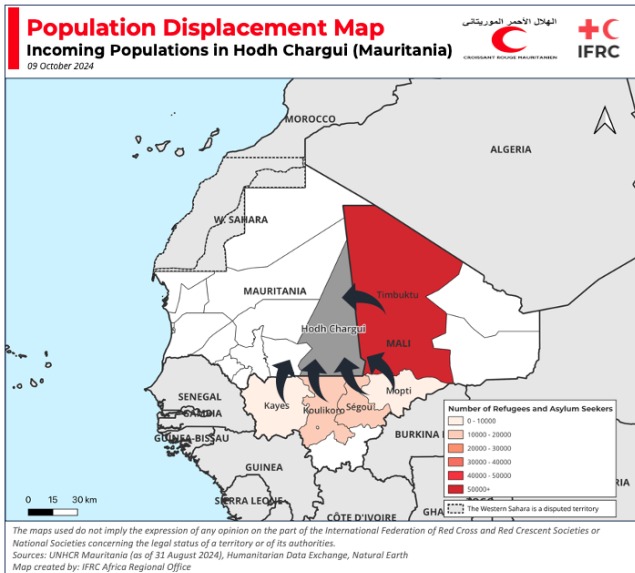




Mauritania Red Crescent Society volunteers prepare a round of shelter and essential household items for distribution to displaced populations in Hodh El Chargui. (Photo credit: IFRC Dakar)

Appeal No: MDRMR017	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 2.5 million Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 4 million ¹	
Glide No: XX-2014-123456-XXX	People [affected/at risk]: 154,400 people	People to be assisted: 61,760 people
DREF allocation: CHF 1 million	Appeal launched: 15/10/2024	Appeal ends: 31/12/2025

¹ The Federation-wide funding requirement encompasses all financial support to be directed to the Mauritania Red Crescent in response to the emergency. It includes the Mauritania Red Crescent Society's domestic fundraising requests and the fundraising appeals of supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies (CHF 1.5 million), as well as the funding requirements of the IFRC Secretariat (CHF 2.5 million). This comprehensive approach ensures that all available resources are mobilised to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the affected communities.



SITUATION OVERVIEW

The internal conflict affecting northern, central, and southern Mali has intensified, leading to the increased displacement of civilians into Mauritania. As of 30 September, more than 272,000 refugees and returnees had entered the country. The Hodh El Chargui region of Mauritania is currently hosting the largest number of Malian refugees, most of whom are arriving from the Timbuktu, Segou, and Koulikoro regions of Mali.

Displaced people arriving in Mauritania continue to report cases of indiscriminate violence by armed actors, citing incidents of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), abduction, torture, extortion, and family separation. At least 80 per cent of new arrivals² are women and children, many of whom who have suffered from violence in many cases.

With only 50 per cent being registered as refugees, and about 152,000 living outside of formal camps, access to basic services such as water, shelter, sanitation, food, health, protection, and education for children is extremely limited.

Inadequate sanitation and unhygienic conditions, and insufficient and unsafe water sources are exposing people arriving in

Mauritania, particularly children, to poor hygiene and creating ideal conditions for malnutrition and disease outbreaks. Most of the displaced populations arrive from protracted food insecure locations and lack of health and immunisation services. Measles and diphtheria outbreaks have recently occurred in the Hodh El Chargui region and could resurge in the absence of adequate health services, surveillance, and health promotion.

More than 50 per cent of the displaced are pastoralists who fled with approximately 1.7 million head of livestock. The rapid influx of people and livestock in the Hodh El Chargui region is putting pressure on local sources of water and grazing land, in an area already exposed to extreme climatic conditions and accelerated desertification.

Even before the arrival of refugees, the local population faced challenges in meeting minimum food requirements, accessing safe water and feeding their livestock. If not rapidly addressed, the situation could threaten the basic standards of living of some 189,000 people in host communities and could further exacerbate tensions between Malian and Mauritanian communities and authorities.

The number of displaced people currently seeking a safe haven in Mauritania exceeds the worst-case scenario projected at the beginning of the year, and while fighting continues relentlessly in Mali, cross-border movements will persist.

