



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

## Project Proposal:

ENHANCING RESPONSE MECHANISMS AND ASSISTANCE OF VULNERABLE MIGRANTS IN TUNISIA

Project type:	RR - Return and Reintegration Assistance for Migrants and Governments
Secondary project type:	PX - Protection and Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants
Geographical Coverage:	Tunisia
Executing agency:	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
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
Duration:	24 Months
Budget:	3,150,000 Euro

### Summary

In 2021, Tunisia experienced a rapid increase in rescue at sea operations, and with this a significant increase in the need for shelter and other assistance to meet immediate humanitarian needs of rescued and stranded migrants, as well as other protection needs for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) from Tunisia to countries of origin as one of the sustainable solutions. With the increase, three IOM-operated shelters in southern Tunisia for vulnerable migrants currently operate at maximum capacity.

Without sufficient access to emergency assistance and information about their rights and options available to them, migrants stranded in Tunisia are at higher risk of exploitation, abuse, and loss of life in the context of onward movement by sea under precarious conditions. Over the past years, IOM has worked closely with its partners to ensure vulnerable migrants in Tunisia have access to essential services and support, to respond to the growing need for emergency assistance and individual case management support to migrants in vulnerable situations. This includes direct assistance to migrants rescued at sea provided upon disembarkation, referral to specialized services and psychosocial well-being interventions, provision of shelter, referrals to the competent authorities or other partner for protection, and AVRR to countries of origin. For a limited number of cases assisted, family reunification to

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third countries for stranded children and spouses, with condition of admission of the authorities of the third country, may also be an option for a durable solution. The Government of Tunisia relies on IOM to provide this assistance particularly as the number of disembarkations continues to increase.

Following frequent requests from Tunisian authorities for IOM assistance, the proposed project will support the Tunisian authorities and local civil society, in the continued provision of assistance to and protection of stranded migrants, including to further increase the availability of AVRR to those unable or unwilling to remain in Tunisia. The project will bring added value by strengthening the provision of shelter, direct assistance in the form of food and non-food items (NFIs), other individualized services or referrals for protection and assistance, and/or AVRR, in response to both the increase in rescue at sea operations in Tunisian waters, and increased requests for return assistance. The assistance provided will adhere to IOM policies and guidelines including the Return, Reintegration and Readmission policy.

## **1. Rationale**

In 2021, in response to requests from Tunisian authorities, IOM assisted 3,166 migrants rescued at sea, over ten times more than during the entire year of 2020, when IOM assisted 293 migrants rescued at sea. The migrants assisted have fled violence and conflict, seek economic and educational opportunities in Europe, or as often is the case, a mix of both.

In Tunisia, the economic situation, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the lack of a comprehensive migration policy and legal framework, offers limited opportunities for the employment and local integration of migrants. This combined with the increase of rescue at sea operations in southern Tunisia, with vessels departing from Libya and entering Tunisian waters in distress, has resulted in an increase both in need for shelter as part of IOM's emergency and immediate assistance as well as an increase in demand for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) from Tunisia to countries of origin.

The Government of Tunisia relies on the support of IOM to respond to the needs of migrants in context of the disembarkations. Together with civil society partners and in coordination with Tunisian authorities, IOM has established Migrant Resource and Response Mechanisms in three regions of Tunisia: Tunis, Zarzis and Sfax, to ensure a coordinated response to the protection and assistance needs of the target group. Together with its partners, IOM provides migrants in vulnerable situations, including migrants rescued at sea, with protection and assistance that includes the provision of shelter, food and NFIs, health support, family tracing and reunification, legal assistance, referral to specialized services, and information on their rights and available options.

IOM Tunisia currently operates three shelters in southern Tunisia for vulnerable migrants, including those rescued at sea and migrants referred by the authorities from the land borders.

The proposed project will bring added value by further increasing the availability of this emergency assistance, while ensuring the protection of the most vulnerable cases, in coordination with relevant stakeholders, offering opportunities for AVRR, as well as support for other durable solutions.

## 2. Project Description

### **Objective: Enhancing the protection and assistance of migrants in a vulnerable situation in Tunisia.**

In response to the increasing demand for assistance to migrants in vulnerable situations, the proposed project will allow IOM to ensure that migrants in vulnerable situations in Tunisia benefit from protection and assistance interventions, including emergency assistance, as well as AVRR, as one of the durable solutions. Migrants needing temporary shelter will be referred to such assistance, prioritizing the most vulnerable and within the limits of shelter capacity. Additionally, migrants in a vulnerable situation will be offered referral for further protection and assistance services, as appropriate. All assistance will adhere to the IOM Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants handbook.

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

In 2017, together with civil society partners and in coordination with Tunisian authorities, IOM established Migrant Resource and Response Mechanisms in three regions of Tunisia: Tunis, Zarzis and Sfax. IOM will continue with the regular updating of the mechanisms to ensure a coordinated response to the protection and assistance needs of the target group in each region.

#### ***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 will closely liaise with the Tunisian authorities, local civil society, and private sector partners to provide short-term emergency assistance to vulnerable migrants. The support will vary based on the situation and needs, but will in most cases consist of shelter, food and NFIs, medical and/or legal assistance and psychosocial support. Once the immediate needs are met, IOM will counsel the beneficiaries on the long-term options available to them, including but not limited to seeking asylum or applying for AVRR assistance.

IOM currently supports technically and financially 3 facilities in southern Tunisia providing emergency accommodation and services to migrants. The shelters cater for the needs of migrants in vulnerable situations, including migrants rescued at sea and the most vulnerable among those being processed for AVRR. Through the proposed project, IOM will provide assistance based on the need, including shelter, food and NFIs to 1,100 beneficiaries.

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

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

The project will allow 750 beneficiaries to benefit from IOM assistance to return to their countries of origin with dignity. The assistance will include vulnerability screening, counselling to foster an informed decision, pre-departure assistance, including in response to any health measures imposed by authorities in Tunisia or countries of origin, travel arrangements, airport assistance, as well as provision of escorts for those requiring it, including unaccompanied migrant children, migrants with health needs and elderly migrants.

A total of 455 migrants will benefit from reintegration assistance under the project. To identify cases eligible for reintegration assistance under the project, IOM Tunisia will follow the integrated approach providing tailored assistance in coordination with the criteria set by the receiving missions. The reintegration assistance may consist of support to initiate economic activities upon return, enrolment in an educational program or health assistance. Where reintegration assistance in countries of origin is available through other sources such as the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, the project will only cover the costs of travel and pre-departure assistance for the beneficiary in question. This complementarity will ensure the project will maximize number of beneficiaries assisted while guaranteeing that those eligible will have access to reintegration assistance.

All assistance will adhere to IOM policies and guidelines, including the Return, Reintegration and Readmission policy.

## **3. Partnerships and Coordination**

IOM's extensive expertise and work at national and regional level with emergency response, migrant protection and assistance and work with authorities at the borders, as well as the organization's infrastructure and partnerships in North Africa, position it well to respond to the needs identified. The implementation of the project will benefit from IOM's established partnerships and cooperation with the main actors in Tunisia, relevant to the proposed action. Relevant government entities that the project will be implemented in close coordination with include the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Women, Family, Children and Seniors as well as NGOs and service providers working with vulnerable migrants, and private sector. IOM will also work closely with the local and regional authorities in the regions of Tunis, Médenine, Zarzis, Tataouine and Sfax where the project will be implemented. Moreover, IOM has established effective communications and coordination mechanisms with relevant UN agencies (e.g. WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, ILO, and OHCHR), as well as country of origin embassies of migrants in Tunisia.

#### **4. Monitoring**

The Project Manager will be responsible for the project planning, monitoring, and reporting, including compliance between activities and project requirements and controlling the security risks or any other potential threats towards project implementation. To prevent risks related to a changed political will, IOM will maintain close collaboration with the Government, at local, regional, and central levels, ensuring a quick adaptability of the project to achieve defined objectives.

The Project Manager will monitor the implementation of the project, regularly verifying the progress and the achievement regarding the defined objectives and the logical framework. Monitoring visits of project staff to Médenine, Zarzis and Tataouine in Southern Tunisia, and Sfax in Eastern Tunisia will allow IOM to assess the realized progress of the activities in relation to the project indicators. These visits will help to ensure that important changes, including in relations between the facilities and the host communities, will be quickly known and implementation of activities adapted accordingly. Meetings with staff responsible for the implementation of this project in order to monitor the activities and take on board their recommendations in planning and incorporate corrective measures as required. IOM will maintain its database of activities related to assistance to the target group.

#### **5. Evaluation**

A final evaluation will be undertaken towards the end of the project. The evaluation will assess the extent to which the project has achieved the planned short- and long-term results. The evaluation will specifically assess the project implementation strategies to ascertain their adequacy to the context and alignment to the government priorities and beneficiaries' needs. The purpose of this evaluation will be to document lessons learned and provide recommendations for future interventions.

