

Standard Project Report 2015

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

MAURITANIA

Protecting livelihoods, reducing undernutrition, and building resilience through safety nets, asset creation and skills development

Project Number	200640
Project Category	Single Country PRRO
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	709,905
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	575,171
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	329,150

Project Approval Date	06 Jun 2014
Planned Start Date	01 Jul 2014
Actual Start Date	01 Jul 2014
Project End Date	31 Dec 2016
Financial Closure Date	n.a.

Approved budget as 31 December 2015 in USD	
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	1,005,486
Cash--based Transfer and Related Costs	26,987,278
Direct Support Costs	9,538,298
Food and Related Costs	44,541,532
Indirect Support Costs	5,745,081
Total Approved Budget	87,817,675

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Total Approved Commodities	43,186
Planned Commodities in 2015	18,560
Actual Commodities in 2015	4,305

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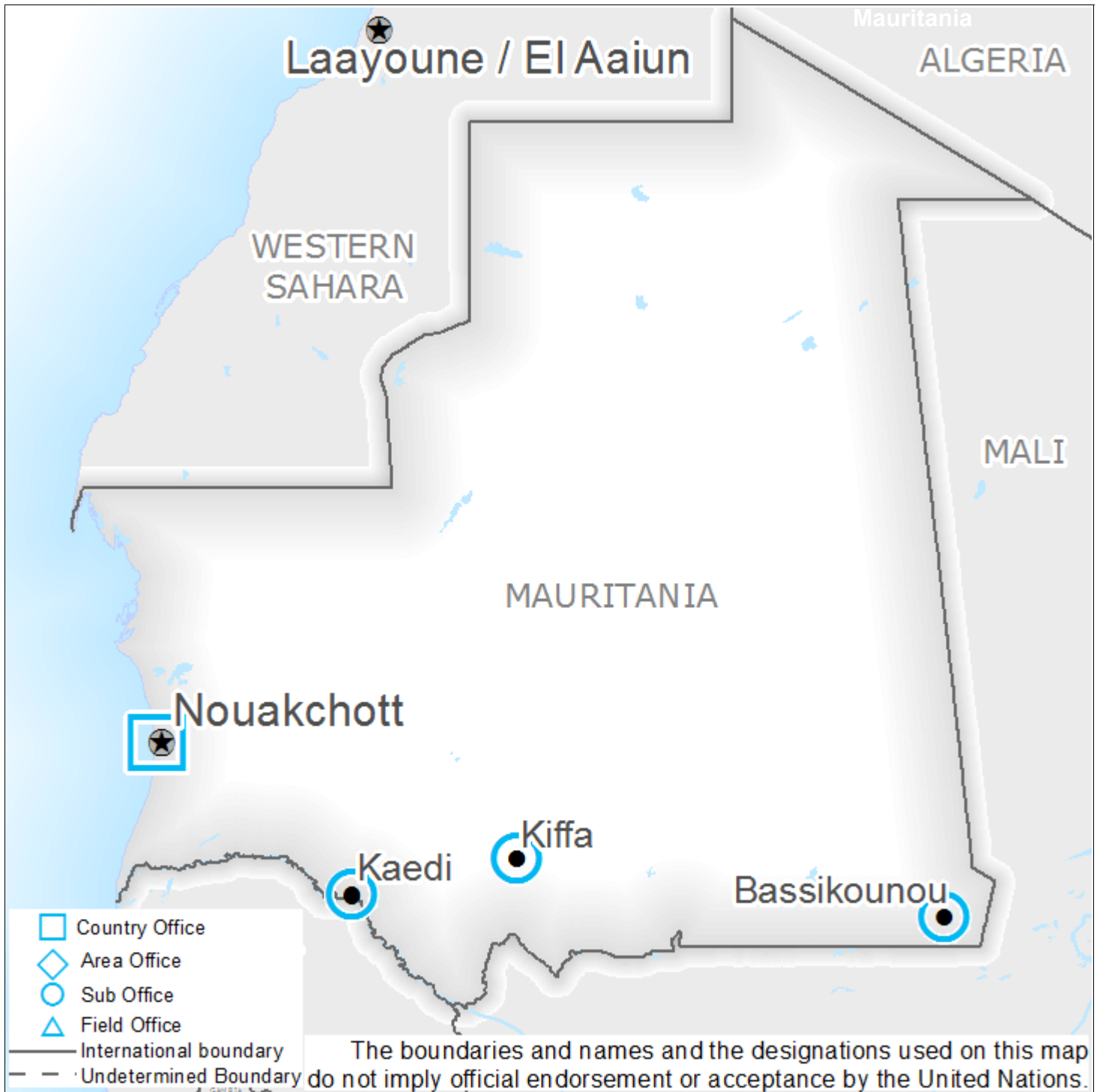
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Country Overview



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Mauritania bridges the Maghreb and western sub-Saharan Africa regions. The country is vast, measuring 1,030,700 km². 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

Mauritania suffers from chronic food insecurity and high prevalence of acute malnutrition. The successive shocks of prolonged drought and flooding that have hit Mauritania in recent years have critically undermined the resilience of the most vulnerable populations who rely on traditional rain fed agriculture and extensive breeding activities for their livelihoods. Results from the Food Security Monitoring Survey and Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, conducted respectively in June and November 2014, have highlighted a deterioration in the national food security situation since June 2013.

This Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), launched in June 2014, is the continuity of a three-year cycle that started in the aftermath of the 2012 food crisis. Building on lessons learned from previous operations, this PRRO aimed to protect livelihoods and reduce acute malnutrition, while tackling underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition to reduce the impact of seasonal stress and shocks. WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to cover immediate needs of vulnerable households through targeted and flexible food and nutrition safety nets while enhancing assets and skills to contribute in building long-term capacity to mitigate shocks.

WFP's intervention focused on (i) supporting beneficiaries in emergency contexts through general food distribution (GFD) and unconditional cash transfer; (ii) enhancing assets and skills of beneficiaries through Food assistance for Assets (FFA) activities; and (iii) treating and preventing acute malnutrition through targeted and blanket supplementary feeding.

This operation was aligned to the National Poverty Reduction Strategy (2012-2015), the Inter-sectorial Nutrition Action Plan (2011-2015), and the National Protocol for Management of Acute Malnutrition (December 2011). The project supported the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and 2014 Humanitarian Strategic Resource Plan and contributed to WFP's Strategic Objectives 1, 3 and 4.

The operation was developed through a thorough consultative process, involving national authorities including the steering committee of the National Social Protection Strategy, the United Nations agencies, partner NGOs and donors.

RESULTS

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

Under the PRRO, WFP's interventions targeted the most vulnerable rural communes in seven regions with the highest food insecurity and prevalence of acute malnutrition as well as flood-prone areas of Nouakchott, based on trend analysis of food security and nutrition monitoring data collected by WFP, the government and other partners. Distributions were conducted through GFD, FFA activities and supported by targeted supplementary feeding (TSF) and blanket supplementary feeding (BSF).

Targeting of food insecure households was based on the Household Economic Approach (HEA), which was led by the communities in coordination with NGOs, government counterparts and WFP. The identification and selection of communities and villages for the implementation of the assistance was based on vulnerability criteria set by the recently conducted Food Security Monitoring (FSMS) and SMART assessments. The process focused on identifying the poorest municipalities in the department, taking into account the information related to livelihoods, the existence and functioning of markets and other characteristics of vulnerability, and finally prioritizing the villages of the municipality of the most vulnerable to least vulnerable. At the end of the process, the most vulnerable beneficiaries and households were included in the project target.

At the beginning of the operation in July 2014, WFP aimed to assist 604,752 beneficiaries. The number of beneficiaries was augmented to 638,121 through a budget revision in March 2015 due to a deterioration in the food and nutrition security situation in the country. The revision enabled WFP to respond to significant increases in the number of children aged 6-59 months with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and undernourished Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW). This larger caseload aimed to prevent the degradation of the nutritional situation in areas initially targeted by the PRRO.

Due to funding shortfalls, the intervention was limited exclusively to lifesaving activities to the most vulnerable families in five out of the eight regions planned.

As part of its GFD activities and in the framework of the joint WFP, UNDP, IOM and FAO project financed by UN CERF, WFP distributed 661 mt of food to more than 27000 beneficiaries in the region of Hodh El Chargui. Implementation started in January 2015 based on funding available in 2014 for the CERF food security component. Other GFDs were also conducted in Tagant, Hodh El Chargui, and Hodh El Gharbi. In the latter region, implementation was focused exclusively to the Kobeni department where a nutritional emergency had been declared.

Similarly, unconditional cash transfer distributions were conducted in April 2015 implementing of a FAO-UNICEF-WFP DEVCO project. 2900 households, distributed between Assaba and Guidimagha, received cash transfers covering for a 6 month period.

From October 2015, WFP introduced FFA activities through cash modalities as part of its operations. The same vulnerable groups of the DEVCO project were also recipients of these activities through the implementation of 15 projects in the areas of Assaba and Guidimagha. Additional projects will be carried out in these and other regions - Assaba, Gorgol, Guidimagha, Tagant and Hodh el Gharbi - for which implementation will be starting in 2016. Targeting will focus on the most vulnerable households with specific focus on female-headed households.

The Mother and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) activities targeted children between 6 to 59 months of age for the treatment of MAM, and PLW for prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition. Children and PLW were enrolled in the targeted supplementary feeding programme following a screening through community-run nutrition feeding centres for treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (CRENAMs). MAM screening was conducted on the basis of the national protocol for the management of acute malnutrition in Mauritania. For children, admission criteria includes upper arm circumference (MUAC) between 115 mm and 125 mm for which they are supported by the programme for a period of 60 days. While for PLW, cases meeting the criteria for admission with MUAC less than 210 mm are supported in the nutritional treatment programme for a period of 270 days.

Malnutrition prevention activities are conducted during the lean season to provide a supplementary ration rich in micronutrients for children and PLW. Targeted are children between 6-23 months cases with a MUAC greater than or equal to 125 mm and PLW with MUAC above 210 mm, cases receive a nutritional supplement for a period of 30 days.

Financial constraints had a negative impact on the number of beneficiaries touched by TSF and BSF assistance. For the TSF beneficiaries and volunteers supporting the CRENAMs, the activities were implemented from January till July exclusively in two regions, out of the eight originally planned, whereas it was extended to other additional three regions from August to December. This had an impact on the number of beneficiaries reached and volunteers supported by WFP activities. Similarly, BSF figures were lower than planned mainly due to financial constraints limiting implementation to be conducted: (i) only for three months instead of six originally planned; and (ii) only in five out of the eight planned regions. For the same reasons, support to caretakers was not implemented in 2015, and was integrated as part of the 2016 activities.

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Number of adults	86,299	133,233	219,532	54,746	78,568	133,314	63.4%	59.0%	60.7%
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	73,150	81,958	155,108	44,681	45,557	90,238	61.1%	55.6%	58.2%
Number of children below 5 years of age	98,996	101,535	200,531	53,115	52,483	105,598	53.7%	51.7%	52.7%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	258,445	316,726	575,171	152,542	176,608	329,150	59.0%	55.8%	57.2%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	179,686	265,127	444,813	91,932	103,900	195,832	51.2%	39.2%	44.0%

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
Participants in Food For Assets	15,537	15,914	31,451	521	1,389	1,910	3.4%	8.7%	6.1%
Caretakers - Therapeutic Feeding		2,938	2,938		0	0		0.0%	0.0%
Pregnant and lactating women participating in blanket supplementary feeding (prevention of moderate acute malnutrition)		94,984	94,984		36,201	36,201		38.1%	38.1%
Beneficiaries of General food distribution (GFD)/ targeted food distribution/assistance (GFD-TFD/A)	264,004	270,725	534,729	138,686	144,461	283,147	52.5%	53.4%	53.0%
Refugees	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Children receiving school meals	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Children 24 to 59 months given food under supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate malnutrition)	22,278	22,819	45,097	13,177	14,428	27,605	59.1%	63.2%	61.2%
Children 6 to 23 months given food under blanket supplementary feeding (prevention of acute malnutrition)	44,748	45,836	90,584	19,807	20,242	40,049	44.3%	44.2%	44.2%
Children 6 to 23 months given food under supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate malnutrition)	11,139	11,410	22,549	6,588	7,214	13,802	59.1%	63.2%	61.2%
Pregnant and lactating women participating in targeted supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate acute malnutrition)		11,534	11,534		9,637	9,637		83.6%	83.6%
Cash-Based Transfer Beneficiaries	169,814	176,878	346,692	76,390	81,732	158,122	45.0%	46.2%	45.6%
Volunteers at supplementary feeding centers	160	1,440	1,600	24	714	738	15.0%	49.6%	46.1%

