

MOROCCO:

FACTSHEET

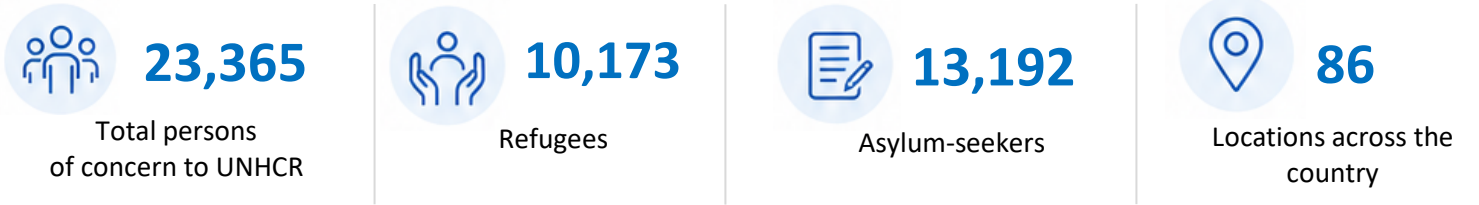
APRIL 2026

Morocco remains both a transit and host country and a relatively stable environment in the region for people seeking asylum, **with 23,356 refugees and asylum-seekers** from over 60 countries registered with UNHCR.

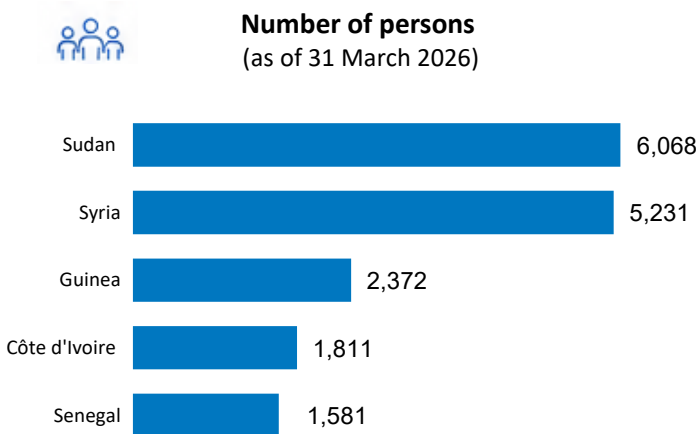
UNHCR works to ensure **access to asylum and protection for refugees and asylum seekers** in Morocco, working closely with Moroccan authorities under the framework of the National Strategy for Immigration and Asylum (SNIA) and in support of their Humanized Border Management initiative.

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

KEY FIGURES

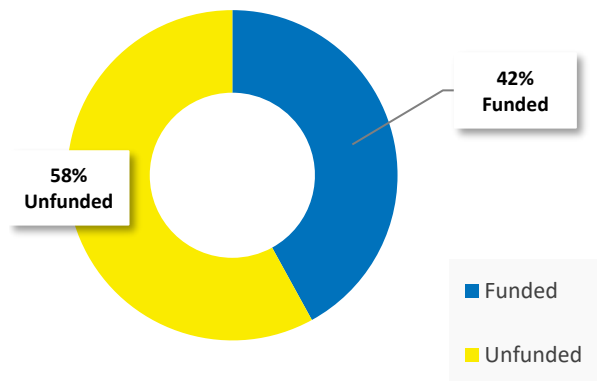


BREAKDOWN BY NATIONALITY (TOP 5)



FUNDING: (as of 31 March 2026)

\$ 9.1 million requested for UNHCR's Operation in Morocco in 2026



OPERATIONAL PRESENCE OF UNHCR IN MOROCCO



Operational Context

Morocco has consolidated its role as a key country of asylum at the crossroads of Mediterranean and Atlantic migration routes, increasingly serving as a protection and inclusion space amid regional instability, including the conflict in Sudan and forced displacement in the Sahel. UNHCR works closely with the Government of Morocco to support the progressive strengthening of national asylum and protection frameworks within a growing and complex operational environment.

As of 31 March 2026, UNHCR Morocco registered 23,365 persons, including 10,173 refugees and 13,192 asylum-seekers. Arrivals from Sudan increased sharply since 2024, accounting for the majority of new registrations in 2025 and 2026 so far, while unaccompanied children represented one in nine newly registered individuals, highlighting heightened protection risks.

UNHCR operates through a branch office in Rabat and five decentralized Protection Antennas established with its partner the Moroccan Organization for Human Rights (OMDH), providing access to registration, documentation, counselling and protection services across key regions, as sustained population growth continues to place pressure on protection systems.

Morocco actively participated in the Global Refugee Forum (2023), making six pledges in key areas including health, education, socio-economic inclusion, data, and humanized border management, with refugee representatives from Morocco participating in both 2023 and 2025.



UNHCR Morocco has released a new e-catalogue, developed in collaboration with the Embassy of Ireland and AMAPPE, which showcases over 70 products and income-generating activities created by more than 80 refugees.

@UNHCR/ Huang Jinxuan



Partnerships and Coordination (2025-2026)

- UNHCR Morocco continued to work in close partnership with the Government of Morocco, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates (MAECAMRE) as the primary government counterpart, in support of the National Policy on Migration and Asylum.
- Cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior and law enforcement authorities was sustained in 2025, focusing on protection-sensitive border management, respect for refugee rights, access to territory, protection at sea, and on internal refugee laws principals including ongoing dialogue on Humanized Border Management.
- In partnership with the Higher Institute of the Judiciary and the Council of Europe, UNHCR conducted a training session on asylum law for 270 judicial trainees, aimed at strengthening national capacities and promoting international refugee protection standards within the judiciary sector.
- In 2025-2026, UNHCR strengthened operationalisation of the partnerships with national civil society and legal actors, notably Fondation Orient-Occident (FOO), AMPF, OMDH, AMAPPE, ProgettoMondo, and Cabinet Lemseguem, to deliver protection, legal assistance, health, livelihoods, and community-based interventions.
- UNHCR continued to support Protection Working Groups (PWGs) across key regions to coordinate protection responses with civil society organizations, public institutions, UN agencies, academia, and legal partners.
- In July 2025, UNHCR Morocco and ProgettoMondo signed a new partnership under the Terrain de Protection

project, part of UNHCR’s global Sport for Protection programme, promoting social inclusion, psychosocial well-being, and socio-economic empowerment through sport.

- In November 2025, the FIFA Foundation, in collaboration with UNHCR and Fondation Orient-Occident, organized a five-day football coach training bringing together 60 refugees and Moroccans to promote inclusion, leadership, and gender equality through sport.
- In the field of higher education, UNHCR strengthened partnerships with universities and academic institutions across Morocco. A partnership with UM6P enabled refugee access to fully funded Master’s programmes, with five refugees accepted or enrolled by September 2025. UNHCR also continued its collaboration with the MERCATOR network and university legal aid clinics, while delivering lectures and awareness sessions on asylum and international refugee protection at Mohammed V University and Mohammed First University.
- UNHCR continued to co-chair, together with IOM, the Thematic Working Group on Migration and Asylum, ensuring alignment with the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact for Migration, and reinforcing a whole-of-society approach involving public institutions, civil society, academia, the private sector, and refugee communities.

Main Activities

Protection

Registration, Refugee Status Determination (RSD) & Documentation

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 March 2026, UNHCR registered 1,041 new asylum applications and recognized 499 refugees (312 considered to be in need of international protection and 187 recognized following RSD) and rejected 93 individuals. In 2026, 119 UNHCR recognized refugees have been auditioned by the BRA, during 22 auditions. With the number of sessions in front of the BRA passing in 2026, from 20 refugees to 30 refugees per week, 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, 2010 refugees (non-Syrian)

were auditioned in front of the BRA.

