

# Standard Project Report 2015

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

## MAURITANIA

### Country Programme Mauritania (2012-2016)

Project Number	200251
Project Category	Country Programme

Project Approval Date	16 Nov 2011
Planned Start Date	01 Jan 2012
Actual Start Date	01 Jan 2012
Project End Date	31 Dec 2016
Financial Closure Date	n.a.

Approved budget as 31 December 2015 in USD	
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	1,060,000
Direct Support Costs	7,844,682
Food and Related Costs	64,536,416
Indirect Support Costs	5,140,878
<b>Total Approved Budget</b>	<b>78,581,975</b>

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Total Approved Commodities	58,482
Planned Commodities in 2015	11,719
Actual Commodities in 2015	939

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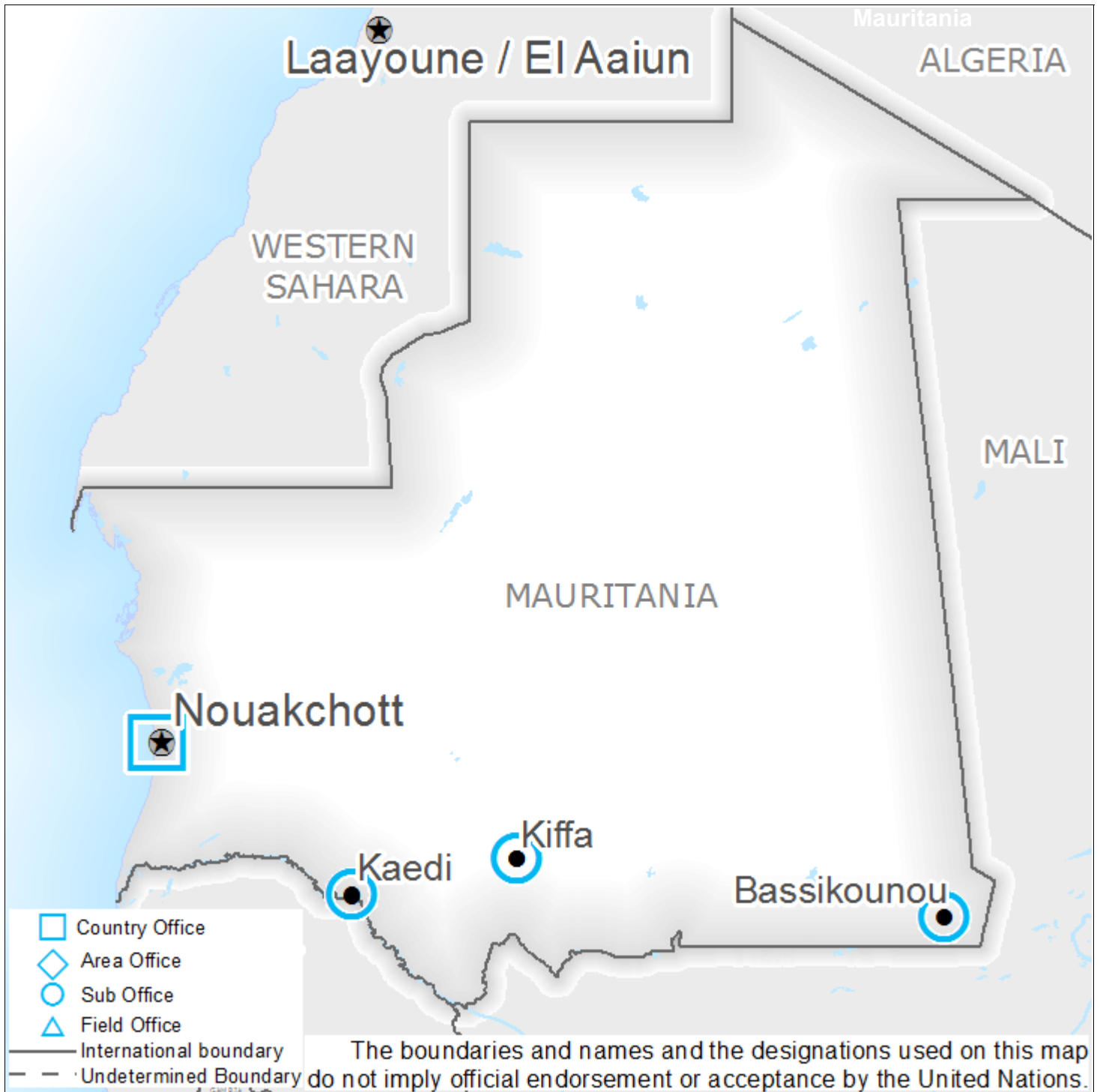
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# Country Overview



## COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Mauritania bridges the Maghreb and western sub-Saharan Africa regions. The country is vast, measuring 1,030,700 km<sup>2</sup>. Largely desert, Mauritania is sparsely populated with a population estimated at 3.4 million (2013 census); compared to neighboring Senegal, Mauritania is five times bigger with four times less people.

Mauritania is one of the world's poorest countries, ranked 156 out of 188 countries on the 2015 Human Development Index. 23.4 percent of the country's population lives below the poverty line on less than USD 1.25 per day. 46.7 percent of the population is either near or living in multidimensional poverty with acute deprivation in health, education and standard of living.

Mauritania is a food deficit country. Although agriculture is an important sector of Mauritania's economy accounting for 22.8 percent of gross domestic product and employing 50 percent of the workforces, in a good year, the national production represents not more than 30 percent of the country's food needs. The country is therefore heavily reliant on food imports and highly vulnerable to international market prices.

Food insecurity and malnutrition levels remain persistently high in Mauritania. According to the June 2015-food security monitoring survey conducted jointly by Commission for Food Security, CSA in French, and WFP: 974,000 people, one in four, Mauritians live in food insecurity, mostly in the rural areas in the rainfed livelihood zones and the agro-pastoral zones to the East and South of the country. The Harmonized Framework exercise completed in November 2015 estimated that over 150,000 people required immediate assistance to cover their food consumption gaps and to protect their livelihoods. Results of the SMART nutrition survey conducted in June 2015 by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and UNICEF are equally alarming, with 21 percent of children under five stunted (short for their age) and 14 percent underweight (skinny for their height).

Mauritania continues to host second largest number of Malian refugees who have fled their homes following the outbreak of violence in 2012. In 2015, renewed violence in northern Mali sparked fresh waves of displacements. UNHCR has registered 486 new arrivals in Mauritania in 2015. As of 1 December 2015, some 50,456 Malian refugees mostly women and children live in Mberra Refugee camp. The situation in northern Mali remains fragile and is unlikely to allow a large-scale return of refugees residing outside the country in the short to medium term. This stretched the scarce resources even further.

Thanks to economic growth, as well as enabling policy environment and the strong investment from development and aid actors over the last two decades, the country is on track to reach some Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Progress have been made in halving hunger although numbers remain high. Mauritania has also exceeded parity in primary school enrolment and by increasing representation of women in political instance from none to 18 and 30 percent receptively in the national parliament and municipal councils. However much still needs to be done to eradicate poverty, protect the environment, and ensure prosperity for all.

## SUMMARY OF WFP ASSISTANCE

In 2015, WFP continued to work in close collaboration with the government and in partnership with others United Nations agencies as well as international and national non-governmental organizations to achieve Millennium Development Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Through its protracted and relief operation, working with the government, UN sister agencies and partners, non-governmental organisations, WFP extended assistance to most vulnerable rural families affected by food insecurity and malnutrition. Under its country programme, WFP worked in partnership with the national Ministry of Education to provide school meal to primary school children from food insecure and highly vulnerable home in rural areas with highest food insecurity and malnutrition rates and low school attendance. WFP continued to work closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the government, and non-governmental organizations to provide lifesaving assistance to Malian refugees who fled the conflict in northern Mali. WFP collaborated with the government to enhance resilience to the adverse effects of climate change by reinforcing technical services, protecting natural resources and encouraging sustainable livelihood at community level.

The continued absence of viable commercial aviation options and a persistent precarious security situation across much of the country, meant that United Nation Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) continued to play a crucial role in helping humanitarian organizations to deploy both efforts and staff. UNHAS provided safe and reliable passengers and light cargo services to humanitarian organizations responding to the needs of affected populations in Mauritania's remote and hard-to-reach locations.

In 2015, WFP and partners succeeded in further integrating food security and nutrition assistance. Operations and activities were implemented in complementary with partners in the same regions and operational periods. This resulted in multiplying the services received by the same families allowing to not only cover the immediate needs but also to contribute to strengthen the beneficiaries and communities resilience to withstand future shocks. However, lack of resources undermined WFP operations, causing WFP to reduce the geographic coverage of both its relief and development operation as well as to reduce the amount of beneficiaries assisted and the number of feeding days. Thus undermining the results to be achieved.

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Number of children below 5 years of age	57,926	57,268	115,194
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	78,238	76,452	154,690
Number of adults	63,264	92,590	155,854
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	199,428	226,310	425,738
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	224,928	250,494	475,422
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	256,523	284,873	541,396

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country PRRO	2,695	199	172	996	243	4,305
Regional EMOP	5,193	420	1,117	445	22	7,196
Country Programme	491	49	129		271	939
Total food distributed in 2015	8,379	668	1,417	1,441	536	12,440
Total food distributed in 2014	12,086	774	2,761	1,352	410	17,383
Total food distributed in 2013	17,414	1,117	2,882	3,512	347	25,271

# Operational SPR

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND RELEVANCE

During 2015, through the Country Programme 200251, WFP aimed to support the Government of Mauritania's efforts to tackle food security and acute malnutrition by promoting sustainable hunger reduction solutions while addressing the immediate food security needs of the most vulnerable. The Country Programme was aligned with the government's 2011-2015 Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and the 2012-2016 United Nations Development Assistance Framework's (UNDAF) objectives for Mauritania. The Country Programme originally supported WFP Strategic Objectives 2 and 4; and Millennium Development Goals (MDG) 1 through 5, as well as MDG 7.

The Country Programme included three components:

- (i) reduce the prevalence of underweight among children and acute malnutrition in vulnerable areas through Targeted Supplementary Feeding (TSF) and awareness activities;
- (ii) improve access to primary education in vulnerable areas through school feeding; and
- (iii) reduce risks and build resilience among vulnerable groups affected by recurrent climate shocks.

Since 2012, TSF and Food assistance for assets (FFA) components of the project have been put on hold to avoid overlaps with WFP's emergency relief projects which are being implemented in the same areas.

Therefore in 2015, school feeding was the only activity implemented under the Country Programme. The school feeding activities were aligned with the objectives of the above mentioned PRSP and UNDAF for Mauritania; and contributed to the achievement of Strategic Objective 4 in the 2014-2017 WFP Strategic Plan.

## RESULTS

### Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

In 2015, school feeding was the only activity implemented under the Country Programme. School meals were implemented in rural regions of the south east marked by low attendance, high food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty with the aim to increase attendance and completion rates, as well as reduce the number of dropouts.

Critical funding gaps forced WFP to reduce the scale of assistance provided. WFP maintained assistance only in the public schools offering a complete primary education cycle in most vulnerable rural regions of Hodh El Chargui, Hodh El Gharbi, Assaba, Gorgol, Brakna, Trarza, Tagant and Guidimakha. Compared to 2014, the number of assisted schools was reduced by 70 percent from 1,673 to 491 schools assisted.

