

DJIBOUTI - Drought

Date: 1983-1984

Location: Dikhil, Ali-Sabieh, Jadjourah, Obock, and Djibouti

No. Dead: Not reported

No. Affected: 80,000 (30% of the population); 12,000 severely affected

Damage: Lack of rain in the spring of 1984 caused wells to dry up and grazing pasture to disappear. It also resulted in extensive slaughtering of herds.

The Disaster

Though lack of rainfall leading to drought and food shortage is a cyclical problem in Djibouti, the country is ill-equipped to handle such situations; this drought followed closely on the heels of the 1980-81 dry spell and decimated the livestock population. The nomads, who rely upon their flocks, grouped around the few remaining wells, but grazing land had become practically nonexistent. By late March, much of the nomadic population required public assistance.

Action Taken by the Government of the Republic of Djibouti (GROD)

The GROD's disaster and refugee assistance agency, ONARS, coordinated and implemented the country's relief effort. Specifically, ONARS distributed food and other relief supplies, appointed GROD relief coordinators in all five districts, and participated in a drought assessment.

The GROD established a drought assistance fund of \$283,000 and made an appeal to the international community on April 9, 1984.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government

On April 12, 1984, Ambassador Alvin Adams declared the situation in Djibouti to be a disaster and obligated \$25,000 for the relief effort. This money was used to purchase a 6,000-liter water truck. In addition, the USG donated 34 MT of vegetable oil to CRS for the emergency. The food had a value of \$33,500 and ocean freight costs were \$6,000.

Total OFDA assistance.....	\$25,000
Total Food for Peace assistance.....	\$39,500
	TOTAL
	\$64,500

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

CRS - donated 61 MT of rice, 10.5 MT of vegetable oil, and some non-fat dried milk, worth \$125,000, from its regular P.L. 480 Title II program.

TOTAL	\$125,000
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Assistance Provided by the International Community

International Organizations

EEC - \$212,500 in cash and 100 MT of non-fat dried milk, value not reported.

Palestine Liberation Organization - tents, value not reported.

UNDP - provided \$1,800,000.

UNICEF - \$30,000 for water storage bags.

WFP - 260 MT of rice or sorghum, 217 MT of vegetable oil, and 347 MT of non-fat dried milk, worth \$1,700,000.

Countries

France - 1,000 MT of wheat, value not reported.

Libya - 50 MT of sorghum, value not reported.

TOTAL	\$3,742,500
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