

Emergency Plan of Action Final Report

Mauritania: Floods in Guidimakha

DREF operation	Operation n° MDRMR010
Date of Issue: 16 July 2020	Glide number: FL-2019-000108-MRT
Date of disaster: 26 August 2019	
Operation start date: 17 September 2019	Operation end date: 20 February 2020
Host National Society: Mauritania Red Crescent	Operation budget: CHF 230,894
Number of people affected: 33,600 people or 4,200 households	Number of people assisted: 7,122 people or 925 households
N° of National Societies involved in the operation: Two (2); French and Belgian Red Cross Societies	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation: The Government, UNICEF and OIM	

The major donors and partners of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO and Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, and Fortive Corporation and other corporate and private donors. ECHO, the Belgian Government and the Canadian Government contributed in replenishing the DREF for this operation. On behalf of Mauritania Red Crescent, the IFRC would like to extend gratitude to all for their generous contributions.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

From 26 to 27 August 2019, Guidimakha Wilaya (Region), located in South-East Mauritania, experienced torrential rains with precipitations exceeding 200 mm in the regional capital city of Sélibaby and 300mm in several other areas, among which Khabou and Ould Yengé. The heavy rains, corresponding to an average of 6 months precipitation in the region, had severe consequences on households, livelihood and livestock, roadside markets, water supply infrastructures and general infrastructures. A total of 7 deaths were reported. Household food stocks, already lower than usual due to the delay in the raining season which dried up the herbaceous mat and destroyed first seedlings, were washed away. Several farms were destroyed, and livestock decimated. Hundreds of households became homeless.



A distribution day in Khabou intervention area © MRC/IFRC

Assessment commissions involving several humanitarian stakeholders, including NGOs, UN agencies and administrative authorities were constituted in Sélibaby, Khabou and Ould Yengé, the three main affected areas in the Guidimakha Wilaya. The Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) participated in the exercise with its volunteers. The results of these assessments (one assessment/area) coupled with the rapid one conducted by the National Society (NS) estimated more than 1,500 households affected by floods in the above-mentioned areas. To respond to this situation, Guidimakha region's authorities requested assistance for its communities, calling upon the Mauritanian government for

both national and international assistance. The Mauritania Red Crescent was among the first actors in the field to provide support to affected communities. Based on the needs and capacity of the NS to respond to the situation with its own resources, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), through the Sahel Country Cluster launched a [DREF operation](#) on 17 September 2019, for CHF 230,894 to address the urgent needs of 12,000 people or 1,500 households most affected by the floods in Guidimakha region.

Following results of the detailed needs assessment carried out by the Mauritanian Red Crescent in late October 2019, the following changes were made to the initial DREF through an [Operation Update](#) published on 18 December 2019:

- Overall target reduction from 1,500 to 925 households to be assisted due to:
 - i. support already provided by other stakeholders such as the Government (CSA), private companies (Chinguitel Mobile Company) and other organizations NGOs (IOM, GRDR: Migration-Citizenship-Development);
 - ii. the revision of the cash envelope in line with market prices per detailed assessments conducted by the NS;
- Distribution of food kits (25kg of rice, 10kg of sugar, 5 litres of oil, 5kg of noodles and 5kg of lentils) alongside the cash intervention and the in-kind wash and shelter distribution, donated by the Turkish and the Qatari Red Crescent within the framework of their partnership with the Mauritanian Red Crescent.

To ensure a qualitative implementation of the revised strategy, as well as to conduct a lesson learnt workshop and post monitoring distribution assessments, a one month no cost extension was granted to the NS through this Operation Update.

Summary of response

Overview of Host National Society

The NS was among the first responders on the ground after the floods hit in August 2019, affecting communities in Sélibaby, Ould Yengé and Khabou areas, in Guidimakha wilaya. First actions implemented by the NS included:

- a rapid assessment conducted by community-based volunteers of the affected areas;
- participation in the rapid multisectoral needs assessments led by the Evaluation Committee composed of authorities and other humanitarian stakeholders;
- provision of First Aid to floods affected people;
- provision of support to UNICEF teams for the distribution of NFI kits, household items and for conducting WASH activities in affected communities as part of the partnership agreement between UNICEF and the NS;
- sharing of information on the disaster with Red Cross Red/Crescent Movement partners in and outside Mauritania.

