

UNHCR
2014-2015
GLOBAL APPEAL

MAURITANIA



UNHCR's planned presence | 2014

Number of offices	2
Total personnel	63
International staff	14
National staff	44
JPOs	1
UN Volunteers	4

Overview

Working environment

- Following the conflict that erupted in northern Mali in 2012, by mid-August 2013, 72,000 Malian refugees had sought refuge in Mauritania and were settled in a well-equipped refugee camp in the remote south-east area of the country. UNHCR is progressively moving out of the emergency response phase, with the number of arrivals having shrunk to an average of 13 refugees a day in August 2013, from a peak of 1,000 to 1,500 in early 2012.
- Since June 2013, UNHCR has been observing a small number of spontaneous returns to Mali. However, despite efforts to stabilize the country, including the deployment of a peacekeeping force and the presidential elections in mid-2013, the humanitarian and security situation in Mali remains fragile. Large-scale returns of refugees are therefore not yet envisaged and the Mauritania Office and its partners are maintaining their presence in Bassikounou/Mbera camp to continue the humanitarian response and ensure preparedness in case of any new influx, should the situation deteriorate.

- For urban refugees, in the absence of a national asylum system, UNHCR conducts refugee status determination (RSD); works to strengthen the capacity of national authorities on asylum; provides assistance targeting refugees with specific needs; and seeks durable solutions for the refugees. By 31 July 2013, UNHCR had registered 478 refugees and 975 asylum seekers living in urban areas in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou, mostly from sub-Saharan African countries. In addition, 26,000 Sahrawi people continue to be considered as being in a refugee-like situation. They have not approached UNHCR as they are well integrated in Mauritania.
- Mauritania is a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol and is in the process of developing a national asylum system with UNHCR's assistance. A draft law on asylum is awaiting adoption at the next parliamentary session, following the legislative elections scheduled for November 2013.

- Over 12,000 Mauritanian refugees are registered in Mali, of whom some 8,000 have expressed the wish to return home. Activities related to the repatriation and reintegration of these refugees will start once a Tripartite Agreement between Mauritania, Mali and UNHCR is concluded.

- The Government of Mauritania provides land for Mbera camp and security for Malian refugees and humanitarian workers in the country, as well as access to basic services for urban refugees.

People of concern

The main groups of people of concern planned for in 2014 under the Mauritania operation are: Malian refugees who fled insecurity in northern Mali; urban refugees and asylum-seekers, mostly Ivorian and Congolese; and Mauritanian returnees from Mali and Senegal.

Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Dec 2013		Dec 2014		Dec 2015	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	100	100	120	120	140	140
	Côte d'Ivoire	430	430	500	500	520	520
	Mali	70,000	70,000	60,000	60,000	50,000	50,000
	Various	140	140	170	170	200	200
People in refugee-like situations	Western Sahara	26,000	-	26,000	-	26,000	-
Asylum-seekers	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	50	50	40	40	30	30
	Côte d'Ivoire	200	200	50	50	40	40
	Senegal	20	20	-	-	-	-
	Various	60	60	60	60	30	30
Returnee arrivals during year (ex-refugees)	Mauritania	-	-	8,000	8,000	-	-
Total		97,000	71,000	94,940	68,940	76,960	50,960

| Response |

Needs and strategies

In 2014, it is expected that the operation for Malian refugees will progressively stabilize, with fewer refugee arrivals and growing numbers of refugees leaving the camp, including cases of spontaneous returns to Mali. However, it is anticipated that the situation in Mali will remain fragile and will not yet allow for large-scale returns. UNHCR and its partners will maintain their presence in Bassikounou/Mbera to sustain the humanitarian response for an estimated 60,000 Malian refugees in Mbera camp. Emphasis will be put on ensuring efficient coordination of the response and continued coverage of the refugees' basic needs, including in the sectors of protection, food, water, sanitation and hygiene, health, nutrition, non-food items (NFIs), and education. Priority will be given to addressing the specific needs of vulnerable refugees. In 2014, UNHCR will focus increasingly on income-generating activities and launch community-based projects to enhance the refugees' self-reliance and promote peaceful coexistence between the refugees and the host community.

Given the nomadic nature of the refugees and their close links with the host population, the management of population figures will continue to be challenging. Following the introduction of new verification procedures at the border and in the camp and the launching of a biometric registration exercise in Mbera camp

together with the authorities in April 2013, UNHCR will regularly update its database with reliable population figures in 2014.

In terms of protection and assistance for urban refugees, UNHCR will continue to advocate for the adoption and the enforcement of a law on asylum, in line with international standards, to help preserve the rights of refugees (e.g. access to civil status documentation, the right to employment etc.). Pending the establishment of a national asylum system, the Office will continue to conduct RSD and build the capacity of governmental authorities on asylum issues.

Given the poor economic conditions of the majority of the refugees, the Office will continue to cover their basic needs by providing health and education assistance as well as shelter support (lump sum) for refugees with specific needs.

In parallel, UNHCR, together with partners, will support and increase livelihood activities and microfinance projects to help the refugees become more self-reliant and less dependent on humanitarian assistance, pending the achievement of a durable solution.

Once a Tripartite Agreement between Mauritania, Mali and UNHCR is concluded, UNHCR will provide support to the Mauritanian authorities for the implementation of repatriation and reintegration activities for Mauritanian returnees from Mali.

Main objectives and targets for 2014

The following matrix contains examples of some of the main activities planned in 2014. Using a selection of objectives from UNHCR's programme plans for the 2014-2015 biennium, it is designed to illustrate:

- what – under the global needs assessment planning and prioritization process – has been planned (**Planned activities**) for particular groups of people of concern (**People of concern**);
- the identified needs that can be covered if full and flexible funding is made available (**2014 comprehensive target**); and
- the needs that may not be met if funding falls short of the ExCom-approved budget (**Potential gap**). The estimation of a potential gap is based on the country operation's own assessment of the likely impact of a global funding shortfall. Calculations are based on various criteria, including the particular context, strategic priorities and experience of resource availability for the respective area of activity in previous years.

Activities under objectives on child protection (including best interest determination), education and prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) are core areas which are given priority in the allocation of funding (**priority area**). In order to ensure the necessary flexibility in the allocation of funds, UNHCR relies on unrestricted contributions from its donors.

It should be understood that in some cases, targets for activities or delivery of services may not be reached for reasons other than a funding shortfall, e.g. lack of access to people of concern, cases not reported, changing circumstances, security problems, insufficient capacity to implement all programmes planned, etc. In the Global Report 2014, an explanation of why any target may not have been reached will be provided.

The examples selected in this chapter are high priority areas for the operation, therefore in most cases they show no gaps. However, overall the operation needs significant support to maintain or increase the status quo with regard to basic services and in other non-priority areas.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	PEOPLE OF CONCERN	2014 COMPREHENSIVE TARGET	POTENTIAL GAP
Favourable protection environment			
Law and policy developed or strengthened			
In 2014, UNHCR will continue to advocate in favour of a national asylum system in line with international standards and provide support to the authorities for the establishment of such a system.			
Number of events, workshops and seminars organized	Urban refugees and asylum-seekers	15	5
Number of people trained	Urban refugees and asylum-seekers	250	100
Quality of registration and profiling improved or maintained			
In 2014, UNHCR will continuously update its database to produce detailed and accurate statistics of the Malian refugee population in Mbera camp.			
Number of people of concern registered on an individual basis with minimum set of data required	Malian refugees	60,000	0 gap
Percentage of registration data updated during the last year	Malian refugees	100%	0 gap
Civil registration and civil status documentation strengthened			
Pending the adoption of a national law on asylum, UNHCR will continue to advocate for the delivery of civil status documentation to refugees, particularly birth certificates for refugee children born in Mauritania. Once the law will be adopted, UNHCR will provide the necessary support to authorities for the implementation of its provisions, including on civil registration and civil status documentation.			
Number of advocacy interventions made	Urban refugees and asylum-seekers	5	0 gap
Number of people of concern registered and issued documentation through procedure for late birth registration	Urban refugees and asylum-seekers	30	30
Basic needs and essential services			
Nutritional well-being improved			
In 2014, UNHCR will continue to fight against malnutrition in Mbera camp by contributing to two nutritional surveys and by providing food supplements to most vulnerable refugees. Although the malnutrition rates in the camp have improved, they remain of serious concern as is the case across the Sahel region.			
Number of nutrition surveys conducted according to recommended guidelines	Malian refugees	2	1
Number of new admissions to supplementary feeding programmes	Malian refugees	6,000	4,000

Food security improved

In 2014, UNHCR will continue to distribute the food rations provided by WFP and will conduct monitoring to ensure proper reception and use of food assistance by the beneficiaries.

Extent to which Food Basket Monitoring (FBM) conducted during the last year and written report done	Malian refugees	100%	50%
Extent to which Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) conducted during the last year and written report done (yes/no)	Malian refugees	100%	50%
Average Number of kilocalories (Kcals) distributed per person per day	Malian refugees	2,200 (Kcals)	0 gap

Supply of potable water increased or maintained

In 2014, UNHCR will contribute to improving the hydraulic infrastructure and water distribution network, to maintain the supply of a minimum of 20 litres of potable water per person per day.

Number of people of concern served by water system	Malian refugees	60,000	10,000
Number of generators/pumps maintained	Malian refugees	5	2

Shelter and infrastructure established, improved and maintained

In 2014, UNHCR will provide maintenance of 15,000 semi-permanent shelters to ensure all refugees live in adequate dwellings.

Number of shelter maintenance tool kits and materials provided	Malian refugees	15,000	5,000
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Population has sufficient basic and domestic items

In 2014 UNHCR will provide core relief items to meet the domestic needs of refugees, prioritizing people with specific needs, as the expected funding does not allow including all households in need of support.

Number of women receiving sanitary materials	Malian refugees	16,500	5,000
Number of households receiving core relief items	Malian refugees	15,000	5,000

Population has optimal access to education

UNHCR will continue to facilitate access to education, through payment of school fees for urban refugees and through the recruitment of teachers and the maintenance of schools for Malian refugees in Mbera camp. UNHCR fully prioritizes the education objective and works towards primary school enrolment rates of 100 per cent.

Number of children enrolled in primary education	Malian refugees	14,000	priority area
	Urban refugees and Asylum seekers	120	priority area

Leadership, coordination and partnerships

Camp management and coordination refined and improved

In 2014, UNHCR will continue to ensure that camp coordination is working effectively to maintain and reinforce the efficiency of the humanitarian response.

Extent to which roles and responsibilities for camp managers and camp service providers have been defined, agreed and documented (e.g. camp has documented "Who Does What Where" Information for service provision)	Malian refugees	100%	0 gap
Environmental impact assessment was a part of the site plan and/or camp strategy	Malian refugees	100%	50%

| Implementation |

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies:

Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization

NGOs:

Commission for Food Security, Intermón Oxfam, Intersos, Lutheran World Federation, ONG Actions, SOS Désert

Operational partners

NGOs:

Action Contre la Faim – Spain, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Appui au Développement Intégré des Communautés Rurales, Association Mauritanienne des Droits de l'Homme, Association Mauritanienne pour la Promotion de la Famille, Médecins sans Frontière - Belgium, ONG Espoirs, Solidarités International

Others

ICRC, IOM, Mauritanian Red Crescent, OCHA, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNV, WFP

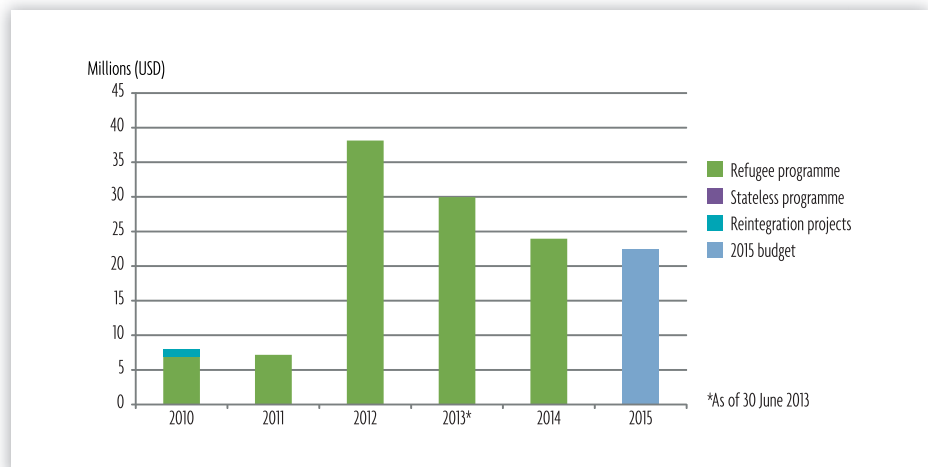
Coordination

UNHCR works closely with the Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization (MIDEC). It also participates in the UN Country Team and Humanitarian Country Team and works with a range of implementing and operational partners. At the request of the Mauritanian Government, UNHCR is coordinating the response to the Malian refugee situation, in close collaboration with MIDEC and a follow-up committee appointed by the authorities. Regular coordination meetings are held in Nouakchott and Bassikounou with the authorities, UN agencies, NGOs and national civil society partners.

| Financial information |

In 2012, the financial requirements for UNHCR's operation in Mauritania increased dramatically to USD 38.1 million as a result of the response to the Mali Situation. In 2014, the financial requirements for the operation are set at USD 24 million, a decrease of USD 6 million when compared to the revised 2013 budget of USD 30 million. This reduction is due to the shift from essential services to the repatriation of Malian refugees, should this materialize in the course of 2014. Given the wide range of needs, predictable and flexible funding will help the Office to manage the changing situation, particularly if voluntary return for Malian refugees in Mbera camp becomes a possibility.

Budgets for Mauritania | 2010–2015



2014 budget for Mauritania | USD

Budget breakdown	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	Total
2013 revised budget (as of 30 June 2013)	29,967,648	29,967,648
Favourable protection environment		
Law and policy	110,159	110,159
Administrative institutions and practice	42,959	42,959
Subtotal	153,118	153,118
Fair protection processes and documentation		
Registration and profiling	828,498	828,498
Status determination procedures	101,191	101,191
Individual documentation	29,314	29,314
Civil registration and status documentation	270,449	270,449
Subtotal	1,229,451	1,229,451
Security from violence and exploitation		
Prevention and response to SGBV	451,174	451,174
Protection of children	221,597	221,597
Subtotal	672,771	672,771
Basic needs and essential services		
Health	1,179,198	1,179,198
Nutrition	884,076	884,076
Food security	1,380,135	1,380,135
Water	2,461,062	2,461,062
Sanitation and hygiene	3,387,211	3,387,211
Shelter and infrastructure	2,997,551	2,997,551
Access to energy	738,254	738,254
Basic and domestic items	1,492,102	1,492,102
Services for people with specific needs	384,134	384,134
Education	1,102,353	1,102,353
Subtotal	16,006,076	16,006,076
Community empowerment and self-reliance		
Community mobilization	229,128	229,128
Coexistence with local communities	302,524	302,524
Self-reliance and livelihood activities	519,077	519,077
Subtotal	1,050,730	1,050,730
Durable solutions		
Voluntary return	1,595,538	1,595,538
Reintegration	1,367,633	1,367,633
Integration	55,938	55,938
Resettlement	51,593	51,593
Subtotal	3,070,702	3,070,702
Leadership, coordination and partnerships		
Coordination and partnerships	56,111	56,111
Camp management and coordination	715,965	715,965
Subtotal	772,076	772,076
Logistics and operations support		
Logistics and supply	934,430	934,430
Operations management, coordination and support	71,111	71,111
Subtotal	1,005,541	1,005,541
2014 total budget	23,960,463	23,960,463