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Emergency appeal Mauritania: Food Insecurity

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Appeal n° MDRMR009	17,400 people to be assisted	Appeal launched 24 May 2018
Glide n° DR-2018-000063-MRT	224,879 Swiss francs DREF allocated	Appeal ends 24 January 2019 (9 months)
	1,693,785 Swiss francs current Appeal budget	

This Emergency Appeal seeks a total of some **1,693,785** Swiss francs to enable the IFRC to support the **Mauritanian Red Crescent Society (MRC)** to deliver assistance and support to some **17,400 people for 9 months**, with a focus on the following areas of focus and strategies for implementation: Food security, Health (nutrition) and Livelihoods. The planned response reflects the current situation and information available at this time of the evolving operation and will be adjusted based on further developments and more detailed assessments. Details are available in the [Emergency Plan of Action](#) (EPoA)

The disaster and the Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

February 2018: Following the very poor agro-pastoral season 2017-2018, arising from a severe drought, a joint MRC and IFRC assessment is undertaken in three departments in the south-central part of the country which shows an alarming impact on households' food and economic security

12 March 2018: According to the 2018 Harmonized Framework, 350,600 people are in severe food insecurity (Phase 3,4) and the figures could reach up to 538,446 people for the projected period of June to August 2018 (14 percent of the population). See maps in annex.

24 May 2018: IFRC issues Emergency Appeal for 1.7m Swiss francs (including a DREF allocation of 224,879 Swiss francs) for 17,400 people for period of 9 months.



Community meetings were held as part of the joint MRC and IFRC situation and needs assessment in February 2018. Source: IFRC

The operational strategy

Context

Mauritania is currently facing a serious food and nutrition insecurity situation, the worst that the country has seen in the last five years. According to the results of the latest Harmonized Framework (HF) of March 2018, 350,600 people are currently in severe food insecurity (phase 3, 4) and these figures could reach 538,446 people for the projected period of June to August 2018. These projections correspond to 14 percent of the population, raising fears of a food crisis comparable to that of 2011-2012. This is the worst situation since the HF analyses were performed in the country.

This alarming food situation is taking place in a country faced with chronically high levels of malnutrition. The results of the latest SMART survey¹, for example, show that 10.9 percent of the children aged 6 to 59 months were affected by Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM), of which 2.3 percent are in severe conditions (SAM) exceeding the emergency nutritional threshold. Several departments (moughataas) in the country (21 out of the total 56) are considered in a critical nutritional (*moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and severe acute malnutrition*) situation (MAM>15% and/or MAS>2%). In view of increasing food insecurity, the nutritional situation could worsen beyond the levels reached in recent years.

Within the framework of a coordinated response in accordance with the Integrated Response Plan to Food Security & Nutrition (PRISAN), the **overall objective** of this Emergency Appeal is to help save lives and protect agro-pastoralist households (an estimated 17,400 people) from the adverse effects of drought on their food security, nutrition and livelihoods.

The specific objectives of this intervention are:

- covering the food needs of the most vulnerable that have been affected by the crisis for four months (June to September) until the next harvests;
- monitor the nutritional situation; support the most vulnerable groups and their referral to health centres during the lean season; ensure the preventive component of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and promote good dietary practices, hygiene, and vaccination of children and Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW);
- avoid further degradation of the livelihoods by protecting/replacing them and then, build resilience of households to shocks by supporting more resilient farming and animal husbandry practices;
- ensure complementarity, coordination and synergies with the interventions planned by the authorities on the one hand and the humanitarian actors on the other.

This operation will be implemented in the departments of Barkéole and Magta Lahjar and based on a two-pronged approach:

- **immediate response** to help 1,700 vulnerable households (10,200 people) facing food and nutrition insecurity for four months (June to September);
- **protection and initial recovery of livelihoods** of agro-pastoral communities, according to the following activities:
 - livestock: in the immediate future, the safeguarding of the livestock of 500 households (small livestock breeders) through the distribution of cattle feed for small ruminants;
 - livestock: the recovery of the livelihoods of 400 other households (small livestock breeders) through restocking (donations of small ruminants) and livestock feed distribution;
 - agriculture: support to 60 women's agricultural cooperatives, globally targeting around 1,800 women.

