

# DJIBOUTI



## Operational highlights

- The population of concern in Djibouti increased by more than 30 per cent by the end of 2009, boosted by the continuous arrival of Somali asylum-seekers. More than 80 per cent of asylum-seekers and refugees were accommodated in Ali Addeh camp.
- Many refugee children had access to education.
- Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and xenophobia were the main protection and human rights issues related to refugees. However, there were sporadic cases of *refoulement*, arbitrary arrest and detention.
- The Government of Djibouti reinforced security measures, fearing the possibility of terrorist attacks by radical insurgents infiltrating the country from south and central Somalia.

## Working environment

Due to the involvement of the Government of Djibouti in the political agreement which put the Transitional Federal Government in power in south and central Somalia, Djibouti had become a target for radical anti-government militias in Somalia.

Because Djibouti also has a sizeable population of ethnic Somalis, the conflict in Somalia has immediate repercussions on the country. The Government of Djibouti is concerned about the possible infiltration into the country of radical armed elements disguised as refugees. This fear has forced it to tighten security measures. Due to its proximity to Yemen, Djibouti is also used by migrants who are in route to Yemen and beyond.

Ali Addeh camp was initially built to host 7,000 people but, by the end of 2009, it held more than 12,000 refugees.

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Somalia	11,200	10,700	51	46
	Ethiopia	600	500	51	38
	Various	300	60	12	8
Asylum-seekers	Eritrea	460	-	31	20
	Ethiopia	430	-	31	15
	Various	30	-	26	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,020</b>	<b>11,260</b>		



Having crossed the Red Sea from Djibouti, new arrivals wait at the Ahwar reception centre in Yemen.

UNHCR / J. BJÖRGVINSSON

This sizeable population exerted tremendous pressure on the camp's infrastructure and services. New arrivals were hosted in the already congested camp, where water, sanitation, health services and shelter were inadequate. The Office is currently discussing the opening of a new camp with the Government.

## | Achievements and impact |

### ● Main objectives

UNHCR's main objectives in Djibouti were to improve protection by expanding access to asylum, registration and profiling; improve the living conditions of refugees by ensuring that their basic needs were met; strengthen responses to sexual and gender-based violence; and enhance community participation and self-management programmes. The Office also aimed at promoting resettlement as a durable solution for selected cases and helped the Government design policies to manage mixed-migration flows.

### ● Protection and solutions

The Government did not allow the reception and registration of new arrivals from south and central Somalia at the beginning of 2009 when the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia was being formed in Djibouti. From February onward, young and single men from south and central Somalia were denied access to the territory. Threats against the Government and foreign troops based in Djibouti led the Government to adopt strict national security policies, often against the interest of refugees and asylum-seekers. Restrictive measures were also applied to the registration of Ethiopian and Eritrean asylum-seekers.

However, later in 2009 the Government registered more than 3,000 new arrivals from south and central Somalia and provided documents to the people of concern to UNHCR in accordance with international standards. In addition, over 200 deserters from the Eritrean army were registered as refugees under UNHCR's mandate. The latter group was being held in detention by the Government for security reasons.

Despite the fact that all registered people of concern were documented either as refugees or as asylum-seekers, many, including women and children, continued to be rounded up in the capital area during operations targeting illegal migrants. Some asylum-seekers and refugees were detained arbitrarily, while many others were *refouled* to the Ethiopian border areas or to the "no man's land" between Djibouti and Somalia. UNHCR continued to intervene for the release of those detained and advocated for *non-refoulement* of refugees and asylum-seekers.

### ● Activities and assistance

**Community services:** SGBV training was provided to partner staff to improve identification and monitoring of cases at risk. Psychosocial care was provided for 120 people with specific needs. Recreational and community activities were organized for 50 women in the camp.

**Domestic needs and household support:** All women and girls of reproductive age (some 4,150 individuals) received sanitary materials. All girls attending school received extra food assistance to prevent them from leaving school. Poor road conditions during three months prevented commercial delivery of cooking fuel to the camp. However, a French military transport was able to make the delivery. Some 2,680 cartons of soap were distributed to refugees. All new arrivals

at Loyada Reception Centre received meals and NFI packages. Some 180 urban refugees with specific needs received financial assistance. Refugees departing for resettlement received clothing, travel items and cash grants.

**Education:** Education facilities were rehabilitated in Ali Addeh camp, where UNHCR constructed eight additional classrooms. A total of fourteen classrooms were operational in the camp and more than 1,200 students were enrolled in the school. The new classrooms enabled the school to move from two shifts per day to one. The text book to student ratio improved from 1:10 to 1:1 and the teacher to pupil ratio improved from 1:78 to 1:64. A total of 950 textbooks were distributed in the school. The school management committee worked to improve school attendance among girls.

**Food:** Children under 5 years old, pregnant and lactating women and people with medical problems benefited from a supplementary feeding programme.

**Health and nutrition:** More than 31,700 consultations took place at the health clinic in Ali Addeh. Ante-natal care was introduced in Ali Addeh and by the end of the year more than 240 babies had been delivered in the health facilities. Nearly all births were assisted by skilled staff. With fewer women giving birth at home, there were fewer complications during labour and the overall health of both mothers and newborns improved. More than 150 refugees received voluntary counselling and treatment for HIV and AIDS. Nearly 85,500 condoms were distributed in Ali-Addeh camp. UNHCR organized a polio vaccination campaign in the camp for children under 5 years of age.

**Operational support (to agencies):** Operational partners received financial and technical support, as well as training.

**Income generation:** UNHCR provided training in the management of small businesses and provided cash grants for women (particularly single and young mothers), people with disabilities, the elderly and orphans. Thirty-five groups

of refugees (750 persons) received revolving loans totalling USD 68,180.

**Sanitation:** Some 200 family latrines were built with refugee participation. Twenty garbage pits were constructed. Three former camps (Assamo, Holl-Holl and Aour Aoussa) were rehabilitated in order to be handed over to the Government.

**Shelter and infrastructures:** Camp-based refugees lived in sub-standard shelters and it was estimated that 25 per cent were living without any shelter at all. Some 2,750 plastic sheets and 410 tents were distributed, especially for new arrivals.

**Water:** Water remained a major problem in Ali Addeh camp. Refugees lived on less than seven litres of water per person per day. At the reception centre at the Loyada border, refugees had 20 litres of water per person per day. UNHCR rehabilitated and extended the water distribution network, but the prolonged drought has caused major water shortages.

### ○ Constraints

The population of concern increased by more than 30 per cent in 2009. The increase in the population of Ali Addeh camp put tremendous pressure on the existing infrastructure and service delivery. Budgetary limitations hampered the implementation of programmes intended to fully address the basic needs of the refugees.

## | Financial information |

The annual budget has increased since 2006, as has the supplementary budget since 2008, to provide protection and assistance to the arriving Somali refugees.

## | Organization and implementation |

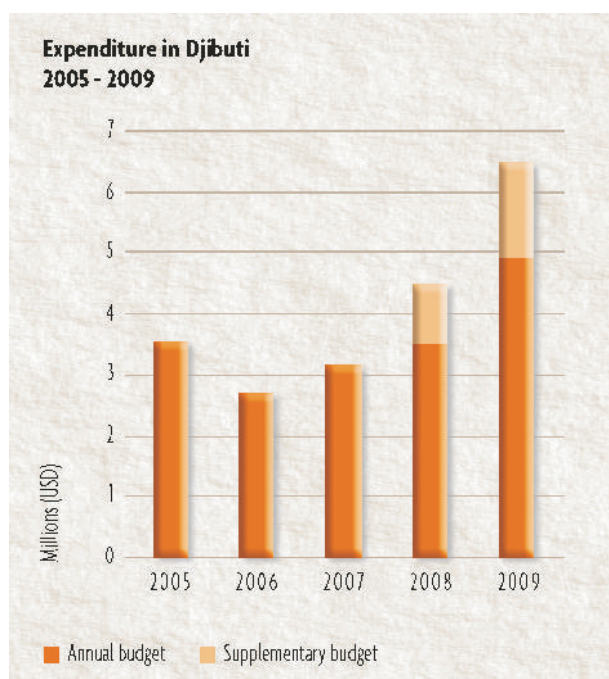
UNHCR operated from offices in Djibouti and Ali Sabieh. The UNHCR team consisted of 45 staff members, including 12 international and 33 national staff.

## | Working with others |

UNHCR worked closely with its main Government counterpart, *l'Office National d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Sinistrés*. UNHCR also cooperated with all other UN and NGO partners to ensure the delivery of services to refugees.

## | Overall assessment |

UNHCR made important progress in increasing access to education in the camp, but could not provide enough water, public health services and shelter.



## Partners

### Implementing partners

**Government:** *Office National d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Sinistrés*

**NGOs:** Association of Medical Doctors of Asia, *Association pour la Protection et l'Épanouissement de la Famille*, Lutheran World Federation

**Others:** UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, WHO

## Budget, income and expenditure in Djibouti (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual budget	5,533,105	543,035	4,536,722	5,079,757	4,873,917
Somalia situation SB	2,382,974	2,032,679	36,876	2,069,555	1,570,860
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,916,079</b>	<b>2,575,714</b>	<b>4,573,597</b>	<b>7,149,312</b>	<b>6,444,777</b>

Note: Supplementary programmes do not include seven per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

## Financial report for UNHCR's operations in Djibouti (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current years' project			Previous years' project
	Annual budget	Supplementary budgets	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	698,032	108,426	806,458	0
Community services	106,437	0	106,437	30,531
Domestic needs and household support	228,900	46,922	275,821	0
Education	230,076	0	230,076	33,756
Food	0	33,130	33,130	4,821
Forestry	67,492	0	67,492	0
Health and nutrition	579,494	221,215	800,709	127,828
Legal assistance	248,570	114,931	363,501	22,711
Operational support (to agencies)	570,695	18,860	589,555	38,896
Sanitation	4,990	0	4,990	(11,390)
Shelter and infrastructure	7,191	301,328	308,519	(16,844)
Transport and logistics	128,853	67,310	196,164	16,777
Water	38,840	63,252	102,092	7,827
Instalments to implementing partners	888,725	266,231	1,154,956	(254,912)
<b>Subtotal operational activities</b>	<b>3,798,295</b>	<b>1,241,604</b>	<b>5,039,899</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme support	1,075,622	329,256	1,404,877	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>4,873,917</b>	<b>1,570,860</b>	<b>6,444,777</b>	<b>0</b>

## Cancellation on previous years' expenditure

(65,406)

## Instalments with implementing partners

Payments made	1,538,243	392,457	1,930,700
Reporting received	(649,519)	(126,226)	(775,744)
<b>Balance</b>	<b>888,725</b>	<b>266,231</b>	<b>1,154,956</b>

## Previous year's report

Instalments with implementing partners:			
Outstanding 1st January			247,361
Reporting received			(254,912)
Refunded to UNHCR			(14,126)
Currency adjustment			87,730
<b>Outstanding 31st December</b>			<b>66,053</b>