WFP Tunisia
Country Brief
November 2022

Operational Context

Despite the democratic achievements of the Jasmine Revolution, Tunisia 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. In July 2021, President Kais Saied prompted changes in the country’s political governance from a parliamentary to presidential system. While a new Government came into being in September 2021, parliamentary activity has been frozen. A referendum on constitutional reforms was held in July 2022, to grant the President vast prerogatives. But the low turnout undermines the legitimacy of the process and threatens the young Tunisian democracy. The adoption of the new Constitution is to be followed by a parliamentary election in December 2022.

WFP Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2022-2025 consolidates the previous work accomplished in school feeding, while strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers and the capacity of government institutions to improve the quality, flexibility, inclusivity, and shock responsiveness of national social safety nets. 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).

In Numbers

| 435.32 mt | of food assistance distributed |
| 5,507 people | assisted in November 2022 |

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Photo Caption: School children from the primary school of Sodga in Siliana. WFP/Aziza Bouhejba

Operational Updates

- WFP and the national research firm ‘Technical and Practical Assistance to Development’ (TPAD) held a feedback and validation workshop on the In-Depth Assessment of National and Regional School Feeding Markets. This is part of the ADAPT* programme implemented in partnership with the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and funded by the European Union. The workshop allowed key national institutions, including the Ministry of Education and the Office des Oeuvres Scolaire (School Works Office), to examine and validate the recommendations. These included the need to encourage local food procurement from smallholder farmers and to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Education for better coordination of food procurement. The study also found that legal reforms are needed to support local market suppliers’ access to public procurement opportunities.

- A joint project aimed at Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE) for 2022-2027 has been signed by the Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries, Mahmoud Elyes Hamza. Led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), JP RWEE is being implemented jointly with the WFP, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and UN Women, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Maritime Fisheries, the Ministry of Social Affairs, and the Ministry of Family, Women, Children and the Elderly. The JP RWEE aims to support nearly 2,220 rural women, 780 smallholder farmers and agricultural transporters, and 60 professional agricultural organisations, through a series of integrated actions. The project has been financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). WFP will focus on increasing access to resources and assets for climate resilient production, while strengthening the capacity of female smallholder farmers to access local markets. WFP will also work on enhancing gender-responsive policies to create an enabling environment for rural women.

Further information:

- Population: 12 million
- Income Level: Lower middle
- 2021 Human Development Index: 94 out of 189
- GNI per Capita (PPP): USD 11,270

*ADAPT: Practical Assistance to Development
**Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (2022-2025)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated contributions (in USD)</th>
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<td>12 m</td>
<td>6 m</td>
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<tr>
<th>2022 Requirement s (in USD)</th>
<th>2023 Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Six-months Net Funding Requirements December 2022-May 2023 (in USD)</th>
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<td>4 m</td>
<td>3 m</td>
<td>0.2 m</td>
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**Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable**

**Strategic Outcome 1: Vulnerable groups have increased economic opportunities and strengthened resilience to shocks and climate risks.**

**Focus area: Resilience Building**

**Activity:**
- Provide technical assistance to smallholder farmers

**Strategic Result 5: Developing countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs**

**Strategic Outcome 2: 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 technical assistance to national institutions through innovations, enhanced data, pilot transfer modalities and South-South cooperation

**WFP’s cooperating partner, the Tunisian Union of Social Solidarity (UTSS) conducted the distribution of food parcels to 5,507 vulnerable families in Kairouan, Kasserine and Siliana. However due to technical challenges on site, UTSS could not finalise the delivery of food parcels in Kasserine and Siliana. Distributions will continue in December to reach the total planned assistance of 7,500 vulnerable families. A total of 435.32 mt of food parcels has been distributed, which amounts to 73 percent of the planned quantities.**

**Funding partners**
- Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)
- 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

**Monitoring**

- WFP is using remote monitoring to measure the progress of the distribution and its impact on beneficiaries. The process monitoring reported only two incidents during the distributions; WFP and UTSS have taken the necessary measures to respond to these incidents.
- Through the Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM), WFP received 556 calls from participants, the majority gave positive feedback on the quality of food received while 55 percent asked for another cycle of distribution and to add more participants.
- The Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) report will be available in December.

**Partnership**

- WFP’s Country Director, Mr Raoul Balletto, conducted a meeting with the regional director of AICS, Mr. Senatori, to discuss potential future collaborations. There are synergies between WFP and AICS strategies in Tunisia. AICS’s new programmatic strategy will focus on local production, with particular attention to local producers and livelihood, ecologic transition, bio-agriculture, green and blue economy. WFP and AICS have been working together since 2018 on school feeding projects including school vegetable gardens, rehabilitation of school canteens and more recently the link between school feeding and smallholder farmers.
- WFP’s Country Director, Mr Raoul Balletto, met the German Ambassador, Peter Prugel, the political counsellor, Jannis Paehler, and the chef adjoint of the German Cooperation. In the meeting, WFP’s operations in Tunisia were introduced and explained. Germany has an important cooperation with Tunisia, focusing mainly on Social Protection, under the umbrella of COVID-19 support, and Resilience activities. Despite its lack of a particular cooperation engagement in agriculture in Tunisia, Germany supports small farmers and entrepreneurs, with a special focus on protection of water and soil. Germany’s aim is tomeaningfully boost production activities, preserving at the same time the environment.

*ADAPT is Appui au Développement durable dans le secteur de l’Agriculture et de la Pêche artisanale en Tunisie - Support for Sustainable Development in the Agriculture and Artisanal Fisheries sector in Tunisia*