Operation: Tunisia
People of Concern

INCREASE IN

73% 2018

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<td>2018</td>
<td>1,330</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>770</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>685</td>
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Refugees 1,066
Asylum-seekers 256
Others of concern 8
Working environment

Refugees and asylum-seekers arrive to Tunisia in the context of mixed population movements from neighbouring countries and from sub-Saharan Africa. The majority of refugees in Tunisia are from the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria). People of concern arrive through regular and irregular entry points by air, land and sea or are rescued/intercepted at sea. While a major influx from Libya cannot be ruled out, the refugee population in Tunisia is anticipated to increase from some 2,490 (as of August 2019) to 5,000 by the end of 2020, given the political instability and mixed population movements facing the region. Tunisia will continue to be challenged by the socio-economic crisis, especially in the centre and south of the country, where most refugees are hosted.

Tunisia pursues an open-door policy for those fleeing neighbouring countries in fear of violence and persecution. Refugees and asylum-seekers can access public health services and education, with UNHCR's support. Social services, namely for child protection, have been inclusive of refugees and asylum-seekers, although resources are a constraint. The overall protection environment in 2020 is likely to remain favourable to refugees and asylum-seekers, provided humanitarian actors remain responsive to mixed population movements and the potential increase of people of concern.

In 2020, UNHCR will selectively engage with organizations to support their capacity building and advocacy initiatives, with the aim of improving refugees and asylum seekers' access to protection. UNHCR will also continue leading the coordination platform for mixed population movements in the south of the country.

Key priorities

In 2020, UNHCR will focus on:

- Advocating for the adoption of the draft national asylum law and, through continued capacity building, foster good practices in the interim.
- Continuing profiling, registration and refugee status determination to identify people in need of international protection in the context of mixed population movements.
- Promoting refugees and asylum-seekers' self-reliance through access to livelihoods and basic services; prioritizing direct assistance to the most vulnerable.