

Annual Results Report

2025

Mauritania

Acknowledgements

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Note:

The baseline values presented in this document reflect previous year's progress when available. If such data is not available, strategy baseline values are used instead.

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Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2025, the operational context in Mauritania and the wider Sahel deteriorated significantly due to escalating insecurity in Mali, stricter migration policies in Mauritania, and growing pressures on humanitarian resources. Renewed conflict in northern and central Mali triggered substantial cross-border movements, bringing the Malian refugee population in Hodh Chargui to nearly 300,000 people, including 50,000 new arrivals, the majority being women and children. Mbera Camp surpassed its designed capacity, while an increasing number of refugees settled across more than 76 host localities¹, putting additional strain on local services and natural resources. Simultaneously, Mauritania's migration environment tightened following the implementation of the 2024 Migration Law. New administrative requirements and intensified enforcement measures left more than 115,000 migrants in irregular status and may affect the ability of individuals likely to be in need of international protection to effectively access asylum. Additionally, largescale arrest and deportation campaigns further reduced the protection space. These measures contributed to a 53% decline in irregular departures toward the Canary Islands, but also pushed migrants onto more dangerous alternative routes and led many to seek asylum as their only viable legal pathway. This trend increased caseloads and backlogs within the national asylum system. To respond, protection interventions expanded significantly, including securing the release of 1,250 registered asylum seekers and refugees detained during enforcement operations and screening 3,300 disembarked individuals in coastal cities. At the same time, UNHCR and partners advanced the Refugee Response and Resilience Plan (3RP Mauritania) with an implementation rate of 63%. Overall, the situation showed the need for continued work with authorities, stronger protection efforts, and more support for resilience and development to maintain Mauritania's inclusive refugee policies and ensure essential services for refugees and host communities.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

By 2026, all refugees and asylum seekers are documented in a way that gives them access to protection and national services according to their rights.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30.51%	16.95%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1.50%	2.46%

In 2025, UNHCR significantly strengthened Mauritania's national protection architecture, advancing asylum reform and reinforcing core protection systems for forcibly displaced people. Through sustained engagement with national authorities, UNHCR supported progress on the draft asylum and migration law, contributed to the development of national asylum procedures, and delivered targeted capacity-building on documentation, non-refoulement, trafficking indicators and protection standards across Nouakchott, Nouadhibou, Hodh Chargui and Hodh Gharbi. Improvements in registration and refugee status determination—guided by a new RSD strategy—enhanced efficiency, reduced backlog, and led to the inactivation of 6,000 files to strengthen data integrity. Harmonized documentation practices expanded engagement on statelessness, and birth-registration initiatives further reduced protection risks and improved access to rights.

UNHCR also played a central role in strengthening protection along the Atlantic Route. Through the Route-Based Approach (RBA), UNHCR coordinated closely with the Government, IOM, OHCHR, UNICEF, the EU Delegation and key donors, contributing to the adoption of the landmark 2025 Disembarkation Decree, which restored access to all disembarked individuals and established clear protection safeguards. UNHCR supported the design, standards and operationalization of Mauritania's first Temporary Reception Centres for Foreigners (CATEs)—the first such structures among RBA countries—while expanding screening and referral systems at disembarkation points, detention facilities, and CATEs. More than 3,300 screenings were conducted, enabling early identification and referral of individuals at heightened risk, including survivors of trafficking, children, and persons with international protection needs. Regional engagement, including joint missions, shared tools and co-leadership of RBA planning, ensured a harmonized and multi-partner response.

Community protection and inclusion were consolidated through stronger community networks, enhanced accountability systems, and expanded local partnerships. Refugee-led associations grew from nine to 24, and ten additional community associations in Hodh Chargui received small-grant support to lead projects in protection, education, WASH, health and social cohesion. Community-based protection mechanisms expanded to 45 active members, improving outreach, two-way communication and referral pathways. UNHCR strengthened the complaints and feedback system, delivered PSEA and anti-fraud training, improved reporting channels—including the introduction of WhatsApp—and reinforced safe, confidential pathways for feedback and allegations. Gender equality and protection were advanced through leadership opportunities for women, support to women-led organizations, and integration of GBV risk mitigation and survivor-centred approaches across all protection activities.

Finally, UNHCR strengthened systems that make protection more predictable and responsive. Improvements in protection planning, digital transformation, and information management enhanced the quality of case processing, analysis and decision-making. New data systems supported more effective tracking of protection trends, mixed movements, FRRM feedback, and case outcomes. Complementary pathways planning advanced, and oversight continued for resettlement and voluntary repatriation, including long-pending U.S. cases and individuals seeking return amid a shrinking protection space. These combined

efforts resulted in a more coherent, accountable and protection-sensitive response, improving identification, access to services, and pathways to durable solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers across Mauritania.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

By 2026, fewer vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers need targeted assistance to cover their basic needs

Indicator		
Population Type	Baseline	Actual (2025)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	89.00%	87.51%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	89.66%	45.02%

In 2025, the situation of forcibly displaced people in Mauritania showed tangible progress toward the expected impacts, particularly in access to protection and safe living conditions. Access to asylum remained strong, with 92% of people seeking international protection able to access asylum procedures, and no cases of refoulement reported, reflecting a generally stable and protective environment. Freedom of movement, however, remained limited at 25%, indicating continuing constraints, especially interregional movement.

Lifesaving and emergency responses contributed significantly to stabilizing conditions: 88% of displaced persons lived in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic services (refugee residents of Mbera camp). Access to health services reached 45%, supporting essential care during a year marked by growing needs and reduced humanitarian funding. Insufficient funding proved to be a major obstacle to the full implementation of the original work plan, necessitating its revision during the course of the project. Consequently, some planned activities were cancelled in favour of those directly related to medical care. This shift led to a reallocation of funds to critical areas, in order to ensure the continuity and quality of care.

Progress toward sustainable, longer-term solutions was notable. A total of 125,861 refugees had their residency status granted or confirmed, strengthening legal inclusion and enabling access to national systems.

Advances in economic inclusion were encouraging, with 72.2% of adults holding the National Identification Number (NNI) enabling access to formal employment. However, education outcomes remained low, with 25.5% enrolled in primary education and only 3.9% in secondary education, limiting longer term prospects for refugees. Perceptions of safety after dark were also low (11%), particularly affecting girls, women and youth.

Overall, 2025 saw sustained progress in protection, safety, and legal inclusion, supported by national authorities and partners. Yet key gaps in education, health access, and personal safety continue to slow progress.

The latest Permanent Survey on Household Living Conditions (EPCV) dates from 2019, when the national poverty rate was estimated at 28.02%. The Mauritanian National Agency for Statistics, Demographic and Economic Analysis

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

By 2026, more refugees are self-reliant, participate in decision-making processes affecting their lives and contribute to environmentally sustainable initiatives

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	72.21%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	33.11%	25.46%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	6.82%	3.89%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	74.00%	11.00%

Throughout the year, substantial progress was observed in access to education and school monitoring for refugee children in Mauritania, both in the Mbera camp and outside the camp in urban areas. These advances reflect UNHCR's and its partners' commitment to ensuring equitable, safe, and sustainable access to education for all refugee children living in the country.

In the Mbera camp, school aged children benefit from free access to formal education that meets international standards. The camp has eight primary schools and two secondary institutions, providing a learning environment for 9,253 students. These schools still follow the Malian education system in French, complemented by instruction in Arabic as transitional measure. UNHCR supports the functioning of these structures through teacher training and salaries, as well as the construction and equipping of classrooms to ensure a safe and appropriate learning environment.

