

Djibouti

December 2024

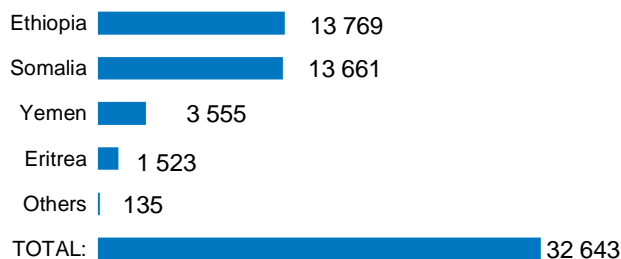
The Republic of Djibouti is considered an oasis of peace in a region in perpetual conflicts and maintains a generous open-door policy for refugees.

As of December 31, Djibouti provided international protection to 32, 643 refugees and asylum seekers, comprising more than 3% of the total population.

UNHCR works with partners to support Government efforts, provides lifesaving protection, and promotes inclusion in the national systems.

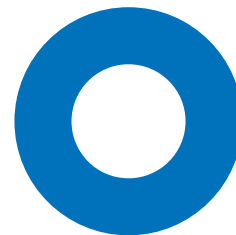
POPULATION OF CONCERN

Host Countries



FUNDING REQUIRED FOR 2025)

USD 20.5 million



Official launch of the 16 days of activism against GBV at Markazi refugee site ©UNHCR

Working with Partners

- The Ministry of 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 leads the multi-sectoral response for refugees and asylum seekers in the refugee villages of Ali Addeh, Holl-Holl and Markazi as well as in Djibouti city.
- UNHCR co-leads the Mixed Migration Task Force with the International Organization for Migration to coordinate and strengthen regional and national cooperation and improve the coordinated national response to mixed migration. UNHCR also co-chairs meetings on child protection and GBV case management.
- As part of inter-institutional collaboration, in December 2024, UNHCR took part in the signing of the new framework agreement between the United Nations system and the Djibouti government, that will guide UN work for the period 2025-2030.
- UNHCR also works with the support of donors and development partners including the World Bank and the African Development Bank. In that regard, on 10 December, US special envoy to Yemen and the US ambassador to Djibouti visited the Markazi camp and witnessed protection services offered to Yemenis refugees. In the same regard, on 7 October, the Investment Climate Officer of the African Development Bank visited Ali-Addeh refugee village.
- During the period under review, important and positive meetings continued to take place between UNHCR and members of the government. In October, the Representative was received by the Minister of Social Action and Solidarity SE Mrs. Ouloufa Ismail Abdo their discussions focused on strengthening effective inclusion and social protection for refugees.
- In October 2024, the UNHCR Representative was also received by the Minister of Health SE Dr Ahmed Robleh Abdilleh. Discussions focused on strengthening medical care for refugees and possible solutions to health-related challenges for the most vulnerable refugees. Refugee health remains a priority for both UNHCR and Djibouti government.
- In October 2024, the Republic of Djibouti participated at the UNHCR Executive Committee meeting in Geneva, the country was represented by its Minister of the Interior, its representative to the United Nations and ONARS executive secretary. The country committed to maintain its open-door policy in a complex migration context and continue to deliver on the commitments made as part of Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework.

- UNHCR's advocacy efforts to include refugees in the national system have paid off, in 2024, a total number of 478 refugees were registered into the Integrated Disability Management System by the national agency for people living with disability (ANPH). In December, UNHCR and ANPH began collecting data for the Study on the Needs Analysis of Refugees Living with a Disability.

Main Activities

Protection

- UNHCR and the Djibouti government through the National Office for Assistance to Refugees and Disaster Victims (ONARS), coordinated the registration of new arrivals in 2024. Suspended since February 2024, the registration activity of new arrivals resumed in July and a total number of 1,066 individuals have been registered since. In addition, ONARS and UNHCR conducted continuous civil registrations for over 62 individuals their cases were composed of reactivation, new births, change of address and data correction
- To ensure access to documentation, UNHCR in collaboration with ONARS issued over 1,177 certificates to asylum seekers, 2,257 refugee certificates and 449 refugee ID. These concerns the renewal of certificates and cards that have expired, new refugee ID for young refugees who have attained majority, and new certificates for asylum seekers who have been granted refugee status.
- In 2024, about 250 asylum applications representing over 700 individuals were processed during 20 sessions held by the National Eligibility Commission.
- On October 14, UNHCR in collaboration with ONARS trained new members of the National Eligibility Commission on International and national protection for asylum seekers and refugees, Refugee Status Determination, Interview technics and collecting accurate data in relation to county of origin. The workshop represented a crucial step in the collective mission to improve protection and care mechanisms for asylum seekers in Djibouti. They are expected to review all asylum seekers' RSD cases processed by ONARS.
- UNHCR also provided training to approximately 15 key staff from all its implementing partners on the Code of Conduct. The training is part of UNHCR's capacity-building program for its partners on protection-related issues to ensure the best protection outcome for forcibly displaced persons. On October 14, UNHCR, in collaboration with ONARS, trained the new members of the National Eligibility Commission on Refugee Status Determination. The workshop represented a crucial step in the collective mission to improve protection and care mechanisms for asylum seekers in Djibouti. The members of the Eligibility Commission have recently been appointed, replacing those who

previously formed the commission, the commission examines all files relating to refugee status determination submitted by ONARS, the UNHCR plays the role of observer in the commission.

