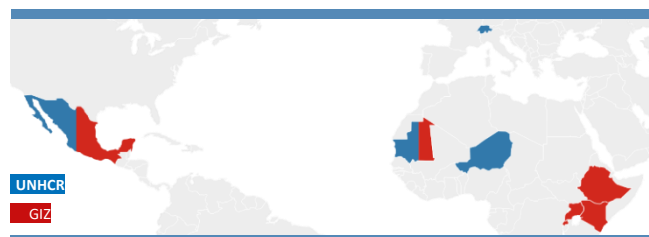


Overview of the ProNexus project in Mauritania

In the framework of the SUN Global Programme, GIZ and UNHCR are developing a joint project to build capacity to promote the socio-economic inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable members of host communities in Mauritania

Context

By the end of 2019, 79.5 million people had fled their homes worldwide. While the numbers of those forcibly displaced are at an all-time high, the number of complex, protracted crises is also increasing. The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) represents the political will and ambition of the international community for strengthened cooperation and solidarity with refugees and affected host countries. It is a framework for more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing between governments, international organisations and other stakeholders. In 2019, at the first Global Refugee Forum, host countries made 280 policy pledges to enhance the inclusion of refugees in their national systems. To ensure their sustainable implementation, these pledges require close collaboration of humanitarian and development actors in line with the principles enshrined in the GCR.



Countries of interventions of the SUN Global Programme

The SUN Global Programme

The GCR calls on “development actors [to] work in a complementary manner to humanitarian assistance interventions to ensure that the impact of a large refugee situation on a host country is taken into account in the planning and implementation of development programmes and policies with direct benefits for both host communities and refugees”. To contribute, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) commissioned the Global Programme “Support to UNHCR in facilitating the operationalization of the Global Compact on Refugees in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus” (HDP) in 2018.

The program is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in cooperation with UNHCR and aims to support UNHCR as a facilitator of the GCR in the HDP Nexus.

The SUN project in Mauritania: ProNexus

In Mauritania, UNHCR and GIZ have started a joint project called ‘ProNexus’, running from January 2021 to August 2023, as part of the first component of the Global Programme, namely “implementation of the humanitarian development peace nexus in specific displacement settings”. The project aims at building capacity to promote the socio-economic inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable members of host communities in Mauritania.

[Additional details on the joint project are available here.](#)



Project name	ProNexus Building capacities for strengthened socio-economic inclusion of refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable members of host communities in Mauritania
Commissioned by	The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Mauritania Wilaya of Hodh Chargui (particularly Moughataa of Bassikounou) as well as in the urban areas (Nouakchott and Nouadhibou).
Lead executing agencies	GIZ UNHCR
Duration	32 months (January 2021 – August 2023)
Budget	GIZ: €4,100,000 UNHCR: €4,000,000

Key developments and achievements 09/2021

Following a scoping mission, in which refugees, host communities and local authorities participated fully, project activities have begun in all six areas of intervention.

Improved access to basic public services

In view of reinforcing the inclusion of refugees in national development programmes, the project **supports the development of the 2nd Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity Strategy of the Government** including a number of related workshops. The project is also supporting **access to primary healthcare through the national health system** for urban refugees through national health institutions and for refugees in Mbera camp through the health facilities that have now been included in the national health pyramid (initiated in 2020 through the **World Bank INAYA** project).

Improved access to environmentally sensitive livelihoods opportunities

To enhance economic inclusion, an agreement with the INGO COOPI has been signed to build on existing livelihood activities and **create linkages with the National Agency for Employment (Techghil)**. In parallel, the decentralization of Techghil is being supported, including to establish a presence in the moughataa of Bassikounou. With ProNexus creating an enabling environment for the inclusion of refugees, and in line with Mauritania's commitment at the Global Refugee Forum, the competent authorities have recently provided clarifications that refugees can have access to the labour market on par with nationals; this will facilitate financial and socio-economic inclusion of refugees.

Improved access to social protection

Consultations with the **General Delegation for National Solidarity and Fight Against Exclusion (Ta'azour)**, as well as with the **Association of Mayors of Mauritania** were conducted. As a result, activities aiming at enhancing the inclusion of refugees and vulnerable persons in national programmes have been developed. Specifically, support has been provided to the Al Baraka program, a part of Ta'azour, to reinforce capacities of municipalities and enable them to carry out local economic development activities.

Strengthened government-led coordination mechanisms

In February 2021, a **staff was placed in the 'Wilaya' (regional government) of the Hodh Chargui to support the coordination of development projects** and reinforce refugee inclusion in development programs. Issues

concerning refugees and vulnerable nationals have since taken center stage in governmental and development considerations and are being addressed more holistically.

Building on the membership of the German Cooperation GIZ in the **Sahel Alliance**, a platform for coordinating development aid and a mechanism for dialogue in Sahelian countries, refugee issues are being **increasingly integrated in the action plan of the Alliance and especially its Integrated Territorial Approach (ATI) in the Hodh Chargui**.

ProNexus supported a **workshop, organised by the authorities, to raise awareness on coordination among governmental, humanitarian and development actors** as well as on key developmental approaches (the ATI and the UN 'zone de convergence' approach). The workshop that gathered members of all line ministries led to several concrete recommendations how to foster coordination.

In support of its role as responsible for social cohesion in the wilaya, the *Conseil Régional* of Hodh Chargui has been provided with **advisory and capacity building support for the creation of a social inclusion unit** that will help addressing issues faced by the most vulnerable populations.

Strengthened UNHCR facilitation capacities at the nexus

To support the ability of UNHCR to address new challenges related to the inclusion of refugees in national programs and support the authorities in their coordination of development projects, **additional expert staff have been recruited in key sectors** such as WASH, monitoring and evaluation, education and protection and registration of refugees.

Increased inter-organizational learning on comprehensive responses at the nexus.

To ensure **joint implementation and cross-organizational linking and learning, as well as sharing of good practices**, staff from GIZ recruited for the project recently joined the UNHCR sub-office in the field and are working hand in hand with their UNHCR peers, being fully integrated in the relevant functional units (protection and livelihoods).



Launch of the ProNexus with the local authorities in Bassikounou on World Refugee Day by the Head of GIZ in Mauritania and the UNHCR