Outside the camp, the integration of refugee children into the Mauritanian national education system has strengthened. Following UNHCR's advocacy efforts, a ministerial circular was adopted to guarantee the admission of refugee students into public schools on the same basis as Mauritanian children. As a result, 1,345 refugee students are currently enrolled in 64 schools in the Hodh Chargui region. UNHCR has supported this process by assisting with the construction, rehabilitation, and equipping of classrooms, thus contributing to increased school capacity.

In urban areas, including Nouakchott and Nouadhibou, 1,453 refugee children are enrolled in public or private schools and follow the Mauritanian curriculum. To facilitate their inclusion, they receive school kits, allowances, and support aimed at reducing financial barriers to schooling, particularly for uniforms and teaching materials. Awareness raising activities conducted with 465 parents helped support the reintegration of out of school children. Improved educational follow up resulted in a significant increase in academic performance: in Nouakchott, the success rate rose from 54% to 77.6% over the year. In parallel, collaboration with the Ministry of Education strengthened the management of refugee school data. The deployment of the SIGER system facilitated the identification and monitoring of refugee students, while the integration of children with a National Identification Number into the SIRAGE system improved the availability of reliable data for sector planning.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

By 2026, more refugees and asylum seekers have access to durable solutions including through social inclusion.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	9	91
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	75	6
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	1
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	118	15,671

Durable solutions remained limited in 2025, but access to safe pathways expanded gradually. Six refugees departed on resettlement, and one student from Mbera camp secured a tertiary scholarship in Türkiye, marking progress in complementary pathways. In parallel, 91 refugees and asylum seekers from Guinea, Togo and Mali returned to their countries of origin, partly motivated by the stricter enforcement of migration policies as well as improved counselling and referral mechanisms facilitated by UNHCR and partners. Data collected on complementary pathways showed that more than 400 family members of refugees in Mauritania currently reside in third countries, indicating clear potential for family reunification and other regular mobility channels. Expanding these legal pathways can reduce reliance on dangerous irregular routes, mitigate risks of exploitation and death, and generate broader development benefits through remittances, skills acquisition and stronger transnational networks.

The favorable protection environment was improved through expanded access to registration, documentation and timely referrals, underpinned by significant advances in the Route Based Approach. Along the Atlantic route, strengthened screening and vulnerability identification contributed to more protection sensitive entry procedures, reduced risks of refoulement and improved access to essential services for individuals who were intercepted or disembarked. These gains were reinforced by the growing Mauritania Community Protection Network, composed of refugee and host community actors trained to support referrals, monitor risks, share protection information and promote social cohesion. Their engagement enhances early warning systems, fosters inclusive community structures and strengthens constructive interaction between refugees and host communities, all of which are key for stability, trust building, social cohesion and prevention of protection risks.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

Mauritania faces persistent structural and political barriers to a predictable asylum system. Restrictive migration policies, limited recognition of UNHCR documents, and delays in national registration create legal uncertainty and restrict access to services. Despite these challenges, the draft asylum law, stronger coordination with partners, and active community networks offer opportunities to improve protection and move toward a more inclusive, nationally owned asylum system.

Barriers included limited access to health, education and security, as well as restricted freedom of movement and low opportunities for solutions. 2025 funding cuts, across humanitarian actors, and the already low base of national services constrained improvement in RF indicators. Prospects remain tied to expanded national systems' inclusion, expanded partnerships and predictable funding, which could mitigate current gaps and improve impact outcomes.

Progress toward IA3 remains constrained by very low education enrolment (25.5% primary; 3.9% secondary) and weak perceptions of safety (11%), which limit participation of girls, women, youth and vulnerable groups. Future advances depend on expanded access to national systems, improved safety and better access to justice systems.

Ensuring refugees are enrolled in national registers and receive recognized documentation is key to

accessing education and supporting long-term inclusion. Growing government engagement in asylum processes creates opportunities to integrate refugee children into national schools and reduce administrative barriers. Inclusive schools enhance learning, social cohesion and early detection of protection risks.

Progress toward durable solutions remains slow due to structural and operational barriers. While Mauritania is increasingly willing to include refugees in national systems, gaps in registration and documentation limit access to services. Repatriation is not viable for Malian refugees at this point in time, resettlement places are scarce, and complementary pathways—despite over 400 relatives of refugees registered in the urban setting abroad—remain underused. Still, reforms and active community networks offer real prospects for long-term inclusion.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

Mauritania's evolving humanitarian context and the Government's strong commitment to refugee protection create an important opportunity for UNHCR to deepen collaboration, strengthen national systems, and support national development priorities, including the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity, commitments made at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

UNHCR continues to convene government institutions, UN agencies, development banks, INGOs, local NGOs, and refugee-led organizations through national coordination platforms and the interagency refugee response. Strategic partnerships with WFP, UNICEF, WHO, ILO, the World Bank, GIZ, and UNDP advance refugee inclusion in national services, particularly in education, health, social protection, and livelihoods. Engagement with actors such as the Sahel Alliance and bilateral donors has strengthened resilience-based programming in refugee-hosting areas.

In 2025, coordination was organized through the Refugee Response and Resilience Plan (3RP), bringing together 15 partners—including WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, ACF, and the Red Cross Movement—across seven sectors: protection, education, health, livelihoods, food security, shelter/NFI, and WASH. The 3RP had a budget of \$152 million and reached 47% funding, with the European Union as the main donor.

UNHCR led coordination and monitoring under the Refugee Coordination Forum (FCR), which met bi-weekly. A comprehensive mid-year review in August 2025 strengthened coordination mechanisms across sectoral groups.

As authorities prepare to adopt the asylum law, UNHCR provides technical support to develop the emerging asylum system and promote an integration strategy aligned with international standards. In line with the SDGs, UNHCR also mobilizes development partners to scale up inclusion of refugees within national systems.

Localization remains a priority. UNHCR expanded collaboration with local actors and refugee-led initiatives, providing financial support to 12 new refugee-led organizations to reinforce protection, community engagement, and accountability to affected populations.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

By 2026, all refugees have timely access to individual protection documentation

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	58.32%	100.00%	57.24%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	63.92%	40.00%	52.20%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	92.33%	95.00%	100.00%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
01.1.1 Number of people registered on an individual basis	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	26,959
01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	125,103

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In Mauritania, progress in refugee documentation and legal identity advanced steadily in 2025, anchored in the 2022 Memorandum of Understanding between UNHCR and the Ministry, as which formally mandate UNHCR to register refugees and asylum-seekers, verify their data, conduct refugee status determination and issue protection documents in the absence of a functional asylum system. Under this framework, 26,959 individuals were actively registered in 2025, including 2,872 persons with specific needs, and over 65,000 protection documents were delivered throughout the year. UNHCR also continued working with ANRPTS to include refugees in the national civil registry, enabling the issuance of birth certificates and enhancing access to national systems. Overall, 125,861 refugees and asylum-seekers now hold a National Identification Number, marking significant progress toward legal identity and administrative inclusion. Documentation remains central to protection, reducing risks of arrest, refoulement and exploitation, while enabling access to education, healthcare, financial services and livelihood opportunities. It also strengthens social cohesion by ensuring refugees are formally recognized within national systems and can interact with host communities on an equal basis. Reliable documentation and civil registration further support local development by facilitating planning, expanding access to services and paving the way for a gradual

transition from humanitarian assistance to nationally led systems. Together, these achievements underline the critical importance of the 2022 agreements in shaping a more predictable, protection-sensitive and development-oriented documentation environment for refugees in Mauritania.

