



© UNICEFMauritania2021/Launch of the vaccination of the UN staff against COVID-19

Reporting Period: 1 January to 30 June, 2021

# Mauritania

## Humanitarian Situation Report No. 3



### Highlights

Since the beginning of the pandemic, there has been a total of 20,808 COVID-19 cases, including 804 children, 489 deaths, 19,790 recoveries, and 529 active cases.

Now during the third wave, UNICEF is supporting the government in the multisectoral response against COVID-19, providing co-leadership on Infection Prevention and Control and Risk Communication and Community Engagement pillars.

As of June 30, 156,543 people over 45 years of age or with co-morbidities have received their first dose of the vaccine, 0.4% of the total population (4,271,198), 0.6% of the target population (2,690,855), and 16% of the first priority target (854,239).

Sensitization on COVID-19 prevention measures benefitted 19,140 students in schools and 1,200 students in mahadras.

### Situation in Numbers



20,808 confirmed COVID-19 cases  
489 deaths (since March 2020)



156,543 people have received the first COVID-19 vaccine dose

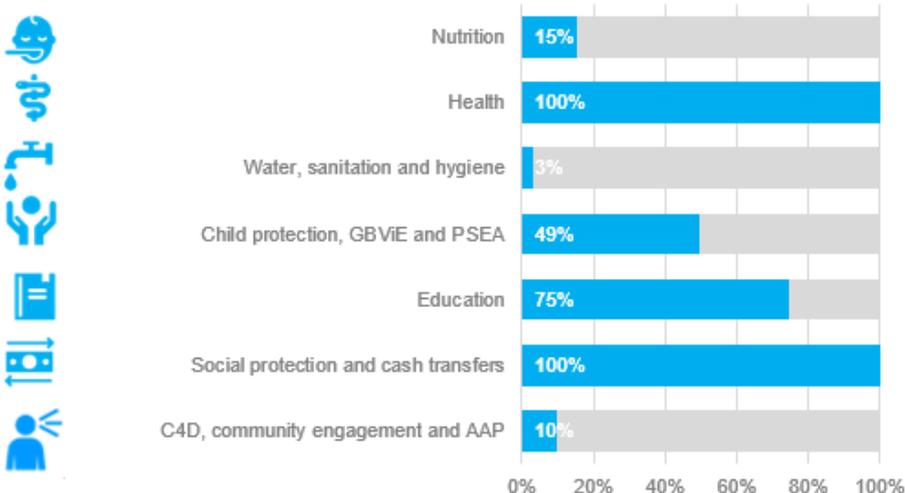


740,000 children in need



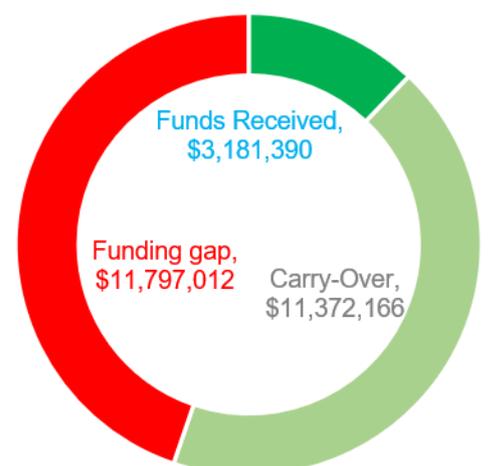
11.7 M US\$ required

### UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



### UNICEF Appeal 2021

Needs US\$ 17,7 million



Funding Status (in US\$)

\*Funding available includes funds received in the current year; carry-over from the previous year; and repurposed funds with agreement from donors.

## Funding Overview and Partnerships

In 2021, HAC was funded at 18% for interventions for nutrition, health, WASH, education, child protection, communication for development and social protection. During this reporting period, funding was received through HAC COVAX and from Japanese cooperation. UNICEF Mauritania wishes to express its heartfelt gratitude to all public and private sector donors. However, additional support is needed for sustaining the humanitarian-developmental nexus and to fill the 67% funding gap needed to provide life-saving services in Mauritania, especially with regards to critical WASH and nutrition programming.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Since January 2021, Mauritania has registered 5,947 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 8,116 recoveries (with some cases being carried from 2020) and 133 deaths. As of June 22, 2021, Mauritania has recorded a cumulative total of 20,265 cases including 804 children, 481 deaths, 19,438 recoveries and 446 active cases.

