

# FINAL REPORT



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## MAURITANIA: DROUGHT AND FOOD SECURITY

15 September 2003

**Appeal No. 05/2003; Launched on: 13 February 2003 for 3 months for CHF 1,056,000 (USD 773,934 or EUR 718,672) to assist 18,000 beneficiaries. Budget was revised to CHF 721,000 as of April 15. Appeal coverage: 28.9%**

**Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 100,000**

*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 180 countries.*

For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

### Summary

Drought as a result of bad weather conditions has caused an early famine which is particularly affecting more seriously the most vulnerable. The national contingency plan launched by the Government of Mauritania targeted 300,000 people to receive emergency support.

In conjunction with the Mauritania Red Crescent, the Federation launched an emergency appeal in February 2003. This appeal focused on vulnerable communes as identified by the Food Security Commission (FSC) of the Mauritania Government, but which were not considered in the WFP food distributions by other NGOs, and on assisting 18,000 beneficiaries.

The Mauritania Red Crescent was to conduct a targeted relief operation in the regions of Adrar (North) and Trarza (Southwest). Activities would include the following:

1. Creation of Community Nutrition Centers (Centres d'Alimentation Communautaire or CAC) for children and nursing or pregnant women
2. Distribution of dried rations to vulnerable groups (the elderly, disabled or sick)
3. Organizing information and education sessions on nutrition and sanitation in intervention areas.
4. Reviving the branches of the Mauritania Red Crescent for involvement in the operation. Capacity building was to specifically focus on the principles of the movement, disaster preparedness, introduction to finance and logistics procedures, management and governance.

Due to limited donor response to the appeal, project management made three key decisions:

1. Due to the active support of the two participating national societies present in Mauritania, the number of delegates assigned to this project was reduced from four to one.
2. A participatory method was designed to ensure involvement of beneficiaries in the evaluation, identification and distribution process. This resulted in reductions to both the number of national society volunteers and related transportation costs.
3. The project worked in collaboration with the Italian Red Cross relief distribution, which had received significant donations targeting communes in the north; these same communes were targeted in the appeal. This resulted in duplication of effort and reduction to expenditure.

Overall and individual project objectives were achieved; the target for vulnerable persons to be assisted was exceeded. The Mauritania Red Crescent gained valuable recognition and raised its profile. It also helped to temporarily reduce vulnerability among the poorest. Meanwhile, such a circumstantial response revealed the need for community training and organization of further self assistance. In Mauritania, there is no systematic or structured community organization. There is a lot of good will, but that is not enough to cover the whole country. The national society may play a more active role in this area.

## **Coordination**

The operation was coordinated within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and involved all partners from the government, UN agencies and NGOs.

### **The Red Cross Movement**

Regular meetings between members of the Movement were organized and held: Mauritania Red Crescent, participating national societies, the Federation and the ICRC. The meetings assured proper coordination of the operation, including logistics and the human resources of the participating national society.

Periodic review of project components assured the elimination of duplication. For example, the Italian Red Cross received an important donation and completed the distribution with a contribution in oil. This made it possible to provide coverage to a larger number of beneficiaries and to establish fruitful contacts with the FSC.

During the violent coup attempt of 8 June 2003 in Nouakchott, Movement partners maintained contact, and developed a common plan for intervention in the hospitals as the situation allowed. A contingency plan is being studied in preparation for the October elections

In addition to the components of this appeal, the 2004 plan of action and activities were coordinated with ICRC. In turn, ICRC pledged to support four local committees to allow the consolidation of the volunteers' network.

### **Government**

To address the food insecurity situation, the government launched an emergency relief mechanism in March 2002. With the support of the permanent coordination unit in the development and implementation of a national emergency plan, the cross-ministerial committee on emergency situations invited the Mauritania Red Crescent to join in the crisis unit.

This governmental plan, which had many components, was intended to provide a quick response to the situation of people and livestock in the various sectors of the rural economy: food security, livestock fodder, people and animal health care, and water for livestock. Several planning meetings were held with the FSC which is responsible for the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the plan.

### **WFP/NGOs**

The Mauritania Red Crescent participated in coordination meetings between WFP and NGOs; this enhanced the coordination of food security activity by other humanitarian partners. During the coordination meetings, NGOs highlighted the constraints they encountered when evaluating the vulnerable (beneficiaries) and transporting relief commodities. The Mauritania Red Crescent could not offer their services for pre-distribution registration and post-distribution impact evaluation; local committees did not have the required structures and training.

