

Djibouti

January 2023

The **Physical Verification Operation for Refugees and Asylum Seekers**, launched in early October 2022 throughout Djibouti, is completed.

An influx of **Eritrean** asylum seekers took place in waves between October 2022 and January 2023 at the **Markazi refugee site in the Obock region** where Yemeni refugees have resided since 2015.

The country hosts more than **35,000 refugees and asylum seekers**, mainly from Somalia, Ethiopia, and Yemen.

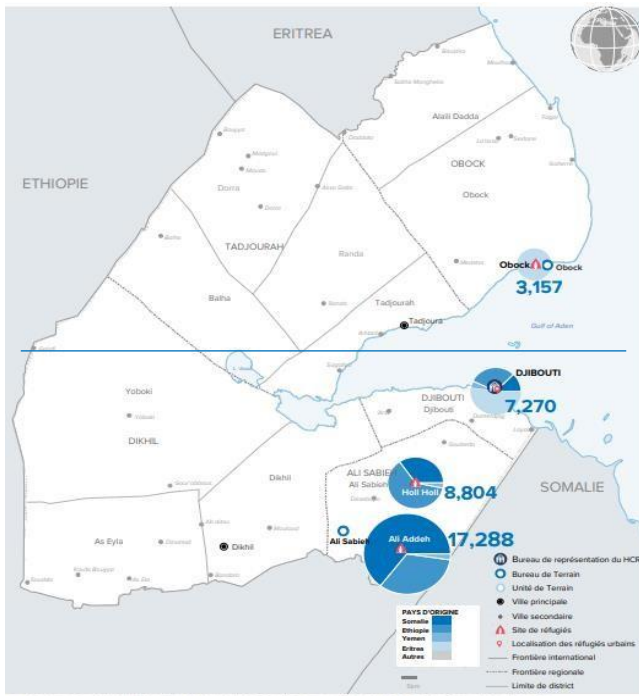
KEY INDICATORS



25,586 refugees

11,070 asylum seekers

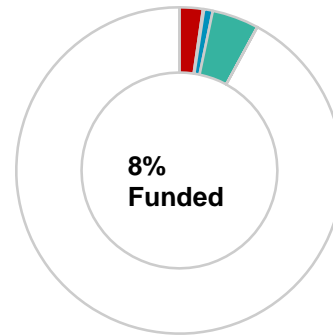
More than **1,600 new arrivals from Eritrea** have been welcomed and interviewed since October 2022.



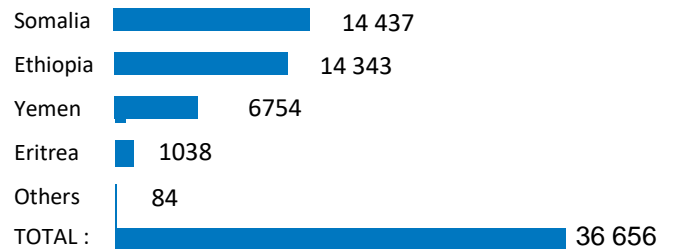
Funding (31st January 2023)

21,0 M USD

Required by the Djibouti operation



POPULATION CONCERNED BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational context

January 2023 marks the end of the physical verification and cash distribution operations for the people under UNHCR mandate throughout the territory of the Republic of Djibouti. Among UNHCR's protection strategy in Djibouti, the physical verification operation has been coupled with other forms of assistance which translate into cash distributions via our partners, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity (MASS), the National Union of Djiboutian Women (UNFD) and the National Office for Assistance to Refugees and Disasters (ONARS), respectively:

- ❖ Project with implementation via the partner MASS: this cash assistance is granted to the most vulnerable households living in urban areas with the objective of helping to mitigate the impacts caused by drought and rising prices. The amount of assistance therefore amounts to an amount of 60,000 FDJ paid only once, and which corresponds to four months of assistance.
- ❖ Project with implementation via the partner UNFD: assistance in hygiene kits and soap distributed to young girls and women of childbearing age (12 to 49 years old) is made in cash and represents the value of 6,200 FDJ per beneficiary paid once.
- ❖ Project with implementation via the partner ONARS: (i) assistance in the form of cash was granted per household to the elderly and the chronically ill in the amount of 50,000 FDJ equivalent to five months of assistance; (ii) a second assistance in non-food items in the form of cash is granted to all households living in the various refugee villages and is distributed according to family size: 11,500 FDJ size 1-4 and 26,500 FDJ size 5 to x.

