WFP Djibouti
Country Brief
August 2022

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 66 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 include life-saving interventions to improve food and nutrition security for the most vulnerable crisis-affected people. WFP helps communities by distributing food including specialized nutritious foods. WFP also works with the Government of Djibouti on the strengthening of the national social registry and to provide vocational training and capacity strengthening in the transport and commodity handling sectors for partners, refugees, and local population. WFP's operations are aligned with the Vision 2035, the national strategy which promotes food security and nutrition, as well as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018-2024.

Operational Updates
• In August, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 66,100 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).

Drought Response:
• As of July, approximated 194, 00 people are facing food insecurity in Djibouti – an increase of 56 percent since February. This is due to the ongoing drought, high food prices, and socioeconomic challenges. In addition, more than 5,000 children under the age of 5 and pregnant and breastfeeding women are facing, or are at risk of, malnutrition. Under the drought response, WFP assisted 8,082 beneficiaries in August through in-kind food distributions in the regions of Tadjourah, Arta, and Ali Sabieh.

Assistance to refugees and asylum seekers:
• WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 20,338 refugees in all three refugee settlements in Djibouti.
• WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 400 migrants in the Migration Response Centre (MRC) in the Obock region in Djibouti.
• A total of 264 people, with at least one family member living with HIV, received food assistance through monthly vouchers valued at DJF 10,000 (USD 56).

COVID-19 response:
• WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities (MASS), provided food assistance to vulnerable people affected by the impact of COVID 19 through vouchers to:
  - 9,000 beneficiaries in Djibouti City
  - 2,160 beneficiaries in other cities
  - 13,200 beneficiaries in rural areas

Social protection:
• WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities (MASS) support the social protection through the strengthening of national social registry. To improve the food security of vulnerable groups, WFP assisted 12,500 beneficiaries in rural areas through the Seasonal General Food Distribution.

Forecast-based Financing:
• WFP organized training for the National Meteorological Agency of Djibouti (ANMD) focused on the next generations of weather forecast tools to enable the establishment of more relevant weather forecasting and put in place anticipatory actions. This training was led by six scientists from IGAD’S Climate Prediction and Applications Centre.

In Numbers
466.6 mt of food distributed
USD 243,165 cash-based transfers made
USD 5.4 m six months (Sept. 2022 – Feb. 2023) net funding requirements

66,100 people assisted in August 2022

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population: 1.1 million</th>
<th>2019 Human Development Index: 166 out of 189</th>
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<tr>
<td>Income Level: Lower middle</td>
<td>Chronic malnutrition: 31 percent of children between 6-59 months</td>
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Contact Info: Lina Mustapha (lina.mustapha@wfp.org)
Country Director: Mary Njoroge
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/djibouti
WFP Country Strategy

Country strategic plan (2020 - 2024)

<table>
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<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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<tr>
<td>83.3 m</td>
<td>47.7 m</td>
<td>5.4 m</td>
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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:**

1. Provide food assistance and nutrition services, including nutrient rich food and nutrition education and counselling to refugees and asylum seekers living in settlements

2. Strengthen government capacity and support national responses for shock affected populations through contingency planning

Strategic Result 2: Enhance Global Partnership (SDG Target 17.16)

**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:**

3. 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.

4. Provide malnutrition prevention and treatment, cash-based transfers, nutritious food, counselling nutritional and incentives for targeted populations, while supporting national nutrition programmes

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:**

5. Provide supply chain services to the humanitarian community (on a full cost-recovery basis)

6. Provide vocational training and capacity strengthening in the transport and commodity handling sectors for partners, refugees and local populations

**Food assistance for assets:**

- WFP in partnership with FAO is supporting participants to optimize agricultural perimeters to address the immediate food needs of most food-insecure people’s while improving their long-term food security and resilience. A total of 156 participants from the five regions of Tadjourah, Arta, Dikhil, Obock and Ali Sabieh are working to improve agricultural production and received cash-based transfers from WFP.

**Capacity Strengthening:**

- WFP and USAID visited a warehouse school which was provided with the necessary equipment for training in logistics and transport. Thanks to these purchases, the warehouse is now brought up to standard and will make it possible to provide high-level practical training to young participants.

**Monitoring:**

- WFP carried out the process monitoring after a few months of the implementation of the seasonal General Food Distribution, COVID response and Refugee assistance to measure and analyze process performance.

- Market price: there is a rise in prices, over the last three successive months. The inflation rate in Djibouti remained at 2 digits (11 percent). This greatly weakens the food security of vulnerable households, particularly those who have been displaced due to drought, as well as host communities, but also pastoralists who have lost all their sources of income. These populations are forced to restrict their food consumption to a single staple food.

**Port operations and Overload Transport**

- In August, for the first time in WFP Djibouti history, two batches (15,762 mt) of fertilizers have been dispatched to Mekele and woredas in Tigray. The port team also drop-shipped 125 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent unit) through Cost and Freight, moved 630 mt of vegetable oil from USAID released preposition; and 54,542 mt of wheat over about 90,000 mt of bulk wheat grain received for Ethiopia.

- With the re-opening of the Black Sea, MV Brave Commander with 23,299 mt of bulk wheat, berthed in Djibouti on 30 August. As the first WFP-chartered ship to leave Ukraine since the conflict unfolded, international and local media featured the event. On the following day, 87 trucks/ 3480 mt of the wheat were heading to Ethiopia.

**Donors (in alphabetical order):**

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

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