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# WFP Djibouti Country Brief

December 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, with three of five regions—Dikhil, Obock, and Tadjourah—at critical IPC Phase 4 levels. Moderate acute malnutrition is affecting more than 34,300 children under five, along with 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: Six-year-old child, with her mother and siblings, after receiving food assistance at the distribution site in Holl-Holl refugee settlement. (Ali Sabieh region).

## In Numbers

52,920 people assisted in December



365.49 MT of in-kind food distributed

USD 363,366 cash-based transfers

USD 13.3 million net funding requirements (January to June 2026).

## Operational Updates

### Crisis response: refugee, migrant, and host populations

- WFP, in partnership with the national authority for refugee protection, remained the primary provider of food and nutrition assistance to refugees and asylum seekers in Djibouti.
- WFP supported 22,400 refugees and asylum seekers with 114 MT of food and USD 159,644 in cash. Assistance in Ali-Addeh and Holl-Holl combined food distributions and cash transfers, while in Markazi it was delivered via e-vouchers.
- With high malnutrition rates in refugee settlements, WFP continued its nutritional support, reaching 350 malnourished children under the age of five and 390 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). To prevent any interruption in supplementation, WFP supplied health facilities in the settlements with 10 MT of specialized nutritious food (SNFs), covering needs for December and ensuring availability through January 2026.
- WFP provided emergency food assistance to 300 migrants in three migration centres managed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), ensuring their immediate nutritional needs were met and supporting their safe rehabilitation and repatriation. Fortified biscuits were distributed through mobile health clinics for urgent relief, while dry rations prepared in IOM kitchens sustained migrants throughout the process.
- WFP reached over 18,000 vulnerable individuals in areas classified as IPC Phase 3 or above either through in-kind food assistance or cash-based transfers. In semi-urban areas, where staple foods were available in local markets, WFP supported over 14,900 people with e-vouchers totalling USD 169,202. In rural areas, assistance targeted approximately 3,100 individuals in IPC Phase 4 localities of Ali Sabieh region and included the delivery of 41 MT of assorted commodities.

### Promoting food security through dietary diversity

- WFP partnered with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities to promote dietary diversity among vulnerable households. 750 households (3,760 individuals), including PBWGs and children under the age of two, received e-vouchers worth USD 43,163. Each household received a monthly allocation, with 5,000 Djiboutian francs (equivalent to USD 28) restricted for the purchase of fresh and nutritious foods from WFP-approved retailers. This ongoing initiative focuses on the critical first 1,000 days of a child's life to support optimal cognitive and physical development.

### Support to the national school meals programme

- As part of its Food Assistance for Assets creation (FFA) initiative, WFP partnered with the Ministry in charge of Education to provide cash-based transfers totalling USD 2,711 to 48 gardeners. This support served as an incentive for their work in school gardens, which supply vegetables to enrich school meals and improve children's nutrition, while also contributing to meet the gardeners' essential food needs.

## Country strategic plan (2020 - 2025)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
132.4 m	94.3 m	13.3 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:

- Provide food assistance and nutrition services, including nutrient rich food and nutrition education and counselling to refugees and asylum seekers living in settlements.
- 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:

- 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.
- 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:

- Provide supply chain services to the humanitarian community (on a full cost-recovery basis)

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

## Nutrition

- Due to limited resources, WFP prioritized nutritional supplementation over prevention interventions. WFP reached 3,390 malnourished children under the age of five, 3,290 PBWGs, as well as 1,335 patients suffering from tuberculosis and HIV through all 62 health centres nationwide. To guarantee uninterrupted care, 110 MT of SNFs were delivered to Ministry of Health facilities, covering needs for December and securing availability through January 2026—reinforcing national efforts to fight against malnutrition and protect lives.

## Supply Chain

- WFP leveraged Djibouti's strategic location as a regional humanitarian logistics hub to maintain supply chain services. This ensured the smooth receipt, storage, and delivery of lifesaving food and nutrition assistance. About 120 MT of fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil arrived through the port to support interventions in Djibouti.
- During the same period, WFP dispatched 365.5 MT of commodities—including yellow split peas, rice, vegetable oil, fortified biscuits, and SNFs—to partners for distribution in targeted communities across Djibouti. Additionally, 131.43 of SNFs were transported by road to support WFP operation in Ethiopia.
- To improve efficiency and accountability, WFP extended its digital tracking system, the "Last Mile Solution" (LMS), to IOM. This brought LMS adoption to 75 percent of partners and helped reduce average lead times by 18 days.

## United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- From Djibouti, WFP helped humanitarian workers reach communities in crisis by supporting UNHAS Yemen operations. This support enabled 487 passengers from 19 UN agencies and 41 international Non-Governmental Organizations to travel safely on 60 flights, connecting six destinations. These flights linked four locations within Yemen—Aden, Mukalla, Sana'a, and Seiyun—and two international routes to Djibouti and Amman (Jordan), ensuring that humanitarian teams delivered life-saving assistance in the region.

## Targeting and Market Monitoring

- WFP strengthened how it targets and tracks assistance using biometric data in its SCOPE system. For food distributions, WFP introduced the SCOPE in-kind approach, which helps ensure transparency and efficiency in operations.
- According to WFP's post-distribution monitoring conducted in November 2025, inflation in Djibouti remained low at 0.9 percent compared to 2024, based on data from the National Institute of Statistics (INSTAD). This stability was mainly due to lower food prices, which balanced out increases in transport and housing costs, helping families maintain their purchasing power. Between November and December, prices for key staples such as wheat flour, rice, and sugar dropped in most interior regions, with notable decreases in Ali Sabieh. However, kerosene prices increased in Ali Sabieh and Dikhil. In Djibouti city, the trend was similar: cereal prices dropped, while prices for vegetable oil and sugar rose slightly. No change was recorded for the prices for pasta and fuel. Overall, markets across the country remained stable, despite some small changes in energy products.

## Challenges

- WFP Djibouti urgently needs USD 13.3 million to keep WFP's lifesaving and resilience building reaching the most vulnerable communities in Djibouti. Without this funding, a pipeline break will begin in February 2026. This will leave thousands without the support they rely on to survive and force further ration cuts for families receiving food assistance.