



DREF Operation-Final Report

Mauritania| Food Insecurity

REF n° MDRMA013	GLIDE n° OT-2022-000240-MRT
Operation start date: July 5, 2022	Operation timeframe: 06 months (July 5, 2022 – December 31, 2022)
Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 315,798	N° of people assisted: 5,740 people (Male: 2,927; Female: 2,813) N° of people affected: 440,765 people.
Host National Society: Mauritania Red Crescent Society (MRCS)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: Mauritanian Red Crescent, British Red Cross, French Red Cross, ICRC, IFRC, Kuwaiti Red Crescent, and Livelihoods Resource Centre.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania through the CSA (Almaouna Programme) and WFP.	

The major donors and partners of the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO and Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, Fortive Corporation and other corporate and private donors. The Canadian Government contributed to replenishing the DREF for this operation. On behalf of Mauritania Red Crescent Society (MRCS), the IFRC would like to extend gratitude to all for their generous contributions.



Figure 1: Sensitization sessions on good nutritional practices in Moudjéria, Tagant Region.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

The food crisis and hunger projections in the Sahel have become increasingly alarming over the past decade in all Sahelian countries, including Mauritania. Like other countries in the region, food and nutrition insecurity is persistent in Mauritania despite the good spatial and temporal distribution and excess rainfall in most parts of the country during the 2022 rainy season.

In the latest period of 2022, (October-November-December 2022), one (1) wilaya (region) (Dakhlet Nouadhibou) was classified in the “Minimum” food security phase (IPC 1); two (2) wilayas (Gorgol and Guidimakha) were classified in the “Crisis” phase (IPC 3), and the country’s ten (10) other wilayas were classified in the “Pressure” phase (IPC 2). The size of the food insecure population was estimated to be 440,765 people, or 10% of the total population of Mauritania. Of this, 12% are in the “Emergency” phase (IPC 4) and 88% are in the “Crisis” phase (IPC 3).

The food insecurity situation is taking a bigger scale with joint factors include economic challenges faced by households and overall market, climate changes, agricultural challenges, scarcity of rainy seasons, the migration challenges in the sub-regions etc. In addition, the rainfall of 2022 during the food security intervention of Mauritania Red Crescent has caused massive flooding that has affected crops and will impact agricultural production in these areas, which are mainly arid, with a higher level of drought compared to other countries in the Sahel. (For more detail, see in the DREF EPoA document MDRMA013).

According to the projected situation for the next lean season (June-July-August 2023): five (5) wilayas are projected to be classified in the “Pressure” phase (IPC 2), namely Nouakchott, Nouadhibou, Adrar, Assaba and Inchiri. The eight (8) other wilayas are projected to be classified in “Crisis” phase (IPC 3). During the next lean season, the food insecure population is estimated to be 694,612 people, or 16% of the total population of Mauritania. Of this population, 17% are projected to be in the “Emergency” phase (IPC 4) and 83% are projected to be in the “Crisis” phase (IPC 3).

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

The Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) has been responding to this food and nutrition crisis since July 2022 with support from the IFRC. Coordination meetings were held to launch the activities and a procurement process was launched and completed with the signature of the agreement amendment with the financial service provider (FSP) that was used for the distribution of cash assistance.

The MRC, with the support of the IFRC within the framework of this operation, was able to mobilize 30 volunteers and members of the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) to support the implementation of DREF activities in the department of Moudjéria (Tagant wilaya).

To this end, orientations were given to the MRC teams on key technical themes (Cash & Voucher Assistance -CVA-, CEA, PGI, and Nutrition). In addition to this DREF operation, in late January-early February 2023, the MRC supported 500 households in the department of Barkéol (Assaba wilaya) through the distribution of food kits in partnership with the Kuwaiti Red Crescent. Barkéol has been greatly affected by the food insecurity situation, which was aggravated by the 2022 floods.

Other food insecurity prevention and risk reduction activities have been implemented as part of the MRC's Food Security and Risk Reduction Action Plan for Drought and the Effects of Climate Change 2021-2024 in the Assaba region, namely:

- Continued monitoring of the situation through the Food Security & Livelihoods (FSL) community monitoring mechanism (sentinel sites) with support from the IFRC (Netherlands Red Cross preparedness pledge) and the British Red Cross. The sentinel sites mechanism (which is part of the national Early Warning System) was set up in the Assaba region in coordination with Action Against Hunger (Action Contre la Faim - ACF), which is active in Gorgol, Guidimakha, and Hodh El Chargui; the WFP; and the Food Security Commission (CSA), which are responsible for institutionalizing the EWS.
- The pre-positioning of contingency stocks and other preparedness activities have been implemented such as the development of community contingency plans and the establishment of village food security stocks in Assaba, which borders the Tagant region targeted by this DREF operation.

MRC is monitoring the food security situation and participating in the National Food and Nutrition Crisis Preparedness and Response Plan. To this end, the MRC coordinated with the Food Security Commission (CSA) and the partners

who are members of this mechanism to contribute to the National Response Plan for the 2023 lean season. To continue and scale up the response, the MRC is currently working with its partners, including the IFRC, to join the Federation-wide Emergency Appeal for the Africa Hunger Crisis¹.

