



# WFP Mauritania Country Brief

## Highlights

- The July lean season interventions reached 53,300 food insecure Mauritanians, including children under five, out of approximately 89,200 beneficiaries prioritized with assistance in July.
- WFP still requires USD 2.1 million for the lean season response, and USD 4 million for assistance to refugees until the end of the year.
- Thanks to Spain contribution at the end of July, UNHAS will be able to continue its operations until end of September. USD 1 million in funding is still needed to ensure the continuation of the service until the end of the year.

## WFP Assistance

Protecting livelihoods, reducing undernutrition, and building resilience through safety nets, asset creation and skills development	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200640 (Jul 2014 – Dec 2017)	124.5 m	52.8 m (42%)	7.7 m (52%)

\*August 2017 – January 2018

**GENDER MARKER 2A**  PRRO 200640

Developed in consultation with the Government, United Nations agencies and NGOs, the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRRO) provides assistance to the most vulnerable and food-insecure people in Mauritania and protects their livelihoods. In 2017, as part of its operational and strategic review of activities, WFP will further focus on its various assistance components in convergent geographical areas and targeted households. WFP plans to provide food assistance to nearly 135,000 Mauritanians living in rural areas with the highest food insecurity and malnutrition prevalence through: (i) food distributions using cash and in-kind transfers during the peak of the lean season; (ii) nutritional assistance to malnourished children and pregnant and nursing women; and (iii) food assistance for asset creation activities prior to and after the lean season period to help vulnerable communities and households strengthen their resilience to withstand future shocks.

WFP continues its assistance to approximately 52,000 Malian refugees in Mbera camp with: i) hybrid in-kind and cash distributions; ii) nutritional assistance for prevention of malnutrition and treatment of malnourished children and pregnant and nursing women; and ii) emergency school meals for children. Host communities living around Mbera are also assisted.

Country Programme Mauritania	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
CP 200251 (Jan 2012 – Dec 2017)	77 m	9.2 m (12%)	2 m 94%

\* August 2017 – January 2018

Under the Country Programme and in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, WFP plans to provide school meals to 73,090 children enrolled in public primary schools in six rural regions. After almost a yearlong suspension due to lack of funding, the school meals has partially resumed in March in Hodh Ech-Charghi region for 16,908 students.

Provision of Humanitarian Air Services in Mauritania	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Special Operation (SO) 200803 (Jan 2015 – Dec 2017)	12.4 m	7.7 m (62%)	1.7 m

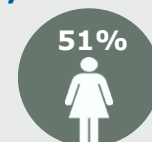
\* August 2017 – January 2018

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) established in 2012 at the request of the Humanitarian Country Team provides regular air services to aid workers, reaching six destinations in Mauritania. The service is essential to enhance operational and security capacity and facilitate humanitarian access from Nouakchott to the affected populations in remote areas.

## In Numbers

**745,000** people in food insecurity  
**226,500** people targeted by WFP including:  
**55,000** refugees, **135,000** local Mauritanians and **36,500** school children

**104,900**  
people assisted  
July 2017



## Strategic Planning

- In July, WFP continued supporting the national Zero Hunger Review (ZHR) team who undertook consultations with partners on Mauritania achievement of SDG2 in terms of food security, nutrition and agriculture. WFP country strategic planning will be aligned to the ZHR findings, recommendations and roadmap for tackling hunger in Mauritania and to the UNDAF 2018–2020.
- In July, WFP, UNCHR and Food Security Commission continued their consultations with refugee leaders and local authorities around the profiling and vulnerability-based targeting exercise, expected to start at the end of August with household data collection. Together with the results of the Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) scheduled over the next three months, the profiling exercise will provide a solid basis for tailoring assistance to the needs and capacities of refugees in the camp, and design long-term resilience activities for both host and refugee communities.
- In order to better coordinate with development partners and the Government and to capitalize assistance efforts, WFP continued to take steps forwards during the month of July in increasing synergies with the national social protection system including resilience efforts for the local Mauritanian population.

## Operational Updates

### Relief and Recovery Operation – Refugee Component

- In July, WFP reached 51,500 refugees with a temporary lean season (increased) food and (reduced) cash ration to balance the underfunded cash component, while guaranteeing refugees nutritious food intake. The ration will be distributed until September. Approximately USD 7 were distributed together with 9 kg rice, 900 g oil and 750 g salt as part of the monthly individual ration. Of the targeted beneficiaries, 5,200 were young mothers and children receiving preventive and targeted supplementary nutrition assistance.

