

DREF n° MDRMR014	No. Glide : FL-2022-000286-MRT
Operation start date: 19 August 2022	Operation End date: 28 February 2023 Operation timeframe: 06 months
DREF allocation: CHF 301,525	
N° of people affected: 28,926 people (4,351 households) (Tiris, Adrar, Hodh Chargui, Trarzar, Brakna, Gorgol, Guidimaka, Assaba and El Gharbi region)	N° of people assisted: 3,600 people (600 households) (Tagant, Assaba and El Gharbi region)
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners involved in the operation: Mauritanian Red Crescent, British Red Cross, French Red Cross, ICRC, IFRC, Kuwaiti Red Crescent, Belgium Red Cross, and Qatari Red Crescent.	

The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.



Figure 1: Distribution Shelter/NFI/WaSH kits ABRIS/NFI/WASH. Achram, Tagant Region, Mauritania 2022

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

From late July 2022 Mauritania reported significant floods in different municipalities of Central and Southern regions. From 25 July to 3 August 2022, heavy rains caused flooding in some with severe incidence in Tagant, Assaba and Hodh El Gharbi regions.

These floods caused, among others, significant material damage to 4,351 households, or 28,926 people. Fourteen (14) deaths were reported, most of which were children. In the seven (7) affected regions, 3,817 houses were destroyed and a loss of 766 head of livestock was recorded due to the heavy rains.

The high-hit areas included N'beika, Siyassah and Ashram in the Tagant region, Guerou and Boum did in the Assaba region, and the municipality of Agjart and Sava in the Hodh El Gharbi region. These areas reported extensive damages and loss of houses, food stocks and household items. In general, there was extensive and large-scale damage to communities and public infrastructures and services, including houses and necessities, roads damages, bridges, dams, and protective dykes. Roads and commercial complexes were flooded.



Figure 2: Floods cut off the national road and isolated several regions in Mauritania 2022

Communication and electricity services were also disrupted in most areas for three to four days, particularly in the departments of Moudjéria and Guerou. Most businesses in the above-mentioned towns were flooded, and arable land with ongoing cropping. Food stocks and hut farming were sown. Same as the water reserves, water sources and other wash facilities. The situation was exacerbating the risks of water contamination and potential outbreaks that could have worsen the situation of the affected communities.

In response to this situation, local authorities have appealed to the Government and all partners working in their administrative division and at National level to provide assistance to affected households. For more details on the situation and context evolution, see the [Plan of Action](#) and [operation Update](#).

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

The presence of the Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) through its local networks and its disaster management capabilities contributed greatly to the success of this flood response.

- The MRC set up its disaster management center to monitor the floods in August 2022 and was able to deploy an immediate response in various affected communities. At the early stage of the floods, MRC proceeded to the evacuation of affected families. At least 200 people were safely evacuated with the support of Red Cross volunteers on the ground. MRC also provided initial assistance including the distribution of non-food items (200 mattresses and 400 jerry cans) for the displaced communities.
- In the days following the first incidence of floods, the NS volunteers' teams were deployed to the various affected areas to conduct a rapid assessment. Preliminary information was collected to support the writing of the DREF. Further detailed assessment was conducted, and the situation was monitored by MRC through the various branches to inform planning.
- Based on the results, the humanitarian aid was scaled-up. MRC intervention was deployed in majority thanks to the DREF allocation to provide assistance to 600 households.



Within the framework of the DREF operation granted by IFRC, the Mauritanian Red Crescent has carried out its assistance in coordination with the ongoing intervention from Government and other partners. The MRC support was essentially to:

- Provide shelter assistance to 600 HH through the distribution of shelter kits and Essential households items that aligned with Mauritania National humanitarian standards and prioritised the most vulnerable and exposed communities.
- Provide Cash transfer to 599 HH to enhance households' financial capacity to access the minimum food and primary humanitarian services that could reduce their vulnerability and protect their dignity.
- Procurement and distribution of mosquito nets, wash kits and water storage containers for 600 HH as a response to the main loss reported by families during the assessments.
- Cover integrated WaSH and health awareness campaign as a main mitigation for disease prevention. The MRC has prioritized the scale-up of door-to-door, group discussion and other direct communication channels for the sensitization and effective promotion of safe behaviour and safe practices on environmental hygiene, sanitation, water and family hygiene. Eight (08) campaigns were conducted.
- Mass media messages were also involved to reach a largest audience and ensure both affected families, host families and neighbouring communities not directly beneficiaries of this DREF will be sensitized, with the objective to build a stronger community behaviour change and sustainable actions. Around 72,000 people were reached.
- A team was trained and deployed in a timely manner to support the above assistance delivery. Three NDRT to serve as focal points and 2 staff members. The deployed teams were made of different profiles and were leading the technical considerations while 60 volunteers were mobilized for the daily activities on the ground. National supervision was conducted and regular monitoring at branch and HQ contributed to adequate and appropriate decision making throughout the intervention.
- Processes and overall coordination were supported by the surge in country and IFRC office in Dakar.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

Before the 2022 floods occurred, the MRC was engaged in disaster preparedness activities with the support of its partners, including the French Red Cross (FRC), ICRC, IFRC, and the Belgian Red Cross (BRC). For instance, with the support of the BRC, the MRC organized refresher training and a simulation with its volunteers. Motorized water pumps and mobile phones (for data collection) were also purchased with the support of the BRC before the rainy season, and this equipment was used to carry out the MRC's response to the 2022 floods. This readiness contributed to the MRC efficient intervention and rapid assessment.

The Belgian Red Cross in the perspective of flood preparedness enabled the MRC to replenish 300 kits in Nouakchott for future disasters. Ensuring the continuity of the capacity of MRC.

For the specific floods' intervention, Movement partners have been involved in the MRC coordination meetings through the regular platforms and the support to the floods' response has been as follow:

- The MRC and the IFRC Dakar Cluster team closely coordinated the technical and financial support that enabled the implementation of the planned activities. The IFRC Cluster Delegation transferred funds and deployed a Surge Procurement in Nouakchott, and a Surge Finance in Dakar for remote support of this operation.
- At the beginning of the crisis, the initial distributions completed by MRC prior the DREF funds reception were conducted with ICRC. The stocks were from pre-positioned stocks of MRC and ICRC supported the logistic and deployment of the assistance in the town of N'beika and 400 households in Dar Naim.
- With support from the French Red Cross, the MRC also provided food and NFI assistance to 400 affected households in the Dar Naim department (Nouakchott North), which was among the most affected areas in Nouakchott, and to 551 households in Kaedi (Gorgol region).
- With support from the British Red Cross, the MRC distributed a total of 300 NFI kits to people affected by the floods in Kiffa, Kankoussa, and Barkeol in the Assaba region.
- With the support of the Qatari Red Crescent, the MRC assisted 1,685 flood-affected families in the regions of Nouakchott North (Dar Naim and Teyarett departments) and Inchri region (Akjoujt department). Each household received 25kg of rice, 10kg of sugar, five (5) liters of oil, and five (5) 250g pieces of soap.)
- The Kuwaiti Red Crescent also funded 580 food kits for the affected people in Barkeol.

In total, the Movement-wide operation supported 4,065 households (27,696 people)

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

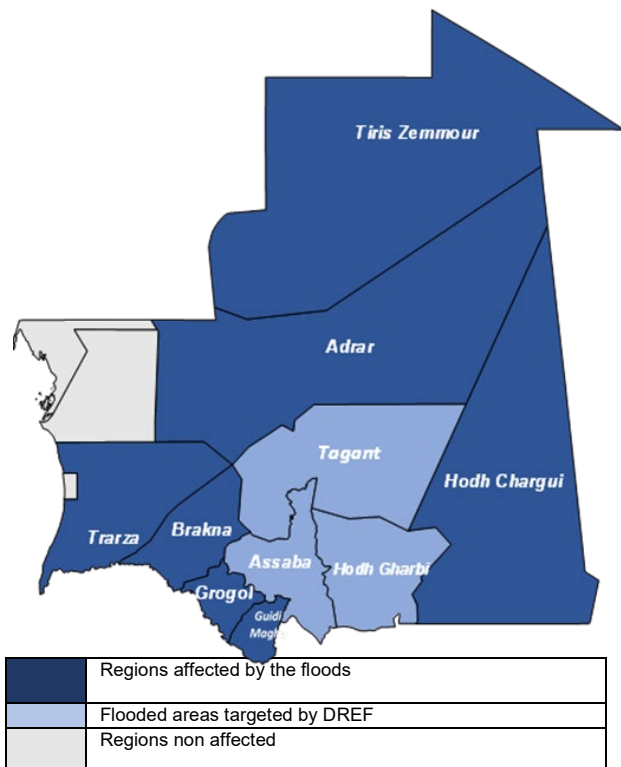
In response to the floods, the government established an emergency monitoring unit hosted by the Ministry of Interior. This unit played a key role in coordinating the response and collecting information on flood damage in each region, in addition to issuing a weekly information bulletin to provide updates on the situation throughout the country. The authorities have also set up a damage assessment commission in each region.

The government has provided assistance to the affected population in the various flooded areas through the distribution of food and non-food items via the Food Security Commission (FSC) and the distribution of cash via the Taazur Agency. Government humanitarian assistance (one tent, two blankets, and a food kit) was provided to 500 households in N'beika. Government technical services were mobilized and implemented response activities in their areas of operation. Bridges and dikes damaged by the floods were repaired in collaboration with teams from the Ministry of Equipment and Transport.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

The torrential rains of August 2022 caused flooding in seven (7) regions of the country, with varying levels of impact. Three (3) regions (Hodh El Gharbi, Assaba, and Tagant) have been targeted for MRC intervention through this DREF. The selection of the target regions by the MRC was validated by the Mauritanian government's national emergency response coordination.



Assessments conducted in the three target regions indicate that approximately 3,817 houses were completely or partially damaged (315 houses completely; 3,502 houses partially) by the heavy rains.

In addition to the assessments conducted by the government authorities, the MRC conducted a thorough and detailed multi-sectoral needs assessment prior to the distribution of aid to the affected population.

To carry out this assessment, 30 volunteers were deployed to the three regions for five days beginning on 8 November 2022.