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

By 2026 PoCs continue to have access to efficient and effective RSD processes provided by UNHCR in the absence of a national asylum system where this processing results in protection dividends.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	265.70	270.00	260.00
2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
02.1.1 UNHCR has provided capacity development support to strengthen the national status determination system(s), in accordance with international standards	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

During the reporting period, the average processing time in urban areas stood at 260 days, allowing for 1,269 first instance decisions in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou, where mandate RSD is conducted. The 260-day figure differs from the 600-day raw average generated in proGres due to specific methodological adjustments. Cases that underwent inactivation and later reactivation—sometimes over several years due to No contact—were excluded, as these long gaps inflate processing time in ways that do not reflect actual casework. In addition, notification dates recorded in V4 were not a reliable point for calculation, as the majority of notification dates were either never entered into the system or entered long after the actual decision date. For this reason, the calculation relied on the decision date rather than the notification date. A three- to four-month clean-up exercise was carried out to update and verify case data, resolving dormant, duplicate, or outdated files and strengthening the integrity of the proGres caseload. This ensured that the processing-time calculation was based on cases requiring genuine and recent operational attention. In parallel, new processing modalities were introduced. Accelerated and simplified RSD procedures were expanded for nationalities with consistent protection needs and reliable COI, supported by clearer productivity parameters and structured allocation of files. These modalities contributed to steadier file movement and more predictable timelines. Additionally, the deployment of an additional RSD staff member early in 2025, followed by another in the last trimester, helped reduce review-stage bottlenecks. Finally, the introduction of nationality-based file grouping strengthened staff familiarity with specific caseload profiles—such as applicants from Burkina Faso and the Central African Republic—enabling faster interviews, more

efficient preparation of assessments and faster review.

In parallel, 24,018 people were granted refugee status through prima facie recognition in Hodh Chargui, and 6,000 cases were closed following verification—together reflecting stronger integrity and improved overall efficiency across the asylum system.

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

By 2026, the national legal framework is consistent with international standards relating to refugees and prevention of statelessness.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol			
None	Progressing toward alignment	Broadly aligned	Progressing toward alignment
3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness			
None	Not yet aligned	Progressing toward alignment	Not yet aligned

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
03.1.1 UNHCR has engaged in legislative and judicial processes to strengthen laws and policies for the protection of refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless people and/or the reduction and prevention of statelessness	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2022, Mauritania adopted a decree that defines the terms and conditions for applying international refugee law in the country. This decree serves as the current legal basis for asylum, outlining who qualifies as a refugee, their rights and obligations, and the conditions for cessation of refugee status. UNHCR works closely with the National Commission for Refugees and other Persons to protect (CNCRPP) to build a stronger asylum framework. Momentum toward establishing a national asylum framework increased in late 2025. In September, the Vice President of the National Commission for Refugees (CNCRPP) formally requested UNHCR's support to advance asylum legislation, an appeal aligned with recommendations from the UN Special Rapporteur on Migrants following his visit the same month. In November, the Government shared the draft *Projet de loi relatif aux conditions d'entrée, de séjour et de circulation des étrangers et à la protection des réfugiés en Mauritanie*, intended to regulate migration and asylum comprehensively, address mixed movements and uphold protection standards. Stakeholder consultations are ongoing, focusing on improving the draft's structure, clarity and coherence to ensure fair and efficient asylum procedures that reflect international norms.

The draft law represents significant progress, incorporating core principles such as non-refoulement, a broad refugee definition, complementary protection, family unity, and documentation guarantees. Together with the authorities, we are strengthening the distinction between asylum and migration procedures, reinforcing procedural safeguards, and consolidating guarantees related to cessation and expulsion. These

joint efforts aim to ensure a fair, efficient and protection-sensitive asylum system that fully aligns with Mauritania’s international commitments and upholds the principle of non-refoulement. At the same time, Mauritania has a valuable opportunity to strengthen its nationality framework, which—once further aligned with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness—would reinforce safeguards for children and help prevent gaps in legal identity. A collaborative initiative with the Ministry of Justice is advancing practical solutions to facilitate supplementary judgments for late birth registration—an important step toward reducing the risk of statelessness. Coupled with UNHCR-led capacity-building on asylum procedures and inclusion criteria, these efforts are strengthening institutional ownership and creating positive momentum toward a more coherent and protection-sensitive national asylum system.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

By 2026, women, girls and other groups at heightened risk of GBV have access to GBV and survivor centered protection services.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	77%	80.00%	54.53%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	75%	79.00%	16.96%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	60%	83.00%	95.01%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	21,544

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR and partners delivered a strengthened, community anchored and survivor entered GBV response across Mauritania. 100% of the 470 survivors who reported an incident in 2025 accessed specialized GBV response service including individualized medical, psychosocial, legal, safety and financial support, as well as temporary shelter when required. Outreach and sensitization activities reached more than 21,000 people, including 1,511 residents across all nine districts of Nouakchott, while 255 individuals participated in mental health awareness sessions. Updated service mapping identified 19 active providers delivering safe accommodation, clinical care, psychosocial support, and basic assistance. Capacity strengthening for 177 community actors, together with trained health workers, outreach volunteers and community focal points, improved safe handling of disclosure and referrals and psychological first aid. This strengthened the network of trusted, community based entry points to individualized services for refugees and asylum seekers. Women led and refugee led organizations played a central role in expanding access to protection and

empowerment opportunities. Through Safe from the Start small grants, these groups delivered vocational training in pastry making, sewing, hairdressing and IT, complemented by childcare services and safe spaces that enhanced the self-reliance of refugee women, particularly single female heads of household. Women led coordination platforms mobilized over one hundred participants from refugee communities, civil society and local authorities, embedding GBV risk mitigation into local planning and reinforcing community ownership of protection outcomes. Together, community outreach teams, women led structures and refugee led organizations broadened access to safe, confidential GBV services and strengthened the safety, autonomy and resilience of displaced women and girls in both camp and urban settings.

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

By 2026, all refugee children have access to national child protection and social services.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	36.27%	86.00%	34.84%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	27.88%	90.00%	57.51%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	36.24%	95.00%	20.13%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
05.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	26,464

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR and partners strengthened a community anchored child protection system across Mauritania, ensuring earlier identification of risks and timely referrals for children at heightened vulnerability in camp, urban and out of camp settings. Through combined efforts in Mbera camp, Nouakchott, Nouadhibou and Néma, 26,464 children and caregivers accessed child protection services addressing violence, neglect, exploitation, school exclusion and psychosocial distress. Community based structures—including protection committees, foster families, focal points, youth hubs and women led associations—received targeted capacity building, enabling stronger risk detection and safer referral pathways. National counterparts such as MASEF and DRASEF played a leading role in coordination, facilitating care arrangements including state-linked foster placements for seven unaccompanied children, and expanding access to essential services. Child wellbeing and inclusion were reinforced through expanded prevention, education, and empowerment initiatives. Positive parenting sessions reached 1,249 caregivers, while 1,654 children and adults participated in awareness activities on rights, safety and protection risks. Recreational and artistic

programs promoted psychosocial resilience and social cohesion, and in Mbera camp, 7,743 children and adolescents engaged in Education in Action for Empowerment and youth activities, with inclusive programming for children with disabilities. Across all regions, 43720 children aged of 4years old and above have benefited from various community-based child protection activities in the child and youth friendly spaces. Protection actors conducted 531 Best Interests Assessments to support individualized case management, complemented by material assistance, medical referrals and specialized follow up for children with specific needs.

6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

By 2026, all refugees and asylum seekers have access to more efficient justice mechanisms.

