

Tunisia

July 2017

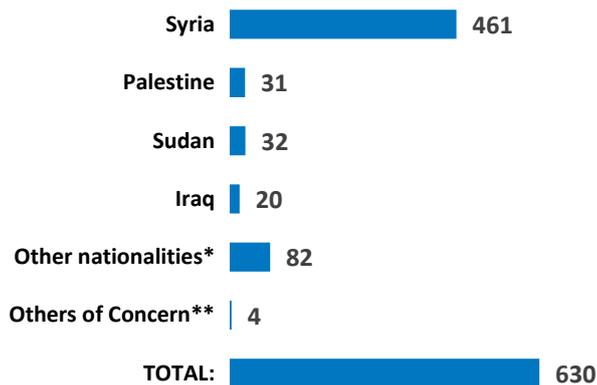
Tunisia is a country that has maintained an **open-door policy to people fleeing conflict and persecutions**.

In Tunisia, UNHCR's priorities are to support the **development of a national asylum system and build national capacities** and to **protect and assist refugees and asylum seekers**.

Together with Tunisian authorities, UNHCR assists registered urban refugees and asylum seekers to **become self-reliant**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

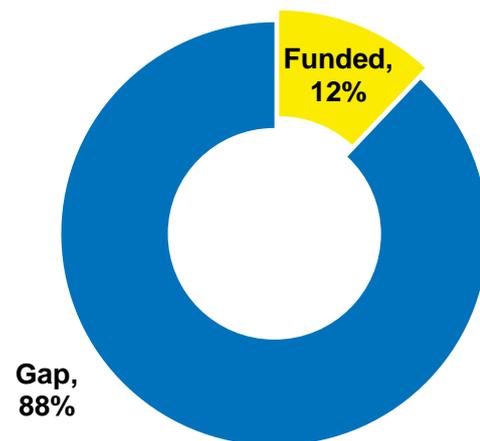
Countries of origin



* (Figures as of 30 June 2017)

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (as of 7 August 2017)

USD 5.8 M requested for Tunisia



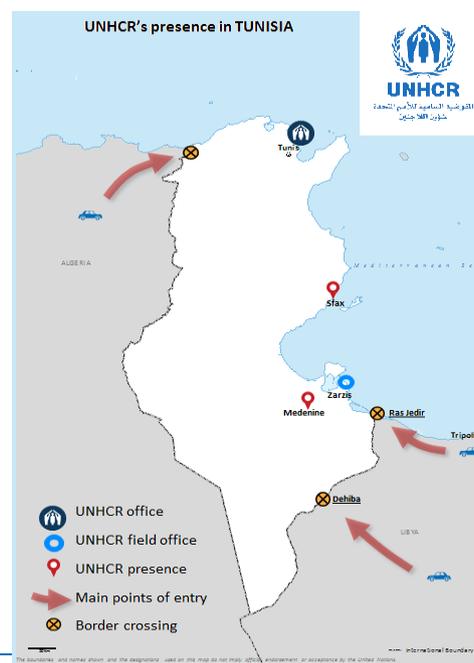
UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

18 National Staff
4 International Staff

Offices:

2 Office in Tunis
[Representation] and
Zarzis [Field Office].
UNHCR's presence in Sfax
and Medenine is covered
by national staff.



Working with Partners

- UNHCR Tunisia has formalized partnerships with four NGOs:
 - The **Tunisian Red Crescent (TRC)** provides support in registration, counselling, access to health and education, provision of targeted assistance and other basic services. TRC provides humanitarian assistance to persons of concern to UNHCR, including those rescued at sea.
 - The **Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)** implements livelihood activities.
 - The **Italian Council for Refugees (ICR)**, in collaboration with the **Tunisian Council for Refugees (TCR)**, conducts capacity-building activities for local authorities and other actors in the area of mixed migration as well as rescue at sea.
 - The **Arab Institute for Human Right (AIHR)** is in charge of capacity building and training activities in the area of asylum development. Activities target civil society organizations, lawyers, journalists, government officials and parliamentarians.
- UNHCR is a member of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Tunisia and contributes to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2015-2019. UNHCR work closely with UN and UN-related agencies such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- UNHCR cooperates closely with Tunisian authorities, in particular with the Ministries of Justice, Interior, Foreign Affairs, Social Affairs, Women, Family and Childhood, Employment and Health.

Main Activities

Protection

- In the absence of a national asylum system, UNHCR conducts **registration and refugee status determination** in Tunisia to ensure that persons of concern are registered with UNHCR and issued with relevant documents, such as UNHCR certificates, to prevent them against arbitrary arrest, detention or expulsion. In 2017, UNHCR carried out biometric registration and improve the documentation provided to improve the quality of data and protect refugees and asylum seekers against identify fraud.
- **The national asylum law has reached its final preparation stage.** It was been shared with the Prime Minister's office in June 2016, to collect comments from other ministries. UNHCR is advocating for an expedited process in order for the legislation to be endorsed by the Council of Ministers and then presented before the Parliament. Relevant authorities are supported with capacity building initiatives, such as attendance of international refugee law courses and study visits abroad, and IT equipment.
- In a context of mixed migration flows, including by sea, UNHCR is strengthening Tunisian border management capacities through targeted capacity-building trainings for border officials; this aims at ensuring efficient border management, taking into consideration the protection needs of refugees and



UNHCR Tunisia conducted biometric enrolment mission in Sousse Governorate in January 2017. © UNHCR

asylum-seekers. UNHCR maintains capacities in the south of Tunisia to support in case of arrivals by sea or by land. Two boats in distress off Tunisian shores, with over 177 people on board in total, were disembarked so far in 2017 and vulnerable survivors hosted in UNHCR accommodation. In coordination with authorities and partners, as per the agreed practice, UNHCR provides life-saving assistance to persons in need of international protection.

Education

- UNHCR coordinates with local education authorities to ensure that all school-aged refugee and asylum-seeker children have **access to Tunisia's public schools**. To facilitate their integration into Tunisian schools, UNHCR and partners provide a yearly cash grant to help parents purchase schools supplies, as well as French language classes and, in some locations, catch-up classes.



UNHCR and partners support refugee children with language classes. © 2016 UNHCR

Health

- Refugees and asylum-seekers have the same **access to basic public health facilities** as Tunisian nationals, including for refugees with chronic diseases. UNHCR, through its partner, Tunisian Red Crescent (TRC), reimburses treatment and medicines for basic primary health care and emergency medical intervention for vulnerable cases.

Community empowerment and Self-reliance

- UNHCR, through its partner ADRA, aims at enhancing refugees' self-reliance and livelihood opportunities. These efforts include tailored training to gain technical skills, income-generating projects and direct employment with private companies.

Durable solutions

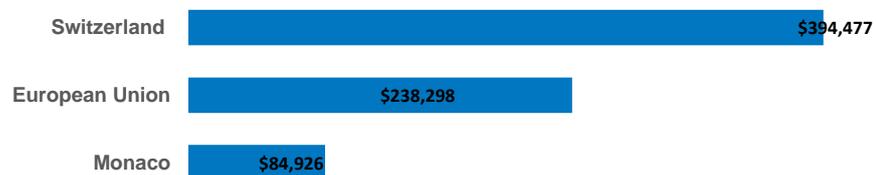
- UNHCR facilitates temporary local settlement for refugees in Tunisia through its self-reliance programme, which is linked to the advocacy for the issuance of residence permits in order to legalize their status in Tunisia. UNHCR also supports naturalization for refugees married to Tunisian nationals. In addition, UNHCR arranges voluntary repatriation whenever possible and family reunification for eligible refugees. UNHCR actively uses resettlement as a protection tool for individual sensitive cases. Since the beginning of 2017, UNHCR supported the voluntary repatriation of 3 families to Somalia. Another person left for Canada under a private sponsorship scheme.

Emergency preparedness

- Since 2014, upon the request of the Tunisian Government, and in close cooperation with UN agencies and partners, UNHCR leads the coordination of the inter-agency preparedness efforts in case of an influx of refugees and asylum-seekers from Libya. In 2016, UNHCR reviewed and updated the plan to accommodate the request of the Tunisian authorities to adopt a camp based approach.

External / Donors Relations

Thanks to the critical support provided by donors to this operation in 2017



Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

United States of America (95 M) | Sweden (76 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | Norway (41 M) | Priv Donors Spain (29 M) | Japan (25 M) | Denmark (23 M) | Australia (19 M) | Canada (16 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | France (14 M) | Germany (12 M) | Priv Donors Republic of Korea (12 M) | Italy (10 M)

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

Algeria | Austria | Belgium | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Chile | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Ireland | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Mexico | Monaco | Morocco | New Zealand | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Singapore | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Zambia | Private Donors

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