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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Mauritania: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRMR006
GLIDE n° [FL-2013-000119-MRT](#)
21 September 2013

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 69,873 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Mauritanian Red Crescent society in delivering immediate assistance to up to 870 beneficiaries (145 households) for 3 months and assess further needs. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: The rainstorms that commenced on the first week of August have taken a heavy toll in several regions. To date, the rainstorms have affected at least four (4) regions causing extensive damage to property and resulting in six (6) deaths. To date, 5,635 people have been affected by the floods.

The Mauritanian Red Crescent, with the support from the IFRC through this DREF, have carried out basic relief item distributions and the National Society is also assisting affected communities with first aid assistance, water and sanitation sensitization as well as health and hygiene promotion in the regions of Tagant, Inchiri and Trarza. This is being accompanied by a detailed assessment supported by IFRC's Sahel Regional Office to further assess the situation and revise this plan of action according to needs.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by end of December 2013. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation, by end of March 2014.

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; here to view the map of the affected area>](#)



The biggest market in Nouakchott the Capital, totally flooded. Photo IFRC/MRCS:

The situation

Since early August, heavy rains have been affecting Mauritania. While some areas are experiencing 65% less rainfall according to the National Meteorological Office, other areas have seen increases in rainfall, as high as 35% in comparison to average years. In areas with increased rainfall, floods have caused damage to

households, infrastructure and livelihoods. The most affected regions are Tagant, Trarza, Inchiri and Nouakchott.

In the peri-urban and urban areas, roads are impassable and drainage systems are not able to cope with excess water and numerous public institutions such as markets and places of worship have been flooded. Due to the damage to the roads, the cost of transportation has doubled thereby impacting the economy of the peri-urban and urban areas.

The Government has announced that CHF 3.1 million will be released to respond to the situation. Any intervention must be coordinated with the Office of Food Security (CSA), a body present in all parts of the country, including at the village level. The CSA is under the responsibility of the Prime Minister's Office and is in charge of management of disasters such as floods. It has been indicated that the main focus of the government interventions will be on food assistance and drainage activity.

According to the African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD) forecasts, it is still early in the rainy season, and more rain is expected for at least until end of September.

The official figures which include the National Society data shared through these meetings are as follows:

Region	Department	Families affected	Persons affected
Trarza	Rosso	304	1,825
	Ouad Naga		
Tagant	Moudjeria	400	2,400
Inchiri	Akjouit	235	1,410
Total		939	5,635

As of today, assistance to flooded communities is provided only by the CSA (food assistance) and the MRCS (food and NFIs assistance).

Coordination and partnerships

Since the beginning of the floods, CSA is getting technical support from OCHA Mauritania to better coordinate and play its role. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) including the MRCS, ICRC and IFRC formed a sectoral group which is meeting regularly at OCHA Office to discuss a coordinated response strategy under the leadership of OCHA and is supporting the CSA (in OCHA Mauritania premises) to map out needed interventions and also avoid duplication.

An interagency assessment mission composed of UN agencies (UNDP and OCHA), Civil Society Representative, Government Representative (CSA) and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement (IFRC and MRCS) was identified on Wednesday 11 September 2013 to undertake a detailed assessment which should complement the data gathered by the CSA and MRCS. The interagency team is currently working in Brakna, Tagant and Trarza regions where the real consequences of the floods had not yet been assessed, even by the CSA. Based on the findings of this interagency assessment mission, intervening stakeholders will take appropriate actions to update or develop a plan of action to assist affected populations.

In addition, with support from the IFRC, the MRCS is assuming the role of lead agency in terms of coordination and sharing information with other Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners present in Mauritania (French Red Cross, Qatari Red Crescent and ICRC). The Red Crescent continues to collect data from all affected localities through its local committees and local authorities. So the official data collected thus far are only from the CSA and the MRCS.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the beginning of the floods and in order to gather information for emergency responses, the MRCS worked with its local committees located country wide and alongside the local authorities as well as reliable community leaders and key informants to gather accurate figures of affected communities. The National

Society shared all findings with the Movement partners and also the sectoral working group settled by the HCT through OCHA Mauritania.

A total of 145 volunteers have been mobilized in the 4 affected districts. With support from IFRC, the MRCS has quickly initiated its early warning measures and alerted its local committees country wide and particularly in areas at risk of flooding. In the immediate aftermath of the first recorded floods, MRCS branch staff and volunteers performed a quick assessments of the situation in the affected regions (Brakna, Inchiri, Tagant and Trarza) through direct observation and community level assessments alongside the authorities to determine the immediate course of action. This rapid assessment showed that the worst affected communities are located in the Department of Moudjeiria, in Tourougueiline (Tagant). In this locality, 80 out of the 200 families (40%) have lost their houses as well as their livelihoods totally destroyed by the water.

Following these rapid assessments the MRCS distributed food and non-food items to 480 persons in Tourougueiline on 7 August 2013 from pre-positioned stock. Following deterioration of the situation, the MRCS was requested by the CSA to assist identified affected communities in Inchiri and Tagant regions, and a total of 70 family tents and 65 NFI family kits from the MRCS disaster preparedness stocks were distributed in the communities of Akjouj and Moudjeiria on 12 September 2013

Summary of MRCS distributions to date:

Item	Tourougueiline	Akjouj and Moudjeiria	Total
Sugar	2 tons		2 MT
Rice	1 ton		1 MT
Sleeping mat	80	130	210
Mosquito net	160	130	290
Jerry can 20L	80	65	134
Bucket	80	65	145
Kitchen sets		65	65
Blankets		65	65
Bleach, 1l		65	65
Family tents		70	70

Since relief items are limited, the MRCS has focused on the most vulnerable with a focus on the following groups: female-headed households, pregnant women, elderly, people with chronic illness and disabled. Deployed volunteers and branch staff are using these selection criteria to identify, in each target area, the most affected persons who will be registered to receive assistance.

The needs

The rapid need assessment conducted by the MRCS immediately after the first recorded floods shows that there is a pressing need for emergency shelter in rural and peri-urban areas because of the type of local houses made of mud in banco (building material) or by tents for the nomads. Emergency assistance to be met includes distribution of non-food items in particular hygiene items as well as kitchen sets since the heavy rains have washed away all household property in several affected areas mainly in Tagant and Trarza regions. Because of stagnant water and subsequent threat in terms of water borne diseases in urban and peri-urban areas, there is also urgent need for health and hygiene promotion interventions. So information, education and communication materials/PHAST toolkits, radio jingles and house-to-house visits will be used to conduct the health and hygiene promotion activities.

As for the food needs, the Government through the CSA is taking care of all needs thanks to the support of the WFP. However, especially in the northern flooded regions, the affected communities are largely pastoralists and given that they lost partially or totally their livestock which constitute the basis of their livelihoods, if nothing is done, especially during this pre-harvest season, children may fall into a situation of malnutrition as they are normally fed with goat milk.

The MRCS will use this DREF to support a more detailed assessment to further develop a plan of actions which will be revised according to the evolving needs of the most affected households. The DREF allocation will also replenish already distributed relief items and continue support to the already targeted 145 families.

The proposed operation

Due to the limited assessment data available for detailed intervention planning, this DREF operation aims at supporting the MRCS in performing a detailed needs assessment in cooperation with other humanitarian partners while replenishing the emergency stocks already distributed by MRCS during the initial response. The operational strategy will be revised once more information is available for detailed planning. An IFRC

Regional Disaster Response Team member will be immediately deployed to Mauritania to support the MRCS in assessment analysis and operational planning.

The distributed family tents will be replenished with 50 IFRC standard shelter kits and 20 family tents, and the distributed 145 NFI kits will be replenished with standard IFRC family kits.

Assessment	
Outcome: Emergency needs of flood-affected families are identified and gaps documented, leading to revision of the operation's plan of action if required	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed assessment is carried out across all sectors and the plan of action is revised appropriately to address outstanding needs if required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support National Society in planning and managing detailed assessments including household visits and key informant interviews Identify outstanding needs and gaps in consultation with local authorities and other stakeholders Maintain monitoring of the prevalent rains and evolving situation with regular reports Revise plan of action and budget as needed

Emergency shelter and non-food items	
Outcome: The immediate needs of 145 families affected are met through the distribution of essential household items.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70 families are provided with emergency shelter solutions and 145 families with appropriate non-food items 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute family tents to 70 most vulnerable families in Tourougueiline (Completed) Distribute non-food item kits (kitchen sets, sleeping mats, blankets) to 145 most affected families in Tourougueiline, Akjouj and Moudjeiria. (completed) Procure 145 kitchen sets, 290 sleeping mats, 290 blankets, 50 IFRC shelter kits and 20 IFRC family tents for MRCS stock replenishment. Monitor and evaluate relief activities and provide reporting on relief distribution. Develop detailed intervention plan based on detailed assessment results.

Emergency health	
Outcome: The immediate threat to health status for 145 families is reduced for targeted communities.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness and prevention of waterborne diseases is ensured through support and information campaign in targeted communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct first aid, evacuation and carry out psychological support to the affected beneficiaries; Conduct epidemic control and PHAST re-trainings for 25 communities agents and 25 volunteers; Distribute 290 mosquito nets to most vulnerable families in Tourougueiline, Akjouj and Moudjeiria. (completed) Procure 290 mosquito nets for replenishment of MRCS stocks. Conduct door-to-door sensitization on reduction of flood related health risks. Regular control and monitoring of community health status and possible referral of cases of ill health identified; Print and distribute IEC materials on epidemic control;

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases is reduced in the affected areas through the provision of water, water purification items and adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion in the affected areas.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Waterborne diseases are prevented through awareness campaigns and provision of hygiene kits in targeted communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue monitoring and assessing the situation in the affected areas as well as in other parts of the country; local authorities, fire-fighters and civil protection who will provide the tankers;Refresher training for 25 volunteers on household water treatment and hygiene promotion;Conduct door to door sensitization campaigns to promote individual and collective hygiene as means of avoiding the spread of water borne diseases;Procure and distribute 145 boxes of 50 water purification tablets and 145 IFRC hygiene kits to the targeted 145 households.Distribute 145 jerry cans and 145 buckets to most vulnerable families in Tourougueiline, Akjouj and Moudjeiria. (completed)Procure 145 jerry cans and 145 buckets for replenishment of MRCS stocks.Produce and disseminate hygiene leaflets on the risks associated with flooding and precautions to take;Establish hygiene promotion committees in the communities to reinforce the work of volunteers and community agents.Rehabilitate 5 wells and 10 community latrines.

Communications – Advocacy and public information

Maintaining a steady flow of accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of the emergency operation. During an operation, communications between affected populations and the Mauritanian Red Crescent, as well as with donors, is an essential mechanism for effective disaster response and fundamental to promoting greater quality, accountability, and transparency. Communications activities are closely coordinated with the Communications team in the Sahel Regional Office, the Africa Zone and the communications team in the Geneva Secretariat.

Donors and national societies will receive information and materials they can use to promote the operation. Relevant information and advocacy materials, including audio-visual products, will be channelled through IFRC's public website – www.ifrc.org

Security

The IFRC country team works closely with the security adviser in the Dakar Regional Office to ensure that it has the latest security information and cooperates closely with the National Society and the ICRC in security matters. The country team will ensure security plans and procedures are kept up to date and that those travelling to the field are properly equipped and supported and are well informed on security protocols.

There are increased risks and challenges in the border areas in the easternmost part of the country, along the border with Mali, where currently the MRCS is responding to the refugee population crossing over the border but this is not an area where IFRC is currently operational.

Capacity of the National Society

The Mauritanian Red Crescent has extensive experience in responding to food security crises and other disasters (such as floods). A number of DREF and Emergency Appeal operations related to food insecurity, floods and population movement were managed by the Mauritanian Red Crescent to support vulnerable people.

At the National Society Headquarter level, the Mauritanian Red Crescent has the following departments: Finance, Watsan, Youth & volunteers, Health, Logistics, Communications, Reporting and Disaster Management. A Disaster Management department is created with the International Federation support. The DREF will be managed by the Disaster Management Department and coordinated by the Secretary General of the National Society. The MRCS branches, their staff and volunteers are the main implementing units on the ground. Branches will be supported by the National HQ by mobilising the necessary resources to ensure the implementation in the targeted areas.

In addition an RDRT with Disaster Management background will be deployed to support the DREF operation implementation. Meanwhile core plan of action areas will be supported by IFRC Mauritania and the Sahel Regional Representation including Disaster Risk Reduction, response preparedness, health in emergencies, water and sanitation, communications, logistics and organizational development. During the implementation of the operation, emphasis will be placed on enhancing the National Society's capacity in terms of planning, communications, budgeting and reporting, as well as disaster management where strong emphasis has been placed.

Capacity of IFRC

The IFRC's presence in Mauritania is maintained through activities of a Delegate who is coordinating IFRC support in term of disaster management, organisational development and food security. IFRC national staff is providing support in finance and administration, logistics, and monitoring and evaluation.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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- **IFRC Zone Logistics Unit:** Rishi Ramrakha, Head of zone logistics unit; Tel: +254 733 888 022; email: rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting):

- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER Coordinator; Nairobi; phone: +254 731 067277; email: robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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DREF OPERATION

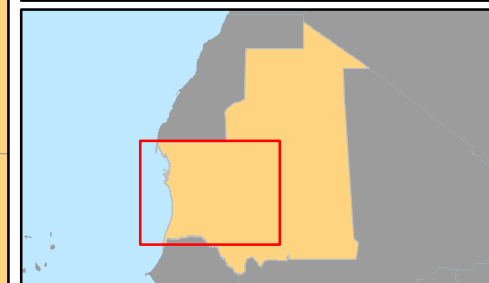
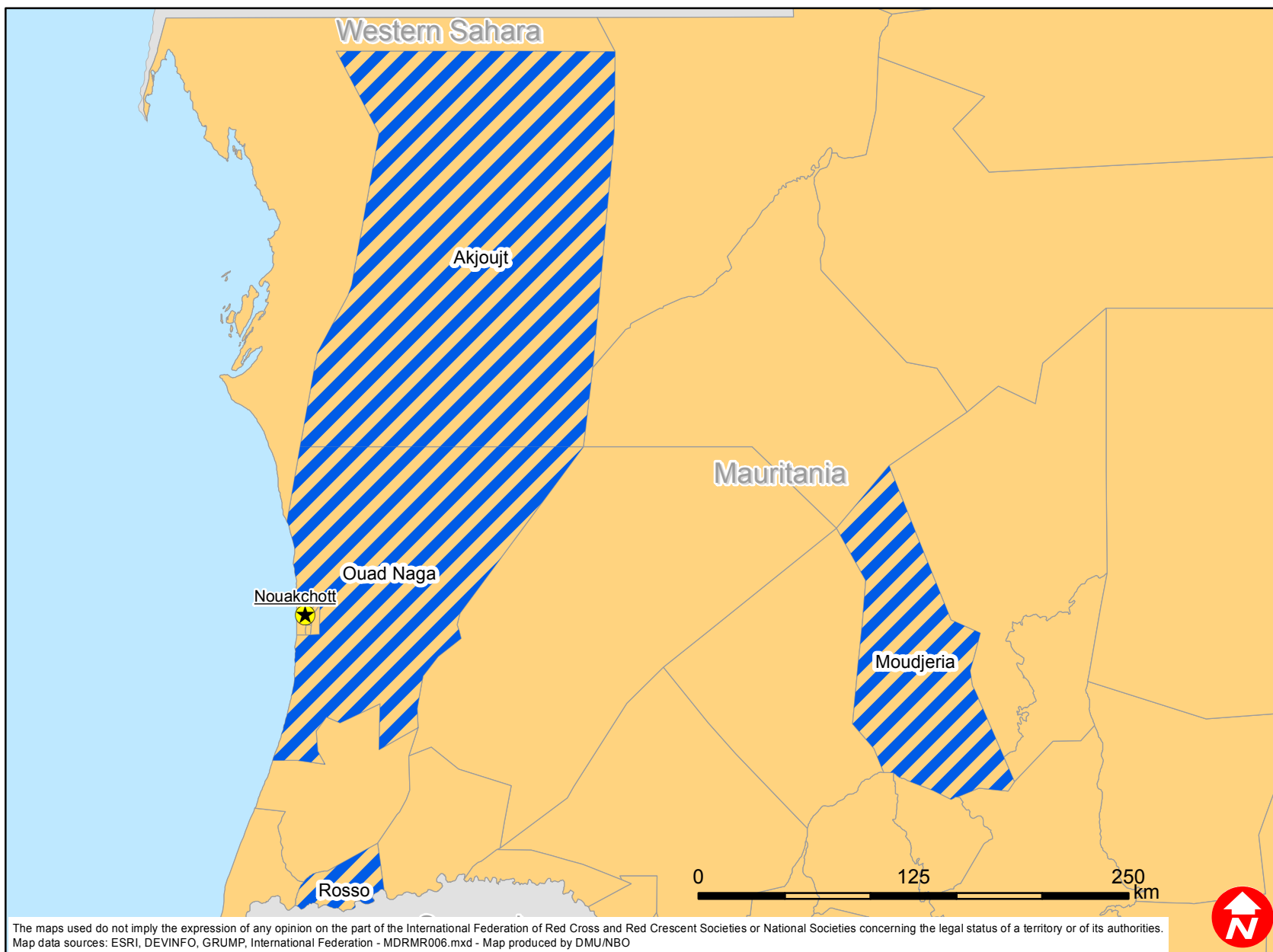
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Mauritania Floods

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	13,390
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	2,030
Food	3,750
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	25,000
Medical & First Aid	1,459
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	3,335
Other Supplies & Services	
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	48,963
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	
Distribution & Monitoring	810
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,741
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	2,551
International Staff	6,000
National Staff	
National Society Staff	1,086
Volunteers	1,256
Total PERSONNEL	8,342
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	2,621
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	2,621
Travel	1,000
Information & Public Relations	300
Office Costs	250
Communications	201
Financial Charges	1,379
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	3,130
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	4,265
Total INDIRECT COSTS	4,265
TOTAL BUDGET	69,873



Mauritania: Floods



 Affected areas

