

MAURITANIA

September 2018

In Mauritania, UNHCR provides protection and assistance to **over 57,000 Malian refugees** in the arid south-east region where Mbera refugee camp was established in 2012.

UNHCR protects and assists over **2,000 urban refugees and asylum-seekers** in the cities of Nouakchott and Nouadhibou, mostly from Central Africa, Syria and Côte d'Ivoire.

Security in northern Mali is still volatile and large-scale returns are not expected. The host area is subject to drought and is under pressure from the increasing **refugee population**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

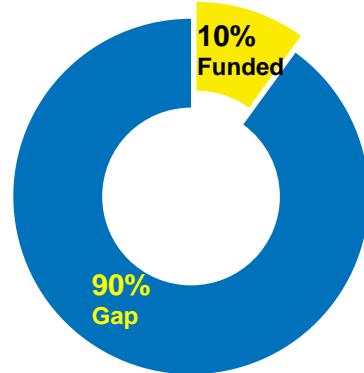
59,525

Mali	57,144
CAR	633
Syria	377
Côte d'Ivoire	323
Others	1,048

** Refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR (as of 31 August 2018)

FUNDING

USD 20.1 M requested for UNHCR in Mauritania
USD 2.1 M received. USD **18 M** funding gap



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 61** National staff
- 21** International staff

Offices in Mauritania:

- 1** Branch office located in Nouakchott
- 1** Sub office in Bassikounou
- 1** Field unit in Nouadhibou



Working with Partners

- At the request of the Mauritanian Government, **UNHCR coordinates the humanitarian response to the Malian refugee situation in close collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and Decentralization and local authorities.** UNHCR also participates in the United Nations Country Team and Humanitarian Country Team and works closely with national and international NGOs.
- **UNHCR, jointly with the Mauritanian Government, representatives of United Nations agencies and international NGOs signed the 2018-2022 United Nations' Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (CPDD), which integrates humanitarian and development interventions.**

Main Activities

Protection

- **In Mbera camp, UNHCR maintains and updates the refugee biometric registration database, provides tailored assistance to people with specific needs** through home visits, psychosocial counseling, support for people with disabilities and carries out awareness-raising activities, training and response to gender-based violence, as well as child protection. UNHCR continues strengthening the local authorities' capacity towards achieving full civil registration for all refugees. Mauritania has already started delivering birth certificates to Malian refugees born in Mbera camp.
- **In urban areas, UNHCR carries out registration of asylum seekers and determination of refugee status in the context of mixed-migratory flows.** UNHCR also organizes refugee protection trainings for government officials (including police and military officers) and is supporting Mauritanian authorities with the finalization of a national refugee law.

Education

- **In Mbera camp, UNHCR supports primary education with the payment of stipends for school staff members, the maintenance of school infrastructure and awareness raising activities to promote education for all.** UNHCR also offers literacy and numeracy classes for more than 500 adults.
- **In urban areas, UNHCR helps about 400 refugee children access primary and secondary education by covering tuition fees, providing school kits and offering tutoring.**
- **UNHCR also supports 90 refugees with scholarships** to attend university in Nouakchott and advocates for the enhancement of access to higher education for refugees.

Health

- **In Mbera camp, UNHCR supports primary health care for both the refugee and host populations, with the supply of medical equipment and medicine to the camp's health center.** Medical evacuations to Nema, Kifa and Nouakchott hospitals are provided to both refugee and host community members with serious medical conditions for which treatment is not available in the camp's surroundings. With the imminent depart of one of the main health partners, *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF), UNHCR has taken over one of the MSF health posts, with staff recruitment for the functioning of the post.
- **In urban areas, UNHCR facilitates access to the primary national health care system for all refugees and vulnerable asylum seekers as well as secondary and tertiary and emergency health care according to their needs.** UNHCR distributes hygiene kits to women and girls of childbearing age for the whole year.

Food Security and Nutrition

- **In Mbera camp, UNHCR facilitates monthly food and cash distributions provided by WFP in the camp.** UNHCR monitors refugee access to food in sufficient quantity and quality through monthly food basket monitoring as well as quarterly post-distribution monitoring.
- **In urban areas, refugees with specific needs benefit once a year from a special multipurpose cash** to cover for their nutritional and other basic needs.

Water and Sanitation

- **In Mbera camp, UNHCR ensures maintenance and optimization of the existing water system, construction and rehabilitation of semi-permanent latrines and the collection, transport and treatment of solid waste.** UNHCR supports hygiene awareness-raising activities targeting all refugees to prevent the spread of water-borne diseases.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

- In Mbera camp, UNHCR ensures replacement of basic items (jerry cans, mosquito nets) and distribution of shelters as well as the maintenance of infrastructure and roads. UNHCR also ensures the distribution of hygiene kits for all refugees, with specific sanitary hygiene kits for women of childbearing age.

Peaceful Coexistence and Self-Reliance

- In Mbera camp, based on the results of a socio-economical profiling study, as well as an Added Value Chain Study market, in 2018 UNHCR will launch a new programme to strengthen self-reliance refugees and host communities and move from general assistance towards a more tailored support while ensuring assistance for the most vulnerable.
- UNHCR supports community-based structures, such as committees composed of representatives from the refugee and host communities and promotes peaceful coexistence with socio-cultural and focus groups activities. UNHCR also supports quick-impact projects targeting the host population around Mbera camp. These include interventions to improve access to water and livestock activities.
- In urban areas, UNHCR facilitates access to micro-credit schemes and promotes certified vocational training.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR facilitates the voluntary repatriation of refugees willing to go back to their country of origin. In line with the agreement signed by UNHCR, Mali and Mauritania, UNHCR also facilitates the implementation of a tripartite framework on voluntary repatriation of Malian refugees. Since November 2017, no voluntary return has been facilitated for Malian refugees.
- UNHCR promotes resettlement as a protection tool for the most vulnerable cases. As part of its durable solutions for the urban caseload, since January 2018 UNHCR Mauritania has submitted 50 individual cases for resettlement, 6 of whom have already departed. 11 persons, whose cases were submitted in 2015 for resettlement to USA, were also able to depart Mauritania in June 2018.

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