UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Factsheet

DJIBOUTI

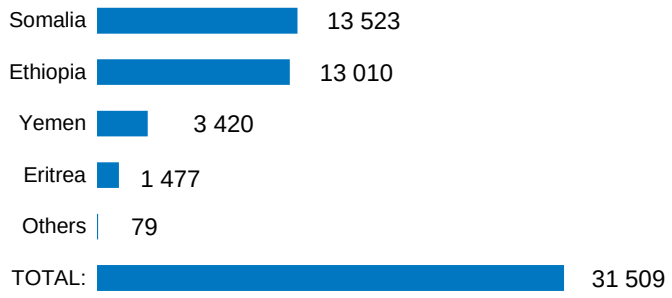
October - December 2023 [Q4]

The period covered was marked, among other things, by the celebration of Universal Children's Day; the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence [GBV] awareness campaign; baseline surveys in the livelihoods sector; periodic reassessments of the most vulnerable cases and of the financial assistance provided to the various refugee sites, so that they can be readjusted accordingly; the official handover of the newly rehabilitated water system to the Holl-Holl refugee community; community consultations under the African Development Bank [AfDB] programme for Improving the Investment Climate for the Economic Empowerment of Refugee Women and Host Communities between 18 and 20 December 2023 in the villages of Ali-Addeh and Holl-Holl; the award of certificates to 60 young refugees who have completed 5 months of entrepreneurship training; and visits by several high-level missions.

KEY INDICATORS

23,065 refugees
8,444 asylum seekers

CONCERNED POPULATION COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff :

- 34 national staff
- 15 international staff

Field offices :

- 1 Country Representative Office in Djibouti City
- 2 Field offices in Ali-Sabieh and Obock

HIGHLIGHTS

Mission to Djibouti by Kristine Hambrouck, Deputy Regional Director of the EHAGL Regional Office [29/10-02/11/2023]

Accompanied by the Senior Social Protection Officer, the Deputy Regional Director's mission was aimed at gaining a better understanding of the situation of refugees and asylum seekers living in the Republic of Djibouti, as well as social protection issues. Several key meetings took place: with government authorities (H.E. the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Said Nouh Hassan and H.E. the Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Robleh Abdulle), with donors (the EU and the WB) and with UNHCR partners such as the WFP. There was also a visit to the refugee site at Markazi, where discussions were held with community representatives, UNHCR staff and partners. The mission also took part in the CRRF's regular coordination meeting on Wednesday, November1st .

Visit to the Markazi refugee site [Obock] by the joint delegation made up of H.E. the Ambassador of the European Union, Ms Sylvie Tabesse, the First Counsellor of the French Embassy, Ms Christelle Chatrian-Gomez, and the UNHCR Representative, Mr Yohondamkoul Sakor [12/10/2023].

The visit took place within the framework of the bilateral contribution agreement signed between the EU and the UNHCR to support refugees and host communities in Djibouti. The 3-year project, which received an EU contribution of **€5,500,000**, ended on 31 March 2023. Support for Refugees and Host Communities in Djibouti had 3 main components: raising awareness of the legal framework among key players, improving access to education, and strengthening livelihoods. The aim of the project was to integrate refugees into national programmes.

PROTECTION & SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Registration

- As part of the ongoing registration process, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] has updated the certificates and made biometric corrections in 250 cases. In addition, 1,972 certificates were renewed.
- During the period covered, the UNHCR, in conjunction with ONARS, registered 99 new arrivals.

Protection Monitoring

- In Markazi, UNHCR's partner for the implementation of community mobilization, child protection and care for people with special needs [CIAUD Canada] raised awareness among refugees and asylum seekers about the use of complaints boxes and the UNHCR complaints management mechanism.
- A Fitness Centre has been opened in the refugee village of Ali-Addeh to channel young people's energy into constructive sporting activities. With the aim of placing sport at the heart of humanitarian assistance and inclusion, the center will welcome boys and girls from both refugee and host communities. A calendar has been drawn up with specific time slots for each group (boys and girls) to facilitate rotation and maximum benefit for all.

Protection, reception and follow-up/advice for individual cases

- More than 130 individual cases were received and advised in an appropriate and regular manner, and redirected to the relevant services during the period under review. The grievances mainly concerned requests for resettlement in a third country, the addition of new births, assistance with basic needs, medical assistance, and the re-issue of documents.

Refugee Status Determination [RSD]

- To process the backlog of asylum seekers, the National Eligibility Commission [CNE] sat and held 40 sessions during 2023. A total of 495 cases/households [1843 individuals] were processed, of which 260 were accepted, 93 rejected, 62 absent and 80 adjourned.
- During the same period, the National Appeals Commission held 3 sessions and examined 35 cases/households [95 individuals]. Of the 35 files submitted, 25 were accepted, 7 were rejected, 1 absent and 2 adjourned.

Gender-based violence [GBV]

- During the period under review, UNHCR's implementing partner in GBV prevention and response [UNFD] carried out its usual prevention and response support activities in the various refugee sites.
- In terms of prevention, the partner organized information and anti-GBV campaigns for a total of 762 people through various educational sessions and community activities on the risks of GBV and how to avoid them. In terms of response, more than fifteen new cases were reported and received appropriate services.
- The UNHCR in collaboration with its partners engaged in the 16 days of activism campaign against violence against women and girls which took place from 25 November to 10 December 2023.
- During the same period, and in collaboration with the UNHCR, the UNFD distributed 995 hygiene kits to girls aged 12 and over in the refugee villages of Ali-Addeh (704) and Holl-Holl (291).

Sustainable Solutions

- During the period under review, the operation resubmitted 32 family reunification cases previously submitted to the USA and Canada whose travel had been cancelled due to the closure of borders caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

CASH ASSISTANCE FOR BASIC NEEDS

- During the period from October to December 2023, and following home visits organized in refugee sites to determine and update the list of cases of vulnerable people and those under financial assistance, UNHCR's partner for the implementation of community mobilization, child protection and care for people with special needs, has helped UNHCR provide multi-sectoral assistance to 36 PBS (20 in Ali Addeh and 16 in Holl-Holl). These people receive FDJ 10,000/month/individual [equivalent to USD 55]. This UNHCR assistance is distributed on a quarterly basis.

EDUCATION

- With education remaining among the key priorities for UNHCR in Djibouti, the refugee agency continues to work closely with the Ministry of Education in the provision of educational services to refugee pupils and students. For the 2023-2024 school year, 4,945 pupils (2,223 of whom are girls) are enrolled in the various schools in the refugee sites.
- During the period under review, the education partner organized training on basic education for 23 secondary school teachers and 13 administrative staff.

HEALTH

- During the last quarter of 2023, UNHCR's health partner [Ministry of Health], continued to ensure access to health care for people under UNHCR's mandate living in refugee sites and urban areas. A total of 312 health cases were referred for secondary care and 269 cases were admitted to the nutrition programme.
- In October 2023, at the request of its partner, the Ministry of Health, UNHCR trained 80 staff from health centers in refugee villages (Holl-Holl and Ali-Addeh) on the Code of Conduct, PSEA and anti-fraud mechanisms. The aim of the training was to build the capacity of the partner's staff to carry out their work effectively with people of concern to the UNHCR.
- The Ministry of Health has launched a door-to-door screening campaign for multi-drug resistant tuberculosis [MTR-TB] in the refugee sites (AA/HH). Twelve (12) community workers (all refugees) carried out the screening for people in the two sites.

LIVELIHOODS

- In October 2023, the UNHCR took part in a meeting organized by the FAO to monitor the "Greening the Humanitarian Response" project, which involves 11,000 beneficiaries from the refugee and asylum-seeking communities at the Ali-Addeh and Markazi refugee sites. To implement the project, an agreement has been signed with an international NGO, which will provide training and technical demonstrations for the project's beneficiaries.
- As part of the Refugee Entrepreneurship Support Training Project [PAER], a ceremony to award certificates and start-up kits was held on December 31st, 2023, in the refugee villages of Ali-Addeh and Holl-Holl. This 5-month training course benefited 60 young refugees. These PAERs were funded by the UNHCR and implemented by its partner, the Agence Djiboutienne de Développement Social [ADDS]. The vocational training covered a range of areas, including electricity, mechanics, bricklaying, carpentry, and boiler making. The young winners also received start-up kits, which will enable them to launch their own initiatives in the future.

