy for Immigration and Asylum (SNIA).

UNHCR and partners are actively working to ensure a comprehensive response to meet the growing **protection needs of refugees and asylum seekers**.

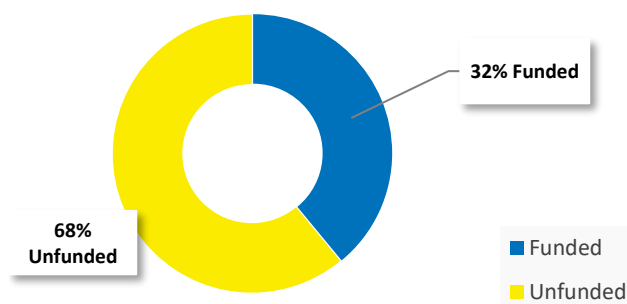
KEY FIGURES:

8,479 refugees and **9,984 asylum-seekers** across **81 localities** in Morocco (as of 31 March 2025)



FUNDING: (as of 31 March 2025)

\$ 11.8 million requested for UNHCR's Operation in Morocco in 2025



UNHCR PRESENCE:

50 Total Staff

UNHCR Staff: 29 total staff

- 25 national staff
- 4 international staff

Affiliate Workforce: 21 total affiliate staff

- 2 UNV
- 17 UNOPS
- 2 others

Office: 1 Branch Office in Rabat



Arianne Marielle, a Central African refugee, manager of African products shops.
@UNHCR/Rabab Talal

Working with Partners

- Morocco's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates (MAECAMRE) is UNHCR's main government counterpart. UNHCR also collaborates with key ministries, academic partners and other institutions.
- UNHCR actively engages with its partners to meet the needs of forcibly displaced people, including: Fondation Orient-Occident (FOO), Association Marocaine de Planification Familiale (AMPF), Organisation Marocaine des Droits Humains (OMDH), Association Marocaine d'Appui à la Promotion de la Petite Entreprise (AMAPPE) and Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme (CNDH).
- In Casablanca, Fes, Tangier, Oujda, Marrakech and Beni Mellal/Khouribga, UNHCR participates in, and supports, **Protection Working Groups (PWGs)** to better identify and protect refugees and asylum seekers. These groups are composed of civil society actors, institutional partners, regional human rights commissions, UN agencies, universities, and legal partners.
- On 7 October 2021, the Moroccan High Commissioner for Planning (HCP) and UNHCR signed a partnership agreement to strengthen collaboration between the two institutions. This agreement confirms a long and fruitful engagement to respond to the needs of refugees in Morocco. Under the auspices of this partnership agreement, the HCP in collaboration with UNHCR has conducted a [national survey](#) on the situation of refugees in Morocco post-COVID-19 whose final report was released at the end of 2023. Another study will be conducted in 2025.
- In the context of mixed movements, UNHCR and IOM co-chair a joint **Thematic Working Group on Migration and Asylum** to support the implementation of both the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact on Migration, and this in accordance with Morocco's National Policy on Migration and Asylum.
- In line with the whole-of-society and multi-partner approach outlined by the Global Refugee Compact (2018) and Global Refugee Forums (2019 and 2023), UNHCR engages with a range of actors including refugee and asylum-seeking communities, the media, regional and municipal authorities, civil society, and the private sector to improve the protection landscape for refugees and asylum seekers.
- Along with other UN agencies, UNHCR is involved in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) as well as in thematic groups on migration, gender, HIV/AIDS awareness, trafficking, education, youth, communication and monitoring and evaluation.
- The Rabat Declaration to strengthen the global commitment to improve the health of refugees and migrants, was adopted during the high-level segment of the Third Global Consultation on the Health of Refugees and Migrants, that took place on 13–15 June 2023. The event, co-hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco, WHO, IOM, and UNHCR, was attended by government representatives from 50 United Nations Member States and observers as well as representatives from humanitarian organizations, civil society, refugee and migrant communities and UN agencies served as a meaningful and sustained platform for multi-sectoral dialogue on refugee and migrants' health. In 2024, Morocco hosted an international conference on migrant and refugee health in collaboration with WHO, IOM, UNHCR, and the Euromed University of Fez. This meeting brought together 150 people representing ministries of health, experts from IOM, from WHO and UNHCR from Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Iraq as well as researchers, academics and civil society representatives from Canada, Spain and the United Kingdom.
- On 10 October 2023, UNHCR renewed a three-year partnership agreement with the French Embassy and French institutes in Morocco, in collaboration with the Fondation Orient-Occident. The renewal of this agreement involves collaboration in the fields of education and capacity building for institutions and civil society actors in Morocco who are involved in the protection and integration of refugees in Morocco.
- On 19 December 2023, on the occasion of its 10th anniversary, the Noufissa/Pharma 5 Foundation renewed its partnership with UNHCR for the period of 2023-2026. The first partnership was signed in 2018 with the aim of improving refugees' access to health care, education and employment.
- On February 23, 2024, UNHCR Morocco signed a new partnership agreement with TIBU Africa. This partnership with TIBU will implement sport for protection activities that include vocational training in the sports industry, sports activities in public schools promoting social cohesion, sports activities for refugee youth, children and mothers, and support for refugee-led associations.
- On 20 June 2024, on the occasion of World Refugee Day, UNHCR Morocco signed a tripartite agreement with the Noufissa Pharma 5 Foundation and the Association Marocaine de Planification Familiale (AMPF). This agreement aims to strengthen joint efforts to facilitate the education and economic integration of refugees in Morocco, while enhancing their skills to promote their integration into Moroccan society.
- During the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in July 2024, **in line with UNHCR's global strategy recognizing sport as a powerful tool for protection and inclusion**, a young Syrian refugee in Morocco took part in a solidarity festival held during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, alongside UNHCR's implementing partner Tibu Africa — the Moroccan association selected to represent the country at this international event.

- On 2 August 2024, UNICEF and UNHCR Morocco signed a letter of understanding (MoU) to promote the inclusion of mobile and refugee children in national systems, including child protection systems, as part of their overall strategic collaboration framework.
- On 22 October 2024, UNHCR Morocco and the Jadara Foundation have signed a partnership agreement to offer young refugees sustainable integration through education and vocational training. During the pilot phase of this project, some 50 young refugees and university students will benefit from capacity-building workshops, the “mentoring” program, language enhancement and “employability boost” training.

Operational Context

- 2023 was marked by a stabilization of the overall number of refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR. In 2024, the Morocco operation saw **an increase in the number of individuals registering with UNHCR (4,700) as compared to 3,500 in 2023**. This increase was mainly attributed to the influx of Sudanese asylum-seekers from the second part of the year, which became the first population registering with UNHCR. In 2025 the operation continues to see an increase in the number of Sudanese approaching UNHCR’s office for the purpose of registering. Since January 2025, 2,100 Sudanese have been pre-registered.
- Morocco actively participated in the Global Refugee Forum in 2023 with **6 important pledges** on health, education, socioeconomic integration, data management, and an initiative to consolidate the implementation of “humanized border management”. **Two refugee representatives** from Morocco took part in the GRF.

Main Activities

Protection

- **Registration & Refugee Status Determination (RSD):** Pending the establishment of a national asylum system, UNHCR continues to ensure on behalf of the authorities, the function of registering new asylum seekers and conducting RSD. All UNHCR recognized refugees are referred for review to the Inter-Ministerial Commission of the Bureau for Refugees and Statelessness (BRA), under the authority of the MAECAMRE. UNHCR programmes the refugees and has an observatory role in front of the BRA. During the first quarter of 2025, UNHCR registered 1,279 new asylum applications and recognized 323 refugees. 154 UNHCR recognized refugees have been auditioned by the BRA, during 21 auditions. With the number of sessions in front of the BRA passing in 4 March 2024, from one session per week for 8 refugees to two per week for a total of 20 refugees, the Interministerial Commission of the Bureau for Refugees and Stateless Persons (BRA) is in good progress to progressively reduce the current gap between the number of refugees recognized by the UNHCR and those recognized by the government.

- Since the start of the hearings in September 2013 until 30 September 2024, 1,882 refugees (non-Syrian) were auditioned in front of the BRA



Nisreen, a Palestinian refugee, owner of an e-commerce shop for traditional outfits.
@UNHCR/Rabab Talal

- **Legal assistance:** UNHCR works with private law firm Cabinet Lemseguem to provide legal aid to refugees and asylum seekers (e.g. for issuance of birth certificates, to file complaints for physical assault and for representation before Moroccan courts). From 1 January to 31 March 2025, a total of **282** legal assistance interventions were provided, including **11 administrative assistances**, **10 judicial assistances in criminal justice**, and **36 judicial assistances in civil matters**, among which **22 were related to birth certificate issuance procedures**. Moreover, Cabinet Lemseguem provided **239 legal counselling** at the FOO for asylum seekers and refugees.
- **Emergency housing:** Along with Fondation Orient-Occident, UNHCR supports an **emergency shelter and protection programme**. Emergency housing covers immediate housing needs of forcibly displaced people,

while protection housing responds to longer-term needs. This programme benefits refugees and asylum seekers with extreme vulnerabilities, including unaccompanied minors aged 16 and above, at-risk women, single mothers, victims of trafficking, and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). As of 31 March 2025, **40 refugees and asylum-seekers including 18 adults and 22 children (28 refugees and 12 asylum seekers) benefited from these services. Women represent 43%** of those who benefit from the program.

- **Protection for victims of GBV:** As of 31 March 2025, **960 UNHCR recognized refugees** have at least one specific need related to gender-based violence, **women and girls represent 70% of this population** and **40%** of this violence took place in the countries of origin. A **referral and support system** is in place for survivors and people at increased risk of GBV to ensure access to healthcare, psychosocial support, legal assistance, and livelihood services. Prevention is also achieved through **awareness-raising and community activities**; since January 2023, a GBV risk and needs mapping exercise has been implemented. As of 31 March, **4 GBV committees were organized**, in which **71 cases of GBV survivors** were discussed by the panel and guided towards sustainable solutions and were provided multi-sectoral assistance.

In 2025, three awareness-raising sessions were organized on the occasion of the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, in February. These sessions reached and raised awareness among **87 refugees and asylum seekers** of all genders. Participants were informed about the physical, psychological, and legal consequences of this harmful practice, which particularly affects refugee girls from several countries, including Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea, Guinea, and Mali. This initiative was praised by the Donor Gender Task Force (GTG) as well as several sister agencies, as a concrete example of grassroots action contributing to the prevention of gender-based violence in humanitarian settings.

- **Outreach and community-based activities:** UNHCR works in close collaboration with **Protection Working Groups (PWG)** in Fes/Meknes, Casablanca, Oujda, Tangier, Marrakech and Khouribga-Beni Mellal to identify and refer people with specific needs to appropriate services.
- A network of **23 refugee community agents** of different nationalities shares information among refugee communities across seven localities in Morocco, relaying their needs and concerns to UNHCR and partners. In March 2025, with the increase in the number of Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers, three Sudanese refugees and one South Sudanese refugee were recruited to facilitate communication with this new community and to support them in accessing various services in Morocco. In 2025, a new community outreach worker was also recruited in the Souss-Massa region to cover this newly identified area, alongside the establishment of a protection field office in Agadir. In March 2025, a community dialogue meeting was organized with all community outreach workers, representatives of community-based associations, and partners to strengthen exchange, participation, and accountability to affected populations.
- Protection, registration, and RSD hotlines available in three languages (English, French and Arabic) continue to be operational and remain a key point of contact for refugees and asylum seekers. One additional phone line is dedicated to emergencies, specifically for people facing risks of arrest and detention. **Social media** is also an important point of contact for forcibly displaced people, with more than **86 requests** received across multiple social media platforms as of 31 March 2025.
- **Coordination meetings for the management and follow-up of protection cases:** UNHCR is conducting **monthly coordination meetings with partners** to strengthen case management and ensure timely and adequate referrals and response. In line with confidentiality guidelines and following refugees' consent, sensitive cases are discussed to identify appropriate durable solutions. In this regard, UNHCR and partners meet monthly to discuss available services and identify multi-sectoral solutions.
- **Strengthening commitment to key protection policies and approaches:** UNHCR has reinforced its engagement towards key protection principles, with specific attention directed towards **participatory assessments and data collection** through KOBO Power BI platform, **feedback and complaint mechanisms, communication with communities (CwC)** and **accountability to affected people (AAP)** under UNHCR's mandate. To this end, **330 individuals** were consulted during the implementation of our programs and through **15 community dialogues**. As of February 2025, **463 individuals** were able to access our feedback and support mechanisms. The office also provided over **1,661 protection counseling sessions for 1,076 individuals and 309 communication counseling sessions for 250 individuals**.

Financial assistance for the most vulnerable

UNHCR provides multi-purpose cash assistance for the most vulnerable refugees (unaccompanied minors, single parents, survivors of GBV, people with medical needs etc.). Based on assessments conducted by FOO, cases are discussed in a monitoring committee with UNHCR and FOO staff. As of 31 March 2025, up to **1,700 vulnerable household per month benefited from financial assistance**.

