

(Revised) Appeal N°: MDRMR011	To be assisted: 1,299 HH (12,005 people)	Appeal launched: 17 July 2020
		Revision n°1 issued: February 2021
Glide N°: DR-2020-000167-MRT	Funding requirements: CHF 875,000	Appeal ends on 14 June 2021
	77,525 CHF funding gap	Extended 02 months

This Revised Emergency Appeal seeks a total of **875,000 Swiss Francs** to enable the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to continue supporting the **Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC)** to deliver assistance to 12,005 people for 11 months.

Specifically, through this **Revised Emergency Appeal**:

- the number of targeted departments is reduced from two (Barkeol and Ould Yenge) to one (Barkeol), as the needs for Ould Yenge was covered by other actors;
- the total amount sought decreases from CHF 1.1 million to CHF 875,000 as a consequence of the reduction of the area of intervention , and the total number of people targeted from 14,800 to 12,005;
- the timeframe is extended from 9 to 11 months;
- the number of people to be assisted through nutrition-related activities is increased from 685 to 3,755, part of the 12,005 targeted by the intervention;
- the development of a contingency plan and a drought action plan with medium- and long-term actions to ensure a more sustainable impact on the food security needs, and to support the mobilization of resources in the longer term.

This emergency appeal is part of a **Federation-wide approach** which is based on one plan with the response activities of all IFRC network members contributing to the response.

A. EVENTS TO DATE



First distribution of cash and voucher assistance in Barkeol on September 2020 © MRC



October 2019: Drought and pastoral crisis alert launched by Action Against Hunger (AAH)

November 2019: Positioning note disseminated by the Sahel Cluster Delegation in parallel with the publication of the results of the analysis of the Harmonized Food Security Framework (IPC).

December 2019: RC/RC awareness and positioning meeting held in Dakar where MRC requested for support.

January 2020: Publication of the RC/RC Movement positioning note.

February 2020: Joint assessment by the IFRC, French Red Cross and Livelihoods Resource Center in Mauritania on the food and nutritional situation in the departments considered by the Cadre Harmonisé (Harmonized framework) as most at risk. [Report published in March 2020.](#)

April 2020: Alert launched by AAH on the pastoral and agro-pastoral crisis aggravated by COVID-19. The MRC is developing a short- and medium-term action plan to fight against drought.

June 2020 : Beginning of the lean season. Launch of the national intervention plan for food security.

July 2020: IFRC launches an Emergency Appeal of CHF 1.1 million to support 14,800 people in Barkeol and Ould Yenge.

August 2020: Deployment of a rapid response person specialized in CVA for food assistance for 02 months.

October 2020: Deployment of a rapid response person specializing in food security and nutrition for activities aimed at preventing malnutrition and providing support to cooperatives for 04 months.

February 2021: Revision of the emergency appeal with a downward revision of the budget from 1.1 million CHF to 875,000 CHF to support 12,005 people instead of 14,800. This budget revision is accompanied by an extension of the emergency appeal by 02 months (until 14 June 2021).

Situation overview

(For full details of the disaster, please refer to the published [Emergency Appeal](#)).

Mauritania is currently facing a difficult food and nutritional situation, as a result of drought, especially in 2018, which was described as historical with a decrease of almost 30% in rainfall compared to 2017. The analyses of the harmonized framework of November 2019 gave an estimation of at least 609,184 people in severe food insecurity (IPC phases 3 and more) during the lean season between June and September 2020, coupled with the results of the SMART survey (2019) showing a critical nutritional situation, with some regions of the country, notably the Barkeol region, with prevalence of Acute Malnutrition above emergency thresholds (GAM >15% and/or SAM > 2%)¹. This situation is considered to be the worst in the country since the advent of the Harmonized Framework in Mauritania (2012).

The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the situation, with a strong socioeconomic impact on the populations' livelihoods and has increased the number of people in need. The latest WFP analysis (September 2020) shows that around 901,000 people are now at risk of food insecurity, i.e., an increase of 48% compared to the latest projections of the Harmonized Framework of November 2019².

An analysis of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on livelihoods conducted in September 2020 by Save The Children in Mauritania highlighted this situation of need, with **1,155,073 people facing a deficit against the survival threshold and the livelihoods protection threshold**, compared to 628,069 people before the health crisis.

Until October 2020, resources mobilized by the government and humanitarian actors only covered the food needs of 323,750 people out of the 609,180 that are in a situation of food insecurity, located in the 23 priority moughataas (departments).

MRC carried out an assessment in February 2020 with the support of the IFRC, the IFRC Livelihoods Resource Center, the British and the French Red Cross Societies in the departments of Barkeol, Modjéria, Mbout and Ould Yenge. The

¹ Barkeol nutritional status: Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)=20.5, Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)= 3.7. Source: SMART National Nutrition Survey (August 2019).

² The 2020 Harmonized Framework analyses could not be carried out due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

assessment revealed that rainfall deficit had affected the country economic security and compromised the main livelihood activities of households. Thus, even if the rainfall was good in 2020, the effects of drought episodes in recent years continue to be felt.

Summary of Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

Overview of the Mauritania Red Crescent

The MRC is one of the first humanitarian organizations in Mauritania and was created in December 1970. The MRC is represented in all affected departments where it has 56 local committees and 4,000 community volunteers. The National Society has permanent collaborative links with all the humanitarian actors in the country namely UNICEF, WFP, FAO and national and international NGOs. As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the MRC plays a special role in its collaboration with the various government departments and commissions.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

As a member of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, the MRC benefits from the technical and financial support of the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Livelihoods Resource Centre and sister National Societies, like French and the British Red Cross. The IFRC, the ICRC, and the French Red Cross have presence in Mauritania, while the British Red Cross and the Livelihoods Resource Centre provide technical support to the MRC. IFRC ensures the continuous coordination among Movement partners to maximize efforts.

The following actions have been carried out and/or planned in the fight against food insecurity:

- Support for the MRC Food and Nutrition Security monitoring mechanism: This is a complementary activity to those included in the Emergency Appeal and consists in supporting the start-up of the sentinel site approach and its complementary actions.
- Support for the Mothers' Clubs' activities: Support from British and French Red Cross, through:
 - a market assessment in Barkeol and the selection of income-generating activities (IGAs) of Mothers' Clubs, according to the capacities of beneficiaries and market demand, which also serves as a capacity building action for the MRC. The support for IGAs will be given by the Livelihood Resource Centre with financial support from the British Red Cross.
- Forecast Based Financing (FbF) on drought: Support from the French Red Cross.
- Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) capacity building plan: implemented with the support of the French Red Cross with funding and technical support from the British Red Cross.
- The MRC's Communication Strategy: (international advocacy on the food insecurity situation, advocacy on the medium- and long-term action plan against drought, etc.) with technical and / or financial support from the British Red Cross and the IFRC.

In addition, for COVID-19 purposes, MRC's response was supported by all members of the Movement as following;

- systematic adoption of prevention measures and pooling of trainings for volunteers and MRC staff, and the implementation of awareness sessions (based on materials created as part of the COVID-19 response);
- sharing the results of logistics procedures like the selection of the financial service providers (FSP) for the cash and voucher assistance component of both operations³.

IFRC' support to the MRC also includes providing supply chain and fleet services such as assisting logistics procedures (contract with Financial Service Providers-FSP, purchase of enriched flour, etc.), providing fleet service, deploying technical personnel including Operations Manager, Coordination (and support) with French and British Red Cross in the implementation of specific activities of the operation.

In addition to actions aimed at responding to food and nutritional insecurity in the targeted areas, the IFRC have launched the **2021-2025 Plan of Action** at regional and country level, to define the main actions on which the MRC aims to work in the coming years based on the specific needs in their countries and their expertise.

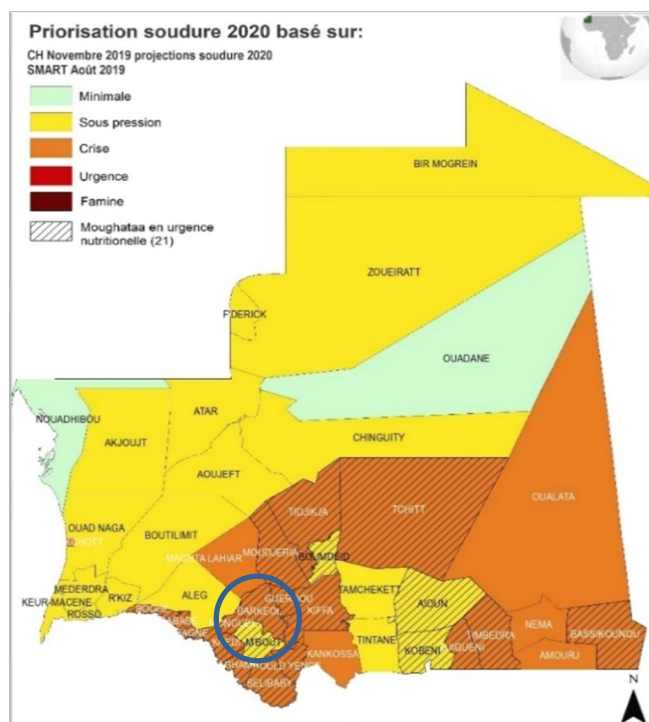
ICRC launched the [Budget Extension Appeal](#) to increase funding in the Sahel, including Mauritania, to deal with the cumulative effects of conflict, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.

