REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI

COUNTRY SNAPSHOT

Population¹: 828,324
   Urban: 640,294 (77%)
   Rural: 188,030 (23%)

Rice Availability² (g/c/d): 122
   Urban: --
   Rural: --

Rice market:
White rice (45%) and red Belem rice (55%)

Production: no domestic production

Domestic industrial rice milling: 0

Regional trade: Ethiopia accounts for 70% of Djibouti’s port imports. Ethiopia and Somalia account for regional imports of sorghum and pulses and small re-exports of rice.

IMPORTS

Number of importers: Unknown, expected to be consolidated.

Mode of imports:
Unknown proportion of break-bulk, bulk, and container, but the port of Djibouti is capable of handling and storing large bulk vessels.

Total imports:
- USDA, 2016: 0
- UNC, 2015: 180,301
- FAO, 2011: No data

Type & Origins³

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MT (% of imports)</th>
<th>Brown rice</th>
<th>Broken rice</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
<th>Semi/wholly-milled rice</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.07 (0%)</td>
<td>29,544 (16.4%)</td>
<td>15,800 (53.5%)</td>
<td>13,699 (46.4%)</td>
<td>150,757 (83.6%)</td>
<td>134,876 (89.5%)</td>
<td>15,455 (10.3%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: ¹CIA Factbook 2015 ²Overall estimate is FAO 2011; Inadequate data to estimate urban/rural availability ³UN Comtrade 2015 exporter reporting. Abbreviations: MT = metric tons, USDA = United States Department of Agriculture, FAO = Food and Agriculture Organization, UNC = UN Comtrade.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Djibouti is a small, arid country dependent on imports for 90% of its food supply as well as food aid for its most vulnerable populations.

Rice is on average less important as a cereal grain than wheat flour (122 g/c/d compared to 318 g/c/d), but this could differ regionally, as household interviews in the mid 2000s in pastoral areas indicate 200-300 g/c/d consumption of rice. The staple varieties of rice in Djibouti are red Belem and white rice. Fortification of wheat flour was legislated in 2014 but no formal monitoring or evaluations of the program have been published.

All rice is imported which presents an opportunity for fortification. As rice is consumed widely across the population, coverage of imported fortified rice would likely be nation-wide. Assessing the implementation of fortified wheat flour would be of use to inform adding rice fortification legislation.

Imports into Djibouti port destined for neighboring countries (particularly Ethiopia) could potentially complicate regulatory monitoring of imported rice if re-exports are not documented transparently. Consumption of red rice would also require use of fortified kernels separate from those used to fortify white rice.

Table 1: Demographics and annual rice (milled equivalent) availability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Availability (MMT)</th>
<th>Imports, (MMT)</th>
<th>Exports, (MMT)</th>
<th>G/d/c</th>
<th>Production (MMT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>828,324</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>0.037</td>
<td>0.180</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2010-2015 trend:
+2.2%/year | +1.6  | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | --    | --

G/c/d: grams per capita per day, converted from FAO/s domestic supply (kg/p/yr); MMT, million metric tons
---: not applicable

GRAIN CONSUMPTION AND FORTIFICATION STATUS
The most important cereal grains in Djibouti are wheat and rice (Table 2). Anecdotally, teff also may be an important grain, as the local bread (lahoh) is made with it, much like injera in neighboring Ethiopia. However, there is no consumption or availability data to suggest quantities. Grains are not grown in Djibouti – all are imported. Imported pasta may also be an important carbohydrate source.

Wheat flour fortification is mandatory; Djibouti has one flourmill that imports wheat and fortifies its flour production. FFI staff visiting Djibouti in 2014 estimated that 95% of the wheat flour was fortified.

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1 Key Consulting did not visit Djibouti in person. All information in this profile is secondary data collected by FFI.
3 Djibouti Mandates Wheat Flour Fortification. FFI Newsletter December 2014, http://www.ffinetwork.org/about/stay_informed/newsletters/Q42014.html#entry5
Table 2: Cereal grain consumption/availability and fortification status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cereal grain</th>
<th>FAO 2001&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt; g/c/d</th>
<th>FAO 2011&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt; g/c/d</th>
<th>Mandatory?</th>
<th>% Industrially milled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No mills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No mills</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

G/c/d: grams per capita per day

<sup>1</sup> FAO Food Balance Sheets

<sup>2</sup> FFI Database

**Urban vs. Rural consumption**

Djibouti City is the primary urban center of the country with an estimated 67% of the total country’s population (529,000); the urban population is estimated at 77% overall. As all imported food comes through Djibouti, urban areas outside of Djibouti are well serviced with connections to the capital.

The 23% rural population is described as semi-sedentary pastoralists, small farmers, landless people, and fishermen. Although there is no formal consumption pattern survey in Djibouti to describe average quantities, interviews in the southern pastoral zone describe a typical diet of rice and pasta, indicating access to imported staple foods even in rural areas. The typical diet described was: a wheat flour biscuit and sweet milk tea for breakfast, rice or pasta and sweet milk tea for lunch, and rice, sauce, and sweet milk tea for dinner. The average intake of rice per family member in eight households in this southern pastoral zone was 261 g/c/d<sup>4</sup>.

**Rice varieties**

The market for imported rice in Djibouti is white rice and red Belem rice. Belem rice has a slightly greater (55%) market-share<sup>5</sup>.

**DOMESTIC RICE PRODUCTION**

Rice (or any other grain) is not grown in Djibouti (Table 3).

