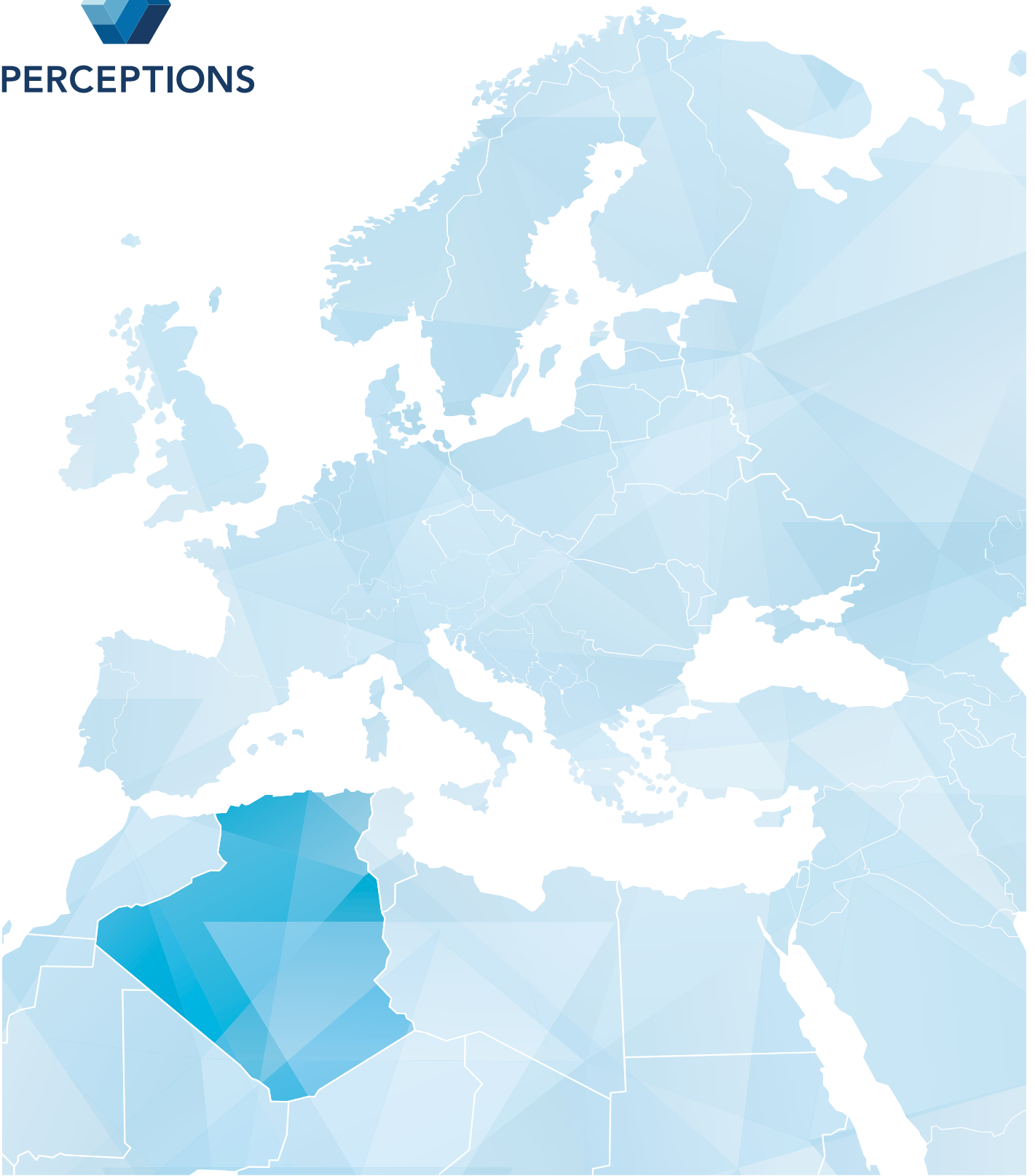




PERCEPTIONS



Algeria

PERCEPTIONS
Country Report

PERCEPTIONS RESEARCH:

Literature, studies, projects, stakeholders, solutions, tools and practices

DISCLAIMER:

Disclaimer: This report is based on desk-research conducted between 2019 and 2022 and covers major development between the period of 2015-2019. For more updated information on the country profile, please check the additional institutional links at the end of the document.



