



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Djibouti Country Brief November 2025



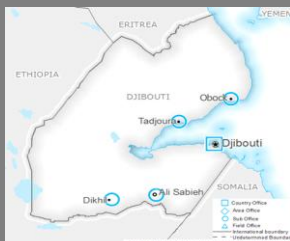
Operational Context

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 projected that 230,000 people—around 22 percent of the population—will face Crisis or Emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above) between July and 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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Photo: WFP/ Esther Ouoba. Caption: The French Ambassador in Djibouti greets the General Secretary of Social Affairs and Solidarities and WFP Country Director after visiting a WFP shop supplying fresh produce via the fresh food vouchers initiative in Ali Sabieh city (Ali Sabieh region).

In Numbers

51,270 people assisted in November



250.89 MT of in-kind food distributed

USD 366 470,25 cash-based transfers

USD 11.6 million net funding requirements (December 2025 to May 2026).

Operational Updates

Crisis response: refugee and host populations

- In its continued humanitarian response, WFP delivered emergency food assistance through both in-kind food assistance and cash-based transfers (CBT) to 20,230 refugees and asylum seekers in the Ali-Addeh, Holl-Holl, and Markazi settlements. In Ali-Addeh and Holl-Holl, assistance combined both in-kind food and CBT, while in Markazi—where local markets can meet demand—refugees received restricted CBT. Overall, this support totalled 208 metric tons (MT) of food and USD 158,460 in cash to complement the food basket.
- 14,720 acutely food insecure people—2,900 households—received restricted CBT totalling USD 162,400. WFP provided each household with 10,000 Djiboutian francs (DJF), equivalent to USD 56, in line with the monthly transfer value of the national social solidarity programme. Families living in IPC Phase 3+ urban and semi-urban areas with functioning markets used the restricted CBT at WFP-contracted retailers to buy pre-approved foods, ensuring proper use while allowing them flexibility to choose items that meet their needs and preferences.

Promoting food security through dietary diversity

- WFP continued its Fresh Food Voucher initiative with 373 households in Djibouti city and expanded it to 368 households in Ali Sabieh and Tadjourah, reaching a total of 3,700 individuals. In partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities, the programme aims to enhance food and nutrition outcomes among vulnerable groups by targeting households with pregnant or breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) or children under the age of two. Each household received an additional transfer of USD 28 to exclusively purchase fresh and nutritious foods from WFP-approved vendors.

Support to the national school meals programme

- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry in charge of Education, provided CBT amounting USD 6,554 to 58 gardeners under its Food Assistance for Assets creation (FFA) initiative. This support contributed to meet the gardeners' basic food needs, while motivating them to continue cultivating vegetables used to enrich school meals and improve children's nutrition.

Nutrition

- To promote healthy eating habits and improve nutrition outcomes, WFP provided CBT to 26 community workers who delivered nutrition messages to families benefiting from the Fresh Food Voucher programme in Ali Sabieh and Tadjourah. This nutrition awareness programme also enhances community screening campaigns to detect malnutrition, particularly among Fresh Food Voucher beneficiaries.
- WFP distributed specialized nutritious foods (SNFs) through health centres to improve the nutritional status of children under the age of five as well as PBWGs suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in Ali-Addeh and Holl-Holl refugee settlements. Through this intervention, WFP reached 4,500 malnourished children and 3,000 malnourished PBWGs, delivering 100 MT of SNFs in partnership with the Ministry of Health.

Country strategic plan (2020 - 2025)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
132.4 m	99.7 m	11.6 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)

Supply Chain

- WFP dispatched 2,238.7 MT of split peas, vegetable oil, Super Cereal Plus and rice to Ethiopia to support ongoing food distributions.
- WFP received 2,074.4 MT of Super Cereal Plus (CSB++) and fortified wheat flour at the Port of Djibouti. These commodities will help replenish stocks at the Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF), ensuring sustained support for forthcoming operations and reinforcing WFP relief efforts in Ethiopia and Djibouti.
- WFP delivered 163 MT of food items—including rice, Super Cereal, fortified biscuits, vegetable oil, and peas—to the three refugee settlements in Ali-Addeh, Holl-Holl, and Markazi. It also supplied part of these commodities to centres managed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for the rehabilitation and repatriation of migrants.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- WFP facilitated the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) operations in the region, ensuring the safe transport of approximately 624 passengers from 18 UN agencies and 43 international Non-Governmental Organizations. WFP team also supported 69 flights of UNHAS Yemen, connecting 7 destinations, including five within Yemen — Aden, Marib, Mukalla, Sana'a, and Seiyun — and two international routes to Djibouti city (the Republic of Djibouti) and Amman (Jordan).

Monitoring

- In November, WFP conducted a Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise to evaluate the effectiveness of both in-kind food assistance and cash-based transfers for refugees and vulnerable host communities across the country. The survey assessed key indicators such as household food security, the nutritional status of children under the age of two, and cross-cutting issues like accountability, protection, and gender. Data were collected from 906 households and complemented by focus groups discussions for deeper contextual understanding. Results of the PDM will be available in December 2025.

Highlight: A field visit to highlight the benefits of nutrition-sensitive assistance in Djibouti

- On 18 November, WFP and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities (MASS) organized a joint field visit during the new French Ambassador's tour in Ali Sabieh. The delegation observed the full cycle of the Fresh Food Voucher programme, which supports vulnerable households, particularly those with pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under the age of two. They visited all stages—from beneficiary registration to biometric redemption of fresh and dry foods—and attended a nutrition session led by trained community women. The Ambassador interacted with retailers, MASS social workers, and beneficiaries, gaining insight into how the initiative enhances food security, improves nutrition, and boosts the local economy.

Challenges

- **WFP still faces a critical funding gap of urgently requires USD 11.6 million** to sustain critical food and nutrition interventions for the most vulnerable communities in Djibouti.

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