In late October 2019, the NS mobilized 50 volunteers to carry out a more detailed needs assessment. These same volunteers were also trained to carry out awareness-raising activities on safer shelter building, water, hygiene and sanitation. These activities were part of the first phase of the response and made way for the implementation of the following additional activities:

- provision of unconditional cash to 925 households of (1,400 MRU);
- distribution of 1 shelter kit composed of 1 tent Khaimah, 2 mosquito nets and 1 blanket to 302 households;
- distribution of 1 food kit composed of rice, sugar, oil and soap to 925 households.

All activities set in this DREF operation were successfully implemented, including qualitative review of services provided, during which recipient families and authorities gave feedback.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The French Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross are the only Movement Partners in Mauritania. The IFRC provides support to the NS from its Sahel Cluster office in Dakar, Senegal. Although they have no country presence, the Belgian Red Cross and Turkish and the Qatari Red Crescent contributed to the efforts of the Mauritanian Red Crescent in the response to the flood emergency.

Throughout the implementation of the operation, the following support was provided by Movement partners to the NS:

IFRC: technical support through:

- facilitation of two missions (12-25 November 2019 and 19-31 January 2020) by a Surge delegate from the Belgian Red Cross to set-up the operation and to provide technical support for cash related activities, including the development of a Post Distribution Monitoring survey;
- the deployment of one Surge, with cash knowledge, for a period of 3 months to support the NS in the implementation of the operation;

- the realization of monitoring and support missions from the Sahel Cluster by the Disaster management, finance and PMER' departments staff;

ICRC: provision of information, education and communication materials (posters and leaflets) for mass awareness;

French Red Cross (FRC): financial contribution and provision of technical tools to assess needs of floods affected people in Gorghol region, bordering Guidimakha, which was among the other provinces affected by floods;

Belgium Red Cross: deployment of a Surge delegate for the realisation of 2 missions (12-25 November 2019 and 19-31 January 2020);

Turkish and the Qatari Red Crescent: provision of kits comprised of rice, sugar, oil, noodles and lentils to cover the needs of 1,800 beneficiaries.

In addition to the above-mentioned Movement partners, Luxemburg Red Cross and the Livelihoods Resource Centre provided technical support to the NS in developing the Emergency Plan of Action, especially for shelter and livelihood activities, areas of expertise of the two entities.

Throughout the implementation of the operation, the NS ensured to continue sharing information with Movement partners through meetings and Situation Updates.

Although only partially linked with the Floods operation, and in particularly with the cash intervention, it is worth mentioning the self-assessment workshop organized by the British RC on 29 and 30 January 2020 as part of their Cash and voucher assistance (CVA) preparedness program for the Mauritania Red Crescent. The two-day workshop was aimed at drafting a roadmap and defining priorities for the NS. The participation of the Movement partners allowed them to contribute the identification of challenges and opportunities for the NS for cash-based interventions, providing feedbacks on ongoing operations, including the DREF Floods one.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

Below is an overview of authorities and humanitarian stakeholders involved in the affected areas:

Actor	Activity undertaken
Guidimakha Mayors' Association (AMaiG),	Under the supervision of Guidimakha' governor and the president of the regional council, launch of the evacuation operation for floods' affected people in the aftermath of the event.
Evaluation committee	Under the lead of the President of the Regional Council's coordination and composed by mayors of the affected areas, Government's regional technical services, United Nations Agencies (IOM and UNICEF), 10 NGOs and 4 INGOs realization of a rapid multisectoral needs assessment and shared a joint fact sheet (https://reliefweb.int/report/mauritania/oim-mauritanie-valuation-rapide-dans-la-r-gion-du-guidimagha-26-septembre-6)
Crisis committee	Under Waly's authority and in partnership with the Ministry of Interior and Decentralization, distribution of food and non-food items through the Food Security Commission (CSA).
Guidimakha region' authority and the United Nations System (UNICEF, WFP and IOM)	Distribution of tarpaulins, non-food items, WASH and hygiene kits.
"Chinguitel" (telecommunication company)	Distribution of food kit comprising 25 kg of rice, 5 litres of oil, 10 kg of sugar and 1,000 MRUs (local currency) to 300 households in the Sélibaby region.
UNICEF	Set-up of 4 shelters (24 m2 each) in Sélibaby (2), Samba Kanji (1) and Kachbaya (1) in host sites with the support of Red Crescent' volunteers and distribution of 193 kits WASH.
IOM	Distribution of 105 NFIs kits

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs Analysis

The detailed assessment carried out in late October 2019, with support from IFRC deployed Surge personnel, allowed to identify urgent needs for shelter and a preference of beneficiaries for the cash transfer modality, including for items to cover basic needs as well as for water treatment and conservation and hygiene. For a complete need analysis, see [Please see EPOA operation update](#).

