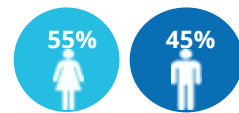




World Food Programme

WFP Djibouti Country Brief

December 2024



In Numbers

42,000 people assisted in December

246.4 MT of in-kind food distributed

USD 296,480 cash-based transfers

USD 8.6 million net funding requirements (January 2025 to June 2025)

Operational Updates

- Six out of ten households in the refugee settlements are still struggling to meet their food needs. Due to limited resources, WFP has been implementing 30 percent ration cuts for its lifesaving assistance since December 2023.
- WFP **urgently requires USD 8.6 million** to deliver lifesaving and resilience building assistance to vulnerable communities between January and June 2025 and prevent a worsening of food insecurity levels.

Lifesaving food and nutrition assistance (Crisis response)

- WFP's crisis response focused on addressing the immediate food needs of crisis-affected population, including refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, and local communities. This was achieved through unconditional cash and in-kind food transfers.
- WFP collaborated with the Ministry of Interior and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) to provide support to refugees and asylum seekers in Ali-Addeh, Holl-Holl and Markazi. While UNHCR distributed non-food items, WFP assisted 22,500 individuals with unconditional food assistance consisting of 81.7 metric tons (MT) of assorted commodities and USD 161,500 to complement their food basket.
- In Ali Sabieh region, WFP distributed 44.6 MT of wheat flour, pulses, and vegetable oil to over 2,700 asylum seekers. These individuals are awaiting the processing of their asylum claims and facing severe food insecurity.
- WFP partnered with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to provide essential food assistance to migrants. provided 3 MT of dry commodities to IOM migration centers nationwide, which were used to prepare hot meals for 400 migrants in transit. Additionally, WFP distributed 0.7 MT of fortified biscuits through IOM mobile clinics to address the immediate nutritional needs of 1,600 migrants.

Life-changing interventions (Resilience building)

- WFP contributed to the national social protection programme (PNSF) aiming to enhance food security and nutrition among vulnerable households. Key partners included the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities (MASS) and the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MENFOP).
- To improve access, nutritional intake, and quality of food, WFP transferred USD 275,600 to 1,600 households with pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) and children under the age of five. The amount of the electronic cash-vouchers covering two months included a food allowance valued USD 58 (aligned with the transfer value of the national safety net programme) and an additional USD 28, exclusively used to purchase vegetables, fruits, meat, and poultry from WFP-contracted retailers in Djibouti city.
- WFP transferred USD 4,400 to 40 farmers maintaining school gardens. The monthly amount, restricted for food purchase, is aligned with the PNSF transfer value to improve their food security and that of their families while ensuring the sustainability of school gardens developed in local communities. Produces from school gardens are used to improve meals served to school children, as part of the national school meals programme.



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 annual rainfall of 130 mm, limiting agricultural production that accounts for only three percent of the Gross Domestic Product. As a result, the country imports 90 percent of its food, 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.

Based on the 2024 food security assessment, it is estimated that 285,000 persons (about 24 percent of the population) will face crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC 3 and above) from July to December 2024. Furthermore, 41,300 cases of acute malnutrition are expected among children aged under five, and nearly 1,050 cases among pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs). 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/Nima Nour): Two beneficiaries head toward their homes after a WFP general food distribution to shock-affected populations in Teweó-Chinileh (Dikhil region).



Country strategic plan (2020 - 2025)*

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 132.4 m* | 90.7 m | 8.6 m |

* Total budget required for WFP interventions in Djibouti as part of the third budget revision (BR3) of the CSP approved in November 2024.

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)

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

Nutrition

- WFP supplied 72 MT of specialized nutritious food (SNF) to 56 health centers across the country to provide supplementation to 3,300 children under the age of five and approximately 2,300 pregnant or lactating women and girls (PLWGs) suffering from moderate acute malnutrition. The quantities allocated by WFP covered the needs for December 2024 and January 2025.

Capacity strengthening

- WFP provided technical support to partners to strengthen their capacities in nutrition and climate risk management. WFP trained 20 nutrition agents managing programmes for tuberculosis and HIV patients, focusing on monitoring nutritional status and integrating nutrition into care plans. Additionally, WFP organized sessions for 45 health professionals, including psychosocial workers and Directly Observed Therapists (DOTs), to enhance their skills in promoting best nutritional practices, early malnutrition detection, and patient referrals to healthcare facilities.
- To enhance the weather prediction capabilities of the National Meteorological Agency of Djibouti (ANMD), WFP facilitated the installation of specialized equipment, including four weather stations and ten rain gauges. These contributions aim to improve climate data collection and analysis. The equipment was strategically installed in the south (Assamo) and the north (Tadjourah city, Tadjourah Day and Obock city) to ensure comprehensive meteorological data collection and coverage. ANMD initiatives help communities prepare for floods, droughts, and other weather-related events.

Supply Chain

- WFP received over 32,200 MT of pulses, sorghum, wheat, specialized nutritious food, and vegetable oil for its interventions in Djibouti and Ethiopia. In December, 51 percent of WFP supply chain operations in the Horn of Africa from Djibouti have been directed towards Ethiopia with over 16,500 MT transported by road using WFP fleet and commercial trucks.
- WFP Supply Chain teamed up with the Research, Assessment, and Monitoring (RAM) Unit to organize a Retailer Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (RPME) for 17 retailers in Djibouti-city as well as the northern and southern regions. A key tool for making decisions in cash-based transfers activities, RPME helped evaluate the performance of these retailers including areas for improvement with the people we serve in mind. Results were conclusive, leading to contracts renewals.

UNHAS operations

- WFP supported the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) operations in the region. Over 1,300 passengers from 20 UN agencies and 71 international NGOs relied on UNHAS services. WFP Djibouti supported 88 UNHAS Yemen flights, connecting five destinations within Yemen (Aden, Marib, Mukalla, Sana'a, and Seiyun) and three international routes to Ethiopia, Jordan, and Djibouti.

Monitoring

- The Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) in Ali-Addeh, Holl-Holl, and Markazi refugee settlements revealed a worsening food insecurity since 2023. In Ali-Addeh (south), 63 percent of households had poor or borderline food consumption levels. Female-headed households in Markazi (north) had better food consumption levels than male-headed households, while in Ali-Addeh and Holl-Holl (south), they were more vulnerable. Results also revealed meat, dairy, and fruits were less consumed compared to cereals, vegetables, oil, spices, and sugar.