

EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL SUMMARY

Mauritania | Drought

12th May 2026



Community consultation organized as part of an assessment of the drought response in the Assaba region

EAP №: EAP2024MR01	Early action lead time: 3 Months	Operation №: MDRMR021
EAP approved: 03/06/2026	EAP timeframe: 5 Years	Operational timeframe: 3 Months

Budget: 769,566 CHF
To assist: 37,200 people

SUMMARY OF THE EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL

The IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) has approved a total of CHF 769,566 for the implementation of the Mauritanian Red Crescent Drought EAP. The approved amount consists of an allocation of CHF 135,004 for readiness 46,181 for prepositioning and CHF 634,563 for early actions once the defined triggers are met. This budget includes 2 rounds of pre-positioning and 2 rounds of early actions as per the DREF procedures.



Allocations are made from the Anticipatory Pillar of the DREF, under the DREF appeal code MDR00001. Unearmarked contributions to DREF are encouraged to guarantee enough funding is available for the Early Action Protocols being developed.

Mauritania is a Sahelian country where livelihoods rely heavily on rain-fed agriculture, pastoralism and agropastoral systems. The rainy season (July–September) is short and highly variable, and recurrent droughts and dry spells are the most damaging hazard in terms of people affected, with large-scale impacts on food security, nutrition and household resilience. Southern Sahelian regions Brakna, Gorgol, Guidimakha and Assaba—are particularly exposed given their dependence on crop and livestock production.

The Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) developed this Early Action Protocol (EAP) through a participatory process combining technical analysis, institutional coordination and community consultations. National technical services, including the Office National de la Météorologie and the Commissariat à la Sécurité Alimentaire, worked with the MRC, the IFRC Dakar Cluster, the IFRC Climate Centre and Movement partners to define triggers, prioritise impacts and select early actions aligned with national planning and coordination mechanisms.

The EAP targets about 6,200 vulnerable households (approximately 37,200 people) in Brakna, Gorgol, Guidimakha and Assaba, focusing on pastoralists, agropastoralists and smallholder farmers most affected by rainfall deficits. Targeting is community-based and inclusive, prioritizing female-headed households, households with young children, elderly people, persons with disabilities and those facing compounded vulnerabilities.

Two priority impacts guide the protocol: livestock losses linked to reduced pasture and water availability and heightened disease risk, and reduced agricultural production caused by insufficient or poorly distributed rainfall and prolonged dry spells. These are key drivers of food insecurity and harmful coping strategies.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

1. Who will implement the EAP - The National Society

The Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) leads the development and implementation of the Drought Early Action Protocol and operates through a disaster management structure with a designated EAP focal point. The protocol covers four wilayas Brakna, Gorgol, Guidimakha and Assaba and, once triggers are reached, the MRC will work with administrative authorities to identify the intervention communes using disaggregated food security information. The MRC has relevant operational experience for this EAP, including more than a decade of cash-based assistance delivered through different modalities.

In terms of financial capacity, the MRC does not currently maintain an internal emergency fund dedicated to rapid response; the EAP therefore relies on partner support and the Forecast-based Financing mechanism to enable timely activation once triggers are met.

On human resources and readiness, the EAP includes investments to ensure the MRC can implement within the forecast-to-impact window. These include staff mobilisation, training or refresher training for identified

personnel, volunteer insurance, and communication and visibility materials, alongside arrangements to pre-position key items and establish service agreements with selected providers for rapid delivery in the target areas. Upon activation, the MRC will conduct beneficiary identification and verification, deploy staff and volunteers, deliver agreed early actions, and ensure monitoring, reporting and accountability.

The British Red Cross provided financial support for developing of the EAP. The French Red Cross provided in-country technical support, including capacity strengthening and advocacy on anticipatory action. The Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Centre supported the risk analysis, definition of alert levels and triggers, identification of information sources and selection of early actions, and helps strengthen collaboration with meteorological services. The IFRC, through the Dakar Cluster, coordinated support to the MRC, serves as an interface with the EAP validation processes, supports responses to feedback on the narrative and budget, and facilitates administrative and coordination aspects through to implementation.

2. How the EAP will be activated – The Trigger

The Drought Early Action Protocol will be activated when forecast and monitoring thresholds indicate a high likelihood of drought impacts on livelihoods and food security in the target regions. Two activation windows are planned. A pre-season trigger is used ahead of the rainy season when seasonal forecasts show a significant probability of below-normal rainfall for July–September, while a post-season trigger is used after the rainy season when observed rainfall deficits and food security projections confirm a likely deterioration in the coming months.

Pre-season trigger

Forecast in May by the European Centre for Short- and Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) SEAS5 seasonal forecasting system of a probability of 40% or more that the total precipitation for the July–September season will be "below normal".

Actions will be halted if, in the updated forecast issued in June, the probability of below-normal rainfall falls below 40%.

Post-season trigger

The Cadre Harmonisé analyses provided by the Commissariat for Food Security predict a phase 3 (emergency phase) IPC in November or higher for the month of June of the following year.

And

For the July–August period, a rainfall pause - defined as a period **of more than 21 days without rain** (< 1 mm) - is diagnosed by the ONM at the nearest monitored weather stations for a given region.

A stop mechanism applies if updated information suggests the event is unlikely or less severe and more than three days remain before implementation, allowing the activation to be suspended or adjusted.

Intervention areas are predefined as Brakna, Gorgol, Guidimakha and Assaba, with specific communes confirmed at activation based on the spatial distribution of forecasted and observed impacts. Targeting prioritizes drought-sensitive livelihoods, pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and smallholder farmers and focuses on the most vulnerable households through community-based selection and validation.