Based on this assessment, the following needs were prioritized for the operation:

- Khaimah tents¹ for households which lost their houses;
- Cash distribution to cover needs for construction materials and related household items, among which blankets, plastic mats and kitchen kits;
- Water, hygiene and sanitation awareness activities and latrines disinfection to prevent the potential water borne disease outbreaks.

Moreover, a need of food was recorded due to the high risk of a food crisis. As such, the distribution of food kits was included in the DREF operation activities, while food kits were donated by Turkish and Qatari Red Crescent.

Target

Following results of the detailed assessment, including indications from beneficiaries' on preference of support, and taking into consideration other stakeholders' intervention, the number of beneficiaries was reduced from 1,500 households (12,000 people) to 925 households (7,122 people) divided between Sélibaby (471 HH), Ould Yengé (248 HH) and Khabou (206 HH). The selection criteria were those defined in the [EPOA operation update](#).

Targeting was conducted as per terms of reference developed, shared with authorities with whom the beneficiaries list was elaborated.

Scenario planning

[Please see EPOA operation update](#)

Operation Risk Assessment and Mitigation action to limit the effects of these risks

No major threat materialized during the implementation of the operation. In the areas of intervention, where some issues concerning access were recorded, accessibility was granted by the adoption of proper planning of travels and logistics which had been maintained until the end of the operation. This, in addition to the active engagement of local branches' volunteers, ensured constant proximity to affected communities. Moreover, the adoption of the cash modality, allowed on the one hand, the regular supply of markets, for which also host communities benefitted from through the boost it provided to the economy and on the other hand, to minimize heavy loads of goods (foodstuffs, equipment, etc.) and their deliveries and movements between the National Society's headquarters and branches.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Operational objective:

With the [EPOA operation update](#), the overall objective of the operation changed in terms of target which was reduced from 12,000 people or 1,500 household to 7,122 people or 925 households. However, the operation objective did not change in term of addressing urgent needs of floods most affected households in Guidimakha region.

Specific Objectives

With the modification of the operational objective, the specific objectives were revised as follows:

- Provision of Khaimah tents to 302 households, instead of 300 households as per initial target, including related essential household items through cash transfer modality, as well as awareness raising on safer shelter and home water treatment and conservation;
- Provision of unconditional cash up to 1,400 MRU (local currency) to 925 households to allow beneficiaries to meet their needs in terms of home water conservation and treatment, hygiene and sanitation and other needs according to their convenience including rehabilitation materials and equipment for household.

The following specific objectives were not modified:

- National Society capacity strengthening through the realization of trainings for 50 volunteers and NS head quarter and field staff on safe shelter and hygiene promotion, water and sanitation.

¹ Traditional Mauritanian tents

- Ensure complementarity, coordination and synergies with the actions planned by the Government on the one hand, and humanitarian actors on the other.

Proposed strategy

Following the detailed needs assessment conducted in October 2019, some changes were made to the initial DREF strategy. Moreover, a no-cost timeframe extension of one month was granted with the Ops Update published in December 2019. The request was justified to implement new activities identified by the detailed need assessment, including the post monitoring distribution (PDM) assessment added as part of the cash transfer component. Moreover, an additional timeframe allowed the NS to prepare for and undertake a lesson learnt workshop, crucial for identifying strengths, weaknesses and best practices from the implementation of the operation. As concerns the PDM assessment, it is worth mentioning that the activity contributed to feed the Cash preparedness initiative baseline, supported by the British Red Cross, ensuring cohesion within the Movement response².



A beneficiary with his cash envelope and other relief items ©MRC/IFRC

To achieve its objectives, the operation focused on the following areas of intervention and related activities:

Shelter

- A total of 302 floods affected households (94 households in Khabou and 208 in Ould Yengé) provided with Khaïma family tents, blankets and 604 mosquito nets (2 per household).
- 925 households (471 households in Sélibaby, 248 in Ould Yengé and 206 in Khabou) received an envelope of 1,400 MRU/household through unconditional cash transfer to cover their immediate needs for household items and WASH items;
- Community awareness on safer shelters and reconstruction techniques conducted by the 50 trained Mauritanian Red Cross volunteers.

Health

- 604 impregnated mosquito nets to 302 households (two mosquito nets per household) distributed.

Water, hygiene and Sanitation

- Hygiene promotion and sanitation campaigns, including 3 mass sanitation campaigns, carried out in affected communities to prevent waterborne diseases;
- Disinfection of 30 latrines conducted in schools used as emergency shelter in the aftermath of the floods.
- Vector control with equipment made available by the Ministry of Health section based in Sélibaby to reduce the risk of malaria among affected communities.
- WASH items provided through cash assistance as described under shelter above.

Human Resources:

To ensure a smooth implementation of this DREF operation, the MRC mobilized 50 Red Crescent volunteers (21 women/girls and 29 men) deployed over the 3 main intervention areas Sélibaby, Ould Yengé and Khabou. Moreover, additional personnel (1 DREF focal point, 3 field supervisors, 1 administration/finance officer, 1 PMER focal point, 1 logistician, 3 drivers and 1 IT) were also engaged in the operation, both from the field and the headquarter. IFRC technical support was provided to the NS through the deployment of one Surge for a period of 3 months and the realization of 2 missions from a Surge delegate from Belgian RC.

Logistics and Procurement

The National Society carried out the local procurement as per IFRC logistics standard procurement procedures. The IFRC logistics officer based in Dakar provided all technical guidance and support to the NS especially regarding the tender process for Shelter and Cash activities. The National Society' warehouses in Nouakchott were used to store the food kits provided by Turkish and Qatari Red Crescent and distributed as part of kits foreseen by this operation.

² The British Red Cross provide technical support to the Mauritania RC on the cash transfer domain.

IT and Telecom

Based on the experience from the 2018 [Food Insecurity Emergency Appeal](#), the MRC field team used the Kobo application for the development of needs and markets assessments. However, beneficiaries' registration for distributions activities was conducted manually and no other digitalisation tool such as beneficiary card with barcode was adopted. Considering the limited number of beneficiaries, this was not an issue for the operation. However, it could be for larger ones. The operation highlighted a general lack of IT tools at NS level.

Communications

Communication materials were developed to ensure visibility of the action of the MRC and its partners at all stages of the implementation (press release, capitalization of progress and results of activities, photos, videos, etc.). Social media were used as well to increase and to reach a higher audience. Moreover, 6,000 flyers with key messages on potable water, hand washing, household hygiene management, water treatment, waste management and how to use latrines were used for sensitization activities and distributed in targeted communities.

Administration and Finance

As per Plan of Action, the National Society assigned a Finance Officer to the operation. As the person was newly recruited, the mission undertaken by the IFRC Sahel Cluster's Finance Officer allowed to orient the NS' Finance Officer on IFRC Financial procedures. Moreover, the mission from the Cluster was an opportunity as well to i) follow-up on the DREF budget; ii) verify financial receipts; and iii) conduct reconciliation of accounts.

The Surge delegate from Belgian RC collaborated as well with the NS for the development of a tool to follow-up on expenditures against budget.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

As per plan of action, the response was conducted with a participatory approach through community engagement and the involvement of administrative authorities throughout the process including assessments, targeting and distribution operations. In particular, the detailed needs assessment allowed to revise the operational strategy on the basis of beneficiaries' preferences on receiving support through unconditional cash rather than through NFI. Moreover, different feedback mechanisms were put in place particularly for distribution activities, such as phone calls for a one on one follow-up. However, with the aim of further improving CEA actions, the NS should consider systematically adopting tools in the implementation of operation, including the set-up of a physical complaint / information desk on the distribution site, which was not done for this operation.

Security

The adoption of all mitigation measures included in the Plan of Action allowed the smooth implementation of the operation. Moreover, the strict adherence guidelines for distribution activities, prevented and security issues.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

MRC developed M&E tools to follow-up on achievements against targets set. Moreover, the IFRC followed-up on the implementation of the operation, through the use of a tracking sheet, filled in weekly by the Surge personnel deployed on the field.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

	<p>Shelter</p> <p>People reached: 7,122 people (925 households)</p> <p>Male: 3,000</p> <p>Female: 4,122</p>	
<p>Shelter outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions</p>		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of households that have received assistance for covering/meeting their emergency shelter/accommodation needs as per appropriate standards for operational setting	302	302
<p>Shelter output 1.1: Affected households receive short-, medium- and long-term shelter and housing assistance</p>		

