

# Tunisia

May 2024

## Operational Context

### Key figures

As of 31 May 2024, **18,100** forcibly displaced people currently in Tunisia (14,428 asylum-seekers, 3,811 refugees, 1 stateless)

**263** cases assisted with cash-based interventions.

Obtained **3** employment contracts.

**55** refugees resettled and **46** persons submitted for resettlement.

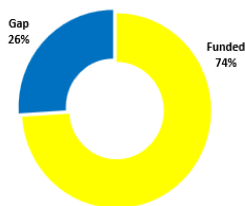
In May 2024, the total number of forcibly displaced individuals in Tunisia registered with UNHCR increased to 18,100. This represents a notable rise from previous months, primarily driven by continuous arrivals mainly from Sudan, Syria, Somalia, and other countries with applicable non-advisory for return. While 642 individuals were registered during the month of March, 883 were registered in April and 964 in May.

In light of the recent investigations involving various civil society organizations and NGOs, including one of UNHCR's partners, pre-registration activities have been temporarily suspended, which has critically disrupted the ability of forcibly displaced populations to access asylum procedures as well as the delivery of basic services, including health assistance, child protection, GBV support, shelter management, cash assistance, and education, especially in the Greater Tunis, Sfax, Mednine, and Zarzis. This temporary operational pause leads to a backlog in registrations and an increase in unregistered asylum-seekers, complicating efforts to provide comprehensive support and potentially leading to increased frustration.

As several NGO programs in the country have been suspended in recent weeks, a notable gap has emerged in addressing child protection risks, particularly for unaccompanied children, and in supporting education initiatives. UNHCR is discussing options with other UN partners to re-establish a minimum case management capacity and looking at re-activating the local child protection coordination mechanism with governorate-level child protection services.

### Funding

USD **9.5 M** required in 2024



USD **7 M** received as of 31 May 2024

## Highlights of UNHCR and partners' response

UNHCR is focusing on business continuity planning, including resuming key activities in Zarzis and preparing to reopen the reception center in Tunis. UNHCR continued to provide life-saving activities through direct implementation while at the same time strengthening partnerships with NGOs and local authorities to fill service gaps and enhance support networks.

In May, UNHCR took over shelter management activities and proceeded with the distribution of food vouchers to 263 shelter residents. However, shelters such as the Tejra and Jdaria are in substandard conditions due to severe overcrowding. This leads to increased health risks and heightened tensions among residents. The lack of adequate shelter space exacerbates the vulnerability of displaced individuals, particularly those with specific needs such as women, children, and the elderly.

UNHCR, alongside partners and NGOs, coordinated a medical caravan at the Jdaria transit center to offer medical consultations, tests, screenings, and medicines. Medenine health authorities provided follow-up care for tuberculosis cases. While deploying health services in transit centers is essential to prevent health crises among displaced populations, limited resources hinder the ability to offer comprehensive care, causing delays and increased health risks.

UNHCR has pursued partnerships with local health authorities and international health organizations to provide health services for people in need. Securing additional funding for health services and increasing the number of medical staff in transit centers will help mitigate these risks, while regular health assessments and preventive measures should be prioritized to address potential health issues proactively.

The Arab Institute for Human Rights, one of UNHCR's partners, provided legal aid and assistance to 92 individuals and was able to support refugees and asylum-seekers with effective access to justice. The main grievances of the individuals who benefitted from the support were mostly related to the obtention or renewal of residence permits as well as court representation for irregular entry and stay.

In May 2024, 46 persons were submitted to third countries for resettlement. In addition, 55 individuals departed for resettlement in the same month. However, the gap between those in need and those receiving resettlement opportunities remains significant. UNHCR Tunisia continues to advocate with resettlement countries to expand third-country solutions, including through higher numbers of resettlement slots and other safe and legal complementary pathways.

**Special thanks to earmarked donors for UNHCR operations in Tunisia:** Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development | Austria | Italy | Monaco | Netherlands | EU | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America.

**Thanks to the major donors of softly earmarked and unearmarked funds in 2024:** Australia | Belgium | Denmark | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | Other Private Donors

**CONTACT | Rasem Draou**, Associate Coordination Officer, [draou@unhcr.org](mailto:draou@unhcr.org)

[UNHCR TUNISIA GLOBAL FOCUS](#) | [UNHCR TUNISIA HELP PAGE](#) | [UNHCR TUNISIA OPERATIONAL DATA PORTAL](#) | [UNHCR TUNISIA FACEBOOK](#)