Country Profile on Disability
Republic of Tunisia

August 2026

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

International Development Center of Japan Inc.

Koei Research & Consulting Inc.

HM
JR
26-073

This study was commissioned by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as "JICA") and conducted by the International Development Center of Japan Inc. and Koei Research & Consulting Inc. This report is based on an analysis of literature and online surveys conducted in Japan from December 2025 to August 2026, as well as online questionnaires completed by relevant organizations of the target country.

Country Profile on Disability
Republic of Tunisia
Table of Contents

1. Basic Profile 1
1-1. Basic Indicators 1
1-2. Definition of Disability and Indicators on Disability 2
2. Administration and Policy on Disability 5
2-1. Administration on Disability 5
2-2. Laws, Regulations and Policies on Disability 8
2-3. Measures on Disability 14
3. International Treaties and International Cooperation 23
3-1. Status of Implementation Following the Ratification of the CRPD 23
3-2. Status of Implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty 24
3-3. Initiatives on Disability Issues within SDG-related Policies 25
3-4. Ratification of and Initiatives regarding Other International Treaties related to Disabilities and Development 25
3-5. International Cooperation on Disability 26
4. Disability-related Organizations and Activities 30
4-1. Organizations of Persons with Disabilities 30
4-2. Disability Support Organizations 31
5. Barriers and Needs Faced by Persons with Disabilities 33
5-1. Barriers to and Needs regarding Healthcare Services 33
5-2. Barriers to and Needs regarding Education 33
5-3. Barriers to and Needs regarding Employment 33
5-4. Barriers to and Needs regarding Transportation 34
5-5. Barriers to and Needs regarding Information Access 34
5-6. Barriers and Needs regarding Gender 35
6. References 36

List of Figures

Figure 1 Percentage of Severe Functional Impairment (aged 5 and older) (2024) 3
Figure 2 Percentage of Persons with Disabilities by Age Group (aged 5 and older) (2024) 4
Figure 3 Percentage of Persons with Disabilities by Urban and Rural Areas (aged 5 and older) (2024) 4

List of Tables

Table 1 Entities Responsible for Disability Issues in Tunisia 5

Abbreviations

AMG	Assistance Médicale Gratuite	Free Medical Care
CBR	Community-based Rehabilitation	
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	
CNSS	Caisse Nationale de Sécurité Sociale	National Social Security Fund
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child	
ESCWA	UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	
IDA	International Disability Alliance	
ILO	International Labour Organization	
INS	Institut National de la Statistique	National Institute of Statistics
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	
OPD	Organization of Persons with Disabilities	
PNAFN	Programme National d'Aide aux Familles Nécessiteuses	National Program to Assist Needy Families
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals	
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	
UNPRPD	UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization	

1. Basic Profile

1-1. Basic Indicators[1]

Gross Domestic Product[2] per capita	USD 4,181.1	2024

Expenditures by Sector

Healthcare (% of GDP)	7.0 %	2022
Education (% of GDP)	6.7 %	2023
Social welfare (% of GDP)[3]	7.5 %	2015

Population

Total population	12,277,109	2024
Male (% of total population)	49.4 %	
Female (% of total population)	50.6 %	
Urban population (% of total population)	70.4 %	
Rural population (% of total population)	29.6 %	
Life expectancy at birth (total)	76.5 years	2023
Male	73.9 years	
Female	79.1 years	

Health

Prevalence of undernourishment (% of population)	3.0 %	2023
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	10.6	2023

Education

Education System[4]		
Primary Education	6 years	
Compulsory education	9 years	
Adult Literacy rate (total)	86.3 %	2023
Male	92.7 %	
Female	80.1 %	

[1] Based on the World Bank Database (https://data.worldbank.org/indicator (Accessed: 19 January 2026))

[2] Hereinafter referred to as "GDP."

[3] Excluding healthcare. Based on ILO (2024) World Social Protection Report, https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/WSPR_2024_EN_WEB_1.pdf (Accessed: 19 January 2026).

[4] The Tunisian education system consists of primary school (6 years), junior secondary school (3 years), senior secondary school (4 years), and university (3 years). Children begin school at age 6. Based on Republic of Tunisia (2002) Loi d'orientation de l'éducation et de l'enseignement scolaire (Loi n° 2002-80 du 23 juillet 2002), Ministry of Education and Training. https://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/sites/default/files/ressources/tunisia_loi_orientation.pdf (Accessed: 9 June 2026)).

School enrollment		
Primary (% gross) (total)	104.4 %	2023
Male	105.3 %	
Female	103.5 %	
Secondary (% gross) (total)	90.3 %	2016
Male	85.4 %	
Female	95.5 %	
Tertiary (% gross) (total)	38.1 %	2023
Male	27.4 %	
Female	49.4 %	

Employment

Unemployment (total)	16.2 %	2024
Male (% of male labor force)	13.8 %	
Female (% of female labor force)	21.9 %	

1-2. Definition of Disability and Indicators on Disability

1-2-1. Definition of Disability

In the Republic of Tunisia (hereinafter referred to as "Tunisia"), Article 2 of the Orientation Law on the Promotion and Protection of Persons with Disabilities (*Loi d'orientation n° 2005-83 du 15 août 2005, relative à la promotion et à la protection des personnes handicapées*), defines a person with a disability as "any person who has a permanent impairment of physical, mental, or sensory aptitudes and capacities, whether congenital or acquired, that limits their ability to perform one or more basic daily personal or social activities and reduces their chances of social integration."

1-2-2. Indicators on Disability

According to the State Party's Report submitted by the Government of Tunisia to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter referred to as "CRPD"), Tunisia has adopted the Washington Group Short Set on Functioning since the 2014 General Census of Population and Housing (*Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitat 2014*; hereinafter referred to as "Census"). In the 2024 Census conducted by the National Institute of Statistics (*Institut National de la Statistique*; hereinafter referred to as "INS") under the Ministry of Economy and Planning (*Ministère de l'Économie et de la Planification*), questions are asked regarding six functional domains (Seeing (*Vision*), Hearing (*Audition*), Walking (*Mobilité*), Concentrating, Self-caring (*Prendre soin*), and Communicating) using a four-level

scale: "No difficulty," "Some difficulty," "Significant difficulty," and “Impossible to do." Those who answered "Impossible to do" or "Significant difficulty" are classified as having a "severe functional impairment" (*Incapacité sévère*), and when combined with those who answered “Some difficulty” for either of these, they are classified as having a "functional limitation" (*limitations fonctionnelles*). In the statistical data shown below, "severe functional impairment" is rephrased as "persons with disabilities."

According to the 2024 Census, persons with disabilities accounted for 3.3% of the population aged 5 and older,[5] an increase of 1.1 % from 2.2% in 2014.

Number of Persons with Disabilities		3.3 % of population	2024
(aged 5 and older)	375,600	(aged 5 and older)	
Male	182,879		
Female	192,721		

Source: INS (2025) *Flash Handicap*[6]

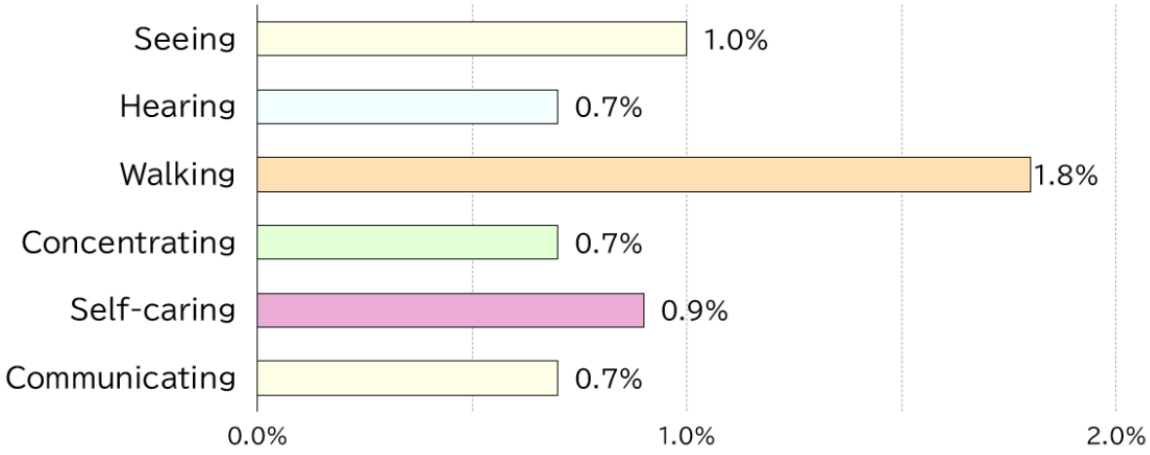


Figure 1 Percentage of Severe Functional Impairment (aged 5 and older) (2024)

“Walking” had the highest percentage at 1.8%, followed by “Seeing” at 1.0% and “Self-caring” at 0.9%. Meanwhile, the three categories of “hearing,” “concentrating,” and “communicating” all remained at the same level of 0.7%.

Source: Prepared by the study team based on INS (2025)

[5] The figures refer to persons with “severe functional impairment.” It is reported that 12.2% of the population has “functional limitations.”

[6] Preliminary report on the statistical survey of persons with disabilities based on the 2024 Census. https://www.ins.tn/publication/flash-handicap#:~:text=Flash%20Handicap%20%7C%20INS,Population (Accessed: 31 March 2026)

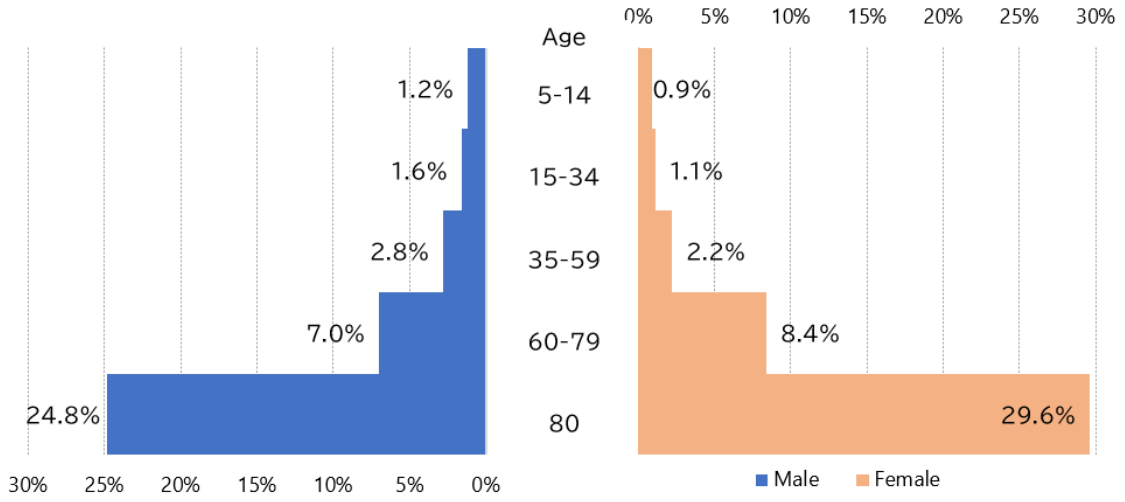


Figure 2 Percentage of Persons with Disabilities by Age Group (aged 5 and older) (2024)

The percentage of persons with disabilities increases among the older population for both sexes, reaching its highest level particularly among those aged 80 and over, at 24.8% for males and 29.6% for females. This is followed by the 60-79 age group, where the rate is 7.0% for males and 8.4% for females, indicating that the percentage of females exceeds that of males. In contrast, the percentage remains low for both sexes in the 5-14, 15-34, and 35-59 age groups.

Source: Prepared by the study team based on INS (2025)

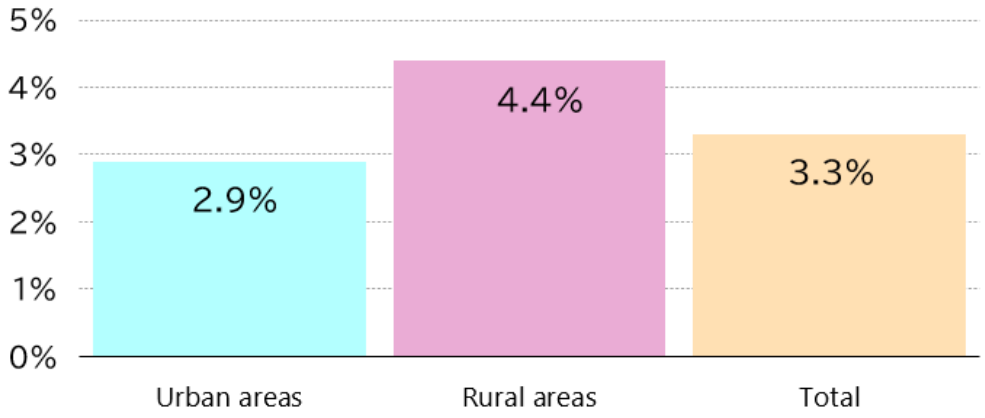


Figure 3 Percentage of Persons with Disabilities by Urban and Rural Areas (aged 5 and older) (2024)

The percentage of persons with disabilities is 2.9% in urban areas and 4.4% in rural areas, with rural areas significantly exceeding urban areas.

Source: Prepared by the study team based on INS (2025)

2. Administration and Policy on Disability[7]

2-1. Administration on Disability

Following the "state of emergency measures (*mesures exceptionnelles*)" (the concentration of power and cabinet reshuffle by President Kais Saïed) in July 2021, the Minister attached to the Office of the President responsible for relations with Constitutional Bodies, Civil Society and Human Rights (*Ministre chargé des Relations avec les instances constitutionnelles, la société civile et des droits de l'homme*) and the Special Committee on Persons with Disabilities and Vulnerable Social Groups (*Commission spéciale des handicapés et des catégories sociales vulnérables*) of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People were abolished.[8] Since then, the Committee on Health, Women's Affairs, Family, Social Affairs and Persons with Disabilities (*Commission de la santé, des affaires de la femme, de la famille, des affaires sociales et des personnes porteuses de handicap*), which is one of the standing committees (*Commission Permanente*), has been responsible for coordinating and making recommendations on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. Additionally, the Higher Committee on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (*Comité Supérieur des Droits de l'Homme et des Libertés Fondamentales*; hereinafter referred to as "CSDHLF") monitors the implementation of the CRPD.

<Central government>

Entities responsible for disability issues

Table 1 Entities Responsible for Disability Issues in Tunisia

No.	Name	Overview
1	Higher Committee on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (CSDHLF)	CSDHLF is an independent agency attached to the Office of the President whose mission is to defend fundamental freedoms. In accordance with the CRPD, it monitors the domestic human rights situation, and is responsible for making policy recommendations, conducting facility inspections, and handling complaints of rights violations.
2	Ministry of Social Affairs (*Ministère des Affaires Sociales*)	This Ministry bears overall responsibility for issues related to persons with disabilities. It manages facilities providing specialized education, care, and vocational training for

[7] Based on State Party's Report (2010), Periodic Report (2018) and UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereafter referred to as "UNPRPD") (2022) *Situational Analysis of the rights of persons with disabilities in Tunisia. Country Report*, https://unprpd.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Situation_Analysis_CountryBrief_Tunisia-6a4.pdf (Accessed: 2 April 2026)

[8] https://businessnews.com.tn/2026/02/12/le-parlement-annonce-la-composition-definitive-des-treize-commissions-permanentes/1388060/ (Accessed: 2 April 2026)

		persons with disabilities, and is in charge of issuing disability cards (*Carte de handicap*) that grant access to specific services. It is also responsible for managing the social welfare of persons with disabilities and operating the committees that review employment requests.
3	Ministry of Education (Ministère de l'Éducation)	This Ministry is responsible for formulating curricula and managing teaching staff for primary and secondary education. Through initiatives such as promoting inclusive education, establishing special classes, and providing reasonable accommodation during exams, it ensures the integration of students into mainstream schools and safeguards their right to education.
4	Ministry of Health (Ministère de la Santé)	Through its programs and agencies at the national/local levels, this Ministry plays a vital role in medical care, treatment, and the early diagnosis of disabilities.
5	Higher Institute of Specialized Education[9] (Institut Supérieur d'Éducation Spécialisée)	Under the joint jurisdiction of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and the Ministry of Social Affairs, this Institute conducts training and research on disabilities, and offers specialized education and vocational training programs for youth aged 12 to 15 with intellectual disabilities. Its prevention and rehabilitation department diagnoses and assesses disabilities, while also providing medical and psychological care to children with disabilities.

Status of Coordination Mechanism

Name of the mechanism	Committee on Health, Women's Affairs, Family, Social Affairs and Persons with Disabilities (*Commission de la santé, des affaires de la femme, de la famille, des affaires sociales et des personnes porteuses de handicap*)
Members	Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Members (10)
Roles and status of operation	As one of the Standing Committees of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People, this Committee is responsible for social security, public health, the status of the family, the protection

[9] Renamed from the Institute for the Promotion of Persons with Disabilities (*Institut de Promotion des Handicapés*) in 1992.

	of the rights of persons with disabilities, and issues regarding the supply of pharmaceuticals.

<Local government>

According to Tunisie Terre des Hommes, an NGO that advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities, following the amendment of the Law on Elections and Referendums (*Loi organique* No.2017-7), which mandates the inclusion of persons with disabilities on candidate lists, approximately 1,500 persons with disabilities ran as candidates in the May 2018 municipal elections. Out of these, 152 individuals (89 male and 63 female) were elected as municipal councilors, and three of them (two male and one female) were chosen as mayors (heads of municipal councils)[10].

Entities responsible for disability issues

Name	Overview
Regional Commission for Persons with Disabilities[11] (*Commission régionale des personnes handicapées*)	Established in each governorate (*Gouvernorat*). Chaired by the regional director of the Ministry of Social Affairs, the committee includes medical doctors, social workers (affiliated with the Ministry of Social Affairs), psychologists, physio or occupational therapists, and experts in vocational training and employment. Based on interviews with applicants and the results of field investigations, the commission makes collective decisions regarding the issuance of disability cards, the provision of assistive devices such as wheelchairs and prosthetics, placement in special education, and approval for admission to vocational rehabilitation centers.
Local Social Promotion Unit (*Unité Locale de Promotion Sociale*)	An administrative service window established in every municipality across the country. It is responsible for accepting applications for disability cards, reviewing eligibility for the social assistance program for low-income families (*Amen Social*), providing assistive devices, and referring individuals to rehabilitation facilities.
Regional Rehabilitation Unit (*Unité Régionale de Réhabilitation*)	Operating under the supervision of the Ministry of Health, one unit is established in each governorate as a regional hub. Through a multidisciplinary team, it provides medical and rehabilitation services to children with disabilities, while also offering guidance and counseling to their parents.

[10] Tunisie Terre des Hommes (2020) (INT/CRPD/CSS/TUN/42877/F)

[11] Its establishment was mandated by the Law No. 2005-83, and was operationalized by the decree (*Décret* No. 2005-3086).

2-2. Laws, Regulations and Policies on Disability

Article 23 of the 2022 Constitution[12] explicitly states, " Citizens, male and female, are equal in rights and duties. They are equal before the law without any discrimination." In addition, Article 54 stipulates, " The State is committed to prevent discrimination against persons with disabilities from any discrimination and will take all appropriate measures to secure their full integration into society."

Title	Orientation Law on the Promotion and Protection of Persons with Disabilities[13] (Law No.2005-83) (*Loi d'orientation relative à la promotion et à la protection des personnes handicapées*)
Year of enactment	2005 (Amended in 2016)
Overview	This Law represents Tunisia's first systematic legislation to comprehensively guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities in education, health, employment, and transportation. Establishing the integration of persons with disabilities into mainstream educational and training systems as a priority principle, it mandates the removal of barriers in public facilities and transportation, as well as the provision of fee exemptions and reductions across various public services through the issuance of disability cards. Through the 2016 amendment (*Loi* No. 2016-41), aimed at increasing the effectiveness of these rights, the statutory employment quota for both public and private establishments with 100 or more employees was raised from 1 % to 2 %. Additionally, it clarified the obligation of non-compliant enterprises to pay financial contributions.

