

Morocco

December 2025

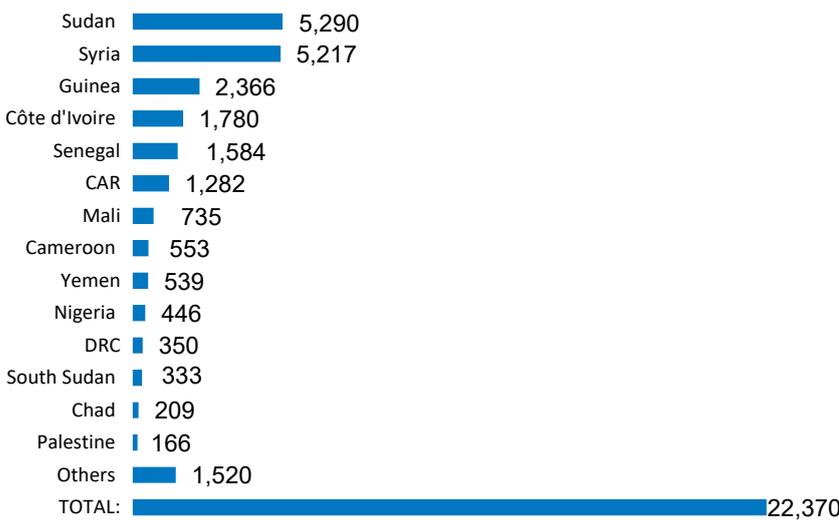
Morocco remains both a transit and host country and a relatively stable environment in the region for people seeking asylum, **with 22,370 refugees and asylum-seekers** from over 60 countries registered with UNHCR.

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**.

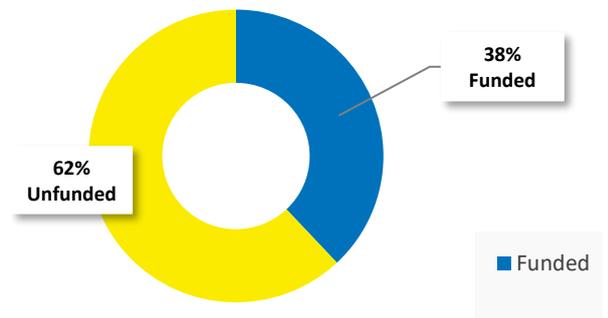
KEY FIGURES:

9,827 refugees and **12,543 asylum-seekers** across **85 localities** in Morocco (as of 31 December 2025)



FUNDING: (as of 31 December 2025)

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



UNHCR PRESENCE:

37 Total Staff

UNHCR Staff: 20 total staff

- 17 national staff
- 3 international staff

Affiliate Workforce: 17 total affiliate staff

- 15 UNOPS
- 2 others

Office: 1 Branch Office in Rabat



Creative refugee stand exhibition during the United Nations Day ceremony. Stand of **PAT EMPIRE of Koton Marie Laure**, specialized in the creation of jewelry and accessories.
@UNHCR/Rabat Talal

Working with Partners

- UNHCR Morocco works in close partnership with the Government of Morocco and a wide range of national, regional and international stakeholders to strengthen the protection environment for refugees and asylum-seekers. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates (MAECAMRE) serves as UNHCR's main government counterpart. UNHCR also collaborates closely with key line ministries, public institutions and academic partners to support the implementation of Morocco's National Policy on Migration and Asylum.
- UNHCR Morocco works closely with the Ministry of the Interior and law enforcement authorities to promote respect for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers, including freedom of movement, non-refoulement, access to territory, and alternatives to detention. This cooperation includes protection monitoring and regular follow-up with relevant authorities, ongoing strategic dialogue on the implementation of the Humanized Border Management (HBM), and support to registration and refugee status determination processes. 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), Progettomondo, lawyer Maitre Lemseguem, ProgettoMondo, and Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme (CNDH).
- At the regional level, UNHCR participates in, and supports, **Protection Working Groups (PWGs)** in Casablanca, Fes, Tangier, Oujda, Marrakech and Beni Mellal/Khouribga, 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.
- In the area of data and evidence-based policymaking, UNHCR works closely with the Moroccan High Commissioner for Planning (HCP). Following an agreement with the Moroccan High Commissioner for Planning (HCP), signed on 7 October 2021, the HCP in collaboration with UNHCR has conducted two studies on "the socio-economic situation of the refugees in Morocco", the first one was released in 2021 and the second one in 2023. Another similar study will be conducted in 2028. 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 148,152 refugees and migrants.
- 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. Sub-working groups include data, children, socio-economic inclusion, victims of trafficking and health/social protection.
- In line with the whole-of-society and multi-partner approach outlined by the Global Refugee Compact (2018) and Global Refugee Forums at its review (2019, 2023 and 2025), UNHCR engages with a range of actors including refugee and asylum-seeking communities, the media, regional and municipal authorities, civil society, foundations, academia and the private sector to improve the protection of 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.
- Morocco has also positioned itself as a regional leader on refugee and migrant health. 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 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 the occasion of World Refugee Day 2024, 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.
- Child protection and youth inclusion remain a priority. 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.
- On 3 July 2025, UNHCR Morocco and ProgettoMondo have signed a new partnership under the "Terrain de Protection" project, part of UNHCR's global Sport for Protection programme, aimed at promoting the social inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers, strengthening their socio-economic empowerment, and supporting their psychosocial well-being through sport.
- As of September 2025, three refugees have been accepted and two are enrolled in the Master programme of UM6P thanks to an agreement with UNHCR and received a full scholarship as well as individual support.
- From 4 to 8 November 2025, the FIFA Foundation, in collaboration with UNHCR and its implementing partner Fondation Orient-Occident, organized a five-day football coach training that brought together 60 refugees and Moroccans to promote inclusion, leadership, and gender equality through sport, which concluded with their attendance at the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup Final and a quick meet and greet with FIFA President Gianni Infantino.

Operational Context

- 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, Casablanca, and Agadir. 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.
- The operation continues to observe a sustained increase in the number of Sudanese nationals approaching for registration. As of 31 December 2025, 5,284 individuals have registered with UNHCR, reflecting a continued rise compared to previous trends, particularly among Sudanese nationals. The average monthly registration rate for Sudanese in 2025 reached 297 individuals, representing 68% of all those registered. Since 1 January 2025, 6,640 Sudanese have been pre-registered, have been pre-registered by both UNHCR

and OMDH in the Protection Antennas (Multipurpose Hubs), underscoring ongoing protection needs and continued pressure on registration and protection services.

- 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 in 2023 and again in 2025.

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. A large part of the currently 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. Following the recognition under its mandate, UNHCR programmes the refugees and plays an observatory role in front of the BRA. As of 31 December 2025, UNHCR registered 5,284 new asylum applications and recognized 1,622 refugees (1,125 considered to be in need of international protection and 497 recognized following RSD) and rejected 812 individuals. 669 UNHCR recognized refugees have been auditioned by the BRA, during 84 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 31 December 2025, 2,100 refugees (non-Syrian) were auditioned in front of the BRA.
- **Legal assistance:** UNHCR works with the private law firm “Cabinet Lemseguem” to provide legal aid to refugees and asylum seekers (e.g. issuance of birth certificates in front of the Tribunal, complaints for physical assault representation before Moroccan courts). From 1 January to 31 December 2025, a total of **1,741** legal assistance interventions were provided, including **54 administrative assistances, 123 judicial assistances in criminal justice, and 82 judicial assistances in civil matters**, among which **47 were related to birth certificate issuance procedures. Moreover, Cabinet Lemseguem provided legal counselling** at the FOO for 1,482 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 December 2025, out of 102 **individuals (43 refugees and 59 asylum seekers), 41 are adults and 61 are children and benefited from these services. Women** represent 32% of those who benefit from the program. **In addition**, 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, while 23 minors are accommodated in other child protection public facilities in Casablanca, Rabat, and Marrakech.
- **Protection for victims of GBV:** As of 31 December 2025, **476 UNHCR recognized refugees**, and 1182 asylum seekers have at least one specific need related to gender-based violence, **women and girls represent 69%**



Sports activities “terrain de protection” – refugee inclusion through sports implemented by UNHCR’s partner ProgettoMondo and funded by the donor Liv Golf.
@ProgettoMondo

of this population and 55% 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**. As of 31 December 2025, 11 **GBV committees were organized**, in which 100 **cases of GBV survivors** were discussed by the panel and received multi-sectoral assistance and solutions.

- **As of 31 December 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, 31 awareness-raising workshops on gender-based violence were conducted, reaching 929 participants from diverse nationalities and genders.
- **Outreach and community-based activities**: UNHCR works in close collaboration with **Protection Working Groups (PWG)** in 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 **20 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 31 December 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 31 December 2025, three 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 **365 requests** received across multiple social media platforms as of 30 September 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, 360 people were consulted in the framework of programme implementation through 21 community dialogues. As of 31 December 2025, 2,839 people had accessed UNHCR's feedback and support mechanisms. The office also provided more than 2839 protection counselling sessions to 1,584 individuals, as well as 735 communication counselling sessions to 577 individuals.

Financial assistance for the most vulnerable

- UNHCR, in close collaboration with its implementing partner *Fondation Orient Occident (FOO)*, provides multi-purpose cash assistance to the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers – Including unaccompanied children, single parents, survivors of GBV, and individuals with specific medical needs. This support is granted

following vulnerability assessments carried out by FOO and subsequently validated within a joint UNHCR-FOO monitoring committee.

- Between 1 January and 31 December 2025, up to **1,945** vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers benefited from this financial assistance.

Social Protection

- UNHCR, in collaboration with its implementing partner *Organisation Marocaine des droits Humains (OMDH)*, provides dedicated support to refugees to facilitate their access to national social protection services. This includes assistance with registration in the National Population Register (RNP), the Unified Social Register (RSU), and enrollment in the Direct Social Assistance (ASD) Programme. As of 31 December 2025, a total of 86 refugees have been registered in the RNP, 32 in the RSU, and 6 benefited from the ASD Programme. In parallel, UNHCR and OMDH are conducting sustained advocacy efforts and information campaigns to raise awareness and enable greater number of refugees to access and benefit from national social protection services.