### Relief and Recovery Operation – Local Population Component

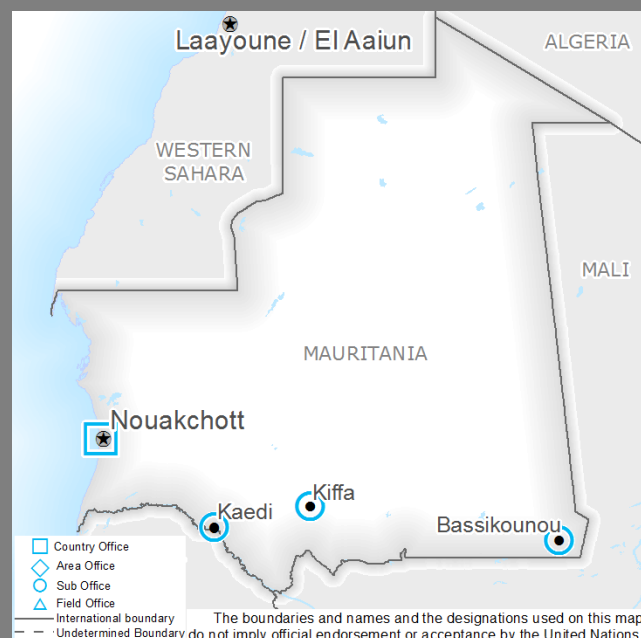
In July, WFP carried out the following activities as part of its lean season intervention:

- General food distributions (GFD) for 48,700 vulnerable Mauritanians via monthly cash transfers (approximately USD 95 per household) in the southern regions of Guidimakha, Gorgol and food transfers (wheat, pulses, oil and salt) in Hodh Ech-Charghi.
- GFD was integrated with blanket supplementary feeding for 4,600 children aged 6-23 months, whose families are assisted through GFD, and targeted supplementary feeding for children aged 6-59 months taken into care in the *Centres de Récupération Nutritionnelle Ambulatoire pour Malnutrition Modérés* (CRENAMs).

### Special Operation – UNHAS

- UNHAS User Group Committee met in July to discuss the critical funding constraints, the possibility of revising the flight schedule, and the necessity for all UGC organizations to continue advocating with their donors for additional funds to the service. Starting from October 2017, UNHAS will be forced to stop all operations if new funding is not secured.
- In July, UNHAS transported 323 passengers and 1.307 mt of light cargo (IT equipment and medical supplies) in 31 rotations between Nouakchott and other locations.

## Country Background & Strategy



Vast and largely desert, Mauritania is sparsely populated and is one of the world's poorest countries. Nearly 23 percent of the population lives below the poverty line on less than USD 1.25 per day (Human Development Report [HDR] 2015). Some 47 percent live in multidimensional poverty with acute deprivation in health, education and standard of living (HDR 2015).

Mauritania faces significant challenges related to food security. The trend analysis of the past five-year data (2011-2015) covering both lean and post-harvest periods based on the Integrated Context Analysis approach suggest that 492,000 people are considered the most vulnerable in the country. Out of the 492,000, some 380,000 people are estimated to be in the six regions reached by WFP. Malnutrition rates are also high in children aged 6-59 months and above the WHO emergency threshold of 15 percent (Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions - SMART).

Mauritania continues to host the second largest number of Malian refugees who have fled their homes following the outbreak of violence in 2012. Latest UNHCR figures count over 51,000 registered refugees.

In 2017, WFP aims to provide food and nutrition assistance to 177,000 people in rural areas with highest food insecurity and malnutrition rates. WFP will also provide life-saving assistance to 51,000 Malian refugees in the Mbera camp and distribute daily school meal to 73,000 primary school children from food insecure and highly vulnerable households. WFP has been present in Mauritania since 1964.

Population: **3.5 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **148 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **31% of children between 6-59 months**

## Donors

Top five donors for **PRRO 200640**: Germany, USA (FFP), Japan, European Union (ECHO) and France.

Top five donors for **CP 200251**: Private Donors

Top five donors for **SO 200803**: USA (BPRM), European Union (ECHO), and Spain.

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