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 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, Marine Fisheries and Hydraulic Resources (MAPRH), 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 16 March, WFP chaired the Steering Committee (SC) bringing together WFP, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Affairs and UNAIDS officials. The SC launched a USD 25,000 UBRAF-BUF* -funded study on food security and nutrition status across 3000 HIV and AIDS affected population in Tunisia. Its assessment will into the 2018-2022 National Strategic Plan for HIV-AIDS and sexually-transmitted infections (STI). The data collection phase has been suspended due to restrictions on movement imposed by the Government but will be resumed at the end of quarantine period.

- From 8 to 11 March, a WFP team carried out research within the framework of the Interagency Contingency Plan (IACP), on a potential influx of migrants and refugees from Libya in Southern Tunisia. The team assessed the camp situation and met the Government officials. WFP leads the food security sector response of the IACP.

- The Government quickly responded to COVID 19 by topping up assistance plans for the most vulnerable people. Working on data collection and triangulation, WFP will make sure the 260,000 primary students who have benefitted from the currently suspended national school feeding programme, will be included in the national emergency response.

- As part of the Agriculture and Food Security Crisis response to the COVID 19 crisis, WFP with MAPRH, FAO and IFAD will conduct a Call Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) to assess the food security and nutrition status of the general population in four governorates (Kasserine, Kairouan, Sidi Bou Sid and Siliana). It will issue a geospatial mapping of the most vulnerable sectors of society in terms of food access.

- As of 16 March, WFP is operating is Business Continuity Plan, and all staff have been telecommuting from home.

In March 2020

WFP is part of the COVID 19 social protection task force led by the Resident Coordinator Office. The aim is to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Social Affairs in implementing the national response and mitigating the pandemic's impact on the most vulnerable people.

With the school closures, more than 260,000 children will no longer receive a free daily warm meal to meet their nutritional needs. However, IFAD committed USD 200,000 to ensure that 750 primary school students (500 households) in the Siliana region benefit from cash transfer equal to the value of a warm nutritious meal for the next six months.
WFP Country Strategy

**Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)**

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<th>Total Requirement (in US$)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in US$)</th>
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**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**

- The Country Office has developed WFP's COVID 19 National Response Plan for Tunisia in support of the Government's own COVID 19 national plan. The WFP plan assesses the impact of problems arising out of the COVID 19 crisis. These include the suspension of school feeding programme to upgrade school canteen facilities and revitalize school gardens. Monitoring is continuing in the form of short surveys dedicated to the Cooperating Partners (CPs). These will allow WFP to assess coping mechanisms adopted by local communities and rural women's group. Data received will be used to frame alternative use of school gardens during school closure.

- As part of WFP's technical support for the Government, WFP will initiate a price monitoring and market analysis across Tunisia. The results will help to better understand the impact of COVID 19 on access to food supplies especially among the most vulnerable communities.

**Challenges**

- Armed conflict in Libya has contributed to internal population displacement, deteriorating living conditions, breakdown in the rule of law. There are serious implications for neighbouring Tunisia, which the Government is currently assessing. They add another level to the crisis already caused by the spread of the COVID 19.

- The Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) launched by WFP within the framework of the IACP continues as planned. Due to be delivered for Government validation by April, it will be integrated into the COVID 19 emergency response.

- WFP will also deliver a Concept of Operations (CONOPS) evaluation describing how the United Nations is dealing with the flow of refugees from Libya, including the provision of food aid. The CONOPS will specify the type of assistance being given, and will take into account the impact of COVID 19 on food availability and distribution.

**Partnerships**

- WFP Tunisia is adjusting and scaling up its existing social assistance programmes as part of technical support to the Government on COVID 19 response mainly in partnership with UNICEF, Resident Coordinator Office and the World Bank. The RCO as recently developed a joint paper to be submitted to the Global appeal for COVID 19.

**WFP Tunisia celebrating International Women's Day 2020**

On 7 March, WFP Tunisia’s “Ambassador for one day” information science students Imen Ben Haj Yahia, raised awareness on environment and climate change through games and quiz amongst primary school students of Ariana governorate. Celebrations continued on 10 March, when WFP head of office discussed climate change with a round table of women leaders. The discussion was reported by the media.

**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)

**Photo:** UK-organized event “Ambassador for one Day” to celebrate IWD 2020 with a round table on women leaders on climate change