

ALGERIA – TINDOUF FLOODS RESPONSE

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

9-15 November 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- The final two (of five) UNHCR airlifts arrived on 12 and 16 November, bringing an additional 2,500 family tents for a total of **4,205 tents received** since 28 October. A **total 4,195 family tents have been distributed in all five camps** in response to the floods.
- All airlifted core relief items were distributed, targeting vulnerable families.



Tent distribution in Laayoune camp, 13 November. UNHCR/M.Hamada

- The joint multi-agency assessment of damaged and/or destroyed houses concluded last week and was shared with all actors. The total **number of destroyed/damaged houses is 17,841**.¹
- **35 large tents** were erected by UNICEF and its education sector partners as temporary learning spaces in the five camps, allowing educational activities to resume; 18 large tents for health were also set up in two camps to support health activities.
- A WHO mission visited the camps to ascertain the health situation on the ground in order to produce a detailed plan of the emergency health response.
- **2,000 metric tonnes (MT) of food** commodities were provided by WFP and its sector partners to families in all five camps since the flooding. Emergency food rations were also provided by Algerian Red Crescent, Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP), Spanish Red Cross, Triangle Generation Humanitaire, OXFAM, and UNHCR, complementing donations made by the Governments of Brazil, Cuba and Mauritania.

KEY FIGURES

11,500

Minimum number of affected families (over 57,000 individuals)

17,841

Shelters damaged or destroyed by rains and flooding

15,822

Core relief items distributed since 30 October

4,195

Tents distributed since 30 October

46

Large tents distributed as temporary schools, kindergartens, and medical dispensaries

2,000

Metric tonnes of food distributed since 23 October; other agencies and organizations also provided emergency food during and immediately after the rains

FUNDING REQUESTED

USD 19,896,000

Requested by agencies for the flood response

PRIORITIES

- Provision of Emergency Shelter
- Rehabilitation of Health Facilities Infrastructure
- Restoration of Educational Facilities through Rehabilitation of Infrastructure

¹ Correction from last week's update: the total number of damaged/destroyed houses is 18,741 and not 18,721.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

Unexpected levels of rainfall led to flooding in the five camps of Laayoune, Boujdour, Awserd, Smara and Dakhla from 18 to 26 October, where 90,000 of the most vulnerable Sahrawi refugees are sheltered. While rain is expected at this time of year, the quantity and number of consecutive days of rain have not been seen in over a decade. The first heavy rains affected four camps, with Awserd being the most affected. The second heavy rain devastated Dakhla camp.

The joint multi-agency assessment of damaged and/or destroyed houses concluded on 6 November in all five camps. The total number of destroyed/damaged houses is 17,841. Other sectoral assessments in the immediate aftermath of the flooding revealed urgent needs in all sectors such as food, essential relief items, sanitation, water, health, logistics, and education. In summary these assessments indicated that 70 per cent of houses have been damaged; 60 per cent of public buildings are also damaged (schools, clinics). Other consequences of the floods meant the October WFP food rations were entirely lost, and water trucking was temporarily halted. The floods also affected livelihoods in the camps, including the markets. Shop-buildings collapsed, with some completely destroyed while others have been partially damaged.

Achievements

Education

Achievements and Impact

- Of the 53 UNICEF emergency tents for the education sector, 35 were erected as temporary learning spaces (schools and kindergartens). As a priority, all tents (28) required for Dakhla camp have been erected; all schools in this camp were damaged and educational activities had been halted. A Plan of Action has been established to complete the tent installation in the other camps by next week, including fences to secure the emergency education areas.
- Educational activities have now resumed in all camps including Dakhla to carry out school examinations this week and next. Additional emergency education needs are being assessed to plan a Back-to-School campaign that includes distributions of teaching and learning materials.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- All 34 educational institutions in the camps were heavily damaged or totally destroyed by rain or flooding. A total of 148 classrooms in the camps were affected with 56 in Dakhla, 58 in Smara, 24 in Laayoune, eight in Awserd, two in Boujdour. Works required to restore the classrooms range from partial to complete rehabilitation.



