



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Tunisia and Morocco Country Brief October 2018



## Operational Context

**Tunisia** has undergone significant changes following the Revolution of January 2011. The strategic direction of the Government currently focuses on strengthening democracy, while laying the groundwork for a stronger economic recovery. Tunisia has a GNI per capita of USD 11,250 purchasing power parity (World Bank, 2015). The 2017 UNDP Human Development Index (HDI) ranks Tunisia 95 out of 189 countries and 58 on the Gender Inequality Index (GII 2017).

**Morocco** is a middle-income, yet food-deficit country where the agricultural production fluctuates yearly as a result of weather variations and relies heavily on international markets to meet its consumption needs. Morocco is ranked 123 out of 189 countries in the 2017 HDI and 123 on the GI 2017.

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



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

2018 Human Development Index: Tunisia: **95 out of 189**  
Morocco: **123 out of 189**

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

GNI per Capita (PPP):  
Tunisia (in USD): **US\$ 3,690**  
Morocco: **US\$ 2,870**

## In Numbers

**US\$ 1.7 m allocated by the Tunisian Government** for the construction and equipment of a pilot central kitchen and a first School Food Bank hub

**WFP provides capacity-strengthening activities** aimed at enhancing **Government-run National School Meals Programmes**

The National School Meals Programmes reach **260,000 children** (125,000 girls and 135,000 boys) **in Tunisia**; and **1.4 m children** (660,000 girls and 740,000 boys) **in Morocco**

## Operational Updates

### Tunisia:

- WFP continues to support the Ministry of Education in testing a central kitchen pilot, which will provide daily meals to 1,500 children in the Nadhour district of the Zaghuan governorate. On 20 October, the central kitchen was operational and 600 hot meals were served for the first time to the students of the hub school Henchir Jedid and two of the satellites schools. The remaining three schools are to be assessed and upgraded by WFP, in partnership with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).
- WFP continues to support the Ministry of Education in strengthening regulatory frameworks and tools of the National School Meals Programme (NSMP) with setting up the first *Banque Alimentaire Scolaire* (BAS, School Food Bank). The rehabilitation work of the BAS's warehouse, in the Mahmoud Messaadi College (Mornag delegation, Grand Tunis region) is now completed. The NGO Femmes pour les Cantines Scolaires donated the first commodities to supply the schools in need, while the block chain platform developed to track the food distribution is now ready for the testing phase.
- On 28 October, WFP's cooperating partner *Association Tunisienne de Protection de la Nature et de l'Environnement Korba* (ATPNE, Association for the protection of Nature and the Environment) brought together Boulazar primary school's community to officially present their work plan for the 2018/2019 school year. Regional representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture (CRDA) and the *Groupeement Femminin de Development Agricole Ben Aiech* (GFDA, women's agricultural development group) also attended. An expert from the Nutrition Institute of Tunis led a rich exchange of experiences on healthy eating habits with the pupils and their parents. The children were engaged in fun activities with a nutrition theme, and a first aid training was conducted by the Tunisian Red Crescent for the older students.

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## WFP Country Strategy (Tunisia)



### Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
4.3 m	2.9 m	-

**Strategic Result 5:** Developing countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 1:** National institutions in Tunisia have strengthened capacity to implement enhanced school meals and social protection programmes which advance food security and nutrition by 2022.

**Focus area:** Root Causes

#### Activities:

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

- During the reporting period, WFP Tunisia assisted the Government in monitoring and speeding up the equipment installation process in the Nadhour central kitchen. This included liaising daily with the representatives of the Ministry of Education's Office of School Services (OOESCO), CRE (*Commissariat régional de l'éducation*; Regional Commissariat for Education) and the General Direction of Buildings and Equipment (DGBE – Direction Générale des Bâtiments et Equipements, MoE). In 8 days of operation, the central kitchen produced 4,800 meals serving 600 children per day.
- For the first time, WFP's partner *Groupement Féminin de Développement Agricole* (GFDA Nadhour) sold products at a local market like vegetables harvested from the school garden; and *harissa*, a Tunisian spicy sauce produced with hot peppers.

## Challenges

### Tunisia:

- Most of the Tunisian territory continued to suffer from heavy rainfall during the month of October and public schools in the Nabeul Governorate were closed.

## Partnerships

### Tunisia:

- During the Global Child Nutrition Forum, a USDA Oregon delegation visited the central kitchen in Nadhour and learned from the Tunisia experience in managing school gardens involving the local communities. This is a continuation of a Tunisian delegation (ministries of Education and Agriculture) exchange visit to Oregon in September 2018.

## Tunisia Hosts the 20th Annual Global Child Nutrition Forum

The [Global Child Nutrition Forum \(GCNF\)](#), the largest annual international conference on school feeding in the world, took place in Tunis from 21-25 October, its first time in the MENA region.

In a keynote speech at the opening of the GCNF, the ED urged increased investment in school feeding and called on partners and governments to unite in closing the gap for the 73 million school children who are currently missing out on school meals globally.

The ED also participated in the Tunis Dialogue on the Centrality of School Feeding for Education, Inclusive Development and Stability; where the Tunis Declaration was adopted, calling on the MENA region's governments and partners to support, even more actively, the development of sustainable school meals to build human capital. The ED commended the Government of Tunisia for demonstrating to be a global school feeding champion.

## Donors

[Italian Agency for Development Cooperation \(AICS\)](#).

## WFP Country Strategy (Morocco)



### Morocco Transitional –Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
0.214 m	-	-

**Strategic Result 5:** Developing countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 1:** National institutions in Morocco have strengthened capacity to implement enhanced school meals and social protection programmes which advance food security and nutrition by 2018.

**Focus area:** Root Causes

#### Activities:

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

### Morocco:

- The first full draft of the Strategic Review (SR) of the Food and Nutrition Situation in Morocco was finalised by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) experts in Rabat. The document is currently being revised by government stakeholders prior to its final validation by an inter-ministerial steering committee convened by the Secretary General of the Ministry of General Affairs and Governance. Findings from the SR will inform the Morocco Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021), which will allow for the continuation of WFP's government capacity-strengthening activities in the country.

## Monitoring

### Tunisia:

- The Programme unit continues to conduct field visits and hold meetings with counterparts to monitor the progress accomplished by its five cooperating partners.