



Highlights

- WFP has collaborated with the Tunisian Institute of Strategic Studies (ITES) to conduct a strategic review of the food and nutrition security in the country. On June 14, the findings of the study were shared during a one-day conference attended by 30 different national and international stakeholders including the Minister of Agriculture.
- A group of rural women has formally registered as a Community Based Organisation with the aim of maintaining and promoting the school garden that is part of the WFP-developed Sustainable School Meals Pilot in Zaghouan Governorate, Tunisia.

WFP Tunisia and Morocco Country Brief

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%)	0.8 m

*July – December 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	-

*July – December 2017

Tunisia – WFP supports the Government of Tunisia to enhance its National School Meals Programme in order to reach 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) a 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, validated by the Ministry of Education 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 efficient implementation modalities that are accountable, and support local employment creation.

The pilot initiatives 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 for a more nutritious diet.

The Ministry of Education has allocated USD 1.6 million for the construction and refurbishment of two central pilot kitchens, while the Ministry of Agriculture contributes providing with technical expertise and gardening equipment such as plants and seeds.

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 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 Government in the design of school meals pilots that are efficient, accountable and support local employment creation.

Operational Updates

Tunisia

- On June 14, WFP and the Tunisian Institute of Strategic Studies invited national and international stakeholders to the presentation of the findings of the Strategic Review of the Food and Nutrition Security in the country. The consultation during the review process provided a timely occasion for a joint discussion with stakeholders on their respective areas of expertise.
- WFP supported a group of rural women in formalising their status as a Community Based Organisation (CBO) by advocating with MoE to sign a MoU. The aim of the newly formed CBO is to facilitate the contribution of rural women to maintain the school garden that has been established in Zaghouan governorate as part of the WFP-developed Sustainable School Meals Pilot and contributing to community participation and local ownership of the project.

Morocco

- Following up on the confirmation of a new Government cabinet, WFP is preparing to discuss achievements to date and the way forward for WFP's capacity to strength activities across the country with new government authorities.
- WFP plans to support the development of nutritional and management guidelines for the National School Meals Programme, assist the drafting of a legislative text outlining the national school meals policy, and continue the sharing of international best practices.

Partnerships

- The potential partnership between WFP and the Italian Development Cooperation aim at enhancing the National School Meal Programme in Tunisia is at the final stage of negotiation. Partnerships are essential to the Tunisian model, bringing together the Ministries of Education and Agriculture, international organisations, national NGOs, the private sector and local 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 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.

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