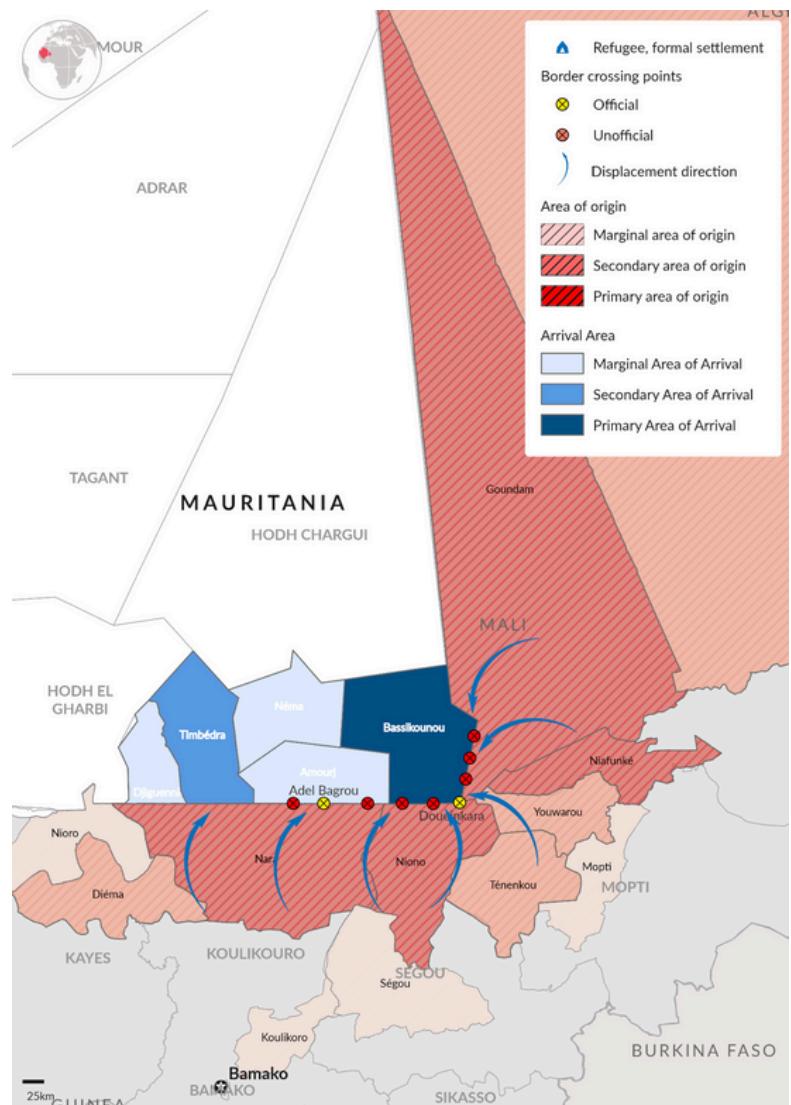
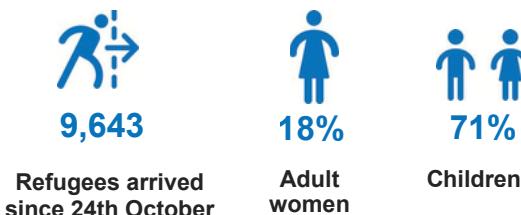


Overview

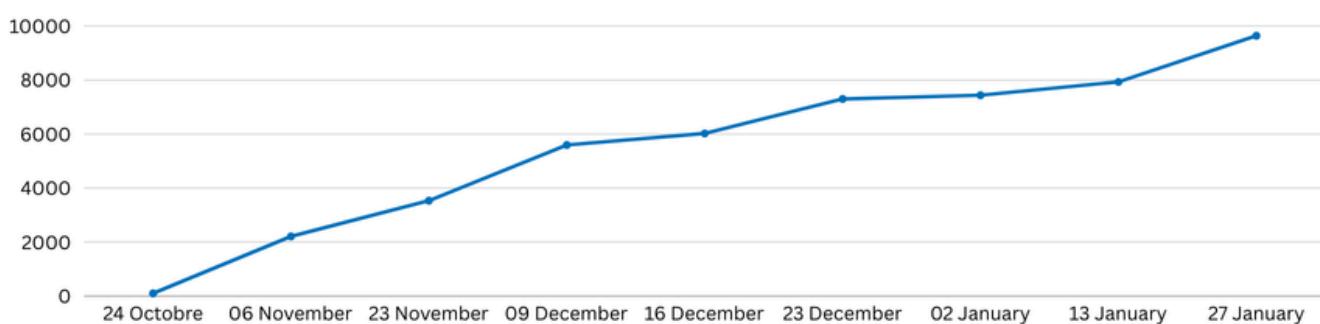
Three months since the onset of the influx on 24 October, insecurity in northern and central Mali continue to drive sustained cross-border displacement into south-eastern Mauritania. Since the beginning of the influx, 9,643 refugees have been identified, with new arrivals continuing to be recorded across remote border areas in Hodh Chargui. The influx remains predominantly child- and family-based, with significant protection vulnerabilities identified among newly arrived refugees.

While UNHCR and partners, in coordination with national authorities, continue efforts to identify, register and provide protection and life-saving assistance, geographic dispersion, access constraints and the fluid nature of movements mean that some refugees remain in hard-to-reach locations with limited information on available services. The persistence of arrivals indicates sustained and heightened protection needs requiring continued and scaled-up support.

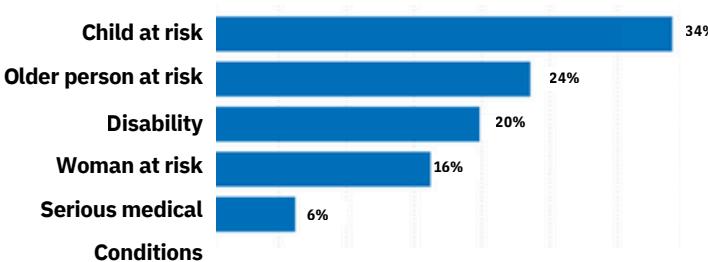
Key figures



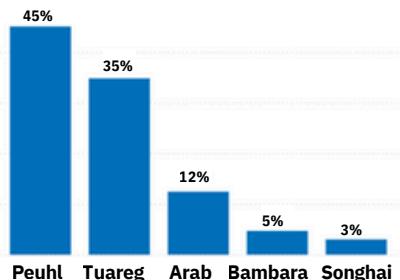
Estimated daily refugee arrivals



Vulnerabilities



Ethnicity





© UNHCR/OMAR DOUKALI — Aïssatou (name changed), a Malian mother of two, fled insecurity in Mali and arrived in Mauritania in recent weeks after a difficult two-day journey.

Aïssatou (name changed) fled insecurity in Mali with her two children and arrived in south-eastern Mauritania in recent weeks after a difficult two-day journey. “I left with my children and only what I could carry.”

As the security situation deteriorated in her area, she was forced to leave suddenly, carrying only her two children and a few essential belongings. Throughout the journey, fear and uncertainty shaped every step, as she moved without knowing what lay ahead.

Now in Mauritania, Aïssatou and her children are in a place of safety, where daily life is calmer and the immediate fear has eased. “Here, it is calm, and we feel protected.”

The security situation in northern and central Mali continues to deteriorate, with a marked escalation in recent weeks.

The Timbuktu Region remains a key area of concern. Incidents were reported in and around Gargando and Tinaïcha, including civilian casualties and missing persons. Drone attacks were also reported in the Ber area, reflecting an increased use of aerial tactics by armed actors. Armed group activity has been reported in areas closer to the Mauritanian border. JNIM reportedly asked civilians to leave parts of the Commune of Léré, including villages such as Diabaté and Serinke. Armed clashes including with air elements were reported along the Nioro axis and the Dogofori area.

Over the past two weeks, 1,712 refugees (290 families) have been newly identified, bringing the total number of arrivals since the start of the influx to 9,643 individuals (1,566 families).

Most newly arrived families fled from the Razelma area (Commune of Raz-el-Ma, Goundam Cercle, Timbuktu Region) and surrounding localities, including Gargando, Tinghass and Ider/Idjer Dahane. UNHCR and partners spoke with several families who have been displaced multiple times. As one refugee explained: “We had no choice. Staying was no longer possible.”

On the Mauritanian side, arrivals have been recorded in the communes of Fassala and Bassikounou, with families setting in Aghor, Kleive, Mehel Wled Alouche and Sondage Teidouma. Smaller-scale movements have also been recorded in Néma including arrivals from central Mali. Children now represent approximately 71 per cent of the population, while women account for around 18 per cent, confirming the predominantly child- and family-based nature of the displacement. Many families face heightened protection risks due to repeated displacement, limited resources, and prolonged exposure to insecurity prior to flight.



© BBC World News – Excerpt from a BBC World News report, featuring insights from UNHCR spokesperson in Mauritania on the humanitarian situation in the country.

In a BBC World News report, Omar Doukali, UNHCR spokesperson in Mauritania outlines the humanitarian situation in the country following the recent refugee influx, highlighting the challenges faced by both refugees and host communities.

“Mauritanians have a long-standing tradition of providing safety and protection to displaced populations.”



© UNHCR/OMAR DOUKALI — Aïssatou (name changed), a Malian mother of two, returns to her settlement in south-eastern Mauritania with her children and relatives after receiving relief assistance.

Girls account for approximately 53 per cent of all children sought protection in Mauritania. Beyond their numbers, the circumstances under which many girls are arriving raise protection concerns. UNHCR teams and partners report an increasing number of adolescent girls and very young mothers arriving alone or with infants, often separated from immediate family members or travelling without consistent adult support. Many describe having to leave at short notice due to worsening insecurity. As one adolescent girl who arrived with her baby shared: “My husband told me it was too dangerous to stay. He arranged for me to leave with the baby and his family. *He said he would follow me. I have not heard from him since.*”

While many refugees have been identified, registered and assisted others remain dispersed across remote and hard-to-reach areas, with limited information on available services and reduced access to follow-up. Given these constraints, the figures presented are likely to underestimate the full scale of needs.

An assessment conducted by UNHCR and partners with newly arrived families indicates basic needs remain unmet. Food remains the most frequently cited need at 31 per cent, followed closely by access to water by 26 per cent and shelter or housing support by 14 per cent. The assessment showed the precarious living conditions faced by many newly arrived families who are settling in remote and under-resourced areas.

To respond to the current situation, UNHCR, together with government authorities and humanitarian partners, has presented an inter-agency contingency plan for the Hodh Chargui region. The plan prioritizes a protection-centered, out-of-camp response focused on maintaining access to asylum, delivering life-saving assistance, and reinforcing essential services in host communities that are already under strain. Immediate needs include food assistance, access to water, core relief items, strengthening mobile protection and health services, and enhancing coordination and information management to ensure a timely and inclusive response. The estimated inter-agency budget stands at approximately USD 18 million.