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## Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Mauritania/Bassiknou: Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF Operation</b>	MDRMR012	<b>Glide n°:</b>	<a href="#">FL-2020-000199-MRT</a>
<b>Date of issue:</b>	17 September 2020	<b>Expected timeframe:</b>	4 months
		<b>Expected end date:</b>	31 January 2021
<b>Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis:</b> <b>Yellow</b>			
<b>DREF allocated:</b> CHF 352,784			
<b>Total number of people affected:</b>	9,282 People (1,380 households) of which 7,300 women and 1,982 men	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b>	5,688 people (948 households) <sup>1</sup> of which 666 households headed by women
<b>Provinces affected:</b>	Bassiknou, Adel Begrou, Amourj, and Néma	<b>Provinces/Regions targeted:</b>	Bassiknou, Adel Begrou and Amourj
<b>Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches):</b> The Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) consists of 20 employees, a network of around 6,000 volunteers and 56 local committees across the country. In Bassiknou, the MRC has a local operational committee and a field supervisor as well as a network of 30 active volunteers			
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and ICRC sub-delegation in Bassiknou			
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> The Mauritanian government, and UNHCR			

## A. Situation analysis

### Description of the disaster

Since September 1, 2020, the wilaya of Hodh Ech Chargui, located in the south-east of the country, on the border with Mali, has experienced torrential rains that have exceeded the 100 mm in some areas, with flooding in the cities of Bassiknou, Adel Bagrou, Amourj and Néma, the capital of the region in south-eastern Mauritania.

Until September 8, 2020, the torrential rains that fell in this area caused a heavy toll in the three departments of the region, in particular in the department of Bassiknou leading, on a large scale, to considerable material damage of infrastructure such as roads, bridges, protective dikes, markets, water supply sources, in addition to the destruction of a large part of family food stocks. According to preliminary assessments, the number of people affected to date are up to 9,282 people (1,380 households) and 3 deaths.



*The Mauritania Red Crescent accompanying the Governor during his visit in Bassiknou flooded areas © MRC*

<sup>1</sup>Average of 6 people per household in the Hodh Echargui region.

Since the end of August, Mauritania has been experiencing heavy rains which have resulted in flooding in several parts of the country. The Governor of Hodh Ech Chargui, accompanied by the food security Commissioner, carried out a mission in the floods affected areas on September 5. The President of the Republic carried a mission by helicopter because of the impassable roads on 10 and 11 September to inquire about the state of the floods affected people, sympathize with the affected families and ensure the progress of the work that has been carried out on several sites to dig rainwater drainage channels and repair the collapsed dams.

In the town of Bassiknou, most residential areas have been severely affected by the flooding, and the damage varies in intensity from neighbourhood to neighbourhood. A damage assessment commission, of which the Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) is a member, has been set up by the authorities. This commission began the census of affected households despite the difficult access to the affected areas. According to the partial results, 1,200 families have already been recorded in the Bassiknou department alone, in addition to the other departments in the region which are affected by the floods. The work of the evaluation committee is still ongoing.

The commune of Dhar which falls under the department of Bassiknou and located 80 km from Bassiknou, was completely affected; there are more than 118 households who have lost their homes and are currently being taken in by their relatives. On the other hand, 17 food stores were destroyed, and livestock was washed away.

In Bassiknou, some schools having been partially damaged by the rains, the resumption of classes scheduled for September 1, 2020 throughout the national territory has been delayed. Faced with this disastrous situation, several attempts by the authorities to gain access to the floods affected people in Bassiknou were unsuccessful: only the prefect of the Bassiknou department, who is on site with his staff, was able to access some neighbourhoods in the flooded areas.

In the two other departments of Néma and d'Amourj, and in the district of Adel Bagrou, there has been material damage and more than 184 families affected in Adel Bagrou. Some 64 families have been affected in Amourj, living in precarious conditions.

We recall that the National Meteorological Office has already warned the population, in particular in the south-eastern regions of Mauritania, the Hodh Echargui region, of the possibility of heavy rains in the coming weeks, reminding the population to take utmost caution and strictly observe the safety instructions relating to this type of disaster to reduce the probable risks.

That there has been no rain since September 10 however, alerts continue to be issued by the weather services. On 14 September, the Ministry of Interior warned of the risk of landslides in the affected areas, but also of the rising waters of Senegal River which could worsen the situation in the event of an overflow. However, normally, from mid-September onwards, the rains move towards the centre and north of the country, but with the disruptions noted, nothing is certain at the moment given the forecasts.

## Summary of the current response

### Overview of Host National Society Response Action

The MRC has set up a monitoring unit to monitor the development of flooding at country level. The unit has started collecting data and information related to the floods to be informed about the situation in the affected areas.

The local committee of the Mauritanian Red Crescent in Bassiknou was deployed from the first hours of the disaster with teams of volunteers to assist, guide and evacuate affected families to safe and secure places.

A special CRM team, equipped with water evacuation motor pumps, actively participated in the evacuation of stagnant water from the flooded neighbourhoods in Bassiknou.



*A flooded house in Bassiknou ©MRC*



*MRC volunteer evacuating stagnant water using a pump in Bassiknou © MRC*

A team of 15 volunteers was deployed to conduct a rapid assessment in the commune of Dhar, located 80 km from Bassiknou, with the support of ICRC sub-delegation in Bassiknou. Volunteers sensitized families on the dangers of drinking and using stagnant water and the importance of protecting themselves against mosquitoes.

The volunteers of the MRC, with the other members of the joint commission, carried out the assessment of the damage and the survey of the affected households to get a general assessment of the scale of the disaster.

### **Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in country**

Discussions, information sharing, and correspondence relating to the flood situation in Mauritania were done with Movement partners present in and outside the country. An alert was launched and published on [IFRC GO platform](#). Updates on the current situation were uploaded.

A request was made from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to respond to the needs of the affected populations as quickly as possible.

Regarding the Movement partners present in Mauritania (ICRC, FRC, IFRC), only the ICRC has a sub-delegation in Bassiknou, one of the most affected departments.

### **Overview of non-RCRC actors' actions in country**

The Mauritanian government has deployed a delegation to Bassiknou to assess the situation and ensure the delivery of the first relief assistance to 50 families in the locality of Gneiba, commune of Dhar (located 80 km from the city of Bassiknou) via the CSA (Food Security Commission): the government donation comprises, for each family, a tent, 2 blankets and a food kit (50 kg of rice, 25 kg of sugar, 5 litres of oil, 10kg of dates).

The military engineers deployed an intervention team to repair bridges and protective dikes damaged by flooding. Tanks were mobilized through the Ministry of Hydraulics to help with water evacuation operations.

Reinforcement cisterns have been made available by the Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation on the outskirts of the town of Bassiknou, ready to intervene, if necessary. The authorities have set up a damage assessment commission whose work is still in progress.

The coordination of the overall response is led by the government's technical services present in the affected regions, in collaboration with humanitarian partners on the ground, including the MRC.

### **Lessons learned from the previous flood response operation:**

The implementation of the [MDRMR010 operation in response to the Guidimakha floods \(2019\)](#), raised the following main challenges, with lessons learned to ensure that the same challenges are avoided during future operations.

- The delay in signing the MoU between the NS and IFRC resulted in the delay in the transfer of funds for the implementation of the operation. The NS understands that without the signing of the memorandum of understanding, funds cannot be transferred for the implementation of activities. This contributes to the transparent management of funds and follows IFRC financial procedures.
- The delay in obtaining the NS' approval for the deployment of Surge members has slow down the implementation of the operation. This, added to the delay, once deployed, in obtaining authorizations from authorities to carry out field visits. This situation greatly slow down the implementation of shelter activities, which only started at the end of October towards the beginning of November 2019. All stakeholders have learned lessons from this situation and will ensure a smooth sharing of information regarding the deployment of a Surge personnel that will be officially approved by the National Society.
- The distribution activities were initially scheduled to take place between mid-November and the end of December 2019, but they took place at the end of January 2020. This delay was mainly due to the time needed to finalize the tender process for cash transfers and provision of shelter kits, which took longer than initially expected. The requirements of the IFRC to have all related documents validated by the National Society and the Dakar IFRC Cluster considerably slowed down the process. The logistics teams concerned will endeavour to start the necessary processes as soon as the operation starts, to avoid delays in the response.
- The manual registration of beneficiaries lead to the risk that some households will be left out and took too long to volunteers, who could have been performing other tasks. The IFRC and the NS are committed to further promoting the use of Kobo and other scanning tools such as the beneficiary card with a barcode for beneficiary registration. There is the need to set up a physical complaints / information office at the distribution site.

- Difficult access due to poor road infrastructure delayed the transportation and distribution of relief items, complementary to cash assistance. The NS should strengthen its preparedness actions, in particular capacity building for community volunteers, the pre-positioning of stocks and emergency funds, to be able to respond quickly to the emergency, although logistics represent a challenge. Unfortunately, due to lack of funding, these activities have not yet been carried out.
- The lack of contingency plans from local branches required additional time to mobilize teams, resources and goods. A multisectoral emergency plan should be developed to enable local branches to conduct their disaster preparedness and response operations. Three local committees namely Boghe, Maghta Lehjar and Kaedi have a contingency plan now, but the Bassiknou committee unfortunately does not yet have one.
- The lack of Red Crescent branches in the targeted intervention areas forced the NS to call on volunteers from other regions to fill in the gaps. Likewise, the lack of computer and office equipment, and digital capabilities, could become a challenge for the NS when implementing larger-scale operations. The NS retains here the need to systematically contribute to the development of the capacities of branches, during the implementation of operations, in terms of personnel and equipment. The MRC has an operational presence in Bassiknou through the local MRC committee, supported by the ICRC sub-delegation on site. The other branches also have a network of available and active volunteers.

## Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

### Needs analysis

After the heavy damages recorded in the town of Bassiknou, following the devastating floods of September 2020, exacerbated by heavy rains and torrential rains, there are more than 5,688 people affected, i.e. 948 affected households.

Most of the affected households are currently living in temporary shelters or have had to move into their neighbours' or relatives' homes, after large numbers of homes collapsed or cracked.

