"Unearthing Potential Economic and Social Growth in Algeria's Shadow Areas"– The Case of Selected Shadow Zones in Tiaret Province –•

مناطق الظل في الجزائر بين العبء الاجتماعي والمورد الاقتصادجي –بعض مناطق الظل لولاية تيارت أنموذجا–

Moulay Saliha [1], Sadji Fatima[2]
[1] Ibn Khaldoun University, Algeria, saliha.moulay@univ-tiaret.dz
[2]Ibn Khaldoun University, Algeria, fatima.sadji@univ-tiaret.dz,
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Abstract:
This study aims to shed light on the shadow areas in Algeria and to examine the Presidential initiative concerning these regions. The research relies on both the descriptive and analytical approaches. It addresses the theoretical framework of the study by presenting a set of concepts and elements relevant to the topic, in addition to the applied aspect, which includes various statistics related to economic and social development projects.
The study concludes that supporting local and economic development in shadow areas transforms them from being a heavy burden on the state into a significant economic resource. This can be achieved through investment in local traditional occupations, including crafts, traditional industries, agricultural and farming activities, as well as tourism.
The research also presents several recommendations, the most important of which is that shadow areas are no less important than urban regions, and it is therefore essential to strengthen development within them—particularly in the sectors that represent their comparative advantages, such as handicrafts, home-based and manual work, agriculture, and livestock farming.
***Keys words*:** Development, Shadow Areas, Local Development, Local Communities.
***JEL classification codes*:** R58; R59;Z13

ملخص:
تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تسليط الضوء عن مناطق الظل في الجزائر و دراسة مشروع رئيس الجمهورية المتعلق بهذه المناطق،وتم الاعتماد في هذه الدراسة على كل من المنهجين الوصفي و التحليلي،حيث تم التطرق إلى الإطار النظري للدراسة و عرض مجموعة من المفاهيم و العناصر التي تخدم البحث،إضافة إلى الجانب التطبيقي الذي تم فيه عرض مجموعة من الإحصائيات المتعلقة المشاريع الاقتصادية والمشاريع المتعلقة بالجانب الاجتماعي، وتوصلنا إلى مجموعة من النتائج من أهمها أن دعم التنمية المحلية و التنمية الاقتصادية بمناطق الظل يؤدي إلى تحويل هذه المناطق من أنها تمثل عبئا ثقيلا يقع على كاهل لدولة إلى مورد اقتصادي ضخم يمكن الاعتماد عليه من خلال الاستثمار في المهن الأصلية الموطنة سواء تعلق الأمر بالحرف أو الصناعات التقليدية أو أنشطة الفلاحة و الزراعة أو السياحية ،و تحمل دراستنا مجموعة من التوصيات أهمها أن مناطق الظل لا تقل أهمية عن المناطق الحضرية ومن الضروري تعزيز التنمية فيها خاصة في الجوانب التي لها تتميز هذه المناطق بها كالأعمال الحرفية و المنزلية و اليدوية و كل ما يتعلق بالجانب لفلاحي والزراعي و الرعي.
الكلمات المفتاحية:التنمية، مناطق ، الظل،التنمية المحلية، الجماعات المحلية.
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Corresponding author: *Moulay Saliha,* ***e-mail:***saliha.moulay@univ-tiaret.dz

Introduction

Like other countries around the world, Algeria strives to achieve economic and social progress. One of the key mechanisms serving these objectives is the implementation of local development, which seeks to improve the living conditions of local populations by mobilizing local resources and strengthening the role of local authorities in managing community affairs.

In Algeria, local development constitutes a strategic and ongoing national effort, requiring the concerted participation of both the state—through its institutions and structures—and civil society in all its components. The ultimate goal is to achieve comprehensive and sustainable development that ensures a decent standard of living for citizens, who represent the central element of this process.

Since independence, Algeria has continuously pursued the reinforcement of local development in order to promote equity and reduce regional disparities across the national territory. This commitment became particularly evident at the end of **2019**, following the address delivered by the Presidentof the République, Mr. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, in which he referred to areas still suffering from poverty, marginalization, and deprivation—what came to be known as "shadow areas."

The state's recognition of the significant developmental gap between these regions and others highlighted the extent of social and economic exclusion they experience. The term *shadow areas* first emerged in Algeria during this period to describe deprived or "black spot" regions scattered across the country—areas characterized by isolation, marginalization, and lack of basic living conditions, such as access to drinking water, roads, electricity, healthcare, education, and employment opportunities.