Commodity Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Corn-soya Blend (csb)	4,199	745	17.7%
Dried Fruits	0	234	-
Iodised Salt	64	9	14.7%
Lentils	404	153	37.9%
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	977	251	25.7%
Split Peas	200	18	9.2%
Vegetable Oil	731	199	27.3%
Wheat	11,985	2,695	22.5%
Total for 2015	18,560	4,305	23.2%
Total reported in 2014 SPR	8,513	2,132	25.0%

Cash-Based Transfer	Planned Distribution (USD)	Actual Distribution (USD)	% Actual v. Planned
Cash	8,433,332	3,442,674	40.8%
Total for 2015	8,433,332	3,442,674.27	40.8%

'Story Worth Telling'

WFP, FAO and UNICEF work to protect the livelihood and build the resilience of families affected by the 2012 drought providing integrated assistance to restore and protect the nutrition and food security resilience of poorest families still recovering from the drought in 2012. In the village of Dissak, located in the rural region of Assaba in the south east of Mauritania, the assistance received has made a big difference in the life of the community. Fatimatou, 40, is proud to tell the story of how women receiving assistance decided to use some of the money received and invest it in an income generating activity.

"It was 10 of us who decided to form the cooperative. We each contributed 2,000 ouguiya [approximately USD 6] to provide initial working capital and set up our business of production of couscous [a popular staple in this region]. We used the money to buy wheat flour and others ingredients we needed to prepare the couscous. We then sold it on the market in Kiffa, the main town of the region. The money we made from the sale we use to cover for the expenses. We split the benefit in two. We put half of it in the cooperative and the other half we shared it among ourselves. We used the money to buy food, visit the doctors, and support our kids in school outside of the villages. The money put into the cooperative we have used it to support members of the community facing hard time or to contribute for wedding and baptism expenses," she explains.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

In 2015, gender issues continued to be mainstreamed in all activities implemented under this operation. Throughout the implementation of this PRRO, WFP ensured that both men and women benefited equitably from the food and cash assistance provided. WFP continued to promote the empowerment of women and encourage their participation in decision making within the household. WFP and its partners encouraged women's participation in all decision-making committees and targeted activities. The design and implementation of all activities, specifically FFA/CFA, was based on participatory approaches in which women will have the opportunity to identify their specific needs and priorities.

The protocol used for household targeting was gender sensitive and this resulted in the selection of women as the main beneficiaries of WFP cash and food assistance.

In Mauritania, there is a tendency for men to largely dominate decision-making processes, as demonstrated by the baseline survey conducted in September 2014. Resulting from the PRRO activities, substantial achievements were achieved in this regard. The results showed that women are increasingly involved in the decision-making in the use of the rations for beneficiary households. This was a cross-cutting result between the food and cash distributions determining that through an adequate targeting, correct information sharing and successful capacity building of beneficiaries, results could be achieved. To be noted, however, that decisions within the household are usually taken by a single member without consultation, therefore on this aspect, the project is underperforming. This is mainly due to cultural factors and therefore further efforts will need to be undertaken in the project activities.

Nutrition programmes implemented at the community level also included an awareness and counselling component on child feeding practices targeted both men and women. Nutrition awareness information also included gender-sensitive messages such as equal share of child care responsibilities. It should be noted that nutrition activities were implemented mainly in MAM treatment centres and BSF sites which were frequented mainly by women. Thus, women were directly more exposed to nutrition awareness. However, efforts have been made and are currently being made to raise awareness and train men around healthy nutrition.

Women were also encouraged to play a major role in the implementation of these activities. It should be noted that a high percentage of women has been placed in leadership positions of programme committees. This is complemented by the fact that three-quarters of all the women in programme committees have received the adequate training to carry out their activities, demonstrating the specific focus given by the project on gender issues.

To maintain and further improve these results, WFP will continue to mainstream gender as part of its operations in 2016. It should be noted that food assistance and nutrition awareness have contributed to a positive change in behavior and understanding of roles for men and women. Changing culture is complex and time consuming. Therefore, WFP will ensure the adequate attention to gender issues through its targeting, distributions and capacity building activities.

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)
Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
Base value: Sep-2014, Baseline survey Cash Food, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM survey Cash/Food, WFP survey.	50	3.6		5.4
Proportion of households where females make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
Base value: WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM survey Cash Food, WFP survey.	25	34		54.1
Proportion of households where males make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
Base value: Sep-2014, Baseline survey Cash Food, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM survey Cash Food, WFP survey.	25	62.4		40.5
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
Base value: Dec-2014, CP reports, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, CP reports, Programme monitoring.	50	48		48
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
Base value: Dec-2014, CP reports, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, CP reports, Programme monitoring.	60	100		100

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

To enhance the protection, security and accountability, WFP regularly conducted field missions to the targeted communities to inform beneficiaries about the project. These aspects were taken into account in the monitoring and evaluation activities undertaken by WFP and its partners, allowing to collect data on different dimensions including protection and security aspects.

Measures taken by WFP and its partners, including improvement in securing distribution sites, achieved notable results in terms of creating an enabling and secure environment for beneficiaries at distribution sites. It should be noted that positive results were achieved both in the distribution of food as well as in the distribution of cash to the extent that more than 95 percent of the beneficiaries felt safe at distribution sites.