³ The cash and voucher assistance distribution as part of COVID 19 activities was made in a single distribution consistent with that of the government. On the other hand, the cash under the drought appeal has been harmonized with the national plan led by the CSA and the partners and which gives 4 rations for 4 months.

Summary of major revisions made in the revised Emergency Appeal:

Major changes made to the operation include the following:

- **Geographic targeting:** a reduction of the initial intervention area which covered the departments of Barkeol and Ould Yenge, to only the department of Barkeol. The geographical positioning of the various humanitarian actors after the National Response Plan (NRP) had been shared by the Mauritanian Government coincided with the preparations for the launch of the Emergency Appeal, which were delayed due to the commitment of the National Society and its partners, including the IFRC, in the implementation of the response to COVID-19. As a result, the department of Ould Yenge was assigned to the WFP and AAH. Regarding the department of Barkeol, initially covered by WFP, negotiations with the MRC made it possible to obtain coverage for one commune (Gueller).
- **Household targeting:** a reduction from 1,200 to 449 households resulting from the revision of geographic targeting. The reduction of the intervention area from two departments to one, together with the targeting of a single commune in Barkeol (Gueller) has led to redefining the number of targeted households benefiting from the cash and voucher assistance (CVA) and distribution of enriched flour.
- **Alignment of the Emergency Appeal with activities funded by USCDC⁴,** whose request had been submitted before the launch of the Emergency Appeal and which covers and complements some of its activities. In particular, this change involves:
 - i) integration of **malnutrition prevention** activities in the Department of Barkeol⁵ ;
 - ii) **extension of the duration of the Emergency Appeal** until June 14, the finalization date of the USCDC project, to ensure the implementation of nutrition surveillance in Barkeol.
- The inclusion of **actions to build the capacities of the National Society** to ensure continuity between the actions carried out in the Emergency Operation and those in the medium-and long-term for the fight against malnutrition and drought, which forms an integral part of the National Society's and the IFRC's longer-term plans of action.



Map of the prioritization of the Food Insecurity National Response Plan. In the circle, MRC targeted area.

B. THE OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Needs assessment and targeting

The overall objectives of the operation is to help ensure food and nutritional situation of 449 households, to help prevent malnutrition of 3,500 children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and to protect the livelihoods of 800 households affected by drought.

The operation is being carried out in the department of Barkéol and includes the activities described below.

⁴ NB: At the time of submitting the Emergency Appeal, we had not yet received USCDC funding confirmation:

⁵ Reference to the operational plan: mass screening -November and March / April-, distribution of enriched flour for 3,500 children aged 6-23 months and FEFA and awareness raising.

Food assistance

Food insecurity and basic necessities were addressed for the most vulnerable population groups, covering their food and nutritional needs for four months, until the next harvest. The MRC provided food aid to **449 food insecure households (2,585 people)** in the commune of Gueller, together with WFP to cover 100% of households in need of food in the Department of Barkeol. This immediate response was carried out through multipurpose and unconditional cash and voucher assistance for 04 months. The amount of cash covers food (standard of 2,100 kcal per person per day) and basic needs, and has been adapted to the size of the household in accordance with the conditions recommended by the NRP⁶.

First distribution of the cash and voucher assistance, September 2020 © MRC



Nutrition

As with food assistance, nutrition-related activities are aligned with the approach of the technical group on food security. This revised Emergency Appeal aims to prevent malnutrition in **110 children** aged 6 to 23 months and **145 pregnant or lactating women**, from the 449 most vulnerable households that have been affected by the food insecurity in **Gueller** town through distribution of enriched flour to families of 110 children aged 6 to 23 months and 145 FEFA identified following screening as a preventive measure. Following screening sessions, children suspected of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) will be immediately referred to health centres for management purposes. These children will be monitored through home visitation activities that include activities to educate parents on essential nutritional actions.

Protection and initial restoration of livelihoods

The emergency appeal implemented by the MRC will support 800 vulnerable households (around 5,920 people) by protecting and strengthening their sources of food and / or income. Needs will be met through:

- The support of 20 women's cooperatives (600 HH) to strengthen and protect their source of food and income in Barkeol, and
- The creation of 10 mothers' clubs in Barkeol (200 HH).

Monitoring food security and livelihoods (FSL)

The MRC will contribute to the national FSL early warning system (EWS), as a measure aimed at anticipating and preventing the effects of drought and other crises, by setting up 10 sentinel sites, which will ensure community monitoring of food security, in the department of Barkeol (94,000 inhabitants). Site members have been identified by the communities. These members have been trained in data collection, and have already collected data. The implementation of this activity responds to the national and regional strategy aimed at strengthening the capacity of the MRC to prepare and anticipate the response to food insecurity situations and drought-related crises.

Contingency Plan and Drought Action Plan

As part of the emergency appeal, and with the (technical / financial) support of the IFRC and other partners, the MRC will develop a **multi-risk contingency plan with the update on the drought session** that will enable the National Society to monitor and anticipate the different possible scenarios, more precisely the evolution of the FSL and nutrition situation and define what would be the most appropriate actions that the MRC could implement when this scenario arises.

⁶ In accordance with the proposal of the technical team led by the cash alliance, the NRP (National Response Plan) has established that the food and basic needs assistance modality will be through unconditional cash and voucher assistance: 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.

In this context, following the Drought Control Action Plan developed in April 2020 and which includes short but also medium- and long-term actions, the MRC, with the support of the IFRC and partners, proposes to include a new activity that would enable:

- 1) Develop the Operational Plan of the drought plan that will include updated information from the municipalities and communities targeted in the emergency operation, and specific activities addressed to give continuity to the actions implemented in the appeal;
- 2) Organize a workshop to present the action plan and the operational plan to support the MRC in mobilizing resources for its implementation.

COVID-19 prevention and awareness measures

As part of COVID-19 response, risk management, physical distancing and other preventive measures (such as hand washing and the use of protective equipment) have been included in parallel with the operation. The MRC followed the national recommendations and those of the RC/RC Movement. Awareness campaigns (intended to protect stakeholders and communities) on preventive measures against the spread of COVID-19 were organized at the same time as the activities of the emergency appeal, and in particular during training sessions and nutrition awareness. As a result, and to facilitate access to hygiene services, hand washing devices have been set up at each distribution site.

Community engagement and accountability (CEA)

The MRC ensures that the CEA tools already developed (during the 2018 food security emergency appeal) are adopted and used throughout the response (needs assessment, targeting, inclusion / exclusion mechanism, community information gathering, community feedback, etc.).

The community has participated (and still participates) actively in the various stages since the launch of the operation, in particular in targeting the village committees that have been set up, but also conducting nutrition awareness activities and monitoring the food and nutrition situation by setting up sentinel sites. This same approach will be used for mothers' clubs.



Communication on cash and voucher assistance activities. © MRC



Coordination and partnerships

Movement coordination and cooperation: strong Movement's coordination and cooperation is a key element of the MRC's drought response plan. A Movement coordination mechanism will ensure strengthened coordination and synergy in planning and response. Since the start of the response, the MRC and the IFRC have led the coordination with other Movement actors in the country and in the region for the short and medium-term response (see under Red Cross Red Crescent response to date). The Movement will have a shared understanding of the situation. To provide an efficient and effective assistance to the MRC, IFRC ensure that Movement support especially from French, and British Red Cross Societies and Livelihoods Resource Center are well coordinated and aligned with the RC/RC principle through:

- facilitating regular Movement coordination meetings
- organizing joint assessment and monitoring
- coordinating surge deployment
- ensuring accountabilities as one Movement
- ensuring coherent approach
- leading a humanitarian advocacy and communication
- coordinating the development of contingency planning

For this Emergency Appeal, coordination and cooperation are guaranteed by the participation and support of the IFRC Sahel Cluster Delegation and other MRC partners, remote support and field missions have been included in the budget to ensure the quality of support.

Coordination with the government: The Mauritanian Government has developed a National Response Plan (NRP) against food insecurity and the nutritional situation with the support of its partners and all actors involved in the food

security and nutrition sector in the country, including the MRC. This served as basis for all actors in the planning of their operations.

