

TUNIS (REGIONAL)

COVERING: Morocco/Western Sahara, Tunisia

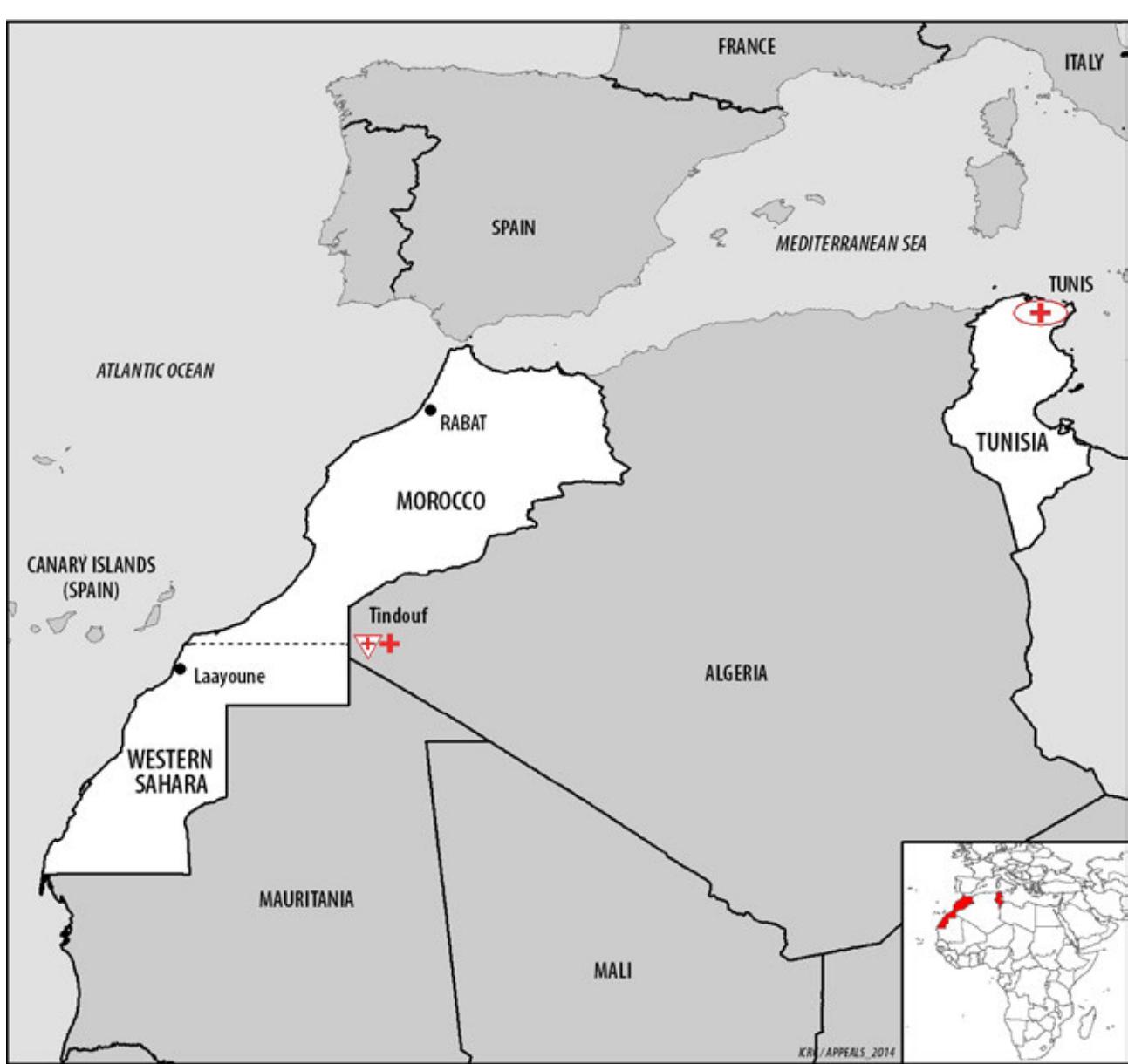
The regional delegation based in Tunis, which has been operating since 1987, regularly visits people deprived of their freedom in Tunisia to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention. It addresses issues of humanitarian concern arising from the aftermath of the Western Sahara conflict. It promotes implementation of IHL by the authorities, including its integration into national legislation and into training programmes for the armed forces. The Red Crescent Societies in the region are essential partners in this process.

