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**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

**Rome, 14–17 November 2011**

## **COUNTRY PROGRAMMES**

**Agenda item 8**

*For approval on a  
no-objection basis*

**E**

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## **COUNTRY PROGRAMME MAURITANIA 200251 (2012–2016)**

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## NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

**This document is submitted to the Executive Board for approval on a no-objection basis**

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.

Regional Director, ODD\*:            Mr T. Yanga                    tel.: 066513-2792

Liaison Officer, ODD:                Ms N. Hegazy                   tel.: 066513-3189

Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact Ms I. Carpitella, Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

\* Regional Bureau Dakar (West Africa)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mauritania country programme 200251 supports government efforts to address food insecurity and malnutrition through the promotion of sustainable hunger solutions. It will focus on food-based social safety nets in the areas of nutrition, education and livelihood support while creating partnerships to advance the Government's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

WFP's country strategy for Mauritania (2011–2016) identifies three priorities developed in consultation with the Government, United Nations agencies and other partners: i) improving coordination and consultation; ii) reducing risk and creating national capacity to prepare for crises; and iii) investing in human capital development through social protection.

The country programme will address these priorities in its three components:

- i) reduce the prevalence of underweight among children and acute malnutrition in vulnerable areas through targeted supplementary feeding and awareness activities (WFP Strategic Objective 4);<sup>1</sup>
- ii) improve access to primary education in vulnerable areas through school feeding (Strategic Objective 4); and
- iii) reduce risks and build resilience among vulnerable groups affected by recurrent climate shocks (Strategic Objective 2)<sup>2</sup>

Capacity development will be carried out in relation to all three components, leading to increased government responsibility for activities (Strategic Objective 5).<sup>3</sup>

Work will be carried out in the regions identified by the food security monitoring system as most food-insecure; groups with the greatest nutritional needs will be targeted, including children under 5, pregnant and lactating women, children enrolled in primary school and food-insecure households, particularly agro-pastoralists. The country programme will assist 497,000 people over a five-year period.

WFP will establish partnerships at the community level to ensure coherence with activities implemented by development partners.

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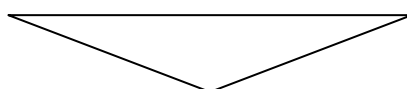
<sup>1</sup> Reduce chronic hunger and undernutrition.

<sup>2</sup> Prevent acute hunger and invest in disaster preparedness and mitigation measures.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the capacities of countries to reduce hunger, including through hand-over strategies and local purchase.

The country programme is in line with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework – specifically the outcomes “Food security of vulnerable populations is ensured” and “Economic and social living conditions of poor and vulnerable groups are improved in an environment where access to natural resources and their sustainable management are improved” – and contributes to Millennium Development Goals 1–5 and 7.<sup>4</sup>

## DRAFT DECISION\*



The Board approves on a no-objection basis country programme Mauritania 200251 (2012–2016) (WFP/EB.2/2011/8/7), for which the food requirement is 58,482 mt at a cost of US\$39 million, with a total cost to WFP of US\$76.4 million.

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<sup>4</sup> Millennium Development Goals: 1 – Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; 2 – Achieve universal primary education; 3 – Promote gender equality and empower women; 4 – Reduce child mortality; 5 – Improve maternal health; and 7 – Ensure environmental sustainability.

\* 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.

## SITUATION ANALYSIS

### Overall Context

1. Mauritania is located at the western edge of the Sahara desert. Its population of 3 million is growing at 2.4 percent per year, with more than 50 percent living in urban areas.<sup>5</sup> It has a narrow production base and a very low level of industrialization; exports consist mainly of fish, iron ore and small quantities of petroleum.
2. Mauritania ranks 136<sup>th</sup> out of 169 countries on the 2010 human development index,<sup>6</sup> with 42 percent of the population living below the poverty line. The poorest people live in rural areas; 59 percent of the people in the agro-pastoral east and south live below the national poverty line.
3. Over 80 percent of Mauritania's land surface is desert, and only the extreme south supports rainfed vegetation. Recurrent drought and desertification are leading to the advancing of the Sahara desert at 6 km per year, and to crop failures, wind erosion, reduction of tree and grass vegetation, and depletion of the water table. Major droughts occurred in 1980, 1993, 1997, 2002 and 2005, setting back agricultural development. This extreme vulnerability to environmental factors was reflected in the 2010 Environmental Performance Index, which ranked Mauritania 161<sup>st</sup> out of 163.<sup>7</sup>

### Food Security and Livelihoods

4. The agro-pastoral east and south are Mauritania's most food-insecure areas, especially during the April–September lean season. WFP's 2009 food security assessment<sup>8</sup> estimated that 21 percent of the population was food-insecure (9 percent severely food insecure and 12 percent moderately food insecure).<sup>9</sup> The highest food insecurity was found in the southeastern regions: Hodh ech Chargui (48 percent), Assaba (28 percent), Gorgol (28 percent), Hodh el Gharbi (24 percent) and Tagant (17 percent).
5. A high level of transitory food insecurity was also recorded during the lean season: according to the food security monitoring system (FSMS), households with poor or borderline food consumption increased from 13 percent in February 2010 to 25 percent in May 2010.<sup>10</sup> Again, the highest percentages were reported in the vulnerable agro-pastoral regions of Hodh ech Chargui (from 16 percent in February to 51 percent in May), Tagant (from 5 to 54 percent), Hodh el Gharbi (from 41 to 46 percent), Assaba (from 18 to 31 percent) and Gorgol (from 17 to 22 percent).
6. The causes of transitory food insecurity are cyclical but are compounded by structural problems. The cyclical causes include extreme weather, post-harvest losses and infestation by locusts, and the structural problems include limited access to credit, insufficient irrigation infrastructure, scarcity of agricultural inputs and low agricultural productivity. Other factors contributing to food shortages include disease and poverty, the remoteness of

<sup>5</sup> In 1962, nomads made up 65 percent of the population, but today they constitute less than 5 percent.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations Development Programme. *Human Development Report 2010*. New York.