Safety and access to justice

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). As of 31 March 2026, a total of 427 legal assistance interventions were provided, including 6 **administrative assistance**, 2731 **judicial assistances in criminal justice**, and 5 **judicial assistances in civil matters**, among which, 16 **were related to birth certificate issuance procedures**. Moreover, Cabinet Lemseguem provided **legal counselling** at the FOO for 369 asylum seekers and refugees.

Sustainable housing and settlements

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 2026, out of 61 **individuals (49 refugees and 12 asylum seekers), 21 are adults and 40 are children and benefited from these services. Women** represent 40% of those who benefit from the program. **In addition**, a total of approximately 35 unaccompanied and separated refugee and asylum-seeking minors (UASC) have been placed in child protection centers. Between 8 and 10 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 4 minors are accommodated in other child protection public facilities in Casablanca, 10 in Rabat, and 1 in Marrakech, 2 in Fes, and 8 in Oujda.

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. As of 31 March 2026, 521 refugee children at risk and 90 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 21 refugee and asylum seeker UASC are hosted in the protection houses. A total of approximately 4 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. As of 31 March 2026, 91 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.

Gender-based violence

As of 31 March 2026, **496 UNHCR recognized refugees**, and 1217 asylum seekers have at least one specific need related to gender-based violence, **women and girls represent 70% of this population** and 57% 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 March 2026, 3 **GBV committees were organized**, in which 32 **cases of GBV survivors** were discussed by the panel and received multi-sectoral assistance and solutions.

Community Engagement

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 **14 refugee community agents** have been recruited under United Nations Volunteer contract, ensuring decent working conditions. From different nationalities, they share information among refugee communities across seven localities in Morocco, relaying their needs and concerns to UNHCR and partners. To respond to increased arrivals from Sudan, UNHCR strengthened community outreach by recruiting community agents from Sudanese and South Sudanese refugee communities to facilitate communication and access to services. This was complemented by the recruitment of an additional community agent in the Souss-Massa region and the establishment of a Protection Antenna in Agadir. As of 31 March 2026, 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).

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, 97 people were consulted in the framework of programme implementation through 06 community dialogues. As of 31 March 2026, 916 people had accessed UNHCR's feedback and support mechanisms. The office also provided more than 198 protection counselling sessions to 146 individuals, as well as 43

communication counselling sessions to 41 individuals.

Well-being and basic needs 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. As of 31 March 2026, up to 1,313 vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers benefited at least once 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 March 2026, a total of 11 refugees have been registered in the National Population Registry (RNP), while 3 refugees have successfully enrolled in the Unified Social Registry (RSU). In addition, 25 refugees benefited from individual counselling and guidance sessions on the procedures and administrative steps required for registration and enrolment in national social protection programmes. 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.

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 March 2026, a total of 1,136 specialized consultations were carried out through AMPF centres and public health facilities. In addition, more than 280 refugees living with chronic illnesses received essential medicines through AMPF centres or partner pharmacies. Furthermore, 211 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 March 2026, 272 were assisted by AMAPPE with economic integration support in Morocco, 209 completed a skills assessment. 56 AGR funding applications were reviewed on behalf of 67 applicants. Additionally, 78% of the IGA financed and 98% of the AGRs reinforced in 2025 are still in operation.

87 refugees participated in workshops on building entrepreneurial and employability skills.

In wage employment, 6 refugees accessed formal jobs and 7 internships. 67% of refugees integrated into employment in 2025 are still in post.



After fleeing war, Abdenasser rebuilt his future in Morocco with the help of AMAPPE and turned his passion for baking into a successful business creating opportunities for both refugees and Moroccans. @UNHCR / Huang Jinxuan



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 protection at sea. By 31 March 2026, three workshops and a conference series were held, benefiting around 60 university students, 270 judicial trainees from the Higher Judicial Institute, and members of legal clinics, including 23 women.



Resettlement and complementary pathways

UNHCR implements a **resettlement program** for 50 refugees with specific protection needs, in close collaboration with Canada. As of 31 March, 2026, 15 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:

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