WFP, in partnership with international and local NGOs (Oxfam, MSF, World Vision, LWF, Accord, Caritas and Intermon) is conducting distributions to vulnerable groups in five provinces in the South (Gorgol Assaba, Brakna, Tagant and Guidimaka).

## **Objectives, achievements, impact**

All the objectives stated in the appeal have been achieved; CAC were supported, dried rations distributed to a larger number of beneficiaries than planned in the appeal, information and education sessions conducted for the women in the intervention areas, Mauritania Red Crescent department and local committees involved in the operation revived.

For the first and second objectives, although the beneficiaries were satisfied with the assistance they received, it is not possible to measure the real impact on their health without any nutritional evaluation.

An evaluation is due after the operation within the next two months. The education of women will help the mothers who took the training to change their behavior with regard to hygiene, but they may not change their cooking habits until they can grow vegetables and cereals or raise cattle.

Lastly, the operation allowed the national society to complete its self-evaluation, to realize to what extent it has been weakened over the last few years. It started working out a new strategy based on the needs of the community, in areas such as health and social assistance, and has developed thinking on how Mauritania Red Crescent could fill the structural gap in the organization of the Mauritanian community. The CACs and the *Case de Santé* may serve as the mainstay and starting point of the volunteer community agents.

*(See the summary table at the end of this document)*

## **Emergency relief (Food and basic non food items)**

### **Objective 1 Create Community Nutrition Centres (CACs) in the target areas for the children under 5 years and pregnant or nursing women.**

Instead of creating or building new CACs, the Mauritania Red Crescent used the neglected facilities. Eleven CACs received stocks for two months, allowing them to make daily meals for the underfed children of the community.

Each CAC has 50 children under its care; a total of 550 children have been supported.

The mothers in the villages received basic training on nutrition and hygiene.

### **Objective 2: Distribute dried rations to the vulnerable people selected according to the criteria of MRC (the disabled, elderly, nursing women or women family heads)**

Distributions to vulnerable groups selected by the Mauritania Red Crescent and the community were affected as planned in the areas of Choum, El Medah, urban Tiekane and rural Tiekane. Oil distribution to all the people, in partnership with ICRC and FSC was effected in Ouadane, Chinguitti, Ain Savra and N'Tirgent. A total of 22,241 beneficiaries were served.

The operation was conducted as follows:

- Procurement and transportation  
Goods were conveyed to the major cities by the National Federation of Haulers (monopoly) with a lot of constraints and after tough negotiations. Secondary transportation from the localities to the hamlets was easily negotiated on the spot.
- Warehousing  
The local committees, Community Nutrition Center and the municipalities were responsible for warehousing the items waiting for distribution.
- Distribution  
As planned, the relevant people participated in the operation. Three volunteers and a monitor, together with one delegate supervised the distribution process. The dried rations were distributed to each individual vulnerable person.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement - Principles and initiatives**

This operation complied with the mission of the Movement: "To improve the lives of the most vulnerable people".

The food sector received a particular support, but this action fitted in the overall strategy; the volunteers designated by the community, the managers of the local committees trained by their headquarters carried the Red Crescent messages to change the behaviors within their respective areas.

The Mauritania Red Crescent developed a long-term strategic framework: the trained volunteers will be the sentinels of their respective communities, not only in disaster prevention activities but also in the education of their close relatives.

The operation also sought to educate the community on the following:

- **Fundamental principles**  
Mutual help was promoted, collaboration with government representatives was independently carried out, volunteers served as the engines for assisting the vulnerable people regardless of the ethnic backgrounds, strictly on the basis of their vulnerability.
- **Gender**  
Each community selected two women and one man to be their representatives. Women were the predominant beneficiaries of distributions and of sanitation education activities.
- **HIV/AIDS**  
In the CAC, the national society conducted education and sensitization activities for the beneficiaries.

### **National Society Capacity Building**

This operation offered the national society the opportunity to evaluate its capacity in terms of emergency relief and community action. The objective - now being defined - aims at providing support to the most vulnerable in areas such as hygiene, sanitation, vaccination, fight against HIV/AIDS, epidemics.

### **Objective 1: Revitalize the departments of the Mauritania Red Crescent departments involved in the relief operation**

During the operation, the following activities were achieved:

- Daily briefing with the Mauritania Red Crescent Program Officer on the operation
- Weekly meeting with the Secretary General and all Department Managers for their involvement in the program
- Self-evaluation of the national society. The document has been finalized and forwarded to the Federation Regional Delegation for review.
- Based on the experience gained during the census, distribution and training processes, the Mauritania Red Crescent had several brainstorming meetings on the role it could play in the community.

