

DJIBOUTI





January – March 2024 [Q1]

Djibouti hosts 31,528 refugees and asylum seekers registered with the UNHCR from more than 15 countries. Somalis are the largest group. Most refugees live in the refugee villages of Ali-Addeh, Holl-Holl and Markazi, as well as in the urban areas of Djibouti-City.

UNHCR continues to support the Government in its multi-sectoral response to refugees and asylum-seekers, ensuring optimal coordination of the response and durable solutions for people of concern.

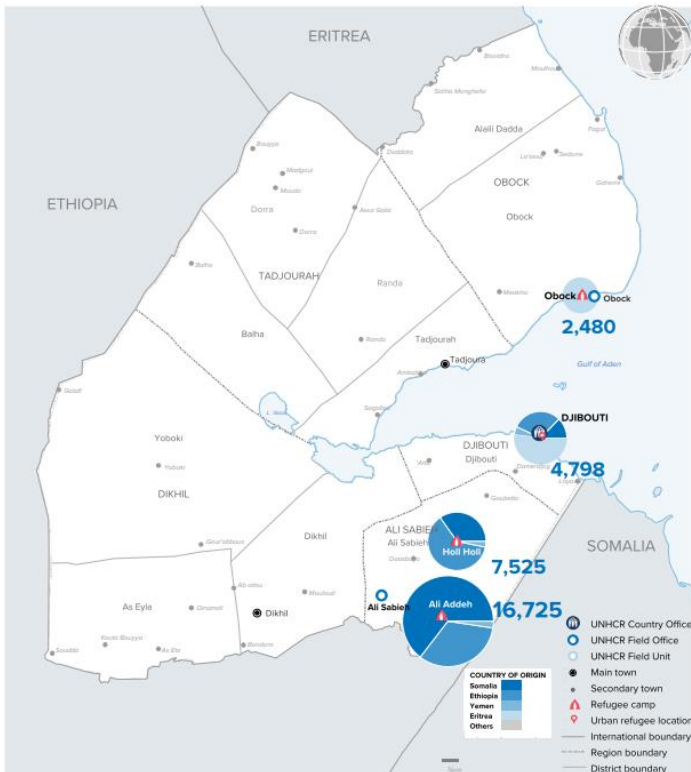
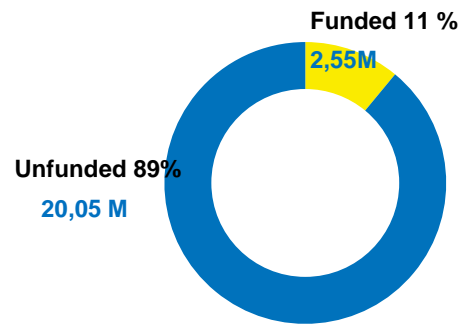
Djibouti was recognized as a country that has achieved a great deal in implementing the CRRF, particularly in integrating refugees and other persons of concern into national systems such as education, health and employment.

KEY INDICATORS (from the covered period)

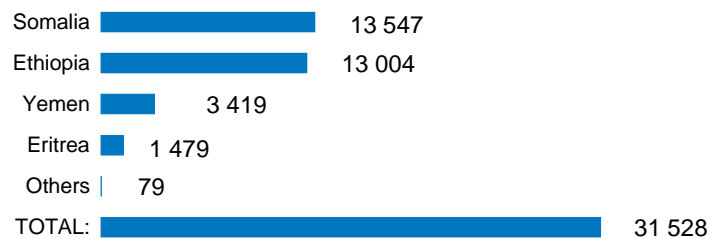
-  **23,493** refugees and **8,035** asylum seekers;
-  **5,099** refugee children attending school in refugee villages
-  **150** refugee children admitted to nutrition programs
300 medical transfers, including 15 to Djibouti City
5,384 medical consultations for adults and children over 5, and **92** births attended by health professionals.
-  **393** of the 398 asylum seekers who appeared in front of the Nationale Eligibility Commission (from January to March 2024), were recognized as refugees

FINANCING STATUS

Financial requirements in 2024 of USD **22.2 million**



POPULATION CONCERNED BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (4 main countries)



UNHCR PRESENCE

- Personnel :
- 28 national staff
 - 17 international staff

UNHCR presence :

- 1 Country Representation in Djibouti-ville
- 1 Field Office in Ali-Sabieh
- 1 Field Unit in Obock