Similarly, WFP and its partners achieved good results in informing beneficiaries about the distributions. In line with previous reporting, communications related to programmes and distributions for cash transfers were satisfactory and aligned with target goals for the activities. At the same time, according to the baseline results, the project would need to improve information sharing with the beneficiaries specifically on the modalities of food distribution.

To this end, a feedback mechanism was created and introduced to allow beneficiaries to express their views about targeting and distributions. This mechanism consists of two phone numbers that any beneficiary can call toll-free, building on pre-existing local systems. It should be noted that the feedback mechanism was not frequently utilized, with few calls received. Beneficiaries continued to provide their feedback through pre-existing mechanisms -e.g. communications to partners and/or to community leaders/members.

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>
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Base value: Sep-2014, Baseline survey Cash Food, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM survey Cash Food, WFP survey.	80	62.6		87.7
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Base value: Sep-2014, Baseline survey Cash Food, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM survey Cash Food, WFP survey.	80	64.8		87.8
Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites				
Base value: Sep-2014, Baseline survey Cash Food, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM survey Cash Food, WFP survey.	90	96.6		98
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Base value: Sep-2014, Baseline survey Cash Food, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM survey Cash Food, WFP survey.	80	61		87.6

Outputs

Despite the resourcing shortfalls faced by WFP Mauritania in 2015, significant results were achieved against targeted outputs. This also meant that some targets were not achieved, and that WFP's assistance did not have a desired impact on the food and nutrition security, due to limited resources and restricted coverage.

The overall programme, in line with corporate strategic objectives, prioritized the most vulnerable beneficiaries in regions with high level of food insecurity rates.

Overall delays in the mobilization of resources and the late arrival of food supplies weighed on the implementation of activities of GFD, unconditional cash transfers and FFA. Therefore shifts have been necessary to amend the originally planned activities.

Due to a delay in receiving financial resources, unconditional cash transfers activities started with a delay of 4 months, therefore limiting the number of beneficiaries to approximately sixty percent of what was originally planned. Of this percentage, it was originally planned that eight percent of the recipients would be women. However, results demonstrated that the total beneficiaries reached were equally distributed between men and women. Nonetheless, those that benefitted from cash transfers joined forces by pooling resources together to invest on income generating activities. This initiative supports the achievement of resilience without adopting negative coping strategies to face food insecurity.

Similarly, GFD suffered a delay as food resources became available exclusively from September, which then allowed for distributions to be undertaken during the months of November and December. This limited the number of beneficiaries reached by the overall distribution reaching approximately sixty-five percent of the planned. Moreover, this also affected the implementation period of the operations, limited to two months.

For FFA, activities started with CERF available from the previous reporting year. For the 2015 plan, due to limited financial resources, activities scheduled from February to June did not take place. They were delayed to the end of 2015 and, also integrated in the plan for 2016. This has influenced low rates of beneficiaries reached for the FFA activities. Moreover, progress against output and outcome indicators could not be measured due to the limited volume of FFA activities.

As part of the MCHN activities, children received a ready-to-eat food supplement (Plumpy'Sup) per day for a coverage period of 60 days and were regularly monitored every 15 days in CRENAMs. Moreover, their mothers received awareness raising training on related topics: breastfeeding, diet complement, hand hygiene and the use of products supplied by WFP. Malnourished PLW were given Super Cereal (250 g) and oil (25 g) per day for a coverage period of 270 days as prescribed by the national protocol. They were also offered information on infant and young child feeding activities. Due to financial constraints, this overall intervention was undertaken from January till July in the regions of Guidimagha and Gorgol, and successively extended to Assaba, Tagant, and Hodh El Chargui from August till December, out of the eight regions originally planned. These constraints had therefore a negative impact on the number of health centers reached by the operation. Regardless, positive results were achieved with more than sixty percent of the targeted children, and eighty-five percent of the PLW.

Complementing the above operations, auxiliaries in communities supporting NGOs activities received training on the management of acute malnutrition and food management. To support their activities, they received a ration composed of cereals products, pulses and oil for a period of 20 days per month.

The nutritional activities of the project also included a BSF programme to prevent children and PLW from falling into MAM. BSF was provided to assist children from 6 to 23 months with Super Cereal Plus and PLW with Super Cereal and oil during the lean season (April to September). Due to funding shortfalls, assistance was provided exclusively from August to November, therefore limiting the number of beneficiaries and months of coverage under this part of the project.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO 1: GFD				
C&V: Number of beneficiaries receiving cash transfers	Individual	37,954	24,124	63.6%
C&V: Number of men collecting cash or vouchers	Individual	4,825	10,132	210.0%
C&V: Number of women collecting cash or vouchers	Individual	19,299	13,992	72.5%
C&V: Total amount of cash transferred to beneficiaries	US\$	4,549,866	3,367,526	74.0%
SO 1: Nutrition: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition				
Proportion of women exposed to nutrition messaging supported by WFP against proportion planned	%	100	100	100.0%
SO 3: Capacity Development: Strengthening National Capacities				
FFA: Number of female government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training	individual	4	0	0.0%
Number of food security and nutrition monitoring/surveillance reports produced with WFP support No SMART survey in December 2015. The FSMS planned for December 2015 was delayed to January 2016 and the report is not available yet	report	4	2	50.0%
Number of government counterparts trained in data collection and analysis on food and nutrition security The FSMS of December 2015 was delayed to January 2016	individual	80	45	56.3%
Number of national programmes developed with WFP support (nutrition)	national programme	4	3	75.0%
SO 3: FFA				
C&V: Number of men collecting cash or vouchers	Individual	2,676	5,753	215.0%
C&V: Number of women collecting cash or vouchers	Individual	10,703	626	5.8%
C&V: Total amount of cash transferred to beneficiaries	US\$	3,883,466	75,148	1.9%
Number of assets built, restored or maintained by targeted communities and individuals Only gardening activities done in 2015	Asset	500	21	4.2%
Number of assisted communities with improved physical infrastructures to mitigate the impact of shocks, in place as a result of project assistance	community	500	19	3.8%
SO 4: Nutrition: Treatment of Acute Malnutrition				
Number of health centres/sites assisted	centre/site	800	369	46.1%
Number of pregnant/lactating women assisted	Individual	11,534	9,637	83.6%
Proportion of women exposed to nutrition messaging supported by WFP against proportion planned	%	100	100	100.0%
Proportion of women receiving nutrition counseling supported by WFP against proportion planned	%	100	100	100.0%

