

Annual Results Report

2024

Mauritania

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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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- 4.1 - Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2024, Mauritania remained an open-door host country for refugees, despite ongoing instability in the Sahel, climate shocks, and economic challenges, which lead to a Level 1 emergency declaration in February 2024. Throughout the year, the security situation in Mali further deteriorated, fueling cross-border displacement. By the end of 2024, Mauritania hosted 288,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, including 112,000 Malians who arrived in 2024. Of these, 162,000 were registered by UNHCR; 18,000 in urban areas and 144,000 in Hodh Chargui.

Meanwhile, around 32,000 Mauritians returned from Mali according to IOM. Undocumented returnees from Senegal, among others, continue to face documentation challenges and statelessness risks following the conclusion of the civil registry's national enrolment campaign in February 2024.

As Malians make up 97% of registered refugees, return prospects remain limited. Additionally, only 75 individuals were resettled in 2024. UNHCR has, therefore, focused on the emergency response and integrating refugees in national systems, as reflected in both the 2024 Refugee Response Plan and the 2025 Refugee Response and Resilience Plan.

In Hodh Chargui, population flow and protection monitoring tools helped tracking arrivals, assessing risks, and supporting refugee inclusion, particularly in health, education, and social protection systems. New arrivals remain highly vulnerable; 80% are women and children, one in five children is unaccompanied, and over 80% lack shelter, latrines, or access to safe water. UNHCR's protection response prioritized registration, legal aid, GBV prevention, child protection, and promoting peaceful coexistence. In alignment with its sustainable response strategy, UNHCR and partners continued to invest in self-reliance through livelihoods, education, health, cash assistance, and resilience programmes.

Along the coast, Mauritania also stood out as a key transit point for individuals moving by sea toward Europe, facing heightened risks throughout their journey, including trafficking, exploitation and deaths at sea. UNHCR worked with authorities to strengthen protection-sensitive border management and continues to advocate for its access to screen disembarked individuals for international protection needs.

These evolving dynamics in 2024 required adapted protection and assistance strategies in both urban and rural areas, while reinforcing long-term resilience efforts, necessitating sustained national engagement and international support.

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 (2024)
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	1.50%

Mauritania has maintained an open-door policy towards refugees and asylum-seekers, continuing to grant access to territory in Hodh Chargui and providing prima facie recognition to Malian nationals fleeing conflict. UNHCR estimates that over 112,000 new arrivals took place in 2024. As most arrivals settled outside of Mbera camp across different villages in Hodh Chargui, UNHCR, in collaboration with the National Civil Registry (ANRPTS), deployed mobile registration units to ensure individuals could be registered. D

Despite logistical challenges such as harsh climate conditions, limited infrastructure, scattered locations, and difficulties with equipment availability and maintenance, this initiative enabled UNHCR to register 47,094 newly arrived individuals across the country in 2024 while 120,000 remain pending registration. Villages were prioritized based on data gathered from the monthly population flow monitoring mechanism, which gathered and analyzed key arrival information from key informants and local authorities based in 69 villages within Hodh Chargui.

This progress demonstrates the Government's commitment to its Global Refugee Forum (GRF) pledge to facilitate refugees' access to documentation. As a result, 58% of refugees registered by UNHCR are now also enrolled in the ANRPTS' database and have received a national number of identification (NNI) issued by the Government. Obtaining an NNI is the first step towards inclusion in national services, particularly for enrollment in public schools and access healthcare. The Government of Mauritania also completed a countrywide civil registration enrolment campaign in February 2024, enrolling 609,000 Mauritanian nationals, including returnees from Senegal and other populations at risk of statelessness.

The current legislative framework (Decree 063/2022) along with strong and positive collaboration with national authorities, ensures the protection of refugees' rights, including the recognition of UNHCR's documentation. While restrictions on movement inside Mauritania were imposed on all foreigners without residence permit since April 2024, the authorities agreed to continue facilitating the movement of refugees and asylum-seekers with urgent needs. Refugees and asylum-seekers arrested in transit between different regions in Mauritania were generally released upon presenting UNHCR's documentation authorizing their movement.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

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

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	97.00%	89.66%

The permanent survey of household living conditions (EPCV) 2024/25 conducted by ANSADE is currently underway. Its results will provide updated figures to be included in the report. According to ANSADE's 2022 multi-dimensional poverty report, 77% of the population living in rural areas experience multidimensional poverty, compared to 35% in urban areas. Sustainable responses, aligned with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), require designing tailored approaches, building partnerships and leveraging financing. These responses aim to, on one hand, strengthen national systems to include refugees and, on the other, create opportunities for refugees to contribute to the socioeconomic development of their host country and to their country of origin when conditions allow for their voluntary return.

UNHCR, in partnership with the World Bank and ANSADE, has been working closely to integrate refugees and asylum-seekers into the national poverty assessment (EPCV) for 2024/25. This effort will generate critical evidence and socio-economic data essential for implementing an area-based approach to forced displacement, uniting humanitarian, development and private sector actors. The inclusion of forcibly displaced into the national poverty assessment in Mauritania is particularly significant. It will provide the evidence needed to sustain the Government's inclusive policies, especially given the doubling of the refugee population in Mauritania in 2024.

Steps to support Mauritania's GRF pledge to transform Mbera camp into a climate-adapted human settlement also took place through the re-planning and extension of the camp's infrastructure, increasing the camp's area from 450 to 550 hectares.

UNHCR also continues to facilitate refugees' access to healthcare through agreements with health facilities, hospitals and pharmacies in urban areas. In Hold Chargui, health care is made available to refugees through four health facilities managed by the government in Mbera Camp, and through the implementation of the World Bank's INAYA Programme for vulnerable populations. UNHCR also supports refugees to access emergency care by facilitating medical referrals to specialized care to Bassiknou, Nema and Nouakchott.

In Mbera camp, a total of 198,244 consultations were conducted, 27% benefitted children under five years of age. Additionally, 1,917 emergency cases were referred to Bassiknou hospital and, out of those, 300 patients were referred to specialized care in Nema and to national hospitals in Nouakchott.

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 (2024)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	34.30%	33.11%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7.04%	6.82%

Section 15 of decree no. 2022-063 of 5 May 2022 on refugees stipulates that beneficiaries of refugee status or status as persons in need of protection receive the same treatment as nationals regarding access to medical care, the labor market, social security and education. Therefore, all refugees have the right to work in Mauritania.

In the sector of education, eight primary schools and two secondary schools in Mbera camp offer the Malian education curriculum in French to refugees free of charge, as well as additional Arabic classes to facilitate integration in Mauritania. Outside of the camp and in urban areas, pupils are integrated directly into the national education system. In 2024, around 11,910 students (6,362 boys and 5,548 girls) were enrolled

at primary and secondary schools during the academic years 2023/2024 and 2024/2025. In urban areas, children from vulnerable families received an allowance to cover school materials at the beginning of the school year.

