Djibouti ranks 47th in the Index, with established criminal markets in human smuggling, human trafficking and arms trafficking.

Human smuggling and trafficking are associated with the sexual exploitation of victims of trafficking, while terrorist networks, such as al-Shabaab, are involved in arms trafficking. Djibouti’s illicit environmental markets is limited, as are its drugs markets – though some are increasing. Experts report the significant influence of foreign actors, and moderate influence of state-embedded actors and criminal networks, with no single criminal actor scoring above 6.

Djibouti’s resilience scores are moderate, ranging from 3 to 7.5. It performs well in many categories, owing to effective legislation against organised crime, significant international cooperation and reforms to the business environment. Nevertheless, experts note that many government institutions suffer from corruption and insufficient funding, contributing to low scores in some resilience categories.
Criminal Markets

Human smuggling is the criminal market with the most significant negative impact on society. Djibouti is the major transit point for the majority of Ethiopians and Somalis smuggled by sea from the Horn of Africa to the Arabian Peninsula. The rising number of people wishing to pass through Djibouti has proved increasingly lucrative for smugglers, giving rise to sophisticated criminal networks. Djibouti’s strategic position as a transit point for migration flows makes it a high-risk country for human trafficking. Indeed, it is a source, transit point and destination for victims of trafficking, who are often abused, and subjected to forced labour and sexual exploitation. Arms trafficking is also a problem, scoring 5, which represents a significant negative influence. Weapons are reported to come from Yemen, en route to al-Shabaab in Somalia, with Djibouti acting as a transit country. Experts note with concern evidence...
suggesting the involvement of military and government officials with companies that fund arms trafficking.

Djibouti’s environmental criminal markets exert little to no influence on society, other than the fauna crimes market, which scores a 4, suggesting a moderate influence. Djibouti is emerging as both a source and transit point for illicit wildlife products, such as ivory, rhino horn and wild animal skins. Moreover, live animals destined for exotic pet markets in Saudi Arabia and the UAE are transiting through Djibouti.

Djibouti’s drug markets are not reported to be a major concern, all scoring 4 or below. Although it acts as a transit country for heroin, cocaine and some synthetic drugs, quantities are usually small and there is little evidence of local consumption. There is, however, a market for cannabis consumption in Djibouti, which also serves as a transit point for this drug. However, given the small scale of local use, experts judge this market as exerting only a moderate influence, with a score of 4.

**Criminal Actors**

According to expert assessment, the most significant criminal actors in Djibouti are foreign actors, who score a 6. Ethnic Somalis run human smuggling networks, and Iranian and Yemeni networks deliver weapons to al-Shabaab via Djibouti. Criminal networks are judged as established, playing an active role in human smuggling and trafficking, and score 4.5, indicating a moderate negative influence on society. Although state-embedded actors are not deemed to be as significant as criminal networks and foreign actors, they do play a role in enabling human and arms trafficking through accepting bribes.
Djibouti scores comparatively well on resilience, ranking 16th in Africa, with scores ranging between 2 and 7.5. The highest-scoring area is international cooperation, as Djibouti has ratified eight international treaties aimed at combating organised crime. Moreover, it scores well in some resilience categories owing to effective security forces and anti-money laundering legislation, which allows asset confiscation. Nevertheless, experts judge corruption and the involvement of state officials in organised-crime networks as issues of concern, hindering the country’s ability to make arrests and to pass impactful policies. Consequently, Djibouti scores poorly in terms of government transparency and accountability, and judicial system and detention. The absence of victim and witness support, and lack of training and funding for law enforcement efforts are also noted as concerns.