

# OPERATION UPDATE

## Mauritania| Population Movement

<p><b>Emergency appeal №: MDRMR017</b>  <b>Emergency appeal launched: 15/10/2024</b>  <b>Operational Strategy published: 18/07/2025</b></p>	<p><b>Glide №: NA</b></p>
<p><b>Operation update #2</b>  <b>Date of issue: 31/10/2025</b></p>	<p><b>Timeframe covered by this update:</b>          From 01/07/2025 to 31/10/2025</p>
<p><b>Operation timeframe: 22 months</b>          (15/10/2024 – 30/06/2025) – including a 6-month extension</p>	<p><b>Number of people being assisted: 62,000</b></p>
<p><b>Funding requirements (CHF):</b>          CHF 2.5 million through the IFRC Emergency Appeal          CHF 4 million Federation-wide</p>	<p><b>DREF amount initially allocated:</b>          CHF 1 million</p>



Photo 1: Reception of newly arrived refugees in the Mauritania Red Crescent Humanitarian Service Point. Credits @IFRC

To date, this Emergency Appeal, which seeks CHF 4 million is 38 per cent funded. Further funding contributions are needed to enable the Mauritanian Red Crescent Society, with the support of the IFRC, to continue providing humanitarian assistance and protection to people on the move.

# A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

## Description of the crisis

### Humanitarian Situation and Needs Overview

#### Deteriorating Security Situation in Mali

The security situation in Mali continues to worsen, particularly in the central and northern regions, where escalating violence and instability are driving new waves of displacement into Mauritania. In Timbuktu and surrounding areas, repeated incursions by non-state armed groups (NSAGs) have led to arbitrary arrests, widespread looting of businesses, and the destruction of livelihoods. These acts have created a pervasive climate of fear and insecurity, forcing civilians to flee across the border in search of safety.

In central Mali, NSAGs have imposed forced taxation (“zakat”) on communities, demanding excessive contributions per head of livestock under threat of violence. This systematic extortion, combined with the collapse of local governance and basic services, is fueling further displacement from the regions of Timbuktu, Ségou, Koulikoro, and Léré toward Mauritania.

#### Cross-Border Implications and Population Movements

Instability in Mali has direct repercussions for Mauritania’s border regions, particularly Hodh El Chargui, where the situation has sharply deteriorated since renewed fighting in Léré in late October 2025. Refugee arrivals, which had slowed earlier in the year, have surged once again. Mauritania is currently hosting over 306,000 Malian refugees and more than 65,000 returnees, making it one of the largest refugee-hosting countries in West Africa. Hodh El Chargui alone accommodates the majority of these displaced populations, placing immense strain on local infrastructure and natural resources.

Field reports from refugee coordination meetings indicate new incidents in the locality of Touro (Mali), where Malian civilians have forced Mauritanian pastoralists to cross back into Mauritania, further complicating cross-border dynamics. The new arrivals report widespread violence, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), abductions, torture, extortion, and family separation. An estimated 80% of refugees are women and children, many of whom have endured multiple episodes of trauma and displacement.

#### Conditions and Unmet Humanitarian Needs

Only half of the new arrivals have been officially registered as refugees. Approximately 176,000 individuals live outside formal camps, with little to no access to essential services such as safe water, adequate sanitation, shelter, food security, basic healthcare, protection services, and education for children.

The lack of sanitation infrastructure and reliance on unsafe water sources have triggered rising cases of malnutrition and waterborne diseases, particularly among children. Recent outbreaks of measles and diphtheria in Hodh El Chargui highlight the fragility of the health system and underscore the need for strengthened disease surveillance, vaccination campaigns, and community-based health promotion.

Host communities, already vulnerable before the crisis, now face acute shortages of food, water, and grazing land. Over 60% of the new arrivals are pastoralists, bringing with them an estimated 1.7 million heads of livestock. This rapid influx is placing unsustainable pressure on scarce water points and pasturelands, accelerating desertification and threatening the livelihoods of approximately 189,000 residents in host communities. Rising competition over limited resources risks heightening tensions among refugees, returnees, host populations, and local authorities.

#### Compounding Risks: Climate and Environmental Hazards

The humanitarian crisis in Mauritania is compounded by the growing impact of climate shocks. Meteorological forecasts predict above-average rainfall in June 2025 for Hodh El Chargui and Guidimakha, heightening the risk of flooding in areas already classified as high-risk. Floods in 2024 and early 2025 destroyed critical infrastructure and displaced communities, while droughts and bushfires continue to undermine agricultural production and food

security. The convergence of armed conflict, forced displacement, and climate-related shocks threatens to push both refugee and host populations into deeper vulnerability and increased dependence on humanitarian aid.