In support of Mauritania's GRF pledge to include all refugee children in its national education system, UNHCR has prioritized interventions in support of school infrastructure, schools' kits distribution, support to teachers (including capacity building) and coordination and advocacy with relevant government authorities. In the camp, UNHCR, WFP and Save the Children continue to manage educational and administrative staff and provide school meals to improve pupil retention.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

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

Indicator		
Population Type	Baseline	Actual (2024)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3	9
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	108	75
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2	0
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	118

Local integration has progressed through enhanced efforts to include refugees in national social protection programs, including safety nets, health insurance schemes and employment/job creation services.

The Central Bank of Mauritania finalized (pending government validation) a national financial inclusion strategy with the support of the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI). The strategy emphasizes the critical need to integrate refugees into financial services as part of a broader effort to support vulnerable populations.

In 2024, considerable steps were taken in the adoption of a National Social Protection Strategy (2024-2034), in which refugees are included. With a provisional adoption in 2025, this strategy will facilitate the inclusion of refugees in national social protection programmes (social insurance, social assistance, and labour market interventions).

UNHCR promoted and facilitated safe and dignified third-country solutions for refugees; in 2024, 75 refugees departed on resettlement and 69 refugees were submitted for resettlement and are waiting for a decision in 2025. UNHCR continued to implement resettlement strategies to provide protection and solutions to refugees with pressing legal and physical protection and medical needs. Additionally, nine refugees repatriated voluntarily to Central African Republic and Mali. The office continued referrals to IOM for rejected asylum-seekers interested in returning to their country of origin.

Mauritania receives financing from World Bank's Host and Refugee sub-window under the International Development Association (IDA). By the end of 2024, over \$ 256 million has been committed to six projects aimed at enhancing national services inclusion including water and sanitation, health, and social safety nets and urban city support. This development financing has been critical to reinforce national systems to allow for inclusion of refugees and has helped to avoid duplication in investments into parallel humanitarian systems.

UNHCR Mauritania has invested in strategic development partnerships alongside the Government to address evidence gaps, supporting the Global Compact of Refugees (GCR) pledges around inclusion and the transformation of Mbera camp into a settlement. As part of these efforts, in 2024, UNHCR in collaboration with the World Bank and ANSADE, secured funding to include refugees into the national quarterly labor force survey in 2025. This survey data will complement comparable poverty data being

collected with the World Bank and ANSADE, providing deeper insights into the skills within the refugee community and the labor market outcomes. The findings will guide future World Bank WHR IDA programs and strengthen UNHCR's advocacy with development partners and the private sector, highlighting opportunities for further investment.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

The massive influx from Mali compounded by the backlog from previous years (ANRPTS suspended registration for most of 2023) as well as the lack of infrastructure, resources and other connectivity or logistic issues has overwhelmed the limited capacity of UNHCR and ANRPTS to register new arrivals, hence the decrease in the proportion of refugees with access to UNHCR's asylum procedures. Close to 120,000 refugees are pending registration by UNHCR and ANRPTS, while an additional 42 per cent of UNHCR-registered refugees are still pending enrolment with ANRPTS. Only 3 per cent of refugees registered in the Hodh Chargui received state-issued documentation while no refugee documents have yet been delivered by national authorities to refugees living in urban areas. Over 20,000 refugee children remain without birth certificate and very limited progress were made in this regard.

In addition, individuals disembarked along the coast are systematically removed to the borders with Senegal and Mali without individual assessment of their situation. UNHCR does not have access to disembarked individuals for assess their international protection needs, which exposes them to the risk of refoulement. The removal procedure is supported by the new Migration Law 24-029, adopted in September 2024, which permits automatic collective expulsions through administrative decisions, without clear exceptions for individuals in need of international protection.

Expulsions from undocumented migrants did not include individual assessment of their situation. As a result, among migrants expelled to Mali in 2024, 24 were identified by UNHCR Mali as potentially having international protection needs leading to probable incidents of refoulement.

Thousands of newly arrived refugees have opted to settle in villages near the border with Mali, where access to healthcare is very limited. Although a contingency plan was developed for the emergency, members of the health sector were not able to cover the entire region due to resource limitation and the size of the region.

In urban areas, challenges are mainly related to documentation required for national examinations, language barriers (Arabic), and the distance to approved public schools, especially since the implementation of the new law abolishing private primary education. There is also a lack of appropriate alternatives for illiterate children who are too old for primary school and cannot pass exams, leading to school dropout.

While the authorities have demonstrated willingness to include refugees in national systems, current policy implementation has led to differing levels of refugee inclusion across sectors. Some engagements related to social inclusion remain to be implemented. Limited refugee registration, enrolment and documentation create barriers to refugees' access to several national services, work and bank services, thereby hindering their effective integration.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

In 2024, UNHCR successfully concluded established partnerships to effectively implement its strategy and achieve favorable outcomes. The operation relied on key partnerships with government entities, international NGOs and local partners. These entail six governmental entities - National Agency for Population and Secure Titles Registry (ANRPTS), National Employment Agency (Agence Nationale pour l'Emploi), TECHGHIL, Higher Education Coordination Unit (Cellule de Coordination HEC), Food Security Commission (Commissariat à la Sécurité Alimentaire, CSA), Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Interior -; four international NGOs - French Red Cross (Croix Rouge Française, CRF), Action Against

Hunger (Accion contra El Hambre, ACF-Spain), International Committee for Emergency Aid and Development (Comité International pour l'Aide d'Urgence et Développement, CIAUD-Canada), and RET International-Germany -; two national NGOs - El Insaniya and S.O.S Desert; and one UN agency: International Institute for Educational Planning (UNESCO).

UNHCR continued to lead the refugee response in Hodh Chargui in coordination with 25 partners, adhering to the principles of the Refugee Coordination Forum (formerly known as the Refugee Coordination Model). Collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and Decentralization (Ministère de l'Intérieur et de la Décentralisation, MIDEC), local authorities, UN agencies, and NGOs remained integral to its efforts. Regular sectoral working group meetings were held to prevent duplication, develop joint responses and strategies, and coordinate fundraising initiatives.

UNHCR also strengthened its collaboration with the Mauritanian government to assist, empower, and promote self-reliance among refugees through the implementation of pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF). Mauritania pledged to adopt an asylum law, register refugees and asylum-seekers in its territory, transform Mbera camp into a climate-adapted human settlement and include refugees in national systems (health, social protection, education and employment). Significant progress has been achieved in the health and social protection sectors, with recent advancements in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). As a result, 89.6% of the population has access to health facilities, and refugees are now included in the national health system. UNHCR built one health post in Bousteila and launched two key health infrastructures in Bassiknou, while telemedicine was piloted in Mbera and Bassiknou hospitals. A measles vaccination campaign reached 11,411 children, responding to 1,200 reported cases in Mbera camp. However, including refugees in other social protection programs requires significant effort and advocacy, as demand far exceeds the available government resources. While Significant improvements were made in the WASH sector through infrastructure upgrades.

This included the construction and rehabilitation of 19 boreholes outside the camp, benefiting 52,000 individuals, including members of the host community. Additionally, 142 latrines and showers were built in these areas, serving 23,600 individuals. In Mberra camp, 300 latrines were constructed, benefiting 9,000 individuals. The strategy combined core humanitarian interventions to meet basic needs and uphold refugee rights, with resilience-building activities in partnership with development actors, such as the World Bank, KOICA and GIZ. These initiatives aimed to integrate refugees into local economies and systems, fostering long-term solutions.

