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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Mauritania: Population Movement

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRMR005
GLIDE n° OT-2012-000024-MRT
23 February, 2012**

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 157,396 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 3,000 beneficiaries (600 families). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Since end of January, 2012 violent clashes between Tuareg rebels and the Malian Army in the Northern part of the country have led to massive population movements inside Mali and to neighbouring countries such as Mauritania, Niger, Burkina Faso and Guinea Conakry. In Mauritania, the Representative of UNHCR highlighted significant population movement in the department of Bassikounou, at the far South-East of the country. So far, more than 11,000 people have fled the conflict and



**MRC National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) in a field briefing/
Photo: IFRC**

crossed the border to seek refuge in and around the commune of Fassala, located about 3 km away from the border with Mali. They have left behind their homes and livelihoods, including herds of cattle.

Among the 11,000 many of them are women and children who already show signs of malnutrition. Moreover, these refugees represent an additional burden to a region that is already facing a serious food and nutrition crisis due to poor rainfall in 2011 in the region of Hodh Chargui (where Fassala is located). As a result, vulnerability of both refugees and host communities is highly aggravated.

The Mauritanian Red Crescent Society (MRC) is closely monitoring the situation with its partners, including ARDM (*Association pour la Recherche et le Développement en Mauritanie*) a local NGO based in Fassala. Food, shelter, blankets and water are the most urgent needs. MRC will provide the refugees and host communities with appropriate emergency assistance to preserve their rights to health and dignity.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 4 months and will therefore be completed by June 2012. A final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by September, 2012).

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

The situation

Following the armed conflict in the northern part of Mali, the refugees fleeing Mali entered Mauritania, mainly in Fassala, in the district of Bassikounou located in the far South-East. More than 11,000 people have already crossed the border in Mauritania. With the poor rainfall registered in 2011, the Hodh Chargui region (where Fassala is located) is already facing an alarming nutrition crisis (the IFRC has launched an emergency appeal for food insecurity that includes activities in this region, see <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRMR004pea.pdf>). The arrival of the Malian refugees constitutes an additional pressure on the poor resources, and this situation deeply weakens an already desperate humanitarian context for both the refugees and the host communities.

UNHCR released a communiqué announcing their emergency response targeting 5,000 people (~50% of the refugees), following an assessment of the situation carried out in Fassala.

The Mauritanian authorities have set up a reception centre for registration of refugees and possible assistance in Fassala.

Coordination and partnerships

As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the MRC is closely working with the members of the Mauritania Humanitarian Forum (made up of United Nations agencies, international non-governmental organizations, Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and government ministries). This approach will allow an inclusive and coherent response to the plight of the target population.

The MRC is collaborating with resource persons living in the area and with ARDM (*Association pour la Recherche et le Développement en Mauritanie*), a local NGO based in Fassala.

With the support of its partners, the MRC will rapidly reactivate its local committees in Bassiknou and Nema as well as the volunteer network in the affected area to ensure lasting operational capacities in what is a remote part of the country.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Mauritanian Red Crescent is closely monitoring the situation with its Movement partners. The National Society is in direct contact with a local NGO that regularly updates it with information on the situation in the field. The General Secretary of the MRC is in permanent contact with his partners to collect information. The Federation, through its Sahel Regional Representation and in consultation with ICRC, is ready to support the MRC in implementing emergency rescue, sensitization activities and social mobilization in host areas through logistical and technical support.

The needs

Beneficiary selection: Preliminary assessments indicated over 3,000 beneficiaries. Detailed beneficiary targeting will be initiated once assessment is completed. The following areas have been identified as priorities for the displaced population:

- Essential non-food items (NFIs)
- Health / Nutrition
- Water / hygiene / sanitation

The proposed operation

MRC's intervention is targeting 3,000 refugees and host communities (600 households). The assistance will focus on:

- The distribution of emergency relief items
- Health promotion activities: carry out awareness campaigns to encourage those refugee families who have never vaccinated their children to bring them to the health centre of Fassala or Bassiknou Districts for immunization.
- Hygiene promotion and water treatment at home: UNICEF is designated leader of the water sector group and is responsible for providing drinkable water to the displaced population. The volunteers' intervention will primarily focus on education and raising awareness (sensitization) on collection, conservation and use of water, both for refugees and host communities.

