

Knowledge Institutions in Africa and their development 1960-2020

Djibouti

Introduction

This report about the development of the knowledge institutions in Djibouti was made as part of the preparations for the AfricaKnows! Conference (2 December 2020 – 28 February 2021) in Leiden, and elsewhere, see www.africaknows.eu.



Reports like these can never be complete, and there might also be mistakes. Additions and corrections are welcome! Please send those to dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl

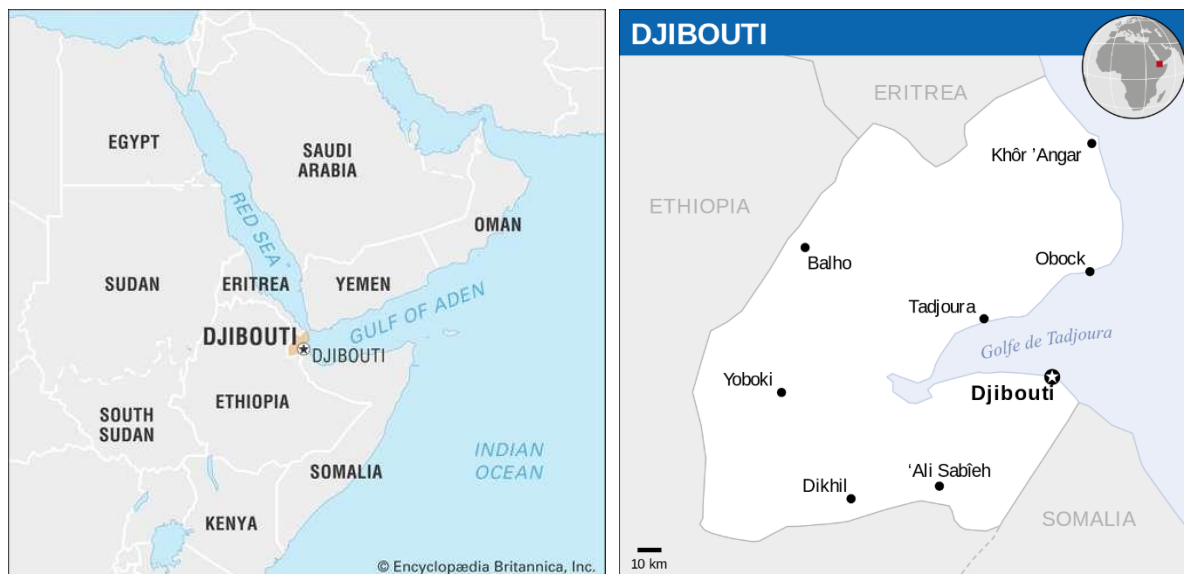
Highlights

- 1 Djibouti was a French colony until Independence in 1977. It is a small country with 62,000 inhabitants in 1950, 630,000 in 1995 and 981,000 in 2020. Most people live in the capital city Djibouti.
- 2 The adult literacy rate was 53% in 2017. Mean years of schooling increased from 2.8 years in 1995 to 4.0 years in 2018.
- 3 The primary net enrolment rate was 67% in 2017 and the secondary net enrolment rate 38%. Expected years of schooling increased from 2.8 years in 1995 to 6.5 years in 2018. Major improvements happened between 2000 and 2010 and boys more or less have the same enrolment rate as girls.
- 4 The education index, one of the elements of the human development index increased from .171 in 1995 to .313 in 2018, still rather low for African standards. Djibouti city always had a better education performance compared to the combined other districts.
- 5 Gross enrolment for tertiary education was 5.3% in 2012 (which would mean ca 5,000 students in Djibouti's only (public) university. More recent data indicate a doubling of this number in recent years. There are also ca 2,400 students abroad, many of them in France.
- 6 We could not find a lot of information about think tanks in the country, but there is an important intergovernmental agency in Djibouti: IGAD.
- 7 There is only one museum, as far as we know.

Part 1: The Story

Introduction: Djibouti's demographic and education development

Djibouti is located in the Horn of Africa. Djibouti was a French colony (first 'Obock', then 'Djibouti, then 'French Somaliland', and finally 'Territory of Afars and Issas') from the late 19th Century until its independence in 1977. The independent country was named after its capital and became the Republic of Djibouti. Presidents so far were Hassan Gouled Aptidon (1977-1999), followed by the actual president Ismaïl Omar Guelleh (1999 onwards)¹. Djibouti's population increased from 62,000 in 1950 to 981,000 in early 2020 (yearly growth rate of +1.48%). Since many decades Djibouti has an important urban population. In 1955, already 45% of the population lived in cities (31,323 people) and currently the urban population increased to 79%, which corresponds to 780,000 people. About 64% of Djibouti's total population (80% of the urban population) lives in its capital Djibouti, located in the Gulf of Tadjoura (Gulf of Aden). The city currently has 624,000 inhabitants, followed by much smaller cities such as Ali Sabieh and Danan, both counting 40,000 inhabitants, Tadjourah (22,000) and Obock (17,700). Djibouti's life expectancy increased from 40 years for males and 42 years for females in 1950 to 66 years for males and 70 years for females currently. The median age first decreased from 18.0 years in 1960 to 16.5 years in 1980. From this lowest point, it started to increase and is actually about 26.5 years, mainly as a result of diminishing fertility rates. In fact, in 1960 an average women gave birth to 6.4 live-born children. After increasing to 6.8 children per women in 1975, the total fertility rate decreased to current levels of 2.8. Islam is the official religion of Djibouti and 94% of the population adheres to it².



Source: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Djibouti> and [https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Djibouti_\(land\)](https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Djibouti_(land))

Literacy and enrolment

1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_presidents_of_Djibouti

2 <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/djibouti-population/>

Compulsory education in Djibouti lasts 10 years (from age 6 to age 15)³. UNESCO does not give data about the literacy rate, but another source gives 53% in 2017⁴. Net enrolment for primary school-age children (6-10 years old; 91,000 in Djibouti) was 67% in 2019, up from 58% in 2011, and 25% in 1970, with an equal enrolment of boys and girls⁵. The net secondary school enrolment was 38% in 2015 (11-17 year old; 126,000 children), and only 6% in 1970⁶. Gross tertiary enrolment was only 5.3% in 2011 (these are the latest figures available on the UNESCO website; men 6.0% and women 4.6%; the total population of 18-22 year-old people in Djibouti was 87,000)⁷. This means that only 5,000 students were studying at one of Djibouti's higher education institutes in 2011. According to CampusFrance⁸ the numbers are higher, though: 6,000 in 2012, and 10,000 in 2017. There are also 2,400 students abroad, many in France, but also Morocco, Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and India (in that order) are popular destinations.

Regional differentiation of education results in Djibouti, 1995-2018

The information provided by the Globaldatalab about the subregional human development index, its components and its indicators (<https://globaldatalab.org/shdi>) provides data for the period between 1995 and 2018 and uses two regions: the capital city itself and all other districts combined. Between 1995 and 2018 the population of Djibouti as a whole increased 1.52 times, and there is only a small difference between the population growth of the capital city and of the other districts combined.

The Globaldatalab provides data about the education index (one of the three indexes that together form the Human Development Index), and about two relevant indicators: mean years of schooling, showing the average education level of the adult population per region, and expected years of education, showing the expected number of years current children will attend schools. This excludes the religious, koranic schools and only deals with the official, state-based, school system.

We present the data for the years 1995, 2000, 2010, and 2018 (the latest year available at the moment). Data for other countries already starts in 1990, but Djibouti only in 1995. See tables 1-4 in part 2.

Education Index

The education index is one of the elements of the human development index. The education index in Djibouti increased from .171 in 1995 to .313 in 2018, with the most rapid growth happening between 2000 and 2010. Djibouti city always had a better performance than the other districts.

Mean Years of Schooling for Adults

³ <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/dj>

⁴ <https://www.arabdevelopmentportal.com/country/djibouti>

⁵ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.PRM.ENRR?end=2019&locations=DJ&start=1971&view=chart>

⁶ https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/Djibouti/Secondary_school_enrollment/

⁷ <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/dj>

⁸ https://ressources.campusfrance.org/publications/mobilite_pays/en/djibouti_en.pdf

According to UNESCO, 'Mean Years of Schooling' is an indicator about the "average number of completed years of education of a country's population aged 25 years and older, excluding years spent repeating individual grades"⁹. In Djibouti the mean years of schooling for adults increased from 2.8 years to 4.0 years, with major and consistent differences between Djibouti city and the other districts.