The needs analysis is based on the available secondary data, and the primary data collected as part of the ongoing rapid assessment, carried out by the joint assessment commission in the department of Bassiknou.

According to the authorities, estimates show that a minimum of 1,380 families, i.e. about 8,292 people affected in the districts of Bassiknou town and the capital of Dhar commune (Gneiba).

Based on the results of the rapid assessment and direct observations in the field, the basic needs of the affected populations are as follows:

- **Shelters and human settlements:** Some 118 households that have lost their homes are currently being hosted by host families. These households need emergency shelters as the duration of this situation is unknown. Support in the form of emergency shelters and household items (local tents, mats, blankets, mosquito nets, etc.) is necessary.
- **Livelihoods and Basic Needs:** Some markets have been affected, with 17 food stores destroyed, and livestock washed away. Therefore, the provision of food (rice, oil, sugar, dates, etc.) to affected households would be useful.
- **Health and WASH:** With stagnant water resulting from flooding, affected communities are exposed to water-borne diseases and mosquito proliferation, presence of stagnant water, proliferation of mosquito breeding sites, breakdown of sanitation infrastructure causing the dispersion of faecal matter in the environment and the possibility of desperate populations who could use unsafe water for drinking. Thus, support for health, hygiene and sanitation awareness is necessary to reduce the risk of an epidemic explosion. Coupled with the Covid-19 pandemic, populations are exposed, unable, for the moment, to comply with the necessary protective measures due to having to live with host families, which exposes the community to Covid-19.

The above stated needs are not exhaustive though. Continuous needs assessment will be conducted as the operation is implemented, and the results obtained will allow the operation to be updated as needed. To ensure that the needs of



MRC volunteers collecting information from a disaster victim during initial assessments © CRM

children, pregnant women, people with disabilities and other vulnerable social groups are taken into account, the MRC will adapt its data collection tools to include possible protection needs. The IFRC's protection, gender and inclusion tools will be used for this purpose.

### Targeting

Through this operation, the MRC will target 948 households (5,688 people) in the communes of Bassiknou, Amourj and Adel Bagrou of the wilaya of Hodh Ech Chargui as follows:

Flooded Zones	Number of affected families
BASSIKNOU	700
AMOURJ	64
ADEL BAGROU	184
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>948</b>

The criteria for selecting beneficiaries will take into account the most vulnerable households such as households headed by women or children, the elderly, pregnant or breastfeeding women, people with disabilities, etc. This will be done in agreement with the affected community.

### Scenario planning

Scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Potential Response of the Red Cross
<p><b>Best case scenario</b> The amounts of rainfall received in the neighbourhoods, despite their significance, are quickly evacuated within few hours with the system put in place by the state and its partners. Thanks to strong resource mobilization, most of those affected by the floods receive adequate humanitarian assistance covering their immediate basic needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No further destruction is recorded, and livelihoods can be restored.</li> <li>The WASH situation is improving with the end of the rains and the rapid drainage.</li> </ul>	<p>An emergency humanitarian response is being undertaken by the NS through this DREF operation. The funds obtained can cover part of the basic needs of the floods affected people.</p> <p>Good coverage of the needs of affected populations allows affected families to rebuild their lives. The MRC continues to monitor the situation and coordinate with partners.</p>
<p><b>Most likely scenario</b> Rain continues to fall across the country, especially in areas already affected. Beyond the homes already affected, more homes, schools, roads and health posts are declared damaged, worsening the situation especially for households who have found refuge in schools. Limited coverage of immediate humanitarian assistance will increase vulnerability and deteriorate the livelihoods of affected populations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal displacement of affected people</li> <li>Continued destruction of infrastructure, assets and livelihoods.</li> <li>Potential epidemic of water-borne diseases (diarrhoea, etc.) in addition to the increase in the number of Covid-19 cases.</li> <li>Water, sanitation and hygiene problems are worsening.</li> </ul>	<p>Complementary assessments are required and carried out to better understand the situation with a view to responding to additional vital needs.</p> <p>A review of the current DREF operation is being considered to broaden the scale of the response, with a possible change in strategy, an extension of the implementation timeframe and possibly the request for a second allocation to the grant.</p>
<p><b>Worst case Scenario</b> Rain continues to fall across the country, especially in areas already affected. Very limited coverage of immediate humanitarian assistance for flood relief of floods affected people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Massive internal displacement of people with the possibility that some find themselves obliged to move to host communities or to sites for displaced people.</li> <li>Continued destruction of infrastructure, assets and livelihoods.</li> <li>Disease epidemic due to poor water, sanitation and hygiene conditions.</li> </ul>	<p>Revision of the current DREF operation by posting an update of the operation, to scale-up of the response, with a possible change in strategy, an extension of the implementation timeframe and possibly the request for a second DREF allocation.</p> <p>It is also possible to launch a large-scale operation through an emergency appeal if the situation deteriorates.</p> <p>The MRC engages its partners for longer term support through actions to prepare the NS for the floods which are recurrent in the country. This could be done through the pre-positioning of response items, resilience projects, etc.</p>

## Operation Risk Assessment

The security situation in Mauritania is relatively stable. The areas of operation along the border with Mali and the department of Bassiknou have sheltered more than 50,000 Malian refugees for years. The MRC has an operational local committee with a network of trained and available volunteers. The ICRC sub-delegation has been present in the area since 2012 and supports the MRC's security information activities.

