JIBOUTI Drought 200%



FLASH APPEL







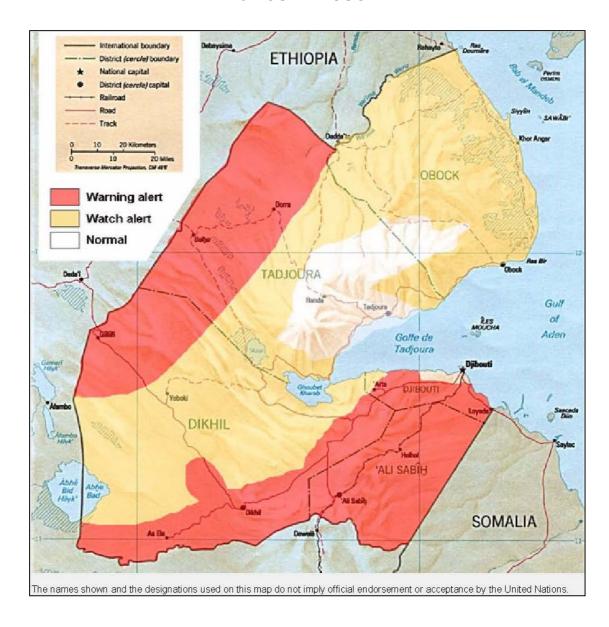
FLASH APPEL



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DJIBOUTI DROUGHT



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Republic of Djibouti is a disaster-prone, low-income, food deficit country (LIFDC) with a population of around 500,000 people. It is currently facing a severe food crisis in three out of six rural zones as a consequence of three consecutive failed rainy seasons and worsening drought conditions. Delayed rains and erratic rainfall patterns have been insufficient to allow the replenishment of water catchments or the regeneration of pastures. Pastoralists from Djibouti and neighbouring areas in Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea have been forced to continue seasonal grazing in coastal Djibouti areas, beyond the restorative capacities of the land. As a consequence, pasture and browse have been overgrazed and exhausted in most rural grazing areas. All water catchments in the northwest and southeast pastoral zones are practically dry.

Immediate needs include food aid for 28,650 people and the provision of water for 18,000 of them. Water points and boreholes need rehabilitation and maintenance and their running costs must be covered. Due to the protracted nature of the drought, malnutrition is a major concern and supplementary feeding for 5,730 children is needed. Mobile health services for 5,000 persons are required, given the nomadic and vulnerable nature of the most affected populations. Animal feed, water, and emergency veterinary care for 50,000 heads of livestock are urgent requirements. Disaster management structures at national and local levels need reinforcement and support in order to provide effective coordination of the response.

In the short- and medium-term, a second and more comprehensive, joint multi-sectoral assessment needs to be carried out, involving United Nations (UN) and international non-governmental organisation (NGO) partners as well as technical ministries of the government. An accurate survey to ascertain the numbers of livestock lost should also form a part of the assessment. More sustainable rehabilitation of water points is required.

In the longer term, the government needs support to strengthen its disaster management capacities. Livestock restocking for those who have lost their herds is required as is the development of water points along pastoral routes. The establishment of an emergency food stock is part of the long-term preparedness plan, which should also encompass the strengthening of the information system related to animal marketing in order to better regulate the flux of living animals on traditional trade routes.

The UN Country Team (UNCT) is appealing for **US\$ 7,494,198** in order to provide a consolidated approach to respond to this emergency over the next six months.

Flash Appeal 2005 Drought in Djibouti

Summary of Requirements - By Appealing Organisation as of 27 April 2005 http://www.reliefweb.int/fts

 $\label{lem:completed} \text{Compiled by OCHA on the basis of information provided by the respective appealing organisation.}$

Appealing Organisation	Original Requirements
FAO	3,990,300
UNDP	350,000
UNICEF	435,000
WFP	2,558,898
WHO	160,000
Grand Total	7,494,198

Flash Appeal 2005 Drought in Djibouti

Summary of Requirements - by Sector as of 27 April 2005 http://www.reliefweb.int/fts

Compiled by OCHA on the basis of information provided by the respective appealing organisation.

