



WFP Mauritania Country Brief

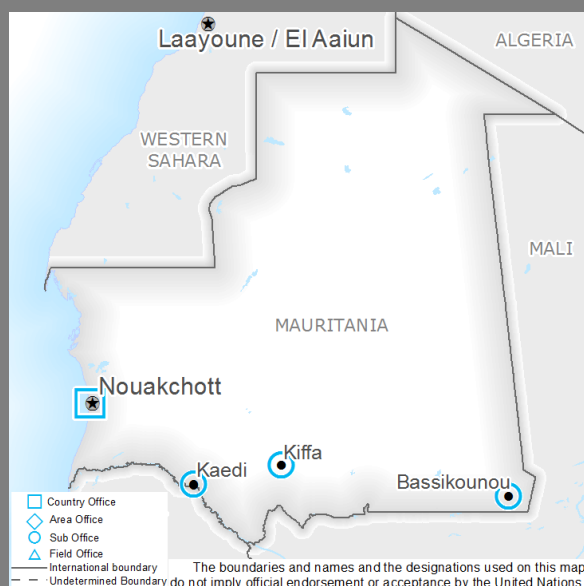
May 2018

Operational Context

Mauritania is a lower middle-income country in the Sahel, with a population of 4.4 million (UNFPA, 2017) living over a vast but mostly arid 1,030,700 km² territory.

Mauritania is exposed to recurrent cycles of drought resulting in the degradation of natural resources and structurally affecting reproductive capacity and resilience of populations. Over the past five years, food insecurity rates ranged from 25 to 30 percent during the lean season. Global acute malnutrition rates are also high in children aged 6-59 months and above the WHO emergency threshold of 15 percent (SMART) in 21 departments, especially during the lean season.

Mauritania continues to host the second-to largest number of Malian refugees in the Sahel, with more than 53,600 refugees registered in Mbera camp as of April 2018. WFP has been present in Mauritania since 1964.



Gender Inequality Index: **147**

2015 Human Development Index:
156 out of 188

Food insecurity: **26% (FSMS 2018) post-harvest**

Chronic malnutrition: **31% of children between 6-59 months**

Main
Photo

Credit: WFP/Adrien Rebours
Caption: scene from everyday life in a village near
Selibaby (Guidimaka region)

In Numbers

538,400 projected persons in food crisis
(source: *Cadre Harmonisé* projections IPC Phase 3
& 4 for 2018 lean season)

2.3 percent severe acute malnutrition in
children under 5 (above WHO emergency level.
Source: SMART 2017)

US\$ 25.1* six months (June-November 2018)
net funding requirements, representing 41% of
total needs for next six months

*Including emergency funding needs

121,000 people
assisted
in May 2018

51%



49%



Strategic Update

- In May, the Ambassador of European Union visited Mbera camp to have a first-hand account of EU-funded interventions carried out by UNHCR. In the framework of the EU-UNHCR mission, the Ambassador also visited WFP food and nutrition related activities.
- The mission came at a pivotal time when the refugee population has increased in the previous months, and when WFP and other partners, are working on addressing root causes of vulnerabilities and strengthening the resilience of both Malian and Mauritanian people living in Hodh-ech-Charghi region.

2018 Humanitarian Response Plan

- In May, food security and nutrition partners, intervening through the integrated response plan, reached some 107,200 food insecure and malnourished people (women, men and children) through food assistance and nutrition support. Of these, WFP assisted 65,400 people in the high priority departments of Kaedi, Selibaby and Nema. The preparation of distributions with partners and government authorities proceeded smoothly and relied on a strong coordination set up the previous months.

Operational Updates

Support to drought affected people

- In May, WFP assisted 65,400 beneficiaries with cash or food distributions, and nutrition support for the prevention and treatment of global acute malnutrition (GAM).
- WFP delivered a reduced monthly household in-kind ration composed of 10.5 kg of cereals, 6 kg of oil, and 90 gr of salt. WFP was unable to provide a full food basket due to a series of disruptions along the supply chain and untimely funding contributions.
- WFP and its financial service provider - El Amana Bank - distributed full cash entitlements part of the monthly household rations. Beneficiaries received USD 67 using bankcards with PIN.
- As part of the nutrition support for the prevention and treatment of GAM, some 7,000 children aged 6-59 months were supported with nutritious foods. Caregivers working in the *Centres de Réhabilitation Nutritionnelle Ambulatoire* (CRENAMs) were also trained in nutrition and health practices to provide a more comprehensive nutrition support to mothers.

