

KEY FIGURES

395

New arrivals from Mali
(since the end of April)

14,283

Malian households in Mberra
camp (as of 31 July)

5,487

Malian refugees with specific
needs (as of 31 July)

30L

Of potable water available per
person per day in Mberra camp

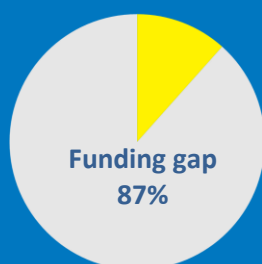
22

Persons per latrine in Mberra
camp

FUNDING

USD 24.4M

Requested for the operation



PRIORITIES

- Maintain protection and assistance for all Malian refugees in Mberra camp.
- Strengthen support to refugees' self-reliance.
- Reinforce peaceful coexistence between the refugee and host communities.

MAURITANIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

As of 12 August 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- In Mberra camp, UNHCR continues to sustain **humanitarian assistance**, while **strengthening refugees' self-reliance** through support to primary education and literacy classes, income-generation activities and access to gardening areas, livestock and energy.



Jerry can distributed by UNHCR in Mberra Camp
UNHCR/Helena Pes

- Between 20 and 24 July, all refugees in Mberra camp were provided with food (rice, pulses and oil) during the **July general food distribution** organized by UNHCR through its partner, the *Commissariat à la sécurité alimentaire*, in cooperation with WFP.
- In July 2015, UNHCR and the local micro-finance institution *Mutuelle Féminine de Solidarité d'Entraide d'Epargne et de Crédit* (MFSEEC) renewed their partnership in order to **extend self-reliance opportunities** for urban refugees in Nouakchott, through access to micro-credit.
- UNHCR, UNICEF, *Ensemble pour la solidarité et le développement*, INTERSOS and the Mauritanian and Malian Ministries of Education enabled 111 candidates from Mberra Camp to take part in the 2015 Malian Baccalaureate session. **Some 60% of the candidates passed the Baccalaureate exam.**

Population of concern (as of 1 August 2015)

A total of **51,425** people are assisted by UNHCR in Mauritania

**Malian refugees in Mberra
camp**

49,911

**Urban refugees and asylum
seekers**

1,514

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

Violent clashes in northern Mali in early 2012 triggered important waves of displacements into Mauritania, where a refugee camp was established 50 Km from the Malian border in the Hodh el Charghi region. Following the military intervention in northern Mali in January 2013, new influxes of Malian refugees occurred, thus further stretching the limited resources available in the area.

In collaboration with the Mauritanian Government, UN organizations and national and international NGOs, UNHCR leads the humanitarian response for **49,911 Malian refugees in Mberra camp**. In addition, the organization protects and assists **987 urban refugees and 527 asylum seekers**, mainly from the **Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Syria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Senegal**.

Lately, recent violence in Northern Mali sparked new waves of displacements and 395 new arrivals in Mauritania have been registered since the end of April. Large-scale returns of refugees are therefore not yet envisaged and UNHCR and its partners are maintaining their presence in Bassikounou to sustain the humanitarian response at Mberra Camp.

Achievements



Protection

Achievements and Impact

- In July 2015, UNHCR and the local micro-finance institution *Mutuelle Féminine de Solidarité d'Entraide d'Epargne et de Crédit* (MFSEEC) renewed their partnership in order to **strengthen self-reliance for urban refugees** in Nouakchott. Thanks to this micro-finance partnership, which was first launched in 2014, some 20 urban refugees will receive financial support to start new business activities in 2015. Within the same programme, 19 business activities, which were started in 2014, are on-going.
- Since January 2015 in Mberra camp, UNHCR has addressed **74 cases of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence**. Victims are assisted with medical support and psychological counselling. UNHCR and its partner INTERSOS continue to raise refugees' awareness on this issue, through group discussions, home visits and socio cultural events.
- UNHCR continues to provide tailored **assistance to almost 5,500 individuals with specific needs in Mberra camp**, including **women at risk, single parents, unaccompanied or separated children and disabled people**. For instance, in July, **53 people with specific needs received support** in terms of psychological assistance, financial grants and non-food items such as bedcovers, buckets and hygienic kits.



Refugee Women in Nouakchott who benefited from UNHCR's support programme for income-generation activities
UNHCR/Helena Pes

Durable Solutions

Achievements and Impact

- In July 2015, UNHCR submitted resettlement requests for **59 people** to the United States and Denmark. The cases are currently under review by the resettlement countries.
- UNHCR facilitated **voluntary repatriation** for a refugee in very serious medical conditions to return to Lomé in Togo. The refugee received medical help prior travel arrangements, as well as a repatriation grant.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR, UNICEF, *Ensemble pour la solidarité et le développement*, INTERSOS and the Mauritanian and Malian Ministries of Education enabled 111 candidates from Mberra Camp to take part in the 2015 Malian Baccalaureate session. **Some 60% of the candidates passed the Baccalaureate exam.** The results show a consistent increase in the number of admitted students compared to 2014 where about 43% of the candidates were successful.



Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Despite being admitted to Baccalaureate degrees, successful candidates face financial constraints to attend tertiary education. In this case, a special attention is needed in order to support particular cases with studies grants and scholarships.

Health

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR continues to support primary health care in the camp for all refugees, as well as secondary and tertiary care. In July, **32 medical cases in need of secondary/tertiary care** were evacuated to Nema and Nouakchott hospitals.
- The organization also provides the governmental health center in Mberra camp with **drugs and medical consumables** in order to ensure refugees' access to adequate treatment inside the camp.

Baccalaureate session in Mberra Camp.
UNHCR/Sebastien Laroze

Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and its partners continue to fight malnutrition in Mberra camp, particularly among children as well as pregnant and breast feeding mothers. At present, malnutrition mostly concerns recent arrivals and cases have been promptly identified and addressed by UNHCR and its partners within the **Intensive Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre (CRENI)** and **Nutritional Rehabilitation Centers for Severe Malnutrition (CRENAS)**.
- In Mberra camp, all refugees received food (rice, pulses and oil) during the July general food distribution organized by UNHCR through its partner, the *Commissariat à la sécurité alimentaire* and in partnership with WFP. The distribution was accompanied with a **Food Basket Monitoring** conducted by UNHCR through its implementing partner, *Action contre la faim*, to verify the quantity and quality of the distributed food items.
- In Mberra camp, refugees' daily diet is enriched through **access to gardening activities** and **dairy goats** provided by UNHCR. In order to improve nutrition levels for children and people with specific needs, in July UNHCR distributed dairy goats to some **150 families**. UNHCR plans to **reach 500 families by end of 2015**.



General food distribution in Mberra Camp.
UNHCR/Helena Pes

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Achievements and Impact

- In Mberra camp, water is supplied through five boreholes equipped with submersible pumps. The five boreholes have a **maximum production capacity of 1,638 m3 of water per day**. In July, a total of 1,143 m3 of water was available per day. Refugees have access to potable water through **593 water taps** located in all sections of the camp: 80% of water is consumed for domestic purposes, while 20% is used for gardening, livestock and other self-reliance purposes. UNHCR, through its partner *Action contre la Faim*, continues to treat the water with chlorine to prevent the development of waterborne diseases.
- With regard to sanitation and hygiene, **2,366 semi-permanent communal latrines** (22 persons/latrine) and **2,666 communal showers** (22 persons/shower) are operational in the camp. In addition, there are four areas of solid waste management (sorting, incineration and/or landfill) and **73 public wash areas**.
- In July, home visits, community meetings, Focus Group Discussions, meetings related to the maintenance of water points as well as awareness-raising video screenings were organized to **improve sanitation and prevent waterborne and hygiene-related disease**. **More than 20,000 people were reached by these activities**.



Waste management in Mberra Camp.
UNHCR/Marc Fawe

- In addition, 43 auxiliaries (one per Block) from the refugee community continued to carry out a **door-to-door campaign, delivering key messages on hygiene**.
- In order to improve sanitation in the camp, UNHCR through its partner SOS Desert, implements a **waste management programme aiming at raising awareness on recycling**.



Shelter and Non Food Items

Achievements and Impact

- In July, UNHCR distributed **mosquito nets** to more than **14,000 families** in order to respond to the current rainy seasons needs in the camp.
- **In the same period, 309 shelter kits** were distributed to refugees in the camp to allow them to repair their deteriorated shelters.



Access to Energy

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR continues to provide gas for **200 families**, through its partner SOS Desert, targeting **people with specific needs**.
- In addition, the organization provides charcoal to more than **1,500 families with specific needs**.



Gas cylinder in a household in Mberra camp
UNHCR/Hanae Boughdad



Self-Reliance and Peaceful coexistence

Achievements and Impact

- In Mberra camp, UNHCR places particular attention on strengthening refugees' self-reliance. The organization currently follows up on more than **150 income-generating projects**, which were funded in 2013 and 2014, including sewing activities, butcheries and small shops. In addition, **80 new projects for 2015** are currently underway.
- **Training** activities continue for the beneficiaries of UNHCR's support programme to income generating projects. In particular, **10 milk producers units** attended refreshment sessions on "how to improve the nutritional quality of goat milk". A complimentary training took place for **50 veterinaries** on animal **milk production standards**.
- UNHCR, through SOS Desert, provides **1,872 women with access to gardening areas** representing some five hectares of arable land in the camp. Gardening activities play an important role in enriching refugees' diet and provides them with an income resulting from the sale of vegetables and fruit.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps.

- At present, the demand for access to income generating project activities exceeds the actual availability of funds. Considering the importance of such activities in order to improve refugees' self-reliance in the camp, **additional funding help reduce refugees' dependency on external food aid.**

Working in partnership

- At the request of the Mauritanian Government, UNHCR coordinates the humanitarian response to the Malian refugee situation, in close collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization and the local authorities. It also participates in the UN Country Team and Humanitarian Country Team, and works closely with national and international NGOs. Regular coordination meetings are held in Nouakchott and Bassikounou to share information on identified needs and agree on strategies.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to **US\$ 3.2 million** received from the **Government of Japan**.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

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