In Numbers

- **749.2mt** of food assistance distributed

- **USD 0.05 m** cash-based transfers made

- **USD 1.6 m** Six months (January - June 2019) net funding requirements

- **55,500 people assisted** in December 2018

Operational Context

Djibouti is the low-middle income country 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 vision 2035, which promotes a food security and nutrition.

Operational Updates

- Djibouti is hosting approximately 26,300 refugees from Somalia, Yemen, Eritrea and Ethiopia, of which 21,100 reside in settlements. WFP provides assistance to all registered refugees and asylum seekers living in Ali Addeh, Holl Holl and Markazi settlements in form of general distributions, nutrition support and a cash transfer component as part of the general distribution.

- In December 2018, WFP provided food assistance to approximately 55,500 people, including refugees, asylum seekers, and vulnerable local households in rural and urban areas. WFP provided food assistance to rural and urban food insecure households affected by drought in the form of general rations to meet their immediate food needs. Nutrition interventions will resume in February 2019 for the prevention, and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition, and for people living with HIV/AIDS and those on tuberculosis treatment.

- WFP provided unconditional food assistance to 12,500 severely food insecure beneficiaries in the five regions of Djibouti. WFP is collaborating with the Secretariat d’Etat aux Affaires Sociales (SEAS) and the “Programme de Solidarité Nationale” (PNSF), to align food and nutrition assistance with government priorities and to avoid duplication of efforts in the targeted areas.

- Prevention of malnutrition interventions are ongoing in the regions of Dikhil and Obock where the malnutrition rates are highest. The interventions are implemented in collaboration with the Djiboutian Agency for Social Development (ADDS). In addition, WFP Djibouti and the Ministry of Health signed the MOU agreement that will facilitate the resumption of all health activities, that had previously been halted due to the lack of signage of this MOU.

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A cash and voucher working group was initiated in December 2018. The working group will provide an avenue where humanitarian and development actors involved in cash transfers (Money and Vouchers) can exchange and learn in order to improve the implementation of related activities at the regional level.

### Monitoring

- Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) survey data collection in rural area was finalized in December 2018. The findings will be reported in the next brief.

### Challenges

- Given the resource constraints, WFP is prioritizing the food distributions for the refugees and nutrition interventions for refugees. WFP requires additional resources to be able to respond to the increasing needs among refugees as well as the host community population who are food insecure.

- Unless WFP Djibouti receives additional funding contributions, WFP Djibouti will face a shortfall for all school feeding commodities and therefore will not be able to provide school meals from March 2019.

### Donors

USA, France, European Commission, Japan, Multilateral, Canada and Australia.