

# Mauritania

15 March 2019

Mauritania hosts **over 2,500 urban refugees and asylum-seekers and more than 56,000 Malian refugees** in and around Mbera camp. Despite the conclusion of a peace agreement in 2015, **large-scale returns of Malian refugees are not expected due to persistent violence in northern and central Mali**. In February alone, **816 new arrivals were registered in Mbera camp**. In response, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been enhancing collaboration with **development actors to bridge the current gap between humanitarian and development efforts** and ensure that refugees—in particular, extremely poor ones—are not left behind. Furthermore, **UNHCR registered 68 new arrivals** in the **mixed movements contexts** of the urban areas of Nouakchott and Nouadhibou. Pending the adoption of the asylum law, **UNHCR works closely with the Mauritanian authorities to enhance the protection of refugees** in Mauritania improving access to documentation, birth registration, economic opportunities, and basic services such as health and education. UNHCR works under the umbrella of the United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (CPDD).

## KEY INDICATORS

**1,129**

New arrivals from Mali since January 2019

**0**

Voluntary returns to Mali facilitated in 2019

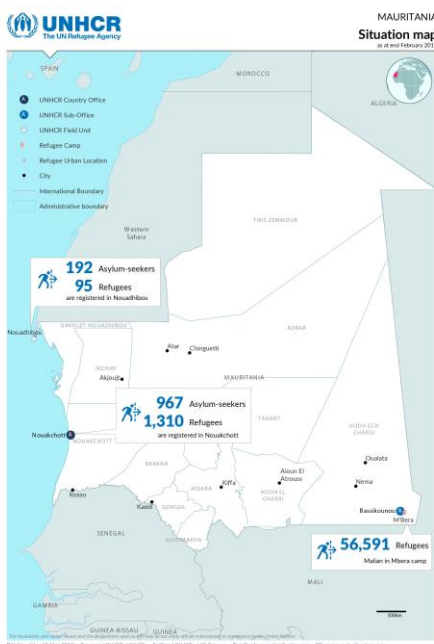
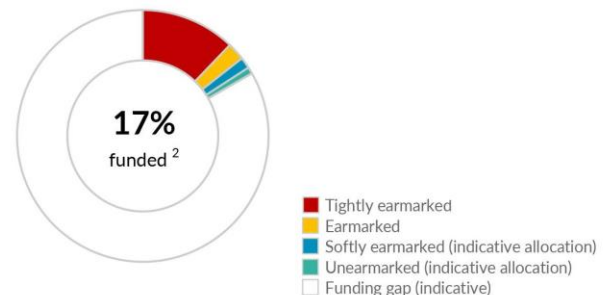
**4,831**

Malian refugees with **specific needs** (as of 28 February 2019)

## FUNDING (AS OF 15 MARCH)

**USD 19.3 M**

**3.2 M** received. **16.1 M** requested for the UNHCR operation in Mauritania



## POPULATION OF CONCERN

Malian refugees in Mbera camp **56,591**

Urban refugees and asylum-seekers **2,514**

A total of **59,105** people are assisted by UNHCR in Mauritania.

## High level visits

In February, after being visiting Northern Mali, a delegation led by UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection (AHC-P), Volker Türk, came to Mauritania for a 4-day visit.

The delegation flew off to Mbera camp where they visited UNHCR registration center and they had the opportunity to speak with UNHCR staff and National Agency of the Register of Populations and Secured Documents (ANRPTS) and to listen to newly arrived refugees at the camp. Afterwards, the delegation visited one of the five gardens meeting with refugee women working there and the ILO / UNHCR center where young refugees and Mauritians apprentices are undergoing vocational training.

At the end of his visit to the camp, Mr. Türk met with refugee leaders, women and youth. In his speech, the Assistant High Commissioner in charge of protection stressed that **the future of Mali also goes through the Mbera camp and through all the projects that UNHCR and its partners are implementing in the camp.**

The AHC-P and his delegation met with the prime Minister, the Minister of Interior and the Minister of Foreign Affairs to discuss about the situation of refugees and other persons of concern in the country and the ways forward in order to respond to their needs. In Mauritania, UNHCR is currently advocating for the adoption of the asylum law and the enhancement of civil registration.

During the visit, the delegation also met with refugees in Nouakchott, who are part of mixed population movements. The delegation visited the reception centre where refugees are provided with protection, education, health assistance and the community centre where UNHCR and its partner organize training courses and outreach activities.

**Mr Türk's mission in Mauritania was complementary to a previous mission in Mali. The AHC-P shared his concern on the escalation of the conflict affecting northern and central Mali and the possible impact of this on the neighbouring countries.**



*Volker Türk, UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, visiting UNHCR registration center in Mbera camp ©UNHCR/Viola E. Bruttomesso*

## Achievements



### PROTECTION

#### Achievements and Impact

In February, in collaboration with the National Agency for Civil Registration (ANRPTS), UNHCR continued protecting refugees from statelessness risks. During the reporting period, **203 identity cards and 26 birth certificates** have been distributed.

In urban areas, **to prioritize the most vulnerable cases and those in need of international protection**, UNHCR introduced a **screening system** for the registration of asylum-seekers and further refugee status determination process.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

UNHCR continues its advocacy for refugees' access to civil registration and national documentation. UNHCR also advocates for the inclusion of refugees in national protection systems (health, education, child protection, SGBV).



### EDUCATION

#### Achievements and Impact

In February, UNHCR registered **almost 75% of the enrolled students attending classes** in the 6 schools plus 2 extensions in Mbera camp.

Adult literacy courses continued during the reporting period with **116 enrolled students** in the second phase called consolidation phase, whose subjects are reading, numeracy and writing.



### HEALTH

#### Achievements and Impact

In February, UNHCR observed the **International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation**. In Mbera camp, Nouakchott and Nouadhibou, UNHCR organized a cinema forum to discuss with the refugees how to end female genital mutilation.

In Mbera camp and Bassikounou, UNHCR and partners continued to provide health care to refugees and the host community. In February alone, **3,799 medical consultations have been performed**. Out of these, 62% of the patients were refugees.



## FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

### Achievements and Impact

UNHCR in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) distributed **cash** (100 MRU per person per month) with electronic cards to **53,841 refugees** (12,862 families). The **introduction of the Global Distribution Tool (GDT)** has enabled UNHCR to enhance its distribution tracking and verification processes, and the protection of children who are sent to collect the food ration on behalf of their families.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Refugees in Mbera camp are dependent on food assistance due to very scarce local resources. As of March 2019, WFP faces a US\$ 4.4 million shortfall (32% of the requirements) for its assistance to Malian refugees. UNHCR works with partners to improve access to gardening fields and livestock to reduce refugees' dependency on food assistance.



## SHELTER AND NFIS

### Achievements and Impact

In February, UNHCR distributed **521 shelter kits** to most vulnerable refugees in Mbera camp. In addition to this, **159 sheds kits** have been distributed to Koranic schools in the camp.

## Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation. UNHCR also express gratitude especially towards those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with un-earmarked and softly earmarked funds.

### EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Earmarked contributions for the operation **amount** to some **US\$ 3.2 million**.

EU		2,329,841
Japan		357,142
Italy		190,467
Monaco		113,766

### SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Germany 57.7 million | Sweden 3.3 million

### UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | United Kingdom | Germany | Denmark |

Switzerland | Private donors Spain

Algeria | Argentina | Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Belgium | Canada | Estonia |

Indonesia | Kuwait | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Qatar |

Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia |

Sri Lanka | Thailand | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

## External / Donor Relations

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