



## GIEWS Country Brief Djibouti

Reference Date: 28-May-2018

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cyclone Sagar caused heavy flooding in Djibouti City and neighbouring areas, affecting up to 50 000 people
- Poor vegetation conditions prevail in coastal rural areas, relatively better pasture availability in inland districts
- Cyclone affected majority of refugees and asylum seekers hosted in country

### Cyclone Sagar causing heavy flooding in Djibouti City and neighbouring areas

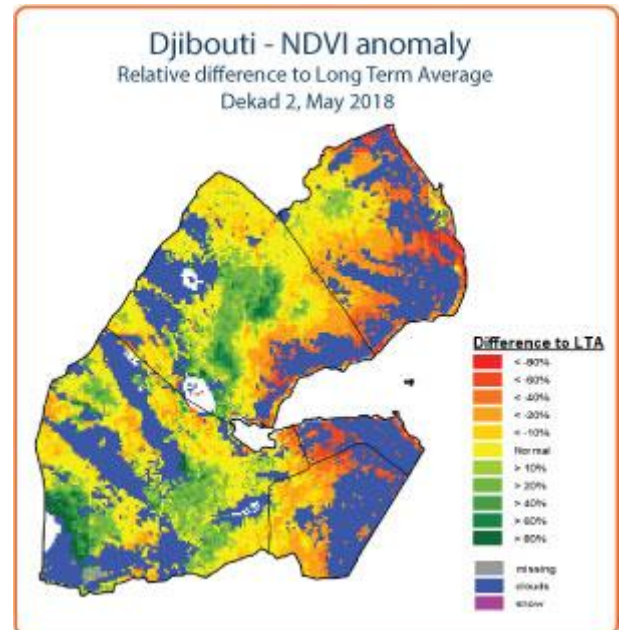
Cyclone Sagar struck the country on 19 and 20 May, bringing torrential rains. The precipitations received, about 110 mm, were the equivalent of the average rainfall for an entire year and triggered heavy flooding, especially in the capital, Djibouti City, and in the southern Balbala suburb.

Up to 50 000 people have been affected and at least 1 500 shelters have been damaged in Djibouti City, potentially displacing at least 7 000 people. Over 100 urban vegetable and fruit plots have been inundated, affecting the livelihoods of over 500 people, including vulnerable migrant workers.

While floodwaters are now receding, several areas remain inundated. There is still concern as more rains are expected in the coming days due to the formation of another weather system in the Arabian Sea.

In rural coastal areas, where seasonally dry conditions currently prevail, remote sensing analysis indicates poor vegetation conditions, due to a faster-than-normal rangeland depletion after the dismal performance of the October-February “xeys/dadaa” rains.

In inland pastoral areas of Dikhil and Tadjourah regions, the 2018 March-May “diraac/sougum” rains had a late onset, with no significant precipitations received until early April and seasonal cumulative amounts were between 25 and 40 percent below average. However, current rangeland conditions are above average in several areas, due to the beneficial impact on pastures of some off-season precipitations received in January and February and of the above-average 2017 July-September “karan/karma” rains.



The country hosts about 27 000 refugees from Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Yemen, depending on the humanitarian assistance. About 15 000 refugees are residing in the Ali Addeh refugee camp, while about 5 300 are located in Djibouti City. Both areas have been affected by the tropical Cyclone Sagar, causing damage to shelters and infrastructures and resulting in an increase in humanitarian needs.

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## GIEWS Country Brief Djibouti

Reference Date: 15-November-2016

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Rangeland conditions and water availability improve in most inland regions
- Food security remains critical for poor households in areas affected by consecutive failed rainy seasons

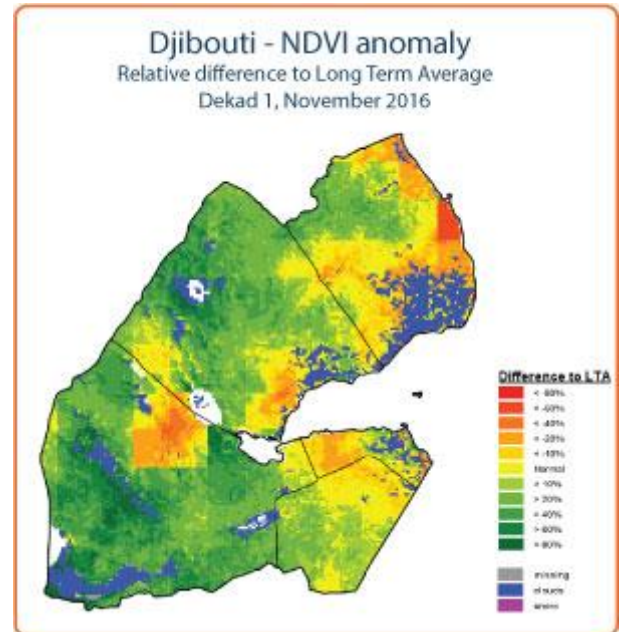
### Rangeland conditions improving in most inland areas

After a late onset at the end of July, the “karan/karma” rains (July to September), have been favourable in terms of quantity and distribution. With the exception of a dry spell during the third dekad of August, rainfall amounts have been well above average throughout the season. Pasture, browse and water availability have improved particularly in inland areas of Obock and Tadjourah regions (see NDVI anomaly map). Here, rains have replenished most water catchments and animal body conditions have improved. By contrast, pasture conditions are still poor in most coastal areas as the “heys/dada” rains (October to February) have not yet started. These rains are forecast at average to below average levels until the end of the year and a close monitoring of their impact on grazing resources is warranted.

In recent months, prices of most staple foods have been stable and well below the levels of one year earlier, supporting the purchasing power of poor households. In September, year-on-year average food inflation was estimated at 5.3 percent, with prices of beans and bread ranking higher with an increase of 10.4 and 8.8 percent, respectively.

Currently, the total population in need of humanitarian assistance is estimated at about 270 000 people. They are essentially small-scale farmers and herders living in northwest and southeast areas that have been affected by several consecutive failed rainy seasons. In addition, about 48 000 people, mainly from Yemen and Somalia, are hosted in refugee camps and are highly dependent on humanitarian assistance.

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## GIEWS Country Brief Djibouti

Reference Date: 19-October-2016

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

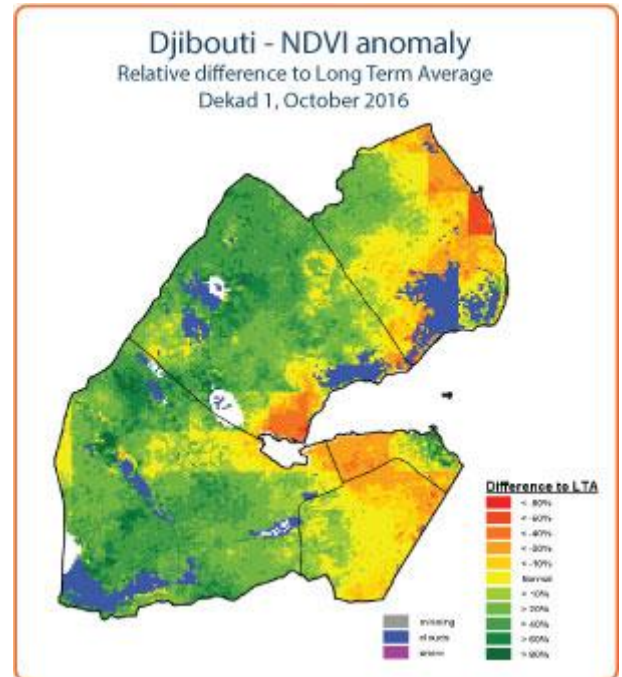
- Rangeland conditions and water availability improve in most inland regions
- Food security remains critical for poor households in areas affected by consecutive failed rainy seasons

### Rangeland conditions improving in most inland areas

After a late onset at the end of July, the “karan/karma” rains (July to September) have been favourable in terms of quantity and distribution. With the exception of a dry spell during the third dekad of August, rainfall amounts have been well above average throughout the season. Pasture, browse and water availability have improved particularly in inland areas of Obock and Tadjourah regions (see NDVI anomaly map). Here, rains have replenished most water catchments and animal body conditions have improved. By contrast, pasture conditions are still poor in most coastal areas as the “heys/dada” rains (October to February) have not yet started. These rains are forecast at average to below average levels until the end of the year and a close monitoring of their impact on grazing resources is warranted.

In recent months, prices of most staple foods have been stable and well below the levels of one year earlier, supporting the purchasing power of poor households. In August, prices of imported wheat flour and rice were up to 25-30 percent lower than the same month in 2015 due to declining international prices.

Currently, the total population in need of humanitarian assistance is estimated at about 270 000 people. They are essentially small-scale farmers and herders living in northwest and southeast areas that have been affected by several consecutive failed rainy seasons. In addition, about 48 000 people, mainly from Yemen and Somalia, are hosted in refugee camps and are highly dependent on humanitarian assistance.