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
06.1.1 Number of people who received legal assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,983

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, intensified migration enforcement measures in Mauritania led to widespread arrests and removals that increasingly affected refugees and asylum seekers, despite not being the official targets of these policies. UNHCR and partners provided legal assistance to 1,983 people, securing releases, preventing refoulement, and restoring access to services. To respond effectively, UNHCR activated rapid alert mechanisms through the hotline and a dedicated detention alerts WhatsApp channel, and used RAIS for real time intake and tracking to enable swift deployment to police stations and retention sites. Targeted training for police and frontline authorities on refugee documentation, basic protection principles and identification of international protection needs improved verification practices and contributed directly to timely releases. In parallel, UNHCR's advocacy for regular detention monitoring facilitated access to facilities, strengthened early identification of detained refugees and asylum seekers, and improved cooperation with authorities during verification processes. Alongside strengthened collaboration with community leaders and outreach volunteers, these efforts improved early warning, case follow up and response, laying the groundwork for a more predictable, rights respecting protection environment despite restrictive migration policies.

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

By 2026, refugees and host community networks develop governance structures and are able to lead on protection and solutions initiatives

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Extensive	Extensive	Extensive
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms			

Refugees and Asylum-seekers	53.00%	75.00%	73.89%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	41.76%	50.00%	47.65%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
07.1.1 Number of people consulted through Participatory Assessments	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,748
07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	29,608
07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	164,677

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR strengthened participatory engagement across Nouakchott, Nouadhibou and Hodh Chargui, ensuring that forcibly displaced communities informed programme priorities and monitoring. Through community consultations, focus group discussions and field missions—including 57 structured consultations allowing refugees to shape adaptations to protection activities and access to services.

A total of 1,748 persons were reached through participatory assessments, compared to 1,338 in 2024, reflecting a 30% increase. This growth is explained by the expanded coverage of assessments. Double counting was avoided through harmonized digital tools and cross-checks, in line with UNHCR guidance. Data limitations remain in certain border areas with restricted access, and some groups such as nomadic households and unregistered were not fully covered. Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) disaggregation is available, ensuring representation across different profiles (Women, men, youth, High risk persons, LGBT...)

29,608 persons used the established feedback and complaint mechanisms including 10038 in Nouakchott, 8089 in Nema, 6171 in Bassikounou and 5310 in Nouadhibou. Efforts were made to minimize double counting; however, given the use of multiple channels (hotlines, community focal points, helpdesks, and outreach teams), full de-duplication of unique individuals could not be systematically ensured, particularly among remote and highly mobile populations. In line with guidance, non-eligible sources such as participatory assessments, protection monitoring activities, and one-way communication tools were excluded from the calculation. The significant increase compared to 2024 (9,948 users) is primarily attributed to the expansion of feedback channels in out-of-camp areas, strengthened community outreach through trained focal points, and greater awareness among refugee and host communities of available mechanisms. Limitations remain, including potential double counting across channels, uneven access in dispersed border areas, and capacity constraints affecting data consolidation. Corrective measures are ongoing to harmonize data collection, improve tracking of unique users, and enhance documentation of the methodology to ensure full compliance with reporting standards in RAIS.

Refugee women are represented in community structures to ensure their active participation. Out of a total of 2,302 members across committee's leaders, community relays, and associations, 1,097 are women, representing a global participation rate of 47.7%. This demonstrates that nearly half of participants are women, though with marked regional variations. Women's participation through community structures is considered satisfactory according to UNHCR standards, reflecting representation close to parity. Ongoing efforts focus on strengthening women's associations, particularly in areas where their presence remains limited, to consolidate women's leadership and influence throughout the programme

cycle. In addition, under the Safe from the Start approach, women's participation was further strengthened across six refugee-led women's associations in Nouakchott, Nouadhibou, and Mbera. These associations enhanced their organizational and leadership capacities while implementing activities focused on skills development, protection awareness, and GBV risk mitigation.

Community engagement structures also grew, with refugee led associations increasing from 9 to 24 in urban areas, and 10 associations in Hodh Chargui implementing KOICA funded projects in protection, education, health, WASH and social cohesion—reinforcing local ownership and inclusive participation.

Accountability to Affected Populations was reinforced across the three locations through fully functional, safe and accessible reporting channels. The Feedback and Response Mechanism (FRM) ensure safe, confidential, and inclusive access for refugees through multiple adapted channels, including dedicated hotlines, secure complaint boxes, community focal points, protection desk and mobile field teams. Strict data management protocols safeguard confidentiality, while clear response timelines and systematic follow-up guarantee transparency and accountability. This methodology reinforces trust and reaffirms the humanitarian character of assistance by enabling refugees to safely share concerns and receive timely, reliable responses. Protection desks in Nouakchott, Nouadhibou and Hodh Chargui, combined with field missions and community focal points, expanded access to in person reporting. The hotline remained a key communication channel, complemented by the introduction of WhatsApp to support rapid contact and referral. The operationalisation of RAIS enabled more consistent registration and follow up of requests, with 89% of cases referred to relevant partners or UNHCR teams for action. These combined efforts—participatory engagement, expanded women's leadership, strengthened community structures and improved feedback mechanisms—supported earlier identification of risks, more predictable follow-up and a more inclusive, accountable and protection sensitive environment across Nouakchott, Nouadhibou and Hodh Chargui.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

By 2026, fewer refugees and host community members require multipurpose, sectoral cash grants to meet their immediate needs.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	78.08%	85.00%	51.70%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	40.49%	24.00%	18.57%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	8,779
08.2.1 Number of people who received non-food items	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	32,520
08.3.1 Number of people supported with improved cooking options	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7,340

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, the operation delivered assistance amid rising needs, new arrivals, and a global financial crisis that reduced donor support to cash-based interventions. Despite this, 8,779 individuals (7,320 households) received cash assistance, and 32,520 individuals mainly new arrivals received NFIs. Women represented ≈63% of those assisted, with a growing number of older persons. NFI distributions were conducted jointly with other agencies that added additional items, which enabled us to reach more households than initially planned.

Through Innovation Funds, 4,140 individuals benefited from Cash-for-Gas and Green Loans. The LPG evaluation confirmed major behavioural change: 84% reported reduced time spent collecting firewood, and PAYG systems strengthened affordability and reduced reliance on charcoal. Access to mobile and financial accounts increased sharply from 2024 to 2025, supporting broader financial inclusion. In addition to this, 3200 individuals received Cash-for-Gas assistance through other funding sources, expanding the programme's overall reach contributing positively to both households well-being and environmental sustainability

The shift toward full digitalization of assistance became a central focus. This transition depends entirely on documentation and connectivity. While NNI coverage reached 68%, key disparities persist: Nouakchott (18%) and Nouadhibou (20%) meet all digital prerequisites but host a small share of documented refugees. Mbera Camp, which hosts 65% of refugees, has 75% NNI coverage but only 2% phone ownership, making digital inclusion extremely challenging. Rural coverage is strong namely in Adel Bagrou (90%) and Néma (89%) but network coverage constitute a major challenge.

The opening of a second bank inside Mbera Camp, alongside an existing bank and a microfinance institution, marks a significant milestone. This development accelerates the urbanization of the camp, strengthens financial inclusion, and improves proximity to essential banking and cash-out services critical for digital assistance scale-up.

6,020 refugees were targeted for account opening: 60.8% completed registration.

Collaboration with private banks and telecom operators will continue to expand to widen access to financial services.

UNHCR strengthened coordination with WFP to maintain essential support and continued advocating for the inclusion of refugees in national social protection and safety-net programmes, essential for long-term resilience.

