

31 August 2022

Key Figures:

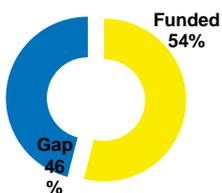
9,676 people of concern to UNHCR in Tunisia (asylum-seekers & refugees).

87 individuals were profiled within mixed movements in 2022.

13 persons departed on resettlement to third countries in 2022.

Funding:

\$ 8.5 M required in 2022



\$ 4.6 M received as of September 2022

TUNISIA

Operational Context

In August, **214 individuals were rescued along Tunisia’s coast while attempting to reach Italy from Libya**, according to local sources. UNHCR, provided emergency assistance and support to local authorities on site. 24 persons from the survivor’s group decided to seek asylum in Tunisia.

During the reporting period, **Tunisian authorities also carried out more than 200 interception operations, on both land and at sea, involving more than 3,633 individuals, most of them Tunisians**. This upward trend noted in recent months already took the lives of hundreds of persons.

Operational Response

A group of demonstrators asking for evacuation from Tunisia has been blocking the entrance to UNHCR office in Tunis, since 7 August, leading to a disruption of protection services. While tensions have been slightly eased following multiple meetings between UNHCR and the group of demonstrators, the blockage has prevented some persons of concern to access protection services such as registration, and status determination. UNHCR subsequently held remote counselling sessions with individuals to continue assessing the situation and exploring solutions.



GBV training for CTR in Medenine. © UNHCR

In August, **20 refugees and asylum seekers in Medenine and Zarzis participated in a training session to improve their knowledge on gender-based violence (GBV)** and be more equipped to support GBV survivors in their communities. Another training was also held for UNHCR partner The Tunisian Refugee Council (CTR) to improve staff capacity in identifying survivors and explore the main forms of GBV in refugee context.

On 20 August **UNHCR supported the distribution of donated items to the two new shelters in Tunis**. Local NGOs and civil society activists in Tunis have promptly welcomed refugees and asylum seekers in their new neighbourhood by providing clothes, food, and hygiene kits.

A cultural, educational club was launched in Raouad shelter in Tunis, led by volunteers of the refugee community. The club will seek to help illiterate refugees and asylum-seekers learn how to read and write and work to develop cultural activities in the shelter. UNHCR, in collaboration with the Tunisian scouts, encouraged this initiative by establishing two libraries in the common area of the shelter.

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