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Urban Projects
Finance Initiative

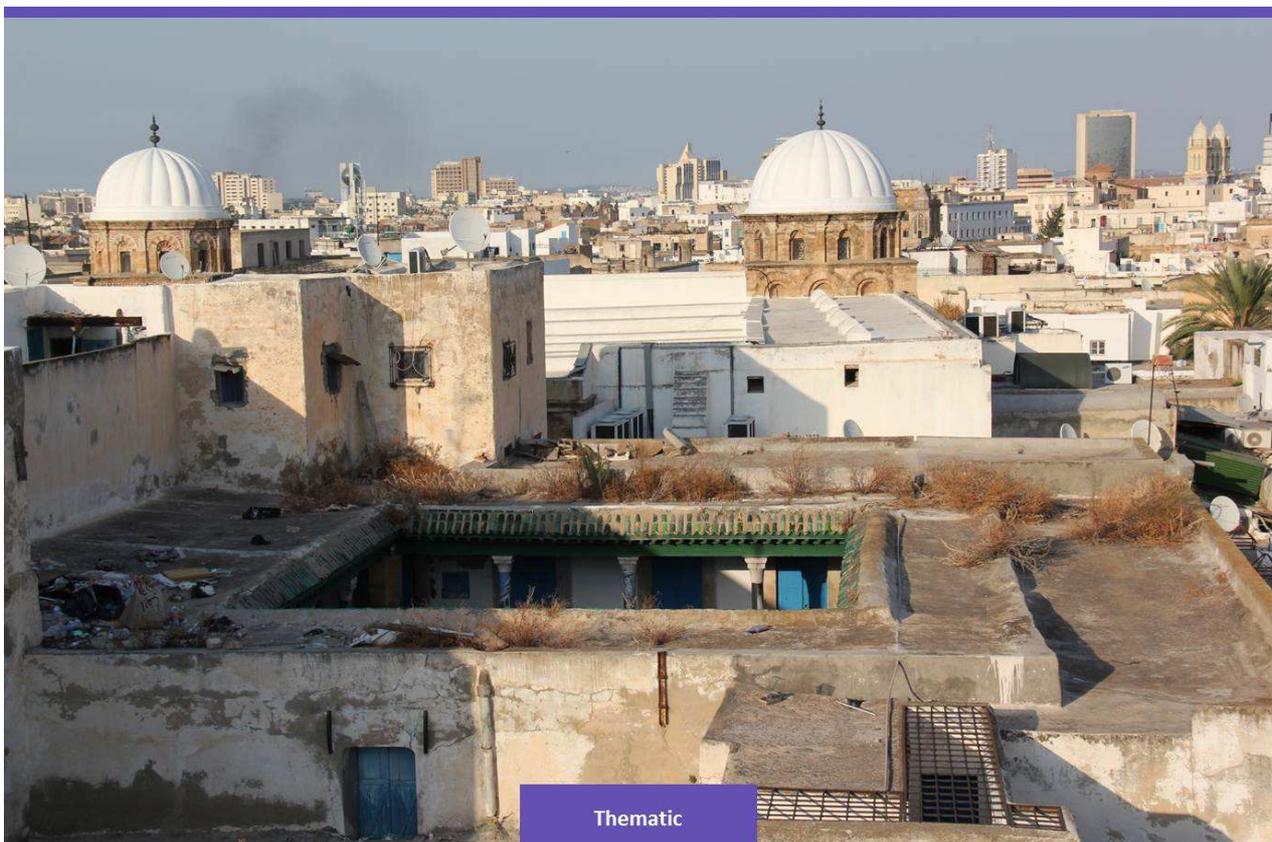
May
2018



UPFI News

UPFI, supporting sustainable urban project initiatives in the Mediterranean

Re-inventing the approach for Tunisia, a country in transition



The UPFI and actions in ‘popular neighbourhoods’ in the Mediterranean: improving access to basic urban infrastructure and services and supporting socio-economic development

Focus: Tunisia - developing a new approach for a country in transition

The cities of the southern shores of the Mediterranean are in a state of constant urban evolution. Working class or ‘popular’ neighbourhoods multiply as a result, due in particular to the fact that they are at the heart of population movements (migratory flows, rural exodus) and due to their robust demographic growth. Mediterranean popular neighbourhoods come in various forms and are found in central as well as peripheral urban areas, in new cities or run-down historic centres. In spite of their varied form and location within the urban space, popular areas share certain common characteristics: urban precariousness (lack of infrastructure and urban services, complex land tenure, run-down buildings), economic and social precariousness (prevalence of informal activities, impoverishment, unemployment) and precariousness in the face of climate change and environmental risks.

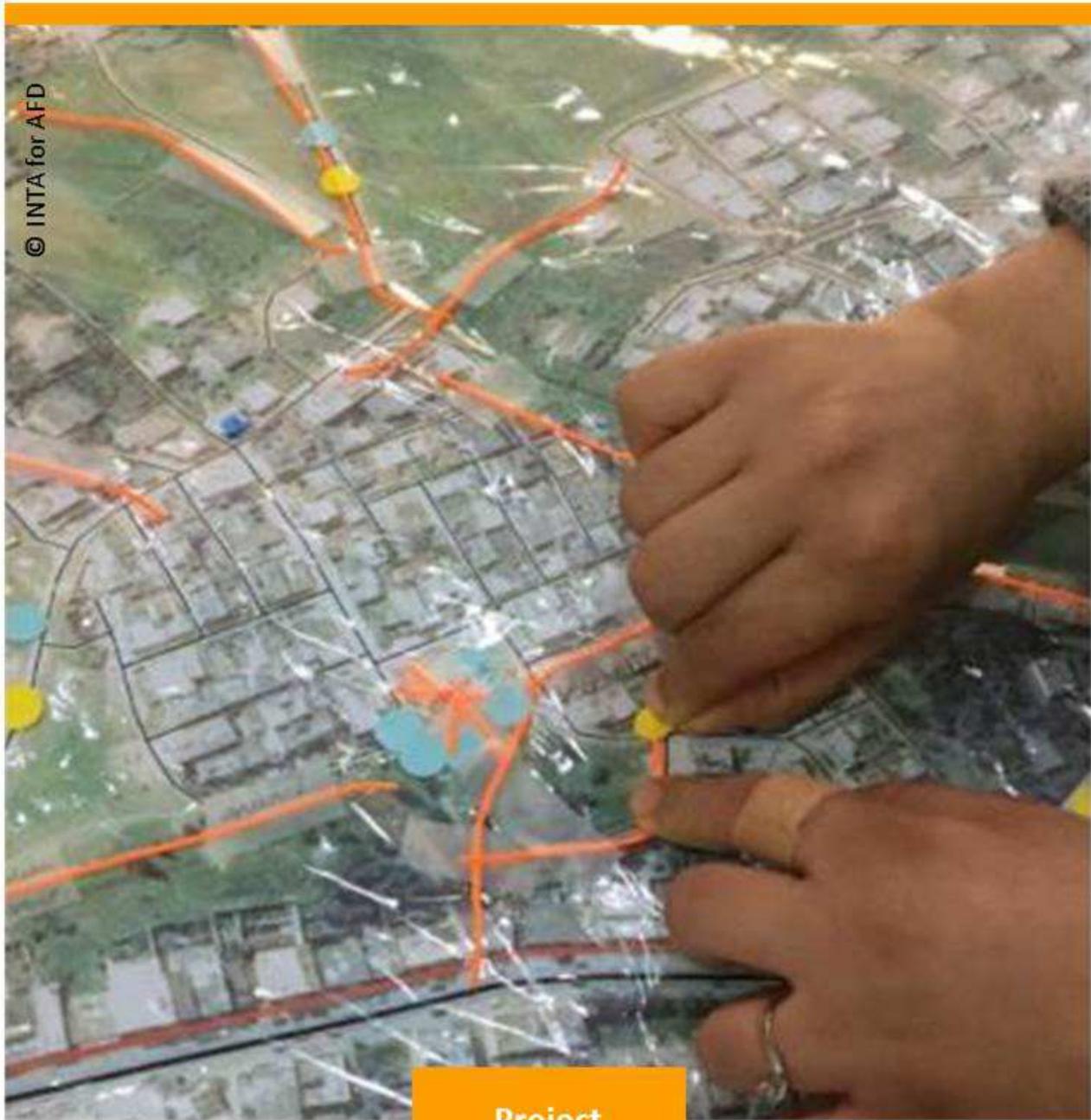
These common elements allow us to reflect on how to intervene in such neighbourhoods, with the objectives to i) improve the population’s access to basic infrastructure and services in these neighbourhoods; ii) reintegrate these neighbourhoods into the city and its urban planning; and iii) stimulate socio-economic development in these urban areas.

The UPFI initiative supports national and local project promoters in identifying, preparing, and conducting these specific operations in popular neighbourhoods. The UPFI and its partners focus their support on strengthening the capacities of local counterparts in the design and implementation of urban projects in popular neighbourhoods, in particular in developing a participatory approach. By encouraging dialogue and consultation with the beneficiary populations prior to the design and during the implementation of projects, interventions will make it possible to better achieve the objectives set, to respond to actual needs on the ground and to ensure proper ownership of projects and actions in these neighbourhoods.

The UPFI has identified several interventions in popular neighbourhoods in its beneficiary countries. We propose a spotlight on two types of popular neighbourhoods: informal settlements and historic centres.

