



# MAURITANIA

## 2025-2026 IFRC network country plan



Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 10.6M**

13 June 2025

### In support of the Mauritanian Red Crescent



**7**

National Society  
branches



**56**

National Society  
local units



**19**

National Society  
staff



**5,500**

National Society  
volunteers

### People to be reached



**61,760**

Ongoing  
emergency  
operations



**945,000**

Climate and  
environment



**100,000**

Disasters  
and crises



**183,000**

Health and  
wellbeing



**60,000**

Migration and  
displacement

### IFRC network multi-year focus

#### Emergency response

- Population movement

#### Longer term needs

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

#### Capacity development

- Branch development
- Financial sustainability
- Communications and advocacy

### Key country data links

**INFORM Climate Change Risk Index** **Medium**

**INFORM Severity rating** **Medium**

**Human Development Index rank** **164**

**World Bank Population figure** **4.7M**

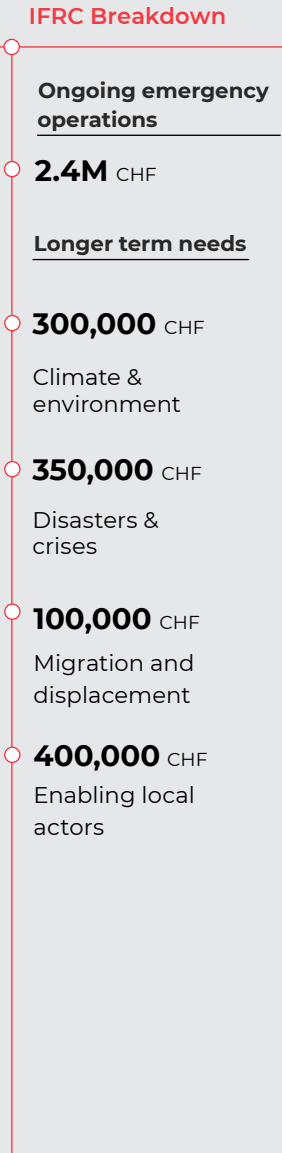
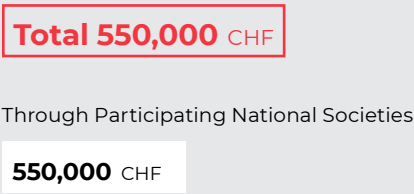
**World Bank Population below poverty line** **31.8%**

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

# Funding requirements




2025

2026\*\*



See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

## Participating National Societies bilateral support for 2025

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
British Red Cross	560,000						

Total Funding requirement **CHF 560,000**

### Participating National Societies

British Red Cross

French Red Cross

Qatar Red Crescent Society

### IFRC Appeal codes

Emergency Appeal:

**MDRMR017** Population Movement

Long-term needs:

**MAAMR002**

### Hazards



Food insecurity



Floods



Drought



Conflict



Population movement

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

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

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

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

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

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



*Mauritanian Red Crescent teams provide crucial assistance to flood-affected communities in Boghe, Mauritania with support from IFRC in September 2023 (Photo: IFRC)*

## JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

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

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

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

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

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

cent in 2021 to 9.5 per cent in 2022, due to higher commodity prices on the international market.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

<b>Emergency Operation</b>	Population Movement
<b>Appeal No</b>	<a href="#">MDRMR017</a>
<b>People affected</b>	154,400
<b>People to be assisted</b>	61,760
<b>Duration</b>	15 months (15 October 2024, with operation extended to 31 December 2025)
<b>Funding requirements</b>	Funding requirement through the IFRC Appeal: CHF 2.5 million Total Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 4 million
<b>Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Mauritania: Population Movement</a>

Since 2023, Mauritania has experienced a significant increase in the arrival of refugees and asylum seekers from Mali, driven by escalating insecurity and violence in northern and central Mali. As of early 2024, over 167,000 Malian refugees were living in Mauritania, primarily in the Mbera camp and surrounding host communities in the Hodh Ech Chargui region. The situation has strained the already limited resources and infrastructure in the region, deepening vulnerabilities among both refugee and host populations.

## Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The operation integrates immediate humanitarian relief with early recovery and resilience-strengthening to support displaced and host communities. In the initial phase, the Mauritanian Red Crescent Society focuses on delivering essential services such as shelter, emergency healthcare, food assistance, water and sanitation, and protection. It also provides mental health and psychosocial support, with a strong emphasis on community engagement and the inclusion of vulnerable groups. Over the course of the operation, efforts will scale up to include sustainable livelihood support, health system strengthening, disaster risk reduction and climate resilience initiatives. Coordination with government and humanitarian actors ensures that the response complements existing structures and meets evolving needs in both camp and host community settings. The highlights of the assistance are as follows:

### Shelter, housing and settlements

Emergency shelter kits, tarpaulins, and household essentials such as blankets, mats, kitchen sets and solar lamps are being distributed to newly arrived refugee families and vulnerable households in host communities. Training on safe shelter construction is being provided to local volunteers and beneficiaries to improve shelter safety and durability.

The response also aims to support the rehabilitation of damaged or overcrowded shelters and the establishment of community-level safe spaces.

### Livelihoods

Livelihood assistance includes the provision of food parcels to the most vulnerable households, while long-term activities aim to support income-generating initiatives through skills training, small grants and the distribution of productive assets such as seeds and tools. Special attention is given to women and youth, including support for cooperative activities and local market integration. Animal husbandry inputs and veterinary care are also provided to pastoralist families to preserve their livelihoods and reduce food insecurity.

### Health and care, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Healthcare activities include first aid services, referrals to health centres, and the deployment of mobile clinics in hard-to-reach areas. Volunteers conduct community-based disease prevention activities, while hygiene promotion campaigns target both refugee and host populations. Hygiene kits containing soap, menstrual hygiene items and other personal care products are distributed, alongside water purification tablets and containers. Infrastructure support includes the rehabilitation of water points and sanitation facilities, and the installation of new handwashing stations in areas with high population density.

### Protection, gender and inclusion

The operation places protection, gender and inclusion at the centre of its approach. Community volunteers are trained to identify protection risks and refer vulnerable individuals to appropriate services. Safe and dignified access to services is prioritized for women, children, persons with disabilities and older people. Dignity kits tailored to women's needs are

distributed, and child-friendly spaces are supported within displacement settings. Activities are designed to reduce exposure to violence and exploitation, while promoting the participation and leadership of affected communities.

### Cross-cutting approaches

Community engagement and accountability are integrated throughout the operation, ensuring that the voices and

feedback of affected people guide programme design and implementation. The Mauritanian Red Crescent Society is receiving institutional support to strengthen its volunteer network, logistics systems and coordination capacity. Climate-smart practices, such as environmental conservation activities and preparedness for climate-related shocks, are embedded into the response to enhance long-term resilience among vulnerable populations.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

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

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

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

Mauritania is part of the [Great Green Wall initiative](#) which aims to grow 8,000 kilometres of forested land to bring back Africa's degraded landscape. This is a pan-African project aimed at combating desertification, land degradation, and climate change by creating a barrier of trees and vegetation across the Sahel region, stretching from Senegal in the west to Djibouti in the east.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

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

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

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

### Planned activities in 2025

- Coordinate action with various actors, including government agencies NGOs, CSOs and local administrative authorities to prevent and respond to

food and nutrition crises, with a focus on climate disaster preparedness and risk reduction

- Establish a community-based monitoring mechanism for climate change-related disaster preparedness and risk reduction
- Set up additional 20 sentinel SAME surveillance sites in the departments of Kiffa and Kankoussa in Assaba
- Develop an early drought action protocol in order to build an effective mechanism for a systematic response to crises
- Promote and introduce climate-smart practices to small-scale agricultural producers in order to strengthen the livelihoods of communities affected by climate change

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society's efforts towards strengthening its operational capacity to achieve short-, medium-, and long-term strategic objectives. The IFRC support to the National Society will consist of such components as training for staff and volunteers in the field of SAME,

multiplication of approaches to support/strengthen the resilience of communities, including community monitoring mechanisms as well as agricultural field schools.

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

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



## Disasters and crises

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

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

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

In Mauritania, various entities monitor and anticipate food security. The government's Food Security Observatory (FSO),

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

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

- Clarify roles, responsibilities and interactions between the various stakeholders involved in the response to emergencies
- Simplify the coordination of humanitarian partners' initiatives and establish a structure for the harmonization of sectoral plans



- Identify and undertake measures to mitigate the most likely disaster risks
- Provide a collaborative planning framework between the different stakeholders
- Reduce response times and alleviate the suffering of those affected
- The National Society seeks to increase its technical capacity in food security and livelihoods at the departmental level, and in order to achieve this objective, the National Society will recruit technical focal points in nutrition, cash/FSL, and finance/logistics who will supervise and build the capacity of the local National Society volunteers.
- Pre-position stocks at the level of municipalities for emergencies
- Equip the National Society with up-to-date reference documents and the necessary human resources for the implementation of response operations
- Develop a multi-hazard contingency plan
- Improve the technical and operational capacity to respond to food crises
- Organize capacity building training on cash and voucher assistance (CVA)

## Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

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

## Planned activities in 2025

- Develop community-based actions to prepare for food and nutrition crises



## Health and wellbeing

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

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

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

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

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

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

The health system shows major weaknesses and challenges which include:

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

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

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

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

### Planned activities in 2025

- Establish sustainable linkages between national health structures (health centres and posts) and mother's clubs (and sentinel sites) to coordinate screening, referrals of severe acute malnutrition cases
- Conduct training on cooking, boiling and other topics related to the prevention of malnutrition
- Conduct community awareness activity regarding [epidemic and pandemic preparedness](#)

- Conduct water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) awareness-raising campaigns in targeted localities
- Focus on prevention of malnutrition cases in communities

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

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

The Qatar Red Crescent Society has launched several large-scale health initiatives in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, with the aim of strengthening the local healthcare system and ensuring equitable access to essential medical services for vulnerable populations. Among these initiatives is the construction of a secondary-level hospital in the town of Boutilimit, located approximately 150 kilometres from the capital, Nouakchott. This healthcare facility offers services in general medicine, surgery, and maternal and child health, and provides care to over 10,000 patients annually. The hospital operates with a team of approximately 90 healthcare professionals and around ten support staff. It has an estimated annual operating budget of €1,300,000, primarily funded by Qatar Charity, which contributes €1,000,000. The remaining €300,000 is generated through the hospital's own service revenues.



## Migration and displacement

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

Nouadhibou's proximity to the Moroccan border attracts migrants, with an estimated 15,032 individuals in April 2021. Urgent humanitarian needs for migrants include access

to basic services such as health, psychosocial support, education, food, shelter, safety, and protection from human trafficking. Enhanced cooperation between Spanish and Mauritanian maritime security services has reduced sea migration, prompting migrants to seek alternative routes. Sea route risks include shipwrecks and bad weather, leading to physical and psychological trauma.

Land migrants face violence, stalking, and exhaustion, depleting financial resources and exposing them to protection risks such as gender-based violence and exploitation. Mauritania's historical role as a departure country is evident through incidents such as the 2015 shipwreck, the Catania incident on

the Libyan coast, and a May 2021 boat grounding off Trinidad and Tobago with decomposed bodies, confirmed to be from the same region. With the unstable security situation in Mali, there has been a small-scale influx of Mauritanian nationals living in Mali returning to the Hodh el Chargui region.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

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

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

Mauritania has emerged as a pivotal transit hub for migrants from West Africa, who seek to escape the scourge of poverty, insecurity, and armed conflicts in the Sahel. Since 2020, the tightening of Mediterranean migration routes, compounded by the region's escalating crisis, has led to a significant surge in crossings to the Canary Islands, placing countless lives at grave risk. The precarious conditions endured by migrants render them vulnerable to severe abuses and exploitation, while Mauritania's immigration policies have become increasingly stringent, facilitating the expulsion of those deemed irregular. In August 2024, a readmission agreement was formalized with Spain, introducing a new dimension to the governance of these migratory movements.

Amid these challenges, the Mauritanian Red Crescent with the support of the IFRC, plays a critical role in providing humanitarian assistance to over 59,200 migrants. Its efforts encompass essential healthcare services, including physical first aid and psychosocial support, as well as the distribution of hygiene and dignity kits, alongside initiatives to Restore Family Links.

These interventions form part of IFRC's three-year programme dedicated to enhancing migrant care throughout their journey. they are structured around four major projects, collectively financed with a budget exceeding 5 million euros over a two-year period. These projects include the Global Routes Based Migration Programme, Sahel integrated climate resilience and migration programme. as well as two specialized initiatives aimed at assisting intercepted migrants. The implementation of these efforts is made possible through the collaboration of several key partners, such as the IFRC, Italian, British Red Cross, French Red Cross and European Union.

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### Planned activities in 2025

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

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

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

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



## Values, power and inclusion

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

Women in Mauritania face challenges in accessing formal employment opportunities. The World Bank [notes](#) that the labour force participation rate for women is significantly lower than that of men. In 2019, the female labour force participation rate was reported at 28.6 per cent, whereas the male rate stood at 63.1 per cent. This disparity reflects barriers such as limited access to education and training, as well as cultural norms that prioritize male participation in the workforce.

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

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Mauritanian Red Crescent will work to ensure that it incorporates protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#)) into all

elements of its programmes and mainstream PGI based on vulnerabilities such as disabilities, age, gender, and health conditions of the affected communities. The National Society has developed a draft plan of action on PGI and identified several priorities for capacity building in this area.

