

# Djibouti

April 2018

Progressing further into 2018, the operation finds itself concerned with the unstable socio-political situations in Yemen and in Ethiopia and the subsequent influx of new arrivals that could be triggered. The situations in Somalia and Eritrea remain protracted. The occasional flare up of conflict and tension sometimes

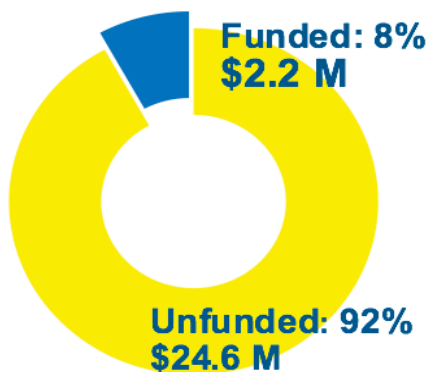
ushers in new arrivals from those countries. The operation remains on stand-by, monitoring the situation closely with the Government and partners. Meanwhile, staff are also advancing progress made in 2017, continuing advocacy efforts, mainly to the Government and businesses on the refugees' newly-given rights to

work and laying the foundation for an effective livelihoods strategy and adoption of cash based intervention (CBI) to bolster independence. This first quarter was one devoted to planning, and the operation is advancing progress to hit critical targets and boost results-based priorities.

## FUNDING (AS OF APRIL 2018)

**USD \$26.7 million**

requested for Djibouti



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

- 34 National Staff
- 10 International Staff
- 8 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

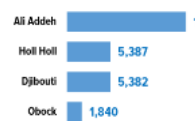
## DJIBOUTI

### Refugees and asylum-seekers

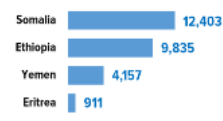
as of 31 March 2018

**27,366**  
refugees and asylum-seekers

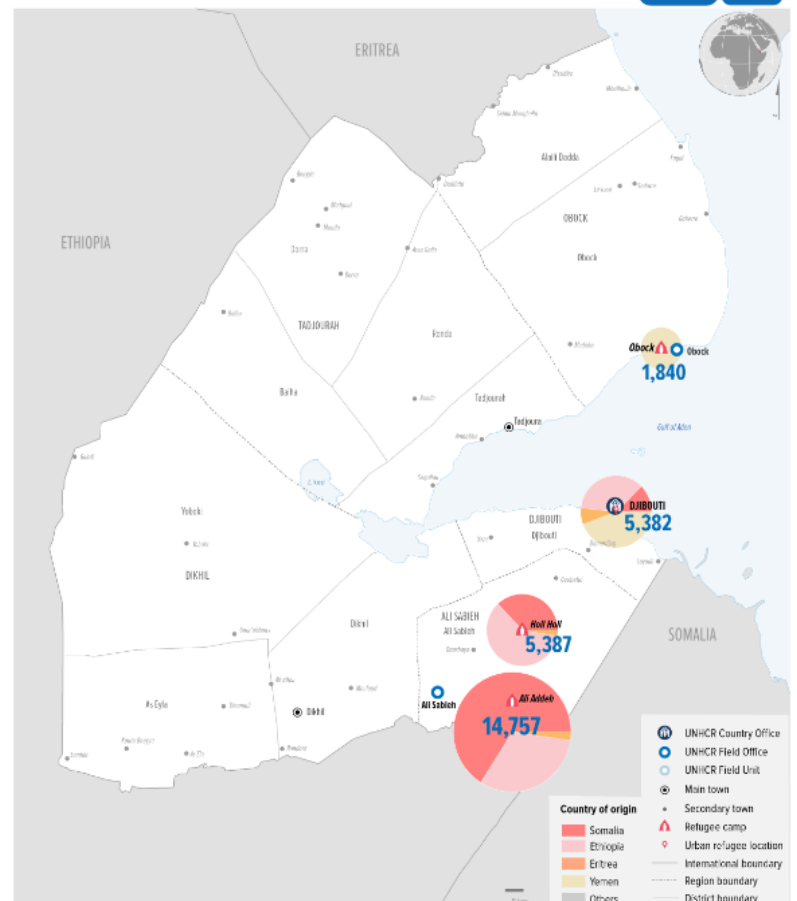
#### POPULATION BY REGION OF ASYLUM



#### POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



#### AGE AND GENDER COMPOSITION



## 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 as well as 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); the International Children's Action Network (ICAN; child protection); 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, and Caritas. In addition to the refugee response, since Djibouti is a roll-out 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

