

Mauritania

15 June 2019

Mauritania hosts **over 2,500 urban refugees and asylum-seekers** and **around 57,000 Malian refugees** in and around Mbera camp. Despite the conclusion of a peace agreement in 2015, **large-scale returns of Malian refugees are not expected due to the persistent violence in northern, which has also been spreading to central Mali**. In May alone, almost **430 refugees were newly registered in Mbera camp, including people who had been in Mauritania for a while and had not approached UNHCR before**. Furthermore, **UNHCR registered 94 new arrivals** in the the urban areas of Nouakchott and Nouadhibou. Pending the adoption of the asylum law, **UNHCR works closely with the Mauritanian authorities to enhance the protection of refugees** in Mauritania improving access to documentation and birth registration. In response, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been enhancing collaboration with **development actors to bridge the current gap between humanitarian and development efforts** and ensure that refugees - in particular, extremely vulnerable ones - are not left behind ensuring economic opportunities, and access basic services such as health and education. UNHCR works under the umbrella of the United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (CPDD).

KEY INDICATORS

3,550

Newly **registered** from Mali since January 2019

2,086

Voluntary returns to Mali facilitated in 2019

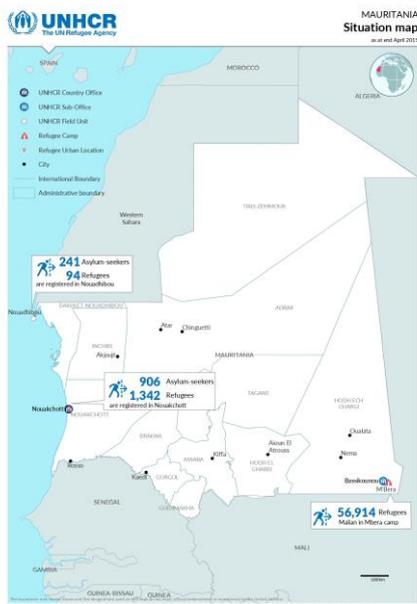
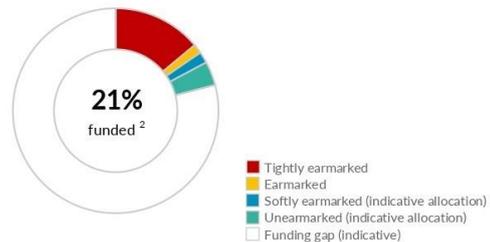
4,623

Malian refugees with **specific needs** (as of 31 May 2019)

FUNDING (AS OF 15 JUNE)

USD 19.3 M

4 M received. **15 M** requested for the UNHCR operation in Mauritania



POPULATION OF CONCERN

Malian refugees in Bassikounou **56,914**

Urban refugees and asylum-seekers **2,583**

A total of **59,497** people are assisted by UNHCR in Mauritania.

Achievements



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

During the first five months of the year, UNHCR newly registered **3,550 refugees in Mbera camp, reflecting a continuous influx from Mali**. The new influx includes more Fulani refugees and refugees who were living in the surrounding areas of the camp and had previously elected not to register with UNHCR. This increase in registration also shows confidence in the protection space offered in Mauritania.

In May, the Nouadhibou Field Unit started to conduct registration of individuals to issue asylum certificates. A BIMS mission will be conducted in July to complete the registration process.

UNHCR donated a Braille computer to the Center for the Promotion of Children with Disabilities in Nouakchott. The center is also attended by refugee students with specific educational needs living in Nouakchott, whose education is supported by UNHCR.

In May, in collaboration with the El Amana Bank, UNHCR distributed the first “cash for energy” to 2,487 prioritized persons with specific needs in Mbera camp. This further expands the introduction of CBIs in the Mauritania operation after “Cash for scholarships” and cash assistance to vulnerable urban refugees.



Rama, a CAR refugee student, holding the Braille laptop at the Center for the Promotion of Children with Disabilities in Nouakchott
 ©UNHCR/Viola E. Bruttomesso



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

In Mbera camp and Bassikounou, UNHCR and partners continued to provide health care to refugees and the host community. During the reporting period, UNHCR continued to facilitate the evacuation of refugee and local patients in the absence of a surgeon to operate the theatre room at Bassikounou Health Centre. During the reporting period, **20 patients, including 7 refugees**, were referred to hospitals to Nema, Kiffa and Nouakchott.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

UNHCR in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) distributed **cash** (450 MRU per person per month) with bank cards to **54,276 refugees** (12,461 families). The **introduction of the Global Distribution Tool (GDT)** has enabled UNHCR to enhance its distribution tracking and verification processes, and the protection of children when families send them to the distribution centres to collect the food rations instead of sending them to school. **During the food distribution, UNHCR and partners provided assistance to 1,217 persons with specific needs.**

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

As of May 2019, WFP faces a US\$ 2.8 million shortfall for its assistance to Malian refugees. UNHCR works with partners to improve access to income generating activities, gardening fields and livestock to reduce refugees' dependency on food assistance. On behalf of all partners engaged in the Livelihood sector, UNHCR has called for a prioritized USD 5.2 million out of a total USD 8.7 million to enable households, whose food assistance is being targeted, to bridge the gap through their engagement in economic activities.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

During the month of May, **68% of the students enrolled in primary school (1,769 girls and 1,821 boys)** attended classes in the 6 primary schools and 2 extensions in Mbera camp. Thanks to food supplied by the WFP and prepared on a voluntary basis by refugee women, **school canteens continued to provide all students with meals.**



UNHCR continues to fight against adult illiteracy in Mbera camp. In the month of May, 125 learners (103 women and 22 men) attended adult literacy courses in the main three languages of the camp, namely Tamashek, Arabic and Songhai.

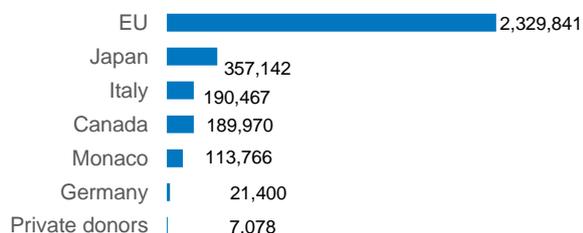
A Malian refugee learning how to write in his own language, Tamasheq
 ©UNHCR/Viola E. Bruttomesso

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation. UNHCR also express gratitude especially towards those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with un-earmarked and softly earmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 4 million**.



SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Germany 57.7 million | Private donors Australia 3.8 million | Sweden 3.3 million | Private donors Germany 2.8 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.2 million

Denmark | Malta | Norway | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | Private donors Spain | United Kingdom |

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