

30 June 2022

**Key Figures:**

**9,546** people of concern to UNHCR in Tunisia (asylum-seekers & refugees).

**596** people of concern to UNHCR registered in Tunisia so far in 2022.

**63** individuals profiled within mixed movements in 2022.

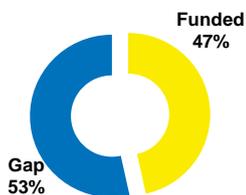
**269** refugee and asylum-seeking households received cash assistance during June 2022.

**8** people departed on resettlement to third countries in 2022, with

**52** cases pending approval.

**Funding:**

**\$ 8.5 M** required in 2022



**\$ 4 M** received as of 5 July 2022

# TUNISIA

## Operational Context

Since 15 April 2022, a group of 213 refugees, asylum-seekers, and other individuals who do not fall under UNHCR’s mandate had been staging a sit-in outside UNHCR’s office in Tunis – with a big part of the group coming from Zarzis, where demonstrations took place earlier this year - demanding resettlement and evacuation. Following positive dialogue undertaken with this group throughout the time they were engaged in the demonstrations, on 3 June, UNHCR and partners started their relocation to safe shelters. The first group, composed of 172 individuals, was transported to a first shelter, while the second group of 41 individuals was relocated to another shelter. The process of relocation has been completed on 18 June. Food vouchers, hygiene kits, and core relief items (CRIs) were distributed to the group upon arrival at the shelter.

UNHCR is now resuming to address its mandate in protecting refugees and asylum seekers at full capacity in Tunis office, through registration, refugee status determination, and resettlement interviews.

Rescue/interception at sea operations continued at a high rate in Tunisia. In June, four operations took place with a total of 129 individuals rescued. Among them, 45 individuals sought asylum. A further 552 individuals were intercepted across 27 operations, mainly in Sfax, Karkanah island, and Mahdia. UNHCR in coordination with IOM provided temporary accommodation to those rescued, in addition to counseling sessions, medical check-ups, psychological support, CRIs, and food vouchers.

## Operational Response

After the relocation of demonstrators from outside UNHCR’s office in Tunis, UNHCR and partners are providing ongoing support to the group to address their essential needs. Daily monitoring visits are being undertaken with the group at their temporary shelter, with specialized training and capacity-building sessions being provided for shelter managers and volunteers in order to assure appropriate humanitarian assistance and safety.

To commemorate the International Day of the African child, on 16 June UNHCR in coordination with the Tunisian association for the defence of children’s rights and the Tunisian Scouts organized a creative arts workshop for families with children living in the shelter located in Raouad. Recreational activities including drawing, dancing, singing, and theatre were used as therapeutic methods to support children’s mental health and help overcome trauma associated with their displacement.

During June, 50 medical consultations and check-ups were undertaken in the south with refugees and asylum-seekers through four mobile healthcare caravans organized by UNHCR, IOM, and local partners. Medical staff provided medicine in addition to primary health assessments for those requiring assistance.

On 21 June, UNHCR and partners organized a workshop with counterparts from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Social Affairs, and local psychologists in Medenine Governorate. The aim of this workshop was to strengthen collaboration for protecting refugee and asylum-seeking children in schools and learning environments in Tunisia.



Workshop with partners on Education for refugee children-Medenine. ©UNHCR

To mark World Refugee Day, several activities were organized by UNHCR and partners across Tunisia throughout June, including sports, arts, and cultural events, as well as awareness-raising and information sessions. Further info can be found [here](#).

### **Inauguration Ceremony for Ras-Jedir Border Entry Point (7 June 2022)**

Medenine, Tunisia — With support from the Embassy of Japan, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and contributions from donors, an inauguration ceremony was held on 7 June in the presence of government authorities for the rehabilitation project of an asphalt platform at the border entry point of Ras-Jedir, Medenine Governorate on the border with Libya.

The project was launched as part of contingency preparedness planning, aimed at improving reception conditions of people transiting between Tunisia and Libya including refugees, asylum-seekers, and migrants.

The rehabilitation project took place between September - October 2021 at the request of local authorities. UN agencies partnered to implement key activities such as refurbishing the asphalt platform and equipping the site with all necessary infrastructure (i.e., sewage and water systems, storage facilities), with the goal of improving security and cross-border movement of people and goods and enhancing local capacities to accommodate higher arrivals of people, if necessary.

During the ceremony, UN Resident Coordinator and Representative of the UN System in Tunisia, Said Arnaud Peral, said: *“Thanks to the outstanding work of all the actors, and to the participatory and optimal management of borders, change is possible, and we can save human lives,”* highlighting the importance of supporting countries to ensure safe access to territory and asylum in line with international humanitarian standards.

A Press Release for the event can be found [here](#)



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Above left: The UN Resident Coordinator in Tunisia and government officials inaugurate the asphalt platform at Ras-Jedir.

Above right: Vehicles arrive at the refurbished asphalt platform at Ras-Jedir border entry point.

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