HIGHLIGHTS

- √ Joint HCR/ONARS verification exercise to identify Yemeni refugees residing in prefabricated housing units at the Markazi refugee camp [March 9-11, 2024]
- √ the Head of Cooperation of the European Union delegation and the French Embassy paid a visit to Ali-Addeh refugee village [January 21, 2024];
- √ A team from the King Salman Foundation visited the refugee village of Markazi, to discuss drinking water, housing, and health issues with Yemeni refugees [January 23, 2024]
- √ The PRM team conducted a visit to refugee villages as part of their periodic field visits to assess the impact of their funding to refugee programs in Djibouti [January 29 -30, 2024]
- √ The European Union has contracted an evaluation mission (ROM) as part of the €5,500,000 EU-funded UNHCR project "Support for Refugees and Host Communities in Djibouti» [January 23-29, 2024]
- √ A delegation from the World Bank, accompanied by representatives from the Ministry of Education, conducted a site visit to refugee schools in Ali-Addeh [January 30, 2024]
- √ African Development Bank "Public-Private Dialogue" workshop [January 30-31, 2024];
- √ U.S. Congressman John Tomaszewski visited the village of Ali Addeh to gain insight into the living conditions of refugees and asylum seekers residing in the Republic of Djibouti. He also observed the interventions of UNHCR and its partners in refugee villages [February 16, 2024];
- √ The UNHCR Regional Director paid a visit to the Republic of Djibouti [February 20-22, 2024];
- √ FAO evaluation mission on the quality and impact of the distribution of firewood (prosopis type) to refugees in the villages of Ali Addeh and Holl-Holl [March 4, 2024];
- √ The first meeting under the Djibouti Deep Dive process with UNHCR and World Bank teams was held on March 12, 2024;
- √ PRM Africa Director Elizabeth A. Pelletrea paid a visit to Djibouti from March 12-14, 2024.

PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Registration

- New arrivals and continuous registration activities remain suspended until further notice due to internal issues at partner ONARS. UNHCR will continue to monitor the situation closely and hopes for a swift resumption of activities by ONARS and the Commission Nationale d'Eligibilité [CNE].
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] has renewed 1,069 identity certificates and documents, and updated the biometrics of 84 Eritreans who obtained refugee status before the suspension of the above-mentioned activities.

Protection, Reception and Follow-up / Advice on Individual Cases

- More than 115 individual cases were received on a regular basis and redirected to the relevant services as needed. The majority of grievances related to requests for resettlement to a third country, the addition of newborn babies, assistance with basic needs, medical assistance, and the issuing of documents.

Refugee Status Determination [RSD]

- From January 1 to February 7, 2024, the Nationale Eligibility Commission [NEC] recognized 393 individuals from the 398 asylum applications processed. Due to internal issues at the partner ONARS, the refugee status determination (RSD) activities have been suspended as of February 7, 2024.

Protection Monitoring

- In January 2024, a joint verification exercise was conducted by the UNHCR and ONARS teams at the Markazi refugee site (Obock) to confirm the status of the 300 housing units occupied by Yemeni refugees. The objective of this exercise is to be part of the regular protection activities and to ensure appropriate monitoring of assistance. The joint team's objective was to verify the living conditions and occupants of the prefabs, with a view to determining and updating the addresses and number of household members residing in the camp. The anticipated outcomes were to reassess protection needs, reallocate accommodation to align with each household's

requirements, and update the proGres database to ensure data integrity and the level of humanitarian assistance provided by UNHCR and its partners.

- In order to familiarize children with their rights, UNHCR's child protection partner, the NGO International CIAUD, conducted an awareness program for 64 children (41 boys and 33 girls aged 7 to 10) and 46 adults (22 men and 24 women) on children's right in Ali Addeh and Holl-Holl refugee villages;
- UNHCR and its partner CIAUD conducted home visits to 13 individuals with special needs, including three in Holl-Holl and 10 in Markazī. Following this visit, the lists of beneficiaries for financial assistance (CASH) were updated in Ali-Addeh, Holl-Holl, Markazi, and urban areas.
- As part of the community mobilization initiative, five meetings were held with the various existing refugee committees. These meetings were held in Ali Addeh (2 meetings), Holl-Holl (2 meetings) and Markazī (1 meeting).



Gender-Based Violence [GBV]

- In terms of prevention, UNHCR's partner UNFD conducted awareness campaigns to educate the public about the risks of GBV and how to avoid them. The aforementioned campaigns reached a total of 819 individuals through a combination of educational sessions and community activities designed to raise awareness about the risks of GBV.
- In terms of response, 38 new cases were reported and received the appropriate services.
- During the same period, in collaboration with the partner, 354 girls and women were trained in handbag, necklace, and palm-making as part of the activities of the women's and girls' center in Markazī.