Regarding coordination activities, the Food Security Commission (CSA), which is the state agency in charge of the sector, and the Food Security Sector Group (GSA), are forums for discussion and sharing between actors to guarantee greater efficiency of the actions to be carried out. The MRC is a member of the GSA, which meets monthly and covers the nutrition sector and the actions framed in the NRP.

Since the launch of the Emergency Appeal in July 2020, the MRC participates in all four GSA meetings. Like the interventions carried out by other actors, the MRC used this opportunity to share on the activities implemented as part of the Emergency Appeal. Similarly, the MRC was in close coordination with the actors present in Barkeol for:

- Immediate assistance (especially with WFP and CSA) for positioning actions (geographic targeting) and for the harmonization of the beneficiary selection process;
- as part of the nutritional response, the MRC maintains close coordination with the health structure of the department of Barkeol to select and implement actions to prevent malnutrition.

Regarding the early warning system, the MRC coordinated with the coordination platform comprising the CSA (lead partner), AAH, WFP and OXFAM, to organize the training and the launch of activities of the sentinel sites in Barkeol.

Capacity analysis of the National Society in the country, risk analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis and scenario planning

(To access the full details of the identified needs analysis, please refer to the published [Emergency Appeal](#)).

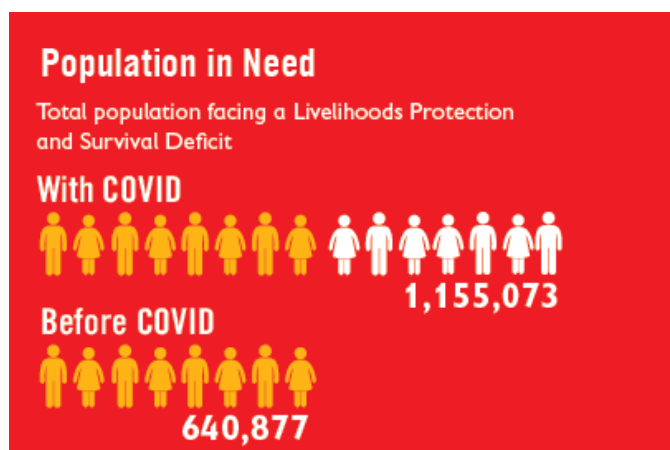
The needs identified for the launch of the emergency appeal were based on the assessment of the food and nutritional situation carried out in February 2020 by the MRC in four departments, and on the national analyses of the Harmonised Framework. This needs analysis has been updated by the various actors participating in the NRP.

According to the results of the [COVID 19 impact analysis](#) in Mauritania (based on the HEA approach⁷) and developed by Save The Children (July 2020), the impact of preventive measures worsened the situation of the most vulnerable households, which depend, among other strategies, on the seasonal migration of young people to cities or neighbouring countries.

Some 1,155,073 people were identified in need of assistance to protect their livelihoods while 640,877 people had been identified by the March 2020 analysis (before COVID-19).

New SAM (severe acute malnutrition) admissions show a significant increase of nearly 36%, compared to the average of the last 5 years. Most notably, in 2020 incremental peaks were observed in February (20%), March (60%) and July (87%), compared to the same period in 2019. Several hypotheses could explain this trend:

- 1) The cumulative drought factors of the last 3 years, high level AI, and the impacts of COVID-19;
- 2) The rise of mass case detection activities (passive, active screening and mass campaign);
- 3) The result of hypotheses 1 and 2⁸.



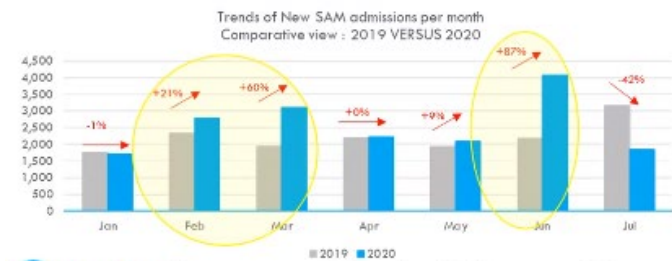
*Covid-19 impact on Livelihoods protection threshold.
Source: Save The Children, HEA analysis (July 2020)*

⁷ HEA: Household economy approach

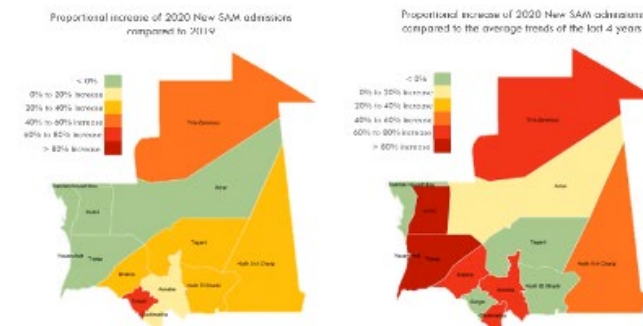
⁸ Source: Report of the meeting of the Regional FSL and Nutrition Cluster of West Africa, October 1, 2020.

