

# Djibouti

September 2024

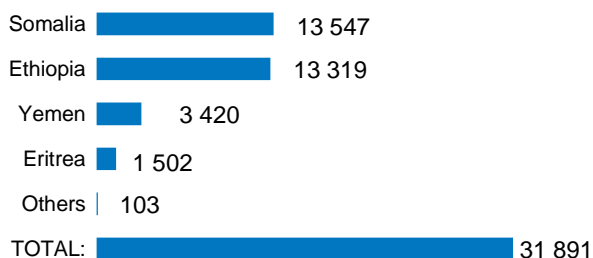
The Republic of Djibouti is considered an oasis of peace in a region in perpetual conflicts and maintains a generous open-door policy for refugees.

As of September 30, Djibouti provided international protection to **31,891** refugees and asylum seekers, comprising more than 3% of the total population.

UNHCR works with partners to support Government efforts and provides lifesaving protection, promotes inclusion in the national systems, self-reliance, and facilitates voluntary repatriation.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

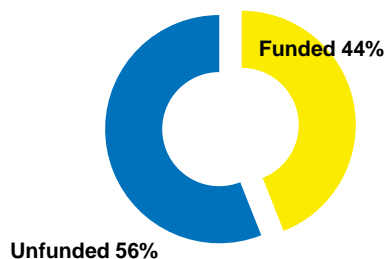
### Host Countries



## FUNDING (AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2024)

**USD 22.2 million**

Needed for the Djibouti operation in 2024.



Refugee women with their children in Djibouti city waiting to receive assistance ©UNHCR/ Sonia Karibagiza

## Working with Partners

- The Ministry of the Interior is UNHCR's main government counterpart in Djibouti through its National Office for Assistance to Refugees and Disaster Victims (ONARS) which manages the refugee sites.
- UNHCR also works with the support of donors and partners including the WB. on 17 September 2024, World Bank Vice President for the Middle East and North Africa, Mr Ousmane Dione, did a field visit in Ali Addeh Refugee village, he was accompanied by IFC Director for North Africa and Horn of Africa, Mr Cheick Omar Sylla, Mr Stephane Guimbert, World Bank Country Director for Egypt, Yemen, and Djibouti, Ms. Fatou Fall, World Bank Representative in Djibouti. Challenges and opportunities were discussed, as a result, World Bank will reinforce its collaboration in the refugee hosting area.
- In September, UNHCR had a productive meeting with M. Doualeh SAID MAHAMOUD, Director General of National Agency for Disabled People (ANPH) and his team, on the progress regarding refugees with disabilities inclusion in the national system. To date 121 refugees were included. Refugees' inclusion in the national disabilities system are ongoing, to overcome barriers. Thanks to UNHCR advocacy efforts, especially on access to services and opportunities.
- As part of interagency collaboration UNHCR team meet with IOM team on 22 September 2024 with view to reinforcing cooperation, address mixed movement of migrants and refugees and accelerate the implementation of IOM/UNHCR Framework of Engagement.
- UNHCR is also leading the multi-sectoral response for refugees and asylum seekers in refugee villages of Ali Addeh, Holl-Holl and Markazi as well as in urban areas. UNHCR co-leads the mixed migration field working group, child protection meetings and GBV case management.

## Main Activities

### Protection

- UNHCR and the Djibouti government, through the National Office for Assistance to Refugees and Disaster Victims (ONARS), coordinate the registration of new arrivals. Suspended since February 2024, the registration activity of new arrivals has resumed since July 25, a total number of 373 individuals have already been registered.

