

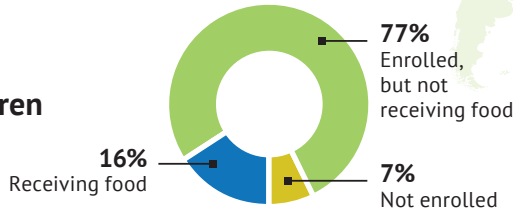


REPUBLIC OF Tunisia

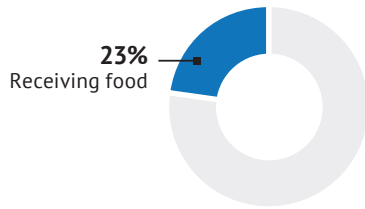


School Meal Coverage (2022-2023)

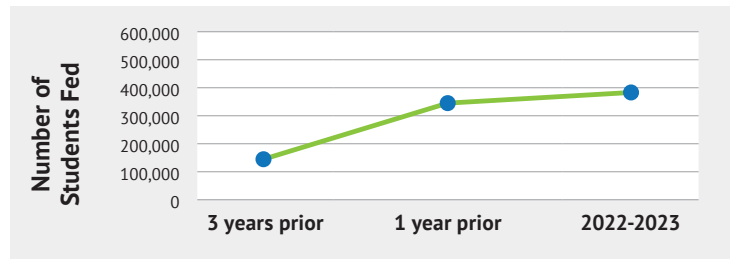
All Primary and Secondary School-age Children



Only Enrolled Primary Students



School Level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Preschool	641,622	Unknown	0
Primary School	1,271,417	1,303,758	300,000
Secondary School	1,241,567	1,022,563	90,000
TOTAL	3,154,606	2,326,321	390,000



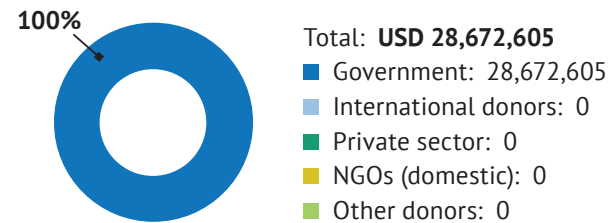
National Laws, Policies, and Standards

- National school feeding policy
- Nutrition
- Health
- Food safety
- Smallholder farms
- Agriculture (apart from smallholders)
- Climate/environment policy
- Private sector involvement

The country had ...

- Inter-sectoral coordination committee for school feeding
- National system for monitoring school feeding

Budget



- Line item in the national budget for school feeding

School Foods and Beverages

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Whole grains <input type="checkbox"/> Refined/milled grains <input type="checkbox"/> Blended grain-based products <input type="checkbox"/> Legumes <input type="checkbox"/> Nuts and seeds <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dairy <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry and game meat <input type="checkbox"/> Red meat <input type="checkbox"/> Processed meat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish and shellfish <input type="checkbox"/> Deep orange vegetables and tubers <input type="checkbox"/> White roots and tubers <input type="checkbox"/> Fruits <input type="checkbox"/> Dark green leafy vegetables <input type="checkbox"/> Cruciferous vegetables <input type="checkbox"/> Other vegetables <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deep-fried foods <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sweets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Liquid oils <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-solid and solid fats <input type="checkbox"/> Salt <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy milk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yogurt drink <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 100% fruit juice <input type="checkbox"/> Other fruit drink <input type="checkbox"/> Tea <input type="checkbox"/> Other sugar-sweetened beverages | <p>Prohibited food items
Chocolate, candy, chips</p> <p>Food Sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Purchased (domestic) <input type="checkbox"/> Purchased (foreign) <input type="checkbox"/> In-kind (domestic) <input type="checkbox"/> In-kind (foreign) |
|--|--|---|--|

Special Notes: Population and school enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report.

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

Limitations on food and beverage marketing...

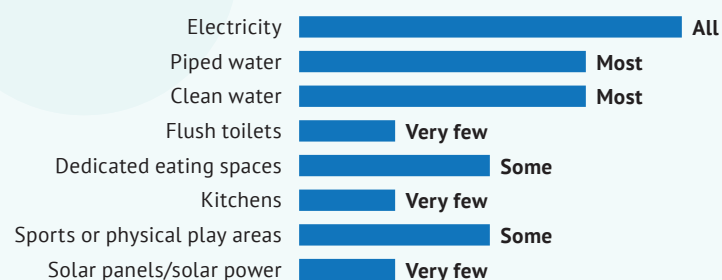
- On school grounds**
- To school age children**

Additional Information

At least three nutritionists, paid by the government and the school feeding program implementing partner, were engaged in the National School Feeding Program (Programme National d'Alimentation Scolaire) during the 2022-2023 school year. Food and/or beverage restrictions on or near school grounds were set to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity.

Infrastructure, Employment, and Complementary Features

Share of Schools with ...



Employment

Total number of cooks/caterers: **430**

- At least 75-99% paid
- 1-25% women

There was a focus on creating job opportunities for...

