In July 2021

Two WFP chartered flight carrying COVID-19 testing kits and medical supplies arrived in Tunis in July to support both Tunisia and Libya in combatting the global pandemic. The last flight carried more than 5 tons of medical equipment including 37,000 rapid test kits, 26,000 PCR tests, 1,000 respirators, 700 venturi masks and 40 oxygen concentrators, that will be equally distributed between the two countries.

Operational Context

Ten years after the jasmine revolution, Tunisia continues to grapple with addressing underlying systemic change required in response to the political and socio-economic challenges it faces and constrained by the fragmented political landscape that has characterised the country in the wake of the 2019 Presidential elections.

Since 2013, WFP has been assisting the Government of Tunisia to strengthen its capacity to implement and bring innovative approaches to 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) (2018-2021) for Tunisia is aligned with Tunisia’s United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2021-2025).

Operational Updates

- WFP conducted a study on the nutritional and eating habits of school-aged pupils in the governorate of Siliana, in the rural regions of Kesra, Bargou and Rouhia. The preliminary results of this study have shown that although most of the school children and their parents are of normal weight, minimum food diversity is not achieved, particularly for women, and there is a prevalence of iron deficiency. Very few have knowledge of healthy nutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and the causes of malnutrition by micronutrient deficiency and/or excess of food. Therefore, WFP will start developing new Social Behavioural Communication Change tools and materials.

- The Gender and Zero Hunger study launched in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Women, Family and Elderly, has been completed. WFP and its local partner, Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) have been consulting more than 530 rural women’s group (Groupement de Development Agricole – GDA) members to assess how COVID-19 impacted their food security, productivity, and access to social protection. The preliminary results will be presented to local authorities for final validation in August.

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Photo: WFP Tunisia Supply Chain Officer, Mr Cherif Fanta Mamady inspecting the medical equipment shipment. WFP/ Aziza Bouhejba
WFP Country Strategy

Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>4 m</td>
<td>6 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021 Requirements</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (August 2021 - January 2022)</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 is conducting a baseline study in Kasserine Governorate to better understand what are the food preferences of beneficiaries reached via cash-based transfer modality. Due to the ongoing restrictions WFP is doing remote monitoring through Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI). The baseline assessment results will be available in September and will be completed by a Market Functionality Index assessment.

Challenges

- A few of WFP’s interventions are currently 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

- WFP developed its partnership action plan with the objective of expanding its partnership base to the private sector to strengthen the Tunisian Government’s capacity to implement school meals and other social protection programmes in support of improving the food security and nutrition of the population.

WFP CONTRIBUTES TO THE DELIVERY OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND COVID-19 TEST KITS TO TUNISIA AND LIBYA

A flight chartered by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) carrying COVID-19 test kits and medical equipment arrived in Tunis in early July to help Tunisia and Libya fight the global pandemic.

The flight carried 60,000 PCR test kits and 50,000 rapid test kits that will be equally distributed between the two countries. The Tunisian Minister of Health, Faouzi Mehdi, and the acting Head of Office of the WFP in Tunisia, Jane Waite, were present at the handover of the shipment.

Mr. Mehdi expressed his gratitude to the governments of Germany and South Korea for the donation that enabled the delivery of this much needed medical equipment. He also thanked WFP for its efforts to facilitate the supply chain of essential medical kits. "This reflects the solidarity and support of the international community in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, especially as the world is facing new variants of this virus that are spreading at an alarming rate," he said.

This is the eighth delivery that WFP has coordinated to Tunisia and Libya since last year, as part of efforts to fight the pandemic in coordination with the African Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Since 2020, WFP has strengthened its logistical capacity to support international efforts to combat this pandemic, and we will continue to support these important efforts," said Waite. WFP’s Tunisia office has played a key role in managing the humanitarian supply chain by coordinating airlifts, communication, and delivery of these medical items from WFP’s humanitarian hub in Addis Ababa to Tunis through the digital Service Marketplace platform. This reduces operational costs by avoiding duplication of storage, transportation and delivery costs.

The medical supplies were donated to the African Union Commission’s Centre for Disease Control and Prevention by the governments of Germany and South Korea.

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