Table 3: Djibouti cereals production - 2011<sup>1</sup>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cereals (MMT)</th>
<th>Maize</th>
<th>Sorghum</th>
<th>Millet</th>
<th>Rice (milled)</th>
<th>Wheat</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>1</sup> FAO 2011 Food Balance Sheets

**International development support**

USAID’s Food for Peace program supports the World Food Programme (WFP) to provide food assistance to 75,600 food insecure individuals in Djibouti (focus on refugees and food-insecure rural and urban households). In fiscal year 2016, the total contribution was USD 4.3 million and 3,800 MT of food rations<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Scott J. A study of the cereal trade from Somaliland and Ethiopia to Djibouti – with particular reference to the sorghum consumption and trade habits of the nomadic pastoral community of the Southern Pastoral Zone. USDA. May 2005.


<sup>5</sup> FAO. Urban emergency food security assessment (EFSA). February 2011.


In 2013 construction on a WFP Logistics Hub for Humanitarian Assistance in the Horn of Africa began in Djibouti. The hub is on 50,000 square meters of land provided by the Government of Djibouti, and aims to ease handling for food assistance flowing to Ethiopia, Djibouti, Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya, and Somalia7.

IMPORTED RICE INDUSTRY

Table 4: Annual rice import volumes, 2011-2015 (MT)1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MT</td>
<td>0.050</td>
<td>0.057</td>
<td>0.108</td>
<td>0.112</td>
<td>0.180</td>
<td>0.114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1UN Comtrade, reported exports to Djibouti

Rice origins
According to UN Comtrade 2015, 82% of rice exported to Djibouti came from India, 17% from Pakistan. Both countries were approximately equivalent sources of broken rice (India, 46%, Pakistan 53%) but India was the main source of semi-/wholly-milled rice (89%). Less than 0.2% of the total 180,301 MT imports came from seven other countries. Red Belem rice is reportedly a staple variety of rice so it is assumed that it is categorized under milled or semi-milled.

Mode of imports
The Port of Djibouti is the only port in the country. It is not known what proportion of rice is imported in break-bulk, containers, or bulk. However, the port does have capacity to import bulk vessels of grain. The private company Société Djiboutienne Terminal Vracier is contracted to handle dry bulk cargoes, with pneumatic machines available for offloading grain8. Most of the port’s activity (70%) consists of imports and exports for Ethiopia9.

Rice importers
It is not clear how many rice importers are active in rice. In 2008 there were an estimated 172 importers overall, with 46 considered large importers based in Djibouti. Five companies dominated 75% of the market for wheat flour, oil, and milk powder imports. Considering that Djibouti’s port also serves Ethiopia, it is not clear how well import data delineates destination country after arrival at port10.

Imported rice storage
There is at least 6900 m² warehouse storage capacity in the Free Trade Zone at the port8. WFP is also estimated to have available 20,000 MT capacity food storage, not including the 40,000 MT of silo storage that was projected for construction in 2014/2015 (unknown if complete).

GOVERNMENT RICE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS
There is no self-sufficiency policy in Djibouti; less than 0.1% of the country is arable9.

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10 FAO 2013 estimates 0.089 MT of rice imported to Ethiopia.
RICE MILLING
Since rice is not grown in Djibouti, the country has no rice mills.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE

Wholesale
All imported food routes first through Djibouti; from there it travels to six other nodal points for wholesale distribution: Obock, Tadjourah, Arta, Dikhil, Ali Sabieh, and Loyada. Vertical integration in the market structure for imported cereal grains is common in Djibouti, attributed to a small marketplace that is dominated by large-scale traders. Rice is traded in a ‘formal’ marketing system that is centered in Djibouti City. Commercial importers distribute their goods to wholesalers (most based in Djibouti City) who in turn distribute to other wholesale/retail merchants outside of the capital.\(^{11}\)

Retail
Rice is purchased from wholesalers in 50 kg bags\(^{11}\) and is most likely sold to consumers in traditional marketplaces out of bulk bags. Between 2014 and 2016 the average cost of 1kg of imported rice was 275 francs (~1.55 USD\(^{12}\))\(^{13}\).

REGIONAL TRADE
Ethiopia accounts for 70% of Djibouti’s port imports. Ethiopia and Somalia account for regional imports of sorghum and pulses. UN Comtrade data for 2009 indicates small quantities of rice may be re-exported from Djibouti to Somalia and Ethiopia.\(^{14}\)

REGULATORY MONITORING
Imports are managed by the SYDONIA (i.e. ASYCUDA) computer system.\(^{15}\)

RICE FORTIFICATION – SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths
- All rice is imported.
- Rice is a staple cereal grain consumed nation-wide, including in urban, rural, or poor populations.
- Rice is imported large-scale by vertically integrated food importers. Specific details regarding food importers and stakeholders require confirmation.

Weaknesses
- Unlike the rest of the rice consuming countries in Africa, red Belem rice is the staple rice grain in Djibouti.
- Quantity of rice imported is low, limiting economies of scale.

\(^{12}\) 1 USD = 177.0 DJF as of October 19, 2016. https://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/
\(^{13}\) Numbeo. Cost of Living in Djibouti, http://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/country_result.jsp?country=Djibouti;
\(^{15}\) Sistema Aduanero automatizado. Djibouti http://www.asycuda.org/spanish/dispcountry.asp?name=Djibouti
Opportunities

- More detailed understanding of the rice importing industry is necessary.
- Given the importance of the port in the national economy, regulatory monitoring of imported foods may have greater resources to draw upon compared to other countries.
- More detailed understanding of rice consumption patterns in Djibouti would help inform which subpopulations rice fortification would affect.
- Evaluation of the impact and coverage of the wheat flour fortification program would be important before considering rice.

Threats

- Quality of regulatory monitoring of imported foods unknown.