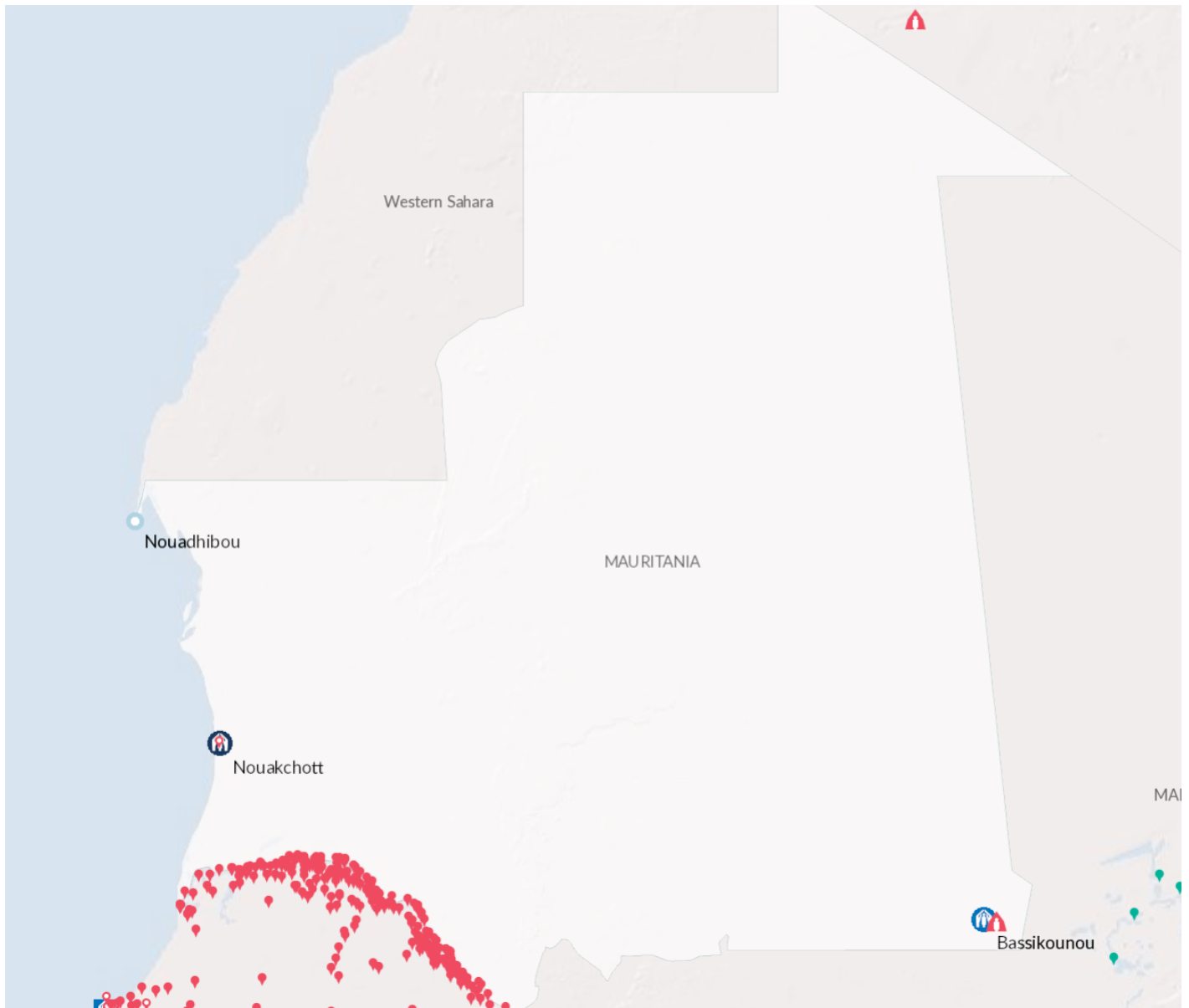


Operation: Mauritania

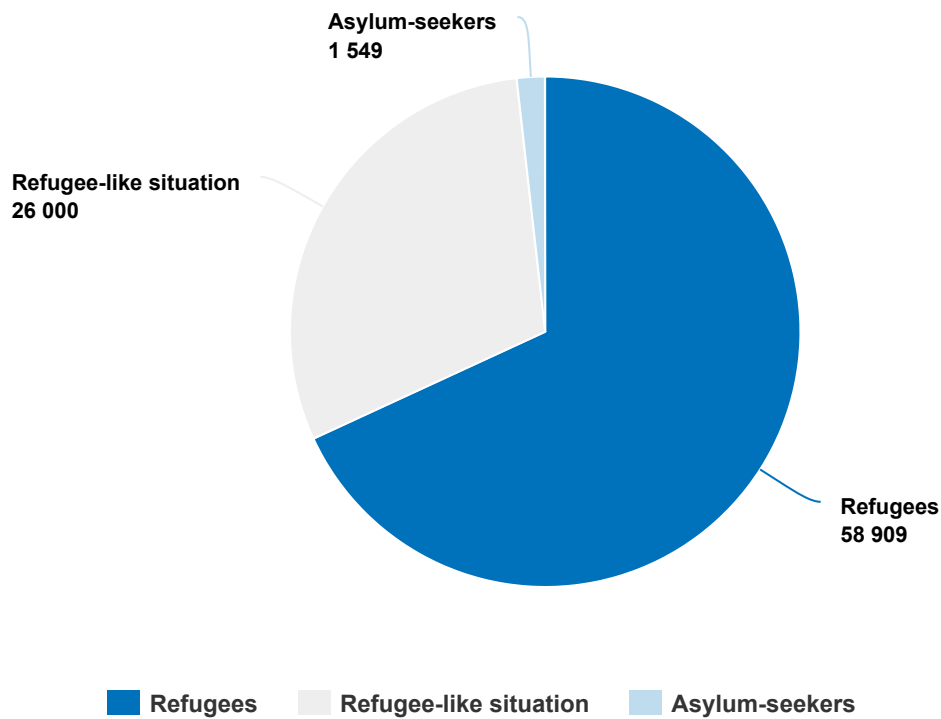


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

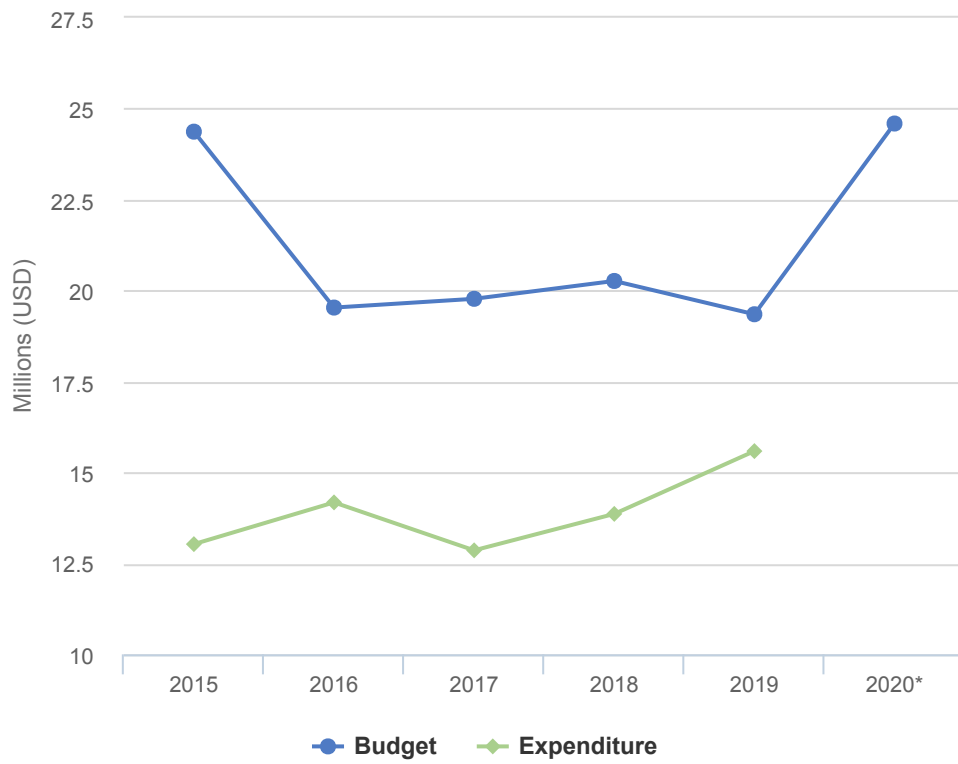
People of Concern

INCREASE IN
3% 2019

2019	86,458
2018	84,322
2017	78,183



Budgets and Expenditure for Mauritania



Operational context

In 2019, UNHCR continued to provide protection and assistance to 58,000 Malian refugees in Mbera camp, 50 kilometers from the border with Mali, and to some 3,800 urban refugees and asylum-seekers in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou (mainly from Mali, the Central African Republic, and the Syrian Arab Republic). The security situation in Mali remained volatile, minimizing the prospect for any large-scale returns. While extending support to the most vulnerable refugees, UNHCR also reinforced its engagement with development actors, notably with the World Bank, to support the transition to inclusion and self-reliance, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees.

The Government of Mauritania maintained an open-door policy for refugees and demonstrated commitment to further enhancing refugee protection through its pledges at the Global Refugee Forum in December 2019. A notable development was that UNHCR was able to start registering Malians outside Mbera camp, broadening the protection space and services available to them.

To enhance assistance for refugees, UNHCR coordinated a number of interventions in and around Mbera camp as well as in urban areas, in the sectors of health, livelihoods and education. UNHCR introduced cash-based interventions, in line with the Office's global policy, following a feasibility study in the areas of education and energy.