As part of the implementation of DREF activities, the MRC will strengthen the security system by respecting the rules and protective measures of their implementation teams and partners to carry out the planned activities as soon as possible and in the right conditions.

Accessibility issues in some targeted areas are linked to the road conditions. During the rainy season, unpaved country roads deteriorate, as do some structures like bridges. This could slow the implementation pace in some areas. The local MRC structures will play an important proximity role.

This DREF operation and its operational strategy consider the risks associated with the current COVID-19 pandemic and are aligned with the IFRC's global emergency appeal which helps National Societies to provide assistance and support to affected populations or communities with a risk to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. From March 13 to September 9, 2020, a total of 7,164 cases of COVID-19 have been recorded in the country; 6,464 cases of recovery and 159 deaths have been recorded according to the Ministry of Health. To date, the following measures have been taken to halt the spread of the disease: compulsory mask wear, border closures, establishment of proximity testing sites, establishment of treatment centres, risk communication, providing up-to-date information on the COVID-19 situation.

National Societies' responses to COVID-19 are supported by the Federation's [global appeal](#) to support and help them to maintain the provision of essential services while adopting measures to reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19. This DREF operation is aligned with and will contribute to the current global strategy and the [Regional Emergency Action Plan for COVID-19](#) developed by the International Federation's Regional Office for Africa, in coordination with global and regional partners. This means that the MRC will ensure, even in disaster response, that COVID-19 prevention measures are met in accordance with the regional action plan and its national COVID-19 plan. The International Federation continues to assess how emergency operations in response to disasters and crises should adapt to this crisis and provide the necessary guidance to its members in this regard.

The MRC will continue to closely monitor the situation and revise the plan accordingly, taking into account the evolving COVID-19 situation and the operational risks that may come up, including operational challenges related to the accessibility of the affected population, availability of relief items, procurement, movement of volunteers and National Society staff and international staff. For more information please consult the [Covid-19 operation page](#) on the IFRC Go platform.

The table below indicates the potential impact of the pandemic on this DREF operation and how the MRC will respond to the situation in the event of strengthening of COVID 19 mitigation measures.

COVID-19 Measures	Standard epidemic control measures	Temporary lockdown of the society (schools, stores, public services)	Durable lockdown and movement restriction during the implementation period
<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
Impact on the operation	No impact on the operation	The impact will be relatively small on this operation, the government does not request the support of all its partners in response to the current floods.  The MRC is assured to be able to implement flood response activities even in the event of a temporary lockdown.	Since the Civil Protection Service has requested the support of government partners to deal with the situation, the CRM as an auxiliary to the public authorities is assured of being able to continue its activities. In addition, lockdown measures have been made a bit more flexible since early July, so a lasting lockdown is unlikely to be needed, unless there is a drastic increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in the country.
Mitigation measures	With epidemic control measures already in place before the floods, the operation is designed	Same as standard epidemic control measures. In addition, some delays may be noted in purchases for financial	Health and hygiene promotion activities will be adapted according to any new measures that may arise.

	<p>to adhere to the measures.</p> <p>The training will be done in small groups, in compliance with physical distancing measures.</p> <p>Relief aid will mainly be provided in open places to avoid large gatherings of groups of people for distributions.</p> <p>Awareness activities will ensure that social distancing standards are met and will be done primarily with loudspeakers and will be mobile to avoid gatherings.</p>	<p>service providers or sellers when vouchers are used. If this happens, an extension of timeframe may be requested.</p>	
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## B. Operational strategy

### Overall objective:

The overall objective of the operation is to respond to the immediate needs of the floods affected populations through the provision of emergency relief, non-food items, food assistance, aid in terms of promotion of health, water and hygiene, targeting a total of 948 families, i.e. 5,688 people, divided as follows: 700 families in Bassiknou, 184 families in Adel Bagrou and 64 families in Amourj for a period of 04 months.

### Operational Strategy:

To meet the above objective, this relief operation will be based on the following areas of intervention:

#### 1. Shelters and household items (Target: 948 households or 5,688 people)

- An in-depth multisectoral needs assessment is planned at the beginning of the intervention, to obtain a detailed review of the information obtained during the preliminary assessments, to assess the real impact of the floods on shelter, water and sanitation, hygiene, etc. The results of this evaluation will make it possible to revise, if necessary, some aspects of the operational modalities decided in this emergency plan of action.
- Provision of temporary shelter assistance to 200 most affected families, including emergency shelter kits (local tents with their accessories) to strengthen the capacity of the host environment in which they live.
- Supply of 948 sets of household items including plastic mats (2 per household), blankets (2 per household) and kitchen kits (1 per household).
- In addition to the support received, the 948 targeted families will each receive a shelter tool kit to help them with the construction / rehabilitation of their shelters. These kits are available at the CCST and will be donated to the MRC.
- Due to the damages incurred by certain markets, an assessment of the feasibility of cash transfers will be carried out as a first step along with the needs assessment to evaluate the risks and acceptance of the use of cash assistance and vouchers. This will determine whether markets are functioning properly to meet the needs of the affected population. If all the conditions are met, this feasibility study will then determine which monetary transfer modality can be used (direct cash, via a financial service provider, vouchers, etc.). This modality will be taken into account for shelters and non-food items and an operation update will be released to inform partners of this change. This evaluation will be carried out by the MRC with the support of the IFRC and the collaboration of local authorities and partners.

