

# Tunisia

January 2018

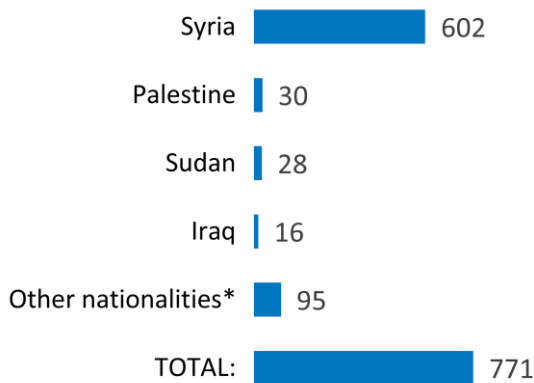
In Tunisia, UNHCR's priorities are to support the **establishment of a national asylum system**, and to **build national and regional capacities** for refugee protection, in a context of mixed migration.

UNHCR provides **protection** and direct **assistance** to refugees and proactively identifies appropriate **durable solutions**.

Together with its partners, UNHCR supports refugees and asylum seekers in accessing public services and **becoming self-reliant**.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

### Countries of origin

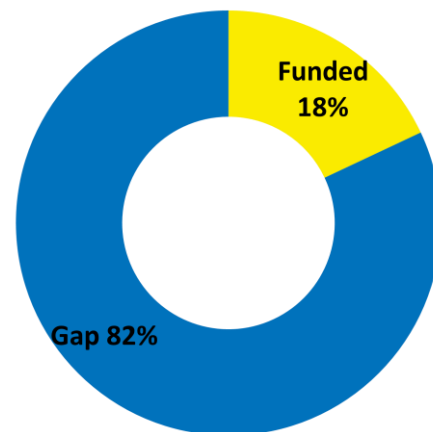


(Figures as of 31 December 2017)

\* Other nationalities (22)

## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (as of 17 January 2018)

**USD 5.5 M** requested for 2018



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

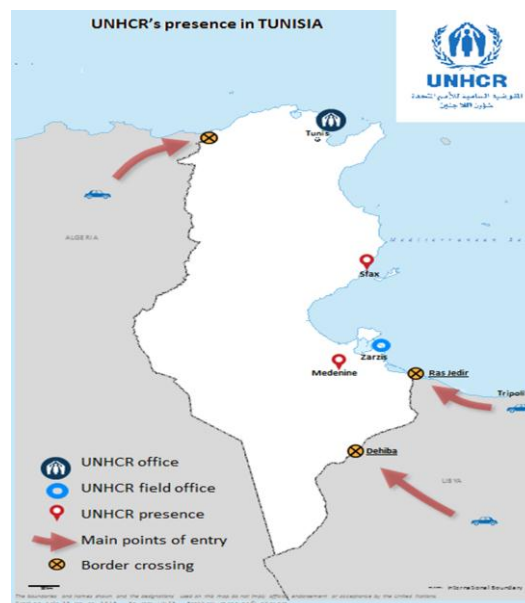
27 National Staff

6 International Staff

### Offices:

2 Office: Representation in **Tunis** and a field office in **Zarzis**.

Presence in **Sfax** and **Medenine**



## Working with Partners

- UNHCR cooperates closely with **Tunisian authorities**, notably with the Ministries of Justice, Interior, Foreign Affairs, Social Affairs, Women, Family and Childhood, Employment and Health.
- UNHCR Tunisia has formal partnership agreements with four NGOs:
  - The **Tunisian Red Crescent (TRC)** provides support in registration, counseling, access to health and education, provision of targeted assistance and other basic services to refugees and asylum seekers registered with UNHCR. TRC also provide basic humanitarian assistance to persons of concern to UNHCR involved in incidents at sea.
  - The **Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)** implements livelihood activities.
  - The **Italian Council for Refugees (CIR)**, in collaboration with the **Tunisian Council for Refugees (TCR)**, assists UNHCR in the area of mixed migration, including in case of rescue at sea.
  - The **Arab Institute for Human Right (AIHR)** carries out all capacity building activities relating to the development of the national protection system. Activities target civil society organizations, lawyers, journalists, judges, 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 implements joint activities with other UN agencies, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

