

# Overview of the ProNexus project in Mauritania

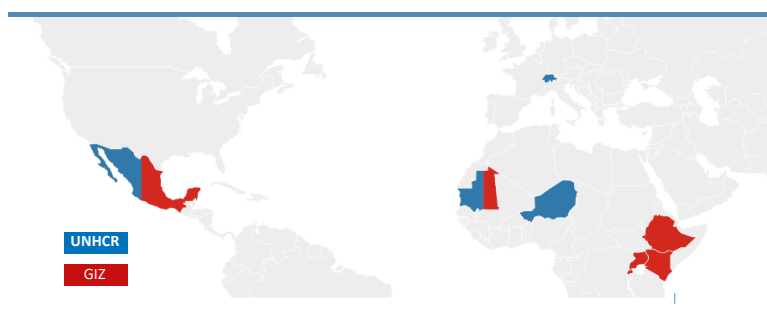
In the framework of the SUN Global Programme, GIZ and UNHCR are developing a joint project to build capacity to promote the socio-economic inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable members of host communities in Mauritania.

## Context

By the end of 2019, 79.5 million people had fled their homes worldwide. While the numbers of forcibly displaced are at an all-time high, the number of complex, protracted crises is also increasing. The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) represents the political will and ambition of the international community for strengthened cooperation and solidarity with refugees and affected host countries. It is a framework for more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing between governments, international organisations and other stakeholders. It constitutes a unique opportunity to transform the way the world responds to refugee situations, benefiting both refugees and host communities. In 2019, at the first Global Refugee Forum, 280 policy pledges were made by host countries to enhance refugee's inclusion in their national systems. These commendable pledges need the close collaboration of humanitarian and development actors to ensure their sustainable implementation, in line with the principles enshrined in the GCR.

## The SUN Global Programme

The GCR calls on "development actors [to] work in a complementary manner to humanitarian assistance interventions to ensure that the impact of a large refugee situation on a host country is taken into account in the planning and implementation of development programmes and policies with direct benefits for both host communities and refugees". To contribute to this end, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) commissioned the Global Programme "Support to UNHCR in facilitating the



Countries of interventions of the SUN Global Programme

operationalization of the Global Compact on Refugees in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus" in 2018.

The programme is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in cooperation with UNHCR and aims to support UNHCR as a facilitator of the GCR in the HDP Nexus. The programme is part of the German Special Initiative "Tackling the Root Causes of Displacement, (Re-) integrating Refugees". GIZ and UNHCR jointly implement projects in specific displacement settings (Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritania, Mexico, Niger, Rwanda and Uganda). GIZ also provides advisory services to UNHCR and supports UNHCR in consolidating and analysing lessons learned on the operationalization of the GCR in the HDP Nexus.

## The SUN project in Mauritania: ProNexus

In Mauritania, UNHCR and GIZ have started a joint project called 'ProNexus', running from January 2021 to August 2023, as part of the first component of the Global Programme, namely 'implementation of the humanitarian development



Field visits and consultations with beneficiaries and partners in Hodh Chargui region during the second scoping mission in February 2021.

peace nexus in specific displacement settings'. The project aims at building capacity to promote the socio-economic inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable members of host communities in Mauritania. The joint implementation of activities with blended UNHCR-GIZ teams, operating together, is an unprecedented modality on the African continent within the SUN Global Programme.

This project capitalizes and builds on the commitments made by the Mauritanian government at the end of 2019 during the Global Refugee Forum relating to the development of a legal framework, access to documentation and the inclusion of refugees in national protection systems as well as access to the labor market.



<b>Project name</b>	<b>ProNexus</b> Building capacities for strengthened socio-economic inclusion of refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable members of host communities in Mauritania
<b>Commissioned by</b>	The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>Project region</b>	Mauritania Wilaya of Hodh Chargui (particularly Moughataa of Bassikounou) as well as in the urban areas (Nouakchott and Nouadhibou).
<b>Lead executing agencies</b>	GIZ UNHCR
<b>Duration</b>	32 months (January 2021 – August 2023)
<b>Budget</b>	GIZ: €4,100,000 UNHCR: €4,000,000

## Project priorities and intervention areas

The project aims at complementing the projects supported through the World Bank's IDA18 Refugee Sub-Window in the sectors of health, urbanization, social protection and water and sanitation. These investments and the increased involvement of development actors require support in the transition period towards inclusion in national systems. While the project focuses mainly on the Bassikounou moughataa, where the majority of refugees in Mauritania live, the urban areas of Nouakchott and Nouadhibou are also areas of intervention.

The joint project developed by GIZ and UNHCR in Mauritania is articulated around six areas of intervention defined during an initial scoping mission in July 2020:

- Improved access to basic public services
- Improved access to environmentally sensitive livelihoods opportunities
- Improved access to social protection
- Strengthened government-led coordination mechanisms
- Strengthened UNHCR facilitation capacities at the nexus
- Increased inter-organizational learning on comprehensive responses at the nexus.

## Planification and implementation of the ProNexus

A second scoping mission took place in February 2021, in order to involve the various stakeholders (beneficiaries, humanitarian and development actors, authorities) in the design and conception, which allowed to confirm the relevance of the retained axes.

This mission made it possible to refine the interventions that could be developed within the framework of the project based on needs and gaps.

Additional meetings will be held in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou with stakeholders (authorities, humanitarian and development actors, beneficiaries) in order to finalize the action plan including the different activities.

**Issuer** Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
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[www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
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[www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)

**Status** 05/2021  
**Contact** Hamza Ould Bakar  
Head of project (GIZ)  
[hamza.ould@giz.de](mailto:hamza.ould@giz.de)

Jessica Somé  
GIZ Project Coordinator / External Relations Officer  
[somei@unhcr.org](mailto:somei@unhcr.org)

**Address** Bureau GIZ, BP5217  
Ilot V22  
Nouakchott, Mauritania

Bureau UNHCR  
Ilot K Villa 143, BP : 4405,  
Nouakchott, Mauritania