In Numbers

- **770 mt** of food, including specialized nutritious food, distributed
- **USD 1.4 m** cash-based transfers made
- **USD 8.4 m** for six months (Feb – July 2022) net funding requirements

**118,737 people assisted**
In January 2021

Operational Updates

- In the Mbera camp, January-February coupled distributions were based on the result of the new targeting exercise. The latter, jointly carried out with the government and UNHCR, was finalised in end 2021 and ensures a better tailored assistance and the extension of the national social safety-net programme to refugees.
- WFP assisted 22,858 refugees from group 2 (moderately food insecure people) with cash only and 41,357 refugees from group 1 (highly vulnerable people) and 2,525 new arrivals with food and cash. In parallel, for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition, 487 children (of whom 242 girls) aged 6-59 months and 228 pregnant and lactating women received 3 m of specialised nutritious food and 1 m of oil. As part of the school feeding programme, WFP distributed school meals to 5,772 school children (7 m of fortified food distributed). Prevention of malnutrition activities were not planned for this month and will be resumed in March 2022 for a period of 6 months.
- The lessons-learned workshop of the 2021 lean season response took place in January under the leadership of the Government and within the scope of the newly established “Dispositif National de prévention et de réponse au crises alimentaires et nutritionnelles” (DCAN). During the workshop, partners reviewed the achievements and challenges of the previous response and agreed on a set of recommendations to improve the 2022 response, including the development of an approach allowing the identification of the caseload of people in need at the municipal level (rather than at department level) and defining more strict criteria for targeting in semi-urban localities. Moreover, the government, together with the Permanent Technical Committee of the DCAN, finalized the first draft of the national response plan for the 2022 lean season and sent it to the Prime Minister’s Office for validation.
- As part of the long-term integrated resilience package implemented in the regions of Hodh El Charghi, Assaba, and Guidimakha, and within the framework of the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) program, regional government representatives organized 3 regional development committees for the validation of sites identified by prior WFP missions and where WFP will implement its FFA activities in 2022.
- WFP’s school feeding programme reached 48,702 students at 373 public schools in the three targeted regions (Guidimakha, Assaba, and Hodh el Charghi). WFP also focused its efforts on strengthening the capacity of school canteen committees on school feeding management, food hygiene, and nutrition, reaching 169 parents, teachers, and government officials in 78 schools. The capacity-building sessions aimed at ensuring that communities were involved, empowered, and accountable for the programme and could run it on their own in an efficient and sustainable way.
- For the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition, 5,497 children aged 6-59 months and 2,154 pregnant and lactating women received specialized nutritious foods in the three regions where WFP is implementing the resilience package, namely Hodh El Charghi, Guidimakha, and Assaba.

**Country Director:** Kinday Samba
**Contact Info:** Farah Kashaf (farah.kashaf@wfp.org)
Further information: [https://www.wfp.org/countries/mauritania](https://www.wfp.org/countries/mauritania)
**Main photo:** WFP/Mohamed Lemine Rajel Cheikh Mohamed
**Caption:** School feeding activities in Mbera Camp, Bassikounou region

**Population:** 4.8 million
**2019 Human Development Index:** 157 out of 189
**Income Level:** Lower middle
**Chronic malnutrition:** 19.6% of children between 6-59 months
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2022 Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>2022 Available Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51 m</td>
<td>23.8 m</td>
<td>8.4 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected people, including refugees, are able to access 70 percent of their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crisis.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:
- Provide food/cash assistance (conditional and/or unconditional), school meals, and either nutrition rationing or MAM treatment to refugees
- Provide food assistance and supplementary feeding to pandemic affected populations/households.

Strategic Result 2: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Food-insecure populations, including school-age children, have access to adequate and nutritious food all year.

Focus area: Resilience-building

Activities:
- Provide seasonal food assistance to food-insecure Mauritanian populations, including malnutrition prevention and treatment
- Provide school meals to vulnerable Mauritanian children

Strategic Result 3: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Nutritionally vulnerable populations, including children and pregnant and lactating women and girls, have improved nutritional status all year.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:
- MAM treatment and cash transfers to pregnant and lactating women and girls attending pre/post-natal care

Strategic Result 4: Improved food security and nutrition of smallholders

Strategic Outcome 4: Food-insecure populations and communities exposed to climate shocks have more resilient livelihoods and sustainable food systems all year.

Focus area: Resilience-building

Activities:
- Provide livelihood support to food-insecure and at-risk Mauritanian households, including the development or rehabilitation of natural and productive assets

Strategic Result 5: Country strategic capacities

Strategic Outcome 5: National institutions have strengthened capacities to manage food security, nutrition, and social protection policies and programmes, including an adaptive (shock responsive) social protection system, by 2030.

Focus area: Resilience-building

Activities:
- Provide training and technical support to governmental institutions

Strategic Result 6: Global partnership support

Strategic Outcome 6: Humanitarian and development partners have access to common services that permit them to reach and operate in targeted areas all year.

Focus area: Resilience-building

Activities:
- Provide flight services to humanitarian partners for humanitarian interventions
- Provide on-demand logistics services to Government, United Nations and Non-Governmental partners to facilitate effective field operations (CPA Service Provision and platform activities)

- As part of the early warning and response planning (adaptive social protection system), WFP and the World Bank continued to technically support the Government in setting up the National Food and Nutritional Crisis Response Fund (FNRCAN) through the preparation of a draft decree for the establishment of a special allocation account that will make it possible to create the budgetary structure of the fund to make it financially independent.
- Finally, WFP is continuing its support to the national social protection system, in particular for the integration of social safety nets to pursue synergies and increased efficiency. WFP is undertaking a study on an “integrated social safety nets” model, which will be presented for restitution and validation at a workshop to be held in March 2022.

- In preparation for the disbursement of the ARC insurance (expected in February), WFP and the Government have started preparing the implementation plan for the interventions. The disbursement will provide food assistance in the form of cash transfers in April and May 2022 to the most vulnerable Mauritanian people.

- WFP, jointly with UNICEF, UNFPA, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, launched a study on the risk assessment and reporting mechanism for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in the region of Guidimakha, Nouakchott, and Nouadibou. The assessment targets 210 people and will conclude in March 2022.

- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) transported 84 passengers and over 429 kg of light cargo connecting Nouakchott to Kiffa, Nema, and Bassikounou, through 24 in-country rotations. UNHAS replaced its plane with one equipped with a toilet, following user requests.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- WFP and the Food Security Observatory jointly launched, for a period of 3 weeks, a food security assessment through the mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) system. The sample was composed of about 3,500 rural and urban households randomly selected from a database of 17,000 telephone numbers. The raw data of this assessment, the principle of which has been validated by the Permanent Interstates Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), will inform the March session of the Cadre Harmonisé.

- WFP’s January market price survey confirmed the upward trend of prices of livestock and basic food commodities. This is mainly due to the generalized inflation in international markets, on which Mauritania is largely dependent.

Challenges

- WFP faces an estimated funding shortage of approximately USD 8.4 million for the next six months (February to July 2022) representing 33 percent of the requirements for the period (USD 25.6 million).

- The two most worrisome situations concern assistance to Malian refugees, and the school feeding program, both facing more than 80 percent shortfall. If resources are not immediately secured, a complete interruption of both food and cash assistance for more than 64,000 refugees will occur in the camp starting from the beginning of May 2022, and a complete interruption of the school feeding programme for 50,000 students will occur from March 2022. Noteworthy is the concerning funding situation of the lean season assistance, facing a shortfall of USD 9 million out of USD 16 million of needs from June 2022.

- There is an exceptional combination of factors driving food insecurity and malnutrition upwards to unprecedented levels across the Sahel region, including in Mauritania. This is the highest level ever recorded since the rollout of the Cadre Harmonisé in the country. WFP is formulating a regional Sahel Shock Response (SSR) plan, utilizing all regional and corporate levers and tools to augment crisis response capacity.

Donors

Donors to WFP Mauritania CSP 2019 – 2022 include Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Mauritania, Monaco, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States. Additional support was provided by ARC, UN, UN Adaptation Funds, UN CERF, UN PBF, UN SDG, UNICEF, and UNHCR.