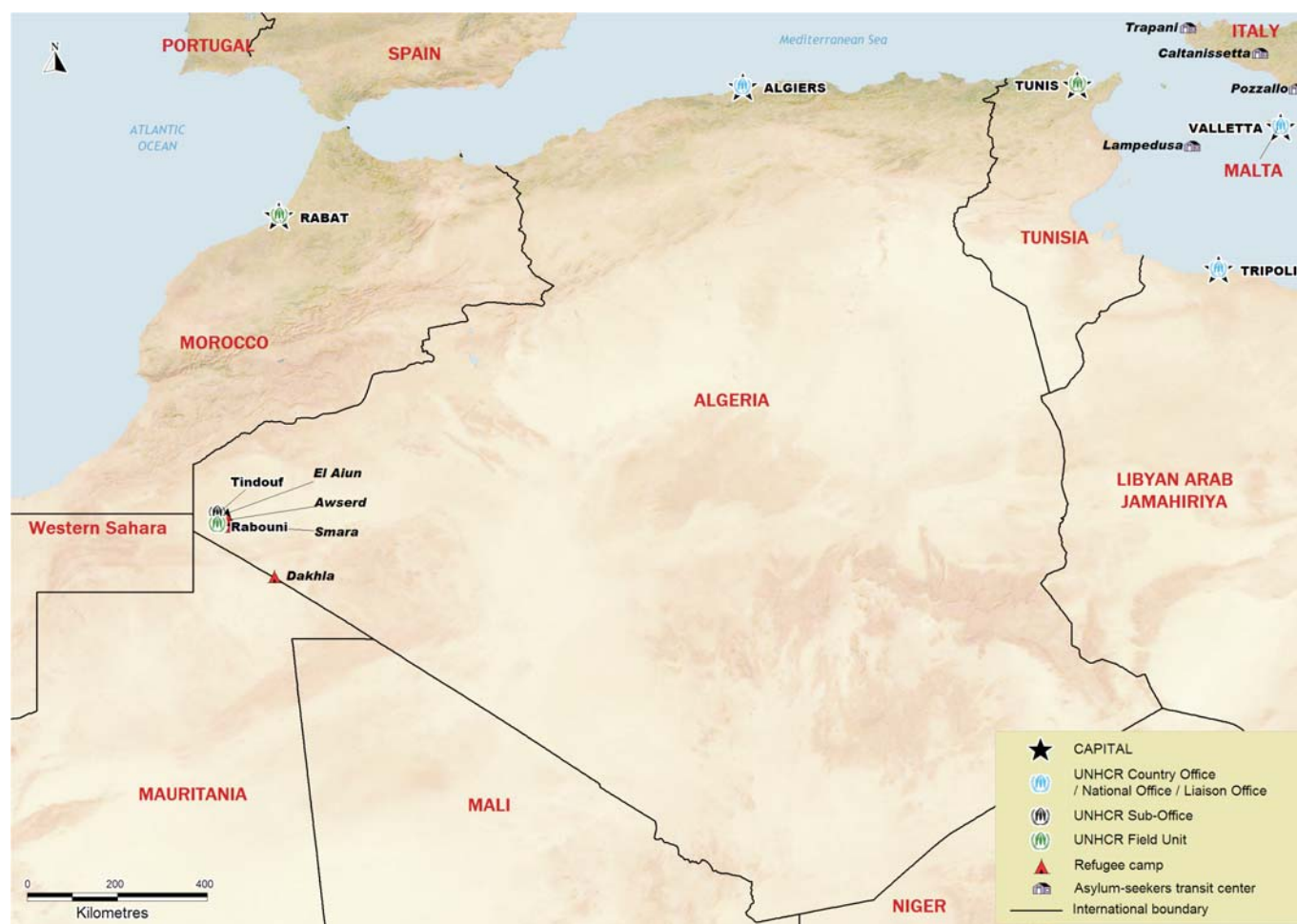


# ALGERIA



## Working environment

### The context

Algeria is experiencing the effects of mixed migration flows to a considerable degree. A large number of migrants, primarily from sub-Saharan Africa, remain stranded in the country after failing to reach Europe by illegal means. Among them are refugees who fall under UNHCR's mandate. An indeterminate number of Palestinian refugees also live in Algeria, but they are well integrated.

