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Emergency Plan of action (EPoA) Mauritania: Food and Nutritional Insecurity

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency Appeal No. MDRMR011	Glide No. DR-2020-000167-MRT
Date of launch: 17 July 2020	Estimated duration of the operation: 9 months Expected end date: 24 April 2021
Category allocated to the disaster or crisis: Orange	
Funding Requirements: CHF 1,100,000 (DREF allocation: CHF 200,000)	
Total number of persons affected/hit: 609,180 persons including 38,633 persons in target departments considered to be for food insecurity during the lean period (June – September 2020)	Total number of persons to assist: 2,000 households (14,800 persons) in the departments of Barkeol and Ould Yenge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,200 households through the food and nutritional assistance programme • 800 households for which the food sources and livelihoods need to be preserved/protected and consolidated (600 households which are members of women's cooperatives and 200 households which are members of the mothers' clubs)
Presence of the Host national Society No. of volunteers, employees, branches): The Mauritanian Red Crescent is among the most ancient humanitarian organizations in Mauritania. Its creation dates back to 1970. The National Society has 56 committees all over the national territory, 20 staff and 6,000 volunteers.	
Partners of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement actively involved in the operation: IFRC, ICRC, British Red Cross, French Red Cross and the Livelihood Resource Centre.	
Other organizations actively involved in the operation: The Government, WFP, Action contre la faim (ACF), Save The Children and OXFAM	

The Emergency Appeal launched on 27 July seeks a total of some **1.1 Million Swiss francs** to enable the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support the **Mauritania Red Crescent Society (MRC)** to deliver food security assistance and malnutrition prevention support to **14,800 of people for 9 months in the departments of Barkéol and Ould Yenge**, with a focus on the **Livelihoods and Basic needs; Health (nutrition); Disaster risk reduction (DRR), Protection Gender and Inclusion (PGI)**, complemented by National Society strengthening activities.

The food insecurity situation in the targeted area has in turn been worsened by the effects of COVID-19 (closure of borders - regional transhumance -, closure of markets, rise of food prices, etc.). Hence, this Emergency Appeal is launched to address the **humanitarian needs** and support recovery process. The planned phases of emergency response reflect the current situation and information available at this time of the evolving operation and will be adjusted based on further developments and more detailed assessments.

A. Situation analysis

Description of the Disaster

Mauritania is currently faced with a difficult food and nutritional situation which is like the one of 2018. In fact, according to the results of the last harmonized framework of November 2019¹, 609,184 persons are considered to be in severe food insecurity situation (stages 3, 4) during the lean period between June and August 2020. This is the most serious situation witnessed in the country since the Harmonized Framework has been organized/held in Mauritania (2012). In proportion to its population, Mauritania will be among the most affected countries in the Sahel, with a rate of 14.7% i.e., the highest rate all over the West African Region after The Gambia.

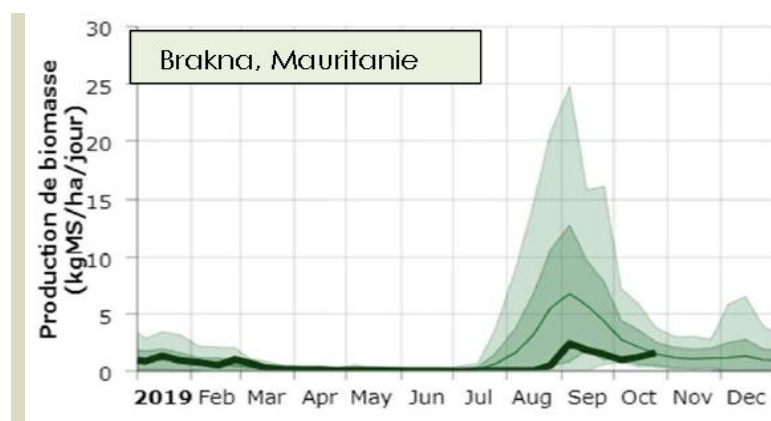
To an already difficult situation which is characterized by recurrent cycles of rainfall deficit, are added the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and mitigation measures taken by the Government, in order to prevent its spread. In addition, the low level of resources mobilized only enabled, up to end of May 2020, to meet only the food needs of 137,000 people out of 609,180 people considered to be in food insecure, living in 16 moughataas (departments) out of the 23 priority ones.

		Population nationale	Ph 3 Crise	Ph 4	Ph 5	Ph 3 à 5
Situation en novembre 2019	Nombre	4 173 047	271 040	28 188	-	299 228
	%		6,5%	0,7%	0,0%	7,7%
		Population nationale	Ph 3 Crise	Ph 4	Ph 5	Ph 3 à 5
Situation projetée juin-sept 2020	Nombre	4 173 047	542 194	66 986	-	609 180
	%		13,0%	1,6%	0,0%	14,6%

Table of the food situation in Mauritania (Source: Harmonized Framework of November 2019)

According to the outcomes of the evaluation made in February 2020 by the Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) with the support of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Livelihood Resource Centre, the British Red Cross (BRC) and the French Red Cross (FRC) in the departments of Barkéol, Modjéria, Mbout and Ould Yenge, the rainfall deficit affects the country's economic security and compromises households' main livelihood activities. In addition, the 2019/2020 agro-pastoral campaign in Mauritania was characterized by a poor space-temporal distribution of the rains and a strong biomass anomaly which led to a drop in agricultural production and a shortage of pasture in most areas of the country.

The biomass analysis conducted in October 2019 (after the rainy period) by ACF indicated a situation comparable to the drought of 2011/2012. Indeed, according to information provided by ACF and the Food & Nutrition Security Working Group (SA&N) (FSNGW), the biomass production observed in late August 2019 was at its lowest level ever recorded since 1998. The situation slightly improved after the late rains and reached levels which were similar to those recorded in 2011 which were nonetheless very worrying. Most affected regions are located in Gorgol, Guidimakha, Brakna, Trarza, Assaba, Hodh El Gharbi.



Biomass profile (as on 22nd October 2019) showing the production for 2019 (thick green line) compared to the average profile (thin green line) as well as to the variability and maximum and minimum levels calculated over the period 1998-2019, (Source ACF. 2019)

¹ It should be noted that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Harmonized Framework could not be carried for the month of March. Therefore, the data from the Harmonized Framework of November 2019 are used as official data for the food situation.

That drought situation resulted in a dramatic food and nutrition crisis which was also characterized by a permanent deterioration of livelihoods all over the country, but more particularly in the departments of Barkéol, Moudjéria, Mbout and Ould Yenge.

In addition, in June 2020, **only 22.4% of population** (137,000 out of 609,180 people) **in food insecurity situation was being assisted** by WFP, STC, ACF, OXFAM. This left a **huge gap in the humanitarian response to address immediate needs**.



Barkéol in Assaba region (February 2020). Source: MRC / IFRC assessment team.

To an already difficult situation which is characterized by recurrent cycles of **rainfall deficit** are added the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and mitigation measures taken by the Government, in order to prevent its spread, such as closure of borders, movement restrictions between regions or the closure of weekly markets, All these measures are impacting on already food-insecure people in the intervention area², either in food access (due to rising basic grain prices³) or in their livelihoods and income sources (for both pastoral and agricultural households due to limited inter-regional transhumance, the rising of prices or the unavailability of agricultural inputs, as well as for households relying on weekly markets and on cross-border trade or on seasonal migration).

Summary of the current response

Overview of the Host National Society's action

The Mauritanian Red Crescent was among the first humanitarian organizations in Mauritania and it was created in December 1970. MRC is represented in all concerned/affected departments through its local committees (56) and its community volunteers (4,000). The National Society (NS) has permanent collaboration ties with all the country's humanitarian actors like UNICEF, WFP, FAO and NGOs. As an auxiliary to the State, the NS plays a special role in its work with various government departments and commissions. In addition, as a member of the RC/RC Movement, the MRC also benefits from the technical and financial support of IFRC, ICRC, the Livelihood Centre and partner National Societies (PNS) such as FRC and BRC.

As defined by its statute, the NS aims to relieve the suffering of populations who are victims of disasters and humanitarian crisis. During the last few years, with the support of the members of the Movement, particularly IFRC and the FRC, MRC carried out several response operations to the food and nutritional crisis while supporting the system of recovery and building of resilience in several regions in Mauritania, notably in Brakna, Tagant, Assaba, Hodh, Gorgol and Guidimagma. Mostly, MRC was an important actor with respect to the 2011-2013 drought plans by participating in them through the launch of emergency food security calls in 2012, 2015 and 2018 and of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) operation in 2017 and 2019.

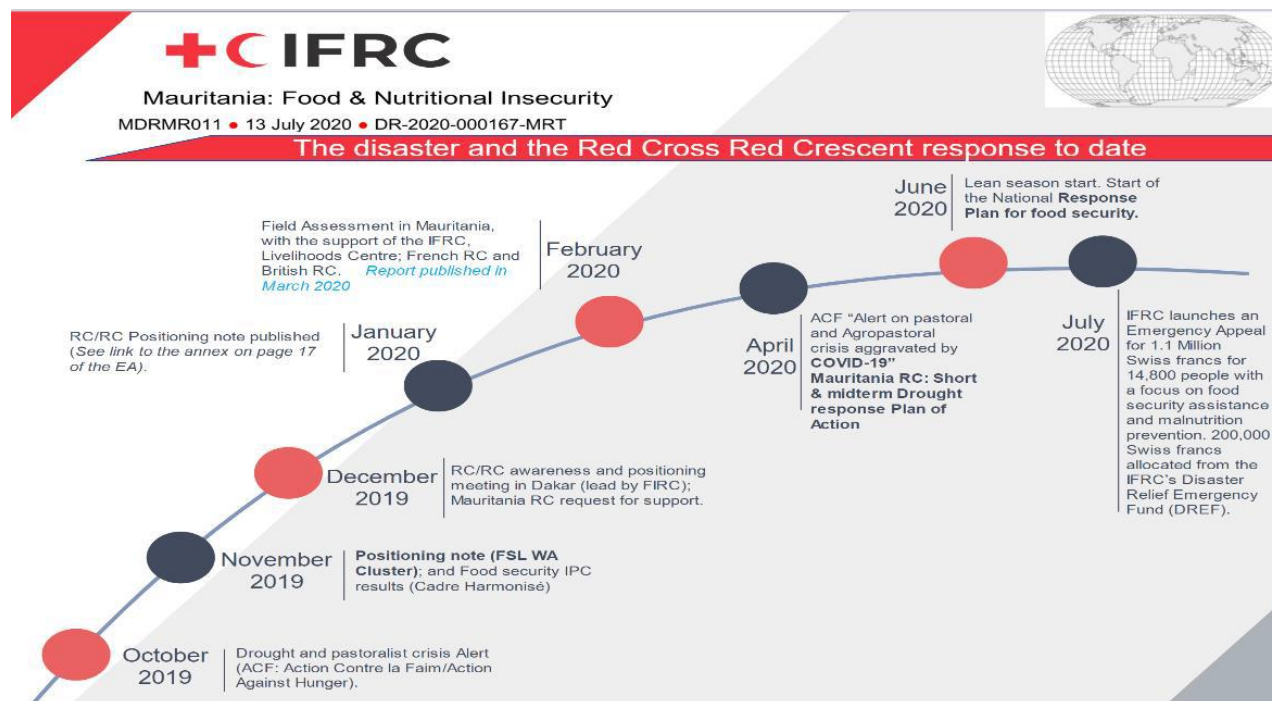
In February 2020, the MRC carried out a [needs assessment](#) of the food and nutritional situation at the community level in four regions of the South, the East and Centre of the country, notably in the departments of **Modjéria in Tagant, Barkeol in Assaba, Mbout in Gorgol and Ould Yenge in Guidimagma**. The purpose of the assessment was to fill information gaps regarding the needs of households affected by droughts. The evaluation was made with the support of MRC's technical and financial partners that belong to the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement (RC/RC Movement),

² According to WFP Country Brief for Mauritania, published in April 2020, "the emergence of COVID-19 are currently threatening lives and livelihoods of thousands of people in Mauritania along with the trading networks they rely on for survival...The potential impact on already food-insecure people is hugely concerning, projecting up to 1.4 million people expected to be in need of assistance during the lean season".

³ Compared to the five-year average, the highest increases in staple cereal prices (over 25%) are observed in Sierra Leone, Senegal, southern Mauritania and the Central African Republic. Source: "Update on the impact of Covid-19 on food and nutrition security in West and Central Africa", WFP.

notably: IFRC as well as its Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC), BRC and FRC. The evaluation was followed by the drafting of the drought response plan by MRC to which they align and comply with.

Furthermore, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in cooperation with the MRC, is working in the Mauritania border with Mali, mainly with Malian refugees and host communities. Under this partnership, the ICRC has launched a budget extension appeal (BEA) for increased funding in the Sahel, including Mauritania, to cope with the cumulative effects of conflict, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic. A close coordination will be established with ICRC to identify synergies between the Emergency Appeal and ICRC BEA operations, so far, no overlap is expected mainly because the areas of intervention are different.



Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in country

Since the beginning of the response MRC and IFRC have led the coordination with other RC/RC actors in the country and in the region (such as French RC, British RC, Livelihoods Resource Centre, Belgium RC, ICRC, etc.), for both short term and medium-long term response, and several actions have been conducted accordingly:

- Position paper about the drought alert and the food insecurity and malnutrition situation (January 2020);
- Food security and livelihoods (FSL) assessment, conducted by MRC and technically or financially supported by FRC, Livelihoods Resource Centre, IFRC and BRC;
- Drought Plan of Action (PoA) definition;
- MRC's FSL surveillance mechanism pilot, supported by LRC, BRC and IFRC
- MRC Drought contingency plan supported by FRC and IFRC
- ICRC BEA

IFRC coordinated the actions in support to the National Society in response to the food crisis and nutritional situation that prevail in the country, notably by involving BRC, FRC and the Livelihood Resource Centre in the evaluation/assessment of the food and nutritional situation at the community level in four regions of the South, the East and Centre of the country and through the development of the **subsequent drought response action plan** which foresees short-term actions to respond to the emergency and long-term actions to ensure populations' resilience capacity.

Short term response	Medium and long term actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Food Assistance through CVA (lean season) ▪ Malnutrition prevention and screening ▪ Community-based FSL & nutrition surveillance & preparedness ▪ Support in food production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Livelihoods recovery and strengthening: agricultural inputs distribution (small ruminants, CC adapted seeds, etc.) ▪ Strengthen resilience to the effects of drought and climate change : Climate-smart livelihoods, livelihoods diversification; water system rehabilitation; fodder production; etc. ▪ Strengthen of productive community-based organizations (production, conservation & processing , market links, credit access) ▪ Preparedness; DRR; EW/EA (FbF)

Main pillars of Mauritania Droughts PoA from the short and the medium and long term

Mauritanian Red Crescent's Drought PoA foresees short-term actions to respond to the food and nutrition emergency (the Emergency Appeal presented in this document is part of the short-term response), and medium and long-term actions to ensure populations' resilience capacity.

As part of the Movement coordination, different actions have been carried out to seek funding for the whole plan of action. Just to highlight three of them:

- Project proposal to US/CDC (IFRC) meant for reinforcing malnutrition prevention and food and nutritional surveillance system (through sentinel sites' and "Mothers' Clubs" approaches) in the department of Barkéol (Assaba region).
- Sentinel sites' pilot (for community-based surveillance of FSL) in Barkeol (10 sites), funded by British RC and IFRC aiming to strengthen the FSL community surveillance/monitoring as part of the national Early Warning System (EWS).
- FbF. FRC intends to carry out a feasibility study on Forecast based Financing (FbF) in the country in order to explore the possibility of developing/adopting a drought early protocol of action as part of the medium to long term response.

Finally, MRC has an ongoing COVID-19 response that creates synergies with the present Emergency Appeal. Main synergies are related to COVID-19 protocols and prevention measures and training of MRC volunteers and staff and the implementation of awareness sessions (based on the materials created in the COVID-19 response); but also, in logistical aspects such as the selection of the financial service provider (FSP) for the cash component of both operations. Continuous coordination will be established between both operations to promote such synergies.