- Carrying out social mobilization activities for vaccination against diseases targeted by the national programme on routine vaccine of children aged 0 to 59 months; (including polio, TB, diphtheria, whooping cough, measles, tetanus)
- Sensitization activities on food security/nutrition.

For the implementation of this operation the MRC will deploy 50 volunteers from the Region (Néma) and District (Bassiknou) as well as its trained NDRT and CDRT network as required. The volunteers will be managed by 5 senior supervisors, 4 dedicated staff for the two local committees and an RDRT to be deployed by the IFRC Sahel Regional Office in Dakar.

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)	
Outcomes: 600 households are provided with basic NFIs	
Outputs 600 identified and registered refugee families have received basic relief items.	Planned activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify refugee families; • Distribute non food items to selected beneficiaries (1,200 mats, 1,200 blankets, 600 kitchen sets, 600 jerry cans, 600 hygiene kits and 600 buckets); • Monitor, evaluate and report on distribution activities.

Emergency health/Nutrition	
Outcomes: Reduce the immediate health risk of 3,000 people (600 households) by providing district health services during 4 months in in the district of Bassiknou	
Outputs Up to 3,000 people (600 households) are targeted in disease prevention and health promotion activities at district level	Planned activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train / refresh 50 MRC volunteers on epidemic control for volunteers (ECV), focusing on malaria, ARI, and diarrhoea; • Develop / use appropriate tools for site assessment of the beneficiaries and other information on health needs of 600 families; • Translate and reproduce IEC materials and initiate activities for disease prevention and health messages.; • Conduct 6 social mobilization activities to promote immunization of children aged 5 to 59 months; • Collect data on socio-economic status; • Monitor the situation and ensure adequate reporting.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene promotion	
Outcome: The risk of water borne diseases is reduced through improved drainage and hygiene promotion for 600 households (refugees, host communities) during 4 months at Fassala for 3,000 beneficiaries	
Outputs The risk to water bone diseases is reduced thanks to hygiene promotion activities and change of behaviour for 3,000 households during 4 months	Planned activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaborate / use the relevant tools to assess beneficiary living conditions and other information related to hygiene needs for 3,000 beneficiaries; • Train 50 volunteers, 5 team leaders and a supervisor on how to sensitize on hygiene practices (training session to explain to the volunteers the key messages to circulate); and relief distribution • Organize local sensitization sessions on how to treat, store and use water and good hygiene. Conduct Social mobilization / monitor the use of sanitation facilities and the level of acceptability within the communities • Control and report on distribution and activities

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **West and Central Africa hub:** Elisabeth Seck, Resource Mobilization Officer, Dakar; phone: +221 33 869 36 60; mobile: +221 77 450 59 49; email: elisabeth.seck@ifrc.org

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

- **In IFRC Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER/QA Delegate, Africa 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 (NGO's) 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.

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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

23-02-12

Mauritania: Population Movement (MDRMR005)

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	30,000
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	21,000
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	17,700
Other Supplies & Services	
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	68,700
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	36,600
Transport & Vehicle Costs	970
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	37,570
International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	17,620
National Staff	
National Society Staff	4,850
Volunteers	7,200
Total PERSONNEL	29,670
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	3,600
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	3,600
Travel	2,500
Information & Public Relations	500
Office Costs	3,000
Communications	750
Financial Charges	1,500
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	8,250
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	9,606
Total INDIRECT COSTS	9,606
TOTAL BUDGET	157,396



Mauritania: Population movement

