

Djibouti

January 2018

2017 was marked by considerable progress for the refugee caseload in Djibouti. From the promulgation of the National Refugee Law in January to the passing of two landmark decrees this past December that aim to actively promote socio-economic inclusion of refugees, the Government of Djibouti has been at the very helm of advancement. Their

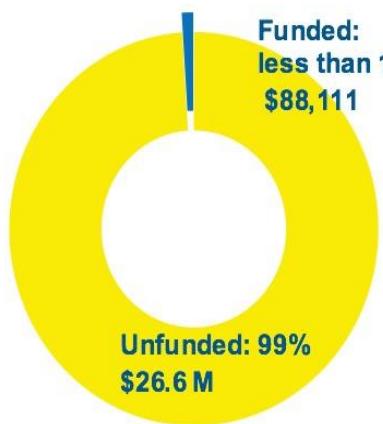
incredible support has enabled UNHCR to make great strides alongside the steadfast cooperation of our partners. The Minister of Interior, in December, made the call to replace the term camp with settlement or village to show solidarity with the refugees and to make them feel at home. The past year has indeed given us significant

leverage to achieve our goals, but 2018 will pose challenges and as well as opportunities as we venture to expand our advocacy and services to refugees and asylum seekers. We band together to effectively address their needs, offer durable solutions, and safeguard their rights and best interests.

FUNDING (AS OF JANUARY 2018)

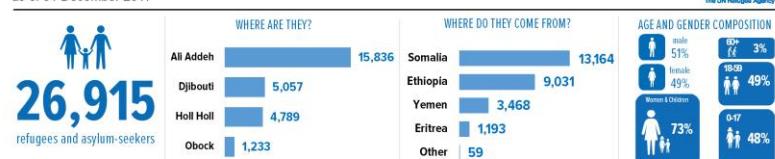
USD \$26.7 million

requested for Djibouti



DJIBOUTI Refugees and asylum-seekers

as of 31 December 2017



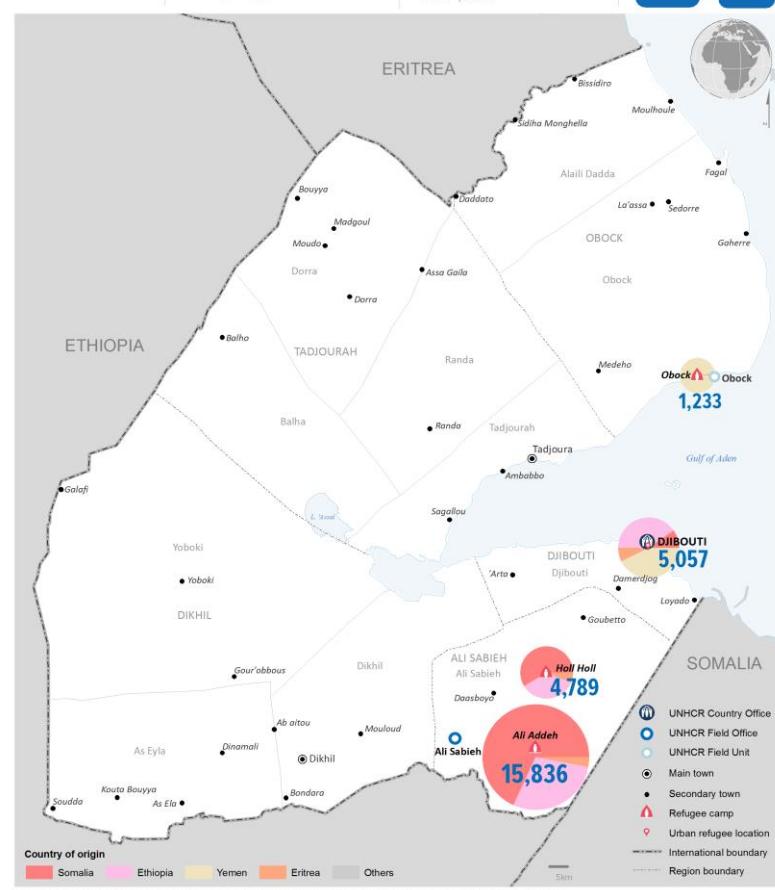
UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 32 National Staff
- 9 International Staff
- 7 International United Nations Volunteers
- 1 National UNV
- 1 Deployee

Offices:

- 1 Country office in Djibouti
- 1 Field office in Ali Sabieh
- 1 Field office in Obock



