



Sahrawi Refugees Camps-Tindouf- Algeria Humanitarian Situation Report #4

unicef 

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Highlights

16 days after the storm that hit the Sahrawi refugee camp in Laayoune, 849 families (4245 people), are still suffering from the storm damages, including 406 families that had their houses completely destroyed.

While the new school year will start on 6 September, the damages caused to six of the eight schools and five of the seven kindergartens, are putting children at risk of not being able to go back to school on time.

Thanks to the swift response of the education emergency coordination group, the NGO CISP, supported by UNICEF, was able to start on 30 August the temporary consolidation of the damaged schools. Closely supervised by expert engineers, the work shall be completed within a week. This will allow the partial use of the buildings. The use of eight schools tents and double shifts in some of the sites shall allow all children to go back to school without delay on 6 September.

Additional contingency plans are being developed by humanitarian actors across sectors to strengthen preparedness activities for potential heavy rains in the coming months.

849

Families directly affected by total or partial destruction of their homes

8,109

Children under 18 at risk of not being able to go back to school

UNICEF funding needs:

US\$286,000

Covers immediate education response and rehabilitation of damaged schools.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The most affected sector remains education, with six of the eight schools and five of the seven kindergartens, having suffered from severe to moderate damages. Children are expected to go back to school from 6 September. The access to school for 8,109 children was temporarily solved thanks to short term solutions (emergency consolidation of damaged buildings/ use of tents as learning spaces and double shift system) decided and validated during the first emergency education meeting.

The emergency consolidation of the damaged buildings started on 29 August in two schools; additional construction teams are being deployed in two other schools and in two KGs. All repairs will be finalized before the end of the week, allowing all schools and KGs to be operational and safe by 6 September. UNICEF is supporting the NGO CISP to undertake this rehabilitation work. Teams of engineers from the NGO and from the local authorities are conducting daily monitoring visits to support the quality of work and a timely implementation. As of 6 September CISP will ensure the availability of Psychosocial Services for children in school while WFP will re-initiate its school feeding programme. UNICEF will need to secure US\$286,000 to cover both immediate school repair/consolidation works, and medium-term more extensive rehabilitation needed to ensure a longer term solution.

Education authorities with humanitarian actors and UNICEF initiated the updating of the education contingency plan to upgrade their preparedness plan for potential heavy rains in the coming months. In parallel, UNICEF is working on the preparation of a full-fledged in-service training plan for teachers and school headmasters.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

While UNHCR is responsible for the overall coordination of the humanitarian operation, emergency coordination groups were established in the aftermath of the October 2015 flash floods. UNHCR is responsible for Shelter, WASH, Protection and Health sectors; WFP for food and nutrition while UNICEF is co-chairing the education group with UNHCR. Clear division of responsibilities, and relevant coordination mechanisms have facilitated the design and implementation of the response plan to the current crisis. Discussions are ongoing between partners to ensure an improved response to the recurrent challenges relating to WASH in school particularly in terms of sanitation.

On 24 August, the heads of UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF in Algeria conducted a remote coordination meeting with the UN team in Tindouf to review and validate the response plan and draw lessons learnt from this new episode of extreme weather. It was agreed that the UN would lead efforts to update the contingency plans to be better prepared for the likely repetition of such events in the coming months. Agencies agreed on the principle of including the current response in the 2016-2017 appeal. In this regard, a donor meeting will be held both in Algiers and Geneva. A joint information letter will be issued.

| Estimated Affected Population | |
|---|--|
| Families living in a house damaged by the storm | 849 (4,245 people) |
| Children living in a house damaged by the storm | 2,547 |
| Children whose access to education is at risk due to schools and KG's damages | 8,109 |
| Context specific data | Children and women constitute 70 to 80% of the refugee population in Sahrawi camps |

Humanitarian Strategy

The UN agencies and NGOs present on the ground are sharing responsibilities for the response according to their mandate and capacity on the ground. With three staff on the ground – soon joined by an emergency health specialist deployed for 6 months – and the support by the UNICEF office in Algiers, UNICEF is working with all humanitarian partners to respond to the essential needs of Sahrawi refugee children and strengthen their resilience. This is done through focused technical assistance, capacity building and provision of key supplies to children. UNICEF is responsible for the vaccination of all children, for improving mother and child health, for ensuring that refugee children access quality primary education, and for supporting the social integration and empowerment of girls and boys, adolescents and youths.

Analysis of Current Response

The ongoing response by humanitarian actors includes the following:

- Food: WFP with OXFAM/ MPDL and the SRC completed a third round of emergency distribution to the 406 most affected families. An emergency distribution of eggs to 800 families, is being done by MPDL to complement the regular distribution that will resume on 4 September. A plan is being developed to ensure that school feeding can resume in the affected schools on 6 September.
- Shelter: UNHCR and the SRC distributed 400 tents to the most affected families. Local authorities supported by UNHCR construction expert completed a detailed assessment of houses in need of rehabilitation or reconstruction. Results confirmed the need to further improve roofing techniques as a preventive measure and trainings shall be provided for a longer lasting shelters.
- Health: In depth assessment commissioned by UNHCR and Health authorities confirmed the initial budget requirement. Laayoune hospital and health centers are all operating normally. The surveillance system for diarrhea and respiratory diseases did not detect any abnormal increase in cases 16 days after the storm.
- WASH: UNHCR completed fixing the main water tower damaged by the storm. Chlorinated water distribution is back to normal status.
- Protection: Psychosocial support to most affected families by teams from CSIP continues and will be extended to schools as of 6 September.

Media and External Communication

A joint UN presse release has been issued .

Security

At the moment no security issues were reported. However due to the situation in the Sahel and the location of the camps, access to the camps for international staff is conditioned by the Algerian government clearance.

Next SitRep: 11/09/2016

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