

Mauritania

15 January 2019

Mauritania hosts **over 2,500 urban refugees and asylum-seekers** and **almost 56,000 Malian refugees** in and around Mbera camp. Despite the conclusion of a peace agreement in 2015, **large-scale returns of Malian refugees are not expected due to persistent violence in northern Mali**. In December alone, **69 new arrivals were registered in Mbera camp**. In the context of this protracted situation, UNHCR is engaging with several actors to strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus, in order to reduce refugees' needs, risks and vulnerabilities. Furthermore, **UNHCR registered 51 new arrivals** in the **mixed movements contexts** of the urban areas of Nouakchott and Nouadhibou. Pending the adoption of the asylum law, **UNHCR works closely with the Mauritanian authorities to enhance the protection of refugees** in Mauritania improving access to documentation, birth registration, economic opportunities, and basic services such as health and education. UNHCR is engaging under the umbrella of the United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (CPDD).

KEY INDICATORS

5,900

New arrivals from Mali since January 2018

241

Voluntary returns to Mali facilitated in 2018

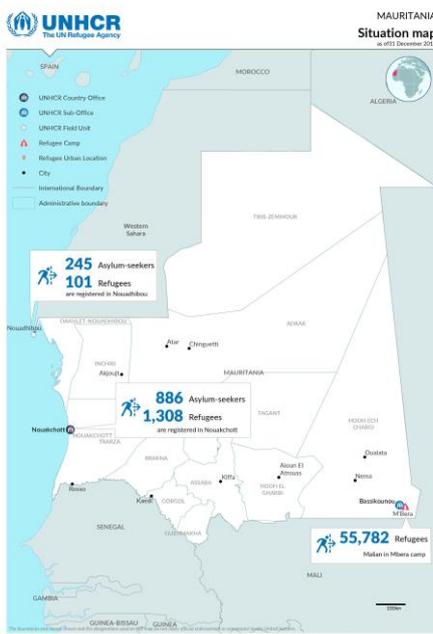
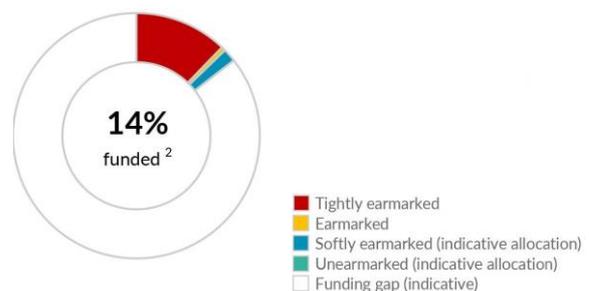
4,744

Malian refugees with **specific needs** (as of 31 December 2018)

FUNDING (AS OF 15 JANUARY)

USD 19.3 M

2.8 M received. **16.5 M** requested for the UNHCR operation in Mauritania



POPULATION OF CONCERN

Malian refugees in Mbera camp **55,782**

Urban refugees and asylum-seekers **2,504**

A total of **58,286** people are assisted by UNHCR in Mauritania.

Highlights

The **US Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM)** and the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** paid a visit to Mbera camp and surroundings host community villages. The delegation visited several infrastructures and projects in the camp including a school, the UNHCR registration centre and ILO/UNHCR vocational training centre.

A **delegation of the World Bank**, accompanied by a representative of the Mauritanian Ministry of Economics and Finance (MEF), paid a visit to Mbera camp, surrounding villages and the town of Bassikounou. **The mission was the opportunity to further discussions on the importance of the legal and policy framework for refugee inclusion**, which the World Bank will be further discussing with Government of Mauritania as they define the projects/sectors in which the World Bank could invest, including priority areas such as public health.

Achievements



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

UNHCR inaugurated a connectivity center in Mbera camp to strengthen refugees' skills, allowing them to have access to the new technologies. **22 young refugees, including 6 girls**, participated in training courses on database literacy, Java programme language, the Internet, etc.

UNHCR continued with the **identification and evaluation of PwSN** in Mbera camp in which 21 new cases identified and **244 PwSN**, who were visited at home to assess their needs. Moreover a consultant psychologist visited Mbera camp and conducted more than **200 consultations**.

