



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Djibouti Country Brief January 2024

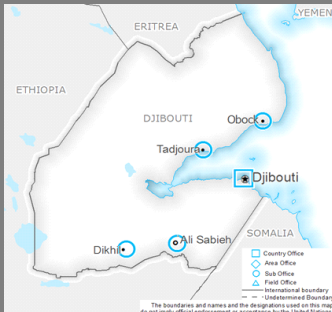


Operational Context

Djibouti is a small low-middle income country and the most food deficit country in the Horn of Africa. With a population of 1.1 million, an estimated 23 percent of its population lives in extreme poverty. In the 2023 Global Hunger Index, the country was ranked 93 out of 125 countries with a severity score categorized as serious.

The climate is hot and dry, with an average of 130 mm of rainfall per year which hinders agricultural production that accounts for only three percent of the Gross Domestic Product. As a result, the country imports 90 percent of its food commodities making it highly dependent on international market prices. Price fluctuations directly impact people's purchasing power, particularly low and middle-income rural and women-headed households, who spend 77 percent of their household budget on food.

Results of the 2023 food security assessment estimated that 285,000 persons are experiencing acute food insecurity (IPC 3 and above). WFP's operations in Djibouti aim to improve food and nutrition security for the most vulnerable crisis-affected people including refugees, asylum seekers, and rural communities with limited access to resources. WFP also works with the Government of Djibouti on strengthening social protection programs and capacity in the transport and commodity handling sectors for humanitarian and development actors. 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

2021 Human Development Index: 161 out of 191

Income Level: Lower middle

Chronic malnutrition: 31 percent of children between 6-59 months

In Numbers

47,947 people assisted in January

55%

45%

USD 148,201 cash-based transfers

USD 11.8 million net funding requirements
(February - July 2024)

403 MT of in-kind food distributed

Operational Updates

- In January, WFP reached 47,947 persons (26,371 women and 21,576 men) vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity through lifesaving and life-changing activities. Through its interventions, WFP assisted refugees, asylum seekers, vulnerable and shock-affected populations, HIV and TB affected households, and participants to the food assistance for assets creation (FFA) activity. WFP interventions were deployed in the five regions of the country: Arta, Ali-Sabieh, Dhikil, Obock, and Tadjourah.
- WFP in Djibouti urgently requires USD 11.8 million to sustain essential food and nutrition assistance until July 2024. To avert a disruption in critical aid, WFP is implementing a 40 percent ration cut across its life-saving activities. This is likely to exacerbate the already precarious situation in the country as more than 23 percent of people live in extreme poverty.

Lifesaving food and nutrition assistance (Crisis response):

- With 31,500 refugees and asylum seekers present in Djibouti and limited economic opportunities, WFP provided food assistance to over 20,800 of them (48 percent women) residing in the settlements of Ali-Addeh, Holl-Holl and Markazi. In total, WFP distributed over 172 metric tons (MT) of food commodities and transferred USD 92,000 to allow refugee and asylum seekers to cover their immediate food needs.
- WFP provided food assistance to over 9,000 persons experiencing crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC phases 3 and 4 classified areas). In total, WFP distributed over USD 30,600 and 28 MT of cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil under this intervention.

Life-changing interventions (Resilience building)

- WFP's continued food assistance to farmers affected by flood allowed some 200 farmers to meet their basic food needs, while rehabilitating their lands.
- Through its nutrition programs aimed at preventing all forms of malnutrition and treating moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in children under the age of five, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs), WFP sustained the distribution of nutrition products. This included delivering 75 MT of specialized nutritious food through health centers, reaching over 5,500 PBWGs, children with MAM, and TB/HIV patients. Furthermore, in the Arta region and four localities in the Ali-Sabieh region, 670 PBWGs and at-risk children under the age of five received a total of 6 MT of super cereal plus. WFP also conducted nutrition sensitization sessions through its network of 400 counseling mothers, providing this group of women with around USD 45,000 as an incentive.
- Through the national safety net programme (PNSF), WFP reached 1,827 households with cash-based transfers.
- WFP's support aiming to develop the capacities of youth and women, allowed over 460 youth and women to benefit from specific trainings for the purpose of being competitive on the labor market or developing income generating activities.

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Photo (WFP/Esther Ouoba): Young mother, Aicha, at the entrance of Obock 2 primary school where she collected the take-home ration comprising of Super Cereal Plus and vegetable oil provided by WFP as a complement to the school feeding programme (Obock region)

Country strategic plan (2020 - 2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
104.7 m	74 m	11.8 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)

Service delivery to the humanitarian community (Crisis response):

- In January, WFP dispatched some 3,300 MT of food commodities and nutritional products. More than 2,900 MT of those commodities, mainly rice and Super Cereal, Super Cereal Plus were transported to Adama and Jijiga, in Ethiopia.
- Due to some operational challenges, the vessel MV Liberty Glory was diverted to Djibouti from Port Sudan and successfully delivered 20,850 MT of sorghum into the port silo. The cargo will be further re-exported in bulk to Mombasa Port onward to South Sudan.
- To ensure effective support to partners delivering pharmaceutical products to the most vulnerable populations, WFP reinforced the capacities of its staff on storage operations of the pharma-grade reefer containers and the transport of sensitive medicines and medical equipment. The training was essentially provided to its staff based at the Humanitarian Logistics Base.

Monitoring:

- Market and price monitoring showed that the security crisis in the red sea severely impacted the availability of food items on local markets and led to food price increases. These included certain brands of dairy products and vegetable oil that are scarce in Djibouti-city markets and in interior regions. Products such as lemon, onion, ginger, and garlic are still available on markets; however, compared to December 2023, their prices have doubled in January.
- WFP conducted a Market Functionality Index (MFI) exercise in 24 markets located in rural areas. Results will be shared once available.
- Results of post-distribution monitoring surveys related to WFP's responses through cash-based transfers in urban areas, in regional county towns indicate that among people living with HIV, 58 percent of women make the decisions related to household expenditures. Results suggested that cash is mostly used for food, hygiene, and transport.

Challenges:

- Due to funding shortage, WFP prioritized in January its nutrition programme supporting the treatment of children under the age of five and PBWGs suffering from MAM among the refugee populations. Support to prevent all forms of malnutrition in refugee settlements has been suspended.
- Djibouti CO is undergoing a right-sizing exercise in view of reduced funding both for the Djibouti Corridor and for the programme activities.
- WFP is the direct implementer of its interventions due to the absence of operational Non-Government Organizations. In addition, Djibouti is ranked among the most expensive countries in Africa. This results in high operational costs for WFP saving lives and changing lives activities in the country.

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