- UNHCR, in collaboration with ONARS, has also resumed the printing and issuance of refugee identity documents, to guarantee access to documentation. From January 2024, more than 320 certificates and 6 refugee identity cards have been issued.
- In 2024, UNHCR strengthened its advocacy efforts towards refugees and provided them with training to strengthen their capacities on protection-related topics. In collaboration with ONARS, UNHCR organized trainings for refugee leaders from different communities on key protection issues, including international protection, the rights, and duties of refugees, combating fraud and corruption and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. Trained leaders will disseminate knowledge to their communities and mobilize other refugees.
- UNHCR in collaboration with ONARS with support from IGAD also provided training for over 20 government officials working with ONARS on refugee protection, including registration, and refugee status determination. This training is part of the capacity building framework for UNHCR partners on issues relating to protection.
- In September 2024, in collaboration with ONARS and CIAUD, UNHCR launched a cash distribution to help refugee women aged 12 to 49. The distribution meant to help approximately 9,000 refugee women and girls to purchase hygienic kits.
- UNHCR's partner in responding to and preventing gender-based violence is the National Union of Djiboutian Women (UNFD). Since January 2024, about 69 new cases have been reported and benefited from adequate response. In terms of prevention, the partner has raised awareness of gender-based violence among more than 1,590 refugees, the majority of whom are women.
- To improve the capacities of partners assisting UNHCR in the response, in regions hosting refugees, UNHCR, in collaboration with UNFD, trained 13 law enforcement personnel from the Ali-Sabieh region on the referral system for gender-based violence cases, international protection and asylum law in the Republic of Djibouti. Law enforcers are essential in the management of GBV cases, as they are the ones who handle GBV complaints.
- In August 2024, UNHCR gave ONARS communication materials which will be distributed in different areas for mobilization as part of the fight against fraud and Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

## Education

- UNHCR works closely with the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training (MENFOP) to ensure and promote access and inclusion of refugees in the national education system. In September 2024, over 4,369 refugee students composed of 2,818 from Ali-Addeh, 1,127 from Holl-Holl and 424 from Markazi returned to school. In addition, more than

a hundred young refugees are admitted to the University of Djibouti as the only public university available.

- As part of the skills development project for employment in Djibouti, financed by the World Bank, the Minister of Education and Vocational Training conducted the skills profiling study of refugees in the refugee villages Ali Addeh, Holl-Holl and Markazi. The next stop will be Djibouti city.

## Health

- The Ministry of Health is UNHCR's partner in all health related services, ensuring access to primary and secondary healthcare for refugees and host communities through health centers set up in refugee sites as well as referral hospitals. About 15,000 medical consultations were carried out since January 2024, more than 1,720 patients have been referred to secondary hospitals of Ali-Sabieh, Obock and tertiary hospital in Djibouti-ville. about 968 patients with chronic conditions were regularly monitored.
- UNHCR ensures that refugee children have access to vaccination services. In 2024, approximately 311 children were vaccinated against measles in health centers in refugee sites. In addition, door-to-door Expanded Immunization Program (EPI) activities are available, to reduce and fight against infant mortality.
- Following the outbreak of acute diarrhea in the Obock region in August, UNHCR is seeking to ensure that the response plan for the diarrhea epidemic is implemented and that the means to respond have been made available. The implementation of the response plan made it possible to diagnose 5 cases in the Markazi site, the UNHCR took the necessary measures to support and stabilize these cases and refer to specialized hospitals if necessary.

## Food Security and Nutrition

- UNHCR works with WFP, which distributes regular monthly assistance offered to refugees to cover their basic needs. Since January 2024, all registered refugees and asylum seekers living in refugee villages have benefited from WFP's monthly food distribution.
- UNHCR provides a nutritional response to refugee children who need it. In 2024, approximately 183 and 294 children are enrolled in the MAM and SAM nutrition programs respectively, where UNHCR works closely with WFP and UNICEF.
- UNHCR also works to reduce maternal and child mortality among the refugee population and the host community by providing antenatal and postnatal care to pregnant and lactating

women. In 2024, around 228 newly pregnant and 142 breastfeeding women benefited from prenatal/postnatal consultations, and more than 170 assisted deliveries were recorded.

### **Water and Sanitation**

- UNHCR ensures access to safe drinking water for refugee families and host communities. In 2024, 18.93 and 21.44 liters of drinking water per person per day were provided in the Ali-Addeh and Holl-Holl sites, respectively through boreholes and refugees in Markazi settlement have access to water taps. Existing water networks and systems were also maintained and repaired.
- UNHCR also ensures sanitation and hygiene in refugee sites.

