



# WFP Tunisia and Morocco Country Brief

## Highlights

- As part of a WFP developed, multi-dimensional approach to nutritious school meals, a school garden is established in Nadhour, Zaghuan governorate. Trees have been planted, and the irrigation system and a greenhouse have been set up. The garden will supply the school canteens with fresh home-grown vegetables.
- WFP is undertaking a gender analysis to inform the best approaches to promote gender equality as the Government implements Tunisia's Sustainable School Meals Strategy, linking schools with local agriculture and community participation.

### WFP Assistance

Capacity Development for School Feeding in Tunisia DEV 200493 (December 2012 – June 2018)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	6.5 m	1.6 m (25%)	0.7 m (100%)

\*February 2017 – July 2017

Capacity Development for School Feeding in Morocco DEV 200494 (July 2013 – December 2017)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	1.5 m	1.5 m (100%)	-

\*February 2017 – July 2017

**Tunisia** – WFP supports the Government of Tunisia in enhancing its National School Meals Programme, which reaches 250,000 children in 2,500 primary schools, as a key component of the Education Sector Reform. Starting in July 2013, WFP provided assistance under three main areas: (i) a review of the existing programme; (ii) study visits for South-South cooperation, sharing experiences and best practices; and (iii) development of a sustainable school meals strategy, which was validated in December 2014. The Government requested WFP's continued assistance in a second phase spanning 2015-2018 to provide technical assistance and policy advice to implement its Sustainable School Meals Strategy.

In 2017, WFP continues to provide technical assistance and policy advice for the National 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 implementation modalities that are efficient, accountable, and support local employment creation.

The pilots foster links with local smallholder farmers' groups, especially rural women's community-based organisations, and promote the use of local agricultural produce. School gardens are currently being set up to support nutrition and environmental education, and be leveraged as hubs to promote community participation, as well as enhancing knowledge of children and families on how to add fresh vegetables and fruits for a more nutritious diet.

The Ministry of Education has supported the project by allocating USD 1.6 million to the construction and equipment of two central kitchen pilots, while the Ministry of Agriculture contributes with equipment and inputs such as plants, seeds and technical analyses.

**Morocco** - In 2013, the Government requested WFP's support to review the National School Meals Programme, which provides meals for 1.2 million school children in 11,500 primary 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 experiences.

A Plan of Action for the improvement of the National School Meals Programme was submitted to the Government in December 2015 and validated in July 2016. The plan leverages the findings of the comprehensive assessment phase of the project, encompassing activities for short and mid-term implementation. In October 2016, WFP approved Budget revision 5, extending the Development Project until the end of 2017.

WFP will provide technical assistance and policy advice for the implementation of the Plan of Action. Specifically, the activities under the extended phase of the project aim to (i) strengthen regulatory frameworks and tools in the areas of governance and normative guidelines; and (ii) support the Moroccan Government in the design of school meals pilots that are efficient, accountable and support local employment creation.



## Operational Updates

### Tunisia

- A Gender Strategy and a Gender Action Plan for the Sustainable School Meals Programme are being developed. An analysis of gender relations in rural areas in Tunisia will inform how the Sustainable School Meals Programme can promote gender equality through fostering links with local agricultural production, creating revenue generating opportunities and encouraging community participation.
- In Zaghuan governorate, an irrigation system has been developed for the newly established school garden in Nadhour. The irrigation system is important to ensure a predictable harvest in a region where the largely rain-fed agricultural sector often suffers from insufficient water supply. The school garden is a part of the WFP developed home-grown, multi-dimensional approach to school meals.
- A greenhouse has been built as part of the school garden in Nadhour. The greenhouse will allow larger variety of vegetables to be grown and included in school meals, and will be used in nutrition and environmental education. A second greenhouse, financed by WFP in partnership with Tunisian NGO Femmes pour les Cantines Scolaires (FCS), is under construction in Jradou, Zaghuan governorate. FCS is entirely run by women who work to improve the conditions for learning in Tunisian primary schools, in particular through the promotion of nutritious school meals.
- WFP is developing school garden guidelines. The guidelines will be used to support school staff, parents and children in maintaining school gardens and supply school canteens with home-grown vegetables.

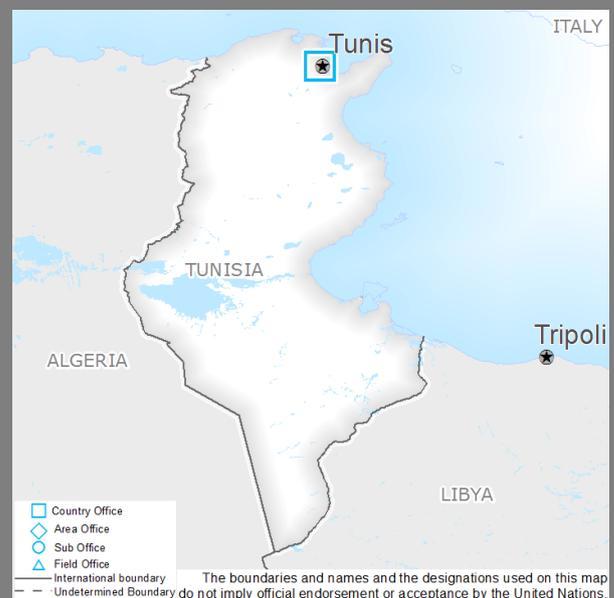
### Morocco

- WFP continues its technical assistance to the Government as part of its on-going effort to review and improve the national school meals systems. A meeting with the National School Meals Steering Committee and WFP is scheduled for mid-February. The meeting will set the direction forward for the implementation of the Plan of Action for the enhancement of the Nationals School Meals Programme.

## Partnerships

- WFP Tunisia has developed a partnership strategy to map international development cooperation efforts in the country and enhance its capacity to seek partnerships, and diversify funding for the school meals programme. Partnerships are essential to the Tunisian model, bringing together the Ministries of Education and Agriculture, international organisations, national NGOs, the private sector and communities.

## 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 2015 UNDP Human Development Report ranks Tunisia 48 out of 155 in the Gender Inequality Index (GII 2014).

**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 117 out of 155 countries in the 2014 GII.

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 (SDGs) 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.

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

2014 Human Development Index:  
Tunisia: **96 out of 188**  
Morocco: **126 out of 188**

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