



ALGERIA

SAHRAWI REFUGEES

November 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

90,000

Vulnerable Sahrawi refugees receiving UNHCR protection and assistance in 5 refugee camps

USD 29M

Requested for 2016 for UNHCR's programme in Algeria

32,100

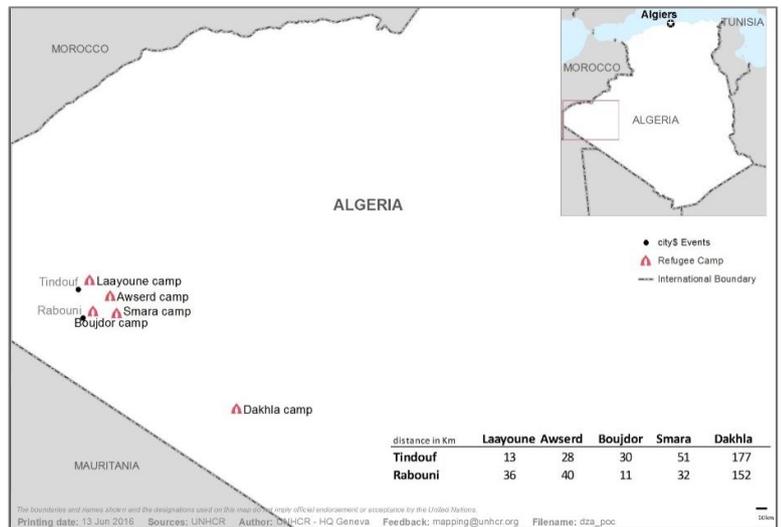
School-aged children in Tindouf are enrolled in primary and intermediate education

18 litres

Of potable water available per person per day in Sahrawi refugee camps

Operational context

UNHCR provides international protection and, together with its partners, life-saving assistance to refugees in the five camps near Tindouf. This includes the implementation of multi-sectorial activities in water, sanitation, health, nutrition, shelter, community services, and distribution of non-food items. Humanitarian assistance provided by UNHCR and its partners is based on a planning figure of 90,000 vulnerable refugees out of a total 165,000 estimated by the host Government.



Working in partnership

UNHCR works closely with the Algerian Government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the Algerian Red Crescent and altogether with 11 local and international partners in Sahrawi refugee camps near Tindouf:

- *Association des Femmes Algériennes pour le Développement (AFAD)*,
- Algeria Red Crescent (ARC),
- *Association d'Information et de Communication pour la Solidarité (INFOCOM)*,
- *Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP)*,
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC),
- *Enfants Refugiés du Monde (ERM)*,
- *Movimento por la Paz, el Desarme y la Libertad (MPDL)*,
- OXFAM-Solidarité Belgique (OXFAM),
- *Solidaridad Internacional-Andalucía (SI-A)*,
- *Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH)*, and
- *Universidad Autonoma de Madrid (UAM)*.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- In Tindouf, UNHCR provides **protection and assistance to some 90,000 vulnerable Sahrawi refugees** located in five refugee camps, through participatory approaches to encourage engagement and self-management, with a particular focus on youth. UNHCR conducts outreach activities and regular home visits to identify persons with specific needs and adapt its assistance. This includes specific assistance for 3,000 persons living with disabilities. UNHCR also offers training opportunities for officials from the Sahrawi legal institutions, social workers and partner staff to reinforce local capacities, for instance with regard to judicial procedures.

Education

- UNHCR provides financial incentives to **1,115 education staff in Tindouf refugee camps** and offers material, equipment, and training opportunities. School-aged children studying locally are enrolled in primary and intermediate schools in Tindouf camps.

Health and Nutrition

- UNHCR covers **60% of the costs associated with medical materials and consumables** in the refugee camps near Tindouf and supports, through incentives, some 20 doctors from the Sahrawi community working in five regional hospitals. UNHCR backs the Sahrawi referral system by maintaining an ambulance fleet, and renting a recovery house in Algiers for patients referred from the camps to Algiers.
- Jointly with WFP and the Algerian Red Crescent (ARC), UNHCR provides **supplementary feeding for malnourished children and pregnant or lactating women**, and implements a joint prevention program for anaemia and chronic malnutrition. UNHCR also works towards improving access to mental and psychosocial support. UNHCR conducts awareness campaigns on nutrition and mental health every year as well capacity building activities on the integrated management of childhood illnesses and psychosocial support.

Water and Sanitation

- UNHCR is actively engaged in **enhancing the water management system in Sahrawi refugee camps**, to provide drinkable water to refugees. The organization distributes hygiene kits for women and girls and supports the local production of soap and bleach for the five camps.

Shelter and NFIs

- UNHCR provides shelter material for 3,000 refugee families among the most vulnerable every year. UNHCR supports an innovative shelter project which aims at building environment-friendly shelters out of plastic bottles.

Access to Energy

- In Tindouf, UNHCR refills **gas cylinders** for 28,000 Sahrawi families every month. Cooking stoves are also provided on an annual basis.

Logistics

- UNHCR maintains the **large fleet of trucks required to provide assistance** to Sahrawi refugees and organizes the delivery of assistance from Oran harbor to Tindouf.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- In Tindouf, UNHCR encourages the **refugee community's involvement in the humanitarian assistance programme**. UNHCR supports three woman centres. Sahrawi women are represented in all sectoral departments, including in executive positions (25%). UNHCR also supports youth centres, a library, and cultural activities and workshops on the rights of Sahrawi women and the preservation of Sahrawi cultural heritage.
- In Tindouf, supports three bakeries and a soap factory as well as three vocational training centres. The centres provide 2-year courses on electricity, carpentry, sewing and computers, with 230 youth refugees enrolled this year.
- A **livelihoods strategy** is currently being developed, focusing notably on developing knowledge and skills of youth through vocational, technical and business development training and awareness. UNHCR also explores value chain analysis and marketing opportunities to ensure long term sustainability in several areas, notably camel milk and handcrafted products.