



# Tunisia

## Country Fact Sheet 2024

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# Table of contents

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- 1. Health Care \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Labour Market \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Housing \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Social Welfare \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Education \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Children \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Contacts \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. At a Glance \_\_\_\_\_

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The information contained in this Country Fact Sheet was researched with best intentions and care. However, IOM Germany assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions. Furthermore, IOM Germany cannot be held accountable for conclusions or decisions drawn from the information provided in this Country Fact Sheet.

For further information on voluntary return and reintegration, please visit the information portal [www.ReturningfromGermany.de](http://www.ReturningfromGermany.de), or contact your local return and reintegration office.

© IOM November 2024 - Please note that information provided herein may be outdated due to dynamic developments in the country.

# 1 Health Care

## General information on health care

The Tunisian Constitution of 2022 reiterates this right of access to public health granted to every person on Tunisian territory, establishing that “Every human being has the right to health. The Tunisian health sector consists of both public and private institutions. Public institutions comprise infrastructures found in all Tunisian territory, divided into three levels of services:

- First line: Having as an objective to promote health, prevention and first care through the Basic Health Care Centers (CSB, which stands for Centre de Soins de Base), the Intermediary Centers, the Structures of the National Office for Family and Population (ONFP) and the Local Hospitals.
- Second line: Having as an objective to ensure specialized health care through the Regional Hospitals.
- Third line: Having as an objective to ensure health care for extremely specialized cases, scientific research and university education through the Centre Hospitalo-Universitaire (CHU).

Employers, according to national legislation, have the obligation to register all workers to the National Social Security Fund (CNSS) and the National Health Insurance Fund (CNAM). A work contract allows the worker to benefit from social security services and access health services, in public or private institutions. In parallel, in Tunisia there are several Private Insurance Companies, which could be accessed through this link:

<https://www.cga.gov.tn/index.php?id=148&L=0>

Affiliation to CNAM allows the citizens to access all health care services, public or private. For those registered to CNAM, access to public health care services is facilitated, and depending on the nature of their affiliation they either pay only a deterrent fee of 4,5 TND (1,2 euros) at University Hospitals, Institutes and Centers (for Regional and Local Hospitals the fee is 3 and 2 dinars respectively), or they are reimbursed the cost of services. In private clinics, CCNAM settles a ceiling of the expenses for specific operations and treatments. Those without access to CNAM can still benefit from health care services but paying the total amount of the fee, ranging between 7 to 14 TND (2,5 to 4,5 euros depending on the nature of the consultation and the medical specialty). Citizens identified by the Ministry of Social Affairs having limited means to pay for their admission or hospitalisation can have access to the health care assistance program “Medical Assistance Free of charge” (AMG). AMG programs offer either treatment or hospitalisation free of charge (AMG1) or reduced tariffs (AMG2).

Four national programs are aiming at ensuring the prevention of serious diseases but also the free screening, health care and treatment. Not Only Tunisian Children, routine immunization is free of charge for all Children living in Tunisia. Moreover, the National Plans against HIV, tuberculosis and malaria cover entirely the expenses for the screening and the treatment for these diseases. The “Tounesna” National Mechanism for Reintegration is put in place by the

# 1 Health Care

Office of Tunisians Abroad (OTE) in order to assist and support the socio-economic reintegration of Tunisian returnees. Germany, among other countries and structures, is a partner of Tunisia in the Tounesna framework. The counsellors of the Mechanism can assist returning Tunisian migrants to register or extend their subscription to CNSS and CNAM and therefore benefit from a health care booklet (carnet de soin).

