



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Tunisia Country Brief June 2020



## In June 2020

WFP Tunisia has been requested by the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Mr Slim Choura, to support the Ministry in duplicating the National School Feeding Policy at the level of the country's universities and faculties. WFP Tunisia is working in collaboration with the WFP Regional Office in Cairo to propose an agreement and develop a resource mobilization plan. This initiative is groundbreaking and represents a first in the region.

### Operational Context

Tunisia has undergone significant changes since the Revolution of January 2011. The strategic direction of the Government of Tunisia currently focuses on strengthening democracy, while laying the groundwork for a strong economic recovery. Tunisia has a gross national income (GNI) per capita of US\$10,275 purchasing power parity (UNDP, 2018). The 2018 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index (HDI) ranks Tunisia 95 out of 189 countries and 58th on the Gender Inequality Index (GII 2018).

WFP has positioned itself in a technical advisory role through capacity-strengthening activities, providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Education (ME) and Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Fisheries and Hydraulic Resources (MAPRH), as well as working with other ministries and national stakeholders aiming to improve national school feeding and other social protection programmes in Tunisia.



Population: 11 million

2018 Human Development Index:  
95 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

GNI per Capita (PPP):  
US\$ 3,690

### Operational Updates

- Discussions continue between the main UN agencies, representatives of the civil society and the government of Tunisia through the Ministry of Development and International Cooperation, on the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025' finalization until 15 July. WFP Tunisia has actively participated in this exercise and has chaired the workshops on climate change, biodiversity and emergency preparedness. WFP Tunisia has positioned through SDG 17.9 and SDG 2 under result 1: Policy for an inclusive, sustainable socio-economic development, result 3: Health, Education and Social Protection and result 4: Natural resources management, ecosystems and emergency preparedness.
- WFP Tunisia met with IOM Tunisia to discuss the operationalization of the Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) agreement for a joint response to COVID19 together with UNHABITAT, UNAIDS, UNFPA and UNHCR. Under this agreement, WFP will work with IOM and the Tunisian authorities on four aspects. Firstly, a diagnosis of the current situation of the social response will be conducted with the Ministry of Social Affairs in order to integrate migrants, the homeless, people living with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and the LGBTQ community. In a second phase, a database will be developed with the Ministry of Education through the Office of School Works which will be used to facilitate the inclusion of children who will receive school meals. WFP will also carry out a vulnerability assessment of these populations in terms of food security. Finally, WFP will work with IOM to develop specific training for local authorities, particularly in food security, the supply chain and nutrition.
- Through IFAD's contribution of USD 200,000, WFP has signed a financing agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture represented by the Regional Agricultural Development Centre of Siliana, allowing WFP to make cash transfers for 3 months to 537 families whose children no longer benefit from school meals following the schools closure due to the COVID 19 health crisis.

Contact info: Fatimata Sow Sidibé (fatimata.sow-sidibe@wfp.org)  
Head of Office: Fatimata Sow Sidibé  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/tunisia](http://www.wfp.org/countries/tunisia)

Photo: Planting fruit trees in one of the 2,600 primary schools supported by WFP's capacity strengthening intervention in Tunisia.  
WFP/Zein Mohsen

**Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)**

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
<b>4 m</b>	<b>4 m</b>
2020 Requirement (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Aug 2020 - Jan 2021)
<b>1.6 m</b>	

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

**Strategic Outcome 1:** 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

**Activities:**

- Provide policy advice and technical assistance to national institutions implementing school meals and social protection programmes.

**Monitoring**

- WFP in Tunisia will launch in July a food security and vulnerability assessment (mVAM) across 4 different governorates to understand the impact of COVID-19 among the rural population in Tunisia. The scope of the VAM survey is to inform the COVID-19 National response of the Ministry of Agriculture and support the identification of shock responsive measures to address the gaps identified by the assessment.
- WFP Tunisia has received USD 250,000 from WFP Regional Bureau in Cairo to support the National Observatory of Agriculture (Observatoire National de l'Agriculture, ONAGRI) with establishing a national Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) which will be implemented for the first time in Tunisia.

**Challenges**

- A number of WFP’s interventions have been reduced since the COVID-19 lock down measures have been taken by the Tunisian Government. These interventions mainly reflect the capacity strengthening support to the Ministry of Education through trainings such as the roll out of the Nutrition and Hygiene guidelines as well as the nutrition sensitive activities conducted by WFP’s cooperating partners at school level. With the lifting of the lock down measures announced on May 28, few of the interventions have been already resumed such as the data collection phase of the food security and nutrition study targeting people living with HIV in Tunisia.

**Partnerships**

- On 30 June WFP Tunisia signed a partnership framework agreement with CAWTAR (Center of Arab Women for Training and Research) to strengthen rural women's empowerment and financial inclusion in the agri-food sector, mainly by linking local production to the school feeding programme, thus fostering income generating opportunities for women’s cooperatives.
- On 30 June, WFP Tunisia signed a partnership framework agreement with the Ministry of Industry and SMEs and the

Bizerte Competitiveness Cluster (BCC) with objective to develop and implement an upgraded food security and nutrition national strategy embedding agri-food resilience in crisis situations and to boost agri-food small business’s corporate social responsibility for the benefit of the education sectors. As a result, this date has been declared as national agri-food day, an opportunity to highlight each year the sector's advances and innovations.

**WFP, Japan, Sweden and UNICEF join forces to support Tunisia's response to health crisis COVID-19**

On 18 June the last of three cargo flights carrying personal protection equipment (PPE) to support the Tunisian Ministry of Health in its response to COVID-19 arrived in Tunisia. WFP coordinated the airlifts on behalf of UNICEF and the governments of Japan and Sweden.

The equipment serves to protect against COVID-19 contamination and includes gowns, protective glasses, surgical masks, & non-contact infrared thermometers and cover the needs of approximately 2,400 front line health professionals for a period of six months.

The airlifts arrived from WFP’s humanitarian hubs in Guangzhou, China. This hubs-and-spokes system manage 24-hour operations with flights between global and regional hubs, and a fleet of smaller planes standing ready to move cargo and personnel into priority countries. WFP coordinated the delivery of the cargo through the Emergency Service Marketplace (EMS). “These airlifts show WFP’s commitment to supporting the Tunisian Government and the humanitarian community in responding to the pandemic,” says WFP Representative and Country Director in Tunisia Fatimata Sow Sidibe. “Our main goal at this point is that Tunisians and the humanitarian community get the support they need to respond to this global crisis.”



**Photo:** The Minister of Health, Dr Abdellatif El Mekki, Her Excellency Mrs Anna Block Mazoyer, Ambassador of Sweden to Tunisia, the UNICEF Representative, Mrs Lila Pieters, the WHO Representative, Dr Yves Souteyrand, and the WFP Head of Office, Mrs Fatimata Sow Sidibe.  
WFP/ Aziza Bouhejba

**Donors**

- 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)
- COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund