



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Djibouti Country Brief September 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.

Since July 2025, the government has 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

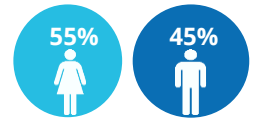
2023/2024 Human Development Index: 171 out of 193

Income Level: Lower middle

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

In Numbers

42,679 people assisted in September



207.86 mt of in-kind food distributed

USD 330,950 cash-based transfers made

USD 8.3 million net funding requirements (October 2025 to March 2026).

Operational Updates

Crisis response: refugee and host populations

- In September, WFP provided lifesaving food assistance to over 25,800 vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants in partnership with the Ministry of Interior, UNHCR, and IOM. This included support to 22,700 refugees and asylum seekers in Djibouti's Ali-Addeh, Holl-Holl, and Markazi settlements, through the delivery of 170 mt of emergency food and USD 162,500 in cash transfers. In the Ali Sabieh and Obock regions, WFP distributed 17 mt of assorted commodities to 2,800 individuals awaiting asylum status. Additionally, 3 mt of food were allocated to IOM to provide hot meals for 300 migrants undergoing rehabilitation and repatriation.
- WFP supplied 12 mt of specialized nutritious food (SNF) to the Ministry of Health to support supplementation for 980 malnourished children and 805 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) across Djibouti's three refugee settlements.
- In addition, WFP distributed 9 mt of SNF to over 3,000 children under five at risk of malnutrition in the three refugee settlements in the country: Ali Addeh, Holl-Holl, and Markazi.
- Amid rising food insecurity, WFP provided restricted cash-based transfers (e-vouchers) to 2,900 vulnerable urban households—representing 14,500 individuals. Valued at DJF 10,000 (USD 56) per month and managed through WFP's SCOPE platform (its beneficiary information and transfer management platform), the e-vouchers were limited to essential food items. The assistance aimed to improve food access in urban areas where vulnerable populations are affected by climate and economic shocks.

Promoting food security through dietary diversity

- In partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities, WFP expanded its Fresh Food Voucher initiative to Ali Sabieh and Tadjourah regions, reaching 330 households—approximately 1,640 persons. Each household received DJF 15,000 (USD 84) —DJF 10,000 (USD 56) for staple food and a DJF 5,000 (USD 28) top-up exclusively for fresh and nutritious food items from local markets. Targeting households with children under the age of five as well as PBWGs, the intervention aimed to promote dietary diversity while injecting USD 27,800 into the local economy.

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)

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Photo: WFP/ Neuvieme Djibouti. Two fish retailers at Riyah Market display fresh fish sold to beneficiaries of WFP Fresh Food Voucher initiative, redeemed using the SCOPE card to support access to nutritious food.

Nutrition

- WFP continued supporting the Ministry of Health in operating the mobile clinics, improving access to nutrition and healthcare for approximately 740 vulnerable children and women in remote localities of the five interior regions: Arta, Ali Sabieh, Dikhil, Tadjourah, and Obock. The clinics offered integrated services, including consultations, vaccinations, nutrition support, and prenatal and postnatal care.

Supply Chain

- To support regional humanitarian efforts, WFP received 4,490 mt of food commodities at the port of Djibouti for both domestic use and cross-border operations. In Djibouti, WFP strengthened nutrition programming by dispatching 216 mt of nutritious products—including 114.5 mt of Specialised Nutritious Foods (SNF), 41 mt of Lipid-based Nutrient Supplements (LNS), and 22 mt of dates—to local partners such as the Ministry of Health. Simultaneously, WFP facilitated the road transport of approximately 3,500 mt of corn soy supplement, Super Cereal Plus (CSB++), vegetable oil, and yellow split peas to Ethiopia, reaching cities including Mekelle, Dire Dawa, and Gambela.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- In September, WFP team in Djibouti facilitated the transport of 811 passengers through 86 United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) flights. These flights supported staff from 17 UN agencies and 50 international Non-Governmental Organizations, enabling travels to five domestic destinations in Yemen (Aden, Marib, Mukalla, Sana'a, and Seiyun) and two international routes—Djibouti and Amman (Jordan).

Monitoring

- A post-distribution monitoring (PDM) survey was conducted among participants of the Fresh Food Voucher programme—a nutrition-sensitive intervention targeting children under two, PBWGs. The results are encouraging: 56.3 percent of beneficiaries reported an acceptable food consumption score, indicating improved access to food, while 60.1 percent demonstrated high dietary diversity, reflecting enhanced nutritional quality. These findings confirm that the programme is effectively improving both dietary diversity and food consumption among targeted households.

Challenges

- **WFP faces a critical funding gap of USD 8.3 million** to maintain lifesaving food assistance for the most vulnerable communities in Djibouti.
- **Urgent support is required** to sustain critical food and nutrition interventions to **complement national response efforts** for drought-affected communities.

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