For more details, see the DREF PoA document MDRMA013² and the Ops Update document³.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

Coordination of actions to support the National Society in responding to the food security and nutrition crisis in the country was carried out by the IFRC, particularly during the monitoring mission carried out by the Dakar Head of Country Cluster Delegation CCD) in Mauritania.

The MRC and the IFRC Dakar CCD maintained this coordination of technical and financial support that allowed for the implementation of the DREF activities. The IFRC transferred funds and deployed a CVA/Nutrition Surge to Mauritania and a Finance Surge to Dakar for remote support. The latter conducted a field mission to support the National Society in budget monitoring and financial reporting.

The ICRC provided cash assistance to 4,200 households affected by the pastoral crisis in the highland areas of the country, with a particular focus on the Malian refugee community.

As part of its 2021-2024 "Food Security and Drought Risk Reduction and Climate Change Impacts Action Plan", the MRC with the support of IFRC CCD and the Livelihoods Resource Center (LRC) is implementing activities aimed at strengthening food and nutrition security at the level of the Assaba and Guidimakha regions. Actions include:

- The continuation of the implementation and support of community sentinel sites for the monitoring of the food and nutrition situation (Assaba region).
- Actions to prevent malnutrition and strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable households in Barkéol, through the consolidation of the activities of the Mothers' Clubs set up during the MRC's 2020/2021 Emergency Appeal operation, which provide nutrition education and flour distribution and will be part of the monitoring mechanism.
- Actions to strengthen the agricultural production systems of smallholders through fodder production, support to women's cooperatives, and the piloting of field schools for the implementation of climate-smart agriculture techniques (Assaba and Guidimakha).

Finally, in partnership with the French Red Cross (FRC), the British Red Cross (BRC) and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, further National Society capacity building activities are planned for 2023 to support the MRC to develop a Forecast Based Financing (FbF) drought protocol for the benefit of food insecure populations in Mauritania.

For more details, see the DREF PoA document MDRMA013⁴ and the Ops Update document⁵.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

In the department of Moudjéria, which was targeted by this DREF operation, the MRC works closely with the CSA, particularly the Maouna programme, which covers 50% of the food insecure people in this department, while the MRC covers the rest. Coordination at the national level is ensured through technical coordination committees, including a specialized technical committee for food assistance, which is an integral part of the national food and nutrition crisis preparedness and response mechanism (DCAN).

The Mauritanian government has developed a national response plan (NRP) to food and nutrition insecurity, with the support of its partners, and the various actors involved in the food security and nutrition sector in the country, including the MRC.

The 2022 NRP targeted 878,921 food and nutrition insecure people and is used by all actors to plan their interventions. The government and partners have confirmed their positioning in 29 of the 39 departments in crisis. The number of beneficiaries covered by the funds currently available, particularly through cash transfers, is estimated at 569,690 people, out of 878,912 food insecure people.

In terms of overall and technical coordination, the CSA provides a framework for exchange and sharing between actors to improve the effectiveness of interventions.

¹ <https://www.ifrc.org/emergency/africa-hunger-crisis>

² <https://adore.ifrc.org/Download.aspx?FileId=547041>

³ <https://adore.ifrc.org/Download.aspx?FileId=591331>

⁴ <https://adore.ifrc.org/Download.aspx?FileId=547041>

⁵ <https://adore.ifrc.org/Download.aspx?FileId=591331>

For more details, see the DREF PoA document MDRMA013⁶ and the Ops Update document⁷.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis.

The needs analysis was conducted on the basis of the results of the Integrated Framework (Cadre Harmonisé) analysis of March 2022. According to the projected situation for the lean season (June-July-August 2022): nine (9) areas were projected to be in “Pressure” phase (IPC 2). The 39 other areas analyzed were all classified in “Crisis” phase (IPC 3).

The distribution of the population according to this analysis was as follows:

- Total population in Phase 3 to 5 in current situation: 678,543 people
- Total population in Phase 3 to 5 in projected situation: 878,921 people (for the lean season July-September 2022)

This analysis showed the highest projected levels of food insecurity since the Cadre Harmonisé was first implemented in Mauritania.

(See DREF PoA document MDRMA013⁸ for more details.)

