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Emergency Plan of Action Operation Update 1

Mauritania: Food Insecurity

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° : MDRMR009	GLIDE n° DR-2018-000063-MRT
Operations update no 1	Timeframe covered by this update: 24 May – 18 June 2018
Date of issue: 21 June 2018	Operation timeframe: 9 months : 24 May 2018 to 24 February 2019
Overall operation budget: CHF 1,693,785	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 224,879
N° of people being assisted: 17,400	
Host National Society presence: The Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) has been one of the first humanitarian organizations in Mauritania (since December 1970). It has committees in all regions (56 committees) and counts 6,000 volunteers - 20 employees. In the target areas of this EPoA, one committee in the Department of Magta Lahjar (Region of Brakna) and one committee in Department of Barkeole (Region of Assaba), including approximately 800 volunteers in the two regions, are available.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: French Red Cross, British Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Togo Red Cross and the Livelihood Resource Centre.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: WFP; FAO; Action Contre la Faim (ACF), Oxfam, Terre des Hommes, Mauritanian Committee on Food Security (CFS), government and local authorities	

Summary of adjustments made to the emergency plan of action:

The operational strategy changes as follow:

- The **emergency food assistance activities** focus now only in the four communes on the department of Magta Lahjar (Oud Amour, Sangrave, Magta Lahjar and Djonabe bordering Barkeole). Such activities will not be implemented in the department of Barkeole anymore as the CSA (Commissariat a la Sécurité Alimentaire from the Government of Mauritania) and the WFP are already covering this area.
- The **livestock protection activities** will not be implemented. The timeframe for livestock protection activities is due for this period on the harmonized food security response. All the actors engaged have distributed during May and early June. On the other hand, the procurement and distribution of complementary flour, not included at DREF level, has been comprised to protect malnutrition and it will be distributed during the next four months (same periodicity as cash transfers) in the operation's emergency phase. This has been done in complementarity and accordance with other key actors.

There is no modification in the overall budget/timeframe of the appeal. A revision of the Appeal is planned for July.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Please refer to the published [Emergency Appeal](#) for a description of the disaster.

Summary of current response

Please refer to the published [Emergency Appeal](#) for a summary of the current response.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Please refer to the published [Emergency Appeal](#) for the needs analysis and scenario planning.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Global operational strategy

Within the framework of a coordinated response in accordance with the "Integrated Response Plan to Food Security & Nutrition Partners following the consequences of the drought during the agro-pastoral campaign 2017-2018" (PRISAN), the overall objective of this Emergency Appeal is to help save lives and protect agro-pastoralist households from the adverse effects of drought on their food security, nutrition and livelihoods.

The specific objectives of this intervention are:



Meeting with authorities of Magta Lahjar . Source: IFRC

- Covering the food needs of the most vulnerable affected by the crisis for four months (June to September) until the next harvests;
- Monitor the nutritional situation; support the most vulnerable groups and their referral to health centres during the lean season; ensure the preventive component of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and promote good dietary practices and hygiene of children and Pregnant and Lactating woman (PLW);
- Avoid further degradation of the livelihoods by protecting/replacing them and then, build resilience of households to shocks by supporting more resilient farming and animal husbandry practices;
- Ensure complementarity, coordination and synergies with the interventions planned by the authorities on the one hand and the humanitarian actors on the other.

Intervention strategy

This operation focuses on the departments of Magta Lahjar as well as Barkeole and is based on a two-pronged approach:

- Immediate response to help 700 households in Magta Lahjar facing food and nutrition insecurity for four months (June to September);
- Protection and initial recovery of livelihoods of agro-pastoral communities, according to the following activities:
 - Livestock: the recovery of the livelihoods of 400 households (small livestock breeders) through restocking (donations of small ruminants) and livestock feed distribution;
 - Agriculture: support to 60 women's agricultural cooperatives, targeting around 1,800 women in Magta Lahjar and Barkeole.



Training of MRCS volunteers Source:IFRC

The strategy outlined above is a revision from the initial [Emergency Plan of Action](#), which had to be adjusted following the situation on the field. The two changes are the following:

1. Emergency food assistance activities

The emergency food assistance activities will focus only on the Department of Magta Lahjar and will not focus on the Department of Barkeole anymore. When the Emergency Appeal was formally approved on May 24, the CSA (Commissariat a la Sécurité Alimentaire from the Government of Mauritania) and the WFP had already covered

all the emergency food assistance gaps in Barkeole. These actors initially waited for the MRCS to formally communicate its strategy but given the delay in the submission and approval of the Appeal they decided to cover the entire area on May 20.

Consequently, the operation will assist 700 households in the immediate response phase, while the initial Emergency Appeal planned to assist 1,700 households. During the targeting of beneficiaries in Magta Lahjar, the MRCS will respect the harmonization framework and prioritize the most affected villages that are not yet assisted by another humanitarian actor. The distribution of complementary flour among the assisted households to prevent malnutrition will be part of the initial response aligning with the food security working group approach and specifically with Oxfam, the other actor currently working in the four communes of Magta Lahjar. In order to avoid conflicts between neighboring villages and to follow the harmonized response agreed by all partners the MRCS decided to follow the distribution of flour.

The complementary flour distribution will be conducted in parallel with the cash installments during the lean season, months of June, July, August and September. The decision to distribute in-kind complementary flour is to prevent malnutrition and guarantee the quality of the product. The number of children and PWL who will receive such assistance will be aligned on the revised number of people being screened. The new target for the screening activities is 700 households, 4200 people (6 people per household) Therefore, 255 children (6 percent of the total screened population) and 170 Pregnant and Lactating Women-PLW (4 percent of the total screened population) will receive complementary assistance. In the initial strategy, the numbers were 600 children and 400 PLWs.

2. Livestock protection activities

While the initial Emergency Appeal planned to assist 500 households through livestock protection, the operation will not implement this activity anymore. Although the funding might increase in the future, it would be too late to implement livestock protection as this activity typically belongs to the emergency phase of a crisis. However, the FAO is planning to carry out livestock protection activities in the Brakna region (in which is located Magta Lahjar). The MRCS will coordinate with the WFP for the agency to potentially fill the gap left by this appeal.

To reflect this change of strategy and the implication it will have on the budget, the MRCS is planning to revise the appeal in mid-July.

The response is coordinated on a regular basis with the authorities, the CSA, and humanitarian actors present in the areas, such as the SCI, ACF, WFP, FAO, World Vision, CRS, ADRA and Oxfam, to ensure complementarity. For more details on the different components of this appeal (Livelihoods, Nutrition, Community Engagement and Accountability, Human Resources, Logistics and Communications) please refer to the published [Emergency Appeal](#).

Resources mobilization

As part of this appeal, a CHF 224,879 DREF loan was granted on May 24 to start the implementation of initial activities and recruit the essential team members. In addition, the Food Crisis budget contributed to the Appeal with an amount of CHF 38,942. The Japanese Red Cross and Danish Red Cross also submitted hard pledges for a total amount of CHF 130,900. Finally, several other partners consented to soft pledges for a total amount that could reach 50 percent of the appeal.

These initial commitments guarantee the full funding of the planned emergency food assistance and nutrition activities. They also enable the MRCS to undertake part of the livelihoods recovery, monitoring/evaluation and capacity building activities as well as the funding of several operational costs. Additional funding would enable the MRCS to fully implement the activities of this two-pronged emergency plan of action.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 0

Male: 0

Female: 0

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of affected households receiving support for their livelihoods and basic needs	1160	0
Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities		
# of households receiving food assistance (Cash) for four months	700	0
Output 1.3: Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production and income generating activities		
# of households receiving livelihood rehabilitation support	400	0
% of agricultural cooperatives having grown community-gardens by the end of the Appeal timeframe.	80	0

Progress towards outcomes

1) The targeting and distribution tools (both on Kobo and paper formats) for emergency food assistance are now finalised and the related activities have started. A team travelled to the field on 14 June to inform local authorities, select volunteers and start creating the selection committees in several villages. A second team departed on 18 June to train the MRCS volunteers and to carry out the remaining activities for targeting vulnerable households. This would have ideally started earlier, but due to treasury, security clearance and logistical constraints, the field activities had to be postponed. The logistical challenges might persist during the field visit, as most of the prioritized villages in the commune of Donate are remote, more than four hours by car from Magta Lahjar. Despite Barcelo has not been included in the cash distribution because it was already covered by the CSA and WFP, the MRCS is covering 10 villages in the commune of Djonabe, located in the border between the Departments of Magtha Lahjar and Barkeol. Depending on the situation on the ground, a fourth IFRC vehicle might be requested (bringing to six the number of vehicles for this operation).

2) Orientation training to MRC volunteers (Magtha Lahjar) is being conducted on the 18th and 19th of June.

3) A financial service provider contract has been drafted. The request for quotations has been completed, a comparative bid analysis has been conducted at field level issuing a recommendation for a service provider and the selection of the service provider is under review from finance and logistics pending for the final validation at Sahel Cluster Office level.

4) The CEA plan and the tools are in place. Some adjustments will be made based on the typology of complaints and the understanding at community level of the complaint mechanism.

5) The targeting and distribution tools are harmonized with the Food Security and Livelihoods working group.

6) With the support of the Africa Regional Office Food Security and Resilience delegate, the baseline (based on the Household Economy Analysis -HEA- methodology); community focus group discussion (FGD) for livelihoods activities, and rapid market analysis tools have been designed. A market mapping has already been drafted (basic needs / food, livestock) in the intervention area.



Health

People reached: 0

Male: 0

Female: 0

Outcome 1: Vulnerable people's health and dignity are improved through increased access to appropriate health services.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households screened for severe acute malnutrition	700 (4,200 people)	0
Output 1.1: Communities are provided by NS with services to identify and reduce health risks		
# of children (6 to 23 months) receiving nutritional supplements	255 (6% of total population screened)	0
# of PLW receiving nutritional supplements	170 (4% of total population screened)	0
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>1) Twenty-five volunteers have been trained on 18 and 19 June 2018 for screening malnutrition; sensitize the most vulnerable groups on how to refer the acute cases to health centres during the lean season; ensure the preventive component of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) through distribution of nutritional supplements and promote good dietary practices and hygiene of children and Pregnant and Lactating woman (PLW);</p> <p>2) Even though there are two local companies in Mauritania with capacity to produce and distribute the nutritional supplements (soya grains, millet, sugar and iodine salt); an open tender process has been launched on the week of 18 to 22 June, following procurement procedures.</p> <p>3) A storage space is being agreed in Magta Lahjar and two IFRC pick-up vehicles have been sent from Dakar to distribute when implementing nutrition activities. The distribution of the supplements will pose a logistic challenge aiming 2.000 kg per month in 30 villages with 60 percent in remote locations.</p>		

Strengthen National Society

Outcome S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform Health

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Output S 1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place		
# of volunteers insured	400	400
# of volunteers trained	80	25
# of volunteers mobilized	80	10
# of decisions taken in coordination meetings implemented	n.a.	
Context-specific CEA component implemented	n.a.	
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>1) The MRCS Focal Point for food security, livelihoods and resilience has been engaging weekly with the partners and monthly with the food security working group in country. A strategy of reinforcement for the National society has been decided among partners. It was agreed that it would be conducted at two levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support by the British Red Cross for project based with trainings focused on Food Security and Livelihoods - Support by the Livelihoods Resource Centre for operational capacities, with an accompanying process during the launching process of the Emergency Appeal by the IFRC. This includes the support of a focal point from the Livelihoods Resource Center for the coordination of the operation in Dakar in absence of the DM coordinator. <p>2) The Community Engagement Plan based on a village assembly system and a gender balanced selection committee approach are key to guarantee a participatory vulnerable household selection process. The reinforcement of the suggestion and complaint mechanisms, already used in the past by the MRCS, aims to improve the complaint collection, analysis and reporting. The vulnerable household selection process has started on the 14th of June and it is expected to be finished by the 9th of July.</p>		

International Disaster Response

Outcome SFI2.01: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured

Indicators:	Target	Actual
RDRT and International staff deployed to support the NS in operation	3	3

Progress towards outcome:

- 1) An Operations Manager seconded by the Swedish Red Cross has been deployed to Mauritania from May 28 to June 26. A second Operations Manager has been deployed to Mauritania on May 16 and will remain in country until the end of the operation, as enough funding has been secured for this deployment. There will be a nine days' handover involving both Operations Managers.
- 2) A Food Security RDRT has been deployed to Mauritania from June 7 to August 8.
- 3) An IFRC Regional Food Security & Resilience Delegate has been deployed to Mauritania from June 9 to June 26 to support the targeting of beneficiaries and the baseline survey.
- 4) An IFRC CCST Finance Officer has been deployed to Mauritania between June 9 to August 18 to support the MRCS in the financial management of the operation.
- 5) An IFRC CCST Communications Delegates will be deployed to Mauritania at the end of June (the exact dates are yet to be confirmed).
- 6) One Delegate from the Livelihoods Centre backstopping the response from Dakar and providing technical support on the development of assessment, distribution and monitoring tools.

D. BUDGET

No budget revision is being conducted as part of this Operations update. The budget is available [here](#).

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Emergency Appeal](#)

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

In the Mauritania Red Crescent Society

- Mr Mohamedou, Raby Secretary General, phone: (222) 525 12 49/659 24 10/525 12 49; e-mail: m.raby06@yahoo.fr

In the IFRC

- IFRC Sahel Country Cluster Support Team: Anne Elisabeth Leclerc, Head of Sahel Country Cluster, phone: +22178 6390794; email: Anne.leclerc@ifrc.org;
- Luca Parodi, Sahel Country Cluster DM Delegate, Phone: +221 33 869 30 23; email: luca.parodi@ifrc.org
- IFRC Africa Region: Adesh Tripathee, Head of DCPRR Unit, Kenya; phone: +254 731 067 489; email: adesh.tripathee@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- Ruben Romero, Ag. Lead Response and Recovery, DCPRR; email: ruben.romero@ifrc.org
- Antoine Belair, Operations Coordinator (Americas and Africa Regions), Tel. +41 22 730 4281, Mob. +41 79 708 3149; email antoine.belair@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- IFRC Africa Regional Office: Kentaro Nagazumi, Head of Partnership and Resource Development; phone: +254202835155; email: kentaro.nagazumi@ifrc.org

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- IFRC Regional Logistics Unit: Rishi Ramrakha, Head of Africa Regional Logistics Unit; phone: +254 733 888 022 & Fax +254 20 271 2777; email: rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- IFRC Africa Regional Office: Fiona Gatere, PMER Coordinator; phone: +254780771139; email: fiona.gatere@ifrc.org ;
- Nathalie Proulx, PMER Delegate; phone: +254 780 771136; email: nathalie.proulx@ifrc.org

How we work

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

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace.**