Update Mauritania

SAM TRENDS EVOLUTION | REPORTING PERIOD FROM JANUARY TO JULY 2020



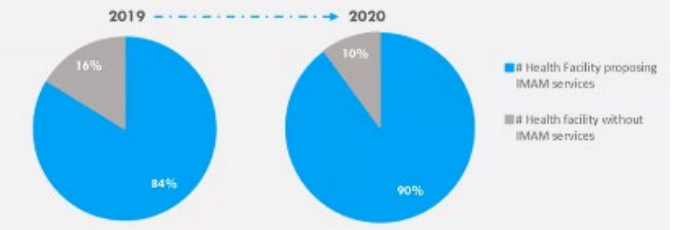
6 regions of the country recorded more than 20% increase in SAM admissions compared to 2019
 Brakna (+31%) | Gorgol (+68%) | HEC (+26%) | HEG (+25%) | Tagant (+24%) | Tiris-Zemmour (+42%)



- Overall increase in SAM admissions (+1.5% compared with 2019 and +36% compared to the average of the 4 past years)
- Good data completeness (81%) for the period (Jan-Jul), with a slight decrease from May to July (>80%)
- 2 peaks observed (February-March and June)



IMAM services | Geographical coverage



Cumulative critical risk factors are likely worsening nutrition situation of young children in Mauritania

- 3 consecutive years of DROUGHT
- High Level of FOOD INSECURITY
- Limited access to social basic services due to Covid-19

Source: UNICEF, presentation of the FSLWG cluster meeting, October 2020

Priority needs remain the same as identified for the launch of the Emergency Appeal:

- Emergency food and basic needs assistance for households identified in vulnerable conditions so that they can benefit from food in sufficient quantity and quality and reduce their recourse to borrowing and the sale of productive assets or other negative survival mechanisms;
- Prevention of malnutrition by specifically targeting children from 6 to 23 months and pregnant and lactating women (FEFA) through the distribution of fortified flour and the promotion of good nutritional practices, and referral of SAM cases;
- Support for the protection and diversification of livelihoods and the improvement of food production;
- Creation of a food security and livelihoods and nutrition monitoring system to anticipate and respond quickly to a drought crisis.

The needs analysis reveals that drought has an impact on different groups within the community (women, men, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities), their livelihoods and their sources of food. Regarding food consumption, the groups most vulnerable to malnutrition are children under five and pregnant or breastfeeding women.

Targeting

Geographic targeting: the populations of the department of Barkeol is targeted based on the joint MRC / IFRC / French Red Cross assessment and where only WFP intervenes in the emergency food assistance framework. Barkeol is also one of the departments most affected by food insecurity, with all of its municipalities classified in red.

The selection criteria for assistance were a combination of several criteria following the recommendations of the CSA and the GSA, including socio-economic vulnerability criteria. The MRC, like all the participating actors of the NRP used the Unified Social Register (USR) for the selection of beneficiaries, by validating at community and household level.

Operation Risk Assessment

Even though Mauritania is no longer an operating area for radical groups today, violent attacks cannot be totally excluded, especially to state or the Western structures or symbols, and the risk of targeted kidnapping around the border areas cannot be completely ruled out, no more than in cities.

Targeted areas of operations, accessible by road networks, remain as of today stable with a moderate level of crime, but which is like other areas in continuous increase. For this reason, the IFRC, as part of the [DREF Flood Operations](#) in Hodh El Chargui, Néma region, an assessment of the security situation in Mauritania, including in the intervention zone of the Emergency Appeal was carried out in January 2021. The collected data formed the basis for updating the IFRC's security documents for use by its delegates on site and on mission.

The MRC coordinates with ICRC and the French Red Cross regarding the sharing of security information with the project teams. The MRC informs the Mauritanian authorities of the presence of its staff in the field and of the presence of IFRC delegates and employees on mission in Mauritania to make arrangements if necessary.

