



HIGHLIGHTS

13,757 Malian households in Mbera camp	5,003 People with specific needs assisted in Mbera Camp	5,760 New arrivals from Mali registered from September 2016 to April 2017	30L Of potable water available per person per day in Mbera Camp	298 Voluntary returns in 2017
--	---	---	---	---

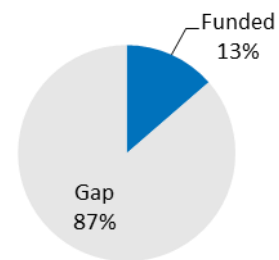
Population of concern

A total of **51,904** people assisted in 2017

	Total
Refugees from Mali	49,851
Urban refugees and asylum seekers (various nationalities)	2,053
Total	51,904

Funding in 2017

USD 19.4 million requested



UNHCR Presence

UNHCR offices and staffing:

2 offices: Nouakchott and Bassikounou
68 staff, including **18** international staff



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR collaborates with the Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization (MIDEC) and local authorities for the coordination of protection and assistance to refugees in Mauritania. UNHCR also works in partnership with State agencies such as the *Commissariat à la sécurité alimentaire* (CSA), and the *Agence nationale du registre des populations et des titres sécurisés* (ANRPTS).

The organization actively participates in the UN Country Team. UNHCR coordinates the Refugee Chapter of the [Humanitarian Response Plan](#) developed in Mauritania and participates in the [United Nations Development Assistance Framework](#).

UNHCR works closely with national and international NGOs, namely *Acción Contra el Hambre – España* (ACF); *Association pour la Lutte contre la Pauvreté et le sous-développement* (ALPD); *Lutheran World Federation* (LWF); *InterSOS*; *SOS Désert*; *ONG Action, Mutuelle Féminine de Solidarité d'Entraide d'Épargne et de Crédit* (MFSEEC) and *Union Nationale de Caisse d'Épargne et de crédit mutuelle* (DGIKK). UNHCR holds coordination meetings every two weeks with all agencies involved in Mbera camp.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

In Mauritania, UNHCR is providing protection and assistance to some 50,000 Malian refugees in Mbera camp as well as to some 2,000 urban refugees and asylum seekers, in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou. Urban refugees and asylum seekers come from over 20 different countries; most of them are from Central Africa, Syria and Côte d'Ivoire.

Protection

- In Mbera camp, UNHCR maintains and updates the refugee **biometric registration database**; provides tailored assistance to people with **specific needs** through home visits, psychosocial counseling, support for people with disabilities and carries out awareness-raising activities, training and response to **gender-based violence**, as well as **child protection**.
- In urban areas, UNHCR carries out **registration** of asylum seekers and determination of **refugee status** under UNHCR's mandate. UNHCR also organizes refugee protection trainings for more than **150 government officials** (including police and military officers) and supports Mauritanian authorities with the finalization of a **national refugee law**. UNHCR also **facilitates the implementation of a tripartite framework** on voluntary repatriation of Malian refugees, in line with the agreement signed by Mali, Mauritania and UNHCR.

Education

- In Mbera camp, UNHCR supports **primary education** with the payment of indemnities for 241 school staff members, the maintenance of school infrastructures and the distribution of food in canteens. UNHCR also offers **literacy and numeracy** classes for 180 adults.
- In urban areas, UNHCR helps 450 refugee children to access primary and secondary **education** by covering tuition fees, providing school kits and offering tutoring classes. UNHCR also facilitates access to **tertiary education scholarships** for 33 refugees who are currently enrolled in Nouakchott universities.

Health

- In Mbera camp, UNHCR supports **primary health care** for both the refugee and host populations, with the supply of medical equipment and medicine to the camp's health center. **Medical evacuations** to Nema and Nouakchott hospitals are provided to refugees with serious medical conditions for which treatment is not available in the camp.
- In urban areas, UNHCR facilitates **access to the primary national health care system** for all refugees as well as secondary and tertiary health care according to their needs. UNHCR also organizes regular sensitization sessions (in the form of debates or one-day training) at Nouakchott Refugee Women's Center to discuss topics such as family planning, reproductive health, prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs, and female genital mutilation. UNHCR distributes **hygiene kits** to women and girls of childbearing age twice a year.

Access to energy

- In Mbera camp, UNHCR distributes **charcoal for 1,200 households** with specific needs.

Food Security and Nutrition

- In Mbera camp, UNHCR facilitates a **monthly food distribution** provided by WFP in the camp. 65% of the food basket is provided in cash and the rest is composed of in-kind food items such as rice and oil among others. UNHCR **monitors refugees' access to food** in sufficient quantity and quality through a monthly **food basket monitoring** as well as quarterly **post-distribution monitoring**.
- In urban areas, **refugees with specific needs** benefit once a year from the distribution of basic food items (rice, oil, sugar).

Shelter and Non-food items

- In Mbera camp, UNHCR ensures replacement of **basic items** (jerry cans, mosquito nets) and distribution of **shelters**. UNHCR also ensures maintenance of infrastructures and roads.
- In urban areas, UNHCR distributes blankets in the winter and mosquito nets on an annual basis.

Water, Sanitation and hygiene

- In Mbera camp, UNHCR ensures maintenance and optimization of the existing **water system**, construction and rehabilitation of semi-permanent **latrines; collection, transport and treatment of solid waste**. UNHCR supports **hygiene awareness-raising activities targeting all refugees** to prevent the spread of water-borne diseases. UNHCR also ensures the **distribution of hygiene kits** for all refugees, with specific sanitary **hygiene kits** for women of childbearing age.

Peaceful coexistence between refugee and host communities

- In Mbera camp, UNHCR supports **community-based structures**, such as mixed committees composed of representatives from the refugee and the host communities and promotes peaceful coexistence with socio-cultural and focus groups activities. UNHCR also supports **quick-impact projects targeting the host population in 10 villages around Mbera camp**. These include the rehabilitation of water and sanitation infrastructures, the fencing of arable land and livestock activities.

Self-reliance and Community Empowerment

- In Mbera camp, UNHCR continues to promote refugees' self-reliance through support to **378 income-generating projects** launched in 2014-2016; access to **vegetable gardens** for more than **1,600 women and their families**, and the distribution of **570** dairy-goats for the most vulnerable households.
- In urban areas, UNHCR facilitates access to **micro-credit schemes** and promotes **vocational training** and **income-generating activities** (IGAs).

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR facilitates the voluntary repatriation of refugees willing to go back to their country of origin. UNHCR also promotes resettlement as a protection tool for the most vulnerable cases.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of the government of [Japan](#) who has directly contributed to the operation as well as donors who have given unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year: [United States of America \(95 M\)](#) | [Sweden \(76 M\)](#) | [Netherlands \(52 M\)](#) | [Norway \(41 M\)](#) | [Denmark \(23 M\)](#) | [Australia \(19 M\)](#) | [Switzerland \(15 M\)](#) | [Germany \(12 M\)](#)

Contacts:

Helena B. Pes, Associate Public Information Officer, pes@unhcr.org

Links:

