



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Djibouti Country Brief March 2020

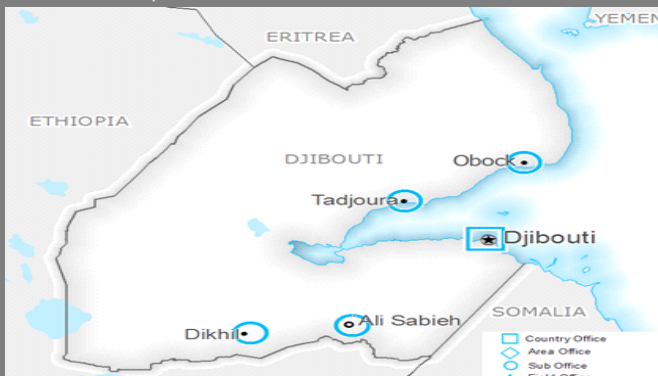


## Operational Context

Djibouti is a low-middle income country and the most food deficit country in the Horn of Africa. An estimated 16 percent of the population lives below the international poverty line of USD1.90 per day (2017). The most recent official national extreme poverty rate, calculated using a survey conducted in 2017 by the World Bank, stands at 21.1 percent. Life expectancy is 53 years.

The climate is hot and dry, desert-like arid, characterized by less than 200 mm of rainfall per year which hinders agricultural production, the latter accounting for only three percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). As a result, the country has to import 90 percent of its food commodities which makes it highly dependent on international market prices. Any variation in the international prices has a considerable impact on the poorest segment of the population, who spend 77 percent of their household budget on food.

WFP's operations in Djibouti are aligned with the Vision 2035, the national strategy that promotes food security and nutrition, as well as the UNDAF 2018-2022.



Population: 1.1 million

2018 Human Development Index: 172 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

Chronic malnutrition: 31 percent of children between 6-59 months

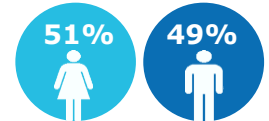
## In Numbers

540.2 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 315,000 cash-based transfers made

USD 7.1m Six months (April 2020-September 2020) net funding requirements

74,373 people assisted in March 2020



## Operational Updates

- In March 2020, WFP provided assistance to nearly 74,000 people including, refugees, asylum seekers, and vulnerable local households in rural and urban areas through unconditional in-kind distributions and cash transfers to meet their immediate food needs.
- Following the Government's request to limit the risks of contagion of COVID-19, WFP in collaboration with UNHCR and National Office for Assistance to Refugees and Victims (ONARS), carried out a food distribution of two months covering the period of March and April 2020 to assist 19,700 refugees and asylum seekers in the three camps: Ali Addeh, Holl Holl and Markazi. To this end, preventive measures such as hand washing, physical distancing of the beneficiaries, and a more segmented distribution by district have been put in place on the sites.
- The planned increase of cash distribution to refugees in Ali Addeh and Hol Hol refugee settlements from USD 2.8 (500 DJF) to USD 5.6 (1,000 DJF)/person/month, will be implemented in May 2020 following an agreement with ONARS in order to sensitize refugee populations adequately on COVID-19 response context.
- As part of the preparatory plans to launch the multipurpose cash pilot project in the Markazi camp, WFP and UNHCR signed a data sharing agreement in March 2020 to migrate data from PROGRESS to SCOPE- A beneficiary management platform.
- WFP provided food assistance in form of vouchers to 4500 households affected by the November 2019 floods enabling them to meet their food needs.
- Despite the partial containment measures put in place due to COVID-19, agricultural activities continue in rural areas at a lower level to avoid additional burden on communities, given the seasonal nature of agriculture in Djibouti.

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Photo caption: Stock management training for 300 students

DJIBOUTI (CSP 2020 - 2024)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
74,1 m	18,3 m	7.1m

**Strategic Result 1: Access to food (SDG Target 2.1)**

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Refugees, asylum seekers and shock affected populations in the Republic of Djibouti have access to adequate and nutritious food throughout the year  
**Focus area:** *Crisis Response*

- Activities:**
- Provide food assistance and nutrition services, including nutrient rich food and nutrition education and counselling to refugees and asylum seekers living in settlements
  - Strengthen government capacity and support national responses for shock affected populations through contingency plan

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Food insecure Djiboutians in targeted regions and refugees have improved access to food and improved nutrition status by 2025  
**Focus area:** *Resilience Building*

- Activities:**
- Provide food, cash-based transfers and technical assistance to strengthen a national inclusive, adaptive and nutrition-sensitive social protection system that contributes to enhanced economic integration.
  - Provide malnutrition prevention and treatment, cash-based transfers, nutritious food, counselling nutritional and incentives for targeted populations, while supporting national nutrition programmes

**Strategic Result 8: Enhance Global Partnership (SDG Target 17.16)**

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Authorities and local partners have enhanced capacity to support the humanitarian community in the Horn of Africa throughout the year  
**Focus area:** *Crisis Response*

- Activities:**
- Provide supply chain services to the humanitarian community (on a full cost-recovery basis)
  - Provide vocational training and capacity strengthening in the transport and commodity handling sectors for partners, refugees and local population

- WFP school feeding activities have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic after schools were closed. These include the delayed finalization of the development of the school teaching aids on nutrition, hygiene and good food preparation which WFP was developing jointly with the Ministry of Education (MoE). WFP has also put on hold its vocational training programme on logistics and transport.
- In March 2020, 300 students were trained in transport and logistics by MENFOP (Ministère de l'Education Nationale et de la Formation Professionnelle) trainers, following the revised courses funded by USAID in technical schools in Djibouti and the regions. In addition, 40 students began forklift driving and stock management trainings in the WFP humanitarian logistics base.

**Monitoring**

- The Djibouti country office continues the effort to develop the mapping of the COVID-19 impact in Djibouti.
- CO team attended the M&E regional network team virtual meeting with the purpose of ensuring the continuity of Monitoring activities and some guidance has been proposed by HQ team. By the end of April, the country level M&E guidance will be developed during the period of COVID-19 spread and containment.
- M&E/VAM team is supporting the National Bureau of Statistic (INSD) on data cleaning, analysis and reporting of the Refugee socioeconomic profiling survey with the support of HQ RAM team.

**Challenges**

With the COVID-19, WFP Djibouti requires additional resources to be able to respond to increased needs.

**Donors**

Australia, Canada, European Commission, France, Japan, Multilateral, and USA (in Alphabetical order)