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a) Geographical map



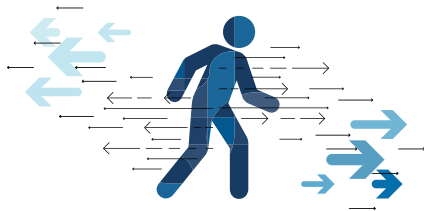
b) Short summary

Algeria has acceded to multilateral international conventions enabling it to strengthen its legislative framework at two levels, the first concerning human rights and the second concerning workers' rights: Human rights conventions (including e.g., The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women adopted in 1979 and ratified in 1996), conventions on workers' rights (including e.g., Convention 89 on women's night work (revised) of 1948), and country-specific conventions with France, Belgium, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Mauritania, Niger, and Mali. More recently, due to its strategic location, Algeria has also become a transit centre for the circulation of people between the two shores of the Mediterranean. As such, Algeria became an important

destination for people forced to seek asylum outside their country of origin. However, the irregular situation in which thousands of migrants find themselves in Algeria makes them vulnerable to many

risks. Over the past years, several incidents and security threats involving migrants have been recorded, the most important ones involving clashes between migrants and local communities.

c) Facts & figures



Algeria has become a transit center for the circulation of people between the two shores of the Mediterranean.



More than 1,000 asylum seekers seek protection each year in Algiers and mainly come from Mali and Syria (UNHCR, 2013).

c) Full document

Institutional setting

According to the framework for Africa's migration policy and action plan (2018-2027), the lack of social and economic opportunities; the rule of law, poor governance, nepotism, corruption, political instability, conflict, terrorism and civil strife are key driving (pull factors) such as political structures, economic systems, demographic structures and other such factors influence mobility in often unique ways. Real or perceived opportunities for a better life, higher incomes, improved security, higher education level and health care, are attractions factors in destination countries. Many of other factors that facilitate migration compound push and pull dynamics. These include lower migration costs, improved communications, particularly social networks and the Internet increased availability of information, and the need to join relatives, families and friends.

Algeria is defined, like many countries, as a sender and receiver of migration, which makes it a transit country for a large number of migrants from the African Sahel. The vastness of its border band has also contributed to it being a destination for migrants heading north. A priori, Algeria has never adopted a reference migration policy, therefore no explicit formulation of a policy, with its principles, its objectives, much less budgeting in accordance with international norms and standards. Nevertheless, this absence of migration policies has not left Algeria without a regulatory mechanism governing the entry and exit of foreigners. Ordinance No. 66-211 of 21 July 1966 on conditions of entry and residence was the first law promulgated by the Algerian Authorities. Under this ordinance, foreigners travelling to Algeria with a valid national passport or travel document are required for ordinary entry to Algerian soil. Ordinance No. 66-211 of 21 July 1966 regulates in its texts the so-called "particulars" entries of two groups: asylum seekers and refugees through Algeria's accession to various international conventions, in this case, the ratification of the 1951 Geneva Convention (adopted in 1969), as well as the ratification of the OAU regional treaty (refugees in Africa). The same ordinance also deals with particular exits, including deportation measures that may be taken

against any foreigner who violates the regulations governing the entry of foreigners into Algeria, their circulation and their stay.

Algeria has acceded to multilateral international conventions enabling it to strengthen its legislative framework at two levels, the first concerning human rights and the second concerning workers' rights: Human rights conventions (including e.g., The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women adopted in 1979 and ratified in 1996), conventions on workers' rights (including e.g., Convention 89 on women's night work (revised) of 1948), and country-specific conventions with France, Belgium, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Mauritania, Niger, and Mali.

