



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Tunisia Country Brief April 2021



In April 2021

WFP launched the "Last Mile Ecosystem" app in the central kitchen of Henchir Jedid, in Nadhour (Zaghuan). This state-of-the-art digital solution ensures that food is purchased locally from small-scale farmers, supporting local agri-food production and economies, while promoting a diverse and nutritious diet for school children.

Operational Context

Ten years after the Jasmin revolution, Tunisia is still attempting to strengthen its democracy amid massive political and socio-economic challenges. Tunisia has a gross national income (GNI) per capita of USD 10,800 at purchasing power parity (UNDP, 2020). The 2019 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index (HDI) ranks Tunisia 95 out of 189 countries and 65th on the Gender Inequality Index (GII).

Working towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 (targets 2.1 and 2.2), SDG 4 and SDG 17 (target 17.9), WFP's activities in Tunisia are in line with the Government's reform of the education sector and its Sustainable School Meals Strategy. Since 2013, 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: **11.7 million**

2019 Human Development Index:
95 out of 189

Income Level: **Lower middle**

GNI per Capita (PPP): **USD 10,800**

Operational Updates

- Within the framework of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV (UNAIDS), WFP conducted a food security and nutrition assessment of People Living with HIV (PLHIV). The results show that food insecurity among PLHIV is very high and the nutritional quality of meals is low. More than half of the surveyed households resorted to food of lower quality, reducing the portion size per meal and the number of meals per day. WFP will work with the government and its partners to provide adequate nutritional counselling to PLHIV. Counselling will focus on encouraging the consumption of a healthy and balanced diet with adequate energy and micronutrient intake to contribute to a drastic improvement of the quality of life of PLHIV.
- Piloted in Tunisia, "The Last Mile Ecosystem" is a cutting-edge digital solution that connects smallholder farmers to school canteens through a network of private transporters. It ensures that food is purchased locally from smallholder farmers, supporting local agri-food production and economies, while promoting a diverse and nutritious diet for school children. The solution is currently being tested in the central kitchen of Henchir Jedid, in Nadhour (Zaghuan), which provides nutritious meals to 7 schools, accommodating up to 1,500 schoolchildren each day. The application was launched on 19 April, a WFP team, accompanied by developers from Weare Moon Agency, did the first tests and presented the application to the different users including: the coordinator of the central canteen, the storekeeper, the chef, the truck driver for the delivery of hot meals but also the farmer.

Contact info: Aziza BOUHEJBA (aziza.bouhejba@wfp.org)
WFP Head of Office: Fatimata SOW SIDIBE
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Tunisia

Photo: Developer from Weare Moon Agency, presenting the app to the central kitchen coordinator of Henchir Jedid in Nadhour (Zaghuan) WFP/ Aziza Bouhejba

WFP Country Strategy

Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)	
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
4 m	6 m
2021 Requirements	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June - November 2021)
1.1 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

- WFP Tunisia is supporting the government with the set-up of a permanent Food Security and Monitoring System (FSMS). During the reporting month, WFP prepared the final household assessment report conducted during the month of February that confirms the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on rural households' food security. WFP engaged the local private sector to support the government with the development and set up of a digital platform to visualise real time FSMS's data.

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 the school level.

Partnerships

- The Government of Japan donated US\$280,000 to WFP in Tunisia to improve the response to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure food security and nutrition for vulnerable population living in rural areas in the face of crises. Through strengthening government's capacity, Japan's financial contribution to WFP will contribute to reducing suffering and supporting the early recovery of people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to mitigate the further spread of viral infection.

COVID-19: Impact on food security and nutrition of women in rural areas in Tunisia.

As part of their cooperation, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) launched a quantitative study to produce evidence-based knowledge to adjust the national strategy for the economic and social empowerment of rural women and girls who are members of Agricultural Development Groups (ADGs) especially in times of crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic.



This study is part of the partnership signed between WFP and the Ministry of Women, Family and Seniors, as well as the one signed between WFP and the National Observatory of Agriculture at the Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Maritime Fishing. Through a collaboration, CAWTAR and the Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Maritime Fishing were able to identify 250 ADGs across Tunisia. The sampling is based on the report "[Map of Poverty in Tunisia](#)" published by the National Institute of Statistics in September 2020. Out of the 250 identified, 50 ADGs from areas with the highest level of poverty were selected. Their distribution on the Tunisian territory reflects the country's social and economic fabric.

Data collection is done digitally, which minimises errors and centralizes results. WFP will be responsible for the analysis of results related to the "food security and nutrition strategy" axis. CAWTAR will be responsible for analysing the results related to the "resilience and value chain" and "social protection and coverage" axes, while cross-referencing them with data on respondents' access to technology and financial facilities. The study is expected to be completed by the end of April and the results will be available in early May.

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: Vegetable gardens in the region of Sidi Bouzid.
WFP/Aziza Bouhejba