BUDGET IN KCHF

Protection	1,850
Assistance	2,108
Prevention	1,211
Cooperation with National Societies	639
General	-
Total	5,808
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>354</i>

PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	15
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	34



ICRC regional delegation



ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic centre



ICRC office

MAIN TARGETS FOR 2014

- in Tunisia, detainees in 4 prisons face fewer health risks thanks to measures taken by the authorities to improve health services and prevent/respond to emergencies, such as scabies and other disease outbreaks
- detainees in 1 prison in Tunisia have improved skills gained through vocational training courses, easing their reintegration into society upon their release
- the Moroccan National Council for Human Rights, the “Saharawi Red Crescent” and other stakeholders involved in clarifying the fate of persons missing from the Western Sahara conflict meet to explore ways to solve cases
- academies/training centres for military and security officers in Morocco and Tunisia enhance their teaching on the proper use of force in law enforcement operations, including arrest and detention
- the Moroccan and Tunisian Red Crescent Societies expand their response to the family-links needs of dispersed family members, including vulnerable migrants

ASSISTANCE		Targets (up to)
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Physical rehabilitation		
Centres supported	Structures	1
Patients receiving services	Patients	363



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CONTEXT

The assassinations of two prominent opposition figures in February and July continue to prompt major political upheaval in Tunisia. In addition to strikes and demonstrations sparked by a dire economic situation, political protests regularly take place, sometimes resulting in clashes with security forces. Near the border with Algeria, Tunisian military operations target armed elements suspected of endangering State security, reportedly leading to numerous arrests. Presidential and legislative elections have yet to take place.

In Morocco, the population continues to struggle through a worsening economic crisis amid dwindling public confidence in the government's ability to improve the situation.

Sub-Saharan migrants seeking to reach Europe continue to pass through Tunisia; Morocco is a major destination country.

While concerns persist over the security repercussions of the armed conflict in Mali, the status of Western Sahara remains a contentious issue between Morocco and the Polisario Front, with negotiations proceeding without progress. The mandate of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) has been extended to April 2014. Families in both Moroccan- and Polisario Front-controlled areas of Western Sahara are still without news of relatives missing from the 1975–91 conflict. Mines/explosive remnants of war (ERW) from this period remain a danger to the local population.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In 2014, the Tunis regional delegation will: help the Tunisian authorities improve detainees' living conditions; together with the Moroccan and Tunisian Red Crescent Societies, carry out activities for civilians, including dispersed relatives, families of missing persons, and migrants; and foster understanding of and support for humanitarian principles and the Movement's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action, notably among armed/security forces.

Delegates will visit detainees in Tunisia, document alleged abuses and share confidential feedback with the authorities. They will work with them to address structural deficiencies in prisons and improve inmates' living conditions. Drawing on the experiences of the country's first probation office established in 2012, the delegation will help reduce overcrowding, including by promoting the use of alternative sentencing options. It will contribute to a pilot project in one prison aimed at establishing vocational training for detainees to facilitate their reintegration into society following their release. It will work with the authorities to enhance prison management, notably by training prison staff, and to bring penitentiary health services in line with national standards, focusing on four prisons, according to a three-year plan developed with the Health and Justice Ministries. The ICRC will also help construct/rehabilitate prison infrastructure and prevent/respond to emergencies.

The National Societies/ICRC will offer family-links services to dispersed family members, including people with relatives detained/interned abroad and migrants. Ad hoc assistance will be given to people repatriated to or resettled in the region following their detention/internment abroad and, through the National Society, to particularly vulnerable migrants in Morocco. With the relevant National Society, the delegation will encourage the authorities to provide answers to the families of persons reported missing or dead. As a neutral intermediary between the Moroccan authorities and the Polisario Front, the ICRC will encourage both sides to clarify the fate of persons missing from the Western

Sahara conflict. It will work with the two bodies responsible for handling the issue, following up the cases of families seeking relatives.

With ICRC backing, the Moroccan Red Crescent and a local NGO will alert populations in the Moroccan- and Polisario Front-controlled parts of Western Sahara, respectively, to the dangers posed by mines/ERW. The ICRC-run prosthetic/orthotic workshop and physical rehabilitation centre, operating from within the Rabouni hospital's premises, will continue to serve Saharawi amputees and other disabled people.

The ICRC will maintain/develop dialogue with the authorities, military/security leaders and key civil society actors, including recently established organizations, to garner support for humanitarian principles and the Movement. Briefings/presentations/seminars for military/security personnel, particularly operational units deployed within the country or abroad, will focus on increasing understanding of IHL and norms and standards applicable to maintaining public order. Through seminars/study tours, the organization will provide expertise on such topics to the Tunisian Interior Ministry. Events and publications for media, academic and religious circles and organizations working in similar fields will aim to stimulate humanitarian dialogue and interest in IHL, while support to the development of IHL instruction in universities will continue. The National Societies/ICRC will work to help the authorities, including national IHL committees, advance IHL treaty ratification/implementation and, in Tunisia, adopt a law on the emblem.

The National Societies will benefit from funds, training, materials and expertise to develop in particular their emergency preparedness/response capacities, including in contingency planning, first aid and management of human remains.

Coordination with relevant actors will ensure humanitarian needs are covered while avoiding duplication.