

# DJIBOUTI



## Working environment

### The context

The Republic of Djibouti occupies a strategic position in the East and Horn of Africa region. It borders Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia and opens onto the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. The country is politically stable and constitutes an island of peace and protection in a region marred by recurrent conflicts. Djibouti is also a hub for international naval forces combating piracy in one of the world's busiest shipping routes stretching from the Gulf of Aden to the Indian Ocean.

The country is located at the confluence of Africa and the Gulf countries. This privileged position has made Djibouti the

main route for mixed migratory movements toward Yemen and beyond. Armed conflict, insecurity and violence, compounded by drought and poor economic conditions in the subregion, have compelled people to seek asylum in Djibouti. There are regular arrivals of refugees, especially from south-central Somalia in the country. Ensuring refugee protection in the context of these migratory patterns remains a daunting task for UNHCR and the Government of Djibouti.

### The needs

Due to the unabated arrivals of asylum-seekers from Somalia throughout 2012, the number of people of concern has increased

## Planning figures for Djibouti

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2013		DEC 2013	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Eritrea	650	650	850	850
	Ethiopia	880	880	1,100	1,100
	Somalia	23,000	23,000	27,000	27,000
	Various	20	20	20	20
Asylum-seekers	Eritrea	600	600	500	500
	Ethiopia	750	750	500	500
<b>Total</b>		<b>25,900</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>29,970</b>	<b>29,970</b>

in Djibouti, stretching UNHCR's budget and necessitating additional human and financial resources.

While there have been tangible improvements in the water, health, nutrition and education sectors to some degree, gaps have been identified in secondary and tertiary education and vocational training, hampering better future prospects for refugee children.

In Djibouti, the national unemployment rate is very high at around 30 per cent. The aridity of the land, coupled with dire climatic conditions and frequent drought, does not allow refugees to engage in agricultural activities. Hence, interventions in areas of self-reliance and livelihoods are needed in order to give refugees and asylum-seekers the possibility of earning a living.

All shelters in Djibouti are made of plastic sheets and tents. The arid climate in a semi-desert environment limits the lifespan of these shelters. The construction of durable and environment-friendly shelters will therefore be supported to help protect refugees from weather hazards in the camps.

As there are no opportunities for local integration in Djibouti, resettlement remains the only available and viable durable solution to alleviate the protracted situation of refugees living in camps. The number of resettlement applicants will therefore be substantially increased.

## Strategy and activities

The activities planned in Djibouti will be implemented in accordance with UNHCR's global strategic objectives. Access to asylum remains a priority for new arrivals as well as for unregistered Eritrean and Ethiopian asylum-seekers. The Office will work to assure unhindered access to the territory for people of concern to UNHCR. Necessary support will be given to the

National Eligibility Commission to enable the holding of regular meetings so as to clear the backlog of asylum-seekers.

Projects for urban refugees will be initiated and consolidated, and resettlement will be promoted for several groups of refugees with specific needs. The Office will continue to improve the delivery of services in water, sanitation, health, nutrition, education and security sectors. It will also work on increasing its response mechanisms to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and child protection as well as promoting self-reliance and income-generating activities to increase livelihood opportunities for people of concern.

With the Ali Addeh refugee camp reaching its full capacity, the Government of Djibouti authorized UNHCR to reopen the former site of Holl-Holl in early 2011, where 1,200 refugees have been transferred so far. The new site offers more space and safe drinking water, thereby improving refugees' living conditions. UNHCR is planning to transfer more than 7,000 people to Holl-Holl camp.

The Office will continue to ensure that mixed migratory flows are managed effectively and that people of concern to UNHCR are fully identified. The mixed migration task force, which was established in 2010 in partnership with the Government of Djibouti and IOM, will continue to work on mitigating the effects of smuggling and human trafficking and advising people on the perils of putting their life in the hands of smugglers to attempt to cross the Red Sea. UNHCR will identify people of concern among the migrants and offer them the opportunity to benefit from its protection and assistance programme.

### Constraints

Djibouti is a location which attracts few international NGOs. On the ground, national NGOs do not have the required experience and capacity to manage UNHCR's programmes. This problem

## Main objectives and targets for 2013

### Favourable protection environment

- Access to the territory is improved and the risk of *refoulement* is reduced.
  - ☞ Up to 400 people from southern Somalia are registered per month.
  - ☞ The National Eligibility Commission is functional and RSD is conducted for 2,700 asylum seekers including Ethiopians and Eritreans.
  - ☞ Regular training exercises are organized to build the capacity of law-enforcement officials and border guards.
  - ☞ The registration task force is operational and birth certificates are issued to refugee children.

### Basic needs and essential services

- Sanitation and hygiene conditions are improved.
  - ☞ Some 2,000 family latrines and 200 garbage pits are constructed in the Holl-Holl and Ali-Addeh camps.
  - ☞ Hygiene-awareness campaigns for refugees and camp clean-ups are conducted at least once a month.
  - ☞ The frequency of sanitation interventions is increased in order to protect the refugees from health hazards.

- The health status of the population is improved.
  - ☞ Primary health care and referrals to health services of camp-based and urban refugees are improved.
  - ☞ The rate of anaemia drops from 42 to 35 per cent among women of reproductive age.
  - ☞ The global malnutrition rate in the camps stands at 10 per cent and below the national rate of 20 per cent.
  - ☞ Drug management, preparedness and response to potential diseases outbreak continue to be developed.
  - ☞ The obstetric care, the comprehensive reproductive and family planning units and laboratory services will be reinforced and improved.
  - ☞ All people of concern are included in the various national strategic plans against HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and malnutrition.

### Durable solutions

- The potential for resettlement is realized.
  - ☞ At least 700 out of 12,000 people assessed to be in need of resettlement depart to third countries.