Sector Name	Original Requirements
AGRICULTURE	3,990,300
COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES	350,000
FOOD	2,558,898
HEALTH	295,000
WATER AND SANITATION	300,000

Grand Total 7,494,198

2. CONTEXT AND HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES

2.1 CONTEXT

Situated in the Horn of Africa, the Republic of Djibouti is a disaster-prone, LIFDC with a population of around 500,000 people. According to the 2004 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report, Djibouti is ranked 154 out of 177 countries. 74% of the population lives in relative poverty on less than US\$ 3 per day. Infant and juvenile mortality rates are very high at 103 and 124 per 1,000 live births respectively. The maternal mortality rate is 546 per 100,000 live births.

The country is very arid and only 3% of the land is suitable for farming. Pastoralism is the most efficient land-use option. Traditionally, most Djiboutians were nomadic pastoralists, but due to years of adverse climatic conditions as well as national border limitations, their mobility and access to resources have been restricted. Most of the nomadic populations are no longer pastoralists and at present, about 85% of them live in urban areas.

Unemployment rates are high. Employment and the economy are heavily dependant on the revenue obtained by Djibouti as a transit port for the region. Remaining nomads find that the traditional pastoralist existence is a livelihood option that is increasingly compromised by recurring drought and rain failure. Djibouti permanently fills its consumption gaps with large-scale imports and the remaining with food aid assistance.

2.2 HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

The lack of rainfall and worsening drought conditions have caused livestock deaths and a significant decline in milk production. These in turn have severely compromised the food security and livelihoods of about 5,000 families or 28,650 people. A recent joint assessment¹, conducted with representatives from the Government of Djibouti, estimates that most of these people have lost a majority of their livestock. The remaining animals are in poor condition mainly due to opportunistic parasites and diseases, exacerbated by the lack of food and water. Pastoralists in Djibouti rely on their livestock for consumption and trade. As a result, their income is dependant almost entirely on the health and productivity of their livestock.² When these animals die or are in poor condition, Djibouti pastoralists are left with nothing to eat and very little to trade.

Pastoralists from neighbouring, drought-affected areas in Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea have overburdened Djibouti's coastal pastures and water sources. The lack of rainfall in these countries, especially in the border areas close to Djibouti, have caused an influx of pastoralists to the Djibouti coastal grazing areas, leading to the overgrazing of pasture and browse.

Pastoralist terms of trade have declined to disastrous levels, especially when simultaneous poor rainfall in neighbouring countries has caused an overall increase in produce prices. At the same time as livestock conditions are deteriorating, food prices have increased and these simultaneous shocks have surpassed the coping capacities of thousands of poor pastoralists. After losing their livestock, many households are moving from rural areas to urban centres in search of assistance.

Djibouti is currently facing a severe food crisis in three out of six rural zones as a consequence of three consecutive failed rainy seasons and worsening drought conditions. These three areas, the Southeast Pastoral Zone, Roadside Sub-Zone and Northwest Pastoral Zone, have also received famine warnings. In the Southeast Pastoral Zone and the Roadside Sub-Zone, livestock are currently moving to *Diraal Sougoum* grazing areas, where water and pasture conditions are lower than seasonal norms. Livestock conditions are deteriorating, and some families have already lost their entire herds. Other income generating activities, such as the collection and sale of firewood and production of charcoal have intensified, resulting in unfortunate environmental consequences. In the Roadside Sub-Zone, livestock are observed to be very weak and the major water catchment areas are

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A preliminary joint assessment mission was carried out from 21 to 25 March by ONARS, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the Famine Early Warning Systems (FEWSNET). The multi-agency team concluded that livestock conditions in the coastal areas near Djibouti are poor mainly because of meagre pasture, livestock diseases and long trekking distances between water points and grazing areas.

² Reduced income has also affected the health situation. People use their money to buy food and truck water, delaying needed health services until it is too late. Also, waterborne illnesses increase with the decreased availability of safe water and malaria and pregnancy complications become deadly when coupled with malnutrition.

DJIBOUTI DROUGHT FLASH APPEAL

completely dry. Pasture is fully depleted and limited browse is providing the sole source of food for animals. Milk sales, a main source of income for this population, are limited.

In the Northwest Pastoral Zone, rain in March and April was below the threshold required for pasture regeneration. Pasture and browse are critically low in this zone and recent rainfall in Eritrea may trigger a movement towards the Eritrean border. The main source of food and income for households in this zone is dependent on livestock products and there is a continued food deficit due to poor livestock conditions. In the Market Gardening Zone - mainly in the northwest and near the city of Djibouti – poor successive rainy seasons are reducing the underground water table in this zone. This, in turn, has limited the production potential, as all agriculture in Djibouti needs to be regularly irrigated. Produce prices are consequently expected to remain high, especially as produce prices from Ethiopia have also increased.

2.3 **HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE**

A joint assessment carried out by the government body in charge of disasters - the National Office for Assistance to Refugees and Disaster Victims (ONARS), the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the Famine Early Warning System (FEWSNET), indicated that 5,000 families, or 28,650 persons, are in need of emergency assistance in terms of food and water for the next three to six months. The three affected pastoral sub-zones need an emergency provision of water for both humans and livestock. In such extreme conditions of food insecurity and protracted drought, there is a need for supplementary feeding for malnourished persons as well as increased access to health care for the most vulnerable. Veterinary and animal health initiatives are urgently required as are non-food items.

The Government of Djibouti has instituted policy measures designed to relieve the high food prices and are working with the UN to increase access to food and water for those made most vulnerable by the drought.³ Nevertheless, the concurrent shocks have exceeded the capacities of pastoralists and the Government has made a request for international assistance to respond to the drought emergency.

The UNCT plans a second, more comprehensive, inter-agency multi-sectoral assessment mission in late April. In the meantime, both the government and WFP have started to distribute food aid, equivalent to one month's full ration. This will extend the previous general food distribution until the end of May. As of 22 April 2005, WFP has provided 570 MTs of mixed commodities, while the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has provided US\$ 20,000 for the purchase of fuel for generators, which operate boreholes in the worst affected areas. UNDP has contributed US\$ 50,000 for coordination activities, which will include local capacity building. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Regional Support Office for Central and East Africa has fielded one Humanitarian Affairs Officer to give technical assistance to the UN response.

programmes.

³ WFP has invested US\$ 82,000 for the supply of materials and equipment for the construction and/or rehabilitation of 160 water wells and water reservoirs and has supplied about 460 MTs of mixed commodities to people participating in a food for work component of one of its

3. RESPONSE PLANS

3.1 COORDINATION

The existing government capacity for the delivery of the necessary assistance to the affected population is extremely weak. Within the Ministry of Interior, ONARS has been charged with the coordination of the emergency. The performance of ONARS is hampered by an inadequate and insufficient logistics capacity and the lack of disaster prevention and management capacities. No overall coordination structures have been put in place for the coordination of disasters and the capacity of the National Emergency Intervention Committee is not sufficient. There are very few international or national NGOs present in Djibouti to complement and boost existing government institutions.

Given recent improvements in early warning structures, there is a need to establish an effective disaster management structure at the national level in Djibouti. The restructuring of the ONARS and the inclusion of other technical line ministries within this body will aid the government to manage risks and prevent future disasters. However, in the immediacy, the government needs capacity-building assistance like, for example, the training of personnel and the provision of logistics resources to assist in responding to the current drought emergency.⁴

UNDP has obtained US\$ 50,000 from its global emergency funds to assist the Government of Djibouti in the current emergency phase and to support its planning, disaster preparedness, and institutional development efforts. An additional amount of US\$ 50,000 may also be mobilised through the same funding mechanism, upon completion of the first allocation. These funds would be used to address both immediate and medium to long-term needs. The latter would require resource mobilisation efforts and partnership support to enable the establishment of policy forums and structures, which would be effective in mitigating drought and other catastrophes through the integration of disaster management into national planning.

