

TUNISIA

January 2022

Key Figures:

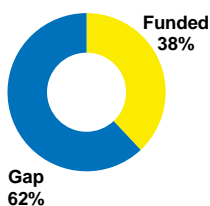
9,078 forcibly displaced persons in Tunisia (asylum-seekers & refugees).

358 refugees and asylum-seekers received multi-purpose cash assistance during January 2023, while **112** received cash for food.

4 refugees were accepted for resettlement to third countries in January 2023.

Funding:

\$ 8.5 M required in 2023



\$ 3.2 M received as of 31 January 2023

Operational Context

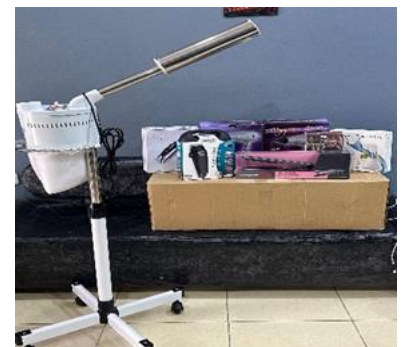
Rescue at sea operations continued at a high pace off Tunisia's coast during January. On 5 January, a boat departing from Libya was rescued at Sfax with 40 people aboard, including 22 Syrian nationals who later sought asylum in Tunisia. On 7 January, a crowded boat attempting to cross the Mediterranean sank on the coast of Louata in Sfax. Ten individuals are presumed dead, and at least five people perished, with 20 individuals saved by the Tunisian coastguard. UNHCR was on hand to provide emergency assistance and arranging temporary accommodation for the rescued.

Operational Response

As UNHCR begins its 2023 programming year, partnership agreements covering the full range of protection, assistance, advocacy, and capacity-building activities were renewed with the Tunisian Refugee Council (CTR), Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR), Tunisian Association for Management and Social Stability (TAMSS), and the Tunisian Scouts. Building on accomplishments in 2022, the 2023 program will be conducted in collaboration with local authorities, civil society organizations and private actors and in accordance with the goals of the Global Compact on Refugees.

With inflation reaching 10.2 per cent in January 2023 and alarming levels of food insecurity, Tunisia continues to face concerning economic challenges. Such difficulties are having a detrimental effect on refugees and asylum seekers who struggle to make ends meet. To meet their most immediate needs, UNHCR continues to deliver cash assistance including multi-purpose and food-specific cash, allowing vulnerable displaced families and individuals the ability to prioritize urgent households needs such as rent and food. In January, 102 households including 112 individuals received cash for food, while 201 households including 358 individuals received multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA).

As part of UNHCR's ongoing urban integration and livelihood support program, and in coordination with partner Tunisian Association for Management and Social Stability (TAMSS), 14 refugees and asylum seekers received offers of employment in various sectors during January. Additionally, a hairdressing microproject launched by a Syrian refugee that was already underway since 2017 received support by delivering new equipment. In order to improve refugees' socioeconomic integration and minimize administrative restrictions on formal work prospects, UNHCR continues to collaborate with local stakeholders, including the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training.



UNHCR provided hairdressing equipment for a refugee microproject. © UNHCR

On 10 January, UNHCR along with partners CTR and the Tunisian Social Affairs Delegation in Medenine governorate launched the first in a series of Arabic and French language classes at the Ibn Khaldun Shelter supporting refugee learning. Seven refugees from Sudan took part in the first lesson, assisted by a local volunteer teacher. This project builds on previous UNHCR cooperative projects with the Ministry of Social Affairs and its delegation in southern Tunisia, which seeks to ensure access for refugees to learning programmes while improving illiteracy.

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