



## **MAURITANIA TRANSITIONAL INTERIM COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN (YEAR 2018)**

**BUDGET REVISION No. 2  
(February 2018)**

<b>Duration (starting date – end date<sup>1</sup>)</b>	<b>01 January – 31 December 2018</b>
<b>Total cost to WFP</b>	<b>USD \$ 59,612,318</b>
<b>Gender and Age Marker Code * <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2a</b>

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<sup>1</sup> The end date cannot exceed 30 June 2019

<sup>2</sup> See [WFP Gender Marker Guide](#) for how to calculate a Gender Marker Code.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania is a low-middle income and food-deficit country. While it has made slow progress over the past 15 years towards reducing the prevalence of child undernutrition and mortality, some 14 percent of the population are still food insecure and the prevalence is expected to rise during the recurrent lean season.

The Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP) supports the Mauritanian government's vision of "i) a society rich in its diversity; ii) a prosperous and robust economy; iii) enhanced human capital; iv) enhanced governance; and v) preservation of the environment for sustainable development". It takes important steps towards WFP's strategic direction for a strengthened national and local capacity whereby the government and communities independently own, manage and implement food and nutrition security programmes by 2030.

The T-ICSP will build on the follow-up actions emanating from the 2016 Evaluation of WFP Country Portfolio (2011-2015) supporting the resilience of Mauritanian populations and responding to Malian refugees affected by the crisis situation in northern Mali which remains volatile, while conducting a whole of society Approach of the Zero Hunger Strategic Review.

The T-ICSP seeks to achieve the following strategic outcomes:

- Strategic Outcome 1: Food insecure (and vulnerable) Mauritanian populations in the six targeted regions, including school-age children have stable access to adequate food all year-round
- Strategic Outcome 2: Crisis-affected people, including refugees, are able to meet basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises
- Strategic Outcome 3: Children and pregnant and lactating women and girls in the six targeted regions have improved nutritional status all year-round
- Strategic Outcome 4: Food-insecure smallholders and communities in the six targeted regions have enhanced livelihoods and resilience to better support food security and nutrition needs all year-round
- Strategic Outcome 5: The humanitarian community in Mauritania has access to UNHAS services all year-round
- Strategic Outcome 6: Government has enhanced capacities to manage food security and nutrition policies and programmes and identify, target and assist food-insecure and nutritionally-vulnerable populations all year-round

Following Budget Revision No. 2, the T-ICSP includes WFP's emergency response to the augmented needs in 2018 due to the shocks following the irregular and deficit rainfalls in 2017.

The Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2019-2022) will contribute to the achievement of the government's Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity (2016-2030), the Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development (2018-2022),<sup>3</sup> and the Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17. It is aligned with WFP's strategic results 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8.

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<sup>3</sup> Formerly called United Nations Development Framework. A UN – Government Partnership Framework integrating NGOs

## 1. COUNTRY ANALYSIS

### 1.1. COUNTRY CONTEXT

1. Mauritania is an independent republic since 1960. The country is mainly desert and vast, hosting a population of nearly 3.9 million<sup>4</sup> (female: 51 percent and male: 49 percent) spread over an area of 1,030,700 km<sup>2</sup>. The annual average population growth rate was 2.8 percent between 2000 and 2013. The socio-economic situation is characterized by a high demographic proportion of youth (under-skilled and under-employed), gender inequalities and a poor access to basic social services. With a GDP per capita of USD 1,270, Mauritania is a low-middle income and food-deficit country, and ranks 156<sup>th</sup> out of 188 countries on the 2015 UNDP Human Development Index.
2. Mauritania has a Global Hunger Index of 25.2 (IFPRI, 2017) ranking 83rd out of 119 countries, while it has made slow progress over the past 15 years towards reducing the prevalence of child undernutrition and reducing child mortality. The economy mainly depends on agriculture and livestock. Poverty levels are mid-high, with 42 percent of the population living below the income poverty line (USD 1.25 per day).
3. According to the 2016 UNDP HDI Report, Mauritania has a Gender Inequality Index value of 0.626, ranking it 147 out of 159 countries. In Mauritania, only 11.1 percent of women have reached at least a secondary level of education, compared to 23.5 percent of their male counterparts. For every 100,000 live births, 602 women die from pregnancy related causes; and the adolescent birth rate is 78.6 births per 1,000 female aged 15-19. Rates of early, forced and child marriage are high, with 15.6 percent of girls married by age 15 and 35.2 by 18 years. Female participation in the labour market is 29.1 percent compared to 65.3 percent for men<sup>5</sup>. Although the quality of education as well as the retention of children in schools remains of concern, government policies provide for universal access to pre-primary and primary education. The net enrolment rate for primary education is 81.1 percent (girls: 82.7 percent and boys: 79.5 percent)<sup>6</sup> but with retention rates which are slightly lower for girls (59.7 percent) than boys (60.5 percent) dropping to 43 and 44 percent, respectively, in some of the regions targeted by WFP operations.<sup>7</sup> Yet, there remains a significant gender gap in terms of literacy; with female literacy rates of (35.4 percent compared to 57.4 percent for male)<sup>8</sup>. Key reasons for low attendance and retention rates include unaffordable education costs and children being withdrawn from school to work for extra family income or undertake unpaid domestic and care work.
4. Mauritania continues to host the largest number of Malian refugees in the Sahel (with an estimated 55,000 refugees by early 2018). The security in Mauritania is stable, however overall the situation in Mali and the neighbouring region remains volatile.

### 1.2. PROGRESS TOWARDS SDG 2

5. Since its independence in 1960, Mauritania experienced years of political instability, with a succession of coups, attempted coups and military rule. From 2012 onwards, the country has enjoyed relative political stability, with the June 2014 presidential elections which took place without major incidents. Despite decades of development assistance, Mauritania's progress towards development still faces challenges. The food security and nutritional situation continues to be fragile. The country is subject to seasonal shocks and risks of

<sup>4</sup> National Statistics Office, forecast 2017

<sup>5</sup> Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) 2015, UNICEF

<sup>6</sup> National school statistics 2014-2015, Ministry of Education

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>8</sup> UNESCO, 2010

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natural disasters, significantly linked to climate changes such as droughts, floods and locust attacks, which further negatively affect the productivity and vulnerability of the populations.

### **Access to food:**

6. While the country has made considerable progress in reducing food insecurity in the past six years<sup>9</sup>, weak policies and investments in mother and child nutrition, education and employment opportunities continue to hinder sufficient progress toward achieving zero hunger.
7. Mauritania is affected by frequent episodes of rainfall deficit, dry spells and uneven geographical distribution of rains, causing regular droughts, floods and locust invasions. The impact of those shocks on chronically vulnerable people – particularly in the southern belt of the country – is compounded by a rapid trend of soil erosion and desertification due to the effects of climate change, inadequate agro-pastoral practices and increased human and livestock pressure. Even in a normal year, during the post-harvest period, the national prevalence of food insecurity is at 18.8 percent, with 3.3 percent affected by severe food insecurity and higher rates in the agro-pastoral southern regions (21.3 percent) as compared to the urban areas (15.3 percent)<sup>10</sup>. The lean season records the highest levels of transitory food insecurity, with the national prevalence at 28 percent, 5.7 percent severely food insecure, 32 percent in the southern regions and 22 percent in the urban areas.<sup>11</sup>
8. Following irregular rainfall patterns during the 2017 rainy season, early transhumance, dry pastures, reduced agricultural production, and low surface water availability have been observed in most areas of Mauritania and the food security and nutrition situation in 2018 is of great concern. The projections of the “Cadre Harmonisé” carried out in November 2017 indicate that some 379,000 people were already in a critical food security situation (IPC Phase 3) between October and December 2017 and over 600,000 people will be in a critical or emergency food security situation (IPC Phases 3 and 4) between June and September 2018. The lean season of 2018, besides being projected as much more severe than the average, is also expected to start much earlier than normal (in some areas, possibly as early as February rather than June).

### **End malnutrition:**

9. Malnutrition remains a major public health problem in Mauritania. The main determinants of maternal and child undernutrition are linked to: i) inadequate infant feeding practices; ii) inadequate care practices for infants, young children and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLW/Gs); iii) limited access to basic health services, including sexual and reproductive health services; iv) lack of access for women to education and nutrition information; and (v) inadequate engagement of men in matters of nutrition and childcare. Child marriage being associated with early pregnancy, girls are particularly vulnerable to malnutrition.<sup>12</sup> There is a high prevalence of low birth weight in Mauritania (37 percent)<sup>13</sup> which can also suggest poor maternal health and nutrition status. The lean season and shocks such as 2017 irregular and deficit rainfalls further aggravate nutritional status, with an increase in diarrhoeal diseases, malaria, limited food stocks, and women’s increased work burden. The latest National Nutrition Survey (SMART methodology) in August 2017<sup>14</sup> indicates that currently 21 departments (out of 52 in total) are above emergency malnutrition

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<sup>9</sup> Integrated Context Analysis, Mauritania, 2017

<sup>10</sup> Food Security Monitoring System, January 2017

<sup>11</sup> FSMS, August 2017

<sup>12</sup> “Basic Profile of Child Marriage in Mauritania” Health, Nutrition and Population Knowledge Briefs of the World Bank, March 2016

<sup>13</sup> MICS 2015, UNICEF

<sup>14</sup> SMART, August 2017

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thresholds (Global Acute Malnutrition, GAM >15 percent and/or Severe Acute Malnutrition, SAM >2 percent) and SAM is already at 2.3 percent, against a five-year average of 1.6 percent. The nutrition trends for 2018 indicate further deterioration of this situation.

