



In Numbers

US\$1.6 m allocated by the Tunisian Government for the construction and equipment of two pilot kitchens

WFP provides capacity strengthening activities aimed at enhancing government-run National School Meals Programmes.

The National School Meals Programmes reach **250,000 children in Tunisia**; and **1.4 m children in Morocco**.



WFP Tunisia and Morocco Country Brief

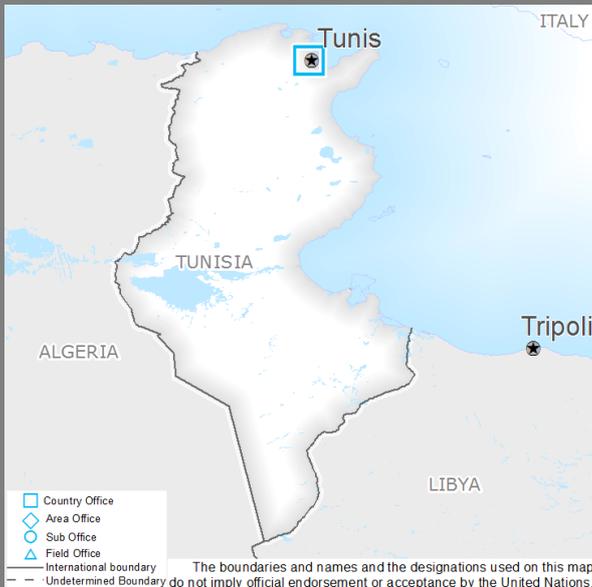
April 2018

Operational Context

Tunisia has undergone significant changes following the Jasmine Revolution of January 2011. The strategic direction of the Government currently focuses on strengthening democracy, while laying the groundwork for a stronger economic recovery.

Morocco is a middle income, food-deficit country where the agricultural production fluctuates yearly as a result of weather variations. Although access to food is generally guaranteed, Morocco relies on international markets to meet its consumption needs.

WFP has positioned itself on a technical advisory role through capacity reinforcement activities in both countries, with the provision of technical assistance aiming to improve the national school meals systems.



Population:
Tunisia: **11 million**
Morocco: **33.8 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
Tunisia: **97 out of 188**
Morocco: **123 out of 188**

Income Level:
Tunisia: **Lower middle**
Morocco: **Lower middle**

Operational Updates

Tunisia:

- On 06 April, WFP signed a Field Level Agreement with local non-governmental organization (NGO) *Un Repas Pour Chaque Tunisien* (URPCT, A meal for every Tunisian) to support the upgrade of the current decentralised school meals model of the Sabalit ben Amar primary school, in the Ariana region. URPCT has extensive experience in school meals and community development. This partnership aims to facilitate the establishment of sustainable links between local agriculture and school canteens, in line with a home-grown approach, through the revitalization of school gardens as hubs for community participation. The co-founder of the NGO and renowned chef, Iyed Tej, will lead the design of trainings for cooks engaged in the preparation of nutritious school meals nation-wide.
- On 10-13 April, a delegation from the Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF) visited Tunisia to advance preparations for the Global Child Nutrition Forum which will be hosted by the Government of Tunisia in October 2018. The forum will bring together leaders from 50 countries for five days of intensive training, technical assistance and planning, directed toward establishing country-operated sustainable school meals programmes.
- On 04 April, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) released a feasibility study commissioned by WFP in February regarding the upgrade of eight school canteens in four different regions of rural Tunisia. WFP, UNOPS, regional representatives of the Ministry of Education and school directors collaborated to validate the study and subsequently launch the procurement process for selecting a construction company to implement the canteen upgrades.

Morocco:

- On 26-28 April, WFP participated in coordination meetings to formalise and agree on the way forward to launch Morocco's Country Strategic Review (CSR), and to advance preparations on the study's research, to be conducted by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). The meetings involved the Lead Convener for the CSR - the Secretary General of the Ministry of General Affairs and Governance - and representatives of UNECA, FAO and the Ministry of Education.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP /Rabeb Azouzi
Caption: Children eating a traditional Tunisian hot couscous, at the Jeradou primary school.

Contact info: Maria Lukyanova (maria.lukyanova@wfp.org)
Head of Office: Maria Lukyanova
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/tunisia

WFP Country Strategy (Tunisia)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)		
4.3 m	2.9 m	--

*May-October 2018

WFP Country Activities (Tunisia CSP)

- SO 1** 1- Provide policy advice and technical assistance to national institutions implementing school meals and social protection programmes.

WFP Country Strategy (Morocco)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Morocco Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (January – December 2018)		
214,000	--	--

*May-October 2018

WFP Country Activities (Morocco T-I CSP)

- SO 1** 1- Provide policy advice and technical assistance to national institutions implementing school meals and social protection programmes.

Monitoring

Tunisia:

- On 27 April, a WFP team visited the Ain Jloula and Jabess primary schools and met with the regional representative of the Ministry of Education in the Kairouan governorate. The visit aimed at facilitating partnerships with active local NGOs for school gardens revitalization. A potential collaboration was identified with Qatar Charity Tunisia.
- On 04 and 18 April, WFP visited the Nadhour pilot central kitchen in the Zaghouan governorate to follow up on the progress of its construction and equipment. The canteen is foreseen to be operational by the new school year 2018/2019. Moreover, the team held working group meetings with the community-based organization *Groupement de Développement Agricole (GDA, Rural Development Group)* in Nadhour. WFP continues to partner with the GDA to strengthen their capacity to promote the use of locally produced foods in school meals, contribute to job creation and enhance local development.

Challenges

Tunisia:

- The government-led tendering process of the kitchen equipment for the pilot central canteen in Nadhour, currently under construction had initially yielded no proposals. WFP supported the Ministry in drafting technical specifications to equip the kitchen and canteen with appropriate, quality material which can be found in the Tunisian market and new tender was launched. WFP is supporting the ministry to ensure the first pilot central kitchen is operational by the beginning of 2018/2019 school year.

Tunisia to host the 20th annual Global Child Nutrition Forum in October 2018

On 22-26 October 2018, Tunisia will be hosting the 20th Global Child Nutrition Forum, organized annually by the Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF) and WFP's Centre of Excellence against Hunger. The mission of the Forum is to help Governments around the world build national school meal programs that are locally-sourced and country-operated. Marking the event's 20th anniversary, this will be the first time the Forum is held in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

A delegation from WFP and GCNF met with the Minister of Education in April. The minister expressed his strong commitment and enthusiasm to hosting the forum, which will provide an opportunity to exchange experiences on how the Tunisian National School Meals Programme is being leveraged to drive education, nutrition and social cohesion outcomes, contributing to peace and stability.

WFP is the Government's key partner to improve national school meals in the framework of the WFP Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022).