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PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION – MAURITANIA 10359.0

Strengthening of the Means of Subsistence of Drought-Affected Populations

Number of beneficiaries	254,000 (of whom 134,620 women)
Duration of project	36 months (January 2005–December 2007)
Food tonnage	32,131 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
Total cost to WFP	20,069,917
Total food cost	6,683,708

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted for approval by the Executive Board.

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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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mauritania has in recent years suffered from uncertain weather conditions. As a result of inadequate farming practices, households practising traditional agriculture in the country's agro-pastoral zone have over the years become very vulnerable to the amount of rainfall. The 2002 drought, the worst in the country since 1984, hit them particularly hard. Despite improved weather conditions in 2003, food security remained uncertain as a result of the long-term effects of the drought on the rural environment in terms of low yields, reduced numbers of livestock, depleted seed stocks, high household indebtedness and high food prices.

Since 1998, WFP has launched four emergency operations in response to droughts, floods and other climatic disasters affecting 80 percent of households in the agro-pastoral zone. WFP now wants to undertake an operation aimed at reducing the vulnerability of the populations involved and improving operational capacity in the event of a new crisis arising in 2005–2007.

This protracted relief and recovery operation addresses WFP's Strategic Priority 2. It also corresponds to commitments III and V of the Enhanced Commitments to Women. The food aid will serve to pre-position food in vulnerable villages and improve the security of productive activities through water management and market gardening. The intervention, an extension of Emergency Operation 10249.0, will target 33 particularly vulnerable communities in the southern part of central Mauritania.

DRAFT DECISION*

The Board approves PRRO Mauritania 10359.0 "Strengthening of the Means of Subsistence of Drought-Affected Populations" (WFP/EB.3/2004/8-B/2).

* 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.



CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

1. Mauritania, a Sahara-Sahelian country characterized by an arid climate, is a low-income food-deficit country ranking 154th out of 175 countries in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index for 2003. The population in 2003 was 2.6 million; annual per capita GNP was US\$410.
2. Poverty in Mauritania is chiefly concentrated in rural areas: 70 percent of rural households live below the poverty line according to UNDP. Hardest hit are the country's southern regions, where rain-fed agriculture is practised: Aftout, Affolé, southern Kankossa and the southern part of the two Hodhs. Surveys undertaken by WFP's vulnerability assessment and mapping (VAM) unit, the Famine Early-Warning Systems Network (FEWS-NET) and the Observatory on Food Security (OFS) have shown that poverty in those areas is also associated with precarious food security.

Current Aid Operations

3. Mauritania is currently benefiting from activities undertaken in the framework of a US\$26.9 million country programme for 2003–2008. The country programme addresses three basic activities: (i) support to basic education, (ii) nutritional support to vulnerable mothers and children and (iii) support to rural development. In 2003–2004, Mauritania was also receiving 80 percent of the assistance provided under a regional emergency operation (EMOP), Sahel Drought, with a budget of US\$247 million.

Situation Analysis

4. Mauritania is very vulnerable to variations in rainfall. Recurrent droughts are a feature of the climate, especially in the agro-pastoral regions to the south, where food insecurity is chronic.
5. In agro-pastoral areas, traditional agriculture is practised with rain-fed crops (*diéri*) such as millet, sorghum and *niébé*, and on floodplain (*walo*) crops in low-lying lands, where small dams and dykes are used. Herding and animal husbandry often accompany such forms of subsistence agriculture and contribute to household food security.
6. Environmental degradation has accelerated over the past three decades. The fragility of the ecosystem makes Mauritania prone to natural disasters in the event of droughts or floods, a situation exacerbated by the severe poverty and vulnerability of the rural populations involved.
7. Mauritania experienced several droughts between 1998 and 2003, and bad weather in January 2002 – low temperatures and exceptionally heavy rains – caused huge losses in livestock and damaged the crops on which most rural households depended. Various VAM surveys undertaken over the period showed that such weather-induced problems led to a deterioration in household diets and to a sharp increase in acute malnutrition among children under 5. In response to the situation, WFP has launched four EMOPs since 1999.
8. The 2002 drought was the worst in Mauritania since 1984. It seriously impaired the living standards of rural households and caused a 49 percent drop in cereal production compared with 1987–2001 according to October 2002 data from the Permanent Inter-Governmental Committee for the Fight against Drought in the Sahel. A VAM survey in October 2002 revealed an acute malnutrition rate of 21.7 percent among children under 5, which prompted the deployment of EMOP 10249.0.



