

Cities Alliance

Cities Without Slums

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National Federation of Tunisian Municipalities (FNCT)

Created in 1976, the National Federation of Tunisian Municipalities (FNCT) represents the interests of Tunisian municipalities. 300 of them, out of 350, are members of the Federation. The FNCT provides technical assistance that strengthens the capacities of municipalities in the context of decentralised development and cooperation.

Over the past three years, the Federation has undergone a substantial reform process. Since the general assembly in 2020, the organisation has expanded its mandate, articulated a new democratic governance structure, elected a new president, and appointed new executive and administrative committees. The latter determines the strategic orientation of the FNCT and guarantees its good functioning and its alignment with the municipal mandate, the missions, and the interests of the municipalities.

Under the new mandate, the Federation puts great emphasis on empowering members to navigate and drive the decentralisation and local development processes.



© Photo credit: FNCT

"Thanks to the training, I have learnt how to prepare project concept notes and submit them for funding opportunities. It has also become easier for us to prepare investment projects. I'm now in regular contact with colleagues from other municipalities to exchange on the challenges we face and discuss solutions."

Mohamed Salah, Technical Director, Municipality of Beja

Project results and impact



Component 1: Strategic urban development planning institutionalised and scaled up

1. The CDS was adopted as the key local development planning tool in 8 cities
2. Established a pool of experts, mentors, and a peer-to-peer learning Network on Territorial Development Planning with 20 member municipalities
3. Generated knowledge resources and created an online repository available to municipalities



IMPACT:

- 80+ representatives of national and local authorities, and civil society, improved their skills in the areas of participatory planning, municipal finance and project development.

"It's been the first time we have installed LED streetlights. Before, children were scared to go home after school when it was dark along the street. Now they feel much safer, and the shops have more visitors. The overwhelmingly positive feedback of the residents of this neighbourhood encouraged us to extend the LED lights to more areas."

Leila Zina, Municipality of Msaken



Component 2: Strengthened institutional capacities of the National Federation of Tunisian Municipalities

1. Well-staffed and empowered FNCT teams with improved skills in administrative and financial management, procurement, technical advisory and project design
2. Created a corporate contact database of municipal stakeholders and service providers
3. Scaled-up geographic coverage throughout the country
4. Established a welcoming workshop space for municipalities as a place for exchange, debate, and learning



IMPACT:

- Enhanced role and strength of the FNCT as technical assistant provider and advocator of municipal interests
- Acquired experience and skills now benefit other projects.

"Through the project, we were able to test our new rules and procedures. A rigorous and transparent procurement mechanism proved to be the backbone for the success of our quick-win projects. As a result, many of our municipal partners have been able to improve their own procurement processes, so that more projects can be implemented than before"

Leila Bel Haj Rhouma, Administrative and Financial Director of FNCT



Component 3: The City Development Strategy put into action

1. 8 projects implemented from the CDS directly responding to citizen needs
2. Prioritisation and co-creation workshops with civil society and local authorities
3. City staff trained on project design, financing and project execution and monitoring



IMPACT:

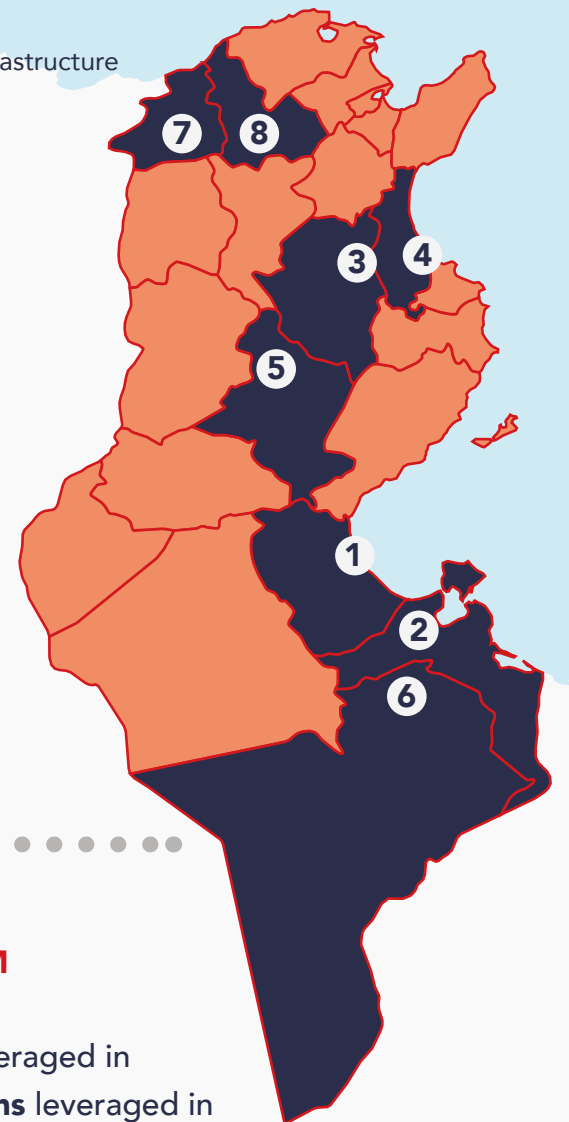
- 470,000 beneficiaries of improved public infrastructure and services through city investment projects:

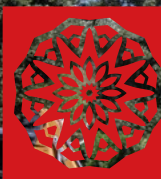
- 1 A new waterfront esplanade for the inhabitants and visitors of **Gabes**
- 2 An inclusive urban park in **Medenine**
- 3 Energy-efficient LED street lighting in a disadvantaged neighbourhood of **Msaken**
- 4 Energy-efficient LED street lighting in two strategic traffic sites of **Kairouan**
- 5 A citizen space in **Sidi Bouzid** is expected to treat over 10,000 citizen requests per year
- 6 A well-equipped public gym in the centre of **Tataouine**
- 7 Improving the stormwater drainage system in **Jendouba**
- 8 An inclusive neighbourhood park in **Beja**



COLLECTIVE IMPACT RESULTING FROM THE 3 COMPONENTS:

- Leveraged funding: over **\$250,000** leveraged in co-financing from the cities, **\$10 millions** leveraged in follow-up funding to FNCT (from EU and SDC), and **\$3 millions** leveraged to strategic city planning across Tunisia
- Improved relationships and greater trust between municipalities and their citizens and civil society
- Enhanced multi-level cooperation between the national government, local authorities, and the National Federation of Tunisian Cities





Institutionalising participatory city planning and management in Tunisia's secondary cities

With technical and financial support from Cities Alliance and financial support from the Swiss State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SECO), the FNCT implemented the "CDS-ACT" project (2019-2022) that strengthened, institutionalised and scaled-up participatory urban development planning and management in Tunisia. This was the first donor-funded project to be entirely managed by FNCT itself.

The project has made significant contributions to strengthening the FNCT's role as a technical support facility and advocacy platform for Tunisian municipalities. Throughout the project, the FNCT improved internal management processes, expanded, and deepened its thematic expertise areas, and was able to extend the services offered to its members and enhance its advocacy role vis-à-vis national development stakeholders.

The project contributed to FNCT becoming a central actor in Tunisia's decentralisation process, enabling it to lead large decentralised cooperation projects independently. As a result, the Federation has secured about \$10 million of multi-year funding from the European Union and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).



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