

# PROMISING RESILIENCE PRACTICES



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION



## Establishment of Regional Disaster Risk Management Committees

The establishment of Regional Disaster Risk Management Committees has improved targeting, which has led to the most vulnerable and affected populations receiving support

### Introduction

Djibouti is situated in the Horn of Africa region which comprises of four countries; Eritrea, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia. The total surface area of Djibouti is about 123,000 km<sup>2</sup> and its population is around one million.

Although the entire country is vulnerable to the effects of disaster risks, initiatives to reduce them were concentrated at the capital level, and local actors often remained on the margins of developing or implementing planning documents. Disaster risk reduction in the absence of existing regional structures has not been as effective as it could be. To address this shortcoming, Regional Disaster Management Committees were established by Decree No. 2006-0192/PR/MID, hence launching an institutional framework for risk and disaster management.



#### INTERVENTION AREA

Disaster risk management, preparedness and effective response



#### LOCATION

Djibouti



#### STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS

- Inter-sectoral Technical Committee of Disaster Risk Management
- Regional Risk and Disaster Management Committees

## Methodological approach

Regional Risk and Disaster Management Committees fall under the auspices of the Inter-sectoral Technical Committee of Disaster Risk Management. With its support, they are bodies for planning, coordinating, monitoring and evaluating activities in the areas of disaster risk management.

They relay information between the Executive Secretariat of Risk and Disaster Management and the actors intervening at the regional level in the framework of risk and disaster management.

The members of Regional Risk and Disaster Management Committees are:

### PRESIDENT: THE STATE REPRESENTATIVE

#### Vice President: the Executive Secretary of the Region

#### Members

- The Chief Medical Officer of the Region
- A representative of the Regional Assembly
- A representative of the Police
- A representative of the Army
- A representative of the Minister of Education
- A representative of UNFD
- A representative of the Regional Committee of the Red Crescent
- Two representatives of civil society

The Committees are permanent bodies that meet once every six months. However, the chairman may convene a meeting anytime it becomes necessary. When a hazard event (such as a drought, flood, cyclone, earthquake, fire or tsunami) occurs, triggering loss of life and damage to infrastructure, the committee conducts a quick assessment of the situation and relays the following information to the secretariat of disaster risk management:

- The geographic area where the affected community is settled;
- The society (including individuals) and its infrastructure, assets and other processes, as well as services which may have experienced damage or destruction;
- The number of households or individuals affected by the hazard.

When humanitarian assistance arrives, they play a great role to ensure proper targeting of the limited resources by providing a list of households or individuals affected by order of priority. The rationale behind membership selection is that

all decentralised institutions be included, plus the civil society representative. However, the district commissioner can call upon any individual whose expertise is deemed necessary for a specific hazard.

## Results

- The establishment of the Regional Disaster Risk Management Committees has improved targeting, which has led to the most vulnerable and affected populations receiving support.
- Before the creation of the Committees, the executive secretariat dispatched teams to conduct the evaluations. Since their creation however, local actors are more involved in assessments, which has made them more effective because these actors have a better understanding of the local context.

## Sustainability

- The Committees receive support from the government in terms of policy orientation. They receive capacity building in the area of understanding disaster risk; strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective responses.
- The government provides a budget through the Secretariat of Disaster Risk Management.
- As members of the Committees are from the decentralised government institutions and the civil society residing in the districts and they receive regular backstopping, the functioning of the committees is sustainable.

## Replicability and upscaling

There is already an institutional downscaling at the local level in other sectors, such as agriculture, water, livestock, environment etc., particularly in the area of decentralisation, so the replicability may be applicable in the field of disaster risk reduction.

## Additional information

- Djibouti Country Programming Paper: <https://resilience.igad.int/index.php/knowledge/technologies/documents/43-cpp-djibouti/file>
- Décret n°2006-0192/PR/MID portant mise en place d'un cadre institutionnel de gestion des risques et des catastrophes
- Reports of the Secretariat of Disaster Risk Management

## CONTACTS

Ahmed Madar  
Executive Secretary of Disaster Risk Management  
ammadar65@yahoo.fr  
awatifmohammed@yahoo.com

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD)  
P. O. Box 2653, Djibouti City, Djibouti  
[www.igad.int](http://www.igad.int) / [www.resilience.igad.int](http://www.resilience.igad.int)



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations