



MAURITANIA: FLOODS

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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 103,258 (USD 85,762 or EURO 62,580) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. This operation is expected to be implemented over 2 months, and will be completed by October 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation by December 2007. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

[<Click here to go directly to the attached map>](#)

Background and Current Situation

Devastating floods after heavy rains were experienced in the town of Tintane, 800 km south-west of the capital Nouakchott, in the South Eastern Province of Hodh El- Gharbi. The rains started on the night of 8 August 2007. Two people are reported to have been killed by the floods and many sustained injuries from falling walls and crossing waters. This number could go up, once the health authorities have a clearer overview. Damages registered are estimated at billions of Mauritania Ouguiya, including schools, health centres, and other public infrastructure as the water level went up to two metres.

According to local authorities, more than 3,000 families have been left homeless and were totally deprived in the aftermath of the floods. Tintane town is a trade centre for the border region with Mali and many traders have lost their goods in the aftermath of the disaster. Surrounding districts of Devea, Agharghar, Leawinnatt and Hassi Abdallah were also affected.

Five camps have been set up for the affected populations in higher grounds. A school is being used as shelter and as a health care centre, as well as storage for relief items. Water supply to the town has been destroyed and local authorities are raising concerns with regards to the hygiene and sanitation situation of the affected population. The scale and intensity of this disaster is the worst in over 50 years in the region.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

A needs assessment has been conducted to identify gaps not yet filled by partners. A first report indicates that the immediate needs are WatSan and relief for the most vulnerable people who have lost their homes. The Mauritania Red Crescent (MRC) has mobilized its volunteers and is running a health centre.

A plan of action has been developed to respond to the emergency before an in-depth assessment with the support of the Federation Zone Office will be carried out. The volunteers are working on sensitizing the affected populations in adequate hygiene practices.

An RDRT¹ team has been deployed to support the National Society, together with the technical team from the Federation Zone office in Dakar, to launch the operation. Emergency items have been deployed to the affected area together with a WatSan kit as part of the Red Cross and Red Crescent contribution to responding to the disaster.

¹ Regional Disaster Response Team

Other partners' action

The government conducted a situation and needs assessment and has provided temporary shelters for the people affected by the floods. The government was also successfully in charge of the security situation.

Non-governmental and international organizations

The humanitarian organizations meet regularly and technical coordination meeting were held with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Health Organization (WHO) and World Food Programme (WFP). The UN team will work with the government and civil society to provide emergency support needed following a rapid assessment. Meanwhile, UNICEF provided medicines, ORS, high energy biscuits, water tanks, soap and communication materials. UNICEF is also expecting to initiate a measles vaccination campaign in the coming days using the EPI stocks in Kiffa, close to the affected region.

Immediate needs

The immediate needs are shelter, food and non-food items (blankets, mattresses, soap, IM, kitchens sets, and medical kits). There is also a need to conduct sensitization campaigns on hygiene, sanitation and waterborne diseases using the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) method, water chlorination, latrine construction and distribution of water containers.

Plan of action

General Objective: The Mauritania Red Crescent will assist 500 households affected by the floods in Tintane for two months.

Specific objective: Provision and distribution of non food items.

Excepted results

- 500 households receive non-food item kits;
- Protection of human dignity of the affected population is assured;
- The risk of water born and water related diseases morbidity is reduced;
- The risk of malaria morbidity is reduced;
- Teaching materials are available and ready to be used by MRC volunteers;
- A simplified early warning system is set up and disseminated in potential floods sites;
- Advocate on behalf of the at-risk-communities to find sustainable solutions to the problem of recurring floods;
- A floods contingency plan is drafted.

Activities

- Procurement, transportation and distribution of relief items;
- Production of teaching material;
- 500 households provided with non-food items (mattresses, blankets, bucket, jerry cans and soap);
- Through PHAST method, contribute to the prevention of waterborne and water related diseases;
- Produce teaching material (leaflets, posters) in order to sensitize the communities in preparation of future flooding;
- Establish a simplified early warning system;
- MRC advocates before other humanitarian partners and administrative authorities for a sustainable solution to support the vulnerable populations in awareness raising and preparedness activities;
- Monitoring and evaluation activities.

How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a 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.

Contact information

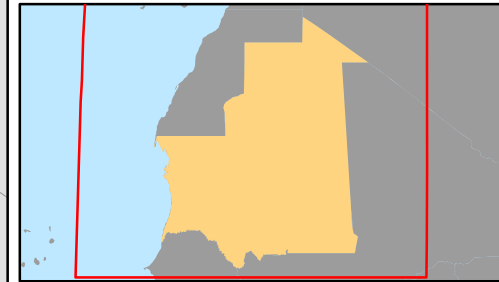
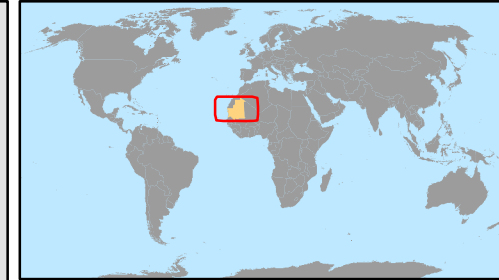
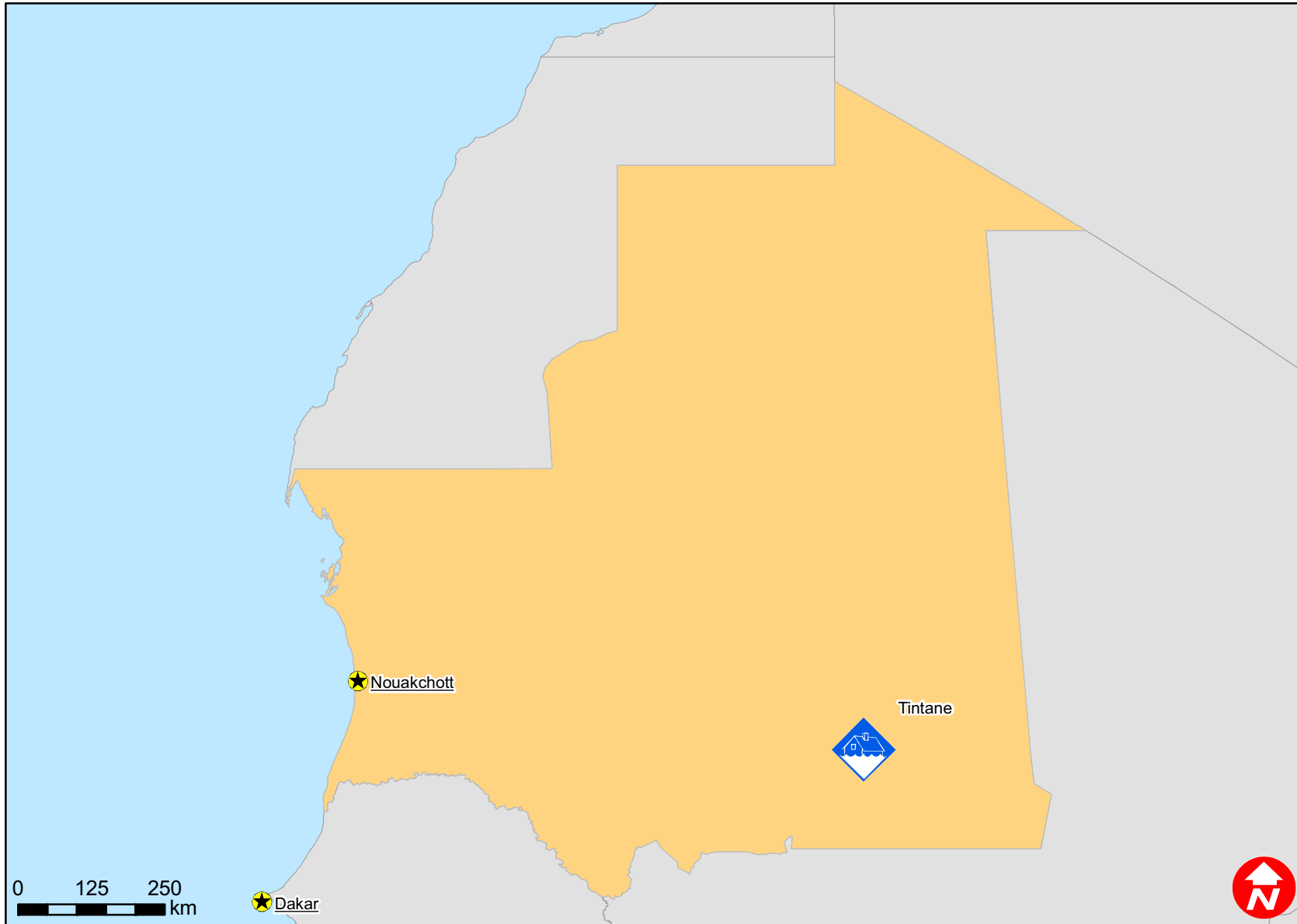
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Mauritania: Floods



The town of Tintane suffered from devastating flood after heavy rains in the latest precipitations in West Africa. The rains started on the night of Wednesday 8 August 2007 and two persons were reported killed by flood and many sustained injuries from falling walls and crossing waters which the number is still uncounted according to the health authorities.



Floods in Tintane



Capitals

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.