



WFP Tunisia and Morocco

Country Brief

Highlight

- WFP Tunisia has identified eight primary schools in four different regions of the country to refurbish their existing kitchens and canteens as well as revitalise annexed school gardens. The interventions will result in enhancing the Government's capacity to provide hot nutritious meals to 920 children in 2018.
- Three local NGOs have been selected to support WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture in facilitating the establishment of sustainable links between local agriculture production and the National School Meals Programme. The NGOs will support the revitalization of ten school gardens, which will be leveraged as hubs for community participation.

WFP Assistance

Capacity Development for School Feeding in Tunisia DEV 200493 (December 2012 – March 2018)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	6.5 m	4.6 m (70%)	--

*Feb- March 2018

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan T-ICSP MA01 (Jan 2018 – Dec 2018)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	214,000	0	0

* February-May 2018, considering resource transfer from DEV to T-ICSP

Tunisia – WFP supports the Government of Tunisia to enhance its National School Meals Programme targeting 120,000 girls and 130,000 boys (aged 6 – 11 years) in 2,500 primary schools, a key component of the Education Sector Reform. Starting in July 2013, WFP provided assistance under three main areas: (i) review of the existing national programme; (ii) study visits for South-South cooperation, sharing experiences and best practices; and (iii) development of a Sustainable School Meals Strategy, endorsed by the Ministry of Education in December 2014. The Government requested WFP's continued technical assistance and policy advice to operationalise its Sustainable School Meals Strategy.

In 2017, WFP supported the government in conducting the 2017 Strategic Review on Food Security and Nutrition, which identifies gaps and opportunities for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2. WFP continued to provide technical assistance and policy advice to national institutions managing Tunisia's School Meals Programme, with specific focus on: (i) strengthening regulatory frameworks and tools; (ii) upgrading the current decentralised school feeding model in order to augment the system's capacity to provide nutritious meals; and (iii) accompanying the piloting of new efficient implementation modalities that are accountable, and support local employment creation.

In line with a multi-dimensional approach to sustainable school meals, WFP fosters links with local smallholder farmers' groups, especially rural women-led community-based organisations to promote the use of locally produced foods and contribute to job creation. WFP supports the Government in the implementation of an innovative central kitchen pilot in the Zaghouan governorate, and the revitalisation of school gardens as hubs for nutritional and environmental education.

Morocco - In 2013, the Government requested WFP's support to review the National School Meals Programme, which provides meals for 658,000 girls and 742,000 boys in primary, secondary and boarding schools, of which 70 percent are located in rural areas. In response, WFP designed a Development Project that was implemented in three phases: (i) an assessment of the existing school meals programme; (ii) the development of a Plan of Action for the improvement of national school meals; and (iii) study visits and sharing of best practices.

WFP Plan of Action for the improvement of the National School Meals Programme was validated by the Government in July 2016 and its implementation constitutes the core of WFP's operations for the T-ICSP in 2018. Specifically, the activities aim to (i) strengthen regulatory frameworks and tools in the areas of governance and normative guidelines; and (ii) support the Government in the design of school meals pilots that are efficient, accountable and support local employment creation.

During 2017, WFP provided policy advice to the Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research (MNE) in the implementation of the Plan of Action. Through its capacity strengthening activities, WFP supported the development of a ministerial decree outlining Morocco's school feeding policy.

Credit: WFP / Zein Mohsen

Caption: Students enjoying a hot nutritious meal in Jradou Primary School, Zaghouan Governorate, 2017.



January 2018

Operational Updates

Tunisia

- As a result of the field visits carried out by WFP in cooperation with the Tunisian regional commissariats of agriculture and education, eight new primary schools have been selected for the upgrade of their kitchens and canteens. The interventions will enable the selected schools to replace sandwich meals with the preparation of nutritious hot meals.
- WFP supports the Ministry of Education (MoE) in piloting new implementation modalities, by providing technical advice for the construction and equipment of Nadhour Central Kitchen, in the region of Zaghuan. WFP visited the University Central Canteen of El Mourouj and had informal consultations with national experts in order to accompany the MoE with the roll out of equipment procurement. The Nadhour Central Kitchen construction works are now 85 percent accomplished and the facilities are expected to be operational by the end of the school year.

