



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Djibouti Country Brief November 2020



Operational Context

Djibouti is a low-middle income country and the most food deficit country in the Horn of Africa. An estimated 16 percent of the population lives below the international poverty line of USD1.90 per day (2017). The most recent official national extreme poverty rate, calculated using a survey conducted in 2017 by the World Bank, stands at 21.1 percent. Life expectancy is 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, the latter accounting for only three percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). As a result, the country has to import 90 percent of its food commodities, which makes it 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 Vision 2035, the national strategy that promotes food security and nutrition, as well as the UNDAF 2018-2022.



Population: **1.1 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **172 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **31 percent of children between 6-59 months**

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Photo caption: student of the vocational training programme at WFP's logistic hub.

In Numbers

307.1 mt of food assistance distributed

614,116 USD cash-based transfers made

2.90 m USD six months (December 2020 – May 2021) net funding requirements

71,874 people assisted in November 2020

Operational Updates

- In November 2020, WFP provided food assistance to 71,874 people including refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and vulnerable households in rural and urban areas through unconditional and conditional in-kind distributions and cash transfers, allowing them to meet their immediate food needs.
- Although the number of COVID-19 cases continue to decrease, WFP continues to distribute a two-month ration to refugees to minimize the frequency of gathering people while at the same time ensuring respect of social distancing measures. WFP expects to revert to one-month distributions for refugees from January onwards, depending on additional assessments and discussions with partners involved in distributions.
- At the Markazi refugee settlement, WFP distributed electronic cards (SCOPE cards) for the first time, allowing refugees buy food items from four preselected retailers, expanding their choice of food commodities. WFP is currently looking at extending the SCOPE system to two other settlements and cards to be used for both in-kind and direct cash distributions. WFP works in collaboration with UNHCR to consolidate the database.
- In November 2020, WFP provided conditional food assistance to 5,650 beneficiaries to ensure that their immediate food needs are met, while 1,130 farmlands were rehabilitated. In addition, 7,000 beneficiaries received food commodities, as a response to the two waves of locust invasion and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Since August, WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities (MASS), distributes paper vouchers to households affected by the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic in Djibouti city: in November, 6,000 households were reached. WFP collaborated with the Ministry of Health to support 500 households including people living with HIV and provided them with vouchers: Each household received USD 56, which can be redeemed in any of the 24 WFP-contracted retailers.

DJIBOUTI (CSP 2020 - 2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
83.3 m	30.7 m	2.90 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
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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)
- Provide vocational training and capacity strengthening in the transport and commodity handling sectors for partners, refugees and local population

- Health centers continue to provide specialized nutritious food items to malnourished children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls for treatment of malnutrition. In November, the activity was extended to the elderly and to children aged 6-14 years living in refugee settlements. WFP and the Ministry of Health (MoH) will conduct a review in December to assess 2020 achievements and to discuss the prioritization of activities into 2021 to cope with upcoming financial shortfalls.
- The vocational training programme, which started in October 2019 thanks to the collaboration between WFP and the Ministry of Education (MENFOP) resumed at the WFP Humanitarian Logistics Base on 1 November. The programme targets 800 beneficiaries, of whom 40 beneficiaries are students taking the Certificate of Professional Aptitude (CAP) in storekeeping.
- WFP is monitoring the situation in the Tigray region, Ethiopia, and participated in two field missions with Government's bodies and UN agencies in the three bordering regions, which may potentially be affected by an influx of refugees. The Government and the UN draft a contingency plan and look at potential areas to set up screening and transit centers, as well as additional refugee camps. WFP is ready to provide food assistance to 5,000 potential refugees.

Monitoring

- As part of WFP's Food Security Monitoring System, a survey was conducted among 1,506 households living in six urban centres in Djibouti to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on urban livelihoods and food security. On average, 14.1 percent of households have a poor food consumption score across the surveyed urban centres, with the Obock region reporting the highest proportion of households (29.3 percent) with poor food consumption score. On average, 20 percent of households employed crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies.
- In October, WFP conducted the first Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) of the CBT pilot project that was launched in September in Markazi. Results show that, in addition to purchase food, 90 percent of the households were also using their entitlements to buy non-food items (NFI). WFP decided to engage with UNHCR and the National Office for Refugee Assistance (ONARS) to identify how these NFI needs could be covered, as WFP focuses on food assistance only and as the implementation of the use of the SCOPE cards will restrain beneficiaries from buying non-food items.

Donors

Canada, European Commission, France, Japan, Russian Federation, CERF, Multilateral donors and USA.