



HIGHLIGHTS

1,279

Persons have approached UNHCR to apply for asylum so far in 2016

1,385

Persons of concern so far auditioned and/or regularised by the ad hoc Commission on Regularisation

1,200

Vulnerable refugees benefitting from monthly cash assistance

25

Refugees benefitted from vocational training or support to develop an income generating activity in 2016

Population of concern

A total of **6,187** persons of concern, including **4,277** refugees/persons in need of international protection and **1,910** asylum seekers

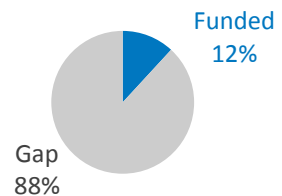
Persons of concern by country of origin

Country	Number of refugees/Persons in need of int. protection ¹
Syria	2,927 ²
Yemen	461
Ivory Coast	281
DR Congo	150
Iraq	131
Central Af. Rep.	95
Others	232

Country	Number of asylum seekers
Cameroon	410
DR Congo	318
Ivory Coast	308
Guinea	215
Mali	126
Central Af. Rep.	109
Others	424

Funding requirements

USD 5.7 million requested to cover UNHCR operations in Morocco in 2016



Direct contributors to UNHCR operations in Morocco in 2016

Monaco	165.000 USD
Switzerland	508.130 USD

UNHCR presence

Staff: 26 nationals and 8 internationals

Office: 1 office, located in Rabat

¹ Includes persons for whom UNHCR has made a positive determination on their refugee claim and who are pending review of their case by the ad hoc Commission on Regularisation chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

² Syrians who apply for asylum are interviewed by the ad hoc Commission and receive a receipt from the Moroccan authorities that confirm their registration and protect them against refoulement. The Government has not decided yet on their definitive status (temporary protection, other). Like other refugees, they have access to UNHCR assistance programs.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MFAC) is UNHCR's main official counterpart. UNHCR also collaborates with the Ministries of Interior, Justice, Education, Health, Labour and Migration as well as with the National Council on Human Rights (in charge of the promotion and protection of refugee and asylum seekers' rights), the Inter-Ministerial Delegation for Human Rights (in charge of the development of a new legal and institutional framework), the Higher Institute of the Judiciary (*Institut Supérieur de la Magistrature*), the police and the royal gendarmerie.
- With other UN agencies, UNHCR is involved in the United Nations' Development Agreement Framework (UNDAF) process, the thematic groups on migration (which serves as UN coordination platform for developing a comprehensive approach to support management of mixed migration flows), gender, HIV/AIDS, communication (UNCG), operations and monitoring and evaluation.
- UNHCR engages with donors, journalists and civil society to improve the protection environment and to ensure access to social services and assistance for refugees and asylum seekers.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- Pending the establishment of a national asylum system, UNHCR continues to register new asylum-seekers and to intervene in cases of arrest, detention and other protection issues. UNHCR works closely with Moroccan authorities to ensure the optimal protection of refugees and asylum seekers. More particularly, UNHCR supports the *Bureau des Réfugiés et des Apatrides* of the MFAC and the inter-ministerial committee in charge of the regularisation process. Regularisation by Moroccan authorities includes an interview with UNHCR-recognised refugees and the issuance of a refugee card - the process for Syrian nationals differs slightly.
- UNHCR works with a private law firm (Cabinet Lemseguem) to provide legal aid services to refugees and asylum seekers, including counselling, legal assistance (i.e. file complaints, assist to obtain birth certificates, etc.) and representation in Moroccan courts.
- A referral system is in place for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, to ensure their access to medical, social/psychological care and legal aid. This support is provided by UNHCR partners *Fondation Orient Occident* (FOO) and *Association Action Urgence* (AAU), and local NGOs (*Caritas*, *Association de lutte contre le SIDA – ALCS*).

Outreach and community-based activities

- UNHCR collaborates with the *Organisation Marocaine des Droits de l'Homme* (OMDH) in Oujda. A Protection Working Group bringing together OMDH and various NGOs based in Oujda working in the field of migrations allows notably referring persons seeking international protection to UNHCR. Since January 2016, 274 persons seeking international protection were referred from the Oriental Province to UNHCR for registration.
- UNHCR and partner FOO undertake joint outreach activities to assess the living conditions of refugees and asylum seekers and to intervene when protection issues arise. Outreach activities include home visits, participatory assessments, thematic community meetings (on health, labour, housing, etc.). Refugee outreach volunteers disseminate information among refugee communities and feed their needs and concerns to UNHCR and its partners.

Education

- In partnership with FOO, UNHCR promotes the enrolment of refugee children in public schools. In October 2013, the Ministry of Education (MoE) released a circular guaranteeing the right for all children to enrol in primary classes, regardless of legal status.
- "School kits" are distributed to refugee children three times per year. In addition, monthly allowances are granted to cover transportation costs in order to encourage them to continue their education.
- UNHCR's partner FOO supports classes in Arabic, French and mathematics for some 50 refugee children in need.

Health

- Through the *AAU*, UNHCR facilitates the referral of refugees to public primary health care centres and the provision of specialised medical treatment as required.
- With partners *FOO* and *ALCS*, UNHCR provides access to reproductive health services, mother-child care, and HIV/AIDS-STI awareness, prevention and treatment.

Livelihood and self-reliance

- With the *Association Marocaine d'Appui à la Promotion de la Petite Entreprise (AMAPPE)*, UNHCR supports the enrolment in vocational trainings and the creation of income generating activities through micro financing and capacity reinforcement. Some 170 refugees benefitted from *AMAPPE's* support in 2015.
- *FOO* and UNHCR regularly assess the living conditions of vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers through home visits. UNHCR supports persons of concern most in need with cash grants (470 households on average per month) and also distributed hygiene kits to refugees.

Accommodation

- UNHCR's partner *FOO* has a programme of emergency and protection shelter. Emergency shelter is designed to respond to immediate and short term needs notably for the most vulnerable or persons at risk, while protection shelter addresses longer term needs. This programme targets refugees and asylum seekers in situations of extreme vulnerability: unaccompanied minors, women at-risk, women heads of households, victims of trafficking, and LGBTI.

Capacity building and sensitisation

- Capacity building is a key element in UNHCR strategy to support Moroccan authorities and civil society in taking over responsibilities related to asylum. UNHCR regularly organizes workshops on refugee law and related issues (trafficking, protection-sensitive border management, etc.) and partners with the National Council on Human Rights (CNDH) to strengthen civil society's capacities related to asylum.
- UNHCR organises events to sensitise the general public and develop a positive image of refugees and asylum seekers within Moroccan society. UNHCR also develops its network of journalists to ensure press coverage of asylum issues.

Durable solutions

- UNHCR provides support to refugees (and in some cases asylum seekers) opting for voluntary repatriation whenever conditions allow.
- UNHCR implements a resettlement program for refugees with specific protection needs. In 2016, 8 refugees departed on resettlement (6 to Canada and 2 to France).

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given un-earmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year, as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operations in Morocco:

Monaco | Switzerland

Contacts:

UNHCR office in Rabat, morra@unhcr.org, Tel: + 212 5 37 75 79 92, Fax: + 212 5 37 75 80 28
Anthony Berginc, External Relations Associate, berginc@unhcr.org, Tel: + 212 5 37 54 54 11