



MAURITANIA

2024 IFRC network country plan

15 May 2024

Funding Requirement **CHF 8.3M**

In support of the Mauritanian Red Crescent



56

National Society branches



26

National Society staff



5,000

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



2,000,000

Ongoing emergency operations



834,000

Climate and environment



95,000

Disasters and crises



183,000

Health and wellbeing



6,000

Migration and displacement

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer term needs

- Disaster risk reduction • Climate change adaptation and nature-based solutions
- Health • Water, sanitation and hygiene

Capacity development

- Branch development • Financial sustainability
- Communications and advocacy

Key country data

Population **4.7M**

INFORM Severity rating **Medium**

INFORM Climate Risk Index **Medium**

Human Development Index rank **156**

Population below poverty level **31.8%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Cape Verde, the Gambia, Mauritania & Senegal, Dakar

Hazards



Food insecurity



Floods



Drought



Conflict

Funding requirements

Total 8.3M CHF

Through the IFRC

3M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

→ **415,000** CHF

Through Host National Society

5M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

2,000,000 CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

Longer term needs

300,000 CHF

Climate and environment

350,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

50,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

300,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

British Red Cross

French Red Cross

Norwegian Red Cross*

Qatar Red Crescent

**National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in the first half of 2023.*

IFRC Appeal codes

Ongoing emergency response:

MGR60001

Longer-term needs:

MAAMR002

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Mauritanian Red Crescent** was established in 1970 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1973. It operates through local committees and volunteers throughout the country. As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the Mauritanian Red Crescent collaborates with government departments and other humanitarian actors. Its mission is to alleviate the suffering of populations in disaster situations.

The Mauritanian Red Crescent operates in the areas of risk and disaster management, food security and livelihoods, community health, water, sanitation and hygiene, migration and displacement, and health care. The National Society's strength consists in its access and recognition at the national level, its wide network of volunteers through the country. It has 56 branches, 26 staff, and 5,000 volunteers spread across the country. The National Society's strong presence on national platforms and the availability of its own independent storage facilities means that it is able to provide timely and effective services during times of crises and disasters. It has an

emergency centre equipped with relevant facilities to provide care services during operations. In 2023, the National Society reached more than 4,500 people through its disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) operation in flood-affected areas of Brakna.

According to the Mauritanian Red Crescent Strategic Plan 2022-2025, the National Society's main objective priorities are:

- enhance its accountability, cooperation, governance, and transparency
- scale up humanitarian action and risk reduction by expanding partnerships for emergency response, resourcing, complimentary to taking innovations for disaster risk reduction
- scaling up cash and voucher assistance intervention and mitigate risks inherent in it
- reduce cholera-related death by nearly 50 per cent

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Mauritania, located in West Africa, shares its borders with the Atlantic Ocean to the west, Senegal to the south, Mali to the east and southeast, Algeria to the northeast, and Western Sahara to the northwest. The country covers an area of about 1.03 million square kilometres and has a geography characterized by a mix of desert (Sahara) and semi-arid (Sahel) areas in the south, along the Senegal River Valley.

Mauritania's total population is estimated at 4.6 million, with a population growth rate of about 2.6 per cent; 56.9 per cent of the population lives in poverty. Of this population, 18.4 per cent are children under the age of five and 23 per cent are women of childbearing age. The majority of the population is young, with 44 per cent under the age of 15 and 76 per cent under the age of 35. This demographic structure generates a high demand for access to essential services such as education, health care and employment.

However, vulnerabilities and needs vary by region and gender. Gender inequalities persist due to factors such as women's empowerment, workload, exploitation and traditional community norms, which particularly affects women and youth in poverty and unemployment.

Mauritania has significant natural resources, including iron ore, copper, oil, and natural gas reserves. However, the economy remains vulnerable to fluctuations in commodity prices. The agricultural sector is underdeveloped, and a large part of the population depends on livestock and fishing for its livelihoods.

Economic growth in Mauritania accelerated significantly from 2.4 per cent in 2021 to 5.2 per cent in 2022, thanks to a significant increase in exports and resilient private consumption. However, despite this positive momentum, growth remains slightly below pre-pandemic levels and potential. At the same time, average annual inflation rose significantly from 3.6 per cent in 2021 to 9.5 per cent in 2022, due to higher commodity prices on the international market.

Despite the fact that the country is trying to recover from the economic and social repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, it continues to face different challenges:

Poverty: A significant proportion of the population lives in poverty, especially in remote rural areas and desert areas.

Access to health care: Access to basic health services remains limited, especially in rural areas, impacting the overall health of the population.

Food insecurity: Drought and climatic hazards are having a negative impact on food security, especially in the northern desert regions. Food price inflation is exacerbating this situation.

Impacts of crises and disasters: Mauritania is vulnerable to food crises, floods, and other natural disasters that can destabilize people's livelihoods.

Climate change and environmental issues: During the period 2000-2021, Mauritania was ranked third among the countries in sub-Saharan Africa most affected by climate events in terms of their impact on the population. The country faces the challenges of climate change, desertification and environmental degradation, which affect natural resources and the lives of local communities.

Politics: Mauritania's political history has been marked by periods of instability and coups. However, in recent years, efforts have been made to strengthen the democratic system, including with a peaceful transition in 2019. The next presidential elections scheduled for 2024 will be held in a context marked by the ongoing trial of the president in office since 2019 and a weakened opposition to the ruling party's dominance in parliament. The key issue for the democratic consolidation of the country will be the transparency of these upcoming elections.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC Go page [Mauritania](#)

Emergency Operation	Revised Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal 2023-2024
Appeal number	MGR60001
Duration	31 December 2023 to 31 December 2024
People affected	157 million people across sub-Saharan Africa (143m in the 25 countries covered in this operation/watch list)
People to be assisted	81,900 people
Funding requirement	Total funding requirements through the Appeal: Swiss francs 232.5 million Total Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 318 million Funding requirement for Mauritania for 2024: Swiss francs 2 million (to assist 81,900 people)
Link to Emergency Appeal	Revised Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal
Link to Operational Strategy for Mauritania	Operational Strategy Africa Hunger Crisis
Link to Country Plan of Action	Mauritania Country Plan of Action

The IFRC's Regional [Hunger Crisis](#) Emergency Appeal which was launched in October 2022 has now been extended due to the prolonged and deepening food crisis across the region and an urgent need to sustain and increase resources. This Regional Emergency Appeal, Africa Hunger Crisis, has been extended until the end of 2024, in order to continue to provide an overarching structure for hunger crisis responses across the continent. The Mauritanian Red Crescent has been included in this Revised Appeal because of the worsening levels of food insecurity in the country.

This Revised Regional Emergency Appeal is built on a foundation of strong, national country response plans, and through a series of coordinated activities in the sectors of WASH, Cash, health and nutrition, and livelihoods support, will ensure that National Societies in the region meet the urgent needs of people facing what has been classed as a red level Emergency in many countries of the region.

The number of people to be assisted under the Revised Regional Emergency Appeal in Mauritania will be 90,000 at a funding ask of CHF 2,000,000. The Revised Regional Emergency Appeal is

fully aligned with the [IFRC's Pan-Africa Zero Hunger initiative](#), which informs the long-term food security and livelihood plans of National Societies in Africa.

The IFRC has mobilized a “Zero Hunger Cell” tasked with overseeing the operational coordination of the Hunger Crisis response across the African continent. The cell supports all countries under this Revised Regional Emergency Appeal and the regional services provided by the IFRC and partners include: 1) Operations coordination and technical support; 2) Surge deployments (where applicable for new countries added to the Revised Regional Emergency Appeal); 3) Information management, foresight, and analysis; 4) Regional and global level advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy; 5) communications and visibility; 6) Federation-wide Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) tailored support to National Societies on implementation, development, and accountability; 7) Resource mobilization, including national resource mobilization plans.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Cross-cutting approaches: the operational strategy integrates **community engagement and accountability (CEA)** and **protection, gender and inclusion (PGI)** as pivotal elements, in an approach that recognizes and values all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response. Activities span from adhering to PGI standards in emergencies to promoting non-violence and peace. The strategy emphasizes local voice amplification, collaborative engagement, and transparent communication, extending into **long-term resilience building** through initiatives such as the IFRC Pan-Africa Zero Hunger Initiative. The planned operations under this operational strategy include:

Multi-purpose cash

Provide multi-purpose cash assistance for a period of four months during the lean season (June – September 2023) for immediate food and basic needs. 2,700 households experiencing severe food insecurity (IPC 3 and IPC 4) will receive unconditional cash transfers for a period of four months. Conducted refresher training on cash distribution (including targeting, data collection, cash distribution, monitoring of markets) will be provided to 30 volunteers (ten per department).

Livelihoods

Expand the Mother's Club methodology to Moudjeria and Guerrou to support the livelihoods of the club members and ensure their sustainability. Work with local authorities and community members to identify four villages in each of the departments to be targeted for the Mother's Clubs. Support 750 households in 30 women's cooperative through

the distribution of agricultural inputs, training, and the implementation of collective garden protection activities.

Health and nutrition

Prevent malnutrition of 320 children of 6-23 months and 400 pregnant or lactating women for most vulnerable households which are affected by food insecurity. Set up eight mother's clubs in Guerrou and Moudjeria to establish good nutrition practices and to support screening and referral. Work with local health authorities to organize two mass sensitization campaigns in the targeted communities which will be held in March-April 2023 prior to the lean season and again in November-December 2023.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Support 15 cooperatives with inputs such as solar panels, irrigation systems and pumping systems to ensure access to water resources for income generating activities. Support vulnerable families with basic hygiene items such as soap, bleach, and other items through the multi-purpose cash assistance. Conduct hygiene promotion with the households that receive the cash transfer at the time of distributions to encourage them access to these items with the cash assistance.

Protection, gender and inclusion

Adopt protection, gender and inclusion approach across the operation to ensure that the PGI minimum standards in emergencies are factored in the sectoral responses including health, food security, livelihoods, and WASH. Train volunteers and staff in PGI in emergencies, including PSEA. Staff and volunteers to provide sensitization sessions on PGI to others with particular emphasis on the community-based volunteers.

Community engagement and accountability

Set up community feedback mechanism in each of the three departments targeted by the operation. Working with the village committees, a free telephone number will be set up so that community members can provide feedback. Ensure that CEA tools developed and refined during the recent emergency appeals and DREF operations are adopted and used during the whole response process.

Risk reduction, climate adaptation, and recovery

Develop climate-smart livelihood activities with at-risk communities through the creation of farmer field schools for sustainable agricultural techniques. Support sentinel sites in Barkeol, a community-based food security monitoring mechanism which is currently integrated into Mauritania's national early warning system. Support 10 villages in the 3 departments to establish village food security stocks and work with the local authorities and communities to target the villages in each department.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Mauritania's arid and semi-arid climate, varying between the Sahara Desert in the north and a more agriculturally favourable south, poses multiple challenges. Rising temperatures, uncertain precipitation patterns, and increasing frequency of extreme weather events threaten the country. This adversely affects the national economy, impacting water resources, agriculture, livestock, coastal activities, and ecosystems, particularly affecting rural populations' food security and livelihoods.

The country has a score of 4.6 on the [INFORM Climate Change Risk Index](#), indicating a moderate level of vulnerability to climate change within the country. A moderate level of vulnerability can have significant implications for communities, ecosystems, and economies, which call for proactive measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts.

Historically rich in wildlife, Mauritania has seen depletion due to drought, human pressure, and resource degradation. Despite low emissions, the country aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 22.3 per cent by 2030. In 2021, food and nutrition crises, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, affected around 11.3 per cent of the population, emphasizing the need for adaptation policies. To tackle climate change impacts, Mauritania must prioritize building community resilience, introducing new income-generating activities, and diversifying livelihoods to safeguard local populations and fragile ecosystems.

Mauritania is part of the [Great Green Wall initiative](#) which aims to grow 8,000 kilometres of forested land to bring back Africa's degraded landscape. This is a pan-African project aimed at combating desertification, land degradation, and

climate change by creating a barrier of trees and vegetation across the Sahel region, stretching from Senegal in the west to Djibouti in the east

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Mauritanian Red Crescent is part of the IFRC [Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

Additionally, the National Society's multi-year plan has been put in place to save lives, protect and strengthen the livelihoods of households affected by the adverse impacts of climate change on food and nutrition security. This plan focuses on the following priority areas:

- Preparing for and reducing the risks of climate-related disasters
- Protecting, restoring and strengthening the livelihoods of communities affected by food and nutrition insecurity
- Ensuring an adequate, coordinated response to food crises and the implementation of the SAME Action Plan (Food Security and Livelihoods)



Mauritanian Red Crescent teams provide crucial assistance to flood-affected communities in Boghe, Mauritania, following heavy rainfall in late July, which caused widespread flooding, displacing thousands and leaving many still living in inundated homes surrounded by stagnant water, with support from IFRC, September 2023. (Photo: IFRC)

Planned activities in 2024

- Coordinate action with various actors, including government agencies NGOs, CSOs and local administrative authorities to prevent and respond to food and nutrition crises, with a focus on climate disaster preparedness and risk reduction
- Establish a community-based monitoring mechanism for climate change-related disaster preparedness and risk reduction
- Set up additional 20 sentinel SAME surveillance sites in the departments of Kiffa and Kankoussa in Assaba
- Develop an early drought action protocol in order to build an effective mechanism for a systematic response to crises
- Promote and introduce climate-smart practices to small-scale agricultural producers in order to strengthen the livelihoods of communities affected by climate change

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society's efforts towards strengthening its operational capacity to achieve short-,

medium-, and long-term strategic objectives. The IFRC support to the National Society will consist of such components as training for staff and volunteers in the field of SAME, multiplication of approaches to support/strengthen the resilience of communities, including community monitoring mechanisms as well as agricultural field schools.

Anticipatory action is a key element in climate risk management, with IFRC supporting Mauritanian Red Crescent in its development and management. In the 2021-2025 budget plan, IFRC established an operational framework for anticipatory action, aiming to enhance network capabilities in developing and financing early actions for disaster and risk management. IFRC is part of the "Early Warning for All" (EW4ALL) program, collaborating with UN agencies to protect populations from weather and climate events.

Within these objectives, IFRC supports Mauritanian Red Crescent in projects like developing an Early Action Protocol for drought hazards, with ongoing and upcoming projects funded by the FCDO of the British Government and the Italian government's cooperation agency. Additionally, the "WISER Sahel" program, in collaboration with UK Aid and the UK MET Office, aims to enhance climate resilience through information tools and services for Mauritanian Red Crescent and CRBF, running from 2022 to 2026..



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on disasters, visit [IFRC GO page Mauritania](#)

Mauritania faces major challenges related to disasters and crises, both chronic and recent. The consequences of climate change are exposing the country to unprecedented humanitarian crises. The country faces recurrent coastal and urban flooding which now affects the entire territory. In 2022, heavy rains caused major flooding in parts of Mauritania, including Hodh El Gharbi, Assaba and Tagant in southern and central Mauritania. Among other things, the floods caused extensive material damage to 4,351 households (28,926 people).

In addition to floods, Mauritania is susceptible to various to disasters and crises in the form of bushfires that have damaged more than 1.2 million hectares in pastoral areas. Droughts, which have caused livestock mortality and crop losses, lead to food insecurity which affect more than one-third of the population, leading to alarming rates of malnutrition. The scarcity of resources, compounded by lack of infrastructure to adequately support vulnerable people, have led to tensions and acts of violence, particularly between farmers and herders, with communal conflicts increasingly on the rise.

In Mauritania, various entities monitor and anticipate food security. The government's Food Security Observatory (FSO), supported by multidisciplinary technical groups and the Cadre Harmonisé, disseminates regular bulletins and uses the FiTI initiative to predict the consequences of rainy seasons. At the same time, community-based sentinel sites, largely run by organizations such as WFP and FAO, monitor food security at the local level. High food prices and low purchasing power have led to acute food insecurity for many households in rural and peri-urban areas. Peri-urban areas dependent on food markets are particularly vulnerable.

The Mauritanian government is working closely with sectoral ministries, the United Nations, national and international organizations, as well as civil societies. This initiative aims to update the contingency plan by adopting an annual multi-sectoral approach, covering all crises and disasters to which the country is exposed. The National Contingency Plan aims to accomplish the following objectives:

- Clarify roles, responsibilities and interactions between the various stakeholders involved in the response to emergencies

- Simplify the coordination of humanitarian partners' initiatives and establish a structure for the harmonization of sectoral plans
- Identify and undertake measures to mitigate the most likely disaster risks
- Provide a collaborative planning framework between the different stakeholders
- Reduce response times and alleviate the suffering of those affected
- Equip the National Society with up-to-date reference documents and the necessary human resources for the implementation of response operations
- Develop a multi-hazard contingency plan
- Improve the technical and operational capacity to respond to food crises
- Organize capacity building training on cash and voucher assistance ([CVA](#))

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

As a priority country under the [Pan-African Zero Hunger initiative](#), the National Society's main objectives for the coming years consist of developing a long-term strategy on food and nutrition security and livelihood resilience, establishing strategic partnerships to strengthen the resilience of food systems at the grassroots level, and support actions that contribute to the achievement of the Pan-African Zero Hunger initiative. It will also work to improve the overall response capacity of the National Society staff and volunteers to respond to crises and disasters in a timely and efficient manner.

Planned activities in 2024

- Develop community-based actions to prepare for food and nutrition crises
- Pre-position stocks at the level of municipalities for emergencies

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society's efforts in strengthening its crisis preparedness and response. Components of IFRC collaborative support with the National Society include assistance with the pre-positioning of contingency stocks, development of emergency centre, support for the development of a contingency plan in the event of a flood, strengthening the technical capacities of the local branches of the National Society and its collaboration with the Climate Centre. The IFRC will support the National Society in integrating anticipatory action into its risk and disaster management plan and to build on various ongoing projects on [forecast-based financing](#).

The National Society will also be supported under IFRC emergency mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and the IFRC Emergency Appeal for timely and effective humanitarian interventions in times of crises.



Health and wellbeing

Mauritania faces complex health challenges, including high rates of endemic and epidemic diseases, along with an increase in non-communicable diseases. Despite Government efforts, malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B, and neglected tropical diseases persist as major concerns. Recent outbreaks like Rift Valley fever and Dengue fever have added to these challenges. Maternal and child health, with elevated rates of maternal and neonatal mortality, highlight required health interventions in these areas.

Despite reduced mortality, the crude mortality rate remains high, while life expectancy has slightly increased. The country grapples with a cyclical food and nutrition crisis, particularly affecting mother-child couples, with peaks during the lean season and improvement after harvests. There is a high prevalence of communicable diseases, including meningitis, measles, haemorrhagic fevers, and COVID-19.

According to the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)), the neonatal mortality of Mauritania stood at 23.12 per 1000 live births, infant mortality rate stood at 33.02 per 1000 live births while under-five mortality rate stood at 41.28 per 1000 live births, signifying challenges in ensuring proper health and care of women and children.

The health system shows major weaknesses and challenges which include:

- Health care and services suffer from problems of regulation, quality, hospital hygiene and biomedical waste management
- Disease control strategies do not sufficiently integrate the determinants of health
- Health infrastructure and equipment do not meet the required quality standards

- Capacity in communication, surveillance, response, laboratories and other areas of public health is inadequate to deal with health events
- The private health sector lacks regulation, favouring health professionals to the detriment of the public sector

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society's main objective is to reduce the risk of epidemics and improve access to health care for vulnerable populations in Mauritania. It will work to improve access to water and sanitation infrastructure and hygiene practices for vulnerable populations in Mauritania in order to curb the community health crises. The National Society will also prioritize the vulnerability of women in situations of food insecurity, recognizing their role as agents of change. Through the establishment of Mothers' Clubs, the National Society will work to strengthen women's participation at the community level and thus have direct impact within their households and communities with regard to child nutrition.

Planned activities in 2024

- Establish sustainable linkages between national health structures (health centres and posts) and mother's clubs (and sentinel sites) to coordinate screening, referrals of severe acute malnutrition cases
- Conduct training on cooking, boiling and other topics related to the prevention of malnutrition
- Conduct community awareness activity regarding epidemic and pandemic preparedness
- Conduct water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) awareness-raising campaigns in targeted localities
- Focus on prevention of malnutrition cases in communities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society's efforts under health and care through technical and financial support for initiatives that aim to improve nutrition, reproductive health, and communicable diseases, thereby strengthening the health system. It works with the National Society to ensure that it develops strategic partnerships in health and is able to achieve its multi-year objectives as per the National Society's strategic plan. The technical support will include capacity building training sessions, mobilization of resources, awareness raising campaigns, and IFRC approaches such as community-based health and first aid (CBFHA) to improve health care services in the region.



Migration and displacement

Due to its central location in sub-Saharan Africa, Mauritania serves as a transit, destination, and departure point for migrants, including its own citizens seeking opportunities abroad. The migratory route involves stages from Senegal's coast through Mauritanian cities like Rosso, Nouakchott, Chami, and Nouadhibou, often leading to Morocco or European coasts by land or sea. Nouadhibou, a key coastal city, plays a central role in the country's development with economic activities like fishing, mining, gas, and tourism.

Nouadhibou's proximity to the Moroccan border attracts migrants, with an estimated 15,032 individuals in April 2021. Urgent humanitarian needs for migrants include access to basic services such as health, psychosocial support, education, food, shelter, safety, and protection from human trafficking. Enhanced cooperation between Spanish and Mauritanian maritime security services has reduced sea

migration, prompting migrants to seek alternative routes. Sea route risks include shipwrecks and bad weather, leading to physical and psychological trauma.

Land migrants face violence, stalking, and exhaustion, depleting financial resources and exposing them to protection risks like gender-based violence and exploitation. Mauritania's historical role as a departure country is evident through incidents like the 2015 shipwreck, the Catania incident on the Libyan coast, and a May 2021 boat grounding off Trinidad and Tobago with decomposed bodies, confirmed to be from the same region. With the unstable security situation in Mali, there has been a small-scale influx of Mauritanian nationals living in Mali returning to the Hodh el Chargui region.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society is part of the IFRC three-year [Global Route Based Migration Programme](#), which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points; (2) strengthening National Society capacities; and (3) local to global humanitarian diplomacy. Socio-economic conditions also remain challenging in Egypt, particularly for migrant and refugee families.

The National Society's efforts under migration focuses on the provision of essential services such as physical and mental health care as well as Restoring Family Links (RFL) with the telephone call service, which was originally supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and now supported by the British Red Cross (BRC) for a period of six months in the second half of 2023, so it would be important to be able to mobilise resources for the maintenance of this project, as well as assistance to migrants turned back towards the border with Senegal Rosso where migrants turned back from Nouadhibou but also from Morocco find themselves in precarious conditions; The Mauritanian Red Crescent in Rosso assisted nearly 1500 migrants by providing hot meals; dignity kits, food kits and a telephone call service (RFL) but now without this funding this support becomes impossible for the Mauritanian Red Crescent which was the only actor to provide this humanitarian assistance; The project project, which is estimated at approximately **CHF 75,777** for 12 months, is submitted for fundraising.

Planned activities in 2024

- Provide humanitarian assistance to migrant populations in transit and provide mitigation measures for populations in transit and departure zones.
- Ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance and protection services to people on the move and at all stages of their journey, regardless of their status
- Strengthen the capacity of the national society to better respond to the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants and to address the challenges they face
- Strengthen humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy efforts and ensure the protection of migrants and displaced populations

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** supports the National Society's efforts to strengthen and expand the global route-based migration programme to ensure continuity of services for people on the move. The support focuses on areas such as economic empowerment of migrants by providing them with the requisite skills, resources, and opportunities to create a sustainable livelihood in their communities of origin. It promotes community-based initiatives that strengthen local economies, infrastructure, and social cohesion and facilitate the successful integration and reintegration of returnees into their communities of origin, reducing their vulnerability to further migration.

The **British Red Cross** supports the National Society's efforts under migration such as the provision of essential services including physical and mental health care as well as restoring family links ([RFL](#)) with the telephone call service.



Values, power and inclusion

Gender inequality remains a significant issue in Mauritania, with disparities existing across various aspects of life, including education, employment, political representation, and access to healthcare. According to the United Nations Development Programme ([UNDP](#)), Mauritania has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world, with significant gender disparities. The literacy rate for females is lower compared to males. In 2017, the literacy rate for adult females (aged 15 and above) was 40.1 per cent, whereas for adult males, it was 61.2 per cent.

Women in Mauritania face challenges in accessing formal employment opportunities. The World Bank [notes](#) that the labour force participation rate for women is significantly lower than that of men. In 2019, the female labour force participation

rate was reported at 28.6 per cent, whereas the male rate stood at 63.1 per cent. This disparity reflects barriers such as limited access to education and training, as well as cultural norms that prioritize male participation in the workforce.

Women's representation in political decision-making processes remains low. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) [reports](#) that as of January 2022, women held only 20 out of 157 seats in the National Assembly, representing about 12.7 per cent of parliamentary seats. In addition to lack of representation, gender disparities also exist in access to healthcare services in Mauritania. The World Health Organization (WHO) highlights challenges such as limited access to maternal and reproductive healthcare for women, particularly in rural areas. This lack of

access contributes to higher maternal mortality rates and poorer health outcomes for women compared to men

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Mauritanian Red Crescent will work to ensure that it incorporates protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) into all elements of its programmes and mainstream PGI based on vulnerabilities such as disabilities, age, gender, and health conditions of the affected communities. The National Society has developed a draft plan of action on PGI and identified several priorities for capacity building in this area.

Planned activities in 2024

- Support educational structures in reviving school activities during disasters
- Support school kits for students (girls and boys) of families affected by disasters or displaced families

- Update the National Society youth policy and promote the principles and values of the Movement through public fora
- Develop prevention of sexual exploitation policy
- Train volunteer and staff on PGI minimum standards in emergencies

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Mauritanian Red Crescent in enhancing its capacities to reach more local branches and increase awareness and actions through the role of the youth and the engagement with the community. The IFRC support to the National Society consists of both financial and technical support to mainstream PGI elements into the programmes and to effectively advocate for protection of vulnerable population.

The **British Red Cross** supported the National Society in developing a PGI plan of action.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Mauritanian Red Crescent is committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response process and is at the workplan phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that

enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society will strive to create meaningful and strong partnerships by participating at thematic regional or global events or networks. To strengthen its auxiliary role to the public authorities, the National Society will develop multi-year sustainable partnerships with various stakeholders and partners for the benefit of its programming and to mobilize resources for its initiatives in achieving greater visibility and access to adequate resources.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society by convening partnership forums to help facilitate new partnerships for the National Society and widen its involvement in regional fora. It will primarily facilitate the reinforcement of its existing peer-to-peer exchanges to bilaterally connect National Societies in the region with similar goals and experiences to discuss approaches and achievements and to learn from peers on possible solutions.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

A process to improve the financial procedures, manuals, and internal regulations has been finalized by the Mauritanian Red Crescent, as well as a revision of the statutes. The National Society plans to revise the statutes and increase the technical capacity by recruiting technical focal points in finance/logistics who will supervise and build the capacity of the local National Society volunteers. This approach will increase the capacity of the National Society to implement future disaster responses.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC support to the National Society will consist of workshops and training sessions for its leaders to facilitate

the identification of development priorities and the actions needed to achieve them. Technical guidance will extend to areas such as assessments and gap analysis in the organization's policies to identify areas in need of updates or revisions, conducting branch capacity assessment (BOCA), among a string of other organizational support that are intended to gradually result in the development of the National Society. More importantly, the IFRC will encourage the National Society to participate and actively engage in the various communities of practice, where practitioners from all levels (headquarters, branches and certain cases external stakeholders) can come together to share, interact, learn, and develop. The IFRC will support the setting up of local, regional, and global events and roundtables for peer-to-peer exchanges between National Societies.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Mauritanian Red Crescent has designed a communication strategy to proactively adapt to the constant evolution of communication techniques. This approach aims to strengthen the credibility and audience of the National Society, both at the national level and with its external partners.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides financial and technical support to the National Society in pursuing its objectives under humanitarian diplomacy. This collaborative approach includes collaboration with external agencies on migration and displacement, development of policies, advocacy to various ministries, and influencing through mapping of coordinating structures. Moving forward, the IFRC will work with the National Society to strengthen its capacities around its communications strategy.



Mauritanian Red Crescent, supported by IFRC, aids locals amidst ongoing food and nutrition insecurity exacerbated by climatic shocks, economic fallout from COVID-19, conflict in Ukraine, and Sahelian security concerns, offering cash assistance to those most affected by floods and rising food prices, August 2023. (Photo:IFRC)



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society has finalized a process to improve its financial procedures manuals and internal regulations, as well as a revision of its statutes, the development of the cash standard operating procedure and the first aid manual. IFRC will also help the national society in providing technical guidance in developing financial management and accountability capacities.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC continues to provide financial and technical support to the Mauritanian Red Crescent in its efforts to improve accountability, cooperation, governance and its transparency. It will work with the National Society to ensure that its efforts under accountability and agility are aligned with requirements of the IFRC network.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The Mauritanian Red Crescent has been supported by the IFRC since 1970, and currently its Country Cluster Delegation is in Dakar. This support focuses on emergency preparedness and response through DREFs and emergency appeals including the revised [Africa Hunger Crises](#), as well as the implementation of its operational plan for food security and livelihoods through a dedicated appeal.

The IFRC delegation of the Dakar Country Cluster assists the National Societies of Cape Verde, Gambia, Mauritania and Senegal. These countries have a combined population of about 25 million people who face a range of shocks and vulnerabilities. The majority of the population reside in rural areas and relies heavily on rain-fed agriculture and livestock

for their livelihoods. The four National Societies supported by the Dakar Cluster Delegation are affected by the phenomenon of migration. Although Senegal has traditionally been an important destination for migrants from West and Central Africa, it has gradually lost its appeal and remains a transit country for migrants seeking to reach Europe. The risks faced by people on the move are also linked to increasingly dangerous routes, whether by land or sea. To address these concerns, the IFRC recently adopted a three-year action plan for Gambia, Senegal and Mauritania, strengthening cross-border mechanisms and cooperation between National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies along one of the world's most dangerous migration routes.

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role. The National Society is also part of the Sahel+ Group around the themes of migration and food security and livelihoods (SAME). The

objective of the SAME technical group is to contribute to the increasing impact of the Movement's actions in the food and nutrition security sector by providing sustainable and local solutions to the recurrent and chronic crises in the region.

The following National Societies are supporting the Mauritanian Red Crescent:

The **British Red Cross** supports community-based monitoring activities of the SAME situation in the Assaba Region, activities to prepare the forecast-based funding protocol and strengthening of the National Society's capacity in the implementation of cash transfer programmes.

The **French Red Cross** is actively present in Mauritania compared to other partners who operate remotely.

The **Qatar Red Crescent** supported the National Society in construction of the Hamad bin Khalifa Hospital located in Boutilimit, at a cost of USD 1.9 mil. The hospital, which

served up to 10,000 patients in 2023, comprises four medical divisions: inpatient, outpatient, technical and emergency. Additionally, it offers seven outpatient clinics specializing in internal medicine, obstetrics and gynaecology, dermatology, general surgery, orthopaedics, dental medicine, and ear, nose and throat (ENT).

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
British Red Cross	415,000		●		●		
		Total Funding requirement					
		415,000					

Movement coordination

The Mauritanian Red Crescent works closely alongside the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies. It organizes quarterly International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement coordination meetings and an annual partners’ meeting. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement

Coordination and Cooperation ([SMCC](#)) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The **ICRC** through its regional delegation in Dakar supports the Red Cross Societies, and promotes international humanitarian law and encourages its implementation.

Coordination with other actors

The Mauritanian Red Crescent works closely with the Mauritanian government to address humanitarian issues within its mandate. The CSA (Food Security Commission) is a key partner involved in the Mauritanian Red Crescent’s community monitoring mechanisms. The National Society, a member of the national unit for analyzing the harmonized framework led by the CSA, coordinates through the National Food and Nutrition Crisis Preparedness and Response Mechanism (DICAN), specifically the Specialized Technical Committee (CTS) for Food Assistance and Social Safety Nets. The Mauritanian Red Crescent’s partnership with the Mauritanian government

also extends to the promotion of research and sustainable agricultural techniques. A partnership has been established between the Mauritanian Red Crescent and the National Center for Agricultural Research and Agricultural Development (CNRADA), through the establishment of agricultural field schools in the wilayas of Assaba and Guidimakha.

The National Society is also part of various coordination groups such as the United Nations System Clusters (Health, SAME, disasters and risk, protection), commissariat for food safety, and coordination of civil protection under the leadership of the Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

This plan reflects the priorities of the Mauritanian Red Crescent, its partner National Societies and the IFRC Secretariat for the period 2024-2025 and beyond. It is the result of a joint planning process and will be used for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be reviewed annually to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the country's needs.

Contact information

Mohamedou Raby

Secretary General
Mauritanian Red Crescent
T +(222) 525 1249
/659 2410/525 1249
m.raby14@gmail.com

Alexandre Claudon de Vernisy

Head of Delegation
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Cape Verde,
Gambia, Mauritania & Senegal, based in Dakar
T +221 783 719557
alexandre.claudon@ifrc.org

Louise Daintrey

Head of Strategic Partnerships
& Resource Mobilization
IFRC Regional Office for Africa, Nairobi
T +254 110 843978
louise.daintrey@ifrc.org

Sumitha Martin

Lead
IFRC Global Strategic Planning & Reporting Centre
New Delhi
sumitha.martin@ifrc.org