



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Tunisia Country Brief October 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**

Contact info: Aziza BOUHEJBA (aziza.bouhejba@wfp.org)

WFP Head of Office: Fatimata SOW SIDIBE

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Tunisia

Photo: WFP staff in Tunisia celebrated the awarding of the Nobel Prize with flowers

WFP/Ghita Samri

In October 2020

On 9 October, WFP was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize** for its efforts to fight hunger globally, including its work during the coronavirus pandemic. In Tunisia, the office received congratulations from all members of the government as well as from its partners. During the SARS-COV19 crisis, WFP facilitated the transport of more than 85 tons of medical equipment in support of the Ministry of Health. This year, WFP has strengthened its support to the government, notably in terms of emergency preparedness and response, innovation and nutrition.

Operational Updates

- The second distribution of cash transfers in Siliana has been finalized in October; the third distribution started at the end of the month. 97% of the 523 planned households, including 23 women headed households, have been reached with immediate cash transfer through Western Union to compensate the loss of free school meals due to schools' closure during the lock down. With the information gathered through the feedback mechanism that has been put in place in August, WFP and its partners have ensured 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).
- WFP in Tunisia launched the pilot phase of the Last Mile Ecosystem. This project is an innovation of the nutrition team of the WFP office in Cairo, a state-of-the-art digital solution that connects smallholder farmers to school canteens through a network of private carriers. In Tunisia this project will help ensure greater dietary diversity for school children by guaranteeing them access to hot meals prepared with fresh, quality products. The initiative is being tested in the Tunisian central school kitchen in the district of Nadhour, in the province of Zaghuan, which supplies seven additional schools with nutritious baskets. They serve up to 1,500 children every day. Hailed as a "revolutionary innovation", the World Food Program received \$100,000 from USAID to develop the project with the goal of achieving "zero hunger" by 2030. The Last Mile Ecosystem is the winning project of the 28th WFP Innovation Accelerator Bootcamp.
- On the side-lines of this year's World Food Day on 16 October, WFP in Tunisia organized a webinar entitled "Food Innovation Day: innovation as a solution to food challenges", national and international speakers involved in the agri-food sector, in agricultural innovation and higher education exchanged on current and future innovative agri-food projects. A hackathon was organized the same day at the *Institut National des Sciences Appliquées et de la Technologie (INSAT)* with INSAT students, to promote and support innovation initiatives designed for vulnerable communities, as a solution to food challenges.
- On 5 and 6 October, WFP organized – in partnership with the Ministry of Health – a workshop on the establishment of a sustainable partnership framework between the two entities. The discussions led to the definition of a concrete action plan that puts the nutrition and health of schoolchildren at the heart of the framework.

Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in US\$)		Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
4 m		4 m
2020 Requirement	2021 Requirements	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (November 2020 - April 2021)
1.6 m	0.7m	0 m

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

- A pilot phase of the Food Monitoring System (FSMS) is at a development stage to collect information at the household level in the governorates of Siliana and Kairouan. Through the FSMS, WFP is building the capacity of the government to periodically measure the food insecurity of the population.

Challenges

- A few of WFP’s interventions are still on hold due to COVID-19 health security measures. These interventions include mainly 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

- Early October, WFP and the Pole of Competitiveness of Bizerte signed a partnership agreement focused on boosting Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives in the food industry for the benefit of the sector of education and higher education (school canteens and university restaurants), and the conduct of a participatory and strategic reflection around the means and actions to be undertaken to strengthen the resilience of the Tunisian food sector. A webinar on the subject took place on 21 October, bringing together more than 60 stakeholders from the agri-food sector.
- WFP has organized its first quarterly partner briefing early October. This briefing was an opportunity to present to existing and future partners, the work accomplished by WFP to date as well as ongoing activities. Discussions helped to identify possible synergies between WFP and its partners and increase efficiency. Participants included representatives from various missions, development banks and organizations active in Tunisia.

On World Food Day, the Ministry of Education celebrates WFP's nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize.



On World Food Day, the Minister of Education Mr. Fethi Sellaouti and members of the Tunisian government organized a ceremony to honour WFP for winning the Nobel Peace Prize 2020 at the elementary school "Henchir El Jadid", the first central canteen implemented by WFP and the Ministry. The ceremony was held in the presence of the Italian Ambassador, the Director of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), the representative of the European Union, the representative of UNICEF, local authorities, the Governor of Zaghuan, the Mayor of Nadhour, the Regional Commissioner of Education, the representative of Agriculture, Nouredine Kmicha and the central directors of education including the Director General of the Office des Oeuvres Scolaire, Tarek Ben Mohamed Loussaief. The ceremony was highlighted by the presence of H.E. Hatem Ben Salem former Minister of Education.

This ceremony reflects the excellent relations between WFP and the Tunisian government. An olive tree, the national symbol, was planted on this occasion. The women farmers of the Local Agricultural Development Group presented their activities to the Minister, the vegetable garden they take care of provides 30% of agricultural products for the central canteen of "Henchir El Jadid". WFP Program Unit took this opportunity to present the Last Mile Ecosystem project to the Minister of Education.

Funding partners

- Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- Ministry of Agriculture - Regional Commissariat for Agricultural Development of Siliana (CRDA)
- UNAIDS - Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF)
- UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund

Photo: (l. to r.) Mr. Lorenzo Fanara, Italian Ambassador, Mrs. Fatimata Sow-Sidibé, WFP Head of Office, Mr. Fethi Sellaouti, Minister of Education, Mr Salah Mtiraoui, Governor of Zaghuan.

Credit: Ministry of Education