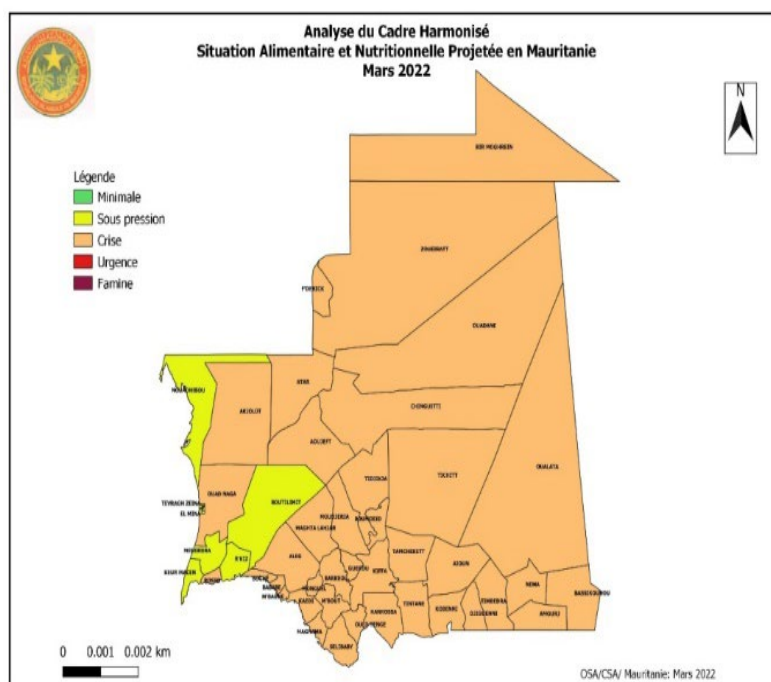


Figure 2: Map of the Food Insecurity Situation in Mauritania (March 2022)

The food and nutrition situation in Mauritania, like in other Sahelian countries, deteriorated during the period (July, August, and September 2022) due to several factors, including the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the conflict in Ukraine, and the deterioration of the security situation in some Sahelian countries, which resulted in low food availability and an upward trend in food prices, particularly for local products and wheat.

The food and nutrition situation improved slightly during November and December 2022, following the harvest. The growth of vegetation was more than normal during the months of July and August, which improved the availability of fodder. Similarly, the filling of ponds for livestock watering in the agropastoral areas remained satisfactory during this period. In fact, the pastoral situation is in surplus following the good levels of grazing observed in most of the country. This has precipitated the rise in transhumance to the relatively well-supplied areas, leading to a rapid depletion of fodder reserves, resulting in early cross-border transhumance and massive recourse to livestock feed.

In Mauritania, the 2022 rainy season (from June to September) was characterized by a good spatial and temporal distribution with a significant rainfall surplus in most areas of the country. Cumulative rainfall at the end of the rainy season indicated that more than 80% of the stations monitored had a surplus compared to the same period last year.

Nevertheless, this year's rainfall has caused enormous flooding. These floods have had a very negative impact on crops in almost all regions of the country. Crops under rainy conditions (Diéri) are the most affected because of the floods, which will result in a significant deficit in the crop harvest. In all agricultural areas, the situation is worrisome due to the significant decline in acreage and the expected level of production, which will be in deficit in most areas except those in the southern part of the country, where it will be average. For flood recession crops, the filling rate of water reservoirs is considered very good and average in some areas, and harvest expectations remain average compared to last year.

Households whose main source of income is agriculture or livestock have seen their purchasing power decline and have experienced difficulties accessing markets, due to poor harvests this year and an early pastoral lean season.

⁶ <https://adore.ifrc.org/Download.aspx?FileId=547041>

⁷ <https://adore.ifrc.org/Download.aspx?FileId=591331>

⁸ <https://adore.ifrc.org/Download.aspx?FileId=547041>

This access to markets is also being impacted by the consequences of COVID-19, which is slowing down trade and affecting supply, and therefore prices. Despite a good level of market supplies therefore, vulnerable populations have continued to have difficulty accessing basic foodstuffs since the beginning of the year due to rising prices for cereals, meats, and complementary products. The most significant increases are in the prices of wheat and oil, which have risen by more than 50% compared to last year. Those of local rice and sugar also recorded increases during the same period, but of lesser magnitude and are in the order of 20%.

Given the threats (the effects of flooding, cases of livestock disease, inflation, and the depreciation of local currency and their effects on consumer purchasing power), it is unlikely that the good agricultural season will significantly reverse the worrisome food and nutrition trends. In view of the above, the essential needs of the population continue to be access to food, drinking water, and agricultural inputs to strengthen and protect their livelihoods.

The needs of the population covered by this operation, during the lean season and until harvest, are the same as those described in the original DREF MDRMA013 action plan.

- Emergency food assistance allowed the most affected households to benefit from sufficient quantity and quality of food, and contributed to mitigating their recourse to borrowing, sale of productive assets, and other coping strategies.
- Prevention and management of cases of malnutrition by specifically targeting children aged 6 to 23 months and pregnant and lactating women (PLW), through the distribution of enriched flour and the promotion of good nutrition practices.

In addition, to measure the impact of the floods on the livelihoods of people living in the area targeted by this DREF, the MRC conducted a rapid assessment in the town of Nbeika, which was affected by the 2022 floods. This assessment assessed the impact of the floods on:

- Access to basic infrastructure including markets at the local level.
- Household productive assets (livestock, farm inputs, and tools).
- The 2022 / 2023 harvest.
- Coping strategies developed by households at the local level.

The evaluation methodology consisted of data collection in the neighbourhoods of the city of Nbeika most affected by the floods through:

- Two mixed focus groups (men and women).
- 62 household surveys in all neighbourhoods affected by the floods.
- Interviews with the mayor and technicians for the agriculture authority.

See the results of this rapid assessment in Section B: Operational Strategy

Operation Risk Assessment

As far as security risks are concerned, Mauritania remains stable, particularly in the areas targeted by this operation, For this DREF, travel was limited to between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and a monitoring mechanism (field calls to headquarters) was put in place to ensure safe travel.

During the implementation of the DREF activities, it was noted that the intervention area is very difficult in terms of access due to the quality of the roads, access to the telephone network, and the isolation during the rainy season which characterized all the villages targeted by the operation. These realities were a challenge for the logistics capacities of the MRC to ensure the implementation of activities in good conditions while ensuring the protection of the teams of volunteers and staff deployed to the field.

The DREF operation and the related operational strategy considered the risks related to food and nutrition insecurity and proposed to support the MRC in pursuing its actions to assist populations affected or at risk of being affected by food and nutrition insecurity. All the other risks highlighted in the reference document (Emergency Action Plan EPoA) remained relevant.

On the other hand, it should also be noted that there were risks not foreseen in the DREF PoA, such as the inaccessibility of certain villages due to flooding, which delayed the implementation of some DREF activities, and necessitated an extension.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

The objectives and strategy of the operation as defined in the initial DREF PoA⁹ remained the same and were not changed.

The overall objective was to help ensure the food and nutritional security of 821 households (5,740 people) affected by the adverse effects of the drought and to strengthen the positioning of the MRC within the framework of the 2022 National Hunger Response Plan in Mauritania.

The implementation was completed in accordance with the planned strategy:

- Provide a humanitarian response to the situation of food and nutritional insecurity for 821 households or 5,740 people from the most vulnerable population groups through the coverage of their food and nutritional needs for three (3) months until the next harvest.
- Prevent malnutrition in 480 children aged 6 to 23 months and PLW (pregnant and lactating women) from the most vulnerable households affected by food insecurity. This number of beneficiaries is greater than the planned number (480 instead of 449) because the plan was made based on past experiences with an approximate percentage.

Food assistance to 821 households for three (3) months was delivered through the distribution of unconditional cash assistance through a microfinance institution (direct cash via a financial service provider). The beneficiary identification process was harmonized within the framework of the Specialized Technical Group on Food Assistance, an integral part of the national mechanism for prevention and response to food and nutritional crises as follows:

- Geographic prioritization (priority regions and departments) based on the results of the Cadre Harmonisé analysis and the results of the CODEP (departmental committee) analysis for the prioritization of targeted communes and villages.
- The use of the social register as an initial database with the application of the socio-economic criteria used and agreed upon by the members of the Specialized Technical Group.
- Additional targeting as required.
- Verification of the list of beneficiaries in collaboration with a targeting committee in each village.
- Validation of the list of beneficiaries with the general assembly of the village.



Figure 3:

Cash Distribution via microfinance institution

The targeting of the beneficiaries for the nutrition component was based on the following process:

- A screening was organized for all the children aged 6 - 23 months and PLW (pregnant and lactating women) of the cash beneficiary households in all villages concerned by the operation (45 villages).
- People identified as having malnutrition were sensitized and referred to health centres for the management of cases of malnutrition (Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)).

⁹ <https://adore.ifrc.org/Download.aspx?FileId=547041>

- A list of children and PLW to benefit from the distribution of fortified flour was developed. For this operation all children aged 6-23 months and PLW, including those with cases of MAM and MAS, benefitted from fortified flour at a rate of 6 kg per child per month and 3 kg per woman per month for three (3) months.
- Sensitization/demonstration campaigns were organized on the preparation of flour and on good practices in nutrition, hygiene, and sanitation in all the villages and neighborhoods targeted by the project (45).

1. Accountability mechanism:

A feedback and complaints mechanism were established by the MRC for this operation including:

- Village committees in all villages.
- The provision of a telephone number.
- Organization of information and awareness sessions for beneficiaries on the details of the assistance provided and the objectives of the intervention, which allowed people to ask questions and provide feedback.

The strategy of the DREF operation has remained largely as described in the PoA. However, and based on the continuous monitoring of the situation observed on the ground by the MRC in the areas of intervention, there were a few changes made to account for the floods that negatively impacted the agricultural production in the region of Tagant, in general, and more particularly the town of Nbeika.

Following a mid-term review, the following modifications were made to the PoA:

- A 1.5-month extension of the implementation period of the operation.
- Addition of an assessment on the impact of flooding on livelihoods in area targeted by the DREF, with a view to developing a medium-term PoA for livelihoods recovery, with the intention of requesting to scale up the response under the IFRC's regional Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal.
- Strengthening of planned activities in the nutrition sector, in accordance with the recommendations of the needs analyses.

2. Results of rapid assessment:

A rapid assessment was conducted by the MRC in the town of Nbeika, which was considered the most affected by flooding in 2022.

