



World Food Programme

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WFP Djibouti Country Brief

August 2025



Operational Context

The Republic of Djibouti is a small low-middle income country with about 1.1 million people. Due to its dry climate and annual rainfall averaging just 130 mm, agricultural production is limited, making the country heavily reliant on food imports (90 percent). Ranked 92nd out of 127 countries in the 2024 Global Hunger Index, Djibouti's hunger situation is classified as serious.

In July 2025, the government declared the drought a **national emergency** and launched a response plan led by the Prime Minister to deliver urgent and coordinated assistance to affected communities. While the government has taken important steps to address the crisis, the needs across the country remain high, requiring strong support from all partners to complement the government's efforts.

Results of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis conducted in May 2025 projects that 230,000 people—around 22 percent of the population—will face Crisis or Emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above) from July to December 2025. Malnutrition remains a serious concern. Three of the five regions—Dikhil, Obock and Tadjourah—are facing critical levels of acute malnutrition (IPC 4). Moderate acute malnutrition is also affecting over 34,300 children under the age of five as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls.

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 resources. WFP also supports national efforts in social protection and logistics, aligning its operations with Djibouti's Vision 2035 and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2025–2030).



Population: 1.1 million

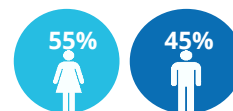
2023/2024 Human Development Index: 171 out of 193

Income Level: Lower middle

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

In Numbers

33,287 people assisted in August



301.4 MT of in-kind food distributed

USD 91,537.40 cash-based transfers

USD 9.6 million net funding requirements (September 2025 to February 2026)

Operational Updates

Crisis response

- As part of its **emergency response**, WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Interior and the United Nations High Commission for Refugee (UNHCR) provided food assistance to 21,170 refugees and asylum seekers across the Ali-Addeh, Hol-Holl, and Markazi settlements using both in-kind food distributions and cash-based transfers.
- WFP distributed 109 MT of food; however, food rations were reduced to cover only 50 percent of the daily food basket requirements (1,099 kilocalories) due to funding gaps. In addition, WFP transferred USD 92,300 to refugees to complement their food basket.
- An additional 2,400 people awaiting registration and residing in the three settlements, benefitted from food assistance based on their vulnerabilities. Additionally, WFP provided in-kind food assistance to 290 migrants temporarily hosted at the IOM migration centres awaiting their repatriation.

School meals

- WFP partnered with the Ministry of Education to **strengthen the school feeding programme** by enhancing its nutrition sensitive components, a process that began in July. In August, WFP held regular consultations with the Government to refine age-specific food rations based on caloric needs. These improved rations are scheduled to be piloted in schools across the country, starting with the 2025-2026 academic year.
- In August, WFP started preparations to relaunch its Fresh Food Voucher initiative (FFV), aimed at improving dietary diversity and food security. This pilot initiative will support 800 households—400 in Djibouti City and 400 across the regions of Ali-Sabieh and Tadjourah. During the preparatory phase, WFP finalised beneficiary registration and list in line with the assurance framework for targeting which included key steps such as verification and biometric registration. These measures were completed ahead of issuing SCOPE cards and launching assistance, ensuring that support reaches the intended households.

Nutrition

- As part of its nutrition response, WFP provided nutrition assistance to women and children affected by Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) through 60 health centres operated by the Ministry of Health. WFP reached 4,752 malnourished children under five, 3,700 pregnant and breastfeeding women, and 975 TB/HIV patients with 120 MT of specialized nutritious foods.

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Photo: WFP/Fatima, a 48-year-old refugee from Eritrea, leaves a store after using her WFP-supported cash card in Obock, Djibouti. ©WFP/Arete

Country strategic plan (2020 - 2025)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
132.4 m	96.1 m	9.6 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)

- As part of the National Nutrition Programme (PNN), WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Health continued to

deliver nutrition interventions in mobile clinics across Djibouti's five interior regions. Through this mobile clinics, communities in remote areas can access nutrition and health services including nutrition screening, specialised nutritious foods as well as nutrition counselling and education to address acute malnutrition.

- A joint field visit undertaken jointly with the Embassy of Japan highlighted the clinics' positive impact and community appreciation. The visit also identified operational challenges and recommendations to improve service delivery and ensure sustainability.

Supply Chain

- In August, WFP delivered 301 MT of commodities to distribution centres across Djibouti for nutrition and refugee response. The Ministry of Health received 162 MT of specialized nutritious foods (Super Cereal Plus), the Ministry of Social Affairs received 2.3 MT of dates and 2 MT of sunflower oil. The National Office for the Refugees Assistance (ONARS) received 132 MT of mixed commodities, including fortified rice, yellow split peas, soya bean oil, and fortified wheat flour. These deliveries supported nutrition and food assistance programmes targeting vulnerable populations.
- WFP dispatched 452 MT of commodities to Ethiopia operations, ensuring timely stock replenishment and uninterrupted operations. In addition, WFP coordinated the arrival of 4,742 MT of supplies through international shipments for both Ethiopia and Djibouti operations. These efforts demonstrate **WFP's strong logistical capacity in maintaining supply and flow of food and relief assistance through efficient coordination and timely delivery.**

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- WFP Djibouti country office provided **operational support to the UNHAS** operations across the region enabling safe transport of 885 passengers from 17 UN agencies and 50 international NGOs. In total, 83 UNHAS flights operated to and within Yemen, covering seven destinations — five domestic (Aden, Marib, Mukalla, Sana'a, and Seiyun) and two international routes to Djibouti and Jordan (Amman). In addition, 181 cargo consignments were transported from Amman to various locations in Yemen, including Sana'a, Aden, and Marib.

Monitoring

- In August 2025, WFP and its partners conducted qualitative research to support the Fresh Food Voucher (FFV) programme through focus group discussions to capture community perceptions. Additionally, WFP conducted a Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) to evaluate the effectiveness of the General Food Distribution (GFD) programme delivered during the first half of the year. A targeting exercise based on a scoring methodology was also conducted to refine beneficiary selection. Moreover, WFP coordinated visits to health centres and carried out market price surveys to guide programme adjustments and ensure the intervention remained relevant to local needs.

Challenges

- On 2 July 2025, the Government of Djibouti declared the ongoing **drought a national emergency**. Affected communities are spread across all five regions of the country: Ali Sabieh, Arta, Dikhil, Obock, and Tadjourah. **Additional support** from all partners is **essential to complement the government efforts**.
- WFP urgently requires USD 9.6 million** to continue delivering lifesaving food assistance to the most vulnerable populations, especially in this context of the declared drought emergency.

Donors (in alphabetical order): France, Ireland, Japan, Multilateral donors, Saudi Arabia, and the United States of America.