

# Morocco

## Protecting and Empowering Child and Youth Refugees and Migrants in Morocco

### Background information

Morocco is a country of origin, destination and transit for refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants. Unaccompanied children and youth comprise 10% of migrants and 40% of refugees who make the perilous journey to Morocco and beyond. These young people are highly vulnerable and incur significant losses due to missed education and lack of community support.

To mitigate multiple risks faced by children on the move (such as, poverty, malnutrition, physical violence, human trafficking, lack of access to basic health care, etc.), the programme implements a holistic approach by addressing the various need of children and youth refugees and migrants (CYRM) and involving many stakeholders at various governance levels. Notably, the programme pilots an innovative approach to improve social harmony, reduce vulnerability and build resilience of unaccompanied children and youth as well as host communities.

Building on and supporting the implementation of Morocco's National Immigration and Asylum Strategy (NISA), the programme enhances efforts to strengthen capacity in migration management by identifying and responding to a cross-section of challenges, including the need for safe housing, access to education and training, as well as community support. Based on the needs and vulnerabilities of children and youth, the programme brings together the UN system, multiple Moroccan ministries and civil society to build strong protective networks and empower young migrants and refugees to realize their potential as contributors to society, peace and prosperity.

### Goals and objectives

The overall goal of the programme is to improve the protection of vulnerable refugee, migrant and asylee children and youth in Morocco. To this end, the programme addresses three multisectoral but interrelated objectives: (i) promoting social norms and acceptance of refugee and migrant children and youth among host communities, thereby enhancing social cohesion; (ii) identifying and assisting refugee and migrant children and youth to facilitate local integration and measures for child protection; and (iii) improving the capacities of government institutions and non-governmental organizations to enhance the well-being and future prospects of refugee and migrant children and youth.



#### DURATION

November 2018 – October 2021



#### UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

UNRCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM



#### OTHER KEY PARTNERS

Ministry of Social Solidarity, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Entraide Nationale, various CSOs and NGO networks



#### BENEFICIARIES

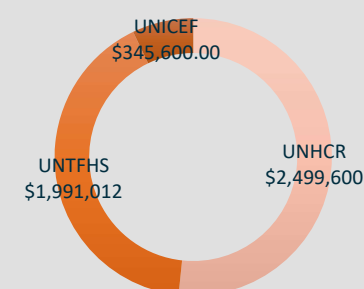
606,378



#### TOTAL BUDGET

US\$ 4,836,212

#### POOLING OF RESOURCES



# Beneficiaries

The programme benefits 606,378 CYMR and their families. Host communities in Casablanca, Oujda, Tangiers and Rabat, with a combined population of 5.3 million people, will also benefit.

## Applying the Human Security approach

The human security approach recognizes the complexity and interconnected nature of the challenges that confront CYRM and their aspirations to be free from fear, want and indignity. At the same time, risks for CYRM vary considerably within different Moroccan regions. Each area presents a specific context with different challenges. For example, access to basic services such as health and education can be more or less difficult depending on the location and the number of associations which are working with people on the move.

To consider these context-specific variances and to address the priority challenges within each region, the programme combines top-down norms, processes and institutions, including the establishment of the rule of law, good governance, accountability and social protection instruments, with a bottom-up focus in which inclusive and participatory processes support the important role of individuals and communities as actors in defining and implementing their essential freedoms.

By supporting Protection Working Groups – networks of CSOs working on migration in Casablanca, Oujda, Tangiers and Rabat – and linking these to the UN Joint Programme for Supporting the Implementation of NISA, the programme ensures coherence across multiple interventions and advances integrated solutions to enhance public perceptions of migrants and refugees, strengthen capacities of key institutional stakeholders to improve CYRM protection and empowerment, and build bridges and communications between local and national policies and actions. This reinforces the application of national processes, systems and laws in local communities and supports the transmission of local realities to policy and decision makers at the national level, thereby promoting a mutually beneficial framework that improves social harmony, reduces vulnerability and strengthen the resilience of unaccompanied children and youth as well as host communities.

The lessons and good practices from this programme will help inform the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, showcasing the value of the human security approach for reducing vulnerabilities and building resilience, particularly for those most in need of support to realize the benefits of migration for all.

## Achievements

- The programme enhanced social cohesion between CYRM and host communities by conducting awareness-raising interventions on migration, diversity, integration, and acceptance of CYRM. Concurrently, it organized joint recreational activities that promoted values of living together and solidarity, such as the Morocco Playground Festival, an intercultural basketball tournament for children among refugees, migrants, and host communities. A total of 729 young refugees, migrants, and Moroccans participated in these intercultural sports and artistic activities, creating opportunities for sharing experiences and promoting principles of tolerance, gender equality, and respect for human rights. Additionally, 1,225 people were sensitized to diversity and living together values through workshops, social networks, and information on refugees, asylum, human security, and social cohesion.
- The programme also supported the integration of child protection principles into migration policies and the mainstreaming of CYRM within national and local child protection systems. It built the capacities of 2,259 actors, including territorial authorities, law enforcement, private sector representatives, media, NGOs, and civil society organizations on CYRM protection-related topics. The programme also strengthened the capacities of the Ministry of Migration Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Family and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Liberties, National Council for Human Rights, and Social Centers in providing protection and social services to CYRM.
- The programme also provided financial and technical assistance to CYRM and their families to promote their access to education and facilitate their sustainable economic integration within host communities. In total, 14,274 migrants, refugees, and vulnerable Moroccan households benefited from educational and training support. The programme offered a wide range of services, including cash assistance, humanitarian and medical aid, scholarships, financial support for educational enrollment, as well as emergency shelter and housing.



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