

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

School year: 2020–2021

- National School Feeding Program
(Programme National d'Alimentation Scolaire)

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education, Office of School Works
(Office des Oeuvres Scolaires – OOESCO)

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

National school feeding policy

- Nutrition
- Food safety
- Health
- Agriculture
- Private sector involvement

Line item in the national budget...

- Yes No No response

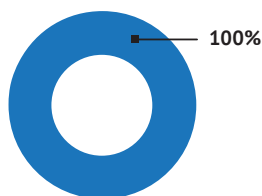
BUDGET

Total: USD 28,821,000

- Government: USD 28,821,000
- International donors*: USD 0
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0

Includes funding from the United States Department of Agriculture Yes No No response

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



INFRASTRUCTURE

All schools in Tunisia have electricity; most schools have piped and clean water and flush toilets; and some schools have dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias and kitchens. School meals/snacks are prepared on-site (on school grounds).

SPECIAL NOTES

Some numbers from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report.

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Other

- Grains, cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Oil
- Salt
- Sugar

- Dairy milk
- Yogurt drink
- Fruit juice
- Tea
- Water
- Other

Prohibited food items: Chips, candies, and chocolate

FOOD SOURCES

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

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

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Food and nutrition
- Agriculture
- School gardens
- Hygiene
- Health
- Reproductive health
- HIV prevention
- Physical education

The checked items were provided in most or all participating schools.



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REPUBLIC OF

Tunisia



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020-2021

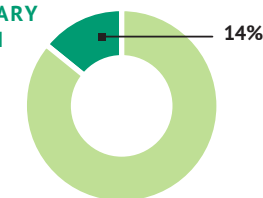
School level	Total	# Enrolled	# Receiving food
Pre-school	631,619	250,813	0
Primary school	1,250,000	1,177,000	260,000
Secondary school	1,300,000	933,000	90,000
Total	3,181,619	2,360,813	350,000



COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 2,550,000

Receiving school food: 350,000



Food was also provided to some students in...

- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- Other

NUTRITION

School feeding program(s) included/involved 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/biofortified:

Not applicable

Micronutrients:

Not applicable

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ten nutritionists are involved in the National School Feeding program; they are paid by both the national government and an implementing partner of the program. To prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity, the program utilizes nutritional requirements for food baskets, food restrictions on or near school grounds, food and nutrition education, health education, and physical education. Special training is required for cooks and caterers in nutrition, food safety /hygiene, portion measurements and menu planning.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

A nutrition study and a gender analysis of the school feeding program have been conducted by WFP, OOECSO, and cooperating partner(s).

RESEARCH NEEDED

Not specified

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

700	Cooks and food preparers
5	Transporters
0	Off-site processors
0	Food packagers and handlers
26	Monitoring
114	Food service management
	Safety and quality inspectors
	Other

**If blank, no response was provided.*

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

- Yes No No response

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

- Yes No No response

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

- Women** Other groups
 Youth No response

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

- Yes No No response

Were there links between food banks and the school feeding program(s)?

- Yes No There are no food banks in this country.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

School gardens have been rehabilitated with the technical assistance of partners, such as the WFP and civil society organizations. Some are operated by rural women's cooperatives; the women use the school garden for free and donate 30% of the production to the school canteens, while the rest of the produce is sold on the local market. In some schools, civil society organizations participate in the revitalization of school gardens and lead trainings on the operation of school gardens. These groups also raise awareness regarding food waste management.

SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Recent successes related to school feeding in Tunisia include the presence of an independent school feeding management entity, the digitization of OOECSO services, and financial independence. Challenges remain around good governance and quality assurance in local purchasing. However, staff training and the digitization of financial management procedures can mitigate concerns related to corruption or mismanagement.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, school feeding was temporarily halted, during which time no meals were provided at school, but students' families received financial support or cash or food vouchers. There were decreases in the number of students fed, the frequency of school meals/snacks, the level of food basket variety, and the amount of funding. To better reach children with food during a public health emergency, it is suggested that the National School Feeding Program may switch to cold foods and packaged meals/snacks that can be taken away by students, or to cash transfers for vulnerable families of children who benefit from school meals.

CONTACTS: TUNISIA

Agency: Ministry of Education, Office of School Works
(Office des Oeuvres Scolaires – OOECSO)

Website:

<https://www.facebook.com/officedesoeuvrescolaires/>

NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM PROGRAMME NATIONAL D'ALIMENTATION SCOLAIRE

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education, Office of School Works
(*Office des Oeuvres Scolaires – OOESCO*)

OBJECTIVES:

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

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals
- In-school snacks

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:

- 5 times per week for day schools; In colleges and boarding schools, lunch and dinner are served every day throughout the school year.
- During the school year

TARGETING:

Targeting is based on individual student characteristics and social protection criteria (e.g., household income, social situation of households).

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	0	–	–
Primary school	260,000	46%	54%
Secondary school	90,000	–	–
Total	350,000	34%	66%

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:

Grains, cereals	Poultry	Sugar
Roots, tubers	Green, leafy vegetables	Yogurt drink
Legumes, pulses, nuts	Other vegetables	Fruit juice
Dairy products	Fruits	Water
Eggs	Oil	
Meat	Salt	

* *fortified*

FOOD SOURCES:

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

If blank, no response was provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

School feeding activities began in Tunisia in 1988, with support from the World Food Program (WFP). In 1997, the Tunisian government took over responsibility for all activities, and WFP withdrew. Since then, the coverage and the budget allocated to school feeding activities have increased considerably and are managed by the government. WFP has been providing technical support since 2016.