Lack of financial resources also resulted in a critical pipeline break in all commodities forcing WFP to significantly scale down the school meals distributions. The number of feeding days was reduced by 70 percent. Children received a daily hot meal composed of cereals, pulses and vegetable oil enriched with vitamins and minerals served in school. In May, the food basket distributed was completed with a ration of dates. The distributions of snacks and micronutrient supplements could not be implemented.

WFP also worked to support the government's capacity to establish a strong nationally owned school meals programme. WFP also conducted an evaluation of the school meal programme to review programme implementation, identify areas of improvement and orientations priorities. A System Approach for Better Educational Results (SABER) exercise was carried out with key education partners to assess opportunities to strengthen the school feeding programme ownership by the different ministries and bodies of the government.

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>ACT1 - Reduce Preval Acute Malnutrition</b>									
Number of adults		6,495	6,495		0	0		0.0%	0.0%
Number of children below 5 years of age	9,048	9,419	18,467	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	9,048	15,914	24,962	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	9,302	10,962	20,264	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	9,792	17,866	27,658	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant in one or more of the following groups, or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants									
<b>ACT2 - Improve Access Primary Education</b>									
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	78,186	78,186	156,372	47,581	41,745	89,326	60.9%	53.4%	57.1%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	78,186	78,186	156,372	47,581	41,745	89,326	60.9%	53.4%	57.1%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	76,353	76,353	152,706	71,902	77,226	149,128	94.2%	101.1%	97.7%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	74,833	74,833	149,666	69,399	79,553	148,952	92.7%	106.3%	99.5%
The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant in one or more of the following groups, or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants									
<b>ACT3 - Reduce Risks &amp; Build Resilience of Population</b>									
Number of adults	10,697	13,830	24,527	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	10,410	12,385	22,795	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Number of children below 5 years of age	8,171	7,490	15,661	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	29,278	33,705	62,983	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	30,476	35,083	65,559	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	17,130	17,007	34,137	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant in one or more of the following groups, or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants									

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>ACT1 - Reduce Preval Acute Malnutrition</b>									
Pregnant and lactating women given food under micronutrient supplementation (stand-alone activity)		6,495	6,495		0	0		0.0%	0.0%
Children 24 to 59 months given food under supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate malnutrition)	6,032	6,280	12,312	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Children 6 to 23 months given food under supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate malnutrition)	3,016	3,139	6,155	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Volunteers at supplementary feeding centers		1,280	1,280		0	0		0.0%	0.0%
<b>ACT2 - Improve Access Primary Education</b>									
Children receiving school meals	78,186	78,186	156,372	47,581	41,745	89,326	60.9%	53.4%	57.1%
<b>ACT3 - Reduce Risks &amp; Build Resilience of Population</b>									
Participants in Food For Assets	4,416	5,084	9,500	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Beneficiaries of General food distribution (GFD)/ targeted food distribution/assistance (GFD-TFD/A)	6,508	7,492	14,000	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

## Commodity Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
<b>ACT1 - Reduce Preval Acute Malnutrition</b>			
Iodised Salt	1,877	0	-
Vegetable Oil	203	0	-
<b>Sum</b>	<b>2,080</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>ACT2 - Improve Access Primary Education</b>			
Corn-soya Blend (csb)	2,002	0	-
Dried Fruits	0	270	-
Iodised Salt	112	1	0.9%
Lentils	1,001	34	3.4%
Rice	3,753	491	13.1%
Split Peas	0	95	-
Sugar	250	0	-
Vegetable Oil	375	49	13.1%
<b>Sum</b>	<b>7,493</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>12.5%</b>
<b>ACT3 - Reduce Risks &amp; Build Resilience of Population</b>			
Rice	2,146	0	-
<b>Sum</b>	<b>2,146</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Total for 2015</b>	<b>11,719</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
<b>Total reported in 2014 SPR</b>	<b>11,686</b>	<b>2,242</b>	<b>19.2%</b>
<b>Total reported in 2013 SPR</b>	<b>11,595</b>	<b>2,617</b>	<b>22.6%</b>
<b>Total reported in 2012 SPR</b>	<b>11,635</b>	<b>2,524</b>	<b>21.7%</b>

