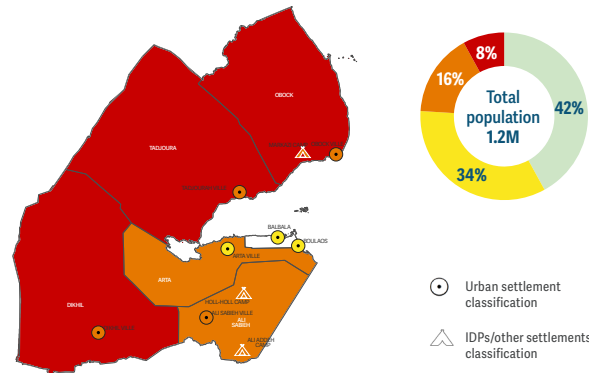# Djibouti ❗

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | Deteriorating situation due to prolonged drought conditions and continued food price volatility

PEAK 2023 (JULY–DECEMBER 2023)

0.3M people or **24%** of the total population faced high levels of acute food insecurity during the peak of the lean season. This includes 0.1M people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

This marks a nearly 50 percent increase from the same peak period in 2022 when 0.2 million people (16 percent of the analysed population) were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above).

The worst-affected population groups were refugees living in three camps and the pastoralists in the Obock, Tadjourah and Dikhil regions, whose livestock were impacted by very high temperatures and transhumance movements (IPC, June 2023).

Total population 1.2M
- 8%
- 16%
- 42%
- 34%

⊙ Urban settlement classification

△ IDPs/other settlements classification

Source: Djibouti IPC TWG, June 2023.

DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024

Economic shocks Djibouti is almost completely reliant on imports to meet its food needs, and increases in international food prices have severely impacted its economy (WFP & FAO, November 2023). Supply chain disruptions have led to higher and more volatile prices of food imports and further decrease in vulnerable households' purchasing power (WFP, October 2023).

On average 60 percent of households allocate more than 75 percent of their expenditure to food, which highlights their exposure to food insecurity linked to food price volatility. Rural households in Tadjourah, Obock, Arta and Dikhil allocate a particularly high share of their spending to food (FSNMS, March 2023).

Weather extremes The country suffered from five successive below-average rainy seasons in the 2020–2023 drought, limiting already poor water availability and affecting pastoralism and vegetable production. The livestock population reduced by about half, constraining incomes and purchasing power for pastoralists (FAO, August 2023). Their market reliance increased at a time of higher domestic food prices due to livestock deaths and a lack of crop irrigation (ACAPS, March 2023).

There was a brief respite in the dry conditions at the start of 2023, but then very high temperatures and below-average rainfall returned in July–September 2023, which affected pastoralists in the inland areas (FAO, August 2023; WFP & FAO, November 2023). El Niño brought heavy rainfall to parts of the country during November 2023, leading to flooding.

DISPLACEMENT

0.04M forcibly displaced people by 2023

🚶→ **6 000** IDPs

🚶→ **0.03M** refugees and asylum-seekers

Source: IOM, September 2022.

Source: UNHCR Nowcasted estimate, December 2023.

ACUTE MALNUTRITION

0.03M children under 5 years old with acute malnutrition in January–December 2023

3 000 pregnant and breastfeeding women with acute malnutrition in 2023

- 0.03M MAM
- 6 000 SAM

Source: Djibouti IPC TWG, June 2023.

Recurrent drought, low purchasing power and food price shocks contributed to a severe acute malnutrition crisis with 15–29.9 percent of children in rural regions of Obock and Tadjourah, and urban Dikhil acutely malnourished (IPC AMN, June 2023).
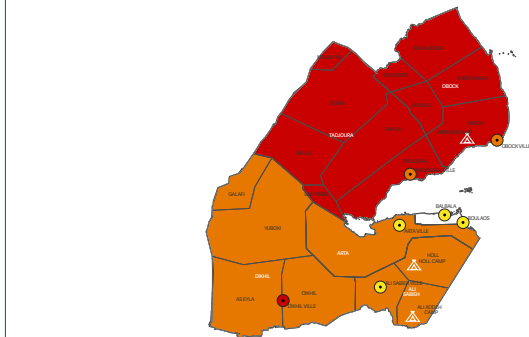
DRIVERS OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION 2023–2024

Lack of food An estimated 39 percent of the rural population has a poor FCS (IPC, June 2023).

Inadequate services Poor WASH conditions led to high prevalences of diseases, with those of diarrhoea up to 37 percent, malaria up to 57 percent and acute respiratory infections up to 44 percent. Limited access to health services, including low vaccination coverage and vitamin A supplementation, compounds the nutrition problem. The movement of populations, particularly refugees, resulted in additional malnutrition cases. This affected the nutritional situation in border zones, creating additional challenges in already vulnerable areas.

Inadequate practices At the national level, just 31 percent of children aged 6–23 months receive a Minimum Acceptable Diet, which is classified as Severe by the IFE Core Group diet, though the prevalence is Extremely Critical in some areas. Only 22 percent of children under 6 months are exclusively breastfed, which is classified as Critical (UNICEF).
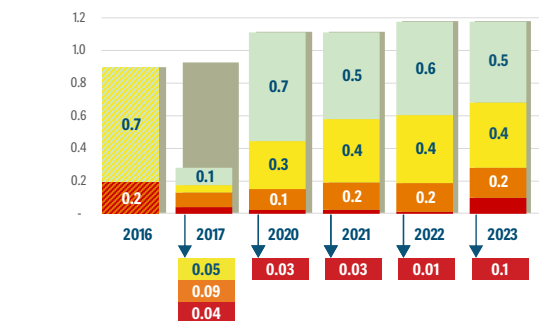
PEAK 2023 (AUGUST–DECEMBER)

Source: Djibouti IPC TWG, June 2023.

- 1 - Acceptable
- 2 - Alert
- 3 - Serious
- 4 - Critical
- 5 - Extremely Critical

⊙ Urban settlement classification   △ IDPs/other settlements classification

---

Peak numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2016–2023

Source: Djibouti IPC TWG.

- 1 - None/Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Catastrophe/Famine
- 1+2 - None/Minimal and Stressed
- 3+ - Crisis or worse
- Total population

History of the food crisis A lower-middle-income country, Djibouti has been selected for all GRFC editions. The lower numbers in 2017 may be attributable to lower analysis coverage (31 percent of the population).

In 2018 and 2019, no IPC analyses were available. There was a sharp deterioration in the severity of acute food insecurity between 2022 and 2023, with the number of people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) increasing from just over 12 000 to over 100 000, mainly due to pockets of drought in rural areas and economic shocks, which increased prices of staple foods and limited household purchasing power.