

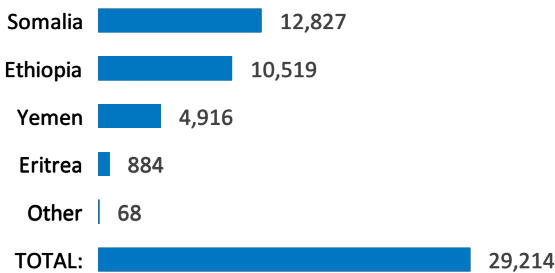
# DJIBOUTI

January 2019

With the dawning of a new year, the operation pushes forward the momentum of CRRF progress made in 2018 with livelihoods development and education. Together with partners, we aim to help connect more refugees to opportunities that would make them more competitive in the job market in Djibouti or wherever they choose to settle. In 2018, the government also granted refugees the right to open bank accounts, giving them a more solid foundation for financial independence and self-sufficiency. Our main priorities for 2019 will continue to focus on empowering refugees with improved access to fundamental rights and services and nurturing personal growth. We also look forward to more collaborations with the government to boost their capacity in effectively responding to refugee needs and challenges.

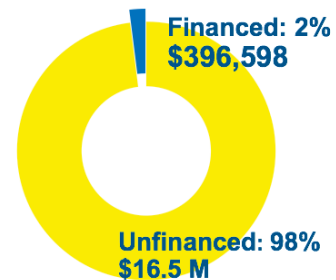
## POPULATION OF CONCERN

### Refugees and Asylum Seekers

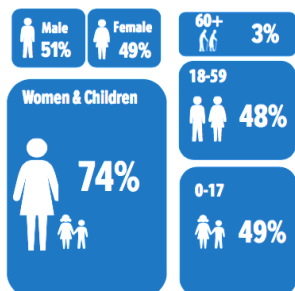


## FUNDING (AS OF JANUARY 2019)

### USD \$16.9 million requested for Djibouti



## AGE AND GENDER COMPOSITION



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

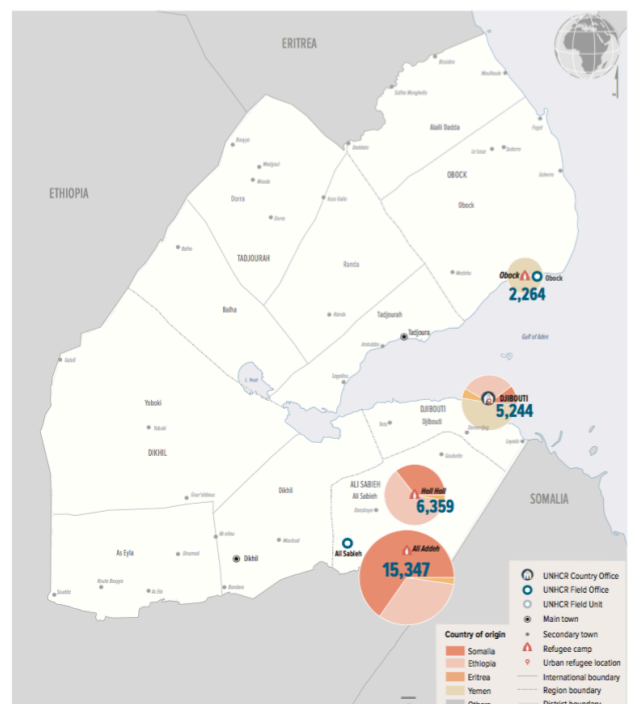
32 National Staff

15 International Staff

### Offices:

1 Representation Office in Djibouti

2 Field Offices in Ali Sabieh and Obock



## 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 areas. 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's humanitarian arm 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; 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, Djibouti is actively applying the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), the operation and its partners aim to nourish initiatives that benefit both refugees and their host communities. It has been guiding the way we work and the results we pursue. The operation is also co-chairing the CRRF steering committee alongside the government (ONARS).
- The World Bank, under IDA 17 and IDA 18 (International Development Association), is actively involved in the socio-economic inclusion of refugees in Djibouti. Very much in line with the CRRF, the underlying objectives of the IDA are to alleviate the economic strain of host countries in hosting refugees and to achieve development and humanitarian goals.
- The EU Trust Fund has also supported the application of the CRRF approach to the refugee response in Djibouti, namely in the areas of education, vocational training, and livelihoods. Additionally, the European Commission's DG-ECHO (Directorate-General for Civil Protection and European Humanitarian Aid Operations) will also support the education sector.
- 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.

## Main Activities

### Highlights

- A group of 14 students from New York University in Abu Dhabi visited the Markazi settlement in January as part of their program, "Migration and Displacement Across the Red Sea." The group assisted with the monthly NFI distribution and had a town hall

exchange with the youth of the settlement. This is the third visit of NYU in Abu Dhabi. Other visits included a photographic project to capture the life in exile of Yemeni refugees.

- In December, UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the *Secrétariat d'État Chargé des Affaires Sociales* (SEAS) This serves as a precursor to the signature of a tripartite agreement with WFP to include refugees into the PASS (*Programme d'Assistance Sociale de Santé*) system, which would provide health insurance coverage. This is a significant step forward for the CRRF approach, giving refugees the fundamental access to healthcare while in Djibouti.
- In late November, UNHCR South Korean Goodwill Ambassador Jung Woo-Sung visited the Yemeni refugees in the urban areas and at the Markazi settlement. The principal purpose of his mission was to hear the refugees' experience firsthand and to relay that back to the greater public in Korea, where recently a group of Yemeni refugees had been met with islamophobia and xenophobia.
- In November, the operation signed an agreement with CPEC (*Caisse Populaire d'Épargne et de Crédit*) allowing refugees to open accounts and take out microcredit loans. This follows the government's authorization for refugees to open bank accounts and is a step forward in enabling refugees to seek financial independence.
- In mid-November, H.E. the German Ambassador to Djibouti and the Economic Attaché of the French Embassy visited the Markazi settlement to familiarize themselves with the challenges Yemeni refugees face and to collect information for ways to help in their situations.

### Protection

- By the end of the reporting period, the National Eligibility Committee to deliberate on the status of asylum seekers had met five times in 2018 with 22 cases accepted. Three sessions have already been held in 2019 where seven cases were accepted.
- In January, a mission of the OHCHR visited Yemeni refugees in the capital and at the Markazi settlement to better understand human rights issues, particularly the protection of women and children, in Yemen.
- In December, ICAN and UNHCR facilitated 70 best interest assessments (BIA) for children in the settlements. The survey took into account environmental factors and the family life of the individuals to evaluate the needs and best interests of the children. ICAN also conducts regular home visits to ensure children in the settlements have adequate nourishment and have a good supply of items (i.e. diapers, medicines, etc.).
- In mid-December, the operation conducted the annual AGDM (Age, Gender, and Diversity Mainstreaming) exercise in all settlements and in the urban areas to identify needs gaps and protection challenges.
- On December 3, the settlements organized activities for International Day for Disabled Persons. The events were co-hosted by LWF, who regularly sees that people with special needs have the equipment they need.
- From November 25-December 10, the operation observed the 16 Days of Activism campaign to fight gender-based violence toward women and girls. UNFD, the official partner covering SGBV, coordinated activities and campaigns to heighten awareness on protection issues and the rights of women and children.

- In November, ICAN launched interactive community-wide campaigns at the settlements geared toward child protection. In that same month, ICAN also led training sessions for local authorities and police to enhance their role in protecting refugee children, especially those in the settlements.

### Education

- The Ministry of Education (MENFOP) recently provided uniforms to all students attending schools in the settlements. In the spirit of CRRF, it helps boost morale for attending school and conforms to the principles of treating the refugee students the same as Djiboutians.
- In the reporting period, ICAN continued organizing cultural excursions for children. In November and December, they brought two groups of 12 to Tadjourah, where they enjoyed the sites and learned the history of the coastal town.

### Health

- In January, a Korean group of medical professionals from the Myungsung Christian Medical Hospital based in Addis Ababa visited the Markazi settlement on a three-day mission to provide medical assistance in the areas of dentistry and gave general and pediatric consultation.
- WHO and UNICEF joined forces with the Ministry of Health in providing vaccinations for measles and polio to all refugee children under the age of five.
- In early December, the Ministry of Health led a campaign for World AIDS Day and facilitated HIV/AIDS testing at the settlements.

### Food Security and Nutrition

- WFP helps ensure refugees and asylum seekers have adequate supplies of food. A monthly food distribution package includes 6kg of flour, 3kg of rice, 1.8kg of beans, 0.6kg of sugar, 0.15kg of salt, and 1 liter of vegetable oil. Additionally, cash grants of 500 DJF are given to each individual for supplementary supplies.