- For the implementation of these activities, 20 volunteers will be trained in shelter making including techniques for installing safer shelters, distribution and awareness-raising techniques, to support communities in the construction of these emergency shelters. They will thus help communities in the recovery phase to build shelters that are more resistant to bad weather.
- About 10 volunteers will be in charge of registrations for 5 days, while 20 volunteers will be in charge of distributions and installation of shelters for 7 days.

## 2. Livelihoods and basic needs (Target: 948 households or 5,688 people)

- To ensure that the affected populations have access to the food they need, due to the destruction of food stocks, the MRC plans to distribute food: rice (25kg per household), sugar (10kg / household), oil (5L / household) and lentils or beans (5kg / household).
- 20 volunteers will be responsible for distributing these items for 7 days, ensuring that barriers and physical distancing measures are respected during the distribution. Hand washing points will be installed at hand washing sites in the 3 targeted departments. The same sites will serve for all distributions and will be strategically installed to be used even after distributions.

The market analysis carried out as part of the shelter activities will notify whether the response method should change for a cash approach.

## 3. Health (Target: 948 households or 5,688 people)

Affected populations are truly exposed to a health problem due to the extreme precarious conditions including stagnant water, the proliferation of mosquitoes, difficulties in accessing latrines and problems accessing health facilities. The main health problems concern diarrheal diseases, malaria in addition to the increased risks of COVID-19. The National Society will implement the following activities, to ensure that the targeted populations receive the necessary attention in terms of health.

- Distribution of surgical masks to target populations to promote compliance with barrier measures and to prevent the spread of Covid-19 disease. Two hundred (200) packs of masks will be distributed in all targeted areas.
- Hand washing points will be installed at hand washing sites in the 3 targeted departments. The same sites will be used for all distributions and will be strategically installed to serve even after distributions.
- Organization of 8 awareness sessions (2 per month) on water-borne diseases among affected communities. Twenty (20) volunteers will be responsible for conducting this activity.
- Purchase and distribution of treated mosquito nets (3 per household) to the 948 targeted families. Communities will be trained in the installation and use of distributed LLINs.
- Distribution of 8,000 dignity kits for 8,000 women and girls of childbearing age to preserve their honour and dignity in these difficult contexts where they are deprived of all resources and the risk of degradation of their health is more likely. These distributions will be accompanied by sensitization messages delivered by volunteers for the promotion of women's health and well-being.

## 4. Water, hygiene and sanitation (Target: 948 households or 5,688 people)

Within the framework of WASH, the MRC will implement the following activities:

- Organize training for the benefit of the population of the target communities on the storage of drinking water, the correct use of water treatment products). The Safe Home Water Treatment and Storage in Emergencies manual <https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Publications/disasters/142100-hwt-fr.pdf> will be used for this purpose.
- Distribution of water treatment products to the 948 targeted households: 9 bags per household for 10L of water per day for 2 months, i.e. 17,064 bags.
- Supply and distribution of 15L buckets with lids (2 / HH) and 20L jerry cans (1 / HH) to ensure adequate water conservation for 948 households.
- Design and production of IEC material.

- Organization of 8 awareness sessions on water (with demonstrations), sanitation and hygiene, household water treatment, storage, etc.). These sessions will be held at the same time as those under the health sector and will be led by the same 20 volunteers.
- Organization of 4 sanitation sessions (1 per month), supported by 30 volunteers (10 per branch). Equipment (wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels, disinfectant, gloves, etc.) will be purchased to support the Branches in the implementation of this activity.
- Training of 30 volunteers in WASH to facilitate their support to the population regarding the use of the WASH tools distributed.
- Purchase of 3 motor pumps for water evacuation. Each branch will receive a motor pump and volunteers will oversee the use by the communities.

### **Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)**

The strategy proposed for the implementation of the response will involve a participatory approach through community engagement and the involvement of administrative authorities throughout the process, including assessment, targeting and distribution activities. The MRC will ensure that the operation meets the immediate needs of the most vulnerable people through the involvement of beneficiary and non-beneficiary committees. These committees will ensure the responsibility of the operation by dealing with potential complaints from beneficiary and non-beneficiary populations.

All the volunteers involved in this operation will have to participate in a CEA and PGI training session to equip them with the practices and standards in these two areas. A community feedback mechanism will be set up to collect complaints and claims from beneficiaries for which solutions will be provided. The information feedback and analysis mechanism are done through two channels of communication with the communities to ensure the engagement and participation of communities in its activities:

- 1- the installation of village committees proposed by the communities which ensure the monitoring of activities and the sharing of complaints throughout the duration of the project,
- 2- a team of volunteers trained in the CEA approach and the management of complaints will be mobilized to receive complaints through the free hotlines and record on Excel sheets for processing by the person in charge of CEA.

### **Protection, Gender and Inclusion:**

In supporting vulnerable households, the intervention will take into account the gender dimension, diversity and disability, and minorities. It will ensure that the response teams are provided with personal protective equipment (boots, flashlights, bibs, megaphones and raincoats, etc.).

The PGI focal point will ensure that all volunteers complete the brief online introduction on Sexual and Gender Based Violence Case Disclosure and Case Referral: [https://www.dropbox.com/s/x7ccl0fj9mbds01/zoom\\_0.mp4?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/x7ccl0fj9mbds01/zoom_0.mp4?dl=0) and the video on PEAS: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rOMyul-NDk>. This will be reported in the activity report for this operation. In addition, the SRC will ensure that questions on PGI are incorporated into future detailed assessments to identify needs and take action in this direction.

**Human resources:** To ensure the proper implementation of this DREF operation, the MRC will mobilize 70 volunteers from the Bassiknou local committee who will be trained for the implementation of this operation supported by the WASH and Volunteer referent of the NS. In addition, to ensure an efficient and coordinated response in the event of a disaster, additional staff (2 national supervisors, three supervisors from local branches, and 1 driver) will be dedicated to this operation. The International Federation will also provide technical assistance to the operation through support missions, and the deployment of additional personnel (Surge) with focus on relief and logistics for a period of 3 months.

**Logistics and Purchasing Procedures:** The MRC plans for the rental and maintenance of a vehicle. The logistics coordinator of the Sahel cluster will be able to provide support if necessary. The procurement procedures applied will be based on the administrative and financial procedures manual of the MRC and that of the IFRC. The implementation of activities will give priority to the supply of goods and inputs in the intervention areas, subject to their availability in quantity and quality and to market stability. If necessary, part of the purchases will be made in Nouakchott and sent to the intervention areas. Surge personnel with experience in relief and logistics will be deployed to support the NS in the response, and above all to ensure that the supply is done within standards.

**PMER:** Thanks to the experience gained during the flood DREF in Sélibaby, the MRC field team will use, wherever possible, Kobo / ODK for beneficiary registration and activity monitoring. The National Society will also receive technical

support from the CCST on reporting. A lesson learned workshop will be held at the end of the operation to collect information on future challenges and behaviours in similar situations.

**Communication:** Communication materials will be developed to ensure the 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 will also be used to increase the visibility of the operation.

**Administration and Finance:** The National Society has an accounting and financial service which will facilitate and ensure a rational use of financial resources, in accordance with the agreement of the DREF appeal between the MRC and the IFRC. Financial management will follow MRC procedures and regulations specified by the DREF.

**Security:** Crime levels are moderate but rising steadily. The infrastructure is poor, including in the capital Nouakchott. The condition of paved roads in Mauritania is generally poor, and overland travel is difficult. The porous borders in the Sahel region - of which Mauritania is part of - mean that extremist groups can operate across borders and carry out attacks anywhere in the region. There is a significant threat of kidnapping in Mauritania by extremist groups, particularly along the border with Mali and Algeria where banditry - carjacking - is also a risk. Socio-political protests can escalate into violence. Landmines pose a risk along the border with the disputed territory of Western Sahara (Morocco). Criminal gangs also carry out kidnappings and are at great risk of selling hostages to extremist groups. Medical facilities are extremely limited, especially outside Nouakchott and Nouadhibou, where lack of communication makes managing an emergency operation very difficult. Malaria is present in all regions of Mauritania, except in the northern regions of Dakhlet-Nouadhibou and Tiris-Zemour. There is a seasonal variation in the risk of malaria in Adrar and Inchiri, the risk being higher during the rainy season, from July to October.

Bandits and members of the Sahelian branch of the extremist Islamist organization Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQMI) are present in the region, where they take advantage of weak government control and porous borders. Foreign personnel are an attractive target for militants and armed bandits involved in illegal activities in border areas. Business travellers and expatriates run a credible risk of being kidnapped or attacked by AQMI or groups acting on its behalf near the borders with Mali and Algeria. **These areas are prohibited to IFRC staff.**

To reduce the risk of IFRC staff falling victim of crime, violence or road hazards, active risk mitigation measures should be adopted. These measures include monitoring the situation and implementing minimum security standards (for example, security plans need to be updated). **Any deployment of IFRC personnel should be coordinated with the regional security unit in advance. IFRC staff should not travel to NO GO areas.** All IFRC staff actively participating in operations must have completed the IFRC online security courses (i.e. Stay Safe Personal Security, Security Management or Volunteer Security). In line with the Minimum-Security Requirements (MSR), the regional security unit recommends that a security assessment mission be carried out. The main objectives of the safety assessment will be to:

- Produce a general threat assessment in the areas of operation to allow the IFRC to better understand the operational environment.
- Produce a security risk assessment focusing on IFRC staff, assets, facilities, and projects / programs in selected areas and make recommendations to help mitigate security and safety risks.
- Update existing IFRC safety regulations and contingency plans in countries based on the findings of the above.

