



UNITED NATIONS
ALGERIA



United Nations 2020 Algeria Annual Report





THE
17
SUSTAINABLE
 DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

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United Nations Annual Report – Algeria 2020

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United Nations 2020 Algeria Annual Report

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United Nations Country Team



Government partners

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of the Interior and Local Authorities and Territorial Planning
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Ministry of Fisheries and Fishery Productions
- Ministry of Water Resources
- Minister of the Environment
- Ministry of Culture
- Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security
- Ministry of Tourism and Handicrafts and Family Work
- Ministry of Health, Population and Hospital Reform
- Ministry of Industry
- Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
- Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Ministry of National Defense, in particular the National Gendarmerie
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Justice Ministry of National Solidarity, Family and the Status of Women
- Ministry of Youth and Sports

Contributing partners :





Mr. Sabri BOUKADOUM
Minister of Foreign Affairs

I am pleased to join the large United Nations family in Algeria to take stock of the 2020 results of the cooperation between my country and the United Nations System. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my country's full commitment and determination to continue working towards the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and to join the international community's efforts in fully implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

When we initially came together to launch the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we succeeded in concluding a global pact for the eradication of poverty and hunger and the reduction of inequalities, to ensure that no one is left behind.

We cherished the hope that sustained global growth, undistorted international trade and greater commitment to financing would be the catalyst for the transformation required to achieve our goals by 2030.

However, the unprecedented health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has tested not only national health, economic, financial and social systems but also our resilience and our capacity to stand together in solidarity.

This COVID-19 pandemic has shown the increased need for national efforts to be supported by complementary global action and support.

This pandemic and its negative social and economic impact cannot be mitigated through isolated national measures. Its global nature and consequences require a comprehensive, robust, resilient, collective and coordinated multilateral response through renewed solidarity with the poorest and most vulnerable countries and populations.

The spirit of cooperation must prevail in all our actions in order to work together to overcome this pandemic for the well-being of all human beings and humanity.

As for my country, the national vision and priorities for sustainable development are at the centre of the Government's action plan. These are based essentially around the following main areas:

- A new mode of governance built on the principles of rigour and transparency and the full enjoyment of rights and freedoms;
- Financial reform and the stimulus of economic renewal;
- Human development and social policies to ensure quality of life;
- Dynamic and proactive foreign policy;
- The strengthening of security and national defence.

This action plan, strengthened by the consolidation of the rule of law through the adoption of the amended Constitution by referendum on 1 November, 2020, is essentially based on a renewed budgetary commitment and a perspective of diversification and transformation of the economy, firmly aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the path to emergence. This will allow us to sustain our achievements and to accelerate and consolidate economic growth in several cross-cutting areas such as access to water, health and energy, education, vocational training, housing, telecommunications and basic infrastructure.

While maintaining the strong social character of the national economy, the action plan focuses on the needs of citizens, with no discrimination in terms of employment, housing, health, education and access to public utilities; the only way to ensure a decent life for all.

The consolidation of a stable, prosperous and developed society is the cornerstone of Algeria's development policy, and testifies to its determination to achieve the economic and social development objectives established in its development programmes elaborated following a process of inclusive social dialogue with economic and social partners.

The United Nations System in Algeria, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, has shown its effectiveness in providing high quality and efficient support. In the future, our cooperation can be further strengthened under a system of increased coordination in the key areas of the new Strategic Cooperation Framework 2022–2026.

In line with its commitment to sustainable, inclusive and equitable development, I would like to reiterate Algeria's firm intention to continue its efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, with the unwavering support and solid expertise of the various resident and non-resident United Nations entities in Algeria.

word



Eric Overvest
Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Algeria

The year 2020 has been particularly special in terms of the cooperation between Algeria and the United Nations System.

This first year of the Decade of Action for achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals was overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and was packed with challenges. The pandemic obliged states and governments to re-focus their national priorities on tackling the immediate impact of the unprecedented crisis and its health, economic and social consequences that caught the whole world off guard.

2020 marked the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, and it was also a test for the implementation of the reform of the UN Development System, which places the coordination system and the Sustainable Development Goals at the centre of UN action; this reform was spearheaded by Algeria in its role as co-facilitator.

The COVID-19 challenges have allowed the world to appreciate the importance and relevance of international solidarity and multilateralism for achieving sustainable, inclusive development that leaves no one behind. The global consultation 'The Future We Want, the United Nations We Need', launched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 2020, allowed over a million people around the world, including in Algeria, to share their hopes and fears for the future, in particular those related to climate change, poverty, inequalities, discrimination and corruption.

Thanks to a solid health system and specific support measures for tackling the effects of the pandemic, Algeria has been able to mitigate the negative health and socio-economic impact, especially on the most vulnerable people. This was a colossal endeavour that required the mobilisation of great human and financial efforts. We would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all those who contributed towards ensuring the continuity of services during the pandemic, in particular the health sector personnel.

The health crisis demonstrated the effectiveness of the coordinated United Nations System, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, acting jointly to respond to the emergency.

In the spirit of the reform, the United Nations System in Algeria worked in close collaboration with the Government to mobilise its expertise in support of the Algerian COVID-19 Response Plan. Inter-agency assistance was provided through a joint health support plan, a rapid socio-economic impact analysis and an inter-agency recovery plan that responds to national priorities.

A special effort was made to mobilise resources to meet the most urgent needs, in particular the supply of protective equipment and materials at an affordable cost. Additional resources were also mobilised to focus on development priorities and support for Sahrawi refugees, urban refugees and migrants, with a view to leaving no one behind. This work was supported by several development partners within a multilateral framework, to whom we would like to extend our most sincere thanks.

For the first time, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations System have set up a forum for dialogue dedicated to financing sustainable development. The first Development Partners Forum, organised at the end of 2020, laid the groundwork for greater coordination and more effective partnerships for achieving the SDGs. This year, Algeria marked its commitment to the 2030 Agenda by making financial contributions to the Special Purpose Trust Fund set up by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to support the new coordination system.

Like many countries, Algeria is facing challenges in its efforts to sustain the pace of progress of sustainable development that had placed it top of the African continent and the Arab region according to the 2020 edition of the global report on sustainable development published by the Sustainable Development Network.

This report presents the main results of our strong, growing and trusted cooperation for 2020. It reflects the principle of accountability for the 2020–2021 joint work plans elaborated in response to national priorities. It also reflects how the vision of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for a more transparent, accountable and results-oriented United Nations System, focused on achieving the 2030 Agenda and its 17 development goals, is being implemented in Algeria.

I. Algeria in the making



Several events marked Algeria's political, social and economic scenes in 2020. In February 2020, Parliament adopted the 2020–2024 Government Action Plan, a roadmap based on a new governance model and new economic orientation, and built around economic diversification, the promotion of industry, entrepreneurship and 'new alternative wealth resources'. This approach, in favour of human development, aims to reduce the gaps and inequalities between regions (grey areas) and to promote the continuation of a social policy based on solidarity with vulnerable populations.

In order to respond to the COVID-19 situation, the Government put in place a multi-sectoral health response at the onset of the pandemic. Strict prevention measures, such as border closures since March 2020, and the allocation of aid to the most affected households certainly mitigated the pandemic's impact on citizens. The strategy resulted in a vaccination campaign which started in January 2021.

Politically, the amendment of the constitution and the renewal of the parliamentary institution, announced as priority reforms in the Head of State's road map, aim to



restore confidence between citizens and their leaders and to respond to popular demands for political and institutional change.

The new constitution, adopted by referendum on 1 November, consolidated the role of parliament and the prime minister and emphasised the independence of the judiciary with the establishment of a constitutional court and a high authority for transparency (to be specified, UNDP). Early parliamentary elections have been announced for June 2021.

The Algerian economy suffered a significant contraction in GDP of around 4.6 per cent in 2020 under the combined effect of lockdown measures and a reduction in hydrocarbon export revenue caused by the collapse of oil prices aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite macroeconomic pressures, the Government maintained its social policy and increased its public investment budget by around 10 per cent for 2021. An economic recovery plan was initiated at the end of 2020 identifying three growth drivers: entrepreneurship, foreign direct investment and industrial development.

The pandemic had a huge impact on the work of United Nations agencies, which redirected their joint efforts towards the immediate support of health needs and socio-economic consequences. This was based on the impact analysis carried out by the United Nations team and according to the priorities identified with the Algerian Government and reflected in the Framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19.

The impact of COVID-19 is at the heart of the Common Country Analysis developed by the United Nations team at the end of 2020. The cross-cutting challenges and development accelerators identified by this analysis pave the way for a joint reflection with the Algerian Government on the priorities of the new 2022–2026 Cooperation Framework, which will serve as a foundation for the development of programmes by the United Nations agencies that are signatories to the Strategic Cooperation Framework.

II. COVID-19 health emergency response



Government measures

As soon as the first confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported, Algerian authorities responded very quickly by setting up a progressive system to tackle the evolving pandemic. The implementation of this strategy began in early March 2020, with the mobilisation and commitment of public authorities at the highest level of the State to mitigate the effects.

Thus, initial efforts were intended to contain and slow the spread of COVID-19, and a number of preventive measures were taken by the public authorities. These included the implementation of the COVID-19 infection surveillance and alert **system; early detection (49 laboratories nationwide) and management of cases of COVID-19 infection;** and the strengthening of protection and awareness-raising measures for the fight against COVID-19.

The country's highest authorities have been implementing this system since mid-March 2020, including the suspension of air, sea and land travel to and from other countries, with the exception of a few connections for

the delivery of medical equipment and products for the prevention of and fight against COVID-19.

The overall management of the pandemic is supervised by a Scientific Committee in coordination with the Prime Minister's Office. The marked improvement in the health situation has led local authorities to ease the lock down measures and gradually lift them.

The Government has also taken important **measures to respond to the social challenges arising from COVID-19**, in particular through granting a 10,000 DZD allowance to the most disadvantaged citizens, raising the minimum wage by 11 per cent and exempting the lowest salaries from income tax.

With the lockdown slowly lifting, local authorities are laying the foundations for a gradual resumption of activities in line with international best practices in the event of a crisis, through a **recovery plan** and by adopting counter-cyclical measures to stimulate investment in promising sectors such as **entrepreneurship and digital transformation**.

United Nations System Response

From the beginning of the pandemic, the United Nations System has offered its coordinated support to the Algerian Government's National Plan for Preparedness and Response to the Threat of Corona virus COVID-19 Infection, through the following five areas: (i) Procurement of medical equipment, (ii) Resource mobilisation, (iii) Technical health support, (iv) Communication and (v) Support for vulnerable groups.

At the Government's request, the United Nations System agencies in Algeria – under the coordination of the Resident Coordinator – approached development partners and the private sector.

