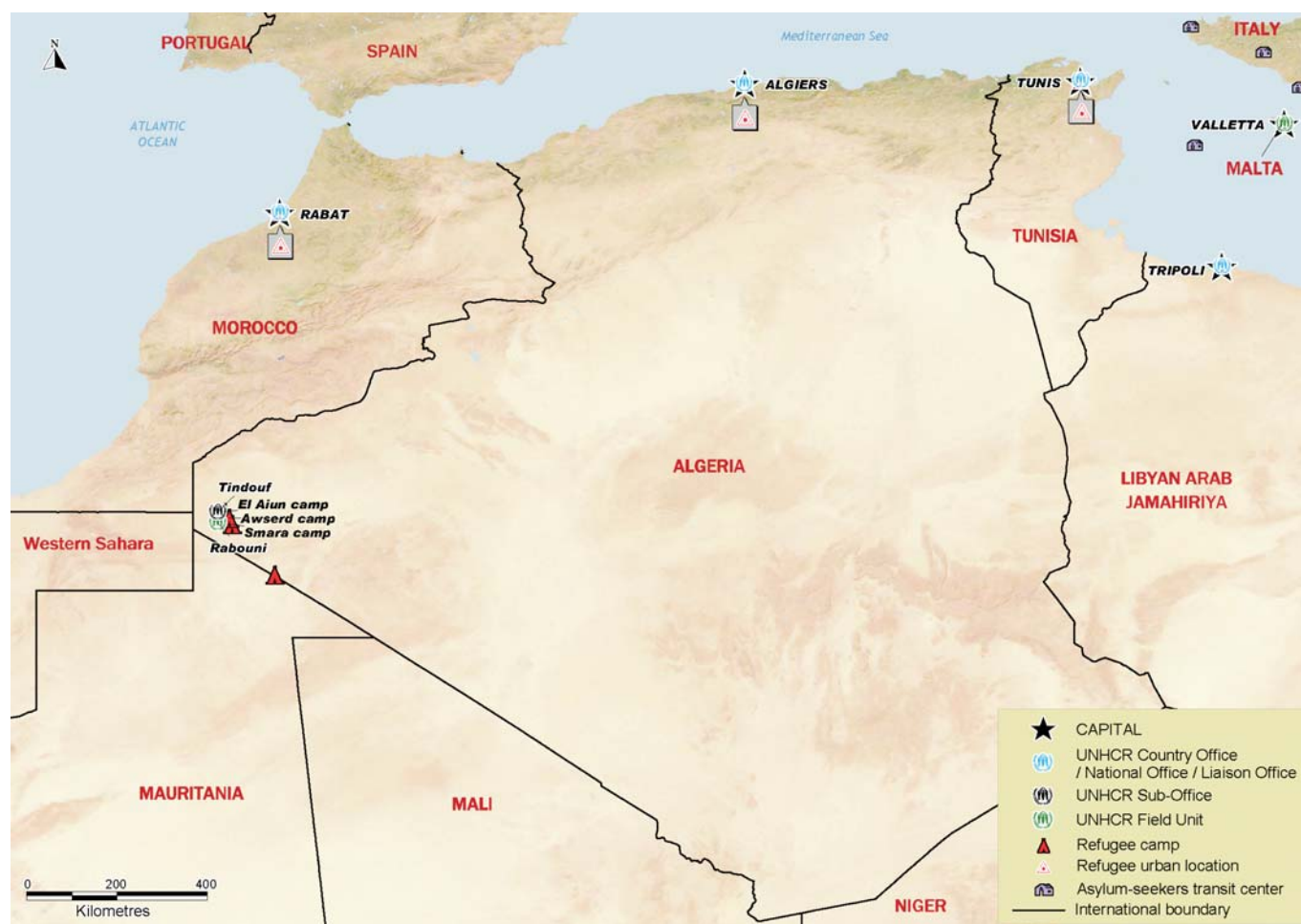


ALGERIA



Working environment

The context

Algeria hosts one of the most enduring refugee situations in the world. The Sahrawi refugees who arrived from Western Sahara in 1975 and 1976 were recognized as refugees on a *prima facie* basis. The Government estimates the number of Sahrawi refugees in the camps at 165,000. Pending a registration exercise, UNHCR's assistance programme continues to be based on a planning figure of 90,000 vulnerable refugees in the camps.

Since November 2007, UNHCR and WFP have been distributing 125,000 food rations in an effort to improve the refugees' nutritional status in the camps.

Algeria is confronting the effects of mixed migration flows and often serves as a transit point for human smuggling. Within these flows are people who fall under UNHCR's mandate. Algeria is a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol and has approached UNHCR to assist in developing a comprehensive asylum system. UNHCR registers asylum claims and engages in refugee status determination (RSD) under its mandate.

Planning figures for Algeria

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Western Sahara*	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	80	80	90	90
	Occupied Palestinian Territory	4,000	0	4,000	0
	Various	90	90	160	160
Asylum-seekers	Liberia	70	70	70	70
	Nigeria	60	60	70	70
	Cameroon	50	50	80	80
	Various	130	130	190	190
Total		94,480	90,480	94,660	90,660

* According to the Government of Algeria, there are an estimated 165,000 Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps.