Once the cash distribution exercise ended, the operation carried out the joint review of the cash exercise with the 3 implementing partners, to discuss the progress of the implementation, the challenges encountered, and the lessons learned. In addition, in collaboration with RB (the CBI unit), the operation is finalizing the post-distribution monitoring strategy "PDM strategy", which will be implemented in February.

In order to strengthen peaceful cohabitation between the refugee and host communities, the operation extended the distribution of cash in favor of the host community. Through two (MASS and ONARS) out of three of the implementing partners, the operation set up the distribution, respectively: i) of cash assistance granted to the most vulnerable households in the host community living in the urban area. The said assistance was planned to address the consequences of the drought in the Horn of Africa region of which Djibouti is a part, and ii) assistance in the form of cash to the elderly and chronically ill from the community of reception in the regions of Ali-Sabieh and Obock (regions hosting many people under the UNHCR mandate). It is with this in mind that a mission of high importance, under the coordination of the UNHCR Representative, accompanied by the Executive Secretary of ONARS, went to the field. The mission presided cash distribution ceremony in favor of vulnerable households from the host communities of the Ali-Sabieh and Obock regions from 10-12 January 2023. In total, 135 (85 from Ali-Sabieh and 50 from Obock) individuals benefited from the cash and the amount received per household was 50,000 FDJ.

Nevertheless, to prevent the cumulative waves of new arrivals from suffering a very long wait in terms of the processing of their files by the protection/registration teams, a second mission, under the coordination of the Deputy Representative, at the request of the Minister of the Interior, was dispatched to the Obock site. The purpose of the mission was to resume the registration of new Eritrean arrivals suspended by decision of the Ministry of the Interior. In addition to UNHCR and ONARS,

the immigration police and other partners took part in the activity of registering new arrivals at the site. In total, more than 1600 individuals are registered.

It is also important to note that the month of January 2023 is marked by the holding of the first coordination meeting with the partners working for the implementation of the CRRF to ensure access to basic services for people of concern. of the UNHCR, as well as the host populations of the reception areas. The Republic of Djibouti is one of the countries of deployment for the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). Took part in this meeting, which was held this Tuesday, January 31, 2023 in Djibouti-ville, the UNHCR, ONARS, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Directorate of Rural Hydraulics [DHR, WASH implementation partner in refugee sites], the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity [MASS], the Urban Rehabilitation and Social Housing Agency [ARULOS], the Union Djiboutian Women's National Agency [UNFD], the Djibouti Social Development Agency [ADDS], the International Committee for Emergency Aid and Development [CIAUD], and the National Agency for Persons with Disabilities [ANPH]. On the agenda, there was, among other things, the strategic direction and vision for 2023 to 2026, the state of play of the CRRF Action Plan for 2018-2022 and discussions led on the various facilitation mechanisms and coordination of the CRRF strategy as well as the frequency of coordination meetings. After discussing each objective, the stakeholders concluded with a revitalization of the coordination forums in the field which will continue to feed the national platform. The next coordination meeting is scheduled for the end of February 2023.



Cash distribution ceremony chaired by the Prefect of Obock and the President of the Regional Council in the presence of the Representative of UNHCR Djibouti and the Executive Secretary of ONARS at the Regional Council of Obock ©UNHCR/Daouda Guirou

Achievements



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impacts

Registration

- Registration of newcomers was suspended during the period that the verification exercise was in progress. However, to prevent the cumulative waves of new arrivals from suffering a very long wait in terms of the processing of their files by the protection/registration teams, new arrivals from Eritrea benefited, in January, from an early registration conducted jointly by UNHCR and ONARS.

