



UNHCR is supporting refugees into achieving self-reliance, for instance through this cheese-factory project © ADRA, 2015

30%

Of refugees and asylum seekers received temporary or regular cash assistance in the first half of 2016 year.

26

Refugees had direct employment opportunities during the first half of 2016.

110

Tunisian journalists, civil society members and lawyers took part in UNHCR's 2016 capacity building and awareness raising activities on refugee law.

Population of concern

A total of **729** people of concern

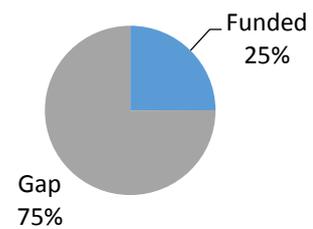
By country of origin

Country	Total refugees and asylum seekers
Syria	541
Sudan	36
Côte d'Ivoire	15
Other (24 countries)	137
Total	729

Funding

USD 5.9 million requested

Funding level as at 27 June 2016



UNHCR Presence

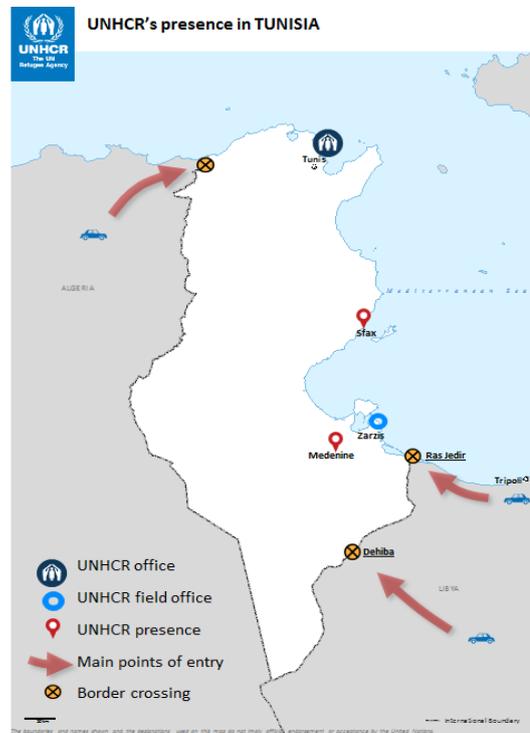
Staff :

- 18 national posts
- 4 international posts
- 3 regional international posts based in Tunis

Offices:

- 2 offices located in: Tunis (Representation), Zarzis (Field Office)

Presence of UNHCR in Sfax and Medenine through partners



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR **works closely with its partners** the Tunisian Red Crescent (TRC), Islamic Relief Worldwide, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), the Arab Institute for Human Rights (IADH) (of which UNHCR is a Board of Directors member) and the Tunisian Scouts to implement its programmes in Tunisia. UNHCR also cooperates with the European Commission, *France Terre d'Asile* (FTDA), the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- UNHCR is **closely collaborating with the Tunisian Ministries** of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Social Affairs, Women, Family and Childhood Affairs, Justice, Employment and Health.
- Since 2014, upon the request of the Tunisian government and in close cooperation with UN agencies and partners, UNHCR leads the **coordination of the inter-agency preparedness efforts** in case of an influx of refugees and asylum-seekers from Libya.
- UNHCR is a member of the United Nations Country Team in Tunisia and as such, plays an active role in the inter-agency activities and is involved in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2015-2019.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- In the absence of a national asylum system, UNHCR conducts **refugee status determination** in Tunisia. A main focus of UNHCR's protection work in Tunisia is to ensure that persons of concern are registered and issued with relevant documents such as UNHCR certificates to protect them against arbitrary arrest, detention or expulsion.
- UNHCR's overall objective is to support Tunisia to **develop a comprehensive national protection system**. Since 2011, UNHCR works closely with the Ministry of Justice and relevant institutions to support the drafting of a national asylum law. UNHCR provided expertise, capacity building initiatives and targeted seminars on refugee law for relevant officials. The draft law has been successfully finalized and shared with the Prime Minister and is now pending adoption by different ministries and by the Parliament.
- UNHCR is **strengthening Tunisian border management capacities** through targeted capacity building trainings for border officials; this aims at ensuring efficient border management, taking into consideration the protection needs of refugees and asylum seekers.
- UNHCR enhances **national capacities to respond to immediate needs of survivors of rescue at sea incidents**. This includes supporting Tunisian authorities to develop a systematized and predictable response to rescue at sea incidents in cooperation with TRC and IOM. UNHCR and relevant government authorities are finalizing Standards Operational Procedures (SOP) in accordance with the recent developments of the regional situation.

Education

- UNHCR coordinates with the Ministry of Education to ensure all school-aged refugee and asylum-seeker children have uninterrupted **access to Tunisia's public education system**. To facilitate their integration into the bilingual Tunisian curriculum, UNHCR together with partners provides schools supplies, books and language class.

Health

- Refugees and asylum-seekers have the same **access to basic public health facilities** as Tunisian nationals, including a guaranteed access for refugees living with chronic diseases. UNHCR through its partner TRC reimburses treatment and medicines for basic primary health care and emergency of vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers. Furthermore, UNHCR has been working on strengthening **the Ministry of Health emergency response capacity** and fully equipped an emergency coordination room in Medenine in May 2016. A similar one will be equipped in Sfax in 2016.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR works together with ADRA to **enhance refugees' self-reliance and livelihood opportunities**. An innovative approach has been developed to improve refugees' and asylum-seekers' technical skills and employability through tailored trainings. This has not only helped refugees obtain employment but has also supported them to launch their own income-generating micro-projects, which in turn also benefits the host community. Such interventions provide opportunities for refugees and most vulnerable local communities to enhance their living conditions but also encourage positive interaction and co-existence among communities.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR's **facilitates temporary local settlement** of refugees in Tunisia through its self-reliance programme. This includes advocating for the issuance of residence permits for refugees to legalize their status in Tunisia. UNHCR also supports naturalization of refugees married to Tunisian nationals. In Tunisia, UNHCR arranges voluntary repatriation whenever possible and family reunification for eligible refugees. UNHCR actively uses resettlement as a protection tool for individual sensitive cases.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation: [European Union](#) | [Spain](#) | [Switzerland](#).

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