

October 2018

## Situation Update

**UNHCR continues to operate from its office in Tunis and a field office in Zarzis, while also maintaining a presence in Sfax and Medenine.** UNHCR conducts registration of asylum-seekers and refugee status determination in Tunisia, to ensure that persons of concern to UNHCR are identified and documented. This prevents arbitrary arrest, detention or refoulement. Since 2017, UNHCR has used biometric enrolment to improve the quality of data collected and to prevent fraud.

**From January to August 2018, 310 new asylum-seekers were registered (197 men and 113 women), bringing the number of persons of concern to 1,048.** Most individuals registered in 2018 are from Syria, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Nigeria, Yemen and 16 other countries. Around 25 percent of persons of concern live in and around Tunis, while the majority live further south. Some 30 percent are living in the central governorates of Gabes and Gafsa, and 16 percent living in Medenine, where the Zarzis office and the UNHCR-Tunisian Red Crescent shelter are located.

**Tunisia is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, while the 2016 draft national asylum law has not yet been adopted.** UNHCR continues to advocate for its adoption, which would enshrine the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers within Tunisian law.

**Tunisia continues to show solidarity towards migrants and refugees rescued at sea.** In July, UNHCR welcomed the Tunisian Government's decision to allow the disembarkation of 40 people who were rescued at sea by a Tunisian commercial vessel. This was a life-saving decision which allowed the crew of the supply ship, Sarost 5, and the people they rescued, to reach a place of safety. At present, in the absence of an asylum law, mixed migration and rescue at sea cases are dealt with pursuant to prevailing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Identified individuals are profiled, provided with humanitarian assistance and counselled on applicable asylum procedures through partnerships between UNHCR, the Tunisian Red Crescent and IOM.

## UNHCR response

**UNHCR supports the authorities and partners with capacity building.** Some 450 individuals, including judges, lawyers, police, border guards, journalists and academics were trained on the national asylum framework and on mixed migration matters in 2018. Capacity-building activities for NGO leaders and staff focused on general principles of refugee law and on strengthening their humanitarian response capacity.

**Since January 2018, Tunisian authorities referred 628 cases for profiling in the context of mixed migration.** Three-quarters of the referred individuals were profiled by UNHCR, the Tunisian Red Crescent and IOM, of whom a third expressed interest in seeking asylum.

**So far in 2018, temporary cash assistance** was disbursed to 22 refugee households. In addition, 46 of the most vulnerable individuals benefitted from monthly cash assistance. UNHCR's temporary cash assistance programme serves as emergency support for vulnerable refugees who are simultaneously supported by livelihood opportunities which promote self-reliance.

**During the first six months of 2018, UNHCR livelihoods programme supported 82 refugees.** Of these, nine launched micro-projects and 20 signed, renewed or had their employment contracts approved by the Ministry of Labour. UNHCR offered vocational training opportunities for refugees to access income-generating activities, including regular employment and developing individual entrepreneurial activities, for example, a refugee-run digital services centre for scanning and printing.

**Special thanks to our donors:** Italy, the European Union, Monaco and Switzerland for earmarked contributions, as well as all donors of broadly earmarked and unearmarked funding to UNHCR globally.

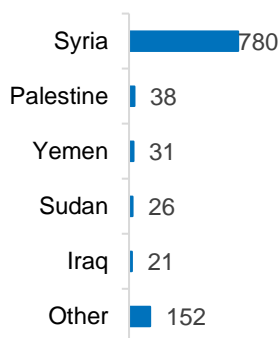
## Key figures

**1,048** Persons of concern (PoCs) comprising the following:

**909** registered refugees

**139** asylum-seekers

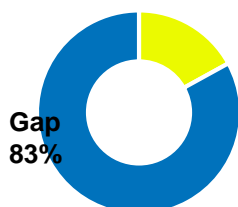
### Top 5 Countries of Origin (of PoCs)



## Funding

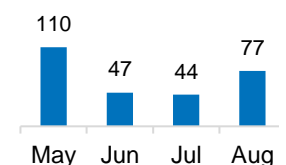
USD **5.7 M** required for 2018

**Funded 17%**



### Mixed migration profiling Recent data (May-Aug)

Individuals profiled: 278



### Top Countries of Origin