At the end of August 2010, UNHCR had registered 140 refugees and more than 300 asylum-seekers living in urban areas, originating mainly from sub-Saharan African countries. A number of well-integrated Palestinian refugees also live in the country.

● *The needs*

The Government does not provide legal status to urban refugees and asylum-seekers as they are considered illegal migrants. They face arrest, detention and, occasionally, expulsion for illegal entry or stay in the country. Sexual and gender-based violence against refugee women and girls is also reported.

A recent participatory assessment showed that the lack of access to adequate shelter and unmet needs for residence and work permits remain the main difficulties faced by urban refugees and asylum-seekers in Algeria.

Given the aridity and remoteness of the Tindouf region in which their camps are located, the Sahrawi refugees continue to depend on international assistance for their survival. UNHCR is reorienting its programme to further invest in the long-term welfare of these refugees.

| Strategy and activities in 2011 |

UNHCR will develop new partnerships with civil society and key central and local government institutions to widen the protection space and provide refugees with assistance until a durable solution is found. It will continue to conduct RSD while encouraging the Government to become more involved with refugees. UNHCR will also provide support for cases and legal representation in courts as well as at police stations and gendarmeries.

Furthermore, UNHCR, in coordination with the Government, will seek to issue birth certificates for refugees born on Algerian territory and will intervene with the local authorities on behalf of victims of sexual and gender-based violence. UNHCR will also identify the most vulnerable individuals and submit them for resettlement. The establishment of a national asylum system to address the concerns of people in need of protection in a mixed migration context will be promoted. Cooperation with the authorities to create legal channels for migration and for the development of protection systems for victims of trafficking and other vulnerable people will be strengthened.

Main objectives and targets

Favourable protection environment

- The protection space for urban refugees is improved, particularly by increasing access to asylum.
 - ☞ Access to asylum is increased by 20 per cent through 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.
 - ☞ Recognition and validation of UNHCR documentation by the national law enforcement structures is strengthened, to the benefit of detained persons of concern.
 - ☞ Parliamentarians are mobilized and key Government institutions sensitized on refugee issues through a training plan.
- The legal and economic status of urban refugees is improved.
 - ☞ Effective referral mechanisms for victims of trafficking are put in place and safe houses for women and girls are established.
 - ☞ The authorities are helped to draft, adopt and implement national asylum legislation consistent with international standards.
 - ☞ Public awareness of the rights of urban refugees and the challenges they face is enhanced by providing more training to civil society and implementing partners on asylum, international protection and human rights.

Security from violence and exploitation

- Adequate protection in the refugee camps is ensured.
 - ☞ Access to refugees is improved by UNHCR's permanent presence in the camps.
 - ☞ Refugees are sensitized to their rights and obligations.
 - ☞ Dispute resolution and justice mechanisms in the camps are strengthened.

Basic needs and services

- The living conditions in the refugee camps are improved, particularly for women and children.
 - ☞ Some 27,000 refugee households benefit from improved shelter.
 - ☞ Refugees have access to water in accordance with UNHCR's minimum standards.
 - ☞ The nutritional status of refugees is improved by providing them with larger food baskets and fresh food, particularly during the month of Ramadan.
 - ☞ Vulnerable refugee families receive green tea and dried yeast to enrich their food basket.
 - ☞ Refugees enjoy satisfactory sanitary conditions in schools, hospitals and at home.
 - ☞ Adequate infrastructure and sufficient supplies of stationery and equipment help to improve education.

Community participation and self-management

- Self-reliance and livelihoods are increased.
 - ☞ Self-reliance activities assist 15 urban refugees.
 - ☞ 30 family gardens in Dakhla camp generate income.

Durable solutions

- The resettlement of refugees with urgent protection needs is facilitated.
 - ☞ The most vulnerable urban refugees (22 cases–54 individuals) are submitted for resettlement.

UNHCR's presence in 2011

□ Number of offices	2
□ Total staff	46
International	10
National	27
JPO	1
International UNVs	5
National UNVs	3

PARTNERS

Implementing partners

NGOs:

Sahrawi refugees
 Algerian Red Crescent
Association des Femmes Algériennes pour le Développement
Enfants Réfugiés du Monde – Pays de la Loire
Info-com Jeune
Movimiento por la Paz
Red Deporte Cooperacion
Solidaridad Internacional Andalucia
Triangle Génération Humanitaire

Urban refugees:

La Ligue Algérienne de Défense des Droits de l'Homme
Le réseau Algérien pour la Protection des Droits de l'Enfant
Rencontre et développement
SOS Femmes en Détresse

Operational partners

Government agencies:

Bureau for Refugees and Stateless Persons (BAPRA) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Division of Human Rights, Social Development and Cultural, Scientific and Technical Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

NGOs:

MDM Greece
 Oxfam Belgium
 Spanish Red Cross

Others:

Spanish Agency for International Cooperation
 WFP

Sahrawi refugees improve their self-reliance at a women's cooperative.