9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

By 2026, refugee households access and use environmentally friendly energy, sanitation and waste management services and benefit from improved shelters in Mbera camp.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	62.76%	95.00%	72.38%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	18.84%	30.00%	13.05%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
09.1.1 Number of people who received shelter and housing assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	9,412

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR's energy interventions in Mbera refugee camp shifted from direct household-level energy distribution to a focus on community infrastructure and service delivery. No specific initiatives targeted household access to energy during the year; instead, efforts concentrated on improving access to energy for essential services by solarizing key communal facilities. This included the installation and operationalization of solar systems in eight primary schools, two secondary schools, one health centre, three health posts, and five boreholes, significantly enhancing the reliability of education, health, and water services for both refugees and host communities. In parallel, Operation intensified advocacy and technical discussions with private sector actors, including Renewvia, to explore the feasibility of introducing mini-grid solutions in Mauritania, drawing on experiences from other operations such as Kenya. These discussions are ongoing, particularly around blended finance models and regulatory alignment. At the policy and infrastructure level, progress was also observed under the World Bank-supported MOUDOUN project, where a service provider has been engaged to advance electrification planning including Mbera Camp. Despite these developments, access to energy for household lighting remains a major gap in the camp, with many families continuing to rely on low-quality, disposable lighting solutions. Improving lighting in public spaces has therefore emerged as a priority to enhance safety, mobility, and protection, especially at night. The majority of refugees (90%) live in the Hodh El Chargui region, often in precarious shelters. The camp, originally designed for 70,000 people, currently hosts more than 120,000 Malian refugees, increasing health and safety risks due to overcrowding. In 2025, 829 households received emergency shelter assistance, including 79 households with specific needs assisted directly inside the camp and 750 households assisted outside the camp.

Additionally, 6,906 refugees residing in out-of-camp rural areas received cash for shelter, enabling them to improve or repair their housing conditions, reinforce basic protection from climatic hazards, and ensure safer living environments for their households

Despite these challenges, 37% of refugees reported living in shelters considered adequate, largely due to cash assistance that enabled vulnerable households to build or improve their shelters according to their needs. In line with the Mauritanian government's commitment to transform Mbera camp from an emergency settlement into a sustainable site with basic infrastructure, spatial reorganization and expansion to 550 hectares are planned to improve service access and

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

By 2026, governmental authorities provide quality healthcare services to refugees and facilitate their access to existing health insurance schemes on par with nationals.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	58.82%	93.00%	90.01%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	46.32%	50.00%	50.60%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
10.1.1 Number of individual consultations in UNHCR supported health care services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	159,255
10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,013

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The massive influx of refugees into Hodh Chargui began in early 2024 following the deterioration of security in Mali. A response plan was developed and validated by national authorities and humanitarian partners under the CRF framework, based on an adapted contingency plan. Arrivals continued throughout 2024–2025 in fluctuating waves, with occasional spontaneous pendular returns to Mali driven by shifting security conditions and seasonal factors.

By October 2025, UNHCR and the Government estimated 280,000 refugees in Hodh Chargui, including 120,000 registered in Mbera camp, around 40,000 living outside the camp, and the remainder awaiting registration in camp and urban areas. Severe funding constraints shaped the 2025 response, requiring prioritization and reduction of the health service package. Until August 2025, the operation maintained secondary and tertiary care, with 91 life-threatening emergencies treated in Nouakchott (over 85% surgical) and 12 in Nouadhibou.

From September 2025, the health strategy shifted toward primary care, prioritizing children under five and pregnant women. In Nouadhibou, municipal centers delivered 776 curative consultations, 325 prenatal consultations, and 49 assisted deliveries. In Nouakchott, four centers provided 1,003 curative consultations, and 88 out of 90 pregnant women completed four prenatal visits, with 22 deliveries conducted in accredited facilities.

Additionally 1013 refugees benefitted from MHPSS interventions included: Individual psychological support, crisis intervention, Group-based psychosocial support for chronic illness and disability, Family and caregiver engagement, Psychoeducation and community sensitization, Referrals to psychiatric and medical services and Community-based psychosocial support integrated within protection activities

The INAYA project remained the primary financing mechanism for public health services, with UNHCR complementing uncovered costs. Due to reduced resources, co-payment fees rose from 20 to 50 MRU, evolving toward full payment for most adults. Access to care for out-of-camp refugees remained limited, dependent on public facilities requiring payment or on MSF, ALIMA, and UNFPA mobile clinics focused mainly on Bassikounou. Screening and treatment for child malnutrition also slowed.

Despite constraints, structural investments continued. UNHCR completed a warehouse for CAMEC in Bassikounou and new offices for the district medical team. A telemedicine unit was installed at Mbera, complementing a GIZ-supported unit in Bassikounou hospital. Between January and May 2025, 1,042 teleconsultations were conducted. However, only five months of hospital reimbursement costs were covered before funds were redirected to the diphtheria outbreak response. Telemedicine activities are currently suspended, though equipment remains functional.

Hodh Chargui continues to face recurrent epidemics diphtheria, measles, dengue, malaria amid limited national capacity. In 2025, 488 diphtheria cases were managed at the Mbera epidemiology unit. A response plan was coordinated at departmental level, with the Mbera isolation center serving as the only operational treatment site pending activation of a second center if funding allows.

Operational monitoring improved through IRHIS and the shared referral database feeding the 5W system. However, integration of urban refugees into CNASS health insurance was again not achieved due to contribution disparities.

Looking ahead, UNHCR plans to reinforce the regional health system through new primary care facilities, an isolation center in Bassikounou, a nutrition center, and additional health posts. Advocacy will continue for harmonized CNASS contribution rates and for strengthened collaboration with WHO, UNICEF, and the World Bank to bolster investment in the region's health infrastructure.

11. Outcome Area: Education

By 2026, refugee children access the national system of education (including in Mbera camp)

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.64%	30.00%	0.67%

11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5.87%	20.00%	4.07%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
11.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from education programming	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	13,038

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, significant progress was made in access to and monitoring of education for refugee children, both inside and outside the Mbera camp, including in urban areas. These advances reflect the commitment of UNHCR and its partners to promoting inclusive and equitable education. A total of 13,038 students were enrolled: 11,069 in primary school, 982 in secondary school, and 143 in higher education, including 111 DAFI scholarship holders, as well as learners engaged in literacy programs.

The circular issued by the Minister of Education, confirming that refugee students would be admitted under the same conditions as national students, as well as awareness and training sessions provided to MoE personnel about Educational to Refugee students contributed to strengthening the enrolment of refugee children in Mauritanian schools in Hodh Chargui. Moreover, the coordinating role played by UNHCR in the education sector helped direct partner interventions toward the most underserved areas, gradually improving the educational environment outside the camp.

Regarding the transition of camp schools — which currently follow the Malian curriculum — to the Mauritanian education system, the process could not begin at the start of the academic year due to the absence of teacher deployments by the ministry, despite the official validation of the roadmap. Nevertheless, the government reiterates its commitment and calls for strengthened support from technical and financial partners, particularly the World Bank. Since UNHCR cannot sustainably cover the salaries of the teachers needed for this transition, the organization continues its advocacy to mobilize the key partners and actors and possible fundings, in line with the needs expressed by national authorities. The organization also deployed an Education expert to MoE to liaise and technical support the ministry on all key issues related refugee education and capacity building , mainly on matters related inclusion of refugee students into national educational systems..

Despite this delay, the Ministry of Education maintains a clear commitment to advancing the implementation of the pledges made by Mauritania during the latest Global Refugee Forum regarding refugee inclusion in the education national system. This transition remains essential to ensure the sustainability of educational actions, strengthen and improve the needed pedagogical skills for teaching staff. However, it can only be fully effective once camp schools are entirely placed under national authorities' management. UNHCR and its partners will continue to support the expansion of educational services in the region, benefiting both refugees and host communities.