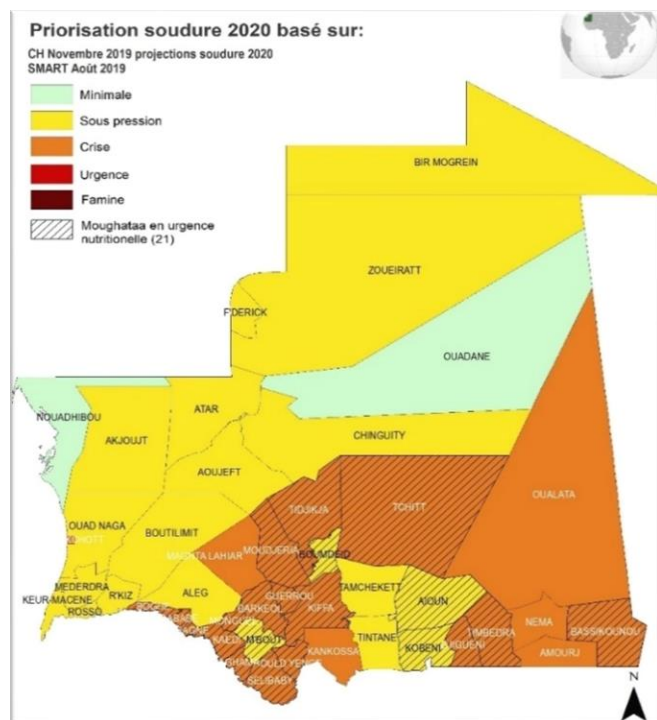
Overview of the Red Cross/Red Crescent's external actors in the country

The Mauritanian government has drafted a National Response Plan (NRP) against the food insecurity and nutritional situation with the support of its partners and of all actors involved in the food security and nutrition sector in the country, including MRC. The 2020 NRP targets 609,180 persons for food and nutritional insecurity. It is used by all the actors when they plan their operations. The Government and the partners have confirmed their positioning in 16 over the 23 priority Departments (in stage 3 as per the Harmonized Framework) in the framework of the response to the 2020 lean period. The number of beneficiaries covered, thanks to currently available funds (June 2020), notably through cash transfers, is estimated at a bit below 137,000 persons out of 609,180 for food insecurity (22.4% of needs).

With respect to coordination activities, the Food Security Commission (CSA) which is the State body in charge of the sector as well as the food security cluster/sectorial group (gSA) are discussion and sharing forums between the actors in view of guaranteeing greater efficiency regarding actions to be carried out. MRC is a member of the Food Security working group (gSA) which meets every month and has as main objectives: to harmonize interventions between partners, including methodology and tools; to share information in term of FSL interventions and to capitalize partners' experiences. This group also covers nutrition sector and the actions framed into the National Response Plan (NRP).

Regarding the **Early Warning System**, there is a coordination platform including the CSA (lead), ACF, WFP, and OXFAM who are part as well of the FSL and Nutrition coordination mechanism.

Needs analysis, selection of the beneficiaries, scenario planning and risks assessment



Map of the prioritization of the Food Insecurity National Response Plan. In the circles, MRC targeted areas.

agriculture and animal husbandry are the main livelihoods for households, the drying up of the land, the reduction of the biomass and hence of grazing areas, as well as the low filling of dams, especially in the commune of Boulahrata (Barkéol) where the dams of Vrekiké and Ouedilemide witness zero filling rate (0%) were the main consequences of the rainfall deficit. This situation had a considerable impact on households' activities, forcing them to make borrowings, i.e. up to 70% of their income sources which cannot but accrue from their livelihoods.

With respect to nutrition, the household's dependence on the purchase of foodstuffs and their income decrease make it difficult for them to access food in sufficient quality and quantity. To this should be added the weak knowledge and application of good nutritional practices⁴. Due to that, households' nutritional situation, mostly children's nutritional status, is deteriorating. In 2019, the country's severe acute malnutrition rate (MAS) was 1.8% which was very close to the critical threshold (> 2%) set by the World Health Organization (WHO). Strong disparities were noted between the regions. In addition, a large part of the population in targeted areas (45%) has a poor or limited food consumption score (SCA). In the Guidimakha region where the Ould Yenge department is located, 83% of the households have a low or poor food consumption score (SCA).

According to the last SMART survey (2019), three of the target departments are among the departments with the highest global acute malnutrition (MAG) rates in the country, which are 20.5%, 18.8% and 17.2% respectively for Barkeol (in Assaba), Mbout (Gorgol) and Ould Yenge (Guidimagha), and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rates of 3.7%, 3.1% and 1.9%⁵.

Needs analysis

The [evaluation/assessment](#) of the food and nutritional situation made in February by MRC (in the departments of Moudjéria in Tagant, Barkeol in Assaba, Mbout in Gorgol and Ould Yenge in Guidimagha), as well as national analyses of the November 2019 Harmonized Framework, highlighted a worrying food and nutritional situation for agro-pastoral populations of the four targeted departments. It is estimated that 68,446 people will be in a food crisis situation during the 2020 lean period (June – September).

The 2019 agricultural period recorded significant production shortfalls in the departments of Moudjéria, Barkeol and Mbout where nearly 70% of the households had no stocks at the end of February. This precipitated the early onset of the lean season in those agro-pastoral areas. Compared with the reference year (2016), in February 2020, only 9.4% of the households depended on their own production as their main source of food compared to 70% in 2016. Due to that situation, households in targeted areas highly depend on markets for their food. 47% of them took loans in order to purchase food and this limited their access to food in enough quantity and good quality. In agro-pastoral areas where

⁴ Source : « Rapport de l'enquête nutritionnelle nationale SMART Août 2019 ».

⁵ The severe acute malnutrition emergency threshold (MAS) set by the World Health Organization (> 2%) is critical when the MAG >15% and/or MAS > 2%.

Table: Prevalence of acute malnutrition and number of malnourished people in the 22 priority moughata (departments). Source: SMART National Nutrition Survey 2019,

Wilaya / Moughataa	Prevalence MAM	Prevalence MAS	Prevalence MAG
HODH EL CHARQUI	10.6	1.8	12.4
Bassiknou	7.4	0.5	7.9
Djigueni	6.8	2.1	8.9
Timbédra	11.5	2.5	14
HODH EL GHARBI	12.2	1.8	14
Aioun	8.1	2	10.1
Kobeni	14.2	1.9	16.1
ASSABA	13.4	2.6	16
Barkéole	16.8	3.7	20.5
Boumdeïd	14.5	2.4	16.9
Guérou	14.5	2.4	16.9
Kankossa	9	1.9	10.9
Kiffa	14.5	2.4	16.9
GORGOL	15.4	2.6	18
Kaedi	15.1	2	17.1
Maghama	15.1	2	17.1
M'Bout	15.7	3.1	18.8
Monguel	15.7	3.1	18.8
BRAKNA	13.7	1.7	15.4
Bababé	14.5	3.3	17.8
Boghé	14.5	3.3	17.8
M'Bagne	14.5	3.3	17.8
TAGANT	9.8	2.4	12.2
Moudjéria	11.5	2.5	14
Tichit	11.5	2.5	14
Tidjikja	8.3	2	10.3
GLUIDIMAKHA	14.1	2.9	17
Ould Yenge	15.3	1.9	17.2
Sélibaby	13.7	2.9	16.6
Total	9.4	1.8	11.2

Most **vulnerable households** are facing **severe food insecurity** and a **deterioration of their nutritional status** which resulted from the decrease or even loss of their livelihoods. In light of the above-described situation, which is a direct consequence of drought, the households' priority needs consist of:

- **Emergency Food assistance** meant for enabling most affected households to benefit from food in sufficient quantity and quality as well as for alleviating their recourse to borrowing, selling of productive assets or other negative coping mechanisms.
- The **prevention and referring of cases of malnutrition** by specifically targeting children from 6 to 23 months and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) through the distribution of enriched flour and the promotion of good nutrition practices.
- **Distribution of cattle feeds** to protect their animal capital and limit systematic sales of



MRC volunteer assessing drought impact, Barkéol (February 2020).

animals until the beginning of the rainy season.

- **Support to farmers** through the supply of agricultural inputs, the rehabilitation of dikes and technical supervision to prepare for the forthcoming agricultural campaign (2020).
- **Support for the upgrade of market gardening perimeters** through technical support and inputs to women's cooperatives for the production of off-season vegetables to reduce their dependence on rain-fed agriculture.
- Creation of an **FSL and Nutrition surveillance system** to anticipate and respond early to drought crisis.

The needs analysis reveals that the drought impacts different groups within the community (women, men, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities), their livelihoods and food sources⁶. With respect to food consumption, groups which are most vulnerable to malnutrition are children under the age of five-year-old and pregnant or lactating/breastfeeding women.

In addition, the **COVID-19 impact** of preventive measures has further aggravated the situation of the most vulnerable households, which rely, among other strategies, on seasonal migration of young to cities or neighboring countries.

Targeting

In the framework of the drought emergency response, MRC envisages to assist the departments of Barkeol and Ould Yenge which are two of the departments targeted by the MRC/ IFRC/FRC joint evaluation/assessment and where no other actor has activities.

This Emergency Appeal aims at bridging the gap between immediate and long-term needs and is targeting **2,000 vulnerable households**: 1,200 households for food security and nutrition support through cash-based intervention and 800 households for livelihoods support.

With respect to food and nutritional assistance:

- **1,200 households during 4 months** of lean, i.e. 8,880 persons⁷, including 410 children who are between 6 and 23 months old and 275 pregnant or breast-feeding women in view of preventing malnutrition.

