



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Tunisia Country Brief August 2021

In August 2021

This August WFP published its assessment of [food security and nutrition among People Living with HIV \(PLHIV\) in Tunisia](#), funded by UNAIDS Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) and rolled out in 2020. The study recommends training and capacity building of health professionals as well as the promotion of HIV sensitive social protection.

Operational Context

Ten years after the Jasmin 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) (2018-2022) for Tunisia is aligned with Tunisia's United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2021-2025).



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

- The preliminary results of the Gender and Zero Hunger study launched by WFP in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Women, Family and Elderly and the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) shows that despite an acceptable food security situation of 70 percent of interviewed rural women's group members (Groupement de Developement Agricole - GDA) and their families, a high percentage of those women had to recur to crisis and emergency livelihood coping strategies, such as selling productive assets, reduce medical and education expenses. The analysis of the results will be available by the end of September. WFP is supporting the government to produce evidence to inform the National Strategy for the empowerment of rural women; this study is part of that evidence-based production.

Monitoring

- As part of the cash transfer intervention, supported by the contribution of the Government of Japan to help improve the food security and nutrition of vulnerable rural families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP, and the Tunisian Union of Social Solidarity (UTSS) are conducting a baseline study to understand beneficiary's food preferences as well as assess their food security and livelihood coping strategies. Initially planned as a remote exercise, thanks to the lifting of movement restriction due to COVID-19, data collection is now conducted by trained enumerators across the three selected regions of intervention: Kasserine, Kairouan and Siliana. The Market Functionality Index (MFI) assessment has been finalised by UTSS after investigating issues related to the availability, price, resilience, competition, infrastructure, service, quality, access, and protection. The MFI will help WFP determine what is the best modality to implement.

Image: [WFP's evaluation of food security and nutrition among PLHIV in Tunisia](#)

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) (Sept.2021 - Feb 2022)
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.

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.

Partnerships

- WFP, IFAD, FAO, and UN Women are currently preparing a joint programme to support rural women economic empowerment in Tunisia. The overarching goal of this joint intervention is to secure rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development, based on four outcome areas: improved food and nutrition security; increased income to secure their livelihoods; enhanced leadership and participation in rural institutions and in shaping laws, policies and programmes; and gender responsive policy environments for the economic empowerment of rural women. The programme is in line with the strategic priorities set by the newly signed UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Tunisia 2021-2025 and strongly supported by the Resident Coordination Office.

WFP PUBLISHES THE FIRST EVALUATION ON FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION AMONG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV IN TUNISIA

WFP and the Tunisian government conducted an evaluation on the food security and nutrition among people living with HIV (PLHIV) in Tunisia that was published in August 2021.

In March 2020, WFP chaired the Steering Committee (SC) on behalf of UNAIDS bringing together WFP, UNAIDS officials, and the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Social Affairs of Tunisia. In response to the lack of data on malnutrition and food insecurity among PLHIV in Tunisia, the SC decided that WFP and the Tunisian government would be conducting a district-level assessment of food and nutrition security among PLHIV.

The results of the assessment show that food insecurity among PLHIV in Tunisia has reached a significant level. One third of PLHIV resort to coping strategies such as begging, participation in illegal activities and homelessness to meet their food needs. Poor adherence to antiretroviral therapy is strongly associated with poverty and food insecurity.

Food and nutrition assistance is crucial in the form of health and social protection services to facilitate uptake of HIV counseling, testing, treatment, and prevention. Besides the basic health services provided by the government, the assessment shows weak social protection services.

Working with the government on the national HIV response, social protection plans, and social and behavioral change communication (SBCC) activities are viable entry points for Tunisia to ensure the inclusion of PLHIV in the national social protection system.

With these recommendations, WFP will work with the government and partners to address the food insecurity of PLHIV, ensuring adequate food consumption, increased access to livelihoods through social protection systems, as well as reduced negative coping mechanisms amongst PLHIV.

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