

Mauritania  
28 February 2024

## UNHCR Mauritania welcomes the USD 4 million contribution from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to assist refugees and host communities in Hodh Chargui, Mauritania.

*NOUAKCHOTT, February 28, 2024 – UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is pleased to announce a generous contribution of USD 4 million from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to support its vital work in the Hodh Chargui region in Mauritania for the period of 2024 - 2026. This significant funding will play a pivotal role in strengthening UNHCR's response to over 153,000 refugees currently hosted in the region, while also building the resilience of host communities.*



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UNHCR's Tamasuk project to support resilience, social cohesion and inclusion of populations facing climate change and forced displacement in Mauritania includes activities focusing on enhancing green livelihood opportunities and empowering refugees and host populations. The initiative will also positively impact environmental protection,

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**PLACE**

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local development, and access to basic services through the strengthening of existing community structures in the Hodh Chargui region, which hosts Mbera refugee camp.

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Community empowerment is a core focus of UNHCR. In Mauritania, UNHCR aims to fortify community-led projects, capacity-building programs, and initiatives that enhance access to essential services such as **healthcare, education, and clean water**. This community-based approach will ensure sustainability of interventions and improvement of the quality of life for both refugees and host communities. The project underscores the importance of engaging with community-led organizations as partners in building resilience and solutions that are tailored to their situation.

**SUBJECT**

**UNHCR Mauritania welcomes the USD 4 million contribution from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to assist refugees and host communities in Hodh Chargui, Mauritania.**

*“The launch of this multi-year project funded by KOICA is a strong commitment to responsibility-sharing in solidarity with the Government of Mauritania and encouraging support from KOICA to Mauritania’s “Tamasuk (tenacious)” willingness to host and support refugees, as renewed at the recent 2023 Global Refugee Forum.”*

*Ms. Elizabeth Eyster, UNHCR Representative in Mauritania*

Skills development programs, vocational training, and income generating initiatives will benefit both populations. Through **livelihood opportunities that responsibly uses scarce natural resources in the region and the strengthening of local provision of basic services**, refugee and host communities will be better equipped to contribute to the local economy and respond to challenges linked to poverty and the effects of climate change in the region.

*“Through this project, I reaffirm KOICA’s steadfast commitment to humanitarian assistance and sustainable development, and I look forward to the continued success of our partnership with UNHCR and the people of Mauritania towards a brighter and more prosperous future for all”.*

*Ms. Hyewon Cho, Director of KOICA Morocco Office*

UNHCR Mauritania and KOICA are committed to making a lasting difference in the lives of refugees and host populations. KOICA's generous contribution will play a crucial role in making a more sustainable future for all a reality.

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