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 must 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.

In Numbers

- 257 mt of food distributed
- USD 239,307 cash-based transfers distributed
- USD 5.3 M six months (April 2023 – Sept. 2023) net funding requirements
- 54,556 people assisted in April 2023

Operational Updates

- In April, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 54,556 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:

- In April, WFP provided in-kind food assistance and CBT to 9,494 beneficiaries affected by drought in the regions of Tadjourah, Arta, Obock, Dikhil and Ali Sabieh to meet their food and nutrition needs.
- A total of 5,900 beneficiaries received food assistance through electronic vouchers, amounting to 56 USD per households, per month.

Assistance to refugees and asylum seekers:

- WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 24,029 refugees in all three refugee settlements in Djibouti. Furthermore, WFP provided 5,880 MT of specialized nutritious foods to the health centres in the refugee camps, for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) among children under the age of 5 and Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women and Girls.
- WFP distributed 1 mt of food to 300 migrants in the Migration Response Centre in Obock.

Social protection:

- WFP and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity successfully rolled out a pilot initiative on ‘The Integration of Refugees in the National Safety Net’. Under this pilot, WFP distributed USD 40,320 to 3,600 (720 Households HH) urban refugees in cash-based transfer. In parallel to the national safety net programme, WFP provided cash-based transfers to 5,045 (1,009 households) vulnerable and extremely poor beneficiaries. Additionally, 1,620 (324 households) people living with HIV received cash-based transfers, amounting to USD 56 per family per month.

Nutrition:

- WFP provided 30 mt of specialized nutritious foods to all health facilities in the country for the treatment MAM in children under the age of 5 years and Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women and Girls. A total of 2,913 Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women and Girls and 1,655 children under 5 years benefitted from MAM treatment.
Capacity strengthening:
• Capacity strengthening continued to be at the heart of WFP’s work in Djibouti. In this regard, WFP supported the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity in the evaluation of the national social protection strategy 2018-2022. Currently, WFP is working with the Ministry to develop a new Social Protection Strategy 2023-2027.
• Thanks to generous funding from France, WFP is supporting the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MENFOP) to develop 20 school gardens.

Forecast-based Financing:
• WFP is finalizing an agreement with the National Meteorological Agency of Djibouti (ANMD) for sharing meteorological information. WFP, in partnership with the Meteorological Agency and the Executive Secretariat for Risk and Disaster Management has launched the first steps for an early warning system. Anticipatory actions SOPs have been finalized with the relevant partners

Monitoring:
• WFP Djibouti completed its mid-term review of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2020-2024 and the report is under final review. An Action Plan to present the management response toward the recommendations raised by the CSP midterm review will be developed soon. WFP Djibouti is also preparing a decentralized evaluation of a sustainable solution project which will be undertaken until the end December 2023.
• The multi-sectoral assessment conducted in March 2023 shows an increase of 10 percent of households accessing insufficient food consumption, (less diversified and less frequent diet), compared to 2022, mainly in rural Tadjourah, rural Obock, rural Dikhil and in the two communes of Djibouti-city (Boulaos and Balbala). Acute malnutrition affects 13 percent of children under 5, with stunting at 19 percent, and underweight at 22 percent. Overall nutritional situation deteriorated compared to 2019. Morbidity was high in Northern Djibouti but fortunately, most of the sick children (70 percent) sought medical care. The findings from this assessment were used as indirect and direct evidence for the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Analysis of acute food insecurity and acute malnutrition to be undertaken early May.

Supply Chain:
• The Humanitarian Logistics Hub (HLB) is a strategic pre-positioning point for humanitarian aid including food and non-food items for operations in Djibouti, Somalia, Yemen, South Sudan, Ethiopia and other countries in the region.
• In the month of April WFP Djibouti Supply Chain completed the dispatch of 210 mt of specialised nutritious foods, high energy biscuits, split peas, vegetable oil and wheat flour. The products were dispatched to Djibouti city, Obock, Arta, Ali Sabieh, Dikhil and Tadjourah.
• In April, a total of 25,742 mt of food was dispatched to Dire Dawa, Jijiga, Mekele, Nazareth and Semera, in Ethiopia.

Donors (in alphabetical order): France, Germany, Japan, UNCFR, Multilateral donors, Private Sector donors, Saudi Arabia and USA.