Thanks to the support of the *EU Regional Development & Protection Program (RDPP)*, **UNHCR finalized a survey to improve the protection response in the mixed movements context of the city of Nouadhibou**. On that occasion, UNHCR started to pilot a new tool for collecting individual data and case management through reference and support modules (SMMART).



UNHCR staff during the survey in Nouadhibou ©UNHCR

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

UNHCR continues its advocacy for refugees' access to civil registration and national documentation. UNHCR also advocates for the inclusion of refugees in national protection systems (health, education, child protection, SGBV).



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

In December, **77% of the students enrolled in primary school (1,943 girls and 1,939 boys)** attended classes in the 6 primary schools and 2 extensions in Mbera camp. Thanks to food supplied by the WFP and prepared on a voluntary basis by refugee women, **school canteens continued to provide all students with meals**.

Registration in schools in urban areas for the 2018/2019 school year have been finalized. **292 children registered in primary school**, and **185 refugee students enrolled in secondary school in** Nouakchott and Nouadhibou. ALPD, UNHCR partner in urban areas, distributed school kits to all students. In addition to this, UNCHR registered **12 refugees enrolled in tertiary education and 20 refugees enrolled in vocational training**. Furthermore, **30 refugees started French classes** at the Alliance Française and **10 refugees started Arabic courses** at the Egyptian Cultural Center in Nouakchott.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

6,341 patients benefited from the health service in December compared to 4,424 consultations made in November. UNHCR recorded **92 prenatal consultations** and **62 family planning cases**.

At the two Severe Malnutrition Treatment Centres (CRENAS) in Mbera camp, **149 malnourished children were under treatment, 35 new cases were admitted, and 31 cases were dismissed. 153 malnourished children are still part of the program**.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

UNHCR in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) distributed **only cash** (100 MRU per person per month) with electronic cards to **53,724 refugees** (13,008 families). During the cash distribution, in collaboration with its partners *WFP, LWF, ACF* and *CSA*, UNHCR assisted and accompanied **1,432 PwSN**. The **introduction of the Global Distribution Tool (GDT)** has enabled UNHCR to enhance its distribution tracking and verification processes, and the protection of children who are sent to collect the food ration on behalf of their families.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Refugees in Mbera camp are dependent on food assistance due to very scarce local resources. WFP in 2019 faces a US\$ 5.3 million shortfall (67% of the 6-month requirements) for its assistance to Malian refugees. UNHCR works with partners to improve access to gardening fields and livestock to reduce refugees' dependency on food assistance.



PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND SELF RELIANCE

Achievements and Impact

With the support of the *European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF for Africa)*, UNHCR and its partners are working together to increase **the employability and socio-economic opportunities** of refugees and the host community and **to promote their development and autonomy** through **Income Generating Activities (IGAs)**.

To foster the peaceful coexistence between refugees and host community efforts, UNHCR and its partner SOS Desert provided **tools to cooperatives in the host community in Bassikounou** working in the fields of **livestock, milk, skins and leather, handicrafts and sewing**.



The delivery ceremony of the tools to the host community cooperatives @UNHCR



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Achievements and Impact

Thanks to the support of the *EUTF for Africa*, **241 Malian refugees** from Mbera camp received **cash assistance to facilitate their voluntary return** to their country of origin.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

There is a considerable number of refugees in need for resettlement in Mauritania. UNHCR continues to identify persons in need of resettlement and conducts advocacy with the support of the Regional Bureau to process cases.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation. UNHCR also express gratitude especially towards those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with un-earmarked and softly earmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Earmarked contributions for the operation **amount** to some **US\$ 2.6 million**.

EU		2,329,841
Italy		190,467
Monaco		113,766

SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Germany 57.7 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

United Kingdom 31.7 million | Switzerland 15.1 million Belgium | Canada | Estonia | Indonesia | Monaco | Montenegro | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Serbia | Singapore | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Uruguay | Private donors

External / Donor Relations

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