

# TUNISIA

May 2021

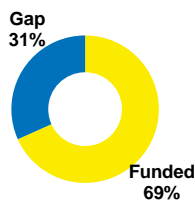
## Key figures

**8,350** persons of concern to UNHCR registered in Tunisia (asylum-seekers & refugees)

**2,230** persons of concern to UNHCR registered so far in Tunisia in 2021

**600** refugee and asylum-seeker households received cash assistance during May.

## Funding



USD **9.0 M** received as of 16 June 2021

## Operational Context

As of 31 May, Tunisia recorded 340,250 cases of COVID-19, including 299,331 recoveries and 12,451 deaths. On 12 May, the Government announced further stringent measures to limit the spread of the virus, in anticipation of the Eid festivities at the end of the month. UNHCR continues to comply with the measures while ensuring provision of essential support and services to persons of concern.

During May, around 1,800 individuals were intercepted or rescued along Tunisia's coast while attempting to reach Europe, according to local sources, confirming the upward trend noted in recent months. On 17 May, 57 persons perished in a [shipwreck](#) off the coast of Zarzis. UNHCR and IOM were on site to provide emergency assistance to those rescued.

## Operational Response

As part of national efforts to combat COVID-19, UNHCR donated a fully equipped ambulance on 18<sup>th</sup> May to the Ministry of Health as well as two additional Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) to healthcare facilities across the country to serve as screening units for persons seeking treatment.

On 25 and 27 May, members of governmental institution and civil society in Gabes and Kebili governorates participated in a training to create safe spaces for female survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). These trainings also contributed to the creation of dedicated committees for better coordination among responders aimed at reducing protection risks and improving the protection space for survivors.

UNHCR Tunisia's dedicated online [Help page](#) is now available in three languages: English, French and Arabic. The page provides refugees and asylum-seekers with all necessary information regarding protection and assistance services provided in the country by UNHCR and its partners.

Refugee children aged 7 - 17 years old from Medenine, Ben Gardane and Tataouine participated in the 'Kidzee clubs', which offers young refugees and asylum seekers a safe recreational space to engage in social and learning activities in a creative way.



Children take part in 'Kidzee club' social activities in Medenine © UNHCR

Between 26 - 27 May, UNHCR partner the Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR) organized a workshop with counterparts from the Ministry of Women, Family, Childhood and Elderly and representatives from other NGOs with the aim of strengthening collaboration exploring opportunities for inclusion of vulnerable persons of concern into national programs, particularly for GBV and economic empowerment. The outcomes of the workshop included a mapping of services to facilitate referral pathways.

In Sfax, two single mothers received items for their newborns and other seven vulnerable refugees received food donations in collaboration with the local association Baya.

The Ministry of Social Affairs will deploy two teachers in Sfax to provide education to adult refugees and Tunisian nationals in the premises of UNHCR Office.

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.