

1. Title, overall objectives and location of the action

Title: Support for the protection and economic and social integration of Tunisian returnees, displaced populations and host communities in Tunisia and Morocco

Overall objectives: The objective of the programme is to improve access to protection and economic and social integration for Tunisians returnees, displaced populations and host communities in Tunisia and Morocco, capitalizing on lessons learned from the components of the program ProGreS but also from employment and reintegration assistance programs.

The three areas of intervention are i) capacity building of the Office des tunisiens à l'Étranger (OTE), in particular social attachés and border agents, as well as partner institutions in preparation for return and reintegration ; ii) the socio-economic reintegration of Tunisian returnees and the economic inclusion of the host populations with the networking of a panel of operators and effective referencing mechanisms, while capitalizing on the remittances and skills of the diaspora, and iii) improving access to protection, security and basic services for displaced and vulnerable people in Tunisia and Morocco. Only issues related to protection also cover Morocco.

Location: Tunisia, Morocco

2. Context

It is essential to create local opportunities for Tunisian youth, in order to have perspectives other than that of departure to succeed, but also at the same time to strengthen the support mechanism for the return. OTE, which implements the national Tounesna reintegration scheme, plays a key role in this regard through its social agents, its border agents, and its partnerships with the Agence Nationale de l'Emploi et du Travail Indépendent (ANETI) and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Directorate of Social Protection and Social Defence. OTE needs to adapt to this changing context, to review its strategy and modernize its way of working while strengthening its services with Tunisians returning, by increasing the panel of operators to support the return and reintegration, and capitalizing on the skills of the diaspora.

Supporting Tunisians returnees is at the heart of the EU approach in its partnership with Tunisia on migration sector. But Tunisia is also a host and transit country, which is facing a growing number of migrants on its territory, and in particular unaccompanied minors with needs for accommodation, access to basic services and protection, especially in urban centres. 9,160 people are refugees and asylum seekers (UNHCR, December 2021), a 44% increase compared to 2020, and nearly 75,000 foreigners are present in Tunisia, 17,000 of whom are in an irregular situation (IOM unofficial figures for 2018).

3. What kind of measure could finance the Action?

The Action is to be funded under the AAP 2022 under the multiannual indicative programme for a Multi-Country Migration Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood (under approval). Total planned EU contribution: [REDACTED]

4. Key results and possible duration of the action

1. The OTE in providing services adapted to the needs of Tunisians returnees
2. The setting up of a system of operators which will support the economic and social integration of Tunisians returnees, displaced populations and host communities
3. The increased use of formal and digital channels for remittances by the diaspora to contribute to a better inclusion of populations targeted by the action
4. The protection of refugees and asylum seekers to contribute to a live with dignity in Tunisia and Morocco

The program targets the national authorities and in particular the OTE within the Ministry of Social Affairs but also the Directorate General of Social Promotion (DGPS), the National Agency of Employment and Independent Labour (ANETI), the Ministry of Finance responsible for the national inclusion strategy, regional authorities as well as Tunisians returnees, refugees, asylum seekers and host communities as beneficiaries of the action. Other actors and ministries will be involved in the action, such as the Ministries of Education, Health and Vocational Training, but also the networks and associations of the diaspora in Europe, as well as United Nations and civil society organizations in Tunisia.

Concerning Morocco, the action will target different ministries, such as the Ministry of Education but also the Ministry of Health, but also the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, entry point on these issues, as well as the UNHCR and its partners.

Duration [REDACTED]

5. Possible/envisaged Implementing partners and other stakeholders involved

The possible implementing partners are Member States agencies and/or International Organisations.