



ECHO FACTSHEET

DJIBOUTI

Facts & Figures

Number of Refugees

20,340

Other important facts

- 74% of people living less than \$3 per day
- Life expectancy: 58 years
- 3,1% of children < 5 are acutely malnourished

ECHO funding

2012 - €3 million

2013 - €2 million
has been allocated



EU/ECHO/Martin Karimi

Humanitarian situation and needs

Key messages

- One of the aims of European Commission's humanitarian aid actions in Djibouti is to reduce people's vulnerability to droughts and climate-caused disasters. This can be achieved by increasing communities' resilience to respond better to upcoming crises;
- The European Commission also works on improving the food situation in the country as well as on fighting malnutrition and malnutrition-related diseases. Access to clean water and sanitary facilities still needs further development in Djibouti;
- The European Commission as well aims to bring durable solutions for refugees present in Djibouti.

Humanitarian situation and major needs

Since 2005, Djibouti is increasingly suffering from water scarcity due to poor rains. This has led to a reduction of water sources and pasture for livestock. As a result the country has faced serious food deficits. Particularly affected are the rural communities and people dependent on pastoral activities.

As a result of the last drought in 2010-11, the worst in 60 years, the number of people at risk of hunger in Djibouti has dramatically increased especially in rural areas. Having been displaced from their homes in rural areas, an

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estimated 200,000 people are living in the slums around Djibouti town with poor access to water or minimum sanitation facilities.

In addition to the drought, the violence and instability in south central Somalia has resulted in an increasing number of asylum-seekers arriving in Djibouti. Around 20,000 refugees have been registered, the majority of whom are from Somalia. Djibouti remains one of the main migration roads to the Arabic Peninsula with 80% of those migrating (on average 107,000 per year) seeking better living conditions outside the Horn of Africa.

Djibouti continues to experience high food prices especially in urban and peri-urban areas, where levels of unemployment remain high. Poor urban households in Djibouti City rely on food assistance and kinship to meet their food needs.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

The European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) has been supporting humanitarian projects in Djibouti since 2010 in response to the worst drought in 60 years.

In 2012, the Commission allocated €3 million, including €450,000 for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) projects. This support reached 110,000 vulnerable people in the country. The projects allowed training of community health workers on treatment of malnutrition, provision of acute malnutrition treatments, distribution of supplementary food rations for children at risk, and provision of food to the vulnerable.

A budget of €2 million is allocated for humanitarian aid in 2013 to provide assistance to the refugee populations and host communities. This assistance will help them to reduce the risks and respond better to natural disasters. If the situation deteriorates, the Commission stands ready to allocate further funds if need be.

The Commission is financing emergency actions that not only save the lives of the acutely malnourished but that also increase access to food for the most vulnerable groups to prevent further deterioration of their nutritional status.

Djibouti is one of the countries in the Horn of Africa benefitting from DRR funding. This programme showcases technical solutions that can be replicated with the aim of mitigating the effects of drought disasters. For instance, small gardens supported through humanitarian aid are a source of food and income for over 2,700 households, that is, 16,200 individuals in the countryside.

In addition, the Commission, through the European Union Delegation to Djibouti, is implementing the Strengthening Horn of Africa Resilience (SHARE) initiative which aims to equip the communities with skills and knowledge to enhance people's resilience to recurrent droughts.

The SHARE initiative in Djibouti amounts to €14 million and will be implemented on the ground by the Commission's partner agencies and the Djiboutian Government. In Djibouti, this initiative is harnessing and consolidating national capacity in a joint effort to stave off the effects of droughts.

SHARE programming in Djibouti is envisioned to last four years. Thanks to the EU support, the rural and pastoral communities will have better access to natural resources especially water and fodder. In addition, crucial extension services such as animal reproduction and health services will be provided at local level. The EU will also put in place a livestock disease surveillance system to enable veterinary officers to catch disease outbreaks early.