Reference Date: 09-March-2016

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

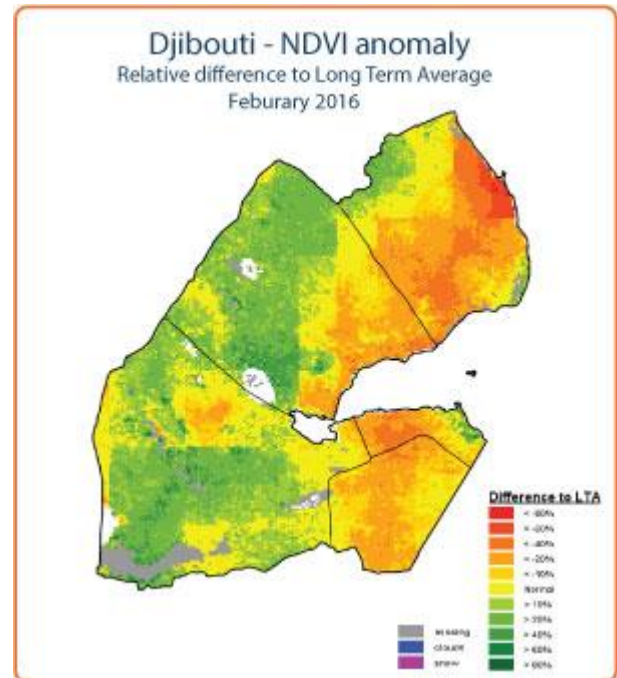
- After several failed rainy seasons, poor “heys/dada” rains (October-February) affected rangeland conditions and water availability in Obock, Ali Sabieh and Djibouti regions
- Food security remains critical for pastoralists and poor urban households

### Poor rangeland conditions in Obock, Ali Sabieh and Djibouti regions

The (October-February) “heys/dadaa” rains have regenerated pasture and increased water availability in parts of the country, but pasture conditions remain poor in southeastern regions of Ali Sabieh and Djibouti as well as in northwestern Obock Region where the rainy season started late and had below-average rainfall amounts. These areas have experienced a sequence of several failed rainy seasons since October 2014 which led to significant livestock losses, poor animal body conditions and minimal milk production. The (March-May) “diraac/sougum” rains are forecast at near-average levels, with likely improvements in pasture conditions and water availability.

As reported by FEWSNet, prices of most staple foods have been stable during the last six months, with the exception of beans whose price has increased by about 6 percent since early 2016 following the export ban introduced by the Ethiopian Government as a response to the 2015 below average production.

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, the total population in need of humanitarian assistance is estimated at about 230 000 people, over 55 percent of the rural population. They are essentially small-scale farmers and herders living in northwest and southeast areas that have been affected by several consecutive failed rainy seasons. In addition, about 56 000 people, mainly from Yemen and Somalia, are hosted in refugee camps and are highly food insecure.



Reference Date: 16-June-2015

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Two consecutive unfavourable rainy seasons affected grazing resources in most pastoral areas
- Cereal prices are generally stable
- Food security conditions deteriorating in most pastoral areas due to poor pasture conditions

### Poor rangeland conditions following two consecutive unfavourable rainy seasons

The 2015 “diraac/sougum” rains (March-May) had a very late onset during the first dekad of May, with low rainfall amounts especially in pastoral areas of Ali Sabih and Obock districts. As the previous “heys/dada” (October-February) rainy season was also relatively poor, the current status of grazing resources is generally well below average as reported by the satellite-based vegetation condition analysis (see NDVI anomaly map on the right). Better pasture conditions are reported in some southern areas along the border with Ethiopia as well as in central Tadjoura district which received unseasonal abundant rains at the beginning of June. In most inland areas, some improvements of pasture and water availability are expected in the coming months with the start of the “karan/karma” rains (July-September).

### Cereal prices are generally stable

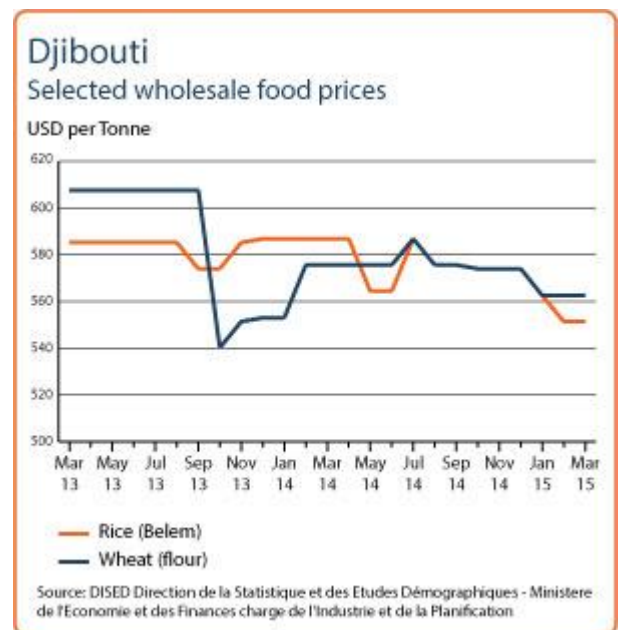
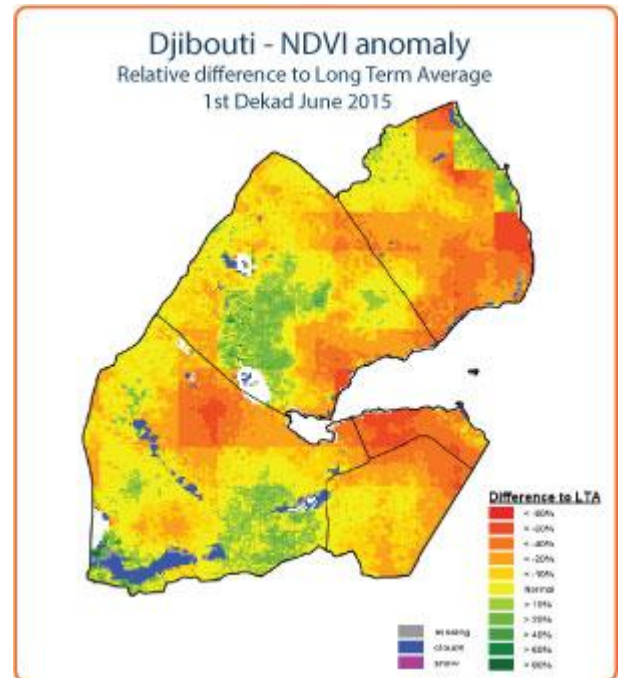
Wholesale prices of rice (Belem), mainly consumed in urban areas, declined by 4 percent between December 2014 and February 2015 and remained stable in March 2015 at USD 550 per tonne, about 6 percent below the levels of 12 months earlier. Similarly, wheat flour prices were stable in Djibouti wholesale market since early 2015 at USD 560 per tonne, about 2 percent below the level of one year earlier. By mid-June, at the beginning of the lean season, food prices are expected to further increase due to heightened demand during the Ramadan period.

Despite the slight reduction in cereal prices, the March 2015 aggregate food price index was 4.0 percent above the level of one year before, mainly due to a 10-11 percent increase in the price indexes of fish and spices.

### Deteriorating food security conditions in most pastoral areas following poor grazing resources

Approximately 120 000 people (about 15 percent of the population) are estimated to be severely food insecure, mainly in Obock district and in southeastern pastoral areas, and two-thirds of them are receiving humanitarian assistance. They include about 13 000 people that since March 2015 arrived in the country fleeing from the conflict in Yemen.

Food security conditions are progressively worsening following the cumulative impact of consecutive poor rainfall seasons that negatively impacted on livestock body conditions and milk production. In coastal pastoral areas, food security is expected to improve only by October, when the “heys/daada” rainy season starts concluding the June-September lean season and kidding/calving takes place.



Reference Date: 07-November-2014

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Good “karan/karma” rains benefitted inland pastoral areas
- Erratic rains affected Obock, Djibouti and Ali Sabih coastal districts
- Prices of cereals are generally stable
- Food security conditions deteriorate in most pastoral areas due to poor pasture conditions and declining humanitarian assistance

### Favourable “karan/karma” rains benefitted inland pastoral areas

The “karan/karma” rains (July-September) have been generally favourable, improving pasture and water availability in most inland pastoral areas of the country. However, erratic rains limited pasture regeneration in coastal pastoral areas of the Ali Sabih and Djibouti districts in the southeast as well as the Obock district in the north. In these areas, the “heys/dada” rainy season (October-February) has just started with a delay of two-three weeks and general improvements of grazing resources are expected in coming months as rains are forecast at average levels.

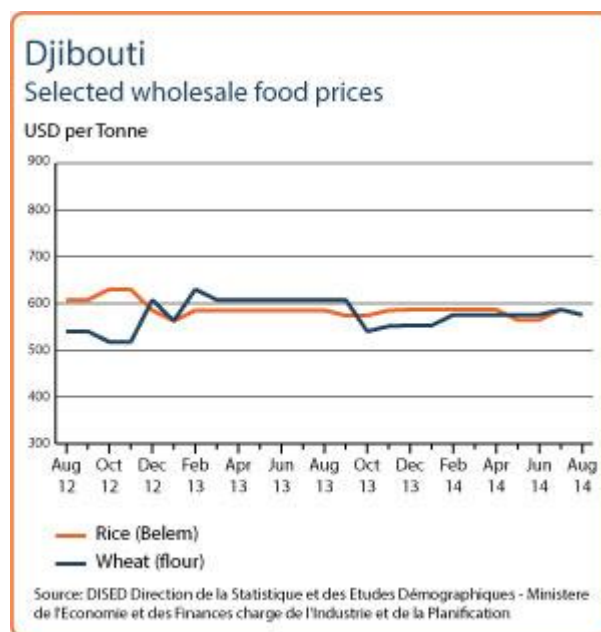
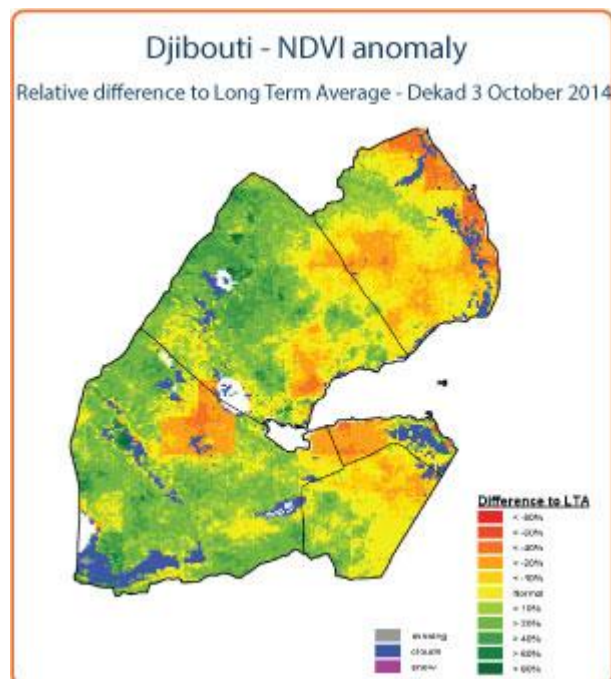
### Prices of cereals continue to be generally stable

Wholesale prices of wheat flour have been mostly stable since October 2013. In August 2014, wheat flour was traded in Djibouti wholesale market at USD 576 per tonne, about 2 percent below the level of one year earlier. Prices of rice (Belem), mainly consumed in urban areas, were also stable since November 2013 and slightly declined in August when, at USD 575 per tonne, they were about 2 percent below the levels of 12 months earlier.

