



Algeria

Algeria: Introduction

Blessing Chipanda

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Chart 1: Political map of Algeria

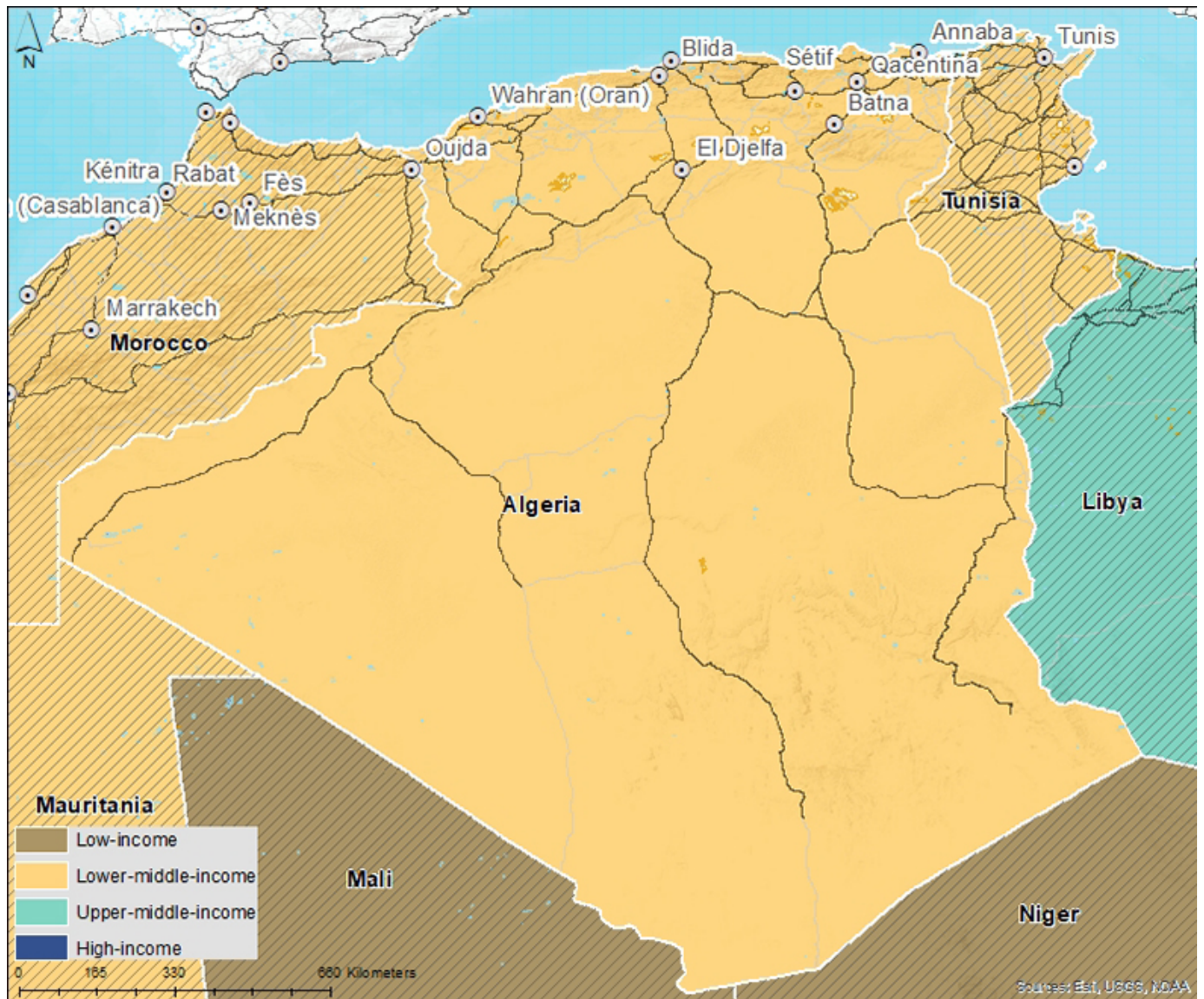


Chart 1 is a political map of Algeria.

Algeria has the largest land area in Africa and the 10th largest in the world, covering an area of 2 381 741 square kilometres, but 80% desert. In terms of income classification level, until early 2020, it was classified as an upper-middle-income country before it was downgraded to lower-middle-income country status.

The country is bordered by Tunisia to the north-east, Libya to the east, Morocco to the west and shares borders with Niger, Mali, Mauritania and the disputed region of Western Sahara in the south-west. Much of the interior is arid and most people are concentrated in the fertile coastal plain along its thousand-kilometre coastline of the Mediterranean Sea.[1]

An important gas and oil producer, Algeria's main oil and gas fields are located on the mainland of the country since offshore exploration of fields has been limited. A well-developed pipeline chain connects Algeria's main oil and gas fields with terminals, refineries and liquefied natural gas export terminals along the coast. In addition to domestic pipelines,

three transcontinental natural gas pipelines connect Algeria with Europe. There are two supply gas pipelines to Spain and Italy.

Algeria is a member of the Arab Maghreb Union (comprising Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia), but the Union has long been stagnant largely due to differences with Morocco over the status of Western Sahara. In 2024 President Tebboune announced that Algeria would explore the establishment of free trade zones with **neighbours** Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Tunisia and Libya, in spite of the instability evident in some of these countries. Algeria has been a member of the Organization of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC) since 1969 and is also a member state of the Arab League.

The country gained its independence from France in 1962 after a long and bloody struggle, with Ahmed Ben Bella becoming the first prime minister (1962–1963) and later the first elected president (1963–1965).

Algiers is the capital and largest city of Algeria. It is found along the Mediterranean Sea and in the north-central part of the country. Oran is the second largest and major coastal city, located in the north-west of the country.

Endnotes

1. World Population Review, [Algeria population](#), 2019

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About the authors

Dr **Blessing Chipanda** joined the African Futures and Innovation (AFI) programme in January 2023. Before joining the ISS he worked as an assistant lecturer/ research assistant at the University of Pretoria, Department of Economics. He is particularly interested in tasks within the wider realm of international trade, development economics, public policy, monetary policy, and econometric modelling. Equally interested in economic and socio-economic activities that impact social welfare. Blessing has a PhD in economics from the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

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