REPUBLIC OF Tunisia

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES
- Handwashing with soap
- Height measurement
- Weight measurement
- Deworming treatment
- Eye testing/eyeglasses

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS
- Nutrition
- Health
- Food and agriculture
- Reproductive health
- Hygiene
- HIV prevention

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

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

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...

NR = No Response

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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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School level</th>
<th># Students</th>
<th>% Girls</th>
<th>% Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>260,000</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>360,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

FOOD SOURCES:
- Yes - Purchased (domestic)
- Yes - In-kind (domestic)
- 0 - Purchased (foreign)
- 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.