

ALGERIA



Algeria is experiencing political unrest following former President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's resignation in April 2019 and the election of a contentious new president. Decreased government revenues from oil and gas exacerbate growing unrest throughout the country.

Country Context

President Abdelaziz Bouteflika ruled Algeria, with support from the military, beginning in 1999. In late February 2019, protests broke out against Bouteflika when he decided to seek a fifth term, forcing his resignation on April 2, 2019 and igniting an ongoing political crisis. While former Prime Minister Abdelmadjid Tebboune won the presidential election in December 2019, protests continue amid calls of a rigged election. Decreasing oil revenues cause economic pressure, as 40% of Algeria's budget is estimated to come from oil and gas sales, putting recent developmental gains at risk. Further, despite progress, the Algerian government still faces significant security issues along its borders with Libya, Tunisia, Niger, and northern Mali.

How is the U.S. Involved?

U.S.-funded programs help build government institutions and capacity to enhance security along Algeria's borders to combat terrorism and illicit trafficking.

On-the-Ground Perspective

- Terrorism remains a concern for the country as Al-Qaida and the Islamic State (ISIS) are both active in Algeria. Algeria is not a member of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, but has actively supported the effort to counter ISIS in other ways.
- Protests continue as demonstrators call for the rest of the "ruling elite" to step down before elections. In November, Algerian officials began cracking down on such protests, leading to the detention and imprisonment of activists.
- The supreme court has jailed several allies of the former President for corruption.

Responses and Actions

- In addition to bilateral assistance, Algeria also benefits from regional programs under the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership, the Middle East Partnership Initiative, and Global Counterterrorism Forum expert seminars, workshops, and training.
- From 2014-2017, IREX's Regional Assistance Program built the capacity of a national children's rights network by training 75 civil society leaders and activists, who, in turn, conducted 45 local trainings on children's rights, monitoring and evaluation, and project management.

Key Figures



20%

poverty reduction in the past two decades



11.7%

youth unemployment rate in 2018



33%

of GDP is dependent on oil and gas exports



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Sahrawi refugee camps have been in Algeria since 1975



\$31.7 million

requested by UNHCR to support Sahrawi refugees in 2019

References available at [interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport](https://www.interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport).

