

MAURITANIA



| Overview |

Operational highlights

- UNHCR’s response to the Mali situation evolved throughout the year, shifting from emergency response to a more regular operation, as the number of arrivals decreased from 1,500 per day at the beginning of 2013 to one per day by the year’s end.
- The organization delivered assistance to some 66,400 Malian refugees in Mbera refugee camp, including more than 31,000 newly registered arrivals.
- From June onwards, UNHCR observed the spontaneous repatriation of some 2,000 Malian refugees from

Mauritania, the majority of whom (97 per cent) were Tuareg refugees returning to the Timbuktu region. To facilitate their return, UNHCR issued travel documents and registered them in Mali, in collaboration with the Malian authorities.

- The Government of Mauritania and UNHCR co-led the coordination of humanitarian response to the Mali refugee situation, continuing to support land allocation for Mbera camp and providing security for refugees and humanitarian workers in Bassikounou, Fassala and Mbera.

UNHCR’s presence | 2013

Number of offices	2
Total personnel	62
International staff	20
National staff	39
JPOs	1
UN Volunteers	2

- UNHCR registered 375 refugees and 845 asylum-seekers, mostly from sub-Saharan African countries, who were living in urban areas of Nouakchott and Nouadhibou, and the authorities granted them access to health services.

People of concern

Mauritania hosts some 66,400 Malian refugees who have fled insecurity in northern Mali since 2012. Other people of concern to UNHCR included urban refugees and asylum-seekers, mostly Ivorian and Congolese, as

well as Mauritanian returnees from Mali. In addition, 26,000 Sahrawi people continued to be considered in a refugee-like situation, but did not approach UNHCR for assistance as they are well integrated in Mauritania.

Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Mali	66,400	66,400	55	56
	Various	370	370	44	43
People in a refugee-like situation	Western Sahara	26,000	-	-	-
Asylum-seekers	Côte d'Ivoire	500	500	32	29
	Various	320	320	34	23
Total		93,590	67,590		

| Results in 2013 |

Achievements and impact

The following matrix contains examples of objectives and targets set for UNHCR's programme interventions in this operation in 2013. Short commentaries on the

end-year results and impact on people of concern are provided, including indications of why targets may not have been met.

Planned activities	People of concern (PoC)	2013 comprehensive target	2013 end of year results
FAVOURABLE PROTECTION ENVIRONMENT			
Law and policy developed or strengthened			
Result/impact: UNHCR continued to advocate for the adoption of a national asylum system and provided support to the authorities for its establishment.			
Gap: Due to the postponement of the legislative elections, the draft law on asylum was not submitted to the Parliament for adoption.			
Number of events, workshops and seminars organized	Urban refugees and asylum-seekers	7	6
Extent law and policy consistent with international standards	Urban refugees and asylum-seekers	100%	72%
FAIR PROTECTION PROCESSES AND DOCUMENTATION			
Quality of registration and profiling improved or maintained			
Result/impact: UNHCR continuously updated its database to produce detailed and accurate statistics of the Malian refugee population in Mbera camp. Together with Mauritania's authorities, UNHCR launched a joint biometric registration exercise and an enhanced verification process, allowing the identification of cases of fraud, double registrations and deactivation of absentees.			
Number of PoC registered on an individual basis with minimum set of data required	Malian refugees	70,000	66,392
Civil registration and civil status documentation strengthened			
Result/impact: Pending the adoption of a national asylum law, UNHCR advocated for the delivery of national identity and civil status documentation to refugees, particularly birth certificates for refugee children born in Mauritania.			
Gap: Despite UNHCR advocacy, no refugee children born in Mauritania have been issued birth certificates.			
% children under 12 months old who have been issued birth certificates by the authorities	Urban refugees and asylum-seekers	20%	0

