

Mauritania

15 April 2019

Mauritania hosts **over 2,600 urban refugees and asylum-seekers and more than 58,000 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 March alone, **1,032 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 77 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

2,161

New arrivals from Mali since January 2019

0

Voluntary returns to Mali facilitated in 2019

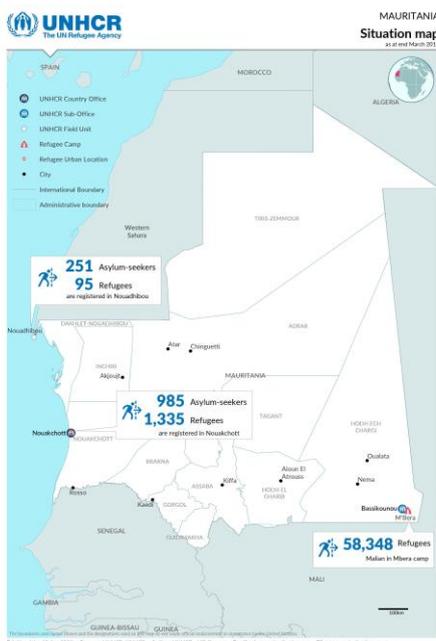
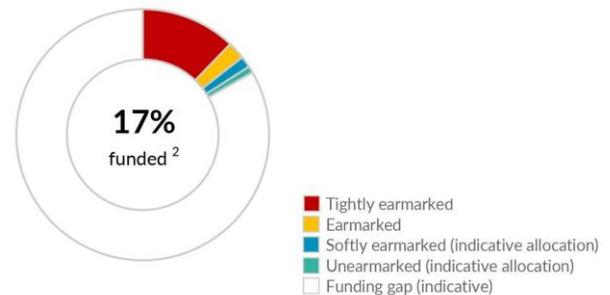
4,731

Malian refugees with **specific needs** (as of 31 March 2019)

FUNDING (AS OF 15 APRIL)

USD 19.3 M

3.3 M received. **16 M** requested for the UNHCR operation in Mauritania



POPULATION OF CONCERN

Malian refugees in Mbera camp **58,348**

Urban refugees and asylum-seekers **2,666**

A total of **61,014** people are assisted by UNHCR in Mauritania.

High level visits

In March, UNHCR participated to the visit of a EU delegation in Nouadhibou. The Delegation was led by Mr. Stefano Manservigi, EU Director General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO). Main areas of interest of the delegation were the current legal framework regarding migration and asylum, capacities of authorities, and trends in terms of mixed and onwards movements.

Achievements



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

On 8th March, UNHCR in Mauritania celebrated International Women's Day in the urban area of Nouakchott and in Mbera refugee camp. At the Community Centre in Nouakchott, refugees in urban areas celebrated the IWD with poems, music and theater performances focused on gender equality. In Mbera camp, UNHCR and partners, seized the opportunity to thank the refugee women for their invaluable daily contribution to the camp, including their voluntary work, including cleaning the camp and preparing the food for children in schools.

During the reporting period, UNHCR organized a seminar to sensitize 18 magistrates and administrators on UNHCR mandate, the principle of non-refoulement, refugee and asylum seekers' rights and obligations, and the roles and interventions of UNHCR in Mauritania in support to authorities in a mixed movement context.

During the month of March, UNHCR Mauritania held participatory assessments with refugees at Mbera camp and in Nouakchott using an Age, Gender and Diversity sensitive approach in order to gather more reliable information about the protection risks refugees face and their root causes, understand their capacities and resources and allow refugees to be active part in the proposed solutions.



A refugee woman performing a poem on the IWD in Nouakchott © UNHCR/Viola E. Bruttomesso



UNHCR staff during the participatory assessment exercise with urban refugees © UNHCR/Viola E. Bruttomesso



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

In Mbera camp and Bassikounou, UNHCR and partners continued to provide health care to refugees and the host community. In March alone, **5,296 medical consultations have been performed**. During the reporting period, UNHCR continued to facilitate the evacuation of refugee patients and the host population in the health facilities of Nema, Kiffa and Nouakchott. During the reporting period, **43 patients including 24 refugees** were referred to hospitals in Nema, Kiffa and Nouakchott.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

UNHCR in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) distributed cash (450 MRU per person per month) with electronic cards to **55,343 refugees** (12,922 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 million shortfall 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.



WATER AND SANITATION

On 22nd March, UNHCR celebrated the World Water Day in Mbera camp in the presence of all WASH actors and refugees under the international theme 'Leave No One Behind'. Malian refugees seized the opportunity to thank the Mauritanian government, the United Nations and the NGOs for all the efforts made in terms of Water supply, sanitation and hygiene in the camp.



PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND SELF RELIANCE

During the month of March, the International Labour Organization (ILO) selected some of the students (young Malian refugees and host community members) enrolled in the UNHCR/ILO on-the-job training for **the construction of a paved road between Bassikounou and Mbera**.

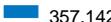
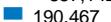
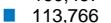
During the reporting period, to foster peaceful coexistence, UNHCR distributed through the NGO DirectAid 10,000 tons of rice, 4,000 tons of sugar and 4,000 tons of oil to **400 households from the host community**, including 257 women.

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\$ 3.3 million**.

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|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 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
 Malta | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | United Kingdom | Germany | Denmark |
 Private donors Spain | Switzerland

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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