

1. Algeria

Similar to the events taking place in Tunisia and Egypt, protests also begun in Algeria in January 2011 and still continue today. As in other countries in the sub-region, the situation in Algeria is changing with every week. Social unrest (strikes, protests, sit-ins) are controlled, but are forcing the authorities to speed up reform. The authorities' first concern is to maintain stability and social cohesion, and to continue building on the advancements made in the areas of democracy and economic and social development. A revision of the constitution is currently underway, and authorities are encouraging the participation of civil society in national debate and economic recovery, particularly in finding the ways and means of strengthening enterprise support and favoring the investment environment.

In response to the initial wave of protests, the President also announced several political, economic and social reforms. So far, the announced reforms have resulted in the enactment of the following new laws:

- The law on the electoral system that aims to increase democracy
- The law relating to the incompatibility of parliamentary mandate, dealing with the issue of dual mandates;
- The law relating to increasing female representation in elected assemblies which will establish a gradual increase of the percentage of female members of such bodies
- The law relating to better protection of journalists, especially pertaining to the abolishment of prison sentences for press offences, etc.

Parliamentary elections will take place in Algeria on 10th May, 2012. The whole spectrum of political parties is represented on the political scene. The administration is deploying substantial resources to encourage Algerians to vote. The UN, EU, AU, Arab League and the OIC have been officially notified by the Algerian authorities to assist Algeria in these elections as observers.

Employment remains a major concern in Algeria and the issue has been made a national priority by the President. The President of the Republic has instructed his government to be responsive to the expectations of the people, particularly in terms of creating job opportunities, especially for youth (understood in the Algerian context as people aged until 35 - 40) and facilitating access to housing. To address the many challenges, the social partners are called on to play a key and increasing role in the current process of change. ILO activities in Algeria will focus largely on the issues of employment, social protection, social dialogue and labour administration.

Employment

Activities in this field may be summarised as promoting employment - for women and men - through the development of micro and small enterprises in the framework of local development and development in under-privileged regions of the country (first priority in the draft DWCP).

Social security

This is a major programme supporting the establishment of a social security training centre covering the sub-region for French-speaking countries.

Social dialogue

The ILO is called upon to support the existing social dialogue structures that are already functioning.

Labour administration

Support will be given for the organization of a national tripartite workshop to discuss the "Resolution and conclusions concerning labour administration and labour inspection".

Possible areas of technical cooperation

- Enterprise development, including women entrepreneurship
- Strengthening the capacities of labour inspection executives related to aspects of decent work
- Supporting the establishment of a social security training centre
- Supporting social partners in different interest areas such as migration, labour codes, etc.

Key ongoing initiatives

1. Active projects in Algeria (US\$)

Title	Budget	Donor
Gender equality and empowerment of women in Algeria	US\$631,300	MDGF
Promoting productive employment and decent work for young people in Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia	US\$5,200,000	Spain

2. Main ILO activities

- In the framework of the MDG programme, a large-scale study will be conducted on women's employment.
- Support will be provided to design and implement a labour market monitoring tool within the National Employment Agency
- A follow up mission for the establishment of a centre for higher social security training after initial technical input has been provided by the ILO.
- Support social partners in conducting studies on social dialogue, migration, and the promotion of women's employment.

3. Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP)

A DWCP is about to be signed. Priorities include the creation of decent work for young people through the development of micro and small enterprises; social protection through the establishment of a social security training centre; and learning from prior experiences in Algeria in order to strengthen the South-South Cooperation.