Although a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, Algeria has yet to establish a comprehensive asylum system. UNHCR examines asylum claims and engages in refugee status determination (RSD) under its mandate. At the end of August 2009, the number of urban refugees recognized by UNHCR stood at 111, of whom some 70 originate from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). In addition, there are almost 300 asylum-seekers from Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Liberia and Nigeria.

Algeria also hosts one of the world's most protracted refugee situations. The Sahrawis in the Tindouf camps in south-western

## Planning figures

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2010		DEC 2010 - JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees <sup>1</sup>	Western Sahara	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
	Palestinians	4,010	-	4,010	-	4,010	-
	Various	150	150	250	260	350	520
Asylum-seekers	Cameroon	200	20	150	-	120	-
	Various	300	20	150	10	70	10
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>94,660</b>	<b>90,190</b>	<b>94,560</b>	<b>90,270</b>	<b>94,550</b>	<b>90,530</b>

<sup>1</sup> According to the Government of Algeria, there are an estimated 165,000 Saharawi refugees in Tindouf camps.

Algeria were accepted as *prima facie* refugees when they arrived from Western Sahara in 1975 and 1976. The lack of a political solution to the dispute over Western Sahara leaves little hope of an end to the plight of these people.

The host Government estimates the number of Sahrawi refugees in the camps at 165,000. In the absence of registration, UNHCR assists 90,000 vulnerable people in the camps. However, in an effort to improve the nutritional status in the camps, since November 2007, UNHCR and WFP have been distributing 125,000 monthly food rations.

### ○ The needs

Urban refugees and asylum-seekers are frequently arrested and deported for illegal entry or stay in the country. Sexual and gender-based violence against refugee women is also reported. The urban refugees do not have any structured forms of representation, but UNHCR is working with the authorities and the refugees to attain this goal.

Urban refugees and asylum-seekers can obtain free medical care in public hospitals. They also have access to primary education with the support of UNHCR. But the lack of adequate shelter and basic items is a pressing problem for which it has been difficult to find solutions.

The Government does not provide legal status to urban refugees. It considers all migrants illegal and there are no prospects for local integration. However, refugees often manage to find jobs in the informal sector. To date, no refugees have expressed a wish to repatriate. UNHCR is exploring options for resettlement for some individuals.

Given the aridity and remoteness of the Tindouf region in which the Sahrawi camps are located, UNHCR provides for basic needs and essential services in most sectors. These include food, transport, domestic needs, water, sanitation, health, shelter, community services, education, protection, and operational support. There are almost no opportunities for self-reliance.

Pending a political solution to the Western Sahara dispute, voluntary repatriation remains a remote possibility.

## | Main objectives |

### Favourable protection environment

- Improve the protection space for urban refugees, particularly by increasing access to asylum.
- Improve the legal and economic status of urban refugees through advocacy with the Government and development of new partnerships.

### Basic needs and services

- Improve living conditions in the refugee camps in Tindouf.

## | Strategy and activities |

UNHCR will develop new partnerships with civil society and key central and local government institutions to widen the protection space for urban refugees. It will provide refugees with assistance ranging from documentation to material support until a durable solution is found. UNHCR will continue to conduct RSD while encouraging the Government's greater involvement with refugees. Some 50 asylum-seekers are registered monthly. UNHCR will also identify the most vulnerable individuals and submit them for resettlement. The Office will promote the establishment of a national asylum system capable of addressing the concerns of people in need of protection in a mixed migration context. It will strengthen cooperation with the authorities to create legal channels for migration and the development of protection systems for victims of trafficking and other vulnerable people.