## Main Activities

### Protection

- In the absence of a formal national asylum system, UNHCR conducts **registration of asylum seekers and refugee status determination** in Tunisia, to ensure that persons of concern are identified and documented. This prevents arbitrary arrest, detention or refoulement. In 2017, UNHCR introduced biometric enrolment to improve quality of the data collected and prevent fraud.
- **The national asylum law has reached its final preparation stage**, after being shared with the Prime Minister's office in June 2016. UNHCR is advocating with the authorities to expedite the adoption process and get the law presented before Parliament.
- UNHCR is training border officials to raise awareness on **protection considerations in a context of mixed migration**, including at sea. Tunisian border guards and fishermen sometimes rescue boats in distress off the Tunisian coast, mostly departing from Libya. Groups of migrants and refugees crossing irregularly the border from Tunisia to Libya as well as from Libya to Tunisia are also regularly intercepted. UNHCR's objective is to ensure that border management takes into consideration the protection needs of refugees and asylum-seekers.



*The Tunisian officials with UNHCR Tunisia Representative and partners TRC and CIR during the study visit on mixed migration held in Mauritania from 27 October to 4 November 2017.*

©UNHCR Mauritania/Helena Pes

### Education

- Refugees and asylum-seekers have access to local schools. To increase school attendance, UNHCR and its partners provide cash grants to help parents purchase books and schools supplies, as well as, in some locations, catch-up classes and French language classes.

### Health

- Like Tunisian nationals, refugees and asylum-seekers have **access to basic public health facilities**. UNHCR, through its partner TRC, reimburses medical expenses and medicines for basic primary health care, chronic diseases, and emergency medical intervention for vulnerable cases.

### Community empowerment and Self-reliance

- With its partner ADRA, UNHCR is enhancing refugees' **self-reliance and livelihood opportunities**, through tailored vocational training, income-generating projects and direct employment with private companies. Once refugees have signed work contracts and received work permits from authorities, ADRA support their request for temporary residency status.

### Durable solutions

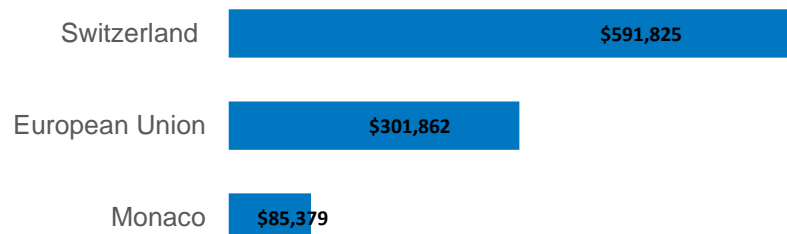
- UNHCR endeavours to achieve **durable solutions for refugees and other alternative legal pathways**, such as private sponsorship, family reunification and naturalisation for those with family links in the country. In 2017, UNHCR supported the voluntary repatriation of five refugees, the resettlement of seven families (21 individuals) and the naturalization of seven cases. In addition, five individuals left 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 a mass influx of refugees and asylum-seekers from Libya. In 2017, the revised and finalized plan was translated into Arabic and French and shared with the Tunisian authorities.

## External / Donors Relations

### Thanks to the critical support provided by donors to this operation in 2018



### Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2018

Sweden (98 M) | Norway (43 M) | Netherlands (39 M) | United Kingdom (32 M) | Denmark (25 M) | Australia (19 M) | Switzerland (15 M)

### Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2018

Bosnia and Herzegovina | Canada | China | Estonia | Finland | Indonesia | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Serbia | Singapore | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | UN Peacebuilding Fund | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private Donors

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