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 USD 1.90 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.

Operational Updates

- In January, WFP provided assistance to 107,837 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.
- In the refugee settlements, WFP stopped 2-month ration distributions, which were implemented as one of the measures to tackle the spread of the COVID-19, and went back to distributing food assistance on a monthly basis, as the sanitary environment improved considerably.

General food assistance

- WFP, in coordination with UNHCR and the National Office for the Assistance to Refugees and Disaster Stricken People (ONARS), distributed SCOPE cards in the refugee settlements of Holl Holl and Ali Addeh during the last week of January, enabling refugees to retrieve their food rations and cash entitlements. This system will contribute to improve the transparency throughout the distribution process.
- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities (MASS), distributed in-kind food rations to 4,000 local vulnerable households in Djibouti city through SCOPE cards.

COVID-19 response

- A total of 2,595 local households in rural areas received in-kind food.

Food for Assets

- In February, WFP plans to provide conditional food assistance, covering the months of January and February, to 6,120 beneficiaries in rural areas for their participation in the construction of 1,130 agricultural perimeters and soil regeneration activities.

School Feeding

- Following the successful handover of the financial management of the school feeding programme to the Government and the launch of the Integrated School Feeding Strategy (2020 - 2030), WFP started to develop a national roadmap on school nutrition and school feeding activities. Consultations with the Government will help to identify challenges and avenues for partnership between WFP and the Ministry of Education.
WFP Country Strategy

DJIBOUTI (CSP 2020 - 2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>83 m</td>
<td>30.7 m</td>
<td>3.4 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

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**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

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**Donors (in alphabetical order):**
- Canada
- European Commission
- France
- Japan
- Russian Federation
- CERF
- Multilateral
- USA

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**Capacity building**

- During January’s “Café de la Logistique”, the CEO of Massida Group in Djibouti, one of the leaders in the logistics sector in the country, and the Head of Logistics met with the forty students enrolled in the storekeeper training course. As part of WFP’s vocational training activity, the “Café de la Logistique” aims to offer the possibility for students to ask about the different opportunities in the logistic sector and learn from the private sector participants. The students also learned about the particularities of supply chain processes in the hospitality sector, and discovered a wide new range of logistics positions.

**Service provision**

- WFP handled the discharge, storage, and overland dispatch of 40,000 mt of bulk wheat on board the MV Hiroki as part of the Service Level Agreement in place with the Government of Ethiopia’s National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC). With an expected congestion of Djibouti’s ports (as large quantities of fertilizer destined to Ethiopia flow in, to avoid demurrage risks, the 40,000 mt were split as follows: 20,000 mt were discharged into Doraleh Multipurpose Port’s (DMP) silos and directly bagged and dispatched via overland transport to Ethiopia, while the remaining 20,000 mt were transported via bulk trucks to WFP’s Humanitarian Logistics Base’s silos. Bagging and dispatch of these 20,000 mT, the first food assistance delivered to the Tigray region after the recent crisis, started in parallel and is almost complete.
- WFP started the dispatch of a USAID in-kind donation for South Sudan (prepositioned stock at the BMMI warehouses), including 9,100 mt of sorghum (50% already dispatched), 236 mt of vegetable oil and 300 mt of cereals.

**Monitoring**

- In January, Djibouti conducted a Food Security Outcome Monitoring assessment, surveying 2,630 people, beneficiaries as well as non-beneficiaries. This survey targeted WFP’s activities including General Food Distribution (GFD) in the 3 refugee settlements, Food For Assets, GFD to counter the impact of the COVID-19 in Djibouti Ville, Cash Based transfers, as well as non-beneficiary households in rural areas. The data collection was done by the National Bureau of Statistics (INSD), under the supervision of WFP’s and the Ministry of Social affairs’ teams.
- WFP supported the elaboration and validation of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis in Djibouti. According to the IPC results, 155,000 people are currently facing food insecurity (IPC level 3 and above), and this number is forecast to rise to 194,000 people by August 2021. This forecast deterioration is mainly due to the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy and on the food security of households, who lost their sources of incomes. This situation will be compounded by the hot season, between May and August, when agricultural production is the lowest.