

# MAURITANIA NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021

## Climate change and displacement

UNHCR is deeply concerned about the massive challenges raised by **disasters and climate-related displacement**, and works with other agencies and a range of partners to **protect those at risk**.



Mauritania. Refugee volunteers wage fight against bush fires near Malian camp. © UNHCR/Colin Delfosse / 8 October 2021

In October, UNHCR Special Advisor on Climate Action, Andrew Harper, visited Mauritania. He met with Malian refugees who fled the ravages of conflict and found safety in Mauritania. He also met with local communities and heard their concerns. During his meetings with the authorities, he focused on how climate action can benefit the refugees and host communities. Check out the story of [Malian refugees and local Mauritians fighting fires to preserve the environment](#).

### MORE INFO

[\[Human story\] Warming climate threatens livelihoods of Malian refugees and Mauritians](#)

[\[Video\] Beating the heat: the climate crisis is a human crisis](#)

[\[Editorial\] Climate change is an emergency for everyone, everywhere](#)

[\[Data visualisation\] Displaced on the frontlines of the climate emergency](#)

[\[Human story\] Refugees fight fires to preserve Mauritania's environment](#)

## GENERAL UPDATES

UNHCR Mauritania published [its Protection and Solutions Strategy for 2020-2025](#). This document, developed in close collaboration with the Mauritanian authorities, presents a summary of the strategic directions of UNHCR, humanitarian and development partners in responding to the needs of the refugee population and its host communities.

UNHCR regularly [publishes key documents about refugees in Mauritania](#) and the refugee response. Check out [our latest Factsheet](#) (September 2021) and [Situation map](#).

UNHCR is grateful for the [critical support provided by donors](#) who have contributed to the operation in Mauritania. For more details, [please visit here](#).

## THEMATIC UPDATES

This year, UNHCR and GIZ embarked on a pilot joint project to [strengthen capacities in the humanitarian-development nexus](#) as concerns refugees and host communities. The project, 'ProNexus', leads towards sustainable solutions to refugee situation by accelerating the inclusion into national services at the level of the Wilaya of the Hodh Chargui. For more information, please see [here](#) and [here](#).

With the support of the UNHCR-WFP joint programme Excellence and Targeting Hub, technical support was provided to the national social registry [in the identification of vulnerable households in Mbera camp](#). Starting December, more than 7000 refugee households will be included into the national social safety net system (Tekavoul).

As part of a joint project funded by the Peacebuilding Fund, UNHCR and IOM published a study on the [vulnerability of youth of the border communities in the Hodh Chargui](#). The objective of the overall project is to enhance social cohesion through the inclusion of youth and women in

decision-making processes at the local level and in socio-economic life.

## EXTERNAL RELATIONS UPDATES

In November, as one of the co-leads of the UN's "convergence zones" of the Hodh Chargui region, [UNHCR participated in a roundtable in Nema organised by the government of Mauritania and the Alliance Sahel](#). The roundtable aimed at bringing 'closer to the ground' the donors and mobilising support for the regional development strategy (SCAPP, *stratégie régionale pour une croissance accélérée et une prospérité partagée*).

In October, [the Ambassador of the European Union Gwilym Jones visited Mbera refugee camp](#). His visit aimed at reinforcing the European Union's engagement in refugee responses and a sign of solidarity with Mauritania.

In November, [the Ambassador Cynthia Kierscht visited Mbera refugee camp](#) where she met with refugee leaders and all the representatives of the UN Agencies working in the Hodh Chargui region. The USA, through the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migrations (PRM), is UNHCR biggest donor in Mauritania.

## REGIONAL UPDATES

[Abidjan joint declaration on the roadmap for comprehensive solutions for Ivoirian refugees](#)  
UNHCR recommends [the cessation of refugee status for Ivoirians](#) and has welcomed commitments made by States as part of the [Comprehensive Solutions Strategy for Ivoirian refugees](#). Check out [the story of Ornella](#), a young Ivoirian refugee in Mauritania who decided to return to Ivoirian coast to pursue her studies.

### COVID-19 Emergency Response Updates

All across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region UNHCR continues to protect and assist refugees and people of concern amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Check out our latest updates: [June](#), [July](#), [August](#), [September](#), [October](#)

## Covid-19 response



Mauritania. UNHCR delivers cash-based interventions (CBI) through prepaid cards to refugees in urban areas © UNHCR/Bechir Malum / 8 October 2021.

UNHCR remains committed to “stay and deliver” and is providing protection and life-saving assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers by adjusting its programme under the COVID-19 crisis. UNHCR is supporting the Government of Mauritania Covid-19 response. **Almost 17,700 refugees have already been vaccinated in Mbera refugee camp (25,8% of the total population living in the camp)** thanks to the mobilization of refugees in Mbera refugee camp, and the good coordination between refugee leaders, humanitarian partners and UNHCR. UNHCR has expanded the Cash Based Interventions to help refugees and vulnerable households of the host community overcome the situation which has been worsened by the loss of income sources.

Thanks to generous donations of the United States (PRM) and a project jointly implemented with the G5 Sahel and the African Bank for Development, UNHCR has provided **medical equipment, medical items, ambulances** and **medical training** to several hospitals and health structures around the country.

### POPULATION OF CONCERN\*

# 78,494

Mali 

CAR  747

Côte.  494

Syria  490

Sen.  317

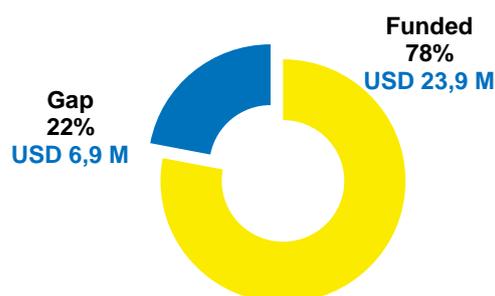
Others  1,328

\* Refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR (as of 31 November 2021)

### FUNDING (AS OF 7 DECEMBER 2021)

# USD 30.8 M

requested for the UNHCR operation in Mauritania



Mauritania. UNHCR's team in Mauritania during their 2021 retreat. 7 October 2021 ©UNHCR/Colin Delfosse

*“Thank you to all UNHCR partners and donors for their continuous support and generosity.”*

UNHCR's team in Mauritania

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