Under the joint coordination of education authorities at central and decentralized levels (DREN and IDEN), significant efforts have been made to improve sector governance. With support of UNHCR and partners, a new education retreat has been organized this year to enable the development of a set of recommendations and a two-year action plan aimed at strengthening education in the region, with the active participation of all stakeholders. UNHCR's interventions remained aligned with the budgeted action plan for refugee inclusion, integrated into PNDSE III, as well as with actions targeting localities with a high refugee presence.

At central level, UNHCR also strengthened its participation in the Local Education Partners Group, and the creation of a subgroup dedicated to Education in Emergencies and Refugee Inclusion made it possible to address refugee specific education issues more effectively. In addition, UNHCR serves as co-lead of the education working group within the Refugee Coordination Forum (FCR) in Hodh Chargui, thereby reinforcing its role in the strategic coordination of the sector.

12. Outcome Area: Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

By 2026, public authorities manage (partially or completely) water and sanitation facilities in Mbera camp.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	63.39%	100.00%	97.47%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	77.62%	100.00%	97.47%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
12.1.1 Number of people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	118,706

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Significant progress has been made in the WASH sector through the modernization and strengthening of infrastructure. Twelve boreholes were constructed or rehabilitated in several localities within the moughataas of Bassiknou and Djiguenni, benefiting approximately 48,000 people. In addition, 60 latrines and showers were built in the camp, serving around 1,800 individuals.

At Mbera camp, under a project funded by the World Bank and the Government of Mauritania, the construction of 1,097 latrines was initiated. However, the private companies contracted to carry out the works were unable to meet their contractual obligations. The Project Coordination Unit is currently working with the partner ACF to identify modalities for resuming the works in order to address the significant latrine gap, particularly in high-density blocks, with the objective of achieving the standard ratio of 15 persons per latrine.

The project also includes the establishment of a fecal sludge treatment and valorization site for latrines within the camp. This initiative aims to convert sludge into fertilizer to support reforestation activities, thereby promoting more sustainable waste management.

As part of the same project, a new borehole with a yield of 35 m³/hour using the air-lift method was completed, along with the installation of 8 km of large-diameter pipelines and the construction of a 300 m³ elevated water tower standing 15 meters high. These investments have significantly improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation services for both refugees and host communities in Hodh El Chargui, particularly in Bassiknou, Vassala, and Megva. By 2025, the World Bank-funded Moudoun project is expected to further increase water distribution capacity through the construction of an additional water tower, a new borehole, and 1,087 durable latrines.

In addition, several complementary activities were implemented: rehabilitation of 60 semi-durable latrines and 10 wastewater drainage systems; desludging of 150 latrines in collaboration with the Refugee Volunteers Association for Camp Cleanliness (VRPC); monitoring of sludge valorization and nursery activities; completion of 27 minor latrine rehabilitations through community participation; maintenance of 83 washing areas using a community-based approach with the provision of construction materials (cement and drainage pipes); and cleaning of 70 soak pits for wastewater management.

In December, the FLOW project renewed the equipment of recently solarized boreholes (F1, F2, F4, F5, and F6), marking a strategic step toward securing sustainable water supply at Mbera refugee camp. This intervention aligns with efforts to stabilize service delivery, continuously improve water quality, optimize

energy costs, and reduce environmental impact.

Furthermore, to support economic activities, a new borehole funded by ECHO was completed. It contributes to strengthening livestock activities, market gardening, and reforestation initiatives within the camp.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

By 2026, refugees and host communities have greater to green livelihood opportunities and sustainable development programmes.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	16.69%	13.00%	21.03%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	23.14%	25.00%	56.41%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
13.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,954

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, a total of 2,954 people benefited from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions implemented by UNHCR and its partners in Mauritania, primarily in the Hodh Chargui region bordering Mali. Key areas of intervention included the development of micro and small enterprises, agroecological food production, financial inclusion, and vocational training.

According to Mauritanian banking institutions, 5,960 traditional and digital bank accounts were opened by refugees in the Hodh Chargui region in 2025. The cumulative number of accounts opened since 2020 has reached 17,139, representing 21.03% of the population aged 18 to 65. This progress reflects UNHCR's sustained advocacy with the banking sector and, in the same year, contributed to the signing of a MoU with the Central Bank of Mauritania to further strengthen the financial inclusion of refugees.

Under the financial inclusion component, UNHCR, in partnership with ACF, supported the establishment of 25 savings groups comprising refugees and host community. Each group includes 15 participants who make monthly contributions to a collective savings scheme, allowing members to access the accumulated funds on a rotating basis to invest in their livelihood activities. In parallel, an initiative was implemented in collaboration with a national credit institution to facilitate refugees' access to loans for the purchase of household gas. Overall, 398 refugees accessed formal and informal credit mechanisms in 2025, contributing to enhanced economic resilience and self-reliance.

In 2025, approximately 8 hectares of land were cultivated for agroecological food production in Mbera camp. A total of 1,172 refugee farmers participated in the activity, of whom 77% were women, the majority heads of household. The initiative resulted in the production of over 40 tons of vegetables, contributing to household consumption and income generation. Through its partners, UNHCR provided participating

farmers with training and agricultural inputs to support the development of these activities. In addition, farmers in villages in Hodh Chargui most affected by the refugee influx were also supported. Agricultural tools and seeds were distributed to 1,250 beneficiaries across eight villages, including both refugees and host community members, contributing to strengthened livelihoods as well as social cohesion. In the area of employment, UNHCR supported the establishment of 50 new micro and small green enterprises in Hodh Chargui in 2025, including 31 individual businesses and 19 collective initiatives. These interventions resulted in the creation of 147 direct jobs, of which 63% for women. The enterprises were established in Mbera camp among refugees, as well as in Fassala, Megve, and Bassikounou among host community members. Financial support amounted to USD 2,692 for individual businesses and USD 3,846 for collectives.

According to a survey conducted by the Government of Mauritania through its Social Registry, the unemployment rate among refugees was estimated at 33.07% in the fourth quarter of 2025. However, field observations suggest a more complex situation, as many refugees remain engaged in informal and seasonal income-generating activities that may not be fully captured in official statistics. This highlights the continued challenges related to access to sustainable employment opportunities and the importance of strengthening livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions to enhance self-reliance among affected populations.

By the end of 2025, a PDM exercise was conducted among 50 refugee beneficiaries of livelihoods assistance, with 39 respondents. Findings indicated that 56% reported that the cash assistance significantly improved their living conditions. Although the sample size is relatively small compared to the total number of beneficiaries assisted by UNHCR during the year, the results suggest a positive impact of livelihoods interventions on household income and overall well-being.

14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

By 2026, potential for voluntary return supported.

Core Output Indicators

Indicator		Actual (2025)
Population Type		
14.1.1 Number of people who received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		97

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In early 2025, UNHCR finalized an operational arrangement with IOM that enabled the systematic referral of eligible refugees and asylum-seekers whose countries of origin are covered by the Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) programme. Throughout the year, the operation ensured that all individuals expressing an intention to return were supported to make informed, voluntary and safe decisions, in line with established protection safeguards. A total of 78 departures (23 refugees and 55 asylum-seekers) were completed under the arrangement, reflecting referrals made by UNHCR and departing within the reporting period.

Return intentions were shaped by diverse personal factors, including family reunification, socio-economic constraints, and, for some, the lack of viable prospects to remain in Mauritania. Heightened immigration control measures and widespread arrest campaigns also contributed to increased uncertainty for certain profiles, reinforcing the need for robust counselling and risk assessment before any referral.

UNHCR's contribution focused on ensuring that each referral met the required thresholds of voluntariness, safety and dignity, through tailored protection counselling and individual risk analysis. Once confirmed as safe to proceed, individuals benefited from IOM's operational support, including travel arrangements and facilitation of exit procedures, ensuring that returns took place in an orderly and protected manner.