<sup>7</sup> Available at [epi.yale.edu](http://epi.yale.edu)

<sup>8</sup> WFP and the Food Security Commission. *Survey on Food Security in Mauritania*, July 2009. Nouakchott.

<sup>9</sup> Based on food consumption score.

<sup>10</sup> FSMS data collected in May and published in June 2010.

some villages, a lack of income-generating activities, environmental degradation and the poor state of rural infrastructure.

7. Poor subsistence farmers and small-scale pastoralists are most affected by food insecurity. Negative coping strategies<sup>11</sup> used by rural poor households are compounded by deteriorating natural resources, particularly lack of forage and water. Many rural poor people migrate to Nouakchott in search of income, especially during the lean season.
8. Because 75 percent of Mauritania's food is imported, international market trends are a major determinant of food security,<sup>12</sup> especially in urban areas.<sup>13</sup> As a result of low household food production, food-insecure households in Mauritania obtain much of their supplies from the market. Food accounts for 70 percent of household expenditure on average, and for 78 percent in Hodh ech Chargui, 77 percent in Gorgol and 75 percent in Tagant and Guidimakha. Rural markets are small, distant from supply sources and difficult to access in the rainy season. Poor households were particularly affected by high fuel and food prices in 2007 and 2008,<sup>14</sup> and are again affected by increased food prices in 2010 and 2011. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) expects the recent sharp rise in international food prices, notably wheat, maize, sugar and oils, to cause inflation in domestic food markets and to erode consumer purchasing power. Average wheat prices in Nouakchott increased by 40 percent between May and December 2010.<sup>15</sup>

## Health and Nutrition

9. Malnutrition remains a major public health problem in Mauritania. According to the latest Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) survey, 18 percent of children under 5 are chronically malnourished (stunted), 12.5 percent are acutely malnourished (wasted) and 27 percent are underweight (see Table 1). Diets poor in Vitamin A, iron, zinc and other essential micronutrients are common, with over 65 percent of caloric intake coming from cereals. The prevalence of anaemia in children under 5 is 85 percent and of pregnant women 67 percent – figures that are indicative of a micronutrient deficiency among school-age children.

	<b>Underweight</b>	<b>Chronic</b>	<b>Acute</b>
SMART June/July 2009	27.9	18.8	12.7
SMART June/July 2010	27.1	18.2	12.5
WHO classification	Serious	Acceptable	Serious

<sup>11</sup> These include reducing the quantity or quality of meals, reducing food diversity, obtaining assistance from relatives and purchasing food with credit.

<sup>12</sup> FAO. "Tight cereal markets as food prices increase again", March 2011. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/51913/icode/>

<sup>13</sup> WFP, Food Security Commission, Food Security Monitoring Study, March 2010.

<sup>14</sup> FAO Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS), April 2010.

<sup>15</sup> FAO, GIEWS Mauritania Country Brief, 1 February 2011 and GIEWS national basic food prices.

10. In the south and southeast, global acute malnutrition (GAM) is particularly high during the lean season, reaching 20 percent in Gorgoland and Guidimakha, 18 percent in Brakna, 14 percent in Tagant, 14 percent in Hodh ech Chargui and 11 percent in Hodh el Gharbi in 2010.<sup>16</sup> The main causes of malnutrition are: i) inadequate infant feeding practices; ii) inadequate care practices for infants, young children and pregnant and lactating women; iii) limited access to basic health services; and iv) lack of access for women to education and nutrition information. These factors are compounded by climate shocks and limited access to food during the lean season.<sup>17</sup>
11. While chronic malnutrition rates are relatively low, the prevalence of GAM is serious according to World Health Organization (WHO) criteria.<sup>18</sup> The coexistence of low chronic malnutrition with serious GAM is generally found only in emergencies, but in Mauritania wasting – acute malnutrition – is the main contributor to underweight.

## Education

12. Enrolment in primary school is nearly universal, but retention remains a problem. The gross enrolment ratio (GER) for basic education was 99 percent in 2009, with a gender parity ratio of 50.4 percent. The 2010 target GER of 98 percent was achieved in all regions except Gorgol (90 percent) and Hodh ech Chargui (87 percent).<sup>19</sup>
13. The percentage of boys completing basic education (42 percent) is higher than that for girls (34 percent).<sup>20</sup> A recent Ministry of Education report indicates that the retention rate is significantly higher in primary schools supported by school feeding (61 percent overall).<sup>19</sup>

## Government of Mauritania Priorities

14. The Government issued a Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper (PRSP) in 2000 with the objective of reducing the percentage of people living below the poverty line from 46 percent to 25 percent by 2015. The four priorities for the 2011–2015 phase of the PRSP are to: i) accelerate growth and maintain macroeconomic equilibrium; ii) reduce poverty; iii) develop human resources and expand basic services; and iv) improve good governance and strengthen government capacity.
15. The National Adaptation Programme of Action identifies climate change adaptation activities such as soil and water conservation, “no-go” zones and dune stabilization, with a focus on reducing risks and building the resilience of vulnerable groups affected by recurrent climate shocks.
16. In 2004, the Government launched a National Nutrition Development Plan, which seeks to: i) increase access to basic foods for the poorest people; ii) significantly reduce mortality and morbidity caused by malnutrition; and iii) promote healthy nutrition practices. In 2008, a national nutrition policy was adopted and the Government pledged support for programmes to fight malnutrition.

<sup>16</sup> United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) SMART survey, June 2010.

<sup>17</sup> UNICEF. 2008. *Malnutrition in the Sahel*. Available at: [http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/2009\\_2819.html](http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/2009_2819.html)

<sup>18</sup> Prevalence of wasting: <5% = acceptable; 5–9% = poor; 10–14% = serious; >15% = critical (WHO. 2000).

<sup>19</sup> Ministry of Education. Statistical Yearbook 2008/2009. May 2010.

<sup>20</sup> United Nations agencies in Mauritania. 2008. Report on Progress in Implementing the Millennium Development Goals in Mauritania. Nouakchott.

