

Interim Report to Italy - Directorate General for Italian Citizens Abroad and Migration Policies

Enhancing Response Mechanisms and Assistance of Vulnerable Migrants in Tunisia

Executing Agency:	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Project Identification:	IOM Project Code: TN10P0526/RR.0262
Grant Reference ID:	N/A
Geographical Coverage:	Tunisia
Beneficiaries:	Vulnerable and stranded migrants in Tunisia
Partner(s):	Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Women, Family, Children and Seniors, Ministry of Social Affairs, private sector, NGOs and service providers working with vulnerable migrants
Management Site:	Tunisia-CO-Tunis-TN10
Relevant Regional Office(s):	RO Cairo
Project Period:	01 March 2022 to 28 February 2025
Reporting Period:	01 March 2024 to 31 August 2024
Date of Submission:	28 October 2024
Total Confirmed Funding:	6,089,108.91 EUR
Total Funds Received to Date:	6,089,109.00 EUR
Total Expenditures:	not due

I. Summary of Key Achievements during the Reporting Period

The project supports the Tunisian authorities and local civil society in the provision of protection services to stranded migrants. The project aims to bring added value by strengthening the provision of shelter, direct assistance, including food, non-food items (NFIs), and other individualized services (including assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) to those unable or unwilling to remain in Tunisia). The AVRR programme adheres to IOM policies and guidelines, including the Return, Reintegration and Readmission policy.

Since 2023, the evolution of the migration context in Tunisia has led to strengthening protection programming to better respond to the needs of migrants stranded in the country. As such, IOM Tunisia saw an increase in requests for direct assistance (food, NFIs, medical, emergency accommodation, etc.) and voluntary return and reintegration.

During the reporting period, the project contributed to provision of direct assistance to **1,708** beneficiaries (**1,426** men, **148** women, **100** boys and **34** girls). This included the provision of emergency accommodation to the three IOM-run shelters. **371 (100 men, 132 women, 64 boys, 75 girls)** beneficiaries also completed their reintegration assistance. The shelters' operational and maintenance costs were shared with other programming, including the Netherlands-funded "Cooperation on Migration and Partnerships to Achieve Sustainable Solutions", and the EU-funded "Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration in North Africa" projects.

II. Progress Made towards Realizing Outcomes and Outputs

Outcome 1: Access to short-term humanitarian assistance and to protection is available to the most vulnerable migrants in Tunisia.

In 2017, IOM Tunisia, in coordination with civil society partners and the Government Authorities established migrant resource and response mechanisms (MRRM) in three regions -Tunis, Zarzis and Sfax. The project aims to contribute to updating these mechanisms in each region to ensure a coordinated response to the protection and assistance needs of the target group. During the reporting period, several civil society organizations stopped providing direct support to migrants, leaving IOM Tunisia to fill some of the gaps left in protection and assistance. IOM continued meeting partners through the asylum and migration working group to discuss the potential area of collaboration in the Sfax and Medenine regions.

Output 1.1: Migrants in vulnerable situations in Tunisia are provided with emergency assistance, vulnerability screening and information on options available, including AVRR.

IOM Tunisia, in coordination with the Tunisian authorities and local civil society partners, provided short-term emergency assistance to vulnerable migrants. With funding under this project, IOM financed and equipped **three** facilities in southern Tunisia with technical

expertise to provide emergency accommodation and services. During the reporting period, the government authority approved opening one IOM-managed transit centre in Tunis to address the increased need for accommodation. A total of **1,042 (868 men, 107 women, 53 boys and 14 girls)** vulnerable migrants (Newly accommodated) benefited from emergency assistance and information on durable solutions in shelters in Medenine, Zarzis and Tataouine. The support included emergency assistance - accommodation, food, and non-food items- and access to health services (including psychosocial support) provided through IOM Tunisia integrated programming. All beneficiaries at IOM-managed shelters were provided with counselling on the longer-term options, including seeking asylum or applying for AVRR. In March 2024, IOM Tunisia participated in joint humanitarian assistance (food and transport) at El Ketef port and rescued 58 migrants (**57 men and 1 boy**). With funding from this project, IOM Tunisia has supported **2,932** migrants through emergency assistance and information on AVRR since the project inception.

The shelter operations, maintenance, and assistance were cost-shared with other programming, including the Netherlands-funded “Cooperation on Migration and Partnerships to Achieve Sustainable Solutions” and the EU-funded “Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration in North Africa.”

In addition, IOM provided direct assistance (food, non-food items, emergency accommodation) to migrants as part of the needs noted through case management. Due to increased number of migrants without access to housing, IOM Tunisia also provided **608** migrants (**501 men, 41 women, 46 boys, 20 girls**) emergency accommodation in Tunis governorate with the support of the project. Beneficiaries were accommodated in private hotels and provided with three meals per day.

For the breakdown of beneficiaries by gender, age, and country of origin, please refer to the following tables.

Table 1: Assistance to Migrants Rescued at Sea March 2024 – August 2024

Nationalities	Men	Boys	Women	Boys	Boys (UASC)	Girls	Girls (UASC)	Total
Bangladesh	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Egypt	21	1	0	0	0	0	0	22
Eritrea	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Pakistan	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Syria	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
Sudan	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	57	1	0	0	0	0	0	58

Table 2: Beneficiaries newly assisted in IOM ran shelters during the reporting period

March 2024 – August 2024

Nationalities	Male	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
Bangladesh	20	0	6	0	26
Benin	55	5	8	0	68
Burkina Faso	142	12	4	0	158
Cameroon	8	0	0	0	8
Côte d'Ivoire	32	6	4	0	42
Gabon	2	1	0	0	3
Gambia	260	8	21	0	289
Ghana	8	0	0	0	8
Guinea	85	24	3	2	114
Guinea-Bissau	7	0	0	0	7
Mali	49	0	2	0	51
Mauritania	1	0	0	0	1
Nigeria	32	22	2	4	60
Pakistan	5	0	0	0	5
Senegal	74	1	0	4	79
Sierra Leone	33	26	3	4	66
Togo	2	2	0	0	4
Chad	52	0	0	0	52
Niger	1	0	0	0	1
Total	868	107	53	14	1042

Table 3: Migrants provided with direct assistance as part of case management (NFIs, food vouchers, emergency accommodation in private hotel)

**Direct assistance case management
March 2024 – August 2024**

Destination Country	Boys	Girls	Men	Women	Total
Bangladesh	0	0	8	0	8
Benin	9	3	43	8	63
Burkina Faso	5	0	58	0	63
Cameroon	2	0	17	2	21
Chad	1	0	19	0	20
Côte D'ivoire	5	4	16	7	32
Egypt	2	0	3	0	5
Ethiopia	0	0	3	0	3
Gambia (The)	7	0	106	2	115
Ghana	1	3	17	3	24

Guinea	5	3	58	5	71
Equatorial Guinea	1	0	0	0	1
Guinea-Bissau	0	0	3	0	3
Liberia	2	0	4	1	7
Mali	1	0	32	1	34
Niger	0	0	2	0	2
Nigeria	0	0	37	5	42
Pakistan	1	0	11	0	12
Senegal	1	1	52	2	56
Sierra Leone	3	6	5	5	19
Somalia	0	0	3	0	3
Togo	0	0	4	0	4
Total	46	20	501	41	608

Outcome 2: Stranded migrants in Tunisia have access to durable solutions, including Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration assistance.

As the project met the initial target, no return took place under the project during the reporting period. Most of the coordination focused on the liaison with IOM missions in countries of origin to facilitate the implementation of reintegration to returnees under the project.

Output 2.1: Migrants are provided with durable solutions including return and reintegration assistance from Tunisia to their countries of origin.

During this reporting period, IOM provided reintegration assistance to migrants **371 (100 men, 132 women, 64 boys, 75 girls)** in Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Cameroon and Guinea Conakry through reintegration assistance - an instrumental action in ensuring returnees' smooth and successful reintegration. IOM Tunisia has provided reintegration assistance to **1,202 migrants (655 men, 361 women, 89 boys, 97 girls)** since the project's inception. All reintegration plans were implemented, reviewed and approved. The beneficiaries developed Individual Reintegration Plans (IRP) under the categories of education, medical, housing and/or income-generating activities to be eligible for reintegration assistance. Upon arrival, migrants were informed about the development of IRPs, and contact data was gathered so that they could attend reintegration counselling sessions and start the process. Moreover, beneficiaries received in-kind grants to support their approved IPRs, equivalent to 1,400 EUR upon successfully submitting reintegration plans. The IOM offices in the country of origin then provided in-kind or cash support to the migrant beneficiary (i.e., purchasing goods, paying for medical treatment or hospitalization, etc.). The modus operandi of each provision of assistance

depends mainly on the standard operating procedures IOM missions have with the host government.

Most reintegration plans involved initiating income-generating activities such as establishing poultry farms, moto-taxis, or commerce shops. Children were assisted with education support and school supplies. Additionally, top-up funds were provided in cases of extreme vulnerability to be used for accommodation, medical, and/or food assistance and in complementarity of returns operated through other fundings including the MPRR-NA.

In the next reporting period, IOM Tunisia will plan for reintegration monitoring missions in Guinee Conakry, Chad and Ivory Coast.

Please refer to the tables below for a breakdown of the gender, age, and country of origin of the total beneficiaries assisted since the beginning of the project.

Table 4: Total Beneficiaries of Reintegration since the beginning of the project

Nationalities	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
Angola	0	1	0	0	1
Benin	1	1	0	0	2
Cameroon	14	3	1	0	18
Chad	44	0	0	0	44
Ivory Coast	212	206	57	51	526
Congo Brazaville	1	0	0	0	1
Democratic Republic of Congo	188	131	26	37	382
Egypt	3	0	0	0	3
Gambia (The)	13	1	1	0	15
Ghana	1	0	0	0	1
Guinea Conakry	76	7	2	5	90
Jordan	0	2	0	0	2
Liberia	10	1	1	1	13
Mali	42	2	0	0	44
Morocco	6	0	0	0	6
Nigeria	2	0	0	0	2
Sierra Leone	29	6	1	3	39
Sudan	13	0	0	0	13
Grand Total	655	361	89	97	1202

II.1. Progress Made towards Incorporating Cross-cutting Themes

IOM Tunisia integrates the age, gender and diversity (AGD) approach in all its activities ensuring that services are adapted to the specific needs of beneficiaries. These services are designated to be gender and age sensitive as well as culturally appropriate. For instance, shelter

dormitories and WASH services are separated for men, women, and unaccompanied migrant children (UAMCs). In addition, NFIs kits are conceived to take into consideration needs linked to age and gender. Moreover, prioritisation for case management appointments and follows-up is based on vulnerabilities, and pregnant and lactating women as well as their children as prioritised.

III. Progress Achieved Compared with the Indicators in the Results Matrix

	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Data source and collection method</i>	<i>Progress made during reporting period</i>	<i>Cumulative progress</i>
Objective: Enhancing the protection and assistance of migrants in vulnerable situations in Tunisia.						
Outcome 1: Access to short-term humanitarian assistance and to protection is available to the most vulnerable migrants in Tunisia.	# of coordination meetings held # of MRRM updated	0.00	3.00	Workshop reports	0	1
Output 1.1: Migrants in vulnerable situations in Tunisia are provided with emergency assistance, vulnerability screening and information on options available, including AVRR.	# of beneficiaries receiving direct assistance and information on durable solutions such as AVRR (disaggregated by sex, age and country of origin)	0.00	1,400.00	IOM Beneficiary Database, Activity reports	1,708	5,618
	# of IOM co-managed shelters operating in Tunisia	3.00	3.00	Monitoring reports	3	3
	Activities that lead to Output 1.1 1.1.1 Ensure counselling, vulnerability screening, case management and referrals as relevant of migrants hosted in IOM shelters or other migrants in vulnerable situations in compliance with IOM standards and procedures. 1.1.2 Identifying and responding to needs as per situation, including through referrals in the area of health and psychosocial support. 1.1.3 Support to running and operations of shelters in Médenine, Zarzis and Tataouine. 1.1.4 Provision of humanitarian needs to shelter beneficiaries.					
Outcome 2: Stranded migrants in Tunisia have access to durable solutions including Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration assistance.						
Output 2.1: Migrants are provided with durable solutions including return	# of migrants provided with return assistance from Tunisia to countries of origin or family reunification under the project.	0.00	1,450.00	IOM Beneficiary Database	0	1,444

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and reintegration assistance from Tunisia to their countries of origin.	# of migrants provided with reintegration assistance in countries of origin under the project.	0.00	1,155.00	IOM Database	Beneficiary	371	1,202
	# of unaccompanied migrant children assisted through family tracing and BID panels.	0.00	21.00	IOM Database	Beneficiary	4	11
	Activities that lead to Output 2.1 2.1.1 Pre-departure travel assistance on a needed basis, including Best Interest Determination (BID) for children and risks assessment for other migrants in vulnerable situations 2.1.2 Provision of travel allowance 2.1.3 Coordination for travel to country of origin and/or onward travel assistance, if required 2.1.4 Provision of transit assistance, if required 2.1.5 Provision of operational or medical escort to assist with travel, if required						

IV. Challenges Encountered and Actions Taken

V.

Challenges	Actions Taken
Throughout the reporting period, IOM continued encountering challenges in assisting beneficiaries in the Sfax and Tunis regions due to the lack of shelter space and the increased number of people requesting direct assistance, including assisted voluntary return. Consequently, migrants lived rough outside in urban areas, waiting for interviews and processing their requests for AVRR.	IOM Tunisia intensified its advocacy towards the national authorities, leading to a monthly coordination mechanism with the relevant authorities' representatives to discuss the context of migration and its challenges. Through this mechanism, IOM approved opening a transit centre for migrants in Tunis. In addition, regular meetings with consular authorities also took place further to assess gaps, advocacy, and potential solutions.

VI. Conclusion

The project implementation continued with **1,708** migrants benefiting from information on durable solutions, including AVRR, and from emergency assistance, including shelter, food and non-food-items. A total of **371** migrants started receiving their reintegration assistance in their countries of origin. During the reporting period, the rapidly changing migration situation on Tunis and Sfax, following the changing approach to irregular migration adopted by the Tunisian authorities, further increased the needs for assistance, including AVRR.

VII. Expenditures and Resource Utilization

Not due.

VIII. Annexes



Figure 1: Beneficiary receiving its reintegration assistance in Ivory Coast





Reintegration of poultry farm