

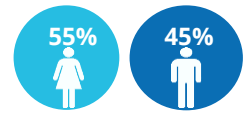


World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Djibouti Country Brief

June 2024



## In Numbers

62,480 people assisted in May

256.3 MT of in-kind food distributed

USD 461,355 cash-based transfers

USD 8.4 million net funding requirements (July - December 2024)

## Operational Updates

- WFP maintained its lifesaving and resilience building interventions in Djibouti, focusing on those most vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity throughout the country. In total, WFP assisted 62,480 persons in Arta, Ali-Sabieh, Dhikil, Obock, Tadjourah as well as Djibouti city.
- WFP in Djibouti urgently requires **USD 8.4 million** to provide critical food and nutrition assistance to the people in need until December 2024.

## Lifesaving food and nutrition assistance (Crisis response)

- WFP provided critical food assistance to over 21,000 refugees and asylum seekers living in the refugee settlements of Ali-Addeh, Holl-Holl, and Markazi through both in-kind food distributions and cash-based transfers. In collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and UNHCR, WFP distributed 167 mt of rice, yellow split peas, and fortified oil. In addition, WFP provided more than USD 150,300 in cash-based transfers, ensuring refugees could meet their immediate food needs.
- WFP reached 1,800 children under the age of five as well as 2,740 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) in the refugee settlements as part of its malnutrition prevention programme. The necessity to maintain prevention interventions is backed up by results of food and nutrition assessment (IPC) that revealed that refugees are the most impacted by malnutrition.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities (MASS in French), WFP provided food assistance to 1,925 displaced persons. In total, WFP distributed 30 mt of cereals, pulses, fortified oil, and fortified biscuits.

## Life-changing interventions (Resilience building)

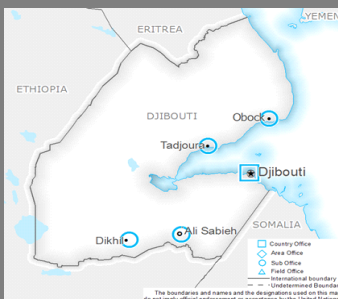
- In partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities (MASS in French), WFP enhanced food security, nutrition, and living conditions for vulnerable communities through social protection interventions.
- More specifically, WFP reached over 900 households with pregnant or breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) as well as children under the age of five by providing a DJF 5,000 top-up (equivalent to USD 28) to their food assistance. Complementary to the transfer value of *Programme National de Solidarité Famille (PNSF)* amounting USD 56, the top-up was provided as part of the Fresh Food Vouchers pilot project funded by France to promote food and diet diversity among women and children. The restrictive cash amount enabled beneficiary households to purchase exclusively fresh meat, veggies, and fruits from local markets.
- Additionally, 670 refugee households enrolled in the *PNSF* and living in Djibouti city received e-vouchers valued at DJF 30,000 (equivalent to USD 170). This support was part of the five-year resilience project funded by the European Union (EU) and which came to an end in June 2024.
- WFP also reinforced the technical and financial capacities of six women's cooperatives specializing in tailoring created in May in Djibouti city. In addition to the comprehensive training, 50 women members from those cooperatives received an EU-funded grant worth USD 10,000 to start their business.

## 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 farmer maintaining tomato plants growing on a rehabilitated land (Arta region).

## Country strategic plan (2020 - 2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Requirements (in USD)	Funding
104.7 m	84.1 m	8.4 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)

- WFP provided cash transfers totaling USD 113 to some 400 farmers each engaged in land rehabilitation and approximately 50 school gardeners. To minimize travel time and expenses for participants to the activities, the amount of cash transferred covered the food needs of farmers, gardeners, and their families for two months.
- WFP maintained 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. In this framework:
  - WFP provided cash-based transfers to 92 counselling mothers operating in Djibouti city as an incentive for conducting nutrition sensitization sessions in the communities and addressing topics such as good breastfeeding and nutrition practices. The sessions were also an opportunity to carry out malnutrition screening and refer malnutrition cases to health centers.
  - WFP transferred approximately USD 76,000 to some 680 households affected by TB and HIV who are vulnerable to food insecurity. The monthly transfer amount equivalent to USD 56 per household is aligned with the transfer value of the *PNSF*.
  - Over 3,100 children aged under 6-59 months, 2,500 PBWGs, and 975 HIV/TB patients received specialized nutritious foods through health centers. The nutritional products supplied by WFP was helped for MAM treatment.
  - Through the take-home ration (THR) intervention, WFP provided nutritional support to approximately 11,300 school children and their families. THR were distributed in Dikhil, Obock, and Tadjourah.

### Supply Chain

- In June 2024, WFP Djibouti joined the Djiboutian Standards Agency as a member of one of the technical standardization committees in charge of the agri-food sector. The committee identified 60 food standards and codes of practices to prioritize, including staple food such as oil, wheat flour, and salt that must be fortified as per Djibouti national regulations.
- WFP received over 1,140 mt of Super Cereal Plus at the Humanitarian Logistic Hub (HLB). The nutritional product meant for WFP operations in Ethiopia is being transferred by road using commercial trucks. In addition, 12 mt of fortified biscuits were also received for WFP interventions in Djibouti. Through the HLB, WFP remained committed to delivering efficiently critical assistance to support ongoing humanitarian efforts.

### Monitoring:

- Results of the market and price monitoring conducted in May across the five interior regions revealed disparities in staple food prices. In the northern regions (Obock and Tadjourah), households continued to experience a 6 to 8 percent increase in prices for imported rice, compared to March 2024. In the southern regions (Ali Sabieh, Arta, and Dikhil), prices for the same commodities decreased by 6 to 10 percent.