

# Mauritania Monthly Situation Report

February 2013

## Highlights

- Mauritania is the single largest recipient of refugees fleeing the conflict in Mali.
- 75,019 refugees are living in the Mbéra camp, including 20,815 new arrivals in 2013.\*
- 57% of the refugees are children and many have been in the camp for over a year, resulting in overlapping emergency and medium term needs.
- Refugee children face a range of threats to their health, nutrition, education and family lives. Many have experienced severe trauma and are suffering from malnutrition and need specialised attention and care.
- UNICEF, in coordination with UNHCR and partners, are providing education in the camp for 5,790 children in 6 schools and psychosocial stimulation for 1,152 children at 4 child friendly spaces. All 14 schools, child friendly spaces and treatment centres for severe acute malnutrition in Mbéra refugee camp have been provided with access to clean water and sanitation.
- More resources are needed to fill gaps including 19,510 children not getting an education.
- UNICEF Mauritania has received \$710,170 through CERF to meet the basic needs of 15,000 new refugees over the next 6 months.
- In 2013, the expected caseload of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) for the entire country is 122,719 children under 5 years, including 23,901 cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).
- A multi-sectorial package of services is being scaled up from 291 to all 488 nutrition centres in the country and the WASH in Nutrition package is being strengthened.
- Results of the latest SMART survey on nutrition have been released. A joint UNICEF, WFP and FAO programme, supported by the EU, to build resilience will be launched soon to improve nutrition, food security and social protection.



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*A young girl affected by malnutrition plays in a child friendly space. 13 of these spaces have been established in nutrition centres since the beginning of the Sahel Nutrition Crisis.*

\* [www.data.unhcr.org/MaliSituation/country.php?id=132](http://www.data.unhcr.org/MaliSituation/country.php?id=132), updated 10 March 2013.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

- Renewed fighting in northern Mali has increased the flow of refugees over the border to Mauritania. 20,815 new arrivals in 2013 have swelled Mbéra camp to 75,019.
- Mauritania is the single largest recipient of Malian refugees and Mbéra is the most populous refugee camp established as a result of the conflict. While the situation in Mali remains uncertain, the refugee population can be expected to continue rising.
- Life-saving interventions, such as treatment for malnutrition, measles vaccinations and the provision of clean water continue to be needed.
- With the camp now more than a year old, there are also medium term needs, such as more stable education facilities, that UNICEF, in coordination with UNHCR and partners, are addressing.
- Education assistance for refugee children remains critically underfunded preventing UNICEF and partners from meeting the demand in the camp.
- The remote area of Mauritania which is hosting the refugees is very poor, suffers high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition and has limited natural resources and government services. The needs of these communities are also being addressed and assistance given to reinforce Government services.

### Estimated Affected Population Malian Refugee Crisis - Refugees

(Estimates calculated based on initial figures from: [www.data.unhcr.org/MaliSituation/country.php?id=132](http://www.data.unhcr.org/MaliSituation/country.php?id=132) updated 10 March 2013; and SMART Nutrition Survey, January 2013)

	Total	Male	Female
Total Affected Population	75,769	41,260	34,509
Children Affected (Under 18)	44,262	22,506	21,756
Children Under Five	18,004	9,002	9,002
Children 6 to 23 months	5,402	2,701	2,701
Pregnant women	3,526		3,526
Children Under Five with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)	523	349	174
Children Under Five with SAM and medical complications	52	35	17
Children Under Five with Moderate Acute Malnutrition(MAM)	1,661	822	839

### Estimated Affected Population Malian Refugee Crisis – Host Communities

(Estimates calculated based on initial figures from: Mauritanian Census 2000; results from the SMART Nutrition Survey, January 2013)

	Total	Male	Female
Total Affected Population	48,639	23,911	24,728
Children Affected (Under 18)	24,319	11,955	12,364
Children Under Five	8,999	4,424	4,575
Children 6 to 23 months	2,203	1,083	1,120
Pregnant women	1,175		1,175
Children Under Five with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)	45	22	23
Children Under Five with SAM and medical complications	4	2	2
Children Under Five with Moderate Acute Malnutrition( MAM)	630	310	320

- In 2013, the expected caseload for Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in Mauritania is 122,719 children under 5 years, including 23,901 cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).
- Results for the January 2013 SMART nutrition survey show a post-harvest malnutrition rate of 5.6% GAM and 0.6% SAM. Malnutrition is expected to peak in summer, following an annual pattern where families run short of food in the lead up to the next harvest.
- Chronic, recurrent malnutrition through the country is driven by a range of factors including underlying food insecurity, insufficient access to health care, clean water, sanitation and hygiene, and lack of education on nutrition. Addressing the drivers of malnutrition requires longer term funding for resilience programmes to be implemented alongside emergency programmes.