- Women**
- Youth
- Other Groups

Complementary Activities

- Handwashing with soap**
- Height measurement**
- Weight measurement**
- Testing for anemia
- Deworming treatment
- Eye testing/eyeglasses**
- Hearing testing/treatment**
- Dental cleaning/testing**
- Menstrual hygiene**
- Drinking water**
- Water purification
- School gardens**

Complementary Education Programs

- Food and nutrition**
- Agriculture
- Environment/climate/sustainability
- Hygiene
- Health
- Reproductive health
- HIV prevention
- Physical education**
- Mental health

Additional Information

Food was purchased for this school feeding program through open-bid (competitive tendering) procedures. The private sector participated in school feeding through food trading. Approximately 430 cooks, paid by the national government, were employed in the National School Feeding Program (Programme National d'Alimentation Scolaire), with a quarter of the cooks and caterers being women. The cooks received training in nutrition, portions/measurements, menu planning, and food safety/hygiene. There was a purposeful focus on creating jobs, income-generating opportunities, and leadership positions for women, particularly by local private companies and as Regional School Feeding Coordinators. Students' families contributed to this school feeding program by paying a partial price for school meals.

Environmental Sustainability

Targeted climate-friendly foods

- Yes No

Steps taken to limit food waste

- Sealed food storage**
- Fumigation/pest control in storage area
 - Use of hermetic bags or larger hermetic storage system
 - Routine testing/monitoring of dry food storage
 - Use of nearly-expired food
 - Use of usable but “imperfect” commodities or produce
 - Campaign to reduce how much food students throw away**

Steps taken to limit package waste

- Re-use of bags/containers
- Recycling
- Use of compostable materials
- Use of “bulk serve” containers
- Prohibiting specific types of packaging

Additional Information

To reduce the use of firewood and charcoal as fuel, energy-efficient stoves were used in preparing school meals. Mechanisms for limiting food waste included use of sealed food storage and a campaign to reduce the amount of food students threw away.

Emergencies

Experienced disruptions to school feeding due to emergencies

- Yes No

Strategies to address the impact of emergencies

- Seek alternative food sources or suppliers**
- Changes in numbers of students fed
 - Negotiate better prices with existing suppliers
 - Establish alternative supply routes or transportation methods**
 - Source different or alternative food
 - Release of food reserves**
 - Increase funding or budget allocation for school feeding
 - Collaborate with local producers or suppliers to reduce dependence on global supply chains
 - Changes in delivery method
 - Changes in feeding modality
 - Changes in feeding frequency
 - No particular strategy was used

Additional Information

The program was not affected by emergencies during the 2022-2023 school year; however, the program had several strategies to address the impact of emergencies, such as seeking alternative food sources or suppliers, establishing alternative supply routes or transportation methods, and releasing food reserves to maintain supply or stabilize prices. Modern technologies were adopted to improve efficiency and traceability during a crisis, including the development of a stock management application with WFP Tunisia. Food banks were utilized to mitigate the impact of rising prices or stock shortages.

Successes and Challenges

Successes

1. Central kitchens were established.
2. Food banks were set up.
3. School services, including nutrition services, were digitized.

Challenges

1. Need to increase the number of students benefiting from healthy and balanced meals.
2. Insufficient quantity and quality of food.
3. Inadequate infrastructure and equipment for meal preparation and service.
4. Unaffordable food prices and an inconsistent supply of quality food for students.
5. The absence of school meal services in rural areas leading to higher dropout rates.
6. Long distances between schools and students' homes.

National School Feeding Program

(Programme National d'alimentation Scolaire)

Management

- Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education, Office of School Works (OOESCO)
- The national government managed the program (Centralized decision-making).
- National government procured the food

How Many Students Received Food

School Level	# of Students	% Girls	% Boys
Preschool	0	–	–
Primary School	300,000	–	–
Secondary School	90,000	–	–
TOTAL	390,000	–	–

Foods and Beverages

- Whole grains
- Dairy
- Fish and shellfish
- Sweets
- Liquid oils
- Yogurt drink
- 100% fruit juice

Elements of Home-Grown School Feeding

- Objective for small-scale farmers to benefit from access to a stable market
- Local food sourcing
- Small-scale farmers involved by selling directly (or through their farmer organization) to the program or the schools
- Additional support provided to small-scale farmers
- Country had a law/policy/standard related to small-scale farmers and school feeding programs
- Preferential treatment for small-scale farmers/small farmer organizations/small companies in tendering procedures
- Effort is made to reduce food miles

Objectives

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To address gender-specific challenges

Modalities of Providing Students With Food

- In-school meals
- In-school snacks

Frequency and Duration

- Frequency of food provision varies by school level and also varies across schools.
- During the school year

Targeting

- Individual student characteristics (children from needy families and from rural and border areas), grade levels (primary and secondary), school types

Food Sources

100% Purchased (domestic) 0% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign) 0% In-kind (foreign)

Additional Information

School feeding activities in Tunisia began in the early 1980s with support from the World Food Programme (WFP). In the early 1990s, the Tunisian government took over responsibility, and since then, the program's coverage and budget have significantly increased. WFP has provided technical support since 2016. Students participate in meal preparation and cleanup, while civil society supports the program during shortages and through state campaigns. The school feeding programs have notably improved students' health and academic performance, enhancing education through health and nutrition training sessions with partners such as INC and WFP. WFP Tunisia, in coordination with the Ministry of Education Office of School Works (OOESCO), will launch pilot projects to supply primary schools with local products through Professional Agricultural Organizations (OPAs) and will establish a digitalization program for the canteen supply system with interactive digital mapping of schools in Tunisia.

The Global Survey of School Meal Programs® collects data from government sources and is funded, in part, by the United States Department of Agriculture. Contact info@gcnf.org for more information.

Citation: Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF). 2024. Global Survey of School Meal Programs Country Report, Tunisia.

<https://gcnf.org/country-reports/>