Sustainable Solutions

- In the context of family reunification, relocation interviews were conducted for 44 cases of 122 individuals as part of the update of family reunification cases submitted to the USA.

EDUCATION

- UNHCR Djibouti maintains a close working relationship with the Ministry of Education to provide educational services to refugee pupils and students. For the 2023-2024 academic year, 5,099 students [2,330 of whom are female] are enrolled in the various educational institutions at refugee sites.
- School principals from the refugee villages of Ali Addeh and Holl-Holl participated in a training session on the use and mastery of IT tools. The session focused on entering student, teacher, and staff data into the GOSE database, a system used by all Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MENFOP) schools
- UNHCR's partner in the inclusion of refugees in the national education system, the Ministry of Education, has helped 158 refugee teachers from Ali Addeh and Holl-Holl, to open bank accounts at East Africa Bank. Salary payments are now made by bank transfer, a major step forward for the financial inclusion of refugees in the Republic of Djibouti.

HEALTH

- During the first quarter of 2024, UNHCR's implementing partner in health, the Ministry of Health, will continue to ensure access to healthcare for individuals under UNHCR's mandate residing in refugee sites and urban areas.
- A medical referral committee has been established to assess and determine the eligibility of medical cases for referral to the tertiary level (from refugee village CMHs to the capital). The committee is comprised of representatives from UNHCR, the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, and WHO. The committee will also determine the most suitable funding mechanism to support these referral activities.
- The final report of the SENS Nutrition Survey, conducted in 2023, has been shared with our partner Health.

LIVELIHOODS

- UNHCR conducted a mapping of development players and multilateral donors currently operating in the Republic of Djibouti. In addition, the World Bank, ADB, JICA, and USAID collectively provide funding for various projects amounting to approximately \$1.6 billion.
- To reinforce the financial inclusion of refugees, a meeting was held with the World Bank for Trade and Industry - Red Sea (BCIMR) and the Caisse Populaire d'Épargne et de Crédit (CPEC) during the period under review.
- The five-year Livelihood and Economic Inclusion Action Plan for Djibouti is currently being finalized.
- UNHCR has organized a consultation and exchange session with urban refugees. The session concentrated on entrepreneurship, the payment of patents, and the spirit of empowerment. UNHCR also advocated with ADDS for the formalization of 26 IGAs (Income-Generating Activities), which would enable refugees to pay their taxes in the same way as nationals.

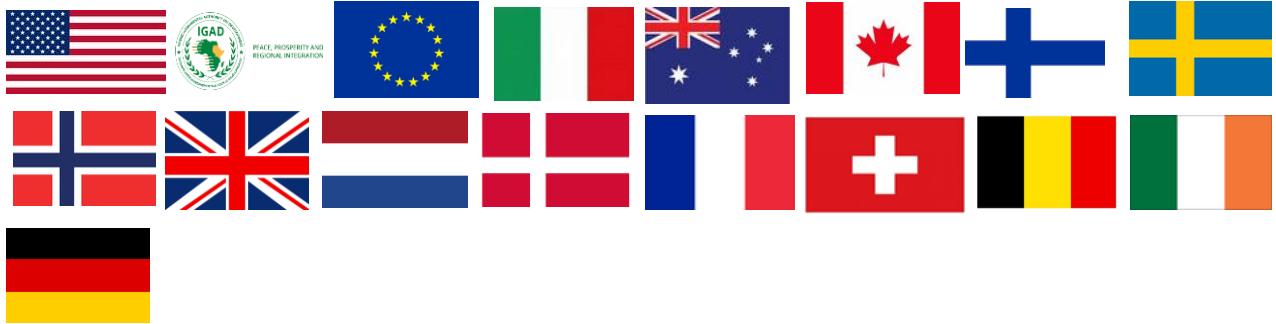
WATER AND SANITATION

- UNHCR's water and sanitation implementation partner, DHR, is continuing to provide drinking water to refugee sites.
- The UNHCR partner proceeded with the distribution of waste collection equipment designed to enhance the overall cleanliness of the Markazi refugee site and reinforce community commitment to sanitation. Committee members were informed of their responsibility and committed to implementing an effective strategy to maintain the site's cleanliness.



We thank our donors for their generous contributions

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



UNHCR Djibouti would like to express its gratitude to private donors, including those from Australia, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States, for their invaluable support.