

# MAURITANIA

19 March 2019

## Highlights

**UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Volker Türk, visited Mauritania from 17 to 21 February.** The delegation travelled to Mbera camp, where they met with Malian refugees, women, youth and members of civil society. The delegation also met with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Interior, and the ICRC Representative to Mauritania.

**UNHCR took part in the launch of the Alliance 8.7 in Nouakchott for eradicating forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour.** UNHCR leads the Action Group on Conflicts and Humanitarian Framework, which provides a forum to discuss the worst forms of exploitation endured by refugees, asylum-seekers and persons at risk of statelessness.

## Population Movements

**The number of Malian nationals in Mauritania increased through January and February, with 1,129 new persons registered.** The continuous arrivals of refugees due to the deteriorating security situation in central Mali, as well as the registration of new born babies and the regularization of inactive cases, account for this increase. Located near the border with Mali, 56,591 Malian refugees have sought asylum at Mbera camp as of February 2019. UNHCR's enhanced registration exercise for the roll out of targeted food assistance has also encouraged parents to declare the birth of their children, a requirement for the delivery of birth certificates by the government of Mauritania. Over 400 child birth registrations were carried out in one week in February, while registration for the delivery of national refugee identity cards continued.

**In the urban areas of Nouakchott and Nouadhibou, UNHCR continues to register asylum-seekers and carry out refugee status determination.** Currently, 1,405 refugees and 1,159 asylum-seekers (mainly from the Central African Republic, Syria and Côte d'Ivoire) are receiving protection and assistance.

## UNHCR Response

**On 5-7 March, UNHCR Mauritania held participatory assessments with refugees at Mbera camp and in Nouakchott.** Using an Age, Gender and Diversity sensitive approach, UNHCR gathered information on the protection risks that refugees face and the capacity of communities to address these issues.

**Since February, UNHCR has facilitated the evacuation of 10 patients** to health facilities at Nema, Kiffa, and Nouakchott. A total of **404 urban refugees** received health assistance, including check-ups, medical visits and surgery.

**UNHCR continues to monitor the number of students in primary and secondary education:** 5,108 (2,540 girls and 2,560 boys) are enrolled in the eight primary schools and 356 (113 girls and 243 boys) in the secondary school at Mbera camp. **84 refugee students** also enrolled in tertiary education, through scholarships provided by UNHCR. In addition to distributing 3,000 shelter kits since the end of 2018, UNHCR protection partner, World Vision, constructed eight hangars as part of UNICEF's Pre-School Support programme for Malian refugee children.

**Protecting refugees from risks associated with statelessness remains a priority.** In collaboration with the Mauritanian Government, 532 identity cards and 354 birth certificates have been issued to date

## Key figures:

**56,591** Malian refugees in Mbera camp<sup>1</sup>

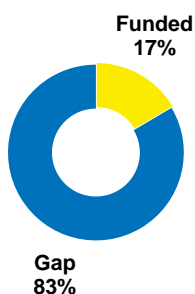
**4,831** Malian refugees with specific needs identified<sup>1</sup>

**2,564** refugees and asylum-seekers registered in urban areas<sup>1</sup>

**1,129** arrivals from Mali at Mbera refugee camp since 1 January 2019 (5,900 in 2018)<sup>1</sup>

## Funding

USD **19.3** M required for 2019



<sup>1</sup> Data as of 12 March 2019

## Special thanks to our donors:

Canada | European Union | France | Japan (private sector) | United States of America