

# TUNISIA

November 2021

## Key Figures:

**9,255** total people of concern to UNHCR registered in Tunisia (refugees and asylum-seekers).

**3,763** people of concern to UNHCR registered so far in Tunisia in 2021.

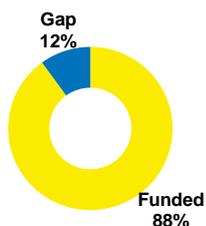
**816** individuals profiled within mixed movements.

**83%** of individuals profiled expressed an intention to seek asylum in Tunisia.

**490** refugee and asylum-seeking households received cash assistance during November.

## Funding:

**\$ 9.9 M** requested for 2021.



**\$ 8.9 M** received as of 7 December 2021

## Operational Context

During November, an elevated number of COVID-19 cases were observed among students in primary and secondary schools, resulting in the closure of some premises in the southern governorates. Comprehensive vaccination campaigns also continued, recording over six million individuals receiving at least one dose at the end of November; and was extended to children aged between 12 and 14 years old starting from 5 November. So far, 317 refugees and asylum-seekers have been fully vaccinated. Meanwhile, UNHCR partner the Tunisian Refugee Council (CTR) continued to provide information sessions on preventive measures and vaccination to refugees and asylum-seekers.

## Operational Response

On 25 November, the Tunisian Maritime Guard rescued 487 individuals from a capsizing vessel which had departed from Libya. UNHCR provided assistance to those rescued at sea, including rapid COVID-19 testing on arrival, shelter, food and non-food items, and medical assistance.



An art exhibition of Sudanese refugee artist at Medenine Cultural Centre © N. Mejai

Medenine's Cultural Centre offered admission to ten refugees and asylum-seekers to attend a music concert by 20 local singers. The Centre also offered a Sudanese refugee artist to take part in the performances, allowing him the opportunity to showcase his art.

On 27-28 November, 27 refugees and asylum-seekers participated in the second event of the 'Sport for Inclusion' programme led by IOM, consisting of one day of trainings for volunteers who work with children from vulnerable districts and another day of sporting activities in La Marsa Stadium in Tunis. The

programme also included several sporting events in Sfax, Sousse and Zarzis, with the participation of asylum-seekers, refugees, migrants and host community members. The programme seeks to foster inclusion and social cohesion while countering racism and xenophobia through sport and remains a vital recreational opportunity for many people of concern to UNHCR.

On 25 November, activities were held to mark the '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence' campaign across the country, which continued until 10 December. A rich programme of activities led by UNHCR and CTR was organized, with the active participation of refugees and asylum-seekers. Discussions, movie screenings, and artistic activities were planned in Greater Tunis, Gabes, Medenine, Sfax and Tataouine governorates, with the aim of sensitizing refugees, asylum-seekers and host community members on prevention of gender-based violence, as well as informing on children and women's rights and sexual/reproductive health.



A group of refugees and asylum-seekers participate in an event for '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence' in Medenine. © CTR

## UN Agencies Participation in the 36<sup>th</sup> Tunis International Book Fair



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From 11 - 21 November, UNHCR took part along with 15 UN Agencies in the 36<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Tunis International Book Fair**, which took place in the Exhibition Parc in Le Kram, Tunis. The agencies came together under the UN banner and set up a common stand animated by a rich programme of activities.

Publications and leaflets explaining the different projects and programs were distributed to over 1,000 visitors at the stand, including children, older persons, family and students. Panel discussions, live-streaming sessions, interactive activities for children and artistic performances aimed to increase engagement towards the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and raise awareness on a variety of topics including climate change, international protection and asylum, sustainable development, workers' rights, non-discrimination, youth engagement, children's rights, gender equality, and cultural heritage (among others)

UNHCR and its partners the *Tunisian Refugee Council (CTR)* and the *Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR)* also presented several activities. On 14 November, UNHCR led a roundtable for children and parents with the aim of informing what it means to be a refugee and why this group should be shown solidarity and acceptance. On 17 November, AIHR prepared a radio programme to be broadcasted on Essaida FM on the roles and activities of UN Agencies in Tunisia. On **19 November**, UNHCR and CTR invited a group of refugees and asylum-seekers to display their artistic skills before a live audience. Two asylum-seekers trained at the *University of Lifelong Learning (ULV)* in Tunis demonstrated ancient mosaic techniques, creating a mosaic with the UN logo. Rabie, a refugee youth from Libya, displayed his drawing skills during a live session, while Ranad, a 13-year-old stateless, presented a book she wrote titled "*I will make my dreams come true and no one will stop me*". These and other performances exemplified the hopes and resilience of people seeking asylum, informing audience members of their journeys and ambitions for themselves and their families.

*For additional highlights from the International Book Fair, please see UNHCR's Tunisia's [Facebook page](#)*

UNHCR Tunisia is grateful for the support of: **Austria | European Union | Japan | Luxembourg | Monaco | Netherlands | RDPP North Africa – EU | Switzerland** and to those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and softly earmarked funds : Private donors Australia | Belgium | Denmark | France | Germany | Private donors Germany | Ireland | Italy | Private donors Italy | Japan | Private donors Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Private donors Republic of Korea | Spain | Private donors Spain | Sweden | Private donors Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America | Private donors United States of America