The assessment showed that the impact of flooding on household livelihoods was as follows:

- Animal losses, although we do not have a precise count of the number of animals lost, 73% of households surveyed stated that there were animal losses due to flooding.
- Loss of production of dates. Unfortunately, the assessment did not provide precise figures, however the Agriculture Service and the mayor of the commune of Nbeika estimated that this loss was around 50% of the expected production of dates.
- Delayed sowing in some agricultural areas, and the need to resow crops in the rainy season, which began in July 2022. Indeed, 98% of households surveyed confirmed that the floods forced farmers to resow crops due to the failure of the first sowing operation. Also, 95% of the households surveyed stated that the floods increased the presence of crop pests because of the humidity. In addition, 61% of households confirmed that the floods caused a shortage of agricultural inputs, which is explained by the fact that the resowing operations increased the demand for inputs, especially seeds.
- Although the impact on the market was time-limited, (the flood period was around two weeks), access to the market was impacted, according to 75% of the households surveyed.
- The coping strategies most applied by households were:
 1. Unusual sale of non-productive animals (50% of households).
 2. Sale of productive assets (oxen, plow, cart, sewing machine, wheelbarrow, bicycle, etc.) reported by 44% of households.
 3. Sending children to stay with others (37%).
 4. Reducing essential non-food expenses such as health, education (37%).
 5. Reducing planned spending on agricultural inputs (29%).

3. The main lessons learned during this operation

The main learnings of the food insecurity response conducted by MRCS were drawn first during the intervention itself and with benefit of the lesson learnt workshop.

MRCS ensured continuous evaluation and analysis of the two main pillar response (cash and nutrition assistance). The PDM survey also helped to build more and have community perception and insights of the 2 main food:

i. Cash assistance:

- There was good coordination with the various stakeholders and especially the use of the results of the departmental committee (CODEP) whose prioritization of villages to be targeted was considered relevant.
- However, the use of the social register was less appreciated by some actors because the social register database needs to be updated at least every two years to remain relevant.
- There were good synergies between the MRC and CSA interventions in the same department.
- Assistance was rapid and provided in the most difficult period for the targeted households (coinciding with the floods).
- The distribution of cash during the planting period was relevant as it contributed to the recovery of livelihoods using a portion of the cash for the purchase of seeds.
- The limited funding did not allow for coverage of other vulnerable areas, and limited flexibility in further targeting.
- Although the target area was deemed relevant to vulnerability to food insecurity, the area was characterized by very difficult access, which greatly impacted the logistical capacity of the MRC.

ii. Nutrition:

- The distribution of enriched flour to children and PLW (pregnant and lactating women) was considered relevant since the lean season is characterized by low milk availability.
- The exclusive consideration of the young children and PLW of the cash beneficiary households led to the exclusion of people vulnerable to malnutrition because malnutrition is often linked to bad practices and lack of nutritional education, and not only to the economic vulnerability of households.
- The awareness-raising sessions on good nutrition practices and the demonstrations on the preparation of flour porridge were considered useful. However, the nutrition education action must be further strengthened by linking the volunteers with the health structures in order to ensure the sustainability of this action.

iii. Based on the results of the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey, the following conclusions can be drawn about the cash distribution:

- 99% of the households surveyed knew the amount distributed by the MRC.
- 99% of households were happy with the cash distribution, the distribution process, and expressed that the cash distribution went well overall.
- 64% of households bought only food, while 10% used part of the cash to buy medicines, and 9% bought seeds.
- 77% of households confirmed that prices remained the same after the cash distribution, and 99% said that the items they needed were available at the market level.
- Even though 93% of households said they received a phone number to call the MRC if they needed information or had complaints, 59% of households did not know how they were selected to benefit from the project or why they received the money. This is mainly due to education levels in the community and the difficulty that the NS had in accessing the area during the floods, which subsequently reduced the time for outreach. This is a lesson learned for the NS that will be taken into consideration for future operations.
- 98% of households confirmed that this cash operation positively impacted their opinions of the MRC.



Figure 4: Distribution of enriched flour

4. National Society Capacity Building:

This operation has created a network of volunteers in a hard-to-reach area of Mauritania which has very little presence of other humanitarian organizations. However, the network of volunteers needs to be trained further, especially at the NDRT level in the various disaster management themes.



Figure 5: Training of MRC volunteers

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 5,740 people; 821 households

Male: 2,927

Female: 2,813

Outcome 1: Communities, particularly in areas affected by the food crisis, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of affected households receiving cash support in intervention sites (Target: 100% or 821 households)	100	100
% of households who received cash and find it appropriate and useful to meet their needs (Target: at least 100% or 821 households)	100	100

Output 1.1: Livelihoods and basic needs output 1.5: Households receive unconditional/multisectoral cash grants to meet their basic needs

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of people reached by the cash approach	5,740	5,740
Number of follow-up visits to households that received cash (Target: 3 visits)	3	2
Number of volunteers participating in cash transfer activities (Target: 30 volunteers)	30	30
Post-distribution monitoring (PDM)	2	2

Progress towards outcomes

Assistance with capital replenishment was important to enable these vulnerable households to meet at least their basic needs during the lean period. Therefore, the needs analysis specifically recommended:

- 1- Support households in the restoration and rehabilitation of their livelihoods.
- 2- Support households in the development of small income generating activities.

