



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Tunisia Country Brief October 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).

A key objective of the collaboration between WFP and the Tunisian Government is to ensure the most vulnerable girls and boys are reached through a quality and high impact school feeding programme to advance education, nutrition and social protection outcomes. As a result of WFP's technical support since 2014, serving a warm and nutritious lunch at mid-day has become a cornerstone of the Education Sector Reform in Tunisia.



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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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, of which 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

- On 23 October, WFP hosted an Inter-Agency Contingency Planning (IACP) - Food Security Sector meeting to develop preparedness actions for the potential influx of refugees and migrants from Libya into southern Tunisia. WFP is the IACP – food security lead. Partners present in the meeting included UN agencies (UNHCR, IOM, WHO), civil society (Danish Refugee Council, Islamic Relief and the [Tunisian Scouts](#)) and donors (the European Union, and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development - DFID). On this occasion, the partners launched the rapid capacity needs assessment conducted by the Scouts in the southern regions of Tunisia, to evaluate the level of regional and local institution's preparedness to respond to emergencies; and discussed next steps including plans for WFP to conduct a Logistics Capacity Assessment.
- On 20-24 October, WFP Tunisia supported the Ministry of Education's participation to the [UNDP-led National Evaluation Capacities \(NEC\)](#) Conference in Hurghada, Egypt. The conference focused on the progress achieved on partnerships built between international organizations and governments towards strengthening national evaluation systems in the context of the SDGs. The Senior Adviser to the Minister of Education of Tunisia presented the lessons learned from the decentralized evaluation of WFP's capacity strengthening activities in Tunisia, jointly conducted with the Ministry of Education. The evaluation highlighted the importance of school feeding for social protection, stability, and increased access to education.
- On 3-4 October, a WFP delegation composed by Ministry of Education - Office for school Services (*OOESCO - Office des Oeuvres Scolaires*) representatives visited the central kitchen in Kerkennah Island, Sfax governorate, expected launch delivery operations at the end of November. WFP accompanied the national officials, as part of its efforts to support the Ministry in scaling up central kitchens from 1 site in 2018 to up to 10 sites in 2020. The Kerkennah central kitchen plans to produce 750 daily meals to be delivered to 6 schools in its vicinity. WFP is providing technical assistance to ensure high-quality and safe meal preparation, and on testing deliveries to satellite schools.

Photo: Students attending World Food Day organised in the central school kitchen of Nadhour (Hen Chri Jedid primary school), Zaghuan governorate.
WFP/Rabeb Azouzi

Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
4.3 m	2.8 m
2019 Requirement (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (December 2018 – May 2020)
1.2 m	0 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 United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the Regional Commissary for Education (Ministry of Education) to monitor the progress towards upgrading the infrastructure and equipment of six selected school kitchens and three “satellite” schools in Zaghouan governorate. The progress of works in Nahala Ain Jloula, Jabbes Haffouz primary schools’ kitchens in Kairouan Governorate and Sabalet Ben Ammar in Arianna governorate is reported to be close to 80 percent.
- WFP finalised the assessment of more than 30 proposals from local NGOs and women-based rural development groups (*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 Tunisia staff conducted field visits to assess 9 shortlisted primary schools in Sidi Bouzid, Bizerte and Gabes governorates. The schools responded to the selection criteria and have been included in the 2020 plan.

Challenges

- The situation in Libya is the object of attention for WFP Tunisia who is taking the lead on the Emergency Preparedness for the Inter-Agency Contingency Plan (IACP). WFP staff participated in a series of meetings with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) while UNHCR and IOM have requested WFP to conduct a Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) in Southern Tunisia. WFP Tunisia is also liaising with WFP Libya to coordinate the food supply at border crossings via suppliers currently being used to respond inside Libya.

Partnerships

- On 16 October, WFP Tunisia celebrated World Food Day (WFD) together with FAO, the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). This year, under the theme “[Healthy Diet for a Zero hunger world](#)”, WFP called for action across all sectors to make healthy and sustainable diets affordable and accessible to everyone. WFP called for increasing the percentage of local, fresh produce for school canteens through the participation of small farmers and cooperatives, and further developing the education for healthy eating content in the national curricula.
- WFP accompanied the Ministry of Education with a weekly communication campaign through the national radio focusing its messaging on the importance of serving warm and nutritious lunches in school canteens, as a key component of the efforts to improve school life in the framework of the education sector reform.
- Local partners in the Nadhour central kitchen celebrated with the preparation of traditional Tunisian meals for students as well as a cooking competition to sensitize children to healthy eating.

WFP Regional Bureau for the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia and Eastern Europe (RBC) visits Tunisia.

- From 21 to 24 October, the WFP RBC Deputy Regional Director - Programme visited Tunisia with delegation. The delegation met with the Minister of Education who reaffirmed the crucial advisory role WFP is playing in Tunisia for improved school feeding and social protection programmes and the imminent scale up of the central kitchen model in 10 additional sites. Discussions were held with the Resident Coordinator Mr. Diego Zorrilla on the potential synergies in support to the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Tunisia and where WFP co-leads 4 of the 12 thematic areas (Food Security and Nutrition, Health and Education, Climate Change and Gender equality).
- The delegation supported the CO in developing synergies on nutrition and social protection programming identified with sister agencies. RBC colleagues helped in defining the HIV-related work for the country which has a strong focus on linking food and health systems through nutrition assistance. For 2019, Tunisia CO is one of the first countries in the region to be a part of UNAIDS Joint UN programme 2020-2021 which brings together 11 UN system organizations.

