

Mauritania, West Africa | Population Movement



Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) distributing essential household items (EHIs), August. Photo: MRC

Appeal №: MDRMR017	To be assisted: 62,000 people	Appeal launched: 15/10/2024
Glide №: OT-2025-000014-MRT	DREF allocated: CHF 1 million	Disaster categorization: Orange
Operation start date: 09/05/2024	Operation end date: 31/12/2025	

IFRC Secretariat funding requirement: 2.5 million CHF
Federation-wide funding requirement: 4 million CHF

TIMELINE



Most displaced people arrive from areas of prolonged food insecurity and needing health services. Photo: MRCS



January 2024: Population movement from Mali to the Hodh El Chargui region in Mauritania intensifies. MRC begins monitoring the situation.



May 2024: CHF 492,750 DREF allocated to MRC to respond to the first wave of displacement.



June 2024: An IFRC operations manager is deployed to support MRC on implementation.



July 2024: Refugee Coordination Forum cites increased flow of refugees from Mali, confirmed by an in-depth, multi-sectoral needs assessment. Shelter, NFIs, Multi-purpose Cash (MPC) and WASH implemented but the sheer number of refugees stretches.



October 2024: At the request of MRC, IFRC scales up the response by launching an emergency appeal for CHF 4 million, targeting 61,670 people.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

Severity of humanitarian conditions

Impact on accessibility, availability, quality, use and awareness of goods and services

The inadequate sanitation, prolonged food insecurity and lack of health services are severely overstressing the capacity of an already overburdened system. Extensive damage from severe floods that have affected several regions of Mali in recent months may also be contributing to the increase in population movement, further stretching services. According to government estimates, as many as 149,000 people have been displaced by floods, which have destroyed or damaged homes, farmland and livelihoods in Mali.

A DREF was launched in May 2024 to provide urgent assistance to this growing number of refugees, as well as to returnees and host populations in the Hodh El Chargui region. Initially focused on two departments, Bassiknou and Adel Bagrou, the intervention must now be extended to two other departments, Amourj and Néma, to help a greater number of vulnerable people, who have remained without assistance and support from other humanitarian actors.

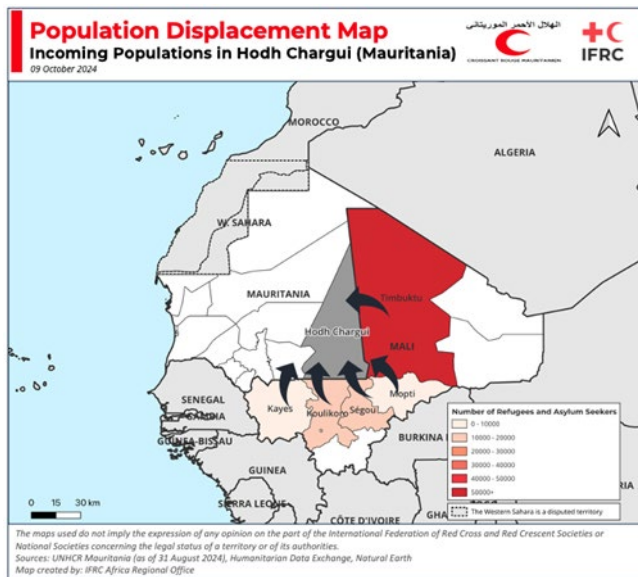
Adjustments to the operation will make it possible to respond to these new needs in a targeted manner, while ensuring optimal management of the resources mobilized to maximize humanitarian impact and ensure effective and equitable assistance.

Impact on physical and mental well-being

The displaced people arriving in Mauritania are continuing to report indiscriminate violence by armed actors, SGBV, abduction, torture, extortion and family separation, and at least 80 per cent are¹ women and children, many of whom have been victims of violence often.

Risks and vulnerabilities

More than 50 per cent of the displaced are pastoralists who have fled with an estimated 1.7 million head of livestock. This rapid influx of people and livestock into the region is putting pressure on local water sources and pastureland, in a region already exposed to extreme weather conditions and accelerated desertification.



Internal conflict in northern, central and southern Mali has intensified, leading to an increase in the displacement of civilians into neighbouring Mauritania. By 30 September 2024, more than 272,000 refugees and returnees had entered the country. Mauritania's Hodh El Chargui region currently hosts the largest number of Malian refugees, most of whom arrive from the Timbuktu, Ségou and Koulikoro regions of Mali.

Displaced people arriving in Mauritania continue to report cases of indiscriminate violence by armed actors, citing incidents of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV), abduction, torture, extortion and family separation. At least 80 per cent of the new arrivals are women and children, many of whom have been victims of violence.

With only 50 per cent of new arrivals registered as refugees and around 152,000 living outside formal camps, access to basic services such as water, shelter, sanitation, food, health, protection and education for children is extremely limited. Inadequate sanitation and unsafe water sources expose people arriving here, especially children, to poor hygiene, and they create the ideal conditions for malnutrition and epidemic disease. Most of the displaced people arrive from areas of prolonged food insecurity and lack health and vaccination services. Outbreaks of measles and diphtheria have occurred in Hodh El Chargui and could re-emerge in the absence of adequate health services, surveillance and health promotion.

¹ UNHCR Fact Sheet September

But even before the refugees arrived, the local population struggled to meet minimum food needs, access clean water and feed their livestock. If not resolved quickly, this situation could threaten the basic living standards of some 189,000 people in host communities and could exacerbate tensions among Malian and Mauritanian communities, as well as with the authorities.

This number of displaced people currently seeking refuge in Mauritania exceeds the worst-case scenario projected at the beginning of the year, and as fighting continues unabated in Mali, cross-border movements will persist. Humanitarian organizations on the ground, including MRC, are on the front line to help

the most vulnerable in the departments of Bassikounou and Adel Bagrou. However, scarce financial resources and difficult supply chains hamper the delivery of adequate humanitarian services region-wide and prevent aid from reaching the large number of people in need.

