

Appeal 2005



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAURITANIA

Appeal no. 05AA030

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, objectives, and related activities to be implemented in 2005, and the corresponding 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 text, or can be requested through the respective regional department.

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Click on the title below to go to the relevant text; click on the figure to go to the programme budget

Programme title	2005 in CHF
Strengthening the national society	
Health and care	357,340
Disaster management	40,743
Organizational development	48,210
Total	446,293¹

¹ USD 354,500 or EUR 287,500.

National Context

Mauritania is the object of permanent natural disasters. The drought of the 1970s and 1980s 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 climatic 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 their flight 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 huge and transportation infrastructure is poor, making interventions relatively expensive and arduous.

Indicators of health provision are slowly improving. Under-five mortality rate was 183 per 1,000 live births in 2002, down from 250 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 2.6% of the GDP (2001). Owing to people's reluctance to come forward for testing and the lack of facilities to test for the virus, official estimates show just 1.1% of the population to be HIV positive; the actual rate is probably higher. Several Islamic leaders have spoken openly in favour of HIV/AIDS prevention, helping to overcome religious obstacles to a prevention programme. (EIU)

Human Development Indicators at a Glance

Category	Mauritania	Sub-Saharan Africa	World
Total population (millions)	2.8	641.0	6,225.0
GDP per capita (USD)	348	469	5,174
Life expectancy at birth (years): Female - Male	53.9 - 50.7	n.a.	n.a.
Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births	120	108	56
Maternal mortality per 100,000 live births (adjusted ratio)(2000)	1,000	n.a.	n.a.
Population (%) with sustainable access to an improved water source (2000)	37	57	82
HIV prevalence (% , ages 15-49) (2003)	0.6	7.7	1.1
Adult literacy rate (% , ages 15 and above) Female - Male	31.3 - 51.5	n.a.	n.a.

Source: UNDP Human Development Report, July 2004: Human Development Index (pages 139-250). Refer to http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2004/pdf/hdr04_HDI.pdf Note: Data is 2002 unless noted above.

For ease of reference, the table below lists the standard abbreviations and references used in this Appeal.

DMIS – Federation Disaster Management Information System	Movement - International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
IHL – International Humanitarian Law	PLWHA – Persons living with HIV/AIDS
MoH – Ministry of Health	PNS - Partner National Society(ies)
	STI / STD - Sexually-transmitted infections / diseases
ARCHI 2010 – refer to http://www.ifrc.org/what/health/archi/	
ERU – Emergency Response Unit(s) Refer to http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/eru/	
FACT – Field Assessment and Coordination Team(s). Refer to http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/fact/	
Strategy 2010 – refer to http://www.ifrc.org/who/strategy.asp	
Ouagadougou Declaration – refer to http://www.ifrc.org/meetings/regional/africa/5thpac/5thpacde.asp	
Seville Agreement – refer to http://www.ifrc.org/meetings/statutory/ga/ga97/ga_97_8.asp	

Red Cross and Red Crescent Priorities

National Society Strategy/Programme Priorities:

The Mauritanian Red Crescent² 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 focus, in addition to emergency drought and flood operations, are a HIV/AIDS counselling and testing centre in one of its regions (Keiffa), branch development through diverse projects (Nouadhibou), and dissemination of humanitarian values. Since mid 2004, the national society has engaged itself in a successful dialogue with the Mauritanian MoH for the launching of an ARCHI-based health programme at branch level, subject to the mobilization of funds to complement MoH in-kind resources, which the government sees as a major step towards reaching hard to access populations through its current structures.

² Mauritanian Red Crescent - <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=114>

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Mauritanian Red Crescent At a Glance

	YEAR	COMMENT
Statutes	1998	Renewed
National disaster plan		In process
National development plan	2001-2002	Needs revision
CAS	2005	Good collaboration with PNS partners in country; process needs to be formalized.
Self assessment	2003	
Elections	1998	General assembly
Yearly audit	No	

Main Strengths

- Ÿ Considerable assets and self-sufficiency.
- Ÿ Considerable experience in working with PNS and local partners.
- Ÿ Willingness and commitment demonstrated in 2004 to re-launch itself as a viable partner.

Main Challenges

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

Movement Context:

Federation

The Federation has provided training on early warning systems and support for the 1999 drought operation. In 2003, 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 Mauritanian Red Crescent then carried out as of October 2003 a successful floods relief operation which was expanded to include food security linked to the floods. In 2004 the national society managed to consolidate its structures at the headquarters and branch levels, to launch the decentralization process and to boost its weak local committees through the establishment of seven pilot committees with highly relevant activities such as sanitation campaigns, 25 community nutrition centres, and creation of five trained disaster brigades. In May 2004, the national society launched an ARCHI health planning initiative which was strongly supported by the Ministry of Health and which drew interest of many other locally based international partners. The fruits of this dialogue are contained within this Appeal.

The 2004 recruitment of an accountant showed Mauritanian Red Crescent willingness to demonstrate better accountability. The regional office, through different exchange missions as well as the presence of a Federation Representative in Nouakchott from March 2003 – July 2004, now has a better knowledge of the systems of management and procedures within the national society and can provide more specific support regarding the quality of financial reporting on working advances. Support will be provided this year to help the national society to confront two basic challenges: strengthen and structure its financial systems in the same line as the other Sahel national societies and meet Federation Standards regarding financial reporting.

The Federation seeks in 2005 to continue to assist the Mauritanian Red Crescent to build on the good will demonstrated and progress it made in 2004 in its organizational restructuring, branch development, and overall programming, and especially to meet the expectations of its government and other partners following the ARCHI launch. The national society has shown notable willingness to address its weaknesses and strive to become a well-functioning national society. Relationships with the Federation Sahel Sub-regional office are positive which has helped to re-enforce complementary support from Spanish Red Cross, French Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, and the ICRC through strong Federation coordination.

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ICRC

The ICRC does not have a presence in country, but it does support the national society financially for IHL dissemination activities and contingency preparations for national elections through the Tunis office. The ICRC was instrumental in 2004 in providing support for new branch level officers who proved to be crucial in managing the Federation supported emergency food security and floods relief operations at field level. This has been an excellent example of Movement cooperation which is expected to continue.

Bilateral Partner National Societies

The Spanish Red Cross has been present in Mauritania since 1999 with a lapse in 2002. Spanish Red Cross 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 based in Nouadhibou, with whom the Federation has sought to collaborate, especially regarding extension of the ARCHI health framework in the country. The French Red Cross also has a delegate since 2001 to manage a joint project on HIV/AIDS/STI 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 to the Mauritanian Red Crescent from the Movement in 2004

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 2004 came from: Italian government, Danish Red Cross, French Red Cross, Libyan Red Crescent, Monaco Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, and DFID.

Strengthening the National Society

Health and Care

Background and Achievements

In May 2004, the Mauritanian Red Crescent organized a workshop for the ARCHI strategy ownership. During this event, the national society, together with the MoH, WHO and UNICEF, developed an action plan to involve the national society in community health actions throughout Mauritania. This plan of action, highlights of which are listed below, is envisaged to cover four years.

Goal: To contribute to improved health of vulnerable populations in Mauritania through the establishment of a health programme based on the ARCHI 2010 strategy in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

Objectives: To contribute to the reduction of hygiene and sanitation related illness, malaria, sexually transmitted infections, vaccine-preventable diseases, and malnutrition in four pilot zones through social and community mobilization activities.

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Expected Results:

- The risks of hygiene and sanitation related illnesses are reduced in target areas.
- The rate of malaria amongst target communities is significantly reduced.
- Knowledge of risks associated with HIV/AIDS/STI increases.
- Standard vaccination coverage for children aged 0-11 months and for pregnant women against tetanus within the four targeted zones is appreciably increased.
- Malnutrition within the target communities decreases.
- The health capacities of the Mauritanian Red Crescent are reinforced on all levels, including ability to collaborate with partners.

<Refer to the Four-Year Action Plan (in French): Mauritania Health and Care>
http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/logframes/africa/05AA030HC.pdf

Disaster Management

Background and Achievements

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-1980s 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.

Significant progress was made within the field of emergency response in 2003 and 2004: a person from the headquarters coordinates now disaster-related issues; two provincial coordinators were recruited and trained (with ICRC funding) and are responsible for disaster preparedness and management at the regional level; two volunteer brigades, with ten persons in Kaédi (Gorgol) and ten persons in Aleg (Assaba) were employed in a hygiene and sanitation project providing the basis for the emergency response in these two regions; a training project in first aid was developed in Nouadhibou which trains first aid volunteers within the iron mining national company and organizes them into brigades to respond to emergency situations (possible crisis along the Sahara border); and the National Programme Coordinator was trained in emergency WatSan during a regional workshop held in Cameroon. What remains to be done is to consolidate the national society's capacity to prepare for and respond to emergencies, be they droughts, floods, or population movements.

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, and 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.

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Expected Results:

- Ÿ A regional disaster management strategy is developed and executed by a Regional Disaster Officer in collaboration with four provincial co-ordinators.
- Ÿ National society participates in activities designed to improve its disaster management capacities, actively consults DMIS, and uses tools designed for disaster management within logistics, telecommunications and security.
- Ÿ Emergency brigades, in collaboration with local authorities, reduce the impact of drought and floods on communities.

<Refer to the Logical Framework Planning Matrix: Mauritania Disaster Management>
http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?/annual05/logframes/africa/05AA030DM.pdf

Organizational Development

Background and Achievements

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 1980s 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. The Federation aims to continue assisting the national society to address these objectives in 2005.

In 2004, two headquarters positions received financial support: one Programme Officer and one Accountant, which has helped solidify the organizational base and showed the willingness of the Red Cross towards better accountability. The Programme Officer attended two regional training programmes: on project planning and on WatSan under disaster management which helped expand his knowledge and abilities needed for the next phase of the organizational change process, namely strategic planning. Two regional coordinators were recruited to help renew the regional committees, disseminate messages and initiate activities at the regional level – one for the Nouadhibou region (North), and the second one for Aleg (southwest), who provided the first training (ICRC and Federation) on dissemination, principles and values, disaster preparedness and response, and community health for the major local committees in their region. The engagement of the regional coordinators has helped the decentralization process to begin. Finally, one year of financial support has been identified for the position of Secretary General, which will further assist the national society to consolidate its staffing and programmes while it undertakes its strategic planning and professionalisation process.

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

Objective 1: 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.

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Expected Results:

- ÿ A strategic planning process is undertaken and results in a medium term development plan.
- ÿ Project planning process training is conducted and leads to preparation of well-defined projects in core areas to achieve national society's strategic goals.
- ÿ Governance and management training is conducted at headquarters and branch levels leading to clarification of roles and responsibilities and more effective functioning of the two bodies.

<Refer to the Logical Framework Planning Matrix: Mauritania Organizational Development>
http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?/annual05/logframes/africa/05AA030OD.pdf

Objective 2: Financial management capacities of the Mauritanian Red Crescent are strengthened.

Expected Results:

- Financial reports are demonstrating improved quality
- Finance staff develop their understanding of program budgeting cycle since the launch of the Appeal until the final narrative and financial reports
- Administration and finance management manual is created and implemented
- Finance unit is strengthened and fully functional throughout the structures

<Refer to the Logical Framework Planning Matrix: Mauritania Finance Development>
http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?/annual05/logframes/africa/05AA030FD.pdf

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BUDGET 2005

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 05AA030

Name: MAURITANIA

PROGRAMME:

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Emergency	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter & construction	2,040	0	0	0	0	0	2,040
Clothing & textiles	2,016	0	0	0	0	0	2,016
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	4,000	0	0	0	0	0	4,000
Utensils & tools	540	0	0	0	0	0	540
Other relief supplies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	8,596	0	0	0	0	0	8,596
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	20,500	0	0	0	0	0	20,500
Computers & telecom	9,000	0	0	3,000	0	0	12,000
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL EXPENSES	29,500	0	0	3,000	0	0	32,500
Warehouse & Distribution	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	2,000
Transport & Vehicules	33,709	485	0	201	0	0	34,395
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	35,709	485	0	201	0	0	36,395
Programme Support	23,227	2,648	0	3,134	0	0	29,009
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	23,227	2,648	0	3,134	0	0	29,009
Personnel-delegates	119,071	4,012	0	10,934	0	0	134,017
Personnel-national staff	100,737	6,041	0	4,125	0	0	110,903
Consultants	0	0	0	3,800	0	0	3,800
PERSONNEL	219,808	10,053	0	18,859	0	0	248,720
W/shops & Training	90	6,936	0	15,416	0	0	22,441
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	90	6,936	0	15,416	0	0	22,441
Travel & related expenses	4,426	326	0	4,503	0	0	9,255
Information	17,800	13,800	0	0	0	0	31,600
Other General costs	18,185	6,495	0	3,097	0	0	27,777
GENERAL EXPENSES	40,411	20,621	0	7,600	0	0	68,632
TOTAL BUDGET:	357,341	40,743	0	48,210	0	0	446,293