The August 2014 aggregate food price index was 2.4 percent below the level of one year before, mainly due to a sharp reduction in the price index of legumes (-31 percent) which more than compensated for the increases in the price indexes of bread/cereals, meat, fish and spices (+5, 11, 16 and 11 percent, respectively).

### Food security conditions deteriorate in most pastoral areas following poor grazing resources and declining humanitarian assistance

About 120 000 people (about 15 percent of the population) are estimated to be severely food insecure, mainly in Obock district and in southeastern pastoral areas. Food security conditions have progressively deteriorated following consecutive poor rainfall seasons that negatively impacted on livestock body conditions and milk production. Since April 2014, humanitarian assistance was sharply reduced following budget shortfalls, with significant reduction in targeted beneficiaries and cutting food aid rations by half. Consequently, an increasing number of rural households rely mainly on transfers (in terms of cash and food) provided by relatives living in urban areas.



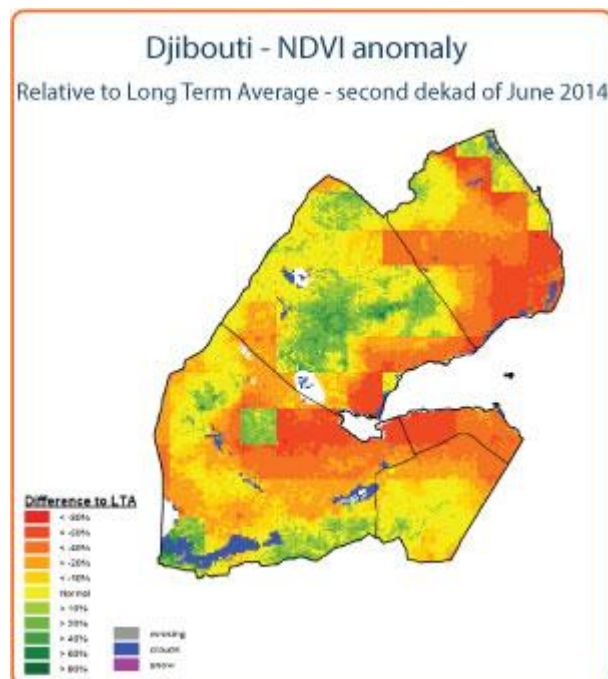
Reference Date: 1-July-2014

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Pasture and water availability affected in Obock, central and southeastern pastoral areas due to poor rains
- Prices of cereals are generally stable
- Food security conditions decline in most pastoral areas due to poor pasture conditions and declining humanitarian assistance

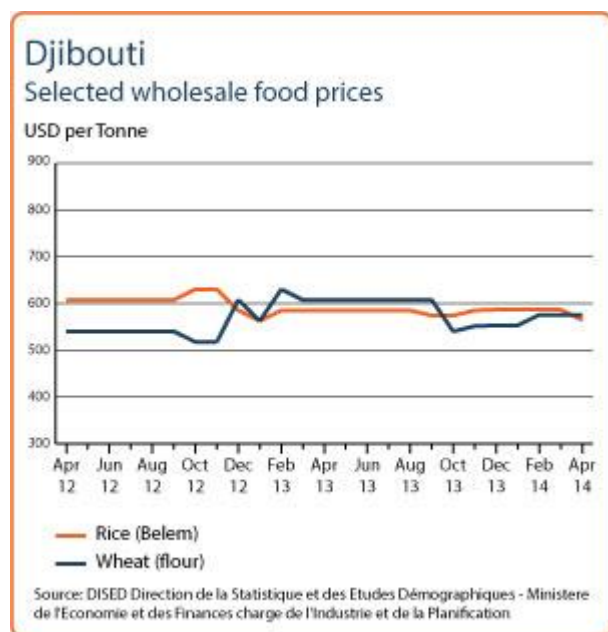
### Early depletion of grazing resources due to unfavourable rainy season

In Obock and central pastoral areas, the “diraac/sougum” rains (March-May) have been generally erratic, with significant dryness especially during April and early May, which led to an early depletion of grazing resources. In southeastern coastal areas, the main “heys/dada” rains (October-February) were near average but ceased early in January, with a negative impact on livestock productivity and crop production. According to satellite based vegetation condition analysis (see map) most affected areas are in northeastern Obock district, central Dikhil district and around Djibouti town, while better pasture conditions are reported (as of mid-June) in southern areas along the border with Ethiopia, up to the Abhe Bad Lake, as well as in central Tadjoura district. General improvements of pasture and water availability are expected in coming months as the “karan/karma” rains (July-September) are forecast at average levels.



### Prices of cereals are generally stable

Wholesale prices of wheat flour have been mostly stable since October 2013. In April 2014, wheat flour was traded in Djibouti wholesale market at USD 576 per tonne, 5 percent below the level of one year earlier. Prices of rice (Belem), mainly consumed in urban areas, were also stable since November 2013 and slightly declined in April, when, at USD 565 per tonne, they were about 4 percent below the levels of 12 months earlier. Food inflation was stable in recent months and in March 2014 the year-on-year food inflation rate was 2.9 percent.



### Food security conditions deteriorate in most pastoral areas following poor grazing resources and declining humanitarian assistance

About 120 000 people are estimated to be severely food insecure, mainly in Obock region and in southeastern pastoral areas. Food availability was affected following consecutive poor rainfall seasons that negatively impacted on livestock body conditions and milk production. Since April 2014, humanitarian assistance was sharply reduced following budget shortfalls, with significant reduction in targeted beneficiaries and cutting food aid rations by half. Significant number of households that mainly depend on humanitarian assistance were affected. In addition, food access is expected to be tighter during the July/August lean season as wage labour opportunities diminish with the start of the holiday season for most employers that travel to neighbouring countries to avoid the intense heat. Remittances from abroad during the fasting month of Ramadan and subsequent Eid holiday in July/August may partially help some families.



Reference Date: 11-February-2014

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Two consecutive favourable rainy season benefited pasture and livestock
- Prices of cereals are stable while vegetable prices decline
- Improvements seen in food access for vulnerable pastoralists, but food assistance is still needed

### Two consecutive favourable rainy season benefited livestock body conditions

The October 2013 to February 2014 “xays/dadaa” rains have been generally adequate and well distributed so far, despite their slightly delayed onset. In addition, the earlier July to September 2013 “karan/karma” rains performed favourably resulting in improved pasture, browse, and water availability, which benefited livestock body conditions.

### Prices of cereals stable at high levels while declines were observed in prices of vegetables

Wholesale prices of wheat flour have been stable since March 2013. In October 2013, wheat flour was traded in Djibouti wholesale market slightly more than USD 600 per tonne, 17 percent above the level of one year earlier. Prices of rice (Belem), mainly consumed in urban areas, were stable since the beginning of 2013 at USD 585 per tonne.

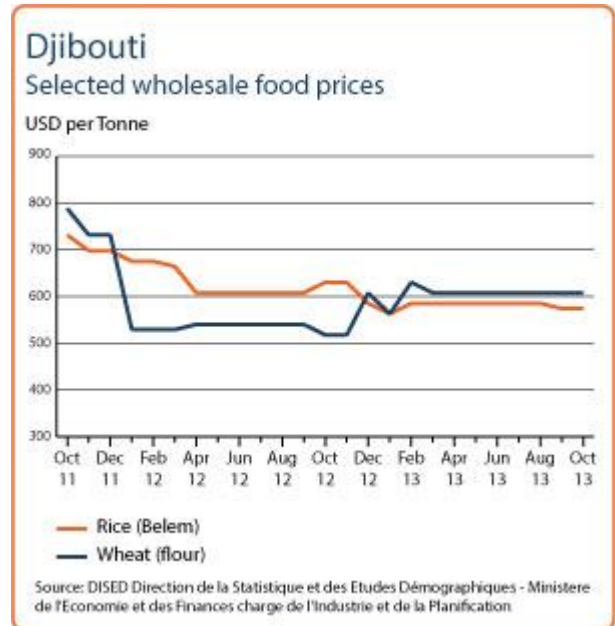
In October 2013, food inflation declined by 2.2 percent compared to September, mainly due to decreasing prices of vegetables (legumes, tomatoes, eggplants, etc).

### Improvements in food access for pastoralists, but food assistance is still required

Following two consecutive favourable rainy seasons, pastoralists have seen improvements in their food access, but they generally remain Stressed (IPC phase 2), due to the lingering effects of the recurrent droughts in recent years.

However, in parts of the Southeast livelihood zone (Arta, Ali Sabieh, Dikhil regions) and of the Central livelihood zone (Tadjourah and Obock regions), an early cessation of rains in the first week of December caused an earlier than normal depletion of pasture, and unusually cold temperatures since November increased the incidence of human diseases such tuberculosis and livestock diseases like pneumonia. As a result, in these areas, households' food security would have deteriorated from the “Stressed” level, had it not been for the provision of food assistance.

In addition, about 18 000 Somali refugees are hosted in refugee camps and are highly food insecure.



Reference Date: 23-September-2013

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Good “karan/karma” rains in August/September improved pasture and water availability in north-western pastoral areas
- A long and harsh lean season (June to September) affected pastoral households in south-east and the Obock region
- Cereal prices are stable, while prices of imported vegetables increased significantly between March and June 2013
- Food security remains critical for pastoralists in the south-east and for most poor urban households

### Food security conditions improve in north-west, but remains poor in south-east and urban areas

Favourable “karan/karma” rains (July-September) improved pasture conditions and water availability in most north-western inland pastoral areas. By contrast, well below average “diraac/soughoum” rains (March-June) have affected rangeland resources in south-eastern border areas and the Obock region in the north-east, resulting in an early start of the lean season. In these areas, livestock body conditions and productivity have declined from July onwards and improvements are not expected until next October with the onset of the “heys/dada” rainy season (October-February).

### Prices are stable for cereal but significant increase observed for vegetables

Wholesale prices of wheat flour have been quite stable since December 2012. In June 2013, wheat flour was traded in Djibouti wholesale market slightly more than USD 600 per tonne, about 12.5 percent above the level of one year before, but still about 25 percent below the record level of about USD 800 per tonne registered during most of year 2011. Prices of rice (Belem), mainly consumed in urban areas, were stable since the beginning of 2013 at USD 585 per tonne. However, prices of fresh vegetables (onions, tomatoes, eggplants, etc...), which represents about 15 percent of the local food basket, have increased by about 50 percent between March and June 2013. The increase is mainly due to the unfavourable production of vegetables gathered in some areas of Ethiopia that export their products to Djibouti.

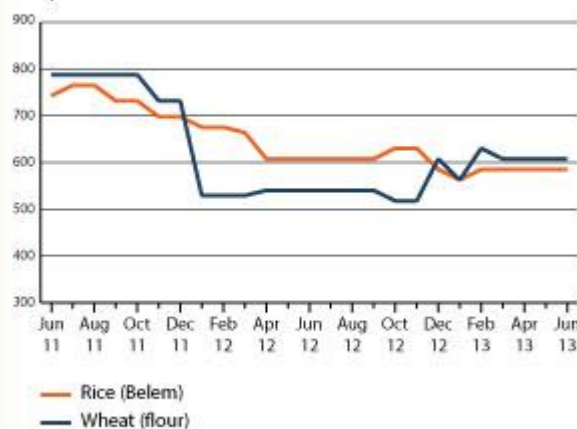
### Significant number of people in need of humanitarian assistance

The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance is estimated at about 70 000, nearly 8 percent of the population. Most households affected by severe and moderate food insecurity are concentrated in rural areas of Ali Sabieh, Dikhil and Obock districts. High levels of food insecurity are mainly associated with low income, limited job opportunities, high food prices and several consecutive failed rainy seasons. Food aid is often the main source of nutrition for poor households, covering between 50 and 70 percent of their needs. Food security conditions are also precarious for poor urban dwellers in and around Djibouti Ville, where unemployment rate is estimated at about 46 percent. In addition, about 23 000 people, mainly from Somalia, are hosted in refugee camps and are highly food insecure.

### Djibouti

#### Selected wholesale food prices

USD per Tonne



Source: DISED Direction de la Statistique et des Etudes Démographiques - Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances chargé de l'Industrie et de la Planification

Reference Date: 12-February-2013

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

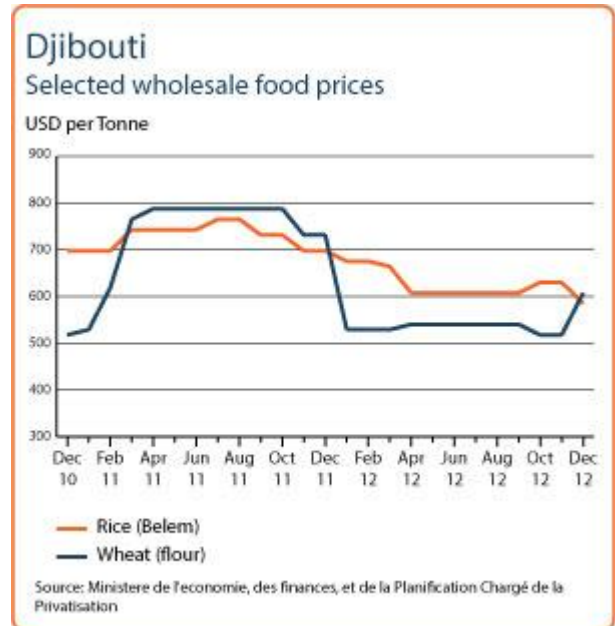
- Poor “heys/dada” rains affect rangeland conditions and water availability in south-eastern areas and the Obock region
- Food prices are stable and below average, but food security remains critical for pastoralists and poor urban households

### Alarming levels of food insecurity for pastoral communities and poor urban households

Well below average “heys/dada” rains (October-February) in south-eastern border areas and the Obock region in the north-east have affected rangeland conditions and water availability. However, the positive impact of the relatively abundant “karan/karma” rains received between July and October 2012 in most north-western inland areas is still evident in terms of access to pasture and water as well as livestock body conditions.

Wholesale prices of wheat flour, which had been stable at low levels since the beginning of 2012, increased from November to December 2012 by 17 percent. However, at DJF 5 400 per sac of 50 kg, prices are still about 25 percent below the high levels recorded in 2011. Prices of rice (Belem), mainly consumed in urban areas, were stable during second semester of 2012 and, last December, rice was traded in Djibouti market at DJF 5 200, about 17 percent less than one year earlier.

The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance is estimated at about 70 000 people, nearly 8 percent of the population. These vulnerable people are mainly concentrated in rural areas of Ali Sabieh, Arta, Dikhil, Obock and Tadjourah districts that have been affected by several consecutive failed rainy seasons, with significant reduction in herds size and limited availability of milk. Food aid is the main source of nutrition in these areas, covering between 50 and 70 percent of local needs. Food security conditions are also precarious for poor urban dwellers in and around Djibouti Ville, where unemployment rate is estimated at about 46 percent. In addition, about 26 000 people, mainly from Somalia, are hosted in refugee camps and are highly food insecure.



Reference Date: 25-July-2012

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

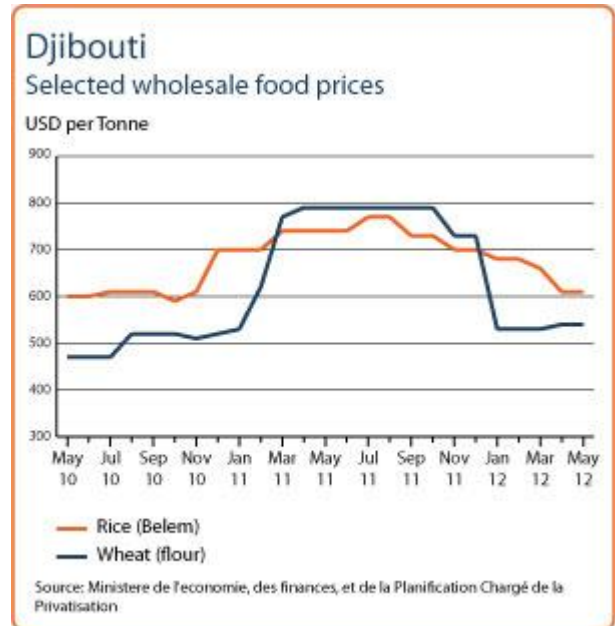
- Consecutive poor rainy seasons have severely affected rangeland conditions and water availability
- Food prices ease, but food security remains critical for pastoralists and poor urban households

### Alarming levels of food insecurity for pastoral communities and poor urban households

Well below average “diraa/sougoum” rains (March to May) followed unfavourable “heys/dada” rains (October-February), with severe depletion of rangeland conditions and water availability in most pastoral areas. Increases in salinity levels of several water points are reported, especially in Ali Sabieh district. Animal body conditions are generally poor and milk production is very low. The “karan/karma” rains (July to October) have not yet started in inland areas and it is likely that the hunger season, that normally goes from June to August, will be prolonged.

Wholesale prices of wheat flour have stabilized since the beginning of the year at about DJF 4 800 per sac of 50 kg and are between 25 and 30 percent below the high levels registered during 2011. Prices of rice (Belem), mainly consumed in urban areas, have steadily declined since August 2011 and, in June 2012, rice was traded in Djibouti city at DJF 5 400, about 13 percent less than one year earlier.

The total estimated population in need of humanitarian assistance is set at 206 000 people, about 22 percent of the population. They are essentially small-scale farmers and herders living in rural areas of Ali Sabieh, Arta, Dikhil, Obock and Tadjourah districts that have been affected by several consecutive failed rainy seasons and poor urban dwellers that are concentrated in and around Djibouti Ville. In addition, about 21 000 people, mainly from Somalia and Yemen, are hosted in refugee camps and are highly food insecure.



Reference Date: 20-March-2012

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Poor “heys/dada” rains (October to March) in southern coastal areas affect rangeland conditions and water availability
- Food security remains critical for pastoralists and poor urban households

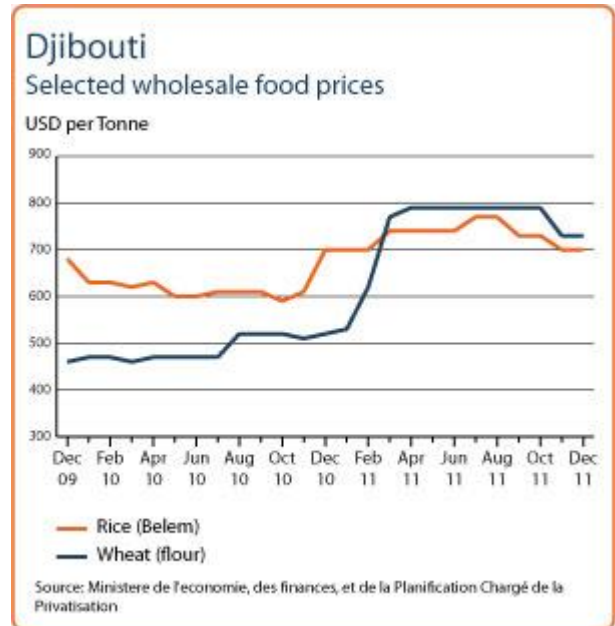
### Food security situation is still critical for pastoral communities and poor urban households

Rangeland conditions and water availability in southern coastal areas have been negatively affected by unfavourable “heys/dada” rains (October-February) that generally started 3-4 weeks later than usual and had an erratic performance. Conversely, good amounts of rain have been registered in northern coastal areas of Tadjourah district during January and February.