## 'Story Worth Telling'

In a country where nearly one in four people do not have enough food to eat to lead a healthy life, the daily hot meals at school are a lifesaver for the children and their families. "For many children, the meals they receive at school are their only regular food per day," says Aisatta, 49, mother of six children attending a WFP assisted school. School meals are an incentive for parents who are struggling to feed their children to send them to school and keep them in school.

"The number of students nearly doubled in the past five-six years" says Seydou Thiam, the principal of the Primary school of Benilabe, a school assisted by WFP.

## Progress Towards Gender Equality

In 2015, WFP and the Ministry of Education's efforts to encourage the participation of women in the parents' committees and in the management committees resulted in an increase in women's participation in management committees from 47 percent in 2014 to 60 percent in 2015. Monitoring missions to assisted communities, conducted by WFP and partners throughout the year, were the opportunity to interact with members of the communities and raise their awareness about gender issues.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
<b>ACT2 - Improve Access Primary Education</b>				
<b>Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees</b>				
Base value: Jul-2012, Ministry of Education Statistics, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2015, CP reports, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, CP reports, Programme monitoring.	<b>50</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>60</b>



## Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

In 2015, WFP was unable to collect data for indicators measuring progress on protection and accountability. However, local communities have been encouraged to take an active part in the school feeding programme. Parents associations and management committees at school level played a key role in ensuring good implementation of the school meals distributions, and awareness of the entitlements.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
<b>ACT2 - ImproveAccessPrimaryEducation</b>				
<b>Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites</b>				
Base value: Dec-2012, CP reports, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, CP reports, Programme monitoring.	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>

## Outputs

In 2015, school feeding was the only activity implemented under the Country Programme.

Critical funding gaps forced WFP to significantly reduce the scope of the school feeding programme. With limited resources available, WFP implemented the school feeding programme in about 28.9 percent of all intended schools reaching over half of all planned beneficiaries.

Focus on school with complete primary education cycle favoured the boys who are more likely than girls to complete primary education cycle.

Resources shortfalls also led to significant pipeline breaks in all commodities which hampered the distribution. With available stocks, WFP was able to cover for about a third of the planned feeding days.

Adjustments in the rations distributed were also necessary due to the pipeline. Children received a ration composed of cereals, pulses and oil. In May, the ration was completed with dates.

Due to complete pipeline break in SuperCereals, the distributions of snacks could not be implemented. Overall less than 10 percent of planned commodities were distributed.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
<b>ACT2 - ImproveAccessPrimaryEducation</b>				
<b>SO 4: School Feeding</b>				
Number of boarding school girls assisted by WFP	Individual	78,186	41,745	53.4%
Number of feeding days as % of actual school days	%	162	53	32.7%
Number of primary school boys assisted by WFP	Individual	78,186	47,410	60.6%
Number of primary schools assisted by WFP	school	1,700	492	28.9%

## Outcomes

During the reporting period, the dropout rate has increased. This can be explained by the deterioration of the food security of the most vulnerable households in 2015 forcing the poorest families to adopt negative coping mechanisms to meet their most basic needs, including reducing the expenses essential non-food needs like education by redrawing their children from school.

Gender ratio decreased in 2015 compared to 2014 mostly due to the targeting strategy used. Indeed, focus on schools with complete primary education cycle favoured the boys who are more likely than girls to complete primary education cycle.

The retention rate also decreased in 2015 this could be explained by the continuous decrease of financial resources which also significantly hampered the distributions. As a result, vulnerable parents did not see an added value in the activities provided by the programme, and therefore were not encouraged to send their children to school.

