



Djibouti

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

Close to 40 000 people fleeing the Yemen conflict have taken refuge in Djibouti

55% of arrivals are Yemeni. Others are mainly Somali, Eritrean & Ethiopian nationals

Other facts

- 74% of people live on less than \$3 per day
- Life expectancy: 58 years
- 5.7% of children under 5 are severely acutely malnourished

Sources: WFP, IOM
UNICEF, UNHCR.

European Commission Humanitarian Aid funding:

total since 2012:
over €10 million

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Children playing at a refugee camp in Djibouti. ©EU/ECHO/Lars Oberhaus

Key messages

- The priority of EU humanitarian aid in Djibouti is to provide life-saving assistance to refugees and look for durable solutions to their plight.
- Djibouti hosts **over 25 700 refugees and asylum seekers** mainly from **Somalia and Ethiopia** whose basic needs such as shelter, water and protection need to be catered for. By end of February 2017, some 4,200 Yemeni refugees were still present in Djibouti following the 2015 crisis in Yemen.
- **Djibouti imports 95% of its food.** The number of people at risk of hunger has increased since the 2011 drought, accelerating the rural exodus to urban areas. A combination of high food prices, water scarcity, climate change and reduced pasture has increased food insecurity.
- Humanitarian funding from the European Commission provides refugees with **access to clean water and sanitation as well as shelter, protection, nutrition and health care.** Food assistance is given in the form of **cash transfers** as a way of promoting refugees' self-reliance.

Humanitarian situation and major needs

Most of the registered refugees and asylum seekers live in three camps - Ali Addeh, Holl Holl and Markazi - and in urban areas. Most refugees are from Somalia, Ethiopia, Yemen and Eritrea. Some refugees arrived in Djibouti 20 years ago, while others have arrived just recently. In late 2016, there was a steady flow of refugees from Ethiopia, mostly of Oromo origin. About 4 000 of them were registered, pushing the total number of Ethiopian refugees in Djibouti to 7 759.

Djibouti is a major transit point for migrants and refugees to the Arabian Peninsula, via [Yemen*](#). About 100 000 people pass through the country each year and continue via this route despite the on-going conflict in Yemen.

Although Djibouti has less than 1 million inhabitants and gets substantial revenues from its sea port and foreign military bases, it has difficulties meeting its population's basic needs. A majority of Djiboutians is food insecure and lacks safe drinking water. Close to 400 000 people live in a slum on the edge of Djibouti city with minimal services.

Since 2005, Djibouti has dealt with water scarcity due to irregular rainfall. The ensuing food deficit has affected both the urban poor and rural, pastoralist communities. Food prices are high as is unemployment. Poor households rely on food assistance and remittances to survive.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

The European Commission provides humanitarian aid to the refugee population as well as the host communities in Djibouti. It has released over €10 million in aid for Djibouti since 2012, including €1.25 million for disaster risk reduction initiatives. Together with the Djiboutian authorities, the Commission's partners ensure camps are being maintained and refugees protected. Other priorities include food assistance, nutrition and health care as well as access to water and sanitation facilities. Livelihood opportunities remain however limited around the camps.

In addition, the European Union Delegation to Djibouti has been supporting the Strengthening Horn of Africa Resilience initiative (SHARE) aimed at enhancing communities' capacity to withstand recurrent droughts. From 2013 to 2017, a total of €14 million will go to building Djibouti's capacity to mitigate the effects of drought.

In December 2015, the EU announced a €79 million-aid package for the Great Horn of Africa, including Djibouti, as one of the most affected regions by the El Niño.

Examples of EU financed humanitarian projects in Djibouti



Both long-term and new refugees in Ali Addeh, Holl Holl and Markazi camps require shelter, essential non-food items, water and [sanitation](#). A lack of family latrines is putting women and girls at risk of [gender-based violence](#). The **Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)** is therefore building new latrines for the most vulnerable refugees such as women-headed households. NRC also distributes shelter kits and non-food items to families who most need it. ©EU/ECHO/Jean-Marc Jouineau

The **World Food Programme (WFP)** has replaced part of the in-kind food assistance with cash for refugees who have recently arrived from Yemen and settled in Markazi camp. This follows a similar initiative for longer-term refugees in Ali-Sabieh and Holl Holl camps. The cash enables refugees to purchase meat and vegetables as a complement to their everyday diet. ©EU/ECHO/Massimo La Rosa