17. Since 2008 the Government has contributed over US\$5 million to WFP school feeding activities, with funds from the national budget and the World Bank Fast Track Initiative. Regional delegations from the Ministry of Education monitored school feeding programmes in addition to training school feeding management committees. The Government also provided food warehouses.

### United Nations Partnerships

18. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2009–2010 has been extended through 2011. The UNDAF (2012–2016) will include four areas of cooperation between the Government and the United Nations country team: i) fighting poverty and food insecurity; ii) access to basic social services; iii) environmental preservation and climate change adaptation; and iv) strengthening democratic institutions.
19. In 2009, WFP, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), WHO and FAO launched REACH, a global partnership among United Nations agencies, civil society and the public sector aimed at ending child malnutrition. Advocacy by REACH helped to establish the National Nutrition Council, which comprises several ministries and is chaired by the Prime Minister. The council’s role is to coordinate nutrition policy, provide strategic direction and mobilize resources to fight child malnutrition.

### PAST COOPERATION AND LESSONS LEARNED

20. Country programme (CP) 200251 is based on the recommendations of: i) a recent external evaluation of WFP’s Mauritania portfolio;<sup>21</sup> ii) a decentralized evaluation of protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 106050 “Support to population groups vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition and strengthening of response mechanisms”;<sup>22</sup> iii) WFP’s country strategy for Mauritania (2011–2016);<sup>23</sup> and iv) a CP formulation mission.<sup>24</sup>
21. Since 2007, acute moderately malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women have been supported in the most vulnerable areas through rehabilitation centres to treat moderate acute malnutrition (CRENAMs, *Centres de récupération nutritionnelle ambulatoire pour les personnes atteintes de malnutrition modérée*). CRENAMs are managed by local committees elected by community members and supervised by a non-governmental organization (NGO) partner. An external evaluation<sup>22</sup> found significant evidence of improved nutrition in targeted children and pregnant and lactating women, with a cure rate exceeding the planned 70 percent in two of three CRENAMs. The evaluation recommended that WFP provide additional technical assistance at the start of the lean season to assist in managing acute malnutrition, and that WFP enhance skills and ownership among CRENAM staff.
22. WFP implements school feeding in 1,760 schools, reaching more than 180,000 students per year; its main partner is the Ministry of Education. The evaluation reported that 95 percent of teachers in assisted schools stated that daily meals improved students’ concentration and reduced absences and late arrivals, and it estimated that regular

<sup>21</sup> Evaluation of WFP activities in Mauritania, November 2010.

<sup>22</sup> Decentralized evaluation of protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) Mauritania 106050, February 2010. Nouakchott.

<sup>23</sup> Country strategy Mauritania 2011–2016.

<sup>24</sup> Report of WFP formulation mission in Mauritania, October 2010.



attendance would be 30 to 50 percent lower without school feeding. The CP formulation mission recommended integrating food for assets (FFA) and school feeding by using FFA activities to improve school facilities.

23. Since 2005, WFP and the *Commissariat à la sécurité alimentaire* (CSA, Food Security Commission) have established 3,500 village food reserves (VFRs) nationwide. VFRs sell cereals at reasonable prices during the lean season and use the money from sales to replenish the reserves following the harvest. The 2010 portfolio evaluation found the impact of the VFRs to vary because replenishment was inconsistent and accountability limited because VFRs have no legal status.
24. Food-for-assets activities began in the late 1980s and continue to be an effective way to improve rural communities' capacity to resist shocks. Rural development activities, environmental protection and rehabilitation programmes, and activities supporting women's cooperatives have built skills and assets to prevent desertification and prepare for natural disasters. However, these activities require supervision and technical support as well as manual labour. The evaluation of PRRO 106050 observed that when such support was lacking, the sustainability of activities was impaired.
25. WFP's partnership with CSA has facilitated VFRs and FFA activities. WFP has supported CSA in conducting surveys that inform the targeting of beneficiaries.

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## STRATEGIC FOCUS OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

26. WFP's strategy in Mauritania for the next five years is to promote sustainable activities to reduce hunger through partnerships in support of the Government's priorities. This requires multi-sector investments in a range of food-based activities that can eventually be owned by the Government, civil society or communities.
27. WFP's goal is to support the Government's efforts to reduce hunger while addressing the immediate food needs of the most vulnerable people: children under 5, pregnant and lactating women, children enrolled in primary schools in vulnerable areas and food-insecure households, particularly agro-pastoralists.
28. The CP provides food-based safety nets to support better nutrition, education and increased resilience. It draws on WFP's track record, lessons learned from evaluations and consultations with the Government and partners and is aligned with the PRSP and the UNDAF 2012–2016. It contributes to WFP Strategic Objectives 2, 4 and 5 and Millennium Development Goals: 1–5 and 7.
29. The three components of the CP are:
  - i) reduce the prevalence of underweight among children and acute malnutrition in vulnerable areas through targeted supplementary feeding and awareness activities (Strategic Objective 4);
  - ii) improve access to primary education in vulnerable areas through school feeding (Strategic Objective 4); and
  - iii) reduce risks and build resilience of vulnerable food-insecure groups affected by recurrent climate shocks through VFRs and productive environmental rehabilitation activities (Strategic Objective 2).

30. Capacity development activities (Strategic Objective 5) will be integrated into all components, focussing on policies, hand-over strategies and training. WFP and the Government will formulate capacity development strategies with a view to eventual hand-over of activities to the Government. WFP will maintain close collaboration with both national and international civil society to ensure that vulnerable communities receive capacity development support. Communities will have greater responsibility, most notably in the areas of targeting, monitoring and reporting.
31. On the basis of analysis of nutrition, food security and poverty indicators drawn from 2010–2011 FSMS and SMART assessments and the *enquête permanente sur les conditions de vie des ménages* (EPCV; continuous household living conditions survey), WFP will concentrate its interventions in the nine most vulnerable regions in southern and eastern Mauritania: Hodh ech Chargui, Hodh el Gharbi, Assaba, Gorgol, Brakna, Trarza, Tagant, Guidimakha and peri-urban areas of Nouakchott (see map in Annex III). The most vulnerable departments will be targeted, with targeting revised annually using the most recent data. Within each department, WFP will select communities using vulnerability analysis and mapping tools. Selection of both departments and communities will be carried out in strong consultation with local authorities, community representatives and partners.

