

# DJIBOUTI

January-March 2023

In March 2023, **UNHCR** conducted the **physical verification exercise** for **absentees** across the national territory. **The physical verification operation** for **refugees** and **asylum seekers** was launched from October to December 2022.

The number of **refugees** and **asylum seekers** fell from **36,656** to **30,587** individuals after the exercise of physical verification and verification of absentees, mainly from Somalia, Ethiopia, and Yemen.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN - 30,587 (March 2023)

Country of origine\*

Somalia	13 312
Ethiopia	12 600
Yemen	3 217
Eritrea	1 394
Other	95
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>30 587</b>

## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff :

- 34 national staff
- 15 international staff

### Field offices:

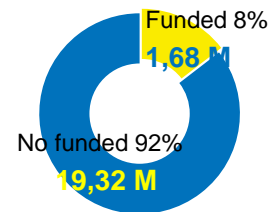
- 1 Representation office in Djibouti-ville
- 2 Field offices in Ali-Sabieh and Obock

## Work with partners

- UNHCR's main government counterpart in Djibouti is the Ministry of the Interior through the government department responsible for refugee issues, the Office National d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Sinistrés (ONARS), which manages the refugee camps. Close collaboration is maintained with the government of Djibouti and authorities at all levels alongside sister UN agencies, international and national non-governmental organizations (INGOs/NNGOs), development partners as well as refugees and leaders host communities to ensure coordination, response, and durable solutions for people of concern.
- In addition to the Ministry of the Interior, UNHCR works with other national and international partners, namely: the **Ministry of Education** (MENFOP), the **Ministry of Health**, the **Ministry of Housing, Urban Planning and Environment**, **Ministry of Agriculture**, **Ministry of Environment**, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Sports, and the National Union of Women of Djibouti (UNFD).
- UNHCR is also leading the multi-sectoral response for refugees and asylum-seekers in the villages of Ali Addeh, Holl-Holl and Markazi as well as in urban areas. In Ali-Sabieh, the coordination role of the UN has been delegated to UNHCR in the areas of Dikhil and Ali-Sabieh. UNHCR co-leads the mixed migration working group in the field, and co-leads meetings on child protection and GBV case management.

## FUNDING (AS OF 28 MARCH 2023)

USD 21, M Required by the Djibouti operation



Physical verification exercise in Ali-Addeh © UNHCR/Ahmed Loita

## Main activities

- The period covered, from January 1 to March 30, 2023, was marked by:
  - ❖ The restitution of the results of the Operation of Physical Verification of Refugees and Asylum Seekers, launched in early October 2022 on the extent of Djiboutian territory, and the physical verification exercise for absentees was carried out during the period under review.
  - ❖ A tripartite UNHCR, ONARS and population office mission visited the Markazi site to resume registration of “Eritrean” asylum seekers. It was during this mission that it turned out that 80% were not eligible for asylum seeker status, bringing the number of asylum seekers from 1,680 to 670 individuals.
  - ❖ The holding of the legislative election in the country, organized in February 2023 throughout the national territory. A total of 230,295 Djiboutians is expected to participate in the current 2023 legislative election. Of the 35 seats to be filled in this election, the Union for the Presidential Majority [UMP] obtained 28 seats. International observers from the African Union, the Arab League, IGAD and the OIC welcomed, overall, the smooth running of the February 24 poll, which took place calmly and transparently.
  - ❖ In addition to monetary distributions in favor of people under UNHCR's mandate, following the High Commissioner's L2 emergency declaration, UNHCR, with the support of ONARS, proceeded during the period under review cash distribution to mitigate the impact of the drought for the benefit of host communities in Ali Addeh, Ali-Sabieh region and Markazi. A total of 135 individuals (85 individuals from the communities of Ali-Addeh and Ali-Sabieh and 50 from Markazi) each received 50,000 DJF, or 6,750,000 DJF (38,130 USD).
  - ❖ The period under cover was marked by many missions from the Regional Office such as:
    - i) UNHCR Regional Office/East Africa Commission/IGAD Joint Mission on the Regional Program on Strengthening the Investment Climate for the Empowerment of Refugees/Host Communities in East Africa, from February 5 to 9, 2023.
    - ii) the mission of the principal coordinator of operations of the Regional Office, Mr. Baseme Kulimushi, in Djibouti in February 2023. The person in charge, accompanied by the Representative of the UNHCR, and the Executive Secretary of the National Office for Assistance to Refugees and Sinistrés [ONARS], first traveled to the refugee villages of Ali-Addeh, Holl-Holl and Markazi, to meet and discuss with authorities, refugees, partners, and camp administrators and visited several projects focused on refugee self-reliance. In Djibouti, the manager was able to meet the key partners and implementers of the operation, such as ONARS, the secretaries general of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MENFOP), the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities [MASS], and the Djibouti Social Development Agency [ADDS], to discuss the agenda for the inclusion of refugees in the national system. In addition to official visits, the manager took part in the annual strategic reflection, organized by the operation closely with ONARS.



