

# Tunisia

June – August 2024

As of 31 August 2024, there are **16,638 refugees and asylum-seekers** registered with UNHCR, most of them from countries covered by non-return advisories.

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

UNHCR has begun **reconfiguring its operations** to directly assume activities previously implemented by several of its partners.

## KEY FIGURES

# 16,638

**forcibly displaced people** registered in Tunisia as of 31 August, including 13,123 asylum-seekers and 3,515 refugees.

# 87%

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

# 5,681

**individuals registered in 2024** by UNHCR in Tunisia.

# 783

**Individuals supported with financial assistance**, on average per month, between June and August 2024.

# 3,102

**document renewals** between June and August 2024.

# 21

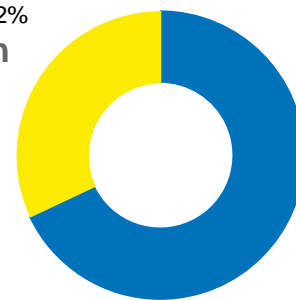
**departures on resettlement** between June and August 2024.

## FUNDING (AS OF 31 AUGUST)

# USD \$15.5 million

requested for Tunisia in 2024.

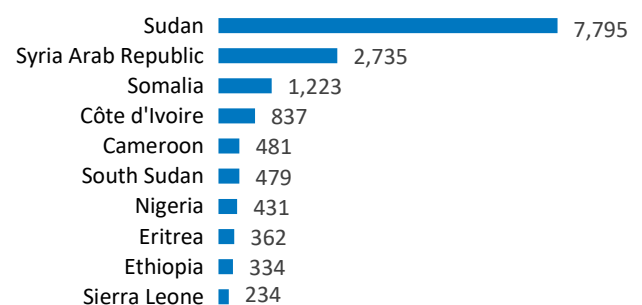
Unfunded 32%  
**5 million**



Funded 68%  
**\$10.5 million**

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

### Country of origin



\* Data as of 31 August 2024.

## Operational context

At the crossroads between Africa and Europe, Tunisia remains exposed to complex movement patterns involving refugees and migrants along the central Mediterranean route. Individuals from East, Central, and West Africa, as well as the Middle East, often undertake perilous journeys through Libya and Algeria to reach Tunisia. Among those arriving are people with urgent protection needs, including women fleeing gender-based violence, LGBTQI+ individuals facing persecution, unaccompanied children, and those fleeing political or religious threats.

UNHCR continues to provide assistance to registered asylum-seekers and refugees. In response to the latest developments in the country, UNHCR has reconfigured its operations to directly assume the activities previously implemented by several partners. This shift aims to ensure that registered refugees and asylum-seekers continue to receive essential assistance, including shelter and multi-purpose cash assistance.

## Update on operational response

### PROTECTION

- UNHCR's reception center has continued renewing the cards of registered refugees and asylum-seekers. Between June and August, a total of 3,102 registered individuals had their documents renewed.
- UNHCR has also established a helpline as a primary two-way communication channel with refugees and asylum-seekers, including to provide protection counselling, information on assistance, and, where possible, referrals to available services. In July and August, UNHCR's helpline managed over 2,867 calls.
- In August, UNHCR carried out a verification exercise to confirm the presence of registered refugees and asylum-seekers and to update their data, resulting in the inactivation of 1,740 individual records.
- Between June and August, UNHCR and its legal partner provided legal assistance, advice, and consultations to 160 refugees and asylum-seekers, including 13 unaccompanied children, to ensure their access to justice mechanisms across the country.

### SHELTER

- Since May, UNHCR has assumed the direct management of its five safe shelters previously run by one of its partners. As of 31 August, the shelters hosted 450 refugees and asylum-seekers who benefit from additional services, including case management, counselling, and financial assistance.
- Between June and August, UNHCR has gradually expanded shelter activities, including community-based protection initiatives and empowerment programs. Residents have access to a range of activities, such as language courses, football, cooking workshops, movie screenings, coloring activities, and regular hygiene awareness sessions.

- UNHCR has carried out best interest assessments for some of the 173 unaccompanied refugee children living in the shelters.
- UNHCR has provided rental and utilities support to the Jdariya center, which shelters some 450 refugees and asylum-seekers.

#### **HEALTH**

- UNHCR in Tunisia has focused on providing health-related counselling (303 individuals), referrals to national authorities (5 individuals) and to NGOs (46 individuals) for health assistance and medical follow-up, and covering medical expenses for the most vulnerable cases (26 individuals).
- Regular coordination with national health delegations and public health departments has enabled targeted health interventions, such as tuberculosis screening campaigns. UNHCR has also worked closely with public health officials to ensure that individuals with tuberculosis receive or resume their treatment at local dispensaries.

#### **CASH ASSISTANCE**

- In consultation with the Tunisian government, UNHCR continued to implement cash-based interventions, including multipurpose cash assistance, cash for food, and food vouchers, benefiting approximately 783 individuals each month. This included 1,238 multipurpose cash handouts, 632 cash-for-food handouts for shelter residents, and 9,718 food vouchers specifically for unaccompanied children. Eligibility continues to be determined through regular vulnerability assessments to ensure that financial assistance reaches the most vulnerable individuals.

#### **SELF-RELIANCE**

- UNHCR and its partners continued their efforts to enhance self-reliance opportunities and strengthen the resilience of asylum-seekers and refugees. These efforts include securing a small number of job placements approved by the Tunisian authorities.
- UNHCR has also focused on expanding vocational training opportunities in collaboration with local training centers and institutions, providing refugees with marketable skills that improve their employment prospects and support third-country solutions.

#### **RESETTLEMENT**

- Between June and August, 21 refugees departed through resettlement and one refugee through the complementary pathway of private sponsorship.
- In coordination with resettlement countries, UNHCR submitted resettlement cases for 64 individuals and provided regular updates on the protection environment for refugees and asylum-seekers.

## Financial information

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

European Union | United States of America | Austria | France | Netherlands | Switzerland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Monaco | Italy | Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development | Other private donors

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