- [Phase 2 of the Programme de Réhabilitation et d’Intégration des Quartiers d’Habitation or PRIQH 2](#), which targets popular neighbourhoods across Tunisia.
- The [programme for the rehabilitation of historic centres in Tunisia](#), currently in the identification and conception phase.

Find out more →



Project

Towards a more qualitative urban

rehabilitation programme in the context of Tunisia's transition towards decentralisation

Like the majority of Mediterranean urban growth, 'working class' or 'popular' neighbourhoods have developed strongly and spontaneously on the urban periphery of Tunisia's cities. Suffering from a lack of access to basic services and facilities, these neighbourhoods are a symbol of Tunisia's large social and territorial inequalities. Since the 1980s, they have been the subject of successive programmes aimed at upgrading infrastructure and public amenities.

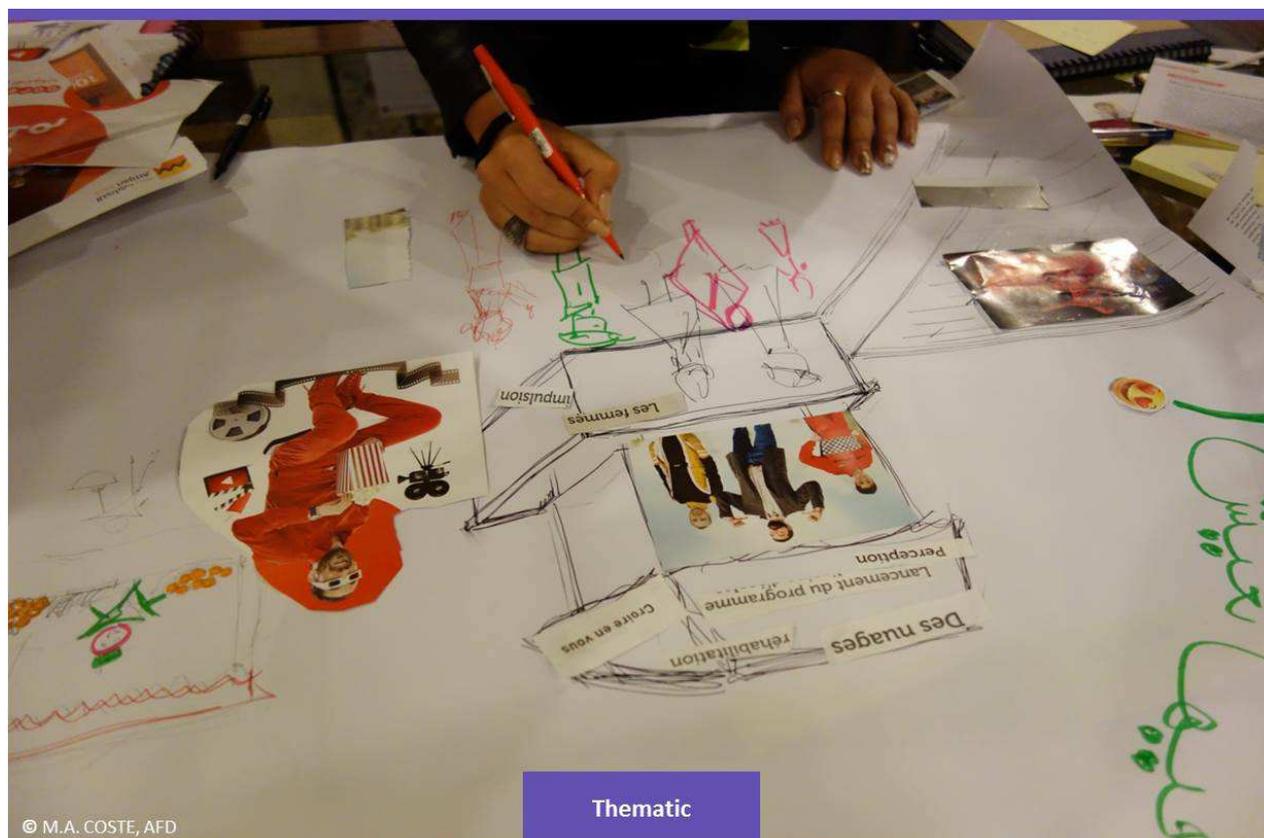
Since June 2017, the UPFI has provided technical assistance for the start of phase 2 of the Programme for the Rehabilitation and Integration of Residential Areas (*Programme de Réhabilitation et d'Intégration des Quartiers d'Habitation* – PRIQH 2) beside the Tunisian Urban Rehabilitation and Renewal Agency (ARRU) and the Tunisian Ministry of Equipment (MEHAT). The aim of this programme is to intervene across Tunisia and follow a principle of integrated urban development, in order to provide these neighbourhoods with basic infrastructures, to increase access to public facilities, and to stimulate the establishment of economic activities. PRIQH 2 therefore aims to improve living conditions for residents of these neighbourhoods, while supporting local socio-economic development. This second phase will also build the capacities of local authorities in managing the infrastructure that is delivered and will support actions to prevent the spread of informal settlements.

