



# UNHCR interventions in the health sector



**67,888**  
Refugees  
and asylum  
seekers in  
Mauritania<sup>1</sup>



**2.4 million**  
Annual  
health  
budget 2020



**1.5 million**  
Estimated  
budget for  
health 2021

In Mauritania, UNHCR works closely with the Government and partner organizations to provide refugees with health care and medical treatment. During 2020, more than 21,220 medical consultations (of which approximately 45% provided to the host population) were provided in the health structures of Mbera refugee camp, more than 1,106 births were assisted and 19,326 vaccines were given to refugee children aged 0 - 11 months in Mbera camp.

In accordance with the commitments made at the World Refugee Forum in December 2019, the Mauritanian government is gradually integrating refugees into the national health system.

## Access to health care for refugees in Mauritania

Since the establishment of Mbera camp in 2012 in the Hodh Chargui region, UNHCR has provided free access to health care for refugees through its international and national partners. Since July 2020, the national performance-based funding program (INAYA) has been extended to the Hodh Chargui region with the support of the World Bank. In one of Mauritania's poorest regions from a health perspective, the INAYA program will lead to a significant improvement in the quality of health services provided to the host and refugee communities. In urban areas, UNHCR's partner, the Association for the Fight against Poverty and Underdevelopment (ALPD), supports refugees and asylum seekers to visit public facilities to access health care. The costs of primary and secondary health care are covered by the UNHCR.

## Integration of the Mbera camp into the national health system

The extension of INAYA in the Hodh Chargui region has made it possible to support the integration of the four health structures in Mbera camp, where some 62,000 refugees currently reside<sup>2</sup>, into the national health system.

As a result, the humanitarian management of the health system, providing a free service, is gradually being phased out, and the INAYA system, which includes cost recovery for the provision of certain services, is being gradually rolled in.

<sup>1</sup> As of December 2020

<sup>2</sup> As of December 2020



Inclusion



Sustainability

UNHCR continues to accompany and support this transition (humanitarian-development nexus) which will enable refugees to be fully integrated into the national health system and ensure the sustainable provision of health services to refugees.

UNHCR's support will help mitigate the impact of cost recovery on refugees, maintain the quality of services and strengthening the technical services of Mbera camp's health structures.

### Transition timeline



### COVID-19 interventions

Since the beginning of the pandemic, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and together with WHO and other sister UN agencies, UNHCR has supported the national response plan for the fight against COVID-19. In the Hodh Chargui region, UNHCR is coordinating the response of humanitarian partners, in close collaboration with local authorities, based on the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM).

UNHCR supports the Government of Mauritania through generous contributions from its donors, notably the US Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (\$500,000) and the African Development Bank (\$3.8 million), through the following interventions:

#### Risk Communication and Community Mobilization

- Ongoing awareness campaigns on the risks of COVID-19 and the barrier measures at Mbera camp.

#### Infection prevention and control

- Training in waste management and final disposition in the Hodh Chargui region.
- Provision of PPE equipment (isolation gowns, FFP2 masks, protective boots, etc.) to the National Institute of Public Health and Research (INRSP), the Regional Health Directorate (DRAS) of the Hodh Chargui region, the four health structures of Mbera Camp and the staff of the border points.
- Purchase and installation of an incinerator for the Nema hospital and construction of four incinerators for Mbera camp health structures.
- Massive distribution of soaps and installation of additional standpipes.

#### Epidemiological surveillance

- Training on COVID-19 Information Management through the GODATA program by the General Directorate of Health (DGS) (first semester of 2021)
- Purchase and provision of computers and tablets for the collection and recording of COVID-19 epidemiological data.
- Establishment of a community network for the tracing of contact cases in Bassikounou.

#### Case management

- Implementation of a protocol for the management of COVID-19 cases in the Hodh Chargui and provision of two ambulances (in Bassikounou and Néma) for the transfer of suspect cases and the transport of samples to Nouakchott.
- Establishment of two isolation and care units in Bassikounou and Mbera camp.
- Setting up of two prefabricated buildings (Refugee Housing Units - RHU) to carry out the triage of patients prior to their access to the compound of a dispensary in the department of Nouadhibou.
- Training in the identification and management of COVID-19 cases in hospital emergency departments by the Directorate of Hospital Medicine (DMH) of the Ministry of Health, in Néma, Nouadhibou, Atar, Kiffa and Kaedi. (December 2020).

- Provision of drugs, medical equipment (multiparameter patient monitor, patient ventilator, defibrillator, etc.) and consumables for the health care structures in the Hodh Chargui region. (December 2020).
- Supply of three medicalized ambulances for the hospital center of Néma, the health center of Bassikounou and the health center of Mbera camp (first semester of 2021).

#### Border points

- Installation of 46 quarantine units installed at the Douankara (Fassala) border point.
- Installation of four isolation units at the border with Mali (Adel Bagrou and Gogui/Kobeni border points).

#### Laboratory

- Training of laboratory technicians on COVID-19 Basic Diagnostic Techniques and Biosafety and management of PCR test for the creation of laboratories and resuscitation units (December 2020).
- Provision of laboratory equipment to the DRAS and the health structures of Mbera camp and purchase of reagents and consumables for the analysis of PCR tests for the INRSP. Provision of the equipment necessary for the opening of a new laboratory in Kiffa region (first semester of 2021).

December 2020

*UNHCR in Mauritania would like to thank its donors contributing to health sector:*