*The Principal Operations Coordinator for the East Africa, Great Lakes and Horn of Africa region during his mission to Djibouti in February 2023 © UNHCR/Radwan Abdi Hoch*



## PROTECTION AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- The number of refugees and asylum seekers increased from 36,656 to 30,587 individuals after the physical verification exercise and the verification of absentees. These individuals came mainly from Somalia, Ethiopia, and Yemen.
- Registration continues as well as basic protection services such as reception, monitoring and counseling of individual cases, suspended during the verification exercise, are gradually resuming.
- During this period, the National Eligibility Commission [CNE] met for five (5) sessions and dealt with a total of fifty (50) cases, of which 25 were accepted, 10 rejected, 8 absent and 7 adjourned.
- As part of the resettlement among the durable solutions, two families of eight individuals (respectively 3 and 5 members) left for Sweden on January 24, 2023. These families were part of the batch of families whose departure was planned for 2020. The resettlement of these households had been postponed due to border closures caused by the COVID-19 virus.
- An upcoming mission on resettlement to the USA has been organized between UNHCR and the Resettlement Support Center based in Nairobi. The mission will aim to resume the examination of files (put on hold in 2020) in the context of family reunifications. The mission will be made up of different sub-teams that will come to Djibouti on different dates.

### Gender Based Violence (GBV)

- UNHCR's partner in charge of GBV prevention, the UNFD, is carrying out GBV case monitoring activities at the level of refugee sites, as a prelude to the official resumption of prevention and response activities in refugee sites.
- During the period under review, GBV case monitoring activities were carried out through the partner in charge of the component, the UNFD. In total, seven (7) cases of GBV were received and cared for in the various refugee villages (3 cases including one case of assault on a minor in Ali-Addeh, 2 in Holl-Holl and 2 in Markazi).
- During this same period, the partner carried out distribution of marriage certificates in the two villages, i.e., 26 marriage certificates in Ali-Addeh and 21 in Holl-Holl.
- In terms of prevention, 106 (70 women and girls, and 36 men) refugees are made aware of, among other things, the causes, and consequences of GBV, respect between couples, the fight against GBV, and the dropout.



## CHILD PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY

- UNHCR's partner for the implementation of community mobilization, child protection and the care of people with special needs, CIAUD Canada, organized an entertainment activity called "putting a smile on every child " for the benefit of 100 refugee children in Djibouti-ville, Ali-Addeh and Holl-Holl refugee villages. In addition to forging intercommunity links, all the children were entertained for two hours, having full access to FunTime's games and leisure facilities and equipment and shared a meal offered by the partner.
- As part of the assistance to people with special needs (PBS), home visits were carried out for 342 individuals (164 disabled people and 178 elderly people). In the Ali-Addeh and Holl-Holl refugee villages, 117 individuals received financial assistance and 117 others were assisted with various items (wheelchairs, crutches, mattresses, adult diapers, children's diapers, prostheses, eyeglasses, etc.).
- As part of the blessed month of Ramadan, UNHCR's partner for the implementation of community mobilization,

child protection and the care of people with specific needs, CIAUD Canada launched the "football tournament of Ramadan friendship" between 26 teams of young people from the host community and those from the refugee community in the Ali-Sabieh region. This tournament is part of the Djibouti government's refugee inclusion policy to integrate refugees into its national system of access to basic services.