Outcome	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
<b>ACT2 - ImproveAccessPrimaryEducation</b>				
<b>Strategic Objective 4: Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger</b>				
<b>Drop-out rate in WFP-assisted primary schools</b> Base value: Jul-2012, Ministry of Education, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, CP report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, CP report, Programme monitoring.	10	55	24.9	31.2
<b>Enrolment: Average annual rate of change in number of children enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools</b> Base value: Dec-2013, CP reports, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, CP report, Programme monitoring.	6	2.3		-2
<b>Gender ratio: ratio of girls to boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools</b> Base value: Jul-2012, Ministry of Education Statistics, Secondary data. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, CP reports, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, CP reports, Programme monitoring.	1	0.96	1.07	0.88
<b>NCI: National Capacity Index</b> Base value: Dec-2015, SABER Country report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, SABER Country Report, 2015, Programme monitoring.	2.7	1.8		1.8
<b>Retention rate in WFP-assisted primary schools</b> Base value: Jul-2012, Ministry of Education Statistics, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, CP reports, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, CP reports, Programme monitoring.	85	45	63.8	68.8

## Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

The country programme evaluation and the SABER exercise, conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Education, the World Bank, UNICEF and other key education partners, were the opportunity to get key actors in the education sector around a table. This exchange provided an opening to foster greater engagement of all stakeholders in developing a road map for the government's handover for a nationally owned school feeding programme and the finalization of the national school feeding policy. The main result includes the elaboration of an action plan to: (i) reinforce the political and legal framework of the school feeding activities; (ii) strengthen the financial framework, in particular to enhance the predictability of funding; (iii) build capacities of institutional actors, in particular towards the coordination of the sector; (iv) integrate activities with local markets; and (v) further engage communities in school feeding processes and decision making.

## INPUTS

### Resource Inputs

In 2015, the country programme continued to suffer from inadequate funding. Majority of resources consisted of stocks carried over from last year. The rest of the funding was provided through a single multilateral contribution. The Mauritanian Government provided logistical support for the storage of food commodities.

Donor	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
MULTILATERAL		360	0
Saudi Arabia			270
<b>Total:</b>		<b>360</b>	<b>270</b>

See Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors for breakdown by commodity and contribution reference number

## Food Purchases and in-kind Receipts

Food was purchased on the regional market through a long term agreement contracted by the regional bureau in Dakar. In-kind receipts came from international market.

Commodity	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Dried Fruits	0	0	270	
Rice	0	360	0	
<b>Sum:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>270</b>	

## Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

Food commodities are transported by road, using two corridor for food deliveries: Nouakchott Port - field and Dakar Nouakchott Warehouse. Private contractors were used to transport and undertake food commodities deliveries to FDP. 1646 mt of food were handled during the year 2015 in favor of school feeding in Mauritania.

## Post-Delivery Losses

The rate of losses is very insignificant compared to the handled quantity. WFP's logistics unit have organized relevant training on 'Warehouse Management' for partners in charge of government warehouses.

## MANAGEMENT

### Partnerships

Partnerships with the Ministry of Education at central and local level has been instrumental in allowing smooth implementation of the activities. At local level the Ministry of Education played a key role in engaging the communities in the management of the programme. Local communities were active in mobilizing additional resources to complement the ration distributed and manage the programme at school level.

The partnership between the government, WFP and UNICEF was instrumental in improving the educational environment as a whole by facilitating teacher's training, developing educational tools and materials (notebooks, geometry boxes, manuals, and guides), improving the schools' infrastructure such as water points, latrines, fences, sheds sometimes; and supporting the establishment of income generating activities (school garden, school cooperative, etc.).

Partnerships	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
<b>Total</b>				<b>2</b>

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
	Target Val	(at start of project or benchmark)	(penultimate follow-up)	(latest value measured)
<b>ACT2 - Improve Access Primary Education</b>				
<b>Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, INGOs, Civil Society, Private Sector organizations, International Financial Institutions, Regional development banks)</b>				
Base value: Dec-2012, MoUs, Partner Reports, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, MoUs, Partner Reports, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, MoUs, Partner Reports, Programme monitoring.	350,000	315,537	301,945	290,000
<b>Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services</b>				
Base value: Dec-2012, CP reports and activity reports Ministry of Education, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, CP reports and activity reports Ministry of Education, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, CP reports and activity reports Ministry of Education, Programme monitoring.	1	1	2	1
<b>Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners</b>				
Base value: Dec-2012, Field level agreements data base, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Field level agreements data base, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Field level agreements data base, Programme monitoring.	100	100	100	100

## Lessons Learned

School feeding activities have suffered from chronic funding problems during the course of the year. To revitalise these activities, a stronger government engagement is essential to further identify and allocate the necessary financial resources to the national school feeding programme as per the national priorities in the CLSP. Moreover, this should be supported by an evidence-based government-led evaluation of the school feeding activities and mapping of national capacities in this area.

In 2015, WFP jointly worked with the Ministry of Education in preparing and carrying out an evaluation, paid by the government, which was followed up by the WFP/World Bank/government SABER workshop. This workshop held in October 2015 resulted in the development of a national action plan for reinforcement of school feeding in Mauritania. Overall results of these two exercises have confirmed the added value of a national school feeding programme as a safety net for most vulnerable families severely affected by food insecurity and malnutrition.

This action plan provides the elements and a road map for the development of a new national school feeding programme and a national school feeding policy in 2016, in parallel to the development of the new national development strategy. It has also become clear that targeting of the most vulnerable areas in the rural setting is important in terms of achieving the goals set in the school feeding activity and in terms of attracting exterior funding for the programme. While government is addressing the needs in the whole country, WFP and its partners can assist only in geographically the most vulnerable areas. It is important to ensure that different partners providing complementary programmes and activities are in place to ensure synergy and cohesion with other programmes. Results must be measured in a timely way and they have to be made available to the Ministry of Education, WFP and its partners. Increased collaboration and better cohesion among the partners such as WFP, UNICEF, FAO, as well as NGOs and potential donor agencies needs to be strengthened. Mauritania needs also a National School Meals Policy, which WFP has committed to support the Ministry of Education in developing in 2016.

The SABER Workshop provided several practical recommendations which will be worked on in 2016. WFP can support the government in monitoring activities and in advocating for the programme with donor community and different funds. WFP is capable of helping review the list of eligible schools in each region on the basis of criteria agreed with the government and other actors. There is a possibility to engage on income generating activities at school and community gardens to diversify the food supply and ensure meal diversity in the canteens. WFP can also act as a mobiliser for strengthened collaboration with the UN system and other stakeholders in the same area, to develop and implement a multi sectorial approach (WASH, Health, Nutrition, Food Security) using schools as entry points and strengthening the monitoring and evaluation strategy, including a clear definition of roles and responsibilities of actors at all levels, control procedures, performance indicators, data collection and management tools.

The External Country Portfolio Evaluation (CPE) was carried out in 2015, and its results will be presented in February 2016 and be approved by WFP Executive Board in June 2016. The CPE will represent an excellent platform for moving forward in line with: (i) programme cycle planning; (ii) National Strategy and UNDAF cycles; and (iii) respecting the development cycle of Mauritania, thus allowing WFP to be the partner of choice for Government of Mauritania.

In 2015, WFP has undertaken numerous efforts to mobilize resources for the implementation of school feeding activities, in particular non-conventional donors and partners. In this regard, cash and in-kind contributions were received from the national private sector and international public sector to mitigate the funding shortfalls experienced by the programme. Furthermore, in coordination with the Ministry of Education and other partners, WFP continues to advocate for additional funding of school feeding activities.

## OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

## Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/ Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Rice		360	0
Saudi Arabia	SAU-C-00095-19	Dried Fruits			270
<b>Total:</b>				<b>360</b>	<b>270</b>