Two technical committees were established: one on volunteering, and another on community health care. The objective is to develop and present a project for submission to the Ministry of Health; the document is currently being developed.

### **Objective 2: Train the members of the local participating committees in the principles of the Movement and emergency relief procedures through the creation of dedicated emergency teams.**

Due to constraints in funding, human resources and time, there was no appropriate capacity building for local committees. Nonetheless, the local committees were involved in registration, raising awareness and distributions.

A development program was to follow on the relief operation; the potential is available but remains untapped. The local committees have no activities in their communities. After completing their training, the volunteers should be involved in four activities: registration of the vulnerable, fight against HIV/AIDS (raising awareness), community health, and sanitation.

### **Assessment and lessons learned**

- To measure the real impact of the operation, the Mauritania Red Crescent should carry out an evaluation based on a sample of beneficiaries within one to two months.
- The operation met the circumstantial needs, but did not address the underlying causes leading to the marginalization of a segment of the population.
- The Mauritania Red Crescent raised its profile during this operation and demonstrated its capacity to successfully conduct a large scale operation with minimal resources.
- This operation brought about an enabling climate for change, and should be the starting point for the national society to recover its real place in the country.

**Finances**

A final financial summary is attached to this report. It is comprised of the consolidated response to appeal, the balance of funds, and the breakdown of expenditures. The attachment reflects a provisional final balance of CHF 74,592. This appeal received a DREF allocation of CHF 100,000; reimbursement to DREF will be considered following discussions with donors to this appeal. Once a decision is reached, there will be no remaining funds from this appeal.

***For further information please contact:***

- *Ould Raby, Secretary General, Mauritania Red Crescent Society; Email [croissant\\_mau@yahoo.fr](mailto:croissant_mau@yahoo.fr); Phone 222 525 1249; Fax 221 882 5369*
- *Richard Gens, Federation Representative, Nouakchott; Email [ifrcmr01@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcmr01@ifrc.org); Phone 222 529 04 48*
- *Andrea Wojnar Diagne, Federation Head of Sahel Regional Office, Dakar; Email [ifrc03@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrc03@ifrc.org); Phone 221 842 2341; Mobile 221 637 9120; Fax 221 842 2340*
- *Mark Willis, Federation Senior Regional Officer, Geneva; Email [mark.willis@ifrc.org](mailto:mark.willis@ifrc.org); Phone; 41 22 730 42 60; Fax 41 22 733 03 95*

*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The procurement for this operation was carried out in full compliance and conformity with the Federation's standard for international and local procurement.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org> .*

*This operation sought to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or long-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.*

DISTRIBUTION REPORTING FOOD (RELIEF)

Month N° Date From 15/04/03 To 15/07/03																								
ITEM	UNIT	DONOR	REF.	TOTALS	REC'D FOR	NAMES OF LOCATIONS / PROJECTS TO WHICH YOU DISTRIBUTE													TOTAL	RETURNED	LOSSES	NC		
		CODE	NUMBER		D'BUTION	674	50	50	608	50	1500	50	50	3967	5057	2763	2140	4982	300	D'BUTED	WHOUSE	B'F		
ITEM	UNIT	DONOR	REF.	TOTALS	REC'D	CHOUM	CAC 1 CHOUM	CAC 2 CHOUM	EL MEDDAH	CAC EL Meddah	THIEKAN	CAC 1 Thiekan	CAC 2 Thiekan	Ouadane	Chinguitti	N°Tirgent	Ain Safra	Thiekan rural	6 CAC Thiekan R	D'BUTED	RETURNS	LOSSES	B'F	
Wheat	MT	D000	0	Month	189.600	13.600	0.450	0.450	14.550	0.450	36.500	0.450	0.450						119.878	2.700	189.478	0.122	831	
				Total	189.600	13.600	0.450	0.450	14.550	0.450	36.500	0.450	0.450	0	0	0	0	0	119.878	2.700	189.478	0	0.122	
Lentil	MT	D000	0	Month	23.200	1.850			1.850		4.550								14.916		23.166	0.034	77€	
	0	D000	0	Total	23.200	1.850	0.000	0.000	1.850	0.000	4.550	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0	14.916	0.000	23.166	0	0.034	
Oil	MT	D000	0	Month	26.260	0.800	0.080	0.080	0.920	0.080	2.270	0.035	0.035	3.967	5.057	2.763	2.140	7.480	0.480		26.187		0.073	22€
	0	D000	0	Total	26.260	0.800	0.080	0.080	0.920	0.080	2.270	0.035	0.035	3.967	5.057	2.763	2.140	7.480	0.480		26.187	0	0.073	
Sugar	MT	D000	0	Month	0.550		0.050	0.050		0.050		0.050	0.050						0.300		0.550		55€	
	0	D000	0	Total	0.550	0.000	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.050	0.000	0.050	0.050	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.300		0.550	0	0	
Milk powder	MT	D000	0	Month	1.375		0.125	0.125		0.125		0.125	0.125						0.750		1.375		55€	
	0	D000	0	Total	1.375	0.000	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.125	0.000	0.125	0.125	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.750		1.375	0	0	
Salt	MT	D000	0	Month	0.150		0.010	0.010	0.010	0.015		0.0075	0.0075						0.090		0.150		55€	
	0	D000	0	Total	0.150	0.000	0.010	0.010	0.010	0.015	0.000	0.0075	0.0075	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.090		0.150	0	0	

