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

6 000 IDPs

0.03M forcibly displaced people by 2023

Source: UNHCR, estimate, December 2023.

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

History of the food crisis A lower-middle-income country, Djibouti has been selected for all GFCS 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.