To reduce risk, the following actions will be taken by MRC staff:

- The drivers involved in the operation will be asked to drive carefully and strictly observe the rules of the road.
- The activities carried out in the field will be regularly coordinated with local authorities (in coordination with the local committee) so that the authorities are informed of the movements of the field team.
- All travel between Nouakchott and Bassiknou will be subject to strict planning rules, including a security clearance procedure and regular monitoring. The field team is regularly contacted by headquarters to ensure their safety.
- In the event of a serious accident, medical and evacuation procedures will be put in place.
- A set of documents will be produced from the start of the operation, to detail all the safety standards of the operation.

## C. Detailed Operational Plan



### Shelter and NFI

People targeted: 5,688 People<sup>2</sup>

Male: 1,688

Female: 4,000

Requirements (CHF): 115,197

**Needs analysis:** The immediate shelter needs revolve around the need for local tents and household kits (HHI).

**Population to be assisted:** The target for this sector is 5,688 people, i.e. 948 households, of which only 200 households (1,200 people) will receive emergency shelter tents.

**Programme standards/benchmarks:** Sphere standards will be respected as part of this operation.

P&B Output Code	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	Number of households having received shelter assistance (Target: 948 households, i.e. 5.688 people)															
	Shelter Output 1.1: The affected households receive short-term shelter and settlements assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of detailed evaluations conducted (Target: 1 evaluation)</li> <li>• # of market study conducted (Target: 1 market study)</li> <li>• # of people assisted with emergency shelter kits (Target: 1,200 people, or 200 households)</li> <li>• # of affected people assisted through household kits (Target: 948 households)</li> <li>• # of households benefiting from the distribution of shelter tool kits (Target: 948 households)</li> </ul>															
Activities planned Week / Month		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP005	Multisectoral needs assessment																
AP005	Market analysis for the cash modality																
AP005	Purchase and distribution of 200 Kaima tents 5 X 6 m and accessories for the benefit of 200 affected households																
AP005	Purchase and distribution of plastic mats for the benefit of 948 households, i.e. 3 mats / family																
AP005	Purchase and distribution of blankets for the benefit of 948 households, i.e. 3 blankets / family																

<sup>2</sup>The percentage rate of women is around 70% because of the immigration of men for economic reasons

AP005	Purchase and distribution of kitchen kits for the benefit of 948 households, i.e. 1 kit / household																		
AP005	Shelter tool kits made available by the CCST to 948 households																		
AP005	PDM - distribution monitoring																		
<b>Shelter Output 1.2: Technical support, guidance and awareness raising in safe shelter design and settlement planning and improved building techniques are provided to affected households</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of volunteers mobilized (Target: 20 volunteers)</li> <li>• # of volunteers trained in shelter construction, distribution and awareness raising (Target: 20 volunteers)</li> <li>• # of information meetings organized with the communities (Target: 4 meetings, i.e. 1 per month)</li> </ul>																	
Activities planned Week / Month		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
AP006	Training of 20 volunteers on shelters - distribution and awareness techniques																		
AP006	Registration of beneficiaries																		
AP006	Volunteer deployments awareness raising and distribution of shelters and household items																		
AP006	Continuous support from volunteers to communities on shelter issues																		



### Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 5,688 (948 households)

Male: 1,688

Female: 4,000

Requirements (CHF): 43,137

**Needs analysis:** The immediate need for food is due to the damages occurred on some of the food stocks in the flooded areas.

**Population to be assisted:** The target for this sector is 5,688 people

**Programme standards/benchmarks:** Sphere standards will be respected as part of this operation.

P&B Output Code	<b>Livelihoods and basic needs Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods</b>	Number of households that received shelter assistance (Target: 948 households, or 5.688 people)																	
	<b>Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.1: Skills development and/or productive assets to improve income sources are provided to target population.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of volunteers mobilized (Target: 20 volunteers)</li> <li>• # of handwashing sites installed (Target: 3)</li> </ul>																	
	Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		

AP008	Acquisition and distribution of food for 948 affected households in Bassiknou, Amourj and Adel Bagrou (rice - 25 kg, sugar - 10 kg, oil - 05 litres, beans - 5 kg)																			
AP008	Deployment of 20 volunteers for distribution																			
AP008	PDM after the distribution activities																			



## Health

**People targeted: 5,688 (948 households)**

Male: 1,688

Female: 4,000

**Requirements (CHF): 62,080**

**Needs analysis:** Affected populations need information and protection against possible epidemics.

**Population to be assisted:** The target for this sector is 5,688 people

**Programme standards/benchmarks:** Sphere standards will be respected as part of this operation.

P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 4: Transmission of diseases of epidemic potential is reduced	Number of households having received assistance in the health sector (Target: 948 households, or 5.688 people)															
	Health Output 4.1: Community-based disease control and health promotion is provided to the target population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of mask packs distributed (Target: 200 packs)</li> <li>• # of handwashing sites installed (Target: 3)</li> <li>• # of mosquito nets distributed (Target: 2,844 mosquito nets)</li> <li>• # of health awareness sessions organized (Target: 8 sessions)</li> <li>• # of women and girls who received dignity kits (Target: 4,000 women and girls)</li> <li>• # of volunteers mobilized (Target: 20 volunteers)</li> </ul>															
	Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP011	Purchase and distribution of surgical masks, for protection against COVID-19																
AP011	Installation of 3 hand washing points																
AP011	Organization of awareness-raising activities on water-borne diseases among affected communities																
AP011	Deployment of 20 volunteers for sensitization (8 sessions)																
AP011	Purchase and distribution of dignity kits for 4,000 women for 2 months																
AP019	Training of communities on the installation of LLINs																
AP019	Purchase and distribution of 2,844 mosquito nets for 948 affected households (3 / household)																



