

**Executive Board Annual Session** 

Rome, 3-6 June 2014

# PROJECTS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVAL

Agenda item 9

#### For approval



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## PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS—MAURITANIA 200640

#### Protecting Livelihoods, Reducing Undernutrition and Building Resilience

Number of beneficiaries	604,752			
Duration of project	1 July 2014–31 December 2016 (30 months)			
Gender marker code*	2A			
WFP food tonnage	40,739 mt			
Cost (United States dollars)				
Food and related costs	40,406,170			
Cash/vouchers and related costs	26,987,278			
Capacity development and augmentation	1,005,486			
Total cost to WFP	82,608,100			

 $<sup>{\</sup>rm *https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/gm-overview-en.pdf}$ 

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#### NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### This document is submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the WFP staff focal points indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

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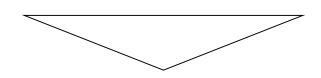
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Should you have any questions regarding availability of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).



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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**



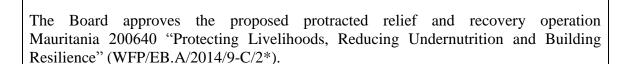
Food insecurity in Mauritania stems from poverty, environmental degradation and cyclical shocks. Recent assessments show that 14 percent of the population is chronically food-insecure, and thousands more people become food-insecure during the annual lean season. Food insecurity in urban Nouakchott has risen sharply in recent years.

Low food consumption and limited dietary diversity, exacerbated by poor caring practices and inadequate access to water, sanitation and health services, lead to poor nutritional status. Global acute malnutrition among children age 6–59 months increases between the harvest and the lean season to reach levels exceeding the World Health Organization's "serious" threshold.

This operation represents a strategic shift for WFP in Mauritania, integrating activities at three levels: i) within WFP; ii) with partners through community-based planning and monitoring; and iii) with government systems. Safety nets will be linked to creation of community assets and development of skills to build households' capacity to withstand shocks. The nutrition strategy targets seasonal shocks with capacity development for the Government, cooperating partners and communities while ensuring active beneficiary participation.

The operation supports Strategic Objectives 1, 3 and 4 of the WFP Strategic Plan (2014–2017), and contributes to Millennium Development Goals 1, 3, 4, 5 and 7. It is aligned with government strategies for poverty reduction, nutrition and malnutrition, and takes into account projected food deficits in 2014.





<sup>\*</sup> This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the Decisions and Recommendations document issued at the end of the session.



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#### **SITUATION ANALYSIS**

#### Context

1. Mauritania is a low-income, food-deficit country, ranking 155<sup>th</sup> out of 186 countries in the human development index and 139<sup>th</sup> out of 148 in gender inequality. Life expectancy at birth is less than 59 years and one in ten children do not reach the age of 5.<sup>1</sup> Of the 3.4 million people counted in the 2013 census, 51 percent are women.<sup>2</sup> Annual population growth is 2.5 percent and average fertility rate is 4.4 births per woman.<sup>1</sup>

- 2. One in four Mauritanians live on less than USD 1.25 per day. Nearly 62 percent live in multi-dimensional poverty; and 60 percent of the workforce has no formal education; 40 percent of the population is illiterate.
- 3. Most vulnerable people live in rural areas, relying on rainfed pasture and agriculture; soil is poor and land depleted.<sup>4</sup> Half of the population lives in urban areas, including one quarter in Nouakchott; during the lean season vulnerable people move into urban areas.<sup>5</sup>
- 4. Mauritania is secure, although the situation in the Sahel is unpredictable. The conflict in Mali resulted in 66,000 refugees entering Mauritania, presenting additional burdens for communities along the border.<sup>6</sup>

#### The Food Security and Nutrition Situation

- 5. Household food security is dependent on rural production and urban migration. For the last five post-harvest periods<sup>7</sup> 14.5 percent of the population was food–insecure, 6.1 percent severely. Average food-insecurity prevalence was 24.8 percent, 9.2 percent severely. During the 2011–2012 food crisis, 32.2 percent of the population was food-insecure, 12.5 percent severely.
- 6. Only 0.5 percent of Mauritania is arable and agriculture production covers only 30 percent of food needs. Environmental degradation, desertification and unpredictable rainfall affect rural populations that rely on pasture and crops; poor rural households have stocks for only three to six months, and part of their harvest goes to reimbursing debt. Households headed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> FSMS; CSA/WFP, July 2013. Save the Children Mauritania livelihoods profiles 2009 and 2010.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> United Nations Development Programme. *Human Development Report 2013*. New York.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development. National Statistics Office. *Rapport des résultats préliminaires provisoires du recensement général de la population*. April 2013.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Low school attendance rates and gender disparities in access to education are addressed through country programme 200251.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Enquête permanente sur les conditions de vie (EPCV) 2008; Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) series 2009–2013.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Action contre la faim (ACF) Spain and Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET); Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. 2013 population evaluation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. December 2013. WFP assists these refugees through regional emergency operation 200438.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Data analysed is from July for the lean season and December for the post-harvest period.

 $<sup>^8</sup>$  During the last five post-harvest periods, the numbers of moderately (severely in parentheses) food-insecure people in rural and urban areas were as follows: 376,000 (145,000) in 2009; 222,000 (75,000) in 2010; 595,000 (296,000) in 2011; 565,000 (178,000) in 2012; and 635,000 (182,000) in 2013. WFP and *Commissariat à la sécurité alimentaire* (CSA) FSMS series 2009–2013.

by women are particularly vulnerable because women rarely own land, have little access to credit and have little decision-making power. <sup>10</sup>

- 7. Sixty percent of the food-insecure population lives in rainfed agriculture and agropastoral zones. 11 Household production covers 12 percent of food needs; one-third is purchased and the rest comes from gifts, borrowing or gathering wild foods. 12 Outside the River Valley there is no irrigation.
- 8. Food prices have remained high since 2010. Livestock losses resulting from the 2012 crisis ranged from 10 to 50 percent and the effects remain. These compounded shocks have contributed to the deterioration of purchasing power and productive assets, and increased migration to urban areas. The most vulnerable cope with seasonal stresses by reducing health expenditures and taking children out of school, which limits long-term development.
- 9. Food insecurity in Nouakchott reached 16.9 percent at the height of the drought crisis in July 2013, up from 1.5 percent in July 2009. The poorest urban households face high food costs, increased water prices and unreliable labour markets. In 2013, flooding further affected vulnerable households.
- 10. Traditional community support provides a safety net for vulnerable households, but economic and climate shocks risk undermining this support.
- 11. While the 2013–2014 harvest is 19 percent higher than the five-year average, it is 15 percent less than the previous growing season. Recent flooding and potential locust infestation present additional risks. Nouakchott and all southern regions have been identified in the *Cadre harmonisé* as areas of concern.<sup>18</sup>
- 12. Food-insecure households rely on cereals, oil and sugar, typically consuming much less than the minimum daily requirement. Access to drinking water is 48 percent of households in rural areas and 60 percent in urban areas. Children under 5 consume the same diet as adults in 76 percent of households, which can impede optimal child growth and development. Ust 27 percent of children are exclusively breastfed during the first six months, and 28.8 percent of children aged 6–23 months lack dietary diversity.
- 13. The national five-year average for global acute malnutrition (GAM) during the post-harvest period among children aged 6–59 months is 6.5 percent, while in the south GAM prevalence approaches the 10 percent World Health Organization (WHO) "serious" threshold. Five-year average GAM prevalence during the lean season exceeds

<sup>11</sup> ACF Espagne and FEWS NET. FSMS July 2013; FEWS NET Livelihoods Profile; WFP evaluation 2002.

<sup>17</sup> FSMS July 2013; Save the Children. Household Economy Approach Analysis: Zone peri-urbaine (Nouakchott), 2009–2010.

Preliminary results – Demographic and Health Survey/Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2011; Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) January 2013.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> EPCV 2008, FSMS July 2013.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Post-distribution and FSMS monitoring.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Selling livestock is the main household coping strategy.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> FSMS July 2013.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> WFP. Mauritania Market Analysis. December 2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> FSMS 2008–2013.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Government of Mauritania, Ministry of Rural Development – CSA. 2013. *Perspectives agricoles et alimentaires en Mauritanie 2013–2014*. November.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> FSMS July 2013; WFP and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). 2013. Food Security and Nutrition Cross-Analysis. July.

6 WFP/EB.A/2014/9-C/2<sup>3</sup>

12 percent at the national level and is above the 15 percent WHO emergency threshold in six regions.<sup>21</sup> Chronic malnutrition among children aged 6–59 months averaged 25 percent over the past five years.<sup>22</sup>

14. Anaemia prevalence in children aged 6–59 months exceeds the WHO "critical" level of 40 percent in all regions. Among non-pregnant women aged 15–49 years national anaemia prevalence is 54.2 percent.<sup>17</sup>

### POLICIES, CAPACITIES AND ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS

#### Policies, Capacities and Actions of the Government

15. Government policies are reflected in the National Poverty Reduction Strategy (2012–2015), the Inter-Sectoral Action Plan on Nutrition (2011–2015) and the National Protocol for Management of Acute Malnutrition (December 2011). WFP is the custodian and fund manager of the Climate Change Adaptation Fund, which supports the Environment Policy Statement on Sustainable Development (March 2011) and the National Environment Action Plan (2012–2016). WFP supports Mauritania in its commitment to the Scaling Up Nutrition movement and the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger partnership, and through its participation in the multi-country Cost of Hunger Study. The Government's *Emel* initiative mitigates shocks through sale of subsidized food and targeted free food distribution.

#### Policies, Capacities and Actions of Other Major Actors

16. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNICEF and WFP collaborate in Assaba and Guidimakha regions to implement a harmonized post-crisis and resilience response funded by EuropeAid. ACF, the French Red Cross and the *Groupe de recherches et d'échanges technologiques* (GRET, Research and Technology Exchange Group) implement a similar coordinated response in Gorgol and Brakna regions. ACF, Oxfam, Save the Children and World Vision International are among the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) implementing rural development, nutrition and cash activities.

#### Coordination

17. WFP participates in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and humanitarian needs overview process. WFP co-leads the Food Security Working Group with FAO and participates in the nutrition technical group led by UNICEF. WFP, UNICEF and the Ministry of Health together map geographic coverage of nutrition rehabilitation centres for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (CRENAMs) and severe acute malnutrition (CRENIs). The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development co-leads the Steering Committee of the National Social Protection Strategy, which supervises the national database of vulnerable households, <sup>23</sup> food security activities (with CSA) and cash activities with the Ministry.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> WFP is the lead technical reference for targeting.



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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Assaba, Brakna, Gorgol, Guidamakha, Tagant and Hodh el Gharbi regions; SMART survey series, 2008–2013.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> SMART July 2013.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF WFP ASSISTANCE**

18. Protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200640 provides for the immediate food and nutrition needs of vulnerable households, provides safety nets to protect livelihoods and develops the long-term capacity of households, communities and national systems to increase resilience to shocks. PRRO 200474 currently provides support for one year; PRRO 200640 will extend support to two and a half years to stabilize vulnerable households by enhancing production and improving integration in the economy. <sup>24</sup> Capacity development and WFP gender policy guidance cut across all levels. PRRO 200640 contributes to WFP Strategic Objectives 1, 3 and 4. <sup>25</sup>

#### WFP RESPONSE STRATEGY

- 19. PRRO 200640 integrates assistance activities in geographic and programme areas. The strategy incorporates three axes: synergy of WFP operations, including: i) school feeding through country programme 200251; ii) refugees through emergency operation 200438; iii) environment through the Climate Change Adaptation Fund; and iv) rural development and nutrition safety nets and resilience through this PRRO; integration with partners through community-based planning and monitoring; and integration with broader government systems that support social protection. Overlap of activities will be avoided and a targeted response for Nouakchott will be scaled up.
- 20. The strategy is aligned with internal and external evaluation recommendations for better-integrated nutrition programmes, targeted seasonal food support, food assistance for assets (FFA) activities to discourage negative coping mechanisms, and scaled-up cash transfers. Safety nets and early recovery activities will be integrated to support vulnerable households for eight months of the year, and resilience will be built through asset-creation and skills development.
- 21. A food deficit is expected in 2014; food security and nutrition will be monitored and PRRO 200640 adjusted accordingly. PRRO 200640 is aligned with the UNDAF and WFP country programme (CP) cycles, which close in 2016. Nutrition and rural development activities formerly addressed through the CP have already been shifted to PRRO 200474. The CP will maintain school feeding activities only, harmonizing them with this PRRO (200640). WFP will continue to work jointly with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development, United Nations agencies and NGO partners on climate change, rural resilience and the government-led nutrition action plan.
- ⇒ Enhancing assets/skills and emergency preparedness
- 22. General food distribution and unconditional cash will be provided during the peak lean season (July–September). When possible, communication activities will support communities in better exploiting assets created composting, improved agricultural techniques and environmental resource management or in addressing maternal and child feeding practices, education and hygiene.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> WFP Strategic Plan (2014–2017). Strategic Objective 1 — Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies; Strategic Objective 3 — Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs; and Strategic Objective 4 — Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger.



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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Duration of support is 12 months for CRENAM, 6 months for blanket supplementary feeding (BSF) and 8 months for food security activities (FFA and general food distribution (GFD)).

23. Cash and food-transfer activities will target severely food-insecure households.<sup>26</sup> Activities will help rural communities secure food stocks and assets, and – taking into account the season, the livelihood zone and the environment – will support water harvesting, rehabilitation of depleted fields, pastureland and dunes, use of irrigation for nutritious crops,<sup>27</sup> building of fire-breaks and planting of trees.

- 24. WFP will work with communities to encourage women's participation in all decision-making committees and targeted activities. FFA activities will take into account context, partner capacity, reduction of work-related hardship for women, and the need to support skills that enhance the value and long-term impact of assets.
- 25. In urban areas, WFP collaborates with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development, communities, *Service de coopération et d'action culturelle* (SCAC, French cooperation), GRET and the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ, German Agency for International Cooperation). FFA will be determined with partners and communities, focused on income-generating activities and linked to sanitation, water, or floodrisk reduction where feasible.
- 26. Village food reserves (VFRs) provide safety nets for moderately food-insecure communities in remote rural areas. VFRs can encourage increased production by making local purchases; awareness-raising encourages people to sell a small part of the harvest, with priority given to those who most need the income. VFRs are beneficial for agro, agropastoral and pastoral livelihood groups alike.
- 27. In the light of recent World Bank findings on VFRs and the Government's *Emel* system, <sup>28</sup> and in collaboration with NGOs and FAO, the PRRO will support VFRs, providing training and follow-up on management and supply. Linkages to local production will help ensure VFRs become long-term, resilience-building assets; opportunities to create VFRs of crops other than cereals will be explored. Stakeholders will collaborate to determine optimal locations for VFRs and government *Emel* shops to ensure geographic coverage and avoid overlap.
- ⇒ Treating and preventing acute malnutrition
- 28. Targeted supplementary feeding (TSF) provides year-round treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in children aged 6–59 months and malnourished pregnant and lactating women (PLW) through community-run CRENAMs. WFP supports routine screening and referral activities and, with the Ministry of Health, CSA, NGOs and UNICEF, conducts twice-yearly large-scale screening of malnourished children and mothers using mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) criteria, and referral to nutrition centres.
- 29. WFP will continue providing take-home family rations to trained volunteers who give nutritional support to beneficiaries at CRENAM sites and raise awareness of best nutrition practices. As part of enhanced collaboration with UNICEF, WFP will introduce cash transfers for caregivers accompanying children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), with a view to reducing drop-out from in-patient CRENI sites. Cash transfers enable coverage of centres that lack cooking facilities, and simplify logistics.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Hourticq, J. & Abdawa, L. 2013. *Note d'évaluation des filets de sécurité alimentaires du programme Emel.* (Evaluation report of the *Emel* food safety net programme). World Bank. Washington, DC. (October)



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> According to five years of FSMS data and the July 2013 survey, 190,000 people are consistently severely food-insecure and 200,000 become severely food-insecure during the lean season.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Selected in collaboration with FAO.

30. BSF mitigates acute malnutrition in areas where it is above the "emergency" threshold or above the "serious" threshold with the added risk of high levels of food insecurity. BSF will target children aged 6–23 months and PLW from April through the peak of the lean season in September.

31. WFP will continue working with the Government and partners through the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition initiative (REACH) and other platforms to reduce stunting and anaemia.

#### **Hand-Over Strategy**

- 32. Preparations for hand-over focus on reinforcing capacity at the central level with the Government and at the community level. WFP will collaborate with partners on community-based planning and development, training local committees to manage and maintain assets, and contribute to and improve existing early warning systems. <sup>29</sup> WFP and the World Bank together will help the Government build a national database of vulnerable households, with a view to enabling hand-over of safety nets for some people. WFP will also build government capacity to prepare for and respond to crises.
- 33. The Government plans to provide safety nets probably cash transfers to the most vulnerable people by 2015 or 2016. WFP's strategy will adapt in line with changes in the social protection system, with a view to strengthening resilience.
- 34. In the short to medium term hand-over can be envisaged for the 30 percent of VFRs that restock using self-generated funds. WFP will work with partners to provide training and increase the numbers of self-sustaining VFRs managed by local authorities and communities.

#### BENEFICIARIES AND TARGETING

- 35. PRRO 200640 targets the southern rainfed agricultural and agropastoral zones, where most food-insecure people, including most malnourished children, live. It also assists vulnerable urban households in flood-prone areas of Nouakchott that rely on unstable, shock-prone sources of income. VFRs and assets created in rural areas could potentially benefit nomadic pastoralists. Communities hosting Malian refugees in Hodh el Chargui region will benefit under PRRO 200640; two food assistance for work (FFW) distributions have been provided under PRRO 200474.
- 36. Geographical targeting prioritizes regions where food insecurity and acute malnutrition have been consistently high for five years:<sup>30</sup> Assaba, Brakna, Hodh el Gharbi, Gorgol, Guidmaka, Hodh el Chargui<sup>31</sup> and Tagant. Markets, price trends, food availability and beneficiary preferences are also considered in deciding which areas receive food and which

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> UNICEF will continue conducting BSF in Hodh el Chargui region, so WFP has not included BSF for children aged 6–23 months in that region in PRRO 200640.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> During the post-harvest and lean seasons, CSA collects data on food security indicators with support from WFP. The Ministry of Health leads the twice-yearly national SMART nutrition surveys. CSA, WFP, FEWS NET and ACF participate in the market information system, collecting data on price trends and food availability. Data collected contribute to the CSA-led early warning system.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Characteristics of priority areas: i) food insecurity consistently affects 30 percent of the population during the lean season, with GAM exceeding the 15 percent emergency threshold; ii) 20 to 30 percent of the population is affected by food insecurity and GAM is above the emergency threshold; and/or iii) GAM is above the 10 percent serious threshold, with the aggravating risk of food insecurity affecting 30 percent of the population.

10 WFP/EB.A/2014/9-C/2<sup>\*</sup>

receive cash. Criteria for Nouakchott will include prevalence rates and absolute numbers of people facing extreme vulnerability.<sup>32</sup>

- 37. Household targeting will be performed with partners and village committees. The household economy approach will be used in rural areas for targeting poor and very poor households. The WFP–CSA 2012 database identified 12,000 vulnerable households using a food and non-food composite index. This methodology is now being adapted for rural areas in collaboration with the Government and the World Bank. Vulnerability of poor households headed by women is given particular attention in targeting.<sup>33</sup>
- 38. Beneficiary number estimates are based on analysis of five-year trends and consider the average numbers of people consistently facing severe food insecurity during the post-harvest season chronic severe food insecurity and the average numbers consistently falling into severe food insecurity during the lean season recurrent transitory severe food insecurity. VFRs concern mainly moderately food-insecure people; numbers are based on five-year trends.
- 39. BSF will be provided to children aged 6–23 months and PLW in targeted communities. TSF will be provided to children aged 6–59 months and malnourished PLW admitted for treatment in accordance with the National Protocol for the Treatment of Acute Malnutrition. Children exiting therapeutic feeding will be referred to CRENAMs.
- 40. The response will be adjusted in line with results of food security and nutrition monitoring; analysis of rainfall, agricultural production and prices; and in response to shocks or crises. The geographical coverage of nutrition activities can be expanded in a large-scale crisis.
- 41. Activities follow the seasonal calendar of a normal or non-crisis year, which includes a lean season (see Figure 1).<sup>34</sup> The PRRO takes into account projected food deficits in 2014; interventions will be adjusted in line with seasonal livelihoods planning.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Further regional details will be added to this calendar through seasonal livelihoods planning in March–June 2014.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Based on the EPCV 2008 and 2009–2013 FSMS series.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Post-distribution monitoring conducted in December 2012 found that 71 percent of vulnerable households in Nouakchott and 69 percent of rural households receiving cash transfers are headed by women; 79 percent of the PRRO beneficiaries live in households headed by women.

TABLE 1: BENEFICIARIES BY ACTIVITY					
Activities	Boys/men	Girls/women	Total		
FFA – cash	56 856	59 177	116 033		
FFA – food	35 610	37 063	72 673		
Unconditional cash (lean season)	54 728	56 961	111 689		
GFD – food (lean season)	43 529	45 306	88 835		
VFRs	71 442	74 358	145 800		
TSF children 6–59 months	61 964	64 494	126 458		
TSF PLW	-	18 387	18 387		
CRENAM helpers	160	1 440	1 600		
CRENI caregivers	-	2 398	2 398		
BSF children 6–23 months	103 041	107 246	210 287		
BSF PLW	-	142 695	142 695		
Total, including overlap	427 330	610 065	1 037 395		
Total without overlap	308 423	296 328	604 752*		

<sup>\*</sup> Overlap between all food (nutrition and VFR) and cash activities is 35 percent.

42. Because of the high levels of food insecurity, and to build resilience, some beneficiaries receive more than one form of support. There is no overlap between beneficiaries assisted through FFA – cash and FFA – food because the activities are implemented in different geographical areas. Severely food-insecure households are supported for eight-months per year – with conditional food and cash assistance for five months and unconditional assistance during the three-month peak lean season. With the increase in severe food insecurity during the peak period, the number of beneficiaries receiving unconditional cash and GFD increases. Seventy percent of beneficiaries receiving nutrition support also receive GFD; 40 percent of beneficiaries using VFRs are also beneficiaries of FFA or GFD.

PRRO 200640 ANNUAL MAPPING OF WFP ACTIVITIES BASED ON THE NATURAL SEASON RYTHMS Main harvests Rural works Rainfed crops Cattle return Cattle migration Lean season beginning (normal year) Lean season peak Cold dry season Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb May Villages Food Reserves (VFRs) Post-harvest management support/traning Supplying for the lean season Farmland Rehabilitaiton - Defence and Soil restoration - Anti-erosion measures - Reforestation Unconditional food or cash distribution Blanket feeding

Figure 1: Seasonal calendar



## NUTRITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS AND RATIONS/VALUE OF CASH TRANSFERS

43. WFP provides half rations from February to September as a targeted safety net.<sup>35</sup> The cash transfer value matches the daily value of the in-kind food basket. The cash transfer value is established with the Government and other partners on the basis of food price trends;<sup>36</sup> it is set below the average daily wage to minimize negative impact and is adjusted if market prices change significantly.

- 44. Food rations address micronutrient deficiencies, providing Vitamin A-enriched vegetable oil, iodized salt, special fortified blended foods and ready-to-use supplementary foods. Cash transfers will be accompanied by awareness-raising to orient purchasing and optimize food preparation.
- 45. Rations for VFR activities include 75 percent of the cereals needed for a household of six. Each VFR stocks cereals for 50 households for three months. The cash ration for caregivers is for food for 12 days, which is the average duration of in-patient treatment.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> 2,000 Mauritanian Ouguiya (USD 6.7) for 12 days, distributed monthly.



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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> In crisis years, additional households will receive the full GFD ration or cash transfer of 24,000 Mauritanian Ouguiya (USD 80).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> The average local cost of the WFP food basket was established through a 12-month analysis of commodity prices across all regions. Based on a six-person household, the cost has been set at 12,000 Mauritanian Ouguiya (USD 40) year-round.

TABLE 2: FOOD RATION/TRANSFER BY ACTIVITY (g/person/day)									
	TSF - PLW	TSF – children	CRENAM helpers	BSF-PLW	BSF – children	CRENI – caregivers	VFRs	FFA / GFD – food	FFA / GFD – cash
Cereals	-	-	1 000	-	-	-	400	250	-
Pulses	-	-	250	-	-	-	-	20	-
Oil	25	-	150	20	-	-	-	10	-
Salt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.5	-
SuperCereal	250	-	-	200	-	-	-	-	-
Plumpy'Sup	-	92	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plumpy'Doz	-	1	-	1	47	-	-	-	-
Cash (USD/person/day)	-	1	-		1	0.56	-	-	0.22
TOTAL (g/person/day)	275	92	1 400	220	47	-	400	282.5	0.22
Total kcal/day	1 175	500	1 093	940	247	-	1 320	981	-
% kcal from protein	13.2	10.2	12.7	13.2	10.2	-	14.9	14.2	-
% kcal from fat	34.9	54.9	27.7	34.9	54.9	-	4.1	12.8	-
Number of feeding days/year	270	60	240	180	180	12	90	240	240

	TABLE 3a: FOOD REQUIREMENTS BY ACTIVITY TYPE (mt)								
	TSF – PLW	TSF – children	FFA – CRENAM helpers	BSF-PLW	BSF – children	VFRs	FFA	GFD	TOTAL
Cereals	-	-	960	-	-	10 498	6 541	12 091	30 090
Pulses	-	-	240	-	-	-	523	967	1 730
Oil	116	-	144	428	-	-	262	484	1 434
Salt	-	-	-	-	-	-	65	121	186
SuperCereal	1 162	-	-	4 281	-	-	-	-	5 443
Plumpy'Sup	-	698	-	-	-	-	-	-	698
Plumpy'Doz	-	-	-	-	1 158	-	-	-	1 158
TOTAL (mt)	1 278	698	1 344	4 709	1 158	10 498	7 391	13 663	40 739

TABLE 3b: CASH REQUIREMENTS BY ACTIVITY TYPE (USD)					
CRENI caregivers	FFA – cash	GFD – cash	Total		
48 432	9 273 357	15 166 219	24 488 008		



#### **IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

46. NGO partners will conduct beneficiary targeting, registration, awareness-raising and other technical aspects with local authorities. Microfinance institutions (MFIs) or NGOs will deliver cash assistance.<sup>38</sup> VFRs are run by local management committees, CSA and NGOs.

- 47. WFP will organize workshops to identify priority assets and skills, based on regional and community development plans and direct discussions with stakeholders and beneficiaries using seasonal livelihoods planning. The Government will provide technical supervision and quality control of rural development activities. Partners technical expertise will be developed to ensure the quality and durability of assets.
- 48. WFP will explore working with NGOs to complement Ministry of Health capacity for implementing BSF, freeing the Ministry to focus on supervision.
- 49. TSF activities are implemented through NGOs in collaboration with the Government and UNICEF. Entry and exit criteria and duration of treatment are aligned with the national nutrition protocol. Community volunteers are trained by cooperating partners, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and the Family, with technical support from UNICEF and WFP.
- 50. NGO partnerships use standard WFP field-level agreements; PRRO 200640 will also use broader field-level agreements (FLAs) covering all activities in a geographic area.

#### **Participation**

- 51. WFP will work with partners to integrate community-based participatory planning and seasonality and livelihoods analysis and targeting. These approaches help ensure activities build on long-term, context-specific resilience strategies developed with communities.
- 52. At the regional and commune levels, sites and activities are selected with stakeholders. At the village level, partners work with communities to create or strengthen local management committees representing all population groups. These committees share WFP and partner messages with their communities, including encouraging the active participation of women and good management of environmental resources. A beneficiary complaints management system, including a hotline, will be organized with partners in both urban and rural areas.<sup>39</sup>

#### **Procurement**

53. Wheat represents 75 percent of planned food quantities for PRRO 200640, 70 percent of which is expected to be purchased internationally and the rest through local importers that offer internationally competitive prices. Regional procurement through WFP's Forward Purchase Facility will consist mostly of pulses. An assessment will be conducted to determine whether to expand the purchase of locally produced food

#### Logistics

54. Internationally procured food will arrive through ports in Nouakchott and Dakar. Warehouses are in ten locations with a storage capacity of 30,300 mt; five mobile storage units are available as needed. The rainy season could present challenges for food deliveries in Hodh el Gharbi and Hodh el Chargui regions and they may require pre-positioning of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> A complaints management system for cash transfers was piloted in 2013.



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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> MFIs are currently used for cash transfers in urban areas only, but will be piloted in rural areas during PRRO 200640.

stocks. WFP manages the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) under a special operation that includes a contingency for light cargo airlifts.

#### **Transfer Modalities**

55. Since 2011 WFP has significantly scaled up cash transfers in Mauritania. Markets are well supplied and most food items are available even during the lean season. 40 Cash distribution is appropriate and can be faster and more cost-efficient than food in rural areas. Monitoring has confirmed beneficiary preference for cash. Scale-up of cash transfers by WFP supports government plans to move towards a cash-based social safety net for vulnerable households. Risks associated with cash transfers will be reduced through agreements with stakeholders on security arrangements, transparency during transfers and oversight committees at each site.

#### PERFORMANCE MONITORING

56. Data for monitoring will be available from cooperating partner corporate reports. WFP will carry out regular on-site food distribution monitoring and will maintain contact with beneficiaries through its sub-offices and different missions in the field. Outcome indicators will be monitored through quarterly post-distribution monitoring, FSMS, SMART and end-line surveys in collaboration with partners. Staff and partner capacities will be enhanced through monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and results-based management training.

#### RISK MANAGEMENT

- 57. *Programmatic risks*. Sub-office and M&E systems will be enhanced to provide more effective assistance. WFP is strengthening collaboration with partners to mitigate the risk of creating low-quality assets, enhancing capacities of staff and partners, and providing equipment and financial resources. Community leaders, women and young people will be engaged through local committees and awareness-raising activities.
- 58. *Contextual risks*. Achieving real impact in highly degraded environments may require specialized labour and large-scale works in conjunction with FFA activities. Dependence on imports and a highly concentrated import market create risks that prices could increase.
- 59. *Institutional risks*. Funding challenges and stakeholder misunderstanding of WFP priorities pose important risks. WFP has been working with partners to shift towards longer-term, integrated interventions that build the resilience of chronically vulnerable communities. WFP will encourage donors to provide long-term, continuous support. Country office capacity and regular communication with donors will be enhanced.

#### Security Risk Management

- 60. Security is fragile in the Sahel region, particularly since the 2013 military intervention in Mali. If the situation deteriorates, humanitarian access may be reduced and stronger security measures may be required.
- 61. WFP complies with United Nations minimum operating security and telecommunications standards and is increasing staff to implement security mitigation measures. UNHAS provides security and medical evacuations and stand-by emergency support to the humanitarian community in Mauritania. WFP collaborates with the United Nations country team through the United Nations Department of Safety and Security, the Information and Communications Technology Working Group and the Security Management Team.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Confirmed through WFP monitoring and market analysis.