The following are some of the results achieved :

Procurement and supply of medical equipment

The COVID-19 health crisis, which has severely challenged health systems around the world, created an unprecedented need for protective equipment and material. Algeria has spared no effort to equip its health systems and protect its population against the virus. These efforts were supported by the United Nations System, through its **central procurement offices in Copenhagen (UNDP, UNICEF) and Geneva (WHO).**

This support enabled the Algerian Government to receive protective equipment and materials at very competitive prices made available in a relatively short time. **The first deliveries of sampling and diagnostic kits and personal protective equipment took place in May 2020.**

Sampling kits and consumables



154 507



511 843

SOS Children's Village Draria, Association CEDRE and the Algerian Federation of People with Disabilities (Fédération Algérienne des Personnes Handicapées, FAPH) by providing personal protective equipment for health personnel (including midwives to ensure safe deliveries) and community workers, diagnostic kits and medical equipment.

Equipment (including 20 oxygen concentrators and 5 Genexpert devices)



1 427

Diagnostic kits



159 948

Thus, various health systems were supplied across the country, including Ouargla, Tamanrasset, the Pasteur Institute in Algiers and the maternity wards of the Boufarik and Médéa hospitals covering neighbouring provinces such as Blida, Tipaza and Ain -Defla.

The capacities of COVID-19 crisis response units were also supported by the acquisition of computer equipment to improve the management and analysis of COVID-19 data. An agreement between the European Union and UNDP for the purchase of protective equipment and materials was signed in December 2020 and first deliveries were made in early 2021.

COVID-19 resource mobilisation:

The crisis led the United Nations country team to focus its efforts on mobilising resources around the COVID-19 response, without neglecting its search for funding for development projects. The overall strategy focused on: transparent, continuous and targeted communication with traditional partners; identification and sensitisation of potential partners and continuous communication of results, such as regular sharing of the United Nations System COVID-19 newsletter. The United Nations system is grateful to the development partners and private sector companies that responded to the Government's request for support.

Resource mobilisation has been a major focus of the System's support to the Covid-19 response. As soon as the first cases were reported in Algeria, the Resident Coordinator and heads of agencies joined forces to mobilise resources from a number of development partners and the private sector.

In addition to the resources mobilised through global funds and the agencies' own funds, the System was able to count on the support of partners. Its major success lies in the mobilisation of US\$50 million from the European Union by UNDP to strengthen national hospital structures by acquiring medical equipment and protective equipment for

staff fighting the pandemic on the front line. UNICEF and WHO made similar efforts, mobilising US\$3.6 million and US\$2 million respectively.

UNAIDS collaborated with the Ministry of Health to mobilise US\$200,000 from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. UNAIDS also coordinated with the Global Fund and the Ministry of Health to contribute an additional US\$137,000 for the procurement of additional equipment and reagents. UNODC contributed US\$12,000 to this effort to support the continuity of HIV prevention services for injecting drug users.

| World Health Organization | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| WHO Regional office | COVAX/GAVI Secretariat | | | | | |
| 60 000 Regionally | 35 000 Globally | 100 000 Globally | 1 021 236 Globally | 298 000 Globally | 77 000 Globally | 361 000 Locally |

| UNDP | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| UNDP Global | | | Private sector (Bayer, Lilly, AMNEGEN, Oxy (ex-Anadarko)) |
| 390 920 Globally | 162 000 Locally | 51 600 000 Locally | 171 745 Locally |

| unicef | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| unite for children | | | | | |
| | | UNICEF Regional Office | | | |
| 500 000 Regionally | 819 729 Regionally | 500 000 Regionally | 499 457 Locally | 1 500 000 Locally | 114 000 Local |

| UNAIDS | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| UNAIDS RST/MENA | Global Fund to Fight AIDS |
| 15 000 Regionally | 357 000 Globally |

| UNODC |
|--|
| United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime |
| UNODC/Fonds UBRAF |
| 12 000 Globally |

HUMANITARIAN

| IOM | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| UN MIGRATION | | | | |
| | | | | |
| 12 0 000 Locally | 2 410 500 Regionally | 12 000 Locally | 25 000 Regionally | 298 000 Regionally |

TOTAL 60 Million \$ (USD)

A supportive private sector

Oxy (ex-Anadarko), Bayer, Lilly, AMGEN: these are economic operators in the hydrocarbon, pharmaceutical or medical biotechnology sectors and they have all responded to the UNDP call for solidarity. The company FADERCO, specialised in hygiene products, also donated its products to UNFPA, which distributed them to associations responsible for meeting the needs of vulnerable people.

Technical support for health and continuity of care :

WHO supported health authorities in their efforts to disseminate and regularly update COVID-19 prevention, care and treatment standards. In terms of coordination and epidemiological surveillance, the support provided notably contributed to (i) consolidating case contact monitoring activities (GoDATA platform) and (ii) training Ministry of Health personnel in screening at entry points (land, air and sea) to Algerian territory. Thus, within the framework of the 2005 International Health Regulation, border health control centres were revitalised both in terms of capacity building and means of screening and monitoring of travellers.

UNICEF has also contributed to the following results together with the Ministry of Health: (i) increased capacity of national laboratories (2,000 PCR tests per day) thanks to the delivery of automated RT-PCR equipment and diagnostic reagents from its central procurement office; (ii) national data collection and analysis capacities supported by information technology equipment and tablets for the implementation of the COVID Tracker application; and (iii) consolidated capacities of school health personnel in the field of prevention, detection and management of the impact of COVID-19 on children's mental health.

UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health Population Department in studies on the impact of COVID-19 on the continuity of reproductive health and family planning services, and in the production of radio and TV spots to raise awareness among the population of the continuity of RH/FP services and access to them during COVID-19. From the early onset of the pandemic in Algeria, UNDP has shown its support to the Algerian Government by mobilising funds in record time from the private sector (multinationals based in the country) and from the global fund (in collaboration with UNAIDS) for the acquisition of testing equipment for the Pasteur Institute in Algeria. Subsequently, UNDP was entrusted by the Ministry of Health, Population and Hospital Reform (MSPRH) with the management of the project 'EU solidarity response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Algeria' with a budget of US\$50 million. Most importantly, this programme includes the purchase of medical and protective equipment for healthcare workers, thus facilitating the continued provision of quality services, early detection of COVID-19 and improved patient care throughout the country. The project also provide targeted practical training for certain categories of health personnel to ensure optimum efficiency in the use of health equipment.

The project also aims to support the national civil society awareness strategy. This strategy has been involved in ongoing cooperation projects and clearly demonstrated its ability to adapt to emergencies, notably through the conversion of sewing workshops from making clothes to producing protective masks, the involvement of prison populations in the national effort and the organisation of awareness-raising campaigns for the population on barrier measures.



Continuity of access to education and child protection services

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on education systems, disrupting the education of nearly 1.6 billion school children and university students in more than 190 countries on all continents. The closure of schools and other learning establishments has affected 94 per cent of the world's school population.

In order to help minimise the impact of lockdown and health measures on the education and well-being of children in Algeria, UNICEF supported the Ministry of National Education to ensure distance education and the safe reopening of schools and resumption of educational activities.

In consultation with the authorities, UNICEF also developed and distributed prevention guides for school health professionals as part of the School Health Programme in support of the Directorate General for Prevention and Health Promotion (DGPHP). Support was also provided for the implementation of the Framework for reopening schools developed by UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Bank and WFP, and an awareness-raising campaign for a safe return to school was jointly developed with the Ministry of National Education.

UNICEF also supported the organisation of the BEM and BAC national exams by providing personal protective equipment, wall-mounted dispensers of hydro alcoholic gel and reusable masks to 360,000 candidates and supervisory staff at 1,000 examination centres.



Individual personal protective equipment for over **360k** baccalaureate exam candidates

Inspectors and guidance councillors also benefited from capacity building in pedagogical and psychological care of students through support from UNICEF, including the training of a core group of trainers (30) and the adaptation and distribution of the 'Teacher preparedness training package' (safe operation, equity learning and wellbeing protection) aimed at supporting teachers by providing them with information and practical educational tools to overcome the immediate challenges of preparing to return to school.

UNICEF also contributed to the continuity of learning by consolidating the Ministry of National Education's e-learning platform and supporting a pilot project to promote digital education in 10 primary schools involving 1,500 students.



e-learning platform
10 elementary schools

To support the continuity and quality of child protection services adapted to COVID-19, in a context where there is an increased risk of violence, UNICEF collaborated with the National Child Protection and Empowerment Body (Organe National de Protection et de Promotion de l'Enfant, ONPPE) to strengthen the intervention capabilities of the 'Unit for denouncing violations of children's rights'. Receiving nearly 10,000 calls per day, the 35 professionals attending the 11-11 free phone number have strengthened their capacity to handle cases through a better understanding of the law based on the best interests of the child, and have improved their communication, listening skills and management of cases of children's rights violations.



Local innovative solutions: Corona-Hackathon and consultations on the education of the futurer

Through its Accelerator Lab, UNDP Algeria has financially and technically supported the Algeria Start up Challenge (ASC) initiative in organising a corona-hackathon event, in response to COVID-19. After a long process of mapping solutions, 60 projects on diverse themes (FinTech, e-commerce, teleconsultation and e-learning) from across Algeria were identified and five innovative projects were selected to move into the experimentation phase where they would benefit from personalised technical support in different areas according to their needs and maturity. These included the online platforms PAYINI (cash payment) and WeTeach (education), aimed at developing e-commerce in times of crisis.

Since the onset of the pandemic, the UNDP Accelerator Lab has also carried out a weekly inventory of innovative solutions coming from the Algerian innovation ecosystem in the face of the challenges posed by COVID-19 (Local Digest).

UNESCO has initiated a consultation campaign with North African youth on innovative solutions to counter the impact of the health crisis, in particular on subjects relating to UNESCO's mandate such as education for the future and access to culture.



Communication of COVID-19 awareness raising and prevention:

United Nations agencies have made significant communication efforts in order to consolidate community engagement and raise awareness among populations as part of the COVID-19 response.



As such, UNICEF and WHO developed a Joint Support Plan for Risk Communication and Community Engagement with the contribution of UNFPA, linked to the Preparedness and Response to COVID-19 Plan. This plan has facilitated the following results:

lifting the lockdown and social distancing and four special reports were produced by the WHO communication team.

As part of the capacity-building efforts for health personnel in risk communication and community engagement, 1,500 people from the media, school and university health staff and civil society were trained.



Dissemination of awareness-raising and information messages on COVID-19, reaching six million people since February 2020. UNICEF also produced an awareness-raising video in partnership with the mobile telephone operator (Mobilis), which was broadcast in its 150 commercial agencies, on the national public television channel and on four other private channels, as well as on their respective social media.

Through daily distribution of its monitoring and evaluation reports of the COVID-19 pandemic (282 situation reports in 2020), WHO kept its national and international partners regularly informed of the progress of the epidemiological situation, preventive measures and management mechanisms for confirmed COVID-19 cases.

In support of the Ministry of Health, the awareness-raising tools for prevention of COVID-19 developed by WHO made it possible to reach over 20 million families. These tools, issued in three languages (Arabic, Tamazight and French), were disseminated through traditional communication channels, the United Nations System and Government agencies' social networks and on the web; two TV and radio spots on



UNFPA Algeria contributed to the regional campaign 'متضامنون مع القلوب الرحيمة' (Solidarity with the merciful hearts) launched by the regional office of the Arab States; messages of solidarity and thanks from medical and paramedical staff, mainly midwives, were widely disseminated on communication platforms.

