

## press release

**The United Nations High Commissioner for refugees (UNHCR) and Novo Nordisk Algeria, announce the signature of a partnership agreement, to support the Sahrawi Refugee Response Plan.**

- The Sahrawi Refugee Response Plan (SRRP) is the first joint strategy uniting 28 partners to address the needs of Sahrawi refugees in Algeria. It offers a clear, coordinated framework to deliver life-saving assistance and long-term solutions in the five camps near Tindouf.
- This partnership will enhance access to treatment for 3,800 refugees living with diabetes, while also conducting awareness sessions for over 1,000 individuals to promote the adoption of best healthcare practices within the community. Additionally, it will strengthen the capacity of more than 80 nursing staff, improving their ability to address healthcare challenges in the camps.
- Novo Nordisk Algeria and the Royal Danish Embassy in Algeria, will closely collaborate with the UNHCR on this project.

**Algiers, April 30th, 2025** – The United Nations High Commissioner for refugees UNHCR and Novo Nordisk Algeria announced today, the signature of a partnership agreement, establishing a first-of-its-kind local collaboration, aimed at supporting Sahraoui refugees in the Tindouf area camps.

The announcement ceremony took place at the European Delegation premises in Algiers, where it was signed by **Alistair Alan Boulton** UNHCR representative in Algeria, and Hamza BENHARKAT General Manager of Novo Nordisk Algeria. The welcoming discourse was given by HE the Ambassador of European Union (EU) to Algeria **Diego Mellado Pascua**, followed by the official representative of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Community Abroad**, and HE the Ambassador of the kingdom of Danmark to Algeria **Katrine From Høyer**.

This partnership underlines the Novo Nordisk social responsibility purpose to make positive contributions in solving significant societal challenges, as well as enabling equitable care access at global scale.

The partnership is aligned with UNHCR's strategic commitment to sustainable and long-term interventions. It contributes to the implementation of the health objectives outlined in the UNHCR Algeria Multiyear Strategy by:

- Improving access to and the quality of healthcare services for Sahrawi refugees.
- Strengthening the capacity of healthcare providers to address key health challenges in the camps.
- Promoting health awareness and encouraging the adoption of best practices within the refugee community.

For this partnership, Novo Nordisk Algeria will provide amongst other things, the necessary support and resources to:

- Improve healthcare access to refugees in the Tindouf camps, by supplying treatment to 3,800 patients living with diabetes.
- Provide awareness sessions for more than 1,000 people living in these camps, to promote the adoption of healthcare best practices among the refugee population.
- Upscale the capabilities of healthcare providers and nursing staff (estimated to 80) to address everyday healthcare challenges.

This collaboration represents a significant step in local private sector engagement in Algeria, reinforcing UNHCR's commitment to innovative and sustainable humanitarian solutions. While the partnership focuses on improving health services for Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps, it also aligns with the broader objectives of the Sahrawi Refugee Response Plan (SRRP), which addresses urgent needs across key sectors such as water, education, livelihoods, energy, food security, and shelter—with a strong focus on inclusion and support for women, girls, youth, and persons with disabilities.

Underscoring the importance of this contribution, UNHCR Representative in Algeria, Alistair Alan Boulton, encouraged local economic actors to embrace what he described as an innovative model of engagement. He stated: *"This partnership with Novo Nordisk is more than a breakthrough, it's a lifeline. It is a shared commitment to empower those who need it most. By working together, we can offer the Sahrawi refugees not just immediate help, but the means to a more sustainable and healthy future."*

The General Manager of Novo Nordisk Algeria, Hamza BENHARKAT, added: *"We are honoured to be engaging today with the UNHCR in this important partnership, to support and improve the living conditions of Sahrawi refugees. This is part of the Novo Nordisk heritage and culture, which has been supporting refugees and vulnerable communities all around the world for decades. For us in Algeria,*

*this is a groundbreaking initiative in UN-Private sector collaboration. We are proud to take the lead in such purpose, these refugees need our contribution, and we hope that other local companies will follow in our footsteps"*

#### **About UNHCR**

UNHCR, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, was established in 1950 to protect and assist displaced and stateless individuals worldwide. In Algeria, UNHCR has been supporting Sahrawi refugees since 1986, making it one of the longest-standing refugee situations in the world. The agency, in coordination with partners, continues to lead efforts through the Sahrawi Refugee Response Plan, launched in November 2023, to address the ongoing humanitarian needs of the refugee population in the five camps near Tindouf.

For more information, visit <https://www.unhcr.org/countries/algeria>

#### **About Novo Nordisk**

Novo Nordisk is a leading global healthcare company founded in 1923 and headquartered in Denmark. Our purpose is to drive change to defeat serious chronic diseases built upon our heritage in diabetes. We do so by pioneering scientific breakthroughs, expanding access to our medicines and working to prevent and ultimately cure disease. Novo Nordisk employs about 76,300 people in 80 countries and markets its products in around 170 countries. For more information, visit [novonordisk.com](https://novonordisk.com), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).

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