### **Camp Coordination and Camp Management**

- ONARS manages the refugee villages of Ali Addeh, Holl-Holl and Markazi and has a site management team and two deputies for each site. In July 2024, UNHCR led the emergency response to severe weather and strong winds that devastated the Ali – Sabieh region, distributing non-food items consisting of plastic sheeting and sheet metal. Since the storm, UNHCR has helped around 436 households rebuild.
- UNHCR donated thirteen (13) laptops to ONARS to improve and strengthen its daily activities related to the protection of refugees and asylum seekers and camp management.
- In Markazi, UNHCR distributed tents to 24 Eritrean asylum-seeking households in order to improve their living conditions.
- For better site management, UNHCR coordinates monthly and weekly meetings with various committees.

### **Access to Energy**

- UNHCR strives to protect the environment and include the environmental protection model in refugee programming. In 2024, refugees benefited from monthly distribution of firewood, managed by the Ministry of the Environment, in the Ali-Addeh and Holl-Holl sites, and kerosene, managed by ONARS, at the site of Markazi.

### **Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance**

- UNHCR supports capacity building of refugees and host communities through technical and vocational training. In September 2024, 31 urban refugees and 6 from the host community began training on electronics and electricity/solar panels in Djibouti City.

- As part of inclusion and transformative strategy, in partnership with the ministry of Agriculture, Water, Fisheries and Livestock, activities are ongoing to improve the water supply system in Markazi, to allow more refugees involvement in market gardening activities based on their own choices. More than 50 jobs will be created.
- As a result of UNHCR advocacy, the government has agreed to fund the initiatives to increase green space and improve biodiversity as part of a more holistic sustainability agenda in Markazi refugee village, to enhance the livability of the Markazi site. Tackling climate change remains a priority, to drive and build more sustainable and resilient spaces.
- As the Marine and coastal resources provide livelihoods for host communities and refugees in Djibouti, UNHCR team visited the sea and the Mangrove in Obock and found that sensitive coastal ecosystems the mangrove, are facing a rapid destruction and climate change impacts are exacerbating the urgent threats of unsustainable use and destructive land-use and fishing practices in Obock region. To counteract these negative impacts, UNHCR organized productive discussions with host communities on how to contribute to improve sustainable use of resources and build a robust blue economy.

## Durable Solutions

- In line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), UNHCR supports initiatives that promote programming to improve national institutions' capacity and advocate for including refugees in public services and strengthen livelihood and resilience activities.
- UNHCR facilitates access to resettlement for vulnerable refugees, including women at risk, children at risk, survivors of violence, and refugees with medical issues. UNHCR also seek complementary pathways, such as educational scholarships and family reunification.
- As part of the search for durable solutions, UNHCR launched the voluntary repatriation process in August 2024 for Ethiopian and Somali refugees wishing to return home. Since the launch, eighteen refugees including 16 Ethiopians and 2 Somalis have expressed a desire to return to their countries of origin.
- UNHCR also continues to explore all complementary avenues of resettlement. In 2024, UNHCR continued to support the Resettlement Support Center (RSC) and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), coordinating the activities of their pre-screening missions, such as refugee mobilization, fingerprint verification digital, selection of performers, etc. During its mission to Djibouti from August 5 to September 4, 2024, the Resettlement Support Center (RSC) conducted 105 pre-selection interviews for 207 people.

- Another Canadian immigration team also conducted pre-selection interviews for 7 households composed of 40 people between August 25 and September 6, 2024.

## External relations/donor relations

### Special thanks to our major donors in 2024:

Australia | Belgium | Denmark | Finland | France | IGAD | Italy | Ireland | Japan |  
Netherlands | Norway | South Korea | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe | UK  
| USA |

### LINKS

Operational Data Portal: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/dji>

Global Focus: <https://reporting.unhcr.org/operational/operations/djibouti>

Twitter account: [@UNHCRDjibouti](https://twitter.com/UNHCRDjibouti)