



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Tunisia Country Brief November 2020

In November 2020

WFP
SAYS
NO to
GENDER
BASED
VIOLENCE

WFP Tunisia contributed to the [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence](#). In partnership with the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR), WFP supported the launch of **SafeNess**, an app that promotes the safety of women.

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 2020 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index (HDI) ranks Tunisia 95 out of 189 countries and 65th on the Gender Inequality Index (GI 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.

The operation works under its Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2018-2022, which envisages the continuation of WFP's technical assistance and policy advice, leveraging WFP's successful partnerships with the Government and other national and international stakeholders with the aim of achieving the plan's strategic outcome – "National institutions in Tunisia have strengthened capacity to implement enhanced school meals and social protection programmes that advance food security and nutrition by 2022". WFP addresses the underlying causes of food insecurity in the country in alignment with national priorities and supports Tunisia's attainment of Sustainable Development Goals 2 (targets 2.1 and 2.2) and 4.



Population: **11.5 million**

2019 Human Development Index:
95 out of 189

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

Operational Updates

- WFP participated in a joint UN mission with representatives from UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF and the ministries of Transport and Health to Tunisia's border crossing with Libya in Ras Jedir (Tunisia), early November to assess the needs of the site before its opening. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers crossing from Libya will be welcomed through this site. WFP will support the local government in implementing a food storage area in the site.
- The third distribution of cash transfers in Siliana has been finalized in November, reaching more than 500 households, 23 of which are women headed households, with immediate cash transfers to compensate for the closure of school canteens during the nation-wide COVID-19 lock down. This operation is accompanied by nutritional sensibilisation thanks to financing from IFAD through its PROFITS project with the Ministry of Agriculture and supported by the UN COVID-19 Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF).
- A "Fill the Nutrient Gap" ([FNG](#)) study has been launched to determine the nutrition situation in Tunisia and identify barriers faced by the most vulnerable to accessing and consuming healthy and nutritious foods. The data collection phase will involve a broad variety of relevant national and international stakeholders, its results are used to inform policies and programming in social protection, food systems, health, agriculture, education and other sectors that can contribute to improving nutrition. It combines a Cost of the Diet analysis with a comprehensive review of existing secondary data on markets, food supply, local dietary practices and malnutrition. The study should be finalized by April 2021.
- WFP along with the Office des Oeuvres Scolaires (OOESCO) and the Ministry of Social Affairs have launched the collection of data in order to establish a harmonised database of beneficiaries of the national school meals programme to facilitate the identification of and potential support to vulnerable households during school closures. Technical meetings were held with the Centre National de le Technologie de l'Education to identify the profile of the beneficiaries and the best technological solutions to be implemented.

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Photo: Drawing from Meriem Ben Ltaifa, winner of the 2020 art competition, category "Drawing", part of the 16 days of activism against GBV campaign

Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
4 m	4 m
2021 Requirements	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (January - June 2021)
0.7 m	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

- Activity:**
- Provide policy advice and technical assistance to national institutions implementing school meals and social protection programmes.

Monitoring

- Pilot areas for the establishment of a Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) have been identified based on criteria such as poverty rate, human development index and accessibility. Surveys will serve to collect information at the household level in the governorates of Sidi Bouzid, Kasserine and Kairouan. WFP is working with the Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen Government capacities to periodically measure the food insecurity of the populations of the delegations of Sayada North and Said (Kairouan), El Ayoun (Sidi Bouzid) and Zguag and Gate 2 (Kessrine).
- In addition, WFP is conducting a study of primary students’ families in the governorate of Siliana to detect micro-nutrient deficiencies together with the National Nutrition Institute (INNTA).

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

- A partnership agreement was signed on 26 November with the National Nutrition Institute (INNTA) to undertake joint studies, monitoring and evaluation of food security and nutrition in the country.
- The Principality of Monaco contributed EUR 15,000 to WFP to support schools with face masks and hydroalcoholic gel in order to prevent contaminations with COVID-19.
- WFP partnered with Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR), OOECSO and Moussawat during the [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence](#), and facilitate

an awareness-raising art competition. The objective is to encourage the young public to question and reflect on gender and representations of girls and boys through art, more particularly issues related to violence against women. It mainly targets young Tunisian talents, amateurs and professionals in the visual art field.

Signature of a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Women, Family and the Elderly and WFP:

The government of Tunisia and WFP are committed to end gender-based violence. On 30 November, as part of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, the Ministry of Women, Family and the Elderly signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with WFP Tunisia to support gender equality, women’s economic and social empowerment, mainly in rural areas.

This MoU calls for improving social and economic opportunities for women and girls, particularly in rural areas, through social approaches that promote social protection, support livelihoods and education services, economic integration, as well as strengthening resilience to climate change and natural crisis management.

In addition, the capacity of governmental and non-governmental structures will be supported to adopt policies for women’s empowerment and gender equality in the framework of the 2030 agenda and to produce a digitized database to efficiently activate these policies.



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
- Principality of Monaco

Photo: Mrs. Imen Houimel, Minister of Women, Family and the Elderly with Mrs. Fatimata Sow Sidibé, WFP Head of Office in Tunisia and Morocco. WFP/ Aziza Bouhejba