

TUNISIA

COUNTRY FACT SHEET 2021

Photo: Unsplash 2021/ Thiago Rocha

PUBLISHER

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For further information on voluntary return and reintegration, please visit the information portal www.ReturningfromGermany.de, or contact your local return and reintegration office.

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1 HEALTH CARE

General information on health care

Constitutionally, all citizens presenting an identification document have access to health care services in Tunisia. The Tunisian health sector comprises 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 (CSSB), 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 University-Affiliated Hospitals.

Public and private structures, according to national legislation, have the obligation to register all workers to 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) or they are reimbursed the cost of services. In private clinics, CNAM settles the expenses for specific operations and treatments. Those without access to CNAM can benefit from health care services paying 10 TND (3 euros). Citizens with limited means to pay for their admission or hospitalisation identified by the Ministry of Social Affairs can have access to the health care assistance program “Medical Assistance Free of charge” (AMG). AMG offers either treatment or hospitalisation free of charge (AMG1) or reduced tariffs (AMG2).

Four national programs are aiming at the ensuring the prevention of serious diseases but also the free screening, health care and treatment. The National Vaccination Plan ensures the vaccination of all Tunisian children free of charge in public health care institutions. Moreover, the National Plans against HIV, tuberculosis and malaria cover the testing and the treatment for these diseases without the patient’s financial participation.

Availability of medical facilities and doctors

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:

- www.annuaire-medical-tunisie.com
- www.monguide-medical.com
- www.med.tn

Furthermore, the following phone numbers can be also used:

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- Allo Docteur: 71 780 000 / 71 781 000
- Urgences (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 close to Regional Hospitals (second line) can refer to those first on the condition that they have an appointment or in case of emergencies. Emergency units are accessed by all, even without an identification document.

Availability and costs of medication

All kinds of medication are generally available in Tunisia. Shortages have been observed, however, they cannot be considered a frequent phenomenon. Pharmacies can be found within hospitals from which all persons affiliate 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.banquemonde.org/fr/publication/documents-reports/do->

[documentdetail/687831472236995453/assistance-technique-de-la-banque-mondiale-sur-le-financement-de-la-sante-en-tunisie-etude-sur-l-assistance-medicale-gratuite](https://documents.banquemonde.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)

General information on COVID-19

Tunisia has been informing its citizens about COVID-19 through the official website and social media of the Ministry of Health. Information is mainly produced and diffused in Arabic and French. The helplines set by the Tunisian government about COVID-19 is the 190 and the 80 101 919 which citizens can use for information or to signal symptoms of the virus. Rapid tests can be bought from pharmacies for 25 TND (7,5 euros) or can be arranged freely by calling the helplines of the Ministry of Health. Private laboratories also perform PCR tests but their cost is much higher (from 170 to 180 TND, 50 to 55 Euro). Concerning vaccination, the platform EVAX (evax.tn) has been established where Tunisian citizens but also foreigners (migrants) can register to get an appointment for their vaccination. To date, more than 3,4 million Tunisians have been fully vaccinated.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: Tunisians with a work permit or proof of employment can access the CNAM.

Registration procedure: Information about registration can be found in the official CNAM website: <http://www.cnam.nat.tn/qf.jsp>

2 LABOUR MARKET

General information on labour market

Based on the employment survey of the second quarter of 2021(<http://ins.tn/sites/default/files/publication/pdf/Note%20Emploi%20T2021.pdf>), conducted by the National Institute of Statistics (INS), the labor force participation rate is estimated at 66.5% for men and 28.6% for women. The unemployment rate remains almost stable at 17.9% (compared to 17.8% in the first quarter). In the second quarter of 2021, the unemployment rate evolved as follows (by gender): Increase of 0.4 points for men and decrease of 0.2 points for women, reaching, respectively, 15.4% and 23.6%. The unemployment rate among young people (15-24 years) is 41.7%. This rate is estimated at 42.3% for men and 40.4% for women.

The highest unemployment rates are observed in the western and southern regions of Tunisia. Compared to the situation before the COVID-19, in the second quarter of 2019, unemployment increased considerably in the regions with a predominantly agricultural activity: the northwest (+10 points) and the centre-west (+4.6 points). Though not as high, this increase was also seen in regions characterized by the presence of tourism-related service activity: the northeast (+1.2 points) and the centre-east (+3.6 points). According to the INS employment survey of the fourth quarter of 2020 (<http://ins.tn/publication/indicateurs-de-emploi-et-du-chomage-quatrieme-trimestre-2020>), the distribution of the occupied population by sector is as follows: 52.8% in the service sector, 17.9% in the manufacturing sector, 16 % in the non-manufacturing sector and

13.3% in the agriculture and fishing sector. Tunisia's minimum wage is set at 429,312 Tunisian dinars per month for a 48-hour work week and 365,732 dinars per month for a 40-hour workweek for the industrial sector (<https://www.webmanagercenter.com/2021/01/06/461789/publication-au-jort-des-decrets-fixant-laugmentation-du-smig-et-du-smag/>). 16,512 dinars per day for agricultural workers and are supplemented with transportation and family allowances. See INS : <http://www.ins.tn/node/1331> PDF : <http://www.ins.tn/sites/default/files/publication/pdf/Note%20Emploi%20T2021.pdf>

Finding employment

The Agency for employment and self-employment (ANETI) 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 (<https://www.4c.tn>) 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 and search for candidates. The most famous ones are: Tanitjobs (<https://www.tanitjobs.com/>),

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Keejob (<https://www.keejob.com/>), Optioncarrière (<https://www.optioncarriere.tn/>) and <http://www.emploi.nat.tn/fo/Fr/global.php>

them to hire young professionals (CIVP, Karama). More information on <http://www.emploi.nat.tn/NvPrg/index1.html>

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

Further education and training

The Tunisian agency for vocational training (ATFP) 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/>



Photo: Unsplash 2019/ Taha Loukil

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 accomodation

Facilitators to finding accommodation in Tunisia are freelance real estate agents and real estate companies and offices. Moreover, it is common that apartments for rent are posted in websites such as tayara.tn, mitula.tn, 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_tpy=10101.

Social grants for housing

No social grants for housing available in Tunisia. Tunisia does not offer public temporary housing facilities such as arrival centres or shelters for vulnerable returnees. There are two associations, however, 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.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: Tunisia does not offer public temporary housing facilities such as arrival centres or shelters for vulnerable returnees. There are two associations, however, 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.

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.

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



3 HOUSING



4 SOCIAL WELFARE

Social welfare system

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), the National Pension and Social Insurance Fund (CNRPS), the National Health Insurance Fund (CNAM) and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity.

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 who 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.

Required documents: no information available.

Pension system

There are in total eleven different pension schemes depending on the branch and the nature of the activity. Pensions

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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 in charge or through the intermediary of diplomatic, consular, or permanent representations of Tunisia abroad.

Vulnerable groups

Access for returnees

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

- be suffering from a 2/3 reduction in his or her working or earning capacity (non-occupational disability),
- be under the age of 60 years old and is 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 person can prove his registration).

Registration procedure: Directly to the institution in charge or through the intermediary of diplomatic, consular, or permanent representations of Tunisia abroad



Photo: Unsplash 2019/ Taha Loukiel



Photo: Unsplash 2020/ Chermiiti Mohamed

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.

Cost, loans, and stipends

Public education is free of charge for the first three levels. The price of books is protected by law 80 of 2002 and ranges from 4 to 8 TND (1 to 2,5 euros). Financial aid amounting to 50 TND (16 euros) for families with limited means to buy school supplies have been funded

by UNICEF and distributed at the beginning of the school year. For higher education, the tuition fees for public sector depends on cycles and courses and ranges from 10 TND (3 euros) to 200 TND (61 euros). Students enrolled in private institutions usually pay higher fees. Government grants are provided to students in higher education, particularly to students from families with lower income. The government also provides accommodation and meals served in university restaurants. Social security funds can allocate loans, but students must repay it once they graduate.

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

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 60 TND (18 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).

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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.



