

# Djibouti

August 2017

Djibouti is a small country of over 900,000 people. Although mired with its own economic challenges, it continues to welcome and provide for its refugee community of 27,601, roughly 3.3% of its population.

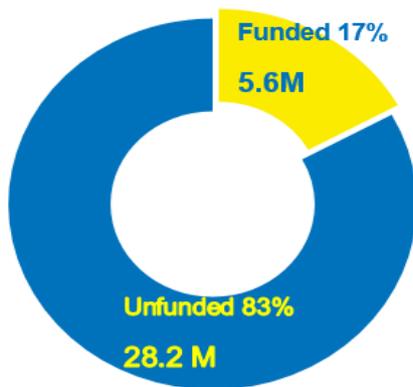
UNHCR works with the Government of Djibouti, donors, and partners to alleviate the challenges of refugees in the three camps (Ali Addeh, Holl-Holl, and Markazi) as well as in the urban areas.

As a pilot country for the CRRF, Djibouti stands committed to an inclusive agenda, which aims to improve the lives of refugees and host communities with access to five key areas: legal issues, health, education, water, and livelihoods.

## FUNDING (AS OF AUGUST 2017)

**USD \$33.8 million**

requested for the Djibouti situation



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

- 33 National staff
- 10 International staff
- 7 International United Nations Volunteers
- 1 National UNV

### Offices:

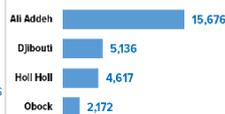
- 1 Representation office in Djibouti
- 1 Field office in Ali Sabieh
- 1 Field office in Obock

## DJIBOUTI Refugees and asylum-seekers

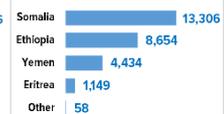
as of 31 July 2017

**27,601**  
refugees and asylum-seekers

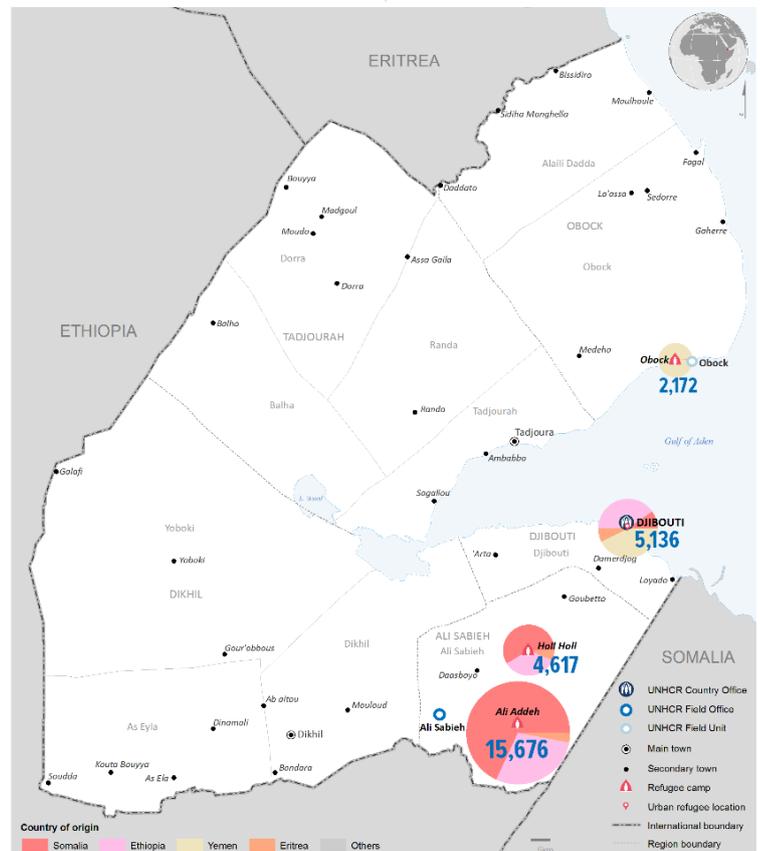
### WHERE ARE THEY?



### WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?



### AGE AND GENDER COMPOSITION



The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.  
Printing date: 07 Aug 2017 Sources: UNHCR, UNCS Author: UNHCR Regional Service Centre Nairobi Feedback: kenngis@unhcr.org

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR leads the multi-sector response for refugees and asylum-seekers at the Ali Addeh, Holl-Holl, and Markazi camps and in urban settings. Close collaboration is maintained with the Government of Djibouti and authorities at national and local levels, with international and national NGOs, and with refugee community leaders to ensure an optimal coordination of response for refugees.
- UNHCR works through national and international Partners; namely, the Norwegian Refugee Council (water, sanitation, shelter, hygiene); the Lutheran World Federation (education and community services); Action Africa Help International (health/reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and nutrition); *l'Union Nationale des Femmes de Djibouti* (SGBV) and the Ministry of Habitat, Urban Planning and Environment. UNHCR also collaborates with NGOs such as the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Al Rahma Association, Caritas, and International Children's Action Network (ICAN/Japan). The government agency in charge of refugee-related issues is the *Office National d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Sinistrés* (ONARS), who manages the refugee camps.
- 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

- In May, UNHCR, together with the Ministry of Interior and ONARS, launched a series of campaigns to promote the National Refugee Law, which was promulgated in January 2017, in line with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) activities. They led workshops for development partners, namely relevant ministries, national and local authorities, UN colleagues, NGO partners, the World Bank, IGAD, the private sector, civil society, and refugees.
- On May 10, a delegation from the FAO visit to the Ali Addeh camp to evaluate the challenges related to the supply of firewood and converting the locally-found prosopis trees into briquettes for fuel.
- On May 23, a UNHCR Senior Education Officer visited Ali Addeh and met with school management committees to assess the issue of curriculum building and giving certification to refugee school children.
- On June 11–13, the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, accompanied by staff of the U.S. Embassy, visited the three camps and met with groups of refugees and implementing partners to assess the refugees' needs in the areas of health, education, livelihoods, and CRIs. The delegation reasserted their support of Djibouti's National Refugee Law and its objectives in making refugees more self-sufficient.
- On July 19, members of the Italian Civil Military Cooperation visited Holl-Holl to evaluate the situation of the refugees and to look into possible partnerships and support for livelihoods activities such as a sewing project and vocational training.
- On August 9, His Excellency Tatsuo Arai, Ambassador of Japan, visited the refugee camp at Holl-Holl to learn about the conditions of the refugees there and to explore prospects for new collaboration on projects. During the visit, he spoke with the refugee leaders to hear about their experiences and was also shown projects already financed

by the Government of Japan (i.e. health center, schools, etc.). Ambassador Arai reiterated his country's continued support of the refugee community in Djibouti and committed to helping UNHCR and partners improve their well-beings.

## Main Activities

### Protection

- UNHCR ensures the protection of refugees and asylum seekers by registering new arrivals in Djibouti/Obock for new arrivals from Yemen; and Ali Addeh/Holl-Holl for those arriving from Ethiopia. Arrivals from Yemen, and South/Central Somalia are recognized on a prima facie basis, and recent arrivals from Ethiopia are granted asylum seeker status.
- As of July 31, Djibouti hosts 27,601 refugees and asylum seekers mainly from Somalia, Ethiopia, and Eritrea out of whom 22,465 are hosted in three camps (15,676 at Ali Addeh; 4,617 at Holl-Holl; 2,172 at Markazi) and 5,136 live in urban areas with an average demographic of 49% Somalis, 31% Ethiopians, 16% Yemenis, and 4% Eritrean.
- On July 12–14, UNHCR and *Union Nationale des Femmes de Djibouti* (UNFD) conducted new training for SGBV cases at the Markazi camp, where implementing partners, refugee leaders, national police, and immigration and army officers participated.

### Education

- In July, UNHCR signed the *Plan d'Action de l'Education*, a program launched by the Ministry of Education (MENFOP), which offers refugee children quality education in English using the translation of the Djiboutian national curriculum. This a good step for UNHCR in supporting the inclusion of refugee children in the national education system and providing them the same quality of education as Djiboutian children.