Regarding COVID-19 vaccination, Mauritanian authorities set as their focus protecting the most exposed and vulnerable people. However, as of June 2021, the immunization uptake is lower than anticipated as there are major challenges for the securing enough doses covering all needs and organising logistics relating to transportation and storage. Vaccine hesitation in reaction to anti-vaccine rumours spreading on social media are also considered to be a factor explaining low uptake.

Even so, the effect of the pandemic on the Mauritanian economy has been undeniable. According to the World Bank report<sup>1</sup>, the COVID-19 pandemic and all the restrictive measures have caused the first economic contraction in Mauritania since 2008. This has aggravated a pre-existing precarious nutritional situation due both to the disruption of economic and livelihood activities and an increase in basic foodstuffs pricing following two consecutive years of drought.

Meanwhile, the humanitarian situation at the border with Mali in the Hodh Chargui region is showing no sign of improvement. The M'Berra camp currently hosts 67,126 Malian refugees, including 39,296 children, up from 64,092 Malian refugees including 37,372 children in March 2021.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Health

Since January, as part of the integrated community case management (ICCM) intervention in nutrition emergency districts, 5,230 children in the country were treated for diseases that include diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections (ARI), malaria and severe acute malnutrition. The analysis of the national immunization programme coverage for the first four months in 2021 shows, out of a target population of 50,790, 42,402 infants vaccinated with Penta 1, of whom 42,979 are returning for their third dose (85%). However, 7,811 infants did not meet the target and 577 infants dropped out between the first and third dose of Penta. UNICEF also supported the administration of 139,664 HPV vaccines for 45% of girls aged 9 to 14 years.



© UNICEFMauritania2021/Receipt of COVID-19 vaccine

UNICEF provided technical, logistical, and financial support to the government in launching the vaccination against COVID-19 countrywide. The COVID-19 vaccination campaign has mobilized 170,000 doses of AZ SII through the COVAX facility and an additional 338,626 doses of Sinopharm were received through the government's bilateral cooperation. As of June 30, 156,543 people over the age of 45 or that have a comorbidity have received their first dose

<sup>1</sup> "Quatrième rapport sur la Situation Économique en Mauritanie: Un meilleur avenir: accélérer la relance économique en misant sur le potentiel des femmes" (Fourth Report on the Economic Situation in Mauritania: A Better Future: Accelerating Economic Recovery by Building on Women's Potential)

of vaccine representing 0.4% of total population (4,271,198), 0.6% of target population (2,690,855) and 16% of the first prioritized target (854,239).

## Nutrition

In January, the nutrition technical group estimated the burden of acute malnutrition in 2021 to be 147,312, including 36,233 SAM. Since then, 7,077 cases of SAM were admitted for treatment in 20 emergency districts, corresponding to a 2.2% of the annual target (30,798) and 1.9% of the annual burden (36,233). SAM admissions are 60% lower than last year during the same period (1,724 cases in January 2020) though this figure could be underestimated due to underreporting.

The three key IMAM indicators at the national level met the SPHERE standards with an 89.9% cure rate, 0.6% death rate and 8.9% defaulter rate and 0.6% non-responding rate. Even so, two consecutive years of drought and food insecurity, then followed by the COVID-19 pandemic, have exacerbated the existing precarious nutritional situation caused by both to the disruption of economic and livelihood activities and an increase in the price of basic foodstuffs. As a result, an estimated 30,218 cartons of Ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) are needed for the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM). With UNICEF WCARO support, 8,360 cartons of RUTF were secured through the Accra hub and 30,000 cartons of RTUF were mobilized by the Ministry of Health through domestic resources for distribution during the second semester. To date, a total of 9,760 cartons of RUTF were distributed throughout the country. As part of waste prevention, 59,052 primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months continued receiving Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling through facilities and community platforms.

## Child Protection



© UNICEF Mauritania 2021/Children who received psychosocial support

In a continued effort in providing relief services to survivors and children at risk, UNICEF and its partners provided support to 899 children, including 539 girls. Of these, 118 we provided referral services through the Child Helpline, 751 received critical psychosocial support. Of these, 274 were survivors of gender-based violence. To fight against these persistent issues, 11,013 children (including 6,630 girls and 4,401 boys) participated in sensitization sessions for mobilizing against gender-based violence, including the harmful practices elimination such as female-genital mutilation and child marriage.

While trends demonstrate a reduction in child marriages, child labour, a phenomenon also linked to poverty, persists in the country, highlighting the importance of continued advocacy campaigns. Since January alone, 32 children participating in labour activities were identified by UNICEF partners, 26 of which received socioeconomic support for stopping the practice and three were reinserted in school.