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of households that have received assistance through Khaimah tents, blankets and mosquito nets	302	302
Number of households that have received assistance regarding household items through cash	302	925
Shelter output 1.2: Affected households benefit from technical support, guidance and awareness-raising for the design of safer shelters and facilities planning, as well as improved construction techniques.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of households having received technical support or sensitization adapted to the housing support received	925	925
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>Number of households that have received assistance through Khaimah tents, blankets and mosquito nets A total of 302 Khaimah tents of 5m each and 302 blankets were distributed to the floods affected families in Khabou and Ould Yengé from 24 and 27 January 2020. It is worth mentioning that the operation did target with this activity also Sélibaby as floods affected households received already similar assistance from the Mauritanian Government. The Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey revealed that 90% of the targeted beneficiaries used the tents, 6% exchanged them and 4% sold or lost them. These latter justified their action by the need of purchasing food and paying medical care bills.</p>		
<p>Number of households that have received assistance regarding household items through cash The detailed needs survey conducted in October 2019 revealed that the average household in Mauritania is composed by 7.7 persons. Although authorities advised that each household counting between 5 and 7 people would have received a cash amount of 1,500 MRU to cover basic needs, due to budget constraints the envelope made available by the DREF operation corresponded to 1,400 MRU/household. Following authorities' approval, the NS provided unconditional cash to 925 households, divided as per follow: 471 in Sélibaby, 206 in Khabou and 248 in Ould Yengé. The PDM survey revealed that out of 925 household supported with unconditional cash, 69% utilised the grant received to buy construction materials, medicines and pay school fees and 31% to cover food needs.</p>		
<p>Number of households having received technical support or sensitization adapted to the housing support received Awareness raising, including door-to door, on the construction of safe shelters, as per SPHERE standard, were conducted by 50 volunteers trained from 17 to 20 November 2019 on safe shelter construction and awareness raising techniques. The activity, implemented between November 2019 and January 2020, reached the 471 households in Sélibaby city, 248 in Ould Yengé precisely in the village of Boulliy and 206 in Khabou centre.</p>		
<p>The shelter training was part of a 4-day training where the following topics were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs identification and targeting; • Kobo application; • Water, hygiene and sanitation. 		
<p>Below main findings from the realization of shelter related activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The newly established volunteers' team was highly efficient and well managed by its leader; • All beneficiaries were contacted by phone the day before the distribution to be provided with information on the distribution modalities. As such, very few beneficiaries missed on the distribution day; • Very few complaints were received. Authorities and community leaders expressed appreciation for the professionalism demonstrated during the distributions; • No security issue was reported during the distributions; • Good quality of services of the financial provider (Djikke), including flexibility in the timeframe. 		
Challenges		
<p>The delay in obtaining the NS's approval for the deployment of the 2 surge personnel slowed down the pace of implementation of the operation. This, coupled with the delay, once deployed, in obtaining authorizations by authorities for conducting field visits. This situation pushed ahead the implementation of shelter activities which started only in late October-beginning of November 2019.</p>		
<p>Distribution activities were initially scheduled to hold between mid-November and end of December 2019 but took place end of January 2020. The delay is mainly explained by the time necessary to finalize the tender process for</p>		

both cash and shelter kits that took more time than initially expected. The IFRC requirements to get all the related documents validated by both the National Society and the IFRC cluster slowed down the process considerably.

Lessons Learned

To ensure information sharing regarding Surge' deployments which have to be officially approved by the NS.

To further promote the use of Kobo for the beneficiaries' registration, which was done manually, and another digitalisation tool such as beneficiary card with barcode. Considering the limited number of beneficiaries, this was not an issue for the operation. However, it could be for larger ones.

Need to setup a physical complaint / information desk on the distribution site.



Health

People reached: 2,400 people (302 households)

Male: 984

Female: 1,416

Health Outcome 2: The medium-term risks to the health of affected populations are reduced

Health Output 2.4: Epidemic prevention measures carried out Shelter output 1.1: Affected households receive

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of households that have received long lasting impregnated mosquito nets	302	302

Narrative description of achievements

Number of households that have received long lasting impregnated mosquito nets

Some 604 mosquito nets were distributed to 302 households (two mosquito nets per household). The distribution was conducted between 24 and 27 January 2020, along with 302 Khaimah tents and 302 blankets. Sensitization sessions on their use, including hang-up sessions, were conducted by the 50 volunteers who received the combined training shelter and WASH. Together with sanitation campaigns and vector control activities, the distribution of mosquito nets aimed at preventing malaria.

Challenges

Taking into consideration the average size of 7,7 people/household in the area of intervention, the number of mosquito nets distributed for those families which had lost all their belongs, did not sufficiently cover the need.

