In December 2021

- **3,000 families** assisted with in-kind food parcels in the rural regions of Kasserine, Kairouan and Siliana.
- 72 people attended the workshop for social workers on a social protection system sensitive to PLHIV.
- 29 people attended the media workshop on a social protection system sensitive to PLHIV.

Operational Context

Tunisia has steadily progressed toward democracy since the 2011 Jasmin Revolution, but still confronts significant political and socioeconomic challenges. Due to persisting structural issues and an economy that is primarily dependent on external funding sources, the country has had 14 governments in the past 10 years and is experiencing visible social tensions and a delayed economic recovery.

Tunisia's current Country Strategic Plan (CSP) (2018-2021) builds on WFP's technical assistance and policy advice, enhancing WFP's effective partnerships with the government and other national and international stakeholders to ensure the CSP'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 assists national institutions implementing school meals and social protection programmes with policy guidance and technical assistance. WFP engages with the government to improve regulatory frameworks and tools.

The CSP is aligned with the Government's reform of the education sector and its Sustainable School Meals Strategy, as well as with Tunisia's United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2021-2025). WFP’s operations in Tunisia contribute to the implementation of WFP’s Strategic Result 5 “Developing countries have enhanced ability to implement the Sustainable Development Goals” which focuses on SDG 2 (targets 2.1 and 2.2), SDG 4 (target 17.9), and SDG 17 (target 17.9).

Operational Updates

- WFP held a workshop for social workers and the Ministry of Social Affairs to sensitize them on the importance of effective and equitable social protection schemes for People living with HIV (PLHIV) to reduce the disadvantages and inequalities that make them more vulnerable. Following this workshop, social workers and officials from the Ministry of Social Affairs will put forward 5 key measures to be implemented: the draft and submission of a specific law for the social protection of PLHIV; the recognition of HIV/AIDS as a chronic disease for full coverage under health insurance; the establishment of a dedicated programme covering the specific needs of PLHIV to be integrated in the social programmes of the Direction of Basic Health Care (DSSB); the mobilization of more resources in coordination with NGOs, UN and international organizations to strengthen prevention, awareness and nutrition; the establishment of mechanisms for economic empowerment and social integration of PLHIV.

- WFP conducted a media sensitization workshop aimed at maximizing the impact of advocacy for a social protection system to be PLHIV-sensitive. This workshop helped to initiate and foster an open discussion on HIV/AIDS, including on the stigma faced by PLHIV in accessing social protection. By encouraging the media to take part in the discussion informing public opinion, WFP hopes to encourage the authorities to act against the social discrimination of PLHIV.

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Image WFP/Aziza Bouhejba: Food parcels in Kasserine ready to be distributed.
**WFP Country Strategy**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in US$)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 m</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021 Requirements</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1 m</td>
<td>3.6 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022 Requirements</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US$) (January - June 2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 m</td>
<td>0.6 m</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**

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

**Monitoring**

- In preparation for the food distribution, WFP conducted monitoring visits of its partner the Tunisian Union of Social Solidarity (UTSS) warehouses in early December. WFP visited the warehouses of UTSS in Kairouan, Kasserine and Siliana to ensure they are all well-equipped, safe and secured. Following the food distribution, WFP held a process monitoring, ensuring that UTSS followed the recommendations and standards of WFP's food distribution.

**Challenges**

- WFP's initiatives linked to capacity strengthening support to the government through trainings, and activities at school level, such as culinary demonstrations are currently on hold due to COVID-19 health security measures.

**Partnerships**

- WFP has initiated the preparation of the 2021 Annual Country Report (ACR), which will be finalized and published in March 2022. The ACR will be shared and disseminated to WFP partners and donors. Published on WFP.org, the public document presents WFP achievements for the year 2021 in Tunisia but also the challenges it faced, along with mitigating actions taken.

With Japan's contribution, WFP delivers 100 tons of food to meet the needs of vulnerable families following the COVID pandemic

As part of Japan's US$280,000 donation to the UN World Food Programme announced in May 2021, WFP, through its implementing partner the Tunisian Union of Social Solidarity (UTSS), distributed in December 2021 food parcels to 3,000 vulnerable households as a complement to the government's social transfers in coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs, in Kasserine, Kairouan and Siliana.

Populations in remote rural areas of Tunisia are affected by the socio-economic impact of the health crisis due to loss of livelihoods and food insecurity because of movement restrictions and severe challenges on import and local supply availability. The Government of Japan, through a grant to WFP, wished to support the improvement of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Tunisia, particularly with regard to food security and nutrition of vulnerable populations living in rural areas.

The food aid reached 1,500 families in Kasserine, 750 families in Kairouan and 750 families in Siliana. The food package is composed of different basic food products counting for a total of 2100 Kcal per package, enough to support the diet of a family of 5 people for 14 days. The proposed basket represents fairly balanced macro and micro-nutrient levels, i.e. 45% protein, 30% lipids and 11.7% iron per day and per household.

The distribution ceremony took place at the UTSS premises in Kasserine in the presence of the Minister of Social Affairs, Mr. Malek ZAHI, His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Shinsuke SHIMIZU, the Head of WFP Tunisia Program, Mr. Philippe ROYAN, the Governor of Kasserine, Mr. Adel MABROUK, and the President of UTSS Mr. Mohamed KHOUINI. Mohamed KHOUINI.

"We are pleased to collaborate with WFP, our reliable partner, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020," said Mr. Shinsuke Shimizu, Ambassador of Japan to Tunisia. "We are proud to be able to contribute to this project which will alleviate the distress of 3,000 families in Kasserine, Siliana and Kairouan, while Tunisia is facing an economic and social crisis that is likely to worsen with the arrival of winter."

**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
- Government of Japan