

Tunisia

October 2024

As of 31 October, **15,659 refugees and asylum-seekers** are registered with UNHCR, most from countries covered by UNHCR non-return advisories.*

Among them are people with **urgent protection needs**, including gender-based violence survivors, LGBTQI+ individuals, and unaccompanied children.

In response to the changing context, UNHCR has been **adapting its operations** by assuming activities previously implemented by partners.

KEY FIGURES

15,659

forcibly displaced people registered in Tunisia as of 31 October, including 12,367 asylum-seekers and 3,292 refugees.

83%

of registered individuals originate from countries covered by UNHCR non-return advisories,* including **Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Syria**, and **Eritrea**.

852

individuals supported with financial assistance in October 2024.

1,409

document renewals in October 2024.

39

departures on resettlement in October 2024.

4

departures on complementary pathways in October 2024.

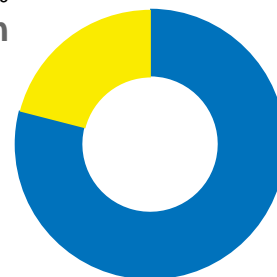
* In specific circumstances, UNHCR issues positions on returns that provide country-specific policy guidance on the feasibility of return, based on the conditions in a particular country of origin.

FUNDING (AS OF 31 OCTOBER)

USD \$15.5 million

requested for Tunisia in 2024.

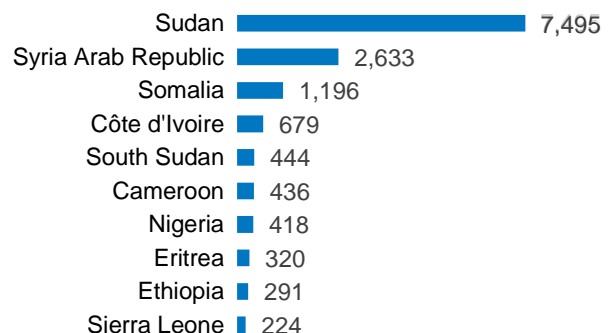
Unfunded 26%
\$4 million



Funded 74%
\$11.5 million

REGISTERED POPULATION

Country of origin



Data on top ten countries as of 31 October 2024.

Operational context

At the crossroads of Africa and Europe, Tunisia remains exposed to complex movement patterns involving refugees and migrants along the central Mediterranean route. Individuals from Central, West, East, and the Horn of Africa, as well as the Middle East, undertake perilous journeys to reach Tunisia, often encountering significant risks and rights violations along the route. Among those arriving are particularly vulnerable individuals in need of international protection, including victims of torture, survivors of gender-based violence, as well as unaccompanied children.

In response to the evolving context, UNHCR has been adapting its response by absorbing activities previously implemented by some of its partners, thereby ensuring that registered asylum-seekers and refugees at heightened risk continue to receive critical assistance, including healthcare, legal services, safe shelter, and multi-purpose cash support.

Operational response

PROTECTION

- UNHCR continued its efforts to renew cards for registered refugees and asylum-seekers, successfully renewing a total of 1,409 cards in October, up from 993 in September. In addition, 10 newborns were registered, and their details were added to registered parents' file.
- A verification exercise was carried out to confirm the presence of registered refugees and asylum-seekers and to update their data, resulting in the inactivation of 894 individual records. As a result, the total number of forcibly displaced people registered decreased from 16,562 in September to 15,659 in October.
- UNHCR conducted protection interviews and vulnerability assessments for 65 registered refugees and asylum-seekers to identify the most appropriate interventions and referrals to services. During the reporting period, additional staff were recruited in both the Tunis and Zarzis offices to support these assessments, address identified needs, and help mitigate vulnerabilities.
- UNHCR initiated best interest procedures to find solutions for two unaccompanied children. Additionally, UNHCR worked with national authorities to arrange temporary care for four additional children.
- UNHCR and its legal partner provided legal assistance, advice, and consultations to 52 refugees and asylum-seekers.

HELPLINE

- UNHCR expanded its helpline team, recruiting additional operators to enhance response capacity.
- UNHCR's helpline recorded a total of 966 communications from 520 unique registered callers, providing them with information, counselling, and orientation to specialized services.

SAFE SHELTER

- In October, 490 refugees and asylum-seekers resided in UNHCR-run safe shelters, where they benefited from basic services, including case management, counselling, mental health and psychosocial support, and food assistance. The safe shelters continue to operate at full capacity.
- UNHCR also offered protection initiatives and empowerment programs to people living in the safe shelters, providing access to a range of activities such as language courses, sports, movie screenings, and regular hygiene, health, and mental health awareness sessions.
- UNHCR continued to provide rental and utilities support to the Jdariya temporary safe shelter, which hosts some 462 refugees and asylum-seekers. Additionally, UNHCR launched a pilot program to provide in-kind food support to residents.
- During the reporting month, UNHCR hired specialized shelter management staff to oversee and support activities in safe shelters.

HEALTH

- UNHCR focused on providing health-related orientation to 130 individuals, psychosocial counseling to 23 individuals, hospital referrals and accompaniment to 32 individuals, and medication to 17 individuals.

EDUCATION

- UNHCR, in collaboration with child protection authorities, facilitated the enrollment of 103 school-aged children from several registered refugee families, including 88 children from the southern governorates of Gabès, Medenine, Sfax, and Tataouine.

CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS

- With the endorsement of the Tunisian government, UNHCR continued to implement cash-based interventions, including multipurpose cash assistance, cash for food, and food vouchers, benefiting approximately 852 individuals. In total, 444 individuals received multipurpose cash support, 224 received cash-for-food assistance, and 184 unaccompanied children received food vouchers.

SELF-RELIANCE

- UNHCR, in collaboration with local training centers and institutions, focused on tailoring vocational training to the skills and needs of refugees. The aim is to provide a small number of individuals with marketable skills that improve their prospects for potential third-country solutions.
- UNHCR and its partners continued their efforts to strengthen the resilience of asylum-seekers and refugees. A limited number of job placements were secured and approved by the Tunisian authorities.

Financial information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation.

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