The implementation of the recommendations made it possible to carry out the following activities:

- Prioritization of villages according to the results of the departmental committee's classification
- Orientation of volunteers on the targeting and monitoring of the cash transfer. This activity was done at the beginning of the operation in Moudjéria (August 19, 2022).
- Targeting of beneficiaries based on the lists of the social register in 45 villages selected according to geographical prioritization.
- Finalization of the distribution mechanism with the PSF (Djiké).
- Sensitization of recipient households on the use of cash (sensitization sessions were held from the time of the list validation session to the release of the cash assistance), particularly during the two distributions (from 20 to 25 August 2022 and from 11 to 19 October 2022 in 45 villages targeted by the operation).
- First cash distribution to 821 households (two coupled rations). This first distribution was done during the period of 20 to 25 August 2022 in collaboration with the PSF (Djiké). The number of people reached by the cash approach is more than the target because we used the average number of people per family in Mauritania to calculate the target.
- Coordination meetings with stakeholders (government, beneficiary representatives, etc.), this coordination served to ensure the alignment of the operation and to avoid duplications. Important aspects such as amount, targeting, etc., were coordinated.
- Training of CRM volunteers' cash and nutrition, organized on October 10, 2022, for 21 volunteers, including 6 women and 15 men. The trained volunteers supported in beneficiary registration, market assessment and monitoring of the cash distribution. The volunteers also supported in monitoring of nutrition and referrals for SAM and MAM.
- Continuous monitoring of markets and sensitization of traders was useful in ensuring that commodities required were available as well as monitoring of commodity prices to ensure the cash distributed was sufficient to purchase the minimum expenditure basket.
- Implementation of conflict management and feedback mechanisms with MRC managers and volunteers trained in CEA and PGI (see detailed description of this accountability mechanism in Section B).
- Second cash distribution to 821 households targeted by the operation was conducted on October 11-19, 2022.
- Monitoring of activities - the CRM team was only able to conduct two of the three monitoring visits because of flooding and also because the intervention area is in a mountainous, desert area with difficult access.
- The first Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) was conducted between October 11-16, 2022. The PDM was conducted with a random sample of households (253 households or 30%). This helped establish how the beneficiaries were using the cash provided. (Kindly see details under section B).

Some important activities were delayed due to flooding and access problems, which necessitated the MRC's request for an extension of the DREF to continue the operation and to ensure the effective completion of all planned activities.

The activities that were completed late are the following:

- Second Post-Distribution Monitoring, which was conducted between December 8-12, 2022. PDM was conducted with a random sample of households (216 households or 26%).
- Lessons Learned Workshop was held in Moudjéria on December 13, 2022, with the presence of local MRC volunteers, MRC staff, government representatives, the mayors of the communes of Nbeika and Moudjéria and representatives of the community that benefitted from the operation.

The extension also allowed for an assessment of the impact of flooding on household livelihoods in Nbeika (see results above), which informed the launching of a new operation to address the impacts of flooding.



Health

People reached: 488 people

Male: 237 people

Female: 251 people

Outcome 1: Prevention for children aged 6 - 23 months and PLW in the department of Moudjéria is ensured.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of children aged 6 - 23 months and PLW detected for malnutrition	422	488
Number of children and PLW detected for moderate malnutrition	N/A	15
Number of children and PLW detected for acute malnutrition	N/A	3

Output 1.1:

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of children and PLW receiving enriched flour	422	488
Number of awareness-raising campaigns on good nutritional practices and cooking demonstrations organised	45	45
Number of volunteers trained on awareness-raising techniques for malnutrition screening	30	21

The department of Moudjéria is classified as one of the areas most affected by malnutrition with a global acute malnutrition rate of 13%. There is a need to prevent malnutrition among children and PLW through the distribution of enriched flour during the lean season with community support through awareness raising activities; nutritional education on good nutritional practices (PFE), and referrals of malnourished children and PLW to health care centers.

The activities conducted under this operation are as follows:

- Orientation of the volunteers on the techniques of sensitization and nutritional screening. This orientation was conducted in Moudjéria on August 19, 2022, for the benefit of 21 volunteers. The orientation sessions as per the other sector trainings (CVA, etc.) contributed to refresh and/or prepare the MRC staff & volunteers for the tasks they had to conduct during the operation.
- Community screening of children from 6 to 23 months and PLW through the measurement of the mid-upper arm circumference. This helped to establish and monitor the levels of malnutrition. The identified malnourished cases were referred to health facilities for further treatment.
- Referral of malnourished people to health centers for treatment. A total of 18 people were referred, including 3 SAM cases and 15 MAM cases.
- Distribution of 6,525 kg of enriched flour was distributed in 30 villages for the benefit of 237 children and 251 PLW who were observed to be the most at risk of malnutrition. The distribution took place during the period from October 14 to 19, 2022.
- Organization of sensitization sessions on nutrition education, good nutritional practices (PFE), and cooking demonstrations. The session was important to help the families to be able to cook the meals as required in order to achieve the maximum nutritional benefit from the flour.
- Culinary demonstrations were conducted to be able to showcase to the communities the variety of ways the meals can be served to make it palatable, thereby able to achieve its maximum nutritional benefit.
- Follow-up of children referred by the volunteers to local health centers was done so as to monitor progress and establish links with meeting the operational objectives.