Lessons Learned

N/A



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 7,122 people (925 households)

Male:3,000

Female:4,122

WASH Outcome1: Immediate reduction of water-borne diseases risks in target communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of affected people reached by awareness-raising messages	7,122	7,122

WASH output 1.1: The detailed assessment of the situation pertaining to Water, hygiene and Sanitation has been completed in target communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
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Number of volunteers trained in WASH activities	50	50
Number of awareness campaigns conducted in target communities	3	3
WASH Output 1.2: Contribute to making potable water meeting SPHERE and WHO standards accessible in quantity and quality to target communities		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of households benefitting from cash for improved access to potable water	925	925 (or 100%)
WASH Output 1.3: Adequate sanitation meeting SPHERE standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target communities		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of households having improved their access to drinking water / Number of households having improved their access to drinking water	925	925 (or 100%)
WASH Output 1.4: Hygiene promotion activities in accordance with SPHERE standards for the identification and use of hygiene products are provided to target communities		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
Number of people whose hygiene conditions comply with SPHERE standards	7,122	N/A
WASH Output 1.5: Hygiene items/products (NFI) compliant with SPHERE standards and training of their use provided to the target communities		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of households having received cash to cover their hygiene items needs	925	925 (or 100%)
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>Number of affected people reached by awareness-raising messages Households awareness campaigns were conducted from November 2019 to February 2020. More than 7,122 people were reached through sensitization activities in Sélibaby city, in Ould Yengé and in Khabou. Additionally, more than 6,000 flyers with information on potable water, hand washing, household hygiene management, water treatment, waste management and how to use latrines were distributed in targeted communities.</p> <p>Number of volunteers trained in WASH activities The same 50 Red Crescent volunteers trained on safe shelter construction, were trained between the 17 and 20 November 2019 on WASH. The training curriculum included the following topics: household water treatment and conservation, distribution and awareness techniques, handwashing, the use of latrines and the risks of open defecation.</p> <p>The WASH training was part of a 4-day training where the following topics were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs identification and targeting; • Kobo application; • Safe shelter construction. <p>Number of awareness campaigns conducted in target communities The National Society conducted 3 sanitation campaigns (one in each of the 3 main intervention areas) with the involvement of community members. However, since floods impacted on communities' livelihoods, community members participation was limited and justified by their engagement in activities which contributed to restore their livelihood. As a result, only 100 people, participated in the cleaning-up of markets and other public places targeted both by the cities and the MRC. It is worth mentioning the active involvement of female associations in the activity.</p> <p>% of households having improved their access to drinking water / Number of households having improved their access to drinking water The detailed needs assessment conducted in October 2019 enabled to identify different typologies of water supply used by affected population. In the 3 areas of intervention, the existing public network was used by 63% of the population. This coupled with the use of public or private wells, as well as river water. The most common method of water treatment is bleaching, which is adopted by 44% of the surveyed population. Behaviours related to home water conservation were generally good in communities, with about 88% of the population using buckets with lid for home water conservation. The amount of 1,400 MRU as unconditional cash distributed to each of the 925 households contributed in supporting the targeted communities to improve and increase their access to potable water.</p> <p>Number of people whose hygiene conditions comply with SPHERE standards</p>		

While data for the pre-assessment report can be those of the detailed needs assessment, the non-realization of a post-assessment did not allow to report on the indicator. However, no outbreaks were declared, and the low number of water-borne diseases recorded, allow to estimate an increase of hygiene conditions of affected population thanks to DREF operation activities.

% of households having received cash to cover their hygiene items needs

The cash distribution took place in late January 2020, and as already mentioned, each of the targeted 925 households received unconditional cash of 1,400 MRU. This cash distribution was also geared towards supporting the targeted communities to cover their hygiene items needs.

Challenges

The challenging access to Khabou and Ould Yengé due to poor road infrastructure, delayed the transportation and distribution of relief items, complementary of the cash support.

Lessons Learned

To strengthen preparedness actions including capacity building of community-based volunteers, prepositioning of stocks and of an emergency funds would allow a timely response to the emergency, although logistic represents a challenge.

Strengthen National Society

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
The provision of technical and coordination team support in Nouakchott and the areas of intervention	5	12
Lessons learnt workshop	1	1
Deployment of RDRT specialized in Cash	1	1
IFRC Technical missions and support	4	3
Deployment of a DM Surge Capacity	1	0

Narrative description of achievements

The provision of technical and coordination team support in Nouakchott and the areas of intervention

To ensure a smooth implementation of the floods operation, the National Society mobilized 50 volunteers (21 women/girls and 29 men) over the 3 main areas of intervention. Moreover, the following staff also supported the operation both from the headquarter and from the field. Their involvement depended on activities timeframe:

- 1 DREF focal point or national supervisor of the operation
- 3 field supervisors (NDRTs), one in each of the 3 main intervention areas
- 1 Administrative/Finance Officer
- 1 PMER focal point
- 1 logistics focal point
- 3 drivers

In addition, to ensure an effective and coordinated response, the IT officer, specialized in the development of database through the Kobo application, and the one in charge of youth and volunteering department were also occasionally deployed to support the operation. The excellent working ambience and the supervision provided by the IFRC Surge personnel, allowed the NS to reach all objectives set. Moreover, the National Society seized the opportunity of the DREF operation to successfully set up a new volunteer team in the Guidimakha where the NS was not particularly present.