## UNHCR's presence in 2013

□ Number of offices	3
□ Total staff	54
International	8
National	31
UNVs	13
Others	2

has often caused delays in the implementation of activities.

Dire climatic conditions coupled with the effects of global climate change have adversely affected the availability of ground water and the supply of safe drinking water to the refugees.

### Organization and implementation

#### • Coordination

UNHCR works closely with partners and coordinates their activities to ensure the consistent and reliable delivery of vital services to people of concern.

The *Office national d'assistance aux réfugiés et sinistrés* will remain UNHCR's main governmental partner on refugee affairs. UNHCR will also cooperate closely with other partners on issues such as food and nutrition, health, sanitation, income generation and livelihoods, education, shelter, resettlement, SGBV, family planning and mixed migration.

### Financial information

The budget for the Djibouti operation has increased, to keep up with the growing number of people of concern. From 2007 to 2012, the budget provisions helped to increase the supply of safe drinking water, improve the delivery of health services and reduce malnutrition. For 2013, UNHCR's financial requirements amount to USD 26.2 million. Included in this budget are provisions for bridging the gap in education, in promoting secondary, tertiary and vocational training programmes. The budget will also cater



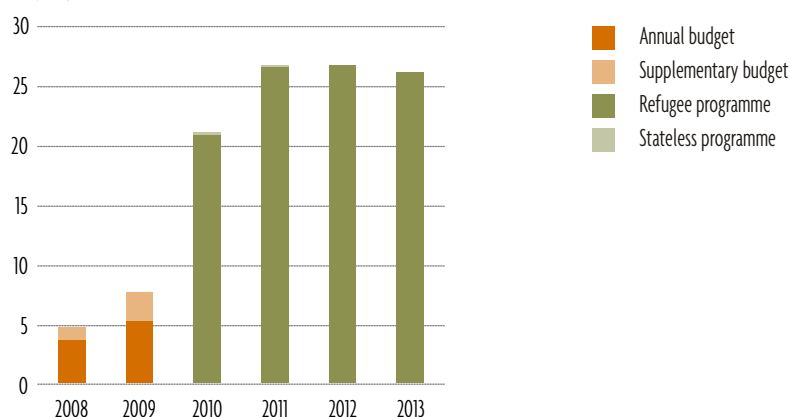
for self-reliance, shelter and sanitation activities in the camps.

### Consequences of a funding shortfall

- UNHCR would not be able to rehabilitate shelters, exposing people of concern to health and protection hazards.
- Capacity-building projects for NGOs and government officials would not be implemented in a comprehensive and effective manner.
- Gains made in reducing malnutrition and anaemia might be reversed.
- UNHCR would not be able to work with the authorities on the joint registration of refugees.
- The water supply in the refugee camps would remain below acceptable standards (below 15 litres per person per day).
- New classrooms for refugee children would not be constructed and secondary, tertiary education and vocational training programmes would not be implemented.
- Primary health care and referral services would not be improved as required.

## UNHCR's budget in Djibouti 2008 – 2013

Millions (USD)



## 2013 UNHCR's budget in Djibouti (USD)

BUDGET BREAKDOWN	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	TOTAL
<b>Favourable protection environment</b>		
Access to territory and <i>non-refoulement</i>	1,043,366	1,043,366
Subtotal	<b>1,043,366</b>	<b>1,043,366</b>
<b>Fair protection processes and documentation</b>		
Civil registration and civil status documentation	1,250,772	1,250,772
Subtotal	<b>1,250,772</b>	<b>1,250,772</b>
<b>Security from violence and exploitation</b>		
Prevention and response to SGBV	1,033,366	1,033,366
Protection of children	618,366	618,366
Subtotal	<b>1,651,732</b>	<b>1,651,732</b>
<b>Basic needs and essential services</b>		
Health	3,898,561	3,898,561
Reproductive health and HIV services	370,577	370,577
Nutrition	2,081,538	2,081,538
Water	1,265,960	1,265,960
Sanitation and hygiene	3,118,561	3,118,561
Shelter and infrastructure	1,978,426	1,978,426
Basic domestic items	1,067,789	1,067,789
Services for people with specific needs	1,235,960	1,235,960
Education	2,410,083	2,410,083
Subtotal	<b>17,427,455</b>	<b>17,427,455</b>
<b>Community empowerment and self-reliance</b>		
Natural resources and shared environment	767,789	767,789
Self-reliance and livelihoods	992,983	992,983
Subtotal	<b>1,760,772</b>	<b>1,760,772</b>
<b>Durable solutions</b>		
Resettlement	466,577	466,577
Subtotal	<b>466,577</b>	<b>466,577</b>
<b>Logistics and operations support</b>		
Logistics and supply	1,263,998	1,263,998
Operations management, coordination and support	1,373,366	1,373,366
Subtotal	<b>2,637,364</b>	<b>2,637,364</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,238,039</b>	<b>26,238,039</b>
<b>2012 Revised budget (as of 30 June 2012)</b>	<b>26,922,920</b>	<b>26,922,920</b>

## PARTNERS

### Implementing partners

#### Government agencies

Ministry of Environment  
*Office national d'assistance aux réfugiés et sinistrés*

#### NGOs

*Association pour la protection et l'épanouissement de la famille*  
 Care International  
 Lutheran World Federation  
*Union nationale des femmes djiboutiennes*

#### Others

University of Djibouti

### Operational partners

#### Government agencies

Ministry of Health  
 Ministry of Social Affairs

#### Others

IGAD  
 IOM  
 UNFPA  
 UNICEF  
 WFP  
 UNHCR also participates in the UNDAF process for Djibouti alongside the Government of Djibouti, UNDP and other UN Agencies.