C. PROPOSED AREAS OF INTERVENTION

STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 8,505 people: 450 households (2,585 people) for food and basic needs assistance and 800 households for livelihood activities (around 5,920 people)

Male: 4,196

Female: 4,309

Requirements (CHF): 316,000

Proposed intervention

Needs Analysis

- This revised appeal reduces the number of targeted departments from two (Barkeol and Ould Yenge) to one (Barkeol), as the needs for Ould Yenge was 100% covered by other actors (AAH and WFP).
- In Barkeol, 20,857 people were identified as being in a situation of serious food insecurity during the lean period (June - September). Of the 20,857 people, the MRC targets 2,585 (499 households) which correspond to the number of people that are in need in Gueller town. Households in the other 07 communes of Barkeol were targeted and assisted by WFP.
- The main livelihood activities in Barkeol department are heavily affected by drought, due to the continued depletion of natural capital (water, biomass, and grass) needed to ensure the protection of livelihoods and food sources, and to the coping strategies adopted by vulnerable populations after a long period of exposure to the lack of means to access basic needs (sale of assets, etc.).

Progress

- 449 households received food and basic needs assistance in cash for 04 months in the department of Barkeol

Activities planned to be carried out

- Support for 20 women's cooperatives (around 600 households) in the department of Barkeol through technical advice and the distribution of agricultural inputs (seeds, tools, etc.) and inputs for the protection of their collective farms (fencing, acacia trees, etc.).
- Creation and support of 10 mothers' clubs (covering 200 women), in the department of Barkeol, which will receive, among other things, assistance for the creation of savings and loan groups and training programmes for the launching and strengthening of their income-generating activities.



Health

People targeted: 3,755 children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW)

Male: 1,215

Female: 2,540

Requirements (CHF): 142,000

Proposed intervention

Needs Analysis

- The department of Barkeol is one of the 21 moughataas (departments) classified in the emergency phase in terms of malnutrition, with the highest rate of malnutrition which is 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.

Progress

- Awareness sessions on COVID-19 was organized and protection kits were provided to teams and volunteers who are engaged in each activity to be covered by the emergency appeal. Hand washing devices were set up in targeted communities
- Target people were identified and registered. Supplier of distribution items were selected.
- Training of volunteers on screening
- Development of Nutrition SOPs
- Preparations for the mass screening in the department of Barkeol started (meetings with the managers of the health district, establishment of the screening schedule). The MRC field teams coordinated with the Regional Health Directorate to carry out a joint campaign that links the MRC, the Regional Directorate and the NGO Terre des Hommes, which will help avoid duplication and cover 100% of the Department. Mass screening will begin on 25 December 2020.

Activities planned to be carried out

- Some 2,335 children (from 6 to 23 months) and 1,165 pregnant or lactating women (PLW) at risk of malnutrition in the Department of Barkeol will receive support for the prevention of malnutrition with two distributions of enriched flour (nutritional supplements).
- Two mass screenings in the Department of Barkeol and in coordination with the Health Centres and the actors present in the department.



Protection, gender and inclusion

People targeted: 10,260

Male: 4,744

Female: 5,516

Requirements (CHF): 0 (incorporated into other activities)

Proposed intervention

Needs Analysis

- During the crisis when there is no means to provide families with essential needs, extra pressure is put especially on female headed households or households with disabilities and older people. Face to this situation MRC will assess these cases to prioritize them as a target group and include protection support actions, when necessary.

Progress

- The data disaggregated by sex, age and disability (in accordance with minimum standards) was collected and analysed.
- The MRC included a process of household surveys targeted for food and basic needs assistance activities to obtain detailed information disaggregated by gender.
- The targeting of beneficiaries was done in accordance with the requirements of SOPs
- Village committees are set up for beneficiary targeting. They can receive complaints and escalate them to the MRC as needed. Therefore, the field team shared a phone number that beneficiaries can call to make complaints.

Activities planned to be carried out

- Throughout the operation, the MRC will ensure that minimum standards of protection, gender and inclusion are taken into account and respected in emergency situations.



Disaster Risk Reduction

People targeted: 94,807 (Barkeol population, through EWS)

Male: 46,455

Female: 48,352

Requirements (CHF): 20,000

Proposed intervention

Needs Analysis

- Mauritania is one of the countries most affected by natural disasters mainly linked to recurrent cycles of rainfall deficit which have an impact on the livelihoods of vulnerable households and therefore on the food and nutritional situation. Faced with this recurring situation, humanitarian actors in Mauritania noted the need to monitor some indicators related to food security, nutrition and changes in livelihoods.