9. Optimistic harvests forecast in October 2003 failed to materialize in full, partly because of the aftermath of the drought and partly because of widespread proliferation of a parasite, the sesamia stalk-borer caterpillar, among floodplain crops and around dams. Despite some improvement in farming conditions, acute malnutrition among children under 5 was 17.9 percent in October 2003, well above the 13.5 percent average in Mauritania.
10. In October 2003, 32 percent of households surveyed by the VAM unit in traditional farming regions faced a very difficult food-security situation and could not cover their food needs for 2004. Such households, which depended essentially on rain-fed agriculture, were most affected by the series of poor harvests. Over 40 percent of those households were headed by women.
11. Vulnerable households where revenues had dropped by 50 percent because of the drought had to resort to temporary survival strategies such as selling off assets, borrowing and migration. Such households suffered especially from the loss of productive assets and draught animals needed for tilling and market-gardening. Their diet was currently inadequate and 30 percent dependent on food aid.
12. VAM surveys by WFP, FEWS-NET and OFS agreed that despite improved production in 2003, a high level of food insecurity persisted in areas hit by three consecutive years of drought.

Government Recovery Policies and Measures

13. In 2001, Mauritania adopted a Strategic Framework for Poverty Reduction making the fight against poverty in rural areas a national priority. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2003–2008 aimed to help achieve the objectives of the Government's Strategic Framework.
14. The Government implemented a national emergency plan to deal with the effects of the 2002 drought. The plan called for free distribution of food and subsidized sales of commodities, and for a series of highly labour-intensive activities. EMOP 10294.0 was implemented in the framework of that plan.
15. Implementation of the national emergency plan underscores the Government's determination to respond to urgent, drought-induced population needs. Nonetheless, government initiatives aimed at making rural populations less vulnerable to such risks were hampered by shortage of resources and financial means.

Rationale for Assistance

16. The strategy of the current country programme, which is mainly focused on the social sector, fails to provide an adequate response to post-drought recovery problems. The PRRO would therefore provide an appropriate response to needs arising from the droughts of recent years and would make it possible to mitigate the effect of potential crises in areas regularly struck by natural disasters. It would also make a significant contribution to reinforcing the means of subsistence of rural populations exposed to food insecurity.
17. WFP assistance aims at securing an accessible supply of food commodities for populations hampered by unfavourable and unreliable food-production conditions.



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Overall Strategy

18. The proposed implementation strategy is based on experience acquired during EMOP 10147.0, regional EMOP 10249.0 and the country programme's basic activity 3: Rural Development. The PRRO was formulated by a multi-task mission in March and April 2004.
19. The initial recommendations of an independent mission that evaluated EMOP 10249.0 in December 2003 were also taken into consideration, including:
 - adapting the targeting and food distribution system in the villages to take account of traditional social mechanisms; and
 - strengthening the ability of WFP personnel to improve monitoring of activities.
20. Assistance will be divided into relief and recovery components. The relief component should ensure that commodities are positioned in the most vulnerable villages through the creation of village-security food stocks (VSFSs). The recovery component will focus on the creation of productive assets (CPA) and capacity-building through food-for-training (FFT) activities aimed at improving water management and developing market gardening.
21. In line with the recommendations made by the formulation mission, the PRRO will not have a social component because needs of this kind are covered by the ongoing country programme. The implementation capacity of WFP's partners is such that there is no need for further activities in this field.
22. Social activities constitute the majority of interventions deployed under the country programme: 51 percent of its resources are devoted to school feeding; 13 percent are directed to vulnerable groups. The PRRO focuses on injecting new dynamism into production systems, with the final objective of giving households greater food security.

Beneficiaries' Needs

23. The two EMOPs implemented in 2002 (EMOP 10147.0) and 2003 (EMOP 10249.0) augmented the country programme by increasing immediate availability of food and halting the deterioration of living conditions among rural populations most exposed to food insecurity. Food needs remained substantial, however, because of the negative effects of the most recent droughts on household food security.
24. The PRRO will be implemented in areas with high vulnerability in terms of food security. They were identified through surveys conducted by the VAM unit and OFS in 2001–2004. Assistance under the PRRO will be extended to the population groups most affected by the repeated droughts of the past few years, especially women and small-scale agro-pastoralists practising rain-fed agriculture and animal husbandry.
25. The PRRO is scheduled for three years, the period needed to assist beneficiaries in their efforts to re-establish village agricultural production assets. The approach of the recovery component is based on collaboration with beneficiaries. It requires a long-term commitment so that beneficiaries can ultimately take over the assets created.



Role of Food Aid

26. Food aid will provide food to village communities in agro-pastoral areas characterized by food deficits during lean periods. Pre-positioning of village-security food stocks will help to support populations by enabling continuous access to food.
27. WFP assistance will also serve as an incentive by helping to create community works and to build up the assets required to improve production conditions. Four main activities are planned: surface-water management, market gardening, drinking-water supply and training.

PROGRAMME APPROACHES

Targeting

28. The PRRO will be implemented in Brakna, Gorgol, Assaba and Hodh El Gharbi, the four regions showing the highest vulnerability over the past three years. Activities will target 1,400 villages in 33 communities presenting “high” or “extreme” levels of vulnerability. The number of vulnerable individuals was calculated on the basis of the communities’ vulnerability levels and of their estimated populations.
29. It is customary in Mauritania to redistribute food in families and in villages. Targeting will therefore focus on villages as a whole. Individual communities and operational partners will be responsible for internal management of VSFSs and of CPA/FFS assistance to the most vulnerable groups.
30. The form of targeting selected is based on the results of an evaluation mission in March/April¹ and the degree of vulnerability determined at village level by OFS between March 2001 and March 2004.

Implementation Approaches

31. The PRRO approach in the selected villages aims to combine disaster prevention and mitigation activities – creation of VSFSs – with recovery initiatives – creation of assets to enhance the security of production conditions in communities. Combining the two elements will provide populations with food while helping them to re-establish their production capability.
32. To prevent duplication of activities and avoid a disproportionate share of aid going to the same regions, the PRRO will be executed only in the 33 communities identified as being the most vulnerable. The country programme basic activity 3 “Rural Development” will be implemented in communities with moderate vulnerability and in southern regions not targeted by the PRRO.
33. The deliberate intention to limit the PRRO to a restricted number of relief and emergency measures stems from the fact that priority is being given to the re-establishment of food and productive assets in especially hard-hit communities.

¹ The team of consultants, accompanied by WFP country office staff, members of the Commissariat for Food Security (CFS) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) visited the eight regions where the 2003–2008 country programme and EMOP 10249.0 are being implemented: Trarza, Brakna, Gorgol, Tagant, Assaba, Guidimagha, Hodh el Gharbi and Hodh Charghi.



34. The PRRO provides for the establishment of an emergency food reserve that will provide the flexibility required to respond to food crises in the operational area. Deployment of VSFSs will take place over three years at the rate of 500 per year. In villages without a VSFS, the food reserve will be used to mitigate emergency situations. In exceptional cases, free distributions will take place; where possible, however, a VSFS will be set up.

Empowerment of Women

35. The majority of beneficiaries involved in CPA activities in EMOP 10249.0 are women, and their presence will be reinforced in the PRRO CPA. The fact that VSFSs are currently managed mainly by men is partly because of tradition and partly because the rate of illiteracy is much higher among rural women.
36. In accordance with commitment III of the Enhanced Commitments to Women (ECW), CPA activities are designed to enable women to benefit from the productive assets created, and specifically from the creation of market gardens. They will be set up and managed by women's cooperatives.
37. In accordance with ECW commitment V, implementation of VSFSs will be conditional with respect to gender equity in management committees. Training programmes intended to explain how the stocks function and are managed will focus particularly on women.
38. In some villages, women are forced to walk several hours a day to find water for their households. The depth of wells or sumps will be increased according to the scarcity of drinking water in any given village.

Risk Assessment

39. The main risks that could significantly affect implementation of WFP's current operation are environmental: the weather and locust swarms. The PRRO will help to improve WFP's operational capacity in the event of a food crisis arising from such phenomena during 2005–2007.
40. Weaknesses or failures on the part of implementing partners or target communities will be reduced to a minimum through consultations planned in the framework of the joint programme-management process that WFP intends to set up. Sound management of food destined for populations and rational utilization of resources are additional indicators of the operation's success.

Goal and Objectives

⇒ *Goal*

41. The PRRO is designed to reduce the vulnerability of populations most exposed to weather-related disasters.

⇒ *Objectives*

42. The PRRO aims to:
- increase people's capacity to cope with shocks and to meet their essential food needs; and
 - increase availability of and access to food for the most vulnerable groups during lean periods.



43. The objectives address the WFP's Strategic Priorities (SPs), specifically SP2: Protect livelihoods in crisis situations and enhance resilience to shocks.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN BY COMPONENT

Key Programme Components and Beneficiaries

44. Implementation of the PRRO will feature two components: relief, which will account for 40 percent of resources, and recovery, which will account for 60 percent.
45. The relief component will be implemented in 1,400 villages in the 33 targeted communities by providing VSFSs with 6 mt of cereals each. It will also establish an emergency food reserve of 3,200 mt that will serve to mitigate the effects of any food crises arising in the operational areas. The reserve could also be used to assist communities facing exceptional vulnerability or food insecurity. The intervention will draw extensively on experience gained by WFP's implementing partners in their operational areas.
46. The recovery component provides for CPA activities and features two main components: (i) surface-water management, with building or rehabilitation of small dams; and (ii) supply of water to villages and market gardens by creating wells or increasing their depth.
47. Implementation of the two components will be accompanied by training activities enabling beneficiaries to acquire the skills required for durable management of the assets, particularly VSFS management and maintenance and protection of water-retaining works and market-gardening plots.

Beneficiaries

48. Food aid provided under the operation will be delivered to 254,000 beneficiaries, 53 percent women and 47 percent men, living in the targeted communities. Between January and March each year, 190,000 people will receive food in the framework of CPA activities; of these, 19,000 will also participate in FFT activities. During the May–August lean period, 64,000 people will benefit from VSFSs.
49. The following table shows the average number of beneficiaries per year:

TABLE 1: BENEFICIARIES BY TYPE OF INTERVENTION				
Annual average				
Type of intervention	Number of beneficiaries	Men	Women	Period of intervention
CAP/FFS	190 000	89 300	100 700	January-March
VSFS	64 000	30 080	33 920	June-August
Annual total	254 000	119 380	134 620	



Daily Ration Size and Food Basket

50. For activities under the relief component, VSFSs will be established on the basis of a ration of 500 g of cereals per person per day for a lean-period duration of 90 days and an average of 130 vulnerable people per village. This corresponds to an average estimated total of 6 mt per village. The ration will provide 1,456 kcal per person per day.
51. Activities under the recovery component will be undertaken according to the principle of creating productive assets. The food ration was calculated on the basis of a five-person family ration to include 2,500 g of wheat, 200 g of vegetables, 100 g of vegetable oil and 25 g of iodized salt per day. The food will be distributed to participants in the form of take-home dry rations and will provide 1,768 kcal per day. It is intended to serve as an incentive for beneficiaries to take part in community works.
52. With regard to training activities, participants will receive individual daily rations of 500 g of wheat, 40 g of vegetables, 20 g of vegetable oil and 5 g of iodized salt. The ration will provide 1,768 kcal per person per day and will serve to offset the costs faced by people taking part in the courses.
53. The table below sets out the rations according to the type of intervention:

TABLE 2: FOOD BASKET BY TYPE OF INTERVENTION					
Composition of the daily food basket (g)					
Type of intervention	Wheat	Leguminous	Veg. oil	Iodized salt	kcal/day/person
CPA/FFS	500	40	20	5	1 768
VSFS	500	0	0	0	1 456

54. Given the absence of mills in some villages and the costs faced by beneficiaries, it is recommended that part of the wheat received in bulk at the port of Nouakchott for the recovery component should be milled and repackaged as the need arises. The flour could also be enriched with a micronutrient additive, PREMIX. The proposal should be studied in detail, given the extra costs and the logistics problems involved.

Selection of Activities

55. The PRRO relief component will mobilize 40 percent of overall resources. VSFSs will be established progressively at the rate of 500 per year. The ultimate aim is to renew VSFS initial stocks at harvest times to guarantee that food is available and accessible when prices increase during the winter season.
56. The emergency food reserve will provide the flexibility needed to cope with any crises in the operational area. It is also intended to act as a safeguard in crisis situations, either by enabling rapid establishment of VSFSs or, in exceptional cases, by providing food for free distribution.
57. The recovery component will mobilize 60 percent of resources for CPA and FFT activities.



