



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Tunisia and Morocco Country Brief

November 2018

In Numbers

WFP provides capacity-strengthening activities aiming at enhancing Government-run National School Meals Programmes that 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

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 SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

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 11,490 purchasing power parity (World Bank, 2017). 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. Morocco relies heavily on international markets to meet its consumption needs. Morocco is ranked 123 out of 189 countries on the 2017 HDI and 123 on the GII 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**

Operational Updates

Tunisia:

- On 26 November, WFP and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) signed an agreement to support the renovation and equipment of six school canteens, to operate them under the decentralised model, and to enable them to switch from providing cold sandwiches to hot meals. The agreement also includes the needs assessment and rehabilitation of three "satellite" schools, where the pupils will benefit from daily meals produced at and delivered from the pilot central kitchen in the Nadhour district, Zaghouan governorate.
- From 21 to 23 November, WFP led the United Nations Country Team in hosting a Global Preparedness Partnership (GPP) scoping mission into Tunisia; aiming to support the Government in reaching adequate levels of preparedness to respond to natural disasters. The mission was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, the National Office of Civil Protection, the UN Resident Coordinator Office (RCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), who collaborated to assess existing national capacities in the area of preparedness. The mission deliverables will include a plan, timeline, and budget to further determine how to address the gaps and move forward with a GPP Diagnostic Review.
- In the framework of WFP Tunisia's support to South-South exchanges, a high-level official of the Ministry of Education participated in the 7th EvalMENA General Assembly and Conference in Rabat, Morocco, on 28 and 29 November. During a WFP-convened panel, the Special Adviser to the Minister of Education outlined the Government's perspective on the utility and purpose of evaluation and gave an overview of Tunisia's experience in developing its 2017 strategic review of food and nutrition security and in evaluating its national school feeding programme.

Morocco:

- The multi-sectorial government stakeholders who participated in the consultations for the Strategic Review (SR) of the Food and Nutrition Situation in Morocco provided their feedback to the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) expert drafting the report. The document is currently being revised prior to its final validation by an inter-ministerial steering committee convened by the Secretary General of the Ministry of General Affairs and Governance.

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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.

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.

Monitoring

Tunisia:

- WFP continues to conduct field visits and hold meetings with counterparts to monitor the progress accomplished by its five cooperating partners. During the reporting period, WFP Tunisia staff met with 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) to assist the Government in the selection of 3 schools to pilot the delivery system of the first Food School Bank warehouse.

Challenges

Tunisia:

- A series of strikes of the public sector took place during

the month of November to protest the salaries reductions announced by the Government as a fiscal austerity measure. Despite the strikes, WFP was able to engage with the Ministry of Education at central, regional and local levels, as well as with its civil society partners, to conduct the activities planned for the month.

Partnerships

Tunisia:

- WFP works to strengthen regulatory frameworks and tools in the areas of school feeding supply chain and food safety, in partnership with the Sodexo Stop Hunger foundation. After two weeks in Tunisia, two Sodexo experts provided critical recommendations to enhance the pilot central kitchen operating model while it was being designed in November 2016. One of the experts returned to Tunisia from 19 to 29 November to provide technical advice for a central kitchen model scale-up strategy that integrates local food procurement efficiently in the supply chain. The expert presented his findings and recommendations to representatives of the Ministry of Education and Agriculture at central and regional levels, who showed a high level of engagement. The Ministry will be working in partnership with WFP to implement the proposed solution to increase the number of school canteens buying local products, and thus foster revenue opportunities for smallholder farmers.

Morocco:

- WFP met with the Ministry of Education's Department of Social Support (DAS, *Direction de l'Appui Social*) in Rabat to discuss the way forward for the partnership in the framework of an upcoming WFP Morocco Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2021, which will be based on the findings of the on-going strategic review. The CSP will allow for the continuation of WFP's government capacity-strengthening activities in the country, notably to support the Moroccan government in enhancing its National School Meals Programme - in partnership with the Stop Hunger foundation, as a vital component of the Vision 2030 education sector reform and the National Nutrition Strategy 2011-2019.

Raising gender awareness in Jeradou Primary School through nutrition sensitive activities

- As part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, WFP Tunisia organised a series of recreational activities with grade 5 and 6 students of the Jeradou Primary School, aiming to raising awareness on healthy nutrition, and fostering their engagement in gender equality and women's empowerment. An animated discussion took place on how their school provides nutritious meals, giving equal chances to girls and boys for better nutrition and a better future. The exchange was facilitated by a university student, the young woman who is the winner of the 2018 *Ambassador for a day* contest. *Ambassador for a day* was launched by the Women Ambassadors Association in Tunis on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls.

Donors

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS).