

Mauritania

15 February 2019

Mauritania hosts **over 2,500 urban refugees and asylum-seekers** and **almost 55,000 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 and central Mali**. In January alone, **313 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 56 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 works under the umbrella of the United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (CPDD).

KEY INDICATORS

313

New arrivals from Mali since January 2019

0

Voluntary returns to Mali facilitated in 2019

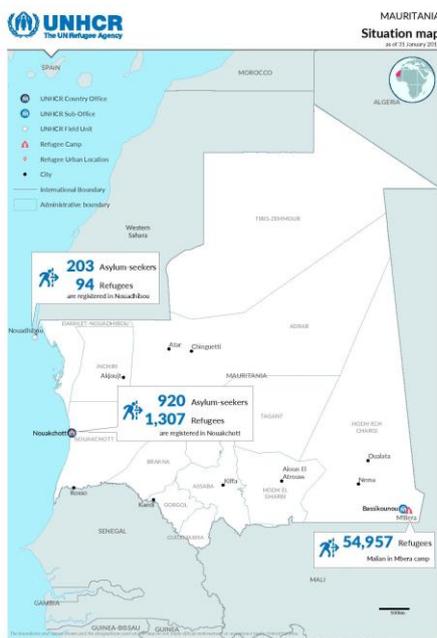
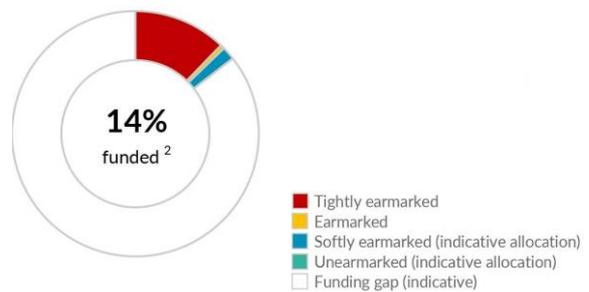
4,689

Malian refugees with **specific needs** (as of 31 January 2019)

FUNDING (AS OF 15 FEBRUARY)

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 **54,957**

Urban refugees and asylum-seekers **2,514**

A total of **57,471** people are assisted by UNHCR in Mauritania.

Achievements



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

Following the data collection for the **survey to improve the protection response in the mixed movements context of the city of Nouadhibou** conducted in December 2018, **the data clean-up has started in order to facilitate the quantity and qualitative analysis**. Complementary protection interviews were conducted to continue **gathering further protection information from people identified with specific needs**. In addition to this, a new registration system has been implemented in Nouadhibou with a screening, prioritization and counselling phases. **9 cases were pre-registered mainly from Guinea-Conakry**.

UNHCR continued with the **identification and evaluation of PwSN** in Mbera camp in which **30 new cases** identified and **345 PwSN**, who were visited at home to assess their needs.

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 January, over a total of 5.073 enrolled students, **3.058 (1.564 girls and 1.493 boys) attended classes** in the 6 primary schools and 2 extensions in Mbera camp. Registration in schools in urban areas for the 2018/2019 school year have been finalized. **297 children registered in primary school**, and **191 refugee students enrolled in secondary school in** Nouakchott and Nouadhibou. In addition to this, UNCHR registered **10 refugees enrolled in tertiary education thanks to scholarships provided by UNHCR**.



Children playing football after school in Mbera camp ©UNHCR/Viola E. Bruttomesso



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

In January, **245 refugees in urban areas** received primary, secondary and tertiary health assistance, including hospitalizations, medical exams and analysis. In addition to this, UNHCR signed conventions with **4 national health centers** in Nouakchott in order to make it smoother and faster for refugees to access health services.

In Mbera camp, UNHCR continued to facilitate the evacuation of refugee patients and host population to health facilities in Nema, Kiffa and Nouakchott. **38 patients including 29 refugees** were referred to these structures in January.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

UNHCR in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) distributed **cash** (100 MRU per person per month) with electronic cards **to 53,170 refugees** (12,745 families) in addition to **oil, rice and soap**. During the food and cash distribution, in collaboration with its partners **LWF, ACF and CSA**, UNHCR assisted and accompanied **1,305 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\$ 5.1 million shortfall (38% of the 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.



A refugee woman is checked through the GDT during the monthly Cash and Food Distribution ©UNHCR/ Viola E. Bruttomesso/2019



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 self-sufficiency** through **Income Generating Activities (IGAs)**.

To foster the **peaceful coexistence between refugees and host community efforts**, UNHCR partner *SOS Desert* has distributed equipment and tools to the cooperatives in Bassikounou and the butchers cooperative of the camp.



SHELTER AND NFIS

Achievements and Impact

In January, UNHCR continued to provide shelter kits and equipment for Malian refugees in Mbera camp, including **588 shelter kits and 8 hangars** built by World Vision, UNHCR protection partner in the camp, as part of the Pre-School Support Program (PAP) for Malian refugee children.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Achievements and Impact

In January, two LGBTI cases have been resettled to Sweden.

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

Sweden | Denmark | Norway | Netherlands | United Kingdom | Germany | Switzerland | Algeria | Austria | Belgium | Canada | Estonia | Indonesia | Monaco | Montenegro | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

External / Donor Relations

CONTACTS

José Manuel Cáceres, Associate External Relations Officer, Mauritania
 caceres@unhcr.org, Cel: +222 42 782 301

Viola Eleonora Bruttomesso, Associate Public Information Officer, Mauritania
 bruttome@unhcr.org, Cel: +222 42 782 305

LINKS

 -  Facebook -  Stories