**TABLE 2: BENEFICIARIES BY COMPONENT**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total*
<b>Component 1 – Reduce the prevalence of underweight among children and acute malnutrition</b>						
<b>CRENAMs: children 6–59 months</b>	20 060	19 515	18 984	18 467	17 965	<b>80 005</b>
<b>CRENAMs: pregnant and lactating women</b>	7 056	6 864	6 677	6 495	6 319	<b>28 140</b>
<b>CRENAM assistants</b>	1 280	1 280	1 280	1 280	1 280	<b>1 792</b>
<b>Subtotal Component 1*</b>	<b>28 396</b>	<b>27 658</b>	<b>26 941</b>	<b>26 243</b>	<b>25 564</b>	<b>109 937</b>
<b>Component 2 - Improve access to primary education</b>						
<b>School feeding</b>	145 633	149 128	152 707	156 372	160 124	<b>242 722</b>
<b>Subtotal Component 2*</b>	<b>145 633</b>	<b>149 128</b>	<b>152 707</b>	<b>156 372</b>	<b>160 124</b>	<b>242 722</b>
<b>Component 3 – Reduce risks and build resilience among vulnerable groups</b>						
Food for assets	57 130	54 274	51 560	48 982	46 533	<b>218 208</b>
VFRs	14 000	14 000	14 000	14 000	14 000	<b>70 000</b>
<b>Subtotal Component 3*</b>	<b>35 565</b>	<b>34 137</b>	<b>32 780</b>	<b>31 491</b>	<b>30 266</b>	<b>144 104</b>
<b>TOTAL*</b>	<b>209 594</b>	<b>210 923</b>	<b>212 428</b>	<b>214 106</b>	<b>215 954</b>	<b>496 763</b>

\*The total number of beneficiaries has been adjusted to avoid double counting of beneficiaries assisted through more than one activity or during more than one year.

## **Component 1: Reduce the Prevalence of Underweight among Children and Acute Malnutrition in Vulnerable Areas through Targeted Supplementary Feeding and Awareness Activities**

32. Since wasting is the main contributor to underweight, treatment of acute malnutrition is the appropriate response to reduce the prevalence of serious underweight among children.
33. National capacity to meet the nutritional needs of malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women remains low, and a comprehensive national nutrition system is still being developed through REACH. WFP will contribute to REACH activities by providing supplementary feeding in regions where the GAM rate is above 10 percent to ensure children and pregnant and lactating women receive the right food at the right time throughout the critical 1,000-day window of opportunity from the womb to two years of age.<sup>25</sup>
34. In collaboration with CSA, WFP will support supplementary feeding through CRENAMs to treat moderate acute malnutrition. A premix of corn-soya blend (CSB), fortified vegetable oil and sugar will be provided to moderately malnourished children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women during the lean season.<sup>26</sup> In Brakna, Gorgol, and Guidimakha, where GAM rates approach 10 percent, even following the harvest,<sup>27</sup> WFP will extend support for supplementary feeding until December each year.
35. In line with the National Protocol for the Treatment of Acute Malnutrition, entry and exit criteria for CRENAMs will be based on including mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) or weight for height.<sup>28</sup> The maximum duration of stay at CRENAMs is four months for children and nine months for pregnant and lactating women.
36. Malnourished women and children in the targeted areas will be screened quarterly by the Ministry of Health, CSA and NGOs. CRENAM health assistants will be trained in basic accounting, hygiene and nutrition by regional health workers, and will receive an individual ration of cereal and vegetable oil as an incentive.
37. Working with partners, WFP will also support training of health assistants at CRENAMs to counsel pregnant women and young mothers to improve feeding practices and utilize basic health services, especially for pre- and post-natal care. Consumption of diversified and micronutrient-rich foods will be promoted to help reduce anaemia.
38. This component is aligned with the priorities of REACH and the national nutrition strategy, and follows the national protocol for treatment of acute malnutrition; thus it will facilitate the integration of supplementary feeding into national programmes to ensure children and pregnant and lactating women receive the essential nutrients required throughout the 1,000-day window of opportunity. WFP will continue to help improve coordination among CRENAMs, rehabilitation and education centres for severely malnourished children, and government-managed community nutrition education centres.

<sup>25</sup> Hodh ech Chargui, Hodh El Gharbi, Assaba, Gorgol, Brakna, Tagant, Guidimakha and peri-urban areas of Nouakchott.

<sup>26</sup> The short shelf life of CSB++ precludes its use in Mauritania. WFP and the Government are advocating the introduction of improved products.

<sup>27</sup> UNICEF, SMART survey, December 2009.

<sup>28</sup> The entry criterion for pregnant and lactating women is MUAC <23 cm; for children, it is MUAC between 11.5 and 12.5 cm or weight for height within 70 to 80 percent of the United States National Center for Health Statistics median. The exit criteria are: women with MUAC 23 cm or more, and children with MUAC 12.5 cm or more after two successive checks.

WFP and UNICEF will draft an agreement outlining the respective responsibilities of the Ministry of Health, CSA and the Ministry for Social Affairs, Children and Family, in managing responses to malnutrition. Together with other REACH partners, WFP will help revise the national protocol for treatment of acute malnutrition and advocate a comprehensive approach to reducing anaemia among women and children.

