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Press Release

"Looking back on two years of support and strengthening migrant communities' access to sexual reproductive health (SRH) and Gender based violence (GBV) services"

Tunis 24 January 2022- 2 years after the launch of the Migration project, the United Nations Population Fund in Tunisia (UNFPA Tunisia) confirms its unwavering commitment to the rights of everyone, specifically the rights to sexual and reproductive health.

Indeed, Tunisia has long been described as a country exclusively of origin of migratory flows to Europe; this profile has evolved a lot over the years and because of the drastic changes in the political, economic and security contexts of the African continent and the Arab region. Thus, Tunisia is considered today as a country of origin, transit and destination for several types of migratory flows and different countries, namely countries of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Data on the actual size of the migrant population in Tunisia are sorely lacking, and vary according to the sources. The number of international migrants is estimated at 57,900 people, 48% of whom are women (UNDESA, 2019). According to UNHCR, Tunisia now hosts 9,374 refugees and asylum seekers, 37.8% of whom are from the Côte d'Ivoire, and 26.9% from Syria.

Throughout their migratory journey, migrants are exposed to several violations of their human rights, they are also facing socio-economic problems, linguistic, cultural and especially legal barriers conditioning their access to health and protection services. There are considerable gaps in the access to and use of health and protection services by migrants, particularly for sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services. It is in this context that UNFPA initiated its project to "improve the access of migrants and host communities to SRH and Gender-Based Violence Care services".

A video summary of the project's results to improve access to SRH services for migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and host communities, supported by UNFPA and funded by the Italian international cooperation, was produced to highlight this commitment.

Between September 2019 and September 2021, and through 14 service centers managed by 8 associations in the regions of Greater Tunis, Sfax, Medenine, Tataouine, Gafsa and Sousse, more than 8,000 migrants were provided with services during the period, nearly 600 health actors were trained and more than 70,000 people were sensitized via social networks.

UNFPA and its partners have intervened at several levels, including:

- Services provision at the SRH and GBV centers
- Communication and awareness-raising through field and community campaigns. These campaigns were proving essential during this period of uncertainty where sexism, racism and violence have been exacerbated.
- Training and capacity building focusing on themes related to migration, SRH and the management of sexual and gender-based violence.



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UNFPA is also committed to contributing to the generation of data on migration in Tunisia following which 4 studies have emerged, focusing on violence against migrant women and girls in Tunisia, the integration of gender-based violence care in sexual and reproductive health centers, the characteristics of the journey of LGBTQI+ migrants in Tunisia and a study on HIV-related sero-behavioural determinants carried out among migrants in Gafsa.

This video highlighting UNFPA's notable achievements as an agency working on issues related to migration, sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence can be accessed via the following links:

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/UNFPATunisie/videos/265636978928486/>

Youtube : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fV2-0sj3t4Q>

This project was carried out in partnership with ADDCI, ADGS, ATFD, ATL, ATSR, BEITY, CREDIF, MDM, the National Observatory against Violence against Women, ONFP, and TAMSS.

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