

## KEY FIGURES

**486**

New arrivals from Mali  
(in 2015)

**14,265**

Malian households in Mberra camp  
(as of 1 February 2016)

**5,434**

Malian refugees with specific needs  
(as of 1 February 2016)

**30L**

Of potable water available per  
person per day in Mberra camp

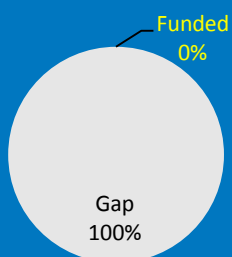
**22**

Persons per latrine in Mberra camp

## FUNDING 2016

**USD 19M**

Requested for the operation



## PRIORITIES

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

## MAURITANIA

### UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

As of 10 February 2016

## HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2015, earmarked contributions to UNHCR's operation in Mauritania covered **20% of the needs**. While the organization is grateful to its donors, increased support is needed in 2016 in order to allow UNHCR and its partners to cover essential needs in Mberra camp and to strengthen its investment in self-reliance programmes for refugees.



"I wish my girl child will go to school"

Aissata, tailor in Mberra camp.

UNHCR/Helena Pes

- Following an intense awareness-raising campaign to promote **education for all**, particularly aimed at strengthening the **inclusion of girls**, the number of girls enrolled at the 6 primary schools in the camp has raised up to **2,260**.
- On 4 February, UNHCR held a **participatory needs assessment** session with a **hundred urban refugees** in Nouakchott who discussed their needs and proposed solutions to promote the role of women and men of all ages and backgrounds as agents of positive social change in their own families and communities.
- UNHCR continues to **strengthen the capacity of the Mauritanian authorities** with regard to the refugee rights and freedom of movements. More than 50 Mauritania policemen, gendarmes and military officers were trained in January.
- Between December 2015 and January 2016, **4,206** among the **most vulnerable refugees in Mberra camp**, received a full **set of clothes**. The distribution was made possible thanks to the kind donation of the clothing company UNIQLO.
- In order to reduce refugees' dependency on humanitarian aid in Mberra camp, UNHCR places particular attention on strengthening refugees' self-reliance. See how in the new clip "[Mberra Camp. Towards Refugees Self-Reliance](#)" now live on Youtube.

### Population of concern (as of 1 February 2016)

A total of **52,154** people are assisted by UNHCR in Mauritania

<b>Malian refugees in Mberra camp</b>	<b>50,419</b>
<b>Urban refugees and asylum seekers</b>	<b>1,735</b>

## 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 that has kept its borders open to new influxes, UN organizations and national and international NGOs, UNHCR leads the humanitarian response for **50,419 Malian refugees in Mberra camp**. In addition, the organization protects and assists **1,194 urban refugees and 541 asylum seekers**, mainly from the **Central African Republic, Syria, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Senegal**.

Despite the signing of a peace agreement in Mali in June 2015 and the voluntary return of more than 350 refugees from Mberra camp in December, the security conditions in northern Mali remains unstable. 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.