In order to improve the impact of the programme in the context of transition towards decentralisation, this second phase introduces a renewed approach to the urban renovation of popular neighbourhoods:

- Evolution towards stronger multi-stakeholder governance of the programme and of the urban challenges it faces, with greater involvement of Tunisian municipalities.
- Integration of a citizen participative component in the design and implementation of projects, acting as a guarantee of local ownership of urban interventions and ensuring that the project matches actual needs.
- Inclusion in the programme of 'social housing estate' operations in proximity to the neighbourhoods in order to complement Tunisia's policy of urban renovation through anticipatory urban planning.
- Large-scale deployment of environmental performance measures for PRIQH 2 projects on the public lighting and facilities component, thus contributing to a reduction in maintenance costs for local authorities.

The technical assistance currently being provided and jointly monitored by the AFD and the EIB has enabled donors to make progress in appraising the second component of this popular neighbourhood programme. AFD, EIB and European Union financing of PRQH 2 has been approved by their respective boards.

[See the project](#) →



The ‘Citizen innovation laboratory / Urban incubator’: an innovative approach to rethink urban development in Tunisia

How can we anticipate the future needs of residents during the lengthy implementation of urban projects? How can we strengthen the ownership of facilities that are financed by light-touch actions with a strong social impact?

In the framework of the innovative reflection undertaken around the design of the second phase of PRIQH, the AFD has for the last six months been developing a partnership mechanism to help the emergence and support the implementation around its activities of local initiatives that are both tangible and efficient, centred around the needs of citizens. These urban micro-projects are complementary to the AFD’s existing tools for the funding of cities and urban facilities and to the approach launched by the UPFI and its partners.

The desired objective of the new support mechanism for urban innovation is to offer parallel support for long-term urban projects through rapid actions that allow residents to test the future approach, take ownership of funded facilities, and even lay the groundwork for their involvement ahead of the project.

This mechanism aims to be solidly anchored in a complementary approach to the actions of the ARRU (the Tunisian Agency for Urban Rehabilitation and Renovation – *Agence tunisienne de Réhabilitation et de Rénovation Urbaine*) in the neighbourhoods covered by PRIQH 1 and 2. The mechanism went through a phase of **co-building with the relevant Tunisian stakeholders**. In particular in the framework of PRIQH 2, project promoters, urban experts and

civil society organisations worked together in an all-day workshop using different collaborative mechanisms: design thinking tools, participative mapping and creative workshops enabled the emergence of proposals, discussion of the visions and the setting up of a steering mechanism. The outcome of this workshop was the basis for the launch of a [call for proposals](#) aimed at recruiting the operator who will be responsible for the design and management of this Tunisian 'citizen innovation laboratory / urban incubator'.

Find out more →





Supporting the Tunisian authorities in the definition and implementation of a rehabilitation programme for historic centres

The donor partners of the UPFI initiative, AFD and EIB, have for several years integrated the regeneration of historic centres into their strategy for supporting sustainable cities in the Mediterranean. In 2010, the EIB published a prospective study, 'Medinas 2030: Scenarios and Strategies'. In Tunisia, the AFD supported four pilot projects for the rehabilitation of touristic routes in the medinas of Tunis, Sousse, Sfax and Kairouan, delivered in 2016 and 2017. Capitalising on the past experience of EIB and AFD, the UPFI initiative supports the design of a rehabilitation programme for historic centres in 2018. There are various types of historic centre in the cities of the southern Mediterranean, of which two of the most significant are medinas, the traditional centre of old Arab towns, and the historic European neighbourhoods of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Old centres are a type of popular neighbourhood marked by urban and socio-economic exclusion and degradation of heritage buildings. There are about thirty such old centres in Tunisia. With the support of the UPFI, this programme would make it possible, through the rehabilitation of several urban cores, to build an intervention framework specific to the regeneration of the Tunisian *old city* and to favour the adaptation of these urban areas to the economic, social and cultural evolution of the country. In the long term, the rehabilitation of these historic centres will improve the living conditions of residents, functionally reintegrate the *old city* into its urban area, safeguard and enhance urban and cultural heritage, boost the economy, tourism, job creation and income generation in these urban areas, and allow the return of the public and private sectors to these popular neighbourhoods.

In the framework of the UPFI, the AFD and the EIB are moving forward with their partners in the design of this programme and the definition of technical assistance needs that could be provided by the initiative in 2018.

[See the project →](#)

RESOURCES

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