UNHCR's protection strategy for Sahrawi refugees will be based on close collaboration with the community's leadership. To this end, the Office will train the leadership in human rights and refugee law as well as provide it with technical support. The aim is to ensure respect for the rights of refugees in the camps in line with international standards.

A key part of the strategy for Sahrawi refugees will be to re-orient the assistance programme to include greater investment in education, health and nutrition.

## Key targets for 2010

### Urban refugees

- Access to asylum is improved by a 20 per cent increase in UNHCR's capacity to register asylum-seekers and determine their claims.
- No refugees are deported for reasons of illegal entry or stay in the country.
- Parliamentarians are mobilized and key Government institutions sensitized on refugee issues.
- All basic needs for shelter, food and non-food items are met.
- Self-reliance activities are implemented.
- Effective referral mechanisms for victims of trafficking are put in place and safe houses for women and girls are set up.
- At least 20 vulnerable urban refugees are resettled.
- Public awareness of the rights of urban refugees and the challenges faced by them is increased.

### Sahrawi refugees

- The nutritional status of refugees is improved through an enhanced food basket and the supply of fresh food for one month during the year.
- Some 90,000 vulnerable refugees receive green tea and dried yeast to enrich their food basket.
- Refugees have access to water in accordance with UNHCR's minimum standards.
- Refugees enjoy good sanitary conditions in schools, hospitals and at home.
- Sufficient health care is available in the camps.
- Some 27,000 refugee households benefit from improved shelter.
- The availability of infrastructure, stationery and equipment helps to improve education.
- The protection environment is enhanced by building the capacity of law enforcement structures and increasing awareness among human rights officials.

## | Constraints |

Urban refugees and asylum-seekers are treated as illegal migrants, resulting in great difficulties for them. In the absence of a political solution to the Western Sahara problem, the possibility of durable solutions for Sahrawi refugees remains remote, and the refugees will continue to depend on international assistance for their survival.

## UNHCR's presence in 2010

□ Number of offices	2
□ Total staff	37
International	7
National	25
UNVs	5



Sahrawi refugee children in school in Smara camp, Algeria.

H. ABEDI

## Organization and implementation

### • Coordination

UNHCR will identify more civil-society partners in Algeria to strengthen its ties with the public at large, improve assistance to people of concern, and reinforce its dialogue with the Government. It will also continue to seek the Government's involvement in asylum issues, notably in the provision of shelter for urban refugees. Moreover, UNHCR will identify areas where activities can be implemented jointly with other UN agencies, particularly in the fields of sexual and gender-based violence and trafficking. Finally, it will encourage greater involvement by the media and academia in asylum issues.

UNHCR has a network of partners who implement programmes in the Tindouf camps. It will continue to build on past achievements, developing partnerships with

UN agencies, notably WFP, and civil-society organizations. It will also strengthen its collaboration with the Sahrawi refugee leadership, particularly to raise their awareness of human and refugee rights.

## Financial information

The budget for UNHCR in Algeria, particularly for supplementary programmes, has varied in recent years. In 2006, the budget increased to deal with floods in the Tindouf camps. In 2008, the budget increased as a result of allocations related to the aftermath of the December 2007 bombing of the office in Algiers, and additional allocations for the refugee programme in Tindouf. In 2010 and 2011, following a comprehensive needs assessment, the budgets have doubled to allow the Office to meet the basic needs of refugees, particularly in areas where significant gaps have persisted for many years.