### **Smallholder productivity and incomes:**

10. The overall national contributions of smallholder production, including that of pastoralists, farmers and fishers, is to date not fully quantified. However, WFP will ensure that the national Zero Hunger Strategic Review will address this topic.
11. The number of smallholder farmers in Mauritania<sup>15</sup> is estimated to make up a little more than half of the population. Mauritanian smallholders are concentrated in the narrow strip in the southern regions along the Senegal River and most of them indeed consist of the most vulnerable population groups. They remain vulnerable to lean seasons and recurrent shocks because of limited access to credit, insufficient irrigation infrastructure, scarcity of agricultural inputs, low level of agricultural knowledge and skills, long distance from markets, environmental degradation of land soil, and poor state of rural infrastructure. Women smallholder farmers are particularly disadvantaged due to, for example, discrimination in access to arable land, financial services, training, markets, and allocation of unpaid care and domestic work.

### **Sustainable food systems:**

12. The country largely depends on imports to satisfy its basic food needs while more than half of the working population are employed in the agricultural sector. The majority (90 percent) of agricultural activities are substance-based despite the potential for more production. The current situation of the country's over-dependence on food import makes it vulnerable to fluctuation of food prices at international markets.

#### **➤ *Macro-economic environment***

13. Since independence, the gross domestic product in Mauritania has averaged 3.7 percent growth. Economic growth has been largely irregular due to the dependence of the economy on agriculture and livestock production, and consequent sensitivity to climatic changes and shocks. Institutional instability has also had a negative impact on achieving sustained economic growth. Only in the mid-1990s did the country start a slow but steady economic growth. With a Gini coefficient of 32.42 (2014), there is a high level of economic inequality in Mauritania which is worsening for population groups encountering systemic inequalities, such as women. On 6 December 2017, the IMF Executive Board approved a USD 163.9 million arrangement under the extended credit facility considering that the country has made progress in restoring macro-economic stability and stabilising debt. At the same time, recognizing that the economy still suffers from structural problems of overreliance on commodity exports, high unemployment and poverty, it plans to strengthen banking supervision and the regulatory framework in Mauritania.

#### **➤ *Key cross-sectorial linkages***

14. Achieving Zero Hunger (SDG 2) is strongly interlinked with a number of other SDGs, namely those relating to poverty (SDG 1), health (SDG 3), education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5) and ecological limits and degradation (SDGs 13, 14, and 15). While WFP's work in Mauritania aims to contribute to SDG2, it also supports the above SDGs through the strongly interlinked nature of the SDGs and the multi-sectoral approach of WFP. Likewise, the different Strategic Outcomes of the present ICSP are interlinked.

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<sup>15</sup> In Mauritania, approximately 51 percent of smallholder farmers are women.

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### 1.3. HUNGER GAPS AND CHALLENGES

15. In addition to Mauritania’s 2016 Zero Hunger Strategic Review, key hunger gaps and challenges are illustrated in: i) an evaluation of the Cadre Stratégique de Lutte contre la Pauvreté (CSLP) 2001-2015; ii) Cost of Hunger study (2016) and iii) evaluation of UNDAF 2011-2016.
16. These evaluations and plans identified the following gaps: i) many MDGs were not achieved; ii) stagnating or increasing number of poor; iii) growth not sufficiently inclusive; iv) economic dependency on the fluctuation of international commodity prices; v) weak implementation of national policies at regional level; vi) climate-related shocks have impacted food security, nutrition and livelihoods; vii) persisting gender gap in access to education, health, environment, rights, participation and decision-making; viii) malnutrition has direct impact on the economic and human development in the country.

### 1.4. KEY COUNTRY PRIORITIES

➤ *Government priorities*

17. The Government of Mauritania has elaborated a “Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity 2016-2030” (Stratégie de Croissance Accélérée et de Prospérité Partagée: SCAPP 2016-2030). The SCAPP is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals based on the Government’s vision for achieving the 2030 agenda, “The Mauritania we want in 2030”, and focuses on promoting: i) a society rich in its diversity; ii) a prosperous and robust economy; iii) enhanced human capital; iv) enhanced governance; and v) preservation of the environment for sustainable development.
18. In the area of food security and nutrition, the Government aims to reduce the prevalence of food insecurity to 5 percent and GAM rates to 2 percent by 2030 (and to 5 percent during the lean period), through the promotion of healthy nutrition practices and increasing access to basic foods for the poorest people.
19. In the area of environmental sustainability, the government supports activities such as reforestation, dune stabilization, improved agriculture in rainfed areas, as well as improved water resource management to reduce the impact of climate shocks. WFP is the custodian of the Climate Change Adaptation Fund that supports the SCAPP’s orientation.
20. In the area of education, the National Programme of Education Development Sector and the National School Feeding policy, aim to reinforce the engagement of the Government and all actors in school feeding as well as lay out the roadmap for the development of a national “home grown” school feeding programme linking small-scale farmers and fisherfolk to school-meals, supporting rural economies and meeting local food consumption needs.
21. Regarding social protection, the Ministry of Economy and Finance leads the steering committee of the National Social Protection Strategy that supervises the national agency “*Tadamoune*”. *Tadamoune* implements a cash-based national social protection programme “*Tekavoul*”, which is largely supported by the World Bank. WFP is also providing technical support to *Tekavoul* in the areas of development of the social registry, beneficiary targeting and data management.
22. The Government launched the National Gender Institutionalization Strategy (NGIS) in 2015. The aim of the NGIS is to promote gender equality, gender equity and the advancement of women across development sectors. Gender equality is also a key component of the SCAPP strategic pillar on human capital development and access to basic social services. Accordingly, there is a clear foundation for pursuit of the gender-transformative approach to food security and nutrition.

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➤ ***United Nations and other partners***

23. Since 2017, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Mauritania has adopted an approach that integrates development and humanitarian actions in order to address the humanitarian response, resilience strengthening and social protection needs of the country as it faces a particular context of recurrent seasonal shocks and climate change impact.
24. The new cycle of UNDAF, “Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development (2018-2022)”, reflects the New Way of Working and the integral approach of the humanitarian-development nexus as a UN-Government co-signed partnership framework that includes the activities of international NGOs, and is thus fully in line with the SCAPP and the national priorities.
25. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) provide capacity development and policy support, and implement food and nutrition security projects.
26. Donors provide multi-year development assistance either directly to the Government or through International Organisations, and offer bilateral technical cooperation.

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## **2. STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS FOR WFP**

### **2.1. WFP’S EXPERIENCE AND LESSONS LEARNED**

27. WFP has been operating in Mauritania since 1964 providing relief assistance, school meals, mother and child health and nutrition, asset creation and livelihoods strengthening. The operational environment is changing and, together with the Government, WFP will increasingly move towards sustainable outcomes, including strengthening government systems and institutional capacity at all levels. WFP has been consistent in providing assistance to, and advocating for, the most vulnerable and often marginalized groups in the country; including women living in poverty, refugees and persons living in remote areas. Such assistance has resulted in, for example, the strengthening of the national social protection system and women’s and other marginalized groups’ access to resources such as land, and their community engagement.
28. The Evaluation of WFP Mauritania Country Portfolio (2011-2015), conducted between June 2015 and February 2016, reviewed the positioning of WFP’s portfolio and its performance and results, as well as the factors and quality of WFP’s strategic decision-making. Conclusions revealed that inadequate funding strongly influenced the direction of WFP’s portfolio. Funding of emergency operations in 2012–2013 mainly focused on cash-based transfers and nutrition activities and WFP did not anticipate the region-wide reduction in emergency funding observed from 2014.
29. The assistance to Malian refugees since 2012 was evaluated positively, as it effectively improved their food consumption and contributed to sharp reductions in the incidence of acute malnutrition, while the effectiveness of assistance to food-insecure Mauritanian populations varied across activities and over time.
30. WFP faced difficulties in implementing planned activities, as well as creating the necessary synergies among activities. WFP interventions in the country were rather geographically dispersed despite the intention to focus them in prioritized regions.