			BUDGET US\$
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) DJI-05/CSS01		Partners: Government of Djibouti, Food and Agriculture	50,000
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Project Title: Support to Government Disaster Coordination Structures Objective: Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the drought situation and support the coordination of the UN response Support the government of Djibouti to include disaster prevention and management into the overall development planning.		300,000
DJI-05/CSS02	Beneficiaries: Total Number: 5,000 pastoralist families	Partners: Government of Djibouti, UNDP Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), UN Country Team, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	

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⁴ FAO could assist in achieving this objective by providing some expertise through its Regional Emergency Office for Africa in Nairobi and by sharing lessons learned on drought mitigation in the Horn of Africa with the authorities of Djibouti.

3.2 WATER AND SANITATION

The most drastic consequence of the drought has been the lack of water for human and livestock consumption. Immediate action will need to focus on the provision of emergency water supplies to the most severely affected districts. Around 60% of the 5,000 most affected households require an emergency provision of potable water for a period of six months. The immediate focus will be placed on expanding on-going water trucking activities and on increasing the pumping capacity of under-utilised water sources. Water storage capacities will be increased through the establishment of mid-sized water containers at strategic locations in order to reduce the need for costly water trucking.

The trucking of water to hard-to-reach villages will reduce the need for vulnerable people to trek long distances in search of water. The rehabilitation of existing boreholes, and early planning for potential new ones will enhance clean and sanitary water supplies, particularly to schools and health centres, but also in large nomadic residential camps. This activity will be largely supported by the existing WFP food-for-work programme, which includes the digging an additional 160 wells in rural areas. Activities in the water and sanitation sector are also expected to minimise disease outbreaks.

A comprehensive evaluation of water and sanitation needs, carried out with the support of technical experts, will determine the need for the relocation of wells and explore the requirements for additional wells and boreholes in the affected areas.

			BUDGET US\$
United Nations Children's Fund	Project Title: Emergency Water Supply Objective: Increase emergency water supplies through water trucking		45,000
(UNICEF) DJI-05/WS01	Beneficiaries: Total Number: 18,000 nomadic pastoralists	Partners: Government of Djibouti, ONARS	45,000
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) DJI-05/WS02	Project Title: Water Purific Objective: Clean drinking	water and improved hygiene for gh provision of family and	125,000
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) DJI-05/WS03	supplies through the rehabilit Beneficiaries: Total Number: 5,000 pastoralist families	provision of emergency water ration of 6 existing boreholes Partners: Government of Djibouti, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)	100,000
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) DJI-05/WS04		itation Planning strategic plan for water point n depth sectoral assessment Partners: Government of Djibouti	30,000

3.3 FOOD AND NUTRITION

The food security situation is most critical in the livestock dependent areas of the Northwest and Southeast Pastoral Zones. Consecutive drought years have stretched coping strategies to the limit. Water for both humans and animals as well as for pastures is very scarce. Unusual movement of livestock and humans has been observed in the majority of rural areas. Many livestock deaths have been reported and the remaining animals are very weak. Milk production has been significantly reduced, negatively impacting on the nutritional status of children in these areas. Increasing concentrations of people seeking assistance are visible near urban centres.

A joint assessment mission concluded that 28,650 people are in need of immediate food assistance. Both general distribution of food aid and supplementary feeding for those most at risk of malnutrition, including children, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly, are urgently needed. The government has started supplying drinking water and food aid from its own resources. This has been followed by a WFP food aid distribution of around 568 MTs of mixed commodities, equalling a one-month ration for the 28,650 people assessed as in need. However, WFP does not have sufficient cereals in their pipeline to continue these distributions and the quantities already delivered did not meet the minimum caloric requirement. Though a WFP emergency operation will be launched, targeting 34,650 people for food aid and supplementary feeding, local purchase is required to fill the gaps until this six-month programme becomes operational in June.

Activities in the food and nutrition sector will consist of providing immediate food assistance to drought affected population, reducing rates of malnutrition of under-five children and improving the health status of children, mothers, and other vulnerable groups in areas with chronic food insecurity and high malnutrition. At least 80% of the resources will benefit girls and women. Activities will cover the food needs of 34,650 beneficiaries for six months. This caseload includes 28,650 people affected by the drought and about 6,000 malnourished children under-five, who will be assisted by WFP through the nutritional feeding centres. Under its development project, WFP will continue to strengthen household ability to create and preserve assets, enabling them to confront food insecurity, strengthening their capacity to prevent crises by improving their access to food.

In order to ensure a rapid and efficient distribution of the food aid, WFP will use both ONARS and private transport vehicles. WFP field monitors will be in charge of the reception and dispatch as well as monitoring and reporting of all food aid assistance, in close collaboration with local communities and district government representatives.

			BUDGET US\$
United Nations		Food & Nutrition Assistance	
World Food	Objective: Provision of em	ergency food	
Programme (WFP)	Beneficiaries:	Partners:	2,558,898
	Total Number: 34,650	Government of Djibouti	
DJI-05/F01	people		
	Project Title: Nutrition Su		
United Nations	Supplementary Feeding P		
Children's Fund	Objective: Mitigate the		
(UNICEF)	mortality rates	40,000	
	Beneficiaries:	Partners:	
DJI-05/H01	Total Number: 5,730	Government of Djibouti, WFP	
	children		

3.4 HEALTH

Drought conditions have limited safe and hygienic drinking water as well as sanitation norms. This situation exacerbates the spread of diarrhoeal diseases (e.g. cholera and dysentery), malaria, and respiratory ailments. At the same time, the lack of clean water constrains treatment of dehydration, resulting from the spread of diseases due to poor sanitation. It is estimated that 5,000 nomads are in need of emergency medical assistance and there is an urgent need to establish epidemiological surveillance systems, which will monitor possible outbreaks and severe malnutrition cases.

The immediate response in the health sector will include the setting up of active epidemiological surveillance of epidemic prone diseases among the pastoralist populations and the strategic placement of essential drug stocks and emergency health kits. Necessary reinforcement of existing health posts will be done through mobile medical service provision and through the reassignment of medical personnel from the district of Djibouti to the rural affected zones. Vaccination against childhood diseases (e.g. measles, polio, diphtheria, and tetanus) will be carried out for up to 5,000 children under five years of age. In order to allow children to focus their energy and attention towards games and child-development recreational activities rather than daily hardship, UNICEF will also distribute limited amounts of recreational kits to the affected communities.

Activities directed toward improving access to essential health care during the drought crisis will be accompanied by intensified awareness campaigns for the safe and rational use of water and the prevention of communicable diseases.

			BUDGET US\$
	Project Title: Emergency H		337
United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) DJI-05/H02	Objective: Establishmer deployment of medical pers and health kits to meet emeraffected populations, e communication and coordin and Reporting Systems (EW)	160,000	
D31-03/H02	Beneficiaries: Total Number: 5,000 nomadic pastoralists	Partners: Government of Djibouti (Ministry of Health)	
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) DJI-05/H03	Project Title: Emergency I Objective: Immunisation of	mmunisation Services 5,000 children under five years id field supervision of Extended /	40,000
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) DJI-05/H04	diseases through ORS provi Beneficiaries: Total Number: 5,000 nomadic pastoralists	dehydration and diarrhoeal sion and use Partners: Government of Djibouti (Ministry of Health), World Health Organization (WHO)	25,000
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) DJI-05/H05	Project Title: Provision of Objective: Support chil psychological impact of the d Beneficiaries: Total Number: 6,000 children	d development and mitigate	30,000

3.5 AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Pastoralism is an economic and social system that incorporates highly refined resource management, productivity, trade and social welfare mechanisms. The arid and semi-arid areas occupied by pastoralists constitute the greater proportion (90%) of Djibouti's landmass. Nomadic pastoralism constitutes the main economic activity of the farming sector. The majority of the pastoralists move their livestock in an opportunistic search for and use of pastoral resources in movements that frequently involve cross-border migration, particularly with Ethiopia.