## Availability and costs of medication

Medical Facilities and doctors of both public and private sector are available in several cities and towns in all 24 governorates of Tunisia. Citizens can find a doctor through the websites:

- <http://www.santetunisie.rns.tn/fr/component/specialistes/>
- <https://allo-docteur.com.tn/fr>
- <https://tunisie-medicale.com/index.php/>
- <https://www.tunisiemedicale.com/>
- [www.med.tn](http://www.med.tn)

Furthermore, the following phone numbers can be also used:

- Allo Docteur: 23 128 134 – 24 882 275
- Emergencies (SAMU): 190
- SOS Médecins : 71 744 215
- SOS Ambulance : 71 725 555

## Admission to medical facilities

All patients carrying an identification document can be admitted to medical facilities. Patients need to refer to the first line of medical facilities, as mentioned above. These structures will direct them to a superior level of services depending on the needs. People residing near regional hospitals (secondary care) can seek care there if they have an appointment or in case of an emergency. Emergency units are accessible to everyone, even without identification documents

## Availability and costs of medication:

Medication is generally available in Tunisia. In recent years shortages of



Photo: Unsplash 2019/ Tahia Loukil

# 1 Health Care

certain brand-name drugs have been observed which are being replaced by substituting generics. The medications available in Tunisia are listed on the website of the Central Pharmacy of Tunisia. Pharmacies can be found within hospitals from which all persons affiliated with CNAM can buy medicine but also private pharmacies can be found in all neighborhoods in urban and rural areas. Medication is relatively cheap, compared to other countries in the region. Public health insurance covers partly, fully or reimburses the cost of medication depending on the "status" of the person registered. More information can be found here: <https://documents.banquemoniale.org/fr/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/687831472236995453/assistance-technique-de-la-banque-mondiale-sur-le-financement-de-la-sante-en-tunisie-etude-sur-l-assistance-medicale-gratuite>

## Access for returnees

**Eligibility and requirements:** Tunisians with a work permit or proof of employment can access the CNSS and the CNAM. Tunisians residing abroad can contact their nearest OTE office and receive information about the Tounesna National Mechanism and their eligibility to access its services.

**Registration procedures:** : Information about registration can be found in the official CNAM website: <http://www.cnam.nat.tn/qf.jsp>. OTE offices can also refer the returnees to the nearest structure where Tounesna counselors can support with the registration procedure.

**Required documents:** See the link above or contact the nearest OTE office.

# 2 Labour Market

## General information on labour market

Based on the employment survey of the fourth quarter of 2022<sup>1</sup>, conducted by the National Institute of Statistics (INS), the labor force participation rate is estimated at 69% for men and 31% for women. The unemployment rate reaches 15.2%. (with a mild fluctuation compared to previous trimesters). In the fourth quarter of 2022, the unemployment rate evolved as follows (by gender): Decrease of 0.3 points for men and for women, reaching, respectively, 12.9% and 20.4%. The unemployment rate among young people (15-24 years) is 38.5% (compared to 40% in the 4th quarter of 2021). This rate is estimated at 39.8% for men and 36.0% for women. The highest unemployment rates are observed in the western and southern regions of Tunisia ; Northwest (33.0%), Southwest (26.3%), Center West (23.0%) and Southeast (22.5%). Compared to the second quarter of 2021, the Northwest registered the largest increase (+3 points) followed by the Southwest (+1.3 points), the Central East (+1 point) and the Central West (+0.9 points). Only the Northeast and Southeast regions saw their unemployment rates decrease (-1 point and -0.9 point respectively). Tunisia's minimum wage<sup>2</sup> is set at 459,264 Tunisian dinars per month for a 48-hour work week and 390,692 dinars per month for a 40-hour workweek for the industrial sector. The daily pay of agricultural worker was raised from 16,512 dinars to 17,664 dinars. Agricultural workers are supplemented with transportation and family allowances.

## Finding employment

The Agency for employment and self-employment (ANETI)<sup>3</sup> is implementing the government's policy relative to the promotion of the employment and assisting job seekers in acquiring information, knowledge and competencies that enhance career development, entrepreneurship, employability and professional integration. The agency operates through 110 offices across the country. The Career and Competency Certification Centers ("4C")<sup>4</sup> provide all students and graduates of higher education with access to counseling, training, certification and help to search and apply for jobs that match graduates' skills. Several private online job-matching platforms also exist. Job seekers can make their online profile which contains their contacts and other employment details. Companies can post vacancies there and search for candidates. The most famous ones are: Tanitjobs, Keejob, Optioncarrière.

## Unemployment assistance

ANETI offers programs that allow young job seekers to do internships in order to develop professional skills and competencies and ensure their professional integration. Three programs are available for companies to encourage them to hire young professionals (CIVP, Karama)<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ins.tn/sites/default/files/publication/pdf/Note%20Emploi%20T4-2022.pdf>  
<sup>2</sup> <https://paie-tunisie.com/369/fr/smig-et-smag>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.emploi.nat.tn/fo/Fr/global.php?menu1=15>  
<sup>4</sup> <https://www.4c.tn/>  
<sup>5</sup> <http://www.emploi.nat.tn/NvPrg/index1.html>

## 2 Labour Market

### Further education and training

The Tunisian agency for vocational training (ATFP)<sup>6</sup> has 136 training centres throughout Tunisia, offering more than 372 courses in 12 sectors and delivering different types of diplomas: BTS, BTP, CAP.<http://www.atfp.tn/index.php/ar/>

6

<http://www.atfp.tn/index.php/ar/>

### Access for returnees

**Eligibility and requirements:** The Tounesna National Mechanism for Reintegration in cooperation with ANETI organise information sessions concerning the programs of profession reintegration and orientation for the benefit of Tunisian returnees. These sessions aim to support Tunisian returnees to equip themselves better to seek jobs in Tunisia.

**Registration procedure:** The Dispositif Tounesna is currently on standby. There are no new cases recorded. The Tounesna system agents are currently finalizing the cases recorded during the first phase of the program. Tunisian returnees can consult the nearest OTE office on the Tounesna Mechanism assistance to professional reintegration.



## 3 Housing

### General information on housing

The average rent in Tunisia is 700 Tunisian Dinars (TND), the equivalent of 213 euros, for an 85 m2 furnished apartment or house in a normal area. These prices are not representative in areas such as the northern suburbs of Tunis where rents are higher. In an accommodation similar to the one mentioned above, heating, electricity and gas amount to 200 TND per month (61 euros). There is demand and supply of housing options in both rural and urban areas.

### Finding accommodation

Facilitators to finding accommodation in Tunisia are freelance real estate agents and real estate companies and offices. The fee/price for their services usually amounts to one or two months of rent. Moreover, it is common that apartments for rent are posted in websites such as [tayara.tn](http://tayara.tn), [mitula.tn](http://mitula.tn), [tunisie-annonce.com](http://tunisie-annonce.com) or in Facebook groups such as Location/ Colocation Tunisie, Via/vie Tunisie and others.

- <https://www.tayara.tn/ads/c/Immobilier?price=0,1000000/>
- <https://immobilier.mitula.tn/location-maison-tunis>
- [http://www.tunisie-annonce.com/AnnoncesImmobilier.asp?rech\\_cod\\_rub=101&rech\\_cod\\_typ=10101](http://www.tunisie-annonce.com/AnnoncesImmobilier.asp?rech_cod_rub=101&rech_cod_typ=10101).

### Social grants for housing

No social grants for housing available in Tunisia.

### Access for returnees

**Eligibility and requirements:** The Tounesna Mechanism offers housing assistance to Tunisian returnees from Switzerland in need of housing, depending on the limits of its funding. Furthermore, there are two associations managing shelters in collaboration with IOM where returnees and especially vulnerable single mothers with children can refer to in case they are in need of housing. The Tounesna mechanism is currently on standby. The Tounesna system does not provide services for Tunisians returning from Switzerland only.

### Registration procedure:

Returnees finding themselves in need for housing should contact Association Beity and Association Amal. Their contact details are found at the end of this document.

Accommodation for Tunisian returnees is not an easily and automatically accessible service. Associations dedicated to accommodation accept applications after studying the person's file, but since places are very limited, we cannot say that this is an accessible service.

**Required documents:** Returnees will need to provide the associations with their ID card and a document proving their vulnerable status.

## 4 Social Welfare

### General information on social welfare

The Tunisian social protection system consists of social insurance schemes for workers and social assistance programs for the inactive and workers ineligible for social insurance schemes. The social protection system has both contributory and non-contributory elements. Social security is financed by the contributions of employers and employees. However, social aids are funded from the state budget, civil society, individual donations, companies and institutions, regional and global funds. Social transfers are ensured from the state budget. The major national institutions managing social insurance for workers in Tunisia are the National Social Security Fund (CNSS) for the private sector and the Tunisians working abroad, the National Pension and Social Insurance Fund (CNRPS) for the public sector and the National Health Insurance Fund (CNAM) both for the public and the private sector. Social insurance schemes cover Tunisian workers abroad, as well as Migrant workers. It includes Insurance against occupational accidents and diseases and Health, maternity, and pensions. The social assistance programs include financial aid, healthcare, and family allowances.

#### Access for returnees

**Eligibility and requirements:** The lowest income quintile of the Tunisian population, most of whom live below the poverty line, can be covered by social assistance programs.

**Registration procedure:** Directly to the institution in charge or through the intermediary of diplomatic, consular, or permanent representations of Tunisia abroad (embassies, consulates or OTE).

### Pension system

There are in total eleven different pension schemes depending on the branch and the nature of the activity. Pensions are calculated on the basis of the highest salary for public sector workers, while in the private sector they are based on an average of wages from the last ten years. The minimum pension is equal to two thirds of the minimum wage for those who work in public and salaried non-agricultural sectors, while it is only 30 per cent for non-salaried workers. Pensions are in the form of contributory insurance, categories such as the inactive, housewives, and the unemployed are excluded. The periods of employment completed abroad that gave place to the payment of contribution are counted as if it were periods accomplished in Tunisia.

#### Access for returnees

**Eligibility and requirements:** To be eligible to apply for a pension scheme Tunisians need to:

- be at least 60 years old for salaried workers, 65 years old for self-employed workers,
- have at least 120 months of contributions,
- cease any professional activity subject to social security schemes

**Registration procedure:** Directly to the institution.

## 4 Social Welfare

### Vulnerable groups

People with disabilities are entitled to a disability pension at a rate of 30% of the average reference income. Moreover, a disability card is issued which allows them to benefit from health care services free of charge or with a reduced cost.

#### Access for returnees

**Eligibility and requirements:** To apply for a disability pension the beneficiaries must:

- be suffering from a 2/3 reduction in their working or earning capacity (non-occupational disability),
- be under the age of 60 years old and not entitled to an old-age pension,
- complete a prior period of 60 months of contributions (no condition in case of a non-occupational accident if the insured persons can prove their registration).

The application for a disability card is also available for Tunisian returnees. Registration procedure: Directly to the institution in charge or contact the nearest OTE office. For the disability card, the OTE office will refer the returnees to a Tounesna counsellor who will assist them with the preparation of their file to be sent to the Tunisian Ministry of Social Affairs.

**Required documents:** The official request to the Ministry, a medical certificate (on a specific template) by a doctor proving the disability and a copy of the National Identity Card.



Photo: Unsplash 2019/ Taha Loukiel

## 5 Education

### General information on education

The education system in Tunisia is organized in four levels: pre-school education (before 6 years old), basic education (from 6 years old), comprising six years in primary school and three years in junior high-school, secondary education (from 15 years old), comprising three years in high school and higher education. Education is compulsory until the age of 16 as mentioned in the article 39 of the 2014 Constitution. In 2018, according to the National Institute of Statistics (INS), there were more than 4500 schools in Tunisia. Almost 10% of these schools are private institutions. The number of private schools has been raising in Tunisia during the last decade. The academic year starts in September and ends in June. The language of education is mainly Arabic. French and English are taught from the third year of primary school as foreign languages but are also often used in higher education. The education system is divided in public and private schools. French-speaking schools are also well established in Tunisia. An all-day care for elementary school children and kindergartens children is available but usually in private schools and kindergartens.