- ONARS, UNHCR's counterpart in the Djiboutian Government, celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on February 21. Since 1978, just months after Djibouti gained its independence, the Government created ONARS to address the needs of refugees coming to the country.
- On March 11, UNHCR participated in a panel on energy solutions in local development strategies, which was part of a forum on renewable energy sponsored by the Embassy of Germany and the Djiboutian Chamber of Commerce. The operation advocated for refugees' rights to light and energy sources to an audience of representatives from the private and public sector.
- A team of consultants from UNDP visited the settlement of Ali Addeh to boost awareness of TB ahead of World TB Day (March 24). They visited the clinic that had been set up by UNDP to capture progress on efforts to treat individuals with the disease as well as to speak with recovering refugees.
- In late March, the operation's CRRF team sponsored a friendly soccer match between the refugees of the Ali Addeh settlement and members of the host community of Ali Sabieh. The players were in good spirits as local spectators cheered on. It was the first event of its kind to bolster the ideals of the CRRF in peaceful coexistence between the two communities.

- The first CRRF Steering Committee meeting was held on April 4 and was co-chaired by Ministry of Interior and UNHCR with ONARS serving as Secretary. Other ministries, the UN Resident Coordinator, and partner NGOs were also present. The Committee was established to support and advise the Government on implementing the CRRF approach, leveraging effective use of resources, and facilitating good working relations with local development and humanitarian actors.
- In early April, a team from USAID visited the settlements with WFP to check up on the food distribution system as well as to discuss with refugees some of the challenges they face in terms of food security. USAID's Food For Peace program has been aiding the most vulnerable in Djibouti—mainly refugees and the rural poor—with food assistance.
- Also in April, UNHCR hosted a joint mission of World Bank and UNICEF staff to assess the education and vocational training challenges at the Ali Addeh settlement and see how resources could be better mobilized to continue expanding refugee access to quality education.
- In April, the operation's CRRF team launched an outreach campaign to spread awareness of the decree passed giving refugees the right to work to Government officials, law enforcement officers, and the private sector. The refugees were also targeted in making sure they know their rights with the newly given access to the Djiboutian labor market.
- On the heels of the positive public reception to the *Dangerous Crossings* campaign, UNHCR will take the message to the critical areas of Tadjourah and Obock, which are cities situated along the route migrants take to travel to war-torn Yemen.

## Main Activities

### Protection

- Since the beginning of the year, a total of 416 individuals from Yemen have been registered as refugees at the Markazi settlement. The number of new arrivals increased slightly since the deteriorating socio-political situation in Yemen late last year.
- Some 42 Eritreans were registered as asylum seekers at Obock. Their files have been sent to ONARS and are pending status determination.
- Approximately 1,042 individuals were registered at Holl-Holl since the beginning of the year. They are mainly Somali and Ethiopian in origin.
- The National Eligibility Committee met for the first time on April 11, which demonstrates progress on the decree on eligibility procedures signed in December 2017. A total of eight cases were decided upon: three Ethiopian and three Eritrean asylum seekers were granted refugee status while two other representing each group were rejected. Subsequently, they reconvened on April 17 to hear four additional cases, which were eventually all rejected.
- ICAN teamed up with LWF at Markazi to boost psycho-social counseling to the Yemeni children. Their methods include using music and the arts as a form of therapy and emotional healing.

- UNFD organized capacity building workshops for field staff and partners at Ali Sabieh and Obock to better develop prevention and intervention on SGBV.
- UNFD also runs centers for listening and counseling on SGBV-related issues, open to both men and women, at the settlements and the urban areas. In this first quarter of the year, they managed 56 cases across the country.

### Education

- Since taking over refugee education after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with UNHCR in August 2017, MENFOP has successfully translated the curriculum for grade one. In these past months, they also made significant progress in translating textbooks and other material for grades two and six, which should be ready by the start of the coming school year in September.
- In the spirit of the CRRF approach, MENFOP finished the construction of a school in Obock that will serve both the refugee and host communities. It is set to open in September.
- MENFOP has also implemented teacher training in the settlements, boosting the capacity of teachers through monitoring and evaluation methods.
- On April 4-5, MENFOP coordinated (with the support of UNHCR, UNICEF, and the World Bank) a workshop to discuss progress and short and mid-term action on the Education Action Plan. Various matters from curriculum development to infrastructure improvement were discussed. School administrators and parents were also in attendance.