Cyclical droughts reoccur every two to five years and the recovery periods are shortening. Droughts are becoming more frequent in Djibouti with serious consequences. As a result of the drought this year, about 30,000 of the pastoral population are experiencing the effects of intense overgrazing and degradation of traditional pasture and the depletion of all main water sources. These people face famine as they have lost most of their livestock herds. Nearby grazing lands in neighbouring countries are facing similar loss of pastures and lack of water, leaving few options for the normal opportunistic search for resources that characterise nomadic pastoralism. With trekking distances increasing beyond sustainable levels, the situation has reached crisis proportions for most pastoralists.

Immediate needs for the provision of veterinary services and food for livestock are necessary to address the poor livestock health. The lack of food and water make the livestock vulnerable to external and internal parasites and pneumonia. The provision of food supplements, reduction of the parasitic burden and treatment of communicable diseases will allow livestock to recover rapidly and will facilitate the increase of their commercial value. Funds will be granted in order to assist in the local purchase of concentrated animal feed. Mechanisms to distribute both pellets and basic veterinary drugs will provide a valuable arena to exchange information with pastoralists on the overgrazing issue and to prioritise the problems so that they can be quickly addressed.

The need for emergency actions in this sector is evident, if pastoralists are to survive in their livelihood. Already thousands have fled to urban areas in search of assistance and remaining nomads need rapid support. Emergency feed in the form of more easily transportable concentrated feed pellets and the emergency trucking of water for livestock are two actions that are required immediately. Emergency actions that could reduce the parasitic burdens on 50,000 animals would improve their hardiness and their capacities to survive the long treks in search of water and pasture. While the provision of feed pellets will bring immediate relief, some operations to extend the present re-seeding of overgrazed pasture lands should be launched immediately, as the essential first step of a future rehabilitation programme. Food-forwork programmes could be used to support such operations.

			BUDGET US\$
United Nations	Project Title: Emergency Livestock Feeding		
Food and Agriculture	Objective: Provisions of c	oncentrate and feed pellets to	
Organization (FAO)	50,000 animals		3,856,000
Organization (FAO)	Beneficiaries:	Partners:	3,836,000
DJI-05/A01	Total Number: 5,000	Government of Djibouti	
D31-03/A01	pastoral families		
United Nations	Project Title: Emergency Animal Health		
	Objective: Reduce parasitic load and improve health of		
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	core breeding animals		134.300
Organization (FAO)	Beneficiaries:	Partners:	134,300
DJI-05/A02	Total Number: 5,000	Government of Djibouti	
	pastoral families	•	

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The response will be carried out by various agencies from the United Nations Country Team in Djibouti. Lead agencies have been appointed for the various sectors as follows: UNDP will handle the Coordination sector; UNICEF will lead the Water and Sanitation sector; the World Food Programme will lead the Food and Nutrition sector; the World Health Organization will lead the Health sector; the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) intends to lead the Livestock sector and work in concert with the Ministry of Livestock Development to implement the projects.

ANNEX I.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BCPR Bureau of Crisis Prevention & Recovery

EPI Extended / Expanded Programme on Immunisation

EWARS Early Warning and Reporting Systems

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization FEWSNET Famine Early Warning System

LIFDC Low-income, food deficit country

NGO Non-Governmental Organisation

OCHA Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

ONARS National Office for Assistance to Refugees and Disaster Victims

UN United Nations

UNCT United Nations Country Team

UNDP United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR United Nations High Commission for Refugees

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

WFP World Food Programme

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