



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Tunisia Country Brief November 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 **US\$16 million per year**. **The Tunisian Government invested US\$ 1.7 million** in the construction and equipment of a pilot central kitchen and development of a School Food Bank.

WFP  
SAYS  
NO to  
GENDER  
BASED  
VIOLENCE

### 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 in a technical advisory role through capacity-strengthening activities, providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Education (ME) and Ministry of Agriculture (MA), as well as working with other ministries and national stakeholders aiming to improve national school feeding and other social protection programmes in Tunisia.



### Operational Updates

- WFP Tunisia received a reward from the Ministry of Education for the support given in organizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual School Chefs Competition in partnership with *Un Repas pour Chaque Tunisien* (URPCT, 'A Meal for Every Tunisian'), the Ministry of Education's Office of School Services (OOESCO, *Office des Oeuvres Scolaires*) and the National Association of Chefs. The event is a valuable peer to peer exercise aiming to develop the skills of young school chefs and provides a venue for the exchange of best practices from different regions.
- By invitation of the African Union, WFP Tunisia participated in a workshop in Addis Ababa on Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) and tools for local procurement, accompanying representatives of the Tunisian ministries for agriculture and education. South-South Cooperation is part of WFP's support to enhance the quality of school meals in Tunisian public schools, by replacing cold sandwiches with a warm, nutritious lunch prepared using fresh produce.
- In the framework of WFP's initiatives to promote education to nutrition through home grown school feeding, 200 students of the Primary School Henchir Jadid participated in the plantation of 700 geranium plants in their school garden. The geraniums were donated by the Regional Commissariat for Agricultural Development of Siliana (CRDA Siliana). On this occasion, the students also picked olives from the 100 olive trees in the school garden which were planted with WFP's support in 2016. Fresh produce from the garden is processed by the affiliated GFDA (*Groupement Féminin de Développement Agricole*, Women's Agricultural Development Group) Nadhour for both the school kitchen and the local market.
- WFP facilitated a School Health and Nutrition workshop organized by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health on 22 November. The workshop highlighted the better nutrition options available to school children thanks to WFP's technical support, and the comparative advantages of the central kitchen
- During November, WFP continued its active participation in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework – Common Country Analysis (UNSDCF-CCA) exercise.

Population: **11 million**

2018 Human Development Index:  
**95 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

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

**Head of Office:** Fatimata Sow Sidibé

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/tunisia](http://www.wfp.org/countries/tunisia)

**Photo:** 2nd Annual School Chefs Competition  
WFP/Fatimata Sow Sidibé

Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)	
Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
<b>4.3 m</b>	<b>3.2 m</b>
2019 Requirement (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (January – June 2020)
<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.

WFP led deliberations on two themes: food security, agriculture and land, as well as natural resources and climate change. WFP participated on the discussions on four other themes: access to Education and health services, migrations, gender and social cohesion and infrastructure.

**Monitoring**

- WFP works with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the Regional Commissariat 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 upgrading is now finalised and inauguration of the new school kitchens is planned to take place in December.

**Challenges**

- The situation in Libya is monitored closely by WFP Tunisia. WFP is the lead agency on food security emergency preparedness planning for an influx of refugees and migrants into Southern Tunisia as per the Inter-Agency Contingency Plan (IACP). WFP Tunisia launched a capacity assessment based on the “Ready 2 Respond” approach developed by the World Bank and is aiming to evaluate the capacities of regional institutions to respond in case of an influx of migrants and refugees from Libya. This rapid assessment was launched in the beginning of November with a Field Level Agreement between WFP and the Tunisian Scouts. The results will be available in December.

**Partnerships**

- WFP Tunisia’s Head of Office, Fatimata Sow Sidibé, participated in the launch of the Arab States 2019 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report on migration,

displacement and education focussing on “Building bridges not walls”. WFP presented on two initiatives: the support it provides to the Tunisian Government to ensure that the most marginalized students including those from migrant and rural communities benefit from locally sourced school meals, as well as the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Initiative led by WFP and UNESCO, aiming to achieve improved education outcomes, along with food security, nutrition and gender equality.

- WFP and the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture - Regional Commissariat for Agricultural Development of Siliana (CRDA) signed a [US\\$ 340,000 cooperation agreement](#) on 1 November to promote local agriculture development and better nutrition through an innovative home grown school feeding programme in the south of Siliana governorate. WFP has been requested by the Government of Tunisia to provide technical assistance and capacity-strengthening activities as part of the framework of the International Fund for Agricultural Development’s PROFITS project that aims to improve the living conditions of vulnerable rural populations in the southern Siliana region through the development of agricultural value chains (photo below).

**WFP Tunisia and women’s rights association partner to conduct a gender study on school feeding in Tunisia**

WFP continues to support the Government in promoting gender equality in the framework of the National School Feeding Programme. On November 25, WFP signed an agreement with local women rights-based association Union de la Famille Tunisien (UFT) to conduct a gender study aiming to identify and understand the influence of gender roles, relations, responsibilities and resources that influence participation in and benefiting from school feeding, across the NSFP. The study will also complement the 2016 WFP Gender Analysis with information collected through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. and inform actionable recommendations to address the identified gaps and inequalities.



**Donors**

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), Ministry of Agriculture - Regional Commissariat for Agricultural Development of Siliana (CRDA) UNAIDS - Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF)