



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Tunisia Country Brief July 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\$10,677 at purchasing power parity (UNDP, 2019). The 2019 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index (HDI) ranks Tunisia 91 out of 189 countries and 58th on the Gender Inequality Index (GII 2019).

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: **11.5 million**

2019 Human Development Index:
91 out of 189

Income Level: **Lower middle**

GNI per Capita (PPP):
US\$ 10,677

In July 2020

WFP Tunisia met with the General Directorate of the Training and Development Centre of the Ministry of Health in order to develop a partnership framework agreement linking health and nutrition.

Operational Updates

- In July, WFP Tunisia has submitted its input to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025. The country office positioned itself through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 17.9 and SDG 2 under result 1: Policy for an inclusive, sustainable socio-economic development, result 3: Health, Education and Social Protection and result 4: Natural resources management, ecosystems and emergency preparedness.
- Following easing of the national lockdown at the end of June, WFP was able to hold two workshops in July:
 - On 21 and 22 July, a panel of government and civil society representatives discussed ways of promoting local purchases and links with smallholder and community-based organizations in order to support sustainable public markets and to define the selection criteria through WFP Supply Chain procedures.
 - On 28 and 29 July, government, UN and civil society representatives met to develop a national capacity strengthening plan for emergency preparedness and response, which will result in a national partnership framework and action plan.
- Preparations are underway for WFP to resume other activities that experienced delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as those pending due to school closures under the national lockdown.

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Photo: Tunisian students from the primary school of Jradou in the governorate of Zaghuan that benefits from the National School Feeding Programme of the Ministry of Education supported by WFP.
WFP/Rein SKULLERUD

Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
4 m	4 m
2020 Requirement (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (September 2020 - February 2021)
1.6 m	0

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

- As part of the response to COVID-19, the Ministry of Agriculture and WFP launched on 14 July a national online survey on food security and vulnerability assessment (mVAM) in 4 governorates: Kef, Sidi Bouzid, Kairouan and Siliana in order to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the rural population in Tunisia. The aim of the mVAM survey is to provide information on the Ministry's national response to the effects of the COVID-19 crisis and to support the Ministry in identifying effective solutions and responses to shocks.

Challenges

- A few of WFP's interventions have been reduced since the COVID-19 lockdown 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 lockdown measures, several interventions have already resumed, such as the data collection phase of the food security and nutrition study targeting people living with HIV in Tunisia.

Partnerships

On 16 July, a mission took place to Kairouan to follow up on the projects carried out as part of the partnership between WFP Tunisia, the Ministry of Education and the OOESCO (*Office des oeuvres scolaires*). Meetings served to

discuss, among other things, the opening of a WFP sub-office in Kairouan, followed by a visit to the premises that will house it. The Head of Office met with the Governor of Kairouan to review the work of WFP in the governorate, during which he expressed his appreciation and the support that the region needs. To conclude, a visit of the Ennahala school in Ain Jloula was organized, whose canteen was recently rehabilitated thanks to the support of UNOPS in Tunisia.

IFAD and WFP support Tunisian government in assisting vulnerable families affected by Covid-19 in Siliana under IFAD's project "PROFITS" and the UN MPTF.

Within the framework of a project promoting value chains for the territorial development of Siliana, financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), WFP in cooperation with the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Affairs, has started its first ever cash transfers in Tunisia this July. The three-month initiative intends to support a total of 537 families from the Siliana region whose children are no longer receiving school meals due to the closure of schools during the COVID-19 crisis.

"The socio-economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic in Tunisia gives cause for concern with poverty and malnutrition levels threatening to rise even further," said WFP Representative and Country Director in Tunisia, Fatimata Sow Sidibé. "WFP implements school feeding in poorer communities where people have lost their jobs or incomes due to lockdown measures and are now unable to put basic food items on the table. Replacing the children's school meals in this way will help meet their nutritional needs while schools are closed."

Families will receive a message on their mobile phones with a code to redeem their entitlements. They then show up at a post office and use the code and their national ID to collect their cash. WFP is working with its implementing partner, Islamic Relief Tunisia, which will coordinate and monitor the scheme in alignment with other activities under the United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (COVID-19 MPTF). To complement this initiative, WFP has prepared educational materials to help schoolchildren and their families develop good eating habits through fun and educational games.



Photo: The director of the post office in Kesra (Siliana), the delegate from Kesra (Siliana), Mr Kais Ksouri, the head of the WFP office in Tunisia, Mrs Fatimata Sow Sidibé and the head of the WFP programme unit in Tunisia, Mr Magid Chaabane. WFP/Aziza Bouhejba