

OPERATION UPDATE

Mauritania| Population Movement



Photo 1: Bladders distribution in Dowlenkara. Credits @IFRC

<p>Emergency appeal №: MDRMR017 Emergency appeal launched: 15/10/2024 Operational Strategy published: 18/07/2025</p>	<p>Glide №: NA</p>
<p>Operation update #3 Date of issue: 30/06/2026</p>	<p>Timeframe covered by this update: From 01/01/2026 to 31/05/2026</p>
<p>Operation timeframe: 25 months (15/10/2024 – 30/09/2026) – including a 3-month extension</p>	<p>Number of people being assisted: 62,000</p>
<p>Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 2.5 million through the IFRC Emergency Appeal CHF 4 million Federation-wide</p>	<p>DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 1 million</p>

To date, this Emergency Appeal, which seeks a Federation-wide funding requirement of CHF 4 million, is 38 per cent funded. This corresponds to approximately CHF 1.53 million mobilized or pledged, leaving an estimated funding gap of CHF 2.47 million. 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

Through this Operations Update, the NS requests a 3-month extension to sustain the activities and scale up multi-sectoral interventions to address the urgent needs of both refugees and host communities up to 30 September 2026. This extension will allow the operation to adapt to changing needs, strengthen coordination with partners and ensure the effective use of resources mobilized to maximize humanitarian impact and ensure equitable assistance for refugees and host communities.

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.

In addition, the ongoing conflict, repeated displacement, and exposure to violence and climate shocks have generated significant mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs among refugees, returnees, and host communities. Many newly arrived refugees report experiencing traumatic events, including armed attacks, abductions, torture, extortion, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), loss of family members, and forced separation from loved ones. Women and children, who constitute approximately 80% of the refugee population, are particularly vulnerable to psychological distress and protection risks.

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: Visit of the UN coordinator to the PSH of Dowenkara - @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 20,032 refugees, returnees, and vulnerable host family members, particularly in out-of-camp settings. The MRC has established two humanitarian service points (HSPs) in Dowinkara and Fassala, providing first aid, psychological first aid, basic psychosocial support, hot meals, safe referrals, information on available services, and essential relief items to over 20,000 individuals. Specific MHPSS-related support includes psychological first aid by trained volunteers, psychosocial support for new arrivals by the French Red Cross psychosocial focal point, and referral of people showing acute psychological distress to specialized protection, health, and mental health services, including Terre des Hommes where appropriate. 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. Screening activities reached 546 children aged 3 to 5 years at the HSPs: 97 children showed signs of moderate malnutrition and 13 severe cases were referred through the French Red Cross, making 110 malnutrition cases identified and referred or supported. No epidemic cases were recorded among refugees assisted outside the camp by the MRC during the reporting period. A total of 445 refugees received direct protection assistance, while 60 volunteers were trained in community engagement and accountability to strengthen feedback mechanisms and promote inclusion.

Need 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. Repeated displacement and prolonged uncertainty may have eroded traditional coping mechanisms and social support networks, increasing the risk of anxiety, depression, grief, and other mental health conditions. Children may face heightened risks of emotional distress, developmental challenges, and disruption of education and protective family environments. Adolescents and youth are particularly exposed to feelings of hopelessness, social isolation, and negative coping mechanisms.

The strain on host communities, coupled with growing competition over scarce natural resources, may also be contributing to distress, social tensions, and reduced community cohesion. Frontline volunteers, community workers, and service providers operating in an increasingly complex humanitarian environment may additionally experience elevated levels of stress and burnout.

Despite these growing needs, access to MHPSS services remains extremely limited, particularly for refugees and vulnerable populations living outside formal camps. There is a critical need to strengthen community-based MHPSS services through psychological first aid, safe spaces for women and children, basic and focused non-psychosocial support activities, focused non-specialized mental health services, referral pathways for individuals with severe mental health conditions, and capacity strengthening of local health workers, volunteers, and community-based actors. Integrating MHPSS across health, protection, education, and community engagement interventions will be essential to promote resilience, strengthen social cohesion, and support the wellbeing and recovery of affected populations.

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.
- Ensure access to relevant protection and MHPSS services

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 funds 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 fuelling 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 sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), 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. The cumulative effects of conflict forced displacement, loss of livelihoods, exposure to violence, and prolonged uncertainty have also generated significant mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs among affected populations, including heightened levels of psychological distress, anxiety, grief, and reduced social cohesion. Competition over scarce resources and increasing community tensions may further exacerbate psychosocial stress and undermine community resilience. Mitigation actions include systematic Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) mainstreaming, integration of community-based MHPSS services, community feedback and accountability mechanisms (CEA), safe referral pathways for protection and mental health concerns, and joint community projects that promote social cohesion and 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

The 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.

Eighteen months after its launch, the implementation experienced delays, including the continuous influx of Malian refugees due to the ongoing conflict in Mali, as well as the intensification of migration-related activities along the border with Senegal. This placed additional pressure on the National Society's staff and volunteer network. As a result, some human resources had to be redirected to emergency and migration-related activities, which affected the pace of implementation of the planned project activities and several operational disruptions due to institutional and field-level constraints. The limited availability of key National Society staff because of competing institutional

commitments, particularly the ARCO process, reduced operational capacity during Ramadan, and disruptions linked to the development and relocation of the National Society's headquarters, which affected coordination, administrative follow-up, and timely decision-making.

Located about 1,200 km from Nouakchott, the region of Hodh El Chargui presents significant logistical and operational challenges. Remote management of the operation from the capital remains difficult due to the remoteness and difficult living conditions in the intervention area. To address this, the MRC installed two operational bases with all office equipment. Two guesthouses were also rented and equipped in these locations to accommodate staff and visiting partners, thereby improving coordination, staff well-being and operational continuity under harsh weather conditions.

To date, activities at the Dowlakara HSP continue, including community-based hygiene promotion and awareness sessions. In light of the continued influx of refugees and the increasing humanitarian needs, the Mauritanian Red Crescent, in coordination with the IFRC, is requesting a three-month extension of the Emergency Appeal, through September 2026, to ensure the continuation of critical assistance and response activities. Partners (PAM, HCR, OIM, UNICEF, ACF, CRF, NATION UNION) have recognized the importance and necessity of keeping the HSP functional and visited HSP to better appreciate the work of the CRM. The NS received 900 kg of rice from WFP, 500 hygiene kits from UNICEF and other items and equipment for the capacity building of volunteers.

Through this Operations Update, the NS requests a 3-month extension to sustain the activities and scale up multi-sectoral interventions to address the urgent needs of both refugees and host communities. This extension will allow the operation to adapt to changing needs, strengthen coordination with partners and ensure the effective use of resources mobilized to maximize humanitarian impact and ensure equitable assistance for refugees and host communities.

Strategic Adjustments to the Operational Plan

- **Strengthening and rehabilitation of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs):**

The HSP of Dowlakara should be strengthened because it is the main entry point for newly arrived refugees. As the Government and partners gradually move from emergency response towards longer-term development through the five-year COMPACT programme, maintaining and strengthening the Dowlakara HSP remains an important asset for community integration and coordinated service delivery. The HSP should continue to mainstream PGI and CEA approaches across its services, while providing Psychological First Aid (PFA), identification of vulnerable individuals, and referral to specialized protection, health, and mental health services as needed.

- **Health Strategy Adjustment:**

The French Red Cross has obtained funding to support the health component. Health activities are now implemented by the French Red Cross in the HSP, with a medical focal point overseeing implementation and validating referrals. In this context, the MRC/IFRC will not duplicate mobile clinic activities, but will continue to support identification, basic health promotion, malnutrition screening, PFA-informed support, and safe referral to appropriate health, mental health, protection, and social support services.

- **Sectoral Prioritization:**

Sectoral prioritization will focus on:

- Extend the support provided by HSP services.
- Complete pending WASH activities: Awareness activities on promoting hygiene.
- Expanding shelter support where resources allow.
- Complete the multi-purpose cash assistance for 1,300 households.
- Support NSD through reinforcing local branches
- Lessons learned workshop


- **Balance for funds:**

There is currently a balance of **CHF 223,000** for the **May 2026 closing month**. A detailed plan has been developed for a three-month extension based on the sectoral prioritization identified above. This balance will be fully utilized by the new end of operational implementation **30 Sept 2026**.

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

 Shelter, Housing and Settlements		Female > 18:	Female < 18:
		Male > 18:	Male < 18:
Objective:	<i>To protect and preserve the dignity of displaced people by providing them with shelter</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i># of volunteers trained in shelter assembly techniques</i>	60	60
	<i># of mats distributed (target: 2,200)</i>	1,200	1,200
	<i># of tents distributed (target: 1,100)</i>	600	600
	<i># of volunteers deployed for distribution</i>	30	30
	<i># of volunteers deployed for the PDM</i>	30	30
	<i># of blankets purchased and distributed (1,200)</i>	1,200	1,200

Under the Emergency Appeal, the Mauritanian Red Crescent 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 continued 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.

The post-distribution monitoring (PDM) was completed by 30 volunteers, and the report has been submitted. Findings will inform follow-up actions during the extension period, including prioritization of additional shelter support if resources allow.



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

1,000

of livelihood PDMs organized (Target: 01)

0

1

Standalone livelihoods activities were initially deprioritized due to funding shortages. With the proposed extension and additional funds, livelihood-related needs will be partly addressed through multi-purpose cash assistance, allowing households to cover essential basic needs and, where possible, livelihood-related priorities. If additional resources are mobilized, the number of households receiving multi-purpose cash assistance can be increased.



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

0

1,300

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

2

2

of volunteers deployed for distribution

0

50

of volunteers deployed for the PDM

0

67

The Mauritanian Red Crescent has finalized the identification of the households that will benefit from cash assistance. Registration is ongoing and disbursements are planned before the end of July 2026, within the requested extension period. The MRC has relevant CVA experience and has extended its financial service provider agreement, which should facilitate rapid implementation once the extension and additional funds are confirmed. The PDM will be conducted after distribution, tentatively in August/September 2026, to assess the use of assistance, satisfaction and any remaining gaps.



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

110

500

of volunteers trained in epidemic prevention and malnutrition screening

120

120

The Mauritanian Red Crescent 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, medical referrals, and community-based health promotion. 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 IFRC mandate limitations regarding the procurement of medicines, and because partners such as the French Red Cross were already providing health services in the targeted areas, the MRC revised its health strategy to strengthen partnerships with local health centres and the French Red Cross rather than operating a separate mobile clinic. Through this arrangement, refugees receive care at existing facilities under the supervision of a medical focal point who validates and oversees referrals.

In collaboration with Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), the MRC facilitated the referral of severe medical cases, with three refugee women already treated at the MSF France health centre near the Humanitarian Service Point. The MRC also participated in a two-day health caravan organized by the Mauritanian authorities and the Adel Bagrou health centre, during which 315 patients, including refugees and host community members, received consultations in ophthalmology, cardiology, gynaecology, paediatrics and general medicine.

Malnutrition screening reached 546 children aged 3 to 5 years at the HSPs. A total of 97 children showed signs of moderate malnutrition and 13 severe cases were referred through the French Red Cross, making 110 malnutrition cases identified and referred or supported. During the extension period, health activities will focus on sustaining referrals, community-based disease surveillance, health promotion and coordination with the French Red Cross and local health structures, rather than establishing a separate MRC mobile clinic.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Female > 18:

Female < 18:

Male > 18:

Male < 18:

Objective:

To improve access to WASH for target communities

Indicator

Actual

Target

Key indicators:	<i># of bladders distributed</i>	250	300
	<i># of 15-liter bucket kits with lids distributed</i>	1,500	1,500
	<i># of volunteers trained in emergency WASH (target: 120)</i>	120	120
	<i># of trash bins distributed</i>	250	300
	<i># of awareness sessions (target: 1)</i>	20	30
	<i># of households reached with key messages promoting personal and community hygiene (target: 500)</i>	8,000	500
	<i># of latrines built</i>	6	80
	<i># of bottles of bleach distributed</i>	1,500	1,500
	<i># of wells rehabilitated</i>	0	20
	<i># of training and refresher sessions for 90 volunteers on hygiene promotion</i>	1	1
	<i># of training sessions for 30 volunteers on wash in emergency situations</i>	1	1

A total of 120 volunteers from the four departments (Amourje, Nema, Adel Bagrou, and Bassiknou) participated in a three-day training on water, hygiene, and emergency sanitation. The participants learned about the different pathways of contamination, the water chain, and methods of raising awareness to promote hygiene. In addition, a refresher course was organized for 90 volunteers, focusing on hygiene promotion and including practical hand-washing exercises.

As part of the project, 1,500 buckets with lids and 1,500 bottles of bleach were distributed, alongside shelter kits. In total, 600 refugee families and 200 host families benefited from these kits in the four targeted departments. The list of refugee beneficiaries was provided by UNHCR, in coordination with WFP and the NGO CIAUD, while the list of host families was established by local authorities based on selection criteria from the social registry. Awareness sessions on the proper use of bleach accompanied the distribution.

The delivery of buckets and trash bins came at a crucial time, when the community and newly arrived refugees were in greatest need. This support brought significant relief. The police, the gendarmerie, and several schools also received supplies, as refugees spent long hours at police and gendarmerie posts for registration procedures. At the school level, children particularly suffered from the lack of drinking water during recreation periods. In total, 250 trash bins and 250 bladders were distributed across the four departments targeted by the project, helping to improve hygiene and sanitation conditions for both refugees and host communities.

20 awareness sessions on the promotion of hygiene, in the four departments. The volunteers have been in the markets, the places where refugees gather for mass awareness. In Bassiknou and Adel Bagrou, volunteers have door-to-door sensitizations outside of mass awareness during the rainy season and dust winds. More than 8,000 people were affected.

Due to limited funding and the presence of other partners addressing some WASH infrastructure needs, the planned construction of 20 boreholes and 80 latrines will not be prioritized under this extension.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

Female > 18:

Female < 18:

Male > 18:

Male < 18:

Objective:

Ensure the crosscutting integration of ERP into all emergency response, to preserve the dignity of beneficiaries and adhere to the "do no harm" principle.

Key indicators:

Indicator	Actual	Target
# of volunteers trained (target: 60)	60	60
# of people who benefited from PGI awareness-raising	675	1,000
# of women and girls of childbearing age who received dignity kits	0	2,000
# 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. Available disaggregation has been rationalized against the total caseload as follows: 28 men, 279 women and 138 children; among the assisted people, 5 persons with disabilities were identified and supported through appropriate attention and referral. Volunteers provided attentive care, ensuring that people were welcomed in an environment where their dignity was respected and their safety guaranteed. Refugees had access to toilets, a prayer space and resting areas, contributing to a more humane and secure reception.

Sixty volunteers were trained in PGI and Restoring Family Links (RFL) by the Migration surge support in February 2025. PGI awareness-raising reached 675 people and included dignity, safe access to services, prevention of harm, referral information, and basic messages on normal reactions to stressful situations and coping. The two RFL registration systems were set up to support family tracing and reconnection where needed. Dignity kit distribution remained at zero due to earlier funding constraints; however, UNICEF-supported hygiene kits were distributed to new arrivals, and dignity-related support will be planned under the extension if resources are confirmed.



Community Engagement and Accountability

Objective:

To develop and deploy standardized approaches for community engagement and for the collection and use of qualitative community data to better understand community perspectives

Key indicators:


Indicator	Actual	Target
% of community feedback received	80	75
# of volunteers trained in CEA (target: 60)	60	60
# of feedback mechanisms installed (target: 2)	3	5

A confidential phone number is available to refugees and host community members to provide feedback or complaints. A trained volunteer receives calls, records messages and forwards each feedback item to the relevant department. The MRC CEA focal point has trained volunteers working with host communities on feedback

collection, safe recording, confidentiality and referral of issues; further capacity strengthening is recommended, particularly on coding, analysis and systematic use of feedback data.