UNHCR / P. MATEU

UNHCR is re-orienting its assistance programme in the camps to include greater investments in health, nutrition and education. It is also establishing a permanent presence in each of the camps to enable direct contact with individual refugees and improve the collection and analysis of information regarding refugee protection, human rights and sexual and gender-based violence.

○ Constraints

The Algerian authorities continue to treat all sub-Saharan African refugees and asylum-seekers as illegal economic migrants, thereby restricting their basic economic, social and cultural rights. Coupled with limited prospects for self-reliance and local integration, these restrictions make them vulnerable to various forms of exploitation.

In the absence of a political solution to the Western Sahara situation, the possibility of durable solutions for Sahrawi refugees remains remote.

Organization and implementation

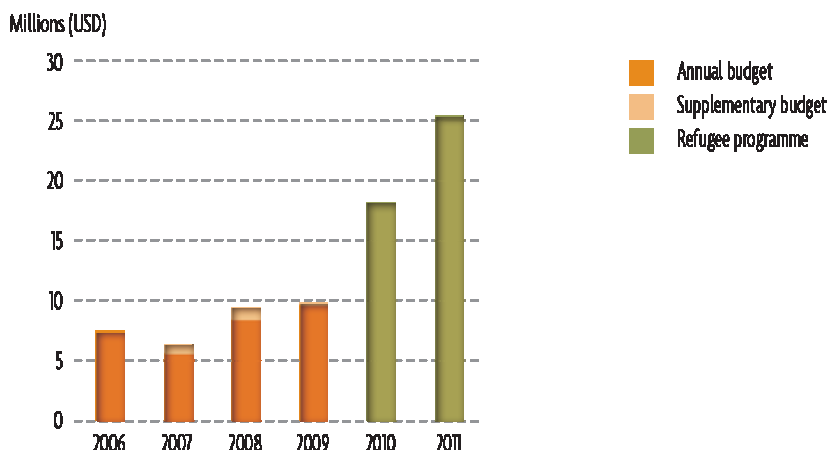
○ Coordination

UNHCR will identify more civil society partners in Algeria, improve assistance to people of concern and reinforce its dialogue with the Government. It will also look for areas of cooperation with other UN agencies, particularly with regard to sexual violence and trafficking, while encouraging greater involvement by the media and academia in asylum issues.

Financial information

The budget for UNHCR operations in Algeria was increased in 2006 due to floods in the refugee camps and in 2008 following the bombing of the office in Algiers. In 2010 and 2011, following a comprehensive needs assessment, the budget grew significantly to allow the Office to meet the basic needs of refugees in areas where major gaps have persisted for many years.

UNHCR's budget in Algeria 2006 – 2011



2011 UNHCR Budget for Algeria (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	TOTAL
Favourable protection environment		
National legal framework	70,198	70,198
Cooperation with partners	71,688	71,688
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	45,198	45,198
Access to territory	40,198	40,198
Non-refoulement	60,688	60,688
Subtotal	287,969	287,969
Fair protection processes and documentation		
Reception conditions	48,989	48,989
Registration and profiling	73,606	73,606
Fair and efficient status determination	533,925	533,925
Individual documentation	78,606	78,606
Civil status documentation	46,989	46,989
Subtotal	782,115	782,115
Security from violence and exploitation		
Gender-based violence	84,926	84,926
Freedom of movement	56,923	56,923
Non-arbitrary detention	81,923	81,923
Access to legal remedies	843,466	843,466
Subtotal	1,067,238	1,067,238
Basic needs and essential services		
Nutrition	2,254,919	2,254,919
Water	3,869,573	3,869,573
Shelter and other infrastructure	1,123,094	1,123,094
Basic domestic and hygiene items	2,016,848	2,016,848
Primary health care	1,556,961	1,556,961
HIV and AIDS	132,267	132,267
Education	4,380,307	4,380,307
Sanitation services	546,151	546,151
Services for groups with specific needs	1,024,675	1,024,675
Subtotal	16,904,795	16,904,795
Community participation and self-management		
Community self-management and equal representation	354,367	354,367
Self-reliance and livelihoods	726,956	726,956
Subtotal	1,081,323	1,081,323
Durable solutions		
Resettlement	136,548	136,548
Subtotal	136,548	136,548
External relations		
Donor relations	75,240	75,240
Resource mobilisation	95,240	95,240
Partnership	85,240	85,240
Subtotal	255,719	255,719
Logistics and operations support		
Supply chain and logistics	1,792,322	1,792,322
Programme management, coordination and support	3,201,293	3,201,293
Subtotal	4,993,615	4,993,615
Total	25,509,323	25,509,323
2010 Revised budget	18,106,749	18,106,749

Consequences of a 20-40 per cent funding shortfall

- The number of urban refugees benefiting from access to basic services will not be increased.
- 1,500 refugee families will not receive new tents.
- Sahrawi refugees will not receive adequate supplies of powdered milk.
- UNHCR will not be able to register all asylum-seekers.
- Two training workshops for the Government will not be conducted and capacity-building activities, particularly those targeting police and security officers, 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 be increased and needed school equipment will not be purchased.