### Approval and verification of foreign diplomas

Foreign degrees are recognized depending on the registration, the schooling years, the content of the syllabus and certain assessment procedures. Interested persons can find the different procedures to recognize their degrees in this page from the Ministry of Education:

[http://www.mes.tn/page.php?code\\_menu=172&code\\_menu\\_parent=170](http://www.mes.tn/page.php?code_menu=172&code_menu_parent=170)

#### Access for returnees

**Eligibility and requirements:** Tunisia offers scholarships and education loans. Eligibility for scholarships and education loans is subject to the student's family income. If applicable, scholarship amounts range between 120 TND (36 euros) and 250 TND (76 euros) depending on the higher education cycle. The amount of money given can be used to cover any expenses that students prefer. The loans are usually higher between 600 TND (180 euros) to 1400 TND (427 euros).

**Registration procedure:** The registration procedure for newly registered students is described in the following link: <https://www.ooun.rnu.tn/web/fr/bourse.html>

**Required documents:** The documents can be found in the link shared above.

## 6 Children

### General situation of children and infants

According to the constitution, it is the responsibility of the parents and the State to guarantee the child's dignity, health, care and education. However, the socio-economic situation of the parents affects the child's access to their fundamental rights (nutrition, health, water, housing). In the case of a threat to the physical and mental integrity of the child, the Family Judge and the General Delegate for Child Protection can act in accordance with the child protection code and take the necessary measures to their protection, depending on the situation.

### (Non-) governmental actors dealing with children's well-being and rights

The protection of children's rights as well as their well-being is the mandate of various governmental and non-governmental actors in Tunisia. To begin with, the Ministry of Women, Family, Children

and Seniors is the main governing body concerning children's well-being and rights. Under the auspices of the Ministry, the National Delegate for Child Protection, the Family Judge as well as the National Institute for Child Protection are the main actors overseeing the protection and promotion of children's rights and their wellbeing.

Apart from the national actors, various international and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are working towards the same objective. The main UN body promoting the rights and the well-being of children in the areas of health and education in Tunisia is UNICEF. National and international NGOs such as Save the Children Tunisia, SOS Villages d'Enfants, the Association Tunisienne de défense des droits de l'enfant, Association Amal pour la famille et l'enfant, Voix de l'enfant Tunisia, Un Enfant, des sourires are also operating in Tunisia.



Photo: IOM 2011/ Renato Fogal

## 7 Contacts

### International Organization for Migration

The UN Agency for Migration  
6, Rue du Lac le Bourget  
Les Berges du Lac  
1053 Tunis  
(+216) 71 860 312 / 960 313 /  
861 097, IOMTunis@iom.int  
<http://www.tunisia.iom.int/>

### United Nations Children's Fund

Child Protection  
Immeuble Prestige 4ème  
étage Bloc D, Rue du Lac de  
Windermere, Les Berges du  
Lac 1, 1053 Tunis  
(+216) 71 802 700  
tunis@unicef.org

### General Delegate for Child Protection

Child Protection  
18, Rue d'Autriche  
Belvédère  
1095 Tunis  
(+216) 71 798 603

### Tunisian Ministry of Health

Citizen services  
Bab Saadoun  
1006 Tunis  
1867  
relation.citoyen@rns.tn  
<http://www.santetunisie.rns.tn/fr/>

### List of public health care institutions in Tunisia:

<http://www.santetunisie.rns.tn/fr/carte-sanitaire/structures-publiques-de-sante-en-tunisie>

### List of emergency departments in Tunisia:

<http://www.santetunisie.rns.tn/fr/sante-en-tunisie/medecine-d-urgence>

### Ministry of Social Affairs

27, Boulevard Bab Bnet  
1006 Tunis  
(+216) 71.150.000  
Numéro d'appel: 1868  
mas@social.gov.tn  
<http://www.social.tn/index.php?id=51&L=0>

