



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES

WFP Djibouti Country Brief October 2025



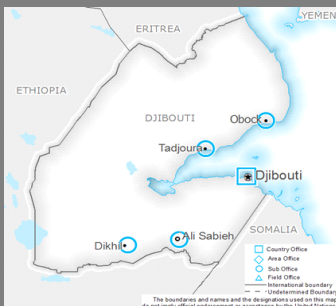
Operational Context

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. Despite ongoing response efforts, communities across the country continue to face severe effects. The needs remain high, requiring urgent, sustained support from all partners to complement the government's response.

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

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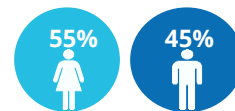
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Photo: WFP/ Arete/Mussa Uwitonze. A view of the siloes at the WFP Humanitarian Logistics Hub, Djibouti

In Numbers

53,123 people assisted in October



330.56 MT of in-kind food distributed

USD 342,000 cash-based transfers

USD 9.2 million net funding requirements (November 2025 to March 2026).

Operational Updates

Crisis response: refugee and host populations

- WFP provided essential food assistance to 19,547 refugees and asylum seekers in partnership with the Ministry of Interior and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The refugee response targeted all three settlements in the country—Ali-Addeh and Holl-Holl in the south, and Markazi in the north. Food assistance included 157 metric tons (MT) of basic food supplies and USD 162,000 in cash-based transfers (CBT) to complement the food basket of refugee and asylum seekers households.
- WFP transferred over USD 170, 000 through CBT to acutely food insecure households within host communities to enhance their ability to purchase essential food items. With this food support, WFP and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities reached 3,000 households—representing 15,000 individuals—across all regions—Ali Sabieh, Arta, Dikhil, Djibouti city, Obock, and Tadjourah.

Promoting food security through dietary diversity

- As part of its continued support to groups at risk of malnutrition, WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities, provided a 15,000 Djiboutian Francs (USD 84) to 750 households living in Djibouti city. This nutrition-sensitive assistance targeted households with pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) as well as children under the age of two, aiming to improve their nutritional status. Previously limited to Djibouti city, the initiative, Fresh Food Vouchers, expanded to two additional regions—Ali Sabieh and Tadjourah. In total, approximately USD 75,000 was invested into the local economy through small-scale retailers, contributing to the local economy supporting improved dietary diversity and nutrition.

Support to the national school meals programme

- To ensure school gardens remain productive and well maintained, WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, continued providing cash-based assistance to 67 gardeners. This support serves as an incentive for their ongoing commitment to cultivating vegetables, which are used to enrich school meals and improve children's nutrition.

Nutrition

- Malnutrition remains a critical public health challenge in Djibouti, with persistently high rates among children and women. Ensuring uninterrupted access to nutritional supplementation is essential to prevent deterioration and support recovery. In this context, WFP partnered with the Ministry of Health to implement a targeted intervention addressing moderate acute malnutrition among vulnerable groups in refugee settlements and host communities. WFP delivered 100 metric tons of super cereal plus (CSB++) to meet the supplementation needs of approximately 4,500 malnourished children and 3,000 PBWGs in all the health facilities.
- In its ongoing efforts to prevent malnutrition among populations at risk of malnutrition, WFP distributed 34 MT of CSB++ to 5,600 children under the age of five in IPC Phase 3+ areas of Dikhil, Obock, and Tadjourah. The quantity of CSB++ available was insufficient to meet the needs across all regions.

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	9.2 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)

Supply Chain

- WFP facilitated the transport of 1,111 MT of food commodities, including yellow split peas, vegetable oil, and CSB++ for its operations in Ethiopia, using both WFP and commercial trucks. Additionally, WFP received 1,339 MT of rice, vegetable oil, and CSB++ through Djibouti's port to support upcoming food distributions in Ethiopia.
- WFP dispatched 300 MT of food supplies, including yellow split peas, cereals, fortified biscuits, dates, and CSB++ to support its ongoing food assistance activities in Djibouti.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- WFP Djibouti facilitated United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) Yemen flights, ensuring the safe transport of 613 passengers from 19 UN agencies and 40 international Non-Governmental Organizations. In October, UNHAS Yemen successfully operated 75 flights 15 medical evacuations connecting seven destinations. The effective coordination of these flights was essential to advancing humanitarian objectives, ensuring the timely deployment of assistance and personnel to affected regions.

Highlight: WFP strengthens early warning and forecasting systems in Djibouti

- WFP continued its collaboration with the National Meteorological Agency (ANMD) to strengthen national capacities for drought preparedness. In October, WFP organized two technical training sessions through Columbia University/Columbia Climate School for five ANMD forecasting engineers. The sessions focused on using the drought monitoring dashboard and interpreting key forecasting indicators. The dashboard provides real-time data, allowing faster and more informed decisions. These activities aim to enhance the accuracy and timeliness of climate predictions, contributing to more effective early warning systems. In parallel, the Anticipatory Action Plan, developed by WFP in Djibouti to mitigate the impacts of predictable droughts, was approved and will remain valid through the end of 2027.

Monitoring

- WFP conducted a household targeting exercise in Djibouti city to ensure fair and transparent selection of beneficiaries. The exercise covered a list of 4,400 households representing approximately 22,000 individuals. Based on the initial assessment, WFP identified 3,700 households, around 18,500 individuals, for the next step which involves undergoing a scoring process to determine their eligibility for WFP assistance, based on their level of vulnerability. This approach strengthens data accuracy, improves planning, and ensures that assistance reaches those who need it most, in line with programmes' objectives.

Challenges

- **WFP faces a critical funding gap of USD 9.2 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.