Lessons learnt workshop

A Lessons Learned workshop was successfully conducted in early February 2020. The meeting was geared towards:

- Establishing to what extent the DREF operation was relevant, what results were achieved, and how the implementation went;
- Identifying key lessons learnt to further strengthen preparedness capacities to respond to emergencies as well as long term programming;
- Identifying learning for the National Society.

The session was interactive and participants, including local authorities of the areas of intervention and Movement partners, were fully engaged in identifying concrete points on the best practices, challenges and the recommendations. The workshop was conducted using the Preparedness for Effective Response Methodology and participants were split into 3 groups according to thematic areas: coordination, operational capacities and support services and analysis and planning. Main challenges and lessons learnt are summarized below.

Deployment of RDRT specialized in Cash

The IFRC provided technical support with the deployment of:

- 1 Surge delegate, with cash experience, deployed for a period of 3 months to support the NS in the overall implementation of the operation;
- 1 Surge delegate for Belgian RC, who undertook 2 missions (12-25 November 2019 and 19-31 January 2020) supported the operation through the:
 - Development of the detailed action plan, including timetable of activities, tasks assignment, and budget per activity.
 - Drafting of Kobo questionnaires: individual needs assessment by the affected people, market assessment.
 - Initial assessment on cash feasibility.
 - Collection of secondary data by others partner (FRC, WFP, UNICEF).
 - Development of the budget monitoring toll for the MRC's Finance.

IFRC Technical missions and support

The IFRC Sahel Cluster provided ad hoc technical assistance through the missions of its staff:

- The Disaster Preparedness Officer who during his mission supported the DREF implementation team in reviewing the budget and preparing an Operations update;
- The Finance officer whose mission aimed to support the National Society's Finance department on i) following-up the DREF budget; ii) verification of financial receipts; iii) reconciliation of accounts and iv) orientation on IFRC Financial procedures to the newly recruited MRC finance officer.
- The Senior PMER Officer who took part in the Lessons Learnt workshop contributing in the facilitation of the workshop and in the development of the report.

Challenges

- The lack of a NS Contingency Plans required an additional time to mobilize teams, assets and resources;
- The lack of a Red Cross Branch in the targeted intervention areas of Sélibaby, Ould Yengé et Ghabou obliged the NS to request volunteers from other areas to cover the gaps;
- The lack of IT and office equipment, as well as digital capacities might become a challenge for the NS to undertake larger scale operation;
- The delay in the signature of the MoU between the NS and the IFRC and the consequent delay in the transfer of funds.

Lessons Learned

- A multi-sectoral contingency plan must be developed to allow the NS to further perform in disaster preparedness and response operations;
- To systematically contribute during the implementation of operations to branches development capacities, both in terms of staff and equipment.
- The involvement and collaboration of key actors (*Food Security Commission or CSA*) in data collection was an added value in the development of the floods response plan of action.

D. THE BUDGET

The overall budget allocated for this DREF operation was CHF 230,894 out of which CHF 196,694 (85.18%) were spent. The balance of CHF 34,200 which will returned to the DREF.

Below the explanation of variances by categories and budget groups:

Shelter - Relief: CHF 6,442	Saving in the procurement of Khaimah tents (traditional Mauritanian tents). Target of 302 tents distributed (1 tent/household) achieved at 100%.
Clothing & Textiles: CHF 1,611	Saving in the procurement of blankets, distributed as part of the shelter intervention. Target of 302 blanket distributed (1 blanket/household) achieved at 100%.
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene: CHF 393	Saving in the disinfection of latrines.
Medical & First Aid: CHF 590	Saving in the transport of NFI in the field.
Cash Disbursement: CHF 7,518	Cash transfer activity budgeted in local currency, while transfer from the IFRC to the NS made in CHF. Saving due to exchange rate. Target of 925 HH to be supported by cash achieved at 100%.

Logistics, Transport & Storage

Transport & Vehicles Costs: CHF 738	Savings in rental, fuel and maintenance of vehicles used for the operation.
Logistics Services: CHF 86	Savings in the rental of means of transportation for moving NFI to the field.