## 6. Results Matrix

	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Data Source and Collection Method</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
<b>Objective:</b> Enhancing the protection and assistance of migrants in vulnerable situations in Tunisia.					
<b>Outcome 1:</b> Access to short-term humanitarian assistance and to protection is available to the most vulnerable migrants in Tunisia.					
	# of coordination meetings held	Workshop reports	0.00	3.00	Stakeholders continue to support the MRRM.
	# of MRRM updated				
<b>Output 1.1:</b> 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)	IOM Beneficiary Database, Activity reports	0.00	1100.00	Local authorities continue to support the planned assistance.
	# of IOM co-managed shelters operating in Tunisia	Monitoring reports	3.00	3.00	
<b>Activities that lead to Output 1.1</b>					
<p>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.</p> <p>1.1.2 Identifying and responding to needs as per situation, including through referrals in the area of health and psychosocial support.</p> <p>1.1.3 Support to running and operations of shelters in Médenine, Zarzis and Tataouine.</p> <p>1.1.4 Provision of humanitarian needs to shelter beneficiaries.</p>					Local authorities continue to support and request for IOM assistance.

<b>Outcome 2:</b> Stranded migrants in Tunisia have access to durable solutions including Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration assistance.					International travel resumes after COVID-19 related restrictions.
<b>Output 2.1:</b> Migrants are provided with durable solutions including return and reintegration assistance from Tunisia to their countries of origin.	# of migrants provided with return assistance from Tunisia to countries of origin under the project	IOM Beneficiary Database	0.00	750.00	The target group remains in need of assistance and accepts to be assisted.  Total number of migrants assisted may vary depending on availability of other sources.
	# of migrants provided with reintegration assistance in countries of origin under the project	IOM Beneficiary Database	0.00	455.00	
	# of unaccompanied migrant children assisted through family tracing and BID panels	IOM Beneficiary Database	0.00	10.00	
<b>Activities that lead to Output 2.1</b> 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					The target group remains in need of assistance and accepts to be assisted

## 7. Work Plan

Activity	Responsible Party	Time Frame - Quarter							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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.	IOM								
1.1.2 Identifying and responding to needs as per situation, including through referrals in the area of health and psychosocial support.	IOM								
1.1.3 Support to running and operations of shelters in Médenine, Zarzis and Tataouine.	IOM								
1.1.4 Provision of humanitarian needs to shelter beneficiaries.	IOM								
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	IOM								
2.1.2 Provision of travel allowance	IOM								
2.1.3 Coordination for travel to country of origin and/or onward travel assistance, if required	IOM								
2.1.4 Provision of transit assistance, if required	IOM								
2.1.5 Provision of operational or medical escort to assist with travel, if required	IOM								

## 8. Budget

Description	Unit	Nr. of Units	Unit Cost	Total Budget
<b>A. STAFF Costs</b>				
Staff cost International	Months	24	14.200	340.800
Staff Cost National	Months	24	11.750	282.000
<i>Total Staff Costs (A):</i>				<b>622.800</b>
<b>B. OFFICE Costs</b>				
Office running costs (rents, utilities, communications, security, vehicle....)	Months	24	11.575	277.789
IOM Rome support	Lump Sum	1	12.500	12.500
IOM RO Cairo support	Lump Sum	1	7.500	7.500



<i>Total Office Costs (B):</i>				<b>297.789</b>
<b>Total Staff and Office Costs:</b>				<b>920.589</b>
<b>C. OPERATIONAL Costs</b>				
<b>Output 1.1: Vulnerable migrants in Tunisia are provided with emergency assistance and information on AVRR</b>		1.100	507	557.880
<b>Output 2.1: Migrants are provided with travel from Tunisia and reintegration assistance in countries of origin</b>		750	1.872	1.404.309
<b>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b>				
<i>Final Evaluation</i>	Lump Sum	1	15.000	15.000
Italy MFA interlocutors TDY to Tunisia for monitoring	Each	1	4.000	4.000
Field monitoring visit in Tunisia (travel, per diem)	Each	16	500	8.000
Visibility	Lump Sum	1	5.000	5.000
<i>Total Operational Costs (C):</i>				1.994.189
<b>Total (A+B+C):</b>				<b>2.914.777</b>
			<b>IOM Overhead (7%)</b>	<b>204.034</b>
			<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>3.118.812</b>
<b>Levy (1%)</b>				<b>31.188</b>
<b>TOTAL COSTS:</b>				<b>3.150.000</b>