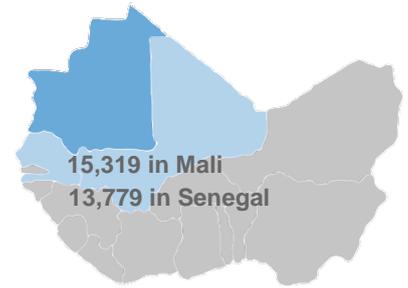


## Finding Solutions

The Government of Mauritania maintains a firm position that voluntary repatriation has concluded in 2012. Consequently, **local integration** and **resettlement** are the viable durable solutions. Both countries of asylum provide favorable frameworks and environment for alternative legal status and naturalization.



## Achievement

In Mali, 4 Mauritanian refugees were **naturalized** (of a total of 1,500 targeted refugees in 2018) and 1,161 children born in Mali were confirmed as Malian citizens in 2018. The Government also exempted criminal records from Mauritania as a required document for naturalization application.

**29,098**  
Mauritanian refugees  
in Mali (Aug.18) & Senegal (Jul.18)



2018 Local integration budget \$1,097,752

In Senegal, 5 of 165 applicants for naturalization, who are spouses of Senegalese nationals, received **nationality certificates** in 2017. With UNHCR's advocacy, the Senegalese authorities agreed to provide **birth certificates** to all refugees who do not possess them upon their requests to facilitate their local integration.



Naturalization ■  
Vol Rep ■  
Undecided ■  
Residence Permit ■

**Preferred solutions**

## Development

In Mali, UNHCR aims to submit **1,500 naturalization applications** for Mauritanian refugees by end of 2018. In Senegal, 160 persons await for decisions on their naturalization applications.

## Way Forward

UNHCR will continue advocating with the Mauritanian authorities to reopen voluntary repatriation for refugees wishing to return home. The possibility of dual citizenship in Mauritania will need to be clarified with the authorities. In Mali, UNHCR will continue to prepare applications for the next naturalization submissions. In Senegal, UNHCR will follow up with the authorities on finalizing the local integration guideline.

## History

Between April 1989 and 1992, Mauritians of Bambara, Peulh, Soninke, and Wolof ethnic groups sought refuge in communities in Mali and Senegal. Many were forced to surrender ID cards and nationality documents before fleeing, and left without any proof of Mauritanian nationality. Nearly 75,000 refugees were recognized on a *prima-facie* basis. In 1994, the Mauritanian those expelled had voluntarily returned to Mauritania. Between 2008 and 2012, UNHCR facilitated voluntary repatriation of nearly 25,000 refugees.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UNHCR is firmly committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Sustainable Development Goals can provide a basis for improved protection and, ultimately, solutions for forcibly displaced people. The promise to "leave no one behind" provides a basis to include the needs of refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons, in development planning.