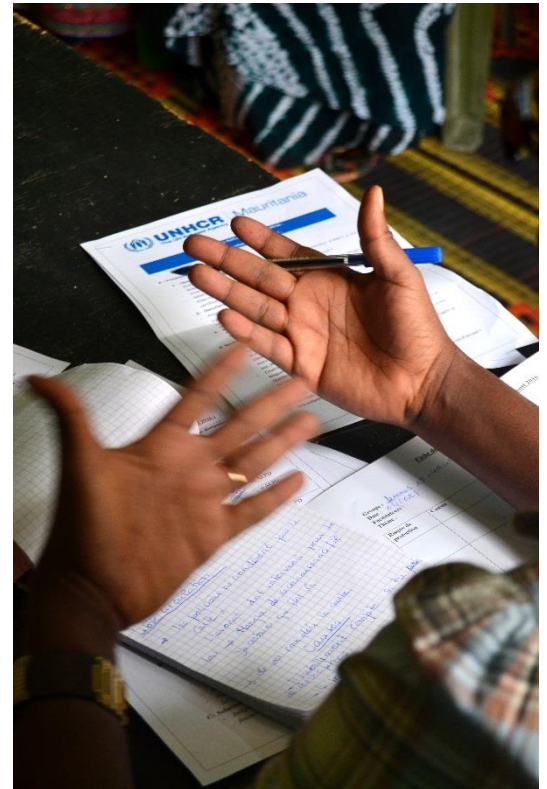
### Achievements



Protection

#### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR works in partnership with people of concern to ensure equality, placing people at the centre of decision making as well as supporting their capacities and efforts to have their rights recognized and accessible. On 4 February, in coordination with its partner *Association pour la Lutte contre la Pauvrete et le sous Development (ALPD)* UNHCR held a **participatory needs assessment session** with a hundred urban refugees in Nouakchott who discussed their needs and proposed solutions to promote the role of women and men of all ages and backgrounds as agents of positive social change in their own families and communities. The results of the session will be used to shape UNHCR's strategy in 2016 and 2017.
- UNHCR, in conjunction with the National Refugee Commission held a joint training for local authorities on refugee protection in Nouadhibou, Chami, Nouamghar and Boulenoir. A total of **52 policemen, gendarmes and military officers** were **trained on refugee rights and freedom of movement**.
- UNHCR, through its partner Intersos, continues to fight sexual and gender-based violence and to provide **special assistance to more than 5,000 people with specific needs** in the camp through individual counselling, medical support, food transportation, shelter and cash for the most vulnerable refugees. While a team of **103 trained refugees** continue to work on **prevention of sexual and gender-based violence** through **peer-to-peer and awareness-raising**



Mainstreaming Age, Gender and Diversity with Urban Refugees in Nouakchott.  
UNHCR/Helena Pes

**activities**, in January, rape survivor was assisted with psychosocial support and health care; 3 victims of early marriage and 6 victims of sexual and gender-based violence were assisted through home visits.

- **63 people among the most vulnerable** were assisted through regular home visits and **more than 1,300** received **tailored assistance** in terms of **support, transport and mobility aids** for the **disabled** during the January food distribution as well as refugee status formalization procedures.
- Within the framework of UNHCR protection programme for people with disabilities, on 29 January, UNHCR in coordination with its partner *Association pour la Lutte contre la Pauvrete et le sous Development* (ALPD), the *Mauritanian Federation of Disability Associations* (FMAPH) and the *Centre for Training and Social Promotion for Children with Disability* held a participatory needs assessment for urban refugees and asylum seekers living with disabilities in Nouakchott.

## Education

### Achievements and Impact

- In Mberra Camp, UNHCR supports some 200 school staffs (including 100 teachers, 12 school directors and administrative staff and canteen staffs) for the 2015-2016 school year. More than **4,500 children** are currently enrolled and attending classes at the six primary schools in the camp.
- Thanks to awareness-raising initiatives taken in the past months in order to promote education for all, the **number of girls** enrolled at the 6 primary schools in the camp has **raised up to 2,260 (48%)**.
- More than **350 adults**, mostly women, continue to attend adult literacy courses in Songhaï, Arabic and Tamasheq languages in the camp. This activity is part of UNHCR's self-reliance promotion programme and is carried out through Intersos.



10 year-old Ouma tells her story in a UNHCR 4-minute documentary "Mberra Camp. Towards Refugees Self-Reliance".  
UNHCR/Helena Pes

## Health

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR continues to ensure **medical evacuation** for secondary and tertiary medical cases that cannot be treated in the camp. Evacuations are available for both refugees and the host population in Mberra camp surroundings. In the reporting period, 28 patients were referred to Nema and Nouakchott hospitals.
- The overall health condition of the camp's population is stable with no epidemics nor viral threats in the area of intervention. At present, respiratory tracts Infections are among the most common cause of illnesses in the camp.

## Food Security and Nutrition

### Achievements and Impact

- From 11 to 15 January, during the **monthly general food distribution** in Mberra camp, all refugees received a food ration composed of rice, pulses and oil for a total of 1,829 Kcal per person/per day. The distribution was organized by UNHCR in collaboration with WFP through its partner *Commissariat à la Sécurité Alimentaire* and in collaboration with WFP which procured and transported the food rations.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Funding shortfalls have consistently stretched UNHCR and WFP's capacity to maintain vital assistance in quantitative terms during each general food distribution. Resulting food shortages may have dire consequences on the overall nutritional and health status of the camp's population. Additional funding in this sector will considerably improve food security for all refugees in Mberra camp.



## 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**. Refugees have access to potable water through **590 water taps** and **177 community water points** located in all sections of the camp. It is estimated that 80% of water is consumed for domestic purposes, while 20% is used for gardening, livestock and other livelihood purposes.
- With regard to sanitation, **2,269 semi-permanent communal latrines** (22 persons/latrine) and **2,666 communal showers** (22 persons/ shower) and **92 public laundry areas** are available in the camp. In December, **10 hanging lines** areas are available for refugees around public laundry areas.
- In order to improve sanitation in Mberra camp, UNHCR carries out a **solid waste management programme** through its partner SOS Desert. Within this programme, manure from livestock activities is converted for gardening use in order to maximize recycling in the camp. In addition, there are four areas of solid waste management (sorting, incineration and/or landfill) maintained by UNHCR.
- In order to **strengthen refugees' capacity** to carry out **sustainable management** of the existing **water system**, **352 water and sanitation humanitarian workers** as well as **44 community representatives** who were **trained on participatory approach** in November 2015, continue to carry out **daily door-to-door sensitization sessions** in the camp.
- In January, **more than 1,600 refugees** in Mberra were reached through **door-to-door sensitization sessions** in order to raise awareness on hygiene practices, **waste management** and proper **toilet waste disposal**.



Mberra population is largely pastoralist, hence 20% of water in Mberra Camp is used for livestock and other livelihood purposes.

UNHCR/Helena Pes



## Shelter and Non Food Items

### Achievements and Impact

- In January, UNHCR continued to provide **semi-permanent shelters** for people with specific needs as a replacement to shelters which had been deteriorated by harsh climatic conditions in Mberra camp. The shelters were installed with guidance from UNHCR's partner the Lutheran World Federation (FLM).
- During the second phase of a winter clothes distribution which started in December 2015, in January more than **1,300** people among the most vulnerable received a full set of clothes. In total, more than **4,206** people received clothes between December 2015 and January 2016. This intervention was made possible thanks to a kind donation from the Japanese clothing company UNIQLO.



Clothes distribution in Mberra camp.  
UNHCR/I. Bocoum



## Self-Reliance

### Achievements and Impact

- In Mberra camp, UNHCR places particular attention on strengthening refugees' **self-reliance**. More than **100 income-generating activities**, which started in 2014 have now turned into flourishing small businesses, including **sewing activities, butcheries and small shops**. In addition, **78 new small businesses** such as **restaurants, shops, artisanal crafts** making and **photography** were started in 2015 and are currently ongoing.
- UNHCR, through SOS Desert, continues to empower **1,872 women with access to gardening areas** now representing some **eight hectares** of arable land in the camp as well as **10 community milk-units** and **500 goat herders** who benefited from UNHCR's self-reliance strengthening programme. Gardening and other local food production activities play an important role in enriching refugees' diet and provide them with an income resulting from the sale of vegetables, fruit and other products.




## Peaceful coexistence

### Achievements and Impact

- On 19 January, UNHCR and its partners held an informative meeting about the **Mali Peace and Reconciliation Algiers Process** in conjunction with 30 community leaders. On the occasion, more than 4,000 copies of the Algiers Accord were distributed for refugees in the camp.
- UNHCR pays a particular attention to the integration of Mberra camp within the host community, in which strengthening peaceful coexistence plays a crucial role. As a response to the increased pressure from livestock on the pastures around Mberra camp, UNHCR increased its efforts to minimize impacts on local livelihood by **improving water system and access in neighbouring villages**.

- To strengthen peaceful coexistence between refugees and their respective host communities in the Bassikounou region, UNHCR continues to carry out five projects aimed at improving life-conditions for the host communities in the villages of Seremassa, Seredouba, Lemghays, Sedra and Bir el Barka, located in the surroundings of the camp. The interventions mostly consist of income-generating activities, livelihood and water improvements.