Protection Reception and Follow-up / Advice on Individual Cases

- Basic protection services such as reception, monitoring and referral of individual cases and transfer to the relevant services, suspended during the verification exercise, are gradually resuming in the various refugee sites. The UNHCR field office in Obock recorded 12 individual cases in January 2023.

Gender Based Violence (GBV)

- UNHCR's partner in charge of GBV prevention, the UNFD, carries out GBV case monitoring activities at the refugee site level, as a prelude to the official resumption of prevention and response activities in the refugee sites.
- During the period under review, the UNFD partner shared with UNHCR the GBV case management report in 2022 (including the number of GBV prevention awareness sessions at refugee sites) and took on one case of sexual assault on a minor in Ali-Addeh. The case was handed over to the competent authorities and the partner.



CHILD PROTECTION

Achievements and Impacts

- During the undercover period, UNHCR's partner for the implementation of community mobilization, child protection and the care of people with specific needs, CIAUD Canada, organized a training workshop on "the community engagement for Child Protection" in Ali-Sabieh from January 18 to 19, and in Djibouti-ville on January 25. These workshops were able to count on the participation of local authorities, community leaders, members of civil society, and other actors. The workshop was an opportunity for participants to strengthen their capacities and knowledge on International Protection (UNHCR's mandate and participation in the workshop), Child Protection, but also to contribute to the identification of community mechanisms for child protection in their localities. At the end of the workshop, the participants pledged to ensure the establishment of effective mechanisms guaranteeing the protection and care of all children, without exception, whether they are refugees, asylum seekers or members of the host community.



CASH ASSISTANCE FOR BASIC NEEDS

Achievements and Impacts

- In addition to the cash distributions in favor of people under UNHCR's mandate, following the High

Commissioner's L2 emergency declaration, the UNHCR, with the support of ONARS, proceeded to a cash distribution for the host communities of Ali-Sabieh and Markazi regions. These assistances aim to help mitigate the impact of drought on these communities. A total of 135 individuals (85 individuals from the communities of Ali-Addeh and Ali-Sabieh and 50 from Markazi) benefited each 50,000 Francs, which corresponds in total 6,750,000 Francs (38,130 USD).

- In partnership with the UNHCR partner for the implementation of community mobilization, child protection and care for people with specific needs, CIAUD Canada and on the basis of pre-established lists following the exercise of physical verification carried out by the operation between October-December 2022, UNHCR participated in the granting of multi-sector monetary assistance to 28 people with specific needs, including 27 individuals in the village of Ali-Addeh and one individual in the village of Holl -Holl. The International Committee for Emergency Aid and Development (CIAUD) is an international, non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Canada. She joined the Djibouti operation in October 2022 and will intervene specifically within the framework of the "Project for the protection of children, community mobilization, and the care of people with specific needs in Djibouti".



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impacts

- The Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training (MENFOP) is the implementation partner for refugee education throughout the national territory. In January, under the supervision of the regional education coordinator, students from grades 4 to the end of Markazi took the assessment tests at the end of the 1st term of the 2022/23 school year in the high school. These exams took place over the period from January 22 to 30, 2023. The results of these quarterly evaluation tests will be shared with us later by the regional education coordinator.
- During the current period, a team from the Ministry of Education carried out a technical inspection visit to the various school structures of the two sites (Ali-Addeh and Holl-Holl). As a result of this inspection visit, 31 damaged windows in settlements in the refugee village of Ali-Addeh were repaired and the small stock rehabilitated.
- In Obock, the ministry proceeded with the installation of the solar system for the 3 newly built classrooms in the high school in the Markazi village. Indeed, 10 new solar panels with 6 new batteries have been installed.

