

Tunisia

Operational Context

April 2024

Key figures

As of 30 April 2024, **17,177** forcibly displaced people currently in Tunisia (**13,450** asylum-seekers, **3,727** refugees)

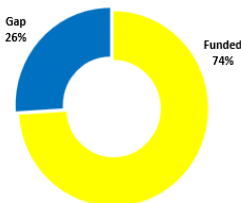
546 cases assisted with cash-based interventions, including **218** under the Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance Program; **328** with Cash for Food

Offered vocational training to **52** refugees

24 refugees resettled and **40** persons submitted for resettlement

Funding

USD **9.5 M** required in 2024



USD **7 M** received as of 30 April 2024

Slight decrease in arrivals of asylum-seekers, with Sudan remaining the main country of origin. During the reporting period, almost 1,200 individuals, mostly arriving by land, approached UNHCR and its partners, mainly in Tunis, seeking orientation and assistance. Further, border authorities referred eight persons seeking international protection to UNHCR.

UNHCR registered and issued asylum cards to 866 individuals. 80 per cent are male adults, and over 10 per cent male youth. Over half of newly registered cases come from Sudan (465), followed by Somalia (126), both covered under UNHCR advisories of non-return. Sudan remains the main country of origin, after more than one year since the outbreak of the war. Most asylum-seekers and refugees registered with UNHCR live in urban areas (Medenine, Tunis, and Sfax).

Highlights of UNHCR and partners' response

Limited UNHCR operational capacity to respond to registration activities in Tunis. From 28 February to 2 May, access to the UNHCR office in Tunis was blocked by around 100 asylum-seekers peacefully demanding humanitarian evacuation. UNHCR conducted mediation efforts with the groups though with limited success to end the blockage and resume its regular services. Further to intervention by authorities across Lac 1 on 3 May, UNHCR was able to gradually return to the premises, though protection services, namely registration and medical referrals, remain on hold.

In April, UNHCR provided **financial assistance** to 218 cases within its regular multi-purpose cash assistance program (MPCA) and 328 cases at the UNHCR-run shelters within its cash for food program.

The five **shelters** run by UNHCR partners in Tunis and Medenine remain at full capacity. UNHCR continues facilitating through its partner accompaniment to asylum-seekers and refugees looking for private accommodation options.

Supported vocational training and self-resilience prospects for refugees and asylum-seekers. In April, UNHCR and partners carried out 55 profiling interviews to identify skills and match profiles with existing and forthcoming vacancies.

Coordination with stakeholders to strengthen refugees' and asylum-seekers' access to basic services. In Tunis, the United Nations Technical Coordination Group on Asylum and Migration, co-led by UNHCR and IOM, held a retreat to review its Joint Plan for complementing institutional-led activities on mixed movements. WHO has sustained regular meetings with the Ministry of Health and UN Agencies, including UNHCR, to consolidate a response plan for urgent health-related cases.

Since April, in coordination with the Governorate of Medenine, UNHCR partners deployed a doctor at the **transit centre in Jdaria** once per week to carry out medical consultations, pre-screenings and refer cases as required to the public healthcare system.

As of mid-April, the **Tejra transit center** hosts 400 refugees and asylum-seekers, including 100 new arrivals from Algeria and Libya, awaiting UNHCR registration. Residents are primarily male adults, mainly Sudanese (380 individuals), followed by Ethiopians (13 individuals). On 12 April, the UNHCR field office in Zarzis carried out a joint visit with regional health authorities to assess and address health-related concerns at the transit center. UNHCR distributed jerry cans, clothing kits, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, and water parcels to residents. In collaboration with UN Agencies and partners, residents also received hygiene kits.

Between 15 and 17 April, UNHCR and partners co-organized a **workshop on international refugee law** for 30 mid and senior officials of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Social Affairs and Defense. The workshop focused on the regional context, mixed movements and access of refugees and asylum-seekers to documentation and basic services.

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