### Health

- Over the summer, a consultant researched the possibilities of including refugees in the national healthcare system. The findings will help bolster upcoming UNHCR meetings with the Ministry of Health on the issue.
- Action Africa Help International (AAH-I) became UNHCR's latest implementing partner in June. Their team in Djibouti is comprised of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and community health supervisors, who will work in the country's three camps.
- Medicine recently arrived at Markazi from UNHCR HQ in Geneva allowing the health center to properly function. The referral of sick refugees from Markazi is done directly in Djibouti pending agreement with the Ministry of Health so that the hospitals in Obock can take care of the patients referred from the camp.

### Food Security and Nutrition

- With the aim of improving the food distribution process at the Ali Addeh and Holl-Holl camps, representatives of UNHCR, ONARS, and WFP held a meeting and came up with a number of measures, including reducing the number of food distribution days in both camps, extending the existing the food distribution in Ali Addeh, planning the construction of a distribution point at Holl-Holl, and sharing a food distribution calendar with refugees and other stakeholders.

### Water and Sanitation

- During the dry season, water consumption at the Ali Addeh and Holl-Holl camps is at an average 11 liters per person per day, alarmingly short of the suggested 20 daily liters. To address this water supply problem, UNHCR met with the Ministry of Agriculture and Water in July and signed an agreement to connect local water supply coming in from Ethiopia into the two camps, which would provide much needed relief. A team will be assembled to look into the feasibility and logistics needed to bring the project into fruition. The CRRF team also met with the ADDS (*Agence Djiboutienne de Développement Social*) to discuss on the CRRF activities in Djibouti and to be aware of the activities the agency is conducting for the host communities living in the vicinity of the camps. From that meeting, they agreed to construct four boreholes near both camps to facilitate the flow of water.
- At the Markazi camp, the standard of 25 liters per person per day is now made possible by the connection of a pipeline through the national water provider ONEAD (national institution for water and sanitation) that also serves the local community, bolstering Djibouti's commitment to the CRRF. NRC, the implementing partner, is in the process of forming a WASH committee, using specific tools to ensure the maintenance of water points by the refugees themselves.

### Shelter and NFIs

- At the Ali Addeh camp, the construction of durable two-roomed shelters is underway. By the end of August, up to 30 shelters (out of a target of 100 planned for 2017) will be completed.
- More than 3,653 adult female refugees received hygienic tissues and soaps in June. In addition, 269 households received family tents; 73 households (of 239 individuals) received various CRIs in terms of kitchen sets, jerry cans, blankets, plastic sheeting, and mats. The operation also received a donation of 2,120 palettes to serve as fire wood from the WFP, which benefitted 491 single female-headed families in the Ali Addeh camp.

### Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- In July, two consultants conducted an intensive study on prospects for livelihoods among the refugee population in Djibouti. They presented their research to UNHCR, the Djiboutian Government, as well as implementing partners. Their findings focused on opportunities and challenges underscored by ongoing and complex issues like job creation and providing feasible ways to put refugees on the path to financial independence. The consultants will share their report and recommendation in the coming weeks, and the country operation will lay out the proposal for the livelihoods activities in line with the CRRF objectives in Djibouti.

### Durable Solutions

- In May, voluntary repatriation to Somalia was facilitated for a total of 180 Somali refugees (57 families) from both the Ali Addeh and Holl-Holl camps.

## External / Donors Relations

### Donors who have contributed to the operation

United States of America | Canada | IGAD

### Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

United States of America (95 M) | Sweden (76 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | Norway (41 M) |  
Priv Donors Spain (35 M) | Japan (25 M) | Denmark (23 M) | Australia (19 M) |  
Priv Donors Republic of Korea (17 M) | Canada (16 M) | Switzerland (15 M) |  
France (14 M) | Priv Donors USA (13 M) | Germany (12 M) | Italy (10 M)

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Monaco | Morocco | New Zealand | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation |  
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