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# CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS STRENGTHENING PROGRAM

Life of Project: 2018 - 2020

Implementer: Family Health International (FHI 360)

## OVERVIEW

Although Djibouti is one of the world's smallest countries, with over 20 percent of its population living in extreme poverty, it has taken on an outsized role in international affairs. Occupying a strategic position in the Horn of Africa, it is host to both the USG's only African military installation and China's international military base. The country's location at the mouth of the Suez Canal also makes it an important site for economic and counterterrorism activity, and its stability is therefore of vital interest not only to Djiboutians eager for peace and prosperity, but also to neighboring countries and its allies, including the United States.

## OBJECTIVES

The USAID Civil Society Organizations Strengthening Program (CSOSP) main objective is to strengthen Djiboutian civil society organizations, foster accountable governance and improve service delivery, particularly in health and education. The Program will also support civic-governmental collaboration both at the local and national level.

## ACTIVITIES

- Build partnership between government and civil society to make advocacy more easily accepted in the Djiboutian context.
- Use of a system approach to capacity development to better connect groups like Parents Teachers Associations (PTAs) and Health Committees (HSs) with the communities they represent.
- Foster equal participation from both males and females and ensure equal benefit from services mainstreaming of gender concerns.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- Accountable governance will be better integrated into education and health sectors.
- Civil society organizations (CSOs) will more effectively advocate for gender equality, equitable service delivery and protection of vulnerable populations.
- Improved enabling environment for CSOs in Djibouti. Djiboutian CSO partners will be able to better mobilize citizens, constructively engage government officials and more effectively advocate for improvements in service delivery.