 Camp Coordination and Camp Management

**Achievements and Impact**

- UNHCR through its partner the LWF continues to ensure the global management of facilities, shelters and waste collection in the camp. Four outreach posts (one in each zone) allow LWF to collect claims and opinions from refugees related to the maintenance of shelters and infrastructures. Outreach posts are also used to conduct awareness-raising campaigns on various matters.



Plan of Mberra camp facilities and shelters as of February 2016

**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

In 2016, some **US\$ 19 million** is requested for UNHCR’s operation in Mauritania.

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 in 2016.

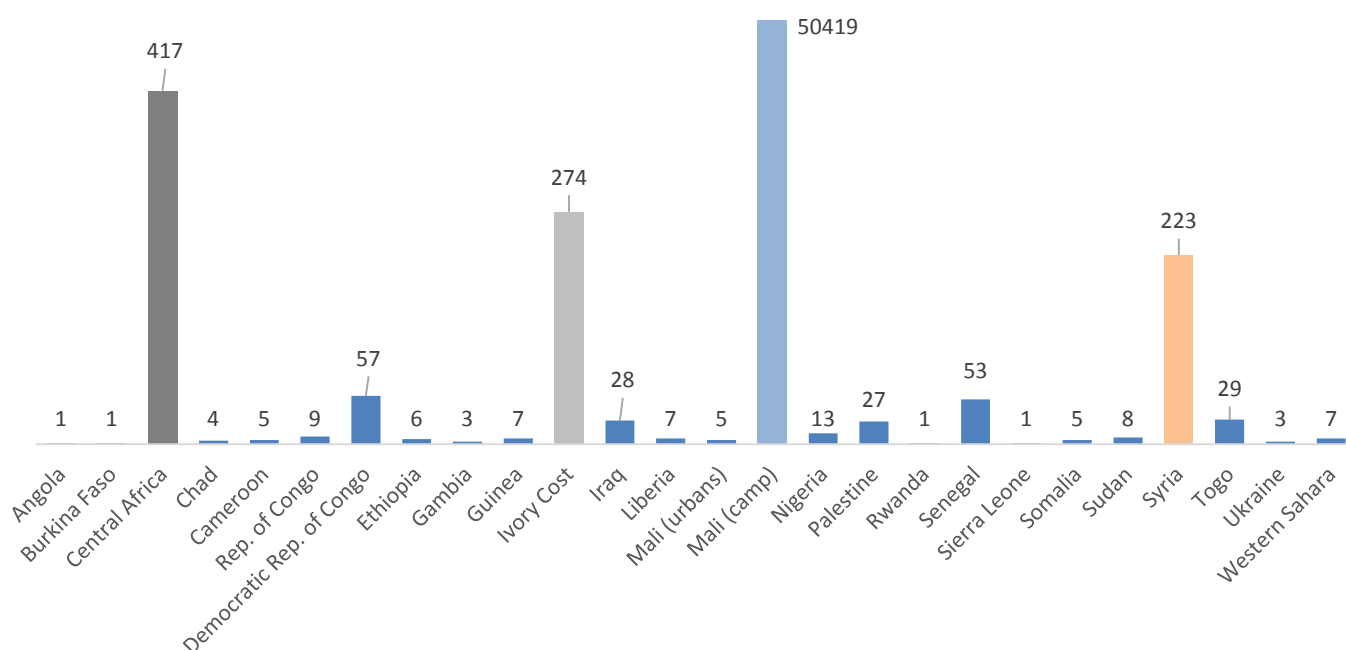
### Major donors of unrestricted and regional funds to UNHCR in 2016 (in USD):

Sweden (78 M) | Netherlands (46 M) | Norway (40 M) | Australia (31 M) | Denmark (24 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | Germany (13 M)

### Other donors of unrestricted and regional funds to UNHCR in 2016:

Algeria | Austria | Belgium | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Monaco | Mozambique | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Romania | Serbia | Singapore | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private Donors

## Annex 1 – Breakdown of the refugee population in Mauritania per origin



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### Links:

