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# Algeria

## Humanitarian Situation Report

### July – September 2019

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## OPERATIONNEL CONTEXT

### Introduction

Since 1986, UNICEF Algeria Country Office is bringing support to children and women affected by the protracted refugee crisis in the Sahrawi refugees camps in Tindouf, located in the extreme west of Algeria. The limited opportunities for self-reliance in the harsh desert environment have left no other option for refugees than to greatly rely on international aid for their human and socioeconomic development and for their very survival.

UNICEF current humanitarian program in Tindouf aims at improving immunization, mothers and children's health, access of children and adolescents to quality education, care and education for children living with a disability, promotion of children rights and social inclusion and participation of youth.

Grounded on [UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action](#), assistance is provided to thousands of Sahrawi children, adolescents and women to help address their essential needs and to contribute build resilience through focused technical assistance, capacity building and provision of key supplies to children, including in times of emergencies.

### Operational context

UNICEF intervention is implemented in close cooperation with UNHCR, WFP and other humanitarian actors present in the field together with local authorities and refugee communities through the participation in the coordination fora established in Algiers and Tindouf.

UNICEF takes part in the sectoral coordination groups and is particularly leading the Education Coordination Group.



## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Nearly **40,000** children benefited from school supplies at the beginning of school year 2019/2020 in 67 schools and kindergarten

**2,320** education staff, 96 % are women

Over **21,000** children under 5 benefited of immunization services with the support of UNICEF in 2018

Anemia affecting :

**52,2 %** of women of reproductive age

**50,1 %** of children below 6

Neonatal mortality **19%**

(health information system)

**1,328** health staff, 70 % are women

**3,057** persons living with a disability

([Enquête exploratoire Handicap International / UNICEF 2016](#))

**133,672** food rations distributed by WFP starting 2019.

**90,000** most vulnerable recipients of UNHCR assistance and services

## FUNDING STATUS 2019\*



\*See funding requirements page 4

## IMMUNIZATION



### Expected outcome 1 : Reinforced Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) for optimal vaccination coverage

#### Context

More than 21,000 refugee children under the age of 5 are in need of vaccination, which is carried out in line with the Algerian vaccination calendar. In addition to the assistance provided by the Government of Algeria, UNICEF remains the main provider of vaccines in the camps with the support of the Italian government. In cooperation with health partners in the camps, and the Algerian health authorities, UNICEF supports the immunization system in place in the camps for improved quality and sustainability.

#### Key updates

During the period, the refurbishment of the cold room was completed. In June 2019, two third of the vaccines needed for one year were transferred to Tindouf in support of the local EPI for 21,000 children in cooperation with the support of the Algerian local authorities of health and the Algerian Pasteur Institute (IPA).

#### Forthcoming

UNICEF will pursue its efforts to mobilize the assistance and the funds required for the immunization of children in the camps, with a particular focus on strengthening local capacity and meeting challenges associated with episodic shortage of vaccines in close cooperation with the government of Algeria.

## HEALTH



### Expected outcome 2 : Improved survival of newborns by strengthening maternal and child health services

#### Context

Neonatal mortality rate is 19 per thousand live births, while maternal mortality reaches 254 per 100 thousand live births. From 2011 to 2017, UNICEF focused on strengthening the *Mother and Child Health Programme* run by Sahrawi health partners, particularly its neonatal component through the provision of equipment, training of midwives and paramedical staff in maternities and neonatal wards.

#### Key updates

Targeting some 5,000 new-born and 6,000 pregnant and lactating women, 18 midwives, following the training sessions organized during the first-half of 2019 for pediatric nurses and trainers of the Paramedical School in partnership with *Enfants Réfugiés du Monde (ERM)*, UNICEF facilitated a two months training for two pediatric nurses in Beni Messous Hospital in Algiers (July-August).

#### Forthcoming

UNICEF will continue its advocacy to mobilize additional resources and carry on with the capacity building of health staff.



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## EDUCATION



### Expected outcome 3 : Sustained access of children to quality education in the camps is reinforced

#### Context

Education is provided in the five camps to some 40,000 children from three to 14 years taken care of in 31 kindergartens, 26 primary schools and ten lower-secondary schools. Most infrastructures built in the 80s with mud bricks require rehabilitation or reconstruction, including of their WASH facilities. Education is mandatory for the primary level and the education system entirely run by the Sahrawi refugees with 2,320 education personnel at the central level, in Wilayas and Dairas. Three per-cent of children drop out every year with little available to prevent the phenomena; overcrowded classrooms, lack of textbooks, long distance from home or unfitted WASH facilities are all contributing factors.

Since 2016, UNICEF leads the Education Coordination Group gathering all actors working in the education sector which contributed to an enhanced coordination of activities. Key activities jointly undertaken resulted in the elaboration of crucial strategic documents such as the five years' school construction and rehabilitation strategy.

#### Key updates

UNICEF launched the 2019/2020 “back to school” alongside with the Sahrawi authorities of education in Smara camp in the presence of 2,118 children. The newly rehabilitated primary school Mustapha Mohamed Ahmed was inaugurated and an interactive theatre presentation was organized in 17<sup>th</sup> June lower-secondary to sensitize children on the school drop out phenomenon and on the negative impacts that the inadequate use of social media can have on family life. UNICEF purchased school supplies for more than 39,000 children and conducted an end user monitoring in this regards. During the period, UNICEF worked closely with its partners *Triangle Generation Humanitaire (TGH)* and *Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP)* to ensure a smooth implementation of the on-going rehabilitation of eight primary schools and of two kindergartens as well as the reconstruction of one lower-secondary school, paying a specific attention to the WASH facilities. UNICEF, in partnership with the *Algerian Association Femme Action Development (AFAD)* purchased equipment for the two welding workshops which will serve to repair schools equipment; working sessions were held to plan for the assessment of teachers' didactic needs.