Twenty-one (21) volunteers, including 6 female and 15 male volunteers, were trained on nutrition, including proper nutritional behavior, sensitization techniques and screening of malnourished children and PLW. The trained volunteers conducted sensitization, screening, and referral of malnourished people throughout the intervention area through home visits, focus groups and in public spaces to help ensure that the operational objective was met through improvement in nutritional status of the affected population.

Forty-five (45) awareness sessions, discussions and cooking demonstrations were organized with an average of approximately 20 participants per session. Volunteers used toolkits to explain essential good practices and proper nutritional behavior aimed at accelerating behavior change in the community.

Volunteers screened 237 malnourished children aged 6-23 months and 251 malnourished PLW. The volunteers referred the children to health centers and followed up with the households on treatment.

The unmet need for nutrition remains great in the department of Moudjéria (the area targeted by this DREF operation). Unfortunately, the funds available did not allow the MRC to reach all children and PLW. However, the NS authorities are engaged in advocacy to draw the attention of other partners/donors to these uncovered needs.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People reached: 5,740 people; 821 households

Male: 2,927

Female: 2,813

Outcome 1: Communities identify and respond to the distinct needs of the most vulnerable, particularly disadvantaged and marginalized groups, due to inequality, discrimination, and other human rights violations.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of volunteers and communities trained on PGI	30	21
Number of mechanisms needed to ensure that minimum PGI standards are set by the MRC	45	45
Demographic survey for the classification of cash beneficiaries by gender and age groups	1	1
Output 1.1: NS programmes improve equitable access to basic services by addressing different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
Average access % provided by different vulnerable groups on their access to targeted services	100%	70%
% of vulnerable target group communities aware of their rights	100%	65%
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>The MRC has developed a PGI action plan. This emergency operation has made it possible to put into practice the measures identified and to ensure that the various aspects of the protection of the most vulnerable segments of the population are considered, that the various groups are included in this operation, and that the gender aspect is taken into consideration throughout the cycle of the operation.</p> <p>The activities carried out include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic training on PGI for community volunteers and MRC managers involved in the operation for 21 volunteers, including 6 women and 15 men. This half-day training was conducted on October 10, 2022. The skills impacted were expected to be useful in ensuring that the minimum PGI measures are put in place and met in this operation. • The establishment of a mechanism in each target village to ensure the integration of PGI in the operation. This mechanism is based on village committees that are sensitized on the concepts of protection, gender, and inclusion. Indeed, these village committees, which are set up as part of the social register, are called committees of elders. Although their essential mission is to ensure targeting, they are also concerned with the inclusion of all vulnerable people and the consideration of gender. • Establishment of village complaints committees. Feedback is recorded by designated MRC officers. The agents use forms to record complaints. Most of the feedback provided was about process issues and questions about how the beneficiaries were selected. These types of questions were addressed by volunteers who respond directly on behalf of the MRC by explaining the targeting process used for the operation, which used a community-based, participatory methodology. • Setting up a telephone number for beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries to collect information. • Awareness sessions with the communities on the objectives of the operation, the cash amount, and other PoA activities. This helped to clear any doubts or misconceptions about the purpose of this operation. 		

Strengthen National Society		
Outcome 1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated so that National Societies have the legal, ethical, and financial foundations, systems and structures, skills and capacities required to plan and implement activities.		
Output 1.1: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# volunteers aware of their roles, their rights within the NS and the risks they face	30	30
# volunteers insured	30	30
Output 1.2: Strengthened capacities of NS to support disaster risk reduction, response and preparedness at the local level		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# volunteers are mobilized and trained	30	21 ¹⁰
# NDRT mobilized	4	4
# NS staff are mobilized	4	3

¹⁰ 30 volunteers mobilized, and 21 volunteers trained.

# Follow-up missions of the MRC headquarters	2	2
# Lessons learned workshop held	1	1
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>The DREF operation was implemented in an area that is often the most difficult and remote, especially during the rainy season. The MRC did not have active volunteers or a committee in this area. However, since the beginning, the NS has been able to mobilize 30 volunteers at the community level, 4 NDRT and 3 NS staff to support the implementation of the below activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing for 21 volunteers on the different sectors of the DREF PoA. Two (2) follow-up missions from the MRC headquarters. Preparation of the necessary tools for the implementation of activities. Acquisition of equipment and materials necessary for the implementation of activities. Organization of a workshop (one day) to draw lessons learned from this operation (December 13, 2022). 		