The Governorate of Hodh El Chargui and departmental authorities in Bassikounou, Nema, Amourj and Adel Bagrou have requested IFRC and MRC to fully assume their role as an auxiliary to the public authorities and intensify their support, as they have during the influx of refugees and the occurrence of disasters, especially floods, droughts and bushfires.

CAPACITIES AND RESPONSE

1. National Society Response Capacity

1.1 National Society capacity and ongoing Response

The Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC), established on 22 December 1970, is one of the country's first humanitarian organizations. With a presence across all 56 local committees and the support of 6,000 volunteers, MRC plays a vital role in disaster risk management, food security, livelihoods, community health, WASH, migration, population movement, and first aid. As an auxiliary to the public authorities, it works in close collaboration with government agencies, United Nations agencies, international NGOs, and local organizations to ensure effective humanitarian response.

In Hodh El Chargui, MRC is actively assisting Malian refugees and Mauritanian returnees, with support from a DREF allocation. It has established two operational bases in Bassikounou and Adel Bagrou and has deployed technical teams specializing in Shelter, WASH, and Non-Food Items (NFIs). Following a multi-sectoral needs assessment, MRC has expanded its operations to Néma and Amourj, strengthening its response to address growing humanitarian needs. MRC also plays a key role in local coordination mechanisms, ensuring effective representation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (RC/RC) Movement in both government-led and non-governmental response forums.

As an active member of the Regional Refugee Coordination Forum, led by UNHCR, MRC ensures that refugees and host communities receive inclusive and sustainable support. Its involvement in the forum highlights its commitment to strengthening coordination, advocating for durable solutions, and leveraging local expertise to enhance humanitarian impact. Through this collaborative framework, MRC contributes to resource optimization, reducing duplication of efforts, and maximizing the effectiveness of interventions in a high-need, complex operational environment.

MRC's operational capacity is further reinforced by its team of technical experts in Disaster Management, Cash & Voucher Assistance (CVA), Food Security and Livelihoods, Communications, Relief, and Volunteers' Management. With dedicated Logistics and Finance support, MRC ensures a transparent, accountable, and efficient humanitarian response across its intervention areas.

1.2 Capacity and response at national level

Mauritania has a long-standing tradition of hosting refugees, and the government plays a central role in managing the response, guided by international humanitarian principles and national policies. The Wilaya of Hodh El Chargui, located in southeastern Mauritania, is the primary host region for Malian refugees, with most of them settled in and around the Mbera refugee camp near the town of Bassikounou. However, a significant number of refugees live

outside the camp in host communities across various localities, including Fassala Néré, Amourj, Adel Bagrou, and Nema, creating additional challenges for humanitarian actors.

Several government institutions are actively involved in responding to the refugee situation. The Ministry of Interior and Decentralization oversees national security, border management, and refugee registration. The National Commission for Refugee Affairs (CNAR) coordinates with UNHCR to process asylum claims and ensure legal protection. The Ministry of Health provides medical services, including disease prevention and vaccination campaigns, while the Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood, and Family implements programs supporting vulnerable groups, particularly women and children. Regional and local authorities in Hodh El Chargui, especially in Bassikounou, Fassala Néré, and Nema, play a crucial role in facilitating refugee integration and access to essential services.

The government's response includes registration and documentation of refugees in collaboration with UNHCR, border control and security measures, provision of healthcare and education services, and engagement in durable solutions, such as voluntary repatriation and local integration strategies. However, challenges persist, including limited government resources, overstretched services, and logistical difficulties in reaching refugees living outside Mbera camp, particularly in remote areas like Adel Bagrou and Amourj.

Mauritania benefits from the presence of multiple international and national humanitarian actors who support government efforts. UNHCR leads refugee protection, shelter assistance, and advocacy for refugee rights. WFP provides food assistance and livelihood programs, particularly for refugees in Bassikounou and surrounding areas. IOM assists with border management, voluntary return programs, and migration governance. UNICEF supports child protection, education, and nutrition services, ensuring refugee children in host communities, including in Nema and Fassala Néré, can access schools. WHO strengthens healthcare systems and disease surveillance, ensuring medical support in refugee-hosting areas. Several international and national NGOs, including Action Against Hunger, Médecins Sans Frontières, the Danish Refugee Council, and Terre des Hommes, offer WASH services, livelihood support, and psychosocial care, particularly targeting refugees living outside structured support programs in Amourj and Adel Bagrou.

Despite these efforts, significant gaps remain, especially for refugees outside Mbera camp. Many struggle to access healthcare, education, and food assistance, while inadequate shelter forces them to live in precarious conditions. Protection risks, including gender-based violence, human trafficking, and labor exploitation, are heightened in remote areas where formal assistance is limited. Resource constraints affect both government agencies and humanitarian organizations, making it difficult to expand and sustain services. Coordination challenges persist, requiring improved harmonization of efforts across all actors working in Bassikounou, Fassala Néré, Nema, Amourj, and Adel Bagrou.

Mauritania's response to the Malian refugee influx in Hodh El Chargui is a multi-actor effort involving the government, UN agencies, and NGOs. While significant progress has been made, gaps remain in service delivery for refugees outside Mbera camp. Moving forward, improved coordination, increased funding, and stronger integration of refugees into national services are essential. Strengthening the whole-of-society approach, with greater involvement of local authorities and humanitarian partners, will ensure a more sustainable and inclusive refugee response in Mauritania, particularly for those living outside the formal camp structure in Bassikounou, Fassala Néré, Nema, Amourj, and Adel Bagrou.

2. International Capacity and Response

2.1 Red Cross Red Crescent Movement capacity and response

IFRC

Through its Dakar-based cluster, IFRC actively supports MRC on disaster preparedness, disaster response and National Society Development (NSD), by mobilizing its numerous technical departments. As part of this operation,

it has deployed an operations manager to support implementation. The French Red Cross, which is present in Mauritania, has a sub-delegation in the intervention area and focuses its efforts on improving the health of vulnerable communities and managing disaster risks. Although not established in the country, the British Red Cross also intervenes in the context of anticipatory action and food security, in close collaboration with the French Red Cross and MRC. It is currently in the process of finalizing its bilateral agreements with them.

In partnership with IFRC, MRC has also just launched a project to develop a simplified protocol for early action in the event of floods. This initiative marks an important step in building resilience to climate risks in the country.

ICRC

ICRC has been playing a key role in supporting MRC. Engagement has focused on Restoring Family Links (RFL), a critical area for populations affected by humanitarian crises, forced displacement and conflict situations. Through this collaboration, ICRC has strengthened the capacity of MRC to respond effectively to the needs of vulnerable populations.

ICRC plans to open an office within the National Society, in Nouakchott, as early as 2025. This strategic initiative aims to consolidate its presence in the country and intensify its efforts to protect and assist the most vulnerable populations. The opening of this office will also further promote international humanitarian law (IHL) while strengthening coordination with local authorities, MRC and other partners of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement present in the region.

2.2 International Humanitarian Stakeholder capacity and response

International humanitarian actors, including United Nations agencies and NGOs such as Save the Children, and Action against Hunger (*Action Contre la Faim*-ACF), are largely focusing their interventions on migration issues and assistance to Malian refugees in the country. These actors work closely together to meet the needs of vulnerable populations, particularly in Hodh El Chargui, where the influx of refugees and the associated humanitarian challenges require coordinated and adapted responses.

To structure and optimize these interventions, a refugee coordination forum has been set up. This forum, led by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), brings together all humanitarian partners active in the field. Its mission is to facilitate the planning, implementation and monitoring of humanitarian actions, while ensuring that responses are harmonized and aligned with identified priorities. This coordination mechanism is also designed to strengthen collaboration with local and national authorities in order to ensure that the needs of refugee populations are better integrated into the development and resilience strategies of the population.

3. Gaps in the response

Gaps have been identified during an in-depth assessment conducted in October in the districts of Bassikounou, Amourj, Adel Bagrou and Néma. In the Hodh El Chargui region, humanitarian needs, including Protection concerns like Child Protection and Gender-based Violence (GBV) remain considerable, particularly affecting the most-at-risk groups, such as women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Insufficient access to food assistance, shelter and health services prevents an effective response to the growing influx of Malian refugees; and generates safeguarding concerns.

Protection risks, including GBV and sexual exploitation or abuse, are compounded by precarious living conditions and a lack of adequate response services, such as a lack of counselling, emergency health and Protection services. Coping mechanisms for marginalized populations are limited as well due to unequal access to resources and support.

Sectors such as Protection, Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), and WASH remain underrepresented and will need to be analyzed and responded to based on data disaggregated by gender, age and diversity, with

engagement of those most at risk in programme design. MRC is committed to addressing these gaps through targeted interventions based on these assessments.

OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

The intervention zone in Hodh El Chargui, where MRC is actively responding to the influx of Malian refugees and assisting Mauritanian returnees, presents significant operational constraints, particularly from a security and humanitarian access perspective. The region is 1,200 km from Nouakchott, where MRC headquarters is located, making direct management of field operations extremely challenging. The vast distance, poor road infrastructure, and harsh environmental conditions create logistical bottlenecks, making the timely delivery of humanitarian aid and operational oversight difficult.

The security situation in the area is another major concern. Hodh El Chargui borders Mali, a country experiencing continued armed conflict and instability. The volatile security environment, risk of cross-border incursions, and potential movement of armed groups pose a direct threat to humanitarian actors and beneficiaries. These risks have led to movement restrictions in certain areas, requiring continuous monitoring and coordination with local authorities and security forces to ensure safe access for humanitarian teams. Limited mobile network coverage and poor communication infrastructure further complicate coordination efforts, reducing real-time response capacities in case of emergencies.

From a humanitarian space perspective, ensuring unimpeded access to affected populations remains a key challenge. While MRC enjoys strong trust within communities, navigating administrative restrictions and coordinating with multiple stakeholders (government entities, UN agencies, local authorities, and non-state actors) is time-consuming. Negotiating access in a politically sensitive and complex operating environment requires continuous engagement to ensure neutrality and independence of humanitarian operations.

Given these constraints, MRC has established two field offices in Bassiknou and Adel Bagrou to reinforce field presence and improve operational effectiveness. However, branches in all four intervention areas remain under-equipped, both in terms of technical capacity and infrastructure. This gap limits the autonomy and effectiveness of field operations, making it necessary to deploy additional humanitarian personnel and technical experts from both MRC and IFRC to provide on-the-ground support.

The rainy season presents another layer of operational complexity, as annual floods frequently isolate key operational areas, disrupting supply chains and humanitarian access. Without pre-positioned relief goods, the response may be severely delayed, putting refugees and host communities at risk. Planning for stockpiling essential items (food, shelter materials, and medical supplies) before the rainy season will be crucial to maintaining continuity of humanitarian assistance.

To address these challenges, a stronger coordination mechanism between IFRC, MRC, and other humanitarian partners is necessary to streamline logistics, enhance response capacities, and ensure the safety of humanitarian personnel. Establishing a more resilient field structure, with better-equipped local branches and pre-positioned relief supplies, will be essential for an effective and sustainable humanitarian response in Hodh El Chargui.

FEDERATION-WIDE APPROACH

The Emergency Appeal is part of a Federation-wide approach, based on the National Society's response priorities and in consultation with all Federation members who contribute to the response. The approach, reflected in this Operational Strategy, In Mauritania, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) works in close collaboration with the Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) and other Movement partners to ensure a coordinated and effective humanitarian response. Among the IFRC network members, the French Red Cross (FRC) plays a significant role in providing technical expertise and programmatic support, particularly in the areas of health, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and migration response. With a longstanding presence in the country, the French Red Cross has been actively engaged in strengthening health systems, enhancing community resilience, and

implementing livelihood and disaster preparedness programs in partnership with MRC. Through bilateral programs, FRC has supported primary healthcare, nutrition, and community-based disaster preparedness, complementing the broader IFRC strategy.

To ensure effective coordination and synergy among all IFRC network members, including bilateral programs and nationally funded initiatives, a structured coordination mechanism will be implemented. This mechanism will function at multiple levels to harmonize IFRC-led activities, French Red Cross interventions, and national response efforts under the leadership of MRC and the Government of Mauritania. A regular coordination platform will be established between MRC, IFRC, and the French Red Cross to align humanitarian priorities, avoid duplication, and optimize resource allocation. The Movement coordination framework will facilitate strategic discussions and ensure that all interventions remain complementary.

Integration with national response frameworks is crucial, given MRC's role as an auxiliary to public authorities. As the key national humanitarian actor, MRC coordinates closely with government institutions, particularly the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), UN agencies, and other humanitarian partners. Both IFRC and FRC interventions will be aligned with national disaster response strategies, leveraging MRC's operational footprint and deep-rooted community presence. Coordination will also be structured along thematic lines, ensuring that interventions in health, WASH, disaster management, migration, and protection are harmonized with ongoing national and international efforts.

IFRC's role extends beyond coordination, as it aims to leverage the capacities of all Movement partners to maximize collective humanitarian impact. As a convener, IFRC will facilitate the integration of FRC's technical expertise in health and disaster risk reduction into broader strategies supporting MRC-led national response efforts. This will also involve strengthening early warning systems, response preparedness, and community resilience-building initiatives. Furthermore, a joint monitoring and reporting framework will be established to track intervention impact, ensuring transparency and accountability. Regular updates and reports will be shared with donors, government authorities, and Movement partners to maintain an effective flow of information and operational coherence.

The presence of IFRC network members, particularly the French Red Cross, enhances the collective humanitarian response in Mauritania. Through a well-structured coordination mechanism that fosters joint planning, strategic alignment with government priorities, and sectoral collaboration, IFRC will ensure a coherent, impactful response to humanitarian needs. The focus remains on migration response, disaster preparedness, and health interventions, with a clear commitment to strengthening MRC's capacity, optimizing resource utilization, and providing a sustainable and community-driven approach to humanitarian assistance.

The Federation-wide funding requirement of CHF 4 million includes all support and funding to be allocated to the National Society as part of the response. This includes domestic fundraising by the National Society and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society partners that support it, and multilateral funding channeled through the IFRC Secretariat.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Vision

The Emergency Appeal (EA) and the Vision are deeply aligned with the Mauritania Red Crescent's (MRC) Unified Country Plan 2024-2025, ensuring a cohesive and strategic approach to humanitarian response and long-term development. The EA serves as an immediate operational tool to address urgent humanitarian needs, whereas the Unified Country Plan provides a comprehensive, long-term roadmap that integrates emergency response, disaster preparedness, and resilience-building efforts.

The transition from the EA to MRC's Unified Country Plan will be structured through progressive integration of emergency response activities into long-term resilience strategies. The EA's priority actions in disaster response, food security, health, WASH, migration, and early warning mechanisms directly contribute to the objectives of the

Country Plan, which focuses on enhancing MRC's institutional capacity, strengthening coordination, and ensuring sustainable impact.

The MRC Unified Country Plan, developed jointly with IFRC, Movement partners, and national stakeholders, is designed to be adaptive and responsive to evolving humanitarian challenges. Annual reviews will ensure the alignment of EA interventions with the broader strategic objectives of the Country Plan. The coordination mechanisms established under the EA, including Movement coordination and collaboration with government authorities and UN agencies, will continue under the Unified Country Plan, ensuring a seamless transition from emergency response to long-term programming.

Additionally, the Unified Plan's focus on capacity building and localization will facilitate the handover of EA-driven initiatives to MRC's branches and local committees, ensuring sustainability and community ownership. The financial planning within the Unified Plan will also integrate lessons from the EA, allowing for a more structured approach to resource mobilization, risk management, and program continuity.

Ultimately, the transition will leverage EA's momentum to strengthen MRC's long-term humanitarian footprint, ensuring that emergency interventions lead to lasting impact, resilience, and improved national response capabilities.

Targeting

1. People to be assisted

The number of Malian refugees moving into Mauritania has increased by 142 per cent in less than a year, to a total of 260,000. Conflict continues to escalate in areas already affected by flooding and food insecurity, creating a high likelihood of further displacement. Humanitarian services in the Hodh El Chargui region are insufficient to meet these growing needs, particularly in the out-of-camp areas, which serve an estimated 152,000 people.

The impact on limited natural resources, and consequently on host populations, can lead to social tensions and increased violence over grazing and water use. These areas are already facing severe humanitarian challenges, including lack of access to healthcare, clean water, education, protection for vulnerable groups and food, exacerbated by drought and resource depletion. Environmental stress and desertification due to intense drought and flood cycles, water scarcity and lack of arable land and pasture are already putting a strain on the region, profoundly affecting the overall ecosystem and the well-being of communities.

In view of the humanitarian situation, MRC launches this emergency appeal to assist:

- out-of-camp and/or unregistered refugees who are settled in host communities and who do not have access to adequate humanitarian assistance;
- vulnerable returnees who have not resettled in their communities of origin; and
- vulnerable host populations facing severe constraints to meet minimum health, water and food standards.

The chief objective of the Emergency Appeal is to reach 40 per cent of the 154,400 vulnerable people in the above categories, or approximately 62,000 people.

2. Considerations for protection, gender and inclusion and community engagement and accountability

Targeting of vulnerable groups will take into account:

- unaccompanied children/minors or children/minors who are heads of household;
- unaccompanied pregnant and breastfeeding women or Indigenous women who are heads of household or responsible for extended family members;
- unaccompanied elderly people; and
- households with family members with disabilities or chronic illnesses.

Experts on Protection, PGI and Migration will support MRC's assessments and targeting, in line with the above priorities, while ensuring a community- and household-sensitive approach and proper feedback mechanisms, as well as safeguarding through community engagement and staff/volunteer reporting.

In addition to direct targeting, this emergency appeal will be used to pilot climate adaptation and restoration activities in line with the Mauritanian Government's plan and serve as a catalyst for longer-term climate programmes.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

INTEGRATED ASSISTANCE

 Shelter, Housing & Settlements	Female>18: 3,080	Female<18: 3,920	CHF 280,860
	Male>18: 2,800	Male<18: 4,200	Total target: 14,000
Objective:	To protect and preserve the dignity of displaced persons by providing them with shelter.		
Priority actions:	Provision of emergency shelter and essential household items (EHIs) to refugees and returnees outside of camps, including: • coordination with the regional authorities and the Shelter cluster in the field; • provision of emergency shelter to 1,000 households outside camps; • two training sessions for 30 volunteers on the technique of assembling shelters; • purchase and distribution of 4,000 blankets for 2,000 households; • purchase and distribution of 4,000 mats for 2,000 households; • deployment of 40 volunteers for the distribution of tents, shelter kits and NFIs; and • deployment of 40 volunteers for the Post-distribution Monitoring (PDM)/Shelter and NFI survey.		

 Livelihoods	Female>18: 1,540	Female<18: 1,960	CHF 18,661
	Male>18: 1,400	Male<18: 2,100	Total target: 7,000
Objective:	To provide cash assistance for livelihoods of refugees, returnees and the host community, and to support the livelihoods of those affected.		
Priority actions:	Livelihood support to host communities, with the following activities: • Community and market assessment for livelihoods promotion/restoration, with a climate resilience lens. • Trainings on the different livelihood support opportunities.		

	- Cash for 1,000 families for the restoration/protection of the livelihoods of the host and returnee population in the 4 zones. - Deployment of 20 volunteers for PDM.		
 Multi-purpose Cash (MPC)	Female>18: 2,310	Female<18: 2,940	CHF 663,629
	Male>18: 2,100	Male<18: 3,150	Total target: 10,500
Objective:	To ensure basic needs assistance through the most effective and dignified way to the vulnerable population		
Priority actions:	- Targeting beneficiaries in the four zones per the vulnerability criteria set above, validation/verification of beneficiaries. - Multi-purpose Cash (MPC) to cover the basic needs of 1,500 families for 6 months in the four zones. - Trainings for 30 volunteers/staff on cash, targeting, monitoring, evaluation and digitization of cash tools (RedRose platform for example) in Nema. - Deployment of 10 volunteers for two days for PDM.		

HEALTH AND CARE, INCLUDING WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

(MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT / COMMUNITY HEALTH)

 Health & Care <i>(Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)/Community Health/Medical Services)</i>	Female>18: 13,640	Female<18: 17,360	CHF 78,542
	Male>18: 12,400	Male<18: 18,600	Total target: 62,000
Objective:	To contribute to the improvement of the health of refugees and returnees.		
Priority actions:	- Meeting with and involvement of the administrative and health authorities to present and validate the health component of the Emergency Appeal. - Deployment of two mobile clinic teams for primary health services, including nutrition screening and referral of malnutrition cases to health centres. - Scale-up Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and of Infant & Young Child Feeding (IYCF) in selected areas, through training of 120 volunteers on the detection and referral of malnourished people.		

- Training of MRC volunteers in Psychosocial Support (PSS) and organization of community PSS sessions.
- Training of 120 volunteers on epidemic prevention, and deployment of volunteers for health promotion and disease prevention in communities and refugee camps



Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

Female>18: **13,640**

Female<18: **17,360**

CHF 206,260

Male>18: **12,400**

Male<18: **18,600**

**Total target:
62,000**

Objective:

To improve access to WASH for target communities.

Priority actions:

- Coordination with the authorities and the WASH cluster.
- Construction/rehabilitation of 20 large-diameter protected wells, including watering troughs for livestock; and installation of solar power units.
- Installation of 200 water storage units of various sizes across the different informal settlements and local communities.
- Distribution of household water containers and treatment products to 2,000 families.
- Refresher trainings for 80 hygiene promotion volunteers.
- Organization of awareness-raising sessions on WASH in sites with Internally-displaced Persons (IDPs) and host communities, with demonstration.
- 200 garbage containers in densely populated IDP sites, establish waste management committees.
- Scale up strategy for household waste management committees.
- Provide local committees with necessary sanitation equipment in Néma and Amourj.
- Construction of 100 emergency latrines in the four intervention areas using the Community-led Total Sanitation strategy where possible.
- Organize sanitation campaigns for waste management in the most densely populated areas.
- Design and production of information-education-communication (IEC) materials.
- Provide flood evacuation equipment, such as motorized pumps, in Amourj and Nema, for local MRC committees.
- Distribution of 2,000 hygiene kits (soap, and towels).
- Organize 2 training sessions and a refresher on WASH in Emergencies, for 30 volunteers.
- Carry out post-distribution follow up to assess the use and relevance of the items distributed.

PROTECTION AND PREVENTION

(PROTECTION, GENDER, AND INCLUSION (PGI), COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA), MIGRATION, RISK REDUCTION, CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RECOVERY, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, EDUCATION)

 Protection, Gender & Inclusion (PGI)	Female>18: 13,640	Female<18: 17,360	CHF 130,731
	Male>18: 12,400	Male<18: 18,600	Total target: 62,000
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.		
Priority actions:	• Set-up child-friendly spaces adjacent to Health Service Providers (HSPs) in four sites, with appropriate support and care for children, provided by trained volunteers. • Distribution of Menstrual Hygiene Management kits (MHM) to 4,000 women and adolescent girls, with specific materials printed and distributed about GBV and Child Protection responses integrated into distribution. • Two trainings for 30 volunteers each, including 10 staff members, on PSEA and SGBV prevention and response, including on referral pathways and safe referrals. • Implement a system for registration and referral to RFL services. • Provide PSS to refugees and returnees and furnish space with materials for child-friendly PSS response (audio, drawings and toys, chairs, and other adapted materials)		

 Community Engagement & Accountability (CEA)	Female>18: 13,640	Female<18: 17,360	CHF 37,984
	Male>18: 12,400	Male<18: 18,600	Total target: 62,000
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.		
Priority actions:	• Organize two training sessions on CEA for 30 volunteers. • Consistent implementation of feedback mechanisms such as toll-free lines, if possible, for relevant, effective community feedback; information hubs; distribution points; and focus/discussion groups organized to collect feedback. • Organize 24 regular briefings for response teams to systematically listen to community questions and concerns and provide appropriate responses. • Deploy 2 volunteers per area to collect feedback for 90 days.		

 Migration	Female>18: 12,100	Female<18: 15,400	CHF 86,219
	Male>18: 11,000	Male<18: 16,500	Total target: 55,000
Objective:	To ensure immediate access to essential services through the establishment of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs).		
Priority actions:	- Establish three HSPs where people can access a wide range of services, such as safe water, nutrition support, emergency health and first aid, psychological support, communication and referrals, regardless of their status. - Training of 60 volunteers on management of Humanitarian Service Points. - Support the engagement of the National Society in advocacy to promote the protection of, assistance for and inclusion of affected populations, and “position” MRC’s work toward the government and other stakeholders. - Conduct socio-cultural community-based initiatives to support peaceful co-existence and cohesion. These initiatives will target diverse ethnic, religious and cultural local communities, emphasizing unity, conflict prevention and reconciliation.		

 Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Reconstruction	Female>18: 13,640	Female<18: 17,360	CHF 34,724
	Male>18: 12,400	Male<18: 18,600	Total target: 62,000
Objective:	To promote proactive risk management, climate change adaptation and sustainable reconstruction by strengthening community resilience.		
Priority actions:	- Increasing community awareness on bush fire prevention. - Awareness campaign on flood risks with the establishment of an early warning system. - Sensitization on fire prevention in refugee sites. - Reforestation in refugee sites. - Coordinate with the community teams trained in risk reduction on the International Movement's approach. - Training of 30 volunteer team members; Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRT). - Training 15 volunteers from the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT). - Conduct two enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessments (eVCAs) with communities and agree on activities that can have an impact on preserving natural resources.		

Enabling Approaches

 Strengthening National Societies	Female>18: n/a	Female<18: n/a	CHF 657,493
	Male>18: n/a	Male<18: n/a	Total target: n/a
Objective:	To strengthen the organizational and operational capacity of the National Society.		
Priority actions:	- Establish a project implementation team at the national, regional and departmental levels. - Rehabilitation of the branches in the target local committees. - Provision of headquarters and local committees with the necessary equipment for the implementation of activities (vehicles, office automation and computer equipment). - Revitalization of local MRC committees. - Contribute to retention of human resources (Communication, Finance, PMER, Logistics, DM, Migration, FSL). - Develop and update admin/end-management tools. - Training staff members and volunteers on MD, migration, WASH, FSL, Cash Transfer (CVA), Health and others.		

 Coordination & Partnerships	Female>18: n/a	Female<18: n/a	CHF n/a
	Male>18: n/a	Male<18: n/a	Total target: n/a
Objective:	To facilitate engagement and coordination with participating national societies, humanitarian organizations and government.		
Priority actions:	Effective coordination is critical to ensuring a cohesive, efficient, and impactful humanitarian response in Mauritania. The Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) operates within a well-structured coordination framework that integrates Movement Coordination (IFRC, ICRC, and Partner National Societies - PNSs) and external coordination with the Government, UN agencies, and other humanitarian actors. 1. Coordination of Movement Members (IFRC, ICRC, and PNSs) MRC collaborates closely with IFRC, ICRC, and Partner National Societies (PNSs) to ensure a harmonized and aligned response strategy in line with national priorities and Movement principles. Key coordination mechanisms include: - Regular Coordination Meetings with PNSs: These meetings facilitate joint planning, strategic alignment, and resource mobilization, ensuring that all interventions complement each other and avoid duplication. - Movement Coordination Platform: MRC participates in Movement coordination mechanisms at both strategic		

and operational levels, ensuring collaborative decision-making among Movement components.

- **Bilateral and Tripartite Agreements:** MRC works with PNSs, particularly the French Red Cross, British Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross, and Red Cross Monaco, through tripartite agreements that allow for integrated programming, capacity strengthening, and emergency response coordination.
- **Joint Technical Support:** IFRC provides technical support in disaster management, migration, food security, health, and emergency response, leveraging regional and global expertise to strengthen MRC's operational capacity.
- **Integration into IFRC Global and Regional Strategies:** MRC ensures alignment with IFRC's regional disaster response mechanisms, including the Sahel+ platform and the Hunger Crisis Initiative.

2. External Coordination with Government and International Actors

MRC, as an auxiliary to the Government, plays a key role in national response coordination and actively engages with national and international partners to enhance preparedness, response, and resilience-building efforts.

Government Engagement and Coordination Mechanisms

MRC maintains strong partnerships with relevant government ministries and agencies, participating in national coordination platforms such as:

- The National Disaster Management Coordination Platform, led by the Government, where MRC contributes to disaster preparedness and response planning.
- The National Early Warning and Preparedness System, where MRC supports risk monitoring, early warning dissemination, and anticipatory action strategies.
- The Refugee Coordination Working Group, co-chaired by UNHCR and the Government, where MRC advocates for the rights and assistance of Malian refugees and provides direct humanitarian aid.
- National Food Security Coordination, where MRC collaborates with the Ministry of Agriculture, WFP, and FAO to enhance food security interventions and support vulnerable communities.