## Water, sanitation, and hygiene

People targeted: 5,688 People (948 Households)

Male: 1,688

Female: 4,000

Requirements (CHF): 27,302

P&B Output Code	WASH Outcome1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities	Number of households having received assistance in the WASH sector (Target: 948 households, or 5.688 people)															
	WASH Output 1.1: Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out in targeted communities (for the benefit of 6,000 people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of volunteers trained in WASH (Target: 30 volunteers)</li> <li>• # of people who received water treatment products (Target: 5,688 people)</li> <li>• # of households having received water conservation equipment (Target: 948 households)</li> </ul>															
	Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP026	Train 30 Red Crescent volunteers on WASH in emergency situations	■	■														
AP026	Train target communities on drinking water storage, healthy use of water treatment products			■	■												
AP026	Organization of 8 awareness sessions on water (with demonstrations), sanitation and hygiene, household water treatment, storage, etc.).		■		■		■		■		■		■		■		■
AP026	Design / Printing of IEC material	■	■														
AP026	Purchase and distribution of 17,064 water treatment sachets for 948 households				■	■											
AP026	Purchase and distribution of 15 L buckets with lids (2 / HH) and 20L jerry cans (1 / HH) for 948 households.				■	■											
P&B Output Code	WASH Output 1.2: Contribute to access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of volunteers mobilized for awareness sessions (Target: 20 volunteers)</li> <li>• # of volunteers mobilised for awareness sessions (Target: 20 volunteers)</li> <li>- # of volunteers mobilised in sanitation activities (Target: 30 volunteers, i.e. 10 per branch)</li> <li>- # of local branches having received motorbike pumps (Target: 3 local branches)</li> <li>- # of sanitation sessions organized (Target: 4 sessions, 1 per month)</li> </ul>															
		Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15



P&B Output Code	Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of volunteers trained in CEA (Target: 70 volunteers)</li> <li># of feedback mechanisms setup (Target: 3; one per location)</li> </ul>															
		Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
AP084	Community meeting to validate criteria and lists of beneficiaries																
AP084	Volunteer training on CEA and PGI																
AP084	Implement CEA and PGI guidelines on the ground and in communities																
AP084	Consult communities on their preferred and trusted communication channels through discussion groups																
AP084	Set up a feedback mechanism																
P&B Output Code	Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of security assessments conducted (Target: 1 security assessment)</li> <li># of monitoring missions undertaken by the CCST (Target: 2 monitoring missions)</li> <li># Translation works produced (Target: N/A)</li> <li># of lessons learned workshop (Target: 1 LLW)</li> </ul>															
		Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
AP049	Conduct security assessment in compliance with MSR																
AP049	IFRC Monitoring of activities																
AP049	Translation works																
AP049	Lessons learned lessons workshop																

## D. Budget

The funding required for the implementation of this DREF operation amounts to CHF 352,784 as detailed in the attached budget.

### MDRMR012 - MAURITANIA - FLOODS IN BASSIKNOU

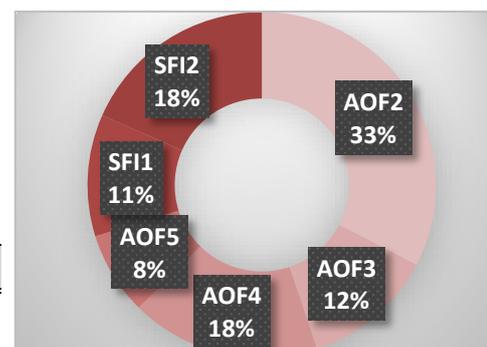
14/09/2020

#### Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Shelter - Transitional	55,945
Clothing & Textiles	18,923
Food	35,706
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	22,696
Utensils & Tools	80,458
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>	<b>213,728</b>
Distribution & Monitoring	9,980
Transport & Vehicles Costs	20,749
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>30,729</b>
International Staff	18,640
National Society Staff	10,580
Volunteers	5,635
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>34,855</b>
Professional Fees	15,594
<b>Consultants &amp; Professional Fees</b>	<b>15,594</b>
Workshops & Training	10,796
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>10,796</b>
Travel	10,652
Information & Public Relations	9,584
Office Costs	4,414
Communications	192
Financial Charges	710
<b>General Expenditure</b>	<b>25,552</b>
DIRECT COSTS	331,252
INDIRECT COSTS	21,531
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>352,784</b>

#### Budget by Area of Intervention

AOF2 Shelter	115,197
AOF3 Livelihoods and Basic Needs	43,136
AOF4 Health	62,080
AOF5 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	27,302
SFI1 Strengthen National Societies	40,110
SFI2 Effective International Disaster Management	64,959
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>352,784</b>



## Contact information

### Reference documents



Click here for:

- Operation Update
- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

[www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)  
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