### **2.2. OPPORTUNITIES FOR WFP**

31. Six priority actions have been identified by the country portfolio evaluation and during the elaboration of the T-ICSP: i) focus the geographical and household targeting of food assistance interventions in the most vulnerable regions and communes to avoid a scattered

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approach and geographical dispersion; ii) systematically seek synergies, stronger integration and multisector complementarity between WFP interventions and with partners; iii) favour multi-year efforts in the same communities, to maximize impact and sustainability; iv) enhance operational transfer modalities and cross-cutting priorities such as gender equality and protection; v) integrate climate change issues into national and local planning and technical standards for assets building; and vi) enhance strategic and operational coordination and refocus capacity development efforts within the social protection and resilience agenda to achieve zero hunger objectives.

32. Social protection is one of the government priorities clearly indicated in the SCAPP as one of the core component of the Human Capital pillar as well as in the speech of the Minister of Economy and Finance at the SCAPP validation ceremony. It is an opportunity for WFP to be strategically positioned in the national efforts to achieve SDG2 through its privileged relationships with *Tadamoune* and the Food Security Commission (*Commissariat à la sécurité alimentaire*: CSA). Gender will be integrated in all T-ICSP activities.

### **2.3. STRATEGIC CHANGES**

33. The T-ICSP is seen as a renewed opportunity to ensure greater synergies between WFP projects and government activities. Building on the long-term partnership with the government and WFP's comparative advantages, WFP will enhance capacity strengthening support to the Government by integrating its interventions with the national social protection system, focusing resources on strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable persons and communities through programmatic convergence, and developing the national school feeding programme.

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## **3. WFP STRATEGIC ORIENTATION**

### **3.1. DIRECTION, FOCUS AND INTENDED IMPACTS**

34. WFP's current portfolio in Mauritania includes four operations: a Country Programme (CP), a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), a Special Operation (SO) and a Trust Fund (TF). The T-ICSP will serve as a transitional framework towards WFP's renewed comprehensive contribution to the national efforts to achieve food and nutrition security targets. The T-ICSP will integrate the four operations of WFP's country portfolio while Mauritania will conduct a national Zero Hunger Strategic Review (ZHSR). Once completed, the ZHSR will inform the Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023. The vision is for WFP to shift from provision of food assistance to policy engagement and capacity strengthening for a gradual handover, leading to community-run and government-funded programmes by 2030. In accordance with the WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021), Gender Policy (2015-2020) and corporate Gender Action Plan, and in light of the country's particular context, gender will be integrated throughout development, implementation and monitoring of the T-ICSP, to ensure "gender-transformative programmes and policies".

35. The T-ICSP aims to contribute to the following strategic outcomes:

- Food insecure (and vulnerable) Mauritanian populations in the six targeted regions, including school-age children have stable access to adequate food all year-round;
- Crisis-affected people, including refugees, are able to meet basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises;
- Children and pregnant and lactating women and girls in the six targeted regions have improved nutritional status all year-round;

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- Food-insecure smallholder farmers and communities in the six targeted regions have enhanced livelihoods and resilience to better support food security and nutrition needs all year-round;
- The humanitarian community in Mauritania has access to UNHAS services all year-round;
- Government has enhanced capacities to manage food security and nutrition policies and programmes and identify, target and assist food-insecure and nutritionally-vulnerable populations all year-round.

### **3.2. STRATEGIC OUTCOMES, FOCUS AREAS, EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND KEY ACTIVITIES**

#### **3.2.1. STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1: FOOD INSECURE (AND VULNERABLE) MAURITANIAN POPULATIONS IN THE SIX TARGETED REGIONS, INCLUDING SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN, HAVE STABLE ACCESS TO ADEQUATE FOOD ALL YEAR-ROUND**

##### **➤ *Outcome description***

36. In line with WFP's aim to support SDG 2 (achieving zero hunger), this strategic outcome aims to ensure stable access to adequate food for targeted beneficiaries in the six regions with the highest levels of food insecurity and malnutrition throughout the year. To contribute to this, school meals will be provided to school children throughout the year. Additional interventions under this Strategic Outcome have been suspended and absorbed through Budget Revision No. 2 into the new Activity 9 under Strategic Outcome 2.

This strategic outcome directly supports WFP Strategic Result 1 - Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1).

##### **➤ *Focus Areas***

37. This strategic outcome aims to build resilience among targeted populations.

##### **➤ *Expected outputs***

38. The following output of Strategic Outcome 1 also directly support the achievement of SDG 2.2 (end malnutrition), SDG 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being), SDG 4.1 (free, equitable and quality access to education), SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 17.9 (capacity strengthening):

- Children attending primary school (Tier 1) receive school meals (output category A1) in sufficient quantity and quality and in a timely manner in order to meet their basic food and nutrition needs (SR 1) and increase school enrolment and retention (SDG 4).
- *Additional two outputs linked to Activity 1 were removed in Budget Revision No. 2 along with Activity 1.*

##### **➤ *Key activities***

39. School feeding interventions will target some 75,283 children (girls: 51 percent and boys: 49 percent) in 413 schools. All interventions will target the six regions with the highest levels of food insecurity and malnutrition (Hodh El-Gharbi, Hodh Ech-Charghi, Tagant, Assaba, Gorgol, Guidimakha).

***Activity 1 (closed through Budget Revision No. 2): Provide seasonal unconditional food assistance to vulnerable Mauritanian households, including preventive nutritious rations for children (aged 6-23 months)***

40. These activities will be augmented as an emergency response to the 2018 drought crisis under the new Activity 9 (crisis response focus area, SO2) and Activity 1 will be closed through Budget Revision No. 2.

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**Activity 2: Provide school meals to vulnerable Mauritanian children during the school year**

41. The areas with low school enrolment and retention are concentrated in the southern regions where food insecurity and malnutrition prevalence is high. School meals covering both a morning snack and lunch are provided every day, in order to help children from food insecure households stay attentive and focus on learning especially after walking a long distance from home to school. It also encourages the parents to send their children to school and maintain their attendance by offsetting school related and opportunity costs. With equivalent primary school enrolment rates, girls and boys will equally be targeted.<sup>16</sup>

42. Implementation arrangements: WFP will build on the long-lasting partnerships with the Ministry of Education with which a national school feeding programme will be developed. The privileged partnership with UNICEF will also be maintained and further strengthened to address the school environment, quality of education, hygiene and health promotion, nutrition education, and gender-based violence at schools.

### **3.2.2. STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2: CRISIS-AFFECTED PEOPLE, INCLUDING REFUGEES, ARE ABLE TO MEET BASIC FOOD AND NUTRITION NEEDS DURING AND IN THE AFTERMATH OF CRISES**

#### **➤ *Outcome description***

43. In line with WFP's humanitarian mission and its aim to support SDG 2 (achieving zero hunger), this strategic outcome aims to enable crisis-affected populations in Mauritania (including both Malian refugees and drought-affected Mauritians) to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises. To contribute to this, interventions under this strategic outcome intend to: i) provide Malian refugees and Mauritanian households monthly unconditional (and conditional if appropriate) transfers of food and/or cash rations in a timely manner and in sufficient quantity and quality; ii) provide school children with school meals; iii) and provide targeted children and PLW/Gs with specialized nutritious food.

44. This strategic outcome directly supports WFP Strategic Result 1 - Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1).

#### **➤ *Focus Areas***

45. This strategic outcome will support crisis response on account of its focus on providing assistance to crisis-affected populations during and in the aftermath of crises.

#### **➤ *Expected outputs***

46. The following outputs of Strategic Outcome 2 also directly support the achievement of SDG 2.2 (end malnutrition), SDG 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being), SDG 4.1 (free, equitable and quality access to education) and 17.9 (capacity strengthening). The outputs are:

- Targeted beneficiaries (Tier 1) receive food/CBT (output category A1) in sufficient quantity and quality in order to timely receive life-saving food (SR1)
- Children attending school (Tier 1) receive school meals (output category A1) in sufficient quantity and quality in order to timely receive life-saving food (SR1)
- Targeted beneficiaries (Tier 2) benefit from developed, built or restored assets (output category D) in order to reduce risk of disasters and shocks (SR1)

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<sup>16</sup> Despite the aforementioned high rate of child marriage, there is no school meals programme at the secondary level. Given the higher concentration of poor and food insecure population among primary schools, as well as the resource constraints, the priority is placed on primary schools.

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- Targeted children and pregnant and lactating women and girls (Tier 1) receive specialized nutritious food (output category B) in sufficient quantity and quality and in a timely manner in order to improve their nutrition status (SR 2).

➤ ***Key activities***

47. Under this strategic outcome WFP's interventions will target Malian refugees in Mbera camp through a vulnerability-based, and gender analysis informed, targeting exercise. Refugee children are specifically targeted for school meals during the school year and a portion will continue receiving school meals during the summer break if remedial courses are necessary. In addition, preventative nutrition interventions will target Malian refugee children 6 to 23 months (3,900) and PLW/G (1,600) for blanket supplementary feeding. Treatment interventions will target Malian refugee children 6 to 59 months (2,900) and PLW/G (200) with moderate acute malnutrition for targeted supplementary feeding activities.

48. In addition, the most vulnerable Mauritanian populations in eight regions will be assisted through unconditional food distribution or cash-based transfers integrating preventive distribution of nutritious products for children 6 to 23 months and PLW/Gs as well as through treatment interventions for children 6 to 59 months and PLW/Gs with moderate acute malnutrition.

***Activity 3: Provide food assistance (conditional and unconditional) to the food insecure Malian refugees affected by Mali's crisis including school meals.***

49. The security situation in northern Mali is unlikely to improve by 2018, and Malian refugees who have been living in Mbera camp are expected to continue to stay there. To date, some 80 percent of the refugees are dependent on food assistance as sources of their food intake. The expected number of Malian refugees in Mbera camp at the beginning of the year 2018 is estimated at 55,000 (54 percent being female and 55 percent children). Through a vulnerability-based household targeting exercise, 49,000 people will receive a monthly unconditional transfer of in-kind food products (rice, oil and salt) and a cash portion until the multi-sector strategy for refugee self-reliance and host populations' resilience, as well as the targeting exercise, have been completed.

50. Some 6,000 refugees will also receive a monthly half ration for 9 months and will get a half-ration conditional transfer for 3 months for asset creation (including training on income generation activities). Based on the same logic, when the number of the full ration beneficiaries decreases from 49,000 to 45,000, 5,000 refugees will receive a half ration for nine months until December 2018. Approximately 5,500 refugee children attending the schools in Mbera camp (girls 44 percent and boys 56 percent) will be supported with school meals during the school year, and approximately 2,500 also during the summer break if remedial courses are necessary. The particular roles and responsibilities of women and men will be addressed so that gender inequality will not be compounded by conditionality or choice of assistance modality.

51. Implementation arrangements: WFP will build on partnerships with UNHCR and the *Commissariat à la Sécurité Alimentaire* (CSA) for both conditional and unconditional transfers and an NGO partner for school meals.

***Activity 4: Provide nutrition assistance to Malian refugee children (aged 6-23 months) and PLW/Gs for malnutrition prevention for six months (May–October), and Malian refugee children (aged 6-59 months) and PLW/Gs with MAM treatment for the entire year***

52. While the nutrition situation in the camp has significantly improved since 2012 thanks to a multi-sector coordinated humanitarian response, the fact that most of the refugees are living

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in a closed camp setting and depend on external humanitarian assistance without diverse sources of income, has made the refugees nutritionally vulnerable to minor reduction of food rations, fluctuation of food products and basic items, and to decreased availability and diversity of food products at the market.

53. Implementation arrangements: WFP will build on partnerships with CSA, UNICEF and a local NGO partner. The nutrition support for malnourished children and PLW/Gs will be carried out in complementarity with other humanitarian actors through the coordination of the Multi-sector refugee assistance working group. Partnership with UNFPA and civil society organizations will be pursued to better assess and address the particular needs and interests of PLW/Gs given the high prevalence of early, forced and child marriage and female genital mutilation.

*Activity 9:<sup>17</sup> Provide emergency unconditional food assistance to vulnerable Mauritanian households, including preventive nutritious rations for children (aged 6-23 months) and PLW/Gs, and provide emergency nutrition treatment to vulnerable Mauritanian children (6 to 59 months) and PLW/Gs for an average of two months until recovered between March-October*

54. This is a new emergency response to the drought crisis that was caused by irregular and insufficient rainfalls in 2017. The analysis of the Cadre Harmonisé of November 2017 forecasts that the next lean season will be longer and start sooner, around March 2018, and estimated that some 602,000 people will be in a situation of crisis and emergency between June and September 2018 while 379,000 already were in a crisis situation from October to December 2017. In the context of the coordinated multi-actor response plan, WFP's emergency response intervention will be carried out through unconditional relief transfers (either food or cash-based) in two phases: first, starting with a lower caseload focusing on the departments identified as the most critical in terms of severe food insecurity and severe acute malnutrition beyond the emergency level to assist some 173,000 people from March to May and then scaling-up to the second phase from June to September to reach 421,000 people during the peak of the lean season. Preventive distributions of specialised nutritious foods for children 6 to 23 months and PLW/Gs shall be integrated with the unconditional transfers.

55. The GAM rates already in August 2017 were at an alarming level. During the anticipated and extended 2018 lean season, the prevalence of acute malnutrition is expected to rise to a critical level among the most vulnerable groups in Mauritania which have not yet been equipped with capacities to cope with the shocks. MAM treatment will also follow the two-phase approach highlighted in the previous Activity. During the first phase, 18,300 children 6 to 59 months and 1,300 PLW/Gs will be targeted and then following a scale up 29,000 children and 1,700 PLW/Gs will be supported during the second phase. In support of the treatment of severely malnourished children at the Centre for the Recovery of Intensive Nutrition (CRENI), those accompanying the children staying at the Centre will receive a cash incentive to cover their food during the stay, and other expenditures such as transportation from their home to the centre, and medicines.

56. Implementation arrangements: WFP will continue to build on partnerships with CSA, UNICEF and both international and local NGO partners to carry out this activity. For CBT, the local financial service providers such as banks will also be the key partner. The nutrition support for MAM children and PLW/Gs will be carried out in complementarity with other humanitarian and development actors through the coordination of the nutrition sector

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<sup>17</sup> Activity 9 is a new activity added in BR2, and which will absorb and scale up the resilience building SO 1 activity 1 and SO 3 activity 5.

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working group. Community volunteers will be mobilized through food ration incentives to support the MAM treatment at the Ambulatory MAM Recovery Centre (CRENAM).

### **3.2.3. STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3: CHILDREN AND PREGNANT AND LACTATING WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE SIX TARGETED REGIONS HAVE IMPROVED NUTRITIONAL STATUS ALL YEAR-ROUND**

#### **➤ *Outcome description***

57. In line with WFP's aim to support SDG 2 (achieving zero hunger), this strategic outcome aims to improve the nutritional status amongst children and PLW/Gs, respectively, in the six regions with the highest levels of food insecurity and malnutrition throughout the year. To contribute to this, interventions under this strategic outcome are focused on strengthening the capacities of targeted communities and government structures at the local and central levels to provide the services and care needed to improve the nutritional status among children and PLW/Gs. Additional transfer interventions under this Strategic Outcome have been absorbed through Budget Revision No. 2 into the new Activity 9 under Strategic Outcome 2.
58. This strategic outcome directly supports WFP Strategic Result 2 – No one suffers from malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2).

#### **➤ *Focus Areas***

59. This strategic outcome will build resilience among targeted populations on account of its focus on strengthening the capacities of targeted communities to cope with seasonal shocks.

#### **➤ *Expected outputs***

60. The following outputs of Strategic Outcome 3 also directly support the achievement of SDG 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being). The output is:
  - Targeted communities (Tier 2) benefit from improved skills of health workers to operate, manage and report on malnutrition prevention and MAM treatment activities (output category C) in order to improve nutrition status (SR 2) and access comprehensive health services and care
  - *Additional two outputs linked to Activity 5 food/cash transfers were removed under Budget Revision No. 2, as these elements have been absorbed by the new Activity 9 under SO 2.*

#### **➤ *Key activities***

**Activity 5: Provide MAM treatment to vulnerable Mauritanian children (6 to 59 months for an average of two months until recovered) between May-October and cash transfers to PLW/Gs as part of malnutrition prevention activities**

61. Through Budget Revision No. 2, the MAM treatment will be augmented and integrated into the new emergency response under Activity 9 and the cash transfer for PLW/G shall be closed in 2018. Only the capacity strengthening component of the Activity 5 is maintained.
62. As highlighted in paragraph 9, during the lean season the prevalence of acute malnutrition rises to a critical level among the most vulnerable groups in Mauritania and the population group has not yet been equipped with capacities to cope with the seasonal shocks. The local and central level capacities to operate, manage and report the malnutrition prevention and MAM treatment activities are weak in the country. Under Activity 5, training will be carried out to train targeted communities (volunteer workers) and government workers at the local and central levels, and related material and tools will be provided to strengthen the capacities. The selection of volunteer workers will be gender balanced (men and women)

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while paying attention to community needs and workloads at household levels, among others.

### **3.2.4. STRATEGIC OUTCOME 4: FOOD-INSECURE SMALLHOLDERS AND COMMUNITIES IN THE SIX TARGETED REGIONS HAVE ENHANCED LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE TO BETTER SUPPORT FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION NEEDS ALL YEAR-ROUND**

#### **➤ *Outcome description***

63. In line with WFP's aim to support SDG 2 (achieving zero hunger), this strategic outcome aims to ensure livelihoods and resilience to food insecure smallholder farmers and communities in the six targeted regions, to better support food security and nutrition needs all year round. To contribute to this, interventions under this strategic outcome intend to provide food assistance to food insecure Mauritanian households for community and household assets creation, while ensuring equal engagement of women and men at all levels so as to reduce inequalities within households and the communities. Interventions include the development, restoration or building of community assets that reduce risk of disasters and shocks, as equitably beneficial to the diverse members of the targeted communities.

This strategic outcome directly supports WFP Strategic Result 3 - Improved food security and nutrition of smallholders (SDG Target 2.3).

#### **➤ *Focus Areas***

64. This strategic outcome will build resilience among targeted populations on account of its focus on providing food/CBT assistance to the most food-insecure smallholder farmers.

#### **➤ *Expected outputs***

65. The output of Strategic Outcome 4 also directly supports the achievement of SDG 2.2 (end malnutrition), SDG 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being), SDG 5 (gender equality), and SDG 17.9 (capacity strengthening). The output is:

- Targeted populations (Tier 2) benefit from assets developed, built or restored (output category D) in order to reduce risk of disasters and shocks (SR 3)

#### **➤ *Key activities***

66. Under this strategic outcome WFP's interventions will target some 62,900 food-insecure smallholder farmers (with a higher percentage of women than men, smallholder farmers given aforementioned inequalities) in the same beneficiary groups assisted under Activity 1. Activities will help secure household food stocks in the post-harvest period, and enhance and protect community and household assets, which will be accessed and managed by women and men equally, ahead of the lean season.

***Activity 6: Provide food assistance to food insecure Mauritanian households for community and household assets creation.***

67. Food insecurity in Mauritania is characterized by seasonal shocks, natural disaster risks and environmental degradation increased by climate change, as well as lack of resilience of smallholders to cope with these risks and shocks. Food Assistance for Asset activities will be undertaken via food and/or cash-based transfers for 60 working days per participant, targeting the same villages which are targeted through the lean season unconditional transfer component, taking into account the type of assets to be built and being informed by participatory gender analyses. The targeting and planning of FFA activities and complementary interventions will be driven by the gradual implementation of the 3-pronged approach (3PA), with a strong gender equality, protection and nutrition sensitive lens in terms of FFA planning and implementation modalities. It will be ensured that women actively participate in community decision making, with women and men equitably

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benefiting from the community asset creation activities. Attention will be paid to ensuring women's particular needs will be taken into account and their participation in the labour force will not result in an increase of their work burden. The types of assets to be created will facilitate improvement of mother and child's nutrition status (such as access to drinking water, vegetable gardening etc.) in a priority manner. Protection issues will be integrated into sensitization, training and monitoring activities to ensure that the participants and their families are safe before, during and after the works.

68. Implementation arrangements: WFP will build on partnerships with the government technical services, both international and local NGO partners, and the communities who will be gathered through the seasonal livelihood planning and the community-based participatory planning.

### **3.2.5. STRATEGIC OUTCOME 5: THE HUMANITARIAN COMMUNITY IN MAURITANIA HAS ACCESS TO UNHAS SERVICES ALL YEAR-ROUND**

#### **➤ OUTCOME DESCRIPTION**

69. In line with WFP's aim to support SDG 17 (revitalize global partnerships for sustainable development), this strategic outcome aims to provide air transport assistance through UNHAS to the humanitarian community of the United Nations agencies and NGOs who need to travel long distances to reach the insecure and remote locations in Mauritania, where most of the beneficiaries are located.

This strategic outcome directly supports WFP Strategic Result 8 - Global partnership support (SDG Target 17.16).

#### **➤ Focus Areas**

70. This strategic outcome will support crisis response on account of its focus on providing humanitarian air transport services to reach crisis-affected and food-insecure populations in Mauritania.

#### **➤ Expected outputs**

71. The following output of Strategic Outcome 5 also directly supports the achievement of SDG 17.9 (capacity strengthening), SDG 2.2 (end malnutrition), SDG 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being), and SDG 4.1 (free, equitable and quality access to education) and 17.9 (capacity strengthening). The output is:

- Vulnerable people (Tier 3) in targeted areas benefit from UN humanitarian air services to humanitarian and development partners (output category H) in order to promptly receive life-saving assistance (SR 8)

#### **➤ Key activities**

72. Under this strategic outcome WFP will provide the needed aircraft capacity and charters on behalf of the humanitarian community in the country.

**Activity 7: Provide flights services to humanitarian partners, towards areas of humanitarian interventions.**

73. Distances between the main areas of humanitarian interventions and the capital Nouakchott are vast with poor road conditions. Road travel is also perennially affected by seasonal weather, as infrastructure is damaged during the rainy season. In addition to possible delays there are growing security threats posed by acts of banditry and/or risks of terrorism against humanitarian workers along the way. Due to lack of alternatives, all humanitarian actors are highly dependent on UNHAS. UNHAS will continue to provide air links to facilitate the

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humanitarian community's access to seven destinations in Mauritania, including Bassikounou, Nema, Aioun, Kiffa, Kaedi, Selibaby and Nouakchott.

74. Implementation arrangements: WFP will manage the humanitarian air services on behalf of the humanitarian community. A reliable and competent air operator company will be contracted and the operation will be carried out in close collaboration with the local air authorities. While the UNHAS operation will be operated by the UNHAS team on a daily basis, the UNHAS User Group will meet regularly to get updated on the financial situation, the achievements, any problem to be solved and to make decisions for the interest of the user organizations.

### **3.2.6. STRATEGIC OUTCOME 6: GOVERNMENT HAS ENHANCED CAPACITIES TO MANAGE FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES AND IDENTIFY, TARGET AND ASSIST FOOD-INSECURE AND NUTRITIONALLY-VULNERABLE POPULATIONS ALL YEAR-ROUND**

#### **➤ OUTCOME DESCRIPTION**

75. In line with WFP's aim to support SDG 17 (revitalize global partnerships for sustainable development), this strategic outcome aims to strengthen the government's capacities to implement and manage gender-transformative food security and nutrition policies and programmes as well as identify, target and assist food-insecure and nutritionally-vulnerable populations all year-round, including during seasonal and acute shocks. To contribute to this, interventions under this strategic outcome intend to support the capacities of government institutions to set up and manage an overarching adaptive, gender-responsive social protection system, steered towards resilience building at national and local levels.

76. This strategic outcome directly supports WFP Strategic Result 5 - Countries strengthened capacities (SDG Target 17.9).

#### **➤ Focus Areas**

77. This strategic outcome will build national resilience on account of its focus on reinforcing the capacities of government counterparts and local institutions, partners and communities on different thematic areas, such as food security, nutrition, social protection, and emergency preparedness and response, across which gender is integrated.

#### **➤ Expected outputs**

78. The following outputs of Strategic Outcome 6 also directly support the achievement of SDG 17.9 (capacity strengthening), SDG 2.2 (end malnutrition), SDG 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being), and SDG 4.1 (free, equitable and quality access to education). The outputs are:

- Food-insecure people in targeted areas (Tier 3) benefit from strengthened capacities of government institutions (output category C) on design, coordination and implementation of food security and nutrition priorities in order to better progress towards zero hunger (SR 5)

#### **➤ Key activities**

79. Under this strategic outcome WFP plans to further reinforce the capacities of government counterparts and local institutions, partners and communities on different thematic areas.

*Activity 8: Provide training and technical support to government institutions in policy formulation and activity coordination and implementation related to: social protection, resilience, and emergency preparedness and response, across which gender is integrated.*

80. This will include:

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- i) Strengthening the national safety net programme, particularly the targeting of beneficiaries and cash delivery systems, and developing a shock responsive, nutrition sensitive and gender-transformative social protection programme;
- ii) Further reinforcing early warning and food security and nutrition monitoring systems;
- iii) Enhancing emergency preparedness efforts, including emergency response plans and other activities related to African Risk Capacity (ARC) and ARC-replica tools and emergency stock management;
- iv) Linking strategic local value chains (local fish, milk, meat and agricultural products) and private sector with WFP and other national safety net programmes and;
- v) Supporting the government in developing a national school feeding programme.

81. Implementation arrangements: Thorough training workshops, on-the-job training through outposted consultants in government structures or joint missions and co-drafting of key documents will be the main implementation arrangements for capacity strengthening activities. WFP will leverage its extensive experience and its expertise in supply chain management to contribute to enhancing the government's emergency preparedness and response capacities as well as strengthening the linkages between local value chains and national safety net programmes.