Existing gaps

- Need to renew the 18 solar batteries supplying electricity to the old classrooms and the administrative building of the high school in Markazi. In addition, it is important to build a technical room in the Markazi high school to maintain the solar equipment and its accessories (batteries, regulators, and solar panels) in a regular and efficient manner.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impacts

- During the period under review, health centers in refugee sites provided health care to persons under UNHCR mandate. During the month of January, more than 170 medical transfers were carried out mainly from Ali-

Addeh and Holl-Holl to Ali-Sabieh and Djibouti-ville.

- The Health Coordinator of the Ministry of Health has announced the posting of a doctor, with the financial support of UNHCR, to Ali-Addeh (largest refugee site) since December 2022. The doctor carries out consultations 2 times per 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 soon assignment of a doctor to Holl-Holl was also announced to solve the problems related to the transfer of refugee patients from the site.
- In Markazi, the Ministry of Health made its first supply of insulins for the stock of the village health post and the CMH-O immediately proceeded to distribute these drugs for people with diabetes.
- As part of the national program against blindness (PNLC), the Ministry of Health organized a cataract surgery campaign for the inhabitants of Obock, in the CMH of Obock. Four persons of concern (2 men and 2 women) from the Yemeni refugee community were among the beneficiaries, according to the Chief Medical Officer of CMH-O.

Existing gaps

- Lack of appropriate medical equipment and materials at the health post in the refugee village of Markazi and need to reinforce the existing solar system for sufficient lighting of the health post at night in Markazi.
- The access roads to the refugee village of Holl-Holl were badly damaged by heavy rains at the beginning of the year. This has impacted the evacuation of patients to referral hospitals.



LIVELIHOODS

Achievements and Impacts

- UNHCR's partner in the implementation of resilience and empowerment activities, ADDS, worked on the implementation of projects including the additional funds that were received from UNHCR at the end of 2022. In fact, the partner received an additional budget from UNHCR to finance the projects of 41 groups in the village of Ali-Addeh and 17 in Holl-Holl. The partner also facilitated the payment of the necessary licenses for all the projects to regularize them.
- With the financial support of UNHCR, the local office of the ADDS partner finally proceeded to cash transfers for the winning IGA groups during the second week of January 2023 in Markazi.

Durables solutions

- 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.



WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impacts

- In refugee sites, UNHCR's partner for the implementation of WASH in refugee villages, the Direction of Rural Hydraulic (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 were built in November 2022 for Eritrean asylum seekers in Markazi.

Existing gaps

- Lack of operability of the WASH committee in the village of Markazi.

Working with partner

UNHCR in the Republic of Djibouti works with national and international partners, namely: the Ministry of the Interior through its government department responsible for issues relating to refugees and management of refugee sites, the National Office for Assistance to Refugees and victims (ONARS); the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training (MENFOP) for issues related to the education and vocational training of refugees; the Ministry of Health for issues related to health, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and nutrition; the Ministry of Housing, Urban Planning and the Environment for all matters relating to firewood; the National Union of Women of Djibouti (UNFD) for issues related to GBV; the Ministry of Agriculture/DRH for WASH issues; the Ministry of the Environment; the Ministry of Social Affairs; the Ministry of Labour; and the Ministry of Sports. The new CIAUD partner in charge of caring for people with specific needs and community mobilization is added to the long list of partners implementing the operation.

Financial Information

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

CONTRIBUTIONS ³ | USD

	Unearmarked	Softly earmarked	Earmarked	Tightly earmarked	Total
European Union	-	-	-	511,898	511,898
IGAD	-	-	26,995	-	26,995
Sub-total	-	-	26,995	511,898	538,893
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	896,424	174,364	(1,648)	(30,804)	1,038,336
Total	896,424	174,364	25,347	481,094	1,577,229

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.

Special thanks to the main donors of the other softly earmarked funds in 2023: **Canada 3.9 million**
Special thanks to major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2023: **Sweden 77.6 million | Norway 63.1 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Netherlands 34.1 million | Germany 23.1 million | Swizz 18.9 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.9 million**

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