In response to the global COVID-19 crisis and as part of its commitment to raising awareness and empowering young women and men, UNESCO partnered with the SIDRA Association in Algeria, the Initiatives Citoyennes Association (ICA) in Morocco and NEZAWA in Tunisia to launch the initiative 'Maghreb Youth in Action to address the challenges resulting from COVID-19' on Monday 20 April, 2020, in collaboration with Radio Monte Carlo Doualiya.



Support for vulnerable populations

UNAIDS, in collaboration with UNODC, has helped to ensure the continuity of combined HIV prevention activities among injecting drug users (IDU) as part of the joint United Nations plan for HIV/AIDS 2020-2021.

UNAIDS supported the Ministry of Health on a rapid assessment of the needs of NGOs and a survey of people living with HIV (PLHIV) in order to ensure the continuity of services for PLWHIV and key and vulnerable populations in the context of COVID -19.

As part of the Social Reintegration of Prisoners project, the UNDP provided certain categories of vulnerable prisoners and their families with the personal protective equipment (PPE) necessary for maintaining family visits, i.e. 50,000 masks, 1,500 litres of hydro alcoholic gel and 2,000 complete protection kits. UNDP also helped meet the needs of prisoners with disabilities or with a family member with a disability, providing 225 wheelchairs, canes, crutches and hearing aids.

During 2020, IOM and UNHCR provided care for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in vulnerable situations (medical assistance, psychosocial assistance, accommodation, food and non-food assistance).

In order to guarantee immediate assistance, UNHCR and IOM consolidated their support to beneficiaries through the establishment of mechanisms (24/7 hotline, dedicated telephone lines, WhatsApp groups, mass SMS) and integrated tools to facilitate registration, referral and remote assistance.

Thus, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR has given annual cash assistance to 610 refugees and asylum seekers. 593 people of concern to UNHCR also benefited from exceptional cash assistance thanks to adapted distribution methods, in particular through home delivery by mobile teams.

Similarly, financial assistance for housing was allocated to 370 refugees, while 291 vulnerable refugees were accommodated in apartments provided by UNHCR (including 51 emergency shelters for people at risk).



financial assistance for housing for

370 refugees

In order to improve awareness of migrants, IOM launched several information campaigns on its Facebook page (5,000 subscribers mainly from migrant communities) on protection against COVID-19, the fight against trafficking and promoting gender equality.



Support for Sahrawi refugees in the context of COVID-19:

United Nations humanitarian agencies (UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF) and the NGO community working in Tindouf refugee camps responded to the health crisis by adapting the implementation of activities and initiating new activities to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 spreading within the camps.

As such, WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF and NGOs launched a joint fundraising appeal for US\$15 million to address public health needs and the immediate humanitarian consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in Sahrawi refugee camps. The joint response included measures to (1) prevent the spread of COVID-19 among Sahrawi refugees; (2) provide necessary care for patients with COVID-19 and support their families and relatives; and (3) adapt health, education, food security, protection, water/sanitation/hygiene programmes to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. The appeal was 46 per cent funded, not including the provision by the Algerian Government of a field hospital with all services and medical assistance necessary throughout the pandemic (representing 20 per cent of the appeal).

Since the first suspected cases in the camps were reported, humanitarian agencies (UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF) carried out activities to strengthen case management capacities in the camps, and to establish an information and communication system to combat misinformation and rumours. UNHCR adapted the medical infrastructure in camps to the COVID-19 context (rehabilitation of the Rabouni Hospital, creation of a COVID-19 section equipped with oxygen-supplying equipment and adequate means of protection, support for quarantine centres, adaptation of the care circuit, etc.) and equipment specific to the COVID-19 response was installed.

In close collaboration with other agencies, UNICEF provided 100,000 PPE kits, 200,000 reusable masks, 20,000 litres of liquid soap and nearly 7,000 bottles of hand sanitiser to support the continuity of health services in refugee camps. In addition, 20 concentrators and 52 oxygen cylinders were supplied by UNICEF from its procurement centre to Sahrawi refugees. In response to the health crisis, UNICEF supported the development of televised classes targeting more than 31,000 children. An awareness-raising campaign was carried out for a safer return to school.



Televised courses targeting over

31 000 children

To combat food insecurity in refugee camps due to the economic impact of the health crisis, WFP increased the number of beneficiaries of its general food assistance by around 20,000 to include refugees, day labourers, shop owners and taxi drivers who lost their income.



WFP increased the number of beneficiaries of its assistance to

20 000 refugees



Response to the socio-economic impact

The emergency response during the first few months of the COVID-19 pandemic was followed by a longer-term response that took into account the socio-economic impact of the crisis, in particular on the most vulnerable populations. The United Nations System developed its proposals for support to the Government based on socio-economic impact analyses of COVID-19. Following a series of consultations with partners from different sectors, these proposals enabled the development of a United Nations support framework for the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis, echoing the United Nations Framework of the Immediate Socio-economic Response to COVID-19. The priorities of this framework were included when developing the United Nations' 2020–2021 joint work plans with the Algerian government.

A rapid analysis of the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis (based on secondary data) was developed by the United Nations System in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa Office. This study aimed to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on various macroeconomic aggregates and to propose a series of recommendations and economic and employment policy measures targeted at promoting the entrepreneurial potential of young people and women. The analysis also reveals the impact of the crisis on the various social sectors, in particular health and education. Emphasis was placed mainly on the impact of the crisis on vulnerable populations such as day labourers, recipients of social programmes, refugees and migrants.

At the same time, household and business surveys (based on primary data collection) were initiated to assess the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic under the technical leadership of UNDP and with contributions from UNICEF, ILO, WFP, UNESCO, UNAIDS, WHO, FAO, UNIDO, ITC and ECA in partnership with ESEC and several other Ministries: Foreign Affairs, Fisheries and Fishery Production, Industry, Labour, Employment and Social Security, National Solidarity, Family and the Status of Women and the National Office for Statistics. The results will help to refine the support measures. At the same time, UNIDO carried out a survey among women and young business managers to better identify the main challenges and expectations of young and female entrepreneurs, which made it possible to develop a support project.

In consultation with the Government, the United Nations Country Team developed its Social Economic Response Plan (SERP) to cover 18 months until the end of 2021. The socio-economic impact mitigation activities include support measures for the employment sector, support for institutional mechanisms and awareness raising to better tackle violence against women and girls. The socio-economic response plan was 90 per cent funded and then integrated into the inter-agency work plans of each strategic dimension of the 2020–2021 Cooperation Framework.

2020–2021 Joint Work Plans were finalised and included socio-economic responses for each dimension of the Cooperation Framework, namely (i) governance, (ii) social development, (iii) economic diversification and (iv) the environment. These work plans were 86 per cent funded and are in progress.

III. Overview of the results of the Strategic Cooperation Framework

In order to respond to the demands of Algerian citizens for political, economic and institutional reforms, President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has put in place a political roadmap based on the amendment of the constitution, adopted by referendum in November 2020, and the organisation of early legislative elections in 2021. In addition, the Government's 2020–2024 Action Plan prioritises the building of a diversified economy that creates jobs and wealth, in line with the country's great human and natural potential, by promoting micro-enterprises, start-ups, digital transformation, the integration of international value chains, a green economy, energy transition, an improved business climate and the reform of the banking, financial and tax system. In terms of governance, the fight against corruption, the independence of the judiciary branch and an overhaul of State organisation and management methods are at the centre of this Plan.

In terms of society, the plan provides for better support for vulnerable categories, the renovation of the educational system, the orientation of education towards the professions of the future, the promotion of technical and scientific training courses and the acceleration of investments in grey areas so that no one is left behind.

In order to support the Government's new strategic priorities, most of which are reflected in the four axes of the Strategic Cooperation Framework 2019–2021, the United Nations System has adapted its support to bring it in line with the new development objectives. The main results achieved in 2020 are as follows:

The positioning of United Nations System in the economic scene was greatly strengthened following the approval



and implementation of new programmes to promote youth entrepreneurship and employability, which allowed the broadening of cooperation with several Ministries in the economic sector, as well as the Ministry of Higher Education thanks to major financial support. The new cooperation programmes concern (i) the start of the second phase of the ILO's 'Tawdif' (recruitment) programme in support of public employment services, universities and the National Agency for the Support and Development of Entrepreneurship (Agence nationale d'appui et de développement de l'entreprenariat, ANADE) in six target provinces; and (ii) the approval of UNIDO's circular green economy programme: these multi-annual programmes support the creation of sustainable jobs and mechanisms for young people and women to facilitate their professional integration into promising areas and future emerging sectors. In addition to these two projects is the approval of the UNDP catalytic project for the social and solidarity economy focused on the economic inclusion of young people, women and people with specific needs in four pilot provinces (Oran, Khenchela, Béchar and Nâama), and the start of the FAO project in support of the Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries for the development of a national food security strategy and to identify response options to the consequences of COVID-19 on agriculture, fishing and food security in Algeria.

Following the establishment of the new Economic, Social and Environmental Council (Conseil Economique, Sociale et Environnementale, CNESE), an advisory institution and framework for dialogue, consultation, proposals, forecasting and analysis under the supervision of the President of the Republic, the United Nations System has developed a privileged partnership in order to bring its expertise to areas of strategic thinking. Implementation began with the signing of agreements with (i) the UNDP, on public policy instruments dedicated to sustainable human development, the preparation of the national report on human development, tools and instruments for mediation and resolution of social conflicts and the sectoral and regional ecosystem of entrepreneurship; and (ii) UNICEF in the areas of analysis of disparities affecting children, adolescents and young people, and evaluation of the performance of social policies and early childhood policy.

In order to better identify vulnerable and neglected groups, the United Nations System commissioned an in-depth study with CREAD and CENEAPED which was the basis of the Common Country Analysis (CCA). Under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, UNICEF supported the analysis of the results of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), a major survey conducted among 31,000 households with joint UNICEF/UNFPA support, which was published in December 2020 with data disaggregated by geographical area and by gender, and which provides information on around 20 SDG indicators.

These surveys and studies will allow the United Nations System to better target the interventions of its new 2022-

2026 cooperation framework in support of decreasing inequalities and of marginalised people, which are at the centre of the 2030 agenda.

In order to support the Government's Action Plan priorities in the area of governance, the United Nations System directed its support to accompany the development of the draft law on the national anti-corruption strategy, thanks to the quality expertise of UNDP and cooperation with UNODC which will focus on supporting strategy implementation.

As a privileged partner and guarantor of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, UNODC – which opened its country office in Algiers in 2019 – consolidated its partnership with the National Committee for the Prevention and Fight against Trafficking in Persons, the High Command of the National Gendarmerie, the Directorate of National Security and the Ministry of Justice on several issues related to crime prevention and criminal justice, including transnational organised crime and terrorism.

In turn, UNDP has consolidated its partnership of trust with the Constitutional Council, which will become the Constitutional Court in accordance with the new Constitution, for the establishment of the new article 188 of the Constitution on the exception of unconstitutionality which will allow citizens to take legal action in cases of jurisprudence or laws which are contradictory to the constitution. In the wake of the establishment of participatory democracy, UNDP has consolidated the achievements of its flagship programme CapDel in local governance. The multi-sectoral approach, led by the Ministry of the Interior, made it possible to develop tools for the preparation of Communal Development Plans, the revival of local economic development projects and initiatives led by associations.

In terms of the environment, the United Nations System gave priority to upstream support for the coming Summit on Climate Change (COP26) by supporting the Government's efforts to meet its commitments to the UNFCCC and the Paris agreement ratified by Algeria in 2016. This support is reflected in the mobilisation of technical expertise by UNDP during the drafting of Algeria's third national communication and its 1st Biennial report, which analyses the degree of implementation and highlights Algeria's strategic choices in its fight against the negative effects of climate change and its obligations to decrease its CO2 emissions.

The United Nations System has also supported significant regulatory advances for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization and Associated Traditional Knowledge (UNDP) and of the Kigali Amendment on the reduction of ozone-depleting substances (UNIDO).

Focus: economic diversification

AGRICULTURE AND AQUACULTURE

Food security strategy: In order to develop a national food security strategy and to research response options to the consequences of COVID-19 on agriculture and fisheries, FAO carried out an inventory of programmes, policies and food security strategies. As such, the current food security governance model was assessed and an analysis of parties involved was carried out.

VALORISATION OF NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS :

As part of the development and promotion strategies of agricultural forest products, the value chains of non-timber forest products were reviewed by FAO and proposals were formulated to adapt the legal framework. FAO contributed to strengthening the entrepreneurial capacities of the stakeholders involved in promising sectors. In addition, an inventory of prickly pear cultivation (including cultivars), its valorisation and an assessment of potential areas for its expansion was drawn up by FAO in order to develop this sector. A study was subsequently carried out on the prickly pear market and its value chain. The capacities of stakeholders to promote the sector integrating the gender dimension were strengthened.

DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST-BASED MICROENTERPRISES

The capacity building of stakeholders in entrepreneurship for the valorisation of products from natural resources, such as NTFPs, led to the creation of small businesses (following training received in the area of the ADM Market Development Approach) and the establishment in the province of Khenchla of a rosemary-based distillery demonstration unit with a capacity of 1,500 litres for the benefit of populations living near the forest, in particular the young people and women.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIRST WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE

The 'Integrated management of the Guerbes-Sanhadja wetlands' project, implemented by UNDP and financed by the private sector, supported the development of an agro-industrial cooperative led by women and focused on the valorisation of prickly pears by providing a complete production tool (oil press) and legal and technical support to the cooperative and its members. Seventeen female entrepreneurs were trained in business management techniques and all aspects related to the different stages of the value chain, from the management of production tools to the marketing of final products. It is the first agricultural cooperative to be created under the new executive decree on agricultural cooperatives.

COASTAL COMMUNITIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES(FISHERY) :

Contributing to the Government's efforts in this area through an integrated development strategy, an analysis of value chains and upgrading opportunities was carried out and eight blue economic development projects were identified and formulated by FAO as part of its 'Blue Hope' initiative.

VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

The Creative and Cultural Industries (CCI) replication project followed a pilot cluster creation project carried out from 2014 to 2017, in brassware in Constantine and traditional jewellery in Batna.

An in-depth study was conducted by UNIDO in order to analyse the pre-identified value chains and verify the feasibility of setting up clusters within these value chains as a tool for sustainable local development, the development of innovation, job creation and competitiveness of these value chains. The objective of this study was to prepare for the replication of the CCI project to other value chains. Three value chains and four potential cluster projects are to be developed: 1) a carpet weaving value chain of Djebel (Mount) Amour/Aflou-Laghout Province, carpet cluster of Babar/Khenchla Province; 2) a leather value chain of Jijel Province; 3) a pottery/ceramics value chain of Algiers and Tipaza Provinces.

Within the framework of the project 'Promoting the empowerment of women for inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Algeria', Phase II (PWE II), UNIDO carried out a selection study of gender-sensitive value chains. In addition, a country action plan for the PWII programme was also developed by UNIDO based on two value chains (farmer's cheese and rosemary) selected by institutional partners (MADRP, MIM, MSFCF, MEER). Its objective is to promote the economic empowerment of women in Algeria by consolidating and amplifying the results of the 2015-2018 PWE I project carried out by UNIDO.



EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Employment opportunities for Algerian youth: ILO provided support to public employment services (Agence Nationale de l'Emploi, ANEM) and universities in six provinces (Bejaia, Biskra, Guelma, Algiers, Mostaganem and Tlemcen) to reinforce the skills needed by young people for a better integration into the job market through establishing job search clubs (Clubs de recherche d'emplois, CRE). In total, 203 young university graduates and job seekers (61 per



cent of whom are girls) were trained in soft skills in these job search clubs. Twenty ANEM advisers were trained in the operating of these CREs. The obstacles to the integration of women into the labour market (in four provinces) were identified as part of a socio-economic study (finalised in 2021).

UNESCO has developed a partnership with an online platform for the development of digital skills called PIX. Algeria is one of the beneficiary countries of this platform which aims to assess, develop and certify the digital skills of learners.

Officials from the Ministry of Vocational Training and Education took part in several technical workshops to prepare the operation of this platform in Algeria in 2021.

Cross-sectoral online career-guidance tool. ILO worked with the relevant public services (ANEM) and the sectors of National Education, Higher Education and Vocational Training to develop an intersectoral tool for better vocational guidance for young people taking into account their skills and the labour market needs.

The development of this tool, which takes the gender dimension into account, was carried out as part of a participatory process promoting intersectoral collaboration.



In this context, a framework of skills common to the three sectors (Employment, Vocational Training and Higher Education) was developed, as well as a colour code integrating the employability considerations of the trades.

Videos illustrating promising trades have been developed and will be posted on the digital platform of the guidance tool which will be hosted by ANEM. In 2021, young people will be able to use this tool to help them choose their training and career path.

Promoting the economic participation of rural women:

The Ministry of National Solidarity, Family Affairs and the Status of Women and UNDP organised an international conference in October 2020 on 'Rural women in the world of entrepreneurship by 2030' to address the issue of the economic empowerment of rural women. At the end of the conference, recommendations were made to place this issue on the political agenda. These recommendations will be implemented in a three-year programme beginning in early 2021. Several activities will be implemented in 10 pilot provinces, and extended to the whole country in 2022.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISME

UNDP, in partnership with the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), developed a Marketing and Promotion Strategy to promote Algeria as a tourist destination. This document supported the Algerian Government in its policy of promoting sustainable, environmentally friendly tourism that values the Algerian cultural heritage. As part of a project implemented in the Guerbes Sanhadja wetland in Skikda, an ecotourism route was developed and implemented to promote the region's traditional know-how and integrate the inhabitants and local associations.

Social development

REPRODUCTIVE, MATERNAL, NEWBORN, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH (RMNCAH).



5 ultrasound scanners for referral centres

UNFPA continued to support the plan to accelerate the reduction of maternal mortality. As such, two surveys were conducted to consolidate the maternal mortality rate. In order to support the continuity of reproductive health and family planning (RH/FP) and reproductive health services, UNFPA donated five ultrasound scanners for RH/FP referral centres in the provinces of Adrar, Algiers, Biskra, Blida and Sétif.

UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Health in its efforts to reduce maternal mortality by supporting (i) the training of audit teams and field investigators; and (ii) the implementation of a national survey to consolidate maternal mortality rates. In order to enhance the collection and analysis of data on maternal deaths (64 per cent in 2019 and 28 per cent in 2020 of audited maternal deaths), the digitalisation of the maternal death audit system was initiated and will be concluded by the integration of its data into the Health Information System.

In its contribution to decreasing neonatal mortality, UNICEF equipped a first pilot centre with medical simulation equipment and strengthened the capacities of medical personnel in neonatal care. A more integrated and comprehensive approach to early childhood development continued to be promoted through regular advocacy with national institutions such as ONPPE and ESEC.

SUPPORT FOR THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING NECESSARY FOR EMPLOYMENT.

The support provided by UNICEF to the Ministry of National Education in terms of retention and quality of the educational provision led to (i) the development of a plan to prevent and respond to school wastage; (ii) the upgrading of the skills of 180 education professionals in this area; (iii) the capacity building of officials from the Ministry of Education for the implementation of learning assessment; and iv) the preparation of 10 primary schools to host 50 digital classes.

From 8 to 18 June 2020, the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA) and the UNESCO Maghreb Office organised training webinars on peace, building resilience and preventing extremism for higher



180 upgrading the skills of education professionals

education teachers and teacher training institutes in Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. At the end of this training, the participants, including six Algerians, were able to develop an action plan to disseminate teacher training in their higher education facilities.



SUPPORT FOR THE PROTECTION OF GIRLS AND WOMEN.

UNFPA continued its advocacy and awareness-raising activities on the issues of gender, gender-based violence and empowerment of women and girls through civil society organisations. Its communication strategy enabled it to be chosen as a partner to support the Ministry of National Solidarity in this area in 2021.

STRENGTHENING SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS FOR CHILDREN.

Through the support of UNICEF, the challenges and risks related to child poverty and child-friendly social protection were analysed and supported by recommendations as part of a rapid assessment of the socio-economic impact of the Covid-19 crisis and the common country analysis carried out by the United Nations System. Recommendations for policy options on a child-sensitive social protection response to the health and economic crisis were developed and budgeted.

Advocacy for a universal benefit for young children was consolidated by an amendment to the policy options developed in 2019 following dialogue with the Government. The update of the multidimensional poverty analysis of children and young people was initiated in support of the National Economic, Social and Environmental Council.

UNICEF provided its expertise for the review of the 2008–2015 National Action Plan for Children, which was launched to provide information on a new development framework for children backed by a public finance approach that includes the needs of children in budgets.

The environment

SUPPORT FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE


In order to improve the water accounting system, FAO established a diagnosis of the production, storage and use of treated wastewater (TW) and drainage water (DW). An accounting exercise for the first water cycle was also carried out in the El Hamiz region (Algiers). In addition, the skills of partners were strengthened in terms of accounting/productivity based on technological advances (crop mapping and decision support). An ET CORDOVA agrometeorological station was acquired by FAO for the Technical Institute for Field Crops (Institut Technique des Grandes Cultures, ITGC).

FAO made a major contribution to the reduction of risks to the vegetation cover through the development of the National Forest Fire Management Plan (Plan National de Gestion des Incendies de Forêts, PNGIF) and a GIS platform for forest fire management, currently in place at the General Directorate of Forestry. Several guides to improve knowledge of forest fire phenomena were drawn up (Guide for research into the causes of fires, feedback, technical standardisation). In particular, the project included training in research into the causes and circumstances of fires. This training has had a transformative effect on the participants from the National Gendarmerie, Civil Defence and the Forestry Department.