### **3.3. TRANSITION AND EXIT STRATEGIES**

82. The National Zero Hunger Strategic Review in Mauritania took place from April to October 2017. Based on the preliminary results of the review, the CSP 2019-2022 will be prepared from the last quarter of 2017 through the first quarter of 2018. The CSP is expected to be submitted to the 2018 November session of the Executive Board.

83. In order to ensure the continuity of the country portfolio interventions during 2018 and better align the strategic plan with the new cycle of national level strategies in Mauritania without interruptions, the WFP Country Office proposes a one-year extension of all operations from January to December 2018.

84. Advancement of gender equality will be the key in the achievement of zero hunger. Gender equality will be mainstreamed in WFP's capacity-strengthening and transition activities.

85. Activity 8 "Provide training and technical support to government institutions in policy formulation and activity coordination and implementation related to: social protection, resilience, and emergency preparedness and response" and the other capacity strengthening activities embedded in each of the other activities shall already initiate the required actions towards WFP's exit strategy and subsequent hand over to the government beyond the T-ICSP period.

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## **4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

### **4.1. BENEFICIARY ANALYSIS**

86. WFP country portfolio activities mainly target the rain-fed agriculture and agro-pastoral zones of the south where the majority of recurrently food-insecure people and malnourished children live. The Malian refugees in Mbera camp are also targeted.

87. Geographical targeting considers areas where food insecurity and acute malnutrition have been consistently high for five years and those areas expected to have high food insecurity and malnutrition prevalence in 2018. Hodh ech-Chargui, Hodh el-Garbi, Assaba, Gorgol, Guidimakha, Tagant, Brakna and Trarza regions are targeted based on FSMS and SMART,

as well as the latest Cadre Harmonisé. Market functionality, price trends, food availability, and beneficiary preferences are also considered in selecting targeted areas for food or cash modality; with decisions also being informed by gender analyses. The expanded beneficiary targeting in response to the drought shall include gender analyses in a systematic manner. In order to maximize the impact of food assistance interventions for resilience building for the most vulnerable population, WFP will target the same population groups in the same geographic areas aiming at multi-sector synergies among different activities including those of other actors' interventions. Through full integration of the community-based planning as well as seasonal livelihood planning community support activities will be more transformative and of benefit to population groups which are usually under-represented in the communities, including households headed by women, and elderly persons; ensuring that their interests are reflected in the programme and activity design and that they are empowered.

88. Household targeting will be performed with partners and village committees. The household economy approach (HEA) will be used in rural areas for targeting poor and very poor households. Vulnerability of poor women-headed households will be given particular attention in targeting; while attention will be given to identifying and finding means of addressing intra-household inequalities.
89. Preventive supplementary feeding for children aged 6–23 months will be integrated in the emergency unconditional transfers to ensure the targeting of the most vulnerable children. TSF activities will target children aged 6–59 months admitted for treatment in accordance with the National Protocol for the Treatment of Acute Malnutrition. Those children exiting therapeutic feeding and deemed recovered will be referred to CRENAMs. School feeding intervention zones have also been identified in coordination with other interventions to increase the synergies to the extent possible.
90. WFP's response will dynamically adjust to information provided by food security and nutrition monitoring and analysis of rainfall, agricultural production, and prices. If a new shock or large-scale crisis occurs, estimates will be realigned with findings from vulnerability, nutrition, gender and crop assessments and early warning systems. Geographical coverage for nutrition activities can be expanded to prevent peaks in acute malnutrition and mortality in a large-scale crisis.
91. All beneficiaries (except for school feeding) will be registered through the corporate SCOPE system, with biometric information, in order to allow efficient and secure beneficiary data management.

**TABLE 1: BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME & ACTIVITY**

Strategic Outcome	Activity	Current			Increase / Decrease			Revised		
		Boys / Men	Girls / Women	Total	Boys / Men	Girls / Women	Total	Boys / Men	Girls / Women	Total
Strategic Outcome 1	Activity 1 ( <i>suspended in BR2</i> ): Provide seasonal unconditional food assistance to vulnerable Mauritanian households, including preventive nutritious rations for children (aged 6-23 months)	64,800	68,700	133,500	-64,800	-68,700	-133,500	0	0	0

Strategic Outcome 1	ACTIVITY 2: Provide school meals to vulnerable Mauritanian children during the school year	37,300	38,000	75,300	0	0	0	37,300	38,000	75,300
Strategic Outcome 2	ACTIVITY 3: Provide food assistance (conditional and unconditional) to the food insecure Malian refugees affected by Mali's crisis including school meals	24,400	30,600	55,000	0	0	0	30,600	24,400	55,000
Strategic Outcome 2	ACTIVITY 4: Provide nutrition assistance to Malian refugee children (aged 6-23 months) and PLW/Gs for malnutrition prevention for six months (May–October), and Malian refugee children (aged 6-59 months) and PLW/Gs with MAM	3,300	5,200	8,500	0	0	0	3,300	5,200	8,500
Strategic Outcome 2	ACTIVITY 9 (added in BR2): Provide emergency unconditional food assistance to vulnerable Mauritanian households, including preventive nutritious rations for children (aged 6-23 months) and PLW/Gs	0	0	0	207,600	220,100	427,700	207,600	220,100	427,700
Strategic Outcome 3	ACTIVITY 5 (transfer components absorbed into Activity 9 in BR2; only capacity strengthening remains): Provide MAM treatment to vulnerable Mauritanian children (aged 6-59 months) for 2 months on average between May–October and cash transfers to PLW/Gs as part of malnutrition prevention activities	16,700	30,000	46,700	-16,700	-30,000	-46,700	0	0	0

Strategic Outcome 4	ACTIVITY 6: Provide food assistance to food insecure Mauritanian households for community and household assets creation	50,100	52,500	102,600	0	0	0	50,100	52,500	102,600
Strategic Outcome 5	ACTIVITY 7: Provide flights services to humanitarian partners, towards areas of humanitarian interventions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strategic Outcome 6	ACTIVITY 8: Provide training and technical support to government institutions in policy formulation and activity coordination and implementation related to: social protection, resilience, and emergency preparedness and response	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>135,900</b>	<b>152,800</b>	<b>288,700</b>	<b>111,100</b>	<b>113,400</b>	<b>224,500</b>	<b>247,000</b>	<b>266,200</b>	<b>513,200</b>

## 4.2. TRANSFERS

### 4.2.1. FOOD AND CASH-BASED TRANSFERS

92. While findings of various assessments indicate that CBT could be a suitable assistance transfer modality for both refugees and the local Mauritanian population, WFP will undertake in-depth needs assessments, integrating gender analyses, in rural areas to confirm if and where it is the appropriate response. Moreover, WFP will continue to monitor market prices and the availability of main food items on the markets, as well as retailer's availability, capacities and behaviour to ensure that beneficiaries have access to quality food all year-round<sup>18</sup>.

93. Food transfer modalities will assist in achieving the first four outcomes, with activities encompassing school meals, nutrition programmes and asset-creation. Over the duration of the T-ICSP, food transfers are expected to gradually reduce.

<sup>18</sup> Gender analysis will be embedded in needs assessments and market analyses.

**TABLE 2: FOOD RATION (g/person/day) or CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUE (US\$/person/day) BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY**

Strategic Outcome	Strategic Outcome 1	Strategic Outcome 2												Strategic Outcome 4			
Activity	Activity 2: Provide school meals to vulnerable Mauritanian children during the school year	Activity 3: Provide food assistance to the food insecure Malian refugees affected by Mali's crisis including school meals		Activity 4: Provide nutrition assistance to Malian refugee children (aged 6-23 months) and PLW/Gs for malnutrition prevention for six months (May–October), and Malian refugee children (aged 6-59 months) and PLW/Gs with MAM				Activity 9 (new): Provide emergency unconditional food assistance to vulnerable Mauritanian households, including preventive nutritious rations for children (aged 6-23 months) and PLW/Gs and provide emergency nutrition treatment to vulnerable Mauritanian children (aged 6-59 months) and PLW/Gs						Activity 6: Provide food assistance to food insecure Mauritanian households for community and household assets creation			
Beneficiary type	School children	Malian refugees	Malian refugees School children	Malian children 6-23 months (prevention)	Malian PLW/Gs (prevention)	Malian children 6-59 months (treatment)	Malian PLW/Gs (treatment)	Local Mauritanians		Children 6-23 months (prevention)	PLW/Gs (prevention)	Children 6-59 months (treatment)	PLW/Gs (treatment)	CRENAM helpers	Caregivers at CREN	Local Mauritanians (FFA)	
Modality	In-kind	In-kind and CBT combined	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	CBT	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	CBT	In-kind	CBT
cereals	150	250						350						1000		500	
pulses	40							30						250		40	
oil	15	25			20		25	20			20		25	150		30	
salt	4	5						3								5	
Supercereal	80		60		200		250				200		250				
Supercereal Plus				200						100							
Plumpy Sup						100						100					
MNP	0.5																
total kcal/day	1116	2062	225	787	928	535	1160	1434		394	929	535	1161	5820		2222	
percent kcal from protein	11.7		16.3	16.6	13.2	10.5	13.2	14.1		16.6	13.2	10.5	13.2	11.3		11.1	
cash (US\$/person/day)		0.42							0.374						3.333		0.54
Number of feeding days	160	360	220	180	180	60	60	210	210	210	210	60	60	180	12	60	60

