

Morocco Community Centre for Refugee Women and Children

A UNHCR *Women Leading for Livelihoods* Project

PROJECT GOAL

Generate income and promote the social integration of refugees through vocational training and psychosocial support



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LOCATION

Rabat, Morocco

DURATION

12 months

DONOR

HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein of Jordan

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Fondation Orient-Occident
www.fondation-orient-occident.org/

BACKGROUND

Most of the asylum seekers and refugees in Morocco are from Sub-Saharan Africa. A significant number are unaccompanied minors and single mothers who have been victims of sexual violence. Because of their legal status, language barriers and lack of employment opportunities, they have difficulties integrating into the local society and adults can find only temporary and poorly paid jobs in the black market. With the support of UNHCR, through the Women Leading for Livelihoods initiative, the Fondation Orient-Occident established a **Community Centre for Refugee Women and Children**. The centre includes a library and an internet café. It offers a range of activities and services tailor-made for refugee women and children.

OBJECTIVES

- Improve **self-reliance** among refugee women and their families by encouraging income generating activities and offering vocational training
- To improve the **mental health** of the refugee women through the provision of psychosocial services and recreational activities

ACTIVITIES

- **Vocational training courses** in:
 - bakery, hairdressing, and tailoring (taught by the refugees themselves)
 - IT, Arabic and French
- **Weekly counseling sessions** to address the psychosocial needs of the refugee community
- **Regular information and awareness raising sessions** on prevention, testing and treatment of sexually transmittable diseases and HIV/Aids
- **Kindergarten and day care programs** for babies and children up to seven years old (staffed by trained refugee women)
- **Recreational activities**

OUTPUTS

- Over **80 women** have registered at the centre and participate in classes and income generating activities
- **12 boys and girls** are enrolled in the centre's day care programs

Visit Women Leading for Livelihoods at www.unhcr.org/wll

