



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Djibouti Country Brief August 2023

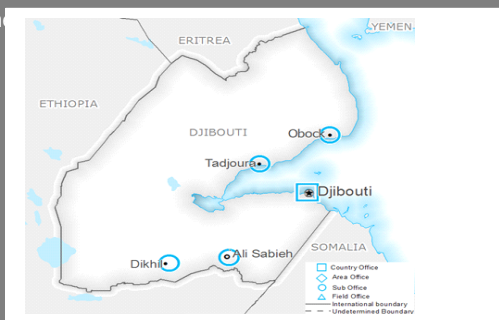


Operational Context

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



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

Contact Info: Gaia Paradiso (gaia.paradiso@wfp.org)

Country Director ad interim: Agbessi Amewoa (agbessi.amewoa@wfp.org)

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/djibouti

Photo: Anwar, 62, uses a WFP supported cash-card to shop in Djibouti, on 25 May 2023

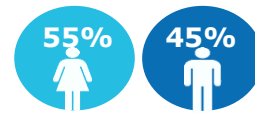
In Numbers

614 MT of in-kind food distributed

USD 419,162 cash-based transfers

USD 3.8 million net funding requirements
(August-January 2024)

72,700 people assisted in August.



Operational Updates

- In August, WFP provided **food and nutrition assistance** to **72,700 beneficiaries (40,000 female and 32,700 male)**, including refugees, asylum seekers, drought-affected people and counseling mothers (trainers who train breastfeeding and lactating mothers on the best nutritional practices to adopt, during and after pregnancy) in rural and urban areas.

Drought Response:

- 4,700 shock-affected people in urban and semi-urban areas (Tadjourah, Dorra, Obock, Dikhil, Ali Sabieh and Arta) received food assistance through cash-based transfers. The transfer value corresponds to the national safety net programme and is Djiboutian francs 10,000 (USD 56) per household, per month.
- With the deteriorated nutrition situation in IPC3+ rural areas due to the drought, 62 mt of supplementary feeding (super cereal +) were distributed to 1,210 children under the age of 5 and 990 pregnant and breastfeeding women for the prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).
- In August, WFP facilitated the participation of the representative of Executive Secretariat for Risk and Disaster Management in the National Disaster Management Organizations (NDMO) workshop, from 30 to 31 August 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. The objective of the workshop was to enhance the capacity of NDMOs technical staffs and decision makers through information exchange for effective emergency preparedness, response and anticipatory action.
- WFP is partnering with Columbia University, and International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) to provide technical support to the Government in the establishment of forecasting-based anticipatory actions and the reinforcement of national capabilities. The project has a focus on drought as it is one of the climate hazards that majorly affects food security in Djibouti. In the second phase of the project, drought triggers, thresholds and forecasts will be developed for all seasons.

Assistance to refugees and asylum seekers:

- In August, WFP provided food assistance to 22,000 refugees through cash-based transfers worth USD 157,376.
- WFP started the distribution of the CBS++ to pregnant and breastfeeding women and children as part of the prevention programme in the refugee settlements. This programme will continue for a period of three months before assessing the impact. WFP reached out to a total of 4,500 children under 5 years and 1,200 pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- WFP allocated 8 mt of food and 1.9 mt of High Energy Biscuits to the migrants living at Migration Response Center (MRC) in Obock.

Resilience:

- In August, 20 TB-affected households received the first cash-based transfers thanks to a contribution from France and close collaboration with the Ministry of Health. The verification and enrolment process for an additional 300 TB-affected households is currently underway, and these eligible households will start receiving food assistance in September. The transfer value is aligned to the national safety net programme, amounting to DJF 10,000 (USD 56) per household per month.

Country strategic plan (2020 - 2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
104.7 m	69.2 m	3.8 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:

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

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

- Complementary to the national safety net programme, 340 HIV affected households and 4,000 extremely poor households received their food assistance through cash-based transfers. This includes 800 refugee households integrated in the national safety net programme. A total of 200,000 USD was distributed.
- For the lean season, a total of 289 mt of food was distributed to 11,000 food insecure people residing in rural regions. In addition, all households with children under the age of 5 and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers received supplementary nutrition to mitigate the risk of MAM.
- 50 gardeners and 400 counselling mothers received a total of 21,000 USD through cash-based transfers as an incentive for the maintenance of the school gardens and the provision of nutrition related sensitization.

Nutrition:

- In August, WFP resumed the provision of Super Cereal Plus for the treatment of MAM following a temporary suspension in April 2023. A total of 48 mt was allocated to health centres.
- In collaboration with UNICEF, an international consultant was engaged to provide support in developing a comprehensive five-year multisectoral implementation strategy for the National Nutrition Policy. The anticipated completion date for this strategy is October 2023.
- A total of 1,100 children below the age of 5, as well as 1,100 pregnant and breastfeeding women, benefited from the distribution of supplementary nutritious provisions for the prevention of MAM. This distribution was integrated with general food distribution during the lean season.

Monitoring:

- Inflation currently stands at 1.2 percent. Prices for “food and non-alcoholic beverages” increased by 3.0 percent compared to June 2023. This increase is mainly due to the increase in the price of “Fresh vegetables in fruit or root” (+21.5%), followed by “Tubers and plantains” (+2.6%) and of “Unprocessed cereals” (+1.0%), mitigated by the fall in the prices of “Flour, meat and goats” by -6.1% and “Bread” by -1.2%.
- A fresh food voucher baseline assessment conducted in August on 211 targeted households in Balbala showed that 50 percent % have an acceptable food consumption score and 12 percent a poor score. Grains, oil and sugar remain the most frequently consumed foods, while consumption of meat, dairy products, vegetables and fruits is relatively low. Over half of households (55%) never consumed foods rich in vitamin A and the consumption of iron is occasional.

Supply Chain:

- The Humanitarian Logistics Base (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 August, WFP Djibouti Supply Chain completed the dispatch of 700 mt of pulses, super cereal, vegetable oil, wheat and ready to use supplementary food (RUSF). The products were dispatched to the city of Djibouti, Obock, Arta, Ali Sabieh, Dikhil and Tadjourah.
- In the month of August, a total of 2,900 mt of food was dispatched to the cities of Dire Dawa, Jijiga, Mekele, Nazareth and Semera, in Ethiopia
- In the month of August, the two weighbridges present at the HUB were serviced and calibrated, with the installation of 10 new loadcells and two new digital indicators. Training on the weighbridge calibration was also offered to four engineers.
- In terms of Port operations, one USAID/BMMI vessel loaded 3,230 mt of yellow split peas and 4,000 mt of sorghum in 50 kg bags. The vessel safely reached the port of Lamu, in Kenya.