



HIGHLIGHTS

UNHCR-CBM operation supports exchange of family visits between Sahrawis living in the refugee camps near Tindouf in Algeria and those from the territory who have been separated for the last 39 years. Out of the total number of 19,541 persons in UNHCR CBM Database at the end of 2013, 2,100 individuals planned to benefit from 2014 family visit flights.

Since the resumption of CBM flights in 16 April 2014, 997 beneficiaries from both the camps and the Territory participated in the family visits program.

A Cultural seminar will be also conducted during the last quarter 2014 in Azores islands, Portugal with Sahrawis from both the refugee camps and Western Sahara territory.

Population of concern

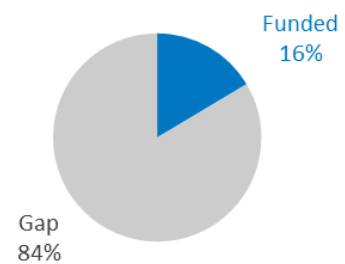
A total of **48,251** people

By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Tindouf, Algeria	31,365
Western Sahara	16,886
Total	48,251

Funding requirements

USD 8.83 million requested



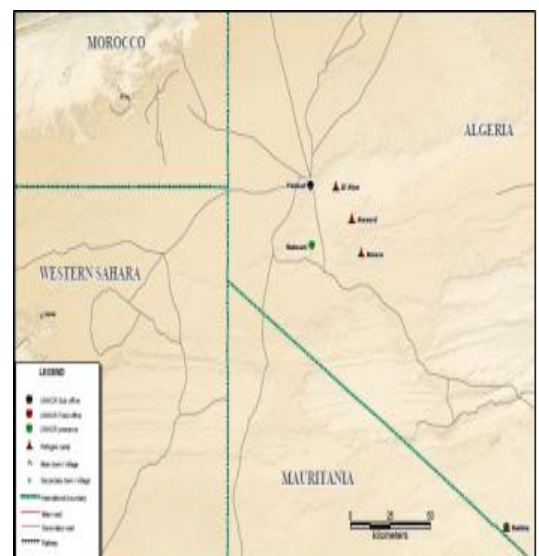
UNHCR presence

Staff:

27 national staff
06 international staff, 10 IUNV

Offices:

02 offices located in:
Laayoune and Tindouf



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

To ensure a smooth implementation of the program, UNHCR cooperates with the Frente POLISARIO, the Kingdom of Morocco and Algeria, as the host country. Mauritania also participates in the discussions as Observer.

UNHCR works closely with the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), which provides logistical support on a reimbursable basis.

Finally, UN Police and personnel of MINURSO's Bangladeshi Medical Unit (BMU) accompany UNHCR team in escorting beneficiaries during the family visits.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- The programme objective is to restore family links between refugees in Tindouf camps and their relatives and communities in the Territory.
- The programme facilitates visits from Tindouf refugee camps to Western Sahara Territory and vice versa, for beneficiaries who have direct family links (parents, children, spouses and siblings) on either side.
- The programme is governed by a Plan of Action agreed upon by all parties in 2004 and revised in January 2012.
- CBM comprise three main activities: (a) family visits between Tindouf refugee camps and Western Sahara, (b) cultural seminars in a third country and (c) Coordination meetings in Geneva.
- UNHCR organizes chartered flights between Tindouf airport and Western Sahara; land transport between the homes of beneficiaries and the airport; a cash grant of \$50 per person up to a maximum of \$250 per family from the refugee camps. UNHCR also distributes bags for all traveling beneficiaries.
- From April to June 2014, UNHCR CBM operated 10 flights with a total number of 997 beneficiaries from the Territory and the camps (641 from camps and 356 from Territory). This brings the total number of 20,699 beneficiaries since the beginning of the CBM operation in 2004.
- Ad-hoc meetings between UNHCR and individual parties to discuss resumption of the family visit flights took place in Geneva in 2014. Another joint meeting is planned to take place in November.
- Cultural seminar: After four confidence-building seminars held in September 2011, July 2012, February 2013 and Oct/Nov 2013, a fifth seminar took place in Ponta Delgada (Portugal) from 16-21 March 2014. The event was organized by UNHCR with the support of the Government of Portugal. It gathered 144 participants from both Western Sahara and the refugee camps and was facilitated by three independent professors from Mauritania. Coordinators from the Moroccan Government and the Frente POLISARIO also attend.

Logistics

- UNHCR provides chartered flight of capacity 150 passengers to facilitate the family visit.
- On flight days, UNHCR provides land transport to the beneficiaries to and from their residences/host destination and the airport.
- UNHCR-CBM fleet currently consists of 2 Scania coaches, 5 Toyota Coaster buses and 2 Toyota minibuses with a total capacity of 267 passengers, supported by 7 Toyota hardtops and 2 pickups for transportation of the luggage.
- In consideration of the number of beneficiaries that are to be transported during family visits (around 150 people each way), CBM contract private buses to enhance the hauling capacity.

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 contributed to the operation:

[Finland](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Italy](#), [Norway](#), [Spain](#), and [Morocco](#)