<b>Estimated Affected Population –Nutrition in 2013</b>			
<i>(Estimates calculated based on initial figures from: Mauritanian Census 2000; results from the SMART Nutrition Survey, January 2013)</i>			
	Total	Male	Female
Children Under Five with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)	23,901	11,833	12,068
Children Under Five with SAM and medical complications	2,390	1,183	1,207
Children Under Five with Moderate Acute Malnutrition(MAM)	98,818	48,922	49,896

## Funding Update

In the 2013 Humanitarian Action for Children, UNICEF's requirements for Mauritania are of US\$18,885,937, of which US\$14,614,470 are included the CAP.

<b>Funding Requirements</b>				
Appeal Sector	Requirements as per HAC January 2013	Funds received	Funding gap	
	\$	\$	\$	%
NUTRITION	5,840,558	560,851	5,279,707	90.4%
HEALTH	2,565,815	394,342	2,171,473	84.6%
WASH	3,856,056	327,850	3,528,206	91.5%
C4D	160,027	10,000	150,027	93.8%
EDUCATION	3,899,730	555,646	3,344,084	85.8%
CHILD PROTECTION	1,745,000	98,000	1,647,000	94.4%
SECTOR COORDINATION	818,750	868,606	(49,856.01)	-6.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,885,936</b>	<b>2,815,295</b>	<b>16,070,641</b>	<b>85.1%</b>

\*The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

## Inter-Agency Collaboration and Partnerships

UNICEF continues to work closely with the Government of Mauritania, UN partners and NGOs. In January, a CERF was funded for rapid response actions in the first six months of 2013.

[www.unocha.org/cerf/cerf-worldwide/2013](http://www.unocha.org/cerf/cerf-worldwide/2013)

The 2013 CAP for Mauritania was launched by OCHA in December 2012.

[www.unocha.org/cap/appeals/by-country/results/taxonomy%3A69](http://www.unocha.org/cap/appeals/by-country/results/taxonomy%3A69)

The Inter-Agency Contingency Plan is being updated in light of the recent developments in Mali.

## Malian Refugee Crisis 2013

Sector	Estimated # / % coverage	UNICEF and partners			Sector		
		UNICEF Target	Cumulative results	% of Target Achieved	Sector Target	Cumulative results	% of Target Achieved
Nutrition	Children < 5 years with Severe Acute Malnutrition admitted to Therapeutic care	860	33	3.8%	3,430	198	5.8%
	Children < 5 years with Severe Acute Malnutrition discharged recovered	690	38	5.5%	2,745	212	6.3%
Partners: Ministry of Health, WFP, UNHCR, Médecins Sans Frontières							
WASH	Number of people with access to functional latrines	24,930*	24,930*	100%*	75,019	74,490	99%
	Number of people with access to sufficient safe water	11,667*	11,667*	100%*	75,019	82,667	110%
Partners: Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation, UNHCR, Solidarites International, Intermon Oxfam, Mauritanian Red Crescent							
Health	Children aged 6 months to 15 years vaccinated against measles	27,629	5,714	21%			
	Households with two or more insecticide treated mosquito nets (ITNs)	7,309	0	0			
Partners: Ministry of Health, UNHCR, WHO, UNFPA, Médecins Sans Frontières and NGOs							
Child Protection	Emergency-affected children who attend CFSS	7,377	1,152	15.6%	7,377	1,566	21%
	Partners: Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Health, UNHCR, UNFPA, WFP, Intersos						
Education	Children with continued access to formal or non-formal education	17,000	5,790	34%	25,300	5,790	23%
	Partners: Ministry of Education and regional authorities, UNHCR, Intersos, ESD, FLM, Mauritanian Red Crescent						

\*Results based on provision of materials. Construction and operation of facilities are led by UNHCR and implemented with partners in the camp.

## UNICEF and partners' programming

### Nutrition

- Results from the January 2013 SMART nutrition survey indicate that since July 2012, GAM rates in Mbéra have been reduced from 20% to 13% of children under 5 years. The rate of SAM is around 3%. Actions need to be reinforced to combat the high levels of malnutrition.
- Over the last 6 months, UNICEF in coordination with UNHCR, the Ministry of Health and partners undertook intensive interventions including blanket feeding together with WFP and community mobilisation for education on nutrition.

- A joint UNICEF, UNHCR and WFP study of the determinants of malnutrition in the refugee camp is underway. This study aims to understand factors associated with malnutrition and how to influence them for greater programme effectiveness.

#### **WASH**

- UNICEF continues to make a valuable contribution to the WASH activities in the camp, which are led by UNHCR. Provision of sufficient amounts of safe water and latrines meet SPHERE standards.
- UNICEF provided items for 576 families newly arrived in Fassala and hand washing devices and buckets.
- 50 hand washing devices for the latrines were added to improve hygiene conditions.
- 20 latrines and 10 showers were built with UNICEF support at Fassala.

#### **Health**

- 5,714 children under 15 years who arrived at Fassala have been systematically vaccinated against measles by the Ministry of Health and MSF prior to being transferred to the refugee camp at Mbéra. Measles remains a serious threat and a recent outbreak in northern Mali affected more than 50 people and claimed three lives. Since the beginning of the Malian refugee crisis UNICEF has provided 25,000 doses of Measles vaccine.
- A government assessment of the health post in Mbéra has been conducted and resulted in reorganisation of the pharmacy to improve the management of medicines.
- 8,000 long-life, insecticide treated mosquito nets will be distributed in the coming weeks.

