

TUNISIA

October 2021

Key Figures:

9,160 total persons of concern to UNHCR registered in Tunisia (refugees and asylum-seekers).

3,525 persons of concern to UNHCR registered so far in Tunisia in 2021.

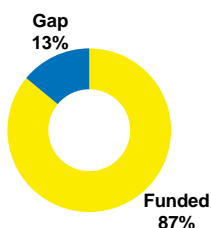
699 individuals profiled within mixed movements.

81% of individuals profiled expressed an intention to seek asylum in Tunisia.

651 refugee and asylum-seeking households received cash assistance during October.

Funding:

\$ 9.9 M requested for 2021.



\$ 8.5 M received as of 9 November 2021

Operational Context

During October, the COVID-19 situation in Tunisia continued to improve. Meanwhile, the national vaccination campaign proceeded, with over four million people fully vaccinated during the month, and five million receiving their first dose. So far, 317 refugees and asylum-seekers have been fully vaccinated. New measures were adopted from 23 October, including the introduction of the 'Pass Sanitaire' making presentation of vaccine status compulsory to access most public areas beginning 22 December.

Operational Response

From 4 - 8 October, UNHCR and partner the Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR) organized a Training for Trainers (ToT) from ten municipalities (Tunis, Ariana, Marsa, Raoued, Sousse, Sfax, Medenine, Zarzis, Zarzis North and Gabes) together with IOM. During the training, various challenges and opportunities for inclusion at the local level were discussed, as well as decentralization and migration governance. Participants developed a draft information pamphlet listing services for refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants, while also agreeing on the need to have clear referral pathways. Participants demonstrated interest in pursuing and furthering partnership with UNHCR.



Participants from the UNHCR/AIHR/IOM-organized training with their certificates of attendance. © UNHCR/AIHR

On 13 - 14 October, UNHCR and partner the Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR) organized a second training session for members of the Tunisia's judiciary in Sfax, with the overall objective of addressing legal challenges faced by refugees and asylum-seekers residing in the city. Judges from administrative courts as well as prosecutors were briefed on principles of international protection as well as issues involving mixed movements, both of which remain notable issues in Sfax.



The asphalt platform at Ras Jdir border entry following rehabilitation works. © UNHCR

On 26 October, rehabilitation works at the Ras Jdir border entry point were finalized (on Tunisia's eastern border with Libya). The works included rehabilitation of the ground floor of the reception area and are part of capacity-building support to Tunisian authorities at border areas. The project is conducted jointly with IOM, WFP and UNICEF, in coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator and the Government of Tunisia.

On 17 October, 27 refugees and asylum-seekers participated in the first event of the 'Sport for Inclusion' programme, consisting of sporting activities on the beach of La Marsa in Tunis. Led by IOM, the programme includes several sporting events in Tunis, Sousse, Zarzis and Sfax, with the participation of asylum-seekers, refugees, migrants and host community members. The programme seeks to promote inclusion, social cohesion and counter racism and xenophobia through sport, and is vital recreational opportunity for many refugees and asylum-seekers.

During August and September, UNHCR and the Tunisian Refugee Council (CTR) conducted a verification of some 260 refugee and asylum-seeking households receiving assistance, to assess their needs and level of vulnerability and readjust assistance accordingly. Over 200 households were reached, out of which 91 were recognized refugee households, 58 were asylum-seekers, and the remaining at various stages of their Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process. Some 180 households displayed high levels of vulnerability and were in urgent need of cash assistance; the remaining exhibited medium levels of vulnerability and had some prospect of alternative support. UNHCR cash assistance was extended until the end of 2021 for all cases.

Pink October - The Breast Cancer Awareness Month

UNHCR and partner the Tunisian Refugee Council (CTR) organized a series of activities to **sensitize refugees and asylum-seekers on health risks associated with breast cancer** and improve knowledge around self-screening and basic prevention.

In Tunis, the Tunisian Association for Reproductive Health (ATSR) hosted 14 participants on 28 October 2021 to take part in **various activities**, including a session on sexual and reproductive health, a presentation on breast cancer, a session on self-screening, and a body meditation exercise to share Breast Self-Examination (BSE) techniques.

UNHCR, CTR and ATSR organized also free screenings, home visits and complimentary health check-ups in Ben Guerdane, Tataouine, Medenine and Djerba with the participation of 162 refugee and asylum-seeker women and girls.

In Sfax, three awareness-raising sessions were conducted in coordination with *Médecins du Monde*, the Tunisian Association of Midwives (ATSF) and Sfax Regional Hospital, during which 24 refugees and asylum-seekers participated.

In Zarzis, a demonstrative march was organized in collaboration with the Municipality of Zarzis, the National Office for Family and Population (ONFP), Tunisian Association for Reproductive Health (ATSR) the Youth Center of Zarzis, *Médecins du Monde*, and the Tunisian Agency for Innovation and Planification (IPA). At the end of the march, awareness sessions, free screening and discussions were available to participants in three languages (Arabic, French and English).

In Gabes, Pink October was marked by a celebration with the participation of the *Women and Family Delegation*, the *National Office for Family and Population (ONFP)*, counterparts from the Ministry of Health, various local associations and members of the host community.



Participants take part in sensitization session for 'Pink October' hosted by the Tunisian Association for Reproductive Health. ©UNHCR/CTR

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