### National Office for the Family and the Population

Public and reproductive health  
7, Rue 7051  
Centre Urbain Nord  
1082 Tunis  
(+216) 70 728 831  
<http://www.onfp.tn>

### Office des Tunisiens à l'Etranger

88-90 Rue Abderrazak  
Chraïbi - 1000 Tunis  
(+216) 71 343 665 / 71 343 648  
N° Vert: 80 100 227  
boc@ote.nat.tn  
<http://ote.nat.tn/>

### National Social Security Fund

Social Security  
49 Av. Taieb M'Hiri,  
1002, Tunis  
(+216) 71 796 744  
<https://www.cnss.tn/fr>

### National Pension and Social

Insurance Fund  
6 Ave Mohamed V,  
1002, Tunis  
(+216) 71 341 100  
<http://www.cnrps.nat.tn/>

### National Health Insurance Fund

Health Insurance  
12, Rue Abou Hamed El  
Ghazeli  
Montplaisir  
1073 Tunis  
Numéro Vert : 80 100 295  
brc@cnam.nat.tn

### Caritas

Non-governmental organization  
4, Rue d'Alger  
1000 Tunis, (+216) 71 338 638, (+216) 36 111 052, caritasmig@gmail.com

### Tunisian Red Crescent

Non-governmental organization  
19, Rue d'Angleterre  
1000, Tunis, (+216) 71 325 572, (+216) 71 320 630, contact@croissant-rouge.tn

### Save the Children

Non-governmental organization  
Appartement n°3-1, 3ème étage, Immeuble les Emeraudes, Bloc C, Avenue de la Bourse, les jardins du lac, Lac II, 1053 Tunis

## 8 At a glance

### SOS Villages d'Enfants

Boulevard de l'Environnement - 1057 Gammarth - Tunisie  
parrainage.enfants@sos-tunisie.org  
(+216) 71 919 911  
<http://sosve.tn/>

### Association Tunisienne de défense des droits de l'enfant

18 Rue Egypte Lafayette  
Tunisie  
(+216) 71 288 382  
<http://www.enfant.tn/>

### Voix de l'Enfant Tunisie

Cité Stah Jabeur, en face du phare de la marine nationale 5 000 Monastir  
(+216) 95 189 227, (+216) 73 447 770, contact@voixde-lenfant-monastir.org, info@voixdelenfant-monastir.org

### Un enfant, des sourires

Ariana centre - Ariana  
Centre Ariana  
(+216) 54 158 585  
asso.ueds@gmail.com

### Association Amal for the Family and Children

Child and women protection  
10, Rue Solimen  
Belvédère 1095, Tunis,  
(+216) 71 286 372, amalpour-lafamille@hotmail.fr

### Beity

Non-governmental organization  
10, Rue Mohamed Ali Jenah  
1002, Tunis  
beity.tunisie@gmail.com  
<https://beity-tunisie.org/>

## 8 At a glance

### Measures to be undertaken before return

- **Documents:** Have a valid travel document or a laissez-passer issued by a consular authority.
- **Education:** Have documents certifying education for them and their children or employment in the country of destination.
- **Support:** Contact the Office of Tunisians Abroad (OTE) nearest to their place of residence.

### Measures to be undertaken immediately upon arrival

- **Immigration:** Answer all the questions and share the requested documents in case he/she might be questioned by immigration. Returnees travelling with a laissez-passer normally get questioned.
- **Documents:** Register for a new local ID and other documents in case of loss. Refer to local police or national guard departments. For more information click on this link: [http://www.sicad.gov.tn/Fr/Prestation\\_Obtention-de-la-carte-didentite-nationale-pour-la-premiere-fois\\_57\\_3\\_D1309](http://www.sicad.gov.tn/Fr/Prestation_Obtention-de-la-carte-didentite-nationale-pour-la-premiere-fois_57_3_D1309)



Photo: Unsplash 2020/ Nathashia Shukla