

Assistance to Saharan refugees affected by flooding

Canadian Humanitarian Assistance Fund

People assisted: **15,000**

Funds provided: **\$250,000**

Assistance provided: **shelter, nutrition**



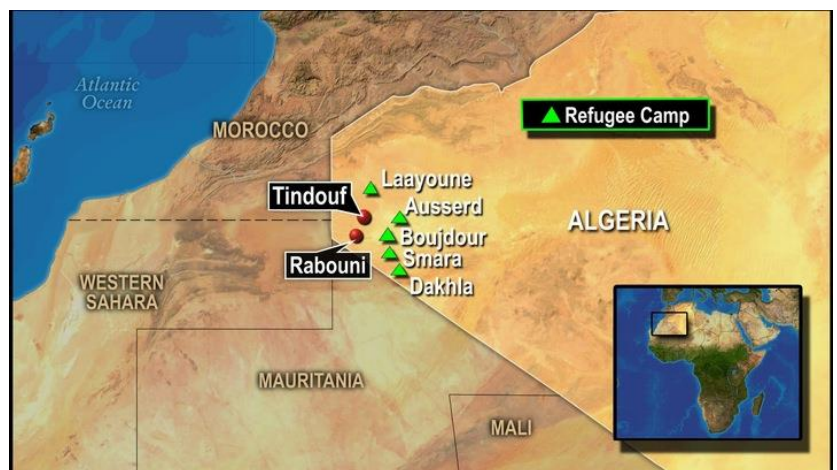
Between October 16 and 24, 2015, torrential rains hit five Saharan refugee camps in Southern Algeria. The severity and amplitude of the resulting floods is unprecedented for the region: more than 11,411 homes were either completely destroyed or made uninhabitable. In one of the camps, 100% of the homes are now uninhabitable.

Oxfam-Québec's response will focus on a rapid reconstruction of housing units for the most vulnerable families. The housing units are built taking into account the harsh climate of the region.

Thanks to the Canadian Humanitarian Assistance Fund (CHAF), Oxfam-Québec will be able to provide long-term shelter to 112 families and nutrition to 15,000 people, including 3,000 children, affected by the floods.

Background

Torrential rains fell on 5 Saharan refugee camps in southwestern Algeria. The scale and devastation of these floods is unprecedented. In the Dakhla refugee camp, 100% of all the homes are inhabitable today. It is particularly vulnerable because of its isolation: the closest city is 150 km away (Tindouf). As well, the camp's market was destroyed, leaving the refugees with no access to food.



Outline of Needs

There were 90,000 vulnerable Saharan refugees, mainly those living in the Dakhla camp, who were affected by the flooding. The flooding destroyed the refugees' homes, lodgings and shelter.

Restoring shelter will be the biggest challenge in the next few weeks. The camp's isolated location and the logistics involved in getting material to the flood zone will prove expensive.

The loss of food stores and access to food has left the refugees particularly vulnerable and dependent on aid distribution.

Project Response

Objective: Reduce the impact of flooding on the Saharan refugee population with adapted and coordinated emergency assistance for both shelter and food security.

Activities

- Provide safe and weather resistant shelters to at least 112 of the most vulnerable families (560 people)
- Provide supplementary food rations to 15,000 people.

The response will include training members of the population on improved construction techniques, consistent with Oxfam's innovative approach introduced with its partners over the last few years.

This approach includes documents and manuals developed for masons and which will be shared with all involved. The goal is to complement and coordinate the shelter response.

In this instance, funds earmarked for the nutrition portion of the response will be funded solely by Oxfam-Quebec, while GAC and the Humanitarian Coalition funds will go towards shelter.

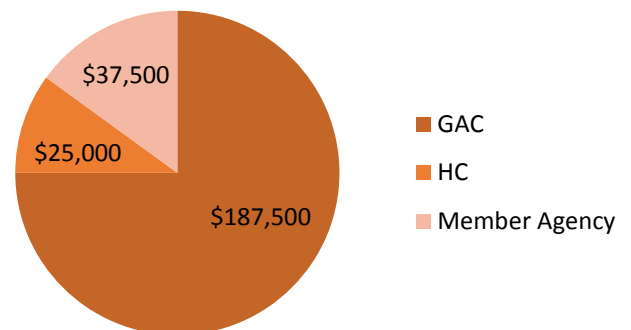
Organizational Capacity

Oxfam has been present in the Saharan camps since 1975 but in a permanent capacity since 2006 with a team of 16 full-time staff.

The Oxfam network ensures there is the required expertise for this response.

At the local level, the organization's extensive network allows for a quick on-the-ground mobilisation. Its strong partnerships with local actors such as the Saharan Red Crescent and the Department of Social Affairs, among others, make Oxfam well positioned to respond quickly and effectively, without requiring excessive oversight and approvals from the authorities.

Distribution of Funds



Our interventions in response to localized disasters are supported by Global Affairs Canada (75%), the member agencies of the Humanitarian Coalition (15%) and the Humanitarian Coalition (10%). The CHAF was created in 2014 to ensure timely funding is available to fund lifesaving responses to smaller-scale disasters.