

# WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

## WFP Tunisia and Morocco Country Brief

### Highlights

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Kingdom of Morocco and WFP, extending the partnership to enhance the national school meals programme until end of December 2017.
- The Tunisian Minister of Education met with WFP's Executive Director in Rome to reinforce the already strong partnership and discuss the potential for leveraging the Tunisian experience as a regional model for school meals in the Middle East and North Africa.

### 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%)

\*December 2016 - May 2017

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

**Tunisia** - In July 2013, WFP began implementing a project on capacity development for school meals in Tunisia, to provide the Government with technical assistance to enhance the national school meals programme, which reaches 240,000 children in 2,500 primary schools. The Development Project 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 the strategy. WFP's support aims to strengthen regulatory frameworks and tools; upgrade the current decentralised school meals model; and pilot new implementation modalities that are efficient, accountable and support local development.

The construction of a central kitchen in the Zaghouan governorate is set to begin next month, as part of a pilot that is currently being implemented. The pilot will foster links with local smallholder farmers' groups, especially rural women's community-based organisations, and promote the use of locally produced foods, contribute to job creation and enhance local development. School gardens will be set up to support nutrition and environmental education, and leverage as hubs to promote community participation, enhancing understanding of children and families on how to add fresh vegetables and fruits to a more nutritious diet. The Government has shown its commitment to the project by allocating USD 1.6 million to the construction and equipment of two central kitchens.

**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 jointly with the Government, in order to enhance the technical capacity of education authorities to improve the implementation of the current programme. The National School Meals Steering Committee was established in March 2014, to ensure government ownership and a coordinated inter-ministerial approach for the optimisation of school meals in Morocco.

The project is being 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 among school meals programmes in Brazil, Russia and countries in the Middle East and North Africa. 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.

## Operational Updates

### Tunisia

- On 02-03 November, the Tunisian Minister of Education met with WFP's Executive Director in Rome to discuss the progress made and the potential for leveraging the Tunisian School Meals Programme as a best practice model for the North African and Middle East region. The visit offered an occasion to reinforce the already strong relationship between WFP and the Tunisian government.
- An event to mark the planting of the first trees for the school garden took place at the Henchir Jdid Primary School in Zaghouan on 13 November. The school garden will serve as a hub for community participation, nutrition and environmental education. It will allow pupils to cultivate fruits and vegetables and is part of a WFP developed home-grown, multi-dimensional approach to school meals.

The Tunisian Office of School Services (OOESCO) which is charged with the management of school meals, continued to develop its work plan for 2017 in collaboration with WFP. Kitchens in high schools, middle schools, and boarding schools that were recently equipped by the Italian Development Cooperation will be leveraged to deliver meals to primary schools in their vicinity.

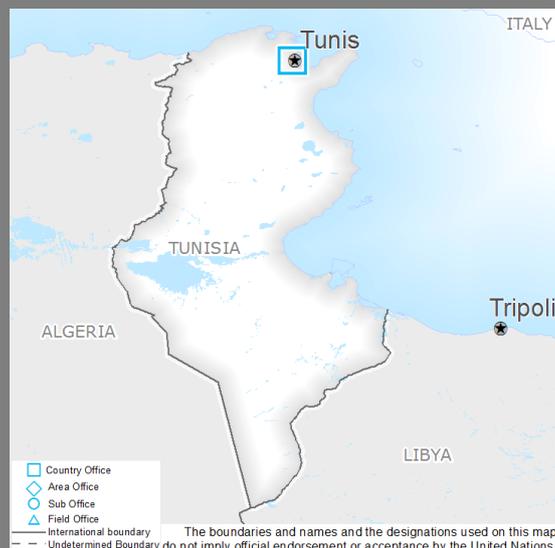
### Morocco

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between WFP and the Kingdom of Morocco, extending the partnership to enhance the national school meals programme until December 2017.
- Following the Moroccan government's validation of the Plan of Action for the enhancement of the national school meals, WFP will continue to strengthen regulatory frameworks and governance tools and support the design and implementation of school meals pilots that are efficient, accountable, and support local development.

## Partnerships

- WFP Tunisia is in the process of diversifying funding for its 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 revolution of January 2011 that sparked the Arab Spring. 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 GDP per capita of USD 11,092 purchasing power parity (World Bank, 2014). The 2015 UNDP Human Development Report ranks Tunisia 48 out of 155 in terms of the Gender Inequality Index (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 126 out of 188 countries on the 2015 UNDP Human Development Index.

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 Goals (SDGs) 2, ending hunger and 3, promoting good health and well-being.

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

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

2015 Human Development Index:  
Tunisia: **96 out of 188**  
Morocco: **126 out of 188**

Donor: The Russian Federation