Following their popularity in M'Berra refugee camp, UNICEF expanded the number of youth centres to a total of three. Since January, 5,041 children and adolescents visited the existing youth centres. In a continued effort for mitigating the effects of

COVID-19, sensitization messages were delivered across project locations reaching 20,549 individuals, including 12,028 women.

## Education

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to significantly disrupt the country's education. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education for education continuity alongside the promotion of digital learning in line with the closure and then reopening of schools in mid-January. To reach areas with low connectivity, 5,000 radios purchased and distributed in the M'Berra Camp as well as in the host communities in the Bassiknou and Nema districts.

To date, 1,500 children (714 boys, 786 girls) are enrolled in 30 pre-primary education centres, 5,405 children (2,613 boys, 2,792 girls) in primary school, and 410 children and adolescents (278 boys, 132 girls) are enrolled in secondary school. A total of 1,000 adolescents, including 636 aged 14-18, have benefited from literacy programs. 600 children

aged 10-13, including 326 girls who were out of school, were able to enter school after remedial lesson. Finally, 342 out of school children, including 172 girls, received remedial lessons and were then reintegrated into school.

## WASH

Recognizing WASH programming's important role in the preventing the spread of COVID-19, sensitization sessions benefitted 19,140 students (11,080 girls and 8,060 boys) in schools, 1,200 students in Mahadras and 880 people in 25 awareness raising sessions organized in the communes in Dar Naim and Riyad in Nouakchott. As part of the "School and Health Washing" component, 38 schools (28 in Guidimakha, and 10 in Assaba) and 21 health structures (11 in Guidimakha, and 10 in Assaba) benefited from the construction of latrines and the installation of drinking water supplies and incineration tanks. Moving beyond schools, 320 latrines were built in 45 localities of Hodh Chargui. Additionally, seven boreholes equipped with solar energy now provide the access to drinking water and hygienic facilities for 6,200 of the most vulnerable people in Guidimakha and Assaba where malnutrition is highly prevalent. The UNICEF/BMZ programme in Assaba supplied these facilities for an additional 27,755 people.



UNICEF equipped the main hospitals in Nouakchott with bleach, automatic sinks, buckets, hydro-alcoholic gel, liquid soap and washing machines to improve hygiene conditions. The Ministry of Health was also provided with 1,500 suits of personal protective equipment, 50,000 FFP 1 surgical masks, 1,000 pairs of surgical gloves to protect health care personnel and 8,000 Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs). UNICEF also continues to hold monthly meetings under its co-lead coordinator role in the Infection Control and Prevention pillar.

## Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability



Training on communication media © UNICEFMauritania2021/Pouget

8,460 girls and 8,200 boys). At the urban level, approximately 200 actors helped sensitize at least 16,000 families against misinformation and fears observed among the population. In support of the Mauritanian government, UNICEF strengthened the real-time rumour monitoring and response mechanism so that misinformation circulating at the most remote level are captured and addressed according to the risk level. Support was provided for the implementation of the joint WFP/UNICEF project in which 80 community actors were empowered on behalf of 10,000 vulnerable households with a disabled member in COVID-19 prevention activities in nine communes of Nouakchott.

## Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

Although the cluster system has not been activated in Mauritania, UNICEF has taken the lead in several coordination mechanisms. Two coordination meetings of the Nutrition sector group were held under the leadership of the MOH and UNICEF for discussing and monitoring the humanitarian response, including the continuity of essential nutrition services countrywide. UNICEF provides their support in monitoring the IMAM supply stock at an operational level daily and

specific actions are being taken for avoiding any stock out at the health facilities level. In the field of health, technical and financial support were provided for the coordination of the Ministry of Health on the issue of vaccination including COVID-19. There is significant involvement in improving the cold chain for vaccine storage and availability. Thanks to the advocacy, the new vaccines financed by GAVI have been received according to plan.

Since the beginning of the second wave, UNICEF continues ensuring the co-lead of PCI and RCCE pillars coordination with Ministry of Health. These coordination mechanisms involve others UN agencies, national and international NGO who also participate. In IPC, many activities took place including coordination meetings, monitoring visits to care facilities to assess and improve IPC standards. Regarding RCCE, the focus remained on supporting the implementation of the government's COVID-19 response plan communication strategy and nationwide advocacy for community engagement.