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES**

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**Appeal No & title: 05/2003 Mauritania drought**  
**Period: year 2003, up to 01/10 provisional**  
**Project(s): PMR502**  
**Currency: CHF**

**I- CONSOLIDATED RESPONSE TO APPEAL**

FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions	Comments	Goods/Services	Personnel	
Appeal budget	721,000				
less Cash brought forward					
<b>TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT</b>	<b>721,000</b>				
<u>Contributions from Donors</u>					
Danish Red Cross (DNDK)	36,542				36,542
DFID 4- British Government (DFID04)	25,396				25,396
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)	100,000				100,000
French Red Cross (DNFR)	8,584				8,584
Libyan Red Crescent (DNLY)	3,000				3,000
Monaco Red Cross (DNMC)	11,066				11,066
Netherlands Red Cross (DNNL)	113,325				113,325
 <b>TOTAL</b>	 <b>297,914</b>				 <b>297,914</b>

**II - Balance of funds**

<b>OPENING</b>	
<b>CASH INCOME Rcv'd</b>	297,914
<b>CASH EXPENDITURE</b>	-223,322
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<b>CASH BALANCE</b>	<b>74,592</b>

**Appeal No & title: 05/2003 Mauritania drought**

Period: year 2003, up to 01/10 provisional

Project(s): PMR502

Currency: CHF

**III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures**

Description	APPEAL Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL Expenditures	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel		
<u>SUPPLIES</u>						
Shelter & Construction						
Clothing & Textiles		637			637	-637
Food & Seeds	245,000	106,241			106,241	138,759
Water & sanitation		10			10	-10
Medical & First Aid		108			108	-108
Teaching materials						
Utensils & Tools		493			493	-493
Other relief supplies	5,000	8			8	4,992
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>107,497</b>			<b>107,497</b>	<b>142,503</b>
<u>CAPITAL EXPENSES</u>						
Land & Buildings						
Vehicles	25,000					25,000
Computers & Telecom equip.	16,000	3,399			3,399	12,601
Medical equipment						
Other capital expenditures		1,774			1,774	-1,774
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>41,000</b>	<b>5,173</b>			<b>5,173</b>	<b>35,827</b>
<u>TRANSPORT &amp; STORAGE</u>						
Warehouse & distribution		13,658			13,658	-13,658
Transport & vehicles	260,000	13,119			13,119	246,881
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>260,000</b>	<b>26,777</b>			<b>26,777</b>	<b>233,223</b>
<u>PERSONNEL</u>						
Personnel (delegates)	38,000	42,227			42,227	-4,227
Personnel (regional, national staff)	36,000	12,281			12,281	23,719
Consultants						
Workshops & training	9,000	10			10	8,990
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>83,000</b>	<b>54,518</b>			<b>54,518</b>	<b>28,482</b>
<u>GENERAL &amp; ADMINISTRATION</u>						
Travel & related expenses	6,000	10,319			10,319	-4,319
Information expenses		1,170			1,170	-1,170
Admin./general expenses	34,000	3,351			3,351	30,649
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>14,840</b>			<b>14,840</b>	<b>25,160</b>
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	47,000	14,516			14,516	32,484
Operational provisions						
Transfers & contributions						
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>721,000</b>	<b>223,322</b>			<b>223,322</b>	<b>497,678</b>