**TABLE 3: TOTAL FOOD/CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS & VALUE**

Food type / cash-based transfer	Total (mt)	Total (US\$)
Cereals	17,902	4,990,660
Pulses	1,543	925,993
Oil and Fats	1,387	1,446,118
Mixed and Blended Foods	2,770	2,460,323
Other	249	180,483
<b>TOTAL (food)</b>	<b>23,851</b>	<b>10,003,577</b>
Cash-Based Transfers (US\$)		21,831,820
<b>TOTAL (food and CBT value – US\$)</b>	<b>23,851</b>	<b>31,835,397</b>

#### **4.2.2. CAPACITY STRENGTHENING INCLUDING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**

94. Capacity strengthening and technical support related to the operational implementation will be embedded in all activities. WFP will broaden its strategic partnerships beyond its traditional government counterparts such as CSA and the Ministry of National Education, while it will continue to further support their capacity strengthening. The support under Strategic Outcome 6 will aim to enhance the skills and capabilities which support national ownership and sustainability.

95. Exchange and learning of knowledge, skills and expertise through South-South cooperation will be sought in the development and operationalization of the national school feeding programme. Likewise, capacity strengthening of smallholder farmers can also be supported by skill transfer through South-South cooperation. WFP Mauritania will collaborate with the WFP Centres of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil and China to facilitate the process during the period covered by the T-ICSP. Study tours of counterpart technical service staff and community level farmer exchange visits (for example to neighbouring Senegal) can be supported and promoted by Brazil or China.

#### **4.3. SUPPLY CHAIN**

96. Supply chain networks of well-established food commodities arrive through the port of Nouakchott, ‘Port de l’Amitié’. Local procurements of salt and wheat have reduced transport costs thanks to the low prices, and availability of commodities. Transport remains challenging especially during the rainy season due to the difficult road conditions and to the unsatisfactory performance to WFP standards of contracted transporters. To avoid pipeline breaks, food is pre-positioned in advance of the rainy season whenever possible.

97. WFP is assessing the transition from the current cash-based transfer system through a manual distribution with micro financial institutions to an electronic transfer system with banks during the course of 2018 for better cost efficiency in conjunction with the Government social protection transfer system (Tekavoul).

98. WFP will ensure a cost-efficient and effective supply chain both for in-kind and cash-based transfer operations through close tracking of commodity movements, proactive and strategic coordination with transporters, financial institutions and mobile service providers, retailer strategy development, value chain analysis, and support for government and small holder farmers and cross-cutting in-house supply chain coordination.

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#### **4.4. COUNTRY OFFICE CAPACITY AND PROFILE**

99. WFP will have enhanced its country office capacity during the year 2017 and will maintain its comparative advantage in having large field presence through three sub-offices covering six southern provinces.

#### **4.5. PARTNERSHIPS**

100. WFP will broaden and consolidate its partnership with the government ministries, United Nations agencies, international institutions, international and local NGOs and civil society organizations, through the Whole of Society Approach of the national Zero Hunger Review which is an ideal opportunity for gathering all stakeholders around the zero hunger agenda.

101. UNICEF, UNHCR, FAO and the World Bank as well as NGOs such as ACF, OXFAM and Save the Children are the strategic core allies of WFP in Mauritania in both emergency preparedness and response and in national capacity-strengthening, as well as complementarity in multisectoral support, such as in relation to advancing gender equality, to the target populations. Such privileged partnerships will be maintained as a priority.

102. Stronger strategic regional partnerships are being also explored with support from the Regional Bureau for G5 Sahel (WFP-FAO joint partnership) and the Alliance for the Sahel.

103. WFP is looking at enlarging the partnership also towards the private sector for enhanced supply chain.

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### **5. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND EVALUATION**

#### **5.1. MONITORING AND EVALUATION ARRANGEMENTS**

104. The T-ICSP gender-responsive monitoring will be contiguous with the existing project monitoring procedures, making use of data collected under the CP and PRRO for baseline establishment as relevant. The monitoring findings on both results and implementation process will be systematically shared and discussed at all levels from Cooperating Partners, Sub offices to Head Office and reflected in the planning and the improved implementation will address particular issues raised.

105. WFP will continue to transfer its M&E system to the concerned government agencies and ministries (CSA, Tadamoune, Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Health) while strengthening their capacities. Data are collected by WFP and government staff, and person-related data will be disaggregated by sex and age, where applicable. Performance will be regularly monitored, analysed, and published in annual outcome and semi-annual monitoring reports. This will be complemented by food security and nutrition assessments and monitoring of market prices. In this context, WFP will support the capacity strengthening of the Food Security Observatory of CSA. Government reporting structures will be strengthened and used to ensure sustainability. Through regular meetings, WFP and the government will invest to measure progress, impact and sustainability of results against established action plans.

106. A gender-responsive beneficiary feedback mechanism will be put in place as part of a protection action plan which addresses differential awareness amongst gender groups and that is based on WFP's Humanitarian Protection Policy (2012). Joint monitoring with other UN agencies will be conducted to address the cross cutting issues effectively.

107. The online "Country Office Tool for Managing (programme operations) Effectively" (COMET), SCOPE and LESS tools will be used to track performance indicators, and for planning and management of the response. Data at field level will be collected electronically or manually with data submission and analysis in real time. Financial resources for staff, baseline and evaluations have been budgeted.

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## 5.2. RISK MANAGEMENT

108. Natural disasters such as drought, locust infestation or flooding are major contextual shocks that Mauritania has suffered from. The sudden and significant fluctuation of food prices at international markets will most likely lead to immediate food insecurity and social unrest given the country's high dependence on imported food. Following irregular rainfalls during the 2017 rainy season, early transhumance, dry pastures, reduced agricultural production, and low-surface water availability are being observed in most areas of Mauritania. WFP has been instrumental in linking the food security sector and the nutrition sector groups composed of the Government, UN agencies and NGOs to analyse the situation and preparation of a coordinated response plan. The augmented response plan has been integrated in the present T-ICSP through an emergency Budget Revision. The aggravation of the military and political instability in the wider Sahara and Sahel region and its possible spill-over into Mauritania would significantly affect WFP's staff security and operational capacities. WFP keeps monitoring the risks and updating its preparedness measures to be able to adjust its readiness level and response capacities, including security measures.

109. Mauritania has revised its national currency "Ouguiya" with very short notice to be effective from 1 January 2018. Since 1 January 2018, the old Mauritanian Ouguiya (MRO) has been replaced by a new Mauritanian Ouguiya (MRU) with an official exchange rate of 10 MROs to 1 MRU for a 6-month transition period until 30 June 2018. Risks of inflation and confusion exist. While the Government and banks assure a smooth transition, WFP will closely monitor the prices in the markets and take sufficient time to communicate and sensitize the beneficiary populations and partners about the new bank notes before a cash-based transfer.

110. The major programmatic risk is lack of funding. WFP will continuously work with current donors, seek to broaden the funding base, and strengthen joint fundraising with other organisations. A prioritisation action plan has been prepared for all outcomes.

111. WFP has developed and implemented protection aspects into its programme activities. Accountability to affected populations will cover all WFP sites.

112. Possible institutional risks include financial and reputational loss due to failure to meet the procedures and timelines for operational implementation. The internal control and learning and sensitization of the business process and transaction procedures shall be systematically carried out at all levels in all functional areas.

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## 6. RESOURCES FOR RESULTS

### 6.1. COUNTRY PORTFOLIO BUDGET

**TABLE 5: COUNTRY PORTFOLIO BUDGET (US\$)**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Strategic Outcome 1	\$4,436,460					\$4,436,460
Strategic Outcome 2	\$47,867,617					\$47,867,617
Strategic Outcome 3	\$169,426					\$169,426
Strategic Outcome 4	\$2,862,084					\$2,862,084
Strategic Outcome 5	\$3,330,625					\$3,330,625
Strategic Outcome 6	\$946,106					\$946,106
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$59,612,318</b>					<b>\$59,612,318</b>

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## 6.2. RESOURCING OUTLOOK

113. The T-ICSP is expected to be mainly funded by traditional government donors and, to a limited extent, by the private sector, as the previous WFP country portfolio Funds received in 2014 and 2015 for resilience and crisis response activities (including UNHAS), were relatively stable with an average of USD 28 million per year. However, funding dropped after the end of the regional emergency response, and in 2016 was just above USD 16 million. School meals were significantly underfunded every year for the entire period of the country programme since 2012 and ended up with being put on hold during the year 2016. Activities supporting vulnerable Mauritanians and Malian refugees received on average 30 percent funding each year. Funds will be allocated to gender equality activities, in accordance with the corporate commitment (as per the Gender Policy).
114. Traditional donors are slowly disengaging due to fatigue to the same assistance approaches to the recurrent shocks and the protracted refugee situation. This is why WFP has taken considerable steps to accelerate the capacity strengthening of the national social protection, early warning, emergency preparedness and response mechanisms at national level in the course of 2017. WFP has also been pushing its partners and the UNCT to draft a much needed (and much expected by donors) multisector and multiannual strategy for refugees' self-reliance and host communities resilience, which should gradually shift 'care and maintenance' to resilience based assistance. WFP has shown a greater coordination capacity by proactively taking the lead in the coordination of the analysis and response to looming 2018 food security and nutrition crisis due to the drought in 2017. These steps taken have already proven to retain our traditional donors throughout 2017, and resulted in more funding being mobilized for 2017 operations. Some USD 6 million received in the second semester of 2016 were programmed for 2017 operations, bringing the level of resources effectively used for 2017 activities to USD 21 million. This represents a significant 57 percent increase in the country office's resource mobilization efforts both in the course of 2016 and 2017, and is the result of donors' renewed trust in WFP's New Way of Working.

## 6.3. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY

115. Resource mobilization and communication strategies are being developed highlighting WFP's new strategic direction and the support it can provide to assist Mauritania in its efforts to achieve SDG national targets. Under the new strategic direction and in line with recommendations of recent evaluations, a twofold path will be undertaken.
116. WFP together with its strategic partners and the government will accelerate the capacity strengthening of the national adaptive social protection system, which encompasses recurrent seasonal transfers, school feeding programme, and early warning, emergency preparedness and response mechanism. This approach goes beyond traditional institutional frameworks, concretely operationalizing the humanitarian-development "nexus" promoting food security and livelihoods as factors of peace, stability and prevention of migrations. Such a systematic and strategic approach will pave the way for an effective handover to the government in the future, and would attract more funding. In case of funding shortfall, WFP will focus its operations in limited geographic areas to maximize its focus and convergence of its inputs and synergy with other actors. WFP will continue its active engagement with donors, through briefing meetings in Nouakchott and joint field visits. This will ensure regular communication on results achieved and constraints, and increase accountability and transparency. These relationships will offer greater opportunity for funding sources. WFP will also seek opportunities to engage with private sector donors where possible.

**ANNEX I: SUMMARY OF LOGICAL FRAMEWORK OF MAURITANIA  
(TRANSITIONAL) INTERIM COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN  
(JANUARY 2018- DECEMBER 2018)**

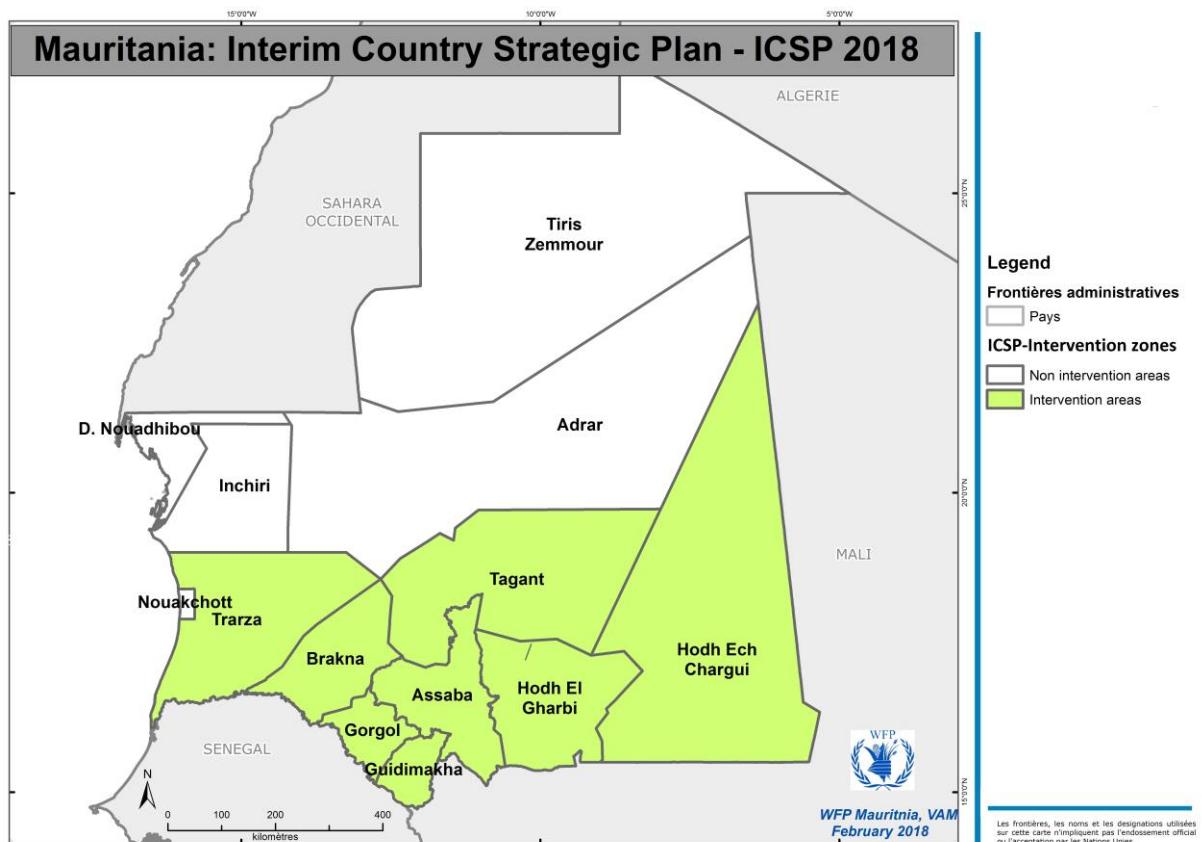
***SEE COMET VERSION***

**ANNEX II: INDICATIVE COST BREAKDOWN**

INDICATIVE COST BREAKDOWN ALONG STRATEGIC OUTCOMES (US\$)							
WFP Strategic Results / SDG Targets	SR1 / SDG 2.1	SR 1 / SDG 2.1	SR2 / SDG 2.2	SR3 / SDG 2.3	SR8 / SDG 17.16	SR5 / SGD 17.9	Total
WFP Strategic Outcomes	Strategic Outcome 1	Strategic Outcome 2	Strategic Outcome 3	Strategic Outcome 4	Strategic Outcome 5	Strategic Outcome 6	
Focus Area	Resilience building	Crisis response	Resilience building	Resilience building	Crisis response	Resilience building	
<b>Transfer</b>	\$3,324,034	\$37,625,958	\$151,945	\$2,210,559	\$2,986,966	\$684,685	\$46,984,147
<b>Implementation</b>	\$654,666	\$5,302,604	\$0	\$356,211	\$0	\$163,800	\$6,477,280
<b>Adjusted DSC (%)</b>	\$186,991	\$2,017,557	\$7,141	\$120,633	\$140,381	\$39,877	\$2,512,580
<b>Sub-total</b>	\$4,165,690	\$44,946,119	\$159,086	\$2,687,403	\$3,127,347	\$888,362	\$55,974,007
<b>ISC (6.5%)</b>	\$270,770	\$2,921,498	\$10,341	\$174,681	\$203,278	\$57,744	\$3,638,310
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$4,436,460	\$47,867,617	\$169,426	\$2,862,084	\$3,330,625	\$946,106	\$59,612,318

### ANNEX III: MAP(S)

Map(s) should show the food security and nutrition level in the country.



## ANNEX IV: ACRONYMS

ARC	African Risk Capacity
BSFP	Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme
CRENAM	<i>Centre de récupération nutritionnelle ambulatoire pour traitement de la malnutrition modérée</i>
CRENI	<i>Centre de récupération nutritionnelle en interne</i>
CSA	<i>Commissariat à la sécurité alimentaire</i>
CSP	Country Strategic Plan
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FLA	field-level agreement
FSMS	food security monitoring survey
GAM	global acute malnutrition
GFD	general food distribution
HEA	household economy approach
ICA	Integrated Context Analysis
JAM	joint assessment mission
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MAM	moderate acute malnutrition
NGO	non-governmental organization
PDM	Post distribution monitoring
PLW/Gs	pregnant and lactating women and girls
PRRO	protracted relief and recovery operation
SAM	severe acute malnutrition
SCAPP	<i>Stratégie pour la croissance et la prospérité partagée</i>
SMART	Standardised Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions
TSFP	targeted supplementary feeding programme
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund