Tunisia is primarily a transit country for most migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers. This population arrives by air, land and sea, through regular and irregular channels, often with the aim of moving onward to Europe.

Individuals rescued at sea, intercepted, or arrested on the grounds of irregular stay or attempted irregular departure, are often referred to humanitarian actors by the authorities, and are then profiled, to obtain individuals’ demographic data and to identify protection issues and specific needs.

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Tunisia: Overview of Mixed Movement Profiling
(Arrivals by land/air and rescue at sea)
30 September 2019

Note: No referrals received from the Tunisian Red Crescent as of August 2019

Demographic profile
- 87% of those who transited through Libya experienced some form of violence or abuse (torture, ill-treatment in detention, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), etc.)
- 13% of those who transited through Libya

Entry points to Tunisia
- 782 persons profiled in 2018 (Jan-Dec)
- 938 persons profiled since Jan 2019

Country of Origin
- 85% (800) individuals transited through Libya
- 65% (606) Asylum-seekers referred to UNHCR
- 35% (331) Migrants referred to IOM
- 0% (1) Ongoing counselling - pending referral

Vulnerability profile
- 33% (305) Victim of trafficking
- 21% (196) Victim of torture
- 3% (31) SGBV survivor
- 6% (57) Medical condition/under specific treatment
- 0% (1) Person with disabilities
- 2% (18) Pregnant or lactating woman

Impact of transit through Libya
- 97% (772) of those who transited through Libya

Future intentions at the time of profiling
- 65% (606) Seeking asylum
- 16% (148) Remain in Tunisia without seeking asylum* 
- 11% (107) Onward movement
- 5% (50) Returning to country of origin
- 3% (27) Undecided

*Reasons for this include, most commonly, to earn money for onward migration; less commonly to earn money to avoid going home with nothing.