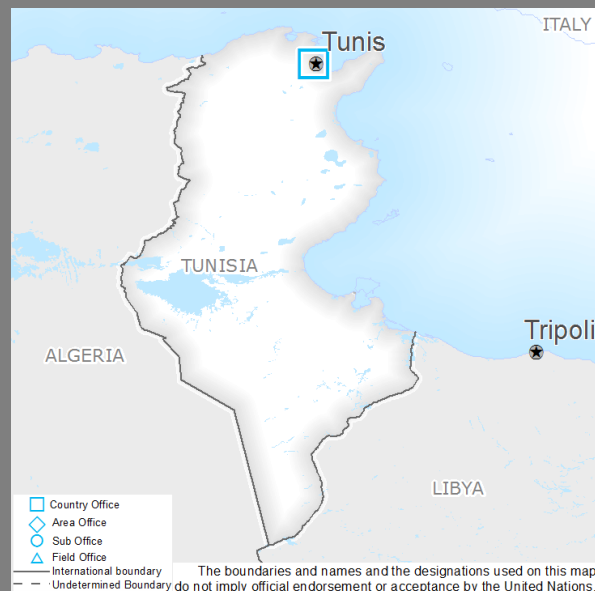
Morocco

- WFP provided technical support to the Ministry of National Education by supporting the development of guidelines for the implementation of the National School Meals Programme. Objectives of the guidelines are (i) to modernise and standardise the NSMP operational practices in primary, secondary and boarding schools, based on international quality standards; (ii) to facilitate performance evaluation; and (iii) to improve the overall effectiveness of the NSMP. The guidelines will enable the government to introduce improvements in the areas of governance, financing, supply chain, monitoring and evaluation.

Partnerships

- WFP Tunisia and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) will partner to rehabilitate school canteens in 2018. Eight schools will be upgraded and enabled to provide hot nutritious meals for a total number of 920 students in the rural governorates of Ariana, Nabeul, Kairouan and Kasserine. The first phase of the partnership will result in UNOPS providing detailed technical specifications for the renovation and equipment on each of the selected schools under the decentralised school meals model. WFP will take advantage of UNOPS' expertise in the field of procurement for school rehabilitation and equipment in Tunisia. The partnership agreement is scheduled to be signed in February 2018.
- WFP continues to build partnerships with Tunisian local and national NGOs on the revitalisation of school gardens. *The Association de soutien à l'auto-développement (ASAD)*, *Un Repas pour chaque Tunisien (URPCT)*, *Association Tunisien de la Protection de la nature et de l'environnement Korba (ATPNE)*, have been selected in the governorates of Zaghuan, Nabeul and Ariana. The strategic purpose of these partnerships is to facilitate the establishment of sustainable links between local agriculture production and the National School Meals Programme, through the revitalization of school gardens as hubs for community participation, notably of women-led community based organisations, as well as students, parents and school staff.

Country Background & Strategy



Tunisia has undergone significant change following the Jasmine Revolution of January 2011. Legislative and presidential elections were held between October and December 2014, a successful milestone in the democratic transition. The strategic direction of the Government focuses on strengthening democracy, while laying the groundwork for a stronger economic recovery. Tunisia has a GNI per capita of USD 11,250 purchasing power parity (World Bank, 2015). The 2016 UNDP Human Development Report ranks Tunisia 97 out of 188 countries and as 58 on the Gender Inequality Index (GII 2015).

Morocco is a middle income, yet food-deficit country where the agricultural production fluctuates yearly as a result of weather variations and relies heavily on international markets to meet its consumption needs. Morocco is ranked 123 out of 188 countries in the 2016 HDI and as 113 on the GII 2015.

WFP has repositioned itself to a technical advisory role through capacity reinforcement activities in both countries, with the provision of technical assistance to the governments as part of their on-going effort to review and improve the national school meals systems. The projects contribute to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, ending hunger and SDG 17, revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development.

WFP has been present in Tunisia since 2011 and in Morocco since 2013.

Population:
Tunisia: **11 million**
Morocco: **33.8 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
Tunisia: **97 out of 188**
Morocco: **123 out of 188**

Income Level:
Tunisia: **Lower middle**
Morocco: **Lower middle**