



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Tunisia Country Brief September 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 US\$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, and provides technical assistance aiming to improve the National School Feeding Programme (NSFP).



### 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 **US\$16 million per year**. **US\$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

- During the reporting month, a series of meetings were held by WFP Tunisia and FAO, the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) to coordinate the organization of the [World Food Day 2019](#). This year, under the theme “*Healthy Diet for a Zero hunger world*”, World Food Day calls for action across all sectors to make healthy and sustainable diets affordable and accessible to everyone. With support from WFP in strengthening the government owned National School Feeding Programme (NSFP), serving a warm and nutritious lunch at mid-day has become a cornerstone of the on-going Education Reform in Tunisia. WFP will accompany the Ministry of Education to celebrate “World Food Day” with a communication campaign in the national radio. Traditional nutritious meals will be prepared in selected school canteens across the country, where children will be sensitized to healthy eating habits.
- WFP is facilitating the dialogue between the MoE and five (5) local NGOs engaged in WFP-revitalized school gardens, to formalize their partnership with a memorandum of understanding as a means to foster the sustainability of the local community’s participation in school life. The agreements will help assigning clear roles and responsibilities in the conduction of activities to promote local production and nutrition education amongst school children, parents and other local stakeholders through school gardens.
- WFP Tunisia started working on the organization of a series of events to take place during the [16 Days of Activism](#) (25 November-10 December) Against Gender-Based Violence campaign. In collaboration with the OOECSO (*Office des Oeuvres scolaires, MoE*) Gender focal point and the Ministry of Education’s advisor on gender, WFP will support the organization of school activities involving boys and girls in the preparation of messages to address gender equality. The objective is to sensitize the children (5-10 years old) to an equal participation in school life in general and school garden educational activities in particular.

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**Photo:** Italian TV station RAI visits Jeradou Primary School WFP/ Magid Chaabane

Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)	
Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
<b>4.3 m</b>	<b>2.8 m</b>
2019 Requirement (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (November 2018 – April 2019)
<b>1.2 m</b>	<b>0 m</b>

**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**

- Since May 2018, WFP Tunisia has concluded Field Level Agreements (FLAs) with five Cooperating Partners (CPs) who are executing the revitalisation of school gardens launched in 2018. The planned six school gardens are now operational and producing fresh vegetables for the respective school canteens, while additional nine, launched in 2019, are in the roll out stage. WFP supported two rural women-led community-based organizations (CBOs) linked to the school gardens of the Nadhour central kitchen and a primary school in Korba, Nabeul Governorate, to process part of the produce into traditional terroir products, destined both for school children consumption and for the local markets. With WFP and the MoA's assistance, the Nadhour CBO is putting in place a system to better monitor the school garden's production.

**Challenges**

- Presidential elections were held in Tunisia on 15 September 2019, the second direct vote for the presidency since the 2011 revolution. The elections had originally been planned for 17 and 24 November, but were brought forward after the death of incumbent president Beji Caid Essebsi on 25 July. As no candidate received a majority of the votes in the first round, a runoff will be held on 15 October between the top two candidates, Kais Saïed (Independent) and Nabil Karoui (Heart of Tunisia party). Political tensions could make the security situation volatile in certain areas where WFP operates. WFP will liaise with UNDSS to mitigate any significant security risk.

**Partnerships**

- On 3 September, the Italian TV station RAI visited the primary School of Jeradou, in the Zaghouan governorate, to develop a short documentary on WFP's project in partnership with the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS). Jeradou is one of the 16 primary schools where WFP is providing technical support to the Ministry of Education to strengthen capacity to provide nutritious hot meals through the home grown approach.
- The situation in Libya is the object of attention for WFP Tunisia. WFP staff participated in a series of meetings with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in the framework of the Inter-Agency Contingency Plan (IACP) in response to a possible mass influx of refugees and migrants from Libya into southern Tunisia. As leader of the Food Security Sector Response of the IACP, WFP ensures the coordination between civil society partners, public institutions and UN agencies necessary to ensure the immediate needs of targeted affected populations are met, while prioritizing the most vulnerable.
- In September, WFP joined the HIV-STI country group (JUNTA Tunisia) led by UNAIDS, to support the Tunisian government with the implementation of the *National Strategy Response to HIV and STI* adopted by the Ministry of Health in 2019. Within the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF), WFP will help the government to expand the evidence space for better HIV response programming, by identifying the nutrition and food security needs of malnourished People Living with HIV (PLHIV). Additionally, WFP will carry out prevention activities in schools, targeting youth, together with UNICEF and UNFPA.

**WFP Tunisia Programme Retreat on the 23-25 September 2019**

- WFP Tunisia conducted the first programme retreat of the year, opened by Fatimata Sow Sidibé, WFP Head of Office. The retreat was an enriching event where staff were able to re-think the Tunisia Country Strategic Plan from new perspectives and provided opportunities to consider how WFP could have even greater impact in its advisory role to the Government of Tunisia.



**Donors**

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS).