



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Tunisia Country Brief June 2021

## In June 2021

In early June, WFP and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) supported the Ministry of Agriculture to organize a local food systems dialogue in Kairouan Governorate ahead of a national dialogue, the results of which will be presented at the [United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021](#) to be held in September in New York. The Kairouan dialogue aimed to launch a process of reflection towards an inclusive, nutritious, resilient, and sustainable food system in the Governorate. The Governorate faces challenges related to climate change, and reflective of broader challenges across the country in terms of sustainable food systems.

### Operational Context

Ten years after the Jasmin revolution, Tunisia continues to grapple with addressing underlying systemic change required in response to the political and socio-economic challenges it faces, and constrained by the fragmented political landscape that has characterised the country in the wake of the 2019 Presidential elections.

Since 2013, WFP has been assisting the Government of Tunisia to strengthen its capacity to implement and bring innovative approaches to the National School Meals Programme (NSMP) serving as a social protection mechanism for 260,000 children and their families. Working towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 (targets 2.1 and 2.2), SDG 4 and SDG 17 (target 17.9), WFP's activities in Tunisia contribute to the achievement of WFP's Strategic Result 5 "Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the Sustainable Development Goals". WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) (2018-2022) for Tunisia is aligned with Tunisia's United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2021-2025).



Population: **11.7 million**

2019 Human Development Index:  
**95 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

GNI per Capita (PPP): **USD 10,800**

### Operational Updates

- WFP finalized the assessment of food security and nutrition among People Living with HIV (PLHIV), funded by UBRAF and rolled out in 2020. The results showed that 39 percent of PLHIV surveyed (1,100 out of 3,000 PLHIV in treatment) are food insecure. Poor adherence to Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) is strongly correlated with food insecurity. Food insecurity is almost double among those who miss ART compared to those who adhere to ART. The assessment examined food consumption patterns, women's dietary diversity, and specific food preferences. More than half of all households used adverse coping mechanisms such as consuming food of poorer quality, a reduction in portion size per meal, and a reduction in the number of meals per day for an average of 3 days per week. Qualitative findings emphasize the fragile mental health of PLHIV as well as the discrimination they experience in the workplace, in health care facilities, and within their own families. The assessment recommends strengthening national health and social welfare systems, institutions, technical capacity, and programmes to protect and improve food access and nutritional outcomes for PLHIV.
- The data collection phase of the Gender and Zero Hunger study launched in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Women, Family and Elderly, has been completed. WFP and its local partner, Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR), have been covering more than 530 rural women's group (Groupement de Développement Agricole - GDA) members to assess how COVID-19 impacted their food security, productivity, and access to social protection. Preliminary results will be available for validation with national counterparts by mid-July.

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**Photo:** Independent dialogue for the 2021 UN Summit on Food Systems in Kairouan. WFP/ Aziza Bouhejba

## WFP Country Strategy

Tunisia Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)	
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
4 m	6 m
2021 Requirements	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July - December 2021)
1.1 m	0 m

**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

### Activity:

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

## Monitoring

- WFP is preparing a baseline study to better understand cash-based transfer modality beneficiaries' preferences towards meeting their food security needs. The target area of interventions identified is Kasserine Governorate, with access currently restricted due to lockdown measures applied by the Government to halt the spread of COVID-19. To adapt to the current situation, WFP is switching to remote monitoring using Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI). The baseline assessment is foreseen to start in August and will be completed by a Market Functionality Index assessment.

## Challenges

- A few of WFP's interventions are currently on hold due to COVID-19 health security measures. These interventions include mainly the capacity strengthening support to the government 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 the school level.

## Partnerships

- WFP welcomed a contribution of US\$ 280,000 from the Government of Japan to help improve the food security and nutrition of vulnerable families living in rural areas and support the resilience of the food supply chain in Tunisia affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to Japan's contribution, WFP will distribute food vouchers as top-ups to the Government's social assistance safety net in coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs. This assistance will contribute towards the food security of 1,500 households (more than 7,500 individuals) to improve their access to healthy and nutritious food and, though only for two months

during the third quarter of the year. The project furthermore aims at strengthening emergency and food supply chains in Tunisia and is expected to directly benefit about six ministries, including at least 60 ministerial staff, mainly through trainings, as well as a market and needs assessments survey to support evidence-based policies.

## WFP AND MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SCHOOL FEEDING SABER WORKSHOP

The Government of Tunisia, with the support of WFP and the World Bank, held a three-day workshop to discuss areas and ways to further advance and improve the country's national school feeding programme. The Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) workshop gathered 40 specialists and representatives from government bodies, both at central and local levels and representatives from international and national organizations.

A first SABER assessment was conducted in 2015 which informed actions to enable a strengthened nationally-owned programme, including stronger funding support, infrastructure advancement and enhanced partnerships for the creation of school gardens and other complementary activities. "SABER is an exercise initiated by the World Bank to produce comparative data on the state of school systems and policies that help countries ensure quality education for all," said WFP Head of Programme Unit in Tunisia and Morocco, Magid Chaabane. "The SABER diagnostic tool is essential to periodically assess school feeding programmes against global standards and good practices in an inclusive and participatory manner to help countries reform their public policies and consequently programmes."



The 2021 SABER workshop allowed different line ministries to exchange perspectives and discuss possible ways forward. Recommendations agreed on will inform an action plan for the coming years, including on means to improve programme governance for effective and efficient management, and fight against food and resources losses and waste. The discussion also focused on strengthening robust Monitoring and Evaluation Systems for the Government of Tunisia to gather valuable evidence to document progress and outcomes of the National School Feeding Programme.

## Funding partners

- Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- Ministry of Agriculture - Regional Commissariat for Agricultural Development of Siliana (CRDA)
- UNAIDS - Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF)
- UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund
- Principality of Monaco

**Photo:** SABER workshop 9-11 June 2021  
WFP/Aziza Bouhejba