

WFP Tunisia Country Brief January 2024

In Numbers

WFP Tunisia country program focuses on Government and community capacity building

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: **94 out of 188**



Operational Updates

- Within the **framework of IFAD's Siliana Territorial Development Pathways Promotion Project (PROFITS)**, which aims to support the implementation of Tunisia's National School Feeding Programme in Siliana governorate, **WFP conducted a National Nutrition Caravan for 1,000 school children across five primary schools**. Over three days, through informative sessions and workshops. The initiative aimed to raise awareness on water consumption, healthy nutritional and eating habits as well as food labelling. WFP implemented the activities in collaboration with the School Works Office (OOESCO) of Tunisia's Ministry of Education and in partnership with the National Institute of Consumption (INC), the National Institute of Nutrition & Food Technology (INNTA) and the National Agency for Health and Environmental Control of Products.
- On January 11, WFP and OOESCO conducted a planning session to review 2023 achievements and **the 2024 plan covering all capacity-strengthening activities in support of Tunisia's National School Feeding Programme**. The comprehensive 2024 implementation plan reflects a deep commitment to improving the nutritional status and educational outcomes of schoolchildren in Tunisia. It includes a set of training sessions and support for the **digital mapping of the school feeding network as well as the gradual implementation of the 'Last Mile Ecosystem' procurement platform for primary schools**, to ensure effective distribution of food. To **strengthen the local food systems**, the plan also includes conducting a **pilot initiative on school canteen procurement from local producers**.

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

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated contributions (in US\$)
11.6 m	7.8 m
2024 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (February 2024 to July 2024) (in US\$)
2.9 m	0 m

SDG target 4: Sustainable food system

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

SDG target 5: Capacity Building

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 local school canteen pilot will not only promote the consumption of locally produced food but also contribute to the local economy by supporting small-scale producers. Other key areas of the plan include conducting mass Social and Behavioural campaigns, completing a nationwide study of micronutrient deficiencies, producing an updated 'cost of diet study' and supporting the MoE on its path to join the global school meals coalition.

- **Under the Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE), on January 23 and 24, WFP facilitated two training sessions for 12 representatives of nine Agricultural Development Groups (GDAs) and local NGOs** in Tabarka delegation.

The first session focused on NGO registration on the UN Partner Portal (UNPP), enabling them to actively engage in expression of interest calls published by WFP and UN

Agencies, particularly for the upcoming Food For Assets (FFA) activities planned under the programme.

These initiatives will benefit the most vulnerable rural communities including women, aiming to enhance their resilience against shocks and natural disasters. As part of these sessions, field visits were conducted to identify actions to be implemented, namely maintenance of firebreak trenches (TPF) and the installation of water basins that serve as barriers, provide water sources for irrigation, and facilitate firefighting efforts during wildfires.

The second session focused on Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS), intending to enhance awareness and capacity among civil society partners on how to comply to WFP's Corporate Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (ESSF). This initiative aimed to better equip them to engage in potential collaborations with WFP and other development actors towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda.

- **On January 19 and 20, WFP facilitated a comprehensive training session in warehouse management for OOESCO officials under ADAPT¹ project.** The training targeted 21 warehouse managers including six women responsible for School Food Banks; providing them with skills and knowledge essential for effective warehouse operations.

Partnerships

WFP Tunisia organized dedicated sessions with main donors such as Italy and Switzerland, offering detailed updates on ongoing operational activities. These sessions facilitated a deeper understanding of the donor landscape and funding challenges, fostering strategic dialogue to enhance collaboration and sustain support within Tunisia.

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 \(Sweden / Norway\)](#)

¹ In French 'Appui au Développement durable dans le secteur de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche artisanale en Tunisie.' -