Coordination with International Humanitarian Agencies

- MRC is an active participant in international humanitarian coordination mechanisms to maximize collective impact and resource mobilization.
- **Humanitarian Country Team (HCT):** MRC collaborates with UN agencies (WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF, OCHA, IOM, WHO) and international NGOs to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated response to humanitarian crises.
- **Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF):** MRC plays an essential role in assisting Malian refugees inside and outside Mbera camp, participating in thematic working groups on protection, health, WASH, and livelihoods.

Thematic Cluster Groups: MRC is an active member in multiple sectoral coordination groups, including Health, WASH, Shelter,

	Protection, and Cash & Voucher Assistance (CVA), ensuring technical alignment and coordinated program implementation. 3. Humanitarian Diplomacy and Advocacy MRC's humanitarian diplomacy efforts focus on: • Advocating for the auxiliary Role of MRC: Ensuring that humanitarian personnel, volunteers, facilities, and assets are protected and that MRC is formally recognized as a key humanitarian actor in national policies. • Durable Solutions for Refugees and Host Communities: Engaging with the Government, UNHCR, and other stakeholders to promote sustainable solutions for refugees and improve social cohesion in host communities. • Strengthening Legal Frameworks for Humanitarian Access: Advocating for unhindered access to affected populations, particularly in hard-to-reach areas, and ensuring that humanitarian principles are upheld. 4. Strengthening Humanitarian Coordination and Transitioning to Sustainable Programming As the humanitarian landscape in Mauritania evolves, MRC is working towards: • Ensuring long-term sustainability of emergency interventions through integration into national policies and frameworks. • Enhancing operational coordination by reinforcing local branches and strengthening community-based response mechanisms. • Leveraging IFRC and Movement partners' expertise to scale up anticipatory action, disaster preparedness, and resilience-building programs.
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 IFRC Secretariat Services	Female>18: n/a	Female<18: n/a	CHF 304,447
	Male>18: n/a	Male<18: n/a	Total target: n/a
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.		
Priority actions:	IFRC will support the operation by providing coordinated operational and technical assistance to MRC. More specifically, the Dakar cluster delegation will help in the following areas: • Coordination with Movement partners: facilitate communication between MRC and other Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies involved in the response, ensuring a unified approach.		

- Financial management: overseeing the financial management and accountability of the operation, including budgeting, tracking expenditures and writing financial reports to ensure transparency and efficient use of resources.
- Operational coordination: supporting the planning, implementation and monitoring of activities, ensuring that response efforts are well coordinated and aligned with overall strategic objectives.
- Supervision and reporting: provide oversight and direction for the progress of the response, including data collection and analysis, preparation of reports and compliance with organizational standards and requirements.
- IFRC will recruit an Emergency Operations Officer and provide financial support to improve the effectiveness of the operation.
- IFRC will deploy a surge team (Chief Operating Officer, Migration and Logistics) to support MRC field team.
- Cluster team is composed of specialists in: Programmes, Communications; Information Management; Finance; Planning; Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting (PMER), as well as National Society Development.
- IFRC security plans will apply to all IFRC staff throughout the operation. Area-specific security risk assessments will be conducted for any operational area should any IFRC personnel deploy there; risk mitigation measures will be identified and implemented.
- Area-specific security and flood safety risk assessment will be conducted for any operational area should any IFRC personnel deploy there; risk mitigation measures will be identified and implemented.
- All IFRC must, and MRC staff and volunteers are encouraged to, complete the IFRC Stay Safe 2.0 e-learning courses.

Risk Management

The IFRC Dakar Cluster Delegation and the Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) will collaborate closely to implement mitigation actions through a structured risk management framework. MRC's leadership is fully committed to active risk management, ensuring clear accountability and ownership at all levels. A comprehensive risk register will be maintained, detailing specific risks, corresponding mitigation measures, and assigning responsibilities to designated staff members.

To ensure continuous oversight, a monthly assessment will track the progress of mitigation actions, analyzing any changes in risk probability and impact. Risks categorized as high will be escalated and addressed in monthly strategic meetings, allowing for timely decision-making and potential external support. The IFRC Dakar Cluster Delegation will provide technical guidance, training, and coordination to strengthen MRC's capacity in risk management and the implementation of mitigation measures. This structured and adaptive approach ensures that risk management remains at the core of the Emergency Appeal response, reinforcing MRC's ability to anticipate, respond to, and mitigate risks efficiently while maintaining operational effectiveness.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation actions
Access to target areas may be affected by the erratic road conditions expected throughout the rainy season. Unpaved roads and some infrastructure, such as bridges, may deteriorate due to rainfall	Medium	Medium	As an auxiliary to the public authorities, thanks to its network of well-connected volunteers present throughout the country, MRC is well positioned to find the best way to access these areas.
The security situation in the border areas of Mali and Mauritania could affect national security and the overall operation	Medium	Weak	• MRC will keep teams constantly informed of security-related information and next steps • MRC has good relations with the security services and will receive regular updates from regional coordinators and camp security coordinators so that appropriate measures can be taken. • MRC staff and volunteers are encouraged to complete IFRC Stay Safe 2.0 e-learning courses.
Continuity of flows into or out of the country	Medium	High	• MRC Operations Management Centre regularly monitors displaced populations. • Information from partners on the situation of IDPs will be compiled. • IFRC will be called upon to provide support in the assessment of any significant situation. • Information on the security situation in Mali, which could change the dynamics of the situation.
Operational capacity	Medium	Weak	• The tools made available will build the capacity of response teams in accordance with IFRC standards. • Technical support would be provided by the national headquarters and monitoring in the field would be reinforced by a clear reporting channel.
Abuses related to cash distribution in resettlement sites	Weak	High	• Community awareness. • Involvement of authorities, community leaders, communities and stakeholders. • Include vulnerable members of the host community as beneficiaries.