Planned activities	People of concern (PoC)	2013 comprehensive target	2013 end of year results
BASIC NEEDS AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES			
The health of the population is improved			
Result/impact: In 2013, UNHCR, together with its partners, increased health infrastructure to provide health care to Malian refugees in Mbera camp. The organization also supported medical evacuations for patients referred to the regional and national hospitals in Nema and Nouakchott and provided the regional health services with ambulatory medical kits.			
Under-5 mortality rate	Malian refugees	0/1000/month	0.5/1000/month
Supply of potable water increased or maintained			
Result/impact: UNHCR contributed to the maintenance of the five hydraulic infrastructures in Mbera camp and their distribution network, in order to maintain the supply of at least 20 litres of potable water per person, per day.			
Average litres of potable water available per person, per day	Malian refugees	20	26.5
Shelter and infrastructure established, improved and maintained			
Result/impact: While 80 per cent of the urban refugee population lived in adequate dwellings, UNHCR provided monthly shelter assistance to 120 of the most vulnerable urban families. It distributed almost 8,000 shelter kits to Malian refugee households in Mbera camp.			
Gap: More than 24,000 Malian refugees still do not live in adequate shelter, either because it deteriorated due to bad weather conditions or because they have not yet received shelter kits as they are not among the most vulnerable families.			
% of households living in adequate dwellings	Malian refugees	100%	63%
	Urban refugees and asylum-seekers	90%	80%
Population has optimal access to education			
Result/impact: UNHCR enabled urban refugee children to attend primary schools through the payment of their school fees. It also provided desks and chairs to the schools. In Mbera camp, UNHCR improved primary school education through the recruitment of teachers and maintenance of schools.			
Gap: Due to a lack of funding, UNHCR and partners could not supply the planned school facilities, materials, and qualified teachers in Mbera camp. This in turn led to a low primary-school enrolment rate.			
% of PoC aged 6-13 years enrolled in primary education	Malian refugees	100%	29%
	Urban refugees and asylum-seekers	100%	96%
DURABLE SOLUTIONS			
Potential for integration realized			
Result/impact: While no refugee had expressed the wish to integrate locally in 2013, UNHCR supported refugees' socio-economic integration, with vocational training opportunities and income-generating activities.			
Gap: Legal integration remains challenging due to a lack of access to residence permits for refugees.			
% of PoC opting for local integration who have locally integrated	Urban refugees and asylum-seekers	100%	0%
Potential for resettlement realized			
Result/impact: UNHCR assisted the resettlement of nine refugees and identified 15 cases of individuals eligible for resettlement, including women at risk. The organization identified refugees with specific needs through a verification process conducted in June 2013.			
% of identified individuals departed for resettlement	Urban refugees and asylum-seekers	100%	80%
Number of cases identified, including women and girls at risk	Urban refugees and asylum-seekers	11	15
Potential for voluntary return realized			
Result/impact: All people of concern in urban areas who wished to return voluntarily to their countries of origin were assisted to do so.			
% of PoC with intention to return who have returned voluntarily	Urban refugees and asylum-seekers	100%	100%

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies:

Agence nationale du registre des populations et des titres sécurisés, Commission for Food Security, Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization

NGOs:

Action contre la faim – Spain, Association pour la lutte contre la pauvreté et le sous-développement, Intermón OXFAM, Intersos, Lutheran World Federation, ONG Actions, Solidarités International, SOS Désert

Operational partners

NGOs:

Appui au développement intégré des communautés rurales, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Association mauritanienne des droits de l'Homme, Association mauritanienne pour la promotion de la famille, ONG Espoirs, Mauritanian Red Crescent, Médecins Sans Frontières – Belgium

Others:

ICRC, IOM, OCHA, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNV, WFP, WHO

Assessment of results

In response to the Malian refugee influx, UNHCR expanded its delivery of protection and assistance to those refugees living in Mbera camp. The camp was equipped with basic infrastructure, including over 2,400 communal latrines; 2,100 communal showers; 12 nutritional rehabilitation centres; six health facilities (including a maternity ward); six schools; six child-friendly spaces; five distribution centres; five boreholes for water; four community centres; one psychosocial centre; one nursery; and one registration centre. UNHCR and the Mauritania authorities improved population data management through the launching of a joint biometric registration exercise and an enhanced verification process.

UNHCR and partners made great improvements in key sectors, and in some areas were able to fully achieve international standards. Notably, the establishment of a food distribution system in 2012, coupled with different nutritional programmes, meant more households could meet their basic food needs; the rate of severe food insecurity dropped from 13.6 per cent in March 2013 to 2.3 per cent in October the same year. The rate of global acute malnutrition was reduced from 13.2 per cent in January to 11.8 per cent in October, although this remained above the target reduction to 10 per cent. The rate of severe acute malnutrition dropped below the emergency threshold of 2 per cent (from 3.2 per cent in January to 1.4 per cent in October.) Digging five boreholes enabled the organization to provide potable water above the minimum standard of 20 litres per person, per day.

UNHCR improved its protection response by establishing functional coordination mechanisms and adopting a protection strategy and work plan to better identify protection risks and enable equal access to services for vulnerable people. UNHCR also ensured that Malian refugees were able to participate in the election process in Mali. Finally, the organization launched livelihoods projects, such as farming, sewing and craft activities, for more than 2,300 refugees in Mbera camp.

