

MAURITANIA

 11 Oct. - 30 Nov. 2018 [Highlights](#)

Key figures:

57,693 Malian refugees in Mbera camp¹

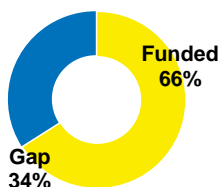
4,910 Malian refugees with specific needs identified¹

2,477 refugees and asylum-seekers registered in urban areas¹

5,664 arrivals from Mali at Mbera refugee camp since 1 January 2018¹

Funding

USD **20.2** M required for 2018



¹ Data as of 30 November 2018

On 13 November, the Mauritanian Government started issuing national identity cards to Malian refugees in Mbera camp. This is a milestone in the provision of protection in Mauritania. Many refugees have to flee without their identity documents or may not have had access to such documents in their home countries. The national identity card enables refugees to establish their identity and safeguard their freedom of movement.

In October, UNHCR's partner World Vision identified beneficiaries of livelihood projects in Mbera camp. As a result, proposals for income-generating activities were initially selected and training was provided to the identified associations. These activities are implemented with the support of the European Union's Emergency Trust Fund for Africa. On 17 November, World Vision also organized a training for 35 teachers and directors on gender and violence in schools, and on conflict resolution.

Population Movements

Over 57,600 Malian refugees have sought asylum at Mbera camp, located near the border with Mali. Since January 2018, UNHCR has registered more than 5,600 refugees and asylum-seekers in Mbera camp, including 328 women and 5,043 children. In October, 105 individuals were registered.

UNHCR Response

In October, UNHCR and IOM inaugurated a joint office in Nouadhibou, in north-western Mauritania. Its strategic position makes it a point of confluence for refugees and migrants coming from Sub-Saharan, Western and Northern Africa.

In October, 142 families (547 people) declared their intention to return voluntarily to Mali. UNHCR provided them with information on the prevailing situation in Mali and carried out individual interviews to confirm their intention to return and ensure that their decisions were informed and individual.

On 25 October, UNHCR and WFP presented the results of the socio-economic profiling exercise conducted in partnership with Action Contre la Faim in Mbera camp, late 2017. The study showed that 41 per cent of households in Mbera camp are extremely poor and that 60 per cent do not send their children to school. Currently, the two UN Agencies have engaged with the second phase of the exercise, i.e. targeting of assistance in 2019.

On 7 November, the Ministry of Health opened a health centre in Bassikounou. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has donated equipment for the centre. The facility will provide services for both the hosting community and refugees. Since MSF's gradual withdrawal in April 2018, UNHCR has increased its contribution to the health sector at Mbera camp. UNHCR continues to evacuate patients for secondary and tertiary referrals to more specialized medical facilities. A total of 25 medical evacuations took place in October.

UNHCR continues to assist refugees living in urban settings. In October, UNHCR registered 72 new arrivals and provided cash assistance to 96 refugees with specific needs. Twelve refugees were provided with cash support to cover medical needs and 372 refugees received health care, including check-ups and surgery. In lieu of a current partnership with a psychologist, urban refugees can be referred to the psychiatric unit at the Hôpital des Spécialités Médicales in Nouakchott, where they receive free psychosocial support.

Between 5 and 9 November, UNHCR carried out a Refugee Status Determination (RSD) exercise in Nouadhibou. A total of 37 RSD interviews were conducted and 36 cases (49 people) registered. Nine asylum-seekers' certificates were renewed.

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