



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Djibouti Country Brief December 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 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (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**

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Photo caption: Beneficiary from an agricultural cooperative. (Credit: Miguel Tomas)

In Numbers

899 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 172,158 cash-based transfers made

USD 4 m six months (January– June 2021) net funding requirements

71,874 people assisted in December 2020

Operational Updates

- In December 2020, WFP provided assistance to nearly 71,874 people including refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and vulnerable households in rural and urban areas through unconditional in-kind food distributions and cash-based transfers (CBT) to meet their immediate food needs.
- WFP continues to apply prevention measures against the spread of the COVID-19, providing two-month distributions in the refugee settlements and health centers.

General food assistance

- WFP, in coordination with UNHCR and the National Assistance Office for Refugees and Disaster Stricken People (ONARS), provided two-month in-kind food to 21,000 refugees in the settlements of Holl Holl and Ali Addeh during the first half of December. Distributions through WFP's beneficiary identity and benefit management system (SCOPE) were done at Markazi settlement in October and December.
- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities (MASS), distributed food rations to 4,000 local vulnerable households in Djibouti city through SCOPE cards.

COVID-19 response

- A total of 6,000 households affected by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic received general food assistance through paper vouchers in Djibouti city.
- A total of 353 households, with a member living with HIV, received vouchers thanks to two partner NGOs, "Solidarité Féminine" and "Le Réseau". NGOs also oversee support groups through psychosocial assistants and distribution of masks. These beneficiaries were also encouraged to register to the social protection system at the Government's help desks. The paper vouchers, valued at USD 56.2 per household, can be redeemed at 24 WFP-contracted retailers.
- A total of 2,595 local households in rural areas received food through WFP's general food distribution.

Food for Assets

- In December, WFP provided conditional food assistance to 6,120 beneficiaries in rural areas for the construction of 1,130 agricultural perimeters.
- In response to the two waves of desert locust invasion and the effects of the COVID-19 lockdown earlier this year, which highly affected the livelihoods of rural communities, WFP distributed food commodities to 7,000 beneficiaries in rural areas.

DJIBOUTI (CSP 2020 - 2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
74,1 m	30.7 m	4 m

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
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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

Nutrition activities

- The malnutrition treatment and prevention programs continued in the refugee settlements. In December, the prevention program was extended to 300 elderly people and to 700 children aged 6-14 years. COVID-19 prevention measures continue to be implemented at the distribution centers: beneficiaries, WFP and partners' staff have access to hand washing stations, social distancing is maintained and personal protective equipment (PPE) are available at the distribution centers.

Capacity building

- In December, WFP Djibouti launched the "Café de la Logistique", a bi-monthly meeting session between forty students, taking part to the storekeeper training course as part of WFP's vocational training activity, and two representatives of AFTRAL (Apprendre et se Former en TRANsport et Logistique), the largest company for capacity building in logistics and supply chain jobs. The goal of this "Café de la Logistique" is to offer an opportunity for the students to ask about the different opportunities in the logistic sector and learn from the different participants working in the private sector. The next "Café de la Logistique" will take place on 6 January with the participation of the CEO of Massida Group, a logistic services provider based in Djibouti.

Service provision

- Through bilateral service provision, WFP's ship VOS Theia transported 420 kg of FAO agriculture spraying equipment from Djibouti to Aden, Yemen. WFP is also liaising with IOM Yemen for the storage and transportation of medical supplies, with UNDP Yemen for the storage of armored vehicles (AV) and WHO Djibouti for the storage of personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical supplies.

Monitoring

- Due to the ongoing conflict in Ethiopia and the insecurity along the Djibouti - Ethiopia road corridor, the volume of imports has decreased. Consequently, the prices of fresh foods such as vegetables and fruits imported from Ethiopia have increased by around 5 percent. As a result, WFP has extended its market price monitoring to urban areas of Djibouti, interviewing market key informants on a weekly basis, in order to monitor the situation and its effect on the livelihoods of the population.

Donors (in alphabetical order)

Canada, European Commission, France, Japan, Russian Federation, CERF, Multilateral and USA