



World Food Programme

# WFP Djibouti Country Brief

May 2024

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

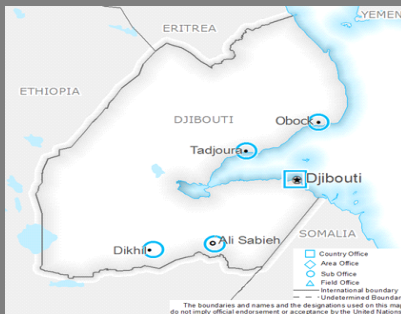


## Operational Context

Djibouti is a small low-middle income 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.

Recent results of the 2024 food security assessment estimated that 221,000 persons (about 19 percent of the population) are currently in crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC 3 and above) for the period March-June 2024. WFP's operations in Djibouti aim to improve food and nutrition security for the most vulnerable 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 national strategy, Vision 2035, 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

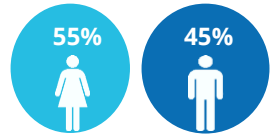
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Photo (WFP/Esther Ouoba): A woman walks near a hut destroyed by high winds in Balho (Tadjourah region).

## In Numbers



89,714 people assisted in May

521.8 MT of in-kind food distributed

USD 574,740 cash-based transfers

USD 9.3 million net funding requirements (June - November 2024)

## Operational Updates

- WFP reached 89,714 people with food and nutrition assistance in Djibouti in May, deploying lifesaving and resilience building interventions in all five regions of the country, namely Artta, Ali-Sabieh, Dhikil, Obock, and Tadjourah. This is after the April 2024 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) revealed record levels of food and nutrition insecurity across the country due to unfavorable climate conditions, the Red Sea crisis and high inflation.
- WFP in Djibouti urgently requires **USD 9.3 million** to provide critical food and nutrition assistance to the people in need until November 2024.

### Lifesaving food and nutrition assistance (Crisis response)

- WFP assisted 20,400 refugees and asylum seekers living in the refugee settlements of Ali-Addeh, Holl-Holl, and Markazi through in-kind food assistance. Until opportunities for integration and sustainable income-generating activities are realized, WFP food assistance remains their only option to meet basic food needs. In total, WFP distributed 163 mt of rice, yellow split peas, and fortified oil in collaboration with the Government through the Ministry of Interior. In addition, WFP transferred more than USD 96,300 through cash-based transfers, granting refugees flexibility to purchase a variety of foods while also boosting local economies.
- Due to the prolonged effects of drought on the capacity of households vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity to feed themselves, WFP provided food assistance to some 7,100 persons in all five regions through e-vouchers amounting USD 81,000. In addition, 1,900 displaced persons received in-kind food assistance consisting of 30 mt of wheat, pulses, fortified oil, and fortified biscuits.

### Life-changing interventions (Resilience building)

- Under its social protection interventions and in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities (MASS in French):
  - WFP allocated e-vouchers valued at DJF 30,000 (equivalent USD 170) to over 1,400 households enrolled in *Programme National de Solidarité Famille (PNSF)* and living in Djibouti city. The one-off transfer covering three months was part of WFP exit strategy for the project *Solutions pérennes* funded by the European Union which is coming to an end in June.
  - WFP reinforced the technical and financial capacities of 10 women cooperatives (five in urban and five in rural areas) thanks to funding from the European Union. In addition, six women cooperatives on sewing and dressmaking were created in Djibouti city.
  - WFP organized trainings on savings and loan schemes to 135 women. After the training, they received loans through conventional microfinances services to develop income-generating activities. The loans received from *Caisse populaire d'épargne et de crédit (CPEC)* ranged from USD 282 to USD 2,825 thanks to funding from the European Union.
- With the onset of the lean season characterized by limited available resources for survival in vulnerable communities, WFP extended its food assistance to fishermen and livestock breeders. In total, 400 eligible beneficiaries received e-vouchers worth USD 56.
- As part of its nutrition programme aiming to prevent all forms of malnutrition and to treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) among children under the age of five, pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs), people living with HIV and TB patients, the following activities were conducted:



Country strategic plan (2020 - 2024)

Total USD	Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
104.7 m	81.3 m	9.3 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)

- WFP supplied health centers with around 92 mt of specialized nutritious foods, covering two months of MAM treatment (May and June) for over 3,100 children aged under 6-59 months, 2,500 PBWGs, and 975 HIV/TB patients.
- Approximately 5,200 children aged under five and PBWGs at risk of malnutrition received nutritional support with a two-month ration (May and June) of super cereal plus (47 mt distributed).
- Eligible parents from Dikhil region were included in the provision of take-home rations. In total, WFP distributed more than 121 mt of super cereal plus and 105 mt of fortified oil to over 7,500 parents of school children in Dikhil, Obock and Tadjourah. This nutritional support benefitted more than 11,300 school children and their families.

Supply Chain

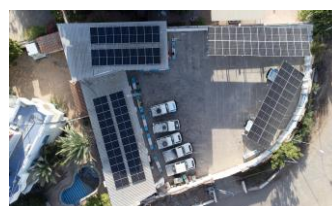
- WFP’s sustained efforts to develop the capacities of local food processors resulted in the approval of Golden Africa Djibouti Sarl as one of WFP suppliers of fortified vegetable oil. Based on the results of the 2023 Food System Management System assessment (policies, procedures, production processes, and measures in place to ensure food safety during production), WFP Food Safety assurance teams identified areas for improvement and strengthened the capacity of the local producer to ensure the vegetable oil refined and added with additional nutrients in Djibouti met WFP’s and international standards. Golden Africa Djibouti Sarl already produces 216,000 MT of vegetable oil per year and the significant progress made in enhancing food safety and quality processes is a positive step towards a long-term partnership.

Monitoring

- Market and price monitoring conducted in May revealed an inflation rate of 3.7 percent in April 2024, representing a 1.1 percent decrease, compared to March 2024. Supplies such as food products, beverages, clothing and shoes, as well as housing, water, electricity, gas, and fuels have all incurred price increase. In the regions of Arta, Dikhil, and Ali Sabieh price increase respectively concerned grains, vegetable oil, and sugar. In Djibouti city, prices increase was mainly registered for fresh commodities such as meat (+3.6 percent, compared to March), tomatoes (+5.4 percent) and potatoes (+5 percent). This rise in fresh products prices may have contributed to reducing the nutritive components of vulnerable households’ daily diet.
- WFP prepared the endline study of the Fresh Food Voucher (FFV) pilot project. The study will help assess the changes in household food consumption level and diet diversity among children under the age of five as well as PBWGs who benefitted from the pilot project. Results of the endline survey, which are expected to be available in mid-July 2024, will be compared to those of the baseline conducted in July 2023.

Highlight: WFP harnessing renewable energy in Djibouti

- WFP’s commitment to climate action and sustainability translated into the installation of a solar panel system at its main office in Djibouti city. Built in partnership with UNDP Copenhagen and entirely funded by WFP, the system was inaugurated on 08 May 2024 in the presence of the UN Resident Coordinator in Djibouti and staff from the Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa. It is estimated that WFP will reduce its carbon footprints and its running cost by 50 percent thanks to the installed system.



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