Consequently, the development of these regions has become a major challenge for national authorities seeking to achieve social justice and inclusive development.

Based on the above, this study—through addressing the concepts related to local development and examining how this process can be implemented in shadow areas, supported by relevant statistical data—seeks to answer the following research question:

How can shadow areas be transformed from a social burden into an economic resource?

Theoretical Framework of the Study

This study addresses several key elements, which are presented as follows:

1.1. The Nature of Shadow Areas

The issue of *shadow areas* represents one of the most complex and pressing topics in Algeria, attracting significant attention in both **political and academic circles**. In what follows, we attempt to present several key elements that help in understanding and clarifying this concept.

The Concept of Shadow Areas

A variety of definitions have been proposed to explain the notion of *shadow areas*, including the following:

The concept of *shadow areas* refers to **regions deprived of basic infrastructure and public facilities**, such as**water and electricity networks, health centers, and schools**(Lahouazi, 2021, pp. 177-192).

Furthermore, the term *shadow areas* denotes **vast regions that remain on the margins of development**, lacking facilities, services, and essential living conditions. These areas do not correspond to a specific geographical zone, nor are they confined to a particular region; rather, they include **remote rural areas** as well as **zones located within or near major urban centers**. It is sometimes difficult to imagine that such areas, despite their proximity to cities, suffer from **a complete lack of development and exclusion from state programs** intended to meet citizens' basic needs in terms of infrastructure and public services. These areas are distributed throughout **the four geographical regions of Algeria**(Saleh & May, 2023, p. 698)**.**

Term **"shadow areas"** (*zones d'ombre*) was first introduced in Algeria when**the President of the Republic, Mr. Abdelmadjid Tebboune,** held **a meeting between the government and the provincial governors (walis)**on **February 16, 2020.** In his address, the President defined *shadow areas* as **regions suffering from isolation, remoteness, and marginalization**, and which **lack the minimum conditions for a decent life**.

Shadow areas are also defined as**remote and isolated regions**, characterized by their **geographical features**, which may include **mountainous, plains, desert, or border areas** adjacent to neighboring countries. The suffering of these regions is manifested in their **fragility and vulnerability**, as their inhabitants live under **difficult and precarious conditions** due to the **absence of infrastructure** and the **lack of basic necessities of life**, such as adequate housing, road networks, electricity and gas supply, and access to **safe drinking water**.

Moreover, these regions face a**significant shortage of educational and health facilities—**and even where such institutions exist, they often lack the necessary equipment and resources, resulting in **poor-quality services**. All of these factors inevitably lead to the**absence of development** in these areas(Warda & Sami, 2021, p. 11).

In summary, it can be concluded that shadow areas are regions marked by deprivation,marginalization, fragility, and an almost complete absence of infrastructure anddevelopmentindicators. This situation has led to a deterioration in living conditions for the inhabitants of these areas, causing them to experience feelings of isolation and deprivation, as well as a lack of the most basic requirements for a decent life.

Such areas are often located in remote, desert, and border regions, or on the outskirts ofcities—and in some cases, even within urban centers themselves.

They are characterized by a severe shortage of educational, health, cultural, and recreational facilities, reflecting their overall exclusion from the national development process.

Factors Behind the Emergence of Shadow Areas in Algeria

It can be stated that there are **no single or specific causes**that led to the emergence of *shadow areas* in Algeria. Rather, this phenomenon is the result of **a set of cumulative factors** that have persisted **since independence until today**. A major part of these causes lies in the **state's failure to achieve comprehensive and balanced development**, while another part relates to the **limited role and responsibility of civil society** in local development processes.

Additionally**, political instability and security crises** that Algeria experienced during certain periods have also contributed to this situation. The main causes can be summarized as follows:

- The **failure of the development model** adopted since independence in building a strong state and sustainable economic system.
- The **misallocation and exhaustion of public funds,** often at the expense of isolated and disadvantaged regions.
- The adoption of **short-term, patchwork policies** instead of acknowledging and addressing structural realities.
- **Rural exodus** toward major cities, largely driven by the **civil conflict** that Algeria experienced during the 1990s.
- The **limited powers of elected local authorities**, preventing them from becoming effective actors in local development.
- The **poor performance of local elected councils**, despite the resources made available to them, as acknowledged even by government reports.
- The **absence of popular participation** in the development process.
- The **weakness of governance** and the **lack of accountability** in local management.
- The **lack of transparency** and the spread of **corruption, favoritism, and clientelism**within local administration.
- The **prevalence of administrative corruption**, extending from the highest to the lowest levels of local government.
- The **weakness and inefficiency of laws and regulations** in addressing administrative problems and keeping pace with socio-economic changes.
- The **failure to engage the private sector** as an active partner in development efforts.
- The **dominance of unqualified or self-interested elites** within public administration, accompanied by **fraud, favoritism, and weak oversight mechanisms**.

The **ineffectiveness and weakness of political parties**, which have failed to play a In Algeria, the classification of *shadow areas* is based on a set of **criteria** established by **Ministerial Instruction No. 1253**, dated **August 13,**

2020, issued by the **Ministry of Interior, Local Authorities, and Territorial Planning**. This instruction outlines the following(No Instruction, 2020):

- **First-level priority:** Areas **not connected to drinking water networks, not supplied with electricity,** and **not connected to natural gas networks**, in addition to **the absence of sanitation systems**. These regions also **lack public transportation and health facilities**, and suffer from **the absence or deterioration of road infrastructure** as well as **poor security conditions**.
- **Second-level priority:** Areas that **lack school catering services** and **heating in schools**, suffer from **overcrowded classrooms**, and **lack nearby sports or recreational facilities.**
- Areas **exposed to natural risks**, such as **landslides or floods.**

In addition to the above, other elements are also considered **important classification criteria,** as noted by(Ben Amr & Djilali, 2022, p. 6):

- The **distance** of the area classified as a shadow zone from the **municipal headquarters.**
- The **approximate size or area**of the zone.
- The **population size** of the area.
- The **distance** separating the area from the **nearest primary and middle schools.**
- constructive role in promoting local development.

Requirements and Conditions for the Development of Shadow Areas

- *Problems Facing Shadow Areas*
- Residents of *shadow areas* in Algeria suffer from a wide range of **deficiencies and structural problems**, which can be summarized as follows:
- **1. Weak Public Services**

Many regions across the country suffer from **economic and social marginalization**, primarily because the Algerian state has historically **failed to establish a fair and balanced distribution of investments** across all regions. This is clearly reflected in the **lack of basic services and facilities**, as well as poor **health and educational indicators**, especially at the university level. These areas also experience an **almost total absence of electricity and gas networks, urban infrastructure**, and **recreational spaces**, which has led to **isolation and vulnerability.**

- **2. Weak Local Resources**

Most shadow areas, particularly those located along the borders, **struggle to generate sufficient local revenues** to meet residents' needs. This is largely due to the **weakness of the agricultural, industrial, and tourism sectors**, which limits their economic self-sufficiency.

- **3. Low Standard of Living**

The lack of local resources and the absence of social cohesion result in **imbalanced development**, which in turn produces **inequality in income and wealth distribution**. This fosters **class divisions**, as discussed by *Karl Marx*, where inequality in income and investment reduces the **purchasing power** of

middle- and lower-income groups, making them unable to consume adequately due **to low wages and capital returns**.

- **4. High Unemployment and Rural Exodus**

Unemployment rates in shadow areas are considerably high, prompting residents to **migrate to major cities** as their only means of survival. This internal migration has had serious consequences, such as the **proliferation of informal settlements** in large urban centers(Auiyada, 2018, pp. 111-115).

- **5. Organizational and Technical Problems**

Most of these problems stem from the **lack of effective administrative decentralization and democracy** at the national level. Achieving successful development requires **planning, implementation, and monitoring**, particularly for local development programs. However**, centralized planning persists,** due either to the **lack of training, reform tools, and skilled human resources** at the local government level, or to **bureaucratic inefficiency and avoidance of responsibility**.

- **6. Deterioration of the Rural Environment**

The rural environment, which forms an essential part of shadow areas, suffers from multiple **environmental challenges**. These include **neglect of sanitation systems**, **contamination of drinking water,** and **poor health conditions**. Additionally, the **infiltration of polluting industrial projects** into rural zones has caused severe **damage to agricultural lands and the health of local residents**(Bousekran, 2022, p. 269)**.**

- **7. Weak Democratic Mechanisms**

The Algerian political reality reveals **fragile democratic mechanisms**, reflected in **low voter turnout rates**, which stem from a **loss of public trust** in the state and its institutions. This is due, among other factors, to the **declining credibility and performance of elected councils**(Absi, 2020, p. 15)**.**

- the marginalization of shadow area residents exacerbates **political alienation,** depriving citizens of participation in **public and local affairs**, monitoring the work of representative institutions, and contributing to the **formulation and evaluation of public policies**within the framework of **participatory democracy**(Bousekran, 2022, p. 270).

- **8. Absence of a Clear Development Strategy**

The main reason for the **failure of development strategies** lies in their **uniform application across all regions** without considering each area's **economic, social, and cultural specificities**. This lack of contextualization leads to **incoherent and poorly targeted policies**, resulting in **ineffective mobilization** and **limited public participation in change initiatives**.

Therefore, **a clear, scientifically grounded vision for development** is essential for sustainable progress(Mariam, 2011, pp. 178-179).

Conditions and Requirements for Development in Shadow Areas

Conditions for Development in Shadow Areas

In order to achieve sustainable development in shadow areas, several essential **conditions** must be fulfilled, including:

- The establishment of **equitable and balanced development** to ensure the successful completion of the *shadow areas project*.
- To achieve fairness in the distribution of development, **shadow areas must be upgraded into well-equipped and modern residential communities**.
- The preparation of **development programs must be based on a precise scientific vision**.
- It is essential to define a **comprehensive development vision** and set a**clear timetable** for the implementation of development plans.
- To initiate genuine change, the **principle of popular participation** must be materialized in conjunction with the efforts of both **the government and local authorities**.(Djouadi, 2020)

Requirements for Development in Shadow Areas REPETITION

As part of its efforts to **promote and implement development** in shadow areas, the **Algerian state** has identified a number of **key requirements**, summarized as follows:

- The appointment of a **Presidential Advisor** tasked with conducting nationwide field visits, consulting with experts, and making decisions aligned with the needs of **civil society**, which is considered a major actor in the development process.
- The **mobilization of financial resources** from public budgets and the **deployment of all necessary human resources** to accompany project implementation.
- The establishment of **permanent on-site monitoring** by **elected officials** at both the **municipal and provincial levels** to ensure quality execution and **rational use of public funds.**
- The **evaluation by provincial governors** of available capacities and financial resources necessary for projects directed toward **isolated and marginalized regions**.
- The **effective implementation of development programs**, whether **sectoral or local**, through **municipal and provincial councils**.
- Efforts to **create investment opportunities** and **generate employment** within shadow areas.
- The **construction of essential infrastructure**, including **roads, schools, healthcare centers, post offices, hospitals**, and all other **public service facilities**.
- The availability of **qualified human resources and technical staff** dedicated to ensuring the **success and sustainability of the development process**.
- The **identification and analysis of key local issues and community concerns** through data collection and assessment.

- The **strengthening of local administrative capacities** and **field teams** to ensure the effective implementation of development projects.
- Enhancing the **efficiency and accessibility of public services** directed toward residents of deprived regions.
- **Reinforcing the economic dimension** of shadow areas by **increasing employment opportunities and improving the real income levels of local populations**(Hamis, 2020-2021, pp. 27-28)**.**
- The Reality of Developing Shadow Areas in Algeria
- *The Objective of Développions Shadow Areas in Algeria*
- The **emergency program** adopted by the **Algériens state** regarding shadow areas aims primarily to **reduce the development gap** between the different regions of the country, and to **lift isolation** from these marginalized territories by connecting them to **road networks, electricity, natural gas**, and **drinking water systems**.
- The program also seeks to **encourage inhabitants to embrace modernization** and to transform these **neglected, inactive regions** into **dynamic and economically vibrant areas.** This is to be achieved through the overall **promotion of economic activity**, particularly **rural and household investment**.
- Accordingly, the **developmental dimension** of both the **social** and **economic spheres** becomes evident, enabling shadow areas to actively contribute to **national economic and social life**.
- One of the key objectives of the development process in these areas is to **ensure effective participation in political life**, thereby reinforcing the **citizens' political rights** at the local level.