International Disaster Response		
Outcome S1: Maintain effective response preparedness and sustain the NS emergency response capability mechanism		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
Deployment of a cash/nutrition surge	1	1
Deployment of a finance surge	1	1
Monitoring missions by the IFRC cluster office in Dakar	2	1
Output 1.1: In the context of large-scale emergencies, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC and National Societies increase their operational reach and effectiveness through new means of coordination		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
Coordination meetings with members of the RCRC Movement	2	1
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>The NS has few human resources at the national level, especially in logistics and finance. The IFRC Dakar regional office provided continuous technical support through the FSL Delegate based in Dakar and through the deployment of surge staff (CVA /Nut and finance), with remote technical support from Logistics.</p>		

Influence others as leading strategic partner		
Outcome 1:		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of coordination meetings organized/ attended with CSA	N/A	3
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>The National Society was able to organize meetings with the CSA to exchange and coordinate the interventions. Thus, during these coordination meetings, the CSA and the MRC shared the intervention areas in order to cover the whole department of Moudjéria.</p>		

D. Financial Report

The budget was not revised and remained at CHF 315,798. Total expenditure at the end of the intervention was CHF 315,511 and Closing Balance of CHF 287 will be returned to the DREF pot. The expenditures follow the budget categories, and no significant variances were reported. Details in the financial reports attached.

Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

In the Mauritanian Red Crescent

- Secretary General: Mohamedou Raby, phone: (+222) 43 42 41 01 / (+222) 22 49 12 49; email: m.raby14@gmail.com

IFRC Dakar Cluster

- Alexandre Claudon de Vernisy, Head of Dakar Country Cluster; email: alexandre.claudon@ifrc.org
- Gema Arranz Benito, Livelihoods Delegate; email: mariagemma.arranz@ifrc.org

IFRC office for Africa Region:

- Rui Alberto Oliveira, Regional Operation lead, Response and Recovery Department, Nairobi, Kenya; email: rui.oliveira@ifrc.org
- Matthew Croucher, Head of Health and Disaster Response and Recovery Department, Nairobi, Kenya; email: matthew.croucher@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- **Operation:** Santiago Luengo, Senior Officer, Operations Coordination, DCC unit Geneva; email: santiago.luengo@ifrc.org
- **DREF:** Nicolas Boyrie, DREF Lead, email: nicolas.boyrie@ifrc.org
- **DREF:** Eszter Matyeka, DREF Senior Officer, DCC Unit Geneva; email: eszter.matyeka@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- IFRC Africa Regional Office for Resource Mobilization and Pledge: Louise Daintrey, Head of Unit, Partnership and Resource Development, Nairobi, email: louise.daintrey@ifrc.org;

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- **IFRC Africa Regional Office for Logistics Unit:** Rishi Ramrakha, Head of Africa Regional Logistics Unit, email: rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org; phone: +254 733 888 022

For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- **IFRC Africa Regional Office:** Beatrice Okeyo, Regional Head PMER and Quality Assurance, email: beatrice.okeyo@ifrc.org

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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Saving lives, changing minds.



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

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2022/7-2023/5	Operation	MDRMR013
Budget Timeframe	2022-2023	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 19/Jun/2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRMR013 - Mauritania - Hunger Crisis

Operating Timeframe: 01 Jul 2022 to 31 Dec 2022

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	315,798
DREF Response Pillar	315,798
Expenditure	-315,511
Closing Balance	287

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items		0	0
PO02 - Livelihoods			0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	208,372	208,371	1
PO04 - Health	29,498	29,498	1
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene			0
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	90		90
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	1,140	1,138	2
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	8,813	2,169	6,644
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	247,914	241,176	6,738
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships	28,619	9,748	18,871
EA02 - Secretariat Services	9,809	35,131	-25,321
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	29,456	29,456	0
Enabling Approaches Total	67,884	74,335	-6,450
Grand Total	315,798	315,511	287

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2022/7-2023/5	Operation	MDRMR013
Budget Timeframe	2022-2023	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 19/Jun/2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRMR013 - Mauritania - Hunger Crisis

Operating Timeframe: 01 Jul 2022 to 31 Dec 2022

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	203,736	203,708	28
Food	22,552	22,532	20
Teaching Materials	0		0
Cash Disbursement	181,184	181,176	8
Logistics, Transport & Storage	10,242	10,208	34
Distribution & Monitoring	0		0
Transport & Vehicles Costs	10,242	10,208	34
Personnel	33,156	33,104	52
International Staff	7,791	7,771	20
National Society Staff	19,674	19,649	25
Volunteers	5,691	5,684	7
Consultants & Professional Fees	0		0
Professional Fees	0		0
Workshops & Training	12,431	12,408	22
Workshops & Training	12,431	12,408	22
General Expenditure	36,959	36,825	134
Travel	23,534	23,533	1
Information & Public Relations	380	364	16
Office Costs	4,173	4,133	40
Communications	1,439	1,376	64
Financial Charges	7,433	7,420	13
Indirect Costs	19,274	19,257	18
Programme & Services Support Recover	19,274	19,257	18
Grand Total	315,798	315,511	287