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<http://www1.wfp.org/countries/mauritania>

WFP Country Strategy		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018)		
61.2 m	33.7	25.1 m
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food		
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		
4.4 m	1 m	0.35 m
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food		
Strategic Outcome 2: Crisis-affected people, including refugees, are able to meet basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises		
49.4 m	26 m	24 m
Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition		
Strategic Outcome 3: Children and pregnant and lactating women and girls in the six targeted regions have improved nutritional status all year-round NB: this includes only capacity-development augmentation		
0.169 m	0	0.075 m
Strategic Result 3: Improved food security and nutrition of smallholders		
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		
2.9 m	2.9	0 m
Strategic Result 8: Global partnership support		
Strategic Outcome 5: The humanitarian community in Mauritania has access to UNHAS services all year-round		
3.3 m	2.3 m	0.5m
Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities		
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		
0.9 m	1,5m	0 m

WFP Country Activities

SO 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
SO 2	Crisis-affected people, including refugees, are able to meet basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises
SO 3	Children and pregnant and lactating women and girls in the six targeted regions have improved nutritional status all year-round <i>NB: this includes only capacity development and augmentation</i>
SO 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
SO 5	The humanitarian community in Mauritania has access to UNHAS services all year-round
SO 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

- WFP also started preparing to scale-up its operations to assist 385,000 people in June-September (Phase II). Based on the funding confirmed and forecasts expected, WFP can only support 193,000 drought-affected people.

Support to Malian refugees

- In May, WFP assisted 55,600 refugees with a mixed cash/food individual monthly ration. Each beneficiary received USD 6 (instead of the planned USD 12) of cash entitlements and in-kind ration composed of 7,5 kg of rice. The initially planned 35 gr of salt and 750 gr of oil could not be provided due to late arrival of commodities. WFP also provided preventive and curative nutrition support to 270 children aged 6-59 months. The refugee camp continues to welcome new arrivals for the last months but at a slower rate than the last major influx of April.

UNHAS

- In May, UNHAS facilitated humanitarian travel of 125 passengers between Nouakchott-Bassikounou-Nema. UNHAS also transported 0,944 mt of light cargo through 32 in-country rotations. The Government approved an authorization to fly to Nema and Bassikounou until December 2018.
- The lack of authorization to fly in other destinations will have a strong impact on humanitarian partners' capacities to monitor activities during the lean season interventions in the rest of the country.

Monitoring

- Monitoring of prices in local markets reveals that while imported food prices are stable as compared to the same time last year, local food prices have increased due to low availability of traditional cereals on the market and higher demand during Ramadan. This is affecting the seasonal purchasing power of the most vulnerable, who consume locally produced cereals. Livestock prices are also considered stable as compared to the same period last year. However the prices of the most consumed small ruminants have increased (mainly sheep), following a period of worrying decrease.

Challenges

- May interventions were delayed due to late confirmation and limited availability of funding in the previous months, and limited availability of food and nutritious food stocks from regional hubs. WFP has taken considerable measures in May to ensure stocks received are prepositioned ahead of the peak of lean season (June-September), and that all operational arrangements related to distributions are in place with cooperating partners.
- Urgent USD 25.1 million is needed for WFP's critical humanitarian operations in Mauritania. Resource mobilization challenges continue as the lean season approaches for both Mauritians and Malian refugees. Lean season response operations to drought-affected Mauritians face a deficit of USD 18 million. Refugee operations face a deficit of USD 6 million, of which 4.9 million is for the cash component of the food ration.

Donors

USA (FFP and BPRM), UK (DFID), Japan, European Union (ECHO), Australia, Switzerland, Canada, Germany, Spain, France, Monaco