Progress

- 10 villages were identified as operational sentinel sites and village committees were established.
- Training of sentinel site members on data collection were conducted.

Activities planned to be carried out

- Continue collecting and analysing the situation monitoring data

ENABLING ACTIONS

Influencing others as strategic partners

Requirements (CHF): 0 (incorporated into the other activities)

Collective Movement response plays a vital role in providing bilateral and multilateral support to the National Society responding to the critical needs. The Red Cross Movement adds immense value in a coordinated response which respects clear roles and responsibilities, promoting a principled humanitarian approach. The Emergency Appeal will promote, influence, and capitalize on the Movement's unique position, leveraging relations with the respective government and National Society to ensure needs and respect of those affected by a principled, neutral, and independent intervention.

Ensuring accountability

Requirements (CHF): 228,000

The development of the National Society is a key priority for the IFRC and the Mauritanian Red Crescent which is reflected in various areas included in the MRC Drought Action Programme, and in improving emergency response, learning and strengthening the National Society in resilient approaches to the current drought situation and the effects of climate change in the country.

Therefore, the MRC with the support of the IFRC include a new activity aimed at supporting the National Society in the development of the operational plan and the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Drought Control Action Plan. This activity will help:

- Develop the Operational Plan of the drought plan that will include updated information from the municipalities and communities targeted in the emergency operation, and specific activities addressed to give continuity to the actions implemented during the appeal.
- Organize a workshop to present the action plan and the operational plan to support the MRC in mobilizing resources for its implementation.

Strengthening National Societies

Requirements (CHF): 169,000

IFRC supports National Societies to have the necessary legal, ethical, and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform. Activities include:

- National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected and well trained. The list of volunteers is developed.
- National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place.
- Increase the National Society's capacity to support community-based disaster risk reduction, response and preparedness is strengthened.

Based on the demand for the technical and coordination support required to deliver in this operation, the following programme support functions will be put in place to ensure an effective and efficient technical coordination: human resources, logistics and supply chain; information technology support (IT); communications; security; planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER); partnerships and resource development; and finance and administration. More details are in the Emergency Plan of Action.

D. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

MDRMR011 - Mauritania Food Insecurity

Funding requirements - summary

Area of Intervention	Needs in CHF
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION	20,000
LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS	316,000
HEALTH	142,000
ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITIES	228,000
STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETIES	169,000
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS	875,000

In line with the downward revision of geographic targeting and household targeting, the total budget for the operation decreased from CHF 1.1 million to CHF 875,000. As of the revision, the operation reached a coverage rate of 91% as of February 2021 compared to the total amount of the operation thanks to the contributions of the American, Swedish, Japanese, and Canadian Red Cross Societies, and the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (USCDC).

The downward revision mainly focused on the following budget lines:

Immediate assistance activities including cash and voucher assistance and distribution of enriched flour to food insecure households	Reduced target (from 1,200 HH to 449 HH)
Mission to create Barkeol sentinel sites (10 sites)	Activities supported by the Technical / Food Security and Livelihood Pledge Group (Technical Group Food Security and Livelihood/TG- FSL)
Training of sentinel site members on data collection (10 sites * 12 people / site)	
Equipment and tool kits for surveillance	
Monitoring missions (4 missions)	Reduction in the number of missions due to movement restrictions due to COVID-19
Communication, refills for sentinel sites (6 months)	Expenses covered by the Technical Group Food Security and Livelihood (TG- FSL) Pledge until January 2021
Perdiem / travel expenses of the focal point of the sites (5 days / month x 6 months x 10 sites)	
Logistics costs (office, office equipment, etc.) and human resources for the department of Ould Yenge	Reduction of the geographical target from two to one department.

The revision includes a budget increase related mainly to the inclusion of 100% of USCDC activities:

Purchase and distribution of enriched flour for 3,500 children aged 6-23 months and PLW for the prevention of malnutrition (twice) in Barkeol.	Increase in actions to prevent malnutrition (new targets).
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Contact information

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

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For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

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

Reference documents



Click here for:

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

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief, the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable, to **Principles of Humanitarian Action** and **IFRC policies and procedures**. 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.

Jagan Chapagain
Secretary General
