



# DJIBOUTI

## Disaster Management Programmes

### Disaster Context

The situation in the Horn of Africa is critical and ever-changing, and Djibouti has always been directly affected by events in the region. Development is hampered and the country is extremely vulnerable to crises due to the presence of tens of thousands of refugees and displaced people from neighbouring countries, the extremes of local climate, cyclical droughts, desertification, torrential rains and floods, deteriorating natural environment, absence of agriculture, food insecurity, earthquakes, epidemics and the limited financial capacity of Djibouti.

Moreover, three years of internal strife has interrupted local economies in rural areas and disrupted people's lives to the point where basic needs are not met. Schools, hospitals, and roads in districts are in urgent need of reconstruction. Damage to the natural environment is also immense.

Four years after a peace accord was signed, recovery seems to be even more beset with difficulties. In some areas, the amount of pastureland available to the rural population for their livestock is shrinking.

The combined effects of war and natural hazards have greatly increased the population's vulnerability. The country's institutions do not have the required capacity to respond to Djibouti's overwhelming problems.

### Project Titles

- Social Rehabilitation and Reintegration in Areas Affected by War (DJI/96/013)
- Disaster Management (DJI/98/001)
- Chemical Spill Emergency: Port of Djibouti (DJI/02/003)
- Emergency Grant for Drought (DJI/99/002)

### Sectors

- Capacity-building

- Training
- Area-based development
- Community empowerment
- Housing
- Disaster management

### Funding

- UNDP contributed \$1,250,000 from TRAC 1.1.1 funds to the programme, and the Government of Djibouti added \$400,000. Other partners are expected to contribute resources for the programme (DJI/96/013).
- UNDP contributed \$306,230 from TRAC 1.1.3 funds (DJI/98/011).
- UNDP contributed \$50,000 from TRAC 1.1.3 as an emergency grant (DJI/02/003).
- UNDP contributed \$50,000 from TRAC 1.1.3 as an emergency grant, and \$10,000 was mobilised from the United States (DJI/99/002).

### Partners

- National Rehabilitation Committee
- Sector ministries and departments
- Local communities and NGOs
- UN agencies
- Bilateral donors
- Multilateral donors

### Programme Activities

UNDP has long been involved in the fight against desertification and drought in Djibouti. However, the first initiative focusing specifically on disaster management was adopted at a Disaster Management Training Programme workshop held in 1993. The workshop not only sensitised the leaders and the

technicians on the issues of disasters but also introduced new concepts and ways of integrating disaster management strategies into development planning. That was the very first step in planning for disaster mitigation and management.

- The programme is one of the first in Djibouti that takes into consideration the regions and regional development. Its overall objective is to consolidate peace and reduce the risk of conflicts by:
  - Rehabilitating and reinforcing the potential for agricultural production
  - Rehabilitating and reconstructing social infrastructures
  - Strengthening local capacities

The programme also aims to provide the technical and financial assistance necessary to alleviate poverty and reduce the population's vulnerability through an approach based on encouraging effective participation. By promoting dialogue among local organisations and structures, priorities have been identified and projects implemented in a completely participatory way.

The programme has funded projects emanating from the rural communities. An important step in crisis prevention was the formulation of these projects on the basis of a dialogue with the beneficiaries. The projects address agricultural production, environmental management and the construction of health centres and drinking water systems to prevent diseases and epidemics. Micro-credit schemes and housing are also envisaged.

The programme is expected to grow and to extend its activities to regions not directly affected by war. It will also deal with the issues of decentralization and local governance.

- The objective of the Disaster Management Programme was to make a national disaster reduction and response system operational. It called for the formulation of a national strategy and action plan on disaster mitigation and enhanced regional collaboration on disaster. The outcomes of this programme are as follows:
  - Project staff placed
  - Strategy formulated and adopted
  - National staff of civil defence trained

- National committee for disaster management strengthened
- Draft assessment of Djibouti weaknesses related to disaster prevention available
- Ad-hoc support in National Committee and Regional Committees on Disaster Management operational
- Ad-hoc support of emergency collaboration and coordination with Intergovernmental Authority on Development on regional programs related to disasters
- Strengthened logistic and transport capacities of the government to distribute food aid in drought-affected regions
- Prepared Djibouti component of the Horn of Africa International Appeal
- Training management team established in each region and five workshops organised to train nationals
- Organised a capacity-building seminar to train relevant government staff in disaster prevention with the technical participation of the Secretariat of UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
- An emergency grant (Chemical Spill Emergency: Port of Djibouti) was given to the UNDP country office to support activities related to mitigation of a chemical spill along the Port of Djibouti. An international public works company (COLAS) has been subcontracted for the construction of a safe containment area for the contaminated soil. Funding has also been allocated to purchase computer equipment and supplies for the Ministry of Environment.
- A drought in 1999 affected greater than 150,000 nomadic herdsmen. The scarcity of rainfalls and water points also resulted in significant loss of at least 30 percent of the cattle. Funding from the Emergency Grant for Drought was utilised to provide spare parts to repair eight trucks and tankers to deliver fresh water and food items to affected people throughout the country.