



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Djibouti Country Brief

July 2021

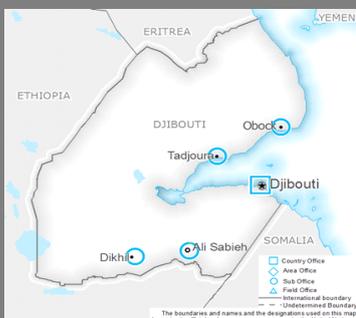


Operational Context

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 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**

2019 Human Development Index: **166 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

171.8 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 574,838 cash-based transfers made

USD 2.5 m six months (July – December 2021) net funding requirements

69,773 people assisted in July 2021



Operational Updates

In June, WFP provided assistance to approximately 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 working in collaboration with UNHCR and the National Office for the Assistance to Refugees and Disaster-Stricken People (ONARS), provided food assistance to 19,200 refugees through SCOPE cards in Ali Addeh, Holl Holl (South), and Markazi (North) refugee settlements.
- Thanks to new contributions, WFP reinstated the cash component of the food assistance from DJF 500 (2.8 USD) to DJF 1,000 (5.6 USD) per person per month in the Southern camps. Subsequently, WFP reduced the quantity of wheat flour in the food basket as the measure was taken earlier this year to mitigate the reduction of cash. In the North, introduction of SCOPE cards since August 2020, has improved the transparency and accountability to beneficiaries assisted.
- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity (MASS), distributed food rations to 2,574 local vulnerable households in Djibouti city through SCOPE cards.

COVID-19 response

- In July, a total of 5,864 households affected by the impact of COVID-19 pandemic received general food assistance through vouchers in Djibouti. In the County Town, WFP distributed vouchers to 550 households out of the targeted 1,600: this activity will be ongoing for 6 months.
- A total of 182 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 in the social protection system at the Government's help desk.
- In addition, 185 households affected by the impact of COVID-19 received vouchers funded by UNICEF in Djibouti City through WFP contracted retailers.

Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)

- Thanks to funding from the French Embassy, WFP rehabilitated a total of 17 gardens damaged by the 2019 floods in Tadjourah Region. WFP assisted 85 gardeners by providing construction material and bi-monthly food assistance.
- In Douda, WFP handed over the repaired pumps to the Ministry of Agriculture and to the members of the cooperative.

Country strategic plan (2020 - 2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
83.3 m	34.4 m	2.5 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

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

Donors (in alphabetical order)

CERF, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, France, Japan, Russian Federation, Multilateral donors and USA.

Nutrition

In July, WFP provided daily food rations to 300 TB patients hospitalized in health centers in Djibouti city to improve treatment outcomes.

School Feeding

- WFP is working with the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Trainings (MENFOP) to strengthen their capacities to manage the school feeding programme and develop a work plan for the next decade.
- WFP carried out an assessment in five regions to select local businesses for the construction of energy-efficient stoves and shelters in 75 primary schools in rural areas.

Capacity Building

- WFP in collaboration with Aftral is organizing a logistics training targeting out of school youth and refugees in the technical centers of Dikhil, Tadjourah and Balbala. After refugees get trained, UNHCR will work on preparing their integration into the workplace.
- WFP considered a competitive company to supply equipment required for the renewal of technical platforms in the three technical centers.
- During a meeting, the Aftral team provided educational reference system which was sent to the Ministry of the National Education and Vocational Trainings (MENFOP) for review.

Forecast-based Financing

- WFP has partnered with International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), and the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) to support the National Meteorological Agency of Djibouti (Agence Nationale de la Météorologie de Djibouti- ANMD) in drought seasonal forecasting.
- WFP established a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with National Meteorological Agency of Djibouti for the exchange of useful information to allow for the exchange of real time climate data and accurate forecasting.
- WFP is preparing two regional workshops in Tadjourah and Ali Sabieh with local stakeholders to launch discussions on measures to identify anticipatory actions to mitigate the impacts of drought.

Food Systems

- WFP signed a MOU with URD Group to support the Government to facilitate a dialogue between ministries, civil society, UN agencies and NGOs to develop a roadmap on the optimization and development of food systems that will be presented at the Food Systems Summit.
- From 26 to 28 July, the Republic of Djibouti participated in the pre-summit of the Food Systems Summit. The priorities of the Pre-Summits will inform on the national dialogue which will be held in September.

Monitoring

- In close collaboration with Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity (MASS), WFP is preparing an evaluation on the use and impact of CBT intervention in an urban context to (1) Capture the life conditions and poverty improvement of CBT beneficiaries' households; and (2) Identify households that can be enrolled into the livelihood programmes in line with the scope of the project "Sustainable Solutions for vulnerable host community and refugees".
- Following the request from the cash working group, WFP has organized a mission to review the performance of CBT retailers in Markazi refugee camp in the Region of Obock. The review will be carried out between 5 to 7 August. The report aims to ensure that retailers are working as per standards before proceeding with contract renewal.