

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

Most recently completed school year:
September 2017 - June 2018 (192 days)

- National School Meals Program

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education (Office of Scholastic Services)

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

- ☒ National school feeding policy
- ☐ Nutrition
- ☐ Food safety
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Private sector involvement

Line item in the national budget... ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ NR

BUDGET

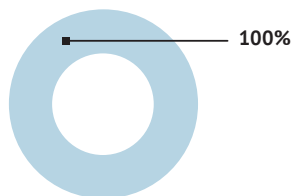
Total:
USD 26,551,000

☐ National government:
USD 26,551,000

☐ International donors*:
USD 0

☐ Private sector: USD 0

☐ Other donors: USD 0



*Contributions by United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations often represent funding from multiple donors.

INFRASTRUCTURE

School meals are prepared on-site, with most schools having on-site closed cooking areas, storage space, and refrigeration. All schools have electricity, most schools have clean water and flush toilets; all schools have gender private toilets.

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- ☒ Breakfast
- ☒ Lunch
- ☒ Dinner
- ☒ Snacks
- ☐ Take-home rations
- ☐ Conditional cash transfer
- ☒ Grains/cereals
- ☐ Roots, tubers
- ☐ Legumes and nuts
- ☒ Dairy products
- ☒ Eggs
- ☒ Meat
- ☒ Poultry
- ☐ Fish
- ☒ Green, leafy vegetables
- ☒ Other vegetables
- ☒ Fruits
- ☒ Oil
- ☒ Salt
- ☒ Sugar

Prohibited food items: Food commodities not meeting (health-related) specifications.

FOOD SOURCES

- ☒ Purchased (domestic)
- ☐ Purchased (foreign)
- ☒ In-kind (domestic)
- ☐ In-kind (foreign)

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

- ☒ Handwashing with soap
- ☐ Height measurement
- ☐ Weight measurement
- ☐ Deworming treatment
- ☐ Eye testing/eyeglasses
- ☐ Hearing testing/treatment
- ☐ Dental cleaning/testing
- ☐ Menstrual hygiene
- ☒ Drinking water
- ☐ Water purification

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

EDUCATION

- ☒ Nutrition
- ☒ Health
- ☐ Food and agriculture
- ☐ Reproductive health
- ☒ Hygiene
- ☐ HIV prevention

☒ = mandatory

OTHER

- ☒ School gardens
- ☒ Physical education

The checked and highlighted items are reported as required, though they may not be uniformly implemented.



GCNF is a non-political, non-profit entity incorporated in 2006. Funding for this survey and a follow-up survey in 2021 is being provided, in part, by the United States Department of Agriculture under agreement number FX18TA-10960G002.

NR = No Response

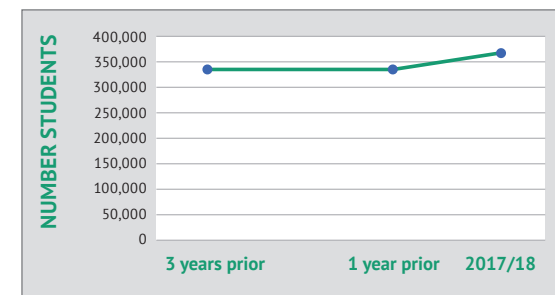
REPUBLIC OF
Tunisia



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2017-18

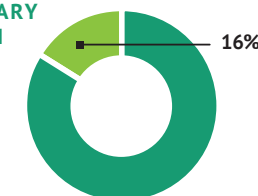
School level	Total #	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Primary school	1,142,989	1,100,000	260,000
Secondary school	1,047,035	1,000,000	100,000
Total	2,190,024	2,100,000	360,000



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 2,190,024

Receiving school food:
360,000



Food was also provided to some students in

- ☐ Pre-schools
- ☐ Vocational/trade schools
- ☐ University/higher education
- ☐ Other

NUTRITION

School feeding program(s) include/involve the following:

- ☐ Fortified foods
- ☐ Bio-fortified foods
- ☐ Micronutrient supplements
- ☒ **Nutritionists involved**
- ☒ **Special training for cooks/caterers in nutrition**
- ☒ **Objective to meet nutritional goals**
- ☒ **Objective to reduce obesity**

Food items fortified:

N/A

Micronutrients added to fortified foods:

Iron and iodine

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The school meals program followed several approaches to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity, including food education, health education, and physical education. There are 26 nutritionists working in the program, with a nutritionist for each region. Special training is required for cooks and caterers in food safety /hygiene and menu planning.

CONTACTS: TUNISIA

Agency: Ministry of Education / Office of Scholastic Services

Website: www.education.gov.tn

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs

900	Cooks and food preparers
N/A	Transporters
N/A	Off-site processors
400	Food packagers and handlers
N/A	Monitoring
250	Food service management
N/A	Safety and quality inspectors
26	Nutritionists

Farmers were involved with the school feeding program(s)...

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ NR

Other private sector (for profit) actors were involved...

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ NR

There was a focus on creating jobs or leadership or income-generating opportunities for...

- ☒ **Women**
- ☐ Youth
- ☐ Other groups

There was community engagement (by parents or others) in the school feeding program(s)

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ NR

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Student families contribute to the National School Meals Program by paying partial or full price for meals. The program also receives support from the World Food Program (WFP) in program design and food delivery. The WFP encourages Tunisian civil society to actively promote and support the development of the program, and has identified a set of national non-governmental organizations and rural women's development groups to participate in the establishment and management of school gardens. It is common to find agreements in which approximately one-third of the garden production is used in the school meals program, while the remainder is sold. All of the food for the program is purchased in-country; approximately 10% of the food is procured from local sources near to the schools.

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Tunisia has experienced several positive developments related to school meals in recent years. These include the adoption of Tunisia's Sustainable School Meals Strategy in 2015 and the 2016 launch of a dedicated unit within the Ministry of Education, the Office of Scholastic Services, that manages national school meals. The Tunisian Government, the World Food Program, and Devery (a blockchain startup) have also entered into a three-way partnership to improve program tracking via blockchain. School gardens are increasingly leveraged as hubs for community participation and nutrition education. The government has additionally funded the development of home-grown pilot programs (with central kitchens) in the regions of Beja and Zaghouan.

Challenges related to school meals include the need to secure funding to scale up the program and advance its long-term objective of universal school meals in all public schools. There is also a need to the legal framework for public procurement from smallholder farmers and community-based organizations in order to facilitate their integration into the national school feeding value chain. There is a need for additional training to develop staff capacity at the central, regional, and local level. Finally, Tunisia faces risks tied to climate change—particularly water scarcity—which may hinder the success and sustainability of school gardens.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

A cost analysis has been conducted

RESEARCH NEEDED

Studies of nutrition and food security

NATIONAL SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education (Office of Scholastic Services)

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To prevent or mitigate obesity

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals and snacks
- Provided five times per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Socio economic criteria are used to determine which schools to target

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	N/A		
Primary school	260,000	48%	52%
Secondary school	100,000	55%	45%
Total	360,000	—	—

FOOD ITEMS:

Grains/cereals	Poultry	Salt
Meat	Green, leafy vegetables	Sugar
Dairy products	Other vegetables	Oil
Eggs	Fruits	
* fortified		

FOOD SOURCES:

Yes - Purchased (domestic)

0 - Purchased (foreign)

Yes - In-kind (domestic)

0 - In-kind (foreign)

NOTES:

School feeding activities began in Tunisia in 1956, and the National School Meals Program was mandated by education reform legislation in 2002. The National School Meals Program operates in public schools and aims to reach 500,000 students by the year 2022.

The World Food Program (WFP) provides policy advice and technical assistance to national institutions implementing school meals and social protection programs. The WFP aims to work with the national government to strengthen regulatory frameworks and tools, provide technical assistance to refine the current decentralized school meals model, and facilitate testing of innovative delivery modalities.