The multi-sectoral assessments conducted by the MRC as part of the DREF showed that the majority of households interviewed were applying coping strategies to cover their basic needs, which increased their vulnerability and impacted their resilience.

The assessment also confirmed that the needs remained the same as those identified in the rapid assessment, namely:

- **Shelter and NFI:** Families whose homes were destroyed by the floods were displaced and did not have adequate shelter. Immediate needs included shelter supplies and household items. According to the MRC's multi-sector assessment, 600 households had shelter needs.
- **Livelihoods and basic needs:** The livelihoods of communities, especially those dependent on agriculture, livestock, and trade, have been significantly affected. The floods have had a direct impact on people's livelihoods (loss of crops and livestock, damage to arable land and agricultural infrastructure, etc.) and on links to markets and supply opportunities, particularly to meet people's basic needs. In addition, the loss of household food stocks.
- **Health:** Impacts on infrastructure have led to limited access to health services. Increased risk of vector-borne diseases, such as malaria, due to stagnant water
- **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH):** Access to safe drinking water was difficult due to the presence of stagnant water and contamination of wells by flood waters. This increased the risk of waterborne and vector-borne diseases such as malaria.

Operation Risk Assessment

Among the risks identified in the planning, the access was the most commonly faced. Especially the road access for the intervention delivery. This was due to damage to road infrastructure in some of the targeted areas. NS have managed to deliver the assistance using alternative access with the support of local authorities.

Another major risk assessed was linked to the delay on the intervention due to fund arrival. One of the main challenges encountered during the operation was indeed the delay in receiving DREF funds in Mauritania. These delays are common in Mauritania and are related to the processing of international transfers by the Central Bank of Mauritania. As the issue is recurrent, NS mitigation measures consist in mainly taking this reality into account when planning the schedule of activities and strengthen the partner relation to ensure support for pre-financing.

With respect to security risks, the situation in Mauritania has remained stable, particularly in the target areas (south and east-central Mauritania). Local MRC committees and the network of trained and available volunteers enabled the MRC to implement DREF activities. Although the security risk in the intervention area was considered low, MRC volunteers and staff followed established security protocols to ensure safety for the team.

Measures were put in place by the MRC to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including request for vaccination of national team personnel. Throughout the operation, all COVID-19 prevention measures were followed in accordance with the country's national action plan to mitigate this risk.

Another risk identified in the original PoA was potential exposure to hazardous materials, including bleach. Bleach is commonly used in Mauritania for home water treatment and disinfection, but it is a corrosive product that can be

hazardous to the environment and humans if used carelessly and in the wrong way. To mitigate this risk, MRC volunteers involved in this intervention disseminated messages to community members about the proper use of soap and bleach.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

Overall operational objective

The overall objective of this operation was to provide immediate emergency assistance to affected households, after a detailed needs assessment, in three (3) identified intervention regions: Hodh El Gharbi, Assaba and Tagant.

Implemented strategy

As expected, the response focused on the following components:

- Distribution of unconditional cash to 599 households (2,400 MRU/household) to help beneficiaries meet their basic needs for one month. The post-distribution monitoring (PDM) findings for the cash intervention are summarized below.
- Provision of emergency shelter kits, NFIs and household items to 600 affected families. The results of the post-distribution monitoring (PDM) for the NFI distribution are summarized below.
- Strengthened the capacity of the volunteer network and the National Society by training 60 volunteers in safe shelter, hygiene promotion, water, sanitation and cash, and conducting assessments and awareness campaigns.
- Promotion of complementarity, coordination and synergies with the interventions of the government and other humanitarian actors.

Community Engagement and Accountability

Community engagement and accountability (CEA) were integrated throughout the MRC response to ensure meaningful involvement and participation of affected communities. In all phases of the flood response, including cash distribution, the involvement of community stakeholders and those to be assisted was ensured. Effective complaint and feedback mechanisms were put in place to ensure that community feedback was taken into account in the distribution campaigns. A complaint and feedback mechanism were put in place to receive feedback and comments from community members on the support they received. Phone numbers were distributed at the distribution points so that community members could call or text to provide feedback, comments, and complaints.




Protection, Gender and Inclusion

Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) was included throughout the intervention. Volunteers received adequate briefing before engaging with the beneficiary communities. The MRC ensured that protection issues were taken into account and that everyone felt protected, regardless of age, gender, or disability. As part of the needs assessment and analysis, a gender and diversity analysis were included in all sectoral responses, including shelter, livelihoods, health and water, sanitation and hygiene, which helped to show how different groups were affected, in line with the IFRC's minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)

The operational implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting aspects of the DREF were managed by the MRC through its national network of branches and volunteers. The IFRC, through its cluster office in Dakar, worked closely with the MRC and provided technical support during implementation, either through coordination meetings and/or field missions, to ensure that objectives were met. Daily monitoring of the operation was carried out by local MRC committees, under the supervision of the disaster management team at headquarters in Nouakchott, which was responsible for the transparency and financial management of the operation. The IFRC visited the field to monitor the results of the operation and assist the MRC team in preparing the draft final report.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

	<p>Shelter People reached: 3,600 people (600 households) Male: 1,764 Female: 1,836</p>	
<p>Outcome 1 Shelter: Affected communities in affected areas restore and enhance their safety, well-being and long-term recovery by addressing shelter and habitat issues.</p>		
Indicator :	Target	Real
Number of households receiving shelter assistance	600	600
Number of households receiving Non-food items (NFI)	600	600
<p>Output 1.1 Shelter: Affected households receive short, medium and long-term shelter and housing assistance.</p>		
Indicator :	Target	Real
Number of rapid needs assessments completed	1	1
Number of detailed multi-sectoral assessments conducted	1	1
Number of rented storage units	3	3
Number of volunteers trained	60	60
Number of PDM completed	1	1
<p>Progress towards outcomes</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid Needs Assessment: Thirty (30) volunteers were deployed for seven (7) days to conduct a rapid needs assessment in the targeted departments, which indicated that families were displaced by the floods and had immediate needs in shelter and NFI, WASH, livelihoods and basic needs, and health (see Needs Analysis section above). • Support to evacuation was provided from the onset of the intervention. • Multi-sectoral detailed assessment: Following the rapid needs assessment, the MRC conducted a detailed multi-sectoral assessment to collect more details on the needs on the ground and to refine the operational strategy. Ten (10) volunteers were deployed for five (5) days to conduct a multi-sectoral needs assessment in the three regions. This assessment confirmed that affected households were still in need of assistance and that the target areas remained the same: coverage of basic needs, including food, shelter, non-food items and hygiene kits. • Sixty (60) volunteers were trained in distribution and sheltering techniques. The training took place in the three targeted areas. 20 volunteers trained in each region and the trainings were completed between 20 to 30 december 2022. 		

- **Distribution of 600 shelter kits and NFIs (3 regions) completed by 27 January 2023:** kits were composed of : Shelter kits: tents and Essential households' items kits provided included: mats, blankets, kitchen kits, hygiene kits and insecticide-treated mosquito nets.
- **PDM for the distribution of shelters and NFIs:** The Post Distribution Monitoring survey was carried out at the level of the beneficiaries by 27 volunteers during 2 days in the 3 regions, having received the kits of NFI/ABRIS items, with the objective of evaluating the level of execution of the distribution, the level of satisfaction and the appreciation made on the progress of the operation. The evaluation did not reach the entire target of the operation (600 households), a *sampling of 20% was applied*. Details below:

Zones	Département	Communes	Nb of locality	Target by locality	Target surveyed
Hodh Gharbi	Aioun	Egjert	Egjert	200	40
	Guerou	Guerou	Guerou	160	32
Assaba	Guerou	Kammour	Kammour	40	8
	Moudjéria	Soudoud	Achram	194	38
Tagant	Moudjéria	Soudoud	Siyassa 02	06	2
Total					120

- **Survey results:**
 - The evaluation noted that 90% of the heads of households benefiting from the operation are women. Among these 90% of women, 38% are widows and 25% are divorced. The questionnaire administered took into account 7 sections and for each section, the 120 beneficiaries interviewed provided answers according to their experiences.
 - For the Choice of beneficiaries 98% confirmed their knowledge on the mode of choice and 98% of the respondents knew why they received the items.
 - **Distribution satisfaction:** regarding communication about the distribution period, 80% had no problem and were informed before the operation in time. While 10% stated that they were not aware of the distribution until the mission arrived in the village; 10% were aware, but the team was late according to them. In terms of the distribution procedure, the questionnaire administered took into consideration the beneficiaries' satisfaction with the process and methods of implementation of the operation. At this level, 90% of the respondents were satisfied with the distribution process because they were very well informed about the whole process, the distribution sites were well organized, and the volunteers were very available and welcoming.
 - **Appreciation of the approach:** of the 120 beneficiaries interviewed, 100% stated that the items distributed are effective for these types of operations.
 - **Complaints and conflicts:** no recipients complained about any security issues. No recipients reported that any consideration was claimed by a third party either before or after.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- One of the main challenges has been the procurement process, which, coupled with the delay in receiving DREF funds on the ground, has resulted in a delay in implementation.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 3,600 people (600 households)

Male: 1,764

Female : 1,836

Outcome 1 Livelihoods and basic needs: Communities, particularly in disaster and crisis-affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods.

Indicator :	Target	Real
Percentage of households that received money for food	100 (600)	99 (599)
Percentage of households confirming use of cash for livelihood/food needs.	80 (480)	80 (480)

Output 1.2 Livelihoods and basic needs: Basic needs assistance for livelihood security, including food, is provided to the most affected communities.

Indicator :	Target	Real
Number of cash assessments performed	1	1

Number of market assessments conducted	1	1
Number of households receiving cash assistance	600	599
Number of Wise Committee consultations organized (2 per region).	2	2
Number of feedback mechanisms in place (1 per region).	1	1
Number of volunteers and staff trained on cash	60	60

Progress towards outcomes

Training of volunteers on cash transfer: sixty (60) volunteers were trained on cash transfer and feasibility studies on 29-31 October 2023 in the three targeted regions. Refresher training was also conducted on Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) for 50 volunteers (3 regions) on 24 November 2022.

Evaluations: five (5) days (01 to 03 November 2022) to conduct the cash transfer feasibility study in the three regions and market assessment. According to this study, the implementation of the cash assistance modality was feasible because the markets had recovered sufficiently to absorb the demand.

Cash Assistance: the 600 households targeted by the response were selected from among the impacted households based on established criteria to target the most vulnerable and in need of assistance. The identification of households in need of assistance was done in consultation with local authorities and using information collected during in-depth, multi-sectoral assessments. Six hundred (600) households that lost all or part of their food stocks to meet their basic needs were prioritized for unrestricted cash transfers for one (1) month, based on the allowances for an average household of 6 people (2,400 MRU/63 CHF). This allocation is based on the standard amount set by the national cash working group. Households with specific vulnerabilities were targeted: the elderly, people living with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women, widows, children and families who have lost loved ones due to flooding.

Community Feedback Mechanism: prior to the cash distribution, a community feedback mechanism was put in place to collect feedback and complaints from community members. The feedback mechanism included two channels of communication with the communities to ensure community engagement and participation in the operation:

- Establishment of "wise people committees" proposed by the communities that monitored activities and shared feedback throughout the DREF.
- A team of two (2) volunteers per region trained in CEA received complaints via the semi-free phone lines and entered them into a follow-up form for processing.

For the complaint management mechanism, the following two tools were used:

- **Complaint/feedback form:** recording of complaints/feedback from beneficiaries/communities.
- **Complaint Tracking Tool:** Tracking of complaints by MRC volunteers responsible for receiving complaints, the AEC focal point and/or the DREF manager using an Excel tracking document.

Zones	N° complaints/feedback treated
Hodh Gharbi	07
Assaba	15
Achram	03

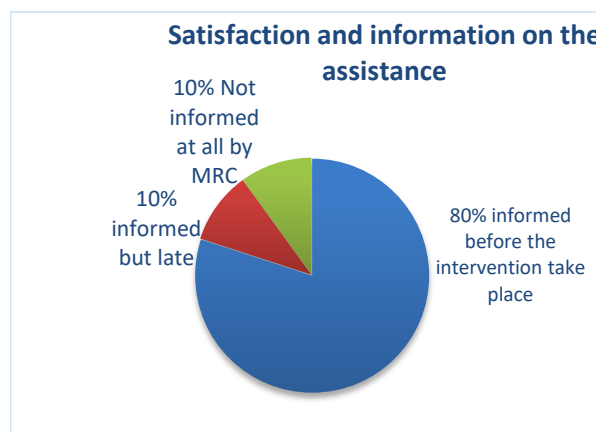
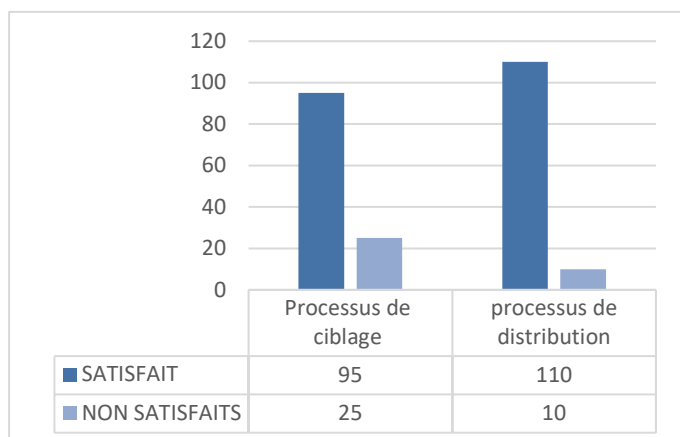
Cash assistance was provided by a Djikée financial service provider (FSP) who was accompanied by local MRC volunteers. Ten (10) volunteers were deployed for five (5) days to support the cash distribution activities.

Only 599 households received cash assistance, instead of the target of 600. This is because during the cash distribution process, the financial provider in charge of cash distribution noticed a duplicate on the list of beneficiaries in Guerou department. For this reason, the financial provider excluded the duplicate name, and as a result, the total number of beneficiaries became 599 instead of 600. The MRC decided not to allocate the money to a new family because the local authorities had not developed and validated a "waiting list" for cash assistance and the MRC wanted to avoid selecting a new household without conducting the proper and transparent selection process.

Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) for the cash intervention: the MRC conducted a PDM monitoring survey to assess the distribution, including the level of satisfaction of cash assistance recipients. The MRC surveyed 20% of the targeted households (120 households) selected randomly in the three regions. The survey done using Kobo. below are the main results:

- Of the random sample of 120 households selected, 92% were female-headed households.
- 92% of respondents confirmed that they understood the cash transfer modality, and 98% of respondents knew why they had received the assistance.

- Regarding communication about the distribution period, 80% had no problems and were informed before the operation in time. While 10% stated that they were not aware of the distribution until the mission arrived in the village. Ten percent (10%) were aware, but the team was late according to them.
- With regard to the distribution process, the questionnaire took into account beneficiaries' satisfaction with the process and method of implementation of the operation. Ninety percent (90%) of respondents were satisfied with the distribution process. Targeted households reported that they were very well informed about the entire process, that the distribution sites were well organized, and the volunteers were very available and welcoming.
- Of the 120 beneficiaries interviewed, 100% stated that cash transfers are an appropriate modality for this type of operation. Of all the people interviewed, 100% indicated the availability of basic necessities on the market and none of the respondents reported any security problems related to this modality.



Lessons learned

The following lessons were gathered during the MDP for cash distribution:

- Transferring cash to affected households has proven to be an effective way to help them recover according to their specific needs and helps restore their dignity as they can choose what is needed for their families while helping the market.
- Cash distribution contributed to the local economy and benefited host populations indirectly affected by the disaster.
- Strengthen outreach mechanisms at least 72 hours before distribution to avoid defections.
- Evaluate the cost of transporting market beneficiaries to their homes and set the cash amount accordingly.
- Multiply the number of distribution sites in villages that have a significant target and increase the number of volunteers to be mobilized in these. To remain cost efficient, it is essential to develop a new map of distribution points to reduce transportation time and costs for the most remote recipients.



Health

People reached: 3,600 people (600 households)

Male: 1,764

Female: 1,836

Outcome 1 Health: the target population benefits from disease prevention and health promotion at the community level

Indicator :	target	Real
Number of people aware of health prevention	3,600	72,000
Number of households receiving sufficient mosquito nets	600	600

Progress towards outcomes

The MRC's needs assessment found that affected populations are at risk of health problems due to precarious conditions, including stagnant water, mosquito proliferation, poor access to latrines, and limited access to health facilities.

For health activities, the MRC's response has focused on the distribution of NFIs (specifically mosquito nets) and awareness.

The following activities were carried out:

- Awareness sessions conducted by MRC volunteers related to prevention (use of bed nets). These awareness sessions were conducted by 45 volunteers over a 16-day period, reaching 14,400 households.
- Procurement and distribution of mosquito nets for 600 families (200 per region).



Water, Hygiene and Sanitation

People reached: 3,600 people (600 households)

Male: 1,764

Female: 1,836

WASH Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne disease in targeted communities (benefiting 6,000 people)

WASH 1.1: A detailed assessment of the water, hygiene and sanitation situation is conducted in the targeted communities

Indicator :	Target	Real
Number of volunteers trained on water, sanitation and hygiene in emergencies and on key thematic messages.	60	60
Number of people reached by hygiene promotion	3,600	72,000
Number of hygiene kits, containers and buckets distributed	600	600
Percentage of feedback treated (100)	100	100

Progress towards outcomes

Affected populations were exposed to health problems due to precarious conditions, including stagnant water, mosquito infestation, poor access to latrines, and limited access to health facilities due to infrastructure damage. To limit the risks and enhance the WaSH conditions for the families, MRC targeted 600 families directly affected and extended the messages to a larger audience for a better impact. With WaSH materials and information sessions, MRC promoted good hygiene and sanitation practices and reduce the risk of disease. MRC conducted the following actions:

- Training of 60 volunteers (from the three target regions) on the WaSH in emergencies program and key messages. The training took place in the 03 regions from November 01 to 03 2022.
- **03 WASH training sessions:** a 03-day training: from 01 to 03 November 2023, sixty (60) volunteers in the three regions were trained in WaSH in emergencies. These trained volunteers having assimilated the essence of good practices and techniques related to WaSH, have constituted qualified human resources and have actively contributed to the implementation of DREF activities and being well prepared to respond to other possible emergencies in their respective areas.
- **08 awareness sessions on hygiene and health promotion** reached 72,000 people spread over the three regions, including 6,120 women and 5,880 men. This is around (14,400 families). Forty-five (45) of the above trained volunteers were deployed for these results. Fifteen (15) volunteers per region have been deployed from November 29 to December 2022 in public places (markets, bus stations, mosques, schools,) to improve hygiene conditions and reduce the risk of diseases. The messages focused mainly on home/local technics for water treatment, water storage, mitigating the risks of open defecation and waterborne and vector-borne diseases, and encouraging proper handwashing.
- **2 sessions per month for 3 months were held for the demonstration on hand washing (at least 1,000 families attending).** The demonstrations also covered the good hygiene practices. Additional demonstrations were done during the awareness campaign, during the home visits.

- Procurement and distribution of hygiene kits, containers and buckets. The distributions were carried out as follows:
 - ✓ Tagant region: Achrem et Siyassa – from 23 to 27 January 2023
 - ✓ Assaba region: Kammour et Guérou – from 23 to 27 January 2023
 - ✓ Hodh El Gharbi region: Ejert – from 23 to 27 January 2023

Strengthening of National Society

OutcomeS1.1: The objectives of capacity building and organizational development of National Societies are facilitated so that they have the legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, skills and capacities to plan and implement activities.

OutputsS1.1.7: Strengthened National Society capacity to support disaster risk reduction, response and preparedness at the local level.

Indicator :	Target	Real
Number of insured volunteers	60	60
Number of visibility items purchased	60	60
Number of people deployed to support implementation and monitoring at the chapter level	7	7
Number of monitoring visits made by the CRM office	3	3
Number of lessons learned workshops conducted	1	1

Progress towards outcomes

The DREF operation was implemented in an area that is often very difficult to access and the most isolated, especially during the rainy season. The NS was able to mobilize volunteers at the community level to support the implementation of the activities. The following activities were carried out:

- The deployment of the MRC team composed of 03 local focal points to cover the regions; 02 technical staff including the DM, and 2 drivers were supporting the intervention, and the HQ management was also providing the leadership guidances. The NS was supported by IFRC surge personnels : finance and logistic.
- Technical support mission was conducted for key activities and the distributions: both cash and in-kind.
- Refresher training on CEA (community engagement and accountability) and AIP organized for 50 volunteers (3 regions).
- Establishment of a feedback mechanism: The MRC has established a feedback and complaint mechanism within the community in the targeted areas to establish transparency of these activities at the community level.
- A team of six (6) volunteers trained in CEA, two (2) volunteers per region, were designated to receive complaints through a feedback form or a semi-free phone line to forward complaints, suggestions, recommendations to the project team in charge of the issue. Series of training sessions for the benefit of the volunteers on several themes such as Shelter, Cash, Wash, CEA/PGI.

Assessment survey, Community discussions and PDM were the main source of feedback from the communities and local representatives. The elements collected by the volunteers through these processes were consolidated and treated by the CEA team and were used to define the planning in general and identify the intervention pillars priorities or awareness messages to focused on. The consultations conducted to confirm the needs and preferences linked to the cash and in-kind services were integrated to the final design of the planning and contain of the assistance were feasible within the financial considerations. Communities were informed prior any activities through their local communication channels.

A lesson learnt exercice was conducted with the implementation team and the outcome of the discussions are summarised in the different sections. A detailed SWOT analysis has been made on the flood intervention starting from the preparedness, planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting. A detail of that reprot is available at NS level.

ECHO field visit

As part of the monitoring of ECHO-funded activities in Mauritania, an ECHO mission visited the MRC on 15 November in the Assaba region (Geurou and Kammour). The purpose of the visit was to follow up on DREF activities and to meet with target communities and the MRC implementation team. In the field, the mission visited two CVA distribution

sites in Geourou and Kammour, as well as a village targeted by the DREF intervention. The ECHO mission was received by the national president of the MRC and the representative of the Kiffa regional committee.

Challenges

- During the implementation of the operation, a significant loss due to the exchange rate occurred, which required an additional allocation from DREF to complete the operation. Close monitoring of financial transactions and updating the budget when necessary has helped on identifying the risk and adjustments were done accordingly through the budget rate, factoring the changes of currency value. An increase in the DREF allocation was necessary to allow the NS to meet its financial obligations to local vendors and to mitigate any reputational risk to the MRC and the IFRC.
- Difficulties with the procurement process for shelters and NFI kits and delays in the validation process at the IFRC Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) in Nairobi prevented the MRC from completing all DREF activities within the originally planned period. The MRC and IFRC worked to mitigate this challenge by deploying a Surge procurement to Nouakchott. The IFRC Cluster Delegation's logistics team in Dakar also supported the procurement.

Lessons learnt

- MRC has faced challenges that are not internal to the NS but are more systemic issues. This included: the procurement process validation delay at IFRC regional office, the high fluctuation of local currency against the CHF and the delay of fund transfer following the economic system. MRC learnt through this intervention that the best approach to these issues is to factor intervention agenda based on the real timing, benefit from a strong operational and financial monitoring to overcome the financial challenges and build a movement country support to be able to pre-finance some immediate response.
- There is a need to put in place specific provisions of funds, resources and stocks to efficiently manage the emergency.

International emergency response

Outcome S2.1: An effective and coordinated international response to disasters is achieved.

Outcome S2.1.1: An effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained

Indicator :	Target	Real
Number of surge personnel deployed	1	1

Progress towards outcomes

With the support of the IFRC office in Dakar, the NS received technical support from a Surge procurement and a Surge finance.

This intervention has allowed MRC to actively take part to the Movement and National coordination for the floods' response. The NS has been a great actor bringing the DREF intervention but also with the overall secretariat support to MRC response capacity. A strong coordination has been in place to ensure all the efforts from various partners are put together to address the needs identified and shared by MRC during the assessment. A complementarity of the support received from RCRC Movement is demonstrated by the summary mapping below. The various support received contributed to MRC positioning as a local humanitarian actor.

Regions	Partners	Localities	HH supported	Comments
Hodh El Gharbi	IFRC	Akjerit	200 HH	DREF (Cash 2,500 MRU per HH EHI, WASH kits and mosquito nets. Integrated humanitarian services and messages) and surge
Assaba	IFRC	Guerou et Kammour	200 HH	Same as above and details in this report.
	British Red Cross	Kiffa, Kankoussa, and Barkeol	300 HH	300 NFI kits
	Kuwaiti Red Crescent	Barkeol.	580 HH	580 food kits
Tagant	IFRC	Achram et Siyassah	200 HH	Same as above and details in this report.
	ICRC	N'beika	200 HH	NFI/EHI
Nouakchott and Inchri region.	ICRC	Dar Naim.	400 HH	NFI/EHI
	Qatari Red Crescent	Dar Naim and Teyarett departments	1,685 HH	Food kits composed of 25kg of rice, 10kg of sugar, five (5) Liters of oil, and five (5) 250g pieces of soap.) per HH
		Akjoujt department		

		French Red Cross	Red	Dar Naim department (Nouakchott North)	400 HH	food and NFI
	Gorgol	French Red Cross	Red	Kaedi	551 HH	food and NFI
	Total	RCRC		11 localities	4,065 HH (some assistance provided to same families – especially food)	27,696 people directly reached. Approx. 72,000 people reached with indirect target.
Lessons learnt						
There is a need for the delegation to strengthen their support, in regard to regular follow-up on DREF learnt bottlenecks and timely response to NS.						

D. FINANCIAL REPORT

The final financial report for MDRMR014 - Mauritania Floods is summarised as follows:

- DREF allocation for this intervention was in total CHF 301,525 made in two allocations. The first allocation based on original budget was CHF 248,038. It was extended by a second allocation of CHF 53,486 in February following the significant variance of currency exchange rate. No changes were made to the activities.
- Total spent to deliver the above assistance was CHF 301,190. The balance of CHF 335 will be returned to the DREF pot as part of the DREF closure process.
- There are no significant variances, and all expenses were aligned to the planning in general. The adjustment of the allocation and budget rate in February has mitigate the risk of high variances to be explained.

Reference documents

Click here to view:

- Previous calls and updates
- Emergency Action Plans (EPoA)

For further information on this particular operation, please contact:

For Mauritania Red Crescent :

- Mohamedou Raby, Secretary General, Mauritania Red Crescent; phone: +222 43 42 41 01 /+222 22 49 12 49; e-mail: m.raby14@gmail.com

IFRC Country Cluster Office, Sahel:

- Alexandre Claudon de Vernisy, Head of Dakar Country Cluster; email: alexandre.claudon@ifrc.org

IFRC office for Africa Region:

- Rui Alberto Oliveira, Preparedness and Response lead for Africa Region, Nairobi, Kenya; email: rui.oliveira@ifrc.org
- Matthew Croucher; head of HDCC, Africa Region, Nairobi, Kenya. Email: matthew.croucher@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva:

- Nicolas Boyrie, DREF lead, DCPRR Unit Geneva; email: nicolas.boyrie@ifrc.org
- Eszter Matyeka, DREF Senior Officer, DCPRR 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, Partnerships & Resource Development; email: louise.daintrey@ifrc.org; phone: +254 110 843978

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- IFRC Africa Regional Office for Logistics Unit: Allan Kilaka Masavah, Head, Global Humanitarian Services & Supply Chain Management, EU; email: allan.masavah@ifrc.org

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

- **IFRC Africa Regional Office:** **IFRC Africa Regional Office:** Batrice Okeyo, Regional Head, PMER and Quality Assurance Unit; email: beatrice.okeyoho@ifrc.org; phone: +254 721 48 69 53

How we work

The International Federation strives to implement the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief Operations and is committed to complying with the **Humanitarian Charter and the Minimum Standards for Disaster Response (Sphere Project)**. as part of its assistance activities for the most vulnerable people. The overall purpose of the International Federation is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and advance at all times and in all its forms the humanitarian action** of National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering** and thus contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace.**

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2022/08-2023/12	Operation	MDRMR014
Budget Timeframe	2022-2024	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 15/Apr/2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRMR014 - Mauritania - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 19 Aug 2022 to 28 Feb 2023

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	301,525
DREF Response Pillar	301,525
Expenditure	-301,190
Closing Balance	335

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			0
AOF2 - Shelter	170,909	170,899	10
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	54,212	53,996	216
AOF4 - Health	0		0
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	11,837	11,837	0
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	1,837	1,837	0
AOF7 - Migration	0		0
Area of focus Total	238,795	238,569	226
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	45,116	45,098	18
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	17,614	17,534	79
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	0	-11	11
Strategy for implementation Total	62,730	62,621	109
Grand Total	301,525	301,190	335

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2022/08-2023/12	Operation	MDRMR014
Budget Timeframe	2022-2024	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 15/Apr/2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRMR014 - Mauritania - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 19 Aug 2022 to 28 Feb 2023

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	174,398	174,383	15
Shelter - Relief	0	0	0
Clothing & Textiles	0	0	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	134,020	134,007	13
Teaching Materials	0	0	0
Utensils & Tools	0	0	0
Cash Disbursement	40,378	40,377	1
Land, vehicles & equipment	0	0	0
Computers & Telecom	0	0	0
Logistics, Transport & Storage	19,230	19,212	18
Storage	970	963	7
Distribution & Monitoring	2,815	2,809	6
Transport & Vehicles Costs	15,445	15,440	5
Personnel	38,347	38,339	8
International Staff	2,930	2,926	4
National Society Staff	23,668	23,666	2
Volunteers	11,749	11,748	1
Consultants & Professional Fees	330	321	9
Professional Fees	330	321	9
Workshops & Training	31,170	31,169	2
Workshops & Training	31,170	31,169	2
General Expenditure	19,647	19,383	264
Travel	11,556	11,521	35
Information & Public Relations	3,212	3,210	2
Office Costs	2,660	2,655	5
Communications	1,894	1,893	1
Financial Charges	325	104	221
Operational Provisions	0	0	0
Operational Provisions	0	0	0
Indirect Costs	18,403	18,382	20
Programme & Services Support Recover	18,403	18,382	20
Grand Total	301,525	301,190	335