In the framework of response activities for the surveillance/monitoring, protection and initial recovery of livelihoods⁸

- **600 households** shared in 20 women's cooperatives (with around 25-30 members each) through the distribution of agricultural inputs and the implementation of collective garden protection activities to protect and strengthen their food and income sources.
- 10 villages in the Barkeol with the setting up of FSL surveillance/monitoring facilities based on the sentinel sites approach existing in Mauritania, as well as **200 women (200 households)** who are members of 10 Mothers' Clubs⁹ (20 women/club).

Targeting criteria will be a combination of criteria following CSA and gSA recommendations, including **socio-economic and FSL impact** criteria (HEA: Household Economy Approach methodology); the use of the **Unified Social Register** for demographic prioritization; and the CODEP (Departmental Committee) for **geographic prioritization**.

Through an analysis of the livelihoods and survival strategies of households targeted by the community (HEA/HES methodology), a ranking into 4 groups will be made (the "Very poor", the "Poor", the "Medium" and the "Better off"). Households ranked as "Very poor" will be the target group of this action, by prioritizing, where appropriate, households with children under 23 months old, single-parent households or households with a high dependency ratio (number of active people divided by total number of members), and mainly those headed by women, persons with disabilities or older people.

⁶ The situation and impact assessment show that households headed by women have suffered a greater impact on their sources of income and food. In this sense, we highlight three indicators: 1) the food consumption score is more critical (69% of HH and 73% of HH with limit and weak consumption respectively, are headed by women); 2) food stock: food stocks are lower in HH lead by women (80% of households that do not have food stock are headed by women); 3) coping strategy index (CSI): the use of coping strategies is higher in households headed by women (69.7% of households that use crisis strategies are headed by women).

⁷ In average, the households in the two departments are households that have more than 6 people (around 70% have an average of 8 people) and between 5 and 6 people (estimate of 30% of the households)

⁸ Cattle feed supply was excluded from the support for livelihoods protection given that the start of the rainy season is planned for June and July.

⁹ Details of the approach are given in Part B «Strategy of the operation»

Scenario planning

Scenario	Trends	MRC's operation and impact
scenario 1	Thanks to the timely mobilization of resources, drought-impacted households benefit from food assistance that enables them to cover their basic food needs and doesn't adopt negative coping mechanisms that have an impact on their nutritional situation and livelihoods.	The needs of populations affected by the food and nutritional crisis are covered up to the forthcoming agricultural campaign. MRC contributes to the drought national response on the same basis as the other actors and reinforces its positioning.
scenario 2	Late/delayed mobilization of resources, with assistance during the advanced lean period (start one or two months after the lean period) which limits the impact of food assistance, with increased vulnerability and poorer nutritional status.	Funds collected can cover part of the basic needs of the households. MRC contributes to the drought national response.
scenario 3	Very late mobilization of very limited resources (insufficient) coinciding with a very advanced food and nutritional crisis as well as with high degradation of livelihoods.	MRC can only cover a limited number of households. MRC is late in its response and families in the most vulnerable situations, due to the lack of timely assistance, resort to negative coping strategies with serious effects on people's health and dignity, which are difficult to reverse.

The operation risks assessment

Related to security risks, Mauritania remains stable, notably in target(ed) operation areas which are accessible via road networks. At the country level, crime levels are moderate but steadily increasing.

Infrastructure is poor, including in the capital Nouakchott. The conditions of paved roads in Mauritania are generally poor, and overland travel is difficult. The porous nature of borders in the Sahel region - of which Mauritania is a part - means extremist groups can, and do, operate across borders and carry out attacks anywhere in the region. Landmines pose a risk along the border with the disputed territory of Western Sahara (Morocco).

Yet, the most probable risk of impacting the implementation of operations remains the COVID-19 health crisis which has been prevailing in the country since March 2020. Due to the pandemic, the Mauritanian Government has taken restrictive measures to limit/curb its propagation. Since June 2020 movement restrictions between regions have been lifted. As for MRC, it has developed a risk management plan which provides for all potential scenarios and measures to take with respect to all the scenarios.

Related to COVID-19 and other health risks, it is important to highlight that malaria is present in all areas of Mauritania except in the northern regions of Dakhlet-Nouadhibou and Tiris-Zemour, with higher risk during the rainy season from July through October. Medical facilities are extremely limited, particularly outside Nouakchott and Nouadhibou, where lack of communications makes dealing with an emergency very difficult.

Situation	Consequences	Adaptation measures
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>COVID-19 cases have increased since the start of the pandemic, mostly in Nouakchott.</p> <p>The propagation is under control.</p>	<p>Spread prevention measures are included throughout the country, but restrictions of movement between regions have been removed.</p> <p>Limitations are maintained for movement between countries by land border.</p>	<p>The project's stakeholders awareness-raising on the COVID-19 spread prevention measures. All planned training sessions will include key elements on prevention and necessary protective measures.</p> <p>Lighten the implementation procedures and in particular targeting and avoid village assemblies, just limit to targeting committees.</p> <p>Respect the rules of social distancing throughout the distribution process.</p> <p>Equip implementation teams with the appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE) and install necessary hygiene devices (handwashing and disinfection kits) at distribution sites.</p>
<p>Probable scenario:</p> <p>The virus spread/propagation remains under control in the country, with the upsurge of isolated cases of contamination and the situation will return to normal by December 2020</p>	<p>The authorities maintain the same restrictive measures with the partial isolation of most affected areas.</p>	<p>Increase the measures for the sensitizing and training on the prevention of the virus spread.</p> <p>All planned training sessions will include key elements of prevention and appropriate protection measures.</p> <p>Coordination with local authorities in view of facilitating the access to confined areas and for more remote guidance/referrals for lighter targeting.</p> <p>Lighten/simplify implementation procedures, particularly targeting, and avoid village assemblies, just limit to targeting committees.</p> <p>Comply with physical distancing rules throughout the distribution process.</p> <p>Equip implementation teams with personal protection equipment and stock/provide necessary hygiene provisions (handwashing and disinfection kits) at distribution sites.</p> <p>Distributions of cash for food assistance (and fortified flours) can be done in form by increasing the quantities distributed during each distribution session to limit the number and therefore reduce the risks associated with COVID-19 (for example two slices in one distribution).</p>
<p>Worst case scenario:</p> <p>Increase of contamination cases, the virus spread/propagation will become more and more uncontrollable and the situation remains abnormal up to end 2020.</p>	<p>Increase of measures of restriction and ban on persons' movements of persons all over the national territory so that they last longer during the day (extension of the curfew).</p>	<p>Double/increase awareness-raising efforts to guarantee compliance with containment measures and prevent the spread of the virus.</p> <p>Take into account the economic vulnerabilities linked to the spread of the Virus. This consists of distributing cash outside the lean period for vulnerable households.</p> <p>Take necessary measures for fabricating products equivalent to flour in the event of unavailability on the local market through the training of members of mothers' clubs.</p> <p>Simplify implementation procedures as much as possible and work through village leaders and implementation partners (FSP).</p>

Situation	Consequences	Adaptation measures
		<p>Comply with physical distancing rules throughout the distribution process.</p> <p>Provide implementation teams with appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE) and install necessary hygiene sets/devices at distribution sites.</p> <p>Cash distribution sessions for food assistance schemes (and fortified flours) may be done in form by increasing the quantities distributed during each distribution session to limit the number and therefore reduce the risks associated with COVID-19 (for example two slices in a single distribution)</p>

COVID-19 Response

On 31 January 2020, IFRC launched a global [Emergency Appeal](#) (further revised in February, March and May 2020) to support its worldwide membership to deliver assistance and support to communities affected or at risk of being affected by the COVID-19 outbreak with three IFRC wide operational priorities:

- Health, Water, Hygiene and Sanitation;
- Socio-Economic Impact;
- National Society Strengthening.

The global Emergency Appeal has a strong focus on National Society institutional preparedness in line with the changing humanitarian landscape due to the continuous and evolving challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Emergency Appeal focuses on ensuring the development of effective and relevant guidance to ensure that ongoing activities will factor in these new risks. As auxiliaries to public authorities, Red Cross and Red and Crescent National Societies are playing a strong role in supporting national COVID-19 response focused on preparedness, containment, and mitigation against the pandemic. Focus is also given to supporting National Societies to maintain critical service provision to people affected by humanitarian crises through new and ongoing Emergency Appeals while adapting to COVID-19. This includes ensuring the health and safety of staff and volunteers and developing plans specifically for emergency health service provision. As such, the National Society actions dedicated to COVID-19 and those conducted through new or ongoing operations will be mutually beneficial and built upon programmatic synergies. IFRC continues to assess and adapt its emergency operations in response to disasters and crisis and continues to provide necessary and updated guidance to its membership. The IFRC revised global Emergency Appeal complements both the UN Global Humanitarian Response Plan and is linked to the Strategic Preparedness and Response (SRP) Appeal of the World Health Organization (WHO), launched in February and the WHO revised strategy from April 2020 to support countries to improve their prevention and response.

WHO confirmed the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic, on 11 March 2020 and the number of cases continue to increase in Africa although at a relatively slower rate than other regions. The targeted country has already taken international and domestic travel restrictions which, alongside other variables are expected to impact the timeline and implementation of activities of the operation. The strategies envisaged in this Emergency Appeal will need to be reviewed concurrently with COVID-19 prevention strategies to ensure the compatibility and to maximize synergies. Up to date information on the activities of the supported National Society as part of the national COVID-19 response and covered outside of this revised appeal is available on the [IFRC GO Platform](#).

The COVID-19 operation led by the MRC integrates, as per the global RC/RC response, the three main priorities: health, water, hygiene and sanitation; socio-economic support to the most vulnerable families directly and indirectly affected by the pandemic and the strengthening of the NS.

Among other activities, Mauritanian Red Crescent (within the consortium composed of MRC, the French Red Cross and the Italian NGO -CISP-) has set up a project to assist COVID-19 patients confined at the University Centre of Nouakchott. This assistance consists of setting up hygiene activities, psychosocial support, an adult communication area and a children's play area. Also, as part of the socio-economic impact pillar, the MRC carried out a mission at the Kiffa department, to assess the consequences of COVID-19 on the livelihoods of vulnerable communities. MRC response will provide support to the targeted communities through basic needs assistance and livelihoods strengthening activities.

B. Operational Strategy

The operation will be carried out in the departments of Barkéol and Ould Yenge. It will comprise food and nutrition assistance activities accompanied by actions meant for preserving the livelihoods of most vulnerable households, raising populations' awareness and monitoring the food and nutritional situation.

The overall purpose of the operation is to help to guarantee the food and nutritional situation of 1,200 households and to preserve the livelihoods of 800 households hit by the bad effects of the drought.

The **specific objectives** are:

- Provide a humanitarian response to the food insecurity and nutritional situation of 1,200 households (representing 8,800 persons) that belong to the most vulnerable population by covering their food and nutritional needs during four months, up to the forthcoming harvests.
- Prevent malnutrition for 685 children who are between the age of 6 and 23 months and PLW for most vulnerable households which are affected by the food insecurity situation.
- Contribute to the protection and reinforcement of the food and income sources for 20 women's cooperatives made up of between 25 and 30 women (about 600 most vulnerable households) through technical assistance/guidance and the distribution of agricultural inputs and of products for the protection of collective farms.
- Guarantee the setting up of a pilot project (10 sites) for the food and nutritional situation surveillance/monitoring notably through the setting up of sentinel sites and mothers' clubs at the community levels for a total of 200 women.
- Draft a drought contingency plan to provide for all the scenarios of the evolution of the situation and take timely appropriate alleviation measures.

Proposed strategy

MRC through its sectorial themes will **ensure a collective response to most severe needs of affected population; linking the response to durable solutions (Drought PoA)**. There should be strong linkage between humanitarian service points and branch development/National Society Development (NSD). Therefore, the mixed range of activities-cash-based intervention, women empowerment, mothers club, livelihoods and nutrition should be linked-up with branch development and NSD to localise the actions, sustain connection built with government, service providers and partners to support the longer-term programming. This acknowledges risks and mitigation measures to reflect on and improve financial management, procurement, security, National Society operational capacity about the performance and profiling of the Movement wide approach.

The operation will focus on the following pillars of intervention:

Food security assistance

An immediate food and basic needs assistance to provide a humanitarian response to the food insecurity and nutritional situation of **1,200 households** (8,800 persons) that belong to the most vulnerable population groups by covering their **food and nutritional needs during four months**, up to the forthcoming harvests.

The immediate response aims to provide food assistance through **multipurpose - unconditional cash transfers**, with a frequency of monthly disbursement for 4 months. The amount of cash and vouchers assistance (CVA) will be aligned with the size of the household (in order to cover the 2100 kcal per person per day) and will depend on the conditions recommended by the NRP¹⁰.

The operation contributes to the **Mauritanian food insecurity National Response Plan**, covering 22.7% of the population in need (IPC phases 3 and 4) of two of the most severely impacted departments (moughataas).

¹⁰ In accordance with the proposal of the technical team led by the cash alliance, the NRP (National Response Plan) has established that the food assistance modality will be through unconditional cash transfers: with a variable amount depending on the size of the household, as follows:

- Category A from 1 to 3 persons that will receive the amount for 2 persons, i.e. $450 \times 2 = 900$ MRU
- Category B from 4 to 6 persons that will receive the amount for 5 persons, i.e. $450 \times 5 = 2\,250$ MRU
- Category C from 7 to 9 persons that will receive the amount for 8 persons, i.e. $450 \times 8 = 3\,600$ MRU
- Category D from 10 persons and more that will receive the amount for 12 persons, i.e. $450 \times 12 = 5\,400$ MRU.

It should be noted that in average, in target(ed) departments, households who belong to very poor (VP) socioeconomic groups are households that have more than 6 members/HH (about 70% have an average of 8 members/HH) and between 5 and 6 persons (estimate for 30% of the households).

Région	Département	Population	Priorité	Population totale en Phase 3	Population totale en Phase 4	Population totale en Phase 3 à 5	Couverture assistance urgence	% couverture	Partenaires
Assaba	Barkéwol	94.807	3	17.065	3.792	20.857	3.556	17,0%	PAM
Guidimakha	Ould yengé	80.796	3	16.159	1.616	17.775	6.451	36,3%	PAM, ACF
Total		175.602				38.633	10.007	25,9%	

The coordination with CSA as well as with local authorities (Mayors, Perfects/Divisional Officers, etc.) and community authorities of departments concerned, will be ensured throughout the operation. Furthermore, coordination activities with stakeholders and the harmonization of the actions nation-wide will be required at all levels, including for the selection of households, the duration of assistance and operation mechanisms.

To guarantee the efficiency and effectiveness of the response, MRC will conduct:

- A feasibility study of cash transfers will be made by MRC to determine if required conditions for CVA are met¹¹.
- Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) after each distribution, to assess the distribution process (and adapt it if necessary) and assess the use of CVA and their impact. The choice of respondents will be random on a sample of at least 10% of the target. This evaluation will collect feedback on the use of cash by beneficiaries, their satisfaction with the distribution, appreciation of the approach to the operation, etc.
- Market price monitoring: MRC volunteers will also monitor prices (for 4 months) on local markets in view of covering essential needs and make corrections if necessary.
- Targeting, market analysis and monitoring surveys will be administered by volunteers through the use of ODK-Kobo.

Nutrition

Like with food assistance, nutrition-related activities are harmonized with the approach of the Food Security technical group.

The Emergency Appeal will contribute to **prevent malnutrition for 410 children of age 6-23 months and 275 pregnant or lactating women**, for most vulnerable households which are affected by the food insecurity situation, through:

- **Screening and referral:** community-based screening sessions will be held during cash transfer distribution activities. Further to screening sessions, suspected SAM and MAM children will be immediately referred to CRENAM and CRENAS health facilities¹² for management purposes. Those children will be monitored in the framework of home-visit activities that include awareness-raising activities for parents on essential nutritional actions.
- **Nutritional monitoring:** To guarantee the monitoring of the nutritional situation in the framework of the community surveillance mechanism, a mass screening will be made for all children in targeted areas of the community sentinel sites project. That mass screening activity, in collaboration with Health Centres and other actors working in the intervention area, will be carried out at the early stages of the activities to determine the baseline (situation) and do the mapping for risk areas. The same action will be repeated twice per year: during the lean period and in the post-harvest period.
- **Malnutrition prevention:** beyond the cash transfer schemes, awareness-raising and nutritional education sessions will be carried out during the distribution of fortified flours and Nutritional supplements to PLW and children aged 6 to 23 months.

Like with food assistance, nutrition-related activities are harmonized with the approach of the Food Security technical group. Nutrition-related activities will start during the lean season (July to September/October) and will continue all over the operation.

¹¹ At this stage of the response, the feasibility analysis is limited to the acceptance of target community and prices monitoring. The MRC is in contact with the other actors in the intervention areas (WFP, OXFAM, etc.), who ensure the viability of CVA's basic aspects such as the availability of a valid mechanism / FSP, availability of commodities on the market, acceptance by the authorities, etc.

It is worth noting that MRC is implementing a two-year capacity building programme in cash and vouchers assistance (CVA), financed by the British RC and in technical and administrative partnership with the French RC.