#### **ANNEX I-A**

PROJECT COST BREAKDOWN					
	Quantity (mt)	Value (USD)	Value (USD)		
Food					
Cereals	30 089	9 985 112	1		
Pulses	1 730	1 072 748	1		
Oil and fats	1 434	1 920 126	1		
Mixed and blended food	7 300	8 593 974	]		
Others	186	31 497	7		
Total food	40 739	21 603 457	7		
External transport		5 088 032			
Landside transport, storage and handling		10 434 823			
Other direct operational costs		3 279 858			
Food and related costs <sup>1</sup>		40 406 170	40 406 170		
Cash and vouchers		24 488 008			
Related costs		2 499 270			
Cash and vouchers and related costs		26 987 278	26 987 278		
Capacity development and augmentation	1 005 486				
Direct operational costs	68 398 934				
Direct support costs <sup>2</sup> (see Annex I-B)	8 804 898				
Total direct project costs	77 203 832				
Indirect support costs (7.0 percent) <sup>3</sup>	5 404 268				
TOTAL WFP COSTS			82 608 100		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The indirect support cost rate may be amended by the Board during the project.



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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This is a notional food basket for budgeting and approval. The contents may vary.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Indicative figure for information purposes. The direct support cost allotment is reviewed annually.

#### **ANNEX I-B**

DIRECT SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS (USD)				
WFP staff and staff-related				
Professional staff	3 102 588			
General service staff	1 137 850			
Subtotal	4 240 438			
Recurring and other	881 250			
Capital equipment	257 000			
Security	812 000			
Travel and transportation	1 391 610			
Assessments, evaluations and monitoring <sup>1</sup>	1 222 600			
TOTAL DIRECT SUPPORT COSTS	8 804 898			

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Reflects estimated costs when these activities are carried out by third parties. If the activities are carried out by country office staff, the costs are included in the staff and staff-related and travel and transportation categories.



ANNEX II: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK				
Results	Performance indicators			
Cross-cutting results and indicators				
Gender Gender equality and empowerment improved	<ul> <li>Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees         Target: &gt;50% by December 2016)     </li> <li>Proportion of assisted women, men or both women and men who make decisions about the use of cash and/or food within the household         Target: 50%     </li> <li>Proportion of women project management committee members trained in modalities of food/cash distribution         Target: &gt;60%     </li> </ul>			
Protection and accountability to affected populations WFP assistance delivered and utilized in safe, accountable and dignified conditions	<ul> <li>Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and/or at WFP programme sites</li> <li>Target: &gt;90% by December 2016</li> <li>Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme</li> <li>Target: 70%</li> </ul>			
Partnership Food assistance interventions coordinated and partnerships developed and maintained	<ul> <li>Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services</li> <li>Target: &gt;3 by December 2016</li> <li>Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners</li> <li>Target: 100%</li> <li>Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, civil society, private sector organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks)</li> <li>Target: to be determined</li> </ul>			



ANNEX II: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK					
Results Performance indicators					
Strategic Objective 1: Save lives and protect liv	velihoods in emergencies				
Results	Performance indicators	Assumptions			
Outcome 1.1 Reduced undernutrition among children aged 6–59 months and PLW Linked outputs: A and K [See Outputs table below]	<ul> <li>➢ Proportion of eligible population who participate in programme (coverage)</li> <li>Baseline: TBD before June 2014</li> <li>Target: &gt;90 (December 2016)</li> <li>➢ Proportion of target population who participate in an adequate number of distributions</li> <li>Baseline: TBD before June 2014</li> <li>Target: &gt;90 (December 2016)</li> <li>➢ MAM treatment performance         <ul> <li>Recovery rate</li> <li>Baseline: TBD before June 2014</li> <li>Target: &gt;75%</li> <li>Mortality rate</li> <li>Baseline: TBD before June 2014</li> <li>Target: &lt;3%</li> <li>Non-response rate</li> <li>Baseline: TBD before June 2014</li> <li>Target: &lt;10%</li> <li>Default rate</li> <li>Baseline: 4.9%</li> <li>Target: &lt;15%</li> </ul> </li> <li>Linked output indicators: A.1, A.2, A.6, K.2 and K.3</li> <li>[See Outputs table below]</li> </ul>	The programme is funded and experiences no pipeline breaks.  No crisis occurs during programme implementation.			



ANNEX II: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK						
Results	Performance indicators					
Strategic Objective 3: Reduce risk and enable peop	ole, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition need	s				
Outcome 3.1 Improved access to livelihood assets has contributed to enhanced resilience and reduced risks from disaster and shocks faced by targeted food-insecure communities and households  Linked output: A	➤ Community asset score (CAS)  Baseline: TBD  Target: 90% of targeted communities have CAS above baseline by 12/2016  ➤ Coping strategy index (CSI), disaggregated by sex of household head  Baseline: TBD  Target: CSI of 100% of targeted households is reduced or stabilized by 12/2016  ➤ Diet diversity score (DDS), disaggregated by sex of household head  Baseline: TBD  Target: increased DDS of targeted households by 80%  ➤ Food consumption score, disaggregated by sex of household head  Baseline: TBD  Target: reduced prevalence of poor food consumption of targeted households/individuals by 80%  Linked output indicators: A.1, A.2, A.4 and A.6	Communities agree to work together to improve food security.  Programme is sufficiently funded to avoid food shortages.				
Outcome 3.3 Risk reduction capacity (RRC) of people, communities and countries strengthened Linked outputs: A and G	<ul> <li>Number of WFP-supported national food security and other policies, plans, and mechanisms that improve disaster risk management and climate change adaptation</li> <li>Target: 5</li> <li>Linked output indicators: A.1, A.4, A.6 and G.1</li> </ul>	Political stability means it is possible to work with the Government and partners.				



