WFP Tunisia
Country Brief
January 2020

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 USD10,275 purchasing power parity (UNDP, 2018). The 2018 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index (HDI) ranks Tunisia 95 out 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

- On 31 January, WFP and the Tunisian Ministry of Education (ME) officially inaugurated three satellite schools restored by UNOPS to link to the pilot central kitchen in Nadhour district of Zaghouan province now serving up to 1000 boys and girls with a nutritious lunch every day. Fresh produce from the school gardens is used for meals preparation, thanks to the 2016 agreement signed by the school and the Rural Women Development Group (GFDA) Nadhour, granting them access to run the school garden. WFP continues to provide technical support to the ME to scale up the central model to 4 additional sites across Tunisia in 2020.

- In January, WFP and the Islamic Relief Tunisia conducted a scoping mission in Siliana Governorate to assess the targeted school kitchens and gardens as per WFP’s agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture – Regional Commissariat for Agricultural Development (CRDA) in Siliana signed in November 2019. As part of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) PROFITS project, WFP supports the development of the technical and marketing skills of smallholder farmer families through linking smallholder farmers to school canteens. This agricultural chain will bolster the rural economy while contributing to the sustainability of the National School Feeding Programme.

- During 08-10 January, WFP Tunisia held the Global Preparedness Partnership (GPP) Restitution Workshop. WFP presented the results of the regional (governorate-level) emergency response capacity assessment and validated the results obtained during the GPP exercise. The main output was a multi-sectoral Plan of Action for emergency preparedness and response. The Government and UN partners appreciated WFP’s role in strengthening national capacities in preparedness and response.

- On 15 January, WFP Headquarter Gender Unit validated WFP Tunisia’s successful graduation from the Gender Transformation Programme (GTP). The GTP enables WFP Tunisia to better advance gender equality outcomes in food security and nutrition. The GTP is one of the core mechanisms for mainstreaming gender throughout the WFP; as well as meeting the UN system-wide gender equality commitments. The final assessment of the exercise highlighted that WFP Tunisia has a foundation for successfully integrating gender into the implementation of the Activities that comprise its Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022).

In Numbers

In January 2020
WFP inaugurated 3 satellite schools linked to the central kitchen pilot in Nadhour, serving 1500 boys and girls in 7 schools with a nutritious daily lunch.


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Photo: A group of children standing outside the refurbished kitchen of primary school Cebalat Ben Amar, Ariana Governorate.

WFP/Rabeb Azouzi
Monitoring

- Following the 2019 National Steering Committee's recommendations to improve monitoring and evaluation of the NSFP, WFP has been facilitating the set-up of steering committees (SC) at a regional level, for better coordination among stakeholders. During January two SCs were launched in the governorates of Bizerte and Kairouan. The SCs are formed by representatives of the ME, Ministry of Agriculture and WFP staff and charged with developing, endorsing and monitoring annual work plans for the enhancement of school feeding in their respective governorates. Coordinating partners responsible for the upgrade of school gardens and canteens also participate in regional SCs.

Challenges

- The recent upsurge of armed conflict in Libya perpetrated by state and non-state actors has contributed to internal displacement, deteriorated living conditions, breakdown in the rule of law and political discontent, and civil unrest. In the framework of the Inter-Agency Contingency Planning for the influx of refugees and migrants from Libya, WFP launched the Logistics Capacity Assessment on behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT). WFP participated in the working groups' meetings for shelter and NFI, and led the food security preparedness discussions.

Partnerships

- WFP continued its active participation in Tunisia’s United Nations Country Teamwork to develop its Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework's (UNSDCF). WFP leveraged its role as a pen holder for the food security and climate change thematic groups while ensuring strategic input in other relevant areas such as education, health, social cohesion, migration and infrastructure. WFP Tunisia and the national think tank Solidar launched an update of the 2017 Food Security and Nutrition Strategic Review to inform the UNSDCF Common Country Assessment (CCA).

WFP participated in the validation workshop of the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) analysis which will also inform the CCA. WFP's current Country Strategic Plan activities reach all of the identified vulnerable groups: poor rural households, through improved school meals; rural women and girls aged 15-24, through revenue-generating opportunities; rural men and boys in the Northwest of Tunisia, notably in Siliana; and poor, uneducated women and girls, both by working to reduce girls' school drop-out and by providing training and revenue-generating opportunities to young women.

In partnership with UNAIDS, WFP will conduct in (Month) a Food Security and Nutrition vulnerability assessment of HIV affected population in Tunisia. Funded by Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF), the study aims to inform the mid-year review of the national response to HIV, as well as to inform the social protection mechanisms the Tunisian government could put in place to address the nutrient gap of HIV affected populations.

WFP celebrate International Education Day with school Children in Korba Governorate

On 24 January, WFP Tunisia and its cooperating partner, the Tunisian Association for the Protection of Nature and the Environment (ATPNE) Korba, organized a full-day event at the Boulhazar primary school to celebrate the International Education day,. The theme of the event was nutrition.

Learning activities at the school were based on the practical guide for hygiene and nutrition developed by WFP and the National Institute of Nutrition in Tunis. During the day children and their families learned about healthy eating habits and the importance of eating vegetables and fruit every day. A nutritionist from the Ministry of Health was engaged to initiate a dialogue with parents and teachers on the importance of protein, and maintaining well-balanced diets. Tunisia suffers from a double burden of malnutrition on one hand and obesity on the other. The adult obesity rate of 27 percent is characterized by micro-nutrient deficiencies stemming from a poor diet. The health problems that can ensue include anaemia.

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)