Title	Decree on the Establishment of Regional Commissions for Persons with Disabilities, the Determination of Disability Criteria, and the Conditions for Issuing Disability Cards[14](Decree No. 2005-3086) (*Décret relatif à la création des commissions régionales des personnes handicapées, à la fixation des critères de handicap et aux conditions d'attribution de la carte de handicap*)

[12] https://legislation-securite.tn/latest-laws/decret-presidentiel-n-2022-691-du-17-aout-2022-portant-promulgation-de-la-constitution-de-la-republique-tunisienne/ (Accessed: 2 April 2026)
[13] https://inkyfada.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/loi200583.pdf (Accessed: 31 March 2026)
[14] https://www.social.gov.tn/fr/renouvellement-de-la-carte-d%E2%80%99handicap (Accessed: 2 April 2026)

Year of enactment	2005 (Amended in 2006)
Overview	Based on Law No.2005-83, this Decree established the Regional Commissions for Persons with Disabilities in each governorate, determined the medical criteria for disability assessment, and constructed the legal framework for issuing disability cards. The subsequent amendment in 2006 (*Décret* No. 2006-1859) complemented this by materializing specific rights, including the establishment of a three-tier grading system based on the severity of the disability, as well as the provision of free public transportation and the exemption or reduction of medical expenses.

Title	Decree on the Modalities of Application of the Provisions of Articles 28, 29, 31 and 32 of the Law No. 2005-83[15](Decree No. 2006-1477) (*Décret fixant les modalités d'application des dispositions des articles 28, 29, 31 et 32 de la loi d'orientation n° 2005-83*)
Year of enactment	2006
References to disabilities	Based on Law No. 2005-83, this Decree establishes the detailed rules for implementing accessibility in public transportation, telecommunications, and cultural facilities. It stipulates concrete measures, including the installation of priority seating, the development of accessible communication environments, and the provision of fare exemptions and reductions.

Title	Decree on the Technical Accessibility Standards to Facilitate the Movement of Persons with Disabilities within Public Buildings, Public Spaces, Community Facilities, Residential Complexes, and Private Buildings Open to the Public[16](Decree No. 2006-1467) (*Décret fixant les normes techniques d'accessibilité facilitant le déplacement des personnes handicapées à l'intérieur des bâtiments publics, des espaces, des équipements collectifs, des complexes d'habitation et des bâtiments privés ouverts au public*)
Year of enactment	2006
References to disabilities	When applying for a building permit, the standards for ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities are also subject to review by

[15] https://inkyfada.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/decret20061477.pdf (Accessed: 31 March 2026)
[16] http://www.btpnet.com/doc/Decret%20no%202006_1467%20du%2030_05_2006.fr.pdf (Accessed: 31 March 2026)

	the Ministry of Equipment and Housing.

Since 2024, the Assembly of People's Representatives has been deliberating on a new bill (*Projet de loi* No. 2024-71) that legally recognizes sign language as an official language and mandates its integration into education and public services[17].

Other major laws and regulations related to the rights of persons with disabilities include the following.

Title	Decree on the Creation and Organization of the AMEN Electronic Healthcare System for the Benefit of Poor and Limited-Income Groups Benefiting from the Amen Social Programme[18] (Decree No. 2022-919) (*Décret portant création et organisation du système de soins électronique AMEN au profit des catégories pauvres et des catégories à revenu limité bénéficiant du programme Amen Social*)
Year of enactment	2022
References to disabilities	This Decree integrated and digitized the medical assistance frameworks for poor and limited-income groups previously established under the 1998 Decrees (*Décret* No. 98-409 and No. 98-1812) into the Amen Social card system. Materializing the constitutional right to "free healthcare for those without sufficient resources" under Article 43 of the Constitution, it simplified the verification of eligibility by giving priority to disability card holders for digital registration.

Title	Law on the Creation of the "Amen Social" Programme[19] (Law No.2019-10) (*Loi portant création du programme "Amen Social"*)
Year of enactment	2019
References to disabilities	This Law integrated and modernized the previously separate National Programme of Assistance to Needy Families (*Programme National d'Aide aux Familles Nécessiteuses*) and Free Medical Assistance (*Assistance Médicale Gratuite*) into the unified "Amen

[17] https://news-tunisia.tunisienumerique.com/parliament-to-examine-proposal-to-recognize-sign-language/ (Accessed: 1 April 2026)
[18] https://natlex.ilo.org/dyn/natlex2/natlex2/files/download/114220/TUN-114220.pdf (Accessed: 2 April 2026)
[19] https://natlex.ilo.org/dyn/natlex2/natlex2/files/download/112234/TUN-112234.pdf (Accessed: 2 April 2026)

	Social" framework. By introducing targeted beneficiary selection through digital registration, it established a comprehensive and transparent social safety net designed to equitably deliver cash transfers and healthcare services to persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

Title	Organic Law on the Local Authorities Code[20] (Law No. 2018-29) (*Loi organique relative au Code des collectivités locales*)
Year of enactment	2018
References to disabilities	As an inherent power (Compétences propres) of local authorities, specific obligations regarding assistance for persons with disabilities are explicitly stated across multiple articles. Specifically, these include the provision of office equipment and facilities necessary for elected councilors with disabilities to execute their duties (Article 10), the consideration of assistance for persons with disabilities in formulating regional development plans (Article 106), the allocation of budgets for disability support initiatives (Articles 109 and 112), and the establishment of a standing committee addressing disability issues (Article 210).

Title	Organic Law Amending and Supplementing Organic Law No. 2014-16 on Elections and Referendums[21] (Law No. 2017-7) (*Loi organique modifiant et complétant la loi organique n° 2014-16 relative aux élections et aux référendums*)
Year of enactment	2017
References to disabilities	Article 49, Paragraph 11 stipulates, "Within the top ten names on each candidate list, at least one candidate must be a person with a physical disability who holds a disability card." Non-compliance with this condition results in the withholding of public financial subsidies. [22]

[20] https://legislation-securite.tn/latest-laws/loi-organique-n-2018-29-du-9-mai-2018-relative-au-code-des-collectivites-locales/ (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

[21] https://legislation-securite.tn/latest-laws/loi-organique-n-2017-7-du-14-fevrier-2017-modifiant-et-completant-la-loi-organique-n-2014-16-du-26-mai-2014-relative-aux-elections-et-aux-referendums/ (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

[22] Under the new electoral law (Decree-Law No. 2022-55) promulgated in September 2022, which transitioned the voting system to a direct vote for individual candidates, the disability quota in the form of mandatory inclusion on candidate lists no longer exists, rendering this provision practically obsolete. https://www.newarab.com/news/new-tunisia-electoral-law-excludes-disabled-people-ngo#:~:text=Tunisia's%20new%20electoral%20law%20'excludes,%2D%20and%20more%20able%20%2D%20candidates. (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

Title	Organic Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women[23] (Law No.2017-58) (*Loi organique relative à l'élimination de la violence à l'égard des femme*)
Year of enactment	2017
References to disabilities	Among the examples of vulnerable individuals at risk of becoming victims of violence, "persons with mental or physical disabilities who are in a state that makes it difficult to resist the perpetrator" are also included.

Title	Organic Law on the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons[24] (Law No. 2016-61) (*Loi organique relative à la prévention et la lutte contre la traite des personnes*)
Year of enactment	2016
References to disabilities	Among the examples of vulnerable individuals at risk of becoming victims of trafficking, "persons with intellectual or physical disabilities who are in a state that makes it difficult to resist the perpetrator" are also included.

Title	Code of Safety and Prevention of Risks of Fire, Explosion and Panic in Buildings[25] (Law No. 2009-11) (*Code de la sécurité et de la prévention des risques d'incendie, d'explosion et de panique dans les bâtiments*)
Year of enactment	2009
References to disabilities	Article 24, Paragraph 1 explicitly references persons with disabilities, stating: "In addition to general provisions, safety regulations for public facilities include specific regulations inherent to each category of building, determined according to the nature of the activity, the area of the facility, the architectural style, and the number of persons, including persons with disabilities, the building can accommodate."

[23] https://legislation-securite.tn/latest-laws/loi-organique-n-2017-58-du-11-aout-2017-relative-a-lelimination-de-la-violence-a-legard-des-femmes/ (Accessed: 31 March 2026)
[24] https://legislation-securite.tn/latest-laws/loi-organique-n-2016-61-du-3-aout-2016-relative-a-la-prevention-et-la-lutte-contre-la-traite-des-personnes/ (Accessed: 31 March 2026)
[25] https://legislation-securite.tn/latest-laws/loi-n-2009-11-du-2-mars-2009-portant-promulgation-du-code-de-la-securite-et-de-la-prevention-des-risques-dincendie-dexplosion-et-de-panique-dans-les-batiments/ (Accessed: 31 March 2026)

Title	Orientation Law on Education and School Instruction[26] (Law No. 2002-80) (*Loi d'orientation de l'éducation et de l'enseignement scolaire*)
Year of enactment	2002
References to disabilities	Article 4 explicitly states the obligation of the State to guarantee the right to education equally for all children, stipulating that the State must take necessary measures particularly to ensure that children with special needs can enjoy education under the same conditions as other students.

Disability Policies

Title	National Disability Training Strategy[27]
Years implemented	2024-2032
Overview	A comprehensive human resource development plan aimed at realizing the socio-economic inclusion of persons with disabilities. Focusing on the capacity building of experts and school assistants[28] (*Accompagnateur scolaire*), the Plan is driven by the introduction of digital training and financial assistance from the newly established Disability Promotion Fund. Aligned with the "Second Arab Decade for Persons with Disabilities," it was formulated with the support of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (hereinafter referred to as "ESCWA").

Title	National Development Plan[29] (*Plan de Développement*)
Years implemented	2023-2025
References to disabilities	Under the second axis, "Human Capital and Social Inclusion," of the Plan, persons with disabilities are explicitly designated as part of the "vulnerable groups" requiring prioritized support, with the goal of improving their quality of life and ensuring their social integration. As concrete measures, it comprehensively outlines improvements in access to public administration through digitization, the promotion of employment via specialized training, stricter compliance with

[26] https://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/sites/default/files/ressources/tunisia_loi_orientation.pdf (Accessed: 2 April 2026)
[27] https://www.unescwa.org/events/validation-national-disability-training-strategy-tunisia (Accessed: 2 April 2026)
[28] Specialized staff who support inclusive education, where all children learn together regardless of whether they have disabilities.
[29] https://www.ilboursa.com/marches/plan-de-developpement-2023-2025-le-gouvernement-envisage-d-investir-38-milliards-de-dinars_38598 (Accessed: 2 April 2026)

	employment quotas in both public and private sectors, and the enhancement of accessibility within educational environments.

Title	Tunis Pact on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[30] (*Pacte de Tunis des droits des personnes handicapées*)
Year of enactment	2014
Overview	A comprehensive roadmap that aligns with the CRPD and redefines the guarantees of education, employment, and accessibility as a state obligation. To operationalize Article 48 of the 2014 Constitution, the roadmap was adopted by the government and civil society under the auspices of the United Nations.

2-3. Measures on Disability[31]

1) Healthcare

Under Article 3 of the Orientation Law on the Promotion and Protection of Persons with Disabilities (Law No. 2005-83), the government is obligated to take all necessary measures to prevent and early detect disabilities, mitigate their effects, and provide medical and rehabilitation services.

Tunisia's healthcare and medical services for persons with disabilities transformed with the enactment of the Law on the Creation of the "Amen Social" Programme (Law No. 2019-10). This reform consolidated the previous Free Medical Assistance (*Assistance Médicale Gratuite*; hereinafter referred to as "AMG") framework, which had historically been divided into free healthcare for the poor (AMG1) and reduced-rate healthcare for low income groups (AMG2). Consequently, disability card holders are no longer limited to mere fee reductions; instead, as part of a multi-dimensional poverty reduction strategy, they are now eligible for an integrated package of services including a monthly allowance supplement for children with disabilities, the free provision of assistive devices, and early intervention services at specialized centers.

The recommendations for healthcare based on the Concluding Observations (2023) are as follows:

- Simplify administrative procedures for obtaining disability cards and accessing the social security system;

[30] https://www.babnet.net/cadredetail-93215.asp (Accessed: 2 April 2026)

[31] Based on State Party's Report (2010) and Periodic Report (2018). For information gathered from other sources, its source is indicated.

- Amend Decree No. 93 of the Code of Medical Ethics to ensure that persons with disabilities receive healthcare services based on their free will and informed consent;
- Conduct training for physicians and other healthcare professionals across the country, including in rural areas, on the rights of persons with disabilities; and
- Take adequate measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities can access all types of healthcare and rehabilitation services within their own communities without being forced to travel to urban areas.

2) Education

Under Article 3 of Law No. 2005-83, the education of persons with disabilities is established as a state obligation. Additionally, Article 4 stipulates that the State shall endeavor to integrate modules concerning disabilities, the characteristics of persons with disabilities, and their needs for social participation into education and training programs at the department and major levels of university and vocational education. In parallel, Article 4 of the Orientation Law on Education and School Instruction (Law No. 2002-80) explicitly states the obligation of the State to guarantee the right to education equally for all children, stipulating that the State must take necessary measures, particularly to ensure that children with special needs can enjoy education under the same conditions as others.

The National Programme for the School Integration of Children with Disabilities (*Programme national d'Intégration Scolaire des Enfants Handicapés*), launched in the 2003/04 school year, aimed to guarantee the right to education and promote the social inclusion of students with disabilities by integrating them into mainstream schools through the establishment of integrative schools (*écoles intégratives*) and the introduction of Individualized Education Plans (*Projets Éducatifs Individualisés*). While integration into mainstream schools progressed, the programme faced challenges such as insufficient teacher training, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of coordination among stakeholders.[32]

Starting in the 2012/13 school year, the revised Inclusive Education Plan (*Plan rénové d'inclusion scolaire*) was launched to bring about a qualitative shift from the physical integration of students with disabilities to high-quality learning (inclusion). From the 2019/20 school year, enrollment in mainstream schools became the norm for children with disabilities aged 6 to 9, making progress towards inclusion at the primary education level.[33] However, data from 2020 indicated that the schooling status of children with disabilities (aged 6 to 12)

[32] UNICEF (2014) *Tunisie Rapport National Sur Les Enfants Non Scolarisés* https://www.unicef.org/mena/media/6671/file/Tunisia%20Country%20Report%20on%20OOSC_FR.pdf%20.pdf (Accessed: 2 April 2026)

[33] UNESCO (2020) *Global Education Report 2020 – Inclusion, Tunisia* https://education-profiles.org/fr/afrique-du-nord-et-asie-occidentale/tunisie/~inclusion (Accessed: 2 April 2026)

remained a significant challenge, with 16,496 students enrolled in the Specialized Education Centers (*Centre d'Éducation Spécialisée*) under the Ministry of Social Affairs, compared to only 4,439 in mainstream schools.[34]

Based upon the achievements and challenges of these past initiatives, the National Inclusive Education Programme (*Programme National d'Inclusion Scolaire*) was launched in 2026. The cornerstone of this initiative is public funding for School Life Assistants (*Auxiliaire de Vie Scolaire*), a role that previously relied on individual contributions from parents or volunteer labor.[35] By hiring these assistants as professionals through the budget of the Ministry of Social Affairs, and overhauling the system to provide comprehensive support, ranging from learning support, mobility, and personal care (such as toileting) within schools, thereby aiming to standardize "the effective quality of learning" nationwide, independent of a family's financial circumstances.[36]

The recommendations for education based on the Concluding Observations (2023) are as follows:

- Amend the legislation governing the education of students with disabilities to recognize their right to inclusive education and to eliminate all environmental barriers that prevent educational inclusion;
- Adopt a unified programme with specific targets and indicators to ensure individualized support and the provision of reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities;
- Increase budget allocations for educational inclusion and institutionalize procedures for the request and provision of reasonable accommodation;
- Review the role of the Regional Commissions for Persons with Disabilities so that they are responsible not only for assessment but also for the identification and provision of necessary individualized support; and
- Phase out segregated special education centers and progressively transform them into resource centers for inclusion.

3) Gender

Tunisia ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (hereinafter referred to as "CEDAW") in 1985. Upon ratification, the State party

[34] UNPRPD (2022)

[35] While there appears to be a conceptual continuity with the school assistants mentioned at the National Disability Training Strategy 2024–2032 in Section 2-2, this survey was unable to find any documentation confirming that they are identical.

[36] https://news-tunisia.tunisienumerique.com/tunisia-launches-strong-measures-to-boost-the-inclusion-of-students-with-disabilities-in-schools/#google_vignette (Accessed: 2 April 2026)

entered numerous reservations, specifically targeting clauses on family law and inheritance due to concerns regarding compatibility with Islamic law (Sharia). However, following the Tunisian Revolution in January 2011, movements toward advancing women's rights accelerated, leading to the formal withdrawal of all specific reservations in April 2014. Through this action, Tunisia became one of the Arab world's pioneering nations to fully embrace international standards on women's rights.

Article 46 of the 2014 Constitution explicitly guarantees "the protection, reinforcement, and promotion of women's acquired rights," "equal opportunities for men and women in all fields," "the realization of gender parity in elected councils," and "the eradication of violence against women."[37] In June 2018, the Government of Tunisia approved the National Action Plan for Gender Integration and Institutionalization (*Plan d'Action National pour l'intégration et l'institutionalisation du genre*) 2016-2020, prioritizing the amendment of laws with discriminatory content, the promotion of women's participation in economic, political, and administrative life, and the improvement of women's literacy rates, particularly in rural areas. Additionally, under the Organic Law on the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons (Law No. 2016-61) and the Organic Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women (Law No. 2017-58), persons with mental or physical disabilities who are in a state that makes it difficult to defend themselves are categorized as vulnerable, and harsher penalties for crimes committed against such individuals are imposed.

The recommendations for the gender based on the Concluding Observations (2023) are as follows:

- Establish specific rules and protocols, including procedural accommodations, to enable women with disabilities to report abuse and facilitate their access to justice;
- Implement training for personnel responsible for supporting women and girls with disabilities who are victims of violence, to ensure the provision of adequate care;
- Systematize the collection of statistical information on cases of violence against women and girls with disabilities, organizing data to enable effective monitoring and follow-up;
- Take measures to ensure the representation and participation of women and girls with disabilities in all forums discussing women's issues, in particular within the Council of Peers for Equality and Equal Opportunities of Women and Men; and
- Guarantee the full participation of women with disabilities in economic, political, and administrative life.

[37] Article 51 of the 2022 Constitution contains the same provision.

4) Vocational Training and Employment

Article 26 of Law No. 2005-83 prohibits the denial of employment based on disability for individuals who meet the criteria required for the position. The law was amended in 2016 to reflect the recommendations from the Concluding Observations of the CRPD's first cycle, raising the quota for persons with disabilities in annual civil service recruitment from 1 % to 2 % (Article 29). It also mandated that private enterprises with 50 to 99 employees must employ at least one person with a disability, while those with 100 or more employees must meet a 2 % quota (Article 30). Additionally, the law established provisions to exempt or reduce the employer's share of social security contributions (*Caisse Nationale de Sécurité Sociale*; hereinafter referred to as "CNSS") for private enterprises employing persons with disabilities, while applying tax incentives for expenses related to vocational training, and improvements to workplace and housing accessibility (Article 34).

The Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training (*Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Formation Professionnelle*) administers the Contract for Initiation into Professional Life (*Contrat d'Initiation à la Vie Professionnelle*) through its attached National Agency for Employment and Self-Employment [38] (*Agence Nationale pour l'Emploi et du Travail Indépendant*) to upgrade professional skills through training for up to 12 months and facilitate integration into the labour market. Under this framework, the National Agency for Employment and Self-Employment provides interns with a monthly stipend of 200 TND (Tunisian Dinars), while enterprises are required to provide interns with a minimum of 150 TND per month. For interns with disabilities, the government subsidy is increased by an additional 50 TND per month.