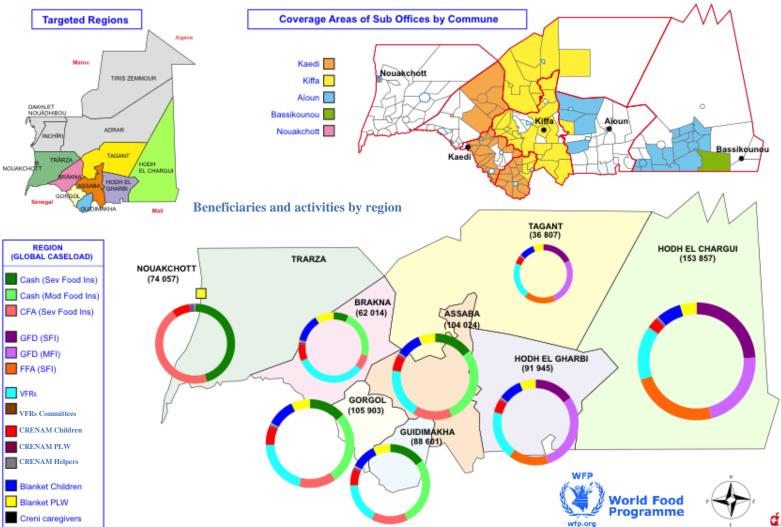
ANNEX II: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK				
Results	Performance indicators			
Strategic Objective 4: Reduce undernutrition and	I break the intergenerational cycle of hunger			
Outcome 4.1 Reduced undernutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies among children aged 6–59 months, pregnant and lactating women, and school-aged children  Linked outputs: A and K	<ul> <li>➤ MAM treatment performance         <ul> <li>Recovery rate</li> <li>Baseline: TBD before June 2014</li> <li>Target: &gt;75%</li> <li>Mortality rate</li> <li>Baseline: TBD before June 2014</li> <li>Target: &lt;3%</li> <li>Non-response rate</li> <li>Baseline: TBD before June 2014</li> <li>Target: &lt;10%</li> <li>Default rate</li> <li>Baseline: TBD</li> <li>Target: &lt;15%</li> <li>➤ Proportion of eligible population who participate in programme (coverage)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Target: &gt;80 (December 2016)</li> <li>➤ Proportion of target population who participate in an adequate number of distributions</li> <li>Target: &gt;80 (December 2016)</li> <li>➤ Prevalence of acute malnutrition among children under 5 (weight-for-height as percentage)</li> <li>Target: &lt;10 (July 2016)</li> <li>Linked output indicators: A.1, A.2, A.6, K.2 and K.3</li> </ul>	Programme is sufficiently funded to avoid food shortages.		



ANNEX II: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK					
Results	Performance indicators				
Outputs	Indicators				
Output A  Food, nutritional products, cash transfers and vouchers distributed in sufficient quantity and quality and in a timely manner to targeted beneficiaries	A.1 Number of women, men, boys and girls receiving food assistance, disaggregated by activity, beneficiary category, sex, food, non-food items, cash transfers and vouchers, as % of planned A.2 Quantity of food assistance distributed, disaggregated by type, as % of planned A.4 Total amount of cash transferred to targeted beneficiaries, disaggregated by sex and beneficiary category, as % of planned A.6 Number of institutional sites assisted (e.g. schools, health centres), as % of planned				
Output G Human capacity to reduce risk of disasters and shocks developed	G.1 Number of people trained, disaggregated by sex and type of training				
Output K  Messaging and counselling on specialized nutritious foods and infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices implemented effectively	K.2 Proportion of women/men receiving nutrition counselling supported by WFP, against proportion planned K.3 Proportion of targeted caregivers (male and female) receiving 3 key messages delivered through WFP-supported messaging and counselling				



#### PRRO 200640 INTERVENTIONS





The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Food Programme (WFP) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its frontiers or boundaries.

#### ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

ACF Action contre la Faim (Action Against Hunger)

BSF blanket supplementary feeding

CAS community asset score
CP country programme

CRENAM Centre de récupération nutritionnelle ambulatoire pour la prise en charge des

personnes atteintes de malnutrition aiguë modérée (nutritional rehabilitation

centre for moderate acute malnutrition)

CRENI Centre de réhabilitation et de l'éducation nutritionnelle intensif

CSA Commissariat à la sécurité alimentaire

EPCV Enquéte permanente sur les conditions de vie

(continuous household living conditions survey)

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FEWS NET Famine Early Warning Systems Network

FFA food assistance for assets

FSMS food security monitoring survey

GAM global acute malnutrition
GFD general food distribution

GRET Groupe de recherche et d'échanges technologiques

(Research and Technology Exchange Group)

MAM moderate acute malnutrition

M&E monitoring and evaluation

MFI microfinance institution

NGO non-governmental organization PLW pregnant and lactating women

PRRO protracted relief and recovery operation

RRC risk reduction capacity
SAM severe acute malnutrition

SMART Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions

TSF targeted supplementary feeding

UNDAF United Nations Development Assistance Framework

UNHAS United Nations Humanitarian Air Service

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

VFR village food reserve

WHO World Health Organization

