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Country Sheet

Tunisia

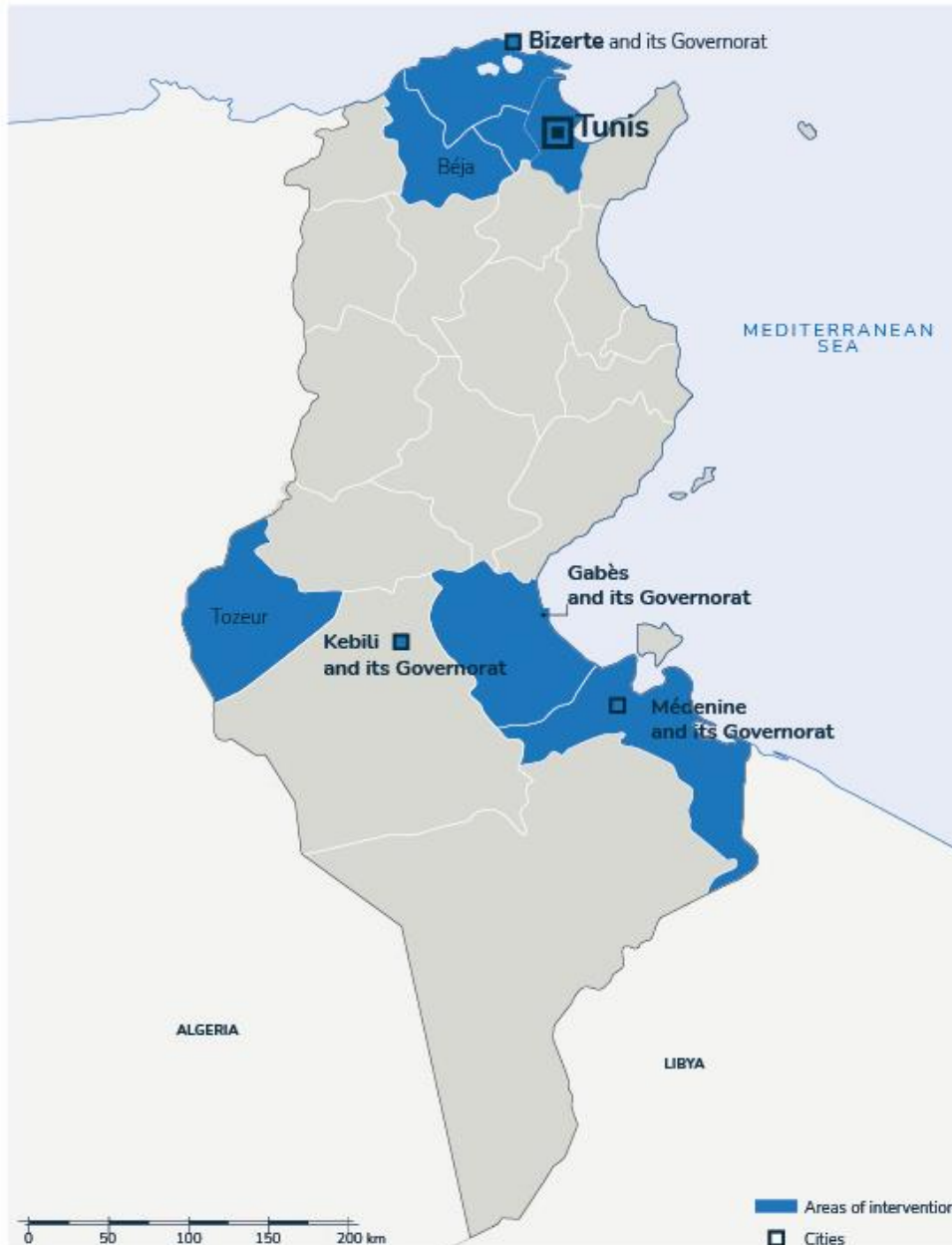




HI's team and areas of intervention

There are 28 people on the HI's team in Tunisia (21 employees for Tunisia and 7 employees for the Maghreb programme's regional coordination).

Tunisia





General Country Data

General data

Country	Tunisia	Morocco	France
Population	12 458 223	37 840 044	68 170 228
HDI	0.73	0.7	0.82
SIGI score	46.5	49.3	10.1
Maternal mortality	37	72	8
Gini index	33.7	39.5	31.5
Population under UNHCR mandate	18324	17698	762 378
INFORM index	3,2	3.7	2.9
Fragile states index	67.2	68.8	28.3
Public social protection	50.20		100
Official Development Assistance received	1212.3	1414.8	

Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
Mine ban treaty	Ratified on 09/07/1999
Convention on Cluster Munitions	Ratified on 28/09/2010
United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Ratified on 02/04/2008

Geopolitical analysis

Social, cultural and demographic context

Tunisia is situated in North Africa, between Algeria to the west and Libya to the east, and is composed of 24 governorates. Arabic is the official language, French is the second language.

Tunisia's population grew by 1.03% between 2004 and 2014. In 1966, 51% of the population was male, but this percentage has gradually been reversed (50.2% female in 2014) following the improvement in living conditions and the



emigration of a largely male workforce abroad. The unemployment rate was 16% at the end of the first semester of 2024.

2023 was marked by an upward trend in irregular migration. Because of the increasingly complex economic, social and political situation, many Tunisian men and women now share the same desire to leave the country.

Political situation

In 2014, following elections for the first pluralist and democratic parliament, the country installed a government. However, this government faced many challenges: social and economic problems, high public expectations, strikes and social movements, security threats and the thorny issue of corruption. On 25 July 2022, the new Tunisian Constitution was adopted by referendum; it came into force on 17 August of the same year.

Kamel MADOURI's government, which has led the country since August 2024, faces the same social and economic challenges, including rising food prices and shortages of basic necessities (petrol, sugar, milk, semolina, etc.).

Summary of HI's work in the country

HI has been working in Tunisia since 1992, initially on an ad hoc basis and then on a permanent basis since 1997, under a cooperation agreement signed with the Ministry of Social Affairs. Until 2003, most of the activities undertaken by Handicap International were in the rehabilitation sector and involved the training of professionals and the equipping of specialised centres.

In 2006, HI began project management capacity-building actions for associations, the revision of institutional projects and the networking of professionals working with people with disabilities.

Since 2011, the programme has been developing actions to ensure that disability rights are taken into account in the democratic transition process. Our main cross-sector successes include:

- Strong institutional recognition, both at ministerial and civil society level
- Studies and research, sources of knowledge on disability for action and advocacy via Organisations of People with Disabilities.
- A capacity for innovation and knowledge management, with a strong investment in new technologies
- A strong territorial foothold, and partners and an intervention methodology that allow us to extend our actions to other vulnerable groups.



Overview of projects currently underway

Main areas of intervention:	Main activities:	Beneficiaries	Partners	Location	Project start and end date	Donors funding the project
Economic Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service users Training and coaching for employment stakeholders on personalised support for jobseekers; training (life skills, job hunting and setting up an economic activity); diagnosis and definition of a professional project for people with disabilities; support (training, internships, in employment or self-employment). • Suppliers Mobilisation of actors and networking of occupational inclusion service providers; awareness-raising among service providers; adaptation and development of tools and methodologies to help people with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service users 100 interns and job seekers with disabilities • Suppliers 15 inclusion service providers; 25 training and vocational inclusion professionals • Deciders 10 public, private and specialised companies; social partners; local and national public authorities (senior officials from the Ministries of Social 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OTDDPH • CCED • CSR & PED • ANETI • FATH • GTT • UTICA • CONNECT • CDCMIR 	Bizerte	July 2021 – December 2024	Agence Française de Développement (AFD)



	<p>disabilities to find employment; improved accessibility of inclusion services; organisational and operational capacity-building actions; creation of a national CSR and Disability working group; development of a code of good conduct for companies in terms of CSR and Disability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deciders Identifying and raising awareness among business leaders about hiring people with disabilities; training entrepreneurs on inclusive support and empowering entrepreneurs with disabilities; advocacy actions carried out by organisations of people with disabilities at national and local level to influence public authorities and social partners. 	<p>Affairs and Vocational Training and Employment).</p>				
<p>Integration inclusion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving interventions with children with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorders) by the professionals involved through the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 children with ASD in the governorates of Tozeur and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Social Affairs and Ministry of Health 	<p>Tozeur Médenine</p>	<p>February 2023 - January 2026</p>	<p>Monaco Department of International Cooperation</p>



	<p>promotion of early detection, adapted professional approaches and a pilot experience of adapted psycho-pedagogical care and school inclusion in the governorates of Tozeur and Medenine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information and awareness-raising on the signs of autism for parents/families• Awareness-raising workshops for frontline professionals on autism and early diagnosis• Training of psychologists and child psychiatrists on tools for the early diagnosis of autism• National forum on autism to foster practice-sharing between professionals in charge of diagnosing autism• Co-facilitation of regular multi-actor meetings for networking the professionals involved in the referral and psycho-pedagogical development of children with ASD.	<p>Médenine will receive appropriate support and monitoring from strengthened centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health professionals• Families of children with ASD				
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and validation of methods and approaches for the management of ASD in specialised centres • Equipping diagnostic centres in each governorate as well as the ISES with adequate kits • Equipping specialised centres for children with ASD to carry out early stimulation (sensory, communication and psychomotor stimulation) and support autistic children • Contributing to the setting up of a national commission involving the different structures concerned to harmonise and update the approaches to autism care with current methods at the central level 					
<p>Protection against violence:</p> <p>Inclusive governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building the capacities of Tunisian institutions to provide technical support to victims of gender-based violence and ensure the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tunisian institutions supporting GBV victims • People with disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAMSS • Ministry of Social Affairs 	<p>Nationwide</p>	<p>October 2021 - September 2025</p>	<p>US State Department / Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs</p>



<p>Social services</p>	<p>application of laws that protect their rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building and technical support to strengthen data collection and management by the Tunisian government to improve the distribution of disability benefits to eligible citizens Raising awareness of victims of gender-based violence and people with disabilities to enhance their ability to exercise their rights 	<p>benefiting from public policies adapted after improvement to the management of disability data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People with disabilities and women victims of violence informed about their rights and benefitting from more inclusive services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Family, Women, Children and the Elderly 			
<p>Social inclusion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusive, inter-sector experiments to support families and individuals in vulnerable situations to ensure their social inclusion and access to rights, contributing to the development of methods and practices. Overhaul of the social work of the 3 lines of management of the Ministry of Social Affairs' establishments and services in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil society organisations Social work professionals Tunisian public policy actors Vulnerable Tunisian people benefiting from improved social protection services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fondation Agir Contre l'Exclusion – Tunisie Centre de Recherche et d'Etudes Sociales Ministry of Social Affairs 	<p>Nationwide</p>	<p>September 2023 - August 2028</p>	<p>European Commission DG NEAR</p>



	<p>order to provide personalised inter-sector support based on local experiments for families and individuals in vulnerable situations to ensure their social inclusion and access to rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sector-based policy dialogue at regional and national level with an inclusive, multi-actor approach 					
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Donor and partner logos

Agence Française de Développement (AFD)



US State Department / Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs



Direction de la Coopération Internationale de Monaco



Commission Européenne/DG NEAR

