

Development in Forced Displacement Settings

UNHCR Mauritania — February 2022

UNHCR's operational objectives in Mauritania

The refugee response in Mauritania focuses not only on core protection and humanitarian responses but also on several other priorities aimed at securing durable solutions for refugees¹.

1. **Protect refugees and respond to their humanitarian needs**
2. **Include them in national systems, empower them to build their self-reliance and find long term solutions for their displacement**

UNHCR in Mauritania has developed [strategic directions](#) for the protection and solutions of refugees, covering the period of 2021-2025. The objectives and interventions are aligned with the [Global Compact on Refugees](#), which represents the political will and ambition of the international community for strengthened cooperation and solidarity with refugees and affected host countries.

UNHCR's humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach in Mauritania

UNHCR leads, in accordance with the Refugee Coordination Model, the **humanitarian response to refugee needs** in Mauritania, including support for **emergency preparedness** in the Hodh Chargui region and along the southern border of Mauritania with Mali.

In November 2018, Mauritania became eligible for the IDA-18 Refugee Sub-Window (RSW), through which it is accelerating **humanitarian and development cooperation** and **increasing refugee inclusion** in the areas of health care, social safety nets, water management and sanitation, local economies and urbanization projects.

During the [Global Refugee Forum](#) of 2019, the Government of Mauritania made a number of key pledges, relating to access to national health systems, the development of a legal framework, access to documentation and the inclusion of refugees in national protection systems as well as access to the labor market.

In this context, UNHCR plays a crucial role in supporting the efforts of the Government of Mauritania, sister UN agencies, development actors, donors, refugees themselves and other partners such as the Alliance Sahel, in full alignment with the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, to ensure **greater socio-economic inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in national service delivery systems** (see Annex I). Moreover, as part of this objective and to facilitate a smooth **transition from a humanitarian refugee response** to the **gradual inclusion of refugees**, UNHCR works with partners on ensuring transparency in the management of integrated development projects in areas hosting refugees.



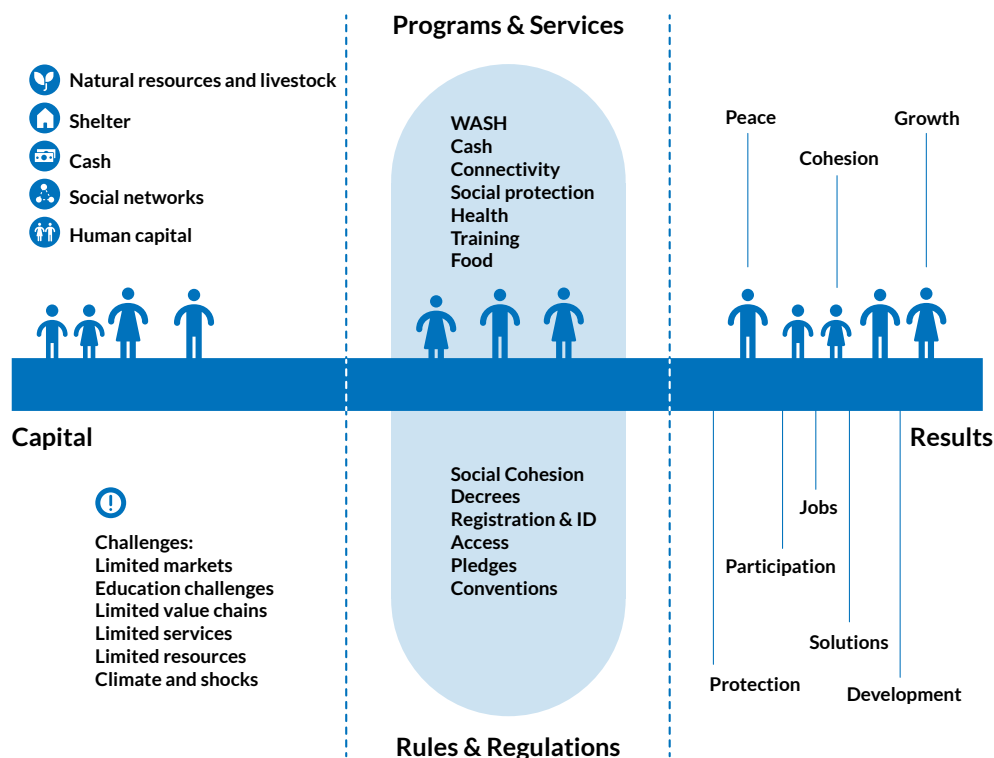
Malian refugee Alijy AlHussein Cisse tends his parcel of land in one of the Mbera refugee camp's vegetable gardens. When he and his compatriots arrived in Mauritania, they brought seeds and techniques that they knew could cope with the heat and started small gardens. Photo by UNHCR / Viola E. Bruttomesso



