



## MAURITANIA: FLOODS

No. MDRMR001  
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*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.*

### In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 60,000 (USD 49,000 or EUR 38,000) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to enable the Mauritanian Red Crescent to respond to the needs in this operation. This operation is expected to be implemented over 4 months, and will be completed by 27 November, 2006; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

#### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering quality and accountable assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

### The situation

Since the beginning of July, heavy rains have been pouring down in the region of Brakna, South-eastern part of Nouakchott, Mauritania, flooding the region and leaving several families homeless. The worst came with a storm in the night of 22 July, killing seven people among them five members of the same family including two children, who perished in the village of Ednesh, 19 people were injured. The wind and flooding have left about 320 families

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homeless in several villages and towns with Boutilimit, 150 km away from Nouakchott, being the most affected. The state radio has reported that the severe storms and flooding in this part of the arid and dry country, which experiences these kinds of hazards during the rainy season, will last until October. The city of Aleg alone recorded 102 ml of rain that caused flooding, with about 160 displaced families accommodated in provisional shelters in schools. Most of these populations have also lost their crops and most of their belongings. In response, the state has set up a crisis committee that deployed a team right after the storm struck and distributed food items, about 150 tents and blankets.

Despite efforts made by local social services, officials said that additional attention needs to be focused on sanitation to help stem the spread of diseases as fears of epidemics such as cholera loom in the region.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

The Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC), as a member of the State Crisis Committee, has deployed an assessment team to work with the local branches that were already assisting the victims. Red Crescent volunteers have been working round the clock trying to save the rest of belongings that can be recovered and placing the flood victims in the temporary shelters provided by the government.

A plan of action (PoA) has been developed by the MRC, with the support of the regional delegation in Dakar, based on the assessment report that focuses on the provision of relief assistance in terms of non-food items (NFI) and re-positioning of the affected population as well as prevention of the spread of diseases through sanitation activities in the most affected areas.

### **The needs**

Despite the efforts of the government and other humanitarian organizations in attending to the needs of the flood victims, about 2,426 people are still without shelter. There is a need for potable water as well as protection against malaria vectors, since the wet conditions provide ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

### **Coordination**

Since the beginning of the disaster, the government took the lead in setting up a National Crisis Committee to oversee the relief effort in which the MRC is represented. The Food Security Committee also contributed in donating some tents to the victims.

## **Plan of Action**

**Objective: The Mauritania Red Crescent will contribute to the relief of the affected populations for the next four months.**

**Objective 2: The reduction of the risk of the spread of water-related diseases in the Southern region.**

### **Expected results:**

- At least 600 most vulnerable families have received sleeping mats;
- 1,000 insecticide-treated bed nets (ITNs) are distributed to children aged under five years, the elderly and to people with disabilities;
- 100 volunteers have been mobilized, trained and equipped to implement the sensitization activities and in distributed relief items;
- The population in the affected zones has been sensitized on proper hygienic practices and sanitation;
- 45,000 families in the high risk zones are sensitized to adopt a positive attitude towards preventing water-related diseases;
- 80% of the population have learned how to chlorinate water and to disinfect stagnant water;
- Religious authorities and community leaders are aware of the diseases and adopt good environmental hygiene practices.

### **Strategies**

The main activities of the MRC will be focused on sensitization campaigns, based on door-to-door strategy. Sensitization visits will be conducted to households and public places for the necessary prevention actions in the

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next four months. This campaign will go along with relief distribution targeting families with children aged under five years, pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities. The methods used will include:

- Delivery of key prevention messages on cholera, with explanations on the basic notions concerning the disease and how it is transmitted;
- Demonstration of the right way to wash hands, since cholera is also known as the “dirty hands disease”;
- Chlorination of drinking water;
- Demonstrating the right way to wash food stuffs, especially vegetables;
- Cleaning latrines with detergent liquid or with a similar product;
- Area, individual and collective sanitation;
- Distribution of mats and ITNs;
- Distribution of sanitation material such as soap, buckets, water basins, detergent liquid, brooms and brushes.

### Activities:

- Organize sensitization activities with populations, particularly the displaced ones, through hygiene and sanitation promotion;
- Conduct behavioural change communication (BCC) activities in public places such as markets, bus stations and mosques;
- Carry out sensitization and promotion of hygiene practices to the populations affected by the floods;
- Conduct house-to-house sensitization campaigns to mothers and distribute sanitation materials;
- Organize household distributions of NFIs, including ITNs and mats;
- Mobilize authorities to promote hygiene and to prevent waterborne diseases.

### Budget outline

| Type  | Amount (in CHF) |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>Beneficiary needs</b>                                |                 |
| Shelter   | 5,647           |
| Water and sanitation                                    | 16,800          |
| Medical and first aid                                   | 11,112          |
| Teaching materials                                      | 600             |
| Other supplies  | 2,400           |
| <b>Sub-total 1 (Beneficiary needs)</b>                  | <b>36,559</b>   |
| <b>Operational needs</b>                                |                 |
| Transport and vehicles                                  | 2,000           |
| National staff  | 8,376           |
| Travel  | 2,340           |
| Stationery  | 800             |
| Communication   | 400             |
| Telephone, internet, fax, teleconference                | 400             |
| Other administration costs and MRC administration costs | 2,544           |
| <b>Sub-total 2 (Operational needs)</b>                  | <b>16,860</b>   |
| Regional delegation support                             | 2,681           |
| Total (Without PSR)                                     | 56,100          |
| Programme Support (6.5% of total)                       | 3,900           |
| <b>Grand total</b>                                      | <b>60,000</b>   |

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