



Morocco Playground, a joint UN project of street basketball aiming at breaking social and cultural barriers between young Moroccans, refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, and supporting their integration into the Moroccan society

MOROCCO FACTSHEET

01 April 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

679

Persons who have approached UNHCR Office to apply for asylum in 2015

987

Persons of concern who have been auditioned and/or regularised by the ad hoc Commission on Regularisation

141

Vulnerable households benefitting from regular cash assistance since January 2015

160

Refugees having benefitted from a vocational training or support to develop an income generating activity in 2014

Population of concern

A total of **3,580** persons of concern, including **643** refugees and **2,937** asylum seekers

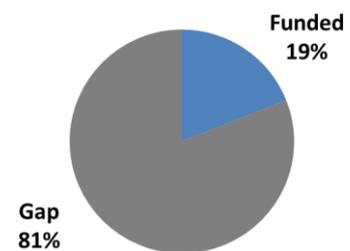
Persons of concern by country of origin

Country	Number of refugees ¹
Ivory Coast	261
Congo-Kinshasa	133
Iraq	108
Palestine	38
Cameroon	25
Nigeria	10
Others	68

Country	Number of asylum seekers
Syria	1,054 ²
Congo-Kinshasa	536
Ivory Coast	364
Mali	185
Cameroon	184
Nigeria	123
Others	491

Funding requirements

USD 3.4 million requested to cover UNHCR operations in Morocco in 2015



Direct contributors to UNHCR operations in Morocco in 2015

Monaco	200.000 USD
Switzerland	430.000 USD

UNHCR presence

Staff: **11** nationals, **3** internationals, **3** national UNV, **2** international UNV, **6** affiliated workforce, **2** interns

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 and Liberties, Education (MoE), Health, Labour and Migration, the National Council on Human Rights (promotion and protection of refugee and asylum seekers’ rights), the Inter-Ministerial Delegation for Human Rights (development of a new legal and institutional framework), the *Institut Supérieur de la Magistrature*, the police and the royal gendarmerie (capacity building).
- With other UN agencies, UNHCR is involved in the 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 an optimal 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 case of arrest, detention and other protection issues. UNHCR works closely with the 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.
- UNHCR works with a private law firm 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 to monitor the situation at the borders and refer persons seeking international protection to UNHCR office. UNHCR supports NGO networks throughout the country, mainly in the Oriental region, Rabat and Casablanca to identify and refer persons of concern.
- UNHCR and the 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 the FOO, UNHCR promotes the enrolment of refugee children in public schools. On October 9, 2013, the MoE released a circular guaranteeing the right for all sub-Saharan 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.
- The FOO proposes support classes in Arabic, French and mathematics to support 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 appropriate.
- With the FOO and the 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. 160 refugees have benefitted from AMAPPE's support in 2014.
- The FOO and UNHCR regularly assess the living conditions of vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers through home visits. UNHCR supports the persons of concern most in need with cash grants (75 households in average per month).
- The FOO distributes on regular basis vouchers to refugees and vulnerable asylum seekers in order to cover their food and hygiene needs.

Accommodation

- The FOO has a programme of emergency and protection shelter. Emergency shelter is designed to respond to immediate and short term needs, while protection shelter addresses longer term needs. This programme targets refugees and asylum seekers in situation of extreme vulnerability: unaccompanied minors, women at-risk, women head of household, victims of trafficking, LGBTI.

Capacity building and sensitisation

- Capacity building is a key element in UNHCR strategy to support Moroccan authorities and civil society to take over responsibilities related to asylum. UNHCR organizes regularly workshops on refugee law and related issues (trafficking, protection-sensitive border management, etc.).
- 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.
- UNHCR implements a resettlement program for refugees with specific protection needs. In 2014, 63 refugees effectively departed to a resettlement country.

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 operation: [Monaco](#) | [Switzerland](#)

UNHCR is also grateful to the following countries for having accepted in resettlement refugees recognised in Morocco for protection purposes: [Canada](#) | [Finland](#) | [France](#) | [Norway](#) | [Portugal](#) | [Sweden](#) | [United States of America](#)

Contacts:

Office contact, morra@unhcr.org, Tel: + 212 5 37 76 76 06, Fax: + 212 5 37 76 61 96

Marc Fawe, External Relations Officer, fawe@unhcr.org, Tel: + 212 5 37 76 76 09, Cell: + 212 6 61 95 85 63