## PARTNERS

### Implementing partners

#### NGOs:

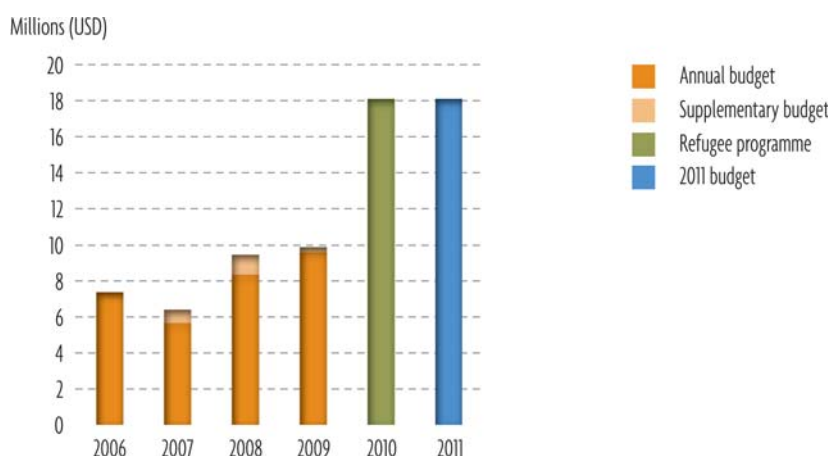
*Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH)*  
*Association de Femmes Algériennes pour le Développement (AFAD)*  
*Algerian Red Crescent (CRA)*  
*Enfants Réfugiés du Monde – Pays de la Loire (ERM)*  
*Solidaridad Internacional Andalucía*  
*Rencontre et développement (R&D)*  
*SOS Femmes en Détresse*  
*Algerian Muslim Scouts*

### Operational partners

#### Government agencies:

*Division of Human Rights, Social Development and Cultural, Scientific and Technical Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*  
*Bureau for Refugees and Stateless Persons (BAPRA) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*  
*MDM Greece*  
*Oxfam Belgium*  
*Spanish Red Cross*  
*Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECID)*

## UNHCR's budget in Algeria 2006 - 2011



## 2010 UNHCR Budget for Algeria (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1
<b>Favourable protection environment</b>	
National legal framework	28,998
National administrative framework	20,998
National and regional migration policy	28,998
Cooperation with partners	26,272
National development policies	18,998
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	21,998
Access to territory	28,998
Non-refoulement	34,272
Subtotal	<b>209,531</b>
<b>Fair protection processes and documentation</b>	
Reception conditions	37,476
Registration and profiling	58,744
Access to asylum procedures	35,202
Fair and efficient status determination	200,335
Individual documentation	64,318
Subtotal	<b>396,075</b>
<b>Security from violence and exploitation</b>	
Gender-based violence	85,621
Freedom of movement	43,641
Non-arbitrary detention	97,871
Access to legal remedies	54,641
Subtotal	<b>281,773</b>
<b>Basic needs and essential services</b>	
Nutrition	2,282,761
Water	2,240,832
Shelter and other infrastructure	1,937,865
Basic domestic and hygiene items	839,738
Primary health care	2,000,711
HIV and AIDS	53,806
Education	2,181,863
Sanitation services	38,382
Services for groups with specific needs	617,612
Subtotal	<b>12,193,570</b>
<b>Community participation and self-management</b>	
Participatory assessment and community mobilization	161,424
Community self-management and equal representation	96,613
Self-reliance and livelihoods	539,746
Subtotal	<b>797,783</b>
<b>External relations</b>	
Donor relations	90,487
Resource mobilization	70,834
Partnership	90,487
Public information	80,016
Subtotal	<b>331,824</b>
<b>Logistics and operations support</b>	
Supply chain and logistics	1,980,378
Programme management, coordination and support	1,915,815
Subtotal	<b>3,896,193</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,106,749</b>
<b>2011 budget</b>	<b>18,126,800</b>
<b>2009 Revised budget</b>	
Annual budget	<b>9,604,538</b>
Supplementary budget	<b>292,878</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,897,416</b>

## Consequences of a 20-40 per cent funding shortfall

- Access to protection by urban asylum-seekers will not be enhanced as UNHCR will not be able to adjudicate an additional 300 RSD cases.
- The number of urban refugees benefiting from access to basic services will not be increased.
- 1,500 refugee families will not receive new tents.
- 125,000 Sahrawi refugees will not receive adequate powdered milk.
- UNHCR will not be able to register all asylum-seekers.
- Two training workshops for the Government will not take place.
- Eight garbage trucks will not be purchased and sanitary conditions in two camps will not be improved.
- Refugee children's access to education will not improve and needed school equipments will not be purchased.