To better assist urban refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR strengthened its refugee status determination (RSD) activities; it took on 165 individual cases, prioritizing people with specific needs. A verification and biometric registration exercise, conducted for asylum-seekers and urban refugees in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou, enabled UNHCR to produce more reliable population figures. In June 2013, the Office resumed the working sessions with the National Consultative Commission for Refugees. This enabled the reactivation of national mechanisms for RSD, resulting in the approval of 44 out of the 61 refugees recognized under UNHCR's mandate. The Office also strengthened self-reliance projects and vocational training, implementing 72 income-generating projects. Durable solutions were found for nine urban refugees who were resettled to third countries, and for five who returned voluntarily to their countries of origin.

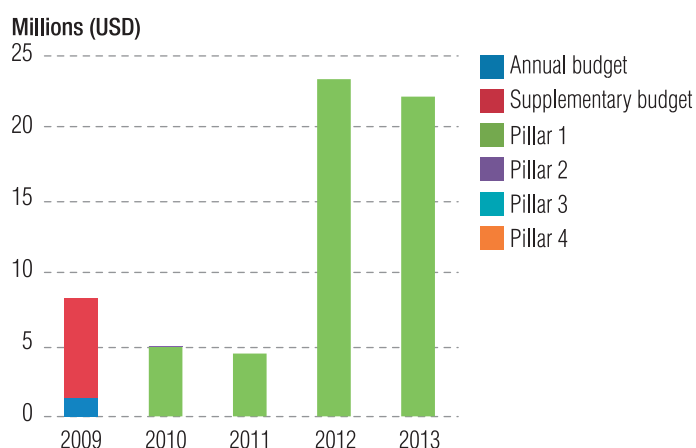
Working with others

UNHCR worked closely with the Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization and participated in the UN Country Team and Humanitarian Country Team. At the request of the Mauritanian Government, UNHCR coordinated the response to the Malian refugee situation, in close collaboration with its national counterpart and a range of implementing partners. UNHCR organized regular coordination meetings in Nouakchott and Bassikounou with the authorities, UN agencies, international NGOs and national civil society partners.

Financial information

In 2013, the revised financial requirements for UNHCR's operation in Mauritania amounted to USD 30.2 million, up from the initial ExCom-approved amount of USD 28 million. Expenditures amounted to some USD 22.2 million, mostly for providing protection and assistance for Malian refugees.

Expenditure in Mauritania | 2009 to 2013



Budget, income and expenditure in Mauritania | USD

Operation	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	Total
FINAL BUDGET	30,181,042	30,181,042
Income from contributions ¹	22,588,911	22,588,911
Other funds available / transfers	971,085	971,085
Total funds available	23,559,996	23,559,996

EXPENDITURE BY OBJECTIVE

Favourable Protection Environment

Law and policy	107,103	107,103
Subtotal	107,103	107,103

Fair Protection Processes and Documentation

Registration and profiling	2,480,248	2,480,248
Status determination procedures	99,909	99,909
Individual documentation	29,481	29,481
Civil registration and status documentation	166,317	166,317
Subtotal	2,775,956	2,775,956

Security from Violence and Exploitation

Prevention and response to SGBV	984,004	984,004
Protection of children	248,192	248,192
Subtotal	1,232,196	1,232,196

Basic Needs and Essential Services

Health	612,112	612,112
Nutrition	339,318	339,318
Food security	961,035	961,035
Water	874,920	874,920
Sanitation and hygiene	778,945	778,945
Shelter and infrastructure	3,940,319	3,940,319
Access to energy	537,302	537,302
Basic and domestic items	2,253,508	2,253,508
Services for people with specific needs	248,192	248,192
Education	473,303	473,303
Subtotal	11,018,954	11,018,954

Operation	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	Total
<i>Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance</i>		
Community mobilization	237,331	237,331
Coexistence with local communities	130,893	130,893
Natural resources and shared environment	248,192	248,192
Self-reliance and livelihood activities	332,933	332,933
Subtotal	949,349	949,349
<i>Durable Solutions</i>		
Voluntary return	77,580	77,580
Reintegration	23,137	23,137
Integration	58,962	58,962
Resettlement	58,962	58,962
Subtotal	218,642	218,642
<i>Leadership, Coordination and Partnerships</i>		
Camp management and coordination	1,107,180	1,107,180
Subtotal	1,107,180	1,107,180
<i>Logistics and Operations Support</i>		
Logistics and supply	1,107,180	1,107,180
Subtotal	1,107,180	1,107,180
<i>Headquarters and Regional Support</i>		
Inter-agency and strategic partnership	1,018	1,018
Subtotal	1,018	1,018
Balance of instalments with implementing partners	2,834,731	2,834,731
Total	22,208,685	22,208,685

¹ Income from contributions includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities – mandate-related" (NAM) Reserve. Contributions towards all pillars are included under Pillar 1.