



For Immediate Release
Press Release

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Contact: AlgiersPress@state.gov

U.S. Government Contributes more than \$4 Million in Emergency Response to Flooding in Sahrawi Refugee Camps

The United States Department of State announced a more than \$4 million contribution of humanitarian assistance to support emergency efforts over the next three months to respond to flooding in the Sahrawi refugee camps near Tindouf, Algeria. The assistance will be programed through the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Program (WFP), and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). This new assistance is in addition to the \$8.4 million that the United States provided in fiscal year 2015 to UNHCR and the WFP to support the Sahrawi refugees.

This new funding includes nearly \$2.5 million for UNHCR, \$1.5 million for WFP, and more than \$400,000 for UNICEF for their Sahrawi refugee operations from the State Department's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration. The U.S. government contribution represents a sizeable portion of the joint appeal issued by UNHCR.

The flooding has resulted in significant damage to camp infrastructure, refugee shelters, and food supplies affecting as many as 11,500 households. The United States' contribution will assist efforts to provide emergency tents and support the rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged homes. In addition to replacing the 85,000 food rations lost to the flooding, it will also help provide essential core relief items, safe drinking water, and sanitation and hygiene supplies. The assistance will help to install temporary tented health facilities, rehabilitate damaged health facilities, and also restore electricity to hospital cold storage. Due to the damage to Sahrawi schools, the contribution will help establish temporary learning spaces and rehabilitate damaged schools, including the reconstruction of the center for children with disabilities.

The United States strongly supports the efforts of the UN and other NGOs present in the camps to meet the humanitarian needs of Sahrawi refugees. While aid organizations already present in the camps have mobilized a response, support from the international community is necessary to fully address the damage caused by the flooding.

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