

TUNISIA

December 2022

Key Figures:

8,940 people of concern to UNHCR in Tunisia (asylum-seekers & refugees).

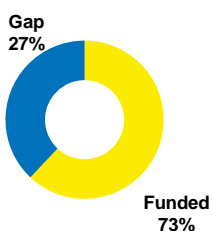
105 individuals were profiled within mixed movements in 2022.

346 refugees and asylum-seekers received multi-purpose cash assistance during December, while **126** received cash for food.

2 refugees departed Tunisia for resettlement to third countries in December.

Funding:

\$ 8.5 M required in 2022



\$ 6.2 M received as of 29 December 2022

Operational Context

Rescue at sea and interception operations continued off Tunisia's coasts during December. Following a shipwreck on 7 December off the coast of Aghyr Djerba in southeast Tunisia, authorities rescued 66 individuals, all Egyptian nationalities. According to local sources, the boat allegedly departed from Libya. Overall, in 2022, some 27,511 individuals were rescued / intercepted by Tunisian authorities across 302 operations, a 34 per cent increase from 2021. Additionally, the number of persons departing from Tunisia and arriving in Italy increased by 58 per cent in 2022.

Operational Response

In December, UNHCR and partner the Arab Institute for Human rights (AIHR) organized a series of workshops with counterparts from Tunisia's Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training. Some 41 participants from the different agencies of the ministry in Tunis and Zarzis took part, with the aim of increasing outreach and inclusion of refugees in livelihood opportunities, and access to work and support advocacy efforts in line with the Global Compact on Refugees.



Participants in the Employment and Vocational Training workshops in Zarzis ©AIHR



Refugee setting up his traditional clothes shop in Medenine ©UNHCR

Thanks to cooperation between UNHCR, partners The Tunisian Association for Management and Social Stability, AIHR, and the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training, seven refugees were offered job opportunities in Tunisia, while eleven existing refugee livelihood projects were reinforced by new equipment during the month of December. Economic inclusion and expanding employment and livelihood opportunities remain among the most effective protection tools for displaced persons. During 2022, 11 refugees were recruited in the Tunisian market with valid work contracts, while 10 livelihood projects were provided equipment to guarantee their success.

On 9 December, UNHCR Tunisia signed a partnership agreement with TIBU Africa in Tunis, which seeks to empower young refugees and asylum seekers' socio-economic inclusion through sport. The partnership will seek to expand youth participation in sporting activities in the country, taking into consideration the life-changing effect of sport.

On 22 December, refugees, migrants and host community members participated in the 'Sport for Inclusion' programme led by IOM Tunisia. Around 70 participants took part in a series of activities in Tunis and Zarzis, where they had the chance to taking part in sporting events and meet members of the community.

UNHCR's '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence' campaign continued during December in the southern governorates of Gabes and Medenine. Two info sessions and group discussions were organized by UNHCR and partner the Tunisian Refugee council (CTR) for refugee women and teenage girls, to inform them on gender equality and fight against domestic violence.

Throughout 2022, 20 highly vulnerable refugees departed Tunisia through resettlement. So far in 2023, UNHCR has submitted an additional 152 persons for resettlement with decisions still pending.

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