

# TUNISIA

30 April 2021

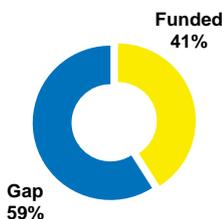
## Key figures

**8,185** persons of concern to UNHCR (asylum-seekers & refugees)

**7** refugees departed on resettlement

**600** refugee and asylum-seeker households received cash assistance

## Funding



USD **9.0 M** received as of 6 April 2021

## Operational Context

Until the month of April, Tunisia recorded a total of **307,215 COVID-19 cases, including 258,190 recoveries and 10,641 deaths**. The country's healthcare system is currently being pushed to its limit with roughly 100 new hospitalizations per day. On 18 April, the Government announced more stringent mitigation measures, including closing of schools and universities. In order to comply with those measures, UNHCR suspended or reduced most group activities for refugees and asylum-seekers, while in-office presence of staff was limited to 50 per cent. Essential support to persons of concern to UNHCR continued to be provided.

**Rescue at sea and interception operations continued at a high pace off Tunisian coasts during April.** Following a [shipwreck](#) on 16 of April off the coast of Sidi Mansour in southeast Tunisia, authorities retrieved the bodies of 41 individuals, including at least one child; mostly of sub-Saharan origin. More than 290 people have lost their lives at sea so far this year. UNHCR continues to work with local authorities to assist and support survivors and their family members.

## Operational Response

As part of UNHCR's continuous efforts to strengthen the national COVID-19 response in Tunisia, and as part of the national Azima project, on 2 April six refugees and asylum-seekers participated in an online training to register on the **Evax vaccination platform (national vaccination programme)**. The training explained the steps of registration for non-national residents in Tunisia. UNHCR Tunisia is currently launching a support scheme for people of concern in the highest priority groups to register and access vaccinations across Tunisia.

On 22 April, UNHCR and its partner the Tunisian Council for Refugees (CTR) organized a creative arts workshop for refugee and asylum-seeking children in the Bhar Lazreg shelter in Tunis. Drawing and screenwriting were used as therapeutic methods to support children's self-expression. A similar workshops was held for both displaced and host community children in Gafsa governorate.



*A creative arts workshop organized by CTR in Tunis for refugee and asylum seekers children © UNHCR*

In cooperation with the local organization **MAWJOUNDIN**, members of the **LGBTQI** refugee community participated in the festival "**Colors of April**", which took place in Tunis from 5 to 10 April. The festival included group discussions about protection risks, human rights and individual freedoms.

UNHCR and its partner the Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR) organized a two-days training on 6- 7 April for 18 participants including officials from the Ministry of Interior, the border and foreign affairs department (DFE) and the National Guard. The training included lectures, sharing of best practices, case studies on mixed migration movements and coordination tools between various border authorities and international organizations.

On 29 April, UNHCR and its partner CTR organized a workshop was in Sousse to support refugee and asylum-seeker women— including survivors of gender-based violence (GBV)— improving their handicraft skills. Individual counselling and awareness sessions were also provided to 11 women in Medenine.

UNHCR Tunisia is grateful for the support of: [Austria](#) | [European Union](#) | [Japan](#) | [Monaco](#) | [Netherlands](#) | [RDPP NA – EU](#) | [Switzerland](#) and to those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and softly earmarked funds.