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 (2024)	Actual (2024)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	58.32%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	14.55%	15.00%	63.92%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	92.63%	100.00%	92.33%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2024)
01.1.1 Number of people registered on an individual basis	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	47,940
01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	34,828

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, 441 birth certificates were issued by the ANRPTS.

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the UNHCR and the Mauritanian Government in 2022, UNHCR is mandated to issue refugee certificates to person whose status is recognized after completing the relevant registration and refugee status determination procedures. The civil registry, Agence Nationale du Registre des Populations et des Titres Sécurisés (ANRPTS), grants a national identification number (NNI) to refugees after conducting registration and verification procedures.

According to data from the population flow monitoring exercise, Mauritania currently hosts around 280,000 refugees and asylum-seekers. Out of these, 162,300 individuals were registered in UNHCR's database by the end of 2024, while 12,451 refugees at Mbera Camp were awaiting the renewal of their expired or damaged documents. Others are awaiting registration by UNHCR and the ANRPTS.

All those registered with UNHCR have obtained a refugee card or a refugee certificate after completion of the registration process. UNHCR continues to improve its refugee certificate and conduct awareness-raising sessions with key government officials to ensure broad recognition of the document by authorities in

the field (e.g., police, gendarmerie).

Over half of UNHCR-registered refugees now have a NNI issued by the government. Enrolment activities are underway with the ANRPTS in the main locations where refugees are settled (Nouakchott, Nouadhibou, Nema, out of the camp, Camp Mbera and other locations).

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 (2024)	Actual (2024)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	206.00	270.00	265.70
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	79.59%	100.00%	100.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
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	No

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR issued 1,544 refugee status determination (RSD) decisions.

For the notified cases in 2024, the average processing time from the date of identification of RSD need to the date of decision notification is 707 days. However, the absence of accurate notification dates for most of the cases significantly affects this calculation.

UNHCR has made efforts to strengthen internal management, operational frameworks, and procedures, as well as to train staff including how to accurately record information on ProGres. These efforts have positively contributed to mitigating decision delays and improving quality of decisions.

For instance, in 2024, a dedicated RSD reviewer and a protection officer were hired, providing the needed leadership and foundation to enhance case management and processing, staff capacity and oversight, and quality verification. Operational procedures for registration and RSD are currently under review and amendments are being made to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the asylum process in Mauritania. To illustrate, since the SOPs for registration and RSD had not been updated for several years, a workshop with the whole protection staff with the presence of some staff from program unit was held in 2024 to review and revise the existing procedures, ensuring they align with the current context. This workshop provided an opportunity to identify gaps and errors while also clarifying staff responsibilities.

Additionally, a yearly plan for targeted training of national eligibility officers has been implemented with

sessions taking place every two months. These trainings equipped the staff to process cases that had been delayed due to a lack of expertise in handling certain profiles and nationalities. For instance, training on interviewing techniques helped staff improve their skills, reducing the need for complementary interviews and, in turn, shortening the overall processing time for RSD cases. Capacity-building sessions on credibility assessment and legal analysis in RSD, along with detailed case reviews, were continuously enhancing the quality of decisions. Besides, the registration and RSD staff became more informed and aware of their responsibility to maintain accurate records in ProGres, including the proper recording of all notification dates, ensuring that future data entry will be more accurate and timely.

UNHCR remains committed to providing first-instance rejected applicants with access to an effective appeal mechanism. In 2024, all rejected applicants were systematically informed of their right to appeal and the relevant procedures, except for those who were unreachable. To keep applicants informed about the appeal process, UNHCR has introduced a new hotline service and diversified its outreach strategies, thereby improving both transparency and due process.

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

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
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

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
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

Although there is no national asylum law in Mauritania, the authorities have issued Decree No. 063 in 2022, which repealed and replaced Decree No. 2005-0022 of 3 March 2005, laying down the procedures for applying international conventions on refugees in the country.

This decree aligns with the standards and principles of protection contained in international instruments relating to refugees, in particular the OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. It facilitates the issuance of refugee identification documents and ensures refugees have equal access to education and the job market. The decree also guarantees refugees the freedom to move within the country, the ability to sue and be sued, the right to own property, and to access healthcare, providing a

highly protective environment. It prevents refugees and asylum-seekers from being refouled or prosecuted for illegal entry and stay in Mauritania.

Mauritania's Nationality Code (Law N° 1961-112) and Law N° 2010 - 023 repealing and replacing certain provisions of Law N°1961.112 of June 12, 1961, provide a solid framework to protect against statelessness. However, some gaps persist. UNHCR has engaged constructively with the Mauritanian authorities, including to address gender inequalities within the nationality framework. Mauritanian officials also participated in statelessness courses at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in 2023 and 2024 and a Global Summit on strengthening women's nationality rights in 2024.

The Government of Mauritania was represented at an event convened by the League of Arab States at which the "Arab Declaration on Belonging and Legal Identity" was launched, and an action plan for its implementation was discussed amongst member states and relevant UN agencies and international and regional organizations.

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 Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	13,325

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR and its partners continued efforts to prevent, mitigate, and respond to gender-based violence (GBV), in collaboration with various stakeholders.

Following the declaration of Level 1 emergency, UNHCR prioritized informing new arrivals about available services and on how to access them. As part of its out of camp response, brochures on available services including security/safety, medical services, and UNHCR hotlines were distributed during registration. In 2025, this initiative will be expanded to all refugee-settled areas in Hodh Chargui.

To bolster survivor-centered coordination, UNHCR reactivated the GBV sub-working group under the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) and established a GBV technical working within the RCF working group, to address urgent health-related GBV gaps.

In close partnership with women leaders, community structures, and outreach volunteers, UNHCR conducted GBV prevention and response activities. Training sessions equipped leaders and volunteers to identify and address protection incidents. They participated in community prevention activities and raised awareness through existing self-reporting channels.

In Nouakchott, mapping of services identified 19 associations and organizations. These entities were trained on international protection and UNHCR's mandate, and some of them have provided refugees access to specialized services including health services, safe shelters and skill-building opportunities. UNHCR collaborated with facilities like the Centre de Traitement Ambulatoire (CTA) and psychosocial support units in Nouadhibou to assist chronic illness patients and GBV survivors.

International events, such as International Women's Day and the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, were observed across locations, engaging communities, authorities, and partners. Activities included sketches and theatre performances focusing on GBV prevention, women's rights, and survivor services, with participation from 1,582 individuals from refugee and host communities.

As part of its out-of-camp protection strategy, UNHCR formed community structures, including women-led and protection committees, to address and prevent protection incidents by holding informational sessions on GBV services. Information sessions were also conducted at registration sites and during home visits.

In response to mass movements in Hodh Chargui, UNHCR analyzed child marriage cases and assessed

non-child marriage caseloads to guide strategy. A GBV expert deployed to the Bassiknou sub-office coordinated with partners and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MASEF) to address GBV at the regional level.

In Mbera camp, GBV Prevention Clubs in schools engaged 300 girls in sessions on rights, menstrual management, and violence prevention, led by trained teachers.