Expected Years of Schooling for Children

UNDP defines the 'expected years of schooling' as the: "Number of years of schooling that a child of school entrance age can expect to receive if prevailing patterns of age-specific enrolment rates persist throughout the child's life"¹⁰. In Djibouti the expected years of schooling for children increased from 2.8 years to 6.5 years, with only small differences between Djibouti city and the other districts. Most progress could be noted for the period between 2000 and 2010.

Djibouti's tertiary knowledge development

In 1992 the first tertiary students were reported in Djibouti. Tertiary enrolment remains low. In fact, the 'gross enrolment rate' of tertiary students is lower than 10%.

We will first give some information about universities in Djibouti, and then about the think tanks and the museums. The information includes the ranks of a limited number of universities, according to the 4ICU website (position inside the country and worldwide).

Universities and other tertiary knowledge institutions in Djibouti



Université de Djibouti¹¹

Because of its size and number of inhabitants, Djibouti (city) is home to most of the country's activities. The only university of the country is therefore located in the capital Djibouti. The university of Djibouti (Université de Djibouti) was established in 2006 (first foundation in 1990) and in 2015, there were 7,000 students. The public university is totally funded and managed by the government. It has no religious affiliation. The University of

⁹ <http://uis.unesco.org/en/glossary-term/mean-years-schooling>

¹⁰ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/expected-years-schooling-children-years>

¹¹ <https://s3.eu-north-1.amazonaws.com/images.free-apply.com/uni/gallery/lg/1026200001/3c9831356889546fccf7accec5b1163fac8740fe8.jpg>

Djibouti offers a range of degree programs, both undergraduate and/or postgraduate (but there is no PhD possibility), in its different faculties (faculty of science and technology, law, economics and management, engineering, medicine and social science). According to 4ICU website, the university is ranked 8180 worldwide. Even if the university offers programs in all categories of faculties (medicine, science, engineering, business/management and humanities), inside each of them the possibilities are limited (courses, tracks or degree level)¹².

Djibouti's tertiary education sector is therefore incomplete. However, it has to be related to the number of inhabitants of this small country. To compensate the lack of programs, the University of Djibouti has developed exchange programs with universities around the world. China is a major partner of Djibouti and offers to Djibouti's students possibilities to continue their study in Chinese universities. The professional online platform SICAS was officially recommended by Djibouti to facilitate access to Chinese universities¹³.

Think tanks in Djibouti

After making some research on internet with the keywords "Djibouti Think tanks", we couldn't find any affiliated institute. It was the same for official and academic think tanks lists worldwide or African ones. For example the 2018 Global Go To Think Tanks Index Report¹⁴ of Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania doesn't relate any think tank to Djibouti. The database Wikidata doesn't have any article corresponding to think tanks in Djibouti.

However, through the website of the University of Djibouti, we could find some academic scientific institutions, like the Technical Institute of Industry or the Technical Institute of Tertiary Services. There are also some supranational knowledge organizations showing activities in Djibouti but managed from outside, like the Africa Economic and Security Council (AESC) with headquarters in Brussels or regional think tanks, as for example the Horn of Africa Economic and Social Policy Institute based in Ethiopia. Other think tanks working in Djibouti from Addis Ababa are the InterAfrica Group and the Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre & Network. Despite the high presence of China in Djibouti, the establishment of its Confucius Institute isn't clear¹⁵.

12 <https://universitycompass.com/universities/Universite-de-Djibouti.php>

13 https://www.sicas.cn/Students/Info/Content_140328162344514.shtml

14 https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=think_tanks

15 <https://www.digmandarin.com/confucius-institutes-around-the-world.html>



IGAD logo and building¹⁶:

However, Djibouti is the institutional home of IGAD: This “Intergovernmental Authority on Development was established in 1996. It succeeded the earlier Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), a multinational body founded in 1986 by Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda and Kenya, with a focus on development and environmental control. IGADD's headquarters were later moved to Djibouti, following an agreement signed in January 1986 by the member states. Eritrea joined the organization in 1993, upon achieving independence”¹⁷.

Museums in Djibouti

There is only one museum in Djibouti, located in the capital (Djibouti museum¹⁸). Other cultural and touristic attractions of the country are architectural buildings of Djibouti City (People Palace or Rue Venice), historical sites (ex. Mosques) and natural sites (beaches, lakes, mountains, national parks)¹⁹.

¹⁶ https://www.un-igrac.org/sites/default/files/styles/900x506/public/IGAD.jpg?itok=e7Lu_BxP , and https://scontent-amt2-1.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-9/70949168_1430148603809965_8774786101769404416_n.jpg?nc_cat=105&ccb=2&nc_sid=6e5ad9&nc_ohc=9MQ8wvcmw6gAX8enRXo&nc_ht=scontent-amt2-1.xx&oh=f3691ac45573e6bcda533cb5e0d96caa&oe=6003E056


¹⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intergovernmental_Authority_on_Development

¹⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Djibouti_Museum

¹⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tourism_in_Djibouti

Part 2: The Data

Table 1: Djibouti regions and population

| Map | Region | Population x 1000 | | '18/'95 |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|------|---------|
| | | 1995 | 2018 | |
|  | Djibouti city | 530 | 810 | 1.53 |
| | Other districts | 100 | 150 | 1.50 |
| Total Djibouti | | 630 | 960 | 1.52 |

Source: <https://globaldatalab.org> 4.0

Map: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/49/Djibouti-regions.png/285px-Djibouti-regions.png>

Table 2: Djibouti: Education index 2005-2018²⁰

| Region | 1995 | 2000 | 2010 | 2018 | 2018/1995 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Djibouti city | 180 | 198 | 309 | 327 | 1.82 |
| Other districts | 122 | 133 | 224 | 240 | 1.97 |
| Total | 171 | 188 | 296 | 313 | 1.83 |
| Inequality | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.4 | |

Table 3: Djibouti: Regional data for 'mean years of schooling' for adults

| Region | 1995 | 2000 | 2010 | 2018 | 2018/1995 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Djibouti city | 3.1 | 3.5 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 1.42 |
| Other districts | 1.5 | 1.7 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 1.40 |
| Total | 2.8 | 3.2 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 1.43 |
| Inequality | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.1 | |

Table 4: Djibouti: Regional data for 'expected years of schooling' for children

| Region | 1995 | 2000 | 2010 | 2018 | 2018/1995 |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Djibouti city | 2.8 | 2.9 | 6.0 | 6.6 | 2.36 |

²⁰ The HDI data, and its components go from 0 (worst level) to 1 (best level). We present the figures x 1000. The inequality figure is the highest value divided by the lowest value in a particular year.

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Other districts | 2.6 | 2.7 | 5.6 | 6.1 | 2.35 |
| Total | 2.8 | 2.9 | 5.9 | 6.5 | 2.32 |
| Inequality | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | |

Table 5: Universities in Djibouti

| University | Year of establishment | Location | rank 4icu 2019 |
|---|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| University of Djibouti (Université de Djibouti) | 1990 (2006) | Djibouti City | 8180 |

(Sources: Wikipedia Universities, 4ICU and WHED (no information about Djibouti))

Table 6: Think tanks and research institutes in Djibouti (only the ones having an office in Djibouti)

| THINKTANKS / Research Institutes (only ones based in Djibouti) | Year of establishment | Location |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|
| IGAD https://igad.int/ | 1996 | Djibouti city |
| Confucius Institute ? | 2017 ? | Djibouti City |
| Technical Institute of Industry | | University of Djibouti |
| Technical Institute of Tertiary Services | | University of Djibouti |

(Sources: Wikipedia: Think Tanks and other sources)

Table 7: Museums in Djibouti

| Museum | Year of establishment | Location |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Djibouti Museum | - | Djibouti City |

(source: Wikipedia: Museums, and other sources)

This report was made as a student assignment for the Bachelor's Minor 'African Dynamics', which is a joint course of Leiden University, Delft University of Technology and Erasmus University Rotterdam, guided by the African Studies Centre Leiden (Marleen Dekker and Madi Ditmars). This report was made by Félicie Derriks (TUDelft Bachelor of Civil Engineering) and supervised and extended by Ton Dietz (African Studies Centre Leiden).