



ALGERIA'S HEALTH SECTOR

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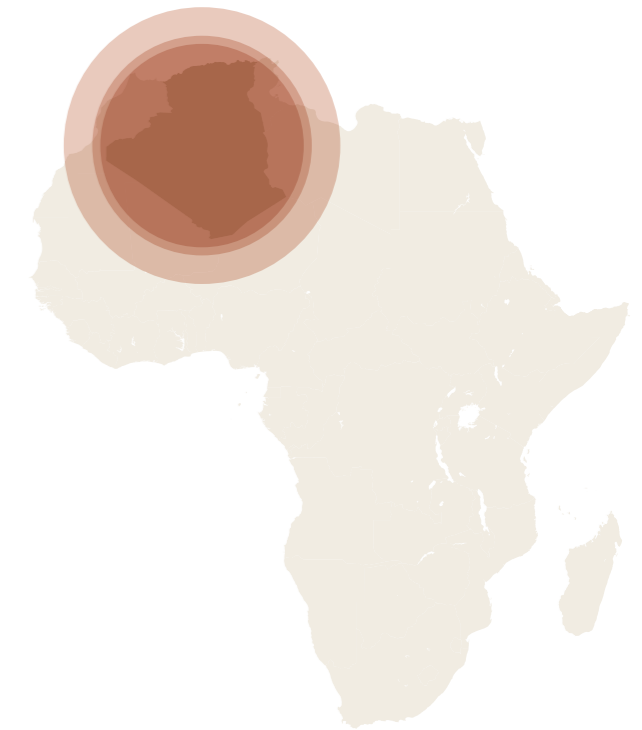
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1. Country Overview

Algeria is Africa's largest country covering a total area of 2,381,740km² with a coastline of 998 km. The country is in North Africa, bordered by the Mediterranean Sea in the north, Tunisia in the northeast, Libya in the east, Morocco in the west, Western Sahara, Mauritania, and Mali in the southwest, and by Niger in the southeast ^[1] ^[2]. Algeria has a total population of 43,576,691 and their official language is Arabic. Other spoken languages include French, Tamazight, and other Berber dialects. The Tamazight language is mostly spoken by the indigenous Berber community and has been constitutionally recognized as a national language ^[2]. The state religion in Algeria is Sunni Muslim with a coverage of 99%. Christianity and Judaism are practiced by one percent of the population. Algiers is the capital city of Algeria and is described as a crowded bustling seaside metropolis whose historic core, or medina, is ringed by tall skyscrapers and apartment blocks. Algeria's second city is Oran, a port on the Mediterranean Sea near the border with Morocco, which has emerged as an important centre of music, art and education [3]. Ethnic groups in Algeria are Arab 83%, Berber 17% and Touareg and European make up less than 1% ^[2].

The current president is his excellency Mr. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, who won the 2019 Algerian presidential election. Up to 90% of the population lives along the coastline and in urban areas [4]. Algeria has a transport network consisting of an air transport system, railway coverage of 3,973 kilometres, road network of 104,000 kilometres and seaports. The major seaports are in Algiers, Annaba, Arzew, Bejaia, Djendjene, Jijel, Mostaganem, Oran, Skikda ^[2].

Currently, Algeria is classified as a lower middle-income country (LMIC). Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is an investment in human capital and a foundational driver of inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development. In contribution towards UHC, the Algerian government, set aside more than \$5 billion in 2018 for the construction of 10 new hospitals and rehabilitation of others in poor condition. The new hospitals will add 5,200 beds to Algeria's current government-run capacity of 67,000 ^[5].



1.1. Key Country Statistics [2] [6] [7]



71 years
Life expectancy at birth, 2020



1.4
GDP growth (annual %), 2017



17.3 Exports of goods and services as a % of GDP, 2017



2.2 Imports of goods and services as a % of GDP, 2017



\$1.4 billion
Foreign direct investment, 2019



Top 3 imported products: Wheat and meslin (**\$1.78 B**), motor vehicles and parts (**\$1.67 B**) and petroleum oil and bituminous mineral oil extracts (**\$1.6 B**)



Top 3 exported products: Petroleum gases and hydrocarbons (**\$14 B**), petroleum oil, crude oil, and bituminous mineral oil extracts (**\$ 12.7 B**) and petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (**\$ 6.45 B**)



Deficit of \$11 billion
Balance of trade, 2019

2. COVID-19

As of 13th April 2021, Algeria had a total of 118,645 COVID-19 confirmed cases, and 3,134 confirmed deaths [8]. Algeria launched its vaccination campaign on 30th January 2021, after receiving 50,000 doses of the Russian vaccine. The later receipt of 30,000 doses and the announcement of a delivery of 920,000 doses before the end of April are part of the agreement signed between Russia and Algeria on the acquisition of one million doses of Sputnik V [9].

Algeria is navigating a recession within the constraints of strict lockdown measures that was introduced to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This has caused a significant fall in the price and volume of international hydrocarbon exports in the first half of 2020. While the lockdown has helped reduce the spread of the virus, labour-intensive sectors—including services and construction, which remain largely inside the informal economy—have been deeply affected, resulting in loss of jobs and the existing jobs placed at risk [10].

3. Health Overview

Algeria's ministry of health is responsible for managing and regulating the public healthcare sector. However, several other ministries are also technically involved, complicating the decision-making process and overall health policy. For instance, the ministry of labour and social security is responsible for the national health insurance schemes, while the ministry of education governs all physician training [11].