In Nouakchott and Nouadhibou, 3,052 refugees and asylum seekers (1,877 women and 1,175 men) participated in 48 GBV awareness sessions. In Nouadhibou, the regional protection coordination framework, led by DRASEF, enhanced referral mechanisms and optimized stakeholder resources. Outreach efforts by CIAUD in urban and out-of-camp areas as well as in the refugee camp by RET International, strengthened links between communities and specialized GBV services. Of 900 GBV survivors under case management, only 153 survivors along their case plan, have expressed the dissatisfaction stemming primarily from challenges in accessing legal aid and non-prioritization for assistance.

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 (2024)	Actual (2024)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	83.94%	81.00%	36.27%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	86.51%	88.00%	27.88%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	83.62%	85.00%	36.24%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
05.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	17,216

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR's child protection strategy was part of efforts to support national social inclusion policies for refugees and asylum seekers Mauritania. UNHCR, through its partnership with CIAUD Canada and RET Germany and under the coordination of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and Family (MASEF), continued activities to promote children's rights by identifying children at risk, supporting them and strengthening community structures capacity to supervision of children.

As part of the promotion of children's rights, 8,481 people (including 1,055 men, 1,592 women, 2,240 girls and 3,594 boys) were reached by thematic awareness-raising activities focusing on child protection risks, such as exploitation, physical and sexual assault, children's rights, and the consequences of early and forced marriages. In Nouadhibou, 1,263 people (including 183 men, 271 women, 387 girls and 422 boys) benefited from these activities, while 2,400 refugees and asylum seekers (including 574 men, 462 women,

664 girls and 700 boys) were reached in Nouakchott and 4,818 (298 men, 859 women, 1,189 girls and 2,472 boys). In Bassikinou and Nema exchanges with children were also organized to discuss their rights and identify protection risks at home and at school. In total, 1,500 children were reached by CIAUD, RET and other NGOs and RLOs collaborating with UNHCR, such as Save the Children and SOS Nomade.

Additionally, 1,385 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) were carried out: 743 in Mbera Camp, 534 in Bassikounou and Nema and 108 in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou. 02 BID panels were conducted, including 01 in Nouakchott and 01 in Nouadhibou, which made it possible to decide on the decision of voluntary return to their countries of origin for two children.

As part of the management and monitoring of cases of children at risk, 1,080 children benefited from various protection support services offered by UNHCR: 81 new cases were recorded, including 20 (9 boys and 11 girls) in Nouadhibou, 25 (18 boys and 7 girls) in Nouakchott and 36 (16 boys and 20 girls) in Bassikounou. Cases varied from unaccompanied and separated children, child parent, child at risk-no education, children engaged in child labour, children living with disabilities, chronically ill and victims of neglect. A total of 98 types of assistance were provided to these children, including in-kind and financial assistance, psychosocial and medical services, and foster family placement.

A number of 32 new foster families were identified, supported and trained in childcare. 33 child protection cases were closed for various reasons (such as voluntary return to the country of origin, satisfaction of the child's need (for example children who did not go to school, who were accompanied with their parents to enroll in schools and benefited from adequate monitoring), including 3 in Nouadhibou (1 girl and 2 boys), 7 in Nouakchott (3 girls and 4 boys) and 24 in Bassikounou (12 girls and 12 boys).

More than 8,750 (4,600 girls and 4,150 boys) children took part in recreational activities carried out by UNHCR's implementing partners, CIAUD and RET, in Nouakchott, Nouadhibou and Mbera camp, including through the establishment of two Child Friendly Spaces in the camp. The center of SOS Nomade (refugee-led association supported by UNHCR through a grant agreement) also continued to organize recreational activities for children and young people in Mbera camp. In addition, 441 children (including 302 in the M'bera camp and 139 in urban areas Nouakchott and nouadhibou) received their birth certificates, as a result of the close collaboration between UNHCR, El Insaniya (legal partner) and the civil registry (ANRPTS).

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 (2024)
06.1.1 Number of people who received legal assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,558

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, 152 refugees and asylum-seekers were arrested or detained in the context of immigration control or legal status across the country. This included mostly situations linked to identity checks at check points and management of mixed movements by authorities. This number has increased in comparison to last year due to ongoing movement restrictions applicable to foreigners in Mauritania.

To ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers have fair access to justice and to avoid discrimination based on their status, UNHCR continues its partnership with El Insaniya (legal NGO) to provide counselling and representation to refugees and asylum-seekers. In 2024, El Insaniya provided 1,558 refugees and asylum-seekers with legal and judicial assistance in criminal and civil matters.

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

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Extensive	Extensive	Extensive
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	40.18%	50.00%	41.76%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
07.1.1 Number of people consulted through Participatory Assessments	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	436
07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	8,213
07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	73,233

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Throughout the year 2024, more than 1,950 refugees and asylum-seekers, including approximately 400 women, used the hotline to express their needs for services provided by UNHCR and its partners, including legal and medical assistance, renewal of refugee status, and inquiries related to several topics (e.g. duration of RSD procedures, location of the reception center, SIM card registration and movement restrictions). Individual who expressed their concerns were directed to relevant focal points within UNHCR, French Red Cross (FRC), El Insaniya, CIAUD and RET, depending on the nature of the needs expressed. The hotline operators are guided through an FAQ document developed by UNHCR.

In total, 8,213 feedback and complaints were received and recorded through all the different channels by the operation. Although a specific survey was not conducted in 2024, in order to assess the proportion of people who have access to Feedback, Complaint and Response Mechanism channels, systematic awareness raising activities were carried out by UNHCR partners to disseminate information on communication channels. For instance, those activities reached 1,014 refugees, asylum-seekers and members of host communities in Nouadhibou, including 573 women, 437 men, 2 girls, and 2 boys.

In Hodh Chargui, 30 associations and cooperatives were identified in Mbera camp, and 15 protection committees were established out of the camp. In urban areas, 9 associations were identified in Nouakchott and 13 in Nouadhibou. In Nouadhibou, 8 women-led community structures were further identified and trained on their roles and responsibilities, community participation, and protection. In Nouakchott, additional

12 community structures led by women were identified, with 30 members (29 women and 1 man) trained on protection, their roles and responsibilities, leadership, and community participation. In Hodh Chargui, 6 women-led community structures were established, and 6 others were identified out-of-camp, with 65 members (55 women, 10 men) trained on similar themes in Bassiknou. The only fully women-led organization of Mbera camp was also supported this year with capacity building.

To enhance RLO's autonomy and ability to mobilize funds, UNHCR and its legal partner, El Insaniya, supported 16 RLOs in Mbera camp and 2 women-led RLOs in Nouakchott to register their organizations under Mauritanian law. By end of 2024, 3 had already received the initial approval and 10 were at the final stage of examination by the authorities. This activity will be continued in 2025.

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

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	73.35%	80.00%	78.08%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11.69%	18.00%	40.49%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	38,630
08.2.1 Number of people who received non-food items	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	74,150
08.3.1 Number of people supported with improved cooking options	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5,500

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR continues to work closely with key stakeholders to ensure that refugees are integrated into the national social protection system. Through solid collaboration with national authorities, vulnerable refugees in Mbera camp, receive assistance from both Tekavoul (Government entity) and WFP, enabling them to meet 100% of their food needs.

While the year was marked with a significant influx of new arrivals. UNHCR alongside 14 active stakeholders from civil society, government, international organizations, the UN system, and development actors, supported over 150,000 individuals from refugee, returnee, and host communities with various forms of assistance (both cash-based and in-kind). Among these beneficiaries, UNHCR supported 38,630 refugees and 2,372 members of host community with cash assistance to address their most urgent needs,

including food, shelter, health and clean energy. Additionally, more than 74,150 individuals received NFIs from UNHCR and other actors, including clothing items from UNIQLO. The planned annual target was significantly exceeded with the receipt of the donation later in the year, thereby enabling support to a larger number of vulnerable families in the remote regions of Hodh El Chargui. Such interventions not only alleviate pressure on the camp but also contribute to local integration and reduce the tension between communities.

The prolonged presence of over 116,000 refugees in Mbera camp has also increased pressure on local sources of water, fuelwood and grazing land. To address these challenges, UNHCR supported more than 1,100 families (5500 individuals) with cash for gas. Biodigester systems were also installed in two schools in the Camp together with ILO. Also, with the government's ban on wood cutting in the region, several merchants within the camp seized the opportunity to ensure the availability of gas for sale. These efforts, combined with community awareness raising activities, encouraged more refugees to choose gas as a cleaner cooking alternative. This initiative aligns with Mauritania's commitments under the Paris Agreement and UNHCR's climate action strategies, which emphasize sustainable energy access in refugee contexts as a key adaptation and mitigation measure. The pilot of an innovative "Pay-as-You-SAVE LPG for Cleaner Energy" initiative in the camp through UNHCR's Innovation Fund has the potential to serve as a blueprint for integrating cash assistance and climate action across other refugee-hosting countries.

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 (2024)	Actual (2024)
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	78.00%	95.00%	62.76%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7.00%	12.00%	18.84%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
09.1.1 Number of people who received shelter and housing assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5,930

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Access to energy plays a fundamental role in poverty reduction, as highlighted by the 7th United Nations Sustainable Development Goal: "Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all" by 2030. In Mauritania, and particularly in the Mbera refugee camp, access to lighting remains a major challenge for refugees. As the camp is not connected to the national electricity grid, some refugees rely on more accessible energy sources such as rechargeable solar lamps, solar kits, and battery-powered flashlights. However, many still use disposable lamps, which significantly impact their income due to their poor quality and frequent need for replacement. Additionally, these discarded lamps contribute to environmental pollution. In 2024, UNHCR actively promoted high-quality solar kits in the Mbera camp,

slightly increasing the number of households with access to lighting. However, further efforts are needed to expand access.

At the end of the reporting period, Mbera Camp, designed to accommodate 70,000 people, was hosting over 116,000 Malian refugees. Overcrowding and the widespread use of precarious construction materials (wood, fabric, straw, and plastic) have created significant challenges, posing risks to safety, hygiene, and the overall quality of life. Data from 2024-2025 indicates that 6,955 households use shelter kits, 5,773 rely on locally constructed shelters, 114 have prefabricated shelters, and 65 reside in tents. Of these, 12,296 shelters are operational, 340 are defective, 161 are non-operational, and 106 are under construction.

Under the leadership of UNHCR, the shelter/NFI sectoral response plan in Hodh Chargui, involving IOM, the Mauritanian Red Crescent, and Action Contre la Faim (ACF), provided shelter to 3,256 households and distributed 74,150 NFI kits for individual.

In line with the Mauritanian government's commitment to transitioning Mbera Camp from an emergency setup to a sustainable settlement with basic facilities, UNHCR has initiated spatial reorganization and infrastructure upgrades. These efforts, supported by feasibility studies conducted by UNHCR's implementing partner, ACF, aim to decongest high-density areas, improve emergency access, and align the camp with urban and environmental standards. The planned expansion of the camp to 550 hectares will further facilitate its transformation into a sustainable, climate-adapted settlement.

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 (2024)	Actual (2024)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	61.72%	92.00%	58.82%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	42.21%	50.00%	46.32%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
10.1.1 Number of individual consultations in UNHCR supported health care services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	198,244
10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	165

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

According to the decree 063/2022, refugees are included in the national health system. Camp-based refugees continued enjoying quality health and nutrition care provided in 4 primary facilities of the camp managed by the government. Referral care to public hospitals was also facilitated by UNHCR. The refugee inclusion in the health system roadmap drafted in 2023 was finalized and published in 2024. To strengthen healthcare access out of camp, UNHCR constructed one health post in Bousteila and

launched the construction of two important health infrastructures in Bassiknou: a local warehouse for the national agency for medicines procurement (CAMEC) and the office of the district medical team. UNHCR and GIZ also piloted the installation of telemedicine facilities in Mbera health centre and in Bassiknou hospital to reduce costs and improve refugees' access to specialized care.

The second phase of the World Bank's health project in Hodh Chargui, INAYA, was launched after a long transition period between two phases. UNHCR supported health facilities of the camp to allow smooth transition. The World Bank and the government of Mauritania funded the project for both the host community and camp-based refugees. UNHCR continues to advocate for inclusion of out-of-camp refugees in the INAYA project, to partially support the cost of primary health care in Mbera camp and to fully cover the cost of medical referrals. In urban settings, UNHCR supports refugees and asylum seekers in accessing primary and referral care and continues to advocate with the office of the national social health scheme (CNASS) to include refugees in this service.

In response to the influx of new refugees, the health sector developed plans to strengthen the regional health system in Hodh Chargui. UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, the French Red Cross and MSF implemented emergency programmes in sites welcoming most refugees in Bassikounou, Amourj, Adel Bagrou and Timbedra. The aim was to provide emergency primary health and nutrition care and strengthen the local health systems of those districts.

The operation also successfully responded to measles outbreaks. About 1,200 cases of measles were reported by the Mbera health center. A total of 11,411 children aged from 9 to 59 months (out of 19,400 registered) were vaccinated against measles during the campaign conducted in December in the Mberra camp in alignment with UNHCR's strong advocacy with the Ministry of Health. This represents a decrease of 2% in comparison with 2023 but justified by the increasing number of out-of-camp refugees (harder to reach) and limited available data on out-of-camp vaccination campaigns.

11. Outcome Area: Education

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

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1.04%	30.00%	0.64%
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3.59%	17.00%	5.87%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
11.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from education programming	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	12,242

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, progress was made in providing schooling for refugees. In fact, 12,242 refugee pupils were able to access formal education, broken down as follows: 10,375 in primary education, 1,535 in secondary education and 132 in higher education, including 108 DAFI scholarship holders and literacy centre.

Under the leadership of the education authorities, at both central and decentralized levels, through the DREN and IDEN, efforts to include refugee children into the national education system are being actively pursued. At the end of 2024, a total of 3,158 students were enrolled in schools providing the national curriculum, representing 27% of refugee children and young people attending school.

Actions carried out by UNHCR remained in line with the budgeted action plan for the inclusion of refugees, included into the National Programme for the Development of the Education Sector (PNDSE III). According to the plan, two major workshops were organized to identify education needs in areas receiving refugee arrivals. A three-year roadmap was drawn up with technical support from IIEP-UNESCO-Paris and is currently being validated by an interministerial committee.

In Nouadhibou, a literacy program for 20 parents and tutoring classes for the 46 school children were conducted to promote their integration into the social fabric and into schools. In Mbera, the same literacy program reached 200 learners (147 women and 53 men) in four centers spread across the camp.

As part of its advocacy work, the UNHCR has stepped up its presence and participation in the local education partners group, and strengthened its role as co-lead of the working group on education within the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) in Hodh Chargui. Numerous meetings with various ministries and departments to promote the inclusion of refugees in the national education system have been carried out. The UNHCR also worked with financial partners, such as the World Bank, to include refugees in different programmes currently active in Mauritania.

The government also issued a circular reaffirming the inclusion of all refugee children in schools on the same basis as nationals. This represents a significant step towards operationalizing refugees' right to education in Mauritania.

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 (2024)	Actual (2024)
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	87.00%	100.00%	63.39%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet			
Refugees and Asylum-Seekers	100.00%	100.00%	77.62%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2024)
12.1.1 Number of people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services	
Refugees and Asylum-Seekers	102,266

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Significant improvements were made in the WASH sector through infrastructure upgrades, including the construction and rehabilitation of 19 boreholes in Fassala and Megve, benefiting 52,000 individuals, and the construction of 142 latrines and showers in the same areas, serving 23,600 individuals.

In Mbera Camp, 300 latrines and sanitation facilities were rehabilitated, benefiting 9,000 individuals. Water distribution in the camp reached 15 liters per person per day, meeting refugees' basic needs. Solar-powered systems were installed in pastoral wells, and WASH kits were distributed to vulnerable households. In Ghlig Cheikhate, the rehabilitation of a drinking water network with a drainage system and photovoltaic panels improved access to water for 2,677 people. Community awareness campaigns empowered locals to manage WASH facilities independently.

These efforts improved access to clean water and sanitation, benefiting both refugees and host communities in Hodh Chargui, particularly in Bassiknou, Fassala, and Megve. Looking ahead to 2025, the Moudoun project, funded by the World Bank, is expected to significantly increase water distribution capacity in the region. This will include the construction of a water tower, a new borehole, and 1,087 durable latrines.

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 (2024)	Actual (2024)
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	11.33%	30.00%	16.69%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to the previous year			
Refugees and Asylum-Seekers	19.00%	20.00%	23.14%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2024)
13.1.1 Number of people who benefited from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions	
Refugees and Asylum-Seekers	6,558

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, a total of 6,856 refugees in Mauritania benefited from livelihood and economic inclusion interventions implemented by UNHCR and its partners. Four key areas of intervention were prioritized, including: i) micro, small and medium enterprise development, ii) financial inclusion, iii) Agro-ecological food production opportunity and iv) coordination and advocacy activities.

Regarding the agro-ecological food production initiative, 768 refugees' small-scale farmers cultivated 7 hectares of land within the Mbera camp, mainly women heads of household. The total production reached 77,504.5 kg, of which 33,340 kg was consumed by the farmers themselves, while the remaining 44,164.5 kg was sold, generating an approximate monthly income of 780 MRU (equivalent to 20 USD) per producer. Through UNHCR's local implementing partner, SOS Désert, farmers received training on composting techniques and capacity-building, in addition to gaining access to some new motorized equipment aimed at modernizing their production practices. In terms of employment, UNHCR facilitated the creation of 884 jobs in Mbera camp in 2024, from a total of 46,855 people at working age. Given that the 2024 Social Registry report has not yet been published, the employment calculation was based on the unemployment rate from

the previous year, which was 88%. This rate was applied to a population of 44,125 refugees of working age who possess national documentation permitting regular access to the labor market, resulting in an estimated 38,830 unemployed individuals.

UNHCR continues to encourage banks and financial institutions to promote the financial inclusion of refugees and facilitate their access to financial services. In 2024, over 4,000 digital accounts were opened for refugees in Hodh Chargui, contributing to a total of 5,542 new accounts opened throughout the year, including in urban areas. This brings the cumulative number of accounts opened since 2020 to 11,179 resulting in an increase in the account ownership rate by more than 5%, reaching 16,68%.

Action Against Hunger (ACF), a UNHCR partner for livelihood and economic inclusion activities, conducted a survey in 2024 on self-reported changes in income compared to the previous year. The survey was completed by 484 households in Mbera camp, with participants from all four zones. The results showed that 23% reported a positive change in their income compared to 2023, while 18% indicated it remained the same, 50% stated it had decreased, and 9% were unsure.

In the Hodh Chargui region, UNHCR leads the Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion sector group, coordinating with various stakeholders from the public sector, international and national organizations, and other UN agencies. UNHCR plays a key role in developing livelihoods interventions that benefit refugees, ensuring that there is no duplication of activities and that the same individuals do not receive redundant support. At the national level, UNHCR collaborates with the national employment agency and other partners to register refugees on the job search platform, facilitating their inclusion in the labor market.

From 2022 until 2024, 28,357 refugees (14,672 women and 13,685 men) from Bassikounou, Nouakchott and Nouadhibou subscribed in the platform.

14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

By 2026, potential for voluntary return supported.

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
14.1.1 Number of people who received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation	
Refugees and Asylum-Seekers	9

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, nine refugees were supported to voluntary repatriate in their country of origin including through provision of information on the conditions in their country/area of origin, liaison with the operations in the country of origin to coordinate reception upon arrival, facilitation of departure formalities and financial support.

A Best Interest of the Child Determination (BID) process was completed and endorsed by the review panel for the voluntary repatriation of one unaccompanied child. After obtaining informed consent, rejected asylum seekers as well as persons approaching UNHCR without founded claims for international protection were referred to IOM to explore voluntary return options. A referral form has been designed and implemented with IOM to harmonize these referrals.

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 (2024)	Actual (2024)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement			
Refugees and Asylum-Seekers	102	150	69

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2024)
15.1.1 Country issues machine-readable travel documents	
Refugees and Asylum-Seekers	No

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR used resettlement strategically as a durable solution and a protection tool, including for refugees with emergency and compelling protection needs. In 2024, 69 individuals were submitted by UNHCR for resettlement to third countries exceeding its quota set at 50 individuals. In parallel, 75 refugees departed for resettlement. Refugees at heightened protection risks, including LGBTIQ+ individuals are prioritized. The operation strengthened its capacity to process resettlement cases, facilitated selection missions and liaised with relevant embassies on post-submission case processing. UNHCR also coordinated with IOM to facilitate pre-departure formalities and provided pre-departure cash grants. UNHCR managed refugees' expectations by developing and updating counselling lines and FAQs, providing transparent information on identification, procedures, and limitations of resettlement.

In 2024, UNHCR adopted new standard operating procedures on resettlement strengthening the integrity and efficiency of identification mechanisms. For the first time, the operation actively engaged in complementary pathways activities through the preparation with the support of the Regional Bureau of a skills mapping aimed at identifying opportunities for labour mobility within the refugee community. In the context of the operationalization of the Route Based Approach, the operation has included activities related to expanding complementary pathways through mapping of opportunities and partners and provision of information on existing avenues for third country admissions.

