

MAURITANIA

10 Sep. - 10 Oct. 2018

Highlights

Key figures:

57,425 Malian refugees in Mbera camp¹

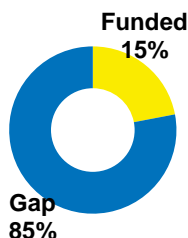
4,891 Malian refugees with specific needs identified¹

2,370 refugees and asylum-seekers registered in urban areas¹

5,714 arrivals from Mali at Mbera refugee camp since 1 January 2018¹

Funding

USD **20.1** M required for 2018



¹ Data as at 30 September 2018

On 25 September 2018, the UNHCR Representative to Mauritania, the Ambassador of Mauritania to the United Nations (UN), the UN Resident Coordinator in Mauritania, OCHA, WFP and FAO briefed the international community on their activities in Mauritania. The meeting took place in Geneva and focussed on the challenges in responding to the severe food insecurity and resulting malnutrition affecting refugees in Mbera camp, as well as host communities in the country's southern region. In addition to reiterating **concerns about food insecurity in Mbera camp and a call for urgent support by the international community**, UNHCR briefed participants on its response to the recent floods that affected Bassikounou. Additional funding was also requested in support of UNHCR's education programming at the start of the 2018-2019 school year, as well as for urgent repairs to the ageing water system in the camp.

Population Movements

Over 57,400 refugees reside in Mbera camp, located near the Malian border, in a semi-arid area that is exposed to a high risk of drought. Since January 2018, UNHCR registered more than 5,700 individuals in Mbera camp (193 individuals in September). Owing to the security situation in Mali, no voluntary returns of Malian refugees have been facilitated since November 2017.

Responding to the growing mixed migration flows and corresponding needs, in April 2018, UNHCR opened an office in Nouadhibou. Nouadhibou is located on the Atlantic coast, along Mauritania's border with Western Sahara, and on the West African transit route for migrants and refugees heading towards Europe. So far in 2018, at least eight interceptions/rescues-at-sea were conducted off the Mauritanian coast, with 400 persons disembarked in Nouadhibou. This is a notable increase from previous years, when 87 individuals were intercepted/rescued in 2017 and 35 individuals in 2016, respectively. In addition to rescues-at-sea/interceptions, a smaller number of persons were intercepted on Mauritanian shores prior to embarkation. UNHCR will soon conduct a survey of the migrant and refugee populations to support the government of Mauritania in addressing mixed migration movements in a protection-sensitive manner.

UNHCR Response

Bassikounou witnessed heavy floods over the past month, affecting refugees and host communities. UNHCR and its partners assisted more than 897 households (approximately 2,600 individuals) affected by the floods with core-relief items and water. UNHCR also identified and registered affected individuals.

The provision of health services remains a priority for UNHCR in Mbera camp. UNHCR is working with the Ministry of Health and other partners to ensure that health support is available in the camp. So far in 2018, in coordination with authorities and partners, UNHCR supported 215 medical evacuations for refugees and host community members to hospitals in Kiffa, Nema and Nouakchott.

In September 2018, a profiling exercise was completed in Mbera camp. The results of the exercise will be presented jointly by UNHCR and WFP on 18 October and will be followed by a targeting strategy based on the population's identified vulnerabilities for roll-out of assistance in late 2018.

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