These coordinated efforts strengthened protection safeguards around voluntary return and contributed to a more predictable, accountable and rights-based framework for individuals choosing to return to their countries of origin.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

By 2026, more resettlement and complementary pathways are identified, disseminated and supported.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	69	200	7

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
15.1.1 Country issues machine-readable travel documents	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	No

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, progress toward the resettlement outcome was constrained by the absence of allocated quotas. Mauritania's only dedicated quota—50 individual places from the United States—could not be used following the suspension of the U.S. resettlement programme, leaving the operation without country-specific quotas for submissions. In this context, UNHCR maintained operational readiness and relied on advocacy with the Regional Bureau to access a limited number of unallocated quota opportunities. Small tranches made available by France, the Netherlands and Finland under restrictive eligibility criteria were fully utilized: one case to France was accepted and departed; two cases to the Netherlands resulted in one acceptance and departure; two cases to Finland led to one acceptance now undergoing departure procedures. Close coordination with the Regional Bureau and receiving States supported case progression and safeguarded continuity for accepted files. While overall opportunities remained limited, the operation maximized all available avenues and preserved readiness to scale up submissions should additional quotas be allocated in 2026.

One departure was completed under an education pathway. Throughout the year, UNHCR invested in structuring this workstream on a data-informed basis to expand future access: enhanced data collection and analysis for complementary pathways, mapping of opportunities and partners, and participation in the 2025 regional labour mobility skills survey strengthened evidence for advocacy and programming. Targeted information to communities on available third-country admission avenues (within the Route-Based Approach) improved awareness and helped identify potential candidates. These steps consolidated internal readiness and laid the groundwork for more systematic engagement and scale-up of complementary pathways as feasible in 2026.

16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

By 2026 all refugees are systematically included into national social protection programmes (including safety nets, health insurance schemes and employment/job creation services).

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
16.2 Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	22.82%	60.00%	30.49%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
16.1.1. Government Social protection system is inclusive of forcibly displaced and stateless people	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Partially
16.2.1 Number of people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Taazour is one of the central pillars of Mauritania's social protection system. It plays a key role in promoting national solidarity and reducing social exclusion. Refugees can be included in national social protection programmes through their registration in the Social Registry, which is the main entry point for accessing national social protection services. The most recent comprehensive update of the National Social Registry—technically and financially supported by UNHCR—was completed in the Hodh Chargui region in December 2025. This exercise led to the registration of nearly all refugee households nationwide (46,405 households). It was made possible thanks to the digitalisation of targeting processes and the introduction of a token system for out-of-camp refugees, ensuring that households awaiting UNHCR documentation at the time of data collection were still captured in the database. Refugee households identified as highly vulnerable can access the Tekavoul programme, Mauritania's national safety net. In 2025, 10,143 refugee households received Tekavoul support, with transfer values aligned with those provided to Mauritanian nationals (3,600 MRU). In 2025, UNHCR also contributed to the Cadre Harmonisé to support the Food Security Commission's response. This helped strengthen coordination between humanitarian actors and the Technical Committee, ensuring that refugees were considered both in the analysis and in the implementation of shock-responsive social assistance (El Maouna).

Beyond bilateral coordination, we also actively engaged with the GTPS (including GIZ, the World Bank, WFP, and other partners) to ensure that our collaboration and support to Taazour and Ministère de l'Action Sociale de l'Enfance et de la Famille (MASEF) remained fully aligned and harmonised with the work of other stakeholders.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

UNHCR strengthened AGD-inclusive programming in 2025 by improving the disaggregation and analysis of protection data. Registration reached 26959 forcibly displaced individuals, with 52% women and children, and regular protection monitoring—particularly in Hodh Chargui and Hodh Gharbi—helped identify risks such as documentation gaps, exploitation, trafficking indicators and barriers to essential services. These findings informed program adjustments and referrals, while 1200 cases were managed through AGD-sensitive casework. Participation in programme design expanded through

57 community consultations participants, complemented by field missions, protection monitoring exercises and engagement with outreach volunteers, including en persons with disabilities, youth, women, elderly individuals and people with diverse SOGIESC.

Localization efforts progressed significantly, with refugee-led associations in urban areas increasing from 9 to 24, enhancing early warning, outreach and accountability. In Hodh Chargui, 10 refugee and community associations received KOICA-funded grants to implement protection, education, WASH, health, environmental and social cohesion projects. Partnerships broadened to include five women-led organizations and one disability-focused partner, supporting more intersectional and inclusive programming.

Accountability to Affected Populations also improved: SOPs for feedback and complaints were drafted, RAIS facilitated referrals for 89% of recorded requests, the Bassiknou hotline achieved 11% resolution at first contact, and a new urban hotline was initiated. WhatsApp was added as an additional reporting channel, while protection desks and field missions ensured safe in-person reporting.

UNHCR strengthened communication and transparency by drafting content for Help.UNHCR.org, expanding a network of 45 community protection actors, and supporting community information hubs and awareness activities through new and top-up grants. Gender equality advanced across structures: in Mbera camp, women represented 50% of the extended community coordination structure, and 197 women held leadership roles out of 568 positions. In additional training and education prioritized women, including a full health professional training that will bring 22 women to job positions in hospitals in Mauritania. GBV prevention and response remained a core priority, with six refugee-led women's associations supported under Safe from the Start, five new WLO agreements signed, and sustained training for partners and community focal points on GBV risk identification and safe referrals, including trafficking. Survivor-centred case management ensured confidentiality, informed consent and timely access to medical, psychosocial, legal and material support.

Overall, these efforts strengthened participation, inclusion and accountability across all operational areas. Remaining gaps include accessibility challenges for persons with disabilities, uneven coverage in remote areas, which will be improved once a digital outreach tool and the help.org are launched as well as the continued expansion of the community-protection networks.

Section 3: Resources

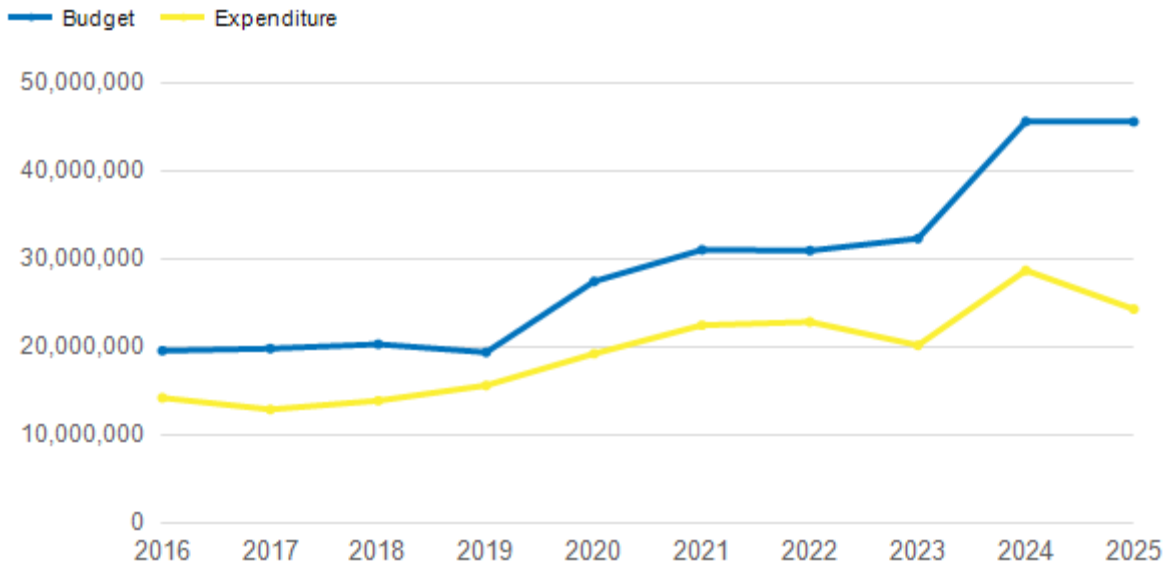
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