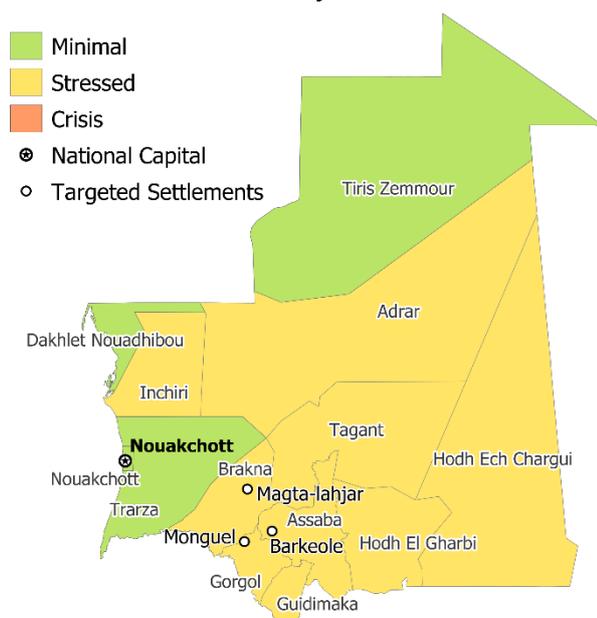
¹ August 2017

Needs assessment and beneficiary selection

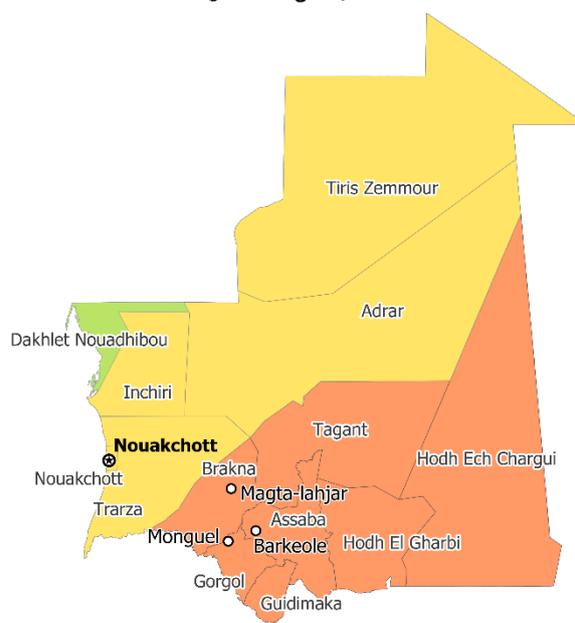
In view of this problematic situation forecasted for 2018 in several agro-pastoral areas, the Mauritanian Red Crescent with the support of IFRC led an assessment² of the situation in three departments in the south-central part of the country (Magta Lahjar, Monguel and Barkéole), which are among those most affected by the drought, using the Household Economic Security (HES) methodology. The assessment mission concluded that the drought jeopardizes the food and economic security of the households in the three departments visited and therefore calls into question their ability to meet their basic needs.

The prioritization of this response plan will follow two aspects: geographic prioritization and beneficiary household vulnerability profiles. In line with the PRISAN3's approach, MRC and IFRC will focus the response on two Departments: the Department of Barkéole which is currently classified as highest priority according to PRISAN's methodology and the Department of Magta Lahjar, classified as second highest priority level, out of five overall. Within each department, the humanitarian partners will focus their response following a final process of prioritization between the different municipalities, carried out by department commissions, in collaboration with local authorities and state services. As part of the selection of beneficiary households for food and nutrition assistance, the MRC will follow harmonized criteria with those of the humanitarian response plan. Community-based targeting will be in accordance with the Household Economy Approach (HEA) methodology. In addition, targeting will focus on very poor households with children under-five and/or PLW.

Current Situation (March-May)



Predicted Situation (June-August)



1:10,000,000

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Map data sources: Food Security Cluster, OCHA, ICRC, IFRC.

Source: « Results of the situation analysis of the current acute food insecurity for Mauritania », Harmonized Framework, March 2018.

² Final evaluation Food Security Report in Mauritania 2018" Mauritanian RC, February 2018

³ "Integrated Response Plan to Food Security & Nutrition Partners following the consequences of the drought during the agro-pastoral campaign 2017-2018" (PRISAN).

National Society Overview

The MRC has been one of the first humanitarian organizations to be established in Mauritania (since December 1970). It has branches in all regions (56 committees) where it exercises its auxiliary role of the public authorities of the State of Mauritania. Its network comprising 6,000 volunteers and 20 staff MRC maintains regular collaborative relationships with all humanitarian actors (UNICEF, WFP, FAO, NGOs and government agencies) and with some of them, has already collaborated for the implementation of Food Security and WASH programmes.

During the 2012 food crisis, the MRC implemented an emergency appeal on food and nutrition insecurity, including water, hygiene and sanitation, and health activities covering four communes of Magta Lahjar, benefiting 7,000 households in 18 villages and 30 women's cooperatives through the distribution of food and agricultural inputs to protect and enhance the livelihoods of small farmers and pastoralists.