Additionally, for higher education degree holders entering their first employment, the Dignity Contract[39] (*Contrat-dignité*) programme guarantees a minimum monthly salary of 600 TND for two years from the date of recruitment, with the State subsidizing 400 TND of this amount. For individuals with disabilities, this subsidy period is extended to three years, and the State also covers the employer's share of CNSS.

In public vocational training centers operated by the Tunisian Agency for Vocational Training[40] (*Agence Tunisienne de la Formation Professionnelle*), a 3 % quota is reserved for persons with disabilities. Additionally, students with disabilities participating in vocational training receive a monthly scholarship of 60 TND from the Amen Social programme.

Under the 2025 Finance Act, when persons with disabilities start businesses or self-employment, they become eligible to borrow up to 10,000 TND interest-free from the

[38] https://www.emploi.gov.tn/fr/116/agence-nationale-pour-lemploi-et-le-travail-independant (Accessed: 2 April 2026)
[39] https://paie-tunisie.com/412/fr/167/reglementations/contrat-karama.aspx (Accessed: 2 April 2026)
[40] https://www.emploi.gov.tn/fr/49/agence-tunisienne-de-la-formation-professionnelle (Accessed: 2 April 2026)

National Employment Fund, with a maximum repayment period of eight years and a two-year grace period before repayment begins.[41]

The 2026 Finance Bill envisions the creation of the Disability Promotion Fund (*Fonds de Promotion des Personnes Handicapées*), funded by financial contributions from non-compliant enterprises with employment quotas, to provide specialized support for the employment, startup, and workplace modification of persons with disabilities.[42]

The recommendations for vocational training and employment based on the Concluding Observations (2023) are as follows:

- Take appropriate measures to enforce compliance with the laws on the employment of persons with disabilities, in particular Law No. 2005-83, including more effective sanctions for employers who violate those laws;
- Secure, with the active participation of OPDs, the development of efficient policies and programmes for the inclusion of persons with disabilities on the open labour market;
- Develop protection measures for persons with disabilities from employers in the informal sector, where they are subjected to precarious and unlawful working conditions; and
- Adopt legislative and policy measures to improve accessibility to assistive technical and vocational guidance and training for persons with disabilities, increasing their employability on an equal basis with others.

5) Social Security, Social Service for Persons with Disabilities

Under Article 3 of Law No. 2005-83, guaranteeing medical and rehabilitation services and social benefits for persons with disabilities is explicitly mandated as a state obligation. However, Tunisia does not possess a social security system designed exclusively for persons with disabilities.

The social security system for workers is divided into the National Pension and Social Insurance Fund[43] (*Caisse Nationale de Retraite et de Prévoyance Sociale*) for civil servants, and the National Social Security Fund[44] (CNSS) for the private sector. For workers with disabilities and their families, these funds provide benefits such as disability pensions (*Pension d'invalidité*), subsidies for rehabilitation expenses, and low-interest social loans.

Economically vulnerable individuals are covered under the Amen Social programme

[41] https://news-tunisia.tunisienumerique.com/tunisia-interest-free-loans-to-boost-employment-for-people-with-disabilities/ (Accessed: 2 April 2026)
[42] https://www.mosaiquefm.net/fr/national-tunisie/1511114/prelevement-de-1-pour-le-fonds-des-personnes-handicapees (Accessed: 2 April 2026)
[43] https://www.cnrps.nat.tn/ (Accessed: 31 March 2026)
[44] http://www.cnss.tn/fr/ (Accessed: 31 March 2026)

established in 2019. Under this framework, disability card holders are eligible for supplements to their cash transfers (ranging approximately from 20 to 50 TND per month) alongside free or reduced-cost medical care at public hospitals.[45]

The recommendations for social security and social services based on the Concluding Observations (2023) are as follows:

- Set up an effective system of social protection, which ensures minimum levels of economic security and access to basic support services, including disability-related costs;
- Put practical measures in place to ensure that persons with disabilities, in particular women and children with disabilities, including those living in rural areas, have access to appropriate, accessible and affordable mainstream social programmes and services, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and
- Mainstream disability into poverty reduction strategies.

6) Transportation and Urban Development (including accessible urban planning)

Based on Law No. 2005-83, the Government of Tunisia has promoted accessibility initiatives by issuing the Decree on the Technical Accessibility Standards to Facilitate the Movement of Persons with Disabilities within Public Buildings, Public Spaces, Community Facilities, Residential Complexes, and Private Buildings Open to the Public (Decree No. 2006-1467) and the Decree on the Modalities of Application of the Provisions of Articles 28, 29, 31 and 32 of the Law No. 2005-83 (Décret No. 2006-1477).

Specifically, these include investments in projects to develop residential areas, schools, and stations, as well as the renovation of the reception area at the Ministry of the Interior (*Ministère de l'Intérieur*). Additionally, the Ministry of Transport and Logistics (*Ministère du Transport et de la Logistique*) is drafting an amendment to the Aviation Act to align it with European Union (EU) standards,[46] which will explicitly mandate priority treatment for passengers with disabilities. Domestically, airlines and maritime shipping companies have already established operational procedures for passengers with disabilities, covering measures such as assistance requests upon booking, priority service during check-in and boarding, the allocation of appropriate seating, and the provisioning of assistive devices.

In addition to the above, in cooperation with the International Disability Alliance (IDA), the government has established six Regional Rehabilitation Units (*Unité Régionale de Réhabilitation*) that meet global criteria for facilitating accessibility to fundamental services for persons with disabilities.

[45] https://www.social.gov.tn/fr/promotion-sociale-0 (Accessed: 2 April 2026)
[46] As of March 2026, the amendment has not yet been enacted.

The recommendations for transportation and urban development based on the Concluding Observations (2023) are as follows:

- Put in place strong measures to ensure the enforcement of the provisions of accessibility laws, in particular Decree No. 2006-1467, and impose sanctions for non-compliance;
- Promote awareness-raising and training for professionals in the construction sectors regarding the barriers faced by persons with disabilities and the appropriate measures to remove them;
- Promote active participation and close consultation and dialogue with persons with disabilities, through OPDs, in assessing the implementation of accessibility laws and the technical standards adopted;
- Review the public procurement of transport facilities and ensure that the specifications include accessibility criteria; and
- Carry out regular national accessibility studies and surveys, in close consultation with and active participation of persons with disabilities through OPDs, to identify gaps and make recommendations to overcome them.

7) Information Accessibility

The Government of Tunisia has established provisions regarding access to information sources and the media for persons with disabilities in the Decree on the Modalities of Application of the Provisions of Articles 28, 29, 31 and 32 of the Law No. 2005-83 (Décret No. 2006-1477). Additionally, the 2013 Order of the Minister of Information Technology and Communications includes specific provisions concerning "services for persons with special needs," mandating the installation of dedicated entrances or the placement of support staff when such structural modifications are not feasible.

To ensure wider dissemination of the CRPD, the Ministry of Social Affairs, along with other government agencies, has provided the full text of the Convention in Sign Language and recorded an audio version for persons with visual impairments.

The Virtual University of Tunis (*Université Virtuelle de Tunis*), in cooperation with *Union Nationale des Aveugles de Tunisie* (UNAT), implemented a pilot program comprising six modules on media and internet education for students with disabilities, fully compliant with internationally recognized digital accessibility standards.

The recommendations for information accessibility based on the Concluding Observations (2023) are as follows:

- Establish accessibility standards for information and communication media and technologies, as well as websites, in line with universal standards, and include digital accessibility in the various accessibility and digital transformation action plans;
- Urge the media to increase the presence of sign language interpretation in all television programmes; and
- Provide important public information in Braille, Easy Read, and other augmentative communication formats.

8) Disaster Risk Management

Based on the Decree on the Technical Accessibility Standards to Facilitate the Movement of Persons with Disabilities within Public Buildings, Public Spaces, Community Facilities, Residential Complexes, and Private Buildings Open to the Public (Decree No. 2006-1467), the Ministry of Equipment and Housing strives to protect persons with disabilities from potential hazards, promote their integration into daily life, ensure that they are able to access public and private buildings—such as shops, leisure facilities, service centers, or housing—and facilitate their movement within those buildings.

Additionally, Article 24, Paragraph 1 of the Code of Safety and Prevention of Risks of Fire, Explosion and Panic in Buildings (Law No. 2009-11) stipulates that, in addition to the general provisions applicable to all types of buildings, safety measures for public buildings must include provisions regarding function, size, design, and capacity, including capacity to accommodate persons with disabilities.

The recommendations for disaster risk management based on the Concluding Observations (2023) are as follows:

- Put in place strategies and policies that guarantee inclusion and accessibility in disaster risk reduction and management, and ensure that information on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies is developed in accessible formats and languages and reaches all members of the community, including persons with disabilities;
- Ensure the active participation of persons with disabilities and organizations of persons with disabilities (hereinafter referred to as "OPD") at all stages of comprehensive strategies, plans, and procedures relating to disaster risk reduction and humanitarian emergencies; and
- Provide regular and effective training for rescue and emergency response personnel, incorporating a human rights-based, age- and disability-inclusive perspective.

3. International Treaties and International Cooperation

3-1. Status of Implementation Following the Ratification of the CRPD[47]

The Government of Tunisia ratified the CRPD and its Optional Protocol on April 2, 2008. It submitted the State Party's Report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on July 1, 2010 (submission deadline was May 2, 2010). The Committee presented a List of Issues on October 8, 2010, and the government submitted its Replies to LOI on February 18, 2011. On May 13, 2011, the Committee adopted its Concluding Observations[48].

During the combined second and third review cycles, the Committee presented a List of Issues prior to reporting on August 31, 2017, and the government submitted its Combined Periodic Report to the Committee on September 4, 2018 (the submission deadline was April 2014[49]). Regarding parallel reports, one was submitted by Tunisie Terre des Hommes[50] in 2020, and anotherwas submitted by l´Organisation Tunisienne de Défense des Droits des Personnes Handicapées (hereinafter referred to as "OTDDPH")[51] in 2023. The Committee adopted its Concluding Observations on March 13, 2023.

The 2023 Concluding Observations commend the adoption of the following laws and policies aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities.

- The establishment of a committee by the Ministry of Social Affairs to follow up on the concluding observations adopted by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2011;
- The establishment of the Council of Peers for Equality and Equal Opportunities of Women and Men, by Government Decree No. 626 in 2016;
- The establishment of the National Commission for the Coordination, Preparation and Submission of Reports and Follow-up to Recommendations on Human Rights, established pursuant to Government Order No. 1593 in 2015, as amended by Government Order No. 663 in 2016;
- The establishment of the Parliamentary Committee for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities and Vulnerable Groups; and
- The adoption of Law No. 41 providing for the employment of persons with disabilities in both the public and private sectors in 2016.

[47] https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Countries.aspx (Accessed: 29 March 2026)
[48] During the first cycle, no parallel reports were submitted by civil society organizations.
[49] This was because the political turmoil following the Tunisian Revolution in January 2011 necessitated a prolonged period to reconstruct the social system.
[50] A Joint report with Association Tunisienne des Femmes Démocrates (ATFD) and Association IBSAR pour la culture et les loisirs des personnes en situation de handicap.
[51] A Joint report with l'Association pour la Protection des Psychotiques et Autistes Infantiles (APPAI) and l´Association Tunisienne pour le Développement et l´Inclusion (TADI).

On the other hand, the Committee recommends that the State party take urgent measures regarding the following matters:

- Awareness-raising: Ensure that persons with disabilities, including women and children, through OPDs, are effectively and meaningfully involved in the formulation of policies, as well as in the design, implementation, and monitoring of awareness-raising programmes and action plans. Additionally, make the distribution status of the CRPD outreach materials public, and involve persons with disabilities in both their development and distribution;
- Equal recognition before the law: Review all laws that uphold guardianship and substituted decision-making, and replace such provisions with ones that uphold supported decision-making and individual autonomy. Additionally, repeal Law No. 2008-66 on the facilitation of transactions for persons with motor disabilities (*Loi portant assouplissement des transactions des personnes porteuses d'un handicap moteur*), and replace with a law that establishes the principles of autonomy, privacy, and independence of persons with disabilities in their administrative and financial transactions; and
- Participation in political and public life: Extend the incentives for persons with disabilities, currently limited to municipal elections, to all elections. Ensure accessibility provisions at polling stations and guarantee access to political information. Facilitate and ensure the participation of persons with disabilities at all levels of decision-making, planning, implementation, and monitoring regarding elections.

3-2. Status of Implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty

The Government of Tunisia ratified the Marrakesh Treaty on September 7, 2016. The primary legislation on copyright is the Law on Literary and Artistic Property[52], which was enacted in 1994 and subsequently amended in 2009. It has not been amended since 2009 , and the alignment of domestic legislation following treaty ratification has been delayed.

The national agency in charge of copyright is the Organisme Tunisien des Droits d'Auteur et des Droits Voisins[53], established in 2013. In the participant list of the ABC Global Book Service[54], led and operated by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), three Tunisian organizations are registered: Bibliothèque nationale de Tunisie, Loisirs et Cultures pour les Non et Malvoyants, and Association braille pour l'éducation et la culture.

[52] *Loi No. 2009-33 du 23 juin 2009, modifiant et complétant la Loi No. 94-36 du 24 février 1994, relative à la propriété littéraire et artistique*

[53] http://www.otdav.tn/index.php/fr/ (Accessed: 29 March 2026)

[54] https://www.accessiblebooksconsortium.org/globalbooks/en/ (Accessed: 29 March 2026)

3-3. Initiatives on Disability Issues within SDG-related Policies

Regarding progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (hereinafter referred to as "SDGs"), the Government of Tunisia published its second Voluntary National Review in 2021. The report identified several challenges, including a lack of reliable statistical data on persons with disabilities, which creates difficulties in the practical application of laws and regulations, particularly in accessibility and employment, as well as insufficient monitoring systems and corrective or punitive measures for violations of legal provisions.[55]

According to the SDGs indicator database of the United Nations Statistics Division,[56] Tunisia reports only one of the indicators related to persons with disabilities: "1.3.1 (d), "Proportion of population with severe disabilities receiving disability cash benefit." This figure improved from 5.1% in 2015 to 12.4% in 2021.

3-4. Ratification of and Initiatives regarding Other International Treaties related to Disabilities and Development

The status of Tunisia's ratification of international treaties related to disability and development is as follows:

September 1985: Ratification of CEDAW

September 1989: Ratification of the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention (International Labour Organization Convention No. 159, 1983)

January 1992: Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child[57] (hereinafter referred to as "CRC")

In its Concluding Observations adopted in June 2021,[58] the CRC Committee recommended that, in order to improve the education and welfare of children with disabilities, the Government of Tunisia align domestic legislation with the human rights model of disability, build a systematic data collection and evaluation system, adopt national policies to expand specialized medical services, enhance social assistance for parents and caregivers, promote inclusive education, and implement awareness-raising activities.

In its Concluding Observations adopted in March 2023,[59] the CEDAW Committee

[55] https://www.tunisiaodd.tn/rnv-2021/ (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

[56] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/ (Accessed: 29 March 2026)

[57] Similar to its approach with CEDAW, Tunisia initially entered numerous reservations upon ratification—specifically targeting clauses on non-discrimination, birth registration and naming, and juvenile justice—but formally withdrew all specific reservations in September 2008.
https://treaties.un.org/Pages/showActionDetails.aspx?objid=0800000280201115&clang=_en (Accessed: 29 March 2026)

[58] United Nations (2021) *CRC Concluding observations on the combined fourth to sixth periodic reports of Tunisia* (CRC/C/ TUN/CO/4-6)
https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2FC%2FTUN%2FCO%2F4-6&Lang=en (Accessed: 29 March 2026)

[59] United Nations (2023) *CEDAW Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report Tunisia* (CEDAW/C/ TUN/CO/7)

recommended that the Government of Tunisia remove all barriers and introduce temporary special measures to ensure that women and girls with disabilities have access to basic services tailored to their needs, including access to justice, inclusive education, healthcare (including sexual and reproductive health services), and transportation.

According to a direct request from the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations in 2024,[60] the Government of Tunisia has established a framework to promote the employment of persons with disabilities, including reserving a 3 % quota in public vocational training, imposing a 2 % mandatory employment quota on private enterprises with 100 or more employees, and ensuring a 2 % quota for national civil service recruitment. However, as these statutory quotas have not been fully met, many persons with disabilities remain in informal or low-wage employment, and there are concerns over inequality in training opportunities. Therefore, the Committee requested the government to provide more detailed information.

3-5. International Cooperation on Disability[61]

- The Government of Japan[62]

<Loans>

・ Social Protection Strengthening Project (2023)[63]

<Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects>

・ Project for the Construction of an Extension for the Center for Persons with Physical Disabilities in Ksar Djedid (2025)[64]
・ Project for the Renovation of Equipment at the Therapeutic Farm for Persons with Disabilities in Sidi Thabet (2022)[65]

---

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2FC%2FTUN%2FCO%2F7&Lang=en (Accessed: 29 March 2026)

[60] https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNTRY_ID:4413042,102986 (Accessed: 31 March 2026)

[61] Achievements after 2016 are listed. Project names are listed exactly as they appear in the original text. However, this does not apply in cases where there is no English name or the English name is unknown.

[62] Based on Cabinet Office Japan (2016-2025) *Annual Report on Government Measures for Persons with Disabilities (White Paper on Persons with Disabilities*, Japan International Cooperation Agency (2025) *Aiming for a world where all people benefit: Initiatives for "Disability and Development*" [In Japanese] and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2016-2025) List of Exchange of Notes by Country and Fiscal Year,
https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/region/africa/tunisia/exchange.html (Accessed: 30 March 2026)

[63] The purpose of this Project is to support the appropriate expansion of target households eligible for social security, thereby strengthening the system and contributing to the improvement of living conditions for the poor and vulnerable, as well as promoting social development and economic stability.
https://www.jica.go.jp/oda/project/TS-P41/index.html (Accessed: 30 March 2026)

[64] Construct and develop a facility branch for persons with physical disabilities at the Beni Khedache branch of the Association Générale des Insuffisants Moteurs.
https://www.tn.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_00569.html#20250123 (Accessed: 30 March 2026)

[65] Renovate the equipment at the attached farm of "El Sanad" disability support facility to enable the implementation of farm therapy, thereby providing a better therapeutic environment and promoting social participation.
https://www.tn.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_00411.html#20230712 (Accessed: 30 March 2026)

- Project for the Provision of a Minibus for the Support Center for Children with Autism in Monastir (2021)[66]
- Project for the Provision of a Minibus and Rehabilitation Equipment for Persons with Disabilities in Ben Guerdane (2021)[67]
- Project for the Provision of a Minibus for Persons with Disabilities in Tunis (2020)[68]
- Project for the Provision of a Minibus for the Facility for Persons with Disabilities in Beni Khedache (2019)[69]

• Other development partners

<International organizations>

World Bank

- Tunisia Social Development Promotion Support Project[70] (2021-2026)
- Tunisia Social Protection Reforms Support Project[71] (2013-2019)

UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD)

- For a better access of Persons with Disabilities to services and rights in Tunisia[72] (2021-2024)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)[73]

- Provided a monthly additional disability allowance of 20 TND (Tunisian Dinars) to 7,350 children with disabilities in 2024.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

[66] Provide a school minibus for children with autism at Association Tunisienne de Promotion de la Santé Mentale. https://www.tn.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/development_00001.html (Accessed: 30 March 2026)

[67] Procure a school minibus and rehabilitation equipment for children with disabilities at the Ben Guerdane branch of Union Tunisienne d'Aide aux Insuffisants Mentaux.
https://www.tn.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/development_00001.html (Accessed: 30 March 2026)

