



# Universal Periodic Review of Tunisia

## RIGHT TO EDUCATION

### SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES FROM PREVIOUS CYCLES

Broken Chalk recommends that the government of Tunisia to address the high rate of school dropout, the high rates of repetition, disparities in access to, retention in, and the quality of schools. In the last cycle Tunisia received 248 recommendations, accepted 189 of those and 6% focused on quality education (SDG 4).

### NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Since its independence in 1956, Tunisia has invested significantly in its human capital development. The right to education is a constitutional right, and education is free of charge for all in Tunisia. Public spending on education is high compared to EU averages, as it accounted for 21.1% of total public expenditure in 2017.

### CHALLENGES

- A. The access to and quality of education
- B. Discrimination and exclusion
- C. Covid-19 and online education

### IMPACTS

- A. 3.8% of the Tunisian population are in extreme poverty, with significant social gaps between rural regions and the north of the country and along the coast. Tunisian women continue to suffer from social and economic discrimination, especially in employment and labour-market participation.
- B. Beyond the lack of accessibility, difficulties faced by students and teachers stem from poor infrastructure and inadequate essential services, especially in rural areas like Kasserine, Qairouan, and Sidi Bouzid.
- C. Many children in public schools could not access education during the pandemic. In May, a National Statistical Institute survey found that 66% of school-age children engaged in no learning activities due to a lack of remote learning options, study materials, or communication with teachers.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Take measures to provide compulsory primary education to all children and improve access to and retention in secondary education, specially to children living in poverty, in rural areas, and children with disabilities;
2. Allocate the resources necessary to ensure the high quality and accessibility of public education and regulate and monitor private schools to address inequality in the education system;
3. Strengthen the quality of education, including by reforming its school curricula, ensuring the availability of qualified teachers, providing high-quality training and ensuring that schools are accessible to all and equipped with adequate infrastructure and educational technologies;
4. Develop a comprehensive strategy aimed at improving water, sanitation, and hygiene in schools, which includes public awareness-raising activities and the monitoring of the implementation of the national standards on water and sanitation facilities, and ensure that sufficient resources are allocated for the implementation of the strategy.

### BROKEN CHALK

Broken Chalk is an Amsterdam-based NGO established in 2020, focused on raising awareness on human rights violations in the educational field. Together with our international sponsors and partners, we aim to remove obstacles in education; contribute to the achievement of peace and tranquility in the society through adaptation studies in an environment of intercultural tolerance; prevent radicalism and polarization; and eliminate the opportunity gap in education for all.

### SOURCES



Tunisia UN-UPR

To access the full report please scan the QR code or visit the following link:  
<https://brokenchalk.org/submission-to-the-universal-periodic-review-of-the-united-nations-human-rights-council-tunisia/>



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