



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Djibouti Country Brief

March 2024

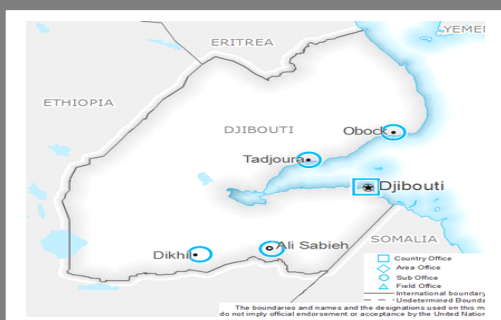


Operational Context

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

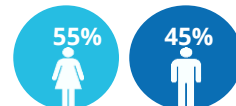
2023/2024 Human Development Index: 171 out of 193

Income Level: Lower middle

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

In Numbers

96,826 people assisted in March



USD 258,243 cash-based transfers

USD 11.4 million net funding requirements
(April - September 2024)

1,058 MT of in-kind food distributed

Operational Updates

- In March, WFP reached over 96,800 persons vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity through lifesaving and life-changing activities implemented in the five regions of the country: Arta, Ali-Sabieh, Dhikil, Obock, and Tadjourah. Women represented 55 percent of beneficiaries (53,254 women).
- WFP interventions in Djibouti benefitted refugees, asylum seekers, vulnerable and shock-affected populations including nomadic community members, HIV and TB affected households, and participants to Food Assistance for Assets creation (FFA) activities.
- WFP in Djibouti is facing a funding shortage with **USD 11.4 million urgently required** to provide critical food and nutrition assistance until September 2024.

Lifesaving food and nutrition assistance (Crisis response):

- WFP maintained food assistance to the refugees and asylum seekers living in the settlements of Ali-Addeh, Holl-Holl and Markazi to cover their immediate food needs. In partnership with the Government, WFP distributed a total of 168 mt of food commodities and transferred USD 92,530 to approximately 19,400 persons (women representing 48 percent). The in-kind food basket comprised of rice, wheat flour, pulses, and oil.
- The last cycle of food assistance in response to drought occurred in March 2024. Over 22,840 vulnerable Djiboutians spread across 100 locations received either in-kind food (483 MT of cereals, pulses, and oil distributed) or cash-based transfers (USD 78,000). To prevent all forms of malnutrition among these populations, WFP additionally provided 58 MT of SuperCereal Plus to over 3,200 children under the age of five and 3,200 pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBWs).

Life-changing interventions (Resilience building)

- Through its nutrition programmes aiming to prevent all forms of malnutrition and to treat moderate acute malnutrition among children under the age of 5 as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs):
 - WFP allocated 76.7 mt of specialized nutritious food to health centers. The centers reached over 5,600 patients including people living with HIV and/or TB patients with a two-month ration.
 - In addition to seasonal General Food Distribution, WFP distributed in March 75.5 mt of super cereal plus to over 2,500 PBWGs and 7,400 children under the age of five at risk of malnutrition in 94 localities of the country. The rations will cover the nutritional needs of beneficiaries for two months.
 - WFP maintained nutrition sensitization sessions through its

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Photo (WFP/Esther Ouoba): Two men tie on the back of a donkey the food commodities received by a refugee in Ali-Addeh refugee settlement after a general food distribution (Ali Sabieh region).



Country strategic plan (2020 - 2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
104.7 m	80.3 m	11.4 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)

network of 400 counselling mothers. In this framework, WFP transferred to this group of women around USD 45,000 as an incentive.

- WFP organized a training session for 50 health workers, including psychosocial workers and Directly Observed Therapists (DOTs). The training aimed to better understand the impact of HIV and tuberculosis on the nutritional status.
- WFP maintained the distribution of the Take-Home Rations launched in February 2024 thanks to funding from France. 4,425 parents of children attending schools in Obock, Tadjourah and two schools in the outskirts of Djibouti city received super cereal plus and fortified oil. Take-Home Rations aim to improve the nutritional status of school children and the members of their families.
- WFP provided a monthly cash transfers equivalent to USD 56 to 200 farmers involved in the rehabilitation of their lands affected by flood. Transfers are done bimonthly to save on travel time and costs.

Service delivery to the humanitarian community (Crisis response):

- In March, WFP successfully organized the re-export to Port Sudan of the vessel MV Liberty Glory that was diverted to Djibouti in January. The 20,850 MT of sorghum were re-exported in bulk.
- The Supply Chain started implementing the Last Mile Solution in the refugee settlements of Ali-Addeh and Holl-Holl. The project is aiming at tracking food items and ensuring any potential misuse of food assistance is quickly escalated to be addressed. Focus areas include gap analysis, food management check, and mapping of food management control. The implementation will be finalised in April.

Monitoring:

- The Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS) survey was successfully conducted in March. Results are expected to be validated in April 2024.
- WFP conducted a population-based survey in partnership with UNICEF, the Ministry of health and the National Institute of Statistics. Although the focus was the monitoring of the food security and nutrition situations, other sectors such as WASH, Education, Protection, and Shelters were surveyed. Data analysis is still ongoing, and results are expected to be validated in April. Data will also be used during a workshop on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) with results expected to be validated in April/May.
- Apart from the regular process monitoring, WFP Research, Assessment, and Monitoring (RAM) Unit and the cash-based transfer (CBT) team organized a Retailer Performance Monitoring Exercise (RPME) adapted to the context of Djibouti. The RPME is a relevant essential decision-making tool for CBT activities as it allows to assess the performance of each retailer partnering with WFP in this area and provide them with recommendations to improve the services they provide to beneficiaries. Data will be collected in April from 31 retailers.

Challenges:

- Due to funding shortage, WFP prioritized since January its nutrition programme supporting the treatment of children under the age of five and PBWGs suffering from moderate acute malnutrition among the refugee populations. Support to prevent all forms of malnutrition in refugee settlements has been suspended.

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