Health

Achievements and Impact

- The WHO Regional Coordinator of Emergencies came on mission to have a clear picture of the health issues with a view to design a detailed emergency response plan.
- The community and institutional surveillance (for watery diarrhea and acute respiratory infections) is ongoing.
- While the exhaustive assessment on infrastructure damages is ongoing, ANARASD (Spanish NGO) confirmed its willingness to rehabilitate Laayoune camp hospital and two dispensaries in the same camp.



Setting up an emergency tent to temporarily replace the hospital and dispensary in Boujdour camp. UNICEF/N.Saidani

- Eleven emergency tents (out of the 18 received for the health sector) were delivered on-site and set up to support health activities across all refugee camps. Nine tents were installed for dispensaries in Dakhla camp and two in Boujdour camp.
- Some 46 staff from the refugee community health actors and civil society organizations benefitted from Communication for Development (C4D) training in Rabouni on maternal and child health, and to plan social mobilization and communication activities for the upcoming vaccination campaigns. A second training session will be carried out next week.



- Essential medicines and other medical supplies are being dispatched and used by the refugee community health actors as a result of delivery of two emergency health kits (which include obstetric and midwifery kits) to cover the needs of 30,000 refugees. Distribution of medicines is ongoing.

Training on maternal and child health, Rabouni. UNICEF/L.Daabi

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Pending a detailed infrastructure assessment (of 31 dispensaries and 7 hospitals), a rapid estimation of the total budget needed for the rehabilitation of health infrastructures affected by the floods is approximately USD 300,000.



Food Security and Nutrition

From 1-5 November a rapid food assessment was conducted to gauge the situation of food availability at the household level among the population in the camps after the floods, provide an insight for recommendations to meet the needs of the population, and assist in decision making and planning. A total of 269 household surveys were completed during the course of the assessment. The assessment revealed that 43 per cent of the affected population has a low diet diversity score. In 28.5 per cent of the households surveyed, at least one child had an episode of diarrhea since the floods started. This will affect the ability to absorb nutrients and negatively impacts nutritional status.

Achievements and Impact

- 2,000 (MT) of food commodities to families in all five camps were provided since the flooding. 1,200 MT were distributed by the Algerian Red Crescent with the help of the refugee community. Commodities distributed included wheat flour, rice, corn blended soya, sugar, vegetable oil, and dates.



Emergency food distribution, Dakhla camp. WFP/M.Diab

- The November general food distribution started, and will ensure that households affected by recent floods replenish their food stocks.

- 450,000 MT of rice and 483,000 MT of beans from Brazil, and 362,000 MT of sugar from Cuba are at Rabouni warehouse.

- A further 100 MT of rice and 12,000 L of vegetable oil donated by the Government of Mauritania will be distributed in the camps.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- 50 per cent of the affected population has a reduced number of meals taken per day.

- 50 per cent of the affected population lost their cooking utensils.

Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- The water distribution system was re-established and is now operating regularly.
- Residual chlorine is being monitored in all camps on a daily basis.
- Bacteriological analyses are being conducted regularly.
- The WASH actors are working on the rehabilitation of certain sections on the low-pressure water network damaged during the recent floods.



Residual chlorine monitoring. Solidaridad Internacional Andalucia (SI-A)/R.Garcia

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- Based on the assessment the total number of destroyed/damaged shelters is **17,841**. The total number of rain or flood-affected houses by camp are as follows.
 - Boujdour - 1,914
 - Laayoune - 3,441
 - Smara - 5,476
 - Awserd - 3,259
 - Dakhla - 3,751
- A shelter working group agreed on a common criteria and methodology for reconstruction of family houses.
- **4,195** family tents from all five airlifts had been distributed in the camps.



A refugee beside a newly distributed and erected emergency family tent, Smara camp, 13 November. The tent is to the left of the family's destroyed house. UNHCR/S.Zehraoui

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- 20% of destroyed homes will be reconstructed, targeting the most vulnerable and needy.
- 80% of destroyed housing not yet funded.

Coordination

- A flood response coordination meeting continues to be held on a weekly basis as well as sector coordination meetings to ensure no gaps or overlaps occur in the multi-agency response.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The above activities have been pre-financed by agencies. Less than 20 per cent of needs have been funded and donors are kindly encouraged to help us with much needed financial contributions.

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