## **Component 2: Improve Access to Primary Education in Vulnerable Areas through School Feeding**

39. Findings from assessments worldwide confirm that education contributes to improved food security and nutrition, and remains one of the most successful long-term food security investments.<sup>29</sup> WFP will support school feeding to increase access to primary education and reduce the drop-out rate among primary schoolchildren. It will support the Government's education priorities as part of its PRSP and will facilitate the achievement of Millennium Development Goals 1, 2 and 3.
40. WFP will target 150,000 students enrolled in public primary schools – or in *mahadras* (Koranic schools) where public schools do not exist – in nine rural regions marked by low attendance, high food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty.<sup>30</sup> WFP will provide micronutrient powders to combat anaemia, in addition to daily school meals for 160 days per year.
41. Schools must have a minimum of 50 students to have a school feeding programme in line with government reforms that group schools to ensure a sufficient number of teachers, improve teaching and increase completion rates. All WFP-supported schools will also undertake complementary activities as part of the WFP/UNICEF Essential Package.
42. The Ministry of Education will be the main cooperating partner and committees elected by parents' associations will be responsible for managing food and preparing meals. Parents' associations will be encouraged to contribute items to diversify the food basket and perform voluntary work to improve storage rooms, kitchens and classrooms. Inspectors, managers and parents' association members will be trained in inventory management, nutrition and hygiene.
43. WFP, the World Bank and other partners will assist the Government in formulating a national school feeding policy, expected to be approved in 2012. The policy will establish the processes and milestones for the gradual transfer to the Government of school feeding planning, implementing and funding responsibilities beginning in October 2016. The Ministry of Education has been contributing to school feeding since 2008.

<sup>29</sup> Bundy, D., Burbano, C., Grosh, M., Gelli, A., Jukes, M. and Drake, L. 2009. *Rethinking School Feeding: Social Safety Nets, Child Development, and the Education Sector*. WFP and the World Bank, Washington DC.

<sup>30</sup> Peri-urban areas and some provincial capitals that receive students from surrounding villages also require school feeding; the lack of WFP coverage is likely to result in increased drop-outs, as was seen in Ould Yenge, Barkeol, and some parts of Inchiri and Adrar. WFP will encourage the Government to devote resources to support school feeding where WFP coverage is insufficient.

### **Component 3: Reduce Risks and Build Resilience among Vulnerable Groups Affected by Recurrent Climate Shocks**

44. WFP's activities under component 3 will strengthen national capacity for responding to emergencies and supporting communities in mitigating the impact of climate shocks.
45. As requested by the CSA, WFP will help train the Food Security Monitoring Service in early warning systems and national emergency plans, including through secondment of a specialist in vulnerability analysis and mapping. WFP's engagement will be further guided by a technical mission from the regional bureau on disaster risk reduction (DRR), which will assist in the design of DRR modalities at the national and regional levels.
46. The Government is developing a national food security policy with support from WFP and FAO. It will soon join the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme regional initiative that helps communities create sustainable assets to reduce their vulnerability to disasters, increase agricultural production and improve food security. A climate change adaptation fund is being established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. WFP will continue to closely collaborate with the Government and partners to decrease the impact of climate change and reinforce community resilience capacities.

#### *⇒ Seasonal support for village food reserves*

47. The VFRs are cereal banks that serve as safety nets for vulnerable communities living in isolated rural areas. The VFRs are stocked by WFP in the lean season and cereals are sold to villagers at below market prices. The VFRs purchase for restocking after harvests when quality is high and prices are low. VFRs are implemented by CSA with support from local NGOs.
48. Although VFRs are expected to be self-reliant, WFP will provide an initial donation of 5 mt of wheat to 500 VFRs in villages facing the highest food insecurity in Hodh ech Chargui, Hodh el Gharbi, Assaba, Gorgol, Tagant, Brakna and Guidimakha. These donations will be made before the lean season and will serve as the basis for a revolving fund. An estimated 70,000 people will benefit from WFP's support to VFRs over five years. WFP, cooperating partners and local management committees will define eligibility criteria in each village. Priority will be given to the most vulnerable households, including those headed by women.
49. WFP will enhance the monitoring capacities of the Government and NGOs that oversee the VFRs, and will develop the technical capacities of VFR management committees. WFP and CSA will conduct inventories of VFRs in targeted regions, and work with the Government to provide VFRs with legal status, which would permit community control.

#### *⇒ Food for assets*

50. The FFA activities supported by WFP contribute to the resilience of vulnerable communities to recurrent climate shocks by creating or rehabilitating micro-gardening areas, dykes and small dams, pastoral wells, and watersheds. FFA activities will also include planting trees for fodder, fixing dunes, reforestation, controlling erosion, promoting local products through workshops and collecting gum arabic. WFP will also support training with a view to ensuring the sustainability of FFA activities, with technical assistance from FAO if required. School feeding and FFA activities will be coupled in villages where both components are implemented in order to improve school buildings and sanitation, and contribute to reforestation schoolyards.

51. Approximately 50,000 people will participate in FFA activities each year, receiving one family ration per working day. Activities will be implemented in agro-pastoralist areas in the nine targeted regions, with participants selected by a committee of local authorities, civil society and WFP. Where possible, socio-economic criteria such as living conditions, sources of income, land ownership, number of dependants and number of cattle will be used to refine the selection of beneficiaries. Women's groups and communities of returning refugees will be given priority.
52. To make the assets created by FFA more sustainable, WFP will ensure that activities match community needs and are complemented by activities that improve productivity. WFP will work with local leaders so that FFA activities support regional development plans. As beneficiaries improve their income-generating capacities, WFP expects the number of FFA beneficiaries to decrease by 5 percent per year.
53. WFP will consider the introduction of cash transfers for FFA. Based on the results of cash and voucher pilots underway in the Gorgol region and Nouakchott, and feasibility assessments in 2011 and 2012, cash or voucher activities may be integrated into the CP through a budget revision.

