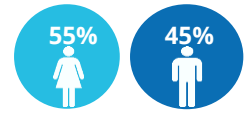




World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Djibouti Country Brief January 2025



In Numbers

38,126 people assisted in January

233.5 MT of in-kind food distributed

USD 524,801 cash-based transfers

USD 5.4 million net funding requirements (February 2025 to July 2025).

Operational Updates

- Food and nutrition insecurity continues to affect one in four individuals in Djibouti, driven by ongoing challenges such as maritime insecurity affecting food availability in the country and extreme weather conditions.
- In 2025, WFP plans to assist 141,600 people facing acute food insecurity across the country through lifesaving and resilience-oriented activities.

Lifesaving food and nutrition assistance (Crisis response)

- In January, WFP reached over 25,600 people under its refugees' assistance operation. These included 22,900 registered refugees and asylum seekers and 2,800 unregistered asylum seekers, coming from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, and Yemen.
- WFP's continued partnership with the Ministry of Interior and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) ensured coverage of the three refugee settlements in the country: Ali-Addeh, Holl-Holl, and Markazi.
- WFP used 181 metric tons (MT) of assorted commodities, including cereals, pulses, and oil and USD 165,450 to assist the 22,900 registered refugees and asylum seekers. In the absence of any economic opportunities, refugees in Djibouti fully rely on humanitarian assistance for their survival.
- The unregistered 2,800 asylum seekers in Ali Sabieh (South) and Obock (North) regions were assisted with 49 MT of cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil.
- Under the lean season response, WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity (MASS), reached 9,400 individuals in rural areas experiencing acute food security. The distributed food basket, totalling 305 MT, aimed to prevent households from resorting to harmful coping strategies, such as selling off their assets, to feed themselves and their families.

Life-changing interventions (Resilience-oriented activities)

- As part of the government-led school meals programme, WFP provided restricted cash-based transfers, amounting USD 2,600, to 47 gardeners to maintain school gardens.
- Over 1,200 households with pregnant or breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) and children under the age of two received a total of USD 103,898. Each beneficiary household received USD 56.5 to cover its basic needs and USD 28 as a top-up restricted for the purchase of fresh and nutritious products (fish, fruits, vegetables, eggs, meat) from WFP-contracted retailers. This initiative contributes to enhancing food diversification among targeted groups, while boosting the local economy.

Nutrition

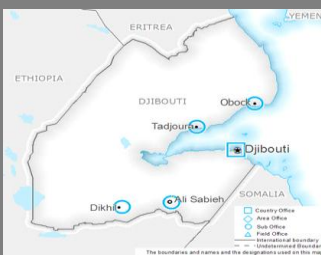
- WFP reached 9,400 individuals at risk of malnutrition, including 6,280 children under the age of five and 3,120 PBWGs among refugee and asylum seekers. To support malnutrition prevention efforts, WFP added 37 MT of specialized nutritious food to the food basket served during regular food distributions.

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/Arete/Mussa Uwitonze). A client buying fresh food with SCOPE card in Djibouti

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	5.4 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)

- For overland transport, WFP dispatched to Ethiopia 55,700 MT of food commodities, comprising 45,330 MT of sorghum and 10,400 MT of wheat, using WFP fleet and commercial trucks.

UNHAS operations

- WFP team in Djibouti facilitated the air transport of over 1,100 passengers from 19 UN agencies and 59 international Non-governmental Organizations using the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS). The team managed 73 UNHAS Yemen flights, 10 medical evacuations, and 106 cargo operations in the region and Yemen, demonstrating its vital role in supporting humanitarian efforts through efficient and reliable air transport.



A UNHAS flight lands at Djibouti international airport. Photo: WFP/ Nafaa Chamam

Monitoring

- In collaboration with MASS, WFP maintained its approach of targeting based on vulnerability in priority geographic areas, as identified by the food and nutrition survey and the food security Integrated Phase Classification. In rural areas, where in-kind food assistance is provided due to the insufficient availability of staple food in markets, WFP Research, Assessment and Monitoring team conducted a thorough verification process. This involved administering a questionnaire based on vulnerability criteria to confirm eligibility. Additionally, WFP carried out a scoring exercise to further refine the targeting process and accurately identify the most vulnerable individuals. This comprehensive process resulted in the identification of 3,500 food-insecure households, or 17,500 individuals, who received food and nutrition support.

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

Supply Chain