

I AM HERE

Belonging and
Legal Identity in
the Arab Region:
Ensuring that
every child,
woman and man
belongs and has a
legal identity



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BIRTH REGISTRATION IN THE WIDER REGION

MAURITANIA

In the past, the Mauritanian government did not issue birth certificates for all refugees. Recently, this situation changed when the authorities decided to issue birth certificates to refugee children born in Mberra camp. The first birth certificates were delivered in February 2018, while any subsequently-born children in the camp now have access to a birth certificate. Commending the important developments in recent years, it is encouraged that all refugee children born in Mauritania have access to a birth certificate, which is essential to their protection, regardless of where they are born.

Further developments were observed in November 2018, when the Mauritanian authorities began issuing national identity cards to the over 57,000 Malian refugees who have sought asylum at Mberra refugee camp, with plans to extend the program to urban refugees in the future. The national identity card serves as proof of their identity and regularises their residency. This is particularly important, as many refugees were forced to flee without documents. Refugees living in Mberra camp will now be able to move freely beyond the limits of the camp, which is essential for them to lead autonomous, self-sustaining lives where they are able to pursue professional and educational goals and contribute meaningfully to the Mauritanian economy and society more broadly.

Malian parents register births at Mberra camp in Mauritania



“I want to thank the UNHCR and the Government of Mauritania for this legal document which allows me to have access to certain fundamental rights,”

Abdul Aziz, a refugee in Mberra camp,
after receiving his identification card

Refugee in Mberra camp receives National Identification card from UNHCR staff

