



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Tunisia Country Brief May 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 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, 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.



Population: **11 million**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

## In May 2020

WFP Tunisia received **USD 428,000 from the UN Multi Partner Trust Fund** to lead the technical support to the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) for the setup of a more inclusive and harmonised shock responsive social protection system in collaboration with UNHCR and IOM. More than 675,000 vulnerable people will benefit from the intervention.

## Operational Updates

- The Ministry of Education (MoE) will reopen schools by the beginning of June to allow students to attend their end year exams. MoE has already started with the sanitation of the school premises where exams will take place. The agencies will support the government to meet local needs and conditions for reopening now and in September, especially across densely populated areas and low water settings. WFP in collaboration with UNESCO, UNICEF and the World Bank Group (WB) met the Minister of Education HE Mohamed El Hamdi to discuss the reopening of schools through the back to school guideline paper. A joined letter was signed by the four agencies and sent to the minister.
- WFP Tunisia had the first programmatic meeting with the Ministry of Social Affairs to kick off the MPTF's interventions for the strengthening of the shock responsive social protection system in Tunisia. The Minister appreciated the overview of WFP's technical support through school feeding and cash transfer modalities and committed to provide necessary data to conduct the planned interventions under the MPTF funds. He also committed to implement a fully embedded nutrition sensitive approach in social protection policies and strategies.
- On 20 May, the head of WFP's office in Tunisia with the Minister of the Environment Mr. Chokri Ben Hassen to reiterate the need for a fully embedded environmental policy into the school feeding programme through formal education and via the use of school gardens to foster biodiversity and green innovation practices. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry and WFP will be signed in occasion of the International day of the Environment (5 June 2020) to seal the ministry's central role in the successful implementation of the WFP-led Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan to natural disasters (EPRP).

## Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
<b>4 m</b>	<b>4 m</b>
2020 Requirement (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (July - Dec 2020)
<b>1.1 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

- WFP in Tunisia is preparing to launch in June a food security and vulnerability assessment (mVAM) across 4 different governorates to understand the impact of COVID-19 among the rural population in Tunisia. The scope of the VAM survey is to inform the COVID-19 National response of the Ministry of Agriculture and support the identification of shock responsive measures to address the gaps identified by the assessment.
- WFP and the National Observatory of Agriculture (supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries - MAHRF) who's mission is to research, analyse and disseminate relevant information on agriculture and fisheries' sector at national and international levels, are planning to partner in the set up a national Food Security and Monitoring System. The intervention is part of the WFP's support to the Ministry of Agriculture's COVID-19 National response plan.

## Challenges

- A number of WFP's interventions have been reduced since the COVID-19 lock down measures have been taken by the Tunisian Government. These interventions mainly reflect the capacity strengthening support to the Ministry of Education through trainings such as the roll out of the Nutrition and Hygiene guidelines as well as the nutrition sensitive activities conducted by WFP's cooperating partners at school level. With the lifting of the lock down measures announced on May 28, few of the interventions have been already resumed such as the data collection phase of the food security and nutrition study targeting people living with HIV in Tunisia.  
An amendment to the current agreement between WFP-Regional Ministry of Agriculture (Siliana Governorate) is

underway to include the USD 200,000 contribution sponsored by IFAD. The additional contribution will serve to deliver cash transfer modalities (CBT) to 540 vulnerable families affected by the suspension of the school feeding programme.

## Partnerships

- The African Development Bank (AfDB) and WFP are preparing a joint proposal to accommodate AfDB's potential financial contribution to cover WFP's support to the implementation of the Ministry of Agriculture's COVID-19 National response plan. WFP has also a stand-by contribution of USD 630,000 from AfDB for the upgrade of the current school feeding model to additional central kitchen across the country.
- The World Bank reached out to WFP Tunisia to collaborate in the COVID-19 socio economic impact study. Aspects related to the impact on households and student's food security due to the closure of schools and suspension of the school feeding programme will be included in the survey.

## WFP successfully delivers multiple cargos of medical equipment for COVID-19 response in Tunisia

On 20 May at Carthage airport, the head of WFP's Tunisia office, Ms. Fatimata Sow Sidibe, the Ambassador of China HE Wang Wenbin and the Chief of Donation Commission (Ministry of Health) Mr. Mahdi Felli, received the WFP-led cargo with medical equipment (PPE) in cooperation with Ethiopian Airlines (flight ET3913). The cargo was a donation from the Jack Ma Foundation and the Alibaba Foundation to the Ministry of Health. In addition to this freight, other goods for the African Union Liaison Office for Libya were delivered thanks to this cooperation.



**Photo:** Ms. Fatimata Sow Sidibe, the Ambassador of China HE Wang Wenbin and the Chief of Donation Commission (Ministry of Health) Mr. Mahdi Felli receive WFP Cargo with EPP. WFP/ Zein Mohsen