

# TRANSFORMING LIVES IN URBAN AREAS

EU SUPPORT FOR  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAMME PRIORITAIRE D'INTÉGRATION DES QUARTIERS POPULAIRES  
REHABILITATING AND REGENERATING INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

REGION  
MEDITERRANEAN

COUNTRY  
TUNISIA

FOCUS  
IMPROVING THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF  
THE URBAN POOR

## CONTEXT



The EU and its Member States consider that a holistic, integrated and place-based approach to urban development, together with a long term vision, is necessary in order to promote well-managed, liveable, socially inclusive and safe, resilient, resource-efficient and environmentally sustainable as well as economically prosperous cities of all sizes, as well as developing the capability to achieve them.

Promoting inclusive and safe cities and good urban governance are two key pillars of this approach.

## BACKGROUND



Over the last 30 years Tunisia has witnessed strong urban growth; more than two thirds of its population now live in towns and cities. However, urban expansion has predominantly take place on the outskirts of urban centres and has been unplanned. A lack of housing for low-socio economic groups has further exacerbated the problem.

The Arab-Spring revolution highlighted previously less visible social and territorial inequalities. The government has since stepped up efforts in this area with a new urban rehabilitation programme to better integrate and connect 121 urban areas into the national territory. Over a seven year period, investment will be accompanied by training programmes to enhance human capacity, to reinforce further structural reform emanating from urban policies.

## EXPECTED RESULTS



**Priority Action 1: Rehabilitation and Renovation of urban areas:** Infrastructure investments in: sanitation infrastructure (158 km), drainage (18 km), roads (575 km), public lighting (11,735 lighting points), public buildings: 39 sports centres, 39 culture and youth centres, 35 playing fields, 27 business and industrial buildings and housing rehabilitation of 10,000 homes.

**Priority Action 2: Support for renewed Town Planning and a future vision for urban areas:** Reinvigorated Town Planning and future urban strategies contributing to:

- an Observatory for territorial and Spatial dynamics;
- the establishment of urban planning agencies;
- an evaluation process of urban planning policies;
- housing strategies.



## APPROACH

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The project aims to contribute to the improvement to living conditions of inhabitants of poor neighbourhoods and to support the adoption of reform in favour of City-wide policies. To do so, it will reintegrate 121 informal neighbourhoods to the formal urban fabric, among others enabling the inhabitants to gain facilitated access to the city social and economic opportunities. In addition, the inclusion of social equipment and economical infrastructure will promote local development dynamics.

The three specific objectives include:

1. Rehabilitation of urban infrastructure in 121 poor neighbourhoods stretched across the entire Tunisian territory.
2. Promote local development dynamics by enhancing the offer of collective social equipment and economical infrastructure in these neighbourhoods.
3. Support the authorities in their urban policies, especially on urban planning issues and housing.

## LESSONS LEARNED

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As important as this action is, the development of informal neighbourhoods has sped up in Tunisia since 2011. The development of preventive housing public policy is thus central and the authority benefit from technical assistance designed to set up more adapted tools and plans.

- “ When you have neighbourhoods forgotten at the outskirts of the city, social stakes are very high. There are people who will feel excluded, ostracised, they will feel like they don't belong to the city. ”
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**Fethi Mansouri** - ex-Deputy Director General, ARRU

## MOVING FORWARD

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In a changing political and social environment, the authorities have started implementing participatory approaches in order to implicate the inhabitants in the decision process and ensure that the collective social equipment and infrastructure are adapted to their needs and will be used.



TOTAL PROJECT VALUE  
**EUR 249 MILLION** (INCLUDING EU CONTRIBUTION OF EUR 69 MILLION)

FUNDING SOURCE  
**EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD AND PARTNERSHIP INSTRUMENT (ENPI), EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD INSTRUMENT (ENI)**

TIMEFRAME  
**2013 – 2019**

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### PARTNERS

**AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT (AFD), EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (EIB), TUNISIAN REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF EQUIPMENT, REHABILITATION AGENCY AND RENEWAL**



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