Eighty of Algerians are either insured by the Caisse Nationale de la Securite Sociale des Travailleurs Salaries (CNAS), which covers salaried employees and their dependents, or a separate plan that covers independent workers and their dependents. Both funds cover healthcare provided through state-run facilities or the transfer abroad program, though insurance agreements can be made in some cases between CNAS and private treatment centres [11].

Algeria is divided into 185 health districts that are each tasked with addressing the healthcare needs of the residents within their jurisdictions. Each district aims to include at least one general hospital and several polyclinics, health centres and treatment rooms, which administer primary and secondary care [11].

The Algerian healthcare system consists of over 242,000 healthcare professionals in the public sector, 23,563 private offices, 9,751 specialized centres and 7,298 general practices, as well as 6,514 dental practices. The health facilities are further distributed as:

The public health establishments are categorized using the French naming system as follows:

- Centre Hospitalier Universitaire (CHU), 16 facilities; 13,755 bed capacity.
- Établissements Hospitalier-Universitaire (EHU): 1 facility; 773 bed capacity.
- Établissements Hospitalier (EH): 9 facilities 1,533 bed capacity.
- Établissements Hospitalier Specialise (EHS): 83 facilities; 13,384 bed capacity.
- Établissements Public Hospitalier (EPH): 207 facilities; 40,506 bed capacity.
- Établissements de Sante de Publique de Proximate (EPSP) commonly referred to in English as Community hospital: 273 facilities; 6,585 bed capacity.

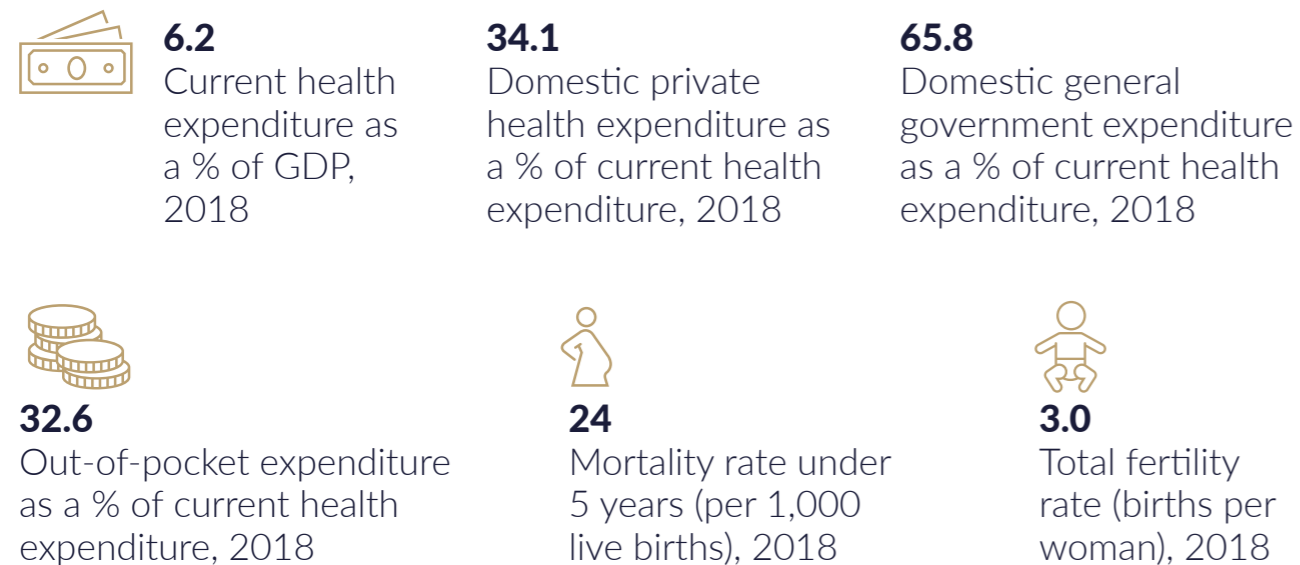
The Algerian constitution guarantees all citizens the right to access healthcare, and financial coverage for public medical services within the country is provided by the government. The quality of care is limited by factors such as short-staffing and lack of specialists. Efficiency within the system is also hindered by administrative bureaucracy as hospital managers have limited autonomy and must obtain central approval for many decisions [11].

The private health sector is filling in the gaps caused in the healthcare system that have not been addressed. Private medical facilities are becoming prominent in Algeria. Today, there are over 250 private clinics operating, with plans to set more clinics. However, access to private medical care remains extremely limited as their services are typically not covered by the public health insurance plan. Few Algerians can afford out-of-pocket payments for medical treatment in private facilities [11].

Top 10 causes of death in 2019 are [12]:



3.1 Key Health Statistics [10]



Source: World Health Organization Global Health Expenditure database (apps.who.int/nha/database).

4. Challenges Facing the Private Sector [13]

- The Algerian 51/49 investment law, which widens the gap in attracting foreign investments and limits local investments.
- Lack of adequate health workforce due to poor working environments.
- Delays in the supply of medical products and consumables due to delays at customs.
- Ineffective licensing of generic pharmaceuticals by the Directorate of Pharmaceutical Product Registration.
- Lack of clear coordination between the ministry of health and the Algerian patent office on patenting of health products.

5. Opportunities for the Private Sector [13]

- Investment in the provision of medical, commodities, consumables, and equipment.
- Investment in establishment of new health facilities and clinics.
- Investment in digital health and human resources for health on innovative solutions.
- Design and management of medical facilities with cutting-edge diagnostic and treatment equipment.
- Investment in cosmetic surgery to provide specialized cosmetics and maxillofacial health services.

Do you need more in-depth information on Algeria's health sector and how your project or business can contribute?

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