**Map of Mauritania
with key figures**

¹ For more information on UNHCR Mauritania's Country 2022 Strategy, visit [Global Focus](#).

Economic inclusion path in Mauritania



The aim of socio-economic inclusion for refugees and asylum-seekers in national systems is to enhance self-reliance in situations of displacement. UNHCR will work with partners to ensure:

- Access to quality social services is maintained for the most vulnerable;
- Support to accompany the transition from humanitarian actors to the Government of Mauritania, through securing temporary and additional financial backing;
- Investment in climate and environmental activities, supporting natural resource development, plans for reforestation, access to water and sustainable sources of energy; and
- Promotion of labour and economic development by anchoring in local development plans and larger investments.

Malian refugee Zeina fled to Mauritania with her family in 2012. She now grows vegetables in her plot in one of the Mbera refugee camp vegetable gardens. Thanks to her work, she can feed her family and sell her produce at the camp market. "My family used to farm in Mali, but here I learned new techniques," she said. Photo by UNHCR / Viola E. Bruttomesso



Sector	Current status	Next steps	Final prospect
Social protection/Cash	Vulnerable refugees highly dependent on UNHCR (urban and camp) and WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refugees are included in the national Social Registry (ongoing) - Government-run social transfer services (Tekavoul/Elmaouna) serve vulnerable refugees (planned for February 2022 for camp-based refugees) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social protection services supported by more diversified stakeholders, including Government-run programmes
Livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited self-reliance (approx. 5 % in the camp) - Refugees face difficulties in accessing formal jobs challenging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large-scale training and green jobs programme launched in Hodh Chargui (Great Green Wall, etc.) - National employment services (Techguil) accessible to refugees - Access to formal jobs possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large-scale job creation programmes for refugees - Refugees access formal job services and opportunities
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Until mid-2020, health 100% funded and implemented by humanitarians in the camp - In Mbera, transfer to the Ministry of Health happened mid-2020 - Large support from UNHCR continues (camp and urban refugees) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The offer of specialized care in Hodh Chargui available for refugees and nationals is increased - Gradual decrease of UNHCR support and gradual increase of Ministry of Health investments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refugees access sustainable health services provided by Ministry of Health
WASH and Environmental Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funded by UNHCR (camp) - Environmental protection funded by humanitarian and small-scale funding streams - Refugee areas included in the Great Green Wall initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transfer of WASH systems is effective (expected by end 2022) - Ensure access for the most vulnerable (user pay services) - Large-scale environmental programmes in Hodh Chargui and Mbera camp supported by diversified funding streams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integration in the national WASH system (camp) - Great Green Wall a success in Hodh Chargui / Resilient ecosystems and communities in and around Mbera camp
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Malian curriculum in the camp/ Funded by Unicef and UNHCR - Urban refugees attend local schools with UNHCR support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hybrid education model (camp) - Refugees are self-reliant enough to cover education costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integration in the national education system (camp) to the extent possible
Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refugee status determination fully handled by UNHCR - Registration done by UNHCR and Government services (ANRPTS) but some refugees are without IDs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asylum law is passed - All refugees have access to IDs - GBV prevention/response for refugees, backed by diversified stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal framework related to refugee protection is reinforced - Refugees access effective and sustainable protection services

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