### Health

- Since officially becoming partners with UNHCR in January of this year, the Ministry of Health has rolled out its care to the settlements. In February and March, 2,801 refugees from Ali Addeh sought consultations at the clinics for various health issues, and at Holl-Holl 2,552 refugees were assisted.
- Currently, there are eight pregnant women and 15 new mothers receiving consultations at the local hospital in Obock. In the spirit of CRRF, medical staff welcome them and provide pre- and post-natal care.

### Food Security and Nutrition

- A total of 142 individuals are currently in WFP's food supplement program at the Markazi clinic. The total number of cases of malnutrition reached 211 at Ali Addeh and 147 at Holl-Holl. The program aims to fortify refugees' diets with vitamin-enriched foods to help them achieve healthy weights.

### Water and Sanitation

- Current water provision and supply stands at 22 liters per person per day at the Markazi settlement, 14.5 liters at Holl-Holl, and 8 liters at Ali Addeh. The daily recommended standard is 20 liters. Repair and maintenance issues with the boreholes and water networks led to the decline of water supply in the settlements in the south, who earlier this year were receiving 18 and 13 liters respectively per person per day.
- In addition to helping with the water supply mentioned above, NRC conducts maintenance of latrines and other hygiene-related facilities.

### Shelter

- NRC is continuing with the construction of 30 permanent shelters at Ali Addeh and 20 at Holl-Holl. Refugees are often able to work alongside the engineers and to train in construction methods. Together with NRC, UNHCR is also preparing for the construction of 174 additional shelters for new arrivals in these settlements in the south.

### Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- In February, LWF and field staff coordinated a marathon called “The Making of Future Champions” at the Ali Addeh settlement. Among the 362 participants were refugees, individuals from the host community, as well as staff of UNHCR and partner organizations.
- On April 16, the UNHCR launched a vocational training program in conjunction with the local Protestant Church. Some 23 refugees were enrolled in courses for electricity and solar panel installation. The operation hopes this training will help them boost their competitiveness in the local job market. In line with CRRF priorities, the long-term goal would empower refugees, making them fully self-sufficient, and contributing to the socio-economic health of their host communities.
- LWF recently established a women’s wellness program at the Markazi settlement, which aims to boost their physical and emotional well-beings. They also set up a life skills course for young girls, teaching assertiveness, confidence building, and decision making.
- LWF also continues their vocational training for women at the Markazi settlement, where dozens of women are enrolled in hairdressing and tailoring programs.

### Durable Solutions

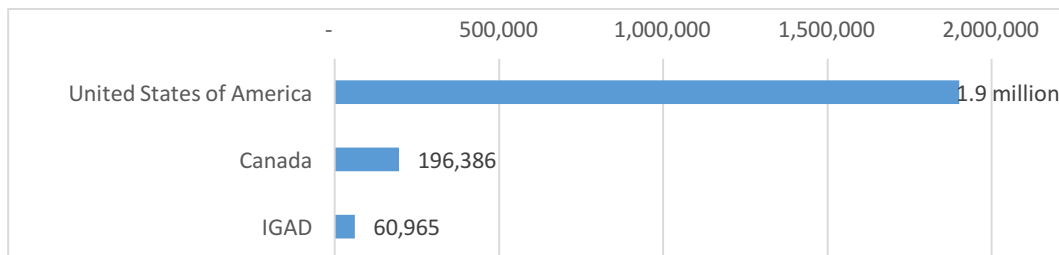
- So far in 2018, 250 individuals have expressed their intention to repatriate back to Somalia. Protection interviews were conducted with each of them and their cases are now being reviewed and being coordinated with UNHCR colleagues in Mogadishu.
- Concerning resettlement, in the past quarter, 55 individuals’ cases were submitted for review to the Government of Canada and 21 to Sweden. Eight refugees have already been accepted for resettlement (six to Sweden and two to the U.S.).

# Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **USD \$2.2 million**.

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

## EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD



## BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of broadly earmarked contributions that can potentially be used for this operation due to their earmarking to a related situation or theme, or to the region or sub-region.

**United States of America** 56.2 million | **Germany** 11.8 million | **Private Donors Australia** 3.8 million | **Canada** 3.3 million  
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## UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions.

**Sweden** 98.2 million | **Norway** 42.5 million | **Netherlands** 39.1 million | **United Kingdom** 31.7 million | **Denmark** 25.5 million | **Private Donors Spain** 19 million | **Australia** 18.9 million | **Switzerland** 15.2 million | **Italy** 11.2 million

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