UNDP contributed to the Government's efforts to preserve water resources and ensure the sustainability of wetlands through the initial implementation of the 'Guerbes-Sanhajda wetland complex management plan: rehabilitation and enhancement through rational use of water resources', which promoted a more rational and sustainable use of water among the population of the area in question and contributed to the restoration of the ecological balance by fixing a 6 ha (out of a total of 75 ha) dune cordon. This will improve flood protection, erosion control, water quality and carbon sequestration, and will provide recreation opportunities and safeguard the flora and fauna of wetland habitats. The project will help return 19 million litres of

water to the wetland complex. The project also enabled the creation of economic and income-generating activities that are stable and environmentally friendly (women's prickly pear cooperative), as well as raising awareness of the urgency of preserving the wetlands and promoting sustainable tourism.

Thanks to the efforts of the UNDP team working on the project 'Conservation of Globally Significant Biodiversity and Sustainable Use of Ecosystem Services in Algeria's Cultural Parks', and in cooperation with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the Environment, the United Nations General

 **19 million**
litres of water returned
to the wetland complex

Assembly recognised, during the biodiversity summit, the five Algerian cultural parks (Tassili, Ahaggar, Saharan Atlas, Gourara and Tindouf) as 'Other effective area-based conservation measures' (OECM). Thus, more than one million square kilometres became "a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area", which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services.

In addition, the strengthening of the management of cultural parks resulted in the development of technical and regulatory tools; a draft executive decree determining terms and conditions for the development, validation and implementation of the General Development Plan for Cultural Parks was completed in April 2020 and submitted for validation to the Ministry of Culture.

The presence of Saharan cheetahs was confirmed by direct observation as part of the biodiversity monitoring programme carried out by central and local project teams (the last direct observations of this critically endangered species date back to 2010). A conservation plan for this species will be put in place in 2021.



To enable Algeria to ratify the Nagoya Protocol for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources, UNDP contributed to consolidating the regulatory framework through the development and submission in May 2020 of implementing legislation for the National Law on Biological Resources 14-07. These laws will allow the establishment of the national legal and regulatory framework for Access and Sharing of Benefits of genetic resources arising from their use and associated traditional knowledge and will facilitate better coordination between sectors for the management of these natural resources.

SUPPORT FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST POLLUTION

To contribute to Algeria's efforts to protect the ozone layer, UNIDO initiated enabling activities in 2020 to support the Government in signing the Kigali Amendment.

ANTI-LOCUST MEASURES

For the first time in the history of CLCPRO (Commission for controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region), a regional locust emergency action plan was implemented and all CLCPRO operational mechanisms were activated, namely the Regional Locust Risk Management Fund (fonds régional de gestion du risque acridien, FRGRA), the Locust Risk Management Plan (plan de gestion du risque acridien, PGRA), the Western Region Intervention Force (force d'intervention dans la région occidentale, FIRO) and the National Locust Emergency Plans (plans nationaux d'urgence acridienne, PNUA), in order to ensure that member countries are in the best conditions to intervene both in the implementation of their annual national surveillance and control plans and in the implementation of their National Locust Emergency Plans. All these regional and international efforts made it possible to control the locust invasion from the Horn of Africa and to prevent its spread to the western region. The Commission also represents a good practice of successful international cooperation.

It should be noted that Algeria has expressed its willingness to donate 30,000 litres of pesticides through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Sahel countries if necessary. Also, following the action plan prepared by CLCPRO, the FAO appeal to donors to address a possible locust threat in West Africa and subsequently in the North-West brought in US\$7 million to finance four emergency projects.

The strategy of anticipation adopted by CLCPRO which allowed the preservation of the environment was recognised by FAO as a success story, and has enabled countries to become aware of this very important aspect for which particular attention is paid by CLCPRO (https://youtu.be/ffDn_jnSQ7Q).



Good governance

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT TO MITIGATE INEQUALITIES

In order to favour greater citizen participation in promoting access to services, during 2020 UNDP supported the implementation of projects identified in the Communal Development Plans of the communes included in the CapDel programme. The training of 63 local NGOs in the design of local development projects rooted in territorial realities and integrating sustainability and the inclusion of the most vulnerable populations; the financing of 29 associative projects responding to specific local development challenges; the training of trainers on local development accelerators; and the identification of six strategic initiatives as a reference model for local actors contributed to the strengthening of the capacities and knowledge of civil society in terms of local economic development.



As part of the CapDel programme, UNDP provided the Algerian Civil Defence services with practical and sustainable knowledge and tools in the field of risk and disaster prevention and management, in particular to consolidate the resilience of local communities. UNDP also conducted a psychosocial survey in eight pilot municipalities which contributed by improving the available knowledge on the perception of local communities and their ability to face major risks. This survey laid the foundations for a communication and awareness strategy that will best meet the expectations of the targeted communities.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



Life skills aimed at building the capacities of adolescents and young people were disseminated and implemented within the framework of several partnerships, in particular with the Algerian Muslim Scouts (Scouts Musulmans Algériens, SMA) where 'Adolescent kits for innovation and expression' were distributed to 500 vulnerable adolescents. Civic engagement and youth participation was promoted by UNICEF in collaboration with SMA and UNDP through the 'Generation Unlimited Youth Challenge'. UNESCO developed a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports entitled 'Support programme for the empowerment of young people in Algeria', and a two-year work plan was signed in 2020. A series of resources for educators and youth organisations are being developed.



BUILDING NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Several remarkable advances in terms of strengthening the human and organisational capacities of the justice institutions in connection with the rule of law were made in 2020. The efforts of the National Organ for the Prevention and Fight against Corruption (Organe National de Prevention et de la Lutte contre la Corruption, ONPLC), with quality support from UNDP, resulted in the elaboration of the draft National Strategy against Corruption, submitted for validation and signature to the President of the Republic.

UNODC supported Algeria in its efforts to implement the 'International Convention against Corruption' through the review mechanism and developed recommendations for reforms undertaken by the Algerian authorities.

UNDP also contributed to strengthening the capacities of the Constitutional Council, leading to better knowledge and improved legal and administrative supervision of the exception of unconstitutionality procedure. UNDP provided technical expertise to support the dissemination of constitutional culture to the general public, resulting in the development of a strategy and action plan for the dissemination of constitutional culture, to be implemented in 2021.

COMBATING ORGANISED CRIME AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

With respect to the prevention and combat of organised crime and illicit trafficking in airports, UNODC implemented, within the AIRCOP project, capacity building activities for border police and customs services. UNODC also provided explosives detection equipment to the relevant services at Algiers international airport.

In the area of prevention and the fight against terrorism, Algeria contributed to the consolidation of international criminal cooperation with the countries of the Middle East and North Africa region through the Special Inter-agency Cooperation Group (Groupe spécial de coopération interinstitutionnelle, GSCI) created in 2018 under the aegis of the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch. The Special Inter-agency Cooperation Group is a network of judicial and security focal points aimed at strengthening inter-state cooperation in terrorism cases, particularly in relation to Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF), in eight countries of the aforementioned region. The creation of the Special



Inter-agency Cooperation Group responds mainly to the requirements of Resolution 2178 (2014) of the United Nations Security Council. Algeria played a primordial and proactive role in building this network and its development, in particular by contributing to all the preparatory, technical and regional meetings.

Algeria is very involved in the efforts of the network, which has already obtained concrete operational results in terrorism cases in terms of intensified sharing of operational information, cross-border investigations and requests for mutual legal assistance and extradition. In 2020, in order to support the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2396 (2017) in terms of investigative capacities and cooperation against transnational terrorism, UNODC organised training sessions to consolidate the technical and normative capacities required for passenger data and other relevant information to be used to combat terrorism, in accordance with international obligations and standards.

As part of its cooperation with Algeria in the prevention and fight against human trafficking, UNODC amended the anti-trafficking law to strengthen the implementation in national law of the provisions of the Additional Protocol against Trafficking to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC). UNODC implemented various capacity-building actions against human trafficking, including mock trials, to support the national capacity

to investigate and prosecute trafficking cases, including training on indicators, labour exploitation and the laundering of proceeds of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. This area of cooperation between UNODC and Algeria is of paramount importance, and has continued to be consolidated through closely coordinated interventions with the National Committee for the Prevention and Fight Against Trafficking.

CAPACITY BUILDING ON THE MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF SDGS:

In December 2020, ILO, with support from its International Training Centre in Turin, consolidated the capacities of 10 institutional frameworks (two from the National Office for Statistics and eight from the Ministry of Labour and ANEM) on the collection, processing, dissemination, analysis and interpretation of the SDG indicators related to the labour market with reference to recent international standards on labour statistics, in particular the main resolutions and directives adopted during the 19th and the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS).

Through a partnership between the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and UNFPA, the results of the MICS6 survey were disseminated nationally using a videoconference system, providing an exhaustive socio-economic and demographic database, integrating SDG monitoring indicators disaggregated by territory. The design of a digital platform for monitoring indicators relating to national development priorities and the SDGs was initiated within the framework of a partnership between the National Economic, Social and Environmental Council and UNICEF.

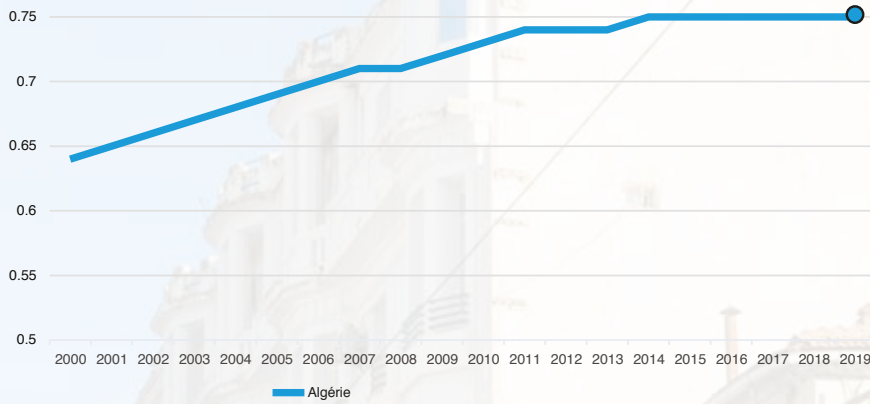
CULTURE :

The UNESCO Maghreb Office supported the Ministry of Culture in the process of preparing Algeria's first Quadrennial Periodic Report (QPR), relating to the implementation of the UNESCO 2005 convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions. The preparation of this report was initiated in October 2019 with a national consultation meeting, followed by training workshops for the designated national team, then the drafting of the content of the document and finally its submission to UNESCO in November 2020. The report reflects the current situation of culture in terms of governance, legal framework and the development of the creative economy, and provides recommendations to consolidate the role played by culture in sustainable development.

The office also supported the Ministry of Culture in the implementation of measures to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on heritage and creative industries. It also began the preparation of a pilot project on the integration of culture into local development strategies and policies.

The city of Oran was selected to host the pilot project, which will focus on aspects relating to the preservation of all urban heritage, and has the medium-term objective to propose that part of this heritage be included on the World Heritage List.