## EDUCATION

- Education remains a key priority for UNHCR in Djibouti and co-leads with the Ministry of Education to ensure the provision of educational services to refugee pupils and students. The 2022/2023 provisional statistics for students in schools in the Ali-Addeh, Holl-Holl and Markazi refugee sites have been shared and are composed as follows: 4109 (2113 boys and 1996 girls) all levels combined.
- The partner carried out two training sessions for 39 refugee teachers and 12 administrative staff members, respectively on the Revised Middle School Curricula and on the Preschool Didactic Tools. In addition to these trainings, the partner recruited 11 new teachers, including 6 teachers in Ali-Addeh and 5 teachers in the village of Holl-Holl to strengthen and improve the education system in refugee villages.
- In Markazi, the partner distributed school uniforms for 298 pupils (144 girls and 154 boys) of all school levels combined.



*Distribution of school uniforms at Markazi school ©UNHCR/A.Razack*



## HEALTH

- In accordance with its commitments, the Republic of Djibouti, through its Ministry of Health, also ensures refugees' access to health services. During the period under review, health centers in refugee sites provided health care to persons of concern to UNHCR, such as medical consultations, medical transfers to hospitals for specialized medical advice, supplement programs food in the fight against malnutrition, care for reproductive health and family planning, etc.
- With financial support from UNHCR, the partner has assigned a doctor to Ali-Addeh (largest refugee site) since December 2022. The doctor performs consultations twice a week. This assignment considerably reduces transfers to reference hospitals and contributes to solving the problems of transport and food costs (only urgent cases will be referred by ambulance and also brought back by ambulance). In addition, the very forthcoming assignment of a doctor to Holl-Holl was also announced by the partner to solve the problems related to the transfer of refugee patients from the site.



## LIVELIHOODS

- During the period covered, UNHCR participated in the collection of data for the Baseline survey of beneficiaries of Livelihood 2022 projects to measure the impact of interventions on these beneficiaries. A total of 255 beneficiaries will be surveyed during the activity and the data will be shared with the NGO CartONG for analysis. A report will be produced once the survey is finalized at the country level and will be supported by the follow-up of concerns collected from beneficiaries.



## WATER AND SANITATION

- In refugee sites, UNHCR's partner for the implementation of WASH in refugee villages, the Direction de l'Hydraulique Rurale (DHR) continues to supply drinking water. However, the torrential rains at the beginning of the year caused significant damage to the water production network in the villages of the Ali-Addeh and Holl-Holl refugees.
- Thanks to UNHCR funding, 15 community latrines have been built and are operational in November 2022 for Eritrean asylum seekers in Markazi.

## Financial Information

### CONTRIBUTIONS <sup>3</sup> | USD

	Unearmarked	Softly earmarked	Earmarked	Tightly earmarked	Total
European Union	-	-	-	511,898	511,898
IGAD	-	-	26,995	-	26,995
<b>Sub-total</b>	-	-	<b>26,995</b>	<b>511,898</b>	<b>538,893</b>
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	975,883	190,326	(1,648)	(30,804)	1,133,350
<b>Total</b>	<b>975,883</b>	<b>190,326</b>	<b>25,347</b>	<b>480,686</b>	<b>1,672,243</b>

Methodology: Unrestricted funds are allocated and reallocated several times throughout the year to enable UNHCR to fund priority activities. This funding update includes an indicative allocation of funds to accurately represent the resources available to the country. The earmarked contributions to Djibouti shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of lightly earmarked and unearmarked contributions listed below. This allocation respects different allocation levels. Adjustments relate to program support costs and carry-overs.

**UNHCR is grateful for the essential support provided by donors who supported the Operation as well as those who contributed to UNHCR programs with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.**

Special thanks to the main donors of the other partially targeted funds in 2023: **Canada** 3.9 million

Special thanks to major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2023

**Sweden** 69 million | **Norway** 63.1 million | **Denmark** 35.6 million | **Netherlands** 63.1 million | **Germany** 23.1 million | **Switzerland** 18.9 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Ireland** 11.9 million

## CONTACTS

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