

MAURITANIA

February 2019

UNHCR provides protection and assistance to **almost 55,000 Malian refugees** in the arid south-east region where Mbera refugee camp was established in 2012.

UNHCR protects and assists some **2,500 urban refugees and asylum-seekers** in the cities of Nouakchott and Nouadhibou, mostly from Central Africa, Syria and Côte d'Ivoire.

Security in northern Mali is still volatile and largescale returns are not expected. UNHCR is engaging with **development actors** to move away from the traditional care and maintenance approach.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

60,170

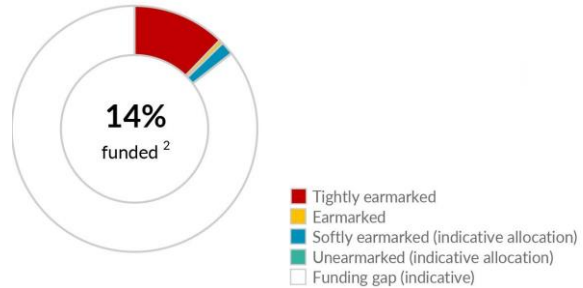


** Refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR (as of 31 January 2019)

FUNDING (AS OF 6 FEBRUARY)

USD 19.3 M

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



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

50 National staff + 13 affiliates

14 International staff + 7 affiliates

Offices in Mauritania:

1 Branch office located in Nouakchott

1 Sub office in Bassikounou

1 Field unit in Nouadhibou



Working with Partners

- At the request of the Mauritanian Government, **UNHCR coordinates the humanitarian response to the Malian refugee situation in close collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and Decentralization and local authorities.** UNHCR also participates in the United Nations Country Team and Humanitarian Country Team and works closely with national and international NGOs.
- **UNHCR, jointly with the Mauritanian Government, representatives of United Nations agencies and international NGOs, signed the 2018-2022 United Nations' Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (CPDD),** which integrates humanitarian and development interventions.

Main Activities

Protection

- **In Mbera camp, UNHCR maintains and updates the refugee biometric registration database, provides tailored assistance to people with specific needs** through home visits, psychosocial counselling, support for people with disabilities and carries out awareness-raising activities, training and response to gender-based violence, as well as child protection. UNHCR continues strengthening the local authorities' capacity towards achieving full civil registration for all refugees. Mauritania has already started delivering birth certificates for children born in Mbera camp and ID cards to all Malian refugees.
- **In urban areas, UNHCR carries out registration of asylum-seekers and determination of refugee status within the context of mixed-migratory flows.** UNHCR also organizes refugee protection trainings for government officials (including police and military officers) and is advocating before Mauritanian for the adoption of a national refugee law.

Education

- **In Mbera camp, UNHCR supports primary education with the payment of stipends for school staff members, the maintenance of school infrastructure and awareness-raising activities to promote education for all.** UNHCR also offers literacy and numeracy classes for approximately 200 adults.
- **In urban areas, UNHCR helps some 500 refugee children access primary and secondary education by covering tuition fees, providing school kits and offering tutoring.**
- **UNHCR also supports 90 refugees with scholarships** to attend university in Nouakchott and advocates for the enhancement of access to higher education for refugees.

Health

- **In Mbera camp, UNHCR supports primary health care for both the refugee and host populations, with the supply of medical equipment and medicine to the camp's health centre.** Medical evacuations to Nema, Kifa and Nouakchott hospitals are provided to both refugee and host community members with serious medical conditions when treatment is unavailable in the camp's surroundings.
- **In urban areas, UNHCR facilitates access to the primary national health-care system for all refugees and vulnerable asylum-seekers, as well as secondary and tertiary and emergency health care according to their needs.** UNHCR distributes hygiene kits to women and girls of childbearing age throughout the year.

Food Security and Nutrition

- **In Mbera camp, UNHCR facilitates with the Global Distribution tool monthly food and cash distributions provided by WFP in the camp.** UNHCR monitors refugee access to food in sufficient quantity and quality through monthly food basket monitoring as well as quarterly post-distribution monitoring.
- **In urban areas, refugees with specific needs benefit once a year from a special multipurpose cash-based intervention** to cover their nutritional and other basic needs.

Water and Sanitation

- **In Mbera camp, UNHCR ensures maintenance and optimization of the existing water system, construction and rehabilitation of semi-permanent latrines and the collection, transport and treatment of solid waste.** UNHCR supports hygiene awareness-raising activities targeting all refugees to prevent the spread of water-borne diseases.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

- In Mbera camp, UNHCR ensures replacement of basic items (jerry cans, mosquito nets) and distribution of shelters as well as the maintenance of infrastructure and roads. UNHCR also ensures the distribution of hygiene kits for all refugees, with specific sanitary hygiene kits for women of childbearing age.

Peaceful Coexistence and Self-Reliance

- In Mbera camp, based on the results of a socio-economic profiling study, as well as an Added Value Chain Study market, a programme was developed to strengthen self-reliance of refugees and host communities and will implement a system to move from general assistance towards a more tailored support which ensures assistance for the most vulnerable.
- UNHCR supports community-based structures, such as committees composed of representatives from the refugee and host communities and promotes peaceful coexistence with socio-cultural and focus groups activities. UNHCR also supports quick-impact projects targeting the host population around Mbera camp. These include interventions to improve access to water and livestock activities.
- In urban areas, UNHCR facilitates access to micro-credit schemes and promotes certified vocational training.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR facilitates the voluntary repatriation of refugees willing to go back to their country of origin. In line with the agreement signed by UNHCR, Mali and Mauritania, UNHCR also facilitates the implementation of a tripartite framework on voluntary repatriation of Malian refugees.
- UNHCR promotes resettlement as a protection tool for the most vulnerable cases.

Special thanks to our donors who have provided earmarked funds for the operation in Mauritania:

[European Union](#) | [Italy \(RDPP\)](#) | [Monaco](#)

Special thanks to the major donors who have provided softly earmarked funds in 2019

Germany 57.7 million |

Thanks to other donors who have provided unearmarked funds in 2019

Sweden 90.4 million | Denmark 54.9 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 37.5 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 27.3 million | Switzerland 15.1 million

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

CONTACTS

José Manuel Cáceres, Associate External Relations Officer, CACERES@unhcr.org

Viola E. Bruttomesso, Associate Public Information Officer, BRUTTOME@unhcr.org

[UNHCR operation page](#) - [Facebook](#) - [stories](#)