In pastoral inland areas, the long annual dry season is about to end with the arrival of “diraac/sougum” rains (March to May) and early meteorological forecasts point to high likelihood of below to near normal rainfall amounts.

Despite a slight decline at the end of 2011, prices of main staple commodities remained generally well above the level of 12 months earlier. In wholesale markets of Djibouti city, average price of wheat flour increased by 41 percent between December 2010 and December 2011. At about USD 730 per tonne, the December 2011 price of wheat flour is only 7.5 percent below the peak reached in July 2008, driven by high international wheat prices, the Ethiopian cereal export ban and high local transportation costs due to high fuel prices.

The total estimated population in need of humanitarian assistance is set at about 180 000 people. They are essentially small-scale farmers and herders living in northwest and southeast areas that have been affected by several consecutive failed rainy seasons and poor urban dwellers whose access to food is hampered by high prices, low remittances and reduced employment opportunities. In addition, about 21 000 people, mainly from Somalia and Yemen, are hosted in refugee camps and are highly food insecure.



Reference Date: 10-January-2012

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Following a poor karma/karan rainy season (July to September), inland pastoral areas entered the long dry period
- Poor start of “heys/dada” rains (October to March) in coastal areas affected rangeland conditions
- Food security likely to deteriorate for pastoralists and poor urban households until March

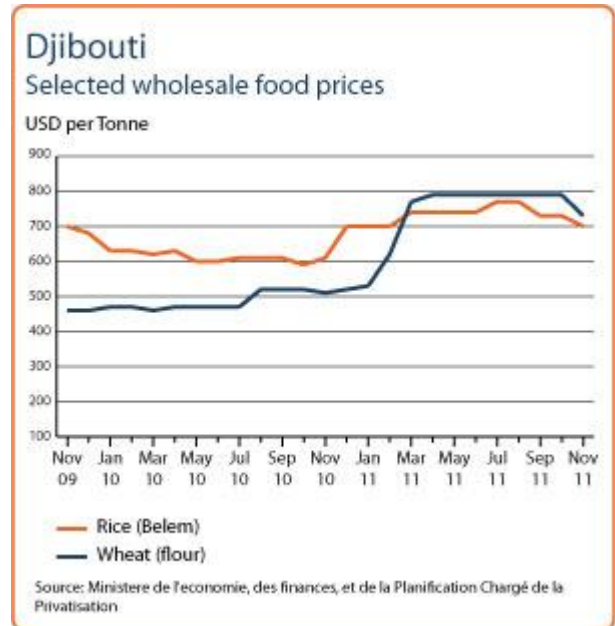
### Food security situation remains critical for pastoral households and urban areas

In north-western and south-eastern pastoral areas, the 2011 karma/karan rains (July-September) were late and erratic, leading to poor rangeland conditions. Livestock body conditions are generally poor, with high mortality, low birth rates (especially for goats and camels) and low milk production. The situation is not expected to improve in the coming months as the long dry season sets in, particularly given the impact of several successive failed seasons. Rangeland conditions in coastal areas have been negatively affected by the poor start of the “heys/dada” rains (October-February).

Despite a slight decline in recent months, prices of main staple commodities stay generally well above the level of 12 months before. In wholesale markets of Djibouti city, average price of wheat flour increased by 44 percent between November 2010 and November 2011. At about USD 730 per tonne, the November 2011 price of wheat flour is only 7.5 percent below the peak reached in July 2008, driven by high international wheat prices, the Ethiopian cereal export ban and high local transportation costs due to high fuel prices.

The total estimated population in need of humanitarian assistance is set at about 210 000 people. This includes about 120 000 small-scale farmers and herders living in northwest and southeast areas, about 60 000 urban dwellers affected by high food prices, low remittances and reduced employment opportunities, and about 30 000 refugees and asylum-seekers (mainly from Somalia and Yemen) hosted in camps.

After several consecutive failed rainy seasons, herd sizes have been reduced dramatically especially in north-western and south-eastern pastoral areas, reducing households' income and food sources. The recent governmental ban on charcoal production and firewood collection has further reduced households' livelihood strategies. In most cases, it is estimated that food aid is meeting approximately 50 percent of annual household food needs.



Reference Date: 04-Novembre-2011

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Following a poor karma/karan rainy season (July to September), inland pastoral areas entered the long dry period
- Better rangeland conditions expected in coastal areas as heys/dada rains (October to March) perform well
- Food security likely to deteriorate for pastoralists and poor urban households until March next year

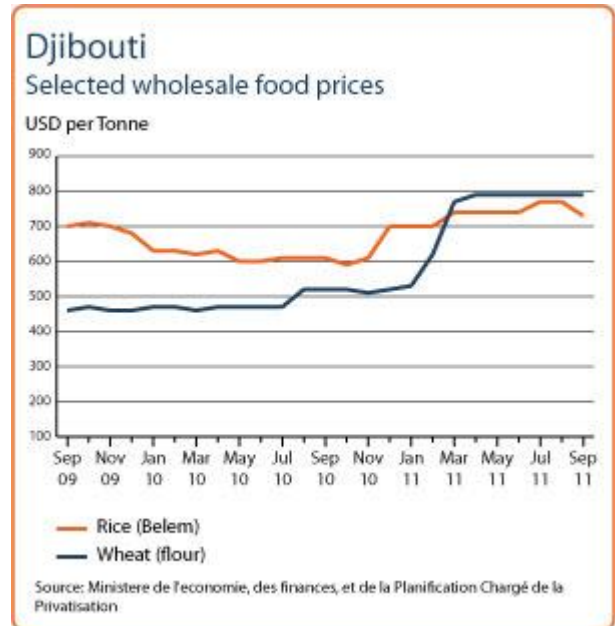
### Food security situation likely to deteriorate

In north-western and south-eastern pastoral areas, the 2011 karma/karan rains (July-September) were late and erratic, leading to poor rangeland conditions. Livestock body conditions are generally poor, with high mortality, low birth rates (especially for goats and camels) and low milk production. Further deterioration is expected as the typical long dry season runs from October to March. Minor improvements are however expected in coastal areas, where heys/dada rains (October-March) are forecast at above average levels and may contribute to the replenishment of pasture and water catchments. Significant migration of livestock to coastal grazing areas is expected leading to increased competition for limited resources and increasing risks of transmission of animal diseases.

Prices of main staple commodities have generally increased since late last year. In wholesale markets of Djibouti city, average price of wheat flour increased by 56 percent between November 2010 and April 2011, and levelled off from May onwards. At about USD 790 per tonne, the current price of wheat flour is almost similar to the peak reached in July 2008, driven by high international wheat prices, the Ethiopian cereal export ban and high local transportation costs due to high fuel prices.

The total estimated population in need of humanitarian assistance is set at about 210 000 people. This includes about 120 000 small-scale farmers and herders living in northwest and southeast areas, about 60 000 urban dwellers affected by high food prices, low remittances and reduced employment opportunities, and about 30 000 refugees and asylum-seekers (mainly from Somalia and Yemen) hosted in camps.

After several consecutive failed rainy seasons, herd sizes have been reduced dramatically especially in north-western and south-eastern pastoral areas, reducing households' income and food sources. The recent governmental ban on charcoal production and firewood collection has further reduced households' livelihood strategies. In most cases, it is estimated that food aid is meeting approximately 50 percent of annual household food needs.



Reference Date: 25-July-2011

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Following a poor Diraac/sougum rainy season (March to May), the country is in the midst of a prolonged hunger season (normally June to August)
- Food security likely to deteriorate for pastoralists and poor urban households until later in the year

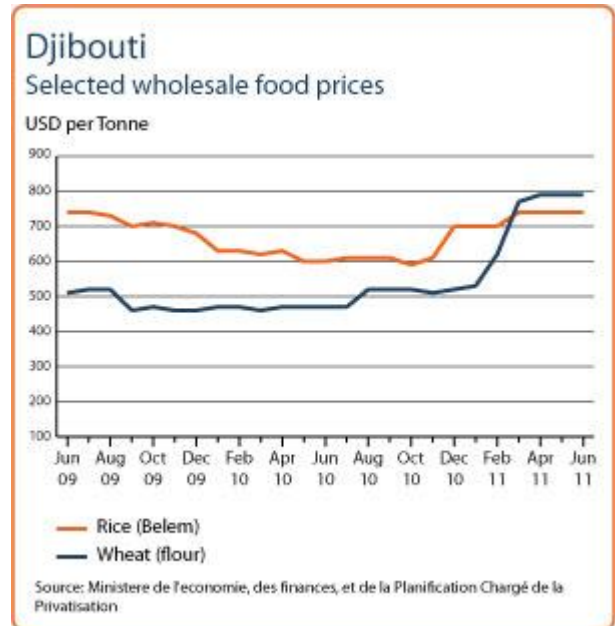
### Food security situation likely to deteriorate

The poor performance of diraac/sougum rainy season is expected to negatively impact the overall food security situation, mainly of pastoralists, at least until later in the year.

Prices of main staple commodities have generally increased since late last year. In wholesale markets of Djibouti city, average price of wheat flour increased by 56 percent between November 2010 and April 2011, and levelled off in May and June. At about USD 790 per tonne, the price of wheat flour is at the same level of the peaks of July 2008, during the food price crisis.

In addition, fuel prices are at high levels, and in June 2011 kerosene prices were 25 percent higher than in June 2010 and 47 percent above the five-year average.

Some 147 000 people, mainly small-scale farmers and herders living in northwest, southeast parts of the country, are estimated to be requiring humanitarian assistance following four consecutive poor rainy seasons that resulted in substantial decline in livestock holdings and severely disrupted local livelihood systems. Food insecurity is also expected to increase in urban areas where access to food for poor households is limited by high food prices, low remittances and few employment opportunities. The situation is likely to be aggravated further as a result of increasing numbers of asylum-seekers entering Djibouti due to violence and instability in south-central Somalia (16 560 refugees as of 31 May 2011).





