



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	4.6 m (70%)	--

*November 2017 – April 2018

Tunisia – WFP supports the Government of Tunisia to enhance its National School Meals Programme targeting 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) 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, endorsed by the Ministry of Education in December 2014. The Government requested WFP's continued assistance for a second phase (2015-2018) in providing 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 to leverage 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 with technical expertise and gardening equipment; plants and seeds.

Credit: WFP / Rabeb Azouzi

Caption: Students of Jradou Primary School, Tunisia celebrating UN Day 2017.

Highlights

- WFP and the Italian Development Cooperation (AICS) signed an agreement with an amount of EUR 2.5 million to improve the quality of the national school meals programme in the framework of Tunisia's sustainable school feeding strategy.
- The Tunisian government participated in the 44th Committee on World Food Security (CFS 44) meeting in Rome, on the WFP-led Regional Initiative for School Meals and Social Protection in the Middle East and North Africa. The partnership aims to enhance the quality and multiply the impact of school meals programmes as a crucial social protection instrument in support of most vulnerable children and communities.

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	-

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.

WFP submitted a Plan of Action for the improvement of the National School Meals Programme 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 provide technical 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 10 October, the Government of Tunisia co-organized a side event entitled "Changing Lives, Nourishing Dreams: Regional Initiative for School Meals and Social Protection in the Middle East and North Africa" with WFP, FAO and the Government of Lebanon during the 44th Committee on World Food Security (CFS) meeting in Rome. The Ministry of Education's representative cited Tunisia's recent Strategic Review on Food Security and Nutrition, which affirms that well designed and well implemented social protection systems, with school meals as a key component, can effectively address the causes of food insecurity. They highlighted the importance of partnerships around school meals in Tunisia, including WFP, UNICEF, ILO, the private sector and the civil society.
- On 24 October, WFP celebrated UN Day 2017 with the students of Jradou Primary School in the Zaghuan Governorate. The event featured themes of SDG2, and aimed to raise awareness among the students and the school staff on good nutrition and healthy eating habits. Students and teachers demonstrated high level of interest by participating actively in the games and other learning activities organised by WFP staff for the occasion.

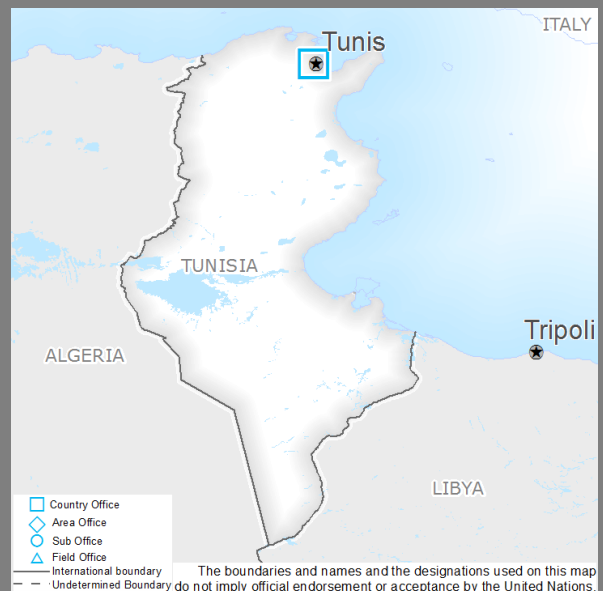
Morocco

- WFP continued discussions with FAO and Morocco's Higher Planning Commission in order to launch the country's food security and nutrition strategic review in the first quarter of 2018. WFP carried on the support to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco in developing its National School Meals Policy as part of the 2015-2030 Education Reform, with WFP engaging two experts to develop standardised guidelines for the implementation of the national school meals programme.

Partnerships

- An agreement to the amount of EUR 2.5 million was signed between the Italian Development Cooperation (AICS) and WFP in support to the WFP's Tunisia Development Project (DEV 200493), with the objective to support the Tunisian Government in enhancing the national school meals programme, as a priority component of the Education Sector Reform. The generous contribution is part of the support of the Italian Government to children's rights in Tunisia, in particular the right to quality education in more disadvantaged areas. WFP, through this partnership with AICS, will carry out a set of activities aiming to strengthen school meals regulatory frameworks and tools; upgrade the existing decentralised school feeding model; support innovative pilots; and the revitalisation of school gardens.
- WFP worked in partnership with UN agencies and the Office of the Resident Coordinator (ORC) in Tunisia on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) localization process. Final paper [La Tunisie en Route vers 2030](#) was central to the debate that took place at the National School of Administration (ENA) in occasion of the 2017 UN Day official celebration.

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**