



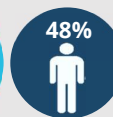
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Mauritania Country Brief July 2024



## In Numbers



105,688 vulnerable people assisted

10,665 mt of food distributed

US\$ 1,191,997 in cash transferred

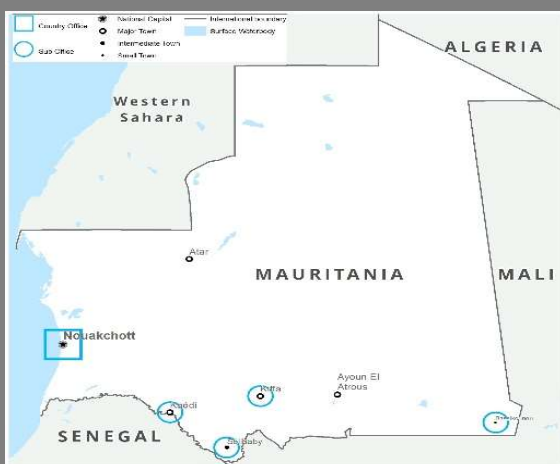
US\$ 20 million six-month net funding requirements  
(August 2024 - January 2025)

## 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 June 2024 ([UNHCR dashboard](#)), 228,367 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 164<sup>th</sup> 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 July, WFP delivered cash assistance to 76,460 people (of which 41,824 were women). In addition, WFP provided 520 children aged 6 to 59 months (of which 257 were girls) and 290 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls with specialized nutritious food to **treat moderate acute malnutrition**.

**2024 Lean Season Response:** From 9-18 July, WFP initiated the first cycle of the lean season response distribution in Kankossa department, where 2,999 beneficiaries were assisted. From 7-12 July, a support mission from WFP Dakar Regional Bureau was conducted to oversee the start of the distributions and to ensure the implementation of the cash TOP UP Nutrition component.

### Integrated Resilience Package

**School Feeding:** At the end of July, WFP and the Ministry of Education launched a fact-finding mission to explore how local food supply chains can support school feeding programs in Mauritania. This mission aimed to identify potential areas for a pilot project to be launched at the beginning of the next school year, in early October. **Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition:** in July, WFP and SIC4CHANGE conducted a joint mission to introduce the new partner (Au Secours), assess the progress of nutrition activities in the Barkeol department and to explain the partner's role in monitoring the project. The mission also identified nutrition-sensitive income-generating activities in Godemiches and Assaba regions as part of malnutrition prevention efforts. In July, 218 children were monitored through the platform NUT4HEALTH, achieving a recovery rate of 99 percent. Additionally, SIC4CHANGE trained four focal points on the use of the NUT4HEALTH tool. The trainees learned how to generate reports and provided feedback on the tool's limitations. Furthermore, 567 women received telematic messages reminding them of vaccination appointments and essential family care practices. WFP provided specialized nutritious food (RUSF and Super Cereal) to 2,149 children aged 6 to 59 months (1,220 were girls) with a recovery rate of 97 percent.

**Food assistance for assets (FFA):** WFP conducted a series of missions to support cooperating partners across Assaba, Guidimakha, and Hodh El Chargui from 11-28 July. These missions facilitated the launch of the resilience site mapping process and the familiarization with various tools, including manuals of procedures (SOPs) and technical sheets, to strengthen the implementation of activities. Meanwhile, a mission to test data collection tools for launching nutrition-sensitive income-generating activities (IGAs) took place in Guidimakha and Assaba from 25 July to 03 August 2024.

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Photo Caption: WFP assistance in Mbera Camp during Cash distribution  
WFP/ Tania Da Silva

## Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total CSP Requirements (US\$)	Total Received in 2024 (US\$)
<b>417.6 million</b>	<b>46.4 million</b>
2024 Requirements (all year)(US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$) (August 2024– Jan 2025)
<b>82.8 million</b>	<b>20 million</b>

**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.

Additionally, from 23 July to 02 August 2024, a joint mission involving WFP, the Directorate of Nutritional and Health Education and the Ministry of Agriculture explored the possibility of establishing a cash project with the procurement of local products. On 28 July, WFP participated in the International Tree Day celebrations organized by the Ministry of the Environment in Awleygatt in the region of Trarza. WFP and UNICEF finalized the joint revision of the Community and Participatory Planning (CPP) tool. The revised tool now considers community planning related to UNICEF's mandate, in particular support for education, Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), child protection and gender.

**Capacity-strengthening:** At the request of the Mauritanian Government, WFP hired an international expert in food systems, who will be seconded to the Ministry of Economy and Finance. The consultant will take up his duties at the ministry after completing his onboarding with WFP. The contract for the ARC Replica program covering risks related to pastoral drought for the 2024-2025 season was signed.

**Gender:** From 8-12 July, WFP organized a series of awareness-raising sessions on gender, protection, and the Complaint and Feedback Mechanism for focus group beneficiaries and their communities as part of the lean season response in the Assaba region. The sessions were conducted in the local languages, Pular and Hassaniya, ensuring that the messages were easily understood. These sessions reaffirmed WFP's commitment to protection and its Accountability to Affected Populations in Mauritania by continuing to apply a Zero Tolerance approach.

The **United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)** transported 107 passengers and 231 kg of cargo connecting Nouakchott to Bassikounou, Kiffa, and Nema via 25 in-country rotations.

## Monitoring

The baseline surveys for establishing the CSP 2024-2028 indicators were completed, with data collection carried out from 24 July to 08 August. Additionally, further to data collection from 19-28 July and in collaboration with the Food Safety Commission (CSA, in French), the analysis of the baseline survey results for the lean season operations in Kankossa department is ongoing. The CSA surveyors in the sub-office of Bassikounou benefited from training to improve the quality of data collection.

## Challenges

**UNHAS** operations will cease by end by September 2024 unless funding is urgently secured. The funding shortfall is estimated at **US\$ 1.4 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\$ 10 million funding shortage**. Similarly, the **Integrated Resilience Package** is facing a shortfall of **US\$ 2.7 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).**