### Planned activities in 2025

- Support educational structures in reviving school activities during disasters
- Support school kits for students (girls and boys) of families affected by disasters or displaced families
- Update the National Society youth policy and promote the principles and values of the Movement through public fora
- Develop prevention of sexual exploitation policy
- Train volunteer and staff on [PGI minimum standards in emergencies](#)

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

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

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

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Mauritanian Red Crescent is committed to the [Preparedness for Effective Response](#) process and is at the workplan phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response

mechanism and ultimately take necessary action to improve it. In the same vein, a process to improve the financial procedures, manuals, and internal regulations has been finalized, as well as a revision of the statutes.



## Strategic and operational coordination

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### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

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

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

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



## National Society development

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### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society plans to revise the statutes and increase the technical capacity by recruiting technical focal points in finance/logistics who will supervise and build the capacity of the local National Society volunteers. This approach will increase the capacity of the National Society to implement future disaster responses.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** support to the National Society will consist of workshops and training sessions for its leaders to facilitate the identification of development priorities and the actions needed to achieve them. Technical guidance will extend to areas such

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



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

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

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

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





## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society has finalized a process to improve its financial procedures manuals and internal regulations, as well as a revision of its statutes, the development of the cash standard operating procedure and the first aid manual. The development of these objectives is all done in compliance with the standards of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. IFRC will also help the national society in providing technical

technical guidance in developing financial management and accountability capacities.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC continues to provide financial and technical support to the Mauritanian Red Crescent in its efforts to improve accountability, cooperation, governance and its transparency. It will work with the National Society to ensure that its priorities under accountability and agility adhere to the standards and principles of the Movement.

## THE IFRC NETWORK

### The IFRC

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

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

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



Mauritanian Red Crescent, supported by IFRC, aids locals amidst ongoing food and nutrition insecurity in August 2023 (Photo: IFRC)

## IFRC membership coordination

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

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

The **French Red Cross** contributes through complementary health and community resilience initiatives.

The **Qatar Red Crescent Society** supports health system strengthening in Mauritania, including the construction and operation of a secondary-level hospital in Boutilimit.

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## Movement coordination

The Mauritanian Red Crescent works closely alongside the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies. It organizes quarterly International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement coordination meetings and an annual partners' meeting. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation ([SMCC](#)) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The **ICRC** in Mauritania carries out various activities, including the improvement of prison conditions, the reunification of Malian refugee families, the improvement of health care and water supply, and food security activities with vaccination and livestock distribution, the distribution of livestock feed in Bassikounou in Hodh el Chargui, the promotion of international humanitarian law and the strengthening of the National Society's emergency response capacity.

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## Coordination with other actors

The Mauritanian Red Crescent works closely with the Mauritanian government to address humanitarian issues within its mandate. The CSA is a key partner involved in the Mauritanian Red Crescent's community monitoring mechanisms. The National Society, a member of the national unit for analyzing the harmonized framework led by the CSA, coordinates through the National Food and Nutrition Crisis Preparedness and Response Mechanism (DICAN), specifically the Specialized Technical Committee (CTS) for Food Assistance and Social Safety Nets. The Mauritanian Red Crescent's partnership with the Mauritanian government also extends to the promotion of research and sustainable agricultural techniques. A partnership has been established between the Mauritanian Red Crescent and the National Center for

Agricultural Research and Agricultural Development (CNRADA), through the establishment of agricultural field schools in the wilayas of Assaba and Guidimakha.

The National Society is also part of the Sahel+ Group around the themes of migration and food security and livelihoods (SAME). The objective of the SAME technical group is to contribute to the increasing impact of the Movement's actions in the food and nutrition security sector by providing sustainable and local solutions to the recurrent and chronic crises in the region. The National Society is also part of various coordination groups such as the United Nations System Clusters (Health, SAME, disasters and risk, protection), commissariat for food safety, and coordination of civil protection under the leadership of the Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization.



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

is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 16 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

### About the plan

The plan reflects the priorities of the host National Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2025 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC [Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

### Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities
- Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
- IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- Figures for the years beyond 2025 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-estimation of the efforts led by all
- Reporting bias: the data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain
- **Definitions:**
  - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
  - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

### Additional information

- [IFRC Global Plan and IFRC network country plan](#) • [All plans and reports](#)
- Data on National Societies on [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
- [IFRC Evaluation and Research Databank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

### Contact information

#### Mohamedou Raby

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

#### Louise Daintrey

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

#### Alexandre Claudon de Vernisy

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

#### Sumitha Martin

Lead  
IFRC Global Strategic Planning & Reporting Centre  
New Delhi  
[sumitha.martin@ifrc.org](mailto:sumitha.martin@ifrc.org)