

# Republic of Djibouti

January 2022

Djibouti is currently hosting **34,810** refugees and asylum seekers, and continues to receive arrivals from **Somalia, Ethiopia, and Yemen.**

**UNHCR** and partners continue to respond to the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers living in the three refugee villages of Ali-Addeh, Holl-Holl and Markazi.

Since 2016, Djibouti has been one of the countries implementing the **Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)** with a progressive approach towards the inclusion of refugees in socio-economic life.

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### CONFLICT IN NORTHERN ETHIOPIA

UNHCR is closely monitoring the situation and has pre-positioned Non-food Items (NFIs) for 1,000 people, in accordance with contingency planning and preparedness.

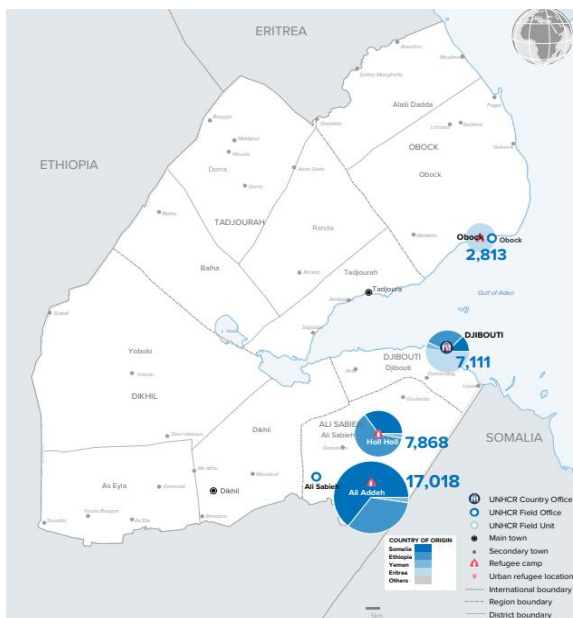
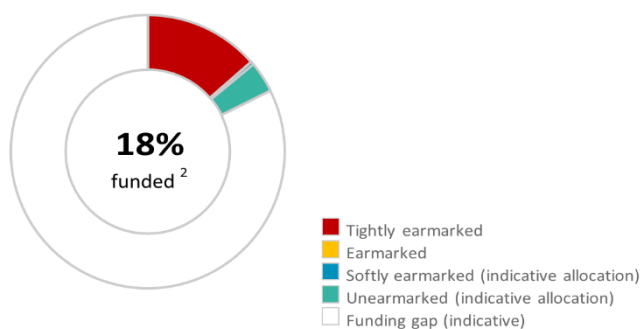
UNHCR also dispatched a site planner to assess entry points for refugees from Ethiopia, and potential sites that could serve as new refugee camps in the event of a mass influx.

### NEW ARRIVALS

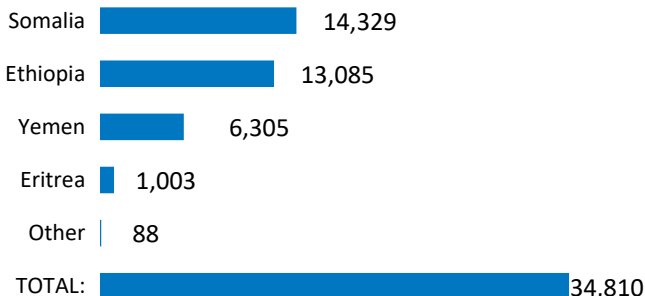
19 new arrivals from Ethiopia, 16 Tigrayans (13 men, 3 women) and 3 Eritreans, were newly registered and assisted in Holl-Holl refugee village.

## FUNDING (AS OF 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2022)

2022 Funding Requirements: USD 18,2 M



## POPULATION OF CONCERN / COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



## Operational Context

Djibouti is one of the most politically stable countries in the region and hosts approximately 34,800 refugees and asylum seekers from neighboring countries. Most of these refugees and asylum seekers are Somali, Ethiopian and Yemeni. Somalis and some Ethiopians live in the Ali-Addeh and Holl-Holl sites in the Ali-Sabieh district, while the Yemenis live in the Markazi camp in the Obock district. 20% of refugees and asylum seekers of various nationalities live in the urban areas, in the capital.

