

WFP Tunisia Country Brief September 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. The 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: **94 out of 188**



In Numbers

WFP Tunisia country programme focuses on Government capacity building

US\$ 0.05 m six months net funding requirements (October 2023 to March 2024)

Operational Updates

The Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress Toward Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (JP-RWEE)

On 12 September, WFP Tunisia conducted a meeting as part of JP-RWEE. In collaboration with FAO, IFAD, and UN Women, WFP featured the results of five Community-Based Participatory Planning (CBPP) workshops held over the previous three months, with 200 participants representing 18 different agricultural professional organizations from five delegations of the Jendouba governorate.

The meeting was an opportunity to reinforce the participatory approach adopted by the project and to inform on output indicators with stakeholders such as the increased proportion of rural women demonstrating empowerment as measured by the relevant Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI).

Supporting sustainable food systems, the JP-RWEE project will focus on empowering women and other beneficiary groups with specialized training and select tools tailored to their specific areas of interest and value chains that are based on the research findings.

The ADAPT Programme

Within the ADAPT* programme's Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC), in September, WFP and project partners organized the formative research restitution workshop. The research findings helped set targeted actions for 2024 to improve the nutrition status of school-aged children and ensure focused strategies for positive change.

Moreover, in September, under the ADAPT programme, WFP provided culinary skills training to 24 school cooks through its cooperating partner,

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

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Total Received (in US\$)
11.6 m	7.8 m
2023 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-months Net Funding Requirements (October 2023 to March 2024) (in US\$)
3.1 m	0.05 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*

Activities:

- 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 their capacity to implement enhanced school meals and social protection programs that advance food security and nutrition by 2025.

Focus area: *Root Causes*

Activities:

- Provide technical assistance to national institutions through innovations, enhanced data, pilot transfer modalities and South-South cooperation.

the Training Agency for Tourism Professions (AFMT). The programme equipped the participants with essential culinary skills and fostered a deeper grasp of hygienic and nutritional requirements.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) event

Under UNSDCF 2021-2025, in September, WFP Tunisia participated in the 2023 mini-retreat of the 4th Results Group (GR4) covering UNSDCF Outcome 4¹.

Over two days, four UN agencies, including WFP, visited a selection of project sites implemented by ILO and FAO in the Kasserine governorate and explored potential collaboration opportunities with local authorities linked to urgent development needs for Tunisia.

- WFP Tunisia continued its strategic partnership with Japan in September, through the "Driving Rural Women's Economic Empowerment: Accelerating Progress in Tunisia" project funded by the Japanese Supplementary Budget 2023. The initiative aims to empower rural women and households in Tunisia by focusing on enhancing food security, nutrition, and sustainable food systems. It emphasizes agro-processing skills, reducing post-harvest losses, and promoting gender equity.
- In September, the Tunisian Government and WFP have designated a national committee for managing the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), with a role of overseeing the fund's operations and ensuring its effective utilization for youth employment and rural socio-economic development. WFP and the International Labour Office (ILO) have been actively working together to prepare a comprehensive joint proposal aimed at enhancing youth employment opportunities and promoting agricultural production.

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. 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, UNMPTF RWEE FUND (Sweden / Norway)

¹UNSDCF Outcome 4: By 2025, all committed actors will ensure fair, transparent, and sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystems, and territories, improving

their resilience/adaptation as well as that of populations, especially the most vulnerable, in the face of crises and climate risks.