



## WFP Djibouti Country Brief

### WFP Assistance

Enhancing the resilience of chronically vulnerable rural, urban and refugee populations and reducing undernutrition in Djibouti	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200824 (May 2015- Dec 2017)	42.8 m	22.5 m (53%)	4.9 m (53%)

GENDER MARKER PRRO 200824 \*March 2017 – August 2017

The protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) aims to stabilize or reduce undernutrition among children aged 6–59 months, pregnant women and nursing mothers; stabilize or improve food consumption for targeted households and individuals; and restore or stabilize access to basic services and community assets.

WFP ensures that registered refugees and asylum seekers living in camps and the most food insecure Djiboutian populations have access to an adequate daily caloric intake through the distribution of food rations, including specialized food products. The rations are aimed at treating moderate acute malnutrition and prevent chronic and acute malnutrition. WFP also distributes cash to refugees in camps and electronic vouchers to the most vulnerable households in the suburbs of Djibouti city. Refugee girls receive a take home ration to encourage girls' school enrolment and attendance. People living with HIV/AIDS on antiretroviral treatment and TB patients on direct observation treatment are provided with specialized nutrition products to support treatment and recovery.

In addition, WFP is supporting a safety net intervention seeking to mitigate the effects of HIV/AIDS on affected households through income generating activities. WFP supports food insecure communities and households with asset creation activities that enhance their resilience to chronic shocks and risks related to climate change.

**Main Photo** Credit: WFP/Datto Gaas  
Caption: Food distribution to refugees at the Markazi camp, Obock Region

## Highlights

- WFP's ability to maintain assistance to newly arrived Ethiopian asylum seekers, existing refugees and the vulnerable local populations in drought-affected and urban areas continues to be undermined by limited funding.

Support for the national school feeding programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
DEV 200498 (Jan 2013- Dec 2017)	5.3 m	4.9 m (92%)	-

\*March 2017 – August 2017

The development operation supports access to basic education for all school-aged children in rural areas and semi-urban areas of Djibouti city. The objectives are to increase access to education at regional, national and community levels; make progress towards a nationally owned school feeding programme and promote an equitable access to and utilization of education among girls in particular through the reduction of drop-out rates and improvement of attendance.

School children enjoy diversified school meals in targeted rural pre-primary and middle schools thanks to a combination of WFP-internationally purchased commodities and locally purchased fresh food with complementary funds allocated by the Government of Djibouti. A take-home ration of oil is provided to families of school girls in grade three through grade five as an incentive to send girls to school and maintain their enrolment and attendance through the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. WFP is supporting the capacity of the government towards the establishment of a sustainable national school feeding programme.

## In Numbers

**82,057**  
People Assisted  
February 2016



## Operational Updates

- Djibouti is currently hosting 21,119 refugees from Somalia, Yemen, Eritrea and Ethiopia. According to UNHCR and ONARS, a total of 6,063 Ethiopian asylum seekers have arrived in Djibouti in the last five months. WFP continues to provide food assistance to all registered refugees and asylum seekers living in Ali Addeh, Holl Holl and Markazi camps, in the form of general distributions, nutrition interventions and take home rations for school girls to encourage school attendance. The general distributions include a cash component to diversify refugees' diet, increase their purchase power and boost the local markets.
- WFP provides food assistance to the rural and urban food insecure households affected by drought in the form of general rations. In addition, WFP supports asset creation activities as part of building the resilience of affected communities. Nutrition interventions are ongoing for the prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition and for people living with HIV/AIDS and those on TB treatment.
- In February 2016, WFP provided food assistance to a total of 65,735 people under the PRRO, among them refugees and asylum seekers and vulnerable local households in the rural and urban areas, while a total of 16,322 school children received school meals under the Development Operation.
- According to FEWSNET, the cumulative performance of *Xays/Daada* rains (October to February) was slightly below-average, but together with favourable 2016 *Karan/Karma* rains (July to September), has contributed to marked improvements of livestock ownership, improved household incomes and food and milk access across Djibouti, except in Dikhil region. As a result, the majority of poor households are expected to remain 'stressed' (Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 2) through May 2017, ahead of the lean season.

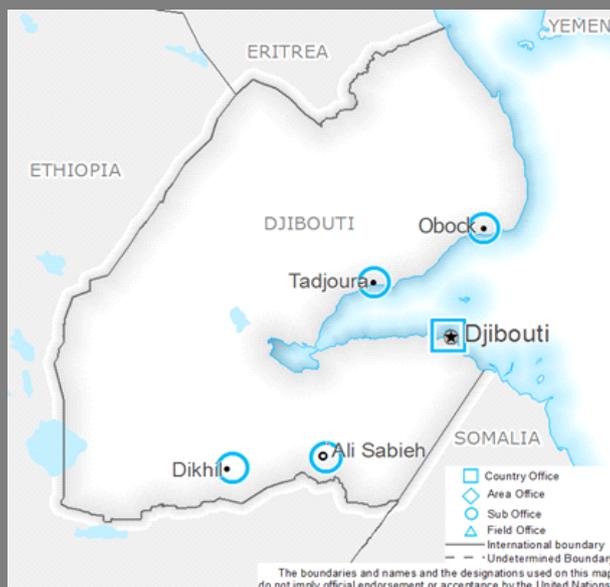
## Challenges

- The PRRO has been facing funding shortfalls. WFP has been prioritizing general distributions and nutrition interventions for refugees, in order to stretch available resources. Djibouti continues to receive Ethiopian asylum seekers from the Oromia region, stretching the resources very thin. Given the continued arrival of asylum seekers in the camps and the deteriorating food security situation affecting host populations in Djibouti, it is important to maintain adequate funding levels for both in-kind and cash-based transfers to be able to respond to increased needs.

## Partnerships

- WFP in collaboration with AHA, NRC, ONARS, and UNHCR will pilot an inter-agency complaints and feedback mechanism in the three refugee camps. The complaints and feedback mechanism is expected to improve transparency, accountability, and facilitate a two-way stream of communication between refugees and WFP and its partners, who are actively involved in food-related activities.

## Country Background & Strategy



Djibouti is the least developed and most food deficit country in the Horn of Africa. The country has some of the worst social indicators in the world; 42 percent of the population lives in absolute poverty with 83 percent of those living in rural areas. Life expectancy is at 53 years.

The climate is hot and dry, desert-like arid, characterized by less than 200 mm of rainfall per year which hinders agricultural production, which accounts for only 3 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The country compensates the gap by importing 90 percent of its food commodities which makes the country highly dependent on international market prices. Any variation in the international prices has a considerable impact on the poorest segment of the population, who spend 77 percent of their household budget on food.

WFP's operations in Djibouti are aligned with the 2035 vision and strategies, and works with the Government to consider and support the development of food and cash-based transfer modalities according to specific contexts.

WFP has been in Djibouti since 1978.

Population: **0.9 million**

2015 Human Development Index:  
**168 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **30% of children between 6-59 months**

## Donors

USA, Japan, European Commission, Multilateral, UN CERF and Canada.

**Contact Info:** Souleiman Ahmed Moussa  
([souleiman.ahmedmoussa@wfp.org](mailto:souleiman.ahmedmoussa@wfp.org))

**Country Director:** Jacques Higgins

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/djibouti](http://www.wfp.org/countries/djibouti)