

Strengthening Drought Resilience for Smallholder Farmers and Pastoralists in the IGAD Region.



Country Profile *Djibouti*



Under the Strengthening Drought Resilience for Smallholder Farmers and Pastoralists in Eastern Africa (DRESS-EA) project, interventions in Djibouti are being implemented in Bieidley (Ali Sabieh Region), Wadi Gobaad and Hanlé Sector (Dikhil Region). The project supports Djibouti to strengthen drought preparedness, improve climate resilience and promote sustainable natural resource management through enhanced early warning systems, climate risk management, institutional capacity strengthening and community-led adaptation initiatives.

The project is targeting over **insert number** beneficiaries across the project intervention areas.

Challenge

Djibouti is among the most climate-vulnerable countries in the Horn of Africa. Nearly three-quarters of the country's land is arid, with very low and highly variable rainfall, making communities increasingly susceptible to droughts and water scarcity. The project intervention areas are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including:

- Recurrent droughts
- Water scarcity
- Desertification
- Land degradation
- Heatwaves
- Floods and flash floods
- Increasing rainfall variability
- Declining pasture productivity
- Climate-induced food insecurity

Pastoralism and agro-pastoralism remain the primary livelihood sources for rural communities. However, prolonged droughts, deteriorating rangelands, limited freshwater resources and poor soils continue to reduce livestock productivity, threaten food security and increase poverty among vulnerable households. Women are disproportionately affected by water scarcity, often travelling longer distances to collect water, while pastoral communities continue to experience increasing losses of livestock during prolonged drought periods.





The DRESS-EA project is implemented in three of Djibouti's most drought-prone areas:

- Bieidley (Ali Sabieh Region)
- Wadi Gobaad (Dikhil Region)
- Hanlé Sector (Dikhil Region)



Key Development Challenges

Communities within the project intervention areas face several interconnected challenges:

- Recurrent and prolonged droughts.
- Extremely low and unreliable rainfall.
- Severe water scarcity.
- Desertification and degradation of rangelands.
- Limited agricultural productivity.
- Heavy dependence on imported food.
- Declining livestock productivity due to shrinking grazing resources.
- Limited institutional capacity for drought preparedness and climate risk management.
- High vulnerability of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities to climate shocks.
- Increasing pressure on fragile ecosystems and natural resources.



DRESS-EA Response

The DRESS-EA project is supporting Djibouti to build long-term resilience to drought through integrated interventions that strengthen institutions, improve access to climate information and promote sustainable management of natural resources.

Key interventions include:

- Strengthening drought and climate Early Warning Systems (EWS).
- Improving climate risk management and preparedness.
- Promoting sustainable water resources management.
- Supporting soil and ecosystem conservation.
- Enhancing climate-smart agriculture and resilient pastoral production systems.
- Building institutional capacity for drought preparedness and response.
- Strengthening knowledge management and climate information dissemination.
- Promoting community participation in climate adaptation planning.
- Supporting evidence-based decision-making through climate risk information.

Recent implementation activities have expanded the project's focus to include the development of climate risk maps, stakeholder capacity building and strengthened institutional coordination to support the implementation of Djibouti's climate commitments under the Paris Agreement and improve long-term climate resilience.

By strengthening climate information services, improving institutional coordination and enhancing community adaptive capacity, the project is helping shift drought management from reactive emergency response to proactive climate risk management.

Project Implementation Villages

Project interventions are being implemented in selected communities within Bieidley, Ali Sabieh Region, Wadi Gobaad, Dikhil Region, Hanlé Sector, Dikhil Region. These areas were selected because they experience recurrent droughts, high rainfall variability, severe environmental degradation, widespread food insecurity and heavy dependence on pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods.

This project is funded by the Adaptation Fund through the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), with the Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa (GWPEA) serving as the Regional Executing Entity, while Uganda's Ministry responsible for Water and Environment leads implementation nationally.

6,000+

**beneficiaries across
the project intervention
areas.**

