



World Food Programme

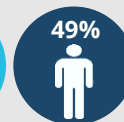
SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Mauritania

Country Brief

November 2025

In Numbers



170,116 people assisted in November

737.4 mt of food assistance distributed in November

US\$ 1.6 million cash-based transfers made in Nov

US\$ 26.7 million six-month net funding requirement
(Dec 2025 – May 2026)

Operational Context

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania faces significant challenges related to land degradation and desertification, with vast portions of its territory being arid and only 0.4 percent of land classified as arable. Desertification drastically reduces soil fertility and productive capacity, negatively impacting both agricultural and pastoral livelihoods. According to the November 2025 Cadre Harmonisé analysis¹ projections, 500,089 people (11 percent of the population) could face severe food insecurity during the lean season with 301,290 expected to be in IPC 3 or higher during the lean season (June–September 2026).

Mauritania hosts the largest number of Malian refugees in West Africa. As of July 2025, Malian refugees account for more than 6 percent of Mauritania's total population, with 293,000 refugees residing in the Hodh El Charghi Region—an increase of 12 percent since January 2025.

WFP's operations aim at responding to basic food and nutrition needs of targeted vulnerable populations, while providing humanitarian air transport service (UNHAS) to hard-to-reach regions for humanitarian and development partners. In parallel, WFP strives to ensure the continuation of its resilience programmes, while strengthening institutional capacities and promoting gender equality. WFP has been present in Mauritania since 1964.



Population: **4.9 million**

Human Development Index (2023):
Ranked 163rd out of 193 countries

Income Level: **Lower-middle**

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

Operational Updates

- **M'bera Camp Response¹:** In November, WFP delivered general food assistance—including both in-kind and cash-based transfers—to 51,347 Malian refugees (28,174 females and 23,173 male) residing in the M'bera camp, Hodh El-Charghi region. Furthermore, out-of-camp food and cash assistance continued during November, supporting 113,202 refugees and vulnerable members of the host community in meeting their urgent food and nutrition needs. As part of the school feeding programme, 22.6 metric tonnes of rice were distributed to eight schools, providing hot meals to 7,166 children within the camp. The School Connect platform was rolled out in the eight schools supported by WFP in the M'bera refugee camp. This initiative aims to strengthen digital data collection and monitoring systems in the school feeding programme for better efficiency, accountability, and real-time decision-making.
- **Lean Season Response:** In November WFP participated in the Cadre Harmonisé workshop held this month in Tiguirt. The workshop facilitated analysis of both current and projected food and nutrition conditions, which will inform the 2026 National Response Plan supported by WFP. According to the November Cadre Harmonisé analysis half of the M'bera camp's population is projected to face IPC 3+ food insecurity in the 2026 lean season.
- **Integrated Resilience Package (IRP):** In November, WFP supported 74 nutrition-sensitive income-generating activities (IGAs) for GASPs (learning and monitoring group for optimal feeding practices) and cooperatives. WFP also held nutrition sessions in the targeted communities as part of its efforts to prevent malnutrition. Awareness activities on related themes reached 583 pregnant women and 1,302 breastfeeding mothers. Capacity-building training was also provided to auxiliary facilitators during the month. Additionally, 86 metric tonnes of food were distributed to 69 schools supported by WFP, benefitting 46,800 primary school students in November. 22,842 individuals (9,540 females and 13,302 males) participating in FFA activities also received a total of USD 812,110 this month.
- Entrepreneurship training was delivered to 117 refugees and and host community households that joined the WFP's Durable Solutions initiative this month.

¹ Figures contained under Refugee response & School Feeding under IRP activities are estimates

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2024 – 2028)	
Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
417.6 million	90.5 million
2025 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Dec 2025 - May 2026)
86.3 million	26.7 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 3: 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 4: 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 5: 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.

- **Social Protection:** In November, Mauritanian government officials took part in the second World Summit for Social Development held in Doha, Qatar. The Mauritanian delegation, accompanied by WFP Country Director, presented the country's national model for social protection, highlighting its inclusive and shock-responsive approach.
- WFP Mauritania has sponsored the participation of three senior government officials from the Food Security Commission (CSA) and the National Meteorological Office (ONM) in COP 30, held in Belém, Brazil. This support reflects WFP's commitment to strengthening national capacities and ensuring Mauritania's active engagement in global climate discussions.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- Since July, UNHAS flights to and from Bassikounou have been suspended due to airstrip damage. The estimated cost to complete the necessary repairs and comply with safety standards is approximately **US\$1.7 million**. Although UNHAS operations are financially secured through March, there are currently no confirmed funding projections beyond March 2026. Without additional commitments, WFP will be required to suspend UNHAS operations in Mauritania effective April 2026.

Gender

- In November, community consultations were conducted in Mbeikhiré and Woringuel Matalla within the Kankossa district to inform the **2025–2026 action plan for the community engagement strategy on accountability to affected populations**. Additionally, a gender and climate analysis was undertaken, which included focus group discussions with beneficiaries to identify risks and barriers to access related to gender, age, and disability.

Monitoring

- WFP carried out a post-distribution monitoring (PDM) survey at all sites within the M'bera camp. In November, beneficiary feedback was also gathered as part of the community feedback mechanism (CFM), both within M'bera camp and in areas outside the camp in the Hodh el Chargui region, coinciding with the general food distribution later that month.
- Two monitoring and follow-up missions were also conducted during the month on Integrated Resilience Package sites in the Kankossa and Barkéol districts.

Challenges

- From December 2025 to May 2026, WFP's refugee response in Mauritania faces a funding shortfall of **US\$ 14.6 million** to meet operational needs. Despite new donor contributions in 2025, the Integrated Resilience Package remains **only 20 percent funded**, requiring an additional **US\$ 10.2 million** to sustain operations and ensure planned expansion of sites in 2026 and 2027.

Donors

Donors to WFP Mauritania's CSP 2024–2028 include Andorra, Austria, the European Commission (ECHO), France, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Monaco, Canada, the United Kingdom, Spain, Finland, Ukraine and the United States of America. Financial support also includes the African Risk Capacity (ARC) and UN CERF.