



Enhancing Border Management Capacities in Tunisia

IOM provides capacity-building training in protection-sensitive border management and supports an assessment of borders for the Tunisian Ministry of the Interior

Between the 22nd and 6th of May, a team of IOM and UNHCR experts provided a two week training in “protection-sensitive border management” for Tunisian Police and National Guards in Tunis.

During the Tunis training, participants were taught how to identify victims of human trafficking and smuggling, as well as other vulnerable groups including unaccompanied minors and refugees. They also received an in-depth training on passport examination, where they familiarized with state-of-the-art procedures, including the use of magnifiers, ultra-violet and infra-red lamps.

The project was undertaken within the framework of a 10-month project: “Capacity Building for a Tunisian Protection -Sensitive Approach to Border Management” funded by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

The project, developed and delivered by IOM and UNHCR, aims to build the capacities of Tunisian border officials to address mixed movements of people and is intended to create a pool of trainers qualified to train other officers nation-wide.

Since the training has been designed as a “Training of Trainers”, a specific session has been provided to build capacity of participants to train, including communication and training delivery skills. The aim of this session was also to allow trainees to become trainers for future training session, so as to foster durability of the initiative. Tunisian Minister of the Interior, Ben Jeddou, awarded certificates to the participants at a ceremony at the Ministry of Interior in Tunis. At the day of the closing ceremony, all participants proposed to thank



Newly trained Tunisian border policemen @ IOM 2013

one by one with a short speech to the donor, represented by the Swiss Embassy in Tunis. This spontaneous session demonstrated the pride of the participants in letting the donor and all presents know that they were now more knowledgeable about the protection of migrants and refugees, human trafficking and passport examination procedures.

It is hoped that the initiative will also help Tunisia to fill legislative and institutional gaps in protection of human rights and security, while building on the significant steps that the country has taken to put in place an asylum law and referral mechanism providing better international protection of refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants.

Two other initiatives have also been undertaken by IOM within the framework of the Tunisian Security Sector

Reform to support the Tunisian Ministry of Interior (MOI)’s efforts during the political transition in the country.

IOM delivered a workshop on the “Results of the Conference on border control cooperation in the Sahel and Maghreb”, moderated by the Tunisian Ministry of Interior, which was attended by 70 senior MOI officers (including the Police, Customs, Garde Nationale).

The second initiative was a joint mission organized by ICMPD in cooperation with IOM and the EU aimed at assessing Tunisian borders and supporting the Government in identifying actions to undergo to ensure borders security. The assessment covered land and maritime Tunisian border posts as well as the airport of Tunis -Carthage. The report is currently being finalized in cooperation with the MOI.

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