



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Tunisia Country Brief May 2023

Operational Context

Since the 2011 Jasmine Revolution, Tunisia has been struggling with a challenging political and socio-economic context. Tunisia has had 14 governments over the past ten years and is suffering from perceptible social tensions and slow economic recovery due to ongoing structural challenges and an economy that is highly dependent on external revenue sources. While progress has been made in combating malnutrition, Tunisia still grapples with the dual burden of malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, along with overweight and obesity. Although hunger levels are low according to the Global Hunger Index, an economic recession, high unemployment, climate change, regional disparities, and cereal imports threaten the ability of vulnerable populations to access a nutritious diet. Prevalence of food insecurity has risen to 28 percent, affecting 3.3 million Tunisians, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) [2022 Food Security report](#).

In Tunisia, WFP is providing technical assistance and policy advice through capacity-strengthening activities at both the government and community levels. WFP Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2022-2025 continues to enhance the Government-run school feeding programme, 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 will supplement its regular monitoring efforts with gender-sensitive food security and nutrition assessments aimed at supporting evidence-based policy design and implementation.

Population: **12 million**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2021 Human Development Index:
97 out of 188



In Numbers

WFP Tunisia country programme focuses on Government capacity building

90 women attended Participatory Community Planning workshop in May 2023

US\$ 0.2 m six months net funding requirements (June - November 2023)

Operational Updates

- As part of the implementation of the Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE) project with FAO, IFAD and UN Women, WFP conducted a Participatory Community Planning (PCP) workshop in Kairouan Governorate. Nascent project plans were developed to address the economic empowerment needs of the project's target population, which includes 1,700 women members of professional organizations.
- WFP in Tunisia has taken proactive measures to enhance the effectiveness of the National School Feeding Program aiming to establish a vital connection between farmers' production and markets. This initiative involves partnering with the Mutual Society of Agricultural Services (SMSA) and the Office of School works (OOESCO) to develop a robust supply chain mechanism. The primary objective is to ensure that the national school feeding program receives a consistent supply of fresh vegetables and fruits directly from smallholder farmers. By bridging the gap between local agricultural producers and school canteens, WFP strives to enhance nutrition and promote sustainable farming practices within the community.

Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (CSP) (2022-2025)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated contributions (in US\$)
11.6 m	7.1 m
2023 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-months Net Funding Requirements (June to November 2023) (in US\$)
3.1 m	0.2 m

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

Partnerships

In May, WFP Japanese goodwill ambassador Ms. Anne Watanabe visited Tunisia schools where WFP supports the National School Meal Programme and commended the progress made. She visited the school of Sodga in Siliana, and a women-led Agricultural Development Group (GDA) that produces wheat-based products such as Couscous and Borghol. In consequence, Japan Association for WFP (JAWFP) expressed interest in funding further school feeding activities.

In response, WFP Tunisia, with the support of WFP Tokyo Office, designed a school-based programme and nutrition support initiative aiming to ensure that primary school children have access to nutritious meals by incorporating locally sourced food items. Five schools are targeted by the

project, titled "Enhancing the Resilience of Tunisia's National School Meal Programme", planned for a duration of 12 months and a total budget of US\$ 300,000. It focuses on educating children about proper nutrition and encourages the use of school kitchen gardens to improve their dietary habits. By connecting the school feeding programme's procurement with local smallholder farmers, it promotes economies of scale too.



Challenges

WFP in Tunisia expects resourcing shortfalls throughout 2023 to carry out planned activities under its CSP, due to global shrinking resources, coupled with the rise in new emergencies worldwide such as the Sudan crisis. The country office is stepping up its efforts to mobilize increased resources and diversify its funding base.

Donors

- Government of Japan
- Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)
- Ministry of Agriculture - Regional Commissariat for Agricultural Development of Siliana (CRDA)
- Principality of Monaco
- UNAIDS - Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF)
- UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund

Photo Caption: WFP's Goodwill Ambassador Ms Anne Watanabe in the school of Sodga in Siliana having lunch with school children.
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