Photo: Unsplash 2020 Engin Alkyurt

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 2017 / Renato Fogal

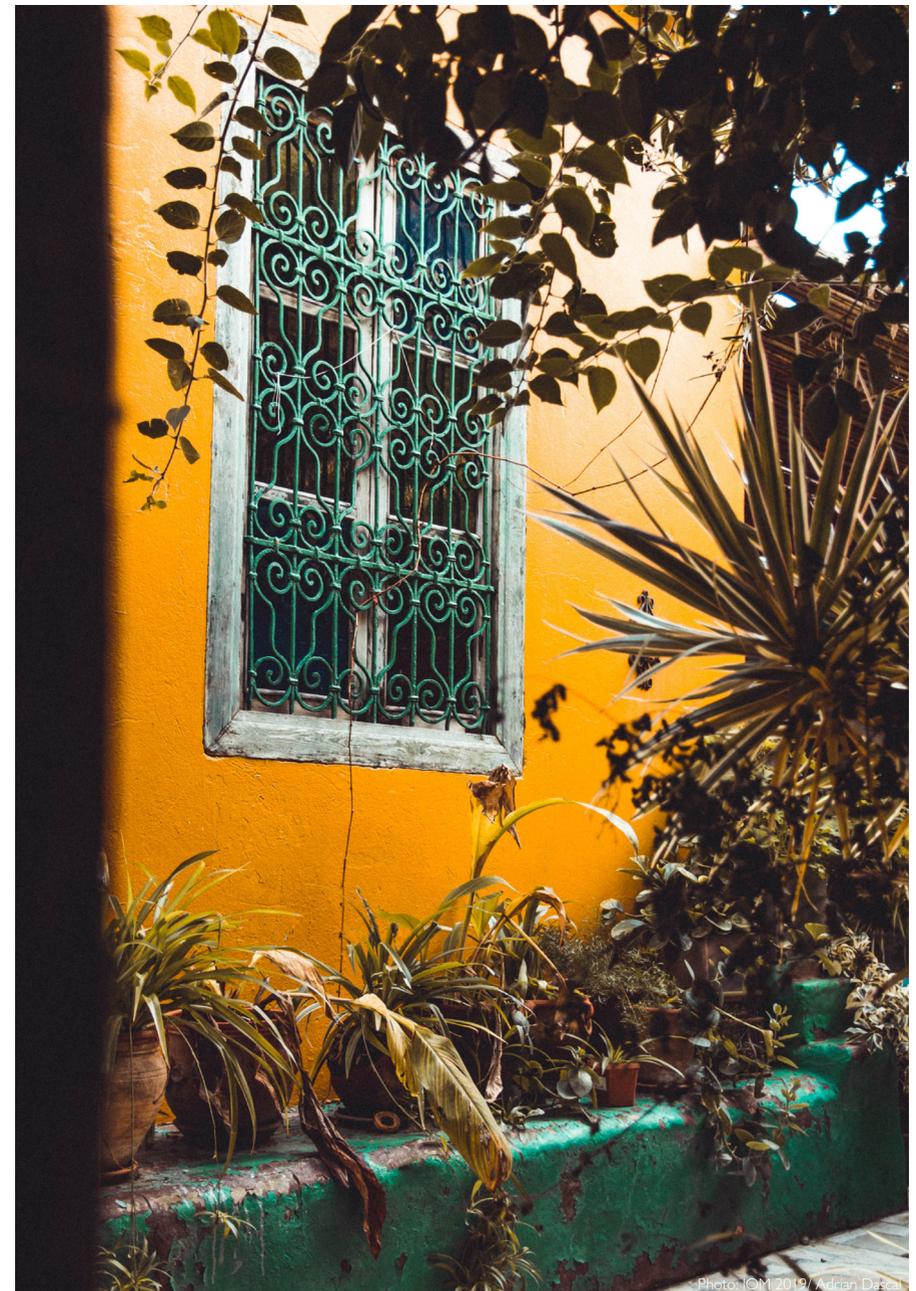


Photo: IOM 2019 / Adrian Dascal

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
<https://www.unicef.org/tunisia/>

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/](http://www.santetunisie.rns.tn/fr/)

List of public health care insti- tutions in Tunisia:

[http://www.santetunisie.rns.tn/
fr/carte-sanitaire/structures-pu-
bliques-de-sante-en-tunisie](http://www.santetunisie.rns.tn/fr/carte-sanitaire/structures-pu-
bliques-de-sante-en-tunisie)

List of emergency departments in Tunisia:

[http://www.santetunisie.
rns.tn/fr/sante-en-tunisie/
medecine-d-urgence](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](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
Fax (+ 216) 71 343 746
boc@ote.nat.tn
N° Vert: 80 100 227
<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
<https://www.cnrsps.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
[http://www.cnam.nat.tn/index.
jsp](http://www.cnam.nat.tn/index.
jsp)

Caritas

Non-governmental organization
4, Rue d'Alger
1000 Tunis, (+216) 71 338 638,
(+216) 36 111 052, caritasmig@
gmail.com , [https://www.caritas.
org/ou-nous-trouver/moyen-
orient-et-afrique-du-nord-mona-
tunisie/?lang=fr](https://www.caritas.org/ou-nous-trouver/moyen-orient-et-afrique-du-nord-mona-
tunisie/?lang=fr)

Tunisian Red Crescent

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

Save the Children

Non-governmental organization
Appartement n°3-1, 3ème étage,
Immeuble les Emeraudes, Bloc
C, Avenue de la Bourse, les jar-
dins du lac, Lac II, 1053 Tunis
[http://www.savethechildren.
org%20/](http://www.savethechildren.org%20/)

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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 dé- fense 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
asso.ueds@gmail.com
(+216) 54 158 585

Association Amal for the Family and Children

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

Beity

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

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Photo: Unsplash 2020/ Nathasia Shukla

Measures to be undertaken before return

- **COVID-19:** Returnees as well as all travelers coming to Tunisia except from children under 12 need to have a negative PCR test for COVID-19, carried out less than 72 hours before their first flight. Furthermore, identity documents, documents certifying education in Germany both for migrants and for their children as well as employment certificates from previous jobs are necessary.

Measures to be undertaken immediately upon arrival

- **Vaccination:** Travelers who are not fully vaccinated are required to enter mandatory quarantine in a government-approved hotel for ten days upon arrival in Tunisia; fully vaccinated persons travelling to Tunisia are exempted from this requirement but it is advised to self-isolate in a private accommodation for 10 days.