### Water and Sanitation

- The current water supply at the settlements is as follows: refugees at Ali Addeh have 11 liters of water per person per day; Holl-Holl residents have 19 liters; and those in Markazi have 23 liters. 20 liters remains the daily standard.
- The work of the hygiene promoters in Ali Addeh and Holl-Holl had been suspended in July due to low budget and lack of materials. A hygiene and sanitation committee was assembled in November to cover the work of the promoters despite the lack of resources.
- Thanks to the support of ECHO, approximately 90 latrines were installed by NRC at Ali Addeh and 60 at Holl-Holl. There is need, however, to build an additional 434 and 273 (respectively) to fully support the populations at these settlements.

### Shelter and NFIs

- In early November, the King Salman Center, a Saudi Arabian NGO, officially handed over the keys to some 350 housing units for the Yemeni refugees at the Markazi settlement. This donation also included three-months' worth of food supply for each household.

### Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- Some 23 refugees received their certificates this December after full participation in a vocational training program administered by the local Protestant Church in the area of construction. In line with the principles of the CRRF, the participants developed skills to prepare them for any job market they wish to pursue, whether in Djibouti, back in their homelands, or in other countries. They also all received start-up kits with the necessary tools and equipment to use in future jobs or should they choose to launch their own businesses. As of January, three of the refugees have already been hired by local companies.
- In mid-November, 14 refugees from the three settlements and urban areas began vocational training with ProClean, a local construction company. Like the program with the Protestant Church, this CRRF-aligned training helps refugees develop skills in specific trades and be competitive in the job market.
- In early November, UNHCR staff participated in CBI (Cash-Based Intervention) training to prepare for the operation's anticipated incorporation of the system into their work program starting in 2019. A CBI working group has since been formed with partners to enable UNHCR to meet the 2019 objective of providing this service to refugees.
- Late last year, the operation undertook several missions to the field to continue outreach on the National Refugee Law and its decrees to local authorities, police, partners, and civil society organizations so that they are aware of the rights and obligations of refugees under the recent legal reforms in their favor.

### Durable Solutions

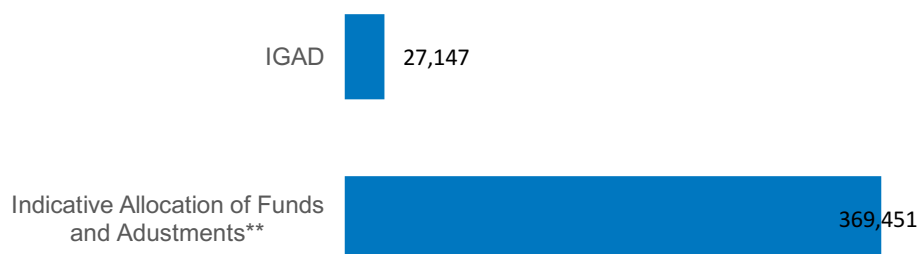
- By the end of 2018, a total of 138 Somalis have been voluntarily repatriated.
- In 2018, a total of 19 individuals departed for resettlement to the U.S. (7 Eritreans), Sweden (6 Yemenis, 4 Somalis, 1 Ethiopian), and Canada (1 Ethiopian).
- Almost 900 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers expressed interest in being voluntarily repatriated. UNHCR is working in coordination with colleagues and the Government of Ethiopia to respond to this request. They largely owe this desire to return to their homeland to the election of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. This shows confidence in the new government and the recent progress made in stabilizing socio-political tensions.

## Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **USD \$396,598**.

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 | \$11.1 million USD



\*\*Methodology: Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritized activities. This funding update includes an indicative allocation of funds so as to accurately represent the resources available for the country. The contributions earmarked for Djibouti shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions listed below. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking. Adjustments relate to programme support costs and carry-over.

### OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

**Germany** 10.5 million

### UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions.

**United Kingdom** 31.7 million | **Switzerland** 15.1 million

Belgium | Canada | Estonia | Indonesia | Monaco | Montenegro | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Serbia | Singapore | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Uruguay | Private Donors



UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Jung Woo-Sung listened to the personal account of Yemeni refugees who have recently fled the conflict (left); The operation made headway for refugee inclusion with the signing of an agreement with a local bank, CPEC, allowing refugees to open bank accounts and take out microcredit loans (right). © UNHCR/Panaligan, 2018.

## External / Donor Relations

### CONTACTS

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### LINKS

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