Discussion sessions are organized in areas with high concentrations of refugees to gather views directly on services provided, support trust-building with host communities and promote two-way communication. Volunteers facilitate these discussions and document key observations. In this specific case, managers contacted refugee leaders using lists provided by UNHCR to support beneficiary identification. Following community feedback, the NGO CIAUD, which is often called upon by UNHCR to assist with refugee registration, went to the field to confirm the information provided by refugee leaders.


In Bassiknou, some refugees were absent during the distribution of shelter kits. At the request of the Mauritanian Red Crescent, UNHCR replaced them with other beneficiaries. Feedback from refugee representatives indicated that some absent households had moved, which is common among mobile pastoralist households seeking safer or more viable living conditions near the border area; others may have returned to their places of origin.

 Migration		Female > 18:	Female < 18:
		Male > 18:	Male < 18:
Objective:	<i>To ensure immediate access to essential services through the establishment of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs).</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	# of people trained in first aid (500)	300	500
	# of humanitarian service points set up	2	2
	# of first aid kits distributed (100)	50	100
	# of households registered at humanitarian service points	92	0
	# of volunteers trained in PSH	120	210
	# of volunteers trained in psychological first aid (60)	60	60

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. Volunteers provide immediate and longer-term support including basic psychosocial support, use of PFA skills to calm people and assess referral to specialized protection, health and mental health services, RFL support, hot meals, blankets, mosquito nets, safe water storage items, practical information and safe referrals. Pregnant and lactating women, unaccompanied minors, older people and persons with disabilities are prioritized for attention and referral when identified at the HSP, even when they remain only for a few hours before moving to host communities.

The HSP has become a trusted point of contact where families receive guidance, referrals and information on available services. This support alleviates immediate suffering, supports informed decision-making, strengthens protection and contributes to community resilience and social cohesion.

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

Progress and next steps: CDRT training has been completed with 30 volunteers trained. The NDRT training is planned for the second half of July 2026, subject to confirmation of the extension. The eVCA will be conducted after the NDRT training and will identify community-level actions to preserve natural resources and reduce climate-related risks.

Enabling approaches

	National Society Strengthening		
Objective:	<i>To strengthen the organizational and operational capacity of the National Society.</i>		
	Indicator	Actual	Target
Key indicators:	<i># of visibility equipment produced</i>	1	1
	<i># of lessons learned workshop organized</i>	0	1
	<i># of implementation team set up</i>	0	1
	<i># of operational strategy development workshops organized</i>	0	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

	# of volunteers insured	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 logistics, planning and initiative-taking, particularly for timely activity implementation. Staff and volunteer well-being is also a priority: frontline teams working at HSPs receive operational briefings, supervision and peer support, and the extension period should further strengthen care for staff and volunteers, including stress management, referral options for distress and safe working conditions.



Coordination and Partnerships

Objective:	To facilitate engagement and coordination with participating national societies, humanitarian organizations and government		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	# of coordination meetings with PNS	4	4
	# of coordination meetings with government partners	1	4
	# of coordination meetings with international and national humanitarian agencies	15	9
	# of attendance at thematic meetings	15	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.



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
Key indicators:	# of IFRC monitoring missions (target: 4)	6	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)	0	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 HSP implementation sites; developing HSP management tools; compiling equipment lists at the HSP 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 MRC in implementing planned activities under the Emergency Appeal.

D. FUNDING

The attached financial report reflects a negative balance of CHF 76,795 which was primarily due to the IFRC finance systems upgrade. However, this issue is currently being rectified, and the revised version will be republished in the coming days.

Regarding the income, the Federation-wide funding requirement is CHF 4 million. At 38 per cent funded, the estimated income/pledges amount to CHF 1.53 million, leaving an estimated gap of CHF 2.47 million. The IFRC Emergency Appeal ask is CHF 2.5 million, within the broader Federation-wide requirement.

Secretariat Funding ask (CHF 2,500,000)	Amount Raised (CHF)	Coverage %
Hard Pledges	536,590	
DREF Loan	1,000,000	
Total IFRC hard pledges + DREF Loan	1,536,590	22.25%

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, phone: +222 43424101
- **Operational coordination:** Ahmed Mogueya, Disaster Management coordinator; email: ahmedmogueya1@gmail.com, phone: +222 36115474

In the IFRC

- **IFRC Geneva:** Marshal Mukuvare, Senior Officer, Operations Coordination; email: marshal.mukuvare@ifrc.org, phone: +41799279924
- **IFRC Regional Office for Africa:** Kwan ho Lam, Acting Manager, Disasters, Climate and Crises, email: kwanho.lam@ifrc.org, phone: +852 6425 6168
- **IFRC Country Cluster Support Team:** Alexandre Claudon de Vernisy, Head of Delegation, email: alexandre.claudon@ifrc.org, phone: +221 771113450
- **Operational coordination Dakar Cluster:** Sadrack B. Matanda, Disaster and Climate Crisis delegate, email: sadrack.matanda@ifrc.org, phone: +221 77208188

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- **IFRC Regional Office for Africa:** Franciscah Cherotich Kilel, Acting Head of Unit, Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilization; email: Franciscah.kilel@ifrc.org

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- **Logistics Coordinator:** Nikola Jovanovic, Acting Head, Global Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain Management, Africa Region; email: nikola.jovanovic@ifrc.org phone: +41-76-200-12-96

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 (NGOs) 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.

Operational Strategy

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2024-2026/5	Operation	MDRMR017
Budget Timeframe	2024-2026	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 22 Jun 2026

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRMR017 - Mauritania - Pop. Movement

Operating Timeframe: 09 May 2024 to 30 Jun 2026; appeal launch date: 05 Nov 2024

I. Emergency Appeal Funding Requirements

Total Funding Requirements	2,500,000
Donor Response* as per 22 Jun 2026	556,362
Appeal Coverage	22.25%

II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Planned Operations / Enabling Approaches	Op Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	74,363	148,897	-74,534
PO02 - Livelihoods	0	0	0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	59,711	213,056	-153,346
PO04 - Health	68,330	51,653	16,678
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	109,513	0	109,513
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	60,958	0	60,958
PO07 - Education	0	0	0
PO08 - Migration	187,752	71,762	115,990
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	322,928	438,410	-115,481
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	19,911	0	19,911
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability	0	0	0
Planned Operations Total	903,467	923,777	-20,311
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships	0	9,327	-9,327
EA02 - Secretariat Services	232,270	178,796	53,473
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	120,000	220,630	-100,630
Enabling Approaches Total	352,270	408,754	-56,484
Grand Total	1,255,736	1,332,531	-76,795

III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2026/05

Opening Balance	0
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	1,536,590
Expenditure	-1,332,531
Closing Balance	204,059
Deferred Income	19,771
Funds Available	223,831

IV. DREF Loan

* not included in Donor Response	Loan :	1,000,000	Reimbursed :	0	Outstanding :	1,000,000
----------------------------------	--------	-----------	--------------	---	----------------------	------------------

Operational Strategy

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2024-2026/5	Operation	MDRMR017
Budget Timeframe	2024-2026	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 22 Jun 2026

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRMR017 - Mauritania - Pop. Movement

Operating Timeframe: 09 May 2024 to 30 Jun 2026; appeal launch date: 05 Nov 2024

V. Contributions by Donor and Other Income

Opening Balance							0
Income Type	Cash	InKind Goods	InKind Personnel	Other Income	TOTAL	Deferred Income	
DREF Response Pillar				1,000,000	1,000,000		
Japanese Red Cross Society	28,552				28,552		
On Line donations	1,462				1,462		
Red Cross of Monaco	9,399				9,399		
Spanish Government	448,136				448,136	19,771	
The Canadian Red Cross Society (from Canadian Gov	49,041				49,041		
Total Contributions and Other Income	536,590	0	0	1,000,000	1,536,590	19,771	
Total Income and Deferred Income					1,536,590	19,771	