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Humanitarian organizations in the aid of Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco through archival documents

Les organisations humanitaires à l'aide des réfugiés algériens en Tunisie et au Maroc à travers des documents d'archives

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Abstract:

The aim of this study is to highlight the suffering of Algerian refugees on the eastern and western Algerian borders as a result of the genocide and scorched earth policy implemented by the French army since 1956, leaving traces that forced Algerian families to move their children, elderly and women. The influx of Algerian refugees to Tunisia and Morocco was intermittent, and with the intensification of the policy of repression and torture starting in 1957, the number of refugees multiplied by thousands, which led to the aggravation of the situation in Tunisia and Morocco, The Red Crescent in both countries requested their governments to intervene and seek international aid and support.

In the face of the steady increase, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees took it upon itself to organize a global campaign in solidarity with Algerian refugees, and it was decided to start providing aid by the International Red Cross to refugees in Tunisia and Morocco.

We believe that the topic of Algerian refugees has not received sufficient attention in academic research. Exceptions include a study by Farouk Benatia on "Humanitarian Actions during the Liberation Struggle 1954-1962", but research in this area remains largely unexplored. In this study, we attempted to highlight the extent of the suffering experienced by Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco, We therefore posed the following problem: Was the revolution able to meet the needs of Algerian refugees through the humanitarian aid provided by international organizations and humanitarian bodies?

We adopted both a historical and analytical approach, as well as an inductive method. In the end, we reached a set of conclusions, namely that the humanitarian situation of Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco was a major concern for the leaders of the Algerian revolution, making it necessary to care for this group. Moreover, Tunisia and Morocco used the Algerian refugees as a means of pressure on international bodies at the United Nations to request humanitarian aid, aiming to benefit from it due to their limited financial resources. Had it not been for the assistance provided by international humanitarian organizations following the call for help, the Algerian revolution would not have been able to meet the basic needs of these refugees.

Keywords: Algerian refugees; Algerian Red Crescent; humanitarian organizations; International Red Cross.

Résumé :

Le but de cette étude est de mettre en lumière la souffrance des réfugiés algériens sur les frontières est et ouest algériennes à la suite du génocide et de la politique de terre brûlée mise en œuvre par l'armée française depuis 1956, laissant des traces qui ont forcé les familles algériennes à déplacer leurs enfants, Les personnes âgées et les femmes. L'afflux de réfugiés algériens en Tunisie et au Maroc est intermittent, et avec l'intensification de la politique de répression et de torture à partir de 1957, le nombre de réfugiés se multiplie par milliers, ce qui aggrave la situation en Tunisie et au Maroc, La Croix-Rouge des deux pays a demandé à leurs gouvernements d'intervenir pour solliciter l'aide et le soutien international.

Face à cette augmentation constante, le Haut-Commissariat des Nations unies pour les réfugiés s'est donné pour mission d'organiser une campagne mondiale de solidarité avec les réfugiés algériens et a décidé de commencer à fournir une aide par la Croix-Rouge internationale aux réfugiés en Tunisie et au Maroc.

Nous croyons que le sujet des réfugiés algériennes n'a pas reçu une attention suffisante dans les recherches universitaires, les exceptions incluent une étude de Farouk Benatia sur "Les Actions Humanitaires pendant la lutte de libération 1954-1962", la recherche reste encore à explorer. Dans cette étude, nous avons tenté de mettre en évidence l'ampleur de la souffrance vécue par les réfugiés algériens en Tunisie et au Maroc, Et ainsi, nous avons posé la problématique comme suit : La révolution a-t-elle réussi à répondre aux besoins des réfugiés algériens grâce à l'aide humanitaire fournie par les organisations et instances humanitaires internationales ?

Nous avons adopté une approche à la fois historique et descriptive ainsi qu'une méthode analytique, Nous sommes finalement parvenus à un ensemble de conclusions, à savoir que la situation humanitaire des réfugiés algériens en Tunisie et au Maroc représentait une préoccupation majeure pour les responsables de la Révolution algérienne, rendant ainsi nécessaire de prendre soin de cette catégorie de population. De plus, la Tunisie et le Maroc ont utilisé les réfugiés algériens comme un moyen de pression auprès des instances internationales aux Nations Unies afin de solliciter une aide humanitaire, en raison de leurs faibles moyens matériels. Sans l'aide fournie par les organisations humanitaires internationales après l'appel au secours, la Révolution algérienne n'aurait pas été en mesure de subvenir aux besoins essentiels de ces réfugiés.

Mots clés : Réfugiés algériens; Croissant-Rouge algérien; organisations humanitaires; Croix-Rouge internationale.

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Introduction:

The issue of Algerian refugee migration to Tunisia and Morocco was of great significance to the Algerian Revolution and remains one of the largest humanitarian tragedies suffered by the Algerian people because of French colonialism. One of the most profound consequences of this war was the forced displacement of thousands of Algerians to neighboring countries. The number of refugees increased in parallel with the intensification of French military operations from 1956 onward. Given the continuous rise in refugee numbers, it became necessary to present the issue to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. As a result, the commission undertook a global solidarity campaign for Algerian refugees, leading to appeals from the International Red Cross on December 10, 1957, and from the League on March 27, 1958, with 42 countries responding to these calls.

Therefore, the significance of this study lies in shedding light on the suffering of Algerian refugees along the eastern and western Algerian borders due to the extermination operations carried out by the French army. As the number of refugees grew, the Tunisian and Moroccan governments were unable to meet their humanitarian needs and consequently requested assistance from international organizations and the International Red Cross. Through this study, I aim to highlight an important aspect of the Algerian Liberation War regarding the scale of humanitarian aid sent to Algerian refugees. Additionally, historical studies on this subject have been relatively scarce, as most researchers have focused on military and political aspects.

Previous studies addressing humanitarian aspects during the Algerian Revolution are limited and have not received adequate research attention, except for one valuable study titled *Humanitarian Actions During the Liberation War 1954–1962* by Farouk Ben Attia. This study clarifies several aspects of the revolution by focusing on its humanitarian dimensions. It examines the poor conditions of Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco and how the revolutionary leadership sought urgent solutions with the support of host countries. Moreover, the study highlights the efforts of international organizations toward refugees following persistent appeals for aid, which ultimately succeeded. The importance of this study lies in the author's reliance on documented historical sources and the provision of valuable information on humanitarian actions during the revolution.

To address this topic, I pose the following key research questions: What was the extent of humanitarian aid provided by international organizations and the Red Cross to Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco? How did the leadership of the Algerian Revolution handle the refugee crisis? What kind of assistance did the Tunisian and Moroccan governments provide to the refugees?

In this study, I have employed both the historical descriptive method to illustrate the magnitude of the disaster caused by French colonialism particularly its scorched-earth policy that forced Algerians to flee to Tunisia and Morocco and the analytical method to clarify and analyze information and statistics to derive conclusions.

To explore this topic, I have relied on available archival materials obtained from the Algerian National Archives, specifically the records of the National Council of the Algerian Revolution and the Algerian Red Crescent, which provided lists of humanitarian aid from governmental and non-governmental organizations. Additionally, I have utilized firsthand written testimonies, such as those of Mustafa Makassi on The Algerian Red Crescent, which offered a clear picture of the organization's efforts in assisting Algerian refugees. Furthermore, I have consulted books in both Arabic and foreign languages that contributed to the development of this study, including *Humanitarian Actions During the Liberation War 1954–1962* by Farouk Ben Attia, as well as periodicals such as *El Mujahid* newspaper, which tracked the conditions of Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco through its issues.

1. The situation of Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco:

The first problem that the liberation revolution faced since its outbreak in 1954 outside the borders of Algeria was the situation of Algerian refugees and their tragedy in Tunisia¹, and the subsequent acts of mass violence carried out by France in Algeria since 1956, causing repercussions that forced

¹The Tunisian conscience was moved to denounce what it called the tragedy of the Algerian refugees and the scandal of the forbidden zone. Several official bodies made this denunciation, including the Tunisian State Secretariat for News and Guidance, an appeal by President Bourguiba, and an appeal by the Mufti of Tunisia. For more, see: Yahia Bouaziz, *From the Documents of the National Liberation Front of Algeria, 1954-1962, Part One*, Dar Al-Gharb for Publishing and Distribution, 2005, 161, 172.

Algerian families to move their children², elderly and women. Before 1956, Algerian refugees flocked to Tunisia intermittently and in small groups, most of whom settled in the border areas. They are distributed as follows.

Tableau n° 1 : Prevalence of Algerians in Tunisian cities

Cities	Numbers of refugees
<i>Tūnis</i> and its suburbs	4,078
<i>Binzart</i>	80
<i>Bāja</i>	274
<i>Sūq al-Arba‘ā</i>	11,000
<i>Al-Kāf</i>	35,000
<i>Sbaytlā</i>	8,465
<i>Qafṣa</i>	10,529
<i>Tūzar</i>	2,000
<i>Qābis</i>	12
<i>Al-Qayrawān</i>	314
<i>Sūsa</i>	511
<i>Ra'sTayyeb</i> (cap bon)	166
<i>Ṣafāqis</i>	718
Total	37,147

La source: The Tragedy of Algerian Refugees in Tunisia, Secretariat of State for Information and Politics, Republic of Tunisia, n.d, 6.

With the intensification of the policy of repression and torture starting in 1957, the number of refugees multiplied by thousands, which led to the worsening of the situation in Tunisia, as their number reached 123,620 refugees - according to information obtained by the Tunisian *Al-Amal* newspaper from the Social Affairs Department of the National Liberation Front on 12/13/1957 through a field study it prepared on refugees - distributed as follows (Tunis 11,682 refugees, El Kef 50,616, Souk El Arbaa 32,860, Beja 2,895, the southern regions 23,885, the northern regions 1,682), most of them children and women³.

The French authorities found it was difficult to determine the number of refugees. The French Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Tunisia sent a letter to the Secretary of State for Foreign Relations on February 25, 1957, acknowledging the difficulty of determining the number. They found no source for this except the statistics approved by the Tunisian Population Statistics

²The refugees in “*Ain Khamuda*” expose themselves to world public opinion (three stories about the acts of genocide in Algeria), *el-mujāhid*, March 15, 1958, 6- 7.

³. l’Action, 24/02/1958, Bt 2, n° 3.7.

Department at the beginning of 1956, which was estimated at more than 66,000 refugees (Boukrioua, 2013: 73).

On May 20, 1958, during a gathering of the Algerian Red Crescent Office in Tunis, attended by Abdel Hamid Mehri, the Minister of Social Affairs, it became clear that the number of refugees had reached 129,000. In October 1958, their number had risen to 130,000 refugees. The real number of refugees was not known, and a dispute arose between the Tunisian authorities and the Front due to the movement of refugees.

The number of refugees reached 125,000 in 1959. In contrast, the High Commissioner for Refugees counted a number ranging between 85 and 95,000 due to the difficulty of controlling the number due to the large number of migrationsinfo.

In Morocco, there was a large influx of Algerian refugees, especially in the eastern part of it. The first displacement to Morocco occurred in March 1956 following the destruction of the Sabbanah center (between Nemour and Ahfir), the seizure of weapons and ammunition by the Mujahidin, and the elimination of about 100 French soldiers. Then a second wave was recorded following a combing operation in the Beni Snous area southeast of Oujda on the outskirts of the village of Beni Zidaz, so the residents left the place for fear of revenge (Benatia , 2007: 90).

Due to the lack of centers to accommodate and receive them, the Algerian Muslim Association in Morocco⁴, in cooperation with the Moroccan government and people, took it upon itself to facilitate its activities in dealing with the problem of Algerian refugees in Morocco. It prepared reception centers for them in Oujda, and was able to accommodate 1,140 refugees in a neighborhood consisting of 143 houses⁵. With the increase in the number of refugees, the Moroccan authorities transformed the neighborhood into a reception point, and the National Liberation Front took care of the necessary expenses of food, treatment, and financial support amounting to 200 francs per person per week (Benatia, 2007: 90) The first census was conducted by the National Liberation Front in the city of Oujda in late June 1957, where it estimated their number at approximately 50 thousand refugees, distributed as follows⁶:

Tableau n° 2: Prevalence of Algerians in Morocco cities

Cities	Numbers
<i>Oujda</i>	6386
<i>bu Bakr</i>	17053
<i>Ah-fir</i>	16400
<i>Saida</i>	2652
<i>Berghent</i>	2583
<i>Fee-geegand Boo-ar-fah</i>	2277
<i>Ber-kahn</i>	2583

⁴- It was previously supported by the Protection Administration, and included employees of the Protection Administration, students of *Al-Qarawiyyin* University, and a number of retired French army veterans. Then its activity gradually shifted with the change of its founding law, so its political orientation became independent thanks to a group of young Algerians. After a meeting held at the end of 1955 at *Al-Qarawiyyin* Mosque, Dr. *Wajdi Damirji* (an ophthalmologist in Rabat) was elected president of the association, and Ali Haroun president of the Fez branch(Boudaoud, 2007: 85)

⁵Bitter Truths about Algerian Refugees in Morocco", *el-mujāhid*, December 15,1957, 4.00

⁶. *El-mujāhid*, December 15,1957.

Total

49,974

La source : *el-mujāhid*, December 15, 1957, 4.

It is noticeable in this table that the refugees preferred areas close to the border and to their original areas, so we found them in some small villages more than in large cities such as Oujda, where there are 6 thousand refugees, while in each of Ahfir and Boubaker there were between 16 and 17 thousand refugees, since Oujda is 14 km away from the border, while Boubaker is only 500 m away, so that they are closer to their original homes⁷.

According to official statistics on February 15, 1958, the number rose to 60,000 refugees in the eastern part of Morocco, half of whom were receiving aid and the other half were managing their conditions to meet their needs (Benatia, 2007: 92). For example, we found that the western part was more fortunate for refugees than the eastern part in terms of providing aid. As for the Moroccan authorities, in March 1958, they provided an estimate of 54,000 refugees⁸. Then, in the summer of 1958, the Oujda delegation provided the Central Committee of Charitable Societies in Morocco with new statistics estimated at 74,000 refugees after organizing an aid campaign between January 8 and May 31, 1958, with the contribution of the International Committee of the Red Cross and international charitable organizations (Amatat, 2017: 81). With the influx of refugees into Morocco, estimates varied between 100,000 in December 1959 according to the Maghreb Arab Press Agency, and 200,000 refugees according to the Algerian Red Crescent⁹. At the end of 1961, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimated the number of refugees at 131,533 (Amatat, 2017: 379).

Whatever the case, the discrepancy in numbers is mainly due to the refugees' instability in certain places, in addition to the fact that the process was not limited to new Algerians but extended to all Algerians residing on Moroccan soil, and every refugee became entitled to benefit from food aid and subvention.

2. Establishing the Social Affairs Department:

The Social Affairs Department was established to meet the needs of refugees, which had worsened¹⁰, and in very poor conditions in the absence of employees and accurate statistics, and the presence of inappropriate headquarters except for a shelter center in Tunisia that hosted this department, which conducted the first census of refugees in November 1958 in coordination with representatives of the Algerian Red Crescent¹¹.

They conducted a questionnaire to facilitate the process and determine the areas in which they lived, and placed at their disposal a refugee card to enable them to receive treatment in Tunisian hospitals and clinics. In addition, its mission was to distribute tents, food and clothing, distribute leaflets and data on refugees, and receive international journalists and transport them to refugee centers to examine their living conditions.

⁷. *El-mujāhid*, December 15, 1957.

⁸. Refugees: Does anyone think about them?" *el-mujāhid*, February 6, 1959, 2.

⁹. *el-mujāhid*, November 16, 1959

¹⁰. "Do Refugees Cross Anyone's Mind?", *el-mujāhid*, N 36, February 6, 1959, 2.

¹¹. Founded on December 11, 1956, in Tetouan, Morocco, by a group of Algerians, including Chingriha (known as Si Abdelkader) and Dr. Ben Ismail Boumediene, with the assistance of pharmacist *Abdullah* Mourad, the groundwork was laid for the establishment of the Algerian Red Crescent. The first report was drafted under the name of the Algerian Red Crescent Organization. The inaugural session was held on September 25, 1957, in Tunisia, during which the official announcement of the board members was made by the Coordination and Execution Committee. These members were tasked with managing operations, ensuring the implementation of the National Liberation Front's directives, monitoring developments, and working to gain the support of humanitarian organizations worldwide, particularly the International Red Cross (Sam, 2011: 269)

With the increase in the number of refugees, it became necessary to establish a special body that would be close to them and directly supervise their centers spread across Tunisian and Moroccan territory. The "Refugee Service" was established at the end of 1957 and works in cooperation with various bodies such as health and the Algerian Red Crescent. It consisted of several departments, including:

- 1- "Organization Service", for counts and organizing refugees.
- 2- Supply Service, which was responsible for delivering and distributing food supplies.
- 3- Ambulance Service, for conducting medical examinations and providing medicines.
- 4- Transport Service, to facilitate the process of transporting people and materials across centers¹²

With the development of social conditions and the increase in the number of refugees¹³, it was restructured in May 1958 and became composed of a higher authority for the benefit of refugees and two refugee services, one in Tunisia, headquartered in Tunis, and the other in Morocco, headquartered in the city of Oujda. They were subject to a deputy supervisor appointed by the Coordination and Implementation Committee. In terms of structure, each service consists of five members: a doctor from the Algerian Red Crescent, a technician in charge of statistics and organizing aid, a member in charge of relations and donations, another in charge of cultural issues, and a guide (Benatia, 2007: 95- 96).

3. The efforts of the Tunisian government to help Algerian refugees:

Due to this steady increase, it became necessary to present the problem of Algerian refugees to the International Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In a letter dated January 28, 1959, Dr. Ben Tami, the delegate of the Algerian Red Crescent in Geneva, informed us that the Tunisian in charge of affairs in Barne, Mr. Kaddadi, would speak on behalf of the Algerian Red Crescent when discussing the Executive Committee of the High Commission for Refugees, which would be held on January 29, 1959, accompanied by K. Lamine, the official in charge of social relations at the Ministry of the Interior, who had good relations in matters of aid (Benatia, 2007: 99).

In fact, the delegation took it upon itself to organize a global campaign of solidarity with Algerian refugees. In May 1959, it was decided to begin providing food supplies by the International Red Cross to refugees in Tunisia and Morocco, consisting of:

- 300 grams of olive oil per month per person.
- 350 grams of wheat per month per person.
- 8 cans of canned milk for each infant per month.
- 500 grams of soap for each family per month (Kalil, 2013: 27).

The International Red Cross had been active since June 1957, along with the Tunisian Red Crescent, in providing relief and distributing donations to Algerian refugees in 37 distribution centers across Tunisia, and the governor of each region was the supervisor of the distribution process¹⁴. However, the Tunisian government was unable to meet the needs despite the efforts made, and they were unable to organize the distribution. The Algerian Red Crescent asked the Red

¹². Archives, Collection of the National Council of the Algerian Revolution, Rrport on the Activities of the Social Affairs Departement in Tunisia and Morocco, 1958-1959

¹³The number of refugees in Tunisia during the winter of 1957/1958 reached 97,000 people, rising to 100,000 in the winter of 1958/1959 along the borders alone, not including those distributed across Tunisian territory. See: *el-mujāhid*, previously cited source, 2.

¹⁴For example, the case of the Falta camp, located 96 km southwest of the El Kef region, did not receive any assistance in the form of wheat or other food supplies from October 13, 1958, to January 1959, according to a Geneva report dated April 1, 1959.

Cross to provide assistance to facilitate the distribution of stocks. The president of the Tunisian Red Crescent announced on July 15, 1957 that the Tunisian government had decided that the Algerian Red Crescent would be responsible for distributing to refugees, so the committees present throughout Tunisia began to supply refugees easily due to their proximity to the supply centers, after they had previously traveled 40 km to supply one family (Benatia, 2007: 96).

On the other hand, Dr. Ben Tami, who was following the suffering of Algerian refugees in Morocco, suggested - during the meeting of the administrative committee of the Algerian Red Crescent in Tunisia on February 20, 1958 - that the Algerian Red Crescent asked the Moroccan government to intervene with international institutions, similar to what Tunisia is doing to obtain aid, as the High Authority for Refugees, for its part, cannot provide aid without an official request from the host country (Benatia, 2007: 109).

4. Aid from humanitarian associations and international organizations to Algerian refugees

4.1. Aid after the appeal of the 19th conference in New Delhi in October, November 1957:

The tragedy of the Algerian refugees shook the global conscience with all its humanitarian and official bodies, so most countries of the world rushed to provide aid to the refugees, and contact was made with all countries after the International Red Cross was forced to take a position towards the Algerian Red Crescent after it sent an appeal in conjunction with the League of Red Cross Societies for the benefit of Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco, so the Red Cross appeal was on December 10, 1957, and the League's appeal on March 27, 1958, and 42 countries responded to these two appeals, and the value of the aid sent by national companies, the League and the Red Cross amounted to 7,227,723 Swiss francs (Benatia, 2007: 100).

This is a list of the countries that directed their aid to Algerian refugees through the International Red Cross or directly to the Algerian Red Crescent:

- Afghanistan: \$1525 in cash.
- Albania: 4000 meters of cloth and 2 boxes of medicines.
- West Germany: \$108, medicines, cloth and tools.
- East Germany: Ambulances, surgical drugs, 112 packages of medicines, 14 boxes of medicines, 8 boxes of cloth, 8 bags of blankets and clothes, 1450 blankets, 116 bags of sugar, 184 bags of rice.
- Australia: \$336 in cash.
- Austria: \$5000, food supplies (milk powder), 220 tents, 2 transport vehicles.
- Bulgaria: 127 boxes of biscuits, 14 bags of sugar, 22 barrels of milk powder, 21 boxes of laundry soap.
- Canada: 6700 blankets, 50 boxes of children's clothes, worth \$25000.
- Denmark: \$36000, 1500 kg of milk powder.
- Chile: \$500.
- Ceylon: 4250 yards of cotton fabric.
- Egypt: Clothes and food (flour, sugar, dried vegetables, butter), medical bandages worth \$525,000.
- Equator: \$100, two ambulances and children's toys.
- America: \$15,000, 3000 children's shoes, children's underwear, food supplies.
- Finland: 10 boxes of clothes, 900 kg of soap, 65 thousand bottles of phenol vitamins.
- Russia: Food and clothing, tents and school supplies, 160 tons of medicines.
- Greece: 8 tons of dried grapes.
- Haiti: \$50.
- Hungary: 3125 kg of rice, 3345 kg of flour, 940 kg of sugar, 400 kg of soap, 300 kg of meat and vegetables.
- India: \$525, 606 boxes of soap.
- Iran: \$1,400, \$2,700.
- Ireland: 4,416 cans of canned milk, 3,888 cans of milk.
- Italy: 500 cans of milk, 500 cans of canned meat, clothes and blankets.

Humanitarian organizations in the aid of Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco through archival documents

- Japan: 4 boxes of medicine.
- Jordan: \$560.
- Lebanon: \$155.
- Luxembourg: \$200, \$400.
- New Zealand: \$604.
- Norway: \$1,779, 900 blankets, 3,106 clothes, shoes, blankets, milk and olive oil, 33,600 soap, 10,000 shoes.
- Britain: \$700, \$459.
- Sudan: \$150.
- Sweden: 30 tons of soap, 2,234 cans of canned milk, 58 tents, 3,300 blankets.
- Switzerland: 10 tons of sugar, 2 tons of soap, 7 tons of canned milk, 10 boxes of food and other items.
- Siam: \$244.
- Turkey, 20 tons of sugar.
- South Africa: \$210, \$280.
- Yugoslavia: 2 trucks, 9 tons of sugar, 2540 kg of medicines, shoes and fabrics.
- Netherlands: 2 boxes of canned goods.
- Romania: \$584.
- Poland: 500 covers, 300 waistcoats.
- Hungary (together with Romania and Bulgaria): 641 boxes of food, 174.
- Czechoslovakia, 6643 kg of clothes, food and shoes¹⁵.

The size of Kuwait's contribution in 1958 was estimated at 10 million and 500 thousand rupees, and in 1959 the amount was estimated at 4 million and 135 thousand rupees for the benefit of Algerian refugees¹⁶.

Financial aid after the relief appeal by the International Committee of the Red Cross following the New Delhi Symposium is as follows:

- International Committee of the Red Cross: 500,000 Swiss francs.
- German Red Cross: 100,000 Dhs.
- Swiss Red Cross: 79,000 F.S.
- Swedish Red Cross: 50,000 kronor.
- Norwegian Red Cross: 10,000 kronor.
- Lebanese Red Crescent: 1,000 L.L.
- Italian Red Cross: medicine¹⁷

Tableau n° 3: Financial donations received from the countries mentioned in order and importance (October 1957-July 1959).

Red Crescent or Cross	Date	Amount in dollars
United States of America	7-1-1958	
	1-4-1958	30,516
	26-2-1959	
Canada	5-2-1959	
	17-4-1959	26,640
	28-4-1959	

¹⁵ "Aid Received by Algerian Refugees, «Al Moudjahid, Issue 42, May 18, 1959, 2.

¹⁶ *The Arab Revolution in Algeria Enters Its Sixth Year*, The Fundraising Committee for Algerian Mujahideen, Kuwait Government Press, 1959, 6.

¹⁷ . Archives, List of Donations to the Algerian Red Crescent for Algerian Refugees in Tunisia and Morocco, 1957-1960

	15-2-1958	
Sweden	24-1-1959	25,000
	19-2-1959	
	15-4-1959	
	14-4-1959	
Switzerland	28-4-1959	17,778
	27-5-1959	
	10-7-1959	
Iraq	March 1959	13,555

La source : Farouk Benatia, Humanition Actions, 104.

It is worth noting here that starting in 1957, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees began providing assistance in Tunisia in response to the official request submitted by the Tunisian government. The appeals made by the High Commissioner to some governments enabled the receipt of \$116,000 in financial and food aid and its granting to the International Red Cross. In return, the Tunisian Red Crescent received donations from the International Red Cross League amounting to more than one million dollars at the end of December 1958¹⁸.

In the period between 1960/1961, the amount of aid directed to the Algerian Red Crescent increased by 870 million francs in materials, and the provisional government of the Algerian Republic received approximately 17 billion and 900 million francs in donations from various socialist countries (Archives, 1960-1961¹⁹).

After the appeal for relief for the Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco, it was culminated with donations from the Red Crescent and the Red Cross from the International Committee of the Red Cross during the years 1957-1958 until September 1959, From various official and unofficial bodies with a financial value estimated to 1,656,391,000 francs.

Financial aid from the International Committee of the Red Cross during October 1957 until the end of July 1959, estimated 58,242,350 francs.²⁰

Tableau n° 4: List of donations to the Algerian Red Crescent, provided by the League of Red Cross branches for the benefit of Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco (1957-1960).

Countries	Materials	Date of shipment	Value in francs
Federal Republic of Germany	2400 boxes + gifts	August 11, 1960	12,390
Canada	6 boxes of toiletries	September 7, 1960	4,309
Switzerland	60 bags of clothes and school supplies	August 29, 1960	17,312
Soviet Union	Miscellaneous materials	August 24, 1960	2,160,000
UNICEF Paris	30,000 blankets	September 13, 1960	429,276

La source: The Algerian National Archives, Fond of the Algerian Red Crescent, List of Donations to the Algerian Red Crescent for Algerian Refugees in Tunisia and Morocco (1957-1960), 6G1/04/01/005.

¹⁸. Farouk Benatia, Humanition Actions, p.104.

¹⁹. Archives, Report on the Financial Situation , 1960-1961

²⁰. Archives, List of Donations to the Algerian Red Crescent for Algerian Refugees in Tunisia and Morocco, 1957-1960.

Humanitarian organizations in the aid of Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco through archival documents

Donations made by the League of Red Cross Societies for the benefit of Algerian refugee children in Morocco and Tunisia: Australia donated 19,244 francs on September 8, and New Zealand donated 1,200 francs on August 23.

Tableau n° 5: Donations made by the League of Red Cross branches for the benefit of Algerian refugees in Tunisia (September 1960)

Countries	Date of dispatch	Materials	Value in francs
United States.M.A	September 14	-	21,288
United States.M.A	June 30	-	118,456
League	September 27	Sugar-milk-soap	17,312
SwissCommittee	-	-	8,280
Quakers	June 29	248	-
United States.M.A	September 7/9	Rescue bags 8,000 blankets	-
UNICEF	September 7/20	50,000 blankets	715,460

La source : The Algerian National Archives, Fond of the Algerian Red Crescent, List of Donations to the Algerian Red Crescent for Algerian Refugees in Tunisia and Morocco (1957-1960), 6G1/04/01/005.

As a reminder, after field investigations at the beginning of 1960, we found that the refugees on the border were not sufficient for their daily rations according to the calorie content of 1,600 calories. Thanks to the great assistance from international organizations, the monthly rations per person were as follows:

- 12 kg of wheat, 360 grams of oil, 360 grams of sugar, 270 grams of dry beans, 120 grams of soap. Children aged 15 years received powder milk daily.

Refugees sponsored by the Ministry receive: 5 kg of flour and pasta, 2 kg of rice, 500 grams of sugar, 250 grams of oil, 250 grams of soap (The Algerian National Archives, 1961).

The Ministry of Social and Cultural Affairs established a monthly distribution schedule and sent it to all its departments across all regions during the period 1960-1961.

It is worth noting that the inhabitants of the Moroccan border regions are mostly mixed Algerian and Moroccan families. Therefore, whenever it is necessary for the International Committee of the Red Cross to distribute aid, part of it goes to Moroccan families who present Algerian documents during the distribution process. However, when it comes to paying contributions to the National Liberation Front, they are prevented and present Moroccan documents instead. In any case, these Moroccan families are poor and in need of assistance. Regarding this matter, Makassi quotes *Sultān Moulay Hāssān* as saying: «In the Arab countries where the *Ber-noos* and couscous exists, there is no talk of borders because these are Islamic lands, and we are brothers in them».

In Tunisia, Makassi mentions that during his stay at the central headquarters of the Algerian Red Crescent, he faced difficulties in his humanitarian work. The Algerian Red Crescent had to pay high customs duties to the Tunisian customs authorities on all goods donated by international humanitarian organizations, including medicines. However, the Secretary-General of the Tunisian

State Secretariat issued a directive dated December 11, 1960, exempting the Algerian Red Crescent from all customs duties (Mekassi, 2015: 96-97).

5. French pressure to prevent aid:

France tried to distance Switzerland as a party interested in Algerian refugees after issuing a statement from Paris in March 1958 in which its ambassador urged that its attempt to help these refugees be disregarded. However, Switzerland, in a statement published in Bern by Reuters magazine on September 3, 1959, stated that Switzerland, like France, is a member of the Executive Committee of the High Commission for Refugees and has the right to care for them in Tunisia and Morocco (Benatia, 2007: 106).

On June 12, 1958, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs published a statement claiming that it bore responsibility for these refugees as French citizens who were forced by war conditions to leave Algerian territory towards Tunisia and Morocco. It sent an amount of 125 million francs and a plane loaded with medicines as a contribution after the New Delhi appeal, which was rejected by the Coordination and Implementation Committee through its delegate in Geneva, Dr. Ben Tami, and they considered it a poisoned offer (Benatia, 2007: 106).

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees visited Tunisia on June 27, 1956, then to Morocco on July 1 of the same year to examine the difficult situation in which the refugees were living. We note here that France tried, through its envoy, during the special session of the Executive Committee of the High Governorate on June 15-19, 1959, to prepare a schedule for the regular session scheduled for October 5, 1959 to thwart the activity of the High Governorate, but the Tunisian business manager in Barnes, Mr. Kaddadi, and the High Commissioner thwarted this attempt. Following this operation, the High Commissioner and the League of Red Cross Societies carried out a relief operation on February 1, 1959, which consisted of establishing 60 centers distributed in Tunisia and Morocco, including 23 centers in Morocco and 37 in Tunisia, for 200,000 refugees, at a time when this operation was not within the jurisdiction of the High Commissioner before December 31, 1958 (Benatia, 2007: 113).

From October 10 to 20, 1959, the High Commissioner made it the International Year of Refugees for Algerian refugees in Morocco and Tunisia after the ratification of the UN list under number 1286, in which countries participated and the Red Crosses and Crescents collected donations (blankets, vests, warm clothes, underwear, shoes, fabrics...etc.). The value from February 1, 1959 to December 31, 1960 paid by the High Governorate amounted to \$1,714,246, and the Red Cross Association collected \$5,066,894, including \$1,900,000 in wheat (Benatia, 2007: 104).

Conclusion:

What can be inferred from this study on the humanitarian situation of Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco is that this issue posed a significant challenge for the leaders of the Algerian Revolution and the host countries. Since their displacement was forced as they fled the oppression of French colonialism, it became necessary to care for this group. The Tunisian and Moroccan governments did not hesitate to extend assistance to these refugees within their available resources. However, as newly independent states, they were unable to provide sufficient aid for the large number of refugees. Consequently, they sought support from various countries and worked to gain the solidarity of official and non-official humanitarian organizations, which promptly provided essential aid.

To address this issue, the Algerian Revolution took responsibility for sheltering Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco by establishing necessary facilities with the support of both governments. However, the situation was not easy, as Algerians faced difficulties imposed by the Tunisian and Moroccan governments due to their presence on their territories. The refugee issue was also used as a pressure tool in international forums and humanitarian organizations to garner sympathy, prompting an expedited discussion of the problem.

After persistent efforts by the leaders of the Algerian Revolution, Algerian refugees received aid from various Arab and foreign countries and international organizations during their stay in Tunisia and Morocco. According to official statistics, 29 countries and 65 international organizations contributed to their support, providing aid valued at 22 million US dollars. Reports from international organizations indicate that this assistance came from the International Red Cross, American and British charitable associations, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which provided significant aid to Algerian refugees both during their stay in Tunisia and Morocco and after their return to Algeria in 1962.

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