



WFP MAURITANIA

COUNTRY BRIEF
February 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 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, including through social protection, and promoting gender equality. WFP has been present in Mauritania since 1964.

IN NUMBERS



118,012 people assisted in January 2026



49%
Male



51%
Female



875.682 mt food distributed



US\$ 29.2M (Feb – Jul 2026) net funding requirements

Photo Caption & Credit: Kadija, refugee recipient of out of camp food assistance/ Fassala. WFP/Photographer: Zoe Malone

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- 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* analysis' projections, 500,089 people (11 percent of the population) could face crisis-levels -or higher- of food insecurity during the upcoming lean season (June–September). In addition, an estimated 112,306 refugees in and outside of the M'bera camp are projected to face these conditions.
- 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 alone residing in the Hodh El Charghi (HEC) Region—an increase of 12 percent since January 2025.
- WFP has intensified its relief response to support both refugees and host communities. A durable solutions approach was introduced to promote the economic inclusion of refugees, strengthen their resilience and facilitate their integration into national social systems.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Refugee Response ¹

- As part of WFP's crisis response, **374.39 metric tonnes** of in-kind food assistance reached **45,000 Malian refugees** within M'bera camp, including **24,615 women** and **20,385 men**.
- Emergency school feeding activities continued to support children in the camp. In January, **7,759 children** aged 5 to 11 years received one hot meal per day, including **4,242 girls** and **3,517 boys**, contributing to improving nutrition and school retention rates.
- Out-of-camp assistance, initiated at the end of January, continued in the three communes of Bassikounou, El Megve, and Dhar. In total, **29,010 beneficiaries** were supported through both unconditional cash transfers and in-kind assistance amounting to **408.690 metric tonnes**, with the full caseload to be completed in February.

Resilience

- WFP sustained school feeding activities under the Integrated Resilience Package (IRP) contributing to the Government's National School Feeding Programme. Children continued to receive two hot meals per day in targeted schools. A total of **92.602 metric tonnes** of food were distributed supporting **9,539 children** in Assaba, and **15,187 children** in Guidimakha. Among the beneficiaries, **12,725 were girls** and **12,001 were boys**, contributing to improved access to nutritious meals and supporting school attendance.
- Activities aimed at preventing malnutrition continued in HEC. Screening campaigns reached **11,517 children** aged 6 to 59 months, identifying **607 cases** of moderate acute malnutrition.

Social Protection

- On 14 January, WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family (MASEF), co-organized a workshop to present the findings of the WFP-sponsored diagnostic - study of the National Programme for the Fight

Against Malnutrition (*Programme National de Lutte contre la Malnutrition*). The assessment focused on Assaba, Guidimakha, Hodh El Gharbi, and Brakna regions.

- The workshop provided an important platform to translate the study's recommendations into actionable priorities, strengthen the alignment of the PNLN with other national strategies, and enhance the programme's effectiveness at the operational level. WFP welcomed the progress achieved under the leadership of MASEF, particularly in strengthening coordination mechanisms and structuring nutrition interventions.

Challenges

- As of January 2026, WFP's refugee response in Mauritania faces a funding shortfall of **US\$ 16.5 million**, with only **44 percent** of the net funding requirements (6-month period) currently secured.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) operation remains at risk of suspension due to funding constraints, while the continued closure of the Bassikounou airstrip, requiring approximately **US\$ 1.7 million** in repairs, continues to hamper humanitarian access.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)



Donors:

Donors of WFP Mauritania since 2025: Andorra, Canada, European Union (ECHO and INTPA), Finland/*Grain from Ukraine*, France, Germany, Monaco, the Republic of Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Financial support also includes UN CERF and UNTFHS.

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