## Human Interest Stories and External Media

### Video:

<https://fb.watch/67g6C4775x/>  
<https://fb.watch/v/li1pXr8i/>  
<https://fb.watch/67gdLEvu-/>  
<https://fb.watch/v/li1pXr8i/>  
<https://fb.watch/67gdLEvu-/>  
<https://fb.watch/v/eAmlyUnAQ/>  
<https://fb.watch/67ggS-HNIE/>  
[https://fb.watch/67gkPNiO\\_q/](https://fb.watch/67gkPNiO_q/)  
<https://fb.watch/67glTV1HXy/>  
<https://fb.watch/67gpD--Y3z/>

### Posts:

<https://web.facebook.com/UNICEFMauritanie/posts/2755192284722864>  
<https://web.facebook.com/UNICEFMauritanie/posts/2762662907309135>  
<https://web.facebook.com/UNICEFMauritanie/posts/2781678525407573>  
<https://web.facebook.com/UNICEFMauritanie/posts/2783112511930841>  
<https://web.facebook.com/UNICEFMauritanie/posts/2784282168480542>  
<https://web.facebook.com/UNICEFMauritanie/posts/2791802287728530>  
<https://web.facebook.com/UNICEFMauritanie/posts/2796549447253814>  
<https://www.facebook.com/1542650522643719/posts/2860587754183316/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/1542650522643719/posts/2860521057523319/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/1542650522643719/posts/2845356665706425/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/1542650522643719/posts/2842548142653944/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/1542650522643719/posts/2840289926213099/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/1542650522643719/posts/2836804003228358/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/1542650522643719/posts/2833146423594116/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/1542650522643719/posts/2831941407047951/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/1542650522643719/posts/2831877323721026/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/1542650522643719/posts/2827074967534595/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/1542650522643719/posts/2825840224324736/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/1542650522643719/posts/2823439641231461/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/1542650522643719/posts/2817062045202554/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/1542650522643719/posts/2812097185699040/>

## Next SitRep: 1 October 2021

UNICEF Mauritania : <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/mauritania>

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## Summary of Programme Results

Indicator	UNICEF's Total Target	Total result
<b>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</b>		
Number of people reached by COVID-19 prevention messages	1,800,000	46,800
Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	300,000	49,772
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services for addressing their needs through established feedback mechanisms	1,000,000	
<b>WASH and IPC</b>		
Number of people reached by critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	39,150	5,186
Number of healthcare facilities staff workers and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	5,000	1,500
Number of healthcare facility staff workers and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	1,666	
Number of children under treatment for SAM with access to safe water, for drinking, cooking and hygiene through household water treatment	11,264	7,077
Number of children with access and using appropriate sanitation and hygiene facilities in health and nutrition centres and schools in refugee camps, host communities and villages with high SAM burdens	26,000	13,800
<b>Health</b>		
Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases among children, pregnant and breastfeeding women	132	
Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare services, including immunization, prenatal and postnatal care, HIV care and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) response care in UNICEF supported facilities[1]	82,017 children; 29 158 women	42,979 children
Number of children aged 0 to 11 months reached with measles vaccination in the refugee camp and host population	82,017	3,525
Number of children aged 0 to 59 months with common childhood diseases reached with appropriate and integrated management of childhood disease services	7,740	5,230 (total since July 2019 =12,195)
<b>Nutrition</b>		
Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months who received IYCF counselling through facilities and community platforms	91,765	97,774
Number of children 6-59 months admitted for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) treatment	30,798	7,077
Number of pregnant and lactating women reached with an integrated package of IYCF services	169,480	134,314
<b>Education</b>		
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning		
Number of school-aged boys and girls (aged 3 to 17 years) in the refugee camp and host community affected by humanitarian situations receiving learning materials	24,350	21,298
Number of out-of-school boys and girls aged 3 to 17 years with access to education	6,400	1,247
<b>Child Protection and GBV</b>		
Number of children without parental or family care provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	300	147
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community-based mental health and psychosocial support	7,000	2,657
Number of children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse	1,000	226
Number of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence reached with gender-based violence response interventions	7,000	318

## Annex B

### Funding Status\*

Applied to sector	Requirements	Available funds		Funding gap	
		Funds received	Carry-Over	\$	%
Nutrition	<b>6,050,000</b>	326,995	605,630	5,117,375	85%
Health	<b>950,000</b>	1,286,718	99	0	0%
Water, sanitation and hygiene	<b>2,820,000</b>	0	85,667	2,734,333	97%
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	<b>2,760,000</b>	513,903	847,411	1,398,686	51%
Education	<b>2,800,000</b>	953,774	1,134,559	711,667	25%
Social protection and cash transfers	<b>300,000</b>	0	8,601,953	0	0%
C4D, community engagement and AAP	<b>2,031,799</b>	100,000	96,847	1,834,952	90%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,711,799</b>	<b>3,181,390</b>	<b>11,372,166</b>	<b>11,797,012</b>	<b>67%</b>