



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Djibouti Country Brief

November 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): Fatima holds her WFP-supported cash electronic card, known as SCOPE, to redeem food items at a store in Obock

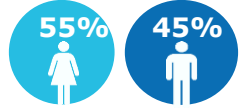
In Numbers

349 mt of in-kind food distributed

USD 500,752 cash-based transfers

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

87,705 people assisted in November



Operational Updates

- In November, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 87,705 persons (48,238 women and 39,467 men). This included refugees, asylum seekers, vulnerable and 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 assistance to 22,500 refugees and asylum seekers to allow them to cover their immediate food needs through a combination of in-kind food and cash-based transfers. In total, 180 mt of food commodities were distributed and USD 160,500 transferred.
- WFP also reached 4,100 children under the age of 5 as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women living in the three refugee settlements of Ali Addeh, Holl-Holl and Markazi benefitted from WFP nutritional support. To contribute to the prevention of malnutrition, WFP distributed 16 MT of specialized nutritious food. As part of its treatment programme against moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), WFP supplied the health centers at the refugee settlements with 5 MT of specialized nutritious food.

Shock Response:

- WFP distributed 660 mt of cereals, pulses, and oil to 18,800 persons experiencing crisis level of food insecurity in IPC phases 3 and 4 classified areas.
- WFP also distributed around USD 100,600 in the form of cash-based transfers (CBT) to 6,900 persons affected by drought. In urban and semi-urban areas of Arta, Ali Sabieh, Dikhil, Obock, and Tadjourah, each targeted household received a transfer value of DJF 10,000 (equivalent to USD 56). Families used this assistance to purchase food commodities in local markets while preserving their assets. 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 in parallel to the general food distribution. As part of the programme for the prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), 70 mt of supercereal Plus were distributed.

Social protection and economic integration:

- As part of its promotion of social protection initiatives and economic integration, WFP supported the vocational training for out-of-school refugee youths whose households are registered in the national social register. This pilot organized in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs

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 is implemented under activity 3 since the Budget Revision carried out in November 2022.

and Solidarities (MASS) and with the financial support of the European Union, allowed to build the capacities of 20 youths in logistics and maintenance of solar equipment. Throughout the six-month training program, participants gained essential knowledge, developed valuable skills, and were provided with the tools needed for entry into the labor market. In November, a formal certificate distribution ceremony took place, attended by all project stakeholders, recognizing, and celebrating the accomplishments of the trainees.



Supply Chain:

- WFP uplifted 1,300 mt of vegetable oil, ready to use supplementary food (RUSF), and non-food items to Ethiopia.
- Given the importance of food security and quality, WFP organized a three-day refresher training for staff at the Humanitarian Logistic Hub. Topics discussed focused on warehouse management activities that affect food safety and quality. Key thematic included inspection, repackaging, losses mitigation, role of the Superintendent company, food commodities handling, and integrated pest control management.

Monitoring:

- Results of assessment revealed that household vulnerability continues to increase due to high food prices. Although staple food prices remain stable in the five interior regions of Arta, Ali Sabieh, Dikhil, Djibouti, Obock, and Tadjourah the prices of vegetable oil and sugar incurred respectively a 35 and 15 percent increase in Ali Sabieh and Dikhil, in the southern part of the country. The variations result from international price increase caused by the uncertainty of global demand which has a direct impact on local prices in Djibouti, a net importer of food commodities.
- To evaluate outcome indicators of its activities implemented from January to October 2023, WFP conducted a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey from October to November. More than 2,000 households receiving WFP support including through humanitarian and emergency food assistance, refugee integration program, social protection activities, and support to HIV patients participated to the survey. The results of the PDM will be available in December 2023.

Donors (in alphabetical order): France, Germany, Japan, Multilateral donors, Private Sector donors, Saudi Arabia, UNCF and United States of America.