Like the rest of the world, the Republic of Djibouti was hit in January 2022 by the third wave (Omicron) of Covid-19, reaching a peak of 27% positivity rate at the national level. Health officials continue to raise awareness on the strict observation of measures to mitigate against the spread of Covid-19 and to urge the population to get vaccinated.

Refugees are getting vaccinated in all the sites with support from the Ministry of Health. As of 31 January 2022, a total of 2,589 refugees have been vaccinated (1,219 in Ali-Addeh; 1,187 in Holl-Holl; 112 in Markazi, and 71 in the urban areas in Djibouti Ville).



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A refugee getting vaccinated by the Minister of Health

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<sup>1</sup> The Minister of Health vaccinating a refugee at Ali-Addeh refugee village  
@Lanation/MAS/Octobre 2021/Ali-Addeh

## Achievements



### PROTECTION

UNHCR, in coordination with ONARS, the government department responsible for refugees, ensures the protection of refugees and asylum seekers living in the three refugees' villages (Ali-Addeh, Holl-Holl and Markazi) and the urban refugees in the capital. In January 2022:

- Despite general suspension of registration of activities by the Government, 19 individuals (new arrivals) from Ethiopia, 16 Tigrayans, (13 men, 3 women) and 3 Eritreans, were newly registered and assisted in Holl-Holl refugee village. In Obock, 50 Yemeni households (61 persons) were newly registered in the reporting period.
- 16 newborns (3 in Ali-Addeh, 8 in Holl-Holl, 4 in Markazi, 1 in urban areas) were registered.
- Follow-up was carried out for several individual cases during the reporting period: one in coordination with community-based structures in Markazi (for seven cases of children-at-risk and one case of self-relocation from urban to village) and another individual case follow-up was done in the urban setting for four protection cases. In addition, a total of 42 cases were received for counseling during protection reception hours (12 in Markazi and 30 in Djibouti Ville).
- A total of 37 cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV) were managed in 2021, including nearly 10 cases from the host population. Nearly 40% of cases have been closed. The main difficulties observed by the partner were the collaboration with the Cadi (traditional chief known to manage marital issues), the high mobility of refugees which did not facilitate the follow-up of cases, and the resolution of cases of sexual assault in the community.
- The distribution of cash for soap and hygiene materials continues in Ali-Addeh and Holl-Holl. In Ali-Addeh, a total of 13,990 individuals received cash for soap, and 4,247 beneficiaries for hygiene kits especially women and girls of childbearing age.
- UNHCR participated in the Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF) monthly meeting and provided an overview of the refugee situation and challenges faced throughout the reporting period.
- UNHCR met with urban refugee leader to discuss challenges faced by potential asylum-seekers and their difficulties obtaining a registration appointment. A list of pending cases was shared, to be coordinated with ONARS.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Absence of child protection and community service partners since the departure of the implementing partner, International Children's Action Network (ICAN); best interest assessments are no longer done due to the abrupt closure of activities by the child protection partner.



### EDUCATION

- UNHCR, through the MENFOP (the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training), provides education services to refugee pupils and students. Today, over 4,700 students and pupils are registered in the different school of the three refugee villages.
- During the month of January, the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training (MENFOP) proceeded with the distribution of school uniforms to students from the first year to the eighth year. The distribution was

able to cover all the pupils from the three refugee villages. In addition, the Ministry provided snacks for children with special needs at the primary school level. Furthermore, in collaboration with UNICEF, the MENFOP distributed school kit and backpacks.

**HEALTH**

- Over 2,589 PoCs (1,219 from Ali-Addeh; 1,187 from Holl-Holl; 112 from Markazi; and 71 from the urban areas) have been vaccinated by January 2022, since the beginning of the vaccination campaign in October 2021.
- The Korean medical team from the international NGO IACD launched medical care services for the host community and Yemeni refugees in the village health post and in the referral hospital at Obock. The medical team included 25 volunteers (2 doctors: 1 general practitioner and 1 neurologist, 5 physiotherapists, 4 midwives, 5 pediatric technicians and 9 volunteer caregivers). According to the hospital's chief medical officer, the IACD medical team provided diversified medical consultations for 180 people from the host community and refugees.
- The WHO Representative accompanied by the WHO doctor carried out a mission to Obock with the main objectives to visit the health centers and to meet with UN personnel from field offices about health procedures for UN field staff and possible solutions. The meeting with the UN staff of Obock highlighted the main challenges encountered in the region, including the lack of access to COVID screening tests and the difficulties of medical care. Recommendations were made as follow-up actions to be carried out.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- Absence of doctors and essential medicines in the medical centers of Holl-Holl and Ali-Addeh.

**WATER AND SANITATION**

- In January 2022, the UNHCR has finalized the construction of 2 toilets and the fence at the Markazi primary school. The school also now has access to the solar system for energy.

**SHELTER AND NFIS****Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- Absence of implementing partner since the imminent departure of the implementing partner (NRC) for the construction of permanent shelters.

**CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT**

- As part of contingency and preparedness measure for a potential influx from Ethiopia, and following the request of the Minister of the Interior, UNHCR dispatched a site planning expert on mission to Djibouti. With the support of ONARS and the UNHCR field office team in Ali Sabbieh, the expert was able to visit the localities of

Dhikhil, Galafi, Galamo, Holl-Holl, Guelilé and Aour Aoussa in order to assess entry points for refugees from Ethiopia, and potential sites that could serve as new refugee camps in the event of a mass influx.



### LOGISTICS

- NFIs for 1000 persons are in stock in case of an influx due to conflict in Ethiopia.



### DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- Nine cases are currently under consideration for emergency resettlement, under review by UNHCR's Regional Bureau in Nairobi.
- Three cases (18 individuals) departed on resettlement to Sweden.
- Two requests for voluntary repatriation were received and are currently being processed: one to Iraq and one to Somalia.

National solidarity week:



Under the patronage of the Minister of Social Affairs and Solidarity, the locality of Dougoum/Tadjourah hosted, on Sunday 16 January 2022, inter-community meetings and exhibitions of socio-cultural products. The refugees from the villages of Markazi and Ali-Addeh paired up on this occasion with the inhabitants of the locality of Dougoum. The theme of the National Solidarity Week was “the national policy for the fight against poverty, towards greater empowerment.”

The main objective was focused not only on bringing refugees and the host community closer together, but also on promoting the sharing of experiences and know-how between Yemeni,

Somali, Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees and the Djiboutian community.

## Working in partnership

UNHCR leads the multi-sector response for refugees and asylum seekers at the Ali Addeh, Holl-Holl and Markazi villages as well as in urban areas. Close collaboration is maintained with the Government of Djibouti and authorities at all levels, sister UN agencies, international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), development partners as well as refugee and host community leaders to ensure optimal coordination of response and durable solutions for persons of concern to UNHCR.

UNHCR works with national and international partners, namely:

- The Ministry of Interior through the government department in charge of refugee-related issues, l'Office National d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Sinistrés (ONARS), which manages the refugee

settlements.

- Ministry of Education (MENFOP): education and vocational training;
- Ministry of Health: health/reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and nutrition;
- Ministry of Agriculture, in charge of Water: water, sanitation, hygiene;
- Ministry of Habitat, Urban Planning and Environment: firewood;
- L'Union Nationale des Femmes de Djibouti (UNFD) : SGBV.

However, this year marks the imminent departure of the child protection implementing partner International Children's Action Network (ICAN) and the implementing partner for shelter, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). The operation is looking for partners to replace them.

Djibouti is actively implementing the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), whereby the operation and its partners aim to foster sustainable initiatives that benefit both refugees and their host communities. The operation is supporting the Government of Djibouti in the implementation of the CRRF and is co-chairing the CRRF steering committee alongside the Ministry of Interior.

UNHCR is also working in close collaboration with its sister UN agencies from the United Nations Development System. The operation is committed to the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to achieve a more sustainable future for all with spirit of "Leaving no one behind".

UNHCR co-leads the Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF) at field level, and co-leads child protection and SGBV case management meetings.

## Financial Information

The budget requirements for the Djibouti operation in 2022 is estimated at **US\$ 18,242,296** including the operational, functional, and staffing budget.

As of 31 January 2022, **US\$ 3,217,268** has been received from donors (US\$ 2,630,810 from the European Union; 15,000 from the UN programmes for HIV/AIDS; and the rest from indicative funds and adjustments)

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

## External / Donors Relations

**Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2022**

Sweden (77.6 M) | Norway (72.5 M) | Netherlands (37.2 M) | Denmark (35.6 M) | Germany (27.6 M) | Belgium (11.9 M) | Ireland (11.8 M)

**Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2022**

Algeria | Armenia | Bulgaria | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay

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**LINKS**

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