

## DJIBOUTI | DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES TO DISPLACEMENT

### Context – Displacement Situation

Djibouti is significantly affected by drought, including climate change impacts and El Niño. Obock Region – one of Djibouti's poorest and most food-insecure regions – is most affected by the drought which has caused large-scale displacement. Obock's livelihoods are mainly rural pastoralism-based and thus rely on access to climate-sensitive ecosystems and scarce natural resources. A very weak tradition in agriculture, the arid conditions and the limited purchasing power make the local population highly vulnerable to food shortages. The local population also faces limited access to key basic services and socio-economic infrastructure and a high level of unemployment, especially amongst youth.

Djibouti is also affected by migration and displacement – due to its coastal location. It has long been used as a transit country for irregular migrants, asylum seekers and trafficked persons seeking to cross into the Arabian Peninsula. Djibouti has also become a destination country for people fleeing various crises, including the war in Yemen, drought in Ethiopia, conflict in Somalia and oppression in Eritrea.

Most recently, the greatest number of displaced people have come from Yemen, and Obock Region is the most affected in the country. Up to 15,000 Yemenis are estimated to have arrived, of whom approximately 6,000 are residing in a formal camp in Obock city. Although host communities in Obock have been welcoming to the Yemeni refugees, it is possible that the newest influx will create tensions due to increased food prices and additional pressure on already limited natural resources. Thus, timely support needs to be provided to refugee and host communities to mitigate against this and to prevent social tensions.



Handwoven mats are a source of income for this woman  
(Photo: UNDP Djibouti)



Community members gather around their local well, an essential basic service  
(Photo: Yves De Soye/UNDP Djibouti)

## UNDPs Main Thematic Areas of Work

UNDP, IOM and FAO have worked together to develop a Joint Resilience Programme Framework for Djibouti. The framework recognizes the needs and challenges of humanitarian assistance and development co-operation related to the needs of climate change and crisis affected refugees, migrants and host communities in the Obock Region. The collaboration aims to address these needs through joint fundraising and programme implementation.

UNDP's contribution to the joint work on resilience is a programme that aims to assist host communities in the Obock Region to cope with the socio-economic pressures arising from the influx of Yemeni refugees and to enhance local capacities to continue providing adequate basic services and to meet immediate and longer-term development needs. The programme's areas of work are public and social infrastructure, waste management, climate change, sustainable environment and energy, livelihoods, local governance, aid coordination and effectiveness.

## Humanitarian Partnerships

To support implementation of programmes under the Joint Resilience Programme Framework for Djibouti, a Joint Resilience Programming Team (JRPT) of UNDP, FAO and WFP will be formed to undertake joint assessments and needs identification, programme design, information sharing as well as monitoring and communication with partners, including resource mobilization.

At the national level, the JRPT will work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Interior. In Obock, the JRPT will support and collaborate with the regional and local authorities responsible for coordination and planning.

## Planned Work

There is great urgency to begin programming as quickly as possible UNDP's livelihoods stabilization support needs to start as soon as possible, including emergency employment (i.e. cash-for-work); conducting market and value-chain assessments of the fishery and tourism sectors to identify employment opportunities; rehabilitation of basic community and social infrastructure, including provision of solar panels and energy efficient lighting; the establishment of a national information management tool and support to aid coordination and effectiveness; and identification of potential NGOs, CBOs and local actors in the field of early recovery, livelihoods, social cohesion and capacity-building. Medium- to longer-term activities needed include providing support to the decentralization process; strengthening the capacity of regional actors on planning, budgeting and expenditure management; and enhancing disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation capacities to cope with and adapt to the potential impacts of natural emergencies and climate-induced disaster risk scenarios.

## Contact

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