Working with Partners

- UNHCR provides and leads the multi-sector response for refugees and asylum seekers at the Ali Addeh, Holl-Holl, and Markazi settlements and in urban settings. Close collaboration is maintained with the Government of Djibouti and authorities at all levels, with international and national NGOs, and with refugee community leaders to ensure optimal coordination of response for refugees and asylum seekers.
- UNHCR works with national and international partners; namely, the government structure in charge of refugee-related issues, *l'Office National d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Sinistrés* (ONARS), who manages the refugee settlements, *le Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale et de la Formation Professionnelle* (MENFOP), *le Ministère de la Santé* (health/reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and nutrition); the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC; water, sanitation, shelter, hygiene); the Lutheran World Federation (LWF; education and community services); *l'Union Nationale des Femmes de Djibouti* (UNFD; SGBV) and the Ministry of Habitat, Urban Planning and Environment. UNHCR also collaborates with operational partners such as the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Al Rahma Association, Caritas, and International Children's Action Network (ICAN). In addition to the refugee response, since Djibouti is a pilot country for the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), UNHCR and its partners aim to nourish initiatives that benefit both the refugees and their host communities. It has been guiding the way we work and the results we pursue.
- UNHCR also co-leads the Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF) with IOM to strengthen regional and international co-operation enhancing national response to reduce irregular migration flows.

Highlights

- The High Commissioner's official visit to Djibouti took place from December 14–16. In this time, he met with refugees at the Ali Addeh and Markazi settlements. He also met with several Djiboutian Government officials including the President, Prime Minister, the Ministers of Interior, Education, and Health, as well as other ministers and local authorities. The High Commissioner lauded the Government for Djibouti's progressive policies in welcoming refugees and including them into their national systems. Moreover, just a week following the signing of the decrees that would pave the way for stronger socio-economic inclusion (i.e. access to healthcare, employment opportunities, etc.), the High Commissioner placed particular emphasis on this remarkable milestone and congratulated the Government. He encouraged Djibouti to continue serving as a role model of refugee inclusion and of stability and peace to its neighbors and the greater international community.



- On December 16, Secretary of State of the British Department for International Development (DFID), H.E. Ms. Penny Mordaunt visited Djibouti and met with UNHCR staff. A principal objective of her mission was to learn more about the implications of the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. She also met with Yemeni refugees in the capital city, where she listened to their personal stories and experiences fleeing the conflict.
- From December 12–14, the regional conference on education for refugees, organized by IGAD and the Djiboutian Ministry of Education, took place and hosted more than 100 participants, including (8 member states) country delegations and global education specialists. This conference was an accomplishment on the action promised during the Nairobi Declaration for the countries in the region to better integrate refugees into their national education systems.
- On December 7, President Guelleh passed two landmark decrees that would ensure greater progress for socio-economic inclusion of refugees in Djibouti. One decree clarifies eligibility procedures for refugee status determination. The other decree opens doors for refugees to have access to basic social services and facilitates their socio-economic inclusion in Djibouti (access to education and healthcare, legal protection, as well as employment opportunities). These decrees help bring tangible progress to the National Refugee Law which was adopted in January 2017.
- The *Dangerous Crossings* campaign was launched in Djibouti with the help of UNHCR colleagues at the regional office in Nairobi. The public information campaign aimed to warn migrants and refugees about the risks of crossing over to Yemen and other parts of the Gulf, not only discouraging on the basis of the escalating conflict but also warning about the potential exposure to human trafficking, sexual abuse, and organized crime networks. The campaign started in early December and was supported by the Ministry of Interior and IOM.
- From November 4–6, a delegation of donors from 12 countries visited Djibouti to get updates on the refugee situation and the UNHCR operation in the country. The group was specifically interested in CRRF progress, the effectiveness of the Multi-Year Multi-Partner (MYMP) planning strategy in achieving lasting solutions, refugee health issues and the likelihood of inclusion in the national health insurance system, and assistance through Cash-Based Interventions (CBI), among other issues. Their visit also included a tour of the Ali Addeh settlement where they met with refugee leaders as well as focus groups (women, educators, and people with special needs). On the last day, they had a string of meetings with the Djiboutian authorities (Ministries of Education and Interior, ONARS), the UN country team, and urban refugees.

Main Activities

Protection

- Following the deteriorating situation in Yemen in December, 162 Yemeni refugees were registered as new arrivals at the Markazi settlement. Though far from emergency levels, UNHCR Djibouti continues to closely monitor developments while reviewing/updating its current contingency plan and stock of NFIs (particularly at the Markazi settlement) in case of a sharp increase in arrivals from the country. As of December 2017, the

population at the Markazi settlement stands at 1,233 refugees while its maximum capacity is set for 5,000.