At the end of 2017, the MRC implemented a DREF operation focusing on food security in the departments of Magta Lahjar and Monguel with the distribution of vouchers in exchange for food products. These past operations focused on food insecurity have increased MRC capacity on these types of operation. Moreover, the lessons learned review of the past DREF operation in 2017 was used as a basis for integrating best practices and adapting certain operational modalities for this initiative. The MRC is also involved in the working groups on food security and nutrition in the country; it contributes to the response plan established by the humanitarian partners in Mauritania to respond to the difficult situation in 2018. The MRC in collaboration with the IFRC has participated in the coordination sessions for the 2018 response led by WFP for the finalization of this Action Plan.

Coordination and partnerships

In light of its vulnerability to food insecurity, within IFRC Sahel Cluster annual programming Mauritania is amongst the priority countries for assistance on food, livelihoods and basic needs (Area of Focus 3). The rapid assessment conducted in February 2018 aimed at assessing the situation but also entered within the framework of the Food Security and Livelihoods Capacity Building Programme promoted and facilitated by the British Red Cross and the Livelihoods Resource Centre, of which MRC is a beneficiary. In April 2018, the IFRC undertook a mission to Mauritania to support MRC in the finalization of this plan of action. During the mission and in collaboration with the MRC, several meetings were held with the humanitarian actors involved in the response to harmonize and coordinate the MRC-IFRC response. In addition, the French Red Cross (FRC) is implementing a nutrition (care) programme in the Region of Gorgol, including the Department of Monguel since 2011, through which capacity building actions have been developed. During 2018, the FRC will continue the nutrition programme in the Gorgol area. The ICRC does not have a presence in the aforementioned areas of the evaluation but has participated in the strengthening of the National Society in the area of food security (EcoSec).

Given the alarming situation in the country, humanitarian actors maintain regular coordination bodies. Humanitarian actors, through the Food Security Working Group (led by the WFP) have proposed an "Integrated Response Plan to Food Security & Nutrition Partners following the consequences of the drought during the agro-pastoral campaign 2017-2018" (PRISAN). In the intervention areas of this Appeal, Barkéole and Magta Lahjar, the MRC will coordinate with the following actors involved in the response: FAO, CFS, ACF, WFP, Oxfam, Terre des Hommes. MRC has regularly participated in the Food Security Working Group and this plan of action is part of PRISAN's strategy and approach to the Mauritanian crisis.

Proposed Areas for intervention

Within the framework of a coordinated response within PRISAN, the **overall objective** of this Emergency Appeal is to help save lives and protect agro-pastoral households (an estimated 17,400 people) from the adverse effects of drought on their food security, nutrition and livelihoods.

Areas of Focus



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 17,400

Requirements (CHF): 899,296

Proposed intervention

In the Department of Barkéole an estimated 31,266 people (around 5,211 households) are to be severely food insecure between June and September 2018 and need food assistance. In the Department of Magta Lahjar, it is 18,935 people, (around 3,155 households) that are estimated to be severely food insecure between June and September 2018 and need food assistance⁴. The main livelihood activities of agriculture and livestock in the departments of Barkéole and Magta Lahjar are strongly affected by drought, including the depletion of the natural capital (water, pasture) necessary to ensure the protection of livelihoods. The areas targeted for this Appeal are the regions of Assaba (Department of Barkéole) and Brakna (Department of Magta Lahjar). This Emergency Appeal is aiming to provide:

- immediate response to help 1,700 vulnerable households (10,200 people) who are food and nutrition insecure for four months (June-September);
- the protection and initial recovery of the livelihoods of agro-pastoral communities, through the implementation of the following activities:
 - livestock: in the immediate future, the preservation of the livestock of 500 households - around 3,000 people (small-scale livestock breeders) through the distribution of livestock feed for small ruminants;
 - livestock: raising the livelihoods of 400 households - around 2,400 people (small livestock breeders) through restocking (small ruminants) and the distribution of livestock feed;
 - agriculture: support to 60 women's agricultural cooperatives, globally targeting around 1,800 women.

