



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Tunisia Country Brief July 2019

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 million per year**. **USD 1.7 million were allocated by the Tunisian Government** for the construction and equipment of a pilot central kitchen and development of a School Food Bank.

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**

Operational Updates

- From 4 to 9 July, WFP Tunisia organized training sessions for five (5) different Cooperating Partners (CPs) on how to effectively report progress on their respective Field Level Agreements (FLAs). The sessions gave an overview of WFP operations in Tunisia, the WFP Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (CSP) and WFP’s partnership principles. WFP also shared with the CPs the Decentralized Evaluation’s recommendations, and provided in-depth guidance on how to report on FLA activities using an online platform developed by WFP Tunisia.
- On 23 July, WFP and the local association GDA (*Groupement de Developpement Agricole – Rural Development Group*) Sidi Amor signed a Field Level Agreement (FLA) with the objective of revitalizing the school garden in the Yammama primary school in the Ariana governorate. The project aims to strengthen links between the school and the local community, thus contributing to enhancing social cohesion. Leveraging on the school garden as a hub for community engagement, more than 1300 students will benefit from nutrition sensitive and environmental activities conducted by the GDA. The GDA is composed of 42 members, of which 80 percent are women.
- WFP finalized the assessment of more than 30 applications from local NGOs and GDA for the upgrade of school canteens and the rehabilitation of school gardens in partnership with the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) as part of the framework of the WFP Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (CSP). The call for proposal was launched in April 2019. The selection process was conducted based on clear and established criteria aiming at determining the minimum and desirable requirements for partnership with WFP, in accordance with the objectives of the CSP.

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Photo: WFP partnering with a women-based association to raise awareness through story telling on the consumption of fish among primary students.

WFP/Magid Chaabane

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) (June–November 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.

Monitoring

- WFP works with the Ministry of Education 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 and three “satellite” schools in Zaghuan governorate. The satellite school’s students will benefit from hot meals prepared by the pilot central kitchen of Nadhour. By the end of July 2019, the progress of works was reported to be close to 50 percent.

Challenges

- Since May 2018, WFP Tunisia has concluded agreements with five CPs who are executing the revitalisation of the 14 school gardens launched starting in 2018. WFP continues to work to expand its geographical coverage through additional CP agreements, in order to target all 30 school gardens planned until 2020.
- One of the challenges encountered during the CP selection is the limited capacity of civil society organisations active in the country, which risks affecting the implementation rate. As a mitigation action, WFP provides the partners with trainings to build and develop their capacity. A WFP CP training on FLA reporting took place in July 2019.
- As a result of the death of the first democratically elected President in Tunisia HE Beji Caid Ebsessi on the 25 July,

presidential elections have been scheduled for the 15 September, coinciding with the opening of the school year on 17 September.

- The tense political atmosphere due to this transition could make the security situation volatile in certain areas of intervention. WFP will liaise with UNDSS to avoid field missions in case any significant security risk is identified.

Partnerships

- WFP Tunisia collaborates with UNHCR and IOM in the development of the Inter-Agency Contingency Plan (IACP) for the potential influx of refugees and migrants from Libya into southern Tunisia. WFP is leading the food security sector planning process in coordination with the Tunisian Red Crescent (TRC) and other local partners previously involved in the 2011 migration. According to projections, more than 18,400 people, consisting of refugees, Libyan nationals, and other nationalities will be in need of immediate humanitarian assistance.

The Nadhour Central Kitchen Pilot: Analysis and Lessons Learned

On 26 July, the Ministry of Education organized a meeting to share the Nadhour Central Kitchen Pilot’s experience with the different stakeholders and partners of the national school feeding programme. The aim of the meeting was to identify challenges and best practices for the scale-up of the pilot in other regions.

The Government is planning to replicate the central kitchen model in 10 additional sites to be identified during the 2019/2020 period, with WFP as its partner of choice in the provision of technical assistance. An additional central kitchen is set up on Kerkennah island of the Sfax governorate. The kitchen is to be operational this October, at the beginning of the 2019/2020 school year.

Donors

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