3. How the EAP will reduce the impact on the population – The Early Actions


The EAP will reduce drought impacts by implementing cash support to vulnerable households to protect food access and prevent negative coping strategies, livestock protection measures (such as preventive animal health support) to reduce losses among pastoral and agropastoral families, and target support to agricultural production through drought-adapted inputs to limit crop failure and sustain household food availability. The EAP also includes early warning communication and community sensitization to improve preparedness, acceptance and timely use of assistance. Together, these no-regret actions are designed to be implemented ahead of peak impacts to reduce humanitarian needs, protect livelihoods and strengthen resilience in drought-prone areas. Feasibility was verified through field and operational assessments, including market and delivery considerations, confirming that the Mauritanian Red Crescent can implement within the forecast-to-impact window. Actions


follow IFRC FbF guidance and recognized standards for quality, accountability and protection, including cash assistance and sector norms.


PLANNED OPERATIONS

 Livelihoods	Female:	2,550	181,259 CHF
	Male:	2,450	AP Code: 007
Indicator:	5,000 people reached with livelihoods interventions in advance of a drought		
Readiness Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training of MRC volunteers in communication techniques 2. Signing of a partnership agreement with the Directorate of Livestock 		
Prepositioning Activities	1. N/A		
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness-raising of livestock keepers on the importance of animal vaccination and strategic destocking 2. Livestock vaccination 3. Distribution of short-cycle seeds and fertilizers 		


 Multi-purpose Cash	Female:	9,180	388,546 CHF
	Male:	8,820	AP Code: 081
Indicator:	18,000 people reached with multi-purpose cash in advance of a drought		
Readiness Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update of the agreement with the financial service provider 2. Training of MRC volunteers on cash targeting and distribution 3. Cash market and feasibility assessment in the four target areas 4. Beneficiary targeting 		
Prepositioning Activities:	1.N/A		
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cash distribution for pastoral populations 2. Cash distribution for agropastoral households 		


 Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and recovery	Female:	6,120	15,009CHF
	Male:	5,880	AP Code: 103
Indicator:	12,000 people reached with risk reduction and/or climate adaptation interventions in advance of a drought		
Readiness Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training of MRC volunteers on the dissemination and communication of seasonal forecasts 2. Development of key messages and communication materials 		
Prepositioning Activities:	1.N/A		
Priority Early Actions:	1. Awareness-raising on climate-smart agriculture practices (stone bunds, half-moons) and the use of agro-meteorological information		

 Community Engagement and Accountability	Female:	18,972	15 ,429 CHF
	Male:	18,228	AP Code: 129
Indicator:	37,200 people reached with community engagement and accountability interventions in advance of a drought		
Readiness Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Training of volunteers in Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) 2. Establishment of feedback and complaints mechanisms 		
Prepositioning Activities	1.N/A		
Priority Early Actions:	1. Conducting post-distribution satisfaction surveys		

 Environmental Sustainability	Female:	5,610	45 656 CHF
	Male:	5,390	AP Code: 102
Indicator:	11,000 people reached with environmental sustainability interventions in advance of a drought		
Readiness Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Signing of an agreement with the Directorate of Environment to prevent and combat bushfires 2.Training of MRC volunteers on supervising workers 		
Prepositioning Activities:	1. Procurement of hand tools for the construction of firebreaks (rakes, shovels, hoes)		
Priority Early Actions:	1. Construction of firebreaks		

Enabling approaches

 Coordination and Partnerships			19,102 CHF
			AP Code: 127
Readiness Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meeting of the crisis cell and MRC local committees to trigger the EAP 2. Communication of the EAP activation to all stakeholders 		
Prepositioning Activities	1.N/A		
Priority Early Actions:	1. Field mission for the supervision of early actions		

 Secretariat Services			42,292 CHF
			AP Code: 122
Readiness Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disbursement of IFRC support costs for EAP implementation, including salary contribution (80% of one month salary per year) 2. Monitoring mission: one (1) per year 		
Prepositioning Activities:	1.N/A		
Priority Early Actions:	1.		N/A

 National Society Strengthening			62,275CHF
			AP Code: 124
Readiness Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support for covering the Disaster Manager (DM) salary 2. Production of visibility materials for MRC volunteers 3. Support for covering the salary of the EAP focal point 4. Fuel 5. Support for covering the salaries of four MRC field Disaster Management focal points 6. Insurance contracting for volunteers mobilized under this EAP 7. Annual MRC general operating costs 8. Communication costs (internet) 		
Prepositioning activities:	1.N/A		
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project launch workshop 2. Lessons Learned workshop 		



Early Action Protocol Summary

MDRR021 - MAURITANIA RC

DROUGHT EAP

EA Protocol - MDRMR021

<u>Operating Budget</u>	Readiness	Pre-Pos Stock	Early Action	TOTAL
Planned Operations	55,627	25,189	565,082	645,898
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0	0	0	0
Livelihoods	7,872	0	173,387	181,259
Multi-purpose Cash	22,041	0	366,505	388,546
Health	0	0	0	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0	0	0	0
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0	0	0	0
Education	0	0	0	0
Migration	0	0	0	0
Risk Red., Climate Adapt. and Recovery	9,971	0	5,038	15,009
Community Engagement and Accountability	7,872	0	7,557	15,429
Environmental Sustainability	7,872	25,189	12,595	45,656
Enabling Approaches	79,377	20,991	23,300	123,669
Coordination and Partnerships	0	0	19,102	19,102
Secretariat Services	42,292	0	0	42,292
National Society Strengthening	37,085	20,991	4,198	62,275
TOTAL BUDGET	135,004	46,181	588,382	769,566

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

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