**TABLE 3: FOOD RATION BY COMPONENT (g/person/day)**

	Component 1		Component 2	Component 3	
	CRENAMs (children 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women)	CRENAMs (assistants)	School feeding	VFRs	FFA
Cereals	-	200	150	400	500
Pulses	-	50	40	-	40
CSB	250	-	80	-	-
Vegetable oil	25	150	15	-	20
Sugar	20	-	10	-	-
Iodized salt	-	-	4	-	-
Micronutrient powder	-	-	0.5	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>299.5</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>560</b>
Kcal value	1 301	2 215	1 168	1 400	2 122
% Kcal from protein	13.8	5.1	12.3	7.8	8.8
% Kcal from fat	27.7	61.6	16.1	1.3	9.8
Number of days meals are offered	270	180	160	90	60



<b>TABLE 4: TOTAL FOOD REQUIREMENTS BY COMPONENT (mt)</b>					
<b>Commodity type</b>	<b>Component 1</b>		<b>Component 2</b>	<b>Component 3</b>	
	<b>CRENAMs (children 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women)</b>	<b>CRENAMs (assistants)</b>	<b>School feeding</b>	<b>VFRs</b>	<b>FFA</b>
Cereals	-	230	18 335	2 500	7 755
Pulses	-	58	4 889	-	620
CSB	8 667	-	9 779	-	-
Vegetable oil	868	172	1 834	-	310
Sugar	693	-	1 222	-	-
Iodized salt	-	-	489	-	-
Micronutrient powder	-	-	61	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10 227</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>36 609</b>	<b>2 500</b>	<b>8 685</b>
<b>% of total requirements</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>

### **Risk Assessment and Contingency Planning**

54. There are contextual risks that may alter how WFP delivers assistance or how much: the precarious security situation in the Maghreb could limit WFP's activities. WFP plans to continue operations when feasible but security measures may imply additional costs.
55. Flooding, drought, locust infestations or food-price fluctuations may occur during CP implementation; measures will be taken to prepare for and mitigate their impact. United Nations agencies and NGOs have established procedures for assessing needs and monitoring the situation, including food prices. WFP and FAO lead the food security forum, and WFP and UNDP lead the emergency forum. WFP regularly updates its own contingency plan and an inter-agency contingency plan is being elaborated. If necessary, WFP will launch emergency operations to address food requirements resulting from disasters.
56. The main programmatic risk is that the sustainability of activities would be jeopardized if hand-overs proceed too quickly. WFP will mitigate this risk by establishing agreed milestones for hand-overs of school feeding and VFRs. Constraints in the capacities of cooperating partners will be addressed by establishing clear criteria for selection of partners and capacity development activities.
57. The main institutional risk is the CP being underfunded. WFP will address this risk through: i) its resource mobilization strategy, including by diversifying the donor base; and ii) reinforcing strategic partnerships with United Nations agencies and other international organizations. In the event of shortfalls, WFP will establish a priority ranking of activities and beneficiary groups according to available resources.

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## PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

58. Coordination among partners must be enhanced with a view to preventing duplication of activities. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development has agreed to: i) coordinate CP 200251; and ii) coordinate activities carried out in the same regions. WFP will work with other United Nations agencies and development partners as part of this effort in Gorgol and Hodh el Gharbi regions, where it has sub-offices.
59. WFP has forged strong partnerships with CSA and the Ministry of Education in particular, and will expand its work with the ministries of rural development, environment, health, and family and social affairs. These ministries will participate in designing village-specific nutrition and environmental activities, and will help develop operational plans.
60. WFP's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system has been adjusted to focus on measurable indicators coherent with national strategies. The country office is working with the University of Nouakchott to create an online database for M&E activities to better monitor food stocks and other data and to generate reports. WFP will explore the possibility of including outcome monitoring in the FSMS. The CP will be assessed by a mid-term evaluation in 2013.



## ANNEX I-A

<b>BUDGET SUMMARY (US\$)</b>				
	<b>Component 1</b>	<b>Component 2</b>	<b>Component 3</b>	<b>Total</b>
Food ( <i>mt</i> ) <sup>1</sup>	10 688	36 609	11 185	<b>58 482</b>
Food	8 054 153	24 587 038	6 392 328	<b>39 033 520</b>
<b>Total by component</b>				
External transport				6 247 244
Landside transport, storage and handling ( <i>total</i> )				11 385 281
Landside transport, storage and handling ( <i>per mt</i> )				194.68
Other direct operational costs				6 878 946
Total direct operational costs				63 544 991
Direct support costs <sup>2</sup>				7 844 682
Indirect support costs (7.0 percent) <sup>3</sup>				4 997 277
<b>TOTAL WFP COSTS</b>				<b>76 386 949</b>

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

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

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

**ANNEX I-B**

<b>DIRECT SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS (US\$)</b>	
<b>Staff and staff-related costs</b>	
International professional staff	1 908 300
National officers	1 244 000
Local general service staff	514,000
Temporary assistance	1 059 600
Local staff overtime	52 200
International consultants	119 849
Local consultants	41 733
United Nations volunteers	246 000
Staff duty travel	340 400
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5 526 083</b>
<b>Recurring expenses</b>	
Facility rental	451 249
Utilities	161 102
Office supplies and other consumables	67 243
Communications services	134 120
Equipment repair and maintenance	88 648
Vehicle running cost and maintenance	69 612
Office set-up and repairs	53 273
United Nations organization services	17 682
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1 042 929</b>
<b>Equipment and capital costs</b>	
Vehicle leasing	336 600
Communications equipment	87 772
Local security costs	851 298
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1 275 670</b>
<b>TOTAL DIRECT SUPPORT COSTS</b>	<b>7 844 682</b>

ANNEX II: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK		
Results chain	Performance indicators	Risks, assumptions
<b>UNDAF Outcomes</b>	<b>UNDAF Outcome Indicators</b>	Adequate political and security conditions exist so that actions are sustained over the long term  Commitments by Government and partners are respected
<b>Outcome 1</b> Food security of vulnerable groups is ensured	1.1 % of population suffering from food insecurity 1.2 % of income households spend on food 1.3 Yearly % of food imported	
<b>Outcome 2</b> Economic and social conditions of poor and vulnerable groups are improved in an environment where access to natural resources and their sustainable management are improved	2.1 Number of households sedentary during the lean season	
<b>COMPONENT 1: Reduce the prevalence of underweight among children and acute malnutrition</b>		
<b>Strategic Objective 4: Reduce chronic hunger and undernutrition</b>		
<b>Outcome 1.1</b> Improved nutritional status of targeted women, girls and boys <i>Activity: supplementary feeding (CRENAMs)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Prevalence of underweight among targeted children under 5 (weight for age as percentage) Target: below WHO threshold (&lt;20–29%) during lean season</li> <li>➤ Prevalence of acute malnutrition among children under 5 in WFP-assisted interventions (weight for height as %) Target: &lt;10%</li> <li>➤ Supplementary feeding death rate (%) Target: &lt; 3%</li> <li>➤ Supplementary feeding defaulter rate (%) Target: 15%</li> <li>➤ Supplementary feeding recovery rate (%) Target: &gt; 75%</li> </ul>	REACH is continued.  Funding remains adequate  Partners are committed to intervention  No major disease outbreaks occur





## ANNEX II: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Results chain	Performance indicators	Risks, assumptions
<p><b>Output 1.1</b> Food and non-food items distributed in sufficient quantity and quality to targeted women, men, girls and boys under secure conditions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of women, men, girls and boys receiving food and non-food items, by category and as % of planned figures Target: 100%</li> <li>➤ Tonnage of food distributed, by type, as % of planned distribution: 100%</li> <li>➤ Quantity of fortified foods, complementary foods and special nutritional products distributed, by type, as % of planned: 100%</li> </ul>	<p>Sound pipeline, donor contributions, commitment from Government and partners</p>
<p><b>Strategic Objective 5: Strengthen the capacities of countries to reduce hunger, including through hand-over strategies and local purchase</b></p>		
<p><b>Outcome 1.2</b> Broader national policy frameworks incorporated hunger solutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ National protocol for management of moderate malnutrition revised and approved by 2015.</li> </ul>	<p>REACH partners' commitment is continuous</p>
<p><b>Output 1.2</b> Agreement signed with relevant ministries to define their respective responsibilities in the management of malnutrition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ministry of Health, CSA and Ministry for Social Affairs, Children and Family have signed agreements with WFP and UNICEF by 2013</li> </ul>	<p>Government commitment to nutrition priorities remains high</p>
<p><b>COMPONENT 2: Improve access to primary education</b></p>		
<p><b>Strategic Objective 4: Reduce chronic hunger and undernutrition</b></p>		
<p><b>Outcome 2.1</b> Increased access to education and human capital development in assisted schools <i>Activity: School feeding</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Enrolment: average annual rate of change in number of girls and boys enrolled (baseline 2011)</li> <li>➤ Attendance rate &gt;90%</li> <li>➤ Drop-out rate &lt;10%</li> <li>➤ Gender ratio: ratio of girls to boys enrolled = 1</li> </ul>	<p>Donors and the Government provide support and complementary funding Political and security conditions remain stable</p>
<p><b>Output 2.1</b> Food and non-food items distributed in sufficient quantity and quality to targeted women, men, girls and boys under secure conditions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of women, men, girls and boys receiving food and non-food items, by category and as percent of planned figures Target: 100%</li> </ul>	<p>Sound pipeline, donor contributions, commitment from Government and partners</p>

## ANNEX II: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Results chain	Performance indicators	Risks, assumptions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Tonnage of food distributed, by type, as % of planned distribution</li> </ul> Target: 100% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Quantity of fortified foods, complementary foods and special nutritional products distributed, by type, as percent of planned distribution</li> </ul> Target: 100%	
<b>Output 2.2</b> School feeding coverage aligned with programme of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of schools assisted by WFP: 1,700</li> <li>➤ Number of feeding days as percent of actual school days</li> </ul> Target: 100%	Sound pipeline, donor contributions, commitment from Government and partners
<b>Strategic Objective 5: Strengthen the capacities of countries to reduce hunger, including through hand-over strategies and local purchase</b>		
<b>Outcome 2.2</b> Broader national policy frameworks incorporate hunger solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Percent increase in government funding for hunger solution tools in national plans for action: school feeding 5%</li> </ul>	Commitments by Government and cooperating partners respected.  Political and security conditions remain stable
<b>Output 2.3</b> Capacity and awareness developed through WFP-organized training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of hunger solution tools being funded under national plans of action</li> </ul> Target: 1 (school feeding) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ National school feeding policy developed by 2015</li> <li>➤ Hand-over strategies for school feeding developed by end of 2015</li> </ul>	
<b>COMPONENT 3: Reduce risks and build resilience among vulnerable groups affected by recurrent climate shocks</b>		
<b>Strategic Objective 2: Prevent acute hunger and invest in disaster preparedness and mitigation measures</b>		
<b>Outcome 3.1</b> Adequate food consumption over assistance period by targeted households at risk of falling into acute hunger  <i>Activity: FFA/CFA and cereal banks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Household food consumption score &gt;75% (acceptable) during the lean season</li> </ul>	Government and donors provide support and complementary funding





## ANNEX II: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Results chain	Performance indicators	Risks, assumptions
<p><b>Outcome 3.2</b> Hazard risk reduced in targeted communities. <i>Activity: FFA/CFA and cereal banks</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Community asset score &gt;60%</li> </ul>	<p>Prices remain stable and food remains available and accessible in markets</p>
<p><b>Outcome 3.3</b> Early-warning systems, contingency plans and food security monitoring systems in place and enhanced with WFP capacity development support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Disaster preparedness index: 8</li> </ul>	<p>Commitments by Government and partners are respected Political and security conditions remain stable</p>
<p><b>Output 3.1</b> Food and non-food items distributed in sufficient quantity and quality to targeted women, men, girls and boys under secure conditions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of women, men, girls and boys receiving food and non-food items, by category and as percent of planned figures Target: 100%</li> <li>➤ Tonnage of food distributed, by type, as percent of planned distribution Target: 100%</li> <li>➤ Quantity of fortified foods, complementary foods and special nutritional products distributed, by type, as percent of planned distribution Target: 100%</li> <li>➤ Quantity of non-food items distributed, by type, as percent of planned distribution Target: 100%</li> </ul>	<p>Sound pipeline, donor contributions, commitment from Government and partners</p>
<p><b>Output 3.2</b> Disaster-mitigation assets built or restored by targeted communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Risk-reduction and disaster-mitigation assets created or restored, by type and unit of measure</li> <li>➤ Number of cereal banks created or reinforced Target: 100 per year</li> </ul>	<p>Partners' commitment and complementary activities are adequate  Continued application of skills learned by beneficiaries</p>
<p><b>Output 3.3</b> Disaster mitigation measures in place with WFP capacity development support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Risk reduction and disaster preparedness and mitigation systems in place (FSMS to define target)</li> </ul>	<p>Commitments by Government and partners are respected  Political and security conditions remain stable</p>