Population trends

Mauritania hosted the largest number of refugees from Mali in the Sahel region. Around 400 refugees per month sought protection in Mauritania, resulting in over 4,500 new arrivals in 2019 in Mbera camp. In addition, some 2,900 individuals who had not previously approached UNHCR were registered. An increased number of refugees from the central region of Mali arrived due to the expansion of the conflict there. They were mostly of Fulani origin -Tuaregs and Arabs having been the main ethnicities before.

In the urban centres of Nouakchott and Nouadhibou, UNHCR registered some 3,800 refugees and asylum-seekers — a nearly 50% increase compared to 2018. The increase was attributed to both new arrivals and the start of out-of-camp registration of Malians.

In 2019, 13 cases (48 individuals) departed and 35 cases (57 individuals) were accepted for resettlement.

Achievements

- In coordination with the Government, UNHCR conducted the first out-of-camp registration of Malian refugees and worked with local authorities and the refugees to ensure they were registered by the responsible Government agency.
- The Mauritanian Government committed to include Mbera refugee camp in national health services with the support of the World Bank under the IDA 18 sub-window for refugees, and took active steps towards this direction.
- UNHCR promoted peaceful coexistence and advocated for more development funds to improve self-reliance through livelihood activities, both for refugees and the host community.

Unmet needs

- While access to minimum primary health care was ensured for all refugees, asylum-seekers, and host communities, the desirable level of quality health care could not be attained due to lack of adequate funding.
- The self-reliance sector faced a major funding gap and could only partly make up for the reduction in food assistance in 2019, leaving several thousand refugee households in Mbera camp and urban areas at risk

of resorting to negative coping mechanisms.

- In the urban centers of Nouakchott and Nouadhibou, UNHCR was unable to register all asylum-seekers, due to a lack of resources.
- Refugees in urban settings received very little, if any, assistance due to lack of resources, despite significant needs for accommodation, education for children and psychosocial support.

2019 Funds Available for Mauritania | USD

Donor	Pillar 1 Refugee programme	All pillars	Total
Canada	0	189,970	189,970
Denmark	301,932	0	301,932
European Union	2,329,841	0	2,329,841
Germany	21,400	0	21,400
Italy	184,442	0	184,442
Japan	357,142	0	357,142
Monaco	113,766	0	113,766
Private donors in Canada	828	0	828
Private donors in Egypt	272	0	272
Private donors in Japan	484,130	0	484,130
Private donors in Kuwait	943	0	943
Private donors in Lebanon	10,462	5,050	15,512
Private donors in Oman	5,901	0	5,901
Private donors in Saudi Arabia	1,331	2,028	3,359
Private donors in the United Arab Emirates	11,783	0	11,783
United States of America	0	4,900,000	4,900,000
Income from contributions	3,824,172	5,097,047	8,921,219
Total funds available	3,824,172	5,097,047	8,921,219
Final Budget	19,348,835	-	19,348,835
		Gap	10,427,615