



# WFP Djibouti Country Brief

## Highlights

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

## 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. m (51.4%)	5.6 m (65%)

GENDER MARKER PRRO 200824 \*February 2017 - July 2017

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	4.3 m (80%)	- (7%)

\*February 2017 - July 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.

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

**84,517**

People Assisted  
January 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 January 2016, WFP provided food assistance to a total of 67,295 beneficiaries, among them refugees and asylum seekers and vulnerable local households in the rural and urban areas under the PRRO, while a total of 16,322 school children received school meals under the Development Operation.
- According to FEWSNET, The Xays/Daada coastal rains (October to February) have largely replenished water sources and restored rangeland conditions despite being below-average in some areas. Food security has improved significantly due to improved livestock body conditions and productivity, increasing food and income access for the predominant, rural, pastoral population, but Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes persist. However, some poor households in Central Pastoral-Lowland and Southeast Pastoral-Border zones remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) as below-average rainfall this season and previous ones have caused livestock losses.

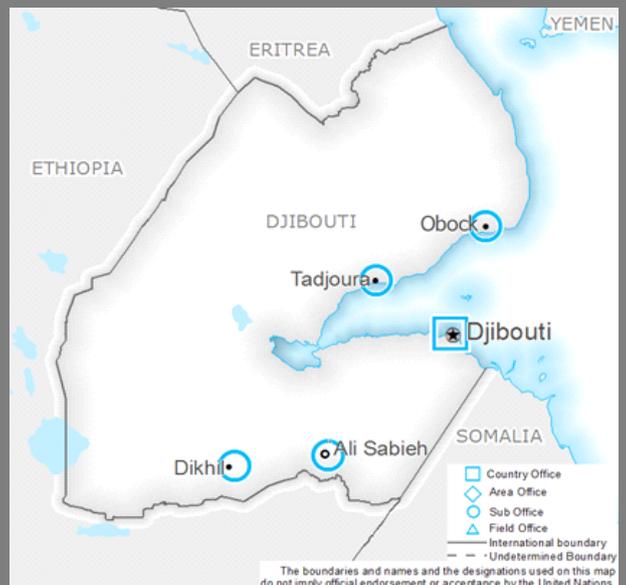
## Challenges

- The PRRO has been facing funding issues with Net Funding Requirements for the next six months amounting to 5.6m. WFP has been prioritizing general distributions for refugees and nutrition interventions, in order to stretch available resources.
- The number of Ethiopian asylum seekers arriving in camps in Djibouti is in constant increase since the last 5 months, stretching resources very thin. WFP requires additional resource to cover the increasing gap.

## Partnerships

- WFP with collaboration of UNDP and PRAREV (Support Program for Vulnerability Reduction in Coastal Fisheries Areas) will conduct soon a study looking at the possibility of cash as a modality of assistance for the mangrove restoration project. This study will take place in Godoria in the Obock region and will last for 10 days.

## 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, UNICERF and Canada.

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