¹² CRENAM : Nutritional Ambulatory Recovery Centre for Moderate Cases (Centre de Récupération Nutritionnelle Ambulatoire pour cas Modérées); CRENAS : Nutritional Ambulatory Rehabilitation Centre for Severe Cases (Centre de Réhabilitation Nutritionnelle Ambulatoire pour cas Sévères)

Protection and initial recovery of livelihoods

The Emergency Appeal implemented by the MRC will contribute to **supporting vulnerable households through protecting and strengthening their food and/or income sources**. Needs will be addressed through:

- Supporting 20 women cooperatives to strengthen and protect their source of food and incomes in Barkeol and Ould Yenge
- Creating 10 Mothers' Clubs in Barkeol

Women cooperatives

MRC will support 20 women's cooperatives (composed of between 25 and 30 women on average, that means about **600 households**) in Barkéol and Ould Yenge. This support will consist of: technical assistance/coaching in agricultural and climate-smart good practices; and the distribution of agricultural and protection inputs for their market gardening (during the off season) as a **diversified food and livelihood source**.

Mothers' Clubs

In Barkeol department, linked with the implementation of sentinel sites approach (*see next point*), MRC will set up **10 Mothers Clubs** and as a holistic approach that promotes resilience, which will be involved in:

- Awareness-raising on food, nutrition and on good hygiene practices;
- Nutritional monitoring through screening and monitoring of the food security situation.
- Creation of collective income-generating activities.

The **Mothers' Clubs (CdM) approach** is a holistic RCRC Movement approach integrated into several National Societies in the region, including the Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC). They are groups of around 20-25 women, volunteers and supporters of the RC/RC Movement principles. This approach includes three main axes:

- The completion of community-based activities (mostly awareness raising).
- The contribution to common funds: solidarity and health fund (CSS) and the savings and credit fund (VSLA).
- The adherence of members to the principles and values of the RC/RC Movement, volunteering in particular.

The above three components can supplement each other with the development of collective economic initiatives.

In the framework of this Emergency Appeal, all Mother's Clubs to be created will integrate all mentioned components: awareness-raising and community activities; savings and loans schemes to allow women access to finance in an easy and affordable way, and the development of income-generating activities (IGA) to promote women economic emancipation. All activities will be accompanied by training to ensure ownership and sustainability of the approach.

Food Security and livelihoods surveillance (EWS)

MRC will contribute to the national **Early Warning System in FSL**¹³, as a measure to **anticipate and prevent the effects of drought** (and other crises), through the setting up of **10 sentinel sites**.

These 10 **sentinel sites** (which will conduct the community-based **food security surveillance**) will be created in the department of Barkeol (with at least one sentinel site per commune) as per the implementation methodology of CSA and its international partners WFP and ACF.

Barkéol department has a population of around 94,000 persons. The sentinel sites will be set up at representative sites so that all the municipalities in the departments will be covered. The criteria for site selection (as per the CSA's and partners methodology) include the demographic size of the village, the distance to the market, mobile network, etc.

Since May 2020, Mauritanian RC has been working (within the framework of the IFRC-British RC promotion of EWS in FSL¹⁴), on a pilot phase for setting up sentinel sites, starting with the definition of the methodology for targeting sites and community relays. The selection and training of the management teams for the sentinel sites are planned for the month of June-July. The implementation of this pilot responds to the national and regional strategy meant for

¹³ Within the framework of this EA, the scope includes primarily strengthening the existing National Early Warning System (SAP), including the department of Barkeol within the coverage area of that system. MRC's Drought PoA develops this component by integrating the Early Action part (EW/EA) through the FbF project that French RC plans to develop with funds from British RC.

¹⁴ In the Sahel region, IFRC and British RC (together with other RCRC partners, such as the Livelihoods Centre or French RC), are promoting the creation and strengthening of food security & livelihoods Early Warning Systems (SAP, in French) as a regional strategic approach.

strengthening the MRC's capacity to prepare and anticipate the response to food insecurity situations and drought-related crisis.

Drought contingency plan

Within the framework of the Emergency Appeal, and with the support (technical/financial) of French RC and IFRC, MRC will develop a **drought contingency plan** which will enable the National Society to monitor and anticipate the different possible scenarios, more precisely the evolution of the FSL and Nutrition situation, and to define what would be the most appropriate actions that MRC would be able to implement when such scenario shows up.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion¹⁵ (PGI)

The duration of the crisis, and the time of exposure to the lack of means to provide families with essential needs, has put extra pressure on the heads of households, especially in the case of single-parent households or households with a high dependency ratio, and mainly those headed by women, persons with disabilities and older people, with a greater workload or fewer resources to respond to household needs. Face to this situation MRC will assess these cases to prioritize them as a target group and include protection support actions, when necessary. MRC will rely on partners experience, training and support to ensure inclusion measures within the whole operation.

Operation's livelihoods activities are mainly addressed to women. Mother's Club is an approach that promotes, among others, women economic empowerment, inclusion and increase of women participation in community activities, and a way to give sustainability to community-based actions (nutrition screening, awareness, etc.). All the sectors including livelihood and basic needs, health, DRR will mainstream PGI and seek to meet the minimum standards of protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies.

COVID-19 prevention measures and awareness

Furthermore, and in the framework of the COVID-19, risk management measures, physical distancing and other prevention measures (such as handwashing and PPE) will be included alongside the operation. MRC will follow both National and RCRC recommendations, as well as conduct awareness campaigns (meant to protect stakeholders and communities) on **preventive measures against the spread of COVID-19** will be organized together with the other operation's activities, and particularly during training and nutrition awareness-raising sessions. Consequently, and to facilitate access to hygiene services, handwashing devices will be set up at each distribution site.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA): MRC will ensure that the already developed CEA tools (during 2018 Food Security Emergency Appeal) are adopted and used during the whole response (needs assessment, targeting, inclusion/exclusion mechanism, gather community information, community feedback, etc.). The community will be actively participating in the various stages of the operation, particularly in targeting through the village committees that will be set up, but also in conducting nutrition awareness-raising activities and monitoring of the food and nutritional situation through the establishment of mothers' clubs and sentinel sites. The objective is to place the communities at the center of the operation, to consider them as experts and partners and not as helpless victims.

Communication strategy: MRC and IFRC will collaborate to implement a communication strategy emphasizing on (i) international advocacy on the prevailing food insecurity situation in Mauritania, (ii) communication on the activities of the operation at local, national and international level, (iii) communication and advocacy in the medium-long term Drought PoA. Communication, advocacy and community awareness materials will be developed, as part of this strategy, to make the actions of the MRC and the IFRC visible through the writing and production of articles, press releases, testimonials, flyers, photos and videos to be disseminated across broadcast and print media, as well as IFRC and broader Red Cross Red Crescent social media channels.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER): MRC with the support of IFRC cluster office will ensure compliance with expected deliverables and reporting requirements. In addition to the project teams in the field, an IT-Kobo analyst will conduct regular missions in the field and will support project teams on gathering and analyzing project information. The IFRC PMER team will work closely with MRC to facilitate internal reviews, operation updates, lessons learnt sessions, etc.

Human resources: MRC has proposed adequate structures at both national and branch levels to ensure effective delivery of planned activities. This includes a Programme Coordinator based in Nouakchott, two field teams (one for

¹⁵ PGI component only encompasses some training to MRC volunteers for the time being. This activity is budgeted under SFI 1 instead of the PGI AoF (and as a result no funds have been included under the PGI AoF component)

each department) composed of one field coordinator/supervisor, two technical assistants (CVA and FSL and nutrition), one financial/log assistant and one driver; and an HQ-based support team which includes: FSL, WASH & volunteers focal points, and financial and logistic assistants and an IT-Kobo analyst.

To complement available skills technical support will be delivered by IFRC (finances, logistic, PMER, FSL, etc.). IFRC will also recruit an Operations Manager for 5 months to be based in Nouakchott and will deploy two RDRTs (one specialized in CVA and the second specialized in FSL & nutrition -RDRT will support for 4 and 3 months respectively-). PNS and the Livelihoods Resource Centre will support also technically in some areas such as CVA, Mothers' Club, nutrition or DRR. Surge deployments for technical support would be considered if needed.

Finance and Logistics: Financial resources will be safeguarded by high quality financial and administrative practices supported and monitored by the National Societies and IFRC Cluster finance staff. Compliance with IFRC logistics and financial procedures will be observed. Continuous monitoring and technical support will be provided by IFRC to ensure that agreed standards are met including the FSP procurement process.