Outcomes

WFP has set up a monitoring tool to monitor key performance indicators in terms of activities and results. In September 2014, a baseline survey was conducted to set the reference situation for the project activities in 2015. Post distribution monitoring surveys were conducted: (i) in June, to monitor not only process indicators and implementation but also the results and outcome indicators; and (ii) in November to start measuring the impact on target beneficiaries at the end of the year. These analyses covered about 1200 households receiving cash transfers and the 1200 beneficiaries of food distributions. The Coping Strategy Index (CSI) was also analyzed to measure household food security. The CPI results indicate that the majority of beneficiary households applied at least one coping strategy which implied their vulnerability, regardless of what they received. Moreover, it should be noted that in areas with activities benefiting from multi-year funds, food security improved in comparison to that in other regions in Mauritania.

In terms of household food security, the general situation for beneficiaries slightly improved during 2015, mainly due to the fact that WFP assistance, through cash transfers and food distributions, helped stabilize the food insecurity situation of the most vulnerable households. It should be noted that a slight regression of food insecurity rates in areas of interventions can be observed thanks to assistance, however this occurrence remains still too low. Moreover, the results showed that dietary diversity score is above the minimum threshold for the consumption of the four food groups - cereals, sugar, oils and pulses - throughout the period with a slight progress made with respect to the baseline and the final survey data. Lastly, it appears that food insecurity affects more female headed households than men-headed ones, mainly due to socio-cultural inequalities with regard to the ownership of assets and inputs by the household, and the division of responsibilities within the household.

Going into detail, for beneficiaries of food distributions, the proportion of households with poor food consumption in supported districts was significantly reduced and some improvements were realized in the overall dietary diversity score. In line with the project objectives, improvements were obtained on the proportion of beneficiary households with poor food consumption score compared to the baseline. Slight differences were observed between female and male-headed households, with a higher proportion of female-headed households showing poor food consumption. Moreover, food assistance enabled beneficiary households to meet their food needs covered during the lean period. However despite the assistance, beneficiaries use more coping strategies, including debt, to compensate for the gap of uncovered food needs. In this context, female-headed households had a slightly lower coping strategy score compared to male-headed households, determining that female-headed households had a more practical use of available resources.

For beneficiaries' receiving cash, a different situation was observed. General improvement in the food security situation was seen with a gradual increase in the proportion of households with acceptable food consumption score. However, this was quickly inverted whenever there was a delay in the distribution. It should be noted that most of the transfer amount was spent on the purchase of food, mainly cereals, oil and sugar. Nutritious food products (mainly pulses, milk and vegetables) were the second on the list of beneficiary household expenditures after the purchase of staple commodities. Despite improved food consumption and a diversified diet, not all the micronutrient requirements were met (meat and fish), as they remain expensive and are consumed in small quantities and infrequently. Moreover, the coping strategy index gradually declined, demonstrating that beneficiaries and households had adequate food resources for their needs.

Lastly, in terms of nutritional assistance, the 2014/2015 agricultural season was marked by a significant rainfall deficit and low agro-pastoral production. This has caused an increase in the acute malnutrition rates in the country. Households resorted to the sale of small ruminants to ensure the necessary access to food. This destocking had occurred in several locations of the country with a significant increase in livestock supply on the markets, leading to: (i) a lowering prices of animals; (ii) a deterioration of terms of trade between small livestock and cereals; and (iii) a reduction in the purchasing power of vulnerable households. Thus, the observed increase in food insecurity rates is both an availability problem, as well as an issue of accessibility due to the reduction of agricultural production for resale and lower household incomes.

Financial shortfall had also a negative effect on the programme coverage, leading to the implementation in only two regions out of the originally planned eight regions from January till July, and in five regions out of eight from August till December.

In spite of this situation, positive results were achieved in terms of the MAM treatment. In particular, the project, in line with the foreseen objectives, maintained a low rate of non-response and dropout from the treatments. Moreover, the results have shown a high recovery rate following the treatments, therefore demonstrating that project activities were effective.

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>
Strategic Objective 1: Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies				
Diet Diversity Score				

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>
Base value: Sep-2014, Baseline survey cash Assaba Gorgol Guidimakha, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Jun-2015, PDM cash rural Assaba Gorgol Guidimakha, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM cash rural Assaba Gorgol Guidimakha, WFP survey.	4	4.28	4.33	4.58
Diet Diversity Score				
Base value: Sep-2014, Baseline survey GFD Hodh Echargui, Hodh El Gharbi et Tagant,, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM GFD Hodh Echargui, Hodh El Gharbi et Tagant,, WFP survey.	4	3.87		4.2
Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households)				
Base value: Sep-2014, PDM cash rural, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Jun-2015, PDM cash rural, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM cash rural, WFP survey.	4	4.34	4.27	4.69
Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households)				
Base value: Sep-2014, PDM GFD Hodh Echargui, Hodh El Gharbi et Tagant, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM GFD Hodh Echargui, Hodh El Gharbi et Tagant, WFP survey.	4	3.79		4.13
Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households)				
Base value: Sep-2014, PDM Cash rural Assaba Gorgol Guidimakha, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Jun-2015, PDM Cash rural Assaba Gorgol Guidimakha, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM Cash rural Assaba Gorgol Guidimakha, WFP survey.	4	4.22	4.41	4.42
Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households)				
Base value: Sep-2014, PDM GFD Hodh Echargui, Hodh El Gharbi Tagant, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM GFD Hodh Echargui, Hodh El Gharbi et Tagant, WFP survey.	4	4.1		4.32
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score				
Base value: Sep-2014, PDM GFD Hodh Echargui, Hodh El Gharbi, Tagant, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM GFD Hodh Echargui, Hodh El Gharbi et Tagant, WFP survey.	4.52	28.79		13.11
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score				
Base value: Sep-2015, PDM cash Assaba, Gorgol, Guidimagha, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Jun-2015, PDM cash Assaba, Gorgol, Guidimagha, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM cash Assaba, Gorgol, Guidimagha, WFP survey.	4.52	22.6	15.76	26.24
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
Base value: Sep-2014, Baseline survey Cash Assaba, Gorgol, Guidimakha, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Jun-2015, PDM Cash Assaba, Gorgol, Guidimakha, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM Cash Assaba, Gorgol, Guidimakha, Programme monitoring.	4.94	24.7	19.68	23.99
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
Base value: Sep-2014, Baseline survey Cash Assaba Gorgol Guidimakha, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Jun-2015, PDM1 Cash Assaba Gorgol Guidimakha, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM2 Cash Assaba Gorgol Guidimakha, WFP survey.	4.12	20.6	18.68	23.99
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
Base value: Sep-2014, PDM GFD Hodh Echargui, Hodh El Gharbi Tagant, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM GFD Hodh Echargui, Hodh El Gharbi Tagant, WFP survey.	4.12	29.77		10.11
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
Base value: Sep-2014, PDM GFD Hodh Echargui, Hodh El Gharbi, Tagant, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM GFD Hodh Echargui, Hodh El Gharbi, Tagant, WFP survey.	4.94	28.19		14.82
Proportion of eligible population who participate in programme (coverage)				
Base value: Jan-2014, Desk computation, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Desk computation, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Desk computation, Programme monitoring.	70	0	81.7	76.5
Strategic Objective 3: Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs				
CAS: percentage of communities with an increased Asset Score				
Base value: Nov-2015, FFA activities started in December 2015. the endline survey was not done yet, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, FFA activities started in December 2015. the endline survey was not done yet, WFP survey.	80	0		0
CSI (Food): Coping Strategy Index (average)				
Base value: Nov-2015, PDM Survey Cash, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM Survey Cash, WFP survey.	7	7.31		7.31
Diet Diversity Score				
Base value: Nov-2015, PDM Survey Cash, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM Survey Cash, WFP survey.	4	4.9		4.9
Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households)				
Base value: Nov-2015, PDM Survey Cash, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM Survey Cash, WFP survey.	4	4.93		4.93
Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households)				
Base value: Nov-2015, PDM Survey Cash, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM Survey Cash, WFP survey.	4	4.87		4.87
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score				
Base value: Nov-2015, PDM Survey Cash, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM Survey Cash, WFP survey.	2	10		10
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				

	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>
Outcome				
Base value: Nov-2015, PDM Survey Cash, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM Survey Cash, Programme monitoring.	1.8	9		9
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
Base value: Nov-2015, PDM Survey Cash, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM Survey Cash, WFP survey.	3	15		15
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score				
Base value: Nov-2015, PDM Survey Cash, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM Survey Cash, WFP survey.	3.6	18		18
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
Base value: Nov-2015, PDM Survey Cash, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM Survey Cash, WFP survey.	4.6	23		23
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
Base value: Nov-2015, PDM Survey Cash, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, PDM Survey Cash, Programme monitoring.	1	5		5
NCI: National Capacity Index				
Base value: Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, The NCI workshop is planned for February 2016, Programme monitoring.	4	0		0
Number of WFP-supported national food security and other policies, plans, and mechanisms that improve disaster risk management and climate change adaptation				
Base value: Dec-2014, Food security and nutrition survey reports, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, 3 since 2014 but only SABER, Joint WB/WFP support for education policy in 2015, Programme monitoring.	4	0		3
Strategic Objective 4: Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger				
MAM treatment default rate (%)				
Base value: Jan-2014, CP reports, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, CP reports, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, CP reports, Programme monitoring.	15	12.1	1.6	4
MAM treatment mortality rate (%)				
Base value: Jan-2014, CP reports, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, CP reports, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, CP reports, Programme monitoring.	3	0	0	0.1
MAM treatment non-response rate (%)				
Base value: Jan-2014, CP reports, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, CP reports, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, CP reports, Programme monitoring.	15	24.1	1.9	5.3
MAM treatment recovery rate (%)				
Base value: Jan-2014, CP reports, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, CP reports, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, CP reports, Programme monitoring.	75	63.7	96.5	90.7
Prevalence of acute malnutrition among children under 5 (weight-for-height as %)				
Base value: Jun-2013, SMART survey, MoH/UNICEF,, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Aug-2014, SMART survey, MoH/UNICEF, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Jun-2015, The nutrition SMART Survey was not conducted in December 2015, Programme monitoring.	10	13.1	9.8	14
Proportion of eligible population who participate in programme (coverage)				
Base value: Jan-2014, CP reports, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, CP reports, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, CP reports, Programme monitoring.	75	0	82.3	63

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

The PRRO 200460 was developed through extensive consultations with government, humanitarian and development partners to support national strategies and plans including the National Strategic Framework for the Fight against Poverty (Cadre Strategique de Lutte contre la Pauvrete), the National Food Security Strategy (Strategie Nationale de Securite Alimentaire), the National Strategy for Social Protection (Strategie Nationale de Protection Sociale) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2012-2016).

The project was implemented under the overall oversight of the national coordination body for food security the Commissariat a la Securite Alimentaire (CSA), the Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development (MAED), and Ministry Agriculture, Education and Finance. Joint programme planning and implementation offered key insights to government counterparts, underscoring their ownership of the programme. In particular, government counterparts were actively engaged in the targeting of beneficiaries for the different components of the projects.

This operation involved explicit measures to develop capacities among government and non-governmental partners, including through the provision of trainings to national authorities and NGO staff on FFA and nutrition assistance activities. These included trainings on the management and prevention of cases of MAM in the CREMAN and the national care protocol of acute malnutrition in Mauritania. These trainings, held in Assaba, Guidimagha, Gorgol, Hodh El Chargui and Tagant, saw the participation of partners as well as regional representatives from the MOH and the CSA.

Under the umbrella of the MAED, and in partnership with UNICEF, WFP supported Mauritania's participation in the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) and the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition (REACH) initiatives. As part of the initiatives, WFP provided technical support to sensitization activities on the management of cases of MAM in the CREMAN, participated in a national workshop for the elaboration of tools to monitor and prevent cases of MAM, and attended regular national meetings for the development of the logical framework to scale up these initiatives. With WFP support, the CSA reinforced their positioning by ensuring their systematic participation in national nutrition, technical and coordination committees, to SUN and REACH initiatives meetings. Regular information sharing is carried out among WFP and the CSA on storage of nutritional products at regional level.

WFP, with other international stakeholders, provided technical support to the government efforts to strengthen resilience within the country. This initiative is undertaken under the framework of the Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR) to develop a resilience strategy to structurally and sustainably reduce food and nutritional vulnerability in Mauritania with the goal of achieving Zero Hunger by 2025. Once finalized, WFP will play a key role in the implementation and monitoring of national resilience strategy with government counterparts and national/international stakeholders.

In line with national strategy for social protection, the government developed the national programme Tekavoul, financed and supported by the World Bank, with the goal of supporting all households suffering from extreme poverty. WFP supported the World Bank and national counterparts in developing the national database of the vulnerable households and building national capacities on monitoring and evaluating the food security of households.

Finally, WFP invested in local food purchases, whenever possible, for its interventions, and provided unconditional/conditional cash-based support to stimulate the local economy.

INPUTS

Resource Inputs

In reporting year 2015, WFP received contributions from direct and multilateral donors not fully enabling WFP to respond to increasing humanitarian and nutritional needs of vulnerable populations, and growing number of beneficiaries in the PRRO. Directed contributions represented over half of the total contributions received, of which the majority represented in-kind contributions.

Funding represented a challenge for the operation as approximately 25 percent of total requirements were received. Therefore, funding shortfalls forced WFP to reduce the scale of its assistance to focus only on lifesaving activities to most vulnerable families in five out of the eight regions planned.

Donor	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
European Commission		30	30
Finland		236	236
France		130	83
Japan		1,083	931
MULTILATERAL		1,255	613
Saudi Arabia			234
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies		660	195
USA	5,020		2,906
Total:	5,020	3,395	5,229

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

Food Purchases and in-kind Receipts

The majority of food and nutrition were purchased in international markets, mainly from non-developing countries. For the purchase of wheat, a local supplier was also utilized supporting and fostering local production and development. The use of the Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF) represented a valuable resource to advance food purchases and reduce delivery lead time, accounting for approximately 11 percent of all food purchases.

Commodity	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Corn Soya Blend	0	0	2,021	94
Dried Fruits	0	0	234	
Iodised Salt	0	12	0	
Lentils	0	0	209	
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	0	0	23	252
Split Peas	0	0	25	177
Vegetable Oil	0	9	160	91
Wheat	0	0	2,248	
Sum:	0	21	4,920	614

Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

The commodities were transported by private service providers contracted by WFP at favorable rates. Transport was subjected to close monitoring by WFP's logistics team. Deliveries were made regularly despite the rainy season which made it difficult to access certain locations. Careless handling and, sometimes, transport conditions caused in some cases the damaging of food commodities.

Post-Delivery Losses

Though the losses are minimal, the repackaging of bags is the main reason of post-delivery losses. To further reduce these losses, WFP's logistics unit plans to introduce a stricter monitoring of handling, transportation and storage. Moreover, WFP regularly shared information on product expiry dates with partners and concerned actors to reduce losses and waste. Awareness-raising and targeted training are also envisaged to be conducted with partners and beneficiaries to further reduce losses.

MANAGEMENT

Partnerships

In 2015, WFP partnered with over 22 organizations including the government at national and sub-national levels, United Nations agencies, NGOs and members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies. The scale-up of activities in 2015 led to an increase in the number of partnerships with respect to 2014 to meet the operational needs.

WFP conducted a rigorous and transparent process of evaluating and selecting its partners to ensure collaboration with the best NGOs. Following the opening of tenders for the project implementation, national and international NGOs joined forces and formed consortiums by geographic area in order to meet WFP requirements for the planned operations. In this context, WFP signed agreements with lead NGOs in the consortium, reducing therefore the administrative transactions linked to the management of the partnership and streamlining communication flow. Other aims of this option were of i) improving the coherence in implementation of different activities and reinforcing synergy between them; ii) reinforcing the efficiency of the assistance delivery. Anyhow, WFP ensured and continues to ensure through regular monitoring and adequate trainings the successful achievements of the prescribed objectives; and (iii) reducing the cost of implementation for WFP and its partners.

WFP placed strong focus on building capacities of national partners to deliver effectively in line with its mandate and objectives. Regular trainings of national partners were conducted during the year to strengthen partners' capacities in technical areas like nutrition, FFA, M&E and financial reporting. It has been noted that investments made in capacity building of WFP partners have materialized in improved quality implementation and programming- particularly in the areas of nutrition and livelihood rehabilitation programmes.

Regular coordination meetings are organized between WFP and its partners. In November, WFP organized two coordination meetings one with the CSA and the other with its cooperating partners. The meetings were the occasion to review progress made over the year, identify success and challenges and explore opportunities to strengthen collaboration. This allowed WFP to build on lessons learnt from the joint activities to address implementation challenges and further plan for the next phases of the project.

WFP was an active member of the UN Country team and key contributor in technical working groups. This included WFP's co-leadership of Environment and Sustainable Development Thematic Group, with the ministry of Environment; co-leadership of the cash working group with ACF; membership to the technical group on nutrition and education led by UNICEF; and participation to the social protection steering committee on cash modalities with MAED and World Bank. This allowed WFP to participate in policy dialogue on strategic issues; and ensure its strategic positioning at national level. It also allowed strengthening partnerships and coordination through information sharing among humanitarian actors thus improving the efficacy of programme implementation.

In line with the above, coordination among the governments, UN agencies and other relevant partners took place for measuring, monitoring and evaluating the food and nutrition security situation in Mauritania. Building on respective expertise, WFP led or supported the development of the: (i) FSMS; (ii) the SMART nutrition assessments; and (iii) Joint Assessment Mission for the rapid evaluation of the nutritional situation. These collaborations led to a common understanding of the current food and nutrition security situation in the country through joint analysis, as well as achieving efficiency gains in terms of available resources.

In terms of reinforcing resilience, WFP collaborated with UNICEF and FAO to implement a joint programme aiming to build and enhance the resilience of vulnerable populations of Assaba and Guidimakha. WFP intervened through the provision of cash transfers, unconditional and/or cash-for-training, while FAO and UNICEF supported local capacity development, respectively from a technical and nutritional standpoint.

In 2015 WFP invested in strengthening its collaboration with the Food security Committee, the main government partner. An in-depth review of the MOU was undertaken to clarify areas of collaboration and roles and responsibilities of each party. WFP is also developing collaboration with other sectorial ministries like those in charge of health, education, environment, rural development and economic development.

Partnerships	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
Total	16	1	1	4

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
	<i>Target Val</i>	<i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	<i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	<i>(latest value measured)</i>
Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, INGOs, Civil Society, Private Sector organizations, International Financial Institutions, Regional development banks)				
Base value: Dec-2014, WINGS/FLA, total amount of FLA provided by Cooperating Patners, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, WINGS/FLA, total amount of FLA provided by Cooperating, Programme monitoring.	191,000	122,373		535,600
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services				
Base value: Dec-2014, FLA, MOU, WINGS, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, FLA, MOU, WINGS, Programme monitoring.	2	13		11
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners				
Base value: Dec-2014, FLA, MOU, WINGS, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, FLA, MOU, WINGS, Programme monitoring.	100	100		100

Lessons Learned

In 2015, the main challenges affecting WFP's operations in Mauritania, in general and the PRRO, were delayed confirmation of financial resources, insufficiency of resources mobilized compared to the needs and important delays in delivery of in-kind food donations.

These constraints limited the coherent implementation of activities as per the strategy outlined in the project document. They led to shifts in the implementation period of several activities, including those responding to emergency needs of the most vulnerable populations during the lean season, such as targeted unconditional food or cash distributions and BSF.

In this context of funding gaps, WFP Mauritania adjusted its programme implementation strategy by concentrating its activities in five out of eight initially targeted regions and giving priority to lifesaving activities. This allowed implementation most of the planned set of activities in these regions despite shifts in the implementation period. In addition, based on funding history and outlook for 2016, WFP reduced the scope of the project by nearly 30 percent, by removing interventions in urban areas and contingency storage activities. WFP needs to continue working towards the establishment of strategic and innovative partnerships to achieve predictable and multi-year funding that will allow the programme to reach its initial goals.

Moreover, in areas where multiyear funding permitted to assist the same communities with the planned set of intervention for more than two years, WFP's monitoring and evaluation activities have demonstrated the relevance and effectiveness of the PRRO strategy in fighting against hunger and malnutrition and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable populations. This is the case Assaba, one of the poorest and most vulnerable regions in the country.

In this region, thanks to the European Union funded joint WFP-UNICEF-FAO project, the food security situation significantly improved during the lean season in 2015, at a moment when a sharp deterioration was observed in others regions with similar characteristics. Regular post distribution monitoring also allowed to identify and document positive externalities from the cash transfer activity. For example, it was observed in several localities that beneficiaries have pooled resources received from cash transfers to initiate cooperatives and income-generating activities, thus supporting their own resilience.

WFP will capitalize on this experience and strengthen collaboration with sister agencies through joint geographical and beneficiary targeting, well-coordinated activities and harmonized implementation and monitoring tools and mechanisms for a greater efficiency and impact. Together with sister agencies, WFP will also ensure effective transfer of good practices and lessons learnt from this experience through an active support to the implementation of the National Social Protection Strategy.

In order to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency in the implementation of activities in 2015, WFP has encouraged the establishment of consortia of NGOs in every region, for a consortium to implement all WFP's activities in a given region, and for WFP to have to deal with only one entity instead of a number of different partners. These consortia are structured according to different approaches in different regions, from which WFP is still learning from.

In 2015, WFP invested on consultations with food security stakeholders involved in the food security sector and cash transfers working groups. This allowed to make a significant step towards global coordination of interventions and helped to avoid overlaps between the various stakeholders. This dynamic must be strengthened in 2016.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/ Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
European Commission	EEC-C-00537-01	Corn Soya Blend		26	26
European Commission	EEC-C-00537-01	Ready To Use Supplementary		3	3
Finland	FIN-C-00108-06	Corn Soya Blend		141	141
Finland	FIN-C-00108-06	Ready To Use Supplementary		95	95
France	FRA-C-00235-07	Ready To Use Supplementary		83	83
France	FRA-C-00236-01	Ready To Use Supplementary		47	0
Japan	JPN-C-00393-01	Corn Soya Blend		865	865
Japan	JPN-C-00393-01	Iodised Salt		7	
Japan	JPN-C-00393-01	Ready To Use Supplementary		23	23
Japan	JPN-C-00393-01	Split Peas		25	25
Japan	JPN-C-00393-01	Vegetable Oil		18	18
Japan	JPN-C-00393-01	Wheat		145	0
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Corn Soya Blend		491	491
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Iodised Salt		6	
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Split Peas		58	58
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Vegetable Oil		64	64
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Wheat		636	0
Saudi Arabia	SAU-C-00095-20	Dried Fruits			234
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01132-01	Iodised Salt			12
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01132-01	Split Peas			0
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01328-01	Corn Soya Blend		94	94
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01328-01	Iodised Salt		14	
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01328-01	Ready To Use Supplementary		23	23
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01328-01	Split Peas		48	48
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01328-01	Vegetable Oil		18	18
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01328-01	Wheat		463	
USA	USA-C-01110-01	Corn Soya Blend	500		497
USA	USA-C-01110-01	Lentils	210		209
USA	USA-C-01110-01	Vegetable Oil	160		160
USA	USA-C-01110-01	Wheat	2,040		2,040
USA	USA-C-01198-01	Corn Soya Blend	70		
USA	USA-C-01198-01	Lentils	430		
USA	USA-C-01198-01	Rice	1,500		
USA	USA-C-01198-01	Vegetable Oil	110		
Total:			5,020	3,395	5,229