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 (2024)	Actual (2024)
16.2 Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems			
Refugees and Asylum-Seekers	31.64%	45.00%	22.82%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
16.1.1. Government Social protection system is inclusive of forcibly displaced and stateless people	
Refugees and Asylum-Seekers	Partially

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Refugees have been included in national social protection systems in Mauritania since 2021. In 2021, in-camp refugees were included in the national social registry, with a complementary targeting in 2023 refugees not included in 2021 and new arrivals since. From this database, refugees were categorized in three different vulnerability groups. From the most vulnerable group, 7408 refugee households were eligible for governmental social assistance programmes (Tekavoul). Since 2024, there has been an alignment of the amount that Mauritians and refugees, with now all eligible households receiving 3600 MRU on a quarterly basis. The number of households receiving tekavoul in 2024 has maintained the same, but the number of refugees in Mauritania has increased, resulting in a lower proportion of people covered by national social protection systems.

In 2024, attempts were made to include refugees in the social registry, a necessary step to receive Tekavoul. Out-of-camp refugees were included for the first time in the social registry (first questionnaire, door to door) without using parallel systems (15,321 households, 79,378 individuals). This will enable vulnerability assessments between Mauritians and refugees, and the provision of assistance accordingly. Out of these 15,321 households, 85% were considered as vulnerable from the scoring process of the targeting of December 2024 (and work is currently underway to conduct a complementary targeting for the vulnerable refugees) Advocacy will continue in 2025 to include eligible refugees, now in the social registry, to receive Tekavoul. A total of 118 returnees from Senegal received support during the mass enrollment process in 2024. These individuals obtained their national identification numbers, enabling them to be documented and to enjoy all associated rights.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

In 2024, age, gender and diversity (AGD) approach were mainstreamed across all sectors, with AGD and accountability to affected populations (AAP) related commitments being included in all partnership agreements. Disaggregated data continues to be collected by sex and age, and where possible by disability, while reports and assessment tools include language and AGD considerations. The operation updated its gender/LGBTQI+ to mainstream gender equality and ensure safe spaces for LGBTQI+ refugees.

UNHCR, in collaboration with all stakeholders, organized various focus group discussions with refugees as well as members of the host community. During the participatory exercises, various groups of the community were consulted (children, youth, women, men, persons with disabilities and others with limited mobility, persons with diverse SOGIESC and minorities). The questions were adapted for children and youth, as well as the composition of the facilitators for the groups of women and LGBTIQ+ people. Special arrangements were made through the partner for the transportation of persons with limited mobility. Interpretation of all spoken languages in the group is consistently ensured by multiple interpreters. Special attention is given to the participation of all ethnic groups. Persons with diverse SOGIESC (sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics) were also consulted respecting confidentiality and security measures. However, special arrangements should be introduced for the participation of individuals with hearing, visual, intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. The population flow mechanism provided monthly data on the immediate and longer-term needs of both out-of-camp and host populations, gathered through local authorities and refugee leaders acting as key informants (KIs).

Recommendations from affected populations were included in the office's planning.

The outreach volunteers programme was expanded and promoted community engagement, ensuring women and girls participated meaningfully in decision-making, community management and leadership. Significant progress was made in Accountability to Affected Population. The relevant Complaint Feedback and Response Mechanism SOP was drafted and is under final review. The development/ customization of RAIS database was finalized, with 60 UNHCR colleagues trained, including through a ToT training session led by the RB MENA. Data sharing agreements related to RAIS were developed and implemented with partners. The database is entering into official use in February 2025.

In August 2024, management of the Bassikounou hotline was transferred to the protection partner CIAUD, which now oversees a centralized call center in Nouakchott, providing services in the languages most spoken by refugees in Mauritania. Communication with communities was further improved by testing messages on small refugee audiences prior to large-scale dissemination. Additionally, WhatsApp groups were established to connect community leaders, protection focal points, and community outreach volunteers across various locations in the country.

Section 3: Resources

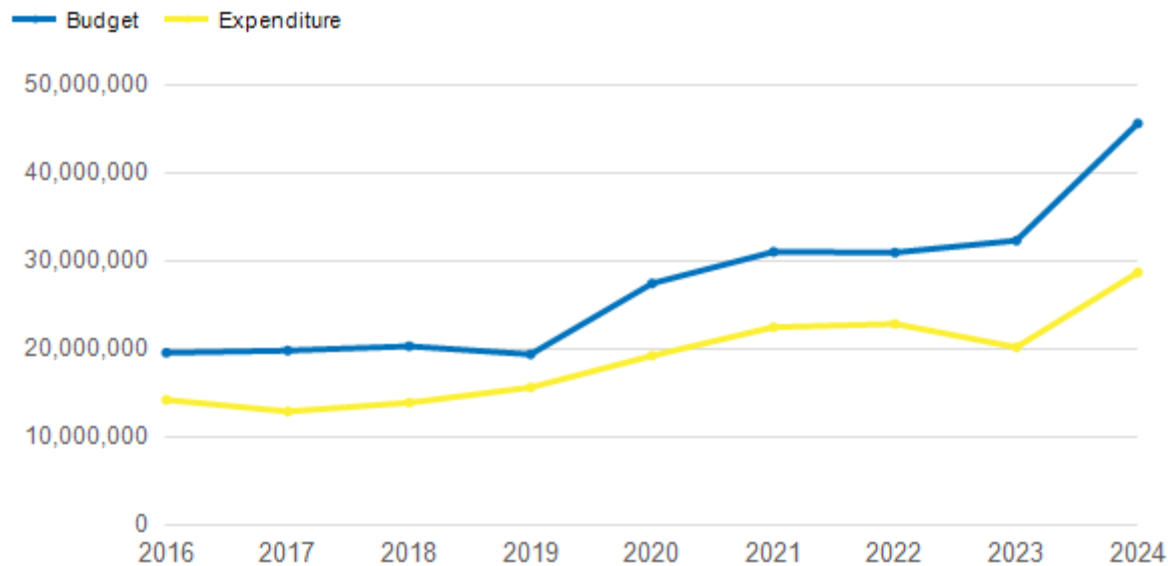
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