58. Activities under the relief and recovery components will be integrated in most villages by combining VSFS-related and CPA operations. In all villages, sufficient stocks will be provided to cover the construction of small dams and dykes, a market-gardening plot and a well. CPA activities will also serve to build storehouses for VSFSs.
59. The table below summarizes food needs for the duration of the PRRO.

TABLE 3: TOTAL COMMODITY REQUIREMENTS BY TYPE OF INTERVENTION (mt)						
Type of intervention		Requirements				
Cover (days per year)		Wheat	Vegetables	Veg oil	Iodized salt	Total
CPA	60	17 100	1 368	684	171	19 323
FFS	30	855	69	35	9	968
VSFS	90	8 640	0	0	0	8 640
Sub-total		26 595	1 437	719	180	28 931
Emergency food reserve		3 200	0	0	0	3 200
Total		29 795	1 437	719	180	32 131

Mechanisms for Approval of Activities

60. Mechanisms for approval of activities will be refined on the basis of ongoing programmes and operations and will take account of the programming of activities and of their implementation.
61. The identification and approval phase requires a process of consultation with administrative and political leaders of organizations in the field and with technical services, bilateral assistance projects, the Commissariat for Food Security (CFS), NGOs and in particular with the beneficiaries. The PRRO's proposed activities correspond to the wishes of communities and are similar to the activities designed for implementation in marginal or degraded ecosystems.
62. Identification and planning of interventions conducted jointly by WFP and its implementing partners will ensure that duplication with other development activities in the targeted communities is avoided.

Institutional Arrangements and Selection of Partners

63. The activities identified and proposed for the PRRO are in line with the UNDAF for Mauritania and take account of WFP's Strategic Plan for 2004–2007. United Nations organizations, donors and a number of international and national NGOs – World Vision, the World Lutheran Federation, the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (Oxfam), The Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD) and the Local Structure for the Development of Affolé (SLODA) – are already active in the area, which is the country's poorest and most food-insecure.
64. The capacity to implement and monitor activities in the field is essential for any partnership between WFP and implementing partners. In the light of recent experience, three criteria appear particularly important: (i) the nature and amount of the contribution



made by partners; (ii) the ability to provide technical management of interventions; and (iii) logistics resources and expertise.

65. Provision of non-food items such as cement, iron, spades, picks and fencing is an important factor in the success of any project. The suitability of non-food items provided by partners is a major consideration. To the extent possible, WFP will match the non-food items provided by its partners with a contribution of its own for the purchase of cement and tools.
66. WFP, CFS, the Ministry of Rural Development and the Environment and NGOs cooperated in an in-depth analysis of the management of commodities and non-food items, and how activities are being implemented under the country programme and EMOP. Proposals to set up an efficient form of joint management have already been submitted for approval to the parties concerned, whose agreement has been secured.
67. Joint management will be extended to resources and to the logistics, identification, monitoring and evaluation of all projects supported by WFP. Memoranda of understanding will be signed by the various parties before operations start. Management tools have been prepared and will be made available to WFP's partners.
68. WFP will make the arrangements to reinforce operational capacity at its sub-offices. Experience with partnerships over the last two years in the form of joint management has produced some very encouraging results. Cooperation with OFS and FEWS-NET will be strengthened.
69. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development will provide general coordination of the PRRO. World Vision, the World Lutheran Federation, OXFAM, ACORD and SLODA are the most appropriate partners to implement the PRRO, given their experience in the field and their ability to monitor communities closely. They will implement 80 percent of activities under the PRRO. How the work is distributed will depend on any comparative advantages the NGOs may have to offer and on the location of their operational areas. The bulk of hydro-agricultural and market-gardening activities will be implemented by World Vision, which has considerable experience and capacity in this area.
70. Apart from its logistics capacity, CFS has sufficient technical and financial means to implement a number of micro-projects – wells, small dams and water-retaining dykes – in accordance with the mission assigned to it by the Government in March 2001. It would also be desirable to bring in the regional services of the Ministry of Rural Development and the Environment and to take account of its projects so that interventions in the field can be coordinated.
71. The country programme steering committee chaired by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development and the regional development committees chaired by regional governors represent appropriate venues for discussing, coordinating and integrating the PRRO with WFP's other activities and with the interventions of other actors. A technical monitoring committee of representatives of CFS, the Ministry of Rural Development and the Environment and WFP will be responsible for programming activities on an annual basis at the central level.

