



COUNTRY OPERATIONS PLAN

Country: Algeria

Planning Year: 2004

**Country Operations Plan
UNHCR ALGERIA
2004**

Part I: Executive Summary:

(a) Context and beneficiary population I

UNHCR programme in Algeria deals mainly with the 165,000 (government estimate) Western Sahara refugees who arrived in Tindouf in 1975. Voluntary repatriation remains the only durable solution for these refugees, once there is a political solution to this Western Sahara issue and the creation of conditions conducive to return in safety, dignity and security.

UNHCR, consistent with its mandate to protect refugees, will continue, in close co-operation with the Government, protection and assistance to the concerned refugees.

In this regard and in view of the lack of any prospects for local integration in Algeria, UNHCR seeks to promote measures to enhance the protection and well being of refugees, while promoting conditions conducive to self-management of their camp and preparing for their eventual repatriation.

In coordination with the host country, UNHCR also provides assistance and protection to an average of 200 urban refugees in Algiers.

The harsh living conditions in the hostile environment of Tindouf and the lack of access to the local and national socio-economic market are serious constraints for refugees to attain any level of self-sufficiency. Local integration as a durable solution is thus an unfeasible option.

In conformity with the various UN Security Council Resolutions, UNHCR will pursue efforts towards the implementation of Confidence Building Measures aiming at creating accessible means of communication between the separated families.

UNHCR's assistance programme to Saharawi refugees is implemented by six NGO partners. In 2004, UNHCR will continue to coordinate and monitor implementation, assess the performance of implementing agencies, train implementing agencies and Government staff in selected fields and adjust implementation arrangements as and when required. In the spirit of partnership UNHCR will, jointly with the Government and NGO's, plan the refugee assistance programme and seek donor support.

(b) Selected programmes and objectives in 2004:

Western Saharan refugees:

The first objective is to ensure an adequate level of preparedness in the event voluntary repatriation becomes possible. To this end, UNHCR will maintain the infrastructure equipment put in place in 1997 and will keep its plan of action updated in the event of return. This includes the land reconnaissance and infrastructure development planning and reintegration needs assessment.

UNHCR's second objective is to co-ordinate the implementation of a multi-sectoral assistance programme to the refugees living in the five camps in the Tindouf area. As such, the care and maintenance programme is mainly linked to the preparedness for eventual return of the refugees to the Territory. UNHCR's assistance programme focuses on the areas of water, shelter, health, food and domestic items. In addition, UNHCR is also investing in strengthening the capacity of vulnerable refugees. Comprehensive and reliable needs assessments in key sectors of health/nutrition and education will be carried out to address the needs of vulnerable groups in the

camps. The co-ordination mechanism among all key stakeholders will continue and will be strengthened. Humanitarian assistance is an important tool in this protracted refugee situation to maintain peace and stability, pending a political solution.

UNHCR third objectives will continue to be the implementation of its two-track pragmatic protection strategy to address the protection needs of the Western Saharan refugees by dealing with the Government, the host country, and the refugees themselves. The strategy is intended to strengthen UNHCR's protection activities in the camps.

Western Saharan Refugees:

Western Saharan Refugees	FMIS Project Code 04/AB/ALG/CM/201
<p>Main Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain an adequate level of preparedness in the event of a political solution leading to voluntary repatriation • Co-ordinate the implementation of a multi-sectoral assistance programme in the four camps in Tindouf, focusing on durable solutions and capacity building targeting refugee women and children • Strengthen UNHCR's protection activities in the five camps with a view to ensure the welfare of the refugees 	
<p>Principal Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functional Plan of Action for repatriation • Continue activities in core sectors such as supplementary food, domestic items and water, enhance self-support of vulnerable refugees in sectors of health and nutrition, education services, strengthen co-ordination role, ensure the active involvement of the refugee community and refugee representatives in the planning and allocation of assistance • Ensure full and unhindered access to the refugee population, and strengthen the local protection capacity in all five camps • Organise protection Workshops/information-sharing sessions with UNHCR's implementing partners 	<p>Related Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - Updated Plan of Action - Improvement in well-being of refugees in the five camps • - Comprehensive needs assessment in all major sectors carried out and accepted by all Quarterly strategic meetings at Algiers level. - Monthly co-ordination meetings in the field (with sector-specific Working Groups) • - Regular camp visits - Effective protection monitoring in the camps carried out.

Urban Refugees:

With regard to urban refugees, UNHCR's protection strategy for the year of 2004 will focus on capacity-building of the government officials with a view to updating national refugee legislation in Algeria.

UNHCR will provide protection and assistance to urban refugees of different nationalities and seek durable solutions for them. This will include the provision of protection to refugees, as well as medical and financial assistance to vulnerable cases. UNHCR will grant refugee status to eligible applicants and ensure that asylum-seekers and urban refugees are protected against refoulement and possible deportation. Voluntary repatriation will be promoted and facilitated for the urban caseload as appropriate. Resettlement activities will be carried out when other durable solutions are not available.

UNHCR will carry out activities relating to the promotion of international refugee law, capacity-building and training of the government officials with a view to facilitating the establishment of an effective asylum framework for the provision of protection and assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees in Algeria.

Urban Refugees	FMIS Project Code 04/AB/ALG/CM/200
<p>Main Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The first goal for the Urban caseload is to provide protection and assistance to urban refugees of different nationalities and seek durable solutions for them.• To facilitate the establishment of <u>an effective asylum framework</u> for the provision of protection and assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees in Algeria.	
<p>Principal objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full and effective application of the provisions of the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol with a functioning refugee-status granting body in Algeria• Promotion of international refugee law, capacity-building of the government officials with a view to updating national refugee legislation in Algeria.	<p>Related outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Granting of refugee status to eligible applicants by the Government of Algeria• Treatment of asylum-seekers and refugees in accordance with international legal norms and standards;• Updated national refugee legislation; and government officials well trained.