In May, WFP provided assistance to over 70,000 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 20,000 refugees through SCOPE cards in the Ali Addeh, Holl Holl (South), and Markazi (North) refugee settlements. Thanks to new resources, WFP Djibouti increased the cash portion of the food assistance from DJF 500 (2.8 USD) to DJF 1000 (5.6 USD) per person per month in the Southern camps. Subsequently, the quantity of wheat flour of the food basket decreased from 300g to 200g per day per person in order to cover 1,874 kcal per day per person. In the North, refugees have been receiving 100 percent cash through SCOPE cards since August 2020.

WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities (MASS), provided SCOPE cards to 4,000 vulnerable households in Djibouti city enabling them to access food from 19 selected retailers.

**COVID-19 response:**

In Djibouti city, WFP launched voucher distributions targeting 6,080 households affected by the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. A total of 187 households, with at least one family member living with HIV, received food assistance through voucher valued at 10,000 DJF (56 USD). Cooperating Partners also provided psychosocial assistance and distributed masks through established support groups. These beneficiaries were also encouraged to enroll into the social protection system at the Government’s help desk.

**Food Assistance for Assets:**

In May, WFP provided conditional food assistance to 8,825 beneficiaries in rural areas for their participation in the construction of 1,130 agricultural perimeters and soil regeneration activities.

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**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.

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**In Numbers**

- **187mt** of food assistance distributed
- **USD 104,169** cash-based transfers made
- **USD 2.7 m** six months (May - October 2021) net funding requirements
- **70,660 people assisted** in May 2021

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Photo caption: Food assistance to COVID affected households in Djibouti
### 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

### Capacity building

For the school year 2020-2021, WFP is engaged in vocational training programme related to logistics, transport, and customs sectors. Every month, WFP provides training to 400 youth identified as food insecure. This is intended to equip them with skills to have access to the job market.

Vocational trainings sessions started in May 2021 targeting 20 participants from the Region of Dikhil. In addition, WFP Djibouti finalized data collection for the logistics and transport sectors survey. This will define the logistics skills required by the private sector in Djibouti. WFP is now revising the curricula of logistics courses with the Ministry of Education to address the private sector’s requirements and design appropriate vocational trainings.

### Forecast-based Financing

On May 25, WFP Djibouti organized a workshop to strengthen the collaboration with the Government of Djibouti as well as the National Meteorological Agency, United Nations agencies and other partners. The indicators defined during the workshop allowed the working groups to reflect and identify triggers and anticipatory actions appropriate for the national context. Through the workshop’s recommendations, actions will be taken to support the Government of Djibouti in providing assistance to populations affected by climate change to achieve sustainable development goals, in particular SDG 2, by 2030.

### Monitoring

WFP provided inputs to the 2021 UNDAF Joint Work Planning exercise working in close collaboration with UNDAF M&E working group. WFP contributed to the development of the logical framework (UNDAF results chain) and their linkages with the keys activities to be completed during this year.

Preparations for the “Fill the Nutrient Gap” survey are underway. The survey will be undertaken in collaboration with WFP and the MASS and aims to identify barriers faced by the most vulnerable to accessing and consuming health and nutritious foods. This will go a long way in designing nutrition sensitive social protection programmes. WFP has partnered with Institute of National statistics of Djibouti (INSTAD) - the national statistical agency - to collect the markets prices data from June 2021.

### Donors (in alphabetical order)

- Canada
- Denmark
- the European Union
- France
- Japan
- Russian Federation
- CERF
- Multilateral
- USA

### Nutrition

WFP and UNICEF have signed a memorandum of understanding, aimed at strengthening their partnership to support the Government of Djibouti in optimizing the regular and emergency programs in nutrition, maternal and child health, education, and social protection.