Djibouti

May 2024

Organized jointly by the Ministry of the Interior, ONARS [Office National d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Sinistrés] and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], the **first meeting of the CRRF's expanded committee** took place on Thursday, May 30, 2024, at the Palais du Peuple.

The main objective of the meeting was to take stock of the latest developments in the context of the **2023 Global Forum on Refugees** and to underline Djibouti's commitment to efforts to include refugees in **national systems and statistical surveys**.

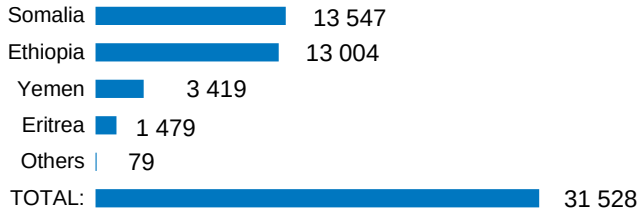
This first meeting of the expanded committee is a crucial step for public and private actors who, through this workshop, reaffirm a **strong political will** and commitment of all to optimize their efforts to ensure **a more dignified and successful life for refugees**.

KEY INDICATORS – 31st May 2024

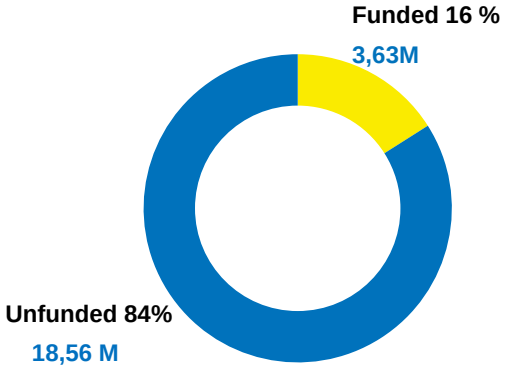
31,528 refugees & asylum seekers in Djibouti

- which **23,493** are refugees and **8,035** asylum seekers
- **85%** live inside refugee villages.

POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



FUNDING STATUS (as of 31st May 2024)



H.E. the Ambassador of France talks with Tigrayan leaders during her visit to Holl-Holl refugee village.

ACHIEVEMENTS

PROTECTION

- Registration activities for new arrivals, as well as Refugee Status Determination (RSD) activities, which were suspended in February 2024, have not yet resumed.
- In May 2024, 52 cases were received and counselled, including 38 in Djibouti-ville and 14 in Markazī. The complaints mainly concerned requests for resettlement in a third country, assistance with basic needs, requests for newborn babies, medical assistance, including non-delivery of medicines for chronically vulnerable patients, resumption of BIMS and renewal of identity documents.
- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] renewed a total of 11 family attestations and identity cards as part of the renewal of identity documents for people under its mandate. It should be noted that 3 family certificates required the restoration of the BIMS.

Protection Monitoring

- People with Special Needs (PBS), who are among the most vulnerable members of the refugee community, continued to receive financial assistance from UNHCR through its partner, CIAUD Canada, for the second quarter (April, May, and June). Thus, 54 people with special needs (25 in Ali-Addeh, 14 in Holl-Holl, 8 in Markazī and 7 in urban areas) benefited from financial assistance of 10,000 FDJ/person/month. This financial support from UNHCR effectively contributes to supporting and improving the living conditions of PBS.

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- UNHCR facilitated the release of 6 persons under its mandate, who had been taken to the Nagad detention center by the National Police during a round-up operation. It should be noted that awareness-raising appeals and reminders continue to be made to the National Police regarding the freedom of movement of refugees throughout the country. This freedom of movement is advocated by the Law on the Status of Refugees and its two implementing decrees, promulgated by H.E. the President of the Republic of Djibouti. This law and its decrees have been the subject of several workshops in the country and in the region.
- In Markazī, an assessment was carried out to identify shelter needs. The assessment revealed the need for 67 shelters for Eritrean asylum seekers.

Child Protection

- With the aim of familiarizing children with their rights, UNHCR's child protection partner, the international NGO CIAUD, organized three (3) awareness-raising sessions for 29 children (10 girls and 19 boys between the ages of 7 and 14) in May 2024. During these educational sessions, the participants were informed about the fundamental rights of children. Encouragement kits were given to children who correctly answered questions posed during the sessions, demonstrating their ability to understand and retain the message. At the same occasion, 20 adults (14 males and 06 females) were sensitized on child protection issues.

Gender-Based Violence [GBV]

- During the reporting period, more than 265 people (98 in Ali Addeh, 75 in Holl-Holl and 75 in Markazī) were sensitized on gender-based violence by UNFD (Union Nationale des Femmes Djiboutiennes), UNHCR's partner in responding to and preventing gender-based violence.

- As for the response, the partner received 11 new cases of GBV (including cases of denial of resources, psychological and sexual violence) in the various refugee sites and in urban areas (3 cases in Ali-Addeh, 3 in Holl-Holl and 5 in Djibouti-ville). The cases were then referred to the competent authorities (arrondissements, cadis of the respective villages, the mobile court, the health centre and the police).

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

- The Resettlement Support Centre (RSC) is in mission in Djibouti and has pre-screened 82 cases out of 190 individuals in Ali-Sabieh (the region where the two largest refugee sites in the Republic of Djibouti are located). In Djibouti-City, the mission continues to assist with preparations for interviews with U.S. immigration officials.
- A tripartite meeting was held between the Office of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), IOM and UNHCR to discuss Djibouti's caseload and how best to proceed with the cases currently being processed. The meeting concluded with the exchange of a formal communication on the reactivation of cases.

FOOD SECURITY

- During the May food distribution, over 20,000 people were assisted with food and cash in the villages of the refugees.
- In Markazī, 424 households with 1,413 people were provided with kerosene. This activity is part of the assistance provided by the government partner ONARS with UNHCR funding to support households at the Markazī level. The

distribution of 5,652 liters of kerosene (4 liters per person) was carried out using the Global Distribution Tool (GDT) for biometric verification to ensure that the right people were served and to minimize fraud attempts.

EDUCATION

- More than 2,410 refugee students, including 1,189 girls, participated in the Basic Education Certificate exams held across the country, including in schools in the refugee villages of Ali-Addeh, Holl-Holl and Markazī. During the school year 2023-2024, more than 5,099 refugees were enrolled in different levels of education.

HEALTH

- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] in Djibouti has handed over 117 pallets containing 3,489 cartons of essential medicines to the Ministry of Health. This donation is part of the partnership between UNHCR and the Ministry of Health to include refugees and asylum seekers in Djibouti's national health programme.
- A nutrition monitoring mission was conducted by Ms. Amina Mohamed Abdille, Deputy Nutrition and Food Security Officer (Regional Office) and Mr. Daniel Bukasa, Public Health Officer (Djibouti). The objective was to assess the progress of the refugee health program, with particular emphasis on nutrition-related aspects. The mission held discussions with local medical staff and visited health posts in refugee villages. At the end of the visit, the mission took stock of the nutrition programs in place, access to primary health care, availability of medicines in the community.
- The Markazī refugee site hosted the WHO mental health mission to support (local) mental health trained professionals. The team interacted with CSI staff and met with some of the cases identified at the site.

LIVELIHOODS

- A support visit and consultation were conducted to 6 UNHCR funded refugee businesses in Djibouti City. Five (5) out 6 the businesses visited are operational, with net monthly profits ranging from DJF 70,000 (USD 400) to DJF 150,000 (USD 900).

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 programmes with earmarked, low-earmarked, and un-earmarked funds.

For more information, please contact: Deka Hassan Nour at hassanno@unhcr.org