



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Tunisia Country Brief February 2019

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 gross national income (GNI) per capita of USD 10,275 purchasing power parity (UNDP, 2018). The 2018 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index (HDI) ranks Tunisia 95 out of 189 countries and 58 on the Gender Inequality Index (GII 2018).

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



Population:
11 million

2018 Human Development Index:
95 out of 189

Income Level:
Lower middle

GNI per Capita (PPP):
US\$ 3,690

In Numbers

WFP provides capacity-strengthening activities aimed at enhancing the **Government-run National School Feeding Programme (NSFP)** that reaches **260,000 children** (125,000 girls and 135,000 boys) in **2,500 primary schools**.

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

Operational Updates

- On 8 February, WFP facilitated a twinning for the sharing of experiences between WFP's Cooperating Partner (CP) GFDA Nadhour (GFDA - *Groupeement Feminin de Development Agricole*) and the GFDA Ben Arish, affiliated with the Boulazar Primary School's garden, in Korba. The two groups shared insights on how to create revenue opportunities for women by linking the school garden's production to their know-how in food transformation. The GFDA Ben Arish has been able to position itself in the national market of *terroir* products such as *bsissa* - a highly nutritious cereal-based powder -, jams and essential oil distillation for pharmaceutical use.
- On 14, 19 and 20 February, the regional representatives of the Office of School Services (OOESCO), participated in a 3-session training on health education in school. The sessions were held across the country and led by experts of the Ministry of Health's (MoH) *Direction de la Santé de Base* (Direction of Basic Health and Hygiene). WFP facilitated the sessions, presenting the main concepts included in the Nutrition and Hygiene guidelines that were developed in cooperation with the National Institute of Nutrition. WFP also called for the strengthening of the 3 sessions with the imminent roll out of the guidelines that will target OOESCO coordinator at regional level and school staff involved in the preparation and delivery of school meals.
- On 27 February, WFP and its cooperating Partner A Meal for Each Tunisian (*Un Repas pour Chaque Tunisien*, URPT) organized a nutrition awareness activity in the Jeradou Primary school. School staff including parents, teachers and school children were involved in pizza making. They learned about healthy eating and ways to add fruits and vegetables to enhance their diet.
- On 28 February, WFP Tunisia and the Ministry of education participated to the validation of the food waste management guidelines developed by FAO in cooperation with the National Consumer Institute (*Institut national des consommateurs* - INC) and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS).

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Photo: School children in Jeradou Primary school enjoying healthy Pizza with vegetables.
WFP/Rabeb Azouzi

Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
4.3 m	2.9 m
2019 Requirement (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (March– August 2019)
1.2 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.
- The Ministry of Education and AICS invited WFP to work in cooperation to coordinate the efforts of communicating best food waste management practices to school canteens as part of their technical support to the National School Feeding Programme.

Monitoring

- WFP continues to support OOESCO in setting up a monitoring and evaluation structure to track the progress of the Action Plan (*Plan d'Action*) 2018-2021 implementation. Six working groups (Task forces - TF) have been formed under the lead of OOESCO as a follow-up on the Steering Committee meeting held on 31 January. Each group is composed of multiple stakeholders and has the mandate to operationalize the Action Plan across its different axes (Governance, partnership, operations, gender, local agriculture and nutrition). Each TF met at least once during the reporting month. WFP is giving technical support to the TFs by developing terms of reference (ToR) specific to each one, pairing a clear set of activities with deadlines and designating responsible parties for the implementation.

Challenges

- A series of strikes called for by Tunisian teachers to protest against the salary reductions imposed by the Government as a fiscal austerity measure continued during February. 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

- WFP's partner DOC Time, a Tunisian medical student NGO, distributed infographic leaflets produced by WFP, illustrating good nutrition habits and examples of balanced, nutritious meals. The event took place at the Primary School of Balta in Jendouba Governorate, where more than 500 patients (60 percent women and 40 percent men) received free medical examinations. WFP also provided transportation for DOC time staff, facilitating the distribution of medical supplies.

WFP Tunisia's "Ambassador for one day" speaks to the Ladies Ambassador group on how to make education more accessible for Tunisian girls.

On 12 February, WFP organized a roundtable with the Ladies Ambassador group of Tunis and the Minister of Education Hatem Ben Salem to discuss Tunisian student's ideas on how to improve education access for young girls in Tunisia. Jasmine Gaubi, a 19 years old student who participated in the contest "Ambassador for one day" in December 2018, attended the round table. As part of the contest, Yasmine took the role of WFP Tunisia's ambassador, and visited the school canteen and garden of Jeradou Primary School in Zaghouan governorate to learn how WFP assists the Government of Tunisia in giving boys and girls equal access to education through school feeding. The round table resulted in an exchange of initiatives undertaken by the different countries represented at the table. The Minister of Education mentioned the improvement made thus far in Tunisia in the provision of decent facilities and services in schools with spaces respectful of boy and girl's needs. He also called on the donor community for continued support in reducing the gap between boys and girls in reaching the job market and in raising gender awareness amongst education policy makers as well as educators.

Donors

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS).