

Appeal 2004



MAURITANIA

Appeal no. 01.36/2004

The International Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. The Federation is the world's largest humanitarian organization, and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. All international assistance to support vulnerable communities seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, according to the SPHERE Project.

This document reflects a range of programmes and activities to be implemented in 2004, and the related funding requirements. These are based upon the broader, multi-year framework of the Federation's Project Planning Process (PPP). The PPP products are either available through hyperlinks in the text¹, or can be requested through the respective regional department. For further information concerning programmes or operations in this or other countries or regions, please also access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Click on programme title or figures to go to the text or budget

Programme title	2004 in CHF
Strengthening the National Society	
Health and Care	130,539
Disaster Management	117,999
Organizational Development	130,498
Total	379,032²

¹ Identified by blue in the text.

² USD 284,666 or EUR 243,986

National Context

Mauritania is the object of permanent natural disasters. The drought of the 1970s and 80s transformed more than 150,000 square kilometres into a desert, which provoked an exodus of population towards the lush south. Apart from the Senegal River, surface water is rare. In the last three decades, the water crisis has continued to worsen, negatively impacting human and animal populations as well as agriculture and causing food insecurity, damage to infrastructures caused by advancing sands, and health problems. During the rainy season, the drought stricken lands are quickly submerged in floods.

These climactic conditions have caused flight from rural areas resulting in a 53% increase in the population living in urban areas. Huge squatter populations have sprung up around cities as former rural families seek lodging, food, work, and health care. In addition, there have been three major population movements linked to conflict, which have destabilized populations and caused populations shifts:

- The 1989 conflict between Senegal and Mauritania caused thousands to flee to either side of the border;
- The 1970's armed conflict between Mauritania and Western Sahara; and
- The internal conflict between Mali and the nomadic Tuareg population leading to a major flight of these populations into the Southern region of Mauritania.

Approximately one-quarter of Mauritania's population is nomadic, more than three-quarters live by traditional subsistence activities, mainly animal husbandry. Much of the population is difficult to access, as the country is expansive and transportation infrastructure is poor, making interventions relatively expensive and arduous.

Indicators of health provision are slowly progressing. Under-fives mortality rate was 183 per 1,000 live births in 2001, down from 250/1,000 in 1970. Still, only one-third of the population has access to potable water and adequate sanitation facilities (UNDP). The public health expenditure is only 3.4% of the GDP (2000). Owing to people's reluctance to come forward for testing and the lack of facilities to test for the virus, official estimates show just 1% of the population to be HIV-positive, but the prevalence rate is in reality probably higher. Several Islamic leaders have spoken openly in favour of HIV/AIDS prevention, helping to overcome religious obstacles to a prevention programme.³



Human Development Indicators at a Glance

	Mauritania	Sub-Saharan Africa	World
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2001	51.9	46.5	66.7
Adult literacy rate (% age 15 and above), 2001	40.7	62.4	~
Adult literacy rate 2001	60	77	~
Combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (%), 2001	43	44	66
GDP per capita PPP (Purchasing Power Parity USD) 2001	1,990	1,831	7,376
People living with HIV/AIDS, adults (% age 15-49), 2001	~	9	1.2
Refugees (thousands), in/out, 2001	0/30	2,719/~	12,030/~

Source: UNDP Human Development Report 2003

³ Source: Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)

Red Cross and Red Crescent Priorities

Movement⁴ Context:

Federation:

The Federation has provided training on early warning systems and support for the 1999 drought operation. In 2002, the Federation launched a food security operation, which assisted over 22,000 beneficiaries through local nutrition centres and community based targeting. During this operation, the national society manifested significant interest to strengthen its own capacities, undertook a self-assessment and initiated planning for a longer-term approach to the needs of the national society and the country. The Federation seeks to assist the Mauritanian Red Crescent to take a more coherent approach than it currently assumes based on practical activities in select regions accompanied by structural support at headquarters and branch levels.

ICRC:

The ICRC does not have a presence in country, but it does support the national society financially for IHL⁵ dissemination activities and contingency preparations for national elections through the Tunis office.

Bilateral Partner National Societies:

The Spanish Red Cross has been present in Mauritania since 1999 with a lapse in 2002. Spanish Red Cross Society returned in 2003 to support an ambitious four-year programme with Nouadhibou branch aimed at food security, health, hygiene, and social welfare activities. The Spanish Red Cross has a delegate in the country. The French Red Cross also has a delegate since 2001 to manage a joint project on HIV/AIDS/STDs treatment clinics in Keiffa and micro-projects in Gorgol region. The Italian Red Cross has a delegate providing ECHO-funded food aid since 1997 to mothers and children through 60 independent feeding centres in the North of the country.

Primary support from the movement in 2003

Partner	Health	Relief	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organizational Development	Other
ICRC			xx			xx
Federation		xx			xx	
French Red Cross	xx					
Spanish Red Cross	xx	xx			xx	xx
Italian Red Cross			xx			

Federation support in 2003 came from: Danish Red Cross, French Red Cross, Libyan Red Crescent, Monaco Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, and DFID.)

National Society Strategy/Programme Priorities:

The **Mauritanian Red Crescent** considers itself autonomous and independent, while working closely with the government, which pays some of its employees. Over the years the national society has conducted various drought and flood relief operations with the Red Cross and other partners such as WFP, Lutheran World Federation, and US Peace Corps. Some of them run medical centres providing care at reduced fees and monitoring malnourished children, and offering First Aid training to communities. The national society has provided sewing courses and childcare training to women. Its current focus, in addition to emergency drought and flood operations, are an HIV/AIDS counselling and testing centre in one of its regions (Keiffa), branch development through diverse projects (Nouadhibou), and dissemination of humanitarian values.

⁴ 'Movement' refers to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

⁵ IHL – International Humanitarian Law

At a Glance

	YEAR	COMMENT
Statutes	1998	Renewed
National Disaster Plan		In process
National Development Plan	2001-2002	Needs revision
CAS	no	
Self Assessment	2003	
Elections	1998	General Assembly
Yearly audit	no	

Main Strengths

- Considerable assets and self-sufficiency
- Considerable experience in working with partner national societies and local partners.

Main Challenges

- Transition from shorter term interventions to those with longer-term impact
- Rebuild relations with government and other partners
- Develop a strategy to sustain itself and maintain relevance at institutional and community levels

Strengthening the National Society

Health and Care

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Background and achievements/lessons to date

The Mauritanian Red Crescent has played a role in nutrition, in particular regarding malnourished children and pregnant women, over the past three decades. Chronic poverty linked to drought and flood related desertification and rural exodus with few prospects for livelihood in urban areas has led to ongoing malnutrition and food insecurity. While needs have been constant, the national society's ability to develop and maintain programmes to address these problems has not been adequate.

The national society has created over 100 feeding centres and has trained dozens of nutritionists. What the national society now needs is to reinforce the national society capacity in decentralizing activities for better assistance to the community, including strengthening volunteer management (recruitment and maintenance). It also needs to reinforce and revitalize the local/branch committees of the national society.

Goal: To be present and effective in improving the health of vulnerable communities.

Objectives: To contribute to improved health of vulnerable persons through information, education, and communication actions to boost hygiene, vaccination coverage, and prevent HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Expected Results

- Ten volunteers in each of the seven pilot branches will conduct integrated health and hygiene IEC activities in co-ordination with nutrition and feeding centres and targeting women, youth, and public opinion leaders.
- Social mobilization campaigns for vaccinations are conducted.
- Waste collection and hygiene measures are organized within neighbourhoods at risk.
- Volunteers and local branches are active and well supported to conduct health and hygiene activities.

[<Click here to access the Logical Framework Planning Matrix document for Health and Care \(in French\)>](#)

Disaster Management

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Background and achievements/lessons to date

As noted in the capacity and vulnerability assessment conducted by the Mauritanian Red Crescent in 2002, there are three main causes of disasters in Mauritania: climactic conditions causing droughts and floods, conditions associated with an urban environment ill-suited to the population living within it, and population movements has worked over the past two and a half decades in the areas of food security, flood relief, and refugee assistance. At the height of the huge drought relief operations in the mid-80s the Mauritanian Red Crescent developed a reputation as a strongly backed humanitarian actor with major resources to respond to crises. Unfortunately, the national society lost ground over the years, and lacked sufficient structure and direction to maintain its high profile and volunteer base during lesser crises. Nonetheless, the national society, like many of its sister national societies, is perceived as a wealthy organization because of previous levels of external support – a reputation that is difficult to dispel. The national society is well placed to fill a major vacuum at community level if it can mobilize its volunteers to inform, sensitize, and organize local populations and team up with local authorities who are currently responsible for needs assessment to ensure that the most vulnerable are targeted and assisted.

Goal: Community and national society branch capacity at headquarters and in four pilot regions to prepare, plan, and respond to emergencies is effective.

Objective 1: Put in place a sub-regional disaster management structure between the four branches and headquarters

Objective 2: Recruit and develop emergency response brigades in four pilot regions (Gorgol, Assaba, Brakna, Guidimaka)

Objective 3: Develop and implement two integrated disaster preparedness, first aid, community health and social action programmes within each of the four pilot branches.

Expected Results

- A regional disaster management strategy is developed and executed by a regional disaster officer in collaboration with four provincial co-ordinators.
- CRM participates in activities designed to improve its disaster management capacities, actively consults the Federation's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS), and uses tools designed for disaster management within logistics, telecommunications and security.
- Emergency brigades, in collaboration with local authorities, reduce the impact of drought and floods on communities.
- Database of most vulnerable persons are developed and maintained.
- Community projects generate resources for the community and local branches.

[<Click here to access the Logical Framework Planning Matrix document for Disaster Management \(in French\)>](#)

Organizational Development

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Background and achievements/lessons to date

Established in December 1970, the Mauritanian Red Crescent was created in the context of the great Sahelian drought of the 1970s. The national society has thus been naturally focused towards aiding victims of drought and it grew rapidly in the 1970s and 80s in response to increasing drought-induced needs. Supported by the Federation for its structures and operations, the national society formed 56 local branches. The end of the major drought relief operation and the external support it channelled, led to a major decrease in the national society's activities. The national society is weak institutionally; it has had various development plans in the past, but does not currently have one in force. In a move to stem this trend, the Mauritanian Red Crescent conducted a self-assessment exercise in 2003, which has helped it to develop some practical and modest goals for the short and medium terms to re-enforce its capacity to support decentralized health and disaster management activities and create a coherent plan in collaboration

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with current and potential partners. The Federation aims at assisting the national society address these objectives in 2004.

Goal: To decrease vulnerability of people living in Mauritania through improved service delivery by the Mauritanian Red Crescent.

Objective: The Mauritanian Red Crescent has prepared a Strategic Development Plan, which allows it to restructure itself, re-enforce its capacities, and execute programmes that have an impact on those it seeks to assist.

Expected Results

- Strategic planning capacity at headquarters level is strengthened through structural support to three main positions, enabling these staff to be fully available to assume their role in planning, monitoring, and evaluation and support to branch level activities.
- Regional officers are trained in project planning and management and assisted to develop strategic and operational objectives.
- Three regional branches are formed; seven pilot branches, formerly inactive, are renewed and possess adequate capacity to conduct their programmes.
- Each pilot branch elaborates and executes at least one income-generating project to support its volunteer network.

[<Click here to access the Logical Framework Planning Matrix document for Organizational Development \(in French\)>](#)

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BUDGET 2004

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 01.36/2004

Name: Mauritania

PROGRAMME:

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Emergency	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter & construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clothing & textiles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seeds & plants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water & Sanitation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical & first aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teaching materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utensils & tools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other relief supplies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computers & telecom	667	667	0	667	0	0	2,001
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL EXPENSES	667	667	0	667	0	0	2,001
Warehouse & Distribution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transport & Vehicules	12,146	12,146	0	12,146	0	0	36,437
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	12,146	12,146	0	12,146	0	0	36,437
Programme Support	8,485	7,670	0	8,482	0	0	24,637
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	8,485	7,670	0	8,482	0	0	24,637
Personnel-delegates	37,515	37,515	0	37,515	0	0	112,545
Personnel-national staff	30,391	21,253	0	30,353	0	0	81,996
Consultants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PERSONNEL	67,906	58,768	0	67,868	0	0	194,541
W/shops & Training	22,668	22,668	0	22,668	0	0	68,002
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	22,668	22,668	0	22,668	0	0	68,002
Travel & related expenses	8,321	5,734	0	8,321	0	0	22,375
Information	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other General costs	10,346	10,346	0	10,346	0	0	31,038
GENERAL EXPENSES	18,667	16,080	0	18,667	0	0	53,413
TOTAL BUDGET:	130,539	117,999	0	130,498	0	0	379,032