In May 2021

This month focus groups were held by our partner “Center of Arab Women for Training and Research” (CAWTAR) in the Fahs region of Zaghouan, as part of the Zero Hunger and Gender Analysis study jointly launched in April. Through these focus groups, rural women of the Agricultural Development Groups (ADGs) of Nadhour expressed their need to fully participate in the social and economic aspects of the activities of the ADGs.

Operational Context

Ten years after the Jasmin revolution, Tunisia is still attempting to strengthen its democracy amid massive political and socio-economic challenges. Since the presidential elections in late 2019, the political landscape of the country has been quite fragmented with a mosaic of small political movements that struggle to form a cohesive government.

Since 2013, WFP has been assisting the Government of Tunisia to strengthen its capacity to implement and gradually innovate the National School Meals Programme (NSMP) serving as a social protection mechanism for 260,000 children and their families. 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 contribute to the achievement of WFP’s Strategic Result 5 “Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the Sustainable Development Goals”. WFP’s Country Strategic Plan (CSP) (2018-2022) for Tunisia is aligned with Tunisia’s United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2021-2025).

Operational Updates

- In the framework of the 2021 UN Summit on Food Systems, WFP and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Tunisia started preparations for an independent dialogue on the food system in Kairouan region. The objective is to launch a process of reflection and exchange to work towards a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable food system in the region. The dialogue will take place in Kairouan on 01-02 June, with several participants from different economic sectors around the food system. Participants will discuss issues in their region that impact the local food system.

- In early May, WFP and its partner, Islamic Relief Tunisia, met with women from five ADGs in Tataouine and Kebeli, as well as with small farmers in the region working in greenhouse production. The objective was to assess the ADGs capacities in order to support the National School Feeding Program. Their production can meet up to 20 percent of the food needs of the surrounding school canteens and could ensure healthy and nutritious food for school children while improving the livelihoods of local smallholders.

- In April, WFP launched the Zero Hunger and Gender Analysis study. During the reporting month, more than 140 Community Based Organizations (CBO) were surveyed to understand their vulnerability in terms of food security and livelihood, access to social protection services, economic access, and agriculture production. The study will inform the National Strategy for the empowerment of rural women conducted by the Ministry of Women.
Follow up on WFP activities in the South region of Tunisia.

In May, WFP initiated a follow-up for its field activities in the south of the country. A WFP delegation went to Tozeur, then to Gabes and finally to Sidi Bouzid. These activities are implemented in the framework of the support to the national school feeding programme of the Ministry of Education funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) in Tunisia. The WFP delegation met in each governorate with Regional Education Commissioners, Governors, and cooperating partners.

The partners presented the progress of school activities and school vegetable gardens. WFP was also able to discuss the need to identify ADGs in each region that could benefit from WFP’s support in supplying school canteens with fresh produce.

The delegation discussed the difficulties to access the markets for small farmers, but also the challenges related to processing agricultural products, the impact of climate change, the informal work of rural women who are particularly vulnerable to market fluctuations and unequal working conditions.

Back at the office, the delegation prepared a series of recommendations to improve its support to the government and better meet the needs of the country’s rural populations.

### 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

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**WFP Country Strategy**

**Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)**

<table>
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<th>Total Requirement (in US$)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in US$)</th>
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<td>2021 Requirements</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US$) (June - November 2021)</td>
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**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 finalized the household assessment report that confirms the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on rural households’ food security. WFP will support the most vulnerable populations through food restricted vouchers.

### Challenges

- 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

- With the aim of synergizing the efforts of the Ministry of Education and WFP for the implementation of the Strategy for the Sustainability of the National School Feeding Programme (NSFP), the Office of School Works (OEESCO) and the National Centre for Educational Technology (CNTE) signed an agreement to establish a database of students benefiting from school meals in different regions. The database will be visualized as a dashboard updated in real time and hosted in a mobile platform. The parties committed to cooperate in order to ensure the implementation of the NFSP, in particular through support to OEESCO to set up the information system, to develop its governance system and to set up a training academy dedicated to food-related professions.