



World Food Programme

SAVING  
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LIVES

# WFP Djibouti Country Brief October 2023

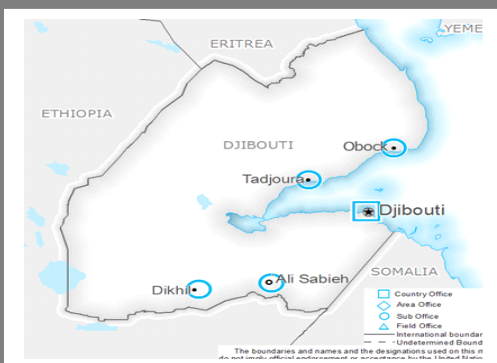


## Operational Context

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 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

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Photo (WFP/Arete/Siegfried Modola): Baby girl Nastheo, seven months, is screened by a health worker for malnutrition at a refugee and IDP settlement in Sankal village, Djibouti.

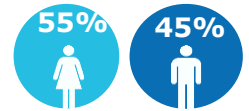
## In Numbers

**1,209 mt** of in-kind food distributed

**USD 433,164** cash-based transfers

**USD 4.8 million** net funding requirements  
(December 2023 - May 2024)

**86,818** people assisted in October.



## Operational Updates

- In October, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 86,818 persons (47,750 women and 39,068 men). These included refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, drought-affected populations, HIV and TB affected households, and participants to the food assistance for assets creation (FFA) activity.

### Assistance to refugees and asylum seekers:

- WFP provided support to 22,100 refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants to cover their immediate food needs thanks to a combination of in-kind food and cash-based transfers provided by WFP. In total, 227 mt of food commodities and USD 160,500 were transferred. The food basket was complemented with dates.
- 4,100 children under the age of 5 as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women living in the refugee settlements benefitted from WFP nutritional support. To contribute to the prevention of malnutrition, WFP distributed 16 mt of specialized nutritious food in the settlements of Ali Addeh, Holl-Holl and Markazi.
- In addition, WFP provided 34 mt of food commodities to the Migration Response Center (MRC) located in Obock, allowing 1,100 migrants to receive hot meals.

### Shock Response:

- WFP provided 660 mt of cereals, pulses, and oil to 18,800 people experiencing crisis level of food insecurity in IPC phases 3 and 4 areas.
- WFP also distributed around USD 100,600 in the form of cash-based transfers to 6,900 persons affected by drought. In urban and semi-urban areas of Arta, Ali Sabieh, Dikhil, Obock, and Tadjourah, each targeted households received a transfer value of DJF 10,000 (equivalent to USD 56) they used to purchase food commodities on local markets while preserving their assets. The amount of the transfer value is aligned to the national safety net programme.
- Among drought-affected populations, WFP provided supplementary feeding to 5,300 children under the age of 5 and 3,300 pregnant and breastfeeding women at risk of malnutrition. As part of the programme for the prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), 69 mt of supercereal plus were distributed.



Country strategic plan (2020 - 2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
104.7 m	71.3 m	4.8 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\*

\* Activity 6 was moved under activity 3 since the Budget Revision carried out in November 2022.

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

Social protection and economic integration:

- WFP and UNDP provided technical support to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities (MASS) in the development of the national strategy for social protection for 2024-2027. The strategy was validated in October in the presence of the Minister of MASS, Minister of Health, Minister of Women Affairs, and all UN agencies.
- The year-long process involved the engagement of a dedicated social protection experts, multi-stakeholder consultations, primary and secondary data collection and analysis to ascertain the social assistance needs, laying the groundwork for the development of the four strategic pillars: 1) safety nets and access to basic social services; 2) social and financial inclusion; 3) adaptive mechanisms for shock response; and 4) institutional, technical, and financial capacity strengthening.
- WFP's support extended to 800 refugee households who have been included in the national social registry since November 2022.

Nutrition:

- Results of the 2023 multisectoral assessment revealed a worsening of the nutrition situation with the prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) that has been increasing and currently stands at approximately 13.4 percent.
- WFP delivered 70 mt of SuperCereal Plus to health facilities across the country. This allowed to support the nutritional needs of 5,200 children under 5 years of age, pregnant and breastfeeding women, as well as HIV patients suffering from MAM.
- As part of its malnutrition prevention activities in the interior regions, WFP distributed 20 mt of SuperCereal Plus to 2,650 children under 5 years of age as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women in parallel to the seasonal general food assistance during the lean season.

Supply Chain:

- Inland food dispatch** In October, WFP Djibouti Supply Chain dispatched of 1,100 mt of pulses, SuperCereal, vegetable oil, wheat, and ready to use supplementary food (RUSF). The food commodities were dispatched to the cities of Arta, Ali Sabieh, Dikhil, Djibouti, Obock, and Tadjourah.
- Overland food dispatch:** A total of 6,700 mt of food was dispatched in October to the cities of Dire Dawa, Jijiga, Mekele, Nazareth, and Semera, in Ethiopia.

Monitoring:

- WFP conducted rapid assessments in the refugee settlements of Ali Addeh, Holl-Holl, and Markazi to assess both the vulnerability of new arrivals and their needs. Some 270 households experiencing levels emergency of food insecurity were identified.
- WFP launched a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey for all its activities implemented in Djibouti. The study is meant to assess the effects of WFP interventions among households and specific targets like women aged between 15 and 49 years old and children aged between 6 and 23 months. Results are expected to be available in November.