Humanitarian organisations on the ground, including the Mauritanian Red Crescent Society (MRCS), are at the front-line of assisting the most vulnerable in the departments of Bassikounou and Adel Bagrou. However, the scarcity of financial resources and challenging supply chains are hindering the delivery of adequate humanitarian services in the area and

² UNHCR September Factsheet

preventing assistance from reaching the large numbers of people in need.

The governorate (wilaya) of Hodh El Chargui and the various departmental authorities (Moughataa) of Bassikounou, Nema, Amourj, and Adel Bagrou have expressed their desire to the IFRC and MRCS for the Red Crescent to fully assume its role as auxiliary to the public authorities and intensify its support, as was the case during the refugee influxes and the occurrence of disasters, particularly floods, droughts, and bushfires.

The significant damage resulting from the severe flooding which has affected multiple regions in Mali over the past months may contribute to the increased population movement towards Mauritania.

According to the latest estimates, 149,000 people have been displaced by the flooding which has destroyed or damaged homes, farmlands, and other livelihoods in Mali, and part of this population may seek refuge in Mauritania.



MRCS volunteers carry out an assessment with Malian refugees in Mauritania. (Photo credit: MRCS)

TARGETING

The number of Malian refugees increased 142 per cent in less than a year, reaching a total of 260,000. The conflict continues to intensify in areas already affected by flooding and food insecurity, creating a high likelihood of further displacement. Humanitarian services in Mauritania's Hodh El Chargui region are insufficient to address the growing needs, especially in out-of-camp settings, which serve approximately 152,000 people.

The impact on limited natural resources – and consequently on host populations – can lead to social tensions and increased violence over grazing lands and water scarcity. These areas are already facing severe humanitarian challenges, including lack of access to basic services (healthcare, clean water, and education), protection needs for vulnerable groups, and food insecurity exacerbated by drought and resource depletion.

Environmental stress and desertification through cycles of intense droughts and floods, water scarcity and lack of arable/grazing land are already straining the region, deeply affecting the overall ecosystem and the well-being of communities.

In view of the humanitarian situation described above, the MRCS has decided to launch an Emergency Appeal with the following target figures:

- Out-of-camp and/or unregistered refugees who have settled in host communities, and do not have access to adequate humanitarian assistance: approximately 112,000 people.
- Vulnerable returnees who have not resettled in communities of origin: approximately 12,400 people.
- Vulnerable host populations facing severe constraints in meeting minimum standards for health, water, and food: 30,000 people.

The direct target of the Emergency Appeal is 40 per cent of the 154,400 vulnerable population, or 61,760 people. The prioritisation of the proposed targeting will be conducted based on strict criteria, taking into account:

- Unaccompanied children/minors or children/minors heading households.
- Unaccompanied pregnant and lactating women (PLW) or PLW who are heads of households or responsible for extended family members.
- Unaccompanied elderly persons.
- Households with family members with disabilities or who are chronically ill.

Protection and migration experts will be involved in supporting the MRCS's assessments and targeting, following the above prioritisation, while ensuring a community and household sensitive approach and appropriate feedback mechanisms.

In addition to direct targeting, this Emergency Appeal will serve to pilot climate adaptation/restoration activities in line with the Government of Mauritania's plan and act as a catalyst for longer-term climate programming.












Malian refugees in Mauritania receiving multipurpose cash support. (Photo credit: MRCS)

PLANNED OPERATIONS

Through this Emergency Appeal, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) aims to support the Mauritanian Red Crescent Society in its response to the population movement from Mali. The MRCS's response strategy will contribute to meeting the humanitarian needs of 61,760 people and will focus on the following areas:

- **Relief:** Expanding migration and displacement services, including mobile Humanitarian Service Points (HSP) to provide safe water; health services (mobile clinic) and nutrition screening; referrals and supplementary feeding (if necessary); first aid and psychological first aid (PFA); and restoring family links (RFL). Additional support includes providing shelter kits and essential household items (EHI), latrine construction, and hygiene items.
- **Post-Emergency:** Provision of multipurpose cash assistance to particularly vulnerable families, community-based health promotion, and surveillance.
- **Climate-adaptation/restoration:** Using vulnerability capacity assessments (VCAs) to work with communities on transitioning to climate-resilient approaches together with integration into the 2025 Unified Plan.

  	<p>Integrated assistance <i>(Shelter, Livelihoods, and Multi-purpose Cash)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of emergency shelter and EHIs to refugees and returnees outside of camps. • Provision of multi-purpose cash to displaced families for six months to cover basic needs through mobile transfers, or where necessary, in-kind food, water, hygiene, sanitation, and EHIs in collective accommodation sites, emergency shelters. • Monitoring and surveillance of border entry points to assess the potential need for scaling-up.
 	<p>Health and Care including Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) <i>(Mental Health and Psychosocial Support/Community Health)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a community outreach system for screening for, and identification of, malnutrition with referral to nutrition centres/services. • Continue mobile clinic activities. • Scale-up Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and of Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) in selected areas. • Provide sanitation services, power supply, incinerators, and separate latrines. • Provide water and hygiene to prevent the outbreak of waterborne diseases, distribute hygiene kits and conduct health and hygiene promotion campaigns among the target population in conjunction with distribution. • Distribute safe water/water trucking in non-camp settings. • Provide psychosocial support through a community approach.
   	<p>Protection and Prevention <i>(Migration, Protection, Gender and Inclusion, Community Engagement and Accountability, Risk Reduction)</i></p> <p>Migration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration and displacement (M&D) principles and best practices will be mainstreamed across all sector interventions. • Establish HSPs where people can access a wide range of services, such as safe water, nutrition support, emergency health and first aid, psychological support services (PSS), communication, and referrals, regardless of their status. • Restoring Family Links (RFL) support will be provided to ensure that the needs of the separated, missing, deceased, and their families, are adequately and efficiently addressed. • Support the engagement of the National Society in advocacy to promote the protection, assistance, and inclusion of affected populations and effectively position the MRCS's work towards the government and other stakeholders. • Conduct sociocultural community-based initiatives to support peaceful co-existence and cohesion. These initiatives will target diverse ethnic, religious, and cultural local communities, emphasising unity, conflict prevention, and reconciliation. • Support collaboration with the Mali Red Cross in assisting people moving across the border (returnees and/or the displaced). • National Society volunteers and staff in targeted areas of intervention will be trained on the Movement's M&D approach as well as HSP management.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion

- Child-friendly spaces will be set up adjacent to HSPs, with appropriate support and care for children, provided by trained volunteers.
- PGI minimum standards will be applied to outreach activities in communities as well as awareness-raising sessions and materials.
- Efforts must also be made to incorporate gender considerations in the targeting process and address the specific gender needs of vulnerable groups during the distribution intervention.
- Community engagement activities will be mainstreamed into the assessment and design of the operations, including the setting up of accessible feedback systems.
- Establish protection mechanisms including prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and referral mechanisms for both safeguarding and for SGBV.

Community Engagement and Accountability




- Consistent implementation of feedback mechanisms (toll-free line if possible/relevant, or effective community feedback, information hubs, distribution points, focus/discussion groups organised to collect feedback, etc.). Please keep in mind that volunteers must be trained to collect and follow-up on community feedback and concerns.
- The affected population must be encouraged, invited and trained to act as community monitors ensuring transparency with the aid received while ensuring that the most vulnerable are being targeted. This will be encouraged via the feedback and reporting mechanisms.
- Efforts must be made to adapt activities to meet the needs of the most vulnerable individuals (identified above) (factors such as gender, disability, and customs/values must be clearly identified and communicated to communities and their representatives to be considered).
- All volunteers and staff should undergo training on CEA, including on RCCE and building trust.
- Regular briefings for response teams to systematically listen to the questions and concerns of communities and provide appropriate answers are crucial (various tracking methods exist to collect and share community information/feedback/inputs). It is critical to create a space where response teams can, at the end of each day, find answers to any unresolved questions. Communicating that certain information is not known is key, demonstrates honesty, and increases trust.

Risk Reduction

- Conduct enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (eVCAs) with communities and agree on activities that can have an impact in preserving natural resources.

Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:

	<p>Coordination and partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRCS coordination with government authorities, local and international humanitarian actors will be strengthened with the support of the IFRC-wide network. • Humanitarian diplomacy will focus on the auxiliary role of the MRCS, including the protection of humanitarian personnel, volunteers, facilities, and goods, as well as durable solutions for refugees and social cohesion taking into account the needs of local communities. • Partnerships will be sought with agencies that can add value to strengthen the MRCS's capacity strengthening and complementing response.
	<p>IFRC Secretariat services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IFRC has a presence in-country through its Dakar cluster office, which covers Mauritania, with an Operations Manager. The team will be expanded to include migration, logistics, finance, and National Society Development in Emergencies (NSDiE). • The IFRC will support membership coordination, including information sharing, analysis, and coordination with Participating National Societies (PNSs) and stakeholders to support the activities of this Emergency Appeal. • The IFRC will support accountability through quality programming, reporting, and risk management. • The IFRC Secretariat will update the Minimum-Security Requirements (MSR) documentation, including reviews of the operational areas.
	<p>National Society Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the logistics and supply chain capacity of the National Society, including procurement processes, fleet, and warehouse management. • Strengthen financial management, accounting, and reporting of financial resources. • Build the capacity of staff and volunteers in the areas of migration and HSPs, and protection and RFL. • Strengthen the MRCS's capacity on migration management. • Develop the relationship with the Government of Mauritania, including through the revision of the disaster law framework. • Support the MRCS in building a sustainability and growth plan.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of this Emergency Appeal launch. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy to be released in the coming days. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation-wide approach, which includes the response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirement.

After 31 December 2025, the response activities to this disaster will continue under the IFRC Network Mauritania Country Plan for 2026. The IFRC Network Country Plans show an integrated view of the

ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the needs in the country, and a Federation-wide view of the country's actions. This aims to streamline activities under one plan, while still ensuring that the needs of those affected by the disaster are met in an accountable and transparent way. Information will be shared in due course, should there be a need for an extension of the crisis-specific response beyond the above-mentioned timeframe.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN-COUNTRY

Mauritanian Red Crescent

Number of staff:	26
Number of volunteers:	5,000
Number of branches	56



As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the MRCS collaborates with government departments and other humanitarian actors. Its mission is to alleviate the suffering of populations in disaster situations. The MRCS operates in the areas of risk and disaster management, food security and livelihoods, community health, water, sanitation and hygiene, migration and displacement, and health care.

With 56 branches, 26 staff, and 5,000 volunteers spread across the country, the National Society's strength consists in its access and recognition at the national level, and its wide network of volunteers throughout Mauritania.

The National Society's strong presence on national platforms and the availability of its own independent storage facilities means that it is able to provide timely and effective services during times of crises and disasters. It has an emergency centre equipped with relevant facilities to provide care services during operations.

The National Society has taken steps to prepare for this crisis by activating a national emergency cell at the MRCS Emergency Operating Centre (EOC) to monitor developments concerning displaced persons in the Hodh El Chargui region. The MRCS has further supported the implementation of an assessment of the operational capacities of local committees in the departments of Bassikounou and Adel Bagrou, which will be extended to new areas.

IFRC Membership coordination

The IFRC has a presence in-country through its Dakar cluster office which covers Mauritania. Partners currently supporting the MRCS include the British Red Cross, French Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, and Qatar Red Crescent.

The IFRC is providing financial and technical support to the MRCS through the deployment of an operations manager and logistician.

The IFRC is implementing the Route Base programme in Mauritania covering the south of the country. This assistance and protection programme for vulnerable migrants along the migration routes is being

implemented in partnership with the Senegalese, Gambian, and Malian National Societies. Through a system of HSPs, this programme provides assistance and protection services to vulnerable migrants along migration routes.

The French Red Cross (FRC) has been present in the country since 2002 and has a sub-delegation in Bassikounou, which works on a number of health-related activities with the Red Crescent, particularly in the Mbera camp and in Adel Bagrou. The FRC is naturally positioned to drive this Appeal in the country with the MRCS and IFRC and is willing to engage with possible additional partners to scale-up activities. The British Red Cross (BRC) supports the MRCS on a cash for food programme, emergency preparedness, livelihood and food security, and HSP (migration). The BRC will also provide support in 2025 with a PSEA and safeguarding policy for the National Society. The Belgium Red Cross has expressed interest in the activities of this Emergency Appeal and is being consulted, while the Qatar Red Crescent operates a health facility in Mauritania (Boutilimit) with 100,000 consultations/year (2023). Other National Societies have traditionally supported the MRCS, including the Norwegian Red Cross and Saudi Red Crescent. The Spanish Red Cross is carefully looking at possible transborder cooperation with their HSP operated with the Mali Red Cross.

The “Sahel plus” is a network of 10 African National Societies that seeks sub-regional coherence in both programming and operations. The network meets once or twice a year and is the base of the technical working group, especially on Migration and Food Security. With the support of the IFRC, the Sahel+ migration technical group, in accordance with its action plan, which provides for support missions between focal points as required, sent a mission to work alongside the MRCS to carry out a rapid assessment of the situation and, at the same time, build the capacity of the National Societies’ human resources in the management of a HSP. The results of this mission have been used to inform and guide the design of the MRCS response.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement cooperation

The ICRC closed its country delegation in 2023 after more than 30 years and is providing remote support from the Dakar Regional Delegation (RLF, protection). In Dakar, the IFRC Cluster leads the IFRC’s membership coordination and regularly meets with the ICRC to discuss sub-regional context and planning. Both the ICRC and IFRC delegations are working together in a spirit of complementarity respecting each specific mandate to deliver on our humanitarian agenda.

External coordination

The MRCS is coordinating with key actors, UN agencies, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood and other government agencies (the Food Security Commission, for example), with the National Society ensuring effective delivery of assistance to the displaced.

The IFRC Cluster in Dakar maintains a direct coordination line with the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Nouakchott and regularly shares context analysis and explores possible operational cooperation with, for example, the WFP, UNICEF, and UNHCR.

The MRCS and IFRC are working with government partners and members of the Refugee Coordination Forum to effectively position the Red Crescent. The MRCS is taking the lead in the meetings as auxiliary partner to the public authorities.

At the same time, the MRCS and IFRC are working with in-country partners to assess the needs, refine the targeted population and develop joint intervention strategies. These collaborative efforts aim to

ensure that there are no gaps or duplications in the response, while contributing meaningfully to the emergency response strategy.

Contact information

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

At the Mauritanian Red Crescent:

- **Secretary General:** Mohamedou Raby, Secretary General; email: m.raby014@gmail.com, phone: +222 43424101
- **Operational coordination:** Ahmed Mogueya, Disaster Management coordinator; email: ahmedmogueya1@gmail.com; phone: +222 36115474

At the IFRC:

- **IFRC Country Cluster Delegation):** Alexandre Claudon de Vernisy, Head of Delegation, email: alexandre.claudon@ifrc.org, phone: +221 771113450
- **Operational coordination Dakar Cluster:** Sadrack B. Matanda, Disaster and Climate Crisis delegate, email: sadrack.matanda@ifrc.org, phone: +221 772081887
- **IFRC Regional Office for DM coordinator:** Rui Alberto Oliveira, Regional Operations Lead; email: rui.oliveira@ifrc.org, phone: +254 780 422276
- **IFRC Geneva:** Santiago Luengo, Senior Officer, Operations Coordination; email: santiago.luengo@ifrc.org, phone: 41 (0) 79 124 4052

For IFRC Resource Mobilisation and Pledges support:

- **IFRC Regional Office for Africa:** Louise Daintrey, Head of Unit, Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation; email: louise.daintrey@ifrc.org

For In-Kind donations and Mobilisation table support:

- **Logistics Coordinator:** Allan Masavah, Head, Global Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain Management, Africa Region; email: allan.masavah@ifrc.org

Reference



Click here for:

- [Link to IFRC Emergency landing page](#)

Aim is to have the link included for every EA, should no link be available at the time of launch, please delete this reference box