



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP DJIBOUTI

COUNTRY BRIEF

May 2026



20,600 people assisted in April 2026
(55% female)



658 mt food distributed in April 2026



USD 259,360 cash transferred in April 2026



USD 8 million required in the next six months (May – October 2026)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- A full pipeline break is projected from July 2026 for Djibouti's refugee, resilience and emergency preparedness & response programmes. The net funding shortfall amounts to USD 8 million for the six-month period of May-October 2026.
- As part of corridor operations, WFP Djibouti handled containerised food for the Ethiopia Country Office under the diversion programme aimed at reducing demurrage and port storage costs for containerised shipments. It also dispatched Super Cereal Plus from US pre-positioned stocks using Ethiopia Country Office fleet trucks.
- As a result of the crisis in the Middle East, WFP experienced delays in the delivery of key commodities, including wheat flour and vegetable oil, which prevented the organization from providing food assistance to refugees in Southern Djibouti.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Djibouti, a low-middle-income country of about 1.1 million people, faces high levels of chronic food insecurity driven by its arid climate, very low annual rainfall, and minimal agricultural production. With nearly 90 percent of its food imported, the country remains highly exposed to market volatility and climate shocks. In the 2025 Global Hunger Index, Djibouti ranked 94th out of 123 countries, indicating a serious hunger and malnutrition problem.
- Despite measures taken following the Government's declaration of a national drought emergency in July 2025, communities across the country continue to experience severe and prolonged impacts. An estimated 230,000 people, representing 22 percent of the population, faced Crisis or Emergency levels of food insecurity, IPC Phase 3 and above, between July and December 2025. Persistent water and energy shortages continue to constrain production and livelihood opportunities, limiting prospects for recovery and graduation from external assistance.
- Malnutrition remains critical, with Dikhil, Obock and Tadjourah in IPC Phase 4 and more than 34,300 young children, pregnant women and breastfeeding women affected by moderate acute malnutrition. Treatment outcomes are limited by a lack of complementary prevention investments.
- WFP, present in Djibouti since 1977, supports the Government in improving food and nutrition security for vulnerable communities while strengthening national social protection, nutrition and logistics systems. Its work aligns with Vision 2035 and the UNSDCF 2025–2030, contributing to

Reporting Period: April 2026

Photo Caption & Credit: Houda Mohamed Ismael leads a counselling session in Balbala District, Djibouti City, Djibouti (c) WFP/ Arete/Mussa Uwitonze.

SDG 2 and SDG 17 through improved food access and strong partnerships.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

General Food Assistance

- As a result of the crisis in the Middle East, WFP experienced delays in the delivery of key commodities including wheat flour and vegetable oil, which prevented the organization from providing food assistance to refugees in the Ali-Addeh and Holl-Holl settlements in the Ali Sabieh region. In the Obock region, WFP provided electronic voucher (e-voucher) assistance to refugees in the Markazi settlement valued at USD 21.6 (DJF 3,840) per person, amounting to a total of USD 37,983. The cash-based transfer covered only 50 percent of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) due to funding shortfall.
- In Djibouti City, WFP supported 377 households, including pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) and children under five years of age, through a cash transfer of USD 84.7 (DJF 15,000) per household delivered via the SCOPE card. The assistance comprised USD 56 (DJF 10,000) for staple food items and USD 28 (DJF 5,000) dedicated to the purchase of fresh produce from local markets to improve dietary diversity.

Social Protection

- Under WFP's Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) initiative, 65 gardeners involved in the management of school gardens received a bi-monthly cash transfer of USD 112 (DJF 20,000) covering March and April 2026. WFP provided this support to help gardeners meet their food needs while encouraging sustained engagement in school garden activities. School gardens continue to play an important role in improving the nutritional quality of meals served in school canteens by supplying fresh, locally produced food. The gardens also serve as practical learning spaces where students gain hands-on experience in agriculture, sustainability, and healthy eating practices.

Nutrition

- WFP mobilised 29 trained community volunteers to deliver nutrition education and community-based screening awareness sessions in Ali Sabieh, Tadjourah, and Obock, with a particular focus on beneficiaries of the Fresh Food Voucher (FFV)

programme. To support their engagement, WFP provided the community volunteers with cash-based transfers totalling USD 1,348 (DJF 238,600).

Supply Chain

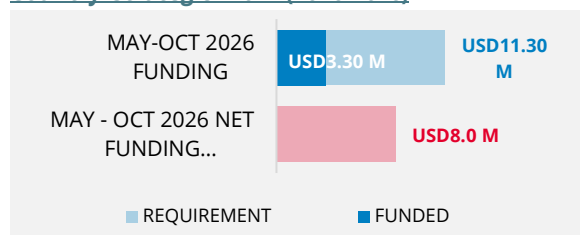
- WFP team in Djibouti supported United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) operations across the region, ensuring the safe transport of passengers from 11 UN agencies and 15 international non-governmental organizations. The team supported nine UNHAS flights connecting four destinations, including the Yemeni cities of Aden and Sana'a, as well as the international routes linking Djibouti and Amman, Jordan. Moreover, UNHAS transported 20 cargo consignments from Amman to multiple destinations in Yemen, including Sana'a and Aden.
- As part of corridor operations, WFP received 1,050 metric tons of containerised Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) for Ethiopia under the diversion programme aimed at reducing demurrage and port storage costs for containerised shipments destined for the Ethiopia Country Office. WFP also dispatched 1,288 mt of Super Cereal Plus from US pre-positioned stocks using Ethiopia Country Office fleet trucks. The Djibouti Logistics team managed loading, fuelling, documentation, and operational facilitation throughout the process.

Monitoring

- The launch of the Food Security Monitoring Survey for Djibouti is scheduled in May. Following data collection and analysis, the results will undergo a validation process with relevant stakeholders in June 2026 and ultimately inform programmatic decisions and policy interventions aimed at improving food security outcomes.

Funding Overview

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2026)



Donors

African Development Bank (AfDB), Djibouti, France, Japan, Multilateral donors, The Netherlands, The United States of America.