- In collaboration with UNHCR's partner national union of Djiboutian women (UNFD), in November 2024, UNHCR officially held the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. For 16 days different activities including awareness and community mobilization were conducted in all refugee settlements. In terms of GBV, in 2024 some 121 new cases were reported and provided with appropriate services, about 204 awareness sessions aiming at GBV prevention were conducted in all refugee settlements.
- To enhance the capacity of partners assisting UNHCR in the response in refugee-hosting areas, UNHCR and its partner UNFD also trained 16 police officers and local authorities in the management of GBV cases, including care and judicial support for GBV victims.
- In terms of protection to the most vulnerable, UNHCR in collaboration with its partner CIAUD provided cash assistance to over 174 refugees with special needs.

Education

- UNHCR works closely with the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training (MENFOP) to guarantee and promote access and inclusion of refugees in the national education system. For the academic year 2024-2025, more than 4,914 refugee children composed of 3,296 from Ali-Addeh, 1,205 from Holl-Holl and 413 from Markazi, were enrolled in primary and secondary schools. In addition, more than a hundred young refugees were admitted to the University of Djibouti, the only public university available.
- UNHCR also supports young refugees who are unable to continue university studies by enrolling them in vocational trainings to help their journey towards self-reliance. In 2024 about 28 young refugee boys and girls graduated from a 4-month vocational training course, they underwent studies in the use of solar energy and electronics. All 28 received certificates of completion and kits to help them start income generating activities.

Health

- The Ministry of Health is UNHCR's health partner, guaranteeing refugees and host communities access to primary and secondary health services, through health centers set up in refugee sites as well as referral hospitals. In 2024, over 22,241 consultations were carried out, 975 referrals were made to secondary hospitals in Ali-Sabieh, Obock and Djibouti-ville, and 1036 chronic patients were regularly monitored.

- UNHCR also ensures that refugee children have access to vaccination services. In 2024, around 523 children were vaccinated against measles in health centers located in refugee sites, in addition, door-to-door Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) activities are available to reduce and combat infant mortality.

Food Security and Nutrition

- UNHCR works with WFP, which distributes regular monthly assistance offered to refugees to cover their basic needs. In 2024, all registered refugees and asylum seekers living in refugee villages benefited from WFP's monthly food distribution.
- UNHCR provides a nutritional response to refugee children in need. In 2024, around 807 acute malnutrition in which 479 and 328 children are enrolled in the Medium Accurate Malnutrition and Severe Acute Malnutrition programs respectively, where UNHCR works closely with WFP and UNICEF.
- UNHCR is also working to reduce maternal and infant mortality among the refugee population and the host community by providing prenatal and postnatal care for pregnant and breastfeeding women. In 2024, some 865 new pregnant women and 558 nursing mothers benefited from prenatal and postnatal consultations, and over 358 assisted deliveries were recorded.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- UNHCR works with the ministry of hydraulics to ensure refugee have access to safe drinking water. 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. In the Markazi site, refugees have access to tap water systems. In 2025, UNHCR will continue to work with the ministry in charge to repair and maintain water networks and systems as required.
- UNHCR also ensures through its partners, the sanitation and hygiene in refugee sites, such as the solid waste management.

Site coordination and management

- ONARS administers the refugee villages of Ali Addeh, Holl-Holl and Markazi and has a site management team comprising of 3 site managers and two deputies.
- For better site management, UNHCR and ONARS coordinate monthly and weekly meetings with various committees in refugee settlements.

- In October 2024, UNHCR led the emergency response caused by bad weather and strong winds that devastated the Obock region, distributing non-food items consisting of plastic sheetings and iron sheets. Since the storm, UNHCR has helped around 2,400 refugees to rebuild their lives.
- UNHCR also provided plastic tents and iron sheets to refugee families who lost their shelters due to the winds that devastated the Ali-Sabieh region in July and August 2024. During the reporting period, UNHCR supported over 639 households to rebuild, with 522 families receiving tents and 117 families living in permanent shelters receiving iron sheets
- In 2024, UNHCR continued the capacity building of its implementing partners. In August, UNHCR handed over 13 computers and communication equipment on the fight against fraud and Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) to ONARS.

Access to Energy

- To ensure refugees get access to energy while protecting the environment UNHCR works with the Ministry of Environment for those monthly firewood distribution. In 2024, all refugees living in Ali Addeh and Holl-Holl had have access to monthly distribution of firewood and those living in Markazi site received Kerosene for their cooking needs.

Livelihoods

- In October 2024, UNHCR, in collaboration with FAO, distributed fruit trees to over 2,500 refugees in Holl- Holl and Ali Addeh. The planting of these trees is part of efforts to improve the livelihoods of communities in refugee hosting areas. UNHCR is encouraging more multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration to expand the scale of greening in refugee hosting areas and ensure a rapid transformation program.

Sustainable solutions

- The search for durable solutions remains a priority for UNHCR and its partners, whether it is the integration in the host country, resettlement to a third country or voluntary repatriation. In 2024, UNHCR resettled 91 vulnerable refugees, respectively 52 to USA, 26 to Canada and 13 to France, those resettled included women and children at risk, survivors of violence and those with medical problems.
- UNHCR also seeks complementary avenues, such as sponsorship, scholarships and family reunification. In 2024, over 1 100 interviews were conducted and 9 new cases of 27 individuals have been submitted to France, Canada, US, and Australia and about 20 individuals have benefited from private sponsorship.

External relations/donor relations

Special thanks to our major donors in 2024:

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LINKS

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

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

Twitter account: @UNHCRDjibouti