MRC will rent two vehicles available in the areas of operation and the IFRC will provide additional support (2 during the firsts 5 months and 1 till the end of the operation). Two office bases will be rented in both target departments and the appropriate IT equipment purchased (computers, printers, smartphones for carrying out surveys with ODK/Kobo).

Security: Related to security risk, Mauritania remains stable, notably in target(ed) operation areas which are accessible via road networks.

At the country level, crime levels are moderate but steadily increasing. Infrastructure is poor, including in the capital Nouakchott. The conditions of paved roads in Mauritania are generally poor, and overland travel is difficult. The porous nature of borders in the Sahel region - of which Mauritania is a part - means extremist groups can, and do, operate across borders and carry out attacks anywhere in the region. Landmines pose a risk along the border with the disputed territory of Western Sahara (Morocco). To reduce the risk of RCRC personnel falling victim to crime, violence or road hazards active risk mitigation measures must be adopted. This includes situation monitoring and implementation of minimum-security standards. All RCRC personnel actively involved in the operations must have completed the respective IFRC security e-learning courses (i.e. Stay Safe Personal Security, Security Management, or Volunteer Security).

Alarming signs of situational degradation noted in SAHEL in general particularly in Mali to IO/INGO and Inter-Governmental Agencies active in Sahel / Lake Chad Basin. Special security advisory has been issued along the protocol and circulated in Sahel sub-cluster. The Regional Security Unit has been monitoring the situation in the Sahel with particular focus on risk reduction and risk mitigation in support of operations, staff, personnel and assets.

The areas of the operation are relatively low-risk areas, but the MRC will put in place security rules and will take measures to allow the implementation of the operation without difficulties. The accessibility of the targeted areas is linked to the road conditions. The majority of drivers pay little attention to traffic laws. Within larger Mauritanian cities, low-speed traffic accidents are common, resulting in minor injuries to people and superficial damage to vehicles. Travel between major cities can also be dangerous. Travel between cities during the night is not allowed, all movements should be done between 0600 and 1730. Travel between cities must be done with two vehicles because of the risk of breakdown or accident. The use of GPS is strongly advised because the road connections are mainly sand tracks in some areas of the country, there are few paved roads or direction signs, being very easy even for local drivers to get lost. The only exception for travelling with two cars is when there is a plan of travel with access to a second car in a time frame inferior to 2 hours.

All RC/RC visitors planning travel outside of Nouakchott must bring a satellite phone (recommended iridium), spare tires, gas, and adequate food and water should their vehicle break down. Despite GSM net is fair country wide an alternative communication system must be in place and radio it is not an option because there are no radio rooms covering all the country within the RC Movement.

All RCRC personnel actively involved in the operations must have completed the respective IFRC security e-learning courses (i.e. Stay Safe Personal Security, Security Management, or Volunteer Security).

The following has to be taken into consideration during deployments and travels on missions:

At the stage of initiating the operational presence: MRC compliance process must be conducted through security assessment process. Operational security regulatory documents and contingency plans will be developed.

Taking in to account the distances between head office and operational sites there needs to be vehicle(s) equipped with HF radio stations and one base station at HQ monitored by radio operator.

To provide adequate security support to the scaling up of the operation as well as extend further support to the Sahel Cluster there is a need for a delegate deployment for an initial 2 months.

Movement Coordination and Cooperation: Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation is one of the key points in the response plan and in the Mauritanian RC Droughts PoA. Since the beginning of the response, MRC and IFRC have led the coordination with other RC/RC actors in the country and in the region (such as French RC, British RC, Livelihoods Centre, Belgium RC, ICRC, etc.), for both short term and medium-long term response.

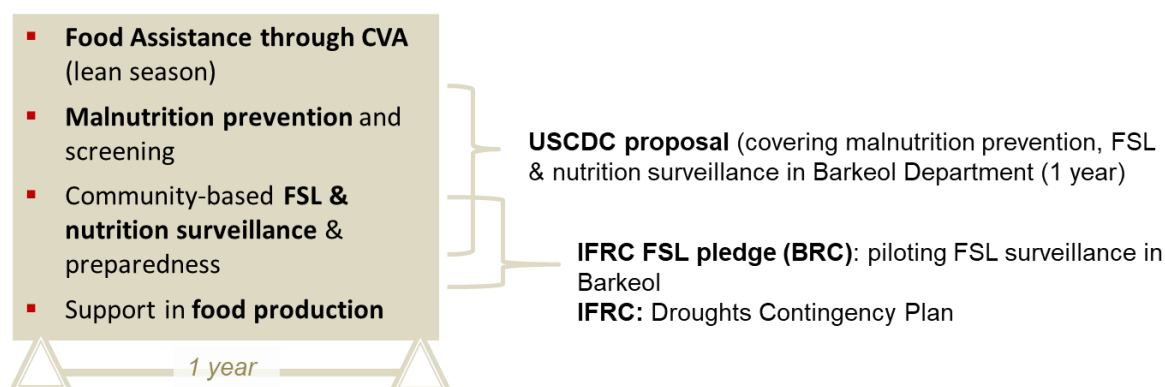
For this Emergency Appeal, coordination and cooperation will be guaranteed through the participation and support from IFRC CCST and other MRC's partners, remote support and field missions have been included in the budget to guarantee the quality of the support.

Funding

For the implementation of that operational plan, MRC with the support of the partners, reckons with funds which are already available or requested, such as:

- GT-SAME¹⁶ Pledge financed by BRC and IFRC: covering the piloting of the sentinel sites approach.
- Drought contingency plan (for MRC): funded by the IFRC Dakar CCST.
- US/CDC proposal (submitted in April 2020): supporting the response on malnutrition prevention and response; nutrition and FSL surveillance in the department of Barkeol over a period of 12 months.

Short term response



¹⁶ Groupe Technique – SAME (Sécurité alimentaire et Moyens d'existence): The Food Security and Livelihoods Technical Group that gathers the 10 national societies of the Sahel + area (Burkina-Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Chad)

C. Detailed plan of the operation



Livelihoods and Basic needs

Target(ed) persons: 2,000 households (14,800 persons)

Men: 7,297

Women: 7,503

Needs (CHF): 580,814

Immediate Food assistance

It is estimated that **38,633 persons** living in target departments are estimated to be in severely food insecure during the lean season (June - October) and need food assistance and support in order to protect their livelihoods.

- Based on identified needs, the operation aims to provide food assistance to 1200 households (8,800 persons) through **multipurpose - unconditional cash transfers (CVA)**, for 4 months, in the departments of Barkeol and Ould Yenge¹⁷.

Protection and initial recovery of livelihoods

The main livelihood activities in the departments of Barkeol and Ould Yenge are strongly affected by drought, including the depletion of the natural capital (water, biomass, grass) necessary to ensure the protection of livelihoods and food sources, and the coping strategies adopted by vulnerable HH after a long time of exposure to the lack of means to access essential needs. In this sense, to address these needs, the operation includes two main actions:

- Support to **20 women's cooperatives (about 600 households)** of the departments of Barkeol and Ould Yenge through technical guidance and the distribution of agricultural inputs and protection of collective farms.
- Creation and support of 10 Mothers' Clubs (200 women), in the department of Barkeol, who will receive, among others, assistance for the creation of savings and credit groups and training programmes for the launch and reinforcement of their income generating activities.

P&B Output Code	Outcome1 Livelihoods and Basic needs: communities, particularly those in the areas affected by the disaster or the crisis, recover and reinforce their livelihoods										<i># of households assisted to cope with the lean period as well as to protect and reinforce their livelihoods in departments of Barkeol and Ould Yenge: Target 2000 Households (14800 people)</i>							
	Output 1.1 Livelihoods and Basic needs: the target population benefits from a vocational training and/or from productive assets in order to its/their income sources										<i># of women in Barkeol who are learning CdM good practices approach and manage sources of sustainable savings and income appropriately: Target 200 women</i>							
	Planned activities Months				01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09					

¹⁷ Due to the delay in launching this appeal, and following the actions made by other actors involved in the response, we could propose that the first disbursement includes two months of the transfer value.

AP009	Distributions of inputs																		
AP009	Training on agricultural techniques (For cooperatives), 2 days x cooperative																		
P&B Output Code	Output 1.5 Livelihoods and Basic needs: households benefit from unconditional / multi-sectorial monetary subsidies to meet their basic needs	<i># of households have received food assistance in cash during 4 months: Target 1,200 Households</i>																	
	Planned activities Months	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09									
AP081	Baseline survey																		
AP081	Training of the volunteers on targeting techniques, cash distribution, screening and awareness-raising																		
AP081	Beneficiaries targeting (tools and processes)																		
AP081	FSP's call for tenders																		
AP081	Market monitoring																		
AP081	Cash distribution in view of covering food needs for 1,200 households during 4 months																		
AP081	PDM surveys																		



Health

Target(ed) persons: 685 (9,237 people if considering screening target)

Men: 202

Women: 483

Needs (CHF): 93,221

Needs analysis:

Target(ed) departments (Barkéol and Ould Yenge) are among the 21 moughataas (departments) classified in emergency phase in terms of malnutrition, high rate of malnutrition which are mainly due to food insecurity (low availability of food products, lack of access to products and low household income) and non-compliance with good nutrition and hygiene practices.