Instruction	Date	Content of the Measure
Instruction No. 853 by the Minister of Interior, Local Authorities, and Territorial Planning	**26/02/2020**	Establishment of an emergency program to ensure optimal support for the inhabitants of shadow areas by addressing their basic needs and improving their living conditions. The instruction also emphasized the creation of an **inter-ministerial committee** responsible for coordinating and supervising the implementation of the identification and development process of shadow areas, supported by **local committees** at the **wilaya** and **district** levels.
Instruction No. 854	**26/02/2020**	Redirecting unlaunched **local development operations** toward the real needs of shadow areas and exclusively allocating financial resources from the "**Municipal Development Plans 2020**" to community-based projects

Instruction	Date	Content of the Measure
		with a **direct impact** on the living conditions of residents.
Instruction No. 1184	**16/03/2020**	Ensuring that the needs of citizens living in shadow areas are met through **priority operations** that have an **immediate and direct impact**, with an emphasis on implementing them **as soon as possible** and mobilizing all necessary means.
Instruction No. 950	**19/05/2020**	The appointment of **qualified officers** as focal points at the **district and municipal levels** to monitor ongoing projects in shadow areas, prepare **periodic reports**, and submit them to central authorities within fixed deadlines.
Instruction No. 2349	**22/07/2020**	Issuance of a **framework memorandum** for programs targeting shadow areas, emphasizing the **urgent and effective response** to essential needs and aiming to **reduce regional development disparities** across the country.
Instruction No. 3241	**03/09/2020**	Monitoring the implementation of development programs in shadow areas through a **defined schedule** specifying the objectives and timelines—particularly for programs to be completed by the **end of 2020** or programmed for **2021**.
Instruction No. 3688	**21/09/2020**	Providing the necessary **guidelines for tracking registered projects** within the digital application and ensuring an accurate schedule for their delivery.

Source : (Tioub & Houchen, 2023, p. 291)

The state's efforts to promote these areas are embodied in integrated development projects of both social and economic nature, founded on participatory principles.

These projects aim to achieve four strategic objectives:

1. Strategic Objectives of Developing Shadow Areas

1. **Eliminating the isolation** of inhabitants living in scattered and remote areas.
2. **Providing access to safe drinking water** and connecting the population of shadow areas to **electricity** and **natural gas networks**.
3. **Improving educational conditions** for schoolchildren and enhancing **youth health and welfare services.**

4. **Strengthening and diversifying the economic capacities** of isolated areas in order to **create jobs and increase employment opportunities**.

In summary, the goal of developing shadow areas lies in **revitalizing rural regions** and **enhancing their social and economic role**, thus increasing their **contribution to both local and national income**through**wealth-generating activities.**

The state aspires to achieve **reverse migration** from urban centers back to rural areas once these territories reach the desired level of development.

2. Government Action Plan for the Development and Rehabilitation of Shadow Areas

Main Measures Taken by Central Authorities Regarding Shadow Areas*(Tioub & Houchen, 2023, p. 291)*

3. Services Launched by the Algerian Government in the Framework of the Emergency Program*)*

Table 1.*Main instructions adopted by the Algerian government concerning the emergency program for shadow areas*

Date	Content of the Service
26/02/2020	Launch of an **application** to identify shadow areas and ensure optimal care for their basic needs while improving living standards within the emergency program.
05/03/2020	Launch of a **second digital platform** aimed at **identifying and recording the development needs** of shadow areas.
14/04/2020	Launch of another **application dedicated to monitoring the progress** of registered projects in shadow areas.

Source: Prepared by the authors based on the same reference.

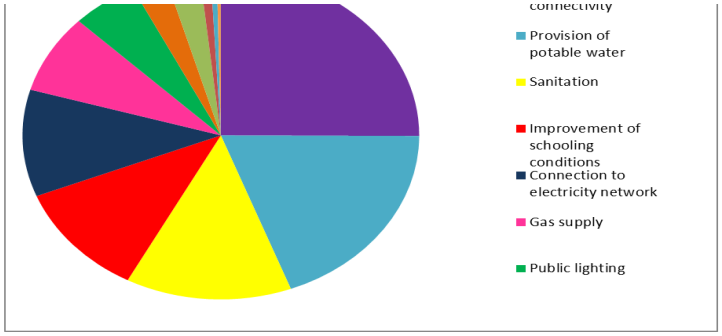
4. Sustainable Local Development Projects in Shadow Areas (2020–2024) under the Economic Recovery Program

Sub-sector	Number of Funded Development Projects	Allocated Budget (in Billion DZD)
Drinking water supply	2,465	30.66
Sanitation	1,737	14.69
Electricity connection	1,352	16.77
Gas supply	998	23.96
Improving schooling conditions	1,436	11.49
Public transport	41	0.39
Isolation reduction (road connectivity)	3,216	67.73
Public lighting	693	4.75
Community health	364	2.76

Sub-sector	Number of Funded Development Projects	Allocated Budget (in Billion DZD)
services		
Playgrounds and leisure spaces	356	3.27
Combating sand encroachment	3	0.058
Security coverage	66	0.63
Natural risk management	114	1.26
Total	**12,841**	**188.42**

Source:(Ben Maatouk, 2021, p. 295).

Fig.1. Percentage Distribution of Funded Development Projects by Sector



Source: Prepared by the authors based on data from the previous table.

Source: Prepared by the authors based on data from the previous table.

Graph Analysis

Percentage distribution of sectors by expenditure:

- **Isolation reduction (road connectivity):** 67.73 billion DZD (**35.9%**)
- **Drinking water supply:** 30.66 billion DZD (**16.3%**)
- **Gas supply:** 23.96 billion DZD (**12.7%**)
- **Electricity connection:** 16.77 billion DZD (**8.9%**)

The **remaining sectors** received significantly lower funding:

- **Combating sand encroachment:** 0.058 billion DZD (**0.03%**)
- **Public transport:** 0.39 billion DZD (**0.2%**)
- **Security coverage:** 0.63 billion DZD (**0.3%**)

Interpretation

The data clearly indicate that isolation reduction is the most prominent sector in terms of both the number of projects and allocated funding.
This underscores the priority given to breaking geographic isolation in shadow areas as a fundamental pillar of local development.

Furthermore, basic public services — including water supply, electricity, gas, and sanitation — captured a large share of total funding.

This demonstrates that the core focus of the program lies in improving living conditions and essential infrastructure.

However, social and cultural sectors, such as publictransport, recreational spaces**,** and sand encroachment control, received limited financial support despite their importance in enhancing quality of life.

There also appears to be a discrepancy between the number of projects and their allocated budgets in certain sectors (for example, a large number of school-related projects funded with relatively modest budgets).

Overall, the distribution of funded projects within the Economic Recovery Program (2020–2024**)** reveals a clear orientation toward improving core infrastructure in shadow areas.

Nevertheless, the figures highlight noticeable imbalances between sectors, suggesting a need to reassess development priorities to ensure comprehensive and inclusive growth that integrates social and cultural dimensions alongside economic development.

Traditional and Local Professions in Shadow Areas: A Promising Space for Investment and an Economic Resource

Shadow areas in Algeria are characterized by **strong adherence to traditions and cultural heritage**, which is reflected in the **social behavior and identity** of local inhabitants. This attachment is deeply rooted in **national sentiment and the preservation of ancestral customs.**

Economically, the inhabitants of shadow areas engage in **livelihood activities** primarily related to **agriculture, livestock breeding, and traditional crafts** such as **weaving, pottery, leatherwork, and copper craftsmanship**. These artisanal activities are mainly **manual and skill-based**, distinguishing their products from mass-produced industrial goods. Such products are often sought after due to their **high quality, cultural symbolism, and artistic authenticity,** reflecting**Algeria's traditional and heritage-rich identity**.

This cultural and economic uniqueness positions shadow areas as **potential hubs for investment,** where **supporting traditional and local professions** can generate **significant income**and contribute to both **local and national development**.

Economic Benefits of Supporting Local Professions in Shadow Areas

- **Empowering youth and unleashing creativity:**

Promoting local crafts fosters **positive energy among young people**, encouraging them to channel their potential into productive and meaningful work rather than idleness. This enhances **self-confidence and entrepreneurship**, enabling youth to **contribute to community welfare and economic growth.**

- **Stimulating local investment:**

Traditional occupations can be developed into **micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs)**that qualify for**state funding and institutional support**, especially under **national entrepreneurship strategies**. These sectors —

particularly **tourism and handicrafts** — hold high potential for **innovation and sustainable income generation**, as shadow areas are rich in **raw materials** such as clay, leather, wool, and wild plants(Ultra Algeria from ultra swat.com, 2025).

- **Attracting tourism and generating foreign currency:**

Traditional professions also play a key role in **boosting both domestic and international tourism**. Tourists are naturally drawn to **authentic local products, traditional cuisine**, and **heritage sites**, which enhances **the region's visibility and reputation**. With effective media promotion, these activities can significantly **increase national income**and **strengthen the local economy**(Hadjadj, 2016, p. 141).

Types of Local Professions Contributing to Economic Development in Shadow Areas

1. Professions Related to Agriculture and Local Cultivation

These include activities such as **grain and vegetable production, fruit tree cultivation**, and **livestock breeding** (cattle, sheep, camels, etc.). Additionally, shadow areas can benefit from **wild and natural resources**, such as **forest fruits (oak, jujube, wild berries), olive leaves, carob,** and **aromatic or medicinal plants** (thyme, rosemary, juniper, sage).

