



WFP MAURITANIA

COUNTRY BRIEF

March 2026



130,133 people assisted in February 2026
(51% female)



966.907 mt food distributed in February 2026



USD 45.4M (Mar – Aug 2026) net funding requirements

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.

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, providing protection to more than 310,000 refugees, including 13,000 newly arrivals in Hodh Chargui between October 2025 and March 2026, of whom 80 percent are women and children.
- 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 Response¹

- As part of WFP's crisis response, assistance to Malian refugees within M'bera camp continued in February through both cash-based transfers and in-kind food distributions. A total of **7,400 refugees** received unconditional cash assistance, amounting to **3.7 million MRU (US\$ 92,592)**, while in-kind food assistance reached **42,341 refugees** through the distribution of **355.67 mt.**
- Emergency school feeding activities also continued in the camp, reaching **7,526 children** with one hot meal per day, including **3,975 girls** and **3,551 boys**, contributing to improved nutrition and school retention.
- Assistance to refugees and host communities residing outside the camp was maintained across the communes of Bassikounou, El Megve and Dhar, where **29,012 beneficiaries** received a combination of unconditional cash transfers and in-kind food assistance.

Resilience

- School feeding activities under the Integrated Resilience Package (IRP) continued to support the Government's National School Feeding Programme. A total of **43,521 children** benefited from two hot meals per day in targeted schools, including **22,125 girls** and **21,396 boys**. Beneficiaries included **18,795 children** in Bassikounou, **9,539** in Assaba and **15,187** in Guidimakha, supporting improved access to nutritious meals and school attendance.
- Food assistance for assets (FFA) activities continued in Guidimakha, where **52 participants**, including **21 women**, received practical training on land restoration techniques.

- Efforts to prevent malnutrition were carried out through GASPA groups in Guidimakha; **281 women**, including **79 pregnant women** and **202 breastfeeding mothers**, received sensitization on prenatal and postnatal care, exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices. In the Hodh Chargui region, **89 mothers of children between 6 and 59 months** received training on child malnutrition detection techniques.

Social Protection

- From 2 to 6 February, WFP hosted a technical training on drought forecasting and anticipatory action mechanisms in Nouakchott, conducted by AGRHYMET in collaboration with the National Meteorological Office (ONM) and ANACIM (*L'Agence Nationale de l'Aviation Civile et de la Météorologie*).

The training brought together 30 participants to strengthen national capacities to produce, interpret and use climate forecasts in support of anticipatory action. This training contributed to the transfer of technical expertise, which will continue supporting West and Central African countries engaged in anticipatory action initiatives.

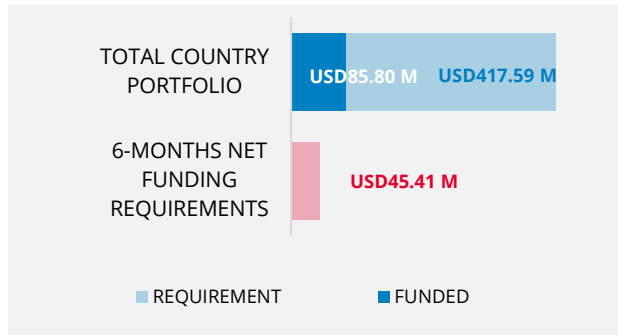
Gender

- On 11 February, as part of its ongoing efforts to uphold the highest Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment (PSEAH) standards, WFP organized an online training for its new Third-Party Monitoring partners, APEP and Au Secours, with the participation of the Assaba and Sélibaby sub-offices.
- A total of 26 participants (6 women and 20 men) were trained to strengthen their capacity to conduct field monitoring in line with PSEAH standards and ensure proper reporting and management of protection concerns.

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

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)



Challenges

- As of January 2026, WFP's refugee response in Mauritania faces a funding shortfall of **USD 31.4 million**, with only **25 percent** of the net funding requirements (6-month period) currently secured.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) operation is secured until August and remains at risk of suspension, if additional funding is not obtained, as it requires **USD 3.1 million** to continue its life-saving operations through the end of the year.

The Story of Coumba



Photo Credit: WFP/Photographer: Boubou Ba

Coumba Samba Barry lives in the village of Mbékher, in the Assaba region, which has been supported by WFP since 2022 as part of activities to strengthen community resilience. Since those interventions began, Coumba has emerged as one of the village's most active participants.

She joined the community in restoring degraded land through water and soil conservation work, as well as soil protection and restoration activities,

efforts that quickly began transforming the fields around her home.

Coumba is also an important member of the village's market gardening group. As WFP continues promoting life-changing solutions with better tools, training, and community support, the 2026 season became one of the most productive seasons the village had seen. Families enjoyed not only enough vegetables for their own consumption but a surplus they could sell, bringing in new income and renewed hope.

Coumba's story shows how resilience-building efforts can empower rural women and strengthen entire communities facing food and climate challenges.



Photo Credit: WFP/Photographer: Boubou Ba

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.

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