Reference Date: 18-May-2011

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Poor 2011 diraac/sougum rains (March to May) affect pastoral households
- Food security conditions likely to deteriorate further until the start of the next rainy season in June/July

### Unfavourable prospects for diraac/sougum rains

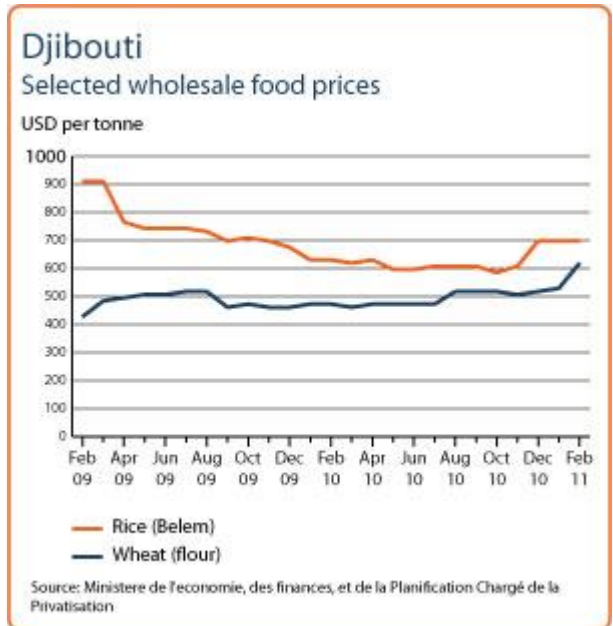
The 2011 diraac/sougum rains (March to May) started late in pastoral inland areas, especially in western Dikhil region, and have so far been very scarce and poorly distributed. This follows the failed 2010/11 heys/dada rainy season (October to February), further deteriorating pasture and water availability with negative consequences on animal body conditions and milk production. High livestock mortality rates were reported, in particular in northwest and southeast inland areas that essentially depend on water catchments.

### Food security situation likely to deteriorate

In most pastoral areas, 2011 lean season has started in April, about two months earlier than normal. Overall, the food security situation has gradually worsened in the last several months and it is not expected to improve before June/July, when the 2011 karan/karma rainy season is expected to begin in inland areas.

Prices of main staple commodities have generally increased since late last year. In wholesale markets of Djibouti city, average price of wheat flour increased by 17 percent between January and February 2011, reaching about USD 620 per tonne, well above the average price of USD 400 in mid-2007, just before the food price crisis.

Some 120 000 people, mainly small-scale farmers and herders living in northwest, central and south-eastern parts of the country are estimated to be requiring humanitarian assistance following four consecutive poor rainy seasons that resulted in substantial decline in livestock holdings and severely disrupted local livelihood systems. In addition, the high cost of transportation, driven by rising fuel prices, is becoming a major constraint to food access in remote areas. Food insecurity of households requiring food assistance may increase from June as WFP food aid pipeline is expected to face a break due to shortages in incoming supplies. Food insecurity is also expected to increase in urban areas where access to food for poor households is limited by high food prices, low remittances and few employment opportunities.



Reference Date: 18-April-2011

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Diraac/sougum rains started late and weather forecasts are not favourable until May
- Food security likely to deteriorate for pastoralists and poor urban households until June/July

### Unfavourable prospects for diraac/sougum rains

The onset of diraac/sougum rains (March to May) is late in pastoral inland areas, especially in western Dikhil region where the season is usually expected to start at the end of March. Early meteorological forecasts point to below average rains along the season, with likely negative impact on pasture and water availability. Animal body conditions and production of milk, an important source of food for pastoralists, are also expected to worsen.

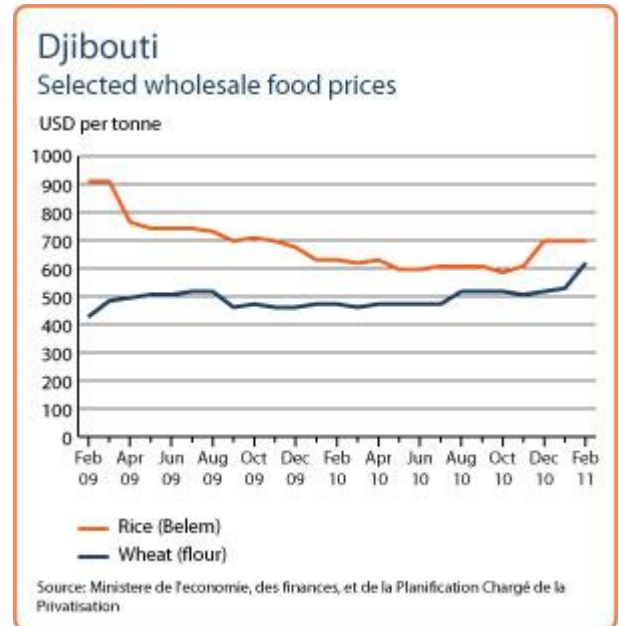
Relatively improved rains were reported around the capital city and coastal areas and are expected to improve local water and pasture conditions. If these rains continue in the following weeks. Significant livestock migrations toward these areas may occur with clustering of animals in limited zones and consequent risk of spreading diseases and escalating conflicts on the use of grazing resources.

### Food security situation likely to deteriorate

The poor performance of diraac/sougum rainy season is expected to negatively impact the overall food security situation, mainly of pastoralists. at least until June/July 2011, when karan/karma rains usually begin in inland areas.

Prices of main staple commodities have generally increased since late last year. In wholesale markets of Djibouti city, average price of wheat flour increased by 17 percent between January and February 2011, reaching about USD 620 per tonne, well above the average price of USD 400 in mid-2007, just before the food price crisis.

Some 120 000 people, mainly small-scale farmers and herders living in northwest, central and southeast parts of the country, are estimated to be requiring humanitarian assistance following four consecutive poor rainy seasons that resulted in substantial decline in livestock holdings and severely disrupted local livelihood systems. Food insecurity is also expected to increase in urban areas where access to food for poor households is limited by high food prices, low remittances and few employment opportunities.



Reference Date: 2-February-2011

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Poor performance of 2010 heys/dada rainy season negatively affect livelihood systems in pastoral areas
- Food security likely to deteriorate for pastoralists and poor urban households

### Poor heys/dada rains affected pastoral areas

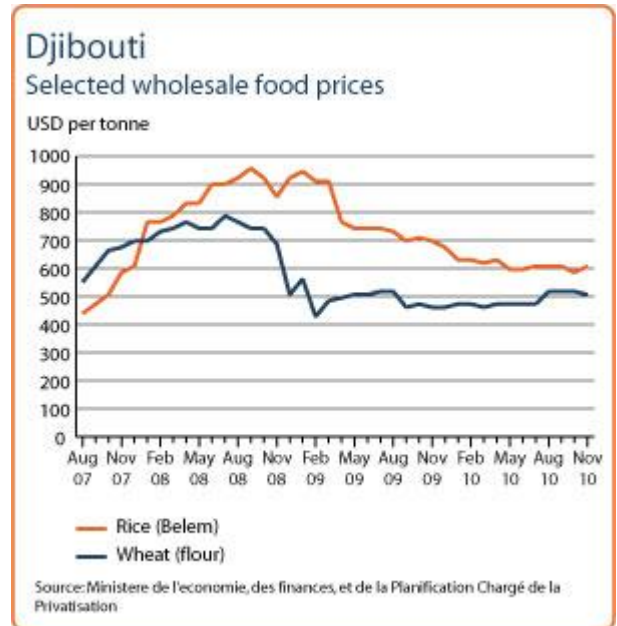
Poor heys/dada season rains (October 2010-February 2011) have negatively affected pasture and water availability, especially in coastal pastoral areas. These areas also received below average diraa/sougum rains between March and April 2010 that caused a substantial decrease in goat milk production. Better heys/dada rains have been registered only in mountain areas of Moussa Ali and western parts of Dikhil district.

Dry weather conditions are also prevailing in northwest and southeast pastoral inland areas where, despite the positive effects of abundant karan/karma rains between July and October 2010, grazing resources are being quickly depleted. Clustering of livestock around limited grazing areas and increasing trekking distances are also widely reported. Animal body conditions and milk production are worsening and livestock mortality is expected to increase in the coming months as the 2011 diraac/sougoum rainy season starting in March is forecast to be also poor.

### Food security situation expected to deteriorate

If the performance of next diraac/sougoum rainy season turns out to be poor, as forecast, food security situation will gradually deteriorate until July/August 2011, when karan/karma rains usually begin in inland areas. Prices of main staple commodities, such as wheat flour, rice and sugar, are currently stable but still well above average levels, limiting households' access to food. Wholesale price of rice (belem) in Djibouti market stabilized around USD 600 per tonne at the end of 2010, compared to approximately USD 400 per tonne in mid-2007, just before the food price crisis.

Some 140 000 people, mainly in northwest, central and southeast areas, are estimated to be requiring humanitarian assistance following four consecutive poor rainy seasons that resulted in substantial decline in livestock holdings and severely disrupted local livelihood systems. Food insecurity is also expected to be heightened for poor urban households due to high food prices and high unemployment rates.



Reference Date: 17-December-2010

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Poor heys/dada rains affected mainly coastal pastoral areas
- Food security for pastoralists expected to deteriorate until the beginning of next rainy season in March/April 2011

### Poor heys/dada rains affect pastoral areas

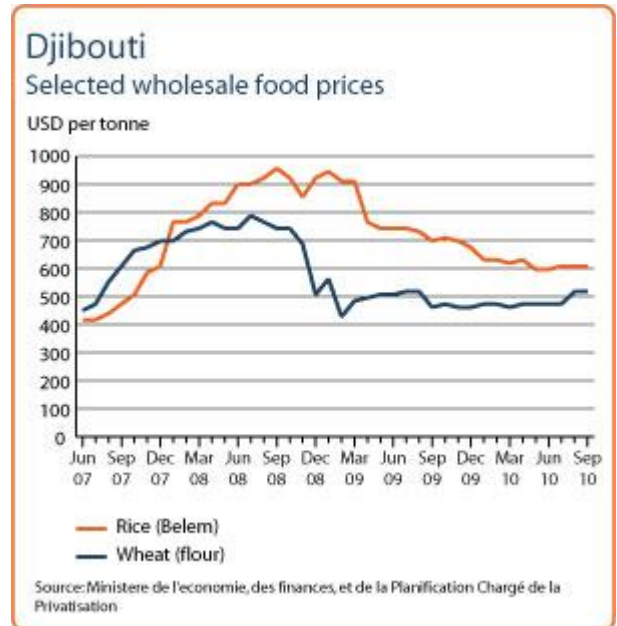
Poor heys/dada precipitations are negatively affecting pasture and water availability, especially in coastal pastoral areas. These areas also received below average diraa/sougoum rains between March and April 2010 that caused a substantial decrease in goat milk production. Dry weather conditions are also prevailing in northwest and southeast pastoral inland areas where, despite the positive effects of good karan/karma rains between July and October, grazing resources are being quickly depleted and may not last until the beginning of diraa/sougoum rainy season in March 2011. Clustering of livestock around limited grazing areas and increasing trekking distances are already taking place. Better heys/dada rains have been registered only in mountain areas of Moussa Ali and western Dikhil district.

The expected development of La Niña meteorological phenomenon in the coming months, bringing drier-than-normal weather conditions, is likely to worsen the current situation.

### Food security situation expected to deteriorate

In general, the food security situation of pastoralists is expected to deteriorate until March 2011, the start of diraa/sougoum rains. Prices of main staple commodities, such as wheat flour, rice and sugar, remain well above average levels, limiting food access for pastoral households. In particular, wholesale price of rice (belem) in Djibouti market stabilized around USD 600 per tonne since the beginning of 2010, compared to approximately USD 400 per tonne in mid-2007, just before the food price crisis.

In rural areas, some 120 000 people are estimated to be requiring humanitarian assistance following four poor rainy seasons that caused a substantial decline in livestock holdings and severely disrupted local livelihood systems. Food insecurity is reported also at extreme levels for about 60 000 poor urban households due to above average food prices, high unemployment and reduced remittances.



Reference Date: 18-October-2010

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable rains bring relief to drought-affected pastoral areas
- About 180 000 people are estimated to be in need of emergency assistance until the end of 2010

### Good Karan/Karma rains benefit pastoral areas

Despite some delay in the onset in July, Karan/Karma rains have been good in terms of quantity and distribution. Pasture, browse and water availability have improved throughout the country and especially in western districts and Central Highlands. Recent rains have replenished water catchments, especially in the south, and animal body conditions are improving. Hays/Dada rains have just started on coastal areas and they are forecast to be below average until the end of the year, with likely negative effects on grazing resources.

### Food insecurity of large number of people remains

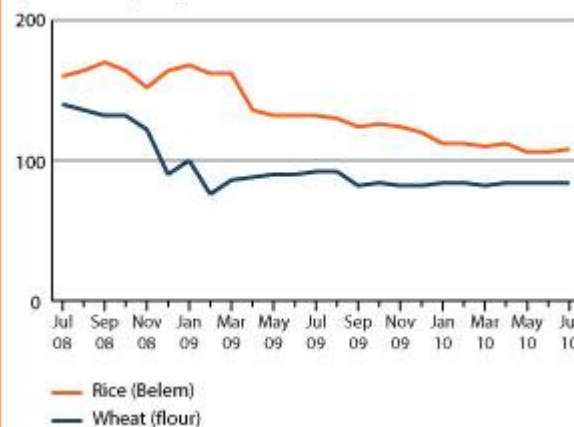
Food security of pastoralists is generally improving due to better availability of milk following the recent start of kidding of goats. Access to food by pastoral households is expected to further improve in the coming months due to more favourable terms of trade with improving animal body conditions.

However, in rural areas, some 120 000 people are still requiring humanitarian assistance until the end of the year following several poor rainy seasons that caused a substantial decline in livestock holdings and severely disrupted local livelihood systems. Food insecurity is reported also at extreme levels for about 60 000 poor urban households due to above average prices of main staples (cereals in particular), low casual labour opportunities and reduced remittances.

### Djibouti

#### Selected wholesale food prices

Djibouti Franc per kg



Source: Ministère de l'économie, des finances, et de la Planification Chargé de la Privatisation

Reference Date: 02-September-2010

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable rains bring relief to drought-affected pastoral areas
- About 180 000 people are estimated to be in need of emergency assistance until the end of 2010

### Good rains benefit most pastoral areas

Good rains from March to May 2010 have improved availability of pasture, browse and water, especially in pastoral areas of southern provinces of Dikhil, Arta and western parts of Tadjourah and Ali Sabieh. With an early onset in July, average to above average Karan/Karma rains are generally improving the food security situation, especially in Northwest and Southeast pastoral zones.

### Food insecurity of large number of people remains

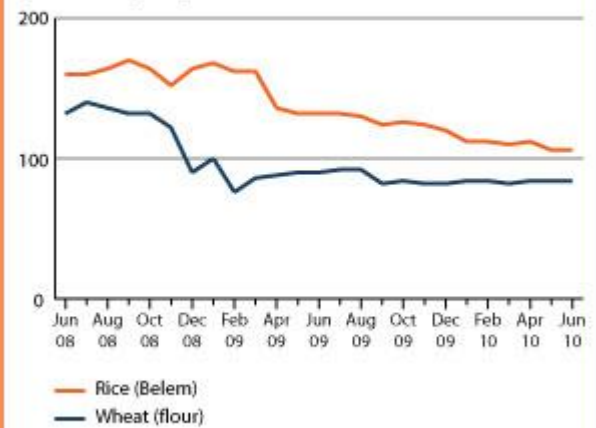
Food security of pastoralists is generally improving due to better availability of milk following the recent start of kidding of goats. Access to food by pastoral households is expected to further improve in the coming months due to more favourable terms of trade with improving animal body conditions.

However, in rural areas, some 120 000 people are still requiring humanitarian assistance until the end of the year following several poor rainy seasons that severely disrupted local livelihood systems. Food insecurity is also at extreme levels for about 60 000 poor urban households due to above average prices of main staples (cereals in particular), low casual labour opportunities and reduced remittances. This situation is expected to show some improvements in the coming weeks as income generating sectors (mainly petty trade, construction and port activities) are resuming after the break due to summer holidays.

### Djibouti

#### Selected wholesale food prices

Djibouti Franc per kg



Source: Ministère de l'économie, des finances, et de la Planification Chargé de la Privatisation

Reference Date: 06-August-2010

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable rains bring relief to drought-affected pastoral areas
- About 180 000 people are estimated to be in need of emergency assistance until the end of 2010

### Good rains benefit most pastoral areas

Good Rains from March to May 2010 have improved availability of pasture, browse and water, especially in pastoral areas of southern provinces of Dikhil, Arta and western parts of Tadjourah and Ali Sabieh. Animal body conditions and milk production have started to improve and, if Karan/Karma rains continue until September, further improvements are expected to take place.

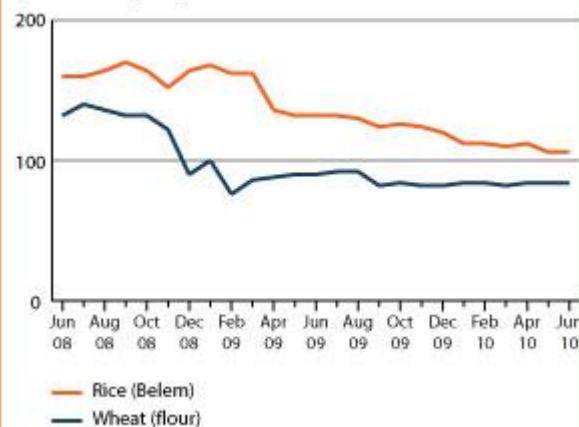
### Food insecurity of large number of people remains

In general, despite the good performance of the current season, the overall food security situation continues to be critical, especially in Northwest and Southeast pastoral areas where several poor rainy seasons reduced herd sizes and the persistence of high food prices progressively eroded the ability to access food. In these areas, food security is expected to improve from September, when kidding of goats will improve milk availability and the demand for labour increases following the summer holidays. Food insecurity is at extreme levels for poor urban households due to the high prices of staples, high unemployment rates and reduced remittances. The number of vulnerable people requiring humanitarian assistance until the end of the year is estimated at 180 000 people, two thirds of whom is located in rural areas and one third in urban areas.

### Djibouti

#### Selected wholesale food prices

Djibouti Franc per kg



Source: Ministère de l'économie, des finances, et de la Planification Chargé de la Privatisation

Reference Date: 04-June-2010

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable rains bring relief to drought-affected pastoral areas
- About 360 000 people estimated to be in need of emergency assistance

### Favourable rains mitigate food insecurity in southern pastoral areas

Rains in March and April 2010 have improved availability of pasture, browse and water in pastoral areas of southern provinces of Dikhil, Arta and western parts of Tadjourah and Ali Sabieh. However, drier conditions and water shortages persist in northern province of Obock. Animal body conditions and milk production have slightly improved, but further improvements are not expected until the start of the Karan/Karma rains (July to September).

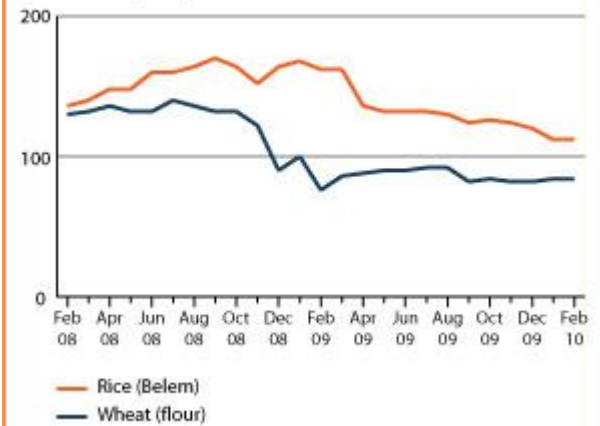
### Food insecurity of large number of people remains

In general, the overall food security situation, and especially that of pastoralists, continues to be critical due to the substantial reduction in their herd size. This follows several poor rainy seasons and the persistence of high food prices that progressively eroded the ability to access food, especially by the most vulnerable groups. Despite recent improvements, a full recovery of pastoral livelihoods would require subsequent years of favourable weather conditions. Food insecurity is expected to remain critical in the coming months also for poor urban households due to high prices of staple food, high unemployment rates and reduced remittances. The number of people requiring humanitarian assistance is currently estimated at 360 000 people, about 40 percent of total population, one third of whom is located in rural areas and two thirds in urban areas.

### Djibouti

#### Selected wholesale food prices

Djibouti Franc per kg



Source: Ministère de l'économie, des finances, et de la Planification Chargé de la Privatisation



Reference Date: 13-April-2010

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable rains bring relief to drought-affected pastoral areas
- 120 000 people estimated to be in need of emergency assistance

## Favourable rains mitigate food insecurity in pastoral areas

Unseasonable rains in late February together with an early onset of the 2010 Diraac/Sougoum rainy season are improving the availability of pasture, browse and water especially in pastoral coastal areas. Far from guaranteeing the full recovery of the livestock sector that will require a longer period of favourable weather conditions, the current situation is likely to have a positive impact on animal body conditions and milk productivity, increasing sale opportunities and income generation.

The pastoral economy is likely to face increased competition in livestock trade after the decision in November 2009 by Saudi Arabia to lift the nine-year embargo on the livestock originating from Somalia. In addition, some livestock exports from Ethiopia may be routed away from Djibouti, to be transported by truck to the port of Berbera in Somaliland.

## Food insecurity remains high in coming months

In general, the overall food security situation, and especially that of pastoralists, continues to be serious due to the substantial reduction in the herd size following several poor rainy seasons and to the persisting high food prices that progressively have reduced access to food for the most vulnerable groups. The number of people requiring emergency food and non-food aid is currently estimated at 120 000 people, representing about half of the rural population. Food insecurity among poor urban households is also expected to remain high during the coming months due to high prices of staple food, high unemployment rates and reduced remittances.

Reference Date: 11-February-2010

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Extreme food insecurity in North-West and South-East
- 100 000 people estimated to be in need of emergency assistance

### Dry weather affects pastoralists

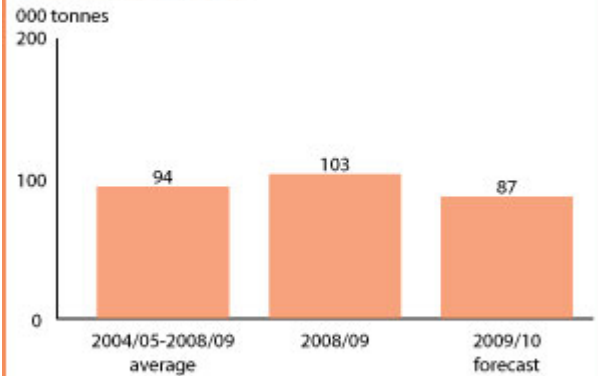
The pastoral groups in the border zones of the North-West and South-east are in a situation of extreme food insecurity because of the low intensity and poor spatial distribution of the current "heys/dada" rains (October to February) and the high prices of main staple food commodities. Livestock body conditions are poor due to the shortage of water and pasture, some deaths have already been reported and their price is currently very low. Milk production is very low and sales are below average, especially for camels. It is reported that, especially in the South-east, pastoralists are intensifying the production of charcoal and firewood to compensate for the income loss from livestock. Livestock exports may be also affected by increased competition from Somalia due to the recent decision of Saudi Arabia of lifting the embargo on the cattle coming from Somalia.

### Rising food insecurity in the next few months

The hunger season that usually starts in June is expected to begin quite earlier as a consequence of the poor Karan/Karam rains (July to September) followed by very poor Heys/Dada rains (Oct-Feb), coupled with high food prices. The next rainy season Diraac/Sougoum (March to May) is forecast to be average but the recovery of livestock products will be slow as it requires longer period to achieve full recovery. In the next few months, the number of rural people requiring emergency food and non-food aid is expected to reach approximately 100 000. Food insecurity among poor urban households will also remain high during the coming months due to high prices of staple food and water, low income and high unemployment rates.

### Djibouti

#### Total cereal imports

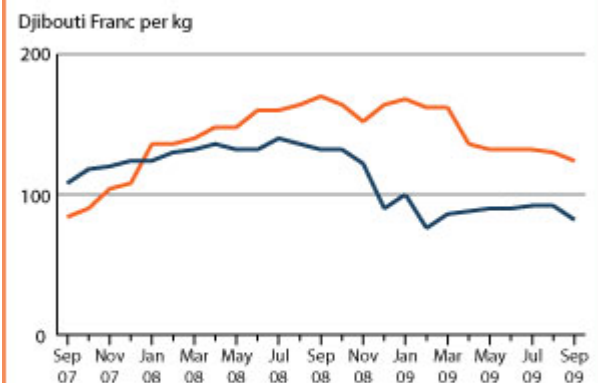


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

### Djibouti

#### Selected cereal prices



— Djibouti, Djibouti, Retail, Rice (Belem)  
— Djibouti, Djibouti, Retail, Wheat (flour)

Source: Ministère de l'économie, des finances, et de la Planification Chargé de la Privatisation

Reference Date: 01-June-2009

### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Approximately 14 percent of the population have been affected by successive drought conditions across the inland regions
- 55 000 vulnerable people are receiving food aid
- Water deficits deteriorate livestock conditions

### Water shortages worsen livestock conditions

June marks the start of a dry period following the “soucoum/diraa” rains from March to May. Rainfall in the south-east pastoralist region was below average and poorly distributed during April, affecting livestock conditions and increasing the mortality rate. The above average rains along the coastal regions of Obock, Tadjourah and Ali Sabieh during the same period are expected to lead to the migration of livestock to these areas, in contrast to typical migration patterns.

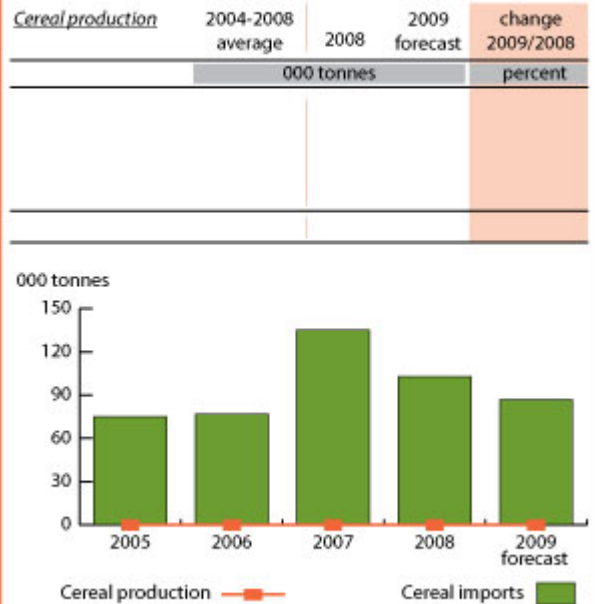
### Rice prices stabilise after peaking during the latter half of 2008

General cereal price increases during the latter half of 2008 negatively impacted the access to food of many households. To mitigate the effects of regional price inflation, the government removed domestic taxes on five food items, including rice and wheat flour, in the last quarter of 2008. Despite reports of export bans in the region, cereals continue to be imported from Ethiopia, which has helped to stabilise supplies and prices. However, prices still remain at above average levels, with the price of sorghum, at DJF 209 per kg in April 2009, about 63 percent higher than at the same period last year. The price of belem rice, an important staple, also increased significantly throughout 2008, but began to decline towards the end of the 2008. Between January and April 2009 belem rice prices remained at DJF 170 per kg in Djibouti city. However, cereal prices are anticipated to increase from June, following annual price movements and coinciding with the hunger period (June-August).

### Food aid distributions target the urban poor

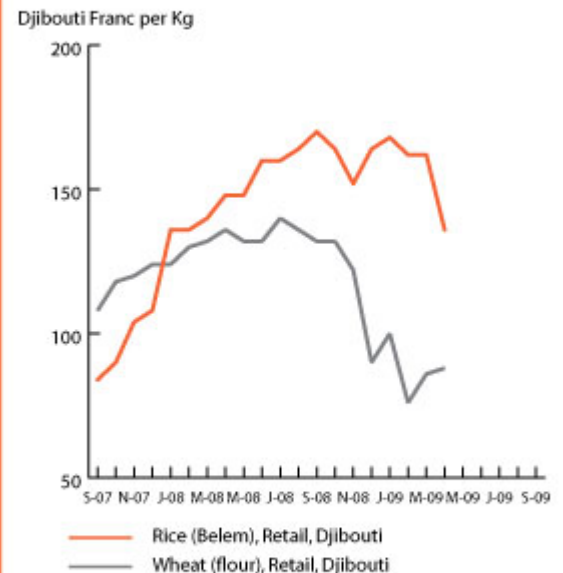
An estimated 119 000 vulnerable people, approximately 14 percent of the population, are reported to have been affected by successive drought conditions coupled with high food prices. Current food-for-work programmes are targeting 55 000 people living in the poor areas of Djibouti city. Overall, the large scale food aid distributions have stabilised short-term food security conditions. However, the poor rains in the south-east and north-west have negatively affected livestock conditions, which is likely to lower the terms of trade for pastoralists.

### Cereal production and imports Djibouti



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

### Djibouti Selected food prices



Source: Ministère de l'économie, des finances, et de la Planification Chargé de la Privatisation