



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Tunisia Country Brief August 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 August 2020

WFP launched a call for expressions of interest to seek NGOs and associated partners with an active field presence in Tunisia, to implement and support the activities of the Strategic Plan of Tunisia (2018-2022) in collaboration with the Ministries in charge of Education; Higher Education and Scientific Research; Agriculture; Environment; Social Affairs; Women, Children and Family; Development, Investment and International Cooperation; Interior; Communication Technology and e-Business; Transport; Health; Industry; and Trade.

Operational Updates

- The first distribution of cash transfers in Siliana continued in August. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, movements were limited, which extended the distributions over time. All hygiene measures were respected to ensure the health protection of the beneficiaries. During this first round, 255 families received their allocation. A feedback mechanism was put in place to better inform WFP and its partners of the aspects that need to be improved ensure that all intended beneficiaries are reached. This operation is financed by IFAD through its PROFITS project with the Ministry of Agriculture and supported by the UN COVID-19 Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF).
- On 6 and 7 August, WFP, in collaboration with the Office of School Works (OOESCO), organized a workshop of consultation and prospective on the national school canteen program and the work done so far. Representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry for Higher Education and Scientific Research and FAO were also present. An activity plan was developed for the school year 2020-2021. It was also mentioned that OOESCO was able to achieve its objectives and contribute to the fight against COVID-19; the stocks of school canteens that could not be used with the closure of schools were used to feed people affected by the disease.
- On 18 and 19 August, WFP, in collaboration with the National Observatory of Agriculture, organized a workshop to reflect on the establishment of a permanent food security monitoring system (FSMS) in Tunisia. Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Development, Investment and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Trade, the Ministry of Social Affairs, and a panel of national institutions participated. Tunisia does not experience food insecurity as such; however, as pockets of vulnerability and poverty are likely to shift, the FSMS is a valuable tool that will provide information on household vulnerability to food insecurity. The FSMS will alert national institutions to the improvement or deterioration of food security in Tunisia in order to facilitate their actions. An action plan and a joint roadmap between the different institutions have been drafted.

Photo: Voucher distribution during the first phase of the CBT operation supporting vulnerable families affected by Covid-19 in Siliana under IFAD's project "PROFITS" and the UN MPTF. WFP/Chedy Khedhiri

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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\$) (October 2020 - March 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

- The assessment of the nutritional status of people living with HIV in Tunisia has been completed, a presentation and validation workshop of the results is planned in September.
- After the preliminary stage of conducting a *Cost of the Diet* analysis for the city of Tunis (30 April), WFP Tunisia and the Regional Bureau are launching the more comprehensive *Fill the Nutrient Gap* assessment. During August, the literature review of secondary sources was launched to complement known data sources with additional reports and assessments on Tunisia’s economy, nutritional and food security situations. This helps to identify the stakeholders who will be consulted on the results of the upcoming analysis and discuss possible solutions to be tested.

Challenges

- A few of WFP’s interventions are still on hold due to COVID-19 health security measures. These interventions mainly reflect the capacity strengthening support to the government 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.

Partnerships

- On 21 August, a mission took place to Korba in the governorate of Nabeul to follow up on the projects carried out as part of the partnership between WFP Tunisia, the Ministry of Education, OOESCO and ATPNE.

Meetings served to discuss, among other things, the schools’ vegetable garden and the leading project “Green School”, providing nutrition education in schools and preventing food waste. A visit to the Boulazhar elementary school was organized, whose canteen has been rehabilitated by UNOPS through funding from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS). A tour followed of the achievements of the Agricultural Development Group (GDA) of Women in Korba, an initiative that supports women farmers, trains them in food processing and provides them with income generating activities. The mission ended with a capacity building session for partners in Monitoring and Evaluation.

WFP, UNOPS and the Ministry of Education inaugurate in Nadhour (Zaghouan) two of the satellite canteens rehabilitated by UNOPS and funded by AICS.

On 10 August, the Ministry of Education and WFP organized a visit with UNOPS to the Nadhour region in Zaghouan to inaugurate the satellite canteens of the Sidi Neji and Haninia schools that UNOPS has rehabilitated, thanks to funding from AICS. In Nadhour, hot meals are prepared in the central canteen of Henchir Jedid, set up by the Ministry of Education, and then delivered to seven satellite canteens in the region. The vegetable garden of the central canteen is run by a women’s agricultural group. UNOPS is WFP’s implementing partner for the rehabilitation of the satellite canteens. Nine satellite canteens have been rehabilitated to date and, thanks to the savings made on the project, a tenth satellite canteen is being rehabilitated. From the construction site to the purchase of small equipment, such as tables, chairs and cutlery, UNOPS has done a remarkable job in bringing the school canteens back to life. Thanks to this collaboration, WFP and UNOPS have put student nutrition at the heart of school life.



Photo: Representatives and teams from UNOPS, WFP, Ministry of Education, Women Farmers’ Groups and Nadhour Territorial Agricultural Development Unit at Henchir Jedid School in Nadhour, Zaghouan. WFP/Aziza Bouhejba