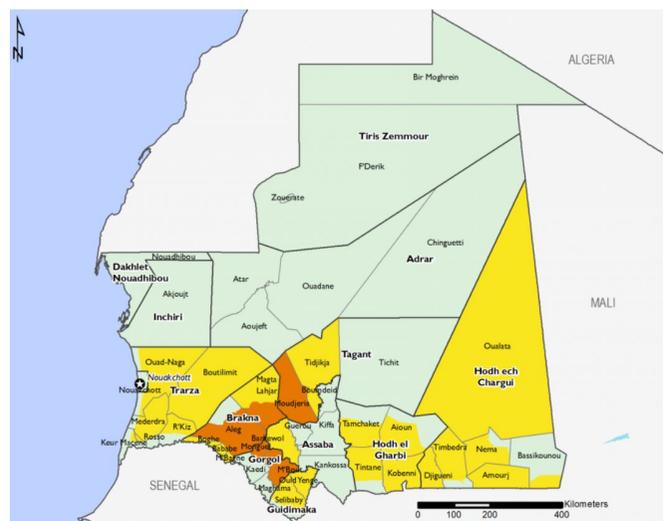


## IPC food insecurity Feb - May 2018

Source: FEWSNET 12/2017



IPC 2.0 Acute Food Insecurity Phase

1: Minimal 2: Stressed 3: Crisis 4: Emergency 5: Famine

## Key figures and key findings

### Demography

**3.8 million**

total population of Mauritania

**64**

life expectancy at birth, in years

**75**

Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)

Source: US Census Bureau, 2018



### Main affected target groups

- 1** Poor farming-oriented agropastoral households
- 2** Poor livestock-oriented households
- 3** Malian refugee households

### Priority sectors of intervention

- 1** Food Security
- 2** Nutrition
- 3** Health & WASH

### Key Findings and key highlights

**602,000**

people need food assistance by June - August 2018

**1.2 million**

people food-insecure in 2018

Source: FEWSNET, 12/2017; OCHA, 2018

**8 regions**

out of 13 with critical nutrition situation

**165,000**

children and women requiring nutritional assistance

Source: GoM, 2017; OCHA, 2018

**54%**

deaths < 5's due to malnutrition, diseases

**50%**

rural population lacking safe water access

Source: OCHA, 2017

## Crisis overview

**Overview of current food insecurity situation:** Mauritania faces chronic poverty and hunger, nearly a third of Mauritians live under the national poverty line. Many depend on subsistence agriculture and pastoralism as their primary livelihoods, which are vulnerable to environmental shocks. Acute malnutrition affects 15 % of children under 5. Mauritania is already experiencing a likely Crisis (IPC Phase 3) situation in western agropastoral areas. Poor and/or erratic rainfall patterns during the June – September 2017 rainy season have severely affected milk and crop production and incomes in western parts of the agropastoral zone. Impact on livelihoods has been negative due to increased livestock sales and declined livestock prices on markets because of poor pastoral conditions; atypical seasonal migration by transhumant pastoralists and their animals; and food consumption needs as a result of failure of rainfed crops. [Source: FEWSNET, 10/2017; GHI, 2017; USAID, 30/11/2017](#)

**Sectoral concerns:** Malnutrition in the country has been aggravated by droughts and floods, in 8 out of 13 regions global and severe acute malnutrition rates surpass the emergency threshold, as does the national prevalence of severe acute malnutrition (2.3 %). 165,000 children and pregnant or lactating women will require nutritional assistance, 32,000 children under 5 will require treatment for SAM. Estimates indicate food insecurity and malnutrition levels comparable to the 2011-12 food and nutrition crisis. In these areas, access to drinking water and sanitation is below the national average at 62 %, and 86,000 people need safe drinking water. In addition, the country regularly encounters epidemics such as cholera, measles and meningitis while the health system is fragile and has a low geographical coverage. [Source: OCHA, 2017, 2018; UNICEF, 2018](#)

**Projected outlook through May 2018:** Escalation in food insecurity in all livelihood zones. Main crisis drivers are poor pastoral conditions; large shortfall in crop production; and a decline in income. An estimated 1.2 million people will be food insecure, and 602,000 people will be in need of external food assistance. It is estimated that a total of 829,000 people will need humanitarian aid in 2018. In western parts of the agropastoral zone, poor farming-oriented agropastoral households are pushed into a Crisis (IPC Phase 3) situation, expected to spread to poor livestock-oriented households January – May 2018. In central parts of the agropastoral zone, the rainfed farming zone, Senegal River Valley and northern portion of the transhumant pastoral zone poor households will most likely be in a Stressed (IPC Phase 2) situation. Refugees continue to put additional pressure on local food supplies, with 2,200 urban refugees and asylum seekers and 52,000 Malian refugees in Mbera, a camp in the arid south-eastern region close to the Malian border. They have little prospect of return in 2018, and live in a region with limited livelihoods, sharing meagre water supplies, pasture, land and basic services with the host populations. [Source: FAO, 2017; FEWSNET, 2017; OCHA, 2018; UNHCR, 12/2017](#)

### What are RCRC Movement actions in this regard?

The Mauritanian Red Crescent Society and RCRC Movement Actors, most notably the French Red Cross, are already finalizing assessments and planning the response to increased humanitarian needs, particularly in southwestern region of Mauritania. Priority sectors for intervention are Food Security and Livelihood, Nutrition, Health and Wash. IFRC is supporting the Mauritanian Red Cross, with the technical support of the British Red Cross, in conducting community level assessments in the regions of Assaba, Brakna and Gorgol.