Child Protection

- UNHCR's approach to child protection aims to ensure the safety, well-being, and inclusion of refugee children. Children represent 30 % of the refugee population in Morocco and 18% of asylum seekers. In 2025, 496 refugee children at risk and 674 unaccompanied children were identified. Guided by the UNHCR's Child Protection Framework and Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) approach, UNHCR ensures individual case management and psychosocial support. In partnership with Fondation Orient-Occident (FOO), UNHCR provides cash assistance, and emergency housing for unaccompanied children aged 16 and above. A total of 28 refugee and asylum seeker UASC are hosted in the protection houses. A total of approximately 70 unaccompanied and separated refugee and asylum-seeking minors (UASC) have been placed in child protection centers, within safe, child-friendly environments, thanks to close collaboration between UNHCR, UNICEF, and our partner FOO.
- During 2025, approximately 250 children have benefited from leisure and play activities and 52 from sport for protection activities. In addition, 83 unaccompanied minors (UASCs) are being closely followed by the FOO staff through individualized life-project and case management support. These minors are accommodated in safe and guaranteed shelter or alternative community living arrangement, receive cash-based assistance (CBI), and are enrolled in either an education programme or vocational training.

Health

- Through its partner, the Association Marocaine de Planification Familiale (AMPF), UNHCR facilitates the referral of refugees to public primary healthcare centres, where services are generally delivered free of charge or at low cost in accordance with national public health provisions. While Morocco has significantly expanded mandatory health insurance (AMO) coverage nationwide, its extension through AMO-Tadamon to refugees has not yet been formalized. Meanwhile, UNHCR continues to support the most vulnerable refugees in accessing specialized health services, including coverage of costs related to medication, laboratory tests, and specialized medical treatments.
- As of 31 December 2025, a total of **6,386 specialized consultations** were carried out through AMPF centres and public health facilities. In addition, more than **530 refugees living with chronic illnesses** received essential medicines through AMPF centres or partner pharmacies. Furthermore, **2,839 psychosocial counselling** sessions were provided to 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 31 December, 972 were assisted by AMAPPE with economic integration support in Morocco, 64% completed a skills assessment 66 Income Generating Activities (IGA) projects were financed for 83 refugees (39 women

and 44 men), and 45 existing businesses were reinforced, benefiting 55 individuals. The sectors funded were trade, services (hairdressing, photography, delivery, laundry, etc.), crafts (sewing, carpentry, etc.), catering, home-based food production, IT, agriculture, medical, etc. Additionally, 71% of the IGA financed and 82% of the AGRs reinforced in 2024 are still in operation.

- In wage employment, 80 refugees (including 14 women) accessed formal jobs and 8 internships. 54% of refugees integrated into employment in 2024 are still in post; 55 refugees are assisted to be registered with ANAPEC, national agency for recruitment and employment.
- Employability training reached 188 refugees, 82% of whom were women, contributing to improved labour market readiness. A total of 217 refugees (53% women) strengthened their entrepreneurship skills through business management training.
- Although vocational training was suspended mid-year, outcomes from the 2024–2025 cohort remain positive: Of the 48 apprentices enrolled (including 19 women) for the 2024/2025 academic year, 34 have completed their studies. 28 graduates from 2025 or previous cohorts have benefited from an IGA or professional integration.
- Throughout 2025, engagement with national stakeholders was strengthened to enhance refugee access to public schemes and improve data tracking of business survival and employment retention. Despite these operational gains, structural barriers and reduced programme scale limited measurable improvements in income levels, financial inclusion, and unemployment indicators during the reporting period. However, limited access to national documentation remains the primary obstacle to sustainable socio-economic inclusion for refugees and asylum-seekers in Morocco.

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 31 December 2025, **fourteen workshops** were organized for the benefit of **around 1,000 individuals** from various institutions, including officers of **the Royal Gendarmerie, officers of the Royal Navy, police officers, lawyers, university students, and members of legal clinics**. Among the participants, **250 were women**.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR implements a **resettlement program** for 100 refugees with specific protection needs, in close collaboration with Canada. In 2025, the files of 117 refugees were submitted to Canada, including 15 through the Human Right Defenders program. Two additional refugees were submitted to resettlement to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- In 2025, 167 refugees departed to Canada.
- UNHCR is continuing its efforts with donors to increase third country admissions opportunities 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 | Germany | Italy | KOICA | Liv Golf | L’Oréal Foundation | Monaco | Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund | Netherlands | Sweden | Switzerland | The Tamer Family Foundation | United States of America

Special thanks to major donors of unearmarked and softly unearmarked contributions:

Belgium | Denmark | France | Finland | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Qatar | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America | UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe | other private donors

LINKS TO SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

UNHCR Morocco – Facebook – Twitter– Instagram– YouTube

[LINK TO HELP PLATFORM](#)



Scan QR Code

CONTACTS

Sarah Mokadader, Asst. External Relations Officer

mokadade@unhcr.org , Tel: +212 537 54 54 55

Rabab Talal, Communications Associate

talal@unhcr.org