- In December, 57 families (about 300 individuals) were registered as asylum seekers at the Holl-Holl settlement. The majority of them are Ethiopian who fled the recent tribal conflict in the Oromia region.
- Throughout the past months, staff of UNHCR and ONARS led the roll-out of BIMS (Biometric Identify Management System) in the settlements and the urban areas to better capture statistics, those of which have been updated and shared on the cover page. The exercise has already concluded in the settlements and will roll-out in the cities in early February.
- From November 27–December 10, UNHCR and its partners, led by the efforts of UNFDD, participated in the ‘16 Days of Activism’ campaign against violence toward women and girls. During this period, the SGBV committee made up of volunteers among the refugee community led workshops addressing domestic violence and launched other activities promoting awareness and prevention.
- Throughout November and December at the three settlements, LWF brought in a Child Protection specialist to help develop protection strategies and case management with partners, refugee leaders, teachers, and various members of the respective communities.
- LWF assisted some 275 persons with special needs with transport during the food distribution periods at the three settlements.

Education

- Since late December, a series of meetings was initiated to ensure a smooth handing over and transition of refugee education activities from LWF to MENFOP across the three refugee settlements. On January 21, the two parties signed an agreement on the modalities of collaboration as well as division of roles in the education sector.
- As of December, primary school attendance was as follows: 1,800 at Ali Addeh; 822 at Holl-Holl; and 293 at Markazi. For secondary school, 150 students were enrolled at Ali Addeh and 23 at Markazi.
- LWF, with the support of UNICEF and the German National Council (GNC), recently helped send 28 refugee students to private schools in the capital.
- In the spirit of CRRF, MENFOP oversaw the construction of a primary school outside of the Markazi settlement. There children of the surrounding local community, Obock, will be taught side by side with refugee children. The official opening is set to take place in the coming months once teacher training and recruitment has been completed.

Health

- In mid-January, the Ministry of Health officially signed on to take over providing health services to the refugees. The initiative comes as part of the Government's passing of the decrees in the same month that bolsters socio-economic inclusion of refugees into the national systems, including that of health. It also stems from the Ministry's strong willingness to safeguard the wellbeing of refugees in the country. The roll-out included caravans of doctors and medical staff attending to refugees, giving both preventive and emergency care. AAH-I has stepped down from its role as UNHCR's health partner but is working to ensure a smooth transition as the Government fully engages in the efforts. This new partnership heralds good strides on the CRRF front, bringing refugee individuals access to healthcare just as the local populations.

Food Security and Nutrition

- In collaboration with WFP, food and cash distribution at the settlements benefitted 13,815 refugees at Ali Addeh, 3,644 at Holl-Holl and 1,255 at Markazi in November. In December, 12,455 refugees received food aid at Ali Addeh, 3,514 at Holl-Holl, and 1,275 at Markazi.

Water and Sanitation

- The “Keep the Settlement Clean” campaign was launched in Ali Addeh, Holl-Holl, and Markazi. NRC took the lead in coordination and other partners including ONARS, LWF, DRC, UNFD, and AAH-I assisted in the implementation. Its objective was to promote waste management and proper sanitary measures as well as to encourage refugees to be active agents of change in their communities.
- The provision of potable water was maintained at the settlements of Ali Addeh and Holl-Holl at the rate of 12 and 18 liters per person per day, respectively. At Markazi, the figure was 23 liters per person per day, above the daily recommendation of 20 liters.
- At the Markazi settlement, NRC completed the restoration of 22 water points, where refugees can access potable water.
- The European Commission’s DG ECHO (European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations) visited the settlements in December to follow up on WASH projects, which they financed. Their recent contributions include 70m² reservoirs at Ali Addeh and Holl-Holl and several showers and latrines at all settlements.

Shelter and NFIs

- At Ali Addeh and Holl-Holl, construction on permanent shelters (150 and 50 respectively) was completed for refugees and the local communities thanks to NRC.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- The roll-out of a pilot cash assistance program has begun at the Markazi settlement in collaboration with WFP, where four refugees with small businesses (owners of food shops and produce stands) will be invited to participate in the scheme. WFP plans to inject a budget of 200,000DJF to support their endeavors.
- One of the main priorities of the operation in the new year is to launch a CBI program. In November, a Senior CBI Officer visited Djibouti on mission to conduct a feasibility study on the prospects of initiating it. The report has yet to be finalized and the operation is also looking into the recruitment of a CBI specialist to help support the long term needs of the initiative.
- On December 29, the Minister of Youth and Sports launched a regional sports league in Obock in an effort to promote youth participation in sports. Young refugees at the nearby Markazi settlement were invited to participate alongside the host community.

Durable Solutions

- In 2017, a total of 62 individuals, mainly from Somalia and Eritrea, were resettled to Canada and the U.S.
- In 2018, UNHCR looks forward to working with the governments of Canada and Sweden in resettlement agreements to take in refugees in Djibouti (200 and 20 individuals respectively).

External / Donors Relations

Donor(s) who have contributed to the operation

IGAD

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds

Sweden (98 M) | Norway (43 M) | Netherlands (39 M) | United Kingdom (32 M) |
Denmark (25 M) | Australia (19 M) | Switzerland (15 M)

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