Capacity-Building

72. Capacity-building will focus initially on monitoring of the food security situation. To achieve this, WFP proposes establishing closer cooperation with OFS.



73. WFP will contribute to reinforcing the capacity of national and international NGOs and regional technical services through logistics support and memoranda of understanding covering specific operational activities.
74. WFP will also contribute to capacity-building in the villages by organizing training courses for members of groups such as management committees and village associations responsible for managing and monitoring activities.

Logistics Arrangements

75. Commodities for the PRRO will be received either at the port of Nouakchott as shipments arrive or at the Grand Moulins de Mauritanie mills in Nouakchott, depending on the contracts.
76. Commodities will then be forwarded to WFP's central warehouse in Nouakchott, which has a capacity of 5,000 mt, and to CFS warehouses at the central and regional levels.
77. Reinforcement of logistics capacity under a system of joint management with CFS, the counterpart organization, will be an important element in improving management and control of stocks in Nouakchott and elsewhere. This will allow commodities to be tracked continuously from reception to distribution to beneficiaries, following a model already used in several countries in the Sahel.
78. Joint management of all the warehouses in Nouakchott and all inland delivery points will serve to improve control and preparation of reports; responsibility will be assigned to the relevant personnel. Installation of the Commodity Movement Processing and Analysis System (COMPAS) in the near future will provide a solid basis for joint management.
79. The National Transport Federation, CFS and private trucking companies will transport WFP commodities inland. Five 4x4 WFP trucks and a small number of pick-up trucks will deliver the food from the regional warehouses and extended delivery points (EDPs) to distribution sites. The WFP country office will continue to seek financing to purchase additional 10 mt 4x4 trucks with a view to increasing its transport capacity.
80. WFP will, on a temporary basis, continue to recruit monitors and controllers responsible for assisting CFS field agents in charge of food distribution and accompanying the trucks on every trip.
81. Internal transport, storage and handling (ITSH) for the PRRO is US\$136/mt. The figure takes account of the fact that WFP will be using its own fleet of trucks and renting warehouse facilities in Nouakchott.

Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

82. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities will use the results-based management (RBM) approach. A baseline survey will be undertaken before start-up to obtain in advance the basic data to measure the direct results of the intervention in terms of SP2. The impact of the operation will be analysed on completion.
83. In collaboration with OFS and implementing partners, WFP will set up a monitoring system with monitoring sites across the 2004 operational area. A detailed timetable will be prepared at the start of the PRRO listing the training activities required and the monitoring tools needed, as well as those serving to prepare reports and collect data. Surveys will be carried out to track the progress of the operation on the basis of the performance indicators listed in the logical framework in Annex III. Data will be collected on a regular basis and consolidated annually by WFP in Nouakchott with a view to preparing standard project reports (SPRs) and other reports requested by WFP and donors.



84. A mid-term evaluation of PRRO activities will be carried out in mid-2006. Combined with other statistical data, the evaluation will help to determine progress towards achieving operational objectives and guide improvements.
85. Material, human and financial resources at WFP sub-offices will be strengthened to help to monitor activities more closely. Given the shortage of technical services at the Ministry of Rural Development and the Environment, WFP's sub-offices and implementing partners will set up a permanent advisory body covering identification, monitoring and certification.

Security Measures

86. Mauritania is currently under phase I of the United Nations Security Plan. Any change in the political situation will be taken account of in WFP's emergency intervention plan. All personnel at the WFP office in Mauritania have undergone security training.
87. In 2003 and 2004, the WFP country office had all its trucks fitted with very high frequency (VHF) and high frequency (HF) radios. An electronic messaging system and four satellite telephones have been installed in the sub-offices.

Exit Strategy

88. The PRRO is part of a strategy to enable local populations to recover and regain their assets. Activities executed in the 33 poorest communities should achieve a sharp drop in vulnerability after three years and should help beneficiaries to break out of the cycle of poverty.

Contingency Mechanism

89. The PRRO includes flexible mechanisms to be triggered by WFP in the event of a new crisis on the scale of the rains of January 2002 or the floods of 2003. In the event of a crisis at the national level, PRRO and country programme activities could serve as the basis for preparing a large-scale intervention.