WATER AND SANITATION

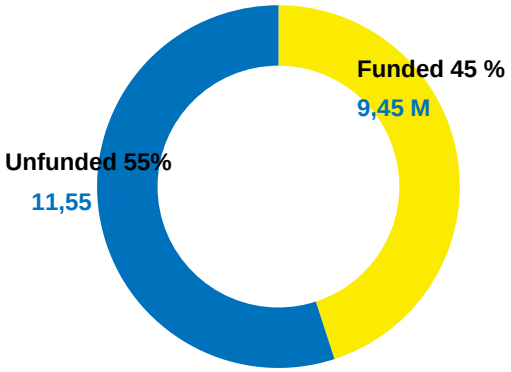
- UNHCR's implementing partner for water and sanitation issues [DHR] continues to supply drinking water to refugee sites.
- During the period covered, maintenance work was carried out on the water distribution network at the various refugee sites. A new rehabilitated water system was handed over to the Holl-Holl refugee community by the international NGO NRC.

Working with Partners

- The UNHCR's main government counterpart in Djibouti is the Ministry of the Interior. This operates 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 at all levels between the government of Djibouti, the authorities, sister UN agencies, international and national non-governmental organizations (INGOs/NGOs), development partners, as well as refugees and host communities, all with the aim of ensuring a coordinated response and appropriate solutions for the people being cared for.
- In addition to the Ministry of the Interior, UNHCR also works with other national partners, namely: **the Ministry of Education**, **the Ministry of Health**, **the Ministry of Housing**, **Urban Planning and the Environment**, **the Ministry of Agriculture**, **the Ministry of Labour**, **the Ministry of Sports**, and **the National Union of Djibouti Women**.
- UNHCR also coordinates the multisectoral response for refugees and asylum seekers in the refugee sites of Ali Addeh, Holl-Holl and Markazi as well as in urban areas. UNHCR co-leads the Joint Migration Working Group [JMWG] and meetings on child protection and GBV case management.

Funding situation as by 15th December 2023

The financial requirements for 2023 amount to USD 21.0 million.



We thank our donors for their contributions

Updated to 15 December 2023

UNHCR Djibouti is grateful for the essential and generous support provided by donors who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with earmarked, low earmarked and non-earmarked funds.

Australia for UNHCR 10.6 million | United States of America 6.9 million | Italy 5 million | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe 4.6 million | Australia 3.9 million | USA for UNHCR 3.2 million | Finland 3.1 million | United Kingdom for UNHCR 2.6 million | Canada 2.4 million | Private donors in China 2.3 million

Argentina for UNHCR | España con ACNUR | Grand Duchy of Luxembourg | Isle of Man | Japan for UNHCR | Sweden for UNHCR | Switzerland for UNHCR | Private donors

Sweden 69 million | Spain with ACNUR 68.1 million | Norway 63.1 million | Japan for UNHCR 44.3 million | United Kingdom 41 million | Netherlands 36.3 million | Denmark 35.6 million | France 27.4 million | Private donors in Republic of Korea 24.7 million | Germany 23.3 million | Switzerland 18.9 million | Japan 16.3 million | Private donors in Italy 15.4 million | Sweden for UNHCR 12.9 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.9 million | USA for UNHCR 10.8 million

Algeria | Angola | Australia | Austria | Bulgaria | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Grand Duchy of Luxembourg | Iceland | Kingdom of Saudi Arabia | Malta | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Principality of Monaco | Republic of Costa Rica | Republic of Indonesia | Republic of Korea | Republic of Montenegro | Republic of Singapore | Russian Federation | Serbia | State of Kuwait | Switzerland for UNHCR | Thailand | Turkey | United Kingdom for UNHCR | Uruguay | Private Donors

For more information on UNHCR's work in Djibouti, please visit Global Focus and the UNHCR Djibouti page on Twitter, and/or contact Deka Hassan Nour, Reporting Associate: hassanno@unhcr.org