



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

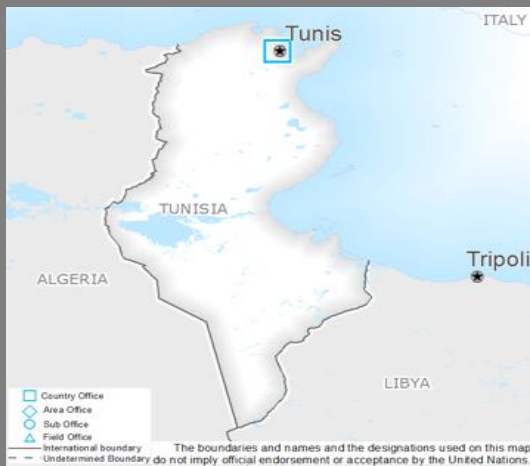


WFP Tunisia Country Brief August 2019

Operational Context

Tunisia has undergone significant changes since the Revolution of January 2011. The strategic direction of the Government of Tunisia 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 (GI 2018).

WFP has positioned itself as a technical advisor through capacity-strengthening activities in Tunisia, and provides 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

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 provided by the Tunisian Government** for the construction and equipment of a pilot central kitchen and development of a School Food Bank.

Operational Updates

- From 6 to 8 August, WFP and its Cooperating Partner (CP) CEFA (*Comité Européen pour la Formation et l'Agriculture*) conducted a field mission to the Kairouan Governorate to facilitate the establishment of the regional steering committee that will oversee the revitalization of six school gardens. The committee is composed by the representative of the Ministry of Education's (MoE) Office of School Services (OOESCO, *Office des Oeuvres Scolaires*), the Regional Education Commissariat (CRE), Agriculture Development Commissariat (CRDA) and National Agency for the Protection of the Environment (ANPE, *Agence Nationale de Protection de l'Environnement*).
- WFP finalized the assessment of more than 30 proposals from local NGOs and cooperatives (GDA, *Groupements de développement Agricole*) for the upgrade of school canteens and the rehabilitation of school gardens in the framework of the WFP Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (CSP). WFP submitted a shortlist of 22 school canteens and 17 school gardens to the Ministry of Education, in order to validate and finalize the selection of the sites.

Monitoring

- WFP works with the Ministry of Education and the 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 progress of works in Nahala Ain Jloula and Jabbes Haffouz primary schools in Kairouan Governorate was reported to be close to 60 percent. WFP staff is planning a visit on-site with the government and UNOPS's representatives aiming at verifying compliance with safety and security standards.

Contact info: Fatimata Sow Sidibé (fatimata.sow-sidibe@wfp.org)

Head of Office: Fatimata Sow Sidibé

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/tunisia

Photo: WFP at the Youth Forum in the Arab Region 20-22 August 2019.

WFP/ikram Tolba

Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
4.3 m	2.8 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.

Challenges

- Presidential elections have been scheduled for the 15 September, back-to-back with the opening of the school year on 17 September. Twenty-six (26) candidates are in the presidential race. Political tensions could make the security situation volatile in certain areas where WFP operates. WFP will liaise with UNDSS to avoid field missions in case any significant security risk is identified.

Partnerships

- WFP Tunisia is supporting the government in reaching adequate levels of preparedness to respond to natural disasters through the Global Preparedness Partnership (GPP). From 27 to 29 August, WFP, UNICEF and the Resident Coordination Office (RCO) conducted a training for government officials and civil society to support the implementation of the Emergency Response Plan (ERP). The RCO and WFP are facilitating the establishment of a government-led, multi-stakeholder technical working group.
- WFP Tunisia staff bid farewell to the outgoing Head of Office, Ms. Maria Lukyanova, and welcomed Ms. Fatimata Sow Sidibé, formerly WFP Madagascar Deputy Country Director, as new the new Head of WFP Tunisia. Ms. Sow Sidibé met with key stakeholders including government counterparts, donors, United Nations agencies and Cooperating Partners (CP). Mr. Hatem Ben Salem, Minister of Education, expressed strong willingness to swiftly scale up the Nadhour central kitchen model, envisaging one central kitchen per governorate (24 total), with WFP in a continuing its technical advisory role. The second central kitchen is located in Kerkennah Island, Sfax governorate, and is planned to be operational at the beginning of the 2019/2020 school year.

Youth Forum 2019: WFP and UN agencies to put Knowledge at the service of youth in Arab States

WFP participated in the UN second edition of the Youth Forum in the Arab Region in Tunisia, convened by UNFPA, the United Nations agency for sexual and reproductive health, in partnership with the Tunisian Ministry of Youth and Sports, from 20 to 22 August, 2019.

Founded in 2018 in Morocco, the forum provides an impartial space for dialogue with the aim of setting and advancing the youth agenda in the Arab region. Throughout the three-day event, more than 200 young women and men from 20 Arab countries participated in workshops to discuss their needs and priorities in terms of knowledge.

WFP Tunisia, with the support of the Regional Bureau Cairo (RBC) School Feeding and Resilience units, and the [WFP Innovation Accelerator](#), led two sessions focused on climate change, migration and food security; and on the Life Skills and Citizenship Education Initiative, spearheaded by RBC. In this last session, participants learned how WFP promotes life skills and resilience amongst children and adolescents, both in emergency and development contexts.

By supporting the Tunisian Government to enhance a nationally owned, home-grown school feeding programme, WFP is working to ensure that boys and girls grow to thrive and fulfil their potential as youths.

Donors

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



Photo (left to right): Maria Lukyanova, outgoing WFP Head of Office; Hatem Ben Salem, Minister of Education; and Fatimata Sow Sidibé, incoming WFP Head of Office.
WFP/Agustín Depetris