

Morocco

July 2025

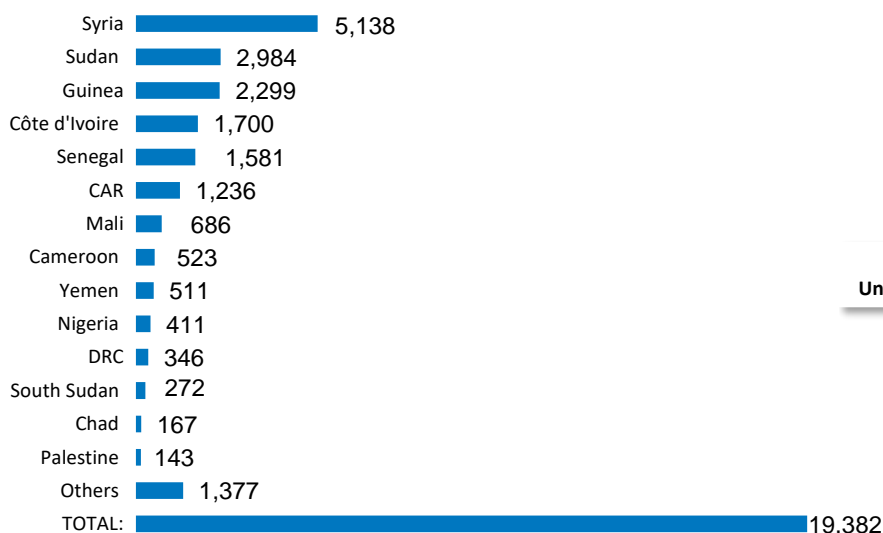
Morocco is both a transit and a host country for people seeking asylum, with **19,382 refugees and asylum seekers** registered with UNHCR from over 60 countries.

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) and in support of their Humanized Border Management initiative.

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

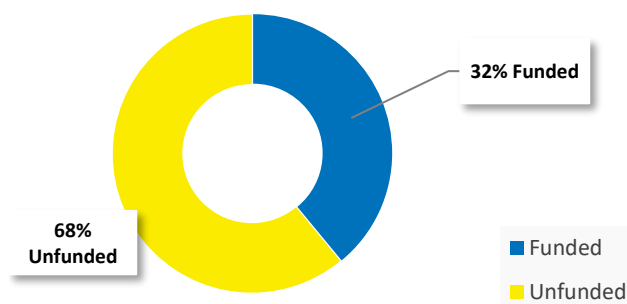
KEY FIGURES:

8,950 refugees and **10,432 asylum-seekers** across **82 localities** in Morocco (as of 30 June 2025)



FUNDING: (as of 30 June 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



DAFI Seminar 2025: Certificate award ceremony for the DAFI scholarship laureates.
@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.
- Following an agreement with the Moroccan High Commissioner for Planning (HCP), signed on 7 October 2021, the HCP in collaboration with UNHCR has conducted a study on "the socio-economic situation of the refugees in Morocco", which was released at the end of 2023. Another similar study will be conducted in 2025/2026.
- In 2024, Morocco began implementing the commitments made under the Global Compact on Refugees in December 2023. A notable milestone was the inclusion of refugees in the General Population and Housing Census (RGPH) conducted in September 2024. This pilot project was a first of its kind, as Morocco became the first country in the region to take such an initiative. Around one hundred refugees and migrants were also trained and served as enumerators during this census. The census reported a total population of 36,828,330 inhabitants.
- 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's activities are included in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). UNHCR is also part of all the UNCT Management, Communication, Gender, Monitoring groups, as well as the UNCT task forces on PSEA, Human Rights, Disability.
- 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 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 "children on the move" and refugee children in national systems, including child protection systems, and collaborate in capacity building activities, 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

- In 2024, UNHCR's operation in Morocco observed an increase in the number of individuals presenting for registration, reaching 4,679 persons compared to 3,500 in 2023. In 2025, the operation continues to witness a rise in registrations, particularly among Sudanese nationals: since January 2025, 3,263 Sudanese have been pre-registered. The average monthly registration rate for Sudanese in 2025 stands at 221 persons, representing 55% of all individuals registered.
- UNHCR has a main office in Rabat and, in partnership with the Organisation Marocaine des Droits Humains (OMDH), has established five Protection Antennas (**multi-purpose hubs**) in Oujda, Nador, Tangier, and Casablanca. These hubs bring services closer to asylum seekers and refugees by providing counselling on asylum applications, facilitating pre-registration, supporting the issuance of official documentation, and intervening in cases of protection incidents.
- 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):** In support to 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 validation 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. As of 30 June 2025, UNHCR registered 2,403 new asylum applications and recognized 687 refugees (548 considered to be in need of international protection and 139 recognized following RSD). 404 UNHCR recognized refugees have been auditioned by the BRA, during 43 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.
- **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 30 June 2025, a total of **825** legal assistance interventions were provided, including **27 administrative assistances, 44 judicial assistances in criminal justice, and 55 judicial assistances in civil matters**, among which **33 were related to birth certificate issuance procedures**. Moreover, Cabinet Lemseguem provided **legal counselling** at the FOO for 699 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 30 June 2025, **62 refugees and asylum-seekers including 23 adults and 39 children (22 refugees and 40 asylum seekers) benefited from these services**. Women represent **37%** of those who benefit from the program. A total of approximately 70 unaccompanied and separated refugee and asylum-seeking minors (UASC) have been placed in child protection centers. Between 60 and 65 of them are in Chabiba center, funded by UNICEF in Oujda, referred to thanks to close collaboration between UNHCR, UNICEF, and our partner FOO. Around 5 to 6 minors are accommodated in other public facilities in Casablanca, Rabat, and Marrakech.
- **Protection for victims of GBV:** As of 30 June 2025, **295 UNHCR recognized refugees**, and 504 asylum seekers have at least one specific need related to gender-based violence, **women and girls represent 74% of this population** and **40%** of this violence took place in the countries of origin. A **referral and support system** are 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 conducted to identify high-risk areas, assess vulnerabilities, and guide targeted interventions and services for affected populations. As of 30 June 2025, **7 GBV committees were organized**, in which **60 cases of GBV survivors** were discussed by the panel and guided towards sustainable solutions and were provided multi-sectoral assistance.



Refugee project holders took part in the culinary festival organized by the Diplomatic Circle in Morocco, showcasing their culture through cuisine.
@UNHCR/Sarah Mokadader

In February 2025, three awareness-raising sessions were organized on the occasion of the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation. 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. In addition, 21 awareness-raising workshops on gender-based violence were conducted, reaching 729 participants from diverse nationalities and genders.

- **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 refugees and asylum seekers to appropriate public services and those provided by the civil society.
- 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. As of 30 June 2025, in response to the growing number of Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers, three Sudanese refugees and one South Sudanese refugee were recruited as community agent to facilitate communication with this newly arrived community and to support their access to services in Morocco. In 2025, an additional community agent was also recruited in the Souss-Massa region to cover this newly identified area, alongside the establishment of a Protection Antenna in Agadir. As of 30 June 2025, two community dialogue meetings had been organized with all community agents, representatives of refugee led associations and partners, with the aim of strengthening exchanges, participation and accountability to affected populations (AAP).
- 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 hotline 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 **154 requests** received across multiple social media platforms as of 30 June 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 reviewed to identify appropriate solutions including cash-based intervention, interventions and referrals to other services.
- **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, 425 persons were consulted in the framework of programme implementation through 22 community dialogues. As of 30 June 2025, 2,565 persons had accessed UNHCR's feedback and support mechanisms. The office also provided more than 2,216 protection counselling sessions to 1,302 individuals, as well as 252 communication counselling sessions to 438 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 and validated in a joint UNHCR FOO monitoring committee up to **1,626** vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers benefited from financial assistance between 1 January to 30 June 2025.

Education

- During the academic year 2024-2025, UNHCR and its partner FOO supported with the enrolment of **928 refugee children in primary school, 435 in secondary schools, and 489 in kindergarten**. At the start of the 2024 school year, **12 students** were enrolled in non-formal education. Additionally, **31**

refugees in Morocco benefited from the 2024/2025 scholarship program of the German Academic Refugee Initiative Albert Einstein (DAFI). In June 2025, 16 DAFI students graduated with a bachelor's degree, and 3 were accepted into a master's program at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P), thanks to a new collaboration between UNHCR and UM6P that opened scholarships for refugees registered in Morocco. Additionally, during the 2024–2025 academic year, 49 DAFI scholarship students and graduates will benefit from a mentorship and support program provided by the JADARA Foundation, following the agreement signed in October 2024. Fifty refugees have thus benefited from personalized support and job-preparation workshops.

- 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, **932 refugees** benefited from academic support. At the end of the 2024/2025 academic year, the success rate of enrolled refugee children was **92% in primary school, 84% in middle school, and 84% in high school.**
- Approximately **450 refugees** benefit from support courses, including French language classes (around **50** refugees per semester), through the tripartite agreement between UNHCR, FOO, and the French Embassy in Morocco.
- **All refugee children attending school benefitted from conditional cash assistance for education.**
- **27 refugees** obtained their high school diploma in 2024-2025 with a success rate of 84%.
- 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. As a result, the AREF of Rabat formalized a more flexible approach concerning documentation requirements for children enrolment procedure at school. The UNHCR document was listed among the list of eligible identity documents and a paper registration procedure was allowed to meet the obstacles faced by refugees and others in the online registration.
- Thanks to the collaboration with the Ali Zaoua Association, refugee students have access to cultural activities offered by "Les Étoiles" cultural centers. Thus, **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 30 June 2025, through the health program, **3,998 specialized consultations** were performed at AMPF centres and public facilities. Moreover, more than **691 refugees with chronic illnesses** were supplied with medicines in AMPF's centres or through partner pharmacies.
- As of 30 June 2025, **771 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).
- As of 30 June, 615 refugees including 34% of women were assisted by AMAPPE with **economic integration**

support in Morocco, 58% of them did not have a residency card. 390 of them completed a skills assessment. 111 funding requests for income-generating activities (IGAs) were received for an initial evaluation. To date, 31 income-generating activities (IGAs) have been financed, benefiting 39 individuals. A total of 50 requests for reinforcement were reviewed, of which 32 were approved and financed, benefiting 38 individuals. By the end of 2024, 82% of the financed IGAs and 77% of the reinforced IGAs remained active.

- As for vocational training, of the 48 apprentices enrolled in vocational training courses and 5 have completed their training. On the other hand, 43 refugees were placed in jobs and 3 refugees were placed in internships through the economic inclusion program. 55 refugees have registered with ANAPEC. 55% of the refugees placed in 2024 are still employed.
- Finally, 274 refugees, 68% of whom were women, benefited from awareness workshops and training sessions on employability and entrepreneurship skills. Two workshops, organized in partnership with ODCO, were held in Oujda and Casablanca to raise awareness among refugees about cooperatives. A total of 63 refugees participated, 64% of whom were women.

Capacity building and sensitization

- Capacity building remains a key element of UNHCR's strategy to support Moroccan authorities and civil society in the establishment of a national asylum system and the humanized border management initiative. UNHCR regularly organizes workshops on international refugee protection including in protection at sea. As of 30 June 2025, **nine workshops** were organized for the benefit of **952 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. As of 30 June 2025, the cases of 62 individuals were submitted for resettlement to Canada.
- As of 30 June 2025, 76 individuals had been resettled in Canada. Departures to the United States of America had been scheduled for January but were cancelled following the suspension of the resettlement program.
- 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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