

# MAURITANIA

18 February 2019

## Population Movements

**Malian nationals continue to arrive in Mauritania.** In January 2019 alone, 313 persons were registered at Mbera camp. Some 55,000 Malian refugees are living in Mbera camp, located near the border with Mali. In 2018, UNHCR registered 5,900 new arrivals in Mbera camp.

**Within the urban areas of Nouakchott and Nouadhibou** 1,401 refugees and 1,123 asylum-seekers (mainly from the Central African Republic, Syria and Côte d'Ivoire) receive protection and assistance. So far this year, UNHCR provided 89 urban refugees with cash assistance. Chronic illness assistance was also provided to 26 refugees living with HIV/AIDS.

**In the first week of January, through the support of the *EU Regional Development & Protection Programme (RDPP)*, UNHCR finalized a survey** to improve the protection response to mixed movements in the city of Nouadhibou. UNHCR has started to pilot a new tool for data collection and case management through reference and support modules (SMMART). A total of 603 cases (643 individuals) were surveyed, including 112 individuals registered with UNHCR. The survey identified 324 people with specific needs and referred them to UNHCR protection services for further assessment. UNHCR identified 150 individuals who have a potential refugee profile and 37 individuals who requested voluntary return through the International Organization for Migration.

## UNHCR Response

**In the last week of January, UNHCR Mauritania signed agreements with four national hospitals in urban areas** to refer refugees and asylum-seekers in need of health assistance. This will enable access to health without payment in advance. Currently, 100 per cent of urban refugees have access to all levels of health care. In January, UNHCR facilitated the evacuation of 38 patients with secondary and tertiary healthcare needs to facilities with higher treatment facilities. In addition, 285 urban refugees received health assistance including check-ups, medical visits and surgery.

**As part of its shelter activities,** UNHCR conducted a physical assessment of the housing situation of 6,450 refugees in Mbera camp, following which 3,000 households received new shelter kits. UNHCR continues to rehabilitate the infrastructure of the camp, including school gates, fences and canteens, community centres, distribution centres, and the registration centre. The UNHCR warehouse in Mbera was also rehabilitated/furnished.

**During the last week of January, UNHCR met with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood, and Family (MASEF)** to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen UNHCR's collaboration with this key protection partner. The purpose of this collaboration is to ensure refugee inclusion in the national protection system. UNHCR continues to monitor the number of students in primary education. In total, 5,073 (2,537 girls and 2,536 boys) enrolled in the six primary schools and two extensions in Mbera camp. World Vision International and UNHCR continue to carry out adult literacy courses in the main four languages of Mbera camp, namely Tamashek, Arabic, Songhai and Fula. As of January, 126 people, including 104 women, are learning how to write in their own language.

**Protecting refugees from statelessness risks remains a priority.** To date, in collaboration with the Mauritanian Government, 44 identity cards and 314 birth certificates have been issued.

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## Key figures:

**54,957** Malian refugees in Mbera camp<sup>1</sup>

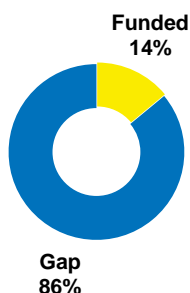
**4,689** Malian refugees with specific needs identified<sup>1</sup>

**2,524** refugees and asylum-seekers registered in urban areas<sup>1</sup>

**313** arrivals from Mali at Mbera refugee camp since 1 January 2019<sup>1</sup>

## Funding

USD **19.3** M required for 2019



<sup>1</sup> Data as of 11 February 2019