

TUNISIA

Partners in Brazil	Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger (MDS) Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA)
Partners in Tunisia	Ministry of Social Affairs Centre for Research and Social Studies (CRES)
Objective of Cooperation	Support the Tunisian Government to carry out its social protection reforms to include the most vulnerable populations, and to develop institutional capacities in social policies and in favour of children in need of social assistance.
Component within Tunisia National Plan of Action	Include contributions for social protection reform, to be included within Tunisia National Social and Economic Development Plan 2016-2020. ⁵⁹



Basic Indicators	to the top
Under-5 mortality rank	112
Under-5 mortality rate (U5MR), 1990	51
Under-5 mortality rate (U5MR), 2012	16
U5MR by sex 2012, male	17
U5MR by sex 2012, female	15
Infant mortality rate (under 1), 1990	40
Infant mortality rate (under 1), 2012	14
Neonatal mortality rate 2012	10
Total population (thousands) 2012	10,874.9
Annual no. of births (thousands) 2012	189.3
Annual no. of under-5 deaths (thousands) 2012	3
GNI per capita (US\$) 2012	4,150
Life expectancy at birth (years) 2012	75.6
Total adult literacy rate (%) 2008-2012*	79.1
Primary school net enrolment ratio (%) 2018-2011	99.4%

SOURCES: UNICEF DATA. <https://data.unicef.org/country/tun/>

Situation of children

Children comprise 3 million of Tunisia's total population of 11 million. Tunisia has, notably, included an article on children's rights in its Constitution. Positive child indicators include free and universal access to education, gender equality in schools and declining infant and child mortality.⁶⁰ Regional disparities due to location and socio-economic levels remain a challenge in Tunisia, which lead to especially vulnerable populations, including children.⁶¹ The difficulty in accessing basic services has led to a number of challenges for these children. Children are facing higher infant mortality rates in rural areas; there are 25 deaths per 1,000 live births in rural areas compared to 12 per 1,000 live births in urban areas.⁶² Attendance in school is also low; 80 per cent of children aged 3 to 5 years in rural areas do not have access to school.⁶³

Objective of cooperation

Tunisia's new National Constitution, signed on 27 January 2014, followed a process of political transition and a series of reforms, which are still ongoing. Social protection programmes have emerged as a key solution to meet the differing demands of various population groups and to ensure universal access to public services. Tunisia's social transfer programme, the

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME FOR VULNERABLE FAMILIES (PNAFN)

Tunisia's social transfer programme, the National Assistance Programme for Vulnerable Families (PNAFN), is the largest of its kind in terms of population and area coverage.

Targeted towards vulnerable families, it offers direct cash transfers of 75 euros (150 dinars) and free healthcare. The number of beneficiary families has increased by 100% since 2012 (from an initial 230,000 families). This growth has brought about demands for a strengthened programme, which can effectively cater to a larger population.

QUICK FACTS

National Assistance Programme for Vulnerable Families

(PNAFN) characterizes the country's social policies, for which the Government spent 15 per cent of its GDP in 2010 – equivalent to approximately 3,900 million euros, according to government data. However, challenges have arisen regarding programme funding, gaps in the social protection network and the development and implementation of a set of inclusive social policies. In this context, Tunisia requested cooperation with Brazil to strengthen its social safety net programmes that account for the rights of children, adolescents and women.

The Government of Tunisia identified Brazil's Active Search, Single Registry system and the methodology of the *Bolsa Família* programme as valuable areas of exchange. These could help Tunisia develop platforms to promote social and capacity development and social protection interventions that would reach the most vulnerable and excluded populations. In addition, focus was also placed on the work carried out by IPEA, which provides the link between research and evidence and policy development in Brazil.

The cooperation aims to assist Tunisia to develop its National Social and Economic Development Plan and contribute to the capacity building of the Ministry of Social Affairs and its contributing partners. This cooperation will help ensure coordinated and intersectoral actions between government agencies.

Cooperation activities

Cooperation has moved forward with targeted technical exchanges between Brazilian and Tunisian experts. In March 2014, an official from the Office of Planning and Evaluation of the Tunisian Ministry of Social Affairs participated in the MDS-led international seminar entitled 'Social Policies for Development'.



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Following this introductory visit, the Brazilian Government sent a delegation to Tunisia, upon invitation by its Government. The delegation attended the National Conference on Social Protection, held in September 2014. During the conference, delegates discussed strategies for implementing policy and programme actions, in the context of social protection programmes for the eradication of poverty.

In June 2015, two officials from Brazil's Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA) and the MDS travelled to Tunis. They assisted the Centre for Research and Social Studies (CRES) and partners in the technical development of the planned social protection reform in Tunisia, which has a specific focus on children, adolescents and young persons.

Progress to date

The Tunisian Government has been equipped with in-depth technical knowledge on the elaboration of inclusive and rights-based social protection systems and has ensured that the most vulnerable populations are included in such programmes. The inputs will allow the country to build on its existing knowledge in order to support the ongoing reform of the current social protection system. The formal cooperation project being developed with the Government of Brazil and UNICEF aims to provide support and best practices to the preparation of Tunisia's next development plan, which will highlight the reduction of inequalities as a key theme.

2014

Formal request from Gvt. of Tunisia received

MARCH: Tunisian mission to Brazil for MDS seminar

SEPTEMBER: Brazilian mission to Tunisia for National Conference on Social Protection

2015

MAY: VC with government partners & UNICEF to discuss cooperation activities

JUNE-JULY: Technical mission to Tunisia of MDS and IPEA officials for formulation of social policies

Ongoing preparation of national development plan with technical inputs from Brasil

2016

JANUARY: VC with government partners on social security

Finalization of project document and activities for social protection reform

⁵⁹ Trilateral South-South Cooperation to Support the Social Protection Reform in Tunisia, 2015, Draft Document

⁶⁰ UNICEF, Analyse de la Situation des Enfants en Tunisie 2012, <http://bit.ly/1Xp4U69>

⁶¹ UNICEF Tunisia 2015-2019 Country Programme Document, <http://uni.cf/1Pt7Rzq>

⁶² UNICEF Annual Report 2013 – Tunisia, <http://uni.cf/1O45pv8>

⁶³ Ibid.