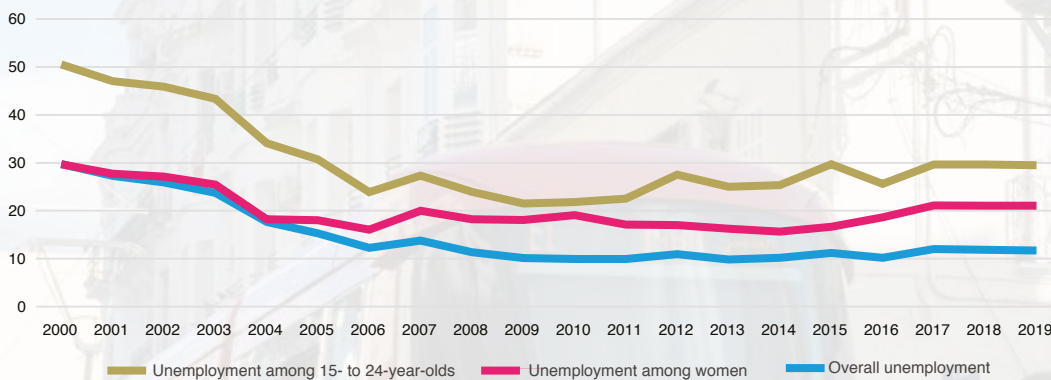
Main development trends



HDI In 2019
Algeria 0.75

Among neighbouring countries, Algeria has been in first place in the Human Development Index ranking for the past 10 years, but the gaps are narrowing

Source: Reports on Human Development around the world UNDP



Unemployment rate

Source: WHO

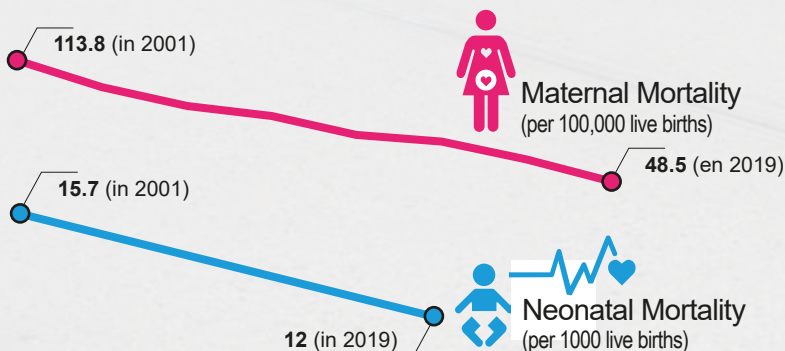


Unemployment remains structurally higher among 15- to 24-year-olds and women in Algeria

In 2019
Algeria 75.7 (men) 78.1 (women)

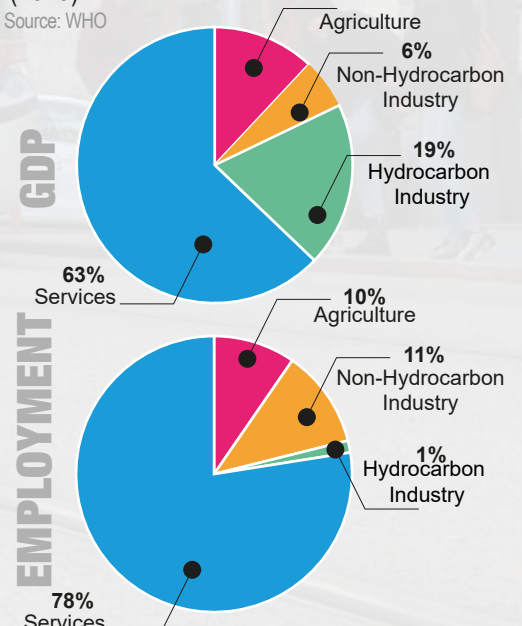
Algeria has the highest life expectancy in the Maghreb for men

Source: World Bank – Human Development Reports



Sectoral distribution of GDP and employment (2019)

Source: WHO



The service sector provides the majority of jobs and the non-hydrocarbon industry offers a great potential for job creation.

IV. Humanitarian focus

Unwavering support for Sahrawi refugees:

WASH

In 2020, UNHCR prioritised activities in the WASH sector, supporting Sahrawi-led efforts, including disinfection of public spaces and awareness-raising campaigns led by volunteers. For example, UNHCR equipped all public health facilities in the camps (30 clinics and 5 hospitals) with 40 additional hand washing facilities to decrease the risk of the spread of COVID-19. In turn, UNICEF provided vaccine doses for 21,000 children under the age of 5 in Sahrawi refugee camps. UNHCR also extended the Ausserd camp water distribution network by installing an extended pipeline of water taps and a reinforced concrete tank. So far, the work carried out in the Ausserd camp has covered 90 per cent of the total distribution network needs, and the remaining 10 per cent are planned for 2021. In the meantime, to improve efficiency and consolidate the capacity of the old fleet of water trucks which deliver 70 per cent of the water in the camps, UNHCR has provided the Sahrawi Department for Water and the Environment with four new water tankers, four trucks for waste management and four ambulances. As a priority for 2020, UNHCR increased the number of sanitary pads provided in hygiene kits, reaching 48,400 girls and women of childbearing age, covering nine months of the year, an increase in coverage of three months compared to 2019.

EDUCATION

School supply kits were distributed to 40,000 school children in the camps. Two middle schools were built and a specialised education centre was rehabilitated. The rehabilitation and construction of school infrastructure, including water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, benefited more than 1,600 pupils. More than 600 education personnel were trained in educational psychology and educational engineering, and didactic training needs in mathematics and Arabic were assessed.

UNHCR also supported the establishment of distance education for vocational courses for 265 refugee students (Sahrawis, Syrians and Yemenis) pursuing their higher education in Algeria thanks to a DAFI scholarship. In order to create an adequate learning environment in the camps and to ensure COVID-19 prevention in schools, UNHCR increased textbook purchases for its back-to-school campaign, reaching the target 'one book per student', representing a substantial increase from 2019, where one book was shared by three students.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION



To combat food insecurity and energy poverty in the camps, UNHCR provided 5,600 tons of dried yeast per month for bread making, and an additional 603 tonnes of fresh vegetables during the month of Ramadhan. UNHCR also provided one bottle of butane gas per family per month, covering 60 per cent of the needs, and new gas bottle refills to 737 households of newlywed families and 3,710 cooks.

In partnership with the Algerian and Sahrawi Red Crescents (Croissant-Rouge Algérien, CRA, and Croissant-Rouge Sahraoui CRS), WFP provided 133,672 diversified portions of dry food every month (baskets with a caloric value of 2,100 kcal per day/per person varying from five to nine basic products) as part of general food aid (GFA). In order to prevent and treat malnutrition, in particular the high prevalence of anaemia among Sahrawi refugee women and children, WFP worked in collaboration with CRA and CRS to distribute specialised nutritious food to more than 22,000 pregnant and lactating women and to children under five.

In order to support nutrition-sensitive school meals, WFP partnered with the Algerian Red Crescent and the International Committee for the Development of Peoples (Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli, CISP) to provide meals to more than 40,000 children in schools and day-care centres and to rehabilitate and build school kitchens and food pantries.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND RESILIENCE

To improve livelihoods, resilience, food security and nutrition, WFP continued to support the world's first fish farm in a refugee camp to provide refugees with local fish and animal protein. The fish farm was also intended to serve as a training centre for the construction of other community fish farms. Its annual production is estimated at 21,000 kg of fresh fish. Partners: Humanitarian Generation Triangle (Triangle humanitaire de génération, TGH), Sahrawi Centre for Agricultural Training and Experimentation (Centre Sahraoui de formation et d'expérimentation agricoles, CEFA).

WFP also launched the innovative H2Optimal project to grow vegetables and trees in the desert. Two hundred and fifty hydroponic units were installed in all camps producing green fodder for animals, allowing them to (i) increase milk and meat production and (ii) reduce livestock mortality (the family kit produces more than 15kg per day and feeds five heads of cattle). Partner: OXFAM

In order to support refugee empowerment, especially among young people, UNHCR facilitated access to skills training, innovation and entrepreneurship within the camps. Thus, 66 per cent of the women who benefited from this assistance were self-employed by the end of the year. Among the most notable initiatives was an innovative Android application developed as a marketing platform, to facilitate trading, selling or sharing among refugees in the camps.

This entrepreneurial project by refugees is managed by a group of young refugees who coordinated the development of the online application. In addition, the Sahrawi refugees received materials to build tents and rebuild 160 houses affected by a sandstorm that hit the camp.

In total, 48 per cent of the camp refugees do not live in adequate housing, and 40 per cent built their own houses with mud bricks, a malleable material that can collapse at any time during heavy rain or wind.



Urban context:

EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING:

 **376** refugee children enrolled in school

UNHCR in Algeria continued to prioritise equitable access for refugee and asylum-seeking children, especially girls, to the public school system. As part of its education programme, UNHCR was able to enrol 376 refugee and asylum-seeking children (209 girls, 167 boys) in public primary and secondary schools. Among these children, 65 (30 girls, 35 boys) with specific needs were able to benefit from additional support (school supplies, transport, support classes) to facilitate their reintegration into the national education system. UNHCR facilitated the access of 52 young refugees and asylum seekers to technical and vocational training in public and private training centres in order to support their empowerment and the development of their skills.

HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL ASSISTANCE:

 **2K** refugees oriented and accompanied

During 2020, UNHCR ensured access to health care for urban refugees and asylum seekers through the implementation of its health programme. Thus, 2,214 refugees and asylum seekers were referred and accompanied to health facilities, and 142 refugees and asylum seekers received psychological assistance. In collaboration with the Algerian Association for Psychological Assistance, Research and Improvement in Psychology (Association Algérienne pour l'aide Psychologique, la Recherche et le Perfectionnement en Psychologie, SARP), psychosocial support was provided to migrants benefitting from IOM services, including through virtual support during lockdown.

IOM supported the revitalisation of control and epidemiological surveillance stations in Tamanrasset and Ouargla (transit and destination areas for migrants). In addition, IOM supported the development of a guide for health practitioners in French and Tamashek in order to facilitate their communication with migrants in cross-border areas between Algeria, Mali and Niger.

LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE AND ACCOMMODATION

As part of its assistance programme for refugees and asylum seekers living in urban areas, UNHCR was able

to cover the basic needs of 610 refugees (including 258 women) through the distribution of cash assistance. Financial housing assistance was allocated to 370 refugees, while 291 vulnerable refugees were accommodated in apartments provided by UNHCR. Exceptional financial assistance was awarded to 593 asylum seekers living in urban areas to meet their basic needs, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Beneficiaries living with physical disabilities were able to receive assistance tailored to their specific requirements, and 88 people received special services to meet their needs. As requests for assistance from illegal migrants increased dramatically during 2020, IOM implemented remote and online assistance services for vulnerability checking and provision of direct assistance.

REINTEGRATION OF ALGERIAN RETURNEES

 **143** Algerians returned to their country of origin

Despite movement restrictions following border closures as a consequence of the COVID 19 pandemic, 143 Algerians (137 men and 6 women) returned to their country of origin with IOM assistance in 2020, and 117 received reintegration assistance, including 8 women and 109 men. In particular, 13 men received in-kind assistance, 98 people (7 women and 91 men) received cash assistance, and



three beneficiaries (one woman and two men) received both in-kind and cash assistance. Many of the returnees were able to develop and maintain the development of their own business projects in different sectors.

COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

As part of the 16-day activism campaign, refugee and migrant communities were made aware of sexual and gender-based violence (GBV) through a series of workshops.

During 2020, 427 asylum seekers and refugees obtained psychosocial care, 105 of whom were assisted under the medical plan after a GBV incident, and 200 dignity kits were distributed to female asylum seekers by UNHCR.

 Refugees and asylum seekers
105 assisted with medical care
after an SGBV incident



SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS: RESETTLEMENT AND VOLUNTARY RETURN OF MIGRANTS

 Return assistance programme
763 migrants assisted

The suspension of international flights during 2020 strongly impacted the UNHCR resettlement programme; thus, out of a total of 100 people planned, only four refugees were resettled in third countries. IOM supported the logistical procedures for the resettlement of seven refugees in France and Canada. In March 2020, a second Voluntary Return Reception Arrangement (Dispositif d'Accueil pour le Retour Volontaire, DARV II) was initiated, increasing the reception and accommodation capacity of IOM to a total of 50 people.

A virtual counselling system for returnees was developed to provide context-specific information linked to the voluntary return and reintegration programme before departure. Despite the closure of international borders, 763 migrants (673 men and 90 women) were assisted with the voluntary return and reintegration programme to their country of origin. Seven specific voluntary return flights were organised in coordination with the Algerian Government, which lifted all movement restrictions, opening up the airspace and facilitating voluntary return procedures for IOM. More than 700 migrants benefited from medical services before their departure (Fit to Travel Checks) and two were assisted by a medical escort during their trip to their countries of origin.

MANAGING MIGRATION, TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS

IOM helped to consolidate its partners' knowledge of migration issues, both in terms of international migration laws and by carrying out a study on smuggling and migrant-trafficking routes.

IOM has supported migrant access to protection through vital assistance to migrants in vulnerable situations (victims of human trafficking, unaccompanied children, migrants with medical needs, etc.). Thirty-two victims of trafficking (15 women, 7 men, 8 boys, 2 girls) benefitted from IOM's protection and assistance.

V. Support for partnerships and financing of the 2030 Agenda

Strategic dialogue with the Government on national priorities

The consolidation of cooperation and consultation within the multilateral framework on sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda were at the centre of the cooperation between the United Nations System and the Government. The strategic dialogue with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the main coordinator of Algeria-United Nations cooperation, allowed the monitoring of the implementation of the Strategic Cooperation Framework 2019–2021 to continue, with the development of budgeted 2020-2021 inter-agency work plans for each strategic focus of the Cooperation Framework. The COVID-19 health crisis prompted the United Nations System to reposition its work and develop new partnerships. The United Nations System seized the opportunity to implement the spirit of the United Nations development system reform through joint support and greater coordination between the United Nations System agencies in Algeria for the socio-economic response to COVID-19.

Algeria's commitment to multilateralism and the 2030 Agenda were reiterated during the meeting of the Resident Coordinator with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sabri Boukadoum. The strategic dialogue on areas of cooperation was also strengthened with the various ministries and institutions under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, the representatives of UN agencies and the United Nations System programmes. These discussions, although dominated by the COVID-19 crisis, made it possible to identify avenues for cooperation in various areas of the Strategic Cooperation Framework and to recognise new priorities for the development of the 2022–2026 Cooperation Framework, such as energy transition, start-ups and micro-enterprises, digital technology and financing for development. Thus, several avenues of dialogue were opened between the United Nations System and the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (Conseil Economique, Social et Environnemental, CNESE). During a United Nations System-CNESE meeting held in June, these discussions made it possible to identify areas of support for each agency according to its expertise. A memorandum of understanding crowned the discussions between UNDP and CNESE through an action plan structured around five areas of cooperation, namely mastery of tools and instruments for measuring sustainable human development, capacity building in the field of political reading and the anchoring of public policy instruments dedicated to sustainable human development, the preparation of the National Report on Human Development, tools and instruments for mediation and resolution of social conflicts, and the sectoral and regional ecosystems of entrepreneurship.

COMMITTED DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

The United Nations System, in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, coordinated the first meeting of the Development Partners Forum in Algeria. This ground-breaking meeting was an opportunity to establish an exchange on the partnership for the development of Algeria and to understand the reform of the United Nations development system, which aims at greater coordination and coherence of operational activities for development throughout the country. Algeria's priorities in terms of sustainable development, its commitment and support for the implementation of reform and the optimisation of expertise and resources were the main points discussed during the forum.

The United Nations System, through the Resident Coordinator and heads of agencies, mobilised development partners for the COVID-19 response during bilateral meetings, while ensuring continuous dissemination of the results of the United Nations System Support Plan to different partners.

CIVIL SOCIETY, A KEY LOCAL PARTNER:

As a key partner in facilitating the implementation of the SDGs both nationally and locally, civil society has supported the United Nations System in its solidarity and support towards the most vulnerable populations in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. Several partnerships between agencies of the United Nations System and the Algerian Red Crescent, Muslim Scouts and associations from different regions of the country were established and made it possible to organise distribution operations of protection kits for the most vulnerable populations across the national territory.



VI. United Nations System Joint Work Results: United Nations Coherence, Effectiveness and Efficiency:

The collaboration between the United Nations System agencies, funds and programmes in Algeria was put to the test in 2020. Despite this, it successively carried out a number of joint analysis and programming approaches, sometimes simultaneously.

In a context characterised by uncertainty, where the scale of needs changed daily and dialogue with the Government was hampered by the pandemic, UNCT succeeded in staying focused on the ambitions of its 2020 work plan while developing joint support for the health response first, and then for economic and social recovery, based on an analysis of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in Algeria. Although the 2020–2021 work plans for the implementation of the 2019–2021 Strategic Cooperation Framework were developed during the year and in a rather superficial way (activities not included), they made it possible to identify joint products and complementarities (16 joint products) and to form a basis for evaluating the progress of the United Nations System support in Algeria in connection with the SDGs.

Another concrete example of inter-agency coordination is the development of the Common Country Analysis, which followed a process of in-depth consultation with various partners. This exercise enabled the development of a common understanding of the challenges of socioeconomic recovery, the areas of sustainable development which are lagging behind or at risk of regression and the country's structural problems. It also consolidated inter-agency teamwork, which resulted in greater data and information sharing and the identification of priorities for accelerating sustainable development towards the achievement of the SDG targets. Coordination of appeals for Trust Fund funding enabled the formulation of several joint catalytic initiatives. These include the joint UNDP, ILO, UNCTAD proposal for financing the SDGs to show the impact of an integrated financing framework for pilot sectors and structural support for debt management. FAO and UNIDO formulated a joint initiative to transform food systems and investment models in the agriculture sector to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA developed a catalytic proposal for innovative solutions for financing early childhood education. To support the empowerment of people with disabilities, UNICEF and UNFPA developed a joint proposal with the Ministry of Solidarity which is pending funding from the Trust Fund to promote the rights of people living with disabilities.

The joint United Nations team on HIV/AIDS developed a joint plan to support the national HIV/AIDS response. The activities implemented provided catalytic support to civil

society interventions working with key and vulnerable populations and people living with HIV by providing capacity building for resource mobilisation, continuity of HIV prevention services and the development of normative documents on treatment innovation and human rights.

The United Nations System developed the second phase of the joint programme for the acceleration of the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs, which makes the expertise of 10 agencies available to support the inter-ministerial committee for the SDGs. The programme aims to support processes such as integrated planning, financing and monitoring of the SDGs through a 'whole of government, whole of society' approach necessary for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda, by targeting government sectors, the private sector, civil society, media and policy makers, among others.

Building on the achievements of the first phase, this programme proposes initiatives in strategic communication for sustainable development, budgeting for the SDGs, the establishment of coordination and dialogue platforms with the private sector and civil society, the consolidation of the statistical system for monitoring SDG indicators, and the identification of accelerators for achieving the SDGs by 2030.

Three other joint projects were formulated in 2020 in addition to the joint SDG programme: (i) the promotion of women's entrepreneurship with FAO and UNIDO, awaiting funding; (ii) support for the fight against violence against women with UNODC and UNFPA, targeting aspects of prevention of GBV and improving assistance to victims, as well as promoting the empowerment of women through entrepreneurship; and (iii) the joint WHO-UNICEF plan on risk communication and community engagement, which has already been validated and implemented as a support tool for the promotion of healthy behaviour and the prevention of the spread of the disease in the country.

In terms of youth, a cross-cutting priority of the Strategic Cooperation Framework 2019–2021, the thematic group on youth continued its internal reflection work to feed the joint approach which will be used to develop a joint project that takes into account national priorities on the issue of youth.

ANALYSIS OF THE GENDER DIMENSION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

The joint work of the United Nations System in the field of gender equality intensified during 2020, mainly under the coordination of the Gender Thematic Group, bringing together all resident agencies. This resulted in several achievements:

The UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard Self-Assessment: The Scorecard is a comprehensive, standardised United Nations tool for assessing the effectiveness of country teams in gender mainstreaming. The exercise resulted in a number of recommendations

for consolidating the achievements of the country team in gender equality, both internally and through joint programming.

In 2020, women represented 48 per cent of the national staff and 50 per cent of the international staff of the United Nations System in Algeria.

Gender-related joint analytical products: the United Nations System carried out several analyses on gender equality in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular concerning the different forms of gender-based violence, with a special focus on women in their diversity and key and vulnerable populations, such as migrant women, refugee women and women living with HIV. The analyses, drawn up on the basis of virtual surveys and focus groups organised in collaboration with civil society, contributed towards understanding the problem, particularly in terms of care needs and prevention strategies for GBV. The conclusions and recommendations will provide information on the next steps of the intervention and collaboration of the United Nations System.

The establishment of a network for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) facilitated the exchange of information on this topic within UNCT. However, results of a survey conducted by the Office of the Special Coordinator for the Improvement of the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse highlighted certain weaknesses within the United Nations System in Algeria in terms of staff knowledge of UN policies in this area and the need for regular training for all staff. Recommendations will be incorporated into the UNCT PSEA action plan.

OPERATIONS

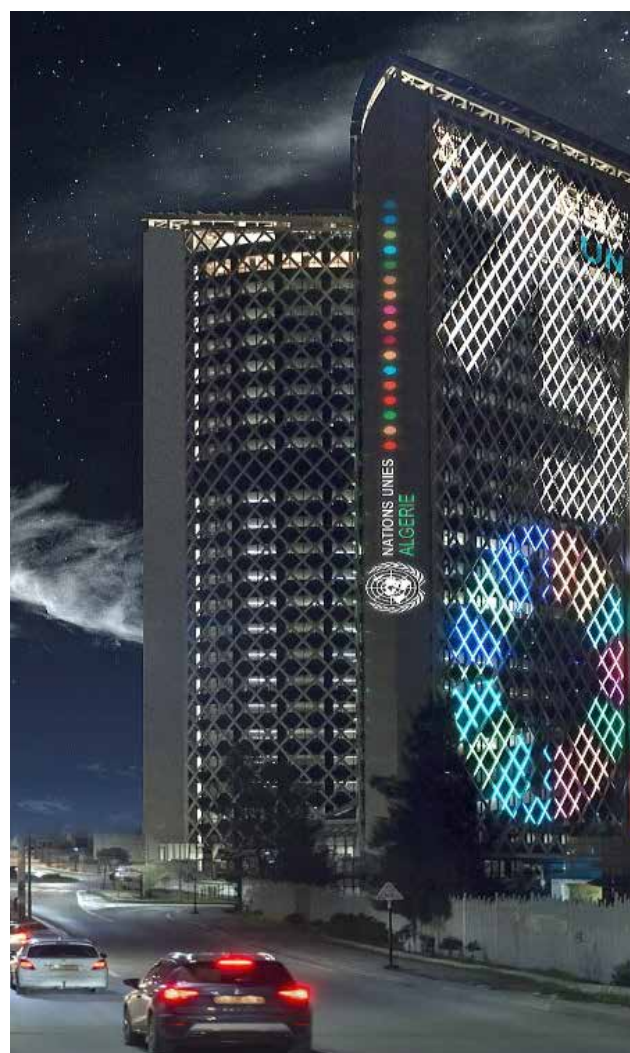
The United Nations System Operations Group in Algeria developed its 2021–2022 Business Operation Strategy (BOS) around the sharing of 18 operational service lines. This strategy is expected to save the United Nations System approximately US\$992,000 in operational costs, most of which would come from the management of common premises. Also, significant improvements in the quality of services should be observed in administration, security and ICT.

SUPPORT TO UN STAFF DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS.

The establishment of the United Nations System COVID-19 inter-agency taskforce to prepare for and respond to the needs of the United Nations System staff led to the following results: (i) the development and monitoring of the implementation of the contingency plan; (ii) training and awareness-raising on how to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, and the supply of PPE kits to personnel; (iii) the identification and monitoring of staff affected by the disease; and (iv) vaccination of at-risk staff against seasonal flu. An agreement was signed with the Pasteur Institute in Algeria to ensure the availability of PCR tests for UN staff and their dependents. Two oxygen extractors were acquired by UNCT to meet the urgent care needs of United Nations staff and their dependents affected by COVID19.

JOINT COMMUNICATIONS

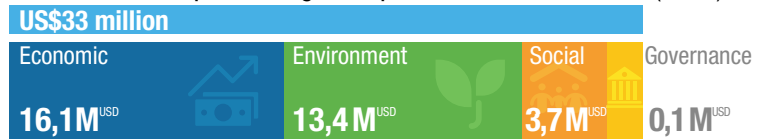
Joint communication: The inter-agency communication group of the United Nations System in Algeria centred its 2020 communication strategy around the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. Despite health restrictions imposed by the pandemic, this strategy resulted in the implementation of a communication plan articulated around (i) the promotion of the global conversation initiated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the construction of a better world, where no one is left behind (displaying a banner on the Press Services Agency website leading to the survey site); (ii) a poster campaign and promotion of the SDGs and UN75 on buses in the capital Algiers and the illumination of the AGB (Arab Gulf Bank) tower as part of the partnership with the private sector; (iii) the appointment of Chérine Abdellaoui, Paralympic judoka and success story of young Algerian women in sports, as a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador in Algeria; (iv) the adaptation of the #UN75hymn to typically Algerian notes through its interpretation by musicians from the National Higher Music Institute using traditional instruments; (v) the organisation of a Model United Nations session (MUN FOR UN75) on the immersive future of modern technology and its influence on our planet; and (vi) a series of videos, 'The UN is Us', on the importance of the organisation, with the participation of the diplomatic corps, members of the United Nations, NGOs and heads of United Nations System agencies.



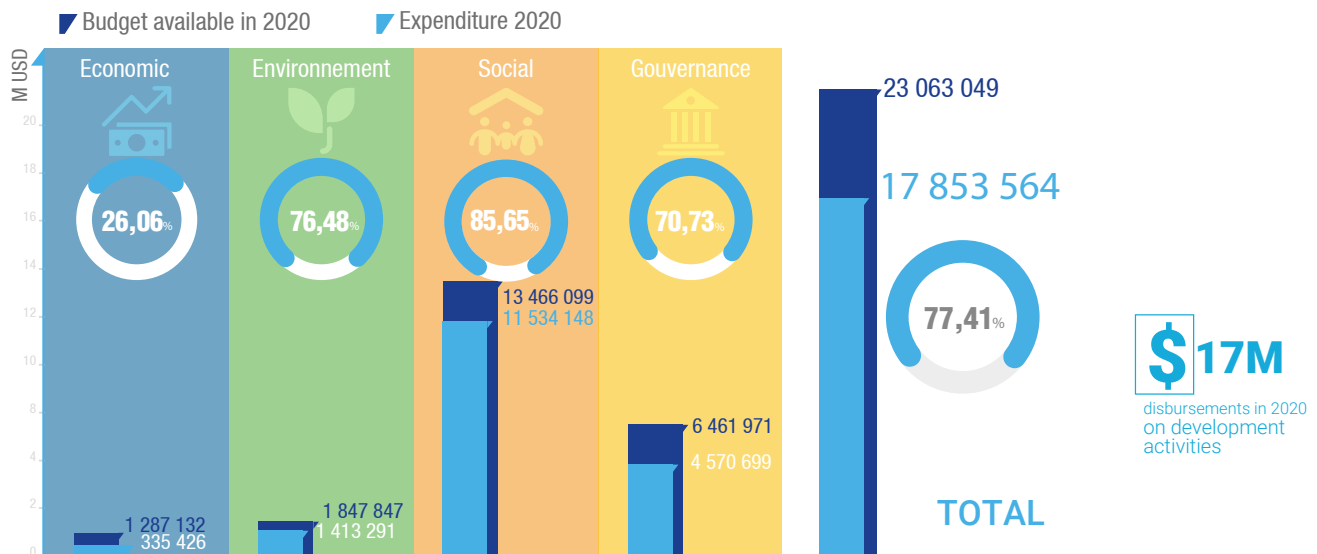
VII. Financial insights and resource mobilisation

2020 was marked by an exceptional mobilisation of resources by the United Nations System in Algeria: US\$60 million for the health emergency, US\$55 million for humanitarian action and support for refugees/migrants and US\$33 million for development programmes, excluding COVID-19.

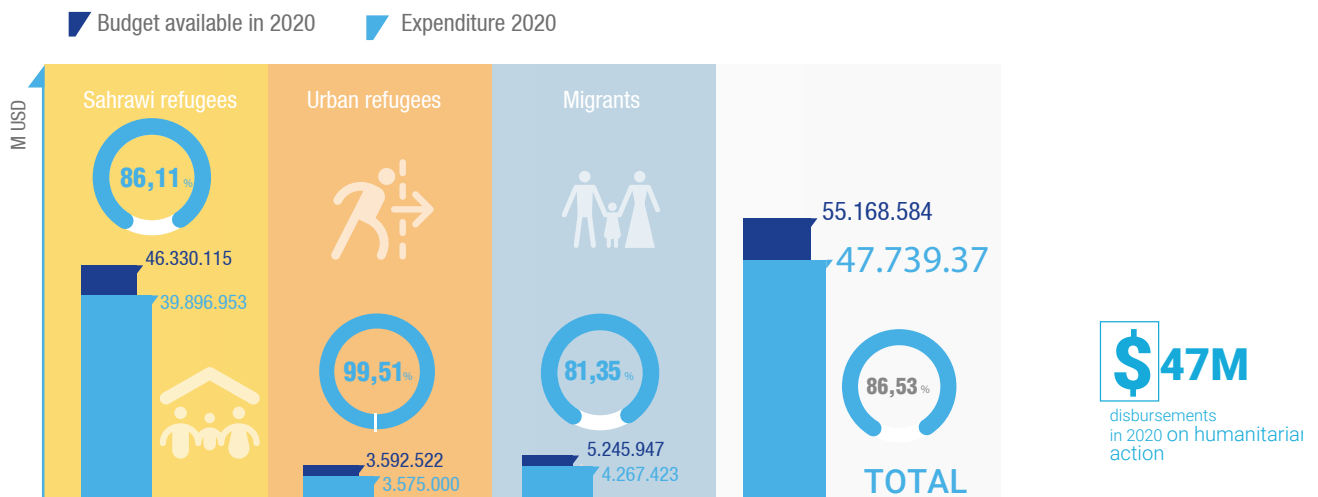
Funds mobilised per Strategic Cooperation Framework axis (2020)



BUDGET DISBURSEMENT RATE PER STRATEGIC COOPERATION FRAMEWORK AXIS



TAUX DE DÉCAISSEMENT BUDGÉTAIRE POUR L'ACTION HUMANITAIRE



CONSOLIDATING THE JOINT APPROACH AND THE SPIRIT OF SG REFORM FOR THE COVID-19 RESPONSE

The joint approach of the agencies was supported by the Embassy of the Netherlands, which mobilised funding around three themes: strengthened resilience and ecology in the Sahrawi refugee camps (PAM-UNICEF), support for the fight against violence against women (UNODC-UNFPA), and the strengthening of community commitment in the prevention of COVID-19 (WHO-UNICEF). For a total of nearly US\$1 million, including US\$475,000, the Netherlands has chosen to support the implementation of the reform of the United Nations development system which entered into force in 2020.

VIII. Our goals for 2021

In 2021, the United Nations System enters the last year of the implementation cycle of the current Strategic Cooperation Framework (2019–2021). Thus, during this year, the United Nations System will be fully engaged in the development of a 'new generation' Cooperation Framework (United Nations System DCF) for 2022–2026. The new Cooperation Framework, anchored in the 2030 Agenda, should help accelerate progress towards the achievement of the SDGs and respond to Algeria's national development priorities, as defined by the Government's Action Plan 2020–2024. During 2021, the United Nations System will identify, in consultation with its partners, a new series of strategic priorities to respond to the cross-cutting challenges identified during the Common Country Analysis.

At the same time, the United Nations System efforts will continue to be devoted to the response to the pandemic and especially to the mitigation of the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

Measuring the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis will be at the centre of the concerns of the United Nations System, and the results of the field survey will allow the United Nations System to offer evidence-based advisory support for the implementation of the Government's economic stimulus plan. Actions and programmes already undertaken to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable categories will continue to address a number of issues, in particular those related to the protection of the most vulnerable, the development of youth and women's entrepreneurship and support for SMEs. From this perspective, the United Nations System is planning to act both on the level of skills development and on integration and guidance mechanisms for the creation of new activities, particularly in the field of the social and solidarity economy, and the circular green economy.







UNITED NATIONS
ALGERIA

