Rades
The largest port in Tunisia is Rades, the port of Tunis. It handles about a quarter of the country’s traffic, including 86% of the volume of containerized goods and 80% of its rolling cargo. The terminal for containers and roll-on/roll-off cargo has berths with a total length of 1,130 metres and depths ranging from 6.8 to 9.15 metres. The port has all necessary offloading equipment, bonded and non-bonded warehouses and covered storage areas. Sailing times from Italy (including Livorno, Salerno and Civitavecchia) is 23 hours, with different lines for containers going two to three times a week. It takes a maximum of nine hours by truck to reach the border at Ras Ajdir. More details on the port can be found at: www.ommp.nat.tn. The port authority is the Office of Merchant Navy and Ports: Administrative building, 2040 Rades, Tunisia; port.rades@ommp.nat.tn.

Sfax
The Port of Sfax is the second-largest in Tunisia, located about six hours by truck from the border at Ras Ajdir. It is currently considered the best option for containerized cargo destined for Zarzis, Ras Ajdir and Libya since it is fully equipped for offloading, and is on regular commercial shipping lines (including Maersk and CMA-CGA). It has a maximum vessel size of over 500 feet in length with anchorage of 6.4 to 7.6 metres.

A large amount of bonded and non-bonded storage space is available. The port has rail access, and there are no additional charges for nights and weekends. The port authority is the Office of Merchant Navy and Ports.

Tel: +216 74 497 644
Email: port.sfax@ommp.nat.tn
Website: www.ommp.nat.tn

Zarzis
Closer to the transit camp of Choucha and Ras Ajdir, (75 km and 88 km respectively), the Port of Zarzis is a viable option for ships of up to 15,000 mt and 610 m in length. It has a commercial dock and a landing stage, and can accept both bulk and containers (20 ft). Draft is 8 metres. One crane is available (25 mt), and another can be obtained if necessary. However vessels are still advised to be self-equipped. A total of 1,400 m² of covered bonded warehousing space is available, as well as 1 hectare of open-air storage space, which is also bonded and appropriate for vehicles eventually destined for Libya. Shipping to Zarzis Port will most likely require use of chartered vessels. Organizations wishing to use this port may consider coordinating with other humanitarian agencies to combine cargo from Southern Europe.

Tel: +216 75 694 790; Email: port.zarzis@ommp.nat.tn; Website: www.ommp.nat.tn

A list of transporters, freight forwarders and stevedores is available at www.logcluster.org/ops/northafrica.