



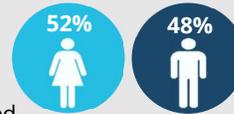
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Mauritania Country Brief MAY 2024



In Numbers



91,464 vulnerable people assisted

19,954 mt of food distributed

US\$ 937,307 in cash transferred

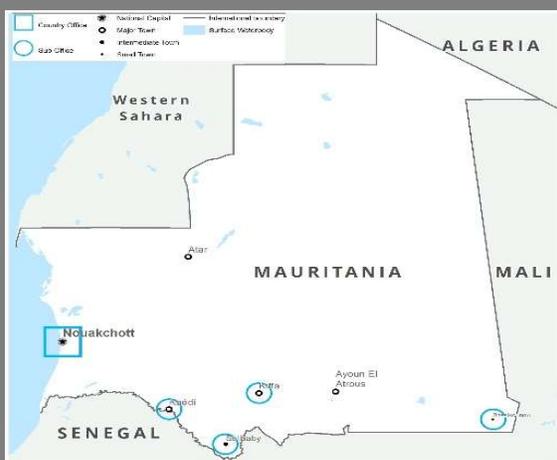
US\$ 21.5 million six-month net funding requirements (June-November 2024)

Operational Context

Mauritania is exposed to recurrent drought cycles that degrade natural resources and structurally impact its productive capacity, resilience, and food security. According to the March 2024 Cadre Harmonisé analysis, 656,652 people will face crisis-level food insecurity conditions (IPC 3+) during the peak of the lean season (June-September 2024).

Mauritania hosts the largest number of Malian refugees in West Africa, due to ongoing conflict in neighbouring Mali. As of February 2024 ([UNHCR dashboard](#)), 109,000 refugees were registered in and around the Mbera Refugee Camp as well as across the Hodh El Chargui Region.

WFP's country portfolio aims to meet the basic food and nutrition needs of vulnerable populations and provide UNHAS flight services for humanitarian and development partners. In parallel, WFP strives to ensure the continuation of its resilience programmes, while strengthening institutional capacities and bolstering gender equality. WFP has been present in Mauritania since 1964.



Population: 4.9 million

2022 Human Development Index:
Ranked 164th out of 193 countries

Income Level: Lower-middle

Chronic malnutrition: 24.8 percent of children aged 6 to 59 months

Operational Updates

Refugee response in the Mbera Refugee Camp: In May, WFP delivered cash assistance to 71,694 people (of which 39,217 were women). In addition, WFP provided 564 children aged 6 to 59 months (of which 287 were girls) and 281 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls with specialized nutritious food to **treat moderate acute malnutrition**.

2024 Lean Season Response: In preparation for the 2024 lean season, WFP carried out a training session from 13-16 May for the Food Security Commission (CSA, in French) surveyors on the beneficiary targeting methodology. Following this, from 18 to 28 May, WFP conducted a support mission to oversee the beneficiary targeting validation mission for the lean season response in Kankossa department, covering programme, nutrition, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) aspects.

Integrated Resilience Package (IRP)

School Feeding: In May, WFP served **two hot meals per day** to 16,627 children (8,299 girls) in the Kiffa and Kaédi regions as part of its integrated resilience response. With schools closing for the summer period, WFP is proceeding with its preparations for the school cash pilot programme scheduled to commence in October 2024, where select schools will receive funding directly instead of relying on national rations from WFP. This will complement the ongoing large-scale food-based school feeding programme. This money is used by schools to purchase commodities locally, potentially through partnerships with agricultural cooperatives were possible. The goal is to enhance food diversity in schools while stimulating the local economy by encouraging purchases from nearby producers and suppliers. Further, WFP Mauritania visited Rwanda between 12 and 24 May to study WFP Rwanda's model and, particularly, their collaboration with the Government.

Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition: WFP provided specialized nutritious food (RUSF and Super Cereal) to 5,436 children aged 6 to 59 months (2,687 girls) in 276 outpatient nutritional rehabilitation centres for moderate malnutrition (CRENAMs, in French).

Food assistance for assets (FFA): WFP FFA focal points conducted missions to prepare for the communication mission for virtual images showcasing WFP's work in resilience, land restoration, and the half-moons technique at selected sites in Guidimakha and Assaba. Additionally, a mission from WFP Bassikounou sub-office accompanied the Resident Coordinator and other agencies to the Kraet Jerk site in Hodh Echargui on 20 May.

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Photo Caption: WFP assistance in Ould Yenge during Lean Season 2023
WFP/ Bechir MALUM

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total CSP Requirements (US\$)	Total Received in 2024 (US\$)		
417.6 million	28.5 million		
2024 Requirements (all year) (US\$)	Six-Month Requirements (US\$)	Net Funding	
82.8 million	21.5 million		

Strategic Result 1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs.

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations in targeted areas, including women and children in need of nutrition support, are better able to meet to their urgent needs immediately before, during and after shocks.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide refugees with an integrated package of assistance including food, school meals, nutritional support for the management and prevention of malnutrition.
- Provide nutritionally adequate assistance to crisis-affected populations in the form of cash assistance for food security and nutrition-specific purchases.

Strategic Result 2: People have improved and sustainable livelihoods.

Strategic Outcome 2: Communities vulnerable to shocks in targeted areas have sustainable livelihoods, access to basic services, strengthened human capital, reinforced markets, improved nutrition and resilience to climate shocks by 2028

Focus area: Resilience-building

Activities:

- Provide integrated resilience support to communities vulnerable to shocks and strengthen institutional capacities at the local and national levels, including linkages to national social protection programmes.

Strategic Result 3: National programmes and systems are strengthened.

Strategic Outcome 3: By 2028, national institutions have strengthened capacity to establish a robust, effective, and adaptive social protection system, which includes school-based programmes and nutrition and food security policy.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Provide technical support to improve the capacity of government institutions to build a social protection system that adequately addresses food security, nutrition and shock response.

Strategic Result 4: Humanitarian and development actors are more efficient and effective.

Strategic Outcome 4: Government partners and humanitarian and development actors support vulnerable people effectively and efficiently throughout the year

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

- Provide air transport services and technical assistance for humanitarian and development partners.
- Provide on-demand services at the request of the Government and other partners, in addition to technical assistance.

Capacity-strengthening: In May, WFP received two funding requests from the Social Registry, one to provide pecuniary support to the complete registry update slated to take place in Bassikounou and another for upgrading the online payment platform. WFP is considering how to address these requests based on strategic relevance, funding availability, and alignment with CSP 2024-2028 priorities. Continuous updates to the registry are being discussed to establish piloting a system that would allow for regular updates for households whose vulnerability status has changed (as per pre-set criteria). On 15 May, a multilateral session on social registries was held between WFP teams from Kenya, Colombia, and Mauritania to discuss engagement with national social registries on the inclusion of refugees, aimed to promote internal learning and sharing of best practices. On May 22nd, WFP organized a workshop to review and validate an operational plan designed to complement Mauritanian government's interventions in response to the drought insurance mechanism within the framework of the pan-African disaster risk management mutual (ARC). The event was attended by representatives of the government, including the technical working group responsible for monitoring the climate macro-insurance programme. Every two years, WFP Mauritania produces a contingency plan to outline the interventions to be implemented. WFP also brought together key stakeholders at the launch workshop of the Anticipatory Actions (AA) project, on May 23rd which aims to build resilience to climate shocks. The workshop presented an opportunity for WFP to share its vision, explore existing initiatives, and discuss concrete actions to take vis-à-vis the setting up of an AA system with the Government.

Gender: WFP developed the Gender Roadmap for Integrated Resilience Package (IRP) The overall goal of this roadmap is to ensure that women, men, girls, and boys, regardless of their condition or status, have equitable access to the activities of the IRP, tailored to their specific needs and priorities.

The **United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)** transported 153 passengers and 441 kg of cargo connecting Nouakchott to Bassikounou, Kiffa, and Nema via 30 in-country rotations.

Monitoring

Targeting verification for the 2024 lean season response in the Kankossa department was completed at the end of May with WFP supporting the CSA in conducting this verification and nutrition enrolment exercise.

Challenges

UNHAS operations will cease by end of June 2024 unless funding is urgently secured. The funding shortfall is estimated at **US\$ 1.9 million**. A funding shortfall for general food assistance to refugees via cash transfers is expected by the end of September. This would result in a **suspension of cash assistance for vulnerable Malian refugees in the Mbera Refugee Camp**. WFP is thus advocating for additional resources, as it currently faces a **US\$ 15.1 million funding shortage**. Similarly, the **Integrated Resilience Package** is facing a shortfall of **US\$ 4.6 million in the second half of 2024**.

Donors

Donors to WFP Mauritania's CSP 2024–2028 include Andorra, Austria, the Czech Republic, the European Commission, France, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Monaco, Norway, Spain, Finland, and the United States of America. **Financial support has also been received from the African Risk Capacity (ARC) and United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).**