### **Operational Capacity and Humanitarian Response**

The Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC), supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), is at the forefront of the humanitarian response in Bassikounou, Néma, Amourj, and Adel Bagrou, providing life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable populations. However, the scale and complexity of the crisis far exceed the available resources. Limited funding, challenging logistics, and overstretched supply chains are severely constraining the ability of humanitarian actors to deliver essential services and sustain operations in remote areas.

In response to the growing humanitarian burden, the Governorate of Hodh El Chargui and local authorities have formally requested that the MRC and IFRC intensify their support and assume a more prominent auxiliary role to public institutions. This includes scaling up multi-sectoral interventions to address the urgent needs of both refugees and host communities—particularly in health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), shelter, food security, and protection—while also strengthening community resilience against future shocks.

## **Summary of response**

### **Overview of the host National Society and ongoing response**

Established in 1970, the Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) plays a pivotal role in national humanitarian efforts. With 56 local committees and over 6,000 volunteers, the MRC is active across multiple sectors, including disaster risk management, food security, livelihoods, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), migration, and first aid. As an auxiliary to public authorities, the MRC collaborates closely with government bodies, UN agencies—particularly UNHCR, UNICEF, and IOM—as well as international NGOs and local organizations to ensure coordinated humanitarian interventions in Hodh El Chargui, Mauritania’s most affected region.

Under the IFRC Emergency Appeal (MDRMR017), converted from an initial DREF allocation, the MRC operates in Bassikounou, Néma, Amourj, and Adel Bagrou, with two operational bases and focal points in strategic locations. Specialized teams have been deployed to deliver services in shelter, WASH, migration, protection, health, and cash assistance. The MRC actively represents the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in both governmental and non-governmental coordination platforms, including the UNHCR-led Refugee Coordination Forum, where it advocates for inclusive, locally driven support for refugees and host communities.

Operational capacity has been strengthened through technical expertise in disaster management, cash and voucher assistance (CVA), livelihoods, communications, and volunteer management. The organization has also signed a data-sharing agreement with UN partners, enhancing coordination and resource optimization. The MRC’s visibility and credibility have grown significantly, particularly following multiple field operations and coordination efforts that have improved access to hard-to-reach areas. Despite this progress, limited human and financial resources continue to constrain the scale of the response. Strengthening human resource capacity and sustaining logistical support are now critical priorities to maintain effectiveness amid rising demands.

The MRC is recognized by both the Government of Mauritania and the European Union as a key actor in migrant and refugee assistance. It continues to provide essential services to refugees, returnees, and host families—addressing urgent needs in shelter, health, WASH, and protection—while also contributing to long-term resilience through community-based interventions. Today, the MRC’s presence and auxiliary role are firmly established, and communities in Hodh El Chargui regard the Red Crescent as a trusted and indispensable partner in their daily struggle for safety, dignity, and recovery.



Photo 2: Opening ceremonies of the HSP in presence of authorities and partners - @ifrc

Since the beginning of the operation, the Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) has continued to deliver a multi-sectoral humanitarian response across Hodh El Chargui, reaching thousands of refugees, returnees, and vulnerable host families—particularly in out-of-camp settings. The MRC has established two Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) in Dowinkara and Fassala, providing first aid, psychosocial support, hot meals, and essential relief items to over 20,000 individuals. To date, 600 refugee families have received emergency shelter kits, including tents, mats, blankets, and mosquito nets. Additionally, 1,500 buckets and 1,500 bottles of bleach have been distributed to 803 households to improve access to safe water and hygiene.

In the health sector, 120 volunteers have been trained in epidemic prevention and malnutrition screening. A total of 445 refugees have received direct protection assistance, while 60 volunteers have been trained in Community Engagement and Accountability to strengthen feedback mechanisms and promote inclusion. Although cash and livelihoods activities—targeting 1,300 households—are still under preparation, the team expects to finalize implementation before the end of the year. Sustained funding, along with strengthened human and logistical capacity, remains critical to meeting the growing needs resulting from the renewed influx of refugees and recurrent climate shocks in the region.

## Needs analysis

The humanitarian and security crisis in Mali continues to drive large-scale displacement into Mauritania, particularly into the Hodh El Chargui region, where the Mbéra refugee camp and surrounding host villages are located. As of June 2025, Mauritania hosts an estimated 309,670 refugees and asylum seekers, of whom 176,919 are registered—including 95,535 children and 42,572 women. Since January 2025 alone, over 24,300 new arrivals have been recorded, 86% of whom are women and children. This influx adds considerable pressure to a region already marked by high multidimensional poverty (78%), chronic food insecurity, and vulnerability to climate shocks.

According to UNHCR’s assessment, the primary reasons for fleeing Mali are rooted in armed violence and insecurity, compounded by economic collapse and climate stress:

- Attacks by armed groups (100%) and generalized violence (80.9%) are the leading causes of displacement.
- Additional triggers include widespread criminality (57.7%), food insecurity (43.3%), and drought (34.6%).

- Many refugees also report targeted persecution, including religious or ethnic discrimination (49%) and extortion by armed actors (68%).
- Journeys into Mauritania remain perilous, with 86–99% of respondents facing banditry, armed patrols, and financial hardship along the route.

The refugee population is highly vulnerable. Between 82% and 86% of new arrivals are women and children, with many families arriving separated or accompanied by unaccompanied minors, single parents, and women at risk. Approximately 12.6% of arrivals report specific protection needs, including survivors of gender-based violence, older people at risk, and individuals with serious medical conditions or disabilities. The prevalence of trauma, family separation, and exposure to violence underscores the urgent need for protection services and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

The most pressing needs for new arrivals include non-food and shelter items such as blankets, mats, and mosquito nets. Over 63% of refugees report overcrowded or inadequate shelter conditions and express the need for additional space outside formal camps. More than 60% of refugee households lack purchasing power and access to income-generating opportunities, highlighting the critical need for cash-based assistance and livelihood support.

Strengthened coordination and increased funding are urgently required to:

- Expand out-of-camp assistance
- Scale up cash and livelihood support
- Reinforce community-based resilience to prevent further deterioration of living conditions.

## Operational risk assessment

### Security and Access Constraints

The proximity of Hodh El Chargui to northern and central Mali, where armed conflict continues, exposes humanitarian operations to significant cross-border security risks. Recurrent incursions and the presence of non-state armed groups (NSAGs) near Adel Bagrou, Fassala, and Bassiknou heighten the risk of armed incidents, population movement surges, and temporary suspensions of field activities. In addition, banditry, armed patrols, and theft along the supply routes from Néma and Bassiknou pose operational challenges and can disrupt the movement of relief items and staff. Mitigation measures include close coordination with local authorities, use of established humanitarian corridors, and security briefings for field teams coordinated through UNDSS and UNHCR-led platforms.

### Logistical and Supply Chain Challenges

The vastness and remoteness of Hodh El Chargui, combined with poor road infrastructure, limited storage capacity, and seasonal inaccessibility due to floods, pose major logistical risks. The rainy season (June–September) regularly isolates communities, delaying the transport of shelter materials, WASH items, and relief supplies. In addition, customs clearance and internal transport constraints increase the cost and time required for supply movement. To mitigate these risks, the MRC and IFRC are pre-positioning essential stocks in Bassiknou and Adel Bagrou and strengthening local procurement channels where feasible. Expansion of fleet capacity, warehousing, and cold-chain logistics for health items is also required.

### Human Resource and Institutional Capacity Risks

The MRC's human resource base remains limited compared to the operational scope. While more than 6,000 volunteers are mobilized nationwide, only a small proportion are trained for complex emergencies. The rapid expansion of operations has stretched staff capacity in logistics, finance, and monitoring. High turnover, limited managerial autonomy at field level, and dependence on surge support from IFRC pose continuity risks.

To address this, the MRC is implementing an organizational strengthening plan, with targeted training in logistics, disaster management, cash programming, and CEA, alongside the recruitment of dedicated operational staff. Volunteer insurance and safety measures are also being reinforced.

### **Financial and Resource Mobilization Risks**

The Emergency Appeal is currently 38% funded, which significantly limits the ability to maintain assistance on a scale. Funding shortfalls risk the suspension or reduction of life-saving services, particularly in cash assistance, health, and WASH sectors, where activities depend on external contributions. Delays in fund disbursement or underfunding could also erode community trust and momentum coordination with partners. Active resource mobilization continues through bilateral donor engagement and humanitarian diplomacy efforts by the IFRC and MRC leadership.

### **Climatic and Environmental Hazards**

Hodh El Chargui is highly vulnerable to climate extremes, notably flooding, drought, and desertification. Meteorological forecasts indicate a high probability of above-average rainfall in 2025, which could cause flash floods that damage roads, health posts, and water points, and displace both refugees and hosts. Conversely, recurrent drought cycles reduce pasture and water availability, intensifying competition for natural resources and increasing the risk of inter-communal tensions. Preparedness measures include hazard monitoring, integration of climate adaptation activities (e.g. reforestation, soil protection, flood drainage), and the development of community-based disaster risk reduction (DRR) plans through trained MRC volunteers.

### **Social Cohesion and Protection Risks**

The coexistence of refugees, returnees, and host populations in areas already struggling with poverty and resource scarcity has led to rising social tensions. Disparities in aid distribution risk fueling perceptions of exclusion or preferential treatment, particularly where refugees receive greater assistance than hosts. In addition, the high proportion of women and children (over 80%) among refugees increases exposure to gender-based violence (GBV), exploitation, and trafficking risks. Mitigation actions include systematic Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) mainstreaming, community feedback mechanisms (CEA), and joint community projects that benefit both host and refugee populations.

### **Coordination and Dependency Risks**

The MRC's role within a multi-stakeholder humanitarian ecosystem (UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, IOM, NGOs, and government actors) requires strong coordination to avoid duplication and ensure complementarity. However, dependence on UNHCR data systems and logistical support may delay response timelines or limit autonomy in planning. To reduce dependency, the MRC is enhancing its data management systems, developing bilateral coordination frameworks, and reinforcing its auxiliary role to the Government of Mauritania to ensure sustained engagement beyond UN-led coordination structures.

### **Reputational and Compliance Risks**

Given the increased visibility of the MRC's operations, adherence to IFRC standards, accountability, and transparency is essential. Delays in reporting, weak monitoring systems, or perceived inequities in beneficiary selection could affect donor confidence. The IFRC Secretariat provides continuous financial oversight, surge operational management, and compliance training to safeguard accountability. Regular monitoring missions, lessons-learned reviews, and coordination with Movement partners help maintain transparency and quality assurance.

## **B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY**

### **Update on the strategy**

An Emergency Appeal was launched in October 2024 to scale up urgent humanitarian assistance for refugees, returnees, and host communities in the Hodh El Chargui region—an area already under increasing pressure due to scarce natural resources. Covering the four departments of Bassiknou, Adel Bagrou, Néma, and Amourj, the Appeal aimed to strengthen life-saving activities in new out-of-camp locations and reinforce longer-term resilience and recovery efforts, enabling more sustainable support for affected populations.

Twelve months after its launch, implementation has faced delays and several operational disruptions due to system-level challenges and field-level constraints. Progress was slowed by administrative bottlenecks related to harmonizing quotas for host families, as well as flooding that temporarily restricted access to intervention sites. Located approximately 1,200 km from Nouakchott, the Hodh El Chargui region presents significant logistical and operational challenges. Managing the operation remotely from the capital remains difficult due to the remoteness and harsh living conditions in the intervention area. To address this, the MRC has established two operational bases in Bassiknou and Adel Bagrou, reinforcing the technical and managerial capacities of local branches. Two guesthouses have also been rented and equipped in these locations to accommodate staff and visiting partners, improving coordination, staff welfare, and operational continuity under challenging climatic conditions.

To date, approximately 45% of the planned activities under the Emergency Appeal have been implemented. In light of the continued increase in refugee arrivals and growing humanitarian needs, the Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC), in coordination with the IFRC, seeks to extend the Emergency Appeal by six months, through June 2026. This extension will allow the operation to adapt to evolving needs, strengthen coordination with partners, and ensure the efficient use of mobilized resources to maximize humanitarian impact and guarantee equitable assistance for both refugees and host communities.


#### Strategic Adjustments to the Operational Plan

- **Revision of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs):** The number of HSPs has been reduced from three to two. The initially planned site at Aghor (Bassiknou) was not approved by authorities, as it is not considered an official entry point. Additionally, the available budget was insufficient to establish three sites. The government also plans to extend the Mbéra camp toward this area to address local tensions, making a separate HSP unnecessary.
- **Health Strategy Adjustment:** Following consultations with partners and in light of IFRC's non-procurement mandate for medicines, the MRC has revised its health strategy. Instead of deploying a mobile clinic, the new approach focuses on increasing the number of volunteers trained in disease detection and malnutrition screening and partnering with local health centers near refugee concentrations to ensure access to medical care. A dedicated medical focal point, recruited by the MRC, will supervise implementation and validate treatments delivered through these facilities.
- **Sectoral Prioritization:** Due to limited funding, the planned construction of 20 boreholes will not be prioritized, as other partners are already addressing water supply needs. Similarly, livelihood activities have been scaled down to focus on multi-purpose cash assistance for 1,300 households, ensuring immediate relief and flexibility in meeting essential needs.

These adjustments reflect a pragmatic and adaptive approach to evolving realities on the ground, maintaining a focus on life-saving assistance, community resilience, and the principles of effectiveness, accountability, and complementarity within the broader humanitarian response in Mauritania.

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

### STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

 <b>Shelter, Housing and Settlements</b>		Female > 18:	Female < 18:
		Male > 18:	Male < 18:
<b>Objective:</b>	<i>To protect and preserve the dignity of displaced people by providing them with shelter</i>		
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Target</b>
	<i># of volunteers trained in shelter assembly techniques</i>	60	60
	<i># of mats distributed (target: 2200)</i>	1200	1200
	<i># of tents distributed (target: 1100)</i>	600	600
	<i># of volunteers deployed for distribution</i>	30	30
	<i># of volunteers deployed for the PDM</i>	0	30
	<i># of blankets purchased and distributed (1200)</i>	1200	1200

Under the Emergency Appeal, the Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) distributed shelter kits to 600 refugee families across the four targeted moughatas—Bassiknou, Adel Bagrou, Néma, and Amourj. Each kit included a six-person tent, two mats, two blankets, and mosquito nets, aiming to preserve the dignity and protection of displaced households living outside formal camp settings. The distribution was carried out in coordination with UNHCR, which provided beneficiary lists, and CIAUD, which assisted with verification. A total of 60 trained volunteers supported the operation, ensuring transparent delivery and active community engagement throughout.

Despite this achievement, the intervention covered only a fraction of the overall shelter needs, as thousands of refugees and returnees continue to live in precarious conditions in informal settlements and host villages. The MRC and IFRC are working with partners to mobilize additional resources to expand coverage and improve living conditions, prioritizing the most vulnerable families while ensuring coordination with other shelter actors in the Hodh El Chargui region.



## Livelihoods

Female > 18:

Female < 18:

Male > 18:

Male < 18:

### Objective:

*To provide cash assistance for the livelihoods of refugees, returnees and the host community, and to support the livelihoods of those affected*

### Key indicators:

#### Indicator

**Actual**

**Target**

*# of households receiving assistance (Target: 1,000)*

0

1000

*# of livelihood PDMs organized (Target: 01)*

0

1

The livelihoods sector is phased out from this response, due to funding shortages.



## Multi-purpose Cash

Female > 18:

Female < 18:

Male > 18:

Male < 18:

### Objective:

To ensure basic needs assistance through the most effective and dignified way to the vulnerable population

### Key indicators:

#### Indicator

**Actual**

**Target**

*# of beneficiaries targeted*

1300

1300

*# of training sessions for 30 volunteers on the feasibility study and cash*

0

2

*# of volunteers deployed for distribution*

0

50

*# of volunteers deployed for the PDM*

0

67

Mauritanian Red Crescent has finalized the identification of the households that will benefit from the cash assistance. Their registration is ongoing, and the disbursements should start before the end of the year.



## Health & Care

(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)

Female > 18:

Female < 18:

Male > 18:

Male < 18:

### Objective:

To contribute to the improvement of the health of refugees and returnees

### Key indicators:

#### Indicator

**Actual**

**Target**

# of meetings with authorities

3

4

# of mobile clinics deployed

0

2

# of malnutrition cases referred

0

500

# of volunteers trained in epidemic prevention and malnutrition screening

120

120

The Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) continued its efforts to improve access to health services for refugees and host communities in the Hodh El Chargui region, focusing on epidemic prevention, malnutrition screening, and medical referrals. During the reporting period, the MRC held three coordination meetings with local health authorities and trained 120 volunteers in epidemic prevention and malnutrition detection.

Due to the IFRC's mandate limitations regarding the procurement of medicines, the MRC revised its health strategy to strengthen partnerships with local health centers near refugee settlements instead of operating a mobile clinic. Through this arrangement, refugees receive care at existing facilities under the supervision of a medical focal point recruited by the MRC to validate and oversee treatment.

In collaboration with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the MRC facilitated the referral of severe medical cases, with three refugee women already treated at the MSF France health center near the Humanitarian Service Point. Additionally, the MRC participated in a two-day health caravan organized by the Mauritanian authorities and the Adel Bagrou health center, providing free consultations in ophthalmology, cardiology, gynecology, pediatrics, and general medicine. During this activity, 315 patients—including both refugees and host community members—received medical care, supported by MRC volunteers who managed patient registration and flow. These interventions have strengthened coordination within the local health system and improved access to essential medical services for vulnerable populations. However, the scale of needs continues to exceed available resources, highlighting the importance of expanding community-based health promotion, disease surveillance, and support to primary health facilities in the coming months.



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Female > 18:

Female < 18:

Male > 18:

Male < 18:

### Objective:

To improve access to WASH for target communities

### Key indicators:

#### Indicator

**Actual**

**Target**

# of bladders distributed

5

300

# of 15-liter bucket kits with lids distributed

1500


1500

# of volunteers trained in emergency WASH (target: 120)

0

30

# of trash bins distributed	0	1500
# of awareness sessions (target: 1)	0	30
# of households reached with key messages promoting personal and community hygiene (target: 500)	8000	300
# of latrines built	6	8
# of bottles of bleach distributed	1500	1500
# of wells rehabilitated	0	20
# of training and refresher sessions for 80 volunteers on hygiene promotion	1	1
# of training sessions for 30 volunteers on wash in emergency situations	1	1

 <b>Protection, Gender and Inclusion</b>	Female > 18:	Female < 18:	
	Male > 18:	Male < 18:	
<b>Objective:</b>	<i>Ensure the crosscutting integration of ERP into all emergency response, to preserve the dignity of beneficiaries and adhere to the "do no harm" principle.</i>		
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Target</b>
	# of volunteers trained (target: 60)	90	60
	# of people who benefited from PGI awareness-raising	445	1000
	# of women and girls of childbearing age who received dignity kits	0	2000
	# of registration systems for the RLF set up	2	2

A total of 445 refugees received protection assistance upon arrival at the Humanitarian Service Point (HSP) in Dowinkara. Volunteers provided them with attentive care, ensuring they were welcomed into an environment where their dignity was respected and their safety guaranteed. These refugees had access to toilets, a prayer space, and resting areas, contributing to a more humane and secure reception.



## Community Engagement and Accountability

<b>Objective:</b>	To develop and deploy standardized approaches for community engagement and for the collection and use of qualitative community data to better understand community perspectives		
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Target</b>
	<i>% of community feedback received</i>	80	75
	<i># of volunteers trained in CEA (target: 60)</i>	60	60
	<i># of feedback mechanisms installed (target: 2)</i>	2	5

A telephone number is available to refugees and members of host communities to provide feedback or complaints in complete confidentiality. A trained volunteer receives calls, records messages and forwards each piece of feedback to the relevant department.

Discussion sessions are organized in areas with high concentrations of refugees to gather their opinions directly on the services we provide. Volunteers facilitate these meetings and note down key observations.

In this specific case, our managers contacted refugee leaders using lists provided by the UNHCR to facilitate the identification of beneficiaries. Following their feedback, the NGO CIAUD, which is often called upon by the UNHCR to assist with refugee registration, went into the field to confirm the information provided by the refugee leaders. In Bassiknou, some refugees were absent during the distribution of shelter kits. At the request of the Mauritanian Red Crescent (CRM), the UNHCR proceeded to replace them with other beneficiaries. According to feedback received from refugee representatives, the absent individuals are believed to have returned to their country of origin.



## Migration

Female > 18:

Female < 18:

Male > 18:

Male < 18:


<b>Objective:</b>	To ensure immediate access to essential services through the establishment of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs).		
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Target</b>
	<i># of people trained in first aid (500)</i>	300	500
	<i># of humanitarian service points set up,</i>	2	2
	<i># of first aid kits distributed (100),</i>	30	100
	<i># of households registered at humanitarian service points</i>	92	0
	<i># of volunteers trained in PSH</i>	120	120
	<i># of volunteers trained in psychological first aid (60)</i>	60	60

The Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) have been strategically equipped with high-visibility materials, ensuring that all people in need can easily locate and access vital assistance. These points serve as critical entry hubs for humanitarian support, providing displaced populations with safe, dignified, and timely services. The formal launch of activities at the Dowinkara HSP, attended by local authorities, community leaders, and humanitarian partners, marked a significant milestone in strengthening the visibility, credibility, and trust in the Mauritanian Red Crescent within the region.

Since the last weekend of October, the Dowinkara HSP has registered over 90 newly arrived households, representing approximately 500 individuals, many of whom fled conflict and adverse conditions in search of safety and basic needs. Our dedicated volunteers have worked tirelessly, around the clock, to provide comprehensive support that addresses both immediate and longer-term needs, including:

- Psychological first aid, helping individuals and families cope with trauma and the stress of displacement
- Restoring family links to enabling refugees to reconnect with family members
- Hot meals, ensuring that families receive immediate nutritional support upon arrival
- Blankets and mosquito nets to protect against harsh weather conditions and vector-borne diseases
- Buckets and bottles of bleach to support safe water storage and basic hygiene practices
- Practical Information and safe referral to ensure that refugees can access essential services in a timely and secure manner providing guidance on available humanitarian assistance, legal and protection services, health care, and community support, while helping to connect people to the most appropriate resources based on their specific needs. This to reduces risks, prevents exploitation or abuse, and empowers refugees to make informed decisions, enhancing their safety, dignity, and overall well-being.

Beyond material support, the HSP has become a trusted point of contact where families receive guidance, referrals, and information on additional services available in the area. These efforts not only alleviate immediate suffering but also foster community resilience and social cohesion, ensuring that displaced populations feel supported and included. By providing a visible, well-organized, and compassionate humanitarian presence, the Mauritanian Red Crescent continues to uphold its commitment to humanitarian principles, while strengthening its role as a key partner in the broader regional response.

	<b>Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery</b>	Female > 18:	Female < 18:
		Male > 18:	Male < 18:
<b>Objective:</b>	<i>To promote proactive risk management, adaptation of climate change and sustainable reconstruction by strengthening community resilience</i>		
	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Target</b>
<b>Key Indicators</b>	<i># of volunteers trained in NDRT</i>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>
	<i># of volunteers trained in CDRT</i>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>
	<i># of enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessments (eVCAs) with communities and agree on activities that can have impact on preserving natural resources</i>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

## Enabling approaches



### National Society Strengthening

Objective:	<i>To strengthen the organizational and operational capacity of the National Society.</i>		
	Indicator	Actual	Target
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<i># of visibility equipment produced</i>	1	1
	<i># of lessons learned workshop organized</i>	0	1
	<i># of implementation team set up</i>	1	1
	<i># of operational strategy development workshops organized</i>	1	1
	<i># of NS and its local committees provided with the necessary equipment to implement activities (3 vehicles, office equipment)</i>	1	1
	<i># of NS staff and volunteers trained (Logistics, DM, Migration, WaSH, Livelihood)</i>	14	14
	<i># of volunteers insured</i>	120	120

The recruited staff continue to strengthen their capacities and are becoming increasingly autonomous in carrying out certain activities. However, further efforts are needed in the areas of logistics and planning. One key area for improvement is initiative-taking, particularly in the planning and implementation of activities.



### Coordination and Partnerships

Objective:	<i>To facilitate engagement and coordination with participating national societies, humanitarian organizations and government</i>		
	Indicator	Actual	Target
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<i># of coordination meetings with PNS</i>	0	4
	<i># of coordination meetings with government partners</i>	1	4
	<i># of coordination meetings with international and national humanitarian agencies</i>	10	9
	<i># of attendance at thematic meetings</i>	8	12

The Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) has continued to strengthen collaboration and coordination with government authorities, UN agencies, diplomatic partners, and humanitarian organizations operating in Mauritania. Throughout the reporting period, the MRC actively engaged with UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, and the UN Coordination Office, as well as key institutional donors—including the European Union and Spanish Cooperation—to reinforce its role as a leading national humanitarian actor and ensure complementarity across the refugee response.

In parallel, the IFRC, in support of the MRC, held a series of strategic meetings with diplomatic partners such as the Embassies of Germany, Qatar, and Spain, along with Spanish Cooperation and the European Union Delegation. These engagements aimed to strengthen relationships and explore opportunities for bilateral collaboration and resource mobilization in support of the ongoing Emergency Appeal.

At the operational level, the project team maintained regular participation in coordination forums with both international and national humanitarian partners, including the UNHCR-led Refugee Coordination Forum. These efforts enhanced information-sharing, aligned interventions, and promoted a coherent multi-sectoral response. With the renewed influx of refugees observed since late October, coordination activities have intensified, ensuring timely data exchange and joint prioritization of needs.

The MRC also participated in several sectoral working groups, including the Shelter and NFI Sector Group, Cash Working Group, Food Security Cluster, and WASH Coordination Group. Through these platforms, the MRC contributed its field expertise and ensured that the perspectives of affected communities informed collective planning and decision-making. These collaborative efforts continue to reinforce the MRC’s visibility, leadership, and operational integration within the broader humanitarian architecture in Mauritania.



## Secretariat Services

**Objective:** *The IFRC Secretariat aims to enhance MRC’s effectiveness by strengthening coordination, operational capacity, resource mobilization, and strategic advocacy for sustainable humanitarian action. Through technical support, partnerships, and advocacy, the Secretariat ensures MRC can efficiently respond to crises, build resilience, and engage in humanitarian diplomacy.*

	Indicator	Actual	Target
<b>Key indicators:</b>	# of IFRC monitoring missions (target: 4)	4	4
	# of surge migration personnel deployed	1	1
	# of surge Operations Manager personnel (target: 1)	1	1
	# of IFRC Manager Operations staff recruited (target: 1)	1	1
	# of surge logistics personnel (target: 1)	1	1

### Emergency Response Team Deployments by the Federation

- Surge Operations Manager (December 2024 – February 2025): Led the initial phase of the Emergency Appeal, overseeing the launch of key activities.
- Migration Surge Team: Initiated migration-related operations, including training volunteers; identifying PSH implementation sites; developing PSH management tools; compiling equipment lists at the PSH level.
- Operations Manager (recruited in May 2025): currently supporting the CRM in establishing and executing Emergency Appeal activities.

- Logistics Manager (Based in Dakar, deployed to Nouakchott): Strengthening the CRM's technical logistics capacity and assisting with the procurement of items.
- Regional Security officer based in Burkina Faso (Niger Cluster): conducted an initial security assessment mission in the Hodh El Chargui region, where the Emergency Appeal is being implemented.
- Operations Manager (ongoing role): continues to support the CRM in implementing planned activities under the Emergency Appeal.

## D. FUNDING

### MDRMR017 - Mauritania - Pop. Movement

Operating Timeframe: 09 May 2024 to 31 Dec 2025; appeal launch date: 05 Nov 2024

#### I. Emergency Appeal Funding Requirements

<b>Total Funding Requirements</b>	<b>2,500,000</b>
<b>Donor Response* as per 19 Nov 2025</b>	<b>555,958</b>
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	<b>22.24%</b>

#### II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Planned Operations / Enabling Approaches	Op Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	174,363	69,869	104,494
PO02 - Livelihoods	0	0	0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	159,711	213,056	-53,346
PO04 - Health	68,330	51,653	16,678
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	109,513	0	109,513
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	24,958	0	24,958
PO07 - Education	0	0	0
PO08 - Migration	172,752	48,721	124,031
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	107,508	243,558	-136,050
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	19,911	0	19,911
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability	0	0	0
<b>Planned Operations Total</b>	<b>837,047</b>	<b>626,856</b>	<b>210,191</b>
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships	0	9,327	-9,327
EA02 - Secretariat Services	189,408	107,416	81,992
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	519,798	221,695	298,103
<b>Enabling Approaches Total</b>	<b>709,206</b>	<b>338,439</b>	<b>370,767</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,546,252</b>	<b>965,294</b>	<b>580,958</b>

## Contact information

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

### In the Mauritania Red Crescent National Society

- **Secretary General:** Mohamedou Raby, email: [m.raby014@gmail.com](mailto:m.raby014@gmail.com), phone: +222 43424101
- **Operational coordination:** Ahmed Mogueya, Disaster Management coordinator; email: [ahmedmogueya1@gmail.com](mailto:ahmedmogueya1@gmail.com), phone: +222 36115474

### In the IFRC

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- **IFRC Regional Office for xx DM coordinator:** Rui Alberto Oliveira, Regional Operations Lead; email: [rui.oliveira@ifrc.org](mailto:rui.oliveira@ifrc.org), phone: +254 780 422276
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- **Operational coordination Dakar Cluster:** Sadrack B. Matanda, Disaster and Climate Crisis delegate, email: [sadrack.matanda@ifrc.org](mailto:sadrack.matanda@ifrc.org), phone: +221 77208188

### For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- **IFRC Regional Office for Africa:** Louise Daintrey, Head of Unit, Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilization; email: [louise.daintrey@ifrc.org](mailto:louise.daintrey@ifrc.org)

### For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- **Logistics Coordinator,** Allan Masavah, Head, Global Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain Management, Africa Region; email: [allan.masavah@ifrc.org](mailto:allan.masavah@ifrc.org).

### Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

## How we work

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