



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF STATE



USAID
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DJIBOUTI

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FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS

Djibouti is a key partner to the United States. Its location in a volatile neighborhood (sharing borders with Eritrea and Somalia), combined with its commitment to peaceful, tolerant views, makes it a unique and strategic partner. Djibouti exemplifies the principles of President Obama's Global Engagement Initiative of partnership with Muslim countries based on mutual interest and respect.

Despite Djibouti's small size, it continues to gain attention within the international community. The United Nations plans to make Djibouti its base for humanitarian operations; naval contingents from the European Union and other allies have made Djibouti a counter-piracy hub; the U.S. military continues to expand Camp Lemonnier, its only U.S. military base on the African continent; and the U.S. Embassy has more than tripled the size of its presence since 2000.

The foreign policy objectives for the U.S. Mission to Djibouti are promoting and advancing peace and security, investing in people (health and education), and governing justly and democratically.

Peace and security are promoted through the Department of Defense's (DOD) Office of Security Cooperation (OSC), based at the Embassy, and DOD personnel at Camp Lemonnier. In FY 2009, OSC's major achievements included the inauguration of the U.S.-constructed naval facility in northern Djibouti near the strategic Bab el-Mandeb Strait, and the installation of the Regional Maritime Awareness Capability system that will ensure more secure maritime space. Strategic support was also provided to the Djiboutian Armed Forces as they trained Somali counterparts on Djiboutian soil and hosted an East Africa Standby Force exercise for 1,500 military personnel from 12 neighboring countries. Djibouti also became the 25th African partner under the African Contingency Operations Training Assistance program, which provides training and equipment to enable Djibouti to participate in peacekeeping operations.

In health, U.S. assistance supported tuberculosis (TB) and polio programs to help detect, treat, and mitigate these diseases. Djibouti has the third highest incidence and prevalence rate of tuberculosis in the world, and due to porous borders, Djibouti remains vulnerable to cross-border transmission of the Wild Polio Virus. U.S. Government (USG) assistance to mitigate the prevalence of TB ensured that the number of TB labs per person continued to meet international standards. In the fight against polio, USG assistance helped Djibouti exceed its coverage target with 95 percent

vaccinated nationwide. With innovative programming and support for maternal and child health, impressive gains were made in this target group. The nutrition program reduced the case fatality rate of acute severe malnutrition among children under 5 from 9.2 percent to 5 percent, and 100 percent of community health providers were trained to manage malnutrition cases. This also laid the foundation for the design of a long-term nutrition program that will double resources and strengthen the important national Health Management Information System (HMIS). U.S. assistance ensured that health clinics were built, nursing students were taught, doctors were assisted in local surgeries, and supplies were provided when necessary.

In education, an external evaluation found that U.S. assistance programs positively impacted the quality of primary classroom teaching and learning, improved public awareness and parental attitudes towards girls' education, and made a difference in the way schools are managed through support to Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs). In FY 2009, five out of six education targets were exceeded.

In governing justly and democratically, the U.S. achieved compelling results through an anticorruption program by building the capacity of government oversight bodies, and by increasing public awareness of good governance by airing public service announcements on Djiboutian radio over four months in four local languages. All but one target was met or exceeded with 90 percent of the Inspector General's staff trained in internal controls and audit practices, and 60 percent of Parliamentarians trained in procedures to request inquiries.

From a crosscutting perspective, U.S. assistance helped to promote the importance of collecting and using accurate data for planning, policy-making, and financial management. In education, the United States assisted in the creation of the first accurate Annual Statistical Manual and helped to strengthen the HMIS system in health. In democracy and governance, the U.S. Mission helped encourage the Djiboutian Government to carry out its first census since 1982.

Djibouti's underdevelopment, exacerbated by its severe lack of a skilled and healthy workforce means that it will be decades before the 60 percent unemployed, 47 percent literacy, and 17 to 25 percent acute malnutrition rates are reversed. The USG stands ready to work in continued partnership with this committed and strategic partner in addressing these development challenges.

HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE IN FISCAL YEAR 2009

Peace and Security

Djibouti is an island of stability in the turbulent Horn of Africa, and helps maintain peace and security within and beyond its borders. To assist the Government of Djibouti in these endeavors, the Department of Defense's OSC supports activities that focus on building host country professional military forces that respect civilian authority and contribute to regional missions on counterterrorism, peace operations, and counterpiracy. Major results in FY 2009 included:

- Trained professional Djiboutian military officers in naval operations, logistics, and counterterrorism.
- Inaugurated the Obock Pier project – the largest Foreign Military Financing-funded project ever completed in sub-Saharan Africa – to expand Djibouti's military capability in the north and improve monitoring of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.
- Supported Djibouti's military to train Somali Transitional Federal Government forces and to host the East Africa Standby Force Exercise.

- Installed the Regional Maritime Awareness Capability system that will enable the Armed Forces of Djibouti better to secure its maritime space for years to come.

Investing in People (Health and Education)

The Government of Djibouti demonstrated its commitment to invest in its people by continuing to allocate large portions of its budget to health and education. This year the percentage rose to 40 percent, nearly doubling the percentage of FY 2004. As a result of USG programs and infrastructure development work, access to basic education and health services increased in FY 2009. Joint efforts between the Government of Djibouti and USG in health and education programs have produced remarkable results and have set the pace for the establishment of the human resource base needed to address Djibouti's development challenges. U.S. assistance produced the following results:

Tuberculosis

- Provided technical assistance through the World Health Organization (WHO) under the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Tuberculosis Control and Assistance Program to develop a decentralized national TB program. USAID provided crucial laboratory expertise to decentralized laboratory services, and helped establish a quality assurance program.
- Developed a funding proposal to WHO's Green Light Committee to address multi-drug-resistant cases in Djibouti.
- Established Infection Control measures, trained National Reference TB Center staff in those measures, and procured surgical masks and respirators.
- Undertook a situational analysis of infection control in the National Reference TB Center and formulated recommendations that will be the basis for the development of a national policy on Infection Control
- Ensured adherence to international standards of "laboratories to population" ratios.

Polio

- Worked with the WHO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on polio eradication activities that trained Ministry of Health staff to deliver polio immunizations to each district in the country. Targets were met with 100 percent of targeted health staff trained, and 95.9 percent of the target population vaccinated nationwide. Social mobilization campaigns and targeted media coverage before and after immunization days helped achieve these results.
- In November 2009, Djibouti was honored at the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization Forum for their success in strengthening immunization coverage. USG's support through WHO and UNICEF contributed to this success.

Education

- Formulated a training policy and a national in-service teacher training plan that resulted in the Ministry of Education planning and delivering in-service teacher training to 93 percent of all primary teachers. An external evaluation indicated that these new techniques had a positive effect on teaching and learning.

- Supported the drafting of a Governmental decree from the Djibouti President’s office that recognized PTAs as legal entities. This legal standing swayed reticent school directors to recognize and work with PTAs on school issues. The USG established guidelines on the role of PTAs and trained 73 percent of the PTAs in the country to use a planning tool for quality education, which they then used to identify issues and propose improvements. To assist in school improvements, the USG partnered with the French Development Agency to support 10 pilot PTAs with small grants. These grants addressed both school and community-related factors that improved quality, access, and equity.
- Established an Education Management Information System that resulted in the first reliable Annual Statistics Manual that provides critical planning data for the Ministry, and ensures that school data including enrollment, retention, and dropout rates are now available; also trained 201 school officials in strategic information management.
- Partnered with NGOs and the private sector to enable out-of-school youth (64.9 percent were girls or women) to complete internships and job training in several skill areas, including computer maintenance and operation of heavy equipment. These efforts, especially the partnership between a local women’s training center for the training of girls and women in computer maintenance and the Ministry of Education, motivated the Ministry to sign a grant agreement with this training center to expand training opportunities for girls and women in trades not previously open to female employment.
- Provided scholarships to 1,243 recipients under the Ambassador’s Girls Scholarship Program for primary and middle school students.
- Encouraged girls to stay in school by identifying role models in each district to raise awareness among communities of the issues pertaining to girls’ education. The success of these role models was so evident that they were interviewed for radio spots, sharing their path to success nationwide.

Governing Justly and Democratically

With a modest resource investment, the USG achieved compelling results under its one-year anticorruption program. USG assistance strengthened the Government of Djibouti’s oversight bodies by training the Office of the Inspector General (IGE) staff and parliamentarians in performance audits and procedures to request inquiries. The USG helped to strengthen these Government institutions by enhancing civil servants’ ability to provide accountability and transparency in their oversight of public funds, with the result of improving public trust. Highlights include:

- Trained 60 percent of all parliamentarians in parliamentary oversight procedures that included audit practices and how to request inquiries.
- Doubled the number of parliamentarians enrolled in professional English class, which are viewed by participants as key to learning from and interacting with their counterparts on oversight functions around the world.
- Trained 90 percent of all inspectors in the IGE in internal controls and performance audit procedures.
- Assisted in the development of a new Strategic Plan, Information Plan, and Employee Evaluation System, ensuring that the IGE is more capable and credible as an oversight body

- Produced and aired, for the first time ever, Public Service Announcements that raised public awareness of anticorruption and good governance issues.