Dissatisfaction among non-beneficiary host communities	Weak	High	• Make MRC actions and selection criteria known to the host communities. • Discuss selection criteria with stakeholders and the community.
Risk protection including abuse of beneficiaries or high level of protection issues such as GBV and Child Protection, without response leading to violence, unintended pregnancy and challenges resuming sustainable livelihoods	High	High	• Do-no-harm approach. • Safeguarding system. • ERP trainings. • Integration, assessments and technical support. • Follow-up/referral mapping (Health, PSS). • Conduct child safeguarding risk analysis.
Fraud, corruption and integrity issues	Weak	High	• Targeted support and capacity building for NS. • Rigorous operational and financial monitoring. • Signing of the code of conduct by staff. • Training on how to spot fraud and corruption. • Monitoring missions. • Post-distribution Monitoring (PDM). • Analysis and sharing of lessons learned.
Overlapping humanitarian response efforts	Weak	High	• Regular participation in coordination meetings.
Low level of funding for the appeal	High	High	• Emphasis will be placed on engagement with governments, intergovernmental bodies and other strategic partners. • Concerted fund-raising strategies at the regional and global levels. • Mobilizing domestic funds.
Risk related to the implementation of the appeal Delay in the implementation of activities. Poor quality of implementation	Medium	Weak	• Operational monitoring and reporting support by the regional office. • Monitoring and evaluation visits. • Workplans, objectives, budgets, monitoring plans and monitoring. • Previous lessons learned. • Tailored solutions taking into account the assessed needs.

Quality and Accountability

Efforts to ensure the quality and accountability of this operation cover a wide range of activities. They will include regular financial audits, programmatic monitoring, a mid-term review and a final evaluation. Emphasis will also be placed on the rationalization of resources as needed, as part of a common Federation-wide vision to consolidate, rationalize and link common services or the assistance currently provided.

A monitoring and evaluation plan will be developed when this emergency appeal is launched, in line with the monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning strategies. Regular data collection forms will be made available to volunteers. Monitoring missions will be organized in the various localities throughout the operation too. A Post-distribution Monitoring survey (PDM) will be conducted as well, to assess the impact of the operation on beneficiaries. A lessons-learned workshop will then be held at the end of operations, and the results will be shared with Movement partners.

IFRC will facilitate a Federation-wide approach to support MRC in improving PMER. To ensure transparency and accountability, PMER teams will conduct interviews at the end of distributions and use ACE mechanisms to engage people accessing services through PWDs or other mechanisms, to collect reactions and complaints from specific groups. A final evaluation will then be carried out at the end of the operation. The results of monitoring will be regularly shared with the programme teams in order to make improvements and strengthen the quality of services.

The key indicators identified below will be used to establish a Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) framework to assess the adequacy, quality and satisfaction of the target population, as well as to monitor the progress of planned activities.

Shelter, Housing & Settlements	Targeted population living in safe transitional shelters	80%
	# of households receiving EHI	4,000
	# of volunteers trained in emergency shelter	30
	# of households receiving emergency shelter support	2,000
Livelihoods	# of people trained in livelihood restoration/adaptation/initiation	1,000
	# of HHs receiving cash for livelihoods	1,000
Multi-purpose Cash (MPC)	# of market feasibility studies	2
	# of HHs receiving cash support	1,500
	% of households receiving cash from RCRC that were satisfied with the assistance provided	90%
Health & Care	# of people reached through mobile clinics	5,000
	# of people reached through PSS support	20,000
	# of people reached through health promotion and disease prevention	62,000
	% of malnourished children referred to care	90%
WASH	# of households reached through WASH assistance	62,000
	Targeted population who state they are satisfied with their access to water and sanitation facilities	85%
	% of the targeted population with access to sufficient safe water that meet SPHERE and WHO standards on quantity and quality	100%
	# of volunteers trained on WASH	80
	# of water points rehabilitated	20
PGI	Targeted population reached with PGI/SGBV awareness	90%
	Staff and volunteers oriented on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)	100%
	# of women and girls who received dignity kits	2,000
	# of safe spaces created providing access to children	4

CEA	Staff and volunteers working on the operation who have been trained on CEA	100%
	Queries/feedback received through the established feedback mechanisms that were responded to and that closed the feedback loop	100%
	Sampled community members who say they are satisfied with the support received from RCRC	85%
Risk Reduction	# of eVCAs completed and disseminated	2
	Volunteers that feel better prepared to contribute to MRC emergency operations	80%
National Society Strengthening	# of branches supported	2
	# of national disaster response teams and DM management systems with capacity strengthened	2
	# of senior management and branch managers trained in resource mobilization, leadership and strategic planning	10
Coordination and Partnerships	# of external partnerships supporting the National Society in the response	2
	# of regular coordination mechanisms with all IFRC partners	8
IFRC Secretariat Services:	# of updated minimum security requirements	1
	# of support missions to Mauritania	4



FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Federation-wide funding requirement *

Federation Wide Funding Requirement including the National Society domestic target, IFRC Secretariat and the Partner National Society funding requirement	IFRC Secretarian Funding Requirement in support of the Federation Wide funding ask
4 million CHF	2.5 million CHF

**For more information on Federation-Wide funding requirement, refer to section: Federation-wide Approach*

Breakdown of the IFRC secretariat funding requirement



MDRMR017 - MAURITANIAN RED CRESCENT
SOCIETY
POPULATION MOVEMENT

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	1,537,610
Shelter and Basic Household Items	280,860
Livelihoods	18,661
Multi-purpose Cash (MPC)	663,629
Health	78,542
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)	206,260
Protection, Gender & Inclusion (PGI)	130,731
Migration	86,219
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	34,724

Enabling Approaches**962,390**

Coordination and Partnerships

0

Secretariat Services

304,447

National Society Strengthening

657,943

TOTAL BUDGET**2,500,000***All amounts in Swiss francs (CHF).*

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Reference

Click here for:

- Link to IFRC Emergency landing page