Education

- During the academic year 2024-2025, with the support of UNHCR's education programme and in collaboration with FOO, **925 refugee children were enrolled in school at primary level, 439 were enrolled at secondary level, and 460 in kindergarten**. At the start of the 2024 school year, **12 students** were enrolled in non-formal education. In addition, **31 refugees** in Morocco in 2023/2024 benefitted from the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) **scholarship programme**. Additionally, 31 refugees in Morocco benefited from the 2024/2025 scholarship program of the German Academic Refugee Initiative Albert Einstein (DAFI). Furthermore, during the 2024-2025 academic year, 49 students and alumni of the DAFI program will benefit from the support and mentorship program of the JADARA Foundation, thanks to the agreement signed in October 2024.
- Ensuring equitable schooling from a gender perspective remains among top UNHCR's priorities. In Morocco, **48 per cent of refugee children enrolled in schools are girls**.
- Approximately half of refugee children are enrolled in remedial or support classes. During the 2024–2025 school year, **250 refugees** benefited from academic support. At the end of the 2023/2024 academic year, the success rate of enrolled refugee children was **92% in primary school, 93% in middle school, and 91% in high school**.
- **All refugee children attending school benefitted from conditional cash assistance for education**.
- **30 refugees** obtained their high school diploma in 2023-2024 with a success rate of 91%.
- Six regional workshops with the Regional Education Directorates (AREF) were organized in 2024 between November and December to raise awareness among the directorates about the educational challenges faced by refugees and to identify obstacles as well as best practices. These workshops also served as a platform to strengthen institutional collaboration with the aim of renewing the Convention between the Ministry of Education and UNHCR.
- Thanks to the collaboration with the Ali Zaoua Association, refugee students have access to cultural activities offered by "Les Étoiles" cultural centers. Additionally, **10 students** participated in a series of workshops and guided tours of the Majorelle Garden and Museum in Marrakech, organized by the Majorelle Foundation.

Health

- Through its partner *Association Marocaine de Planification Familiale (AMPF)*, UNHCR facilitates the **referral of refugees to public primary healthcare centres**, where services are provided free of charge. Pending the extension of the national medical insurance system (RAMED) to refugees, UNHCR assists with refugees' access to specialized health services, including expenses related to medication, laboratory tests and specialized medical treatments.
- As of 31 March 2025, through the **health program, 2,110 specialized consultations were performed at AMPF centres and public facilities**. Moreover, more than **725 refugees** with chronic illnesses were supplied with medicines in AMPF's centres or through partner pharmacies.
- As of 31 March 2025, **415 psychosocial counselling** were conducted for refugees and asylum seekers.

Livelihood and self-reliance

- Along with Association Marocaine d'Appui à la Promotion de la Petite Entreprise (AMAPPE), UNHCR supports refugees' enrolment in **vocational trainings**, the creation of **income generating activities** through **microfinancing** and **job placement**, with the involvement of two state partners, namely l'Agence

Nationale de la Promotion de l'Emploi et des Compétences (ANAPEC) and l'Office de Développement de la Coopération (ODCO).

- Since the beginning of 2025, 343 refugees were assisted by AMAPPE with **economic integration support** in Morocco and 253 of them completed a skills assessment. 80 funding requests for income-generating activities (IGAs) benefiting 100 recipients were recorded for an initial evaluation. 84% of the IGAs funded and 86% of the IGAs strengthened in 2024 are still operational.
- As for vocational training, of the 48 apprentices enrolled in vocational training courses. On the other hand, 14 refugees were placed in jobs and 2 refugees were placed in internships through the economic inclusion program. 64% of the refugees placed in 2024 are still employed.
- Finally, 116 refugees, 79% of whom were women, benefited from awareness workshops and training sessions on employability and entrepreneurship skills.

Capacity building and sensitization

- Capacity building remains a key element of UNHCR's strategy to support Moroccan authorities and civil society in the implementation of a fair and efficient asylum policy. UNHCR regularly organizes workshops on refugee law, international protection and statelessness in the context of mixed movements. As of 31 March 2025, **six workshops** were organized for the benefit of **428 individuals** from various institutions, namely: **officers of the Royal Gendarmerie, officers of the Royal Navy, lawyers, university students, and members of legal clinics.**

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR implements a **resettlement program** for refugees with specific protection needs. In 2025, Morocco has a resettlement quota of 100 refugees for Canada (including 30 places for Sudanese refugees). This represents a significant decrease in the overall quota due to the removal of the United States of America's quota.
- UNHCR is continuing its efforts to increase admissions to third countries through programs other than resettlement, in particular scholarship and labour migration programs.

Donors

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to its activities in Morocco in 2025:

Canada | European Union | France | FIFA Foundation | Germany | Italy | KOICA | Liv Golf | L'Oréal Foundation | Monaco | Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund | Netherlands | United States of America | The Tamer Family Foundation |

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LINKS TO SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS



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