[68] Equip the Tunisian Paralympic Committee with a minibus dedicated to transporting persons with disabilities for their sports and adaptive physical activities.
https://www.tn.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_00043.html (Accessed: 30 March 2026)

[69] Provide a 30-seater school minibus to the Beni Khedache branch of Association Générale des Insuffisants Moteurs.
https://www.tn.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_00043.html (Accessed: 30 March 2026)

[70] Focusing on reinforcing direct cash transfers to low-income households and persons with disabilities in the post-pandemic era, alongside the digitization of the social welfare system, the project successfully realized rapid cash distribution to approximately 900,000 households and established the National Disability Fund.
https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/099031026105517065 (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

[71] Executed with a primary focus on building an infrastructure to eliminate duplication and enhance transparency within the social protection system, the project completed the centralized "AMEN" cash transfer system, which consolidated the beneficiary data of one million individuals.
https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/442871468120253733 (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

[72] With the participation of UNDP, UNICEF, OHCHR, and UNFPA, the programme advanced the alignment of domestic legislation with the CRPD, the expansion of healthcare and protection services for women with disabilities, and the creation of inclusive education guidelines, thereby institutionalizing person-with-disability-led policymaking and social participation.
https://globaldisabilityfund.org/programme/tunisia-2/ (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

[73] 2024 UNICEF *Tunisia Annual and Partnership Report* https://www.unicef.org/tunisia/rapports/2024-unicef-tunisia-annual-and-partnership-report (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

- We Decide[74] (2016-)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

- Promotion of the Social and Solidarity Economy and Creation of Decent Jobs for Tunisian Youth[75] (*Promotion de l'Economie Sociale et Solidaire et Création d'Emplois Décents pour la Jeunesse Tunisienne*) (2019-2025)

European Union (EU)

- For Access to Employment for Persons with Disabilities in Tunisia[76](*Pour l'accès à l'emploi des personnes handicapées en Tunisie*) (2014-2017)

<Bilateral aid agencies>

Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

- Project for Preventing Disability in Early Childhood in the Maghreb[77](*Prévenir le handicap de la petite enfance au Maghreb*) (2023-2026)
- Social Resilience and Economic Inclusion Programme[78] (*Programme de résilience sociale et d'inclusion économique*)(2022-)

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

- For an Independent Life[79](*Pour une Vie Indépendante*) (2024-2026)

---

[74] The program centers on out-of-school sex education for youth, improving access to sexual and reproductive health services, and preventing and responding to gender-based violence, and is implemented with the active participation of women with disabilities and youth.
https://www.unfpa.org/data/transparency-portal/unfpa-tunisia, https://www.unfpa.org/wedecide (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

[75] A project funded by EU. Out of approximately 3,600 jobs created across seven local governorates, persons with disabilities accounted for approximately 8 %.
https://www.ilo.org/projects-and-partnerships/projects/jeun%E2%80%99ess-promotion-social-and-solidarity-economy-and-creation-decent-jobs (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

[76] Implemented by Humanity & Inclusion and other partner organizations, the project supported the employment of approximately 1,000 persons with disabilities through the placement of specialized advisors at the National Agency for Employment and Self-Employment, accessibility subsidies for private enterprises, and individual skills training.
https://jamaity.org/project/pour-lacces-a-lemploi-des-personnes-handicapees-en-tunisie/#:~:text=Le%20projet%20%C2%AB%20Pour%20l'acc%C3%A8s%20%C3%A0%20l'emploi,renforcement%20de%20la%20coh%C3%A9sion%20sociale%20et%20territoriale%2C (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

[77] Implemented through the French NGO Santé Sud, the project promotes the prevention of disabilities and the mitigation of their severity by strengthening systems for early diagnosis and care targeting infants and children under six years of age, capacity building for experts, and awareness-raising for families.
https://www.afd.fr/fr/projets/prevenir-le-handicap-de-la-petite-enfance-au-maroc-et-en-tunisie#:~:text=Le%20projet%20port%C3%A9%20par%20l'ONG%20Sant%C3%A9%20Sud,m%C3%A9dico%2Dsociales%20publiques%20au%20Maroc%20et%20en%20Tunisie. (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

[78] Co-financing for a multi-donor trust fund led by the World Bank. The funds are allocated to the program to support the economic self-reliance of the poor, limited-income, and persons with disabilities (startup support and grant assistance), established by the Ministry of Social Affairs in 2022.
https://www.afd.fr/fr/commmuniques-de-presse/acces-leau-emploi-inclusion-le-groupe-afd-soutient-la-tunisie-au-service-de (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

[79] Implemented by the Italian NGO AIFO and other partner organizations. The project builds environments enabling individuals to lead community-based lives by their own will, through the deployment of personal assistants, accessibility modifications, and employment support via corporate partnerships in the Kasserine governorate and other regions.
https://aifointernational.tn/2026/02/26/inclusion-et-autonomie-projet-puvi-lhistoire-dimen/#:~:text=L'inclusion%20des%20personnes%20en%20situation%20de%20handicap,le%20monde%20du%20travail%20et%20encourageant%20un (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

- Cooperation with the International Center for the Promotion of Persons with Disabilities (*Centre International de Promotion des Personnes Handicapées*)[80] (2023)
- A project to support the implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[81] (2016-)

German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)

- Boosting the Rights of Individuals with Disabilities in Africa: BRIDGE Africa[82] (2024-2026)
- Regional Development Initiative[83] (*Initiative pour le Développement Régional*) (2016-2023)

<International NGO>

Humanity & Inclusion[84]

- Execution of the EU-funded project "For Access to Employment for Persons with Disabilities in Tunisia"
- Creating employment opportunities for persons with disabilities through economic inclusion projects
- Promoting care and social participation for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Providing technical support to victims of gender-based violence and ensuring compliance with national legislation

Santé Sud

- Implementation of the AFD-funded "Project for Preventing Disability in Early Childhood in the Maghreb"

[80] https://www.social.gov.tn/fr/la-coop%C3%A9ration-tuniso-italienne-dans-le-domaine-social-au-centre-de-la-rencontre-entre-le-ministre#:~:text=La%20ministre%20italienne%20du%20handicap%2C%20Alessandra%20Locatelli,lit%2Don%20dans%20un%20communiqu%C3%A9%20du%20minist%C3%A8re%20des (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

[81] https://allafrica.com/stories/201502261020.html#:~:text=Tunisia%2C%20Italy%20Sign%20MOU%20to,%C2%A9%202015%20Tunis%20Afrique%20Presse. (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

[82] Targeting African countries including Tunisia, the project supports the ratification and implementation of the African Disability Protocol, the capacity building of OPDs, the empowerment of women and youth, and comprehensive accessibility improvements. https://www.giz.de/en/projects/boosting-rights-individuals-disabilities-africa-bridge-africa#:~:text=Context,through%20networking%2C%20events%20and%20training. (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

[83] A regional development support program targeting interior regions. It implemented the renovation and equipment upgrading of Regional Rehabilitation Units, alongside the qualitative improvement of medical and welfare services for children with disabilities. https://www.giz.de/en/projects/initiative-regional-development#:~:text=The%20initiative%20focuses%20on%20the,in%20two%20fields%20of%20action: (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

[84] https://www.hi.org/en/country/tunisia#:~:text=Actions%20in%20process,laws%20that%20protect%20their%20rights. (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

4. Disability-related Organizations and Activities

4-1. Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

Name of Organization	Overview of Activities
Organisation Tunisienne de Défense des Droits des Personnes Handicapées (OTDDPH) https://otddph.org/	Founded in 2011, OTDDPH defines persons with disabilities not as mere objects of assistance, but as active protagonists who claim their own rights and drive social change, conducting policy advocacy and awareness-raising activities directed at the government. Placing a strong emphasis on economic independence, it has supported the entrepreneurship and employment promotion of approximately 1,500 persons with disabilities. Its board of directors is entirely composed of persons with disabilities.
Union Nationale des Aveugles de Tunisie (UNAT) https://www.facebook.com/p/Union-Nationale-des-Aveugles-de-Tunisie-UNAT-100075859689945/	Founded in 1956, UNAT operates 23 local branches across the country and runs professional training centers specializing in Braille education, therapeutic massage, and telephone operation. Supported by government subsidies, it acts dynamically as a delegated agency for public services to support the independence and social reintegration of persons with visual impairments.
Association Voix du Sourd de Tunisie (AVST) https://www.facebook.com/Ass.Voix.Sourd.Tunisie/	Founded in 1983. AVST is an organization dedicated to advocating for the rights of persons with hearing impairments and their social participation. It actively engages in highly specialized awareness-raising campaigns, including lobbying for the recognition of sign language as an official language, introducing sign language interpreters in medical facilities, providing gender equality education, and making recommendations to improve accessibility.
Association IBSAR pour la culture et les loisirs des personnes en situation de handicap https://www.ibsar.com.tn/	Founded in 2012. IBSAR focuses on accessibility, social inclusion, and equitable access to basic services for persons with visual impairments. Its proven track record of supporting the elected councilors with disabilities, providing information in sign language and

	Braille, advocating for the reproductive health rights of women with disabilities, and inviting international artists with disabilities.
Association Tunisienne d'Accessibilité aux Personnes Handicapées (ATAPH) https://www.facebook.com/ATAPH.TN/	Founded in 2012, ATAPH is an OPD that promotes accessibility in public facilities, transportation, and information. Through technical recommendations to improve the physical environment and awareness-raising initiatives, it aims to realize independent mobility and full social participation for persons with disabilities.