Population to assist/support:

- In view of preventing malnutrition, **410 children** who are between the age of 6 and 23 months and **275 pregnant or lactating women** shared in the departments of Barkéol and Ould Yenge.
- Households that have children between 6-23 months and/or PLW (pregnant and lactating women), and MAS and MAM children who will be screening immediately referred to health facilities for management purposes.

Screening target:

	Population	6-23 months old		PLW	Child + PLW
Barkeol	94807	5,21%	4935	4,54%	9237
Poor and Very Poor HH (56%)	53092		2763		2409

Covid 19 protection measures and awareness

The current pandemic situation forces the inclusion of covid19 physical distancing and other prevention measures (such as hand washing and PPE). MRC will follow both National and RCRC recommendations, as well as will conduct awareness campaigns (meant to project stakeholders and communities alongside all project activities, particularly during training and nutrition awareness-raising sessions).

P&B Output Code	Outcome1 Health: immediate risks for affected populations' health are reduced	# of children whose Malnutrition immediate risks are reduced: Target 410 persons # of pregnant and lactating women whose Malnutrition immediate risks are reduced: Target 275 persons															
	Output 1.4 Health: Implementation of epidemics prevention and control/fighting measures	# handwashing devices are installed: Target 40															
	Planned activities Months	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09							
AP021	Organize awareness-raising sessions on the protection against COVID 19 in the fringe of the project activities																
AP021	Provide project teams with protection equipment in accordance with IFRC PPE Rational use guidelines and/or MoH requirements																
AP021	Include/distribute hand-washing kits during community-based activities (Targeting meetings, distributions, etc.) and include physical distance measures in all activities																
P&B	Output 1.6 Health: Severe acute malnutrition is treated among the target population	# of children (between 6 and 23 months) who receive nutritional supplements: Target 410															

Output Code	Planned activities Months	# of pregnant and lactating women who receive nutritional supplements: Target 275															
		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09							
AP014	Training (2) of the volunteers on malnutrition awareness-raising and screening																
AP014	Massive screening at an early stage of surveillance/monitoring activities in villages concerned by the surveillance/monitoring mechanism (in Barkeol)																
AP014	Beneficiaries targeting (tools and processes) at the same time as TMs targeting																
AP014	Fortified flour purchase processes																
AP014	Distribution of fortified flour to 410 children who are between 6 and 23 months old and to 275 PLW (pregnant and lactating women)																
AP014	Holding of malnutrition screening sessions and referral to health facilities																
AP014	Organization of awareness-raising campaigns on nutritional good practices and of cooking demonstrations																
AP014	Permanent nutritional monitoring through the Mothers' Clubs surveillance/monitoring activities, under the guidance/supervision of MRC's volunteers.																



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People targeted 14,800

Men: 7,297

Women: 7,503

Requirements (CHF): included in Strategies for Implementation budget¹⁸

MRC will assess within the targeting process especial cases of single-parent households or households with a high dependency ratio these cases to prioritize them as target group. MRC will rely on partners experience, training and support to ensure inclusion measures within the whole operation. All sectors including livelihood and basic needs, health, DRR will mainstream PGI and seek to meet the minimum standards of protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies.

¹⁸ PGI component only encompasses some training to MRC volunteers for the time being. This activity is budgeted under SFI 1 instead of the PGI AoF (and as a result no funds have been included under the PGI AoF component)

P&B Output Code	Protection, Gender & Inclusion Outcome 1: Communities become more peaceful, safe and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.	<i>Gender and diversity needs are included in operation: Target Yes</i>															
	Protection, Gender & Inclusion Output 1.1: Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.	<i># of MRC volunteers and staff will be trained on PGI: Target 25</i>															
	Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9							
AP031	Integrate a basic ½ session on Minimum Standards in for IFRC and NS staff and volunteers (see AP040)																
AP031	Support sectoral teams to ensure collection and analysis of sex-age and disability-disaggregated data (see guidance in Minimum Standards)																



Disaster risks Reduction

Target(ed) persons: 94,807 people, Barkeol population (through EWS)

Male: 46,455

Female: 48,352

Needs (CHF): 34,348

Needs analysis: Mauritania is among the countries which are most affected by natural disasters essentially linked to recurring cycles of rainfall deficit which impact on the livelihoods of vulnerable households and therefore on the food and nutrition situation. Faced with this recurrent situation, humanitarian actors in Mauritania have noted the need to monitor certain indicators linked to food security, nutrition and changes in livelihoods. In this context, the Mauritanian Government, as part of a global disaster risk alleviation objective, is in the process of developing a national system for preparing for and responding to food crises. Partners like ACF, OXFAM, WFP assist the food security commissioner in view of setting up a community surveillance mechanism which must cover all municipalities in Mauritania. To date, that mechanism is operational only in 3 regions over 15. It is in this context that the Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) has noted the need for geographic coverage and community mobilization to supplement the Government's and the partners' efforts through the duplication of the mechanism in the other regions which are not covered.

Population to assist: The department of Barkéol has a population of around 100,000 persons. The monitoring mechanism will be set up at representative sites so that all the municipalities in the departments will be covered by sentinel sites. The criteria for site selection include namely: the demographic size of the village, the distance to the market, the existence of a GSM network, etc.

P&B Output Code	Outcome1 RRC: communities located in high-risk areas are prepared for the disaster and are able to cope with it	
	Output 1.1 RRC: communities take concrete measures in order to reinforce the preparedness for a rapid and efficient operation against disasters	<i># of operational sentinel sites: Target 10</i>

Funding Requirements

MDRMR011 - Mauritania Food Insecurity

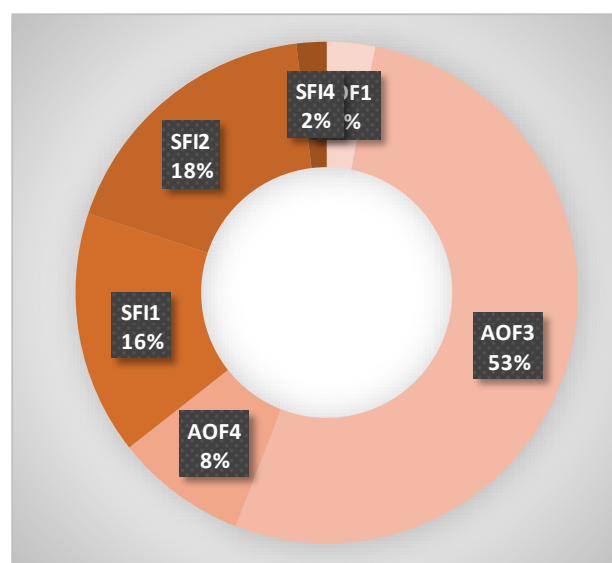
27/07/2020

Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Food	68.037
Seeds & Plants	68.555
Teaching Materials	9.061
Other Supplies & Services	6.408
Cash Disbursement	422.153
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	574.213
Vehicles	13.514
Computers & Telecom	2.589
Office & Household Equipment	4.660
Land, vehicles & equipment	20.763
Transport & Vehicles Costs	21.329
Logistics, Transport & Storage	21.329
International Staff	111.935
National Staff	16.800
National Society Staff	84.653
Volunteers	10.105
Personnel	223.494
Professional Fees	20.000
Consultants & Professional Fees	20.000
Workshops & Training	63.788
Workshops & Training	63.788
Travel	14.000
Information & Public Relations	5.560
Office Costs	61.237
Communications	9.676
Financial Charges	1.350
Shared Office and Services Costs	17.454
General Expenditure	109.277
DIRECT COSTS	1.032.864
INDIRECT COSTS	67.136
TOTAL BUDGET	1.100.000

Budget by Area of Intervention

AOF1 Disaster Risk Reduction	34.348
AOF2 Shelter	
AOF3 Livelihoods and Basic Needs	580.814
AOF4 Health	93.221
AOF5 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	
AOF6 Protection, Gender and Inclusion	
AOF7 Migration	
SFI1 Strengthen National Societies	172.710
SFI2 Effective International Disaster Management	197.608
SFI3 Influence others as leading strategic partners	
SFI4 Ensure a strong IFRC	21.300
TOTAL	1.100.000



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

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How we work

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

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



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



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



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