## EDUCATION

### Forthcoming

Regular meetings of the Education Sector Group will be facilitated.

The KAP survey on WASH in schools will be initiated in partnership with CISP; the outcomes will inform the development and implementation of hygiene promotion sessions in schools.

UNICEF will launch a call for expression of interest for various activities in the education sector (capacity building, rehabilitation / construction of schools, EMIS, ...). Linked to the reinforcement of the education sector governance, an education expert is being recruited in order to, among other, facilitate the development of a sectoral strategy.



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## CHILD PROTECTION



### Expected outcome 4 : Promotion of the inclusion of children living with a disability

#### Context

In 2017, social services estimated at 3,300 the number of persons living with a disability, based on rather restrictive criteria; if considering international definition, the number would be 26,000. In 2016, an [exploratory survey on needs, barriers and facilitators for access to services and social participation of children with disabilities](#) conducted by UNICEF in partnership with the French NGO *Humanity & Inclusion (HI)* highlighted the need to strengthen the existing diagnosis system and capacity of professionals, to establish additional specialized day-care centers and further enhance parents'

sensitization.

#### Key updates

As part of the partnership with HI, support was given to the initial assessment implemented in the camps in close cooperation with the socio-educational staff in order to gather the information required for the development of training modules for teachers.

#### Forthcoming

The training modules will be finalized and awareness sessions for families and professionals carried out to promote inclusion, with a focus on education.

In addition, an inclusive education strategy will be developed and training sessions on inclusive education practices implemented.

## CHILD RIGHTS PROMOTION



### Expected outcome 5 : The rights of Saharawi refugee children are promoted

#### Context

Since 1986, UNICEF is actively promoting children's rights through its programs in the education and health sectors. UNICEF in collaboration with WFP and UNHCR and in support of the Saharawi community is celebrating international days in events, adapting international themes to the camps' context.

#### Key updates

At the occasion of the back-to-school campaign in the [#sahrawi](#) refugee camps, a theatre group presented to youths from

secondary grade, two theater shows using an interactive methodology, occasion to sensitize children on the dangers of dropping out from school and on the negative influence on family links of an immoderate use of phones and internet. The shows were created and presented by youth trained this summer in the framework of our programme for the promotion of life skills, thanks to the support of our donor, the Kingdom of the [#Netherlands](#).

#### Forthcoming

UNICEF will mobilize partners and counterparts to contribute to the celebration of the 30e anniversary of the CRC with the involvement of Saharawi children and adolescents.

## YOUTH



### Expected outcome 6 : The life skills of young people are promoted for an increased social and economic integration

#### Context

Since 2013, UNICEF has been supporting small scale initiatives to strengthen young people's resilience and participation in their communities.

#### Key updates

UNICEF took part in the *"Summer program for Saharawi youth"* promoting cultural activities and organize a training for 113 youth, girls and boys, on interactive theatre. The sessions

contributed to build their skills and capacities on expression, management of discussions on sensitive topics, solution oriented thinking. While interacting on topics such as school drop-out or unemployment, the activity opened a door to a new approach to sensitize youths and adults, promoting lively interactions with the audience.

#### Forthcoming

The life skills education activities, training and technical orientation for youth will be scaled up with specific emphasis on out-of-school adolescents through activities in the cultural and social sectors.

## HUMAN INTEREST STORY

### Abdelaziz Hamma Abdellahi, 18 years old.

“I was born in a Sahrawi refugee camp in Tindouf. Despite the harsh living conditions, I went to school, education being key for my future. But I have not benefited from recreational activities available to most children. When electricity or running water are lacking, how can we ask for more?”

*The Convention on the Rights of the Child in its Article 31, recognizes the right of children to rest and leisure, to engage in recreational activities appropriate to their age, and to participate freely in cultural and artistic life.*

During summer time, living conditions are even more difficult in the camps with temperatures reaching at times 50 degrees; there are no structure allowing children and youth to take part in leisure or sport activities.

“This year, thanks to UNICEF, I participated in an interactive theatre workshop and I had the chance to demonstrate my talents: I want to be an actor ! Theatre can be a way to showcase the Sahrawi culture, illustrating the plight of my community to the attention of the world”. Interactive theatre gave all participants the chance to tell their own stories, express their inner creativity, develop communication skills, build their confidence, and relate to other people’s points of view.

As children and young people express themselves fully, the outcomes are truly incredible and inspiring.

*UNICEF organized a first interactive theatre workshop from 7 to 27 July 2019 aimed at promoting life skills education. One hundred and thirteen youth participated alongside six supervisors of the Saharawi National Theater team whose capacities have been reinforced to pursue the initiative in the future. The project was carried out with the support of the Government of the Netherlands.*



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## 2018/2020 Funding requirements and availability per sector

Sectors	2018		2019		2020	
	Actuals	Funding needs	Funds received	Funding needs	Funds received	
Health	180,000	505,000	156,231	422,000	0	
Education	445,000	1,700,000	1,590,232	1,805,000	537,000	
Child Protection	0	210,000	156,644	203,000	0	
Child Rights Promotion	0	50,000	0	50,000	0	
Youth	0	195,000	13,000	145,000	0	
Operational costs	173,000	191,500	109,414	191,500	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>798,000</b>	<b>2,851,500</b>	<b>2,025,520</b>	<b>2,816,500</b>	<b>0</b>	

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5%

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