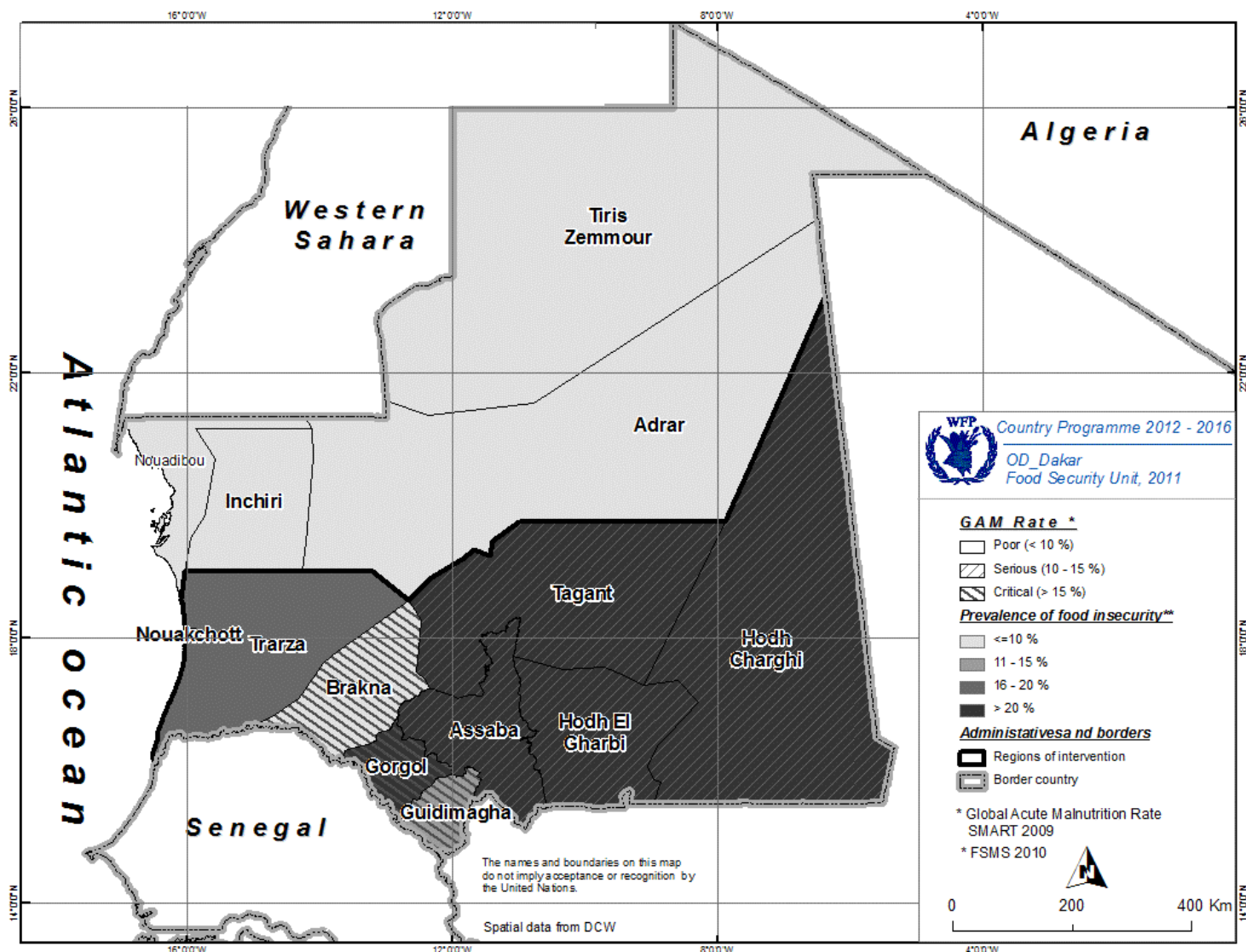
**ANNEX II: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK**

Results chain	Performance indicators	Risks, assumptions
<b>Strategic Objective 5: Strengthen the capacities of countries to reduce hunger, including through hand-over strategies and local purchase</b>		
<p><b>Outcome 3.4</b> Progress made towards nationally owned hunger solutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Hand-over strategy for VFR developed and implemented by 2013</li> <li>➤ Number of VFRs legalized and managed by communities</li> </ul> <p>Target: 75 per year</p>	<p>Commitments by Government and partners are respected</p> <p>Political and security conditions remain stable</p>
<p><b>Output 3.4</b> Training of government and NGO partners in VFR management delivered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of government and NGO partners trained in VRF management</li> <li>➤ Number of training sessions (training of trainers) delivered per year</li> </ul>	



### ANNEX III

## MAURITANIA: VULNERABILITY INDICATORS AND INTERVENTIONS AREAS



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

CFW	cash for work
CP	country programme
CRENAM	<i>Centre de récupération nutritionnelle ambulatoire pour les personnes atteintes de malnutrition modérée</i> (nutrition centre for malnourished children)
CSA	<i>Commissariat à la sécurité alimentaire</i> (CSA, Food Security Commission)
CSB	corn-soya blend
DRR	disaster risk reduction
EPCV	<i>enquête permanente sur les conditions de vie des ménages</i> (continuous household living conditions survey)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFA	food for assets
FSMS	food security monitoring system
GAM	global acute malnutrition
GER	gross enrolment ratio
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MUAC	mid upper-arm circumference
NGO	non-governmental organization
PRRO	protracted relief and recovery operation
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
REACH	[partnership to end child hunger]
SMART	Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VFR	village food reserve
WHO	World Health Organization