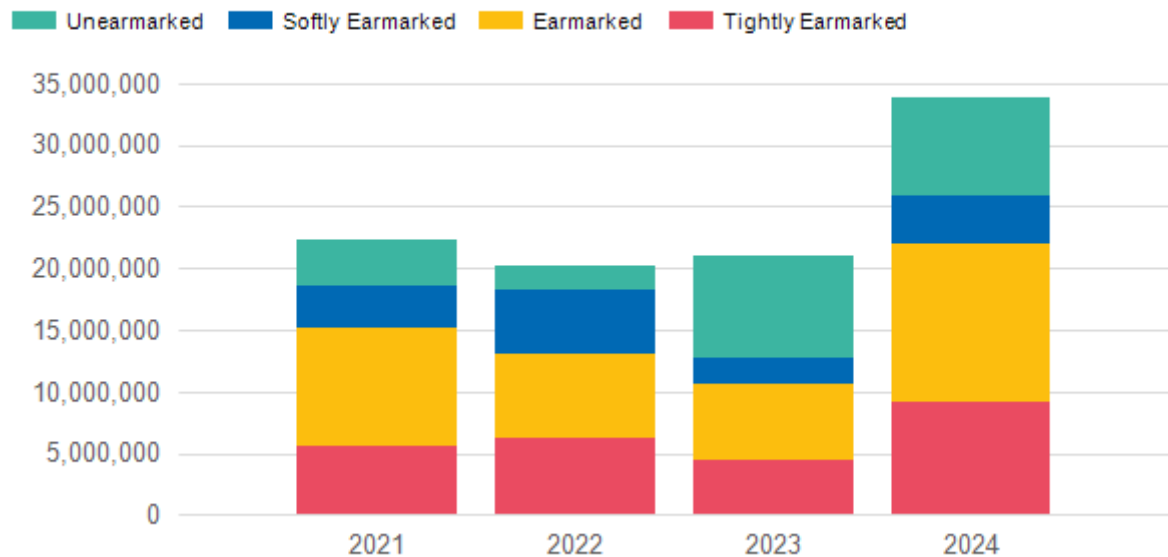
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	10,342,458	9,461,539	91.48%	9,143,306	96.64%
IA2: Assist	24,967,201	14,874,399	59.58%	13,787,621	92.69%
IA3: Empower	7,765,685	4,124,856	53.12%	4,124,856	100.00%
IA4: Solve	2,489,316	1,587,488	63.77%	1,587,488	100.00%
All Impact Areas		4,744,125			
Total	45,564,661	34,792,408	76.36%	28,643,271	82.33%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	2,925,727	3,528,351	120.60%	3,528,351	100.00%
OA2: Status	1,201,583	1,313,352	109.30%	995,118	75.77%
OA3: Policy/Law	1,422,691	1,348,541	94.79%	1,348,541	100.00%
OA4: GBV	2,187,380	1,544,699	70.62%	1,544,699	100.00%
OA5: Children	1,488,746	792,873	53.26%	792,873	100.00%
OA6: Justice	1,116,331	933,723	83.64%	933,723	100.00%
OA7: Community	2,146,453	1,666,040	77.62%	1,666,040	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	6,036,848	3,079,017	51.00%	2,338,391	75.95%
OA9: Housing	6,943,926	4,518,617	65.07%	4,228,617	93.58%
OA10: Health	5,377,836	3,262,076	60.66%	3,262,076	100.00%
OA11: Education	2,357,557	1,441,750	61.15%	1,340,786	93.00%
OA12: WASH	2,922,912	1,307,072	44.72%	1,307,072	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	3,261,675	1,118,030	34.28%	1,118,030	100.00%
OA14: Return	659,657	466,007	70.64%	466,007	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	582,945	484,947	83.19%	484,947	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	1,246,714	636,534	51.06%	636,534	100.00%
EA17: Systems	2,190,528	1,942,183	88.66%	1,942,183	100.00%
EA18: Support	1,495,151	709,282	47.44%	709,282	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		4,699,314			
Total	45,564,661	34,792,408	76.36%	28,643,271	82.33%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

Despite higher funding levels compared to 2023, the prolonged Sahel crisis, limited international attention to Mauritania, and small diplomatic presence in Nouakchott challenged UNHCR’s resource mobilization in 2024. The operation focused on field-level advocacy, reinforcing relationships with local diplomatic communities, and engaging with UN pooled funds. In 2024, UNHCR could finance only 68% (\$30.9 million) of its \$45.5 million requirements. Population movements from Mali significantly impacted operational needs and available funds, already insufficient for

both camp and out-of-camp populations in 2023.

Following the Level 1 emergency declaration in February 2024 and the arrival of over 112,000 Malian refugees in Hodh Chargui, UNHCR extended out-of-camp interventions while maintaining activities in the saturated Mbera camp. Despite increased contributions from traditional and new donors, growing needs outpaced available resources, limiting UNHCR's ability to significantly strengthen its presence and interventions out of camp. Strain on local services (e.g. water, sanitation, hygiene and health) and resources caused by new arrivals also increased tensions between refugee and host communities and negatively impacted local economies.

Against this backdrop, UNHCR prioritized interventions based on the results from monthly population flow and protection monitoring. Registration, protection, and access to basic services remained priorities, while strengthened cooperation with key sectoral ministries was key to ensure refugees' access to national education, healthcare, and social protection systems.

UNHCR mobilized additional funds from key partners like Germany, France, Spain, the EU, and the US, while exploring new development funding opportunities. An innovative 3-year partnership with KOICA was established to promote the decongestion of Mbera camp and green livelihoods, as well as to strengthen existing community structures and participatory community planning. The partnership with GIZ was strengthened through the launch of ProNexus 2.0, focusing on social cohesion and national system strengthening and refugee inclusion in education, health, labor and social protection sectors.

In 2024, UNHCR further enhanced coordination with the Resident Coordinator's office, and UN sister agencies to develop the 2024 Refugee Response Plan and draft joint fund proposals, leading to successful CERF funding with WFP and UNICEF. The operation also co-led the UN working group on resource mobilization with WHO.

As new arrivals persist, even if at a smaller scale, additional funding will be needed in 2025 to address urgent needs and support ongoing development initiatives in Hodh Chargui, aligning with the government's pledges at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

The recommendations from the 2023 Country Strategic Evaluation have played a pivotal role in shaping the 2024 strategic planning process, particularly by prioritizing the long-term integration of refugees into national education, health, and social protection systems. Additionally, the strategic guidance provided by the evaluation has been instrumental in refocusing efforts to strengthen governance, enhance management of mixed migration flows, and address the urbanization of the Mbera camp.

A comprehensive study titled the Holistic Assessment of Development and Learning Outcomes (HALDO) has been conducted, revealing that students in grades 4 and 6 are underperforming in essential content areas. The findings indicate a significant, albeit tentative, correlation between these academic results and the resource, capacity, and vulnerability challenges identified in the focus group discussions (FGDs). To address the identified learning deficiencies, the study offers targeted recommendations categorized into policy, program, and research initiatives, aimed at enhancing both educational outcomes and the measurement and monitoring of these processes in the future.

Understanding the socio-economic profile of refugee arrivals in Mauritania's study (October 2024). This analysis makes use of existing socio-economic data collected by UNHCR and WFP to generate a rapid needs assessment and refugee profiling exercise to allow the Government of Mauritania, supported by development and humanitarian actors, to respond quickly to the fast-changing humanitarian crisis. On September 11, 2024, a consultation workshop was held with UNHCR and its partners, including government officials, international and national NGOs, and refugee representatives. The workshop aimed to identify priority intervention areas for the protection and integration of refugees, drawing on current outcomes, challenges, and future prospects in several critical domains: Documentation and Asylum Law, integration into the national health system, access to the labor market, inclusion in social protection schemes, participation in the national education system, and integrated planning for the Mbera camp. The discussions highlighted the strong commitments of the Mauritanian government, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and various partners toward the 2025-2026 horizon, outlining the necessary steps to achieve these goals.



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