Mauritania

Highlights

- On 2 September, Mohamed Ould Ahmed Salem Ould Mohamed Rare was appointed as the new commissioner for food security. Mrs. Nejwa mint Kettab was nominated deputy commissioner.
- From 31 August to 7 September WFP and UNHCR with the support of ten partner organizations conducted a joint assessment mission (JAM) to the camp and host community to collect data.

Situation Update

- As per FEWSNET latest food security outlook, the agropastoral conditions have improved with the first rains. This should positively impact the performances of the next harvests (October/November) and the food security of most vulnerable. However, poorest agricultural and agropastoral families will continue to need assistance to protect and restore their livelihood.
- The preliminary results of the JAM conducted by WFP, UNHCR and partners organizations in the camp and in the host community show that the disruption of the food assistance to the refugees in the past six months have negatively impacted the food security and nutritional status of refugees; jeopardizing achievements made since the beginning of the operation. Furthermore the evaluation shows that the prolonged presence of refugees weighs increasingly on the already scarce resources of host communities (water, pastures, etc.)

WFP Response

Food and Nutrition Assistance to Mauritanian Population

- In August, WFP extended assistance to 39,402 food insecure people in rural communities of Assaba and Guidimagha through cash transfer activities. Beneficiaries received a monthly allocation of approximatively US$40 to cover for their basic food needs.
- WFP also implemented target supplementary feeding activities (TSF) reaching 10,553 children under 5 and 3,627 PLW suffering from moderate acute malnutrition and 400 nutrition centre volunteers, in Assaba, Gorgol, Guidimagha and Tagant.

In numbers

- 465,000 Mauritanians in severe food insecurity are in urgent need of assistance (IPC Phase III, IV) (IPC, June 2015)
- 129,761 Children and 7,746 pregnant and nursing women affected by acute malnutrition (SMART, August 2014)
- 50,102 Malian refugees in Mberra camp (UNHCR, 31 March 2015)

Funding Update

6 months shortfalls- September 2015–February 2016

- PRRO 200640: US$3.2 million
- CP 200251: US$3.1 million
- EMOP 200438: US$2.5 million
WFP also conducted blanket supplementary feeding (BSF) distribution to reach 30,217 children under 2 and 23,889 pregnant and nursing women in all regions where prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition exceeds 15 percent. Implementation of BSF distribution has been slowed due to heavy rains that have disrupted roads access.

**Emergency assistance to Malian refugees**
- In August, thanks to two generous donations WFP was able to maintain assistance to refugees in the camp.
- Break in pipeline in nutritional supplements due to access constrains affected the BSF distributions to PLW and Emergency School Feeding distributions.
- WFP provided targeted supplementary feeding to 747 children aged 6-59 months and 129 pregnant and nursing women.
- Over 6,368 children under five benefited from blanket supplementary feeding.
- Some 2,520 children in pre-primary and primary school received a daily snack via the emergency school feeding.

**Logistics**
- On 17 August UNHAS facilitated mission of the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel to Mberra camp and host community.
- On 28 August UNHAS conducted a medical evacuation of an aid worker from Bassiknou to Nouakchott.
- In August, UNHAS transported 191 humanitarian workers and over 676 kg of light cargo in 26 rotations between Nouakchott-Bassiknou.

**Partnerships**
- For the implementation of its activities, WFP collaborates with the national coordination body for Food Security (CSA), the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development (MAED), the Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock, the Ministry of health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, FAO, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA, a member of the CICR and 21 national and international NGO partners.

**Resourcing Update**
- WFP faces a funding gap of US$11.4 million to cover its operations for the next six months until the end of February 2016.
- Lack of resources continues to prevent WFP from implementing humanitarian assistance in Brakna, Hodh El Gharbi and urban region of Nouakchott. In the affected areas of these regions, 175,201 food insecure and highly at risk people are left without assistance.
- WFP urgently needs 2,030 tones of food and US$1.1 worth of cash transfer to provide assistance food insecure and highly vulnerable people to support their food security and prevent deterioration of their nutritional status.
- Given the lead time necessary to procure food and the fast approaching beginning of the new school year, WFP needs to secure US$5.7 million to assist about 156,370 primary school children from food insecure and highly vulnerable households from October onwards.
- An additional US$2.6 million representing some 1,022 tones of food are needed to maintain vital assistance to nearly 50,000 Malian refugees in Mberra camp.

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**WFP Operations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Duration</th>
<th>Planned number of people</th>
<th>Total requirements (in US$)</th>
<th>Total received (in US$)</th>
<th>6 month shortfall* (%)</th>
<th>Planned</th>
<th>Reached</th>
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<td>PRRO 200640</td>
<td>604,752</td>
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<td>4.1</td>
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* September 2015-February 2016; **provisory figure with overlaps data are being compiled and analyzed