Personnel

International Staff: CHF 9,084	<p>Savings on Surges. Instead of deploying 2 surges (1*3 months + 1* 2 month), only the one *3 months was deployed. Part of the tasks which should have been undertaken by the second surge were assigned to a Surge delegate from Belgian RC who conducted 2 missions: 12-25 November 2019 and 19-31 Janvier 2020.</p> <p>Instead of deployment of a Surge DM for 2 months, a delegate from Belgian RC undertook 2 mission to support the NS in the implementation of activities and in particular on the cash component and development of tools (12-25 November 2019 and 19-31 January 2020).</p>
National Society Staff: CHF 2,155	Saving on NS staff. Although a higher number of staff contributed to the operation, their allocation of time was lower than what initially budgeted for.
Volunteers: CHF 3,785	Saving on volunteers' allowances. Due to the lack / low number of volunteers in the areas of intervention, volunteers from neighbouring areas supported the initial phase of the operation. This, while awaiting to mobilize and train new community-based volunteers from the targeted areas. As such the number of volunteers planned for did not correspond to the one deployed in the field as per Plan of Action for the first phase of the intervention.

Workshops & Training

Workshop and training CHF 458	Savings on the lesson learnt workshop.
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General Expenditure

Travel: CHF 51	Savings on the flight tickets and perdiems of Sahel Cluster staff on mission.
Information & Public Relations: CHF 344	Savings on the NS' visibility document and on realization and reproduction of IEC materials.
Office Costs: CHF 1,558	Savings on office costs both from the NS and the Sahel Cluster.
Communications: CHF -1,038	Over expenditure on communication costs for ensuring timely sharing of information between head quarter and field. It is worth mentioning that extra costs are also linked to the need of constant monitoring the security situation in the field.
Financial Charges: CHF -1,664	Over expenditure on financial charges due to a underbudgeting of the financial costs.

Contact information

Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

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

For Mauritania Red Crescent:

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For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- IFRC Africa Regional Office for resource Mobilization and Pledge: Franciscah Cherotich Kilel, Senior Officer, Partnership and Resource Development, Nairobi, email: franciscah.kilel@ifrc.org, phone: +254 202 835 155

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- IFRC Africa Regional Office for Logistics Unit: Rishi Ramrakha, Head of Africa Regional Logistics Unit, email: rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org; phone: +254 733 888 022

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

- IFRC Africa Regional Office: IFRC Africa Regional Office: Philip Komo Kahuho, Regional PMER Manager; email: philip.kahuho@ifrc.org; phone: +254 732 203 081

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.

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Saving lives, changing minds.



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

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019/09-2020/05	Operation	MDRMR010
Budget Timeframe	2019/09-2020/02	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 18/Jun/2020

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRMR010 - Mauritania - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 17 Sep 2019 to 20 Feb 2020

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	230,894
DREF Allocations	230,894
Expenditure	-196,694
Closing Balance	34,200

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			0
AOF2 - Shelter	103,417	85,963	17,455
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs			0
AOF4 - Health	4,066	3,261	804
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	33,994	23,276	10,717
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion		5,684	-5,684
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	141,477	118,184	23,293
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	41,394	38,074	3,320
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	48,023	40,436	7,587
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC			0
Strategy for implementation Total	89,416	78,509	10,907
Grand Total	230,894	196,694	34,200

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019/09-2020/05	Operation	MDRMR010
Budget Timeframe	2019/09-2020/02	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 18/Jun/2020

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRMR010 - Mauritania - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 17 Sep 2019 to 20 Feb 2020

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	101,650	85,095	16,555
Shelter - Relief	42,949	36,507	6,442
Clothing & Textiles	8,590	6,979	1,611
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	2,528	2,135	393
Medical & First Aid	3,792	3,202	590
Cash Disbursement	43,791	36,272	7,518
Logistics, Transport & Storage	19,507	18,683	824
Distribution & Monitoring	4,740	4,003	738
Transport & Vehicles Costs	14,767	14,680	86
Personnel	71,999	56,975	15,025
International Staff	35,000	25,916	9,084
National Society Staff	12,768	10,613	2,155
Volunteers	24,232	20,446	3,785
Workshops & Training	7,427	6,969	458
Workshops & Training	7,427	6,969	458
General Expenditure	16,218	16,967	-749
Travel	8,312	8,261	51
Information & Public Relations	4,962	4,618	344
Office Costs	2,281	723	1,558
Communications	379	1,418	-1,038
Financial Charges	284	1,949	-1,664
Indirect Costs	14,092	12,005	2,087
Programme & Services Support Recover	14,092	12,005	2,087
Grand Total	230,894	196,694	34,200