4-2. Disability Support Organizations

Name of Organization	Overview of Activities
Fédération des Associations Tunisiennes œuvrant dans le domaine du Handicap (FATH) https://jamaity.org/association/federation-des-associations-tunisiennes-oeuvrant-dans-le-domaine-du-handicap/	Founded in 1986, FATH is the country's largest disability support platform, anchoring approximately 300 support organizations dedicated to the education and rehabilitation of children with disabilities. By supporting the operation of around 310 specialized education centers under its umbrella and coordinating approximately 3,800 professional staff members, it serves as the primary window for allocating government subsidies and coordinates closely with international organizations.
Union Tunisienne d'Aide aux Insuffisants Mentaux (UTAIM) http://www.utaim.planet.tn/	Founded in 1967, UTAIM is a public utility organization aimed at the social integration of persons with intellectual disabilities. It operates special schools and vocational training centers at more than 80 locations nationwide, while also conducting early detection and family support services.
Association Tunisienne d'Assistance aux Sourds (ATAS) https://www.facebook.com/p/ATAS-Association-Tunisienne-dAide-Aux-Sourds-section-Manouba-100070813209532/	Founded in 1970. ATAS is a public organization under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Affairs. Through more than 20 local branches across the country, it provides early speech therapy, educational support, and vocational training for persons with hearing impairments, thereby supporting the social reintegration and independence of individuals from infants to adults. The organization also has a proven

	track record of hosting JICA volunteers.
Association Générale des Insuffisants Moteurs (AGIM) https://www.facebook.com/groups/481296888569527/	Founded in 1972, AGIM is a public utility organization that supports the independence of persons with physical disabilities. Across its approximately 20 centers nationwide, it provides physiotherapy, rehabilitation, and vocational training in areas such as sewing and IT to thousands of individuals annually. It has received continuous support from Japan through the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects and the dispatch of JICA volunteers.
Association des Parents et Amis des Handicapés de Tunisie (APAHT) https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61582691711833&locale=fr_FR#	Founded in 1985, APAHT operates 22 centers across the country, providing approximately 1,500 children with intellectual disabilities with adaptive education, including literacy and numeracy, as well as vocational training in areas such as painting, agriculture, and cooking. It also places a strong emphasis on emotional and character education through theater and art. It has received support from Japan through the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects and the dispatch of JICA volunteers.
Association Tunisienne des Femmes Démocrates (ATFD) https://atfd-tunisie.org/	Founded in 1989, ATFD operates with the objective of promoting gender equality, human rights, and social justice. It focuses intensively on eradicating discrimination and violence against women with disabilities by strengthening policy advocacy and expanding access to educational and vocational training opportunities.

5. Barriers and Needs Faced by Persons with Disabilities[85]

5-1. Barriers to and Needs regarding Healthcare Services

According to OTDDPH, disparities in healthcare services across regions are pronounced, and there is a shortage of diagnostic medical services and specialized healthcare professionals, particularly in rural areas. This forces persons with disabilities living in rural areas to travel to large cities or the capital, causing increased healthcare costs and accessibility difficulties. Additionally, although free or reduced-cost care is conditional on obtaining a disability card and affiliating with the social security system, many persons with disabilities are unable to enjoy their rights due to complicated administrative procedures and a lack of information.[86]

5-2. Barriers to and Needs regarding Education

According to the UNPRPD report, children with disabilities are primarily registered in special education facilities of the Ministry of Social Affairs and are excluded from the regular education system for which the Ministry of Education is responsible. Segregated education restricts the opportunities for persons with disabilities to be included in general society, and they cannot obtain a valid certification even after completing the special education course.[87]

According to OTDDPH, very little progress has been made in the education of students with disabilities because the legislation requires the child to adapt to the educational environment. The number of students attending special education centers far exceeds those mainstream schools.[88]

According to Tunisie Terre des Hommes, educational opportunities for students with disabilities are severely restricted, and there is a shortage of special education facilities and resources. Infrastructure development in educational institutions and professional training for teachers is insufficient, and an inclusive education strategy is necessary to ensure that persons with disabilities receive an education on an equal basis.[89]

5-3. Barriers to and Needs regarding Employment

According to the ESCWA report, 91% of employers consider providing reasonable accommodation to be difficult or expensive, and perceive that integrating persons with intellectual disabilities is the most challenging. Around 86% of persons with disabilities face

[85] Based on the parallel reports by Tunisie Terre des Hommes (2020) and OTDDPH (2023), and UNPRPD (2022). For information gathered from other sources, its source is indicated.
[86] OTDDPH (2023) (INT/CRPD/CSS/TUN/51952/E)
[87] UNPRPD (2022)
[88] OTDDPH (2023)
[89] Tunisie Terre des Hommes (2020)

difficulties that limit their ability to fully access workplaces, and 69% have difficulty accessing information related to job postings. Additionally, although 87% express a desire to work, 52% have been actively seeking employment for more than six months, and 91% faced challenges such as discriminatory treatment and negative attitudes during their job search.[90]

According to OTDDPH, the unemployment rate among persons with disabilities has reached 40%, which is significantly higher than the general unemployment rate of 15.4%. Due to the lack of reasonable accommodation in the workplace and the non-enforcement of laws concerning the employment of persons with disabilities, they are frequently excluded from the labor market and continue to be forced to rely on low-wage labor in the informal sector.[91]

According to the UNPRPD report, persons with disabilities have limited opportunities to receive education in mainstream vocational training institutions. This decreases their competitiveness in the labor market and restricts their employment opportunities. Additionally, the failure to recognize their legal capacity remains a major obstacle to their access to their rights and to equality.[92]

5-4. Barriers to and Needs regarding Transportation

According to OTDDPH, although persons with disabilities can use public transportation for free or at reduced rates, they still face difficulties because accessibility is not sufficiently ensured. Additionally, most public facilities and service delivery institutions lack reasonable accommodations for persons with physical, visual and hearing impairments.[93]

According to Tunisie Terre des Hommes, most public transportation and urban infrastructure are not accessible to persons with disabilities, restricting their freedom of movement. 95% of buses and subways are not compliant with the needs of persons with disabilities, and efforts to improve the accessibility of sidewalks and public facilities remain insufficient. Consequently, persons with disabilities face major difficulties in their daily lives and social participation.[94]

5-5. Barriers to and Needs regarding Information Access

According to OTDDPH, although laws relating to access to information exist, the websites of most public and private institutions do not meet digital accessibility standards, making it difficult for persons with visual and hearing impairments to obtain information. The lack

[90] ESCWA (2024) *Integrating Persons with Disabilities into the Labour Market in Tunisia: Opportunities and Challenges. https://www.unescwa.org/sites/default/files/pubs/pdf/integrating-persons-disabilities-labour-market-tunisia-opportunities-challenges-english.pdf* (Accessed: 2 April 2026)
[91] OTDDPH (2023)
[92] UNPRPD (2022)
[93] OTDDPH (2023)
[94] Tunisie Terre des Hommes (2020)

of reasonable accommodation constitutes a cause of discrimination, and legal development is required.[95]

According to the UNPRPD report, because sign language is not recognized as an official language, it is difficult for persons with hearing impairments to obtain information, and braille or audio information for persons with visual impairments is rarely provided. Additionally, information provision in easy-to-read language for persons with intellectual disabilities is also lacking, worsening the information gap.[96]

5-6. Barriers and Needs regarding Gender

According to Tunisie Terre des Hommes, women with disabilities face a high risk of encountering violence and discrimination, and there is a critical need to strengthen the support framework and legal protection for victims of violence. The Organic Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women (Law No. 2017-58) lacks specific support measures tailored for women with disabilities, and further initiatives are required to improve the situation where women with disabilities face double discrimination.[97]

According to the UNPRPD report, women and girls with disabilities often have their sexual and reproductive rights restricted due to social and cultural norms and face a high risk of being victims of sexual violence. Violence occurs frequently, particularly in public transportation, and cases have been reported where parents perform sterilization on their daughters with disabilities without consent. In response to these issues, the National Family and Population Board (*Office National de la Famille et de la Population*)—which falls under the Ministry of Health and bears responsibility for sexual and reproductive health services—not only lacks the capacity to support them but also lacks the norms and standards to ensure that services and information are accessible to persons with disabilities.[98]

[95] OTDDPH (2023)
[96] UNPRPD (2022)
[97] Tunisie Terre des Hommes (2020)
[98] UNPRPD (2022)

6. References

Gouvernement Tunisien, Union Tunisienne de l'industrie, du commerce et de l'artisanat (UTICA), Union Générale Tunisienne du Travail (UGTT), International Labour Organization (ILO) (2017) *Le contrat social: un exemple innovant de Programme par Pays pour le Travail Décent (PPTD) pour la Tunisie 2017-2022*.

Government of Tunisia (2019) *CRPD Combined second and third periodic reports submitted by Tunisia under article 35 of the Convention, due in 2018* (CRPD/C/TUN/ 2-3)

Gouvernement Tunisien (2021) *Tunisie : Rapport National Volontaire 2021 sur le suivi et la mise en œuvre des Objectifs de Developpement Durable 2030*.

United Nations (2021) *CRC Concluding observations on the combined fourth to sixth periodic reports of Tunisia* (CRC/C/TUN/CO/4-6)

United Nations (2023) *CEDAW Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report Tunisia* (CEDAW/C/TUN/CO/7)

United Nations (2023) *CRPD Concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of Tunisia* (CRPD/C/TUN/CO/2-3)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (2014) *Tunisie Rapport National Sur Les Enfants Non Scolarisés*.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) (2024) *Integrating Persons with Disabilities into the Labour Market in Tunisia: Opportunities and Challenges*.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (2020) *Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report: Inclusion-Tunisia*.

United Nations Partnership for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) (2022) *Situational Analysis of the rights of persons with disabilities in Tunisia. Country Report*.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (2021) *Country Profile on Disability: Republic of Tunisia* [In Japanese].

<Web Information>

Institut National de la Statistique (INS) (2025) *Flash Handicap*. https://www.ins.tn/publication/flash-handicap#:~:text=Flash%20Handicap%20%7C%20INS,Population (Accessed: 31 March 2026)

Cabinet Office Japan (2016-2025) *Annual Report on Government Measures for Persons with Disabilities (White Paper on Persons with Disabilities)*, https://www8.cao.go.jp/shougai/english/index-e.html (Accessed: 26 March 2026)

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (2025) *Aiming for a world where all people benefit: Initiatives for "Disability and Development"* [In Japanese], https://www.jica.go.jp/publication/pamph/ku57pq00002iqnxw-tt/disability_and_development.pdf (Accessed: 26 March 2026)