The **activities planned** to be carried out are:

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities

- Training on interventions in food security, livelihoods and cash transfer
- Selection of beneficiaries
- Establishment of the CEA activities such as setting up targeting committees as well as complaints and feedback committees.
- Selection and preparation of the cash transfer mechanism
- Immediate food assistance for 1,700 households in the form of cash transfer (for four months)
- Baseline, Endline, Post-Distribution Monitoring and monitoring of markets (prices and availability of products)

⁴ Estimations of Harmonized Framework and PRISAN

Output 1.3: Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production and income generating activities

- Selection of beneficiaries and distribution of animal/livestock feed for small livestock
- Technical training on husbandry/livestock/breeding for MRC volunteers and staff
- Livestock feed selection and animal procurement process
- Distribution of small ruminants (goats) and livestock feed
- Monitoring and awareness raising of beneficiaries
- Selection of beneficiary associations/cooperatives
- Market study and Identification of required inputs and purchasing process
- Supply of agricultural inputs and equipment to revive rain-fed agriculture and crop protection during the 2018/2019 agricultural season/campaign.
- Training on best practices and management to strengthen the resilience of cooperatives
- Cooperative monitoring



Health (Nutrition)

People targeted: 10,200 (of which 640 children of 6-23 months and 410 PLW)
Requirements (CHF): 136,315

Proposed intervention

Latest SMART survey showcases that 10.9 percent of children aged 6 to 59 months are affected by GAM), among which 2.3 percent are in severe conditions (SAM) exceeding the emergency nutritional threshold. Several departments (moughataas) in the country (21 out of the total 56) are considered in a critical nutritional (moderate acute malnutrition and severe acute malnutrition) situation (MAM>15 percent and/or MAS>2 percent). The high rate of malnutrition is mainly due to: food insecurity (low availability of food products, lack of access to products and low income of household) and non-compliance with good nutrition and hygiene practices. The population to be assisted is composed of households with children between 6-59 months of age and / or pregnant and lactating women, and MAS and MAM children who will be referred immediately to the health structures for care.

The **activities planned** to be carried out are:

Outcome 1: Vulnerable people's health and dignity are improved through increased access to appropriate health services

Output 1.1: Communities are provided by MRC with services to identify and reduce health risks SAM is addressed in the target population.

- Training on nutrition, screening techniques and referencing of children and awareness raising techniques on good health and hygiene practices
- Selection of beneficiaries
- Screening and referencing (referral to health centers)
- Distribution of complementary flour - children 6-23 months and PLW
- Awareness raising amongst women on exclusive breastfeeding, good nutritional practices and vaccination – Organization of the Learning and Nutrition Recovery Centre (LNRC) and the use BP (Brachial Perimeter) through the trained mother approach.

Strategies for Implementation

Based on the demand for the technical and coordination support required to deliver in this operation, the following programme support functions will be put in place to ensure an effective and efficient technical coordination: **human resources, logistics and supply chain; information technology support (IT); communications; security; planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER); partnerships and resource development; and finance and administration.** More details are in the Emergency Plan of Action.

Budget

See attached IFRC Secretariat budget ([Annex 1](#)) for details.

Elhadj As Sy
Secretary General

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace

		Multilateral Response	Inter-Agency Shelter Coord.	Bilateral Response	Appeal Budget CHF
	Budget Group				
500	Shelter - Relief	-			0
501	Shelter - Transitional	-			0
502	Construction - Housing	-			0
503	Construction - Facilities	-			0
505	Construction - Materials	-			0
510	Clothing & Textiles	-			0
520	Food	115,792			115,792
523	Seeds & Plants	363,416			363,416
530	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	-			0
540	Medical & First Aid	-			0
550	Teaching Materials	5,765			5,765
560	Utensils & Tools	26,734			26,734
570	Other Supplies & Services	-			0
571	Emergency Response Units	-			0
578	Cash Disbursements	454,479			454,479
	Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	966,186	0	0	966,186
580	Land & Buildings	-			0
581	Vehicles Purchase	-			0
582	Computer & Telecom Equipment	12,500			12,500
584	Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	4,177			4,177
587	Medical Equipment	-			0
589	Other Machinery & Equipment	-			0
	Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	16,677	0	0	16,677
590	Storage, Warehousing	1,392			1,392
592	Distribution & Monitoring	14,690			14,690
593	Transport & Vehicle Costs	53,103			53,103
594	Logistics Services	-			0
	Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	69,185	0	0	69,185
600	International Staff	108,000			108,000
640	Regionally deployed staff	35,000			35,000
661	National Staff	17,500			17,500
662	National Society Staff	65,972			65,972
667	Volunteers	37,766			37,766
	Total PERSONNEL	264,238	0	0	264,238
670	Consultants	-			0
750	Professional Fees	-			0
	Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	-	0	0	0
680	Workshops & Training	33,405			33,405
	Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	33,405	0	0	33,405
700	Travel	98,354			98,354
710	Information & Public Relations	17,391			17,391
730	Office Costs	81,556			81,556
740	Communications	4,757			4,757
760	Financial Charges	24,974			24,974
790	Other General Expenses	-			0
799	Shared Support Services	13,685			13,685
	Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	240,717	0	0	240,717
599	Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	103,377			103,377
	Total INDIRECT COSTS	103,377	0	0	103,377
	TOTAL BUDGET	1,693,785	0	0	1,693,785