



Saharawi Refugee Camps – Tindouf Algeria Humanitarian Situation Report #7



SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- The Italian head of emergency and humanitarian aid visited the Saharawi refugee camps on 8 December during a mission jointly organized by UNICEF and WFP.
- The pledge from the Italian government of Euros 500,000 has been granted, with Euros 250,000 earmarked for UNICEF's response to the flood emergency, with a focus on rehabilitation.
- UNICEF and Handicap International reviewed the emergency response in child protection.

Date: 17/12/2015

11,500

families affected

35,000 to 55,000

individuals affected

6.5000

children with limited access to school

UNICEF Appeal 2015

US\$ 1.7 million

An Overview of the flood emergency and UNICEF's Response in 2015

The emergency

On 18 October 2015, heavy rains started falling uninterrupted for over a week on the Saharawi refugee camps in the region of Tindouf, causing an unprecedented emergency. After a series of continuous damage assessments, the estimate is that the emergency affected 11,500 families and cause damage to 30% of both health and educational infrastructures, and more than 50% of the corresponding supplies. At the onset of the emergency, as many as 6,500 children were left without access to school, and approximately 30,000 people without access to primary health care. The destruction of existing centers for children with disabilities also left as many as 300 disabled children without appropriate support. The delivery of basic services was further limited due to the logistical challenges linked to reaching the refugee camps, as major connecting roads were blocked by flood water.



The Response

UNICEF promptly activated an emergency response focused on resuming basic services in terms of health care, education, and protection with a focus on women and children. A chartered plane carrying the essential supplies for the implementation of the response reached Tindouf on 4 November with 50,000kg worth of supplies including emergency tents, health kits, and schooling supplies to set-up and equip temporary learning spaces, health care centers, and centers for children with disabilities.

Within a month since the onset of the emergency, affected children started going back to school and to benefit from primary emergency health care while their mothers could deliver in safety. Child Friendly Spaces and temporary centers for children with disabilities were also set-up to allow disabled children to receive adequate support, psycho-social care and counseling. As of December 2015, all planned emergency learning spaces and child friendly spaces for disabled children have been erected, in addition to emergency health centers. This has been accompanied by supporting activities such as a *Back to school campaign*, distribution of schooling supplies, and training of health personnel around maternal and neonatal health.

	Sector Response			UNICEF		
	2015 Target	Total Results	% Achieved	2015 Target	Total Results As of 15 December	% Achieved As of 15 December
SAHRAWI REFUGEE EMERGENCY RESPONSE INCLUDING UN FLASH FLOOD RESPONSE						
EDUCATION						
# emergency education tents erected and functioning	162	57	35%	53	57	108%
# of children with access to temporary learning spaces	11,640	4,740	40%	6,500	4,740 as most vulnerable	73%
# of children benefitting from teaching and learning supplies	6,500	4,740	73%	38,545	4,740 for flood response	planned in January
# of damaged schools/kindergartens rehabilitated and functioning	57	5	8%	15	2	13%
HEALTH						
# emergency health tents erected and functioning	20	17	85%	20	17	85%
# emergency health kits distributed including beneficiary coverage	30,000 people	N/A	N/A	66	66	100%
# of damaged health centres rehabilitated and functioning	27	5	18%	3	0	0
# of children 6 months -15 years vaccinated against measles	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
# of children below 5 years vaccinated against polio	18,400	0	0	18,400	Planned in 2016	Planned in 2016
# of MOH staff trained on maternal and child health				90	90	100%
CHILD PROTECTION						
# of disabled children accessing psycho-social support	300	N/A	N/A	196	80% of attendance	80%
# of centres for disabled and/or child friendly spaces set up and functioning	9	9	100%	5	5	100%
YOUTH						
# of youth involved in resilience and income generation programme				50	Planned in 2016	Planned in 2016
# of youth centres set up and functioning				N/A	N/A	N/A



Partnerships

The implementation of UNICEF's emergency response required continuous coordination and collaboration with other UN agencies, civil society organizations, and local authorities. The Saharawi Red Crescent played a crucial role in the discharging and storage of UNICEF's chartered, and UNICEF's main implementing partners were the Ministries of Health, Education and Social Affairs, with support provided by NGOs Triangle, CISP, and Handicap International (HI). In mid-December, HI and UNICEF held a meeting to review their first partnership for child protection in the context of the flood emergency and identified bottlenecks including the access and transportation issues for children with disabilities, technical assistance in psycho-social activities, the continuity of services at community and household levels, and staff training. This analysis will function as a basis for future action and potential further collaboration.

Resource Mobilization

UNICEF contributed to the UN Flash Appeal of US\$ 19.8 million of which 1.7 million for UNICEF's response, and the submission of a CERF proposal. UNICEF's Goodwill ambassadors visited the refugee camps between 29 November and 1 December to maximize the visibility of UNICEF's response and support fundraising efforts. UNICEF and WFP also organized a field visit of the Italian head of emergency and humanitarian aid, to jointly assess the humanitarian situation and support UNICEF's emergency response in education and health

As of December 2015, UNICEF Algeria received donor funding support from the US Government (USD 425,000), CERF (USD 300,000) and a firm pledge from the Italian Government € 500,000 Euros out of which € 250,000 Euros are allocated to emergency rehabilitation).



Funding Requirements (as defined in Humanitarian Appeal of 30/10/2015 for a period of 3 months)				
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds received or firm pledge	Funding gap	
	\$		\$	%
Education and protection	1,200,000	600,000,000	600,000	50%
Health	500,000	400,000	100,000	20%
Total	1,700,000	1,000,000	700,000	41%

Future challenges

UNICEF's immediate response to the flood emergency has brought back basic services in education, health, and protection for affected Saharawi children and mothers. These services, however, remain temporary. To progressively allow Saharawi refugee children to benefit from quality services within safe structures that are tailored to their needs, UNICEF is working towards rehabilitating some of the damaged infrastructures, including schools, kindergartens, and health centers on the basis for a *Build Back Better* approach. Rehabilitation thus remains the focus for UNICEF's emergency response in 2016. Additionally, the current analysis of the programme response outlines that the improvement of child protection services in terms of quality, accessibility, and coordination emerges as significant issues for future consideration. Lastly, passed the momentum of the immediate emergency, fundraising will remain critical in the context of a prolonged refugee crisis affected by an increasing donor fatigue.

The SitRep becomes monthly: Next SitRep in January 2016



UNICEF Algeria wishes you a Happy New Year!

Who to contact for further information:

Thomas Davin - Representative
UNICEF Algeria Country Office,
Algeria
Tel: +213 661 513 196
Fax: +213 21 925 808
Email: tdavin@unicef.org

Katya Marino – Deputy Representative
UNICEF Algeria Country Office,
Algeria
Tel: +213 661 513 193
Fax: +213 21 925 808
Email: kmarino@unicef.org

Fayçal Oulmi – Communication Officer
UNICEF Algeria Country Office,
Algeria
Tel: +213 661 508 443
Fax: +213 21 925 808
Email: foulmi@unicef.org