



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Djibouti Country Brief October 2022

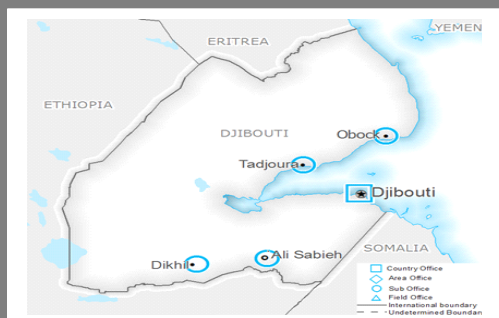


### Operational Context

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.



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

**655.3 mt** of food distributed

**USD 147,050** cash-based transfers made

**USD 4 M** six months (Nov. 2022 – Apr. 2023) net funding requirements

**40,355 people assisted**

in October 2022

53%



47%



### Operational Updates

- In October, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 40,355 people, including refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable households in rural and urban areas through unconditional in-kind food assistance and cash-based transfers (CBT).

#### Drought Response:

- Approximately 194,000 people are facing food insecurity (IPC phases 3, 4&5) in Djibouti; an increase of 56 percent since February. WFP assisted **13,582** beneficiaries in September through in-kind food assistance in the regions of Tadjourah, Arta, Obock, Dikhil and Ali Sabieh. The number of beneficiaries increased by 5,500 due to the addition of regions of Dikhil and Obock. Through contributions from UN CERF, WFP also provided blanket supplementary feeding to children between 6-59 months, pregnant and breast-feeding women in three regions, which are Ali Sabieh, Arta and Tadjourah.

#### Assistance to refugees and asylum seekers:

- WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to **23,517** refugees in all three refugee settlements in Djibouti. Markazi is facing an influx of newly arrived asylum seekers from Yemen and Eritrea. The overall number of refugees and asylum seekers benefiting from WFP food assistance has increased by 1,502 due to the ongoing UNHCR verification exercise.
- WFP in collaboration with IOM continued to provide hot meals to **300** migrants in the Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Obock.
- In Djibouti Ville, **300** families affected by HIV received food assistance through e-vouchers, valued at DJF 10,000 (USD 56), to cover their basic food security and nutrition needs.

#### COVID-19 response:

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity (MASS), WFP provided food assistance through e-vouchers worth DJF 10,000 (USD 56) to 2,500 people affected by the impact of COVID 19 in Djibouti City.

#### Social protection:

- WFP is supporting the MASS to strengthen the national social protection systems. WFP supported in the evaluation of the National Social Protection strategy (2018-2022) and will assist in the development of the forthcoming strategy for 2023-2026.

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## Country strategic plan (2020 - 2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>83.3 m</b>	<b>53.9 m</b>	<b>4 m</b>

### 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 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:

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 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:

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 population

#### Forecast-based Financing:

- Two anticipatory actions (AAs) could be activated in the eastern regions of the country. The two AAs are improved food security through CBT to prevent further deterioration and prevention of chronic and acute malnutrition through in-kind food assistance. These AAs target the most vulnerable population in Obock, Tadjourah, Ali Sabieh and Dikhil. WFP is exploring internal funding mechanisms to be able to deliver on these anticipatory actions. WFP initiated the second phase of the collaboration with Columbia university on drought forecasting and triggers. WFP is exploring a partnership with Djibouti Meteorological Service on data-sharing efficiency on climate.

#### Food assistance for assets:

- WFP in partnership with FAO is supporting farmers to optimize agricultural gardens to address the immediate food needs of most food-insecure people 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. Participants are provided with agricultural training and material by FAO. As a result of taking part in the food production programme, participants receive an incentive in the form of cash from WFP. The fifth distribution cycle was carried out on 15 October 2022.

#### Monitoring:

- The M&E Unit issued the first draft of Food for Assets baseline report. It was reported that at the beginning of the project in January 2022, agriculture and (occasional work were the main sources of targeted household income in this project. Regarding food consumption score, 52 percent of households are on the acceptable level, 20 percent of households are on borderline and 27 percent are poor. Households used three food-coping strategies: eating less preferred foods (43 percent), borrowing food from friends or relatives (29 percent) and reducing the portion of food (24 percent). As for livelihood-based coping strategies, borrowing money (40 percent) is the most preferred option. In 62 percent of the households, decision-making on the use of household resources is made jointly by the couple.
- The inflation rate was +6.1 percent for September compared to last year mainly driven by the increased prices of sugar by 16.5 percent and potatoes and bananas by 7.8 percent. This increase was, however, mitigated by the drop in prices of beef by 5.7 percent, fresh fish by 3.9 percent and bread by 2.6 percent. In the rural regions, prices increased by 17 percent for wheat flour in Ali Sabieh and by 10-40 percent for sugar in all regions. Compared to last year, prices of vegetable oil and sugar increased by more than 50 percent and that of cereals 7-23 percent in rural regions.

#### Supply Chain:

- By the end of the month, DJCO's food basket representing 655.3 MT of various food commodities was dispatched and distributed to its co-operating partners across the country.
- On the Djibouti corridor, 55,804 mt of wheat was dispatched with 1,383 trucks from the ports' silos. 116 containers of CSB++ were received and will be exported to Yemen. About 4,120 mt of wheat was dispatched to Ethiopia with 103 trucks.

**Donors (in alphabetical order):** Denmark, European Union, France, Japan, Russian Federation, UNCFERF, Multilateral donors, Private Sector donors, Saudi Arabia and USA.