#### **Education**

- UNICEF in coordination with UNHCR and partners are strengthening efforts to provide education to children and youth in the refugee camps, but are hampered by serious underfunding. Many of the refugee children have been in Mauritania for a year now. Providing an education gives them a sense of normalcy and hope for a better life outside the camp.
- The literacy programmes targeting 13 to 17 year olds are giving youths a chance to 'catch up'. Demand continues to outstrip supply with 887 youths (89% girls) waiting for places in the programme.
- 30 more school tents to accommodate 2,400 students are on their way. In the medium term, a move from tents to semi-permanent structures is needed as the tents collapse in high winds.
- 34 school-in-a-box kits have been distributed with materials for 2,700 primary school age children.

#### **Child Protection**

- 1,206 malnourished children under 5 years (77 suffering SAM), received emotional stimulation care provided at a health centre and six nutritional centres in Mbéra camp. UNICEF is working with UNHCR and InterSOS to support these activities.
- 1,152 children (653 girls) aged 3 -5 years old attended psychosocial activities organized in four child friendly spaces in Mbéra.
- Community leaders are establishing a community child protection network to prevent and address violence and abuse against children.
- 88 government, NGO and community organisation workers in the host communities have been trained in child protection mechanisms in partnership with national NGO COAN.

#### **C4D**

- 48 community relays disseminate hygiene promotion messages through awareness sessions and households visits. More than 15,000 people have been reached by these sessions since the establishment of the Mbéra camp.
- A child health week will promote hygiene in schools.

## NUTRITION RESPONSE 2013

Sector	Estimated # / % coverage	UNICEF and partners			Sector		
		UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)	% of Target Achieved	Cluster Target	Cumulative results (#)	% of Target Achieved
Nutrition	Children < 5 years with Severe Acute Malnutrition admitted to Therapeutic care	23,901	182**	0.8%**	23,901	182*	0.8%*
	Children < 5 years with Severe Acute Malnutrition discharged recovered	17,925	177**	1.0%**	17,925	177*	1.0%*
	Number of health centres with SAM treatment	488	291	60%	488	291	60%
Partners: Ministry of Health, Action Contre la Faim, French Red Cross, Terre des hommes, Counterpart, World Vision, AMAMI, WFP, WHO, FAO, Ministry of Social Affairs, Committee on Food Security, UNFPA							
WASH	Numbers of mothers and children affected by SAM who received a WASH kit and hygiene promotion	23,901	120	0.5%	23,901	313	1.3%
	Number of nutrition centres delivering the WASH minimum package	291	14	5.1%	291	59	12%
Partners: Government of Mauritania, AMAMI, Ecodev, Moundi, Action Contre la Faim							
Protection	Emergency-affected children who attend CFSs and psychosocial stimulation	15,400	2,790	18%	15,400	2,790	18%
	Partners: Terre des Hommes Lausanne, Save the Children Espagne, Coordination des ONG et Associations de Nema (COAN), Actions						

\*Based on partial data reported from health posts.

## UNICEF and partners' programming

### Nutrition

- Mauritania's expected caseload of SAM in 2013 is 23,901 children under 5, exceeding the 2012 caseload.
- Results from the January SMART survey put GAM at 5.6% and SAM at 0.6% in children under 5 years. The rates of SAM and GAM are expected to deteriorate through the year, peaking in summer before the September harvest.
- Malnutrition rates are worse in the south and east of the country, including the region hosting the refugees from Mali where results show GAM at 7.5%.
- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to launch the Nutrition Sector Coordination Unit.
- Planning for blanket feeding programmes has already commenced with WFP and partners in anticipation of the lean season.

### WASH

- Led by the Ministry of Water Resources, UNICEF and partners are supporting a 'WASH in Nutrition' programme.
- So far in 2013, 6,248 mothers and children benefited from hygiene promotion in 5 regions.

### **Child Protection**

- Together with partners, UNICEF has supported emotional stimulation care for 687 malnourished children under 5 years old, including 198 suffering SAM, at 10 health and nutritional centres.
- 2,197 children aged 3 -14 years attended psychosocial activities organised in 13 operational child friendly spaces established in response to the nutrition crisis.
- 33 participants from national NGOs and community based organization in Kaedi attended to a two days training on gender based violence (GBV) education techniques.

## **SUPPLY & LOGISTICS**

- Supplies with a value of USD 2,404,439 have been provided in 2012 and 2013 to respond to the Mali and Sahel nutrition crises in Mauritania. Supplies delivered contained essential commodities such as recreation kits, school-in-a-box kits, RUTF, hygiene kits, basic family water kits, water purification tabs, squatting plats and tarpaulins.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

- Two additional staff have been engaged to assist with the expanded coordination and reporting needs created by the on-going crises.
- Additional staff are being recruited to reinforce education and to establish a sub-office to support the Malian refugee crisis response.

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