Short migration overview

Historically, migration in Africa is generally categorized into three main periods: migration during the pre-colonial period, during the colonial and post-colonial era. Colonialism and post-independence ties to the former colonial powers, largely shaped the patterns of migration observed today and will continue to influence future trends (Masoud, 1985). This is also the case in Algeria. The country's recent history is marked by difficult stages since the beginning of the French occupation until after independence. This has affected the Algerian internal as well as international migration, which has been predominantly forced and compulsory (Masoud, 1985). When in 1954 the liberation revolution emerged, migration movements were affected significantly. When the war intensified and spread, the French military administration wanted to make rural Algeria unpopulated and forced the people who were living there to migrate to other regions. Consequently, between 1954 and 1962, nearly all rural areas became vacant of their civilian population, except for a few citizens that were part of the National Liberation Army, who had fled and had no specific housing. The rural population migrated collectively to disadvantaged areas in and around the cities, living in huts and informal housing, largely unemployed and experiencing other social and economic problems. Widespread

unemployment in addition to other problems that led to a low standard of living eventually became a push factor for international migration, particularly to France (Menna et al., 2020).

More recently, due to its strategic location, Algeria has also become a transit center for the circulation of people between the two shores of the Mediterranean. As such, Algeria became an important destination for people forced to seek asylum outside their country of origin. According to UNHCR, more than 1,000 asylum seekers seek protection each year through their office in Algiers and mainly come from Mali and Syria, as well as from other countries (Labdelaoui et al., 2013). At the same time, Algeria also became a country of settlement for many migrants, particularly from sub-Saharan Africa, who are irregularly staying in the country and initially considered it as a transit point to the European Union. Moreover, routes to reach Europe have evolved and diversified. With hardly any possibility to legally reach the EU, both refugees as well as Algerians (who are faced with difficulties to obtain visas to enter foreign countries), attempts to reach the EU are not only made via the Algerian coast, but also by using new routes via Turkey and Greece. They are mostly young Algerians who resort to irregular migration and are often referred to as "Harraga", an Arabic word meaning burners. Burning borders means leaving without passing the legal channels (ICMPD, 2013). In 2019, 2,774 "Harragas" 3,810 non-Algerian refugees attempting to cross the border were intercepted by the Algerian authorities (MDS, n.d.).

Key development since 2015

The irregular situation in which thousands of migrants find themselves in Algeria makes them vulnerable to many risks. Over the past years, several incidents and security threats involving migrants have been recorded, the most important ones involving clashes between migrants and local communities. Since 2015, 3 major incidents were identified. The first incident involved the murder of a local citizen by an African migrant in March 2016 in the district of Ouargla, the south-eastern part of the capital. This incident ignited violent clashes between the local population and African immigrants, and 8 African immigrants were injured. During a second incident, the local

population entered in a violent confrontation with the African migrants in the city of Dely Ibrahim in Algiers. The residents refused the presence of the migrants in their neighbourhood due to the illegal activities practised by those immigrants (drug dealing, prostitution, illegal alcohol selling and consumption). The most recent incident occurred in July 2017, in the district of Jijel East of the Algerian capital, where four people were injured during violent clashes between locals and African migrants. According to the local residents, these violent clashes were sparked by a dispute between a young local citizen and an African migrant. In all these incidents, the Algerian authorities reacted by deporting all the migrants who had settled in the places mentioned above, presumably to maintain the public order. In a similar vein, Algerian authorities deported 105 Malian migrants, after accusing them to be members of a terrorist organization "Ansar Al din" (Menna et al., 2020). Overall, between 2016 and 2018, the Algerian authorities deported more than 12,000 sub-African migrants to the neighbouring countries (Menna et al., 2020). Besides the risk to be deported, migrants in an irregular situation are facing the risk to be involved in the organized crime or to be incarcerated. The Algerian police recorded a lot of crimes committed by undocumented migrants, with most of these crimes being related to drug dealing and smuggling (Menna et al., 2020). Other incidents were recorded but are considered isolated acts, such as the gang rape of Cameroonian women by eight Algerians in the district of Oran west the Algerian capital, and the homicide of an African migrant by his comrades in the capital Algiers (Menna et al., 2020).

For more information, see:

IOM-Algeria:

<https://www.iom.int/countries/algeria>

Algeria Foreign Ministry:

http://www.mae.gov.dz/default_en.aspx

Algeria Interior Ministry:

<https://www.interieur.gov.dz/index.php/fr/>



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