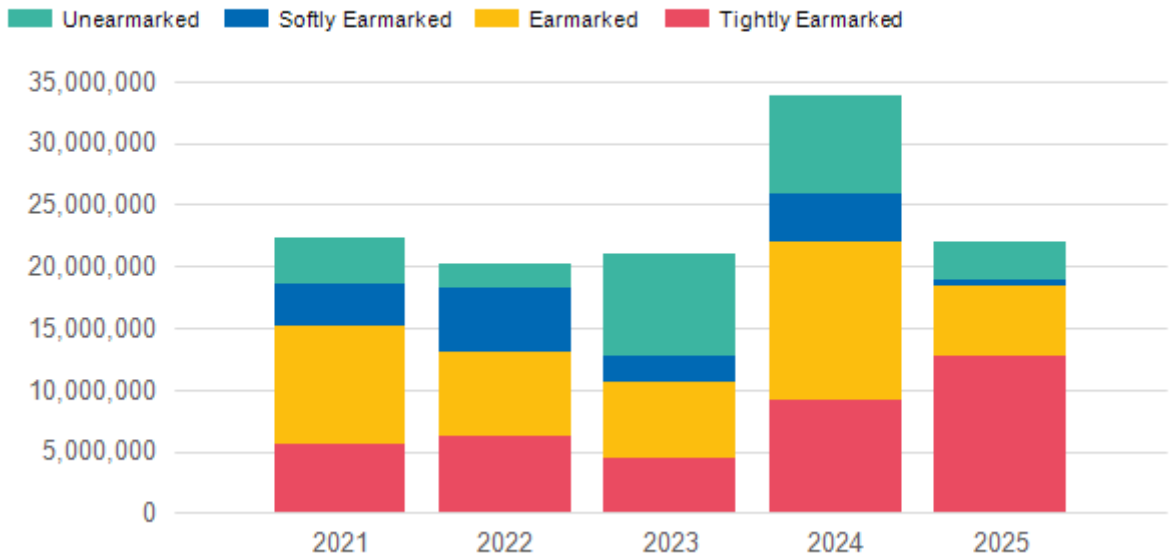
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	10,088,579	7,631,718	75.65%	6,624,863	86.81%
IA2: Respond	24,302,479	10,800,301	44.44%	10,665,028	98.75%
IA3: Empower	8,278,245	4,892,116	59.10%	4,805,175	98.22%
IA4: Solve	2,861,404	2,245,555	78.48%	2,159,382	96.16%
All Impact Areas		7,740			
Total	45,530,706	25,577,430	56.18%	24,254,448	94.83%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	2,961,201	2,261,953	76.39%	1,878,106	83.03%
OA2: Status	1,208,563	1,038,155	85.90%	834,962	80.43%
OA3: Policy/Law	1,240,934	1,547,852	124.73%	1,128,037	72.88%
OA4: GBV	1,924,218	1,173,540	60.99%	1,173,540	100.00%
OA5: Children	1,592,231	874,123	54.90%	874,123	100.00%
OA6: Justice	1,161,431	736,095	63.38%	736,095	100.00%
OA7: Community	2,898,959	2,097,849	72.37%	2,010,908	95.86%
OA8: Wellbeing	5,981,431	1,734,291	28.99%	1,715,395	98.91%
OA9: Housing	5,808,881	2,996,213	51.58%	2,996,213	100.00%
OA10: Health	5,455,366	2,499,257	45.81%	2,382,880	95.34%
OA11: Education	2,744,750	1,695,224	61.76%	1,695,224	100.00%
OA12: WASH	3,010,202	1,132,719	37.63%	1,132,719	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	2,634,536	1,099,043	41.72%	1,099,043	100.00%
OA14: Return	747,786	480,805	64.30%	480,805	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	697,636	454,023	65.08%	454,023	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	1,415,982	1,310,728	92.57%	1,224,555	93.43%
EA17: Systems	2,682,763	1,073,687	40.02%	1,073,687	100.00%
EA18: Support	1,363,836	1,364,133	100.02%	1,364,133	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		7,740			
Total	45,530,706	25,577,430	56.18%	24,254,448	94.83%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

Mauritania Operation’s 2025 overall budget needs amounted to USD 45.5 million, of which USD 22.7 million was mobilized, leaving the operation 50% funded with a USD 22.8 million gap. Public sector donors continued to constitute the largest share of income (USD 18.6 million), while private sector contributions remained limited (USD 104,989.79).

Over the past year, UNHCR’s operational presence evolved in response to these constraints. Lifesaving protection activities and essential assistance were maintained, yet limited flexible resources required

substantial reductions across shelter, WASH, community based protection, and resilience programming. Several partner led interventions were delayed or scaled back, narrowing the operation's geographic and programmatic reach and reducing its ability to respond swiftly to emerging vulnerabilities.

Resource prioritisation was guided by three principal factors: a significant funding gap, which required strict focus on essential, high impact activities; high levels of earmarking, which restricted programme flexibility and limited the ability to direct funds toward underfunded or newly identified needs; and the imperative to safeguard core protection services such as registration, documentation, case management, and emergency assistance. These constraints necessitated a careful balancing of immediate needs and longer-term objectives.

To address funding gaps, the operation engaged in targeted resource mobilisation efforts and mobilised resources from a small but influential group of donor countries and institutions. Additionally, the operation deployed efforts to diversify its donor base, including through multi-year and multi-partner funding opportunities. By prioritising tailored engagement, maintaining regular communication, and ensuring strong visibility of results, the operation has strengthened these partnerships and positioned itself as a reliable humanitarian actor capable of effectively managing multiyear support.

Softly earmarked contributions provided critical flexibility and helped mitigate the constraints created by tightly earmarked funding. Efforts to diversify the donor base also included outreach to non-traditional donors and increasing engagement with the private sector. While private sector income remains low, it represents a key area for future growth.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

The 2025 review confirms that Mauritania has entered a new phase of displacement and mixed movements, with sustained arrivals from Mali into the remote and service-constrained Hodh Chargui, alongside heightened enforcement measures linked to regional security dynamics and the Atlantic route. The humanitarian implications were clear: acute protection and assistance needs, heightened risks of exploitation and violence—particularly for women, adolescents, children and older persons—and growing pressure on local services, including for refugees living outside Mbera camp in host villages. This context reaffirmed the importance of principled, practical engagement to preserve protection space, including stronger legal assistance, case management and protection-sensitive procedures at points of entry and in areas affected by arrest, detention and restrictions on movement.

A central lesson is that this is a pivotal moment for the operation to work more closely than ever with national and local authorities—taking on board their concerns related to security, migration management and social stability—while advancing rights-based and operationally feasible solutions that reduce pressure on institutions and communities. Where coordination and evidence-based dialogue were sustained, progress followed, including through the Refugee Coordination Forum and continued steps towards inclusion in national systems, notably in health.

Looking ahead, the operation will apply these lessons by: (i) strengthening protection safeguards, referral pathways and due process in the context of mixed movements; (ii) prioritising scalable, cost-effective support to national and community services through mobile and area-based modalities; and (iii) positioning Hodh Chargui as a priority geography for humanitarian-development-peace partnerships and multi-year investment. With Government leadership and aligned support from UN and development partners, this approach can turn the refugee-hosting region into a platform for resilience, social cohesion and local development—representing a potential longer term socioeconomic opportunity for Hodh Chargui.



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