Such resources can be valorized in **pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries**, while **floriculture and gardening** can serve local and urban landscaping needs. Animal farming of **native species** like **quail, partridge, ostrich, and rabbits** can also provide sustainable income sources.

Importantly, these projects **require minimal financial investment** but **yield substantial economic returns**(Abdelghani, 2023, p. 414)**.**

2. Professions Related to the Circular Economy

This concept involves a **sustainable economic model** focused on **resource efficiency and waste reduction,** such as:

- Converting **organic waste** (food leftovers, vegetables, fruits) into **animal feed or organic fertilizers**.
- **Recycling paper, glass, plastic, metal, and wood scraps.**
- Collecting and reusing **animal hides** (from both formal slaughterhouses and informal practices) for **leather production**(Abdelghani, 2023, p. 415).

These activities transform what is traditionally viewed as **waste and social burden** into **economic assets**, creating **new income opportunities** and reducing environmental impact — a practical shift from **social liability to economic resource**.

3. Professions Related to Tourism and Handicrafts

Tourism and traditional industries are deeply interconnected in shadow areas. Many of these regions are **rich in historical and archaeological heritage**, attracting visitors who seek authentic cultural experiences.

Local crafts — such as **pottery, copperware, wood engraving, palm-leaf weaving, handmade rugs, jewelry, and traditional cuisine**— appeal strongly to tourists.

Although Algeria has a **rich artisanal tradition**, its contribution to **national income** remains modest. Strengthening these sectors through **local hospitality, guided tours by residents**, and **promotion of eco-friendly crafts (like palm-leaf baskets that replace plastic bags)** can enhance **sustainable tourism**and**environmental preservation**.

Local residents, given their **deep knowledge of the terrain (mountains, forests, deserts),** can also serve as **tour guides**, adding social and economic value to their communities(Djouadi, 2020, p. 415).

5. The Experimental Framework of the Study

Within the experimental framework of this study, we present a set of statistics related to the development of "shadow areas" (*zones d'ombre*) in the Wilaya of Tiaret, from both the **social**and **economic**dimensions.

On the **social side**, the analysis focuses on local development programs implemented by municipal authorities to improve living conditions and reduce isolation in these areas.

On the **economic side,** we examine state-funded projects aimed at stimulating productive activities and supporting entrepreneurship in these marginalized regions.

5.1. Local Development Achievements in the Shadow Areas of Tiaret

Fields of Intervention	Implemented Infrastructure
Energy	Procurement and installation of propane gas tanks; solar power systems for isolated houses; electric generators.
Drinking Water Supply	Construction of small water collection structures; water reservoirs and distribution networks; acquisition of water tank trucks; installation of public taps; rehabilitation of springs.
Sanitation	Construction and renewal of wastewater networks; establishment of drainage systems and septic tanks; acquisition of mobile pumps for stormwater disposal.
Environment	Creation of municipal waste disposal sites; acquisition of waste collection and treatment equipment.
Local Markets	Construction, expansion, and equipment of local markets.
Education and Training	Rehabilitation and reconstruction of schools; upgrading equipment; construction of classrooms and canteens; heating and air-conditioning works; acquisition of school buses.
Roads and Access Routes	Construction and rehabilitation of roads; maintenance of rural tracks; repair of storm damage; treatment of landslides.
Post and	Construction and renovation of post offices and

Fields of Intervention	Implemented Infrastructure
Communications	communication centers.
Municipal Buildings	Construction and rehabilitation of municipal headquarters, annexes, and treasury offices.
Urban Development	Street paving; public lighting; creation of green spaces and public gardens.
Health and Hygiene	Construction and rehabilitation of health centers and clinics.
Culture and Leisure	Construction and rehabilitation of municipal libraries and cultural centers.
Youth and Sports	Construction and rehabilitation of youth centers and local playgrounds.

Source: Local Development Programs of Tiaret (2020–2022)

Analysis

The data highlights the diversity and scope of local development programs directed toward improving the living standards of residents in shadow areas.

The interventions covered a wide range of essential sectors — energy, water, sanitation, health, education, transport, culture, and youth — all contributing **to enhancing the quality of life**and**reducing geographical and social isolation.**

The projects show clear governmental will to:

- Strengthen **basic infrastructure** (roads, electricity, water).
- Improve **social services** (education, health, recreation).
- Promote **balanced territorial development** that integrates social, economic, and environmental dimensions.

