

Mauritania  
19 March 2024

## **UNHCR Mauritania welcomes the US\$ 5 million contribution from the United States, aimed at supporting emergency response efforts for refugees and their host communities in the Hodh Chargui region.**

*Nouakchott, March 19, 2024 – The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Mauritania announces with enormous gratitude a significant donation exceeding \$ 5 million from the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) of the U.S. Department of State. This funding is critical to address the challenges posed by the increasing influx of forcibly displaced people in the Hodh Chargui region of Mauritania. It will bolster UNHCR's response to the increasing needs of refugees, in accordance with the United Nations' contingency plan. This significant support will enhance UNHCR's capacity to deliver critical humanitarian assistance, provide increased protection, and extend support services to the most vulnerable members of host and refugee communities.*

As the main donor to UNHCR globally, the United States, through this contribution from the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting forcibly displaced populations and the ongoing efforts from government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to include refugees within its borders.

The recent contribution of over \$5 million, largely mobilized through the United States' Emergency Response Fund, comes at a critical time. It grants UNHCR the necessary flexibility to allocate resources where they are most needed and to undertake life-saving activities that at the same time alleviate pressure on Mauritania's natural resources and on its people, who have been exemplary hosts to Malian refugees fleeing violence in their country.

The UNHCR estimates that over 187,000 refugees are currently in Hodh Chargui, representing 20% of the region's total population. This flexible funding allows UNHCR to respond swiftly and effectively to emerging challenges, ensuring that displaced individuals have access to shelter, food, water, and essential protection services, such as psychosocial support.

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**PLACE**

Mauritania

**DATE**

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**SUBJECT**

**UNHCR Mauritania welcomes the US\$ 5 million contribution from the United States, aimed at supporting emergency response efforts for refugees and their host communities in the Hodh Chargui region.**

*“This contribution from the U.S. government reflects its unwavering commitment to humanitarian principles and the welfare of displaced populations. Thanks to this nimble and rapid support, we can tailor our response to the evolving needs on the ground, providing aid where it is most needed.”*

*Ms. Elizabeth Eyster, UNHCR Representative in Mauritania*

This funding will enable displaced individuals in Mauritania to regain stability, dignity, and address their pressing needs. It will also support initiatives aimed at enhancing essential services and programs promoting livelihoods, vocational training, and community infrastructure development. These efforts will bolster the resilience of both displaced people and host communities, thereby promoting social cohesion and preventing conflicts related to access to natural resources in Hodh Chargui.

*“Thanks to the support from the American people, the United States can help UNHCR in its mission to provide essential assistance to vulnerable populations in and outside Mbera camp, including local communities that generously host Malian refugees. We recognize the considerable efforts made by the Mauritanian government to welcome refugees while seeking durable solutions with donors. Emergency aid reinforces regional stability, empower refugees and helps partners like Mauritania better cope with regional and global crises.”*

*H.E Ms. Cynthia Kiersch, U.S Ambassador to Mauritania*

As part of the United Nations' contingency plan and the UN Vision for Hodh Chargui region, UNHCR works closely with other humanitarian actors, government agencies, and local authorities to ensure a coordinated and effective response, which is now strengthened by the generous contribution from the U.S. government.

The contingency plan represents a strategic and holistic approach to addressing the needs of forcibly displaced people in Mauritania. By providing timely and targeted assistance, protection, and support services, UNHCR remains firmly committed to its mission of alleviating the suffering of displaced populations and contributing to their well-being and long-term resilience.

For more information, please contact:

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