

TUNISIA

30 April 2022

Key figures

9,649 people of concern to UNHCR (asylum-seekers & refugees)

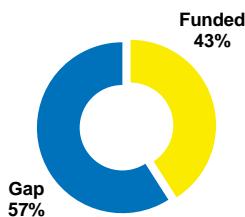
441 people of concern to UNHCR registered in Tunisia in 2022

23 individuals profiled within mixed movements in 2022

392 refugee and asylum-seeking households received cash assistance during April 2022

Funding

USD **8.5 M** required in 2022



USD **3.6 M** received as of 10 May 2022

Operational Context

Since 15 April 2022, about 200 of refugees, asylum seekers and other individuals who do not fall within UNHCR's mandate have been staging a sit-in in front of UNHCR Office in Tunis. This protest followed a similar sit-in that took place in front of UNHCR Office in Zarzis for over two months. The protesters top demands are to be resettled or evacuated from Tunis to third countries. UNHCR is deeply concerned about the situation of those protesting in front of its office in very difficult sanitary conditions, including women and children, and urges dialogue with the aim of finding suitable solutions. While UNHCR temporarily halted some of the in-person activities in its office to preserve the security of the staff and of refugees and asylum-seekers not involved in the protest; starting from 22 April registration, Refugee Status Determination (RSD) and resettlement (RST) interviews have resumed at reduced capacity from partners offices.

Operational Response

UNHCR partner Tunisian Refugee Council (CTR) created a mobile application called INFOACCESS, which is already available for download, although it has not been officially launched yet. The application is designed for refugees, asylum-seekers and for those who intend to apply for asylum in Tunisia. Through the application, the users will be able to find information about procedures, services and activities, conducted by UNHCR and partners, provide feedback on how their needs are being met, and access informative videos. The app, which is available in multiple languages, is continuously being updated based on the needs and users' feedback and will soon be ready for its official launch.

During the month of April, various civil society associations mobilized to support refugees and asylum-seekers with food and other essential items across the country in the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. Namely, in Tunis the Association "Tunisiens de Deux Rives" provided evening meals to around 40 refugees and asylum-seekers hosted in the UNHCR Tunis shelter, while in the southern governorates 188 refugees and asylum-seekers received food baskets or food vouchers.

TEMPORARY ACCOMODATION IN UNHCR SHELTERS – UNHCR and its partners manage three common shelters (foyers) one in Tunis, one in Medenine and one in Zarzis, with a total capacity of around 400 places. Those shelters are meant to host people rescued at sea and the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers, for a limited period of time (3-6 months). When possible, alternatives to such temporary accommodations are preferred, as UNHCR aims at ensuring sustainable solutions on one hand and availability of places for those in urgent need on the other. To this effect, since the beginning of the year, UNHCR revised the vulnerability criteria to accessing the shelters. UNHCR will offer "cash for shelter" equal to 250 TND per month (about 81 USD, rate of 5/2022) for three months as an alternative to temporary accomodation, along with livelihoods opportunities, to new arrivals and those rescued at sea who do not meet the new criteria. Refugees and asylum-seekers who were residing in apartments rented by UNHCR in 2021 were also offered the "cash for shelter" option as the rental of apartments was terminated in March 2022. The need to scale up reception capacities remains high, namely in the southern governorates, in the framework of rescue at sea operations.

UNHCR Tunisia is grateful for the support of: Austria | France | Monaco | Netherlands | RDPP NA – EU | Switzerland. And those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and softly earmarked funds: Belgium | Denmark | Germany | Ireland | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | Private donors.