



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Tunisia Country Brief April 2019

Operational Context

Tunisia has undergone significant changes since the Revolution of January 2011. The strategic direction of the Government currently focuses on strengthening democracy, while laying the groundwork for a strong 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 58th on the Gender Inequality Index (GII 2018).

WFP has positioned itself as a technical advisor through capacity-strengthening activities in Tunisia, with the provision of technical assistance aiming to improve the National School Feeding Programme (NSFP).



Population:
11 million

2018 Human Development Index:
95 out of 189

Income Level:
Lower middle

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

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Photo: Participants of the School Feeding Operations Manual Workshop
WFP/Silvia Luchetti

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**.

The budget for national school feeding doubled in 2019, reaching **USD 16 m per year**. **USD 1.7 m were allocated by the Tunisian Government** for the construction and equipment of a pilot central kitchen and development of a School Food Bank.

Operational Updates

- On 16 and 17 April, WFP and the Ministry of Education (MoE) organized a workshop to advance in the development of the Operations Manual for the National School Feeding Programme (NSFP). A total of 80 stakeholders participated in the workshop, including representatives of the MoE's Office of School Services (OOESCO, *Office des oeuvres scolaires*) at national and regional levels, school directors, and representatives of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), the Ministry of Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The main outcomes of the workshop were the validation of the structure and scope of the manual, an agreement on the way forward and procedure to finalize its content, and a series of constructive recommendations on the need to improve certain aspects of the programme. The main recommendations were to include a section on effective mechanisms for local procurement, and to provide details on nutritional standards, taking into consideration regional food habits and specificities.

- As an additional activity in the framework of its institutional support to OOESCO, on 27-28 April WFP participated in training sessions for the OOESCO local heads of unit, who will be acting as "authorizing officers" for the decentralized management of the NSFP. The training aimed to develop the competencies and provide tools for the authorizing officers to effectively plan for and control their respective districts, taking into consideration the availability of local produce. On this occasion, WFP also presented and distributed the Nutrition and Hygiene Guidelines, developed in partnership with the Tunisian Institute of Nutrition.
- On 20 April, WFP's cooperating partner ATPNE (Tunisian Association for the Preservation of Nature and the Environment) Korba, the Tunisian Red Crescent and the Tunisian Association of Professional Chefs (ATPAC, *Association Tunisienne des Professionnels de l'Art Culinaire*) hosted an event to advance nutrition-sensitive education and the revalorization of traditional recipes at the Boulazhar primary school.

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) (May-October 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 aim of the action was to promote the culinary heritage of the Beni Ayesh rural area in the Korba district, and to present menus based upon these traditional recipes for the school canteen. The Boulazhar school will be shifting from serving a cold snack to a nutritious hot lunch, thanks to WFP's support.

Monitoring

- WFP works with the MoE and the Regional Education Commissariats (CRE) of the Nabeul, Kairouan, Kasserine and Ariana governorates and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) to monitor the progress towards upgrading the infrastructure and equipment of six selected school kitchens that will enable them to prepare hot nutritious meals.

With the same partners, WFP works on monitoring three "satellite" schools that will be upgraded to benefit from hot meals prepared in the pilot central kitchen of Nadhour.

In the month of April, the overall progress of construction works in the targeted sites was assessed to be 10 percent.

Challenges

- Since May 2018, WFP Tunisia has concluded agreements with five Cooperating Partners (CP) who are executing the revitalisation of the school gardens launched in 2018. WFP continues to work to expand its geographical coverage through additional CP agreements for the gardens planned for 2019.

One of the challenges encountered during the CP selection is the limited capacity of associations active in the country, which risks to affect the implementation rate. As a mitigation action, WFP provides partners with trainings to build and develop their capacity. In April 2019, WFP

launched a broad request for proposals with the aim to diversify the CP base.

Partnerships

- WFP continues to support the MoE in strengthening regulatory frameworks and tools for the NSFP, including the roll-out of a new system for the decentralised management of the NSFP (*Madrassati*), and the set-up of a School Food Bank (BAS - *Banque Alimentaire Scolaire*).
- WFP continues to support the MoE to implement the supply-chain management system for the BAS in partnership with Devery, a Blockchain company focused on secure product verification.
- WFP is leading the Global Preparedness Partnership work in Tunisia.

WFP Tunisia supports the Government in reaching adequate levels of preparedness to respond to natural disasters through the Global Preparedness Partnership (GPP)

- The goal of the Global Preparedness Partnership (GPP) is to save lives, save time and preserve financial resources when disaster strikes. On 5 April, WFP experts conducted a GPP workshop with 50 participants, including national stakeholders representing 20 ministries and Government offices, representatives of 7 UN agencies (WFP, FAO, WHO, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS) and civil society.

The workshop served to launch the in-depth assessment phase of the GPP process aiming to support the Government in reaching adequate levels of preparedness to respond to natural disasters.

The discussions resulted in a review of the existing national capacities in the area of preparedness, an agreement on related recommendations, and the development of a set of activities to be conducted during the in-depth assessment phase, which will be finalised in August 2019.

WFP is working in coordination with the Ministry of Environment, the National Office of Civil Protection, and the UN Resident Coordinator's office to design a programme proposal based on the recommendations and proposed activities submitted by the participants, which include the creation of an inter-ministerial coordination platform; the development of technical tools and standard operating procedures for preparedness and response; training and dissemination. The current phase of the GPP will feature a series of interviews at the local level to help to assess regional disparities and better identify local needs throughout the country.

Donors

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS).