WFP Djibouti Country Brief
April 2021

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.

In Numbers
- 594.5 mt of food assistance distributed
- USD 588,027 cash-based transfers made
- USD 4.8 m six months (April – September 2021) net funding requirements
- **89,000 people assisted** in April 2021

Operational Updates
- In April, WFP provided assistance to 89,000 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.

General food assistance
- WFP, in coordination with UNHCR and the National Office for the Assistance to Refugees and Disaster Stricken People (ONARS), provided food assistance to 17,899 refugees in the Ali Addeh, Holl Holl and Markazi refugee settlements. Refugees used SCOPE cards to retrieve their rations, which contributes to improve the transparency throughout the distribution process and enhances accountability of the operation.
- 2,595 households received in-kind food through WFP’s general food distributions in rural areas.
- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities (MASS), supported 4,000 vulnerable households to access food through the SCOPE cards at 19 retailers in Djibouti City.

COVID-19 response
- WFP distributed in-kind food assistance to 12,975 beneficiaries in the five regions of the Country. In Djibouti City, WFP started to distribute vouchers in favor of 5,700 households affected by the crisis, to enable them to meet their immediate food needs.
- A total of 273 Households with at least one family member living with HIV received food assistance through a voucher of 10,000 DJF (56 USD). Implementing partners also provided support groups. These beneficiaries were also encouraged to register to the social protection system at the Government’s help desk.

Food Assistance for Assets
- In April, WFP provided conditional food assistance to 6,120 beneficiaries in rural areas for their participation in the construction of 1,130 agricultural perimeters and soil regeneration activities. In Godoria, in the North of the Country, participants support the regeneration of the mangrove.

School Feeding
- WFP shared the first draft of its “school feeding implementation plan”, supporting the Ministry of Education and Vocational Trainings. This plan includes the goals and priorities for the implementation of school feeding activities for the next decade.
**Capacity building**
- During the “Café de la Logistique”, the Operations Director of the new Port of Damerjog Djibouti met with the 40 students enrolled in the storekeeper training course. This port is designed to accommodate the steel industry, and companies specializing in the transformation of hydrocarbons. The “Café de la Logistique” aims to offer the possibility for students to learn about the different opportunities in the logistic sector and learn from the private sector participants.

**Forecast-based Financing (FbF)**
- As part of its emergency preparedness activities, WFP analyses different seasonal climate forecasts data in order to put in place anticipatory actions to mitigate natural disasters at community and government levels. WFP analyzed data on droughts over a 40-year period as well as the different food security surveys and the Integrated Context Analysis (ICA), over a period of 10 years, covering the whole country. This analysis will support the Government of Djibouti in the choice of targeted areas for the FbF test phase. The next step of this programme will strengthen the capacity of the National Meteorological Agency in reliable drought forecasting.

**Monitoring**
- A performance evaluation on retailers was conducted in April prior to the renewal of the retailers’ contracts until December 2021. WFP also defined an action plan to increase the performance of retailers and to ensure an enhanced compliance with WFP’s rules and regulations.
- WFP, in collaboration with MASS, plans to conduct the “Fill the Nutrient Gap” (FNG) analysis to identify the constraints faced by vulnerable households to access and to consume nutritious food. The FNG aims to strengthen nutrition-sensitive approaches into the social protection policy in Djibouti. The Cost of Diet (CoD) undertook, through the market assessment which is one of the preliminary assessments of the FNG. The CoD determines the cost of the minimum food basket. This survey will be implemented next month in partnership with the Institut de la Statistique de Djibouti (INSTAD).

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