These initiatives also reflect a participatory governance approach, where local authorities, being closest to the population, play a pivotal role in identifying priorities and monitoring implementation.

5.2. Economic Dimension of Shadow Area Development

To assess the economic impact, data were collected from the **National Agency for Entrepreneurship Support and Development (ANAD)** regarding financed projects in Tiaret's shadow areas.

Sector	Number
Cereal Cultivation	21
Vegetable Farming	4
Land Cultivation	1
Nurseries	1
Fruit Tree Farming	2
Rabbit Breeding	13

Sector	Number
Horse Breeding	3
Cattle Breeding	2
Sheep Breeding	4
Beekeeping	1
Pottery Production	2
Leather Craft	1
Traditional Jewelry	1
Oil Extraction	4
Animal Feed Production	1
Total (Traditional & Local Professions)	**61 (20.74% of total financed projects)**

Source:(ANAD – Tiaret Regional Office , 2024)

Analysis

The results show that **agricultural activities dominate** among the financed projects, with cereal production (34.4%) and rabbit breeding (21.3%) leading the way.

This reflects a **national tendency toward reinforcing food security and rural productivity.**

Conversely, traditional crafts such as pottery, leatherwork, and jewelry production received **limited investment**, despite their **high cultural and economic potential.**

This imbalance highlights the need to **diversify funding policies** and **encourage entrepreneurship** in cultural and artisanal sectors, which could serve as sustainable sources of income and heritage preservation.

5.3. General Analytical Synthesis

Overall, the empirical evidence from Tiaret demonstrates that local development efforts in shadow areas have primarily focused on **basic service delivery and infrastructure**, marking a foundational phase in the development process.

However, the economic data indicate a**second phase** is required — one that emphasizes **value creation, innovation, and sustainable entrepreneurship** in agriculture, crafts, and tourism.

This dual approach — combining social inclusion and economic activation — is essential to transform shadow areas from **marginalized zones** into **dynamic spaces of productivity and cultural vitality.**

Conclusion

This study concludes with several key findings:

1. **Developing shadow areas is a national necessity**, as evidenced by local and central government initiatives.

2. **Shadow areas possess rich cultural and traditional resources,** making them promising destinations for tourism and heritage-based industries.
3. **Local populations have strong potential** to participate in and sustain local development.
4. **Government programs** have significantly improved infrastructure and services, moving shadow areas closer to urban standards.
5. These areas can become **major economic contributors**, particularly through agriculture and traditional crafts.

Recommendations

- Encourage investment in **underrepresented sectors** such as nurseries, beekeeping, and traditional crafts through awareness campaigns and financial incentives.
- Diversify funding mechanisms to ensure **balanced development** across social and economic sectors.
- Integrate **modern technologies** into traditional professions to increase their efficiency and market appeal.
- Promote **eco-tourism and cultural tourism** as long-term sustainable development strategies.

Conclusion

The experience of Tiaret illustrates that **local development in shadow areas is achievable when social infrastructure and economic empowerment progress hand in hand.**

While infrastructure provides the foundation for dignity and inclusion, **economic activation through local professions, crafts, and entrepreneurship** ensures sustainability and long-term prosperity.

Thus, **shadow areas are not obstacles to national progress, but latent resources waiting to be reactivated**within the framework of inclusive and sustainable local developmentAt the end of this study, several key findings can be summarized as follows:

- It is both necessary and essential to develop the **shadow areas in Algeria,** as clearly demonstrated by the statistical data reflecting the efforts of local authorities in this regard.
- Shadow areas are **rich in national heritage**, making them attractive destinations for both domestic and foreign tourists.
- **Local inhabitants possess great potential** to contribute effectively to the development of their regions.
- The **Algerian state has made significant efforts** to transform shadow areas into semi-urban zones through the Presidential Emergency Development Program.
- Shadow areas can become a **major economic resource**, particularly through **agricultural activities and traditional crafts**.

Recommendations

- Encourage **investment in less active sectors**, such as nurseries, beekeeping, and traditional crafts, through awareness campaigns and additional incentives.
- **Diversify funding mechanisms** to ensure a balanced approach to economic and social development across various sectors.
- **Integrate modern technologies** to support and modernize traditional professions, making them more attractive and profitable.
- Promote and support **investment in the tourism sector**, given its strong potential to drive sustainable local development.

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