BUDGET PROPOSAL AND INPUT REQUIREMENTS

90. PRRO 10359.0 will require 32,131 mt of food over three years. The cost to WFP is US\$20.0 million consisting of (i) direct operational costs of US\$16.9 million, (ii) direct support costs of US\$1.8 million and (iii) indirect support costs of US\$1.3 million.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

91. The Board is requested to approve PRRO Mauritania 10359.0 within the budget limits set out in Annexes I and II.



ANNEX I

PROJECT COST BREAKDOWN			
	Quantity (<i>mt</i>)	Average cost per <i>mt</i>	Value (<i>US\$</i>)
WFP COSTS*			
A. DOC			
Commodity*			
– Wheat	29 795	187	5 571 667
– Vegetables	1 437	286	410 982
– Vegetable oil	719	950	683 060
– Iodized salt	180	100	18 000
Total commodities	32 131		6 683 708
External transport			4 907 958
Total ITSH			4 360 427
Other direct operational costs			999 352
Total direct operational costs			16 951 445
B. Direct support costs (see Annex II for details)			1 805 487
Total direct support costs			18 756 932
C. Indirect support costs (7 percent)			1 312 985
TOTAL WFP COSTS			20 069 917
* This is a notional food basket used for budgeting and approval purposes. The contents may vary depending on the availability of commodities.			



ANNEX II

DIRECT SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS (US\$)	
Staff	
International professional staff	835 800
National general service staff	289 067
Temporary assistance	21 000
Overtime	3 000
United Nations volunteers	340 620
Staff duty travel	40 000
Sub-total	1 529 487
Office expenses and other recurrent costs	
Facility rental	36 000
Utilities	18 000
Office supplies	30 000
Communication and IT services	40 000
Insurance	7 500
Equipment repair and maintenance	15 000
Vehicle maintenance and running costs	70 000
Sub-total	216 500
Equipment and other fixed costs	
Telecommunications/information technology equipment	19 500
Sub-total	19 500
Baseline survey on results-based management	40 000
TOTAL DIRECT SUPPORT COSTS	1 805 487



LOGICAL FRAMEWORK SUMMARY—MAURITANIA PRRO 10359.0 (2005–2007)

Results hierarchy	Performance indicators	Risks, assumptions
<p>Impact</p> <p>Means of subsistence are protected in the event of crises; resistance to shocks is reinforced.</p>		
<p>Outcomes</p> <p>Capacity to cope with shocks and to meet essential food needs are increased.</p> <p>Greater availability of and access to food during the lean period for the most vulnerable groups.</p>	<p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Percentage of household budget spent on food. ➤ Percentage of households eating fewer than three meals a day. ➤ Percentage of households eating fewer than four different kinds of food. ➤ Percentage of households forced to sell breeding stock to feed themselves. 	<p>Government and NGO capacity to manage activities is reinforced.</p> <p>Government and NGOs provide non-food items in sufficient quantities and on time.</p> <p>Government and NGOs implement activities against pilgrim locusts and sesamia caterpillars.</p> <p>Full involvement of OFS in monitoring project results.</p>
<p>Key outputs</p> <p>Targeted beneficiaries participate in asset-creation and income-generating activities supported by food aid.</p>	<p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of beneficiaries participating in asset-creation and income-generating activities, by gender. ➤ Number of assets created by project categories – dykes, market gardening plots, wells. ➤ Proportion of women in management committees. 	



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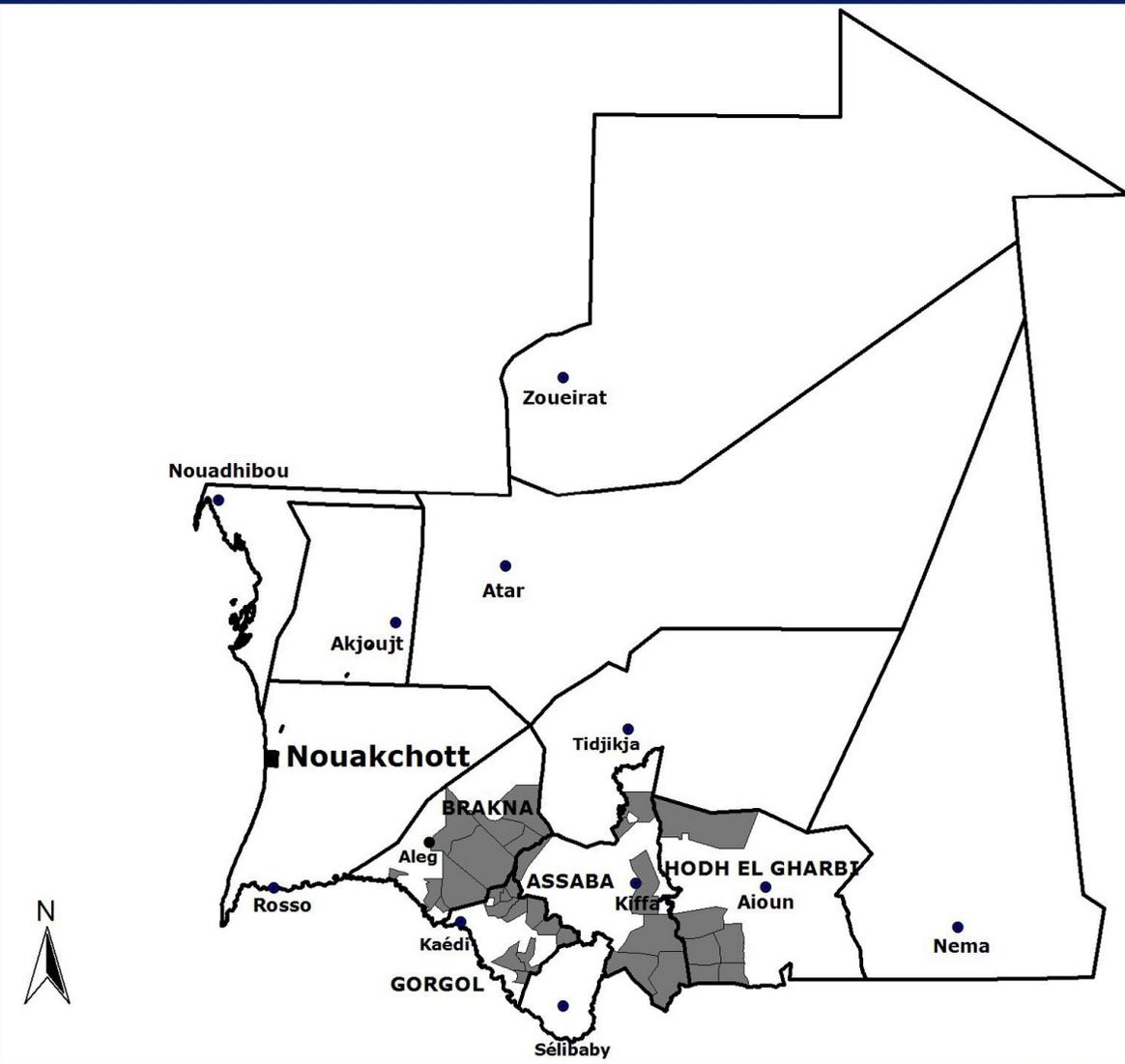
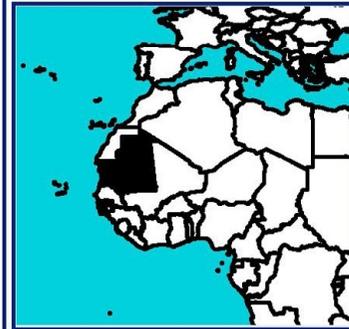


Legend

-  Regional (*wilaya*) border
-  Targeted community
-  National capital
-  Regional capital

Geographical information provided by the World Geodetic System, GCS WGS 1984

Map published by the ODD VAM Unit, June 2004



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

ACORD	Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development
CFS	Commissariat for Food Security
COMPAS	Commodity Monitoring, Processing and Analysis System
CPA	creation of productive assets
ECW	Enhanced Commitments to Women
EMOP	emergency operation
FEWS-NET	Famine Early-Warning Systems Network
FFT	food for training
ITSH	internal transport, storage and handling
NGO	non-governmental organization
OFS	Observatory on Food Security
Oxfam	Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
PRRO	protracted relief and recovery operation
SLODA	Local Structure for the Development of the Affolé
SP	Strategic Priority
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VAM	vulnerability assessment and mapping
VSFS	village-security food stock

