

# Preliminary Appeal

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## Mauritania

# Response to Food Insecurity in Mauritania – MRT121 Appeal Target: US\$ 412,889

Geneva, 13 January 2012

Dear Colleagues,

The shortage of rain during 2011 has caused significant drop in agricultural production and fodder for animals in Mauritania. The Government of Mauritania together with the World Food Programme (WFP) and other agencies has carried out a food security assessment in July and October 2011 which has revealed worrying facts. Due to the poor rainfall last year, the forthcoming harvest is predicted to have a 48% decline of gross output of all combined cereals in relation to previous years.

As a consequence, the Government of Mauritania has officially declared an emergency situation throughout the southern and south-eastern territories and developed a response plan with various components. The costs for the implementation of the response plan are an estimated 157 million USD. The Government is planning to cover USD 80.2 million, or 51% and appeals at the same time for assistance from the UN system and international NGOs operating in Mauritania in order to bridge the financial/material gap needed for the realisation of the emergency plan in order to save life.

The Lutheran World Federation/Department for World Service (LWF-DWS)/Mauritania is an active member of the Emergency Forum in Mauritania, grouping together UN Humanitarian agencies, Government, local and international civil society organizations, Red Cross and Red Crescents societies. With the appeal on hand, LWF Mauritania is applying for funds to respond to the magnitude of the food crisis and to fill gaps which are not covered by the Government or other humanitarian agencies.

In its response, LWF will focus on children, pregnant and lactating women and elderly people. The objectives of the emergency response are to i) save the lives of the most vulnerable people by providing nutritious food supplies, and ii) to build capacities of vulnerable households so that they can produce their own food on long-term basis and earn a small income in order to gain a level of independence from humanitarian assistance.

During the six-month implementation period, LWF is planning to support 30.000 persons (3,500 children, 13,700 women and 12,800 men). The emergency response will focus on most vulnerable areas where LWF is already operating, namely the southern region of Brakna, the southeastern region of Hodh Echarghi and in Nouakchott town.

**Project Start/Completion Date:** 1 February 2012 – 31 July 2012

**Preliminary Reporting Schedule**

	<b>Interim narrative &amp; Financial</b>	<b>Final Narrative &amp; Financial</b>	<b>Audit</b>
<b>LWF</b>	NA	30 September 2012	March 2013 (as part o the annual audit report)

**Summary of Appeal Targets, Pledges/Contributions Received and Balance Requested (US\$):**

<b>Appeal Target</b>	<b>412,889 USD</b>
<b>Less: Pledges/Contr Recd</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Balance Requested from ACT Alliance</b>	<b>412,889 USD</b>

Please kindly send your contributions to either of the following ACT bank accounts:

**US dollar**

Account Number - 240-432629.60A  
IBAN No: CH46 0024 0240 4326 2960A

**Euro**

Euro Bank Account Number - 240-432629.50Z  
IBAN No: CH84 0024 0240 4326 2950Z

**Account Name: ACT - Action by Churches Together**

UBS AG  
8, rue du Rhône  
P.O. Box 2600  
1211 Geneva 4, SWITZERLAND  
Swift address: UBSWCHZH80A

**Please also inform the Chief Finance Officer Jean-Daniel Birmele ([jbi@actalliance.org](mailto:jbi@actalliance.org)) and the Regional Programme Officer, Katherine Ireri of all pledges/contributions and transfers, including funds sent direct to the implementers.**

We would appreciate being informed of any intent to submit applications for EU, USAID and/or other back donor funding and the subsequent results. We thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.

**For further information please contact:**

ACT Regional Programme Officer, Katherine Ireri (phone +41 22 791 6040 or mobile phone +41 79 433 0592) or

ACT Deputy General Secretary, Rebecca Larson (phone +41 22 791 6069)

ACT Web Site address: <http://www.actalliance.org>



Rebecca Larson  
Deputy General Secretary  
ACT Alliance Secretariat

**REQUESTING MEMBER****The Lutheran World Federation/Department for World Service (LWF/DWS) Mauritania**

The LWF/DWS has implemented emergency programmes worldwide since its creation in 1947, serving refugee and IDP populations in situations of war, civil strife, natural disasters and emergencies. It has a long experience in dealing with complicated emergencies in geographically challenging settings, and is able to draw on its extensive pool of staff and experience in coordinating an emergency response with other partners from the Ecumenical Family.

The LWF/DWS has worked in Mauritania for 38 years and has been responsible for various emergency interventions, during the time. It has long term and established partnerships with local NGO's and NGO networks in Mauritania. The transition program of the LWF focuses on a more facilitating role in emergency and development programs. It promotes the empowerment of groups, the integration of activities and a rights-based approach.

**1. NARRATIVE SUMMARY****DETAILS OF THE EMERGENCY****Food security:**

The current precarious food security status in Mauritania is based on joint assessments that have been carried out by the Government services in charge of food security, UN agencies (WFP & UNICEF) and bilateral bodies specialized in monitoring the food situation such as FEWS-NET. Assessments took place in July and October 2011. An analysis of the surveys shows the following results:

The rainy season of 2011 is characterized by poor rainfall in time of the planting season causing a significant drop in agricultural production and fodder for animals. A forecast for the forthcoming harvest in 2012 shows a decline in gross output of all combined cereals of 48% in relation to previous years seasons and a decrease of the net production of 64%. These production figures are comparable to those of 2002-2003, the years of major food crisis in Mauritania and the Western Sahel.

The drop in production comes at a time of rising prices for imported food, which for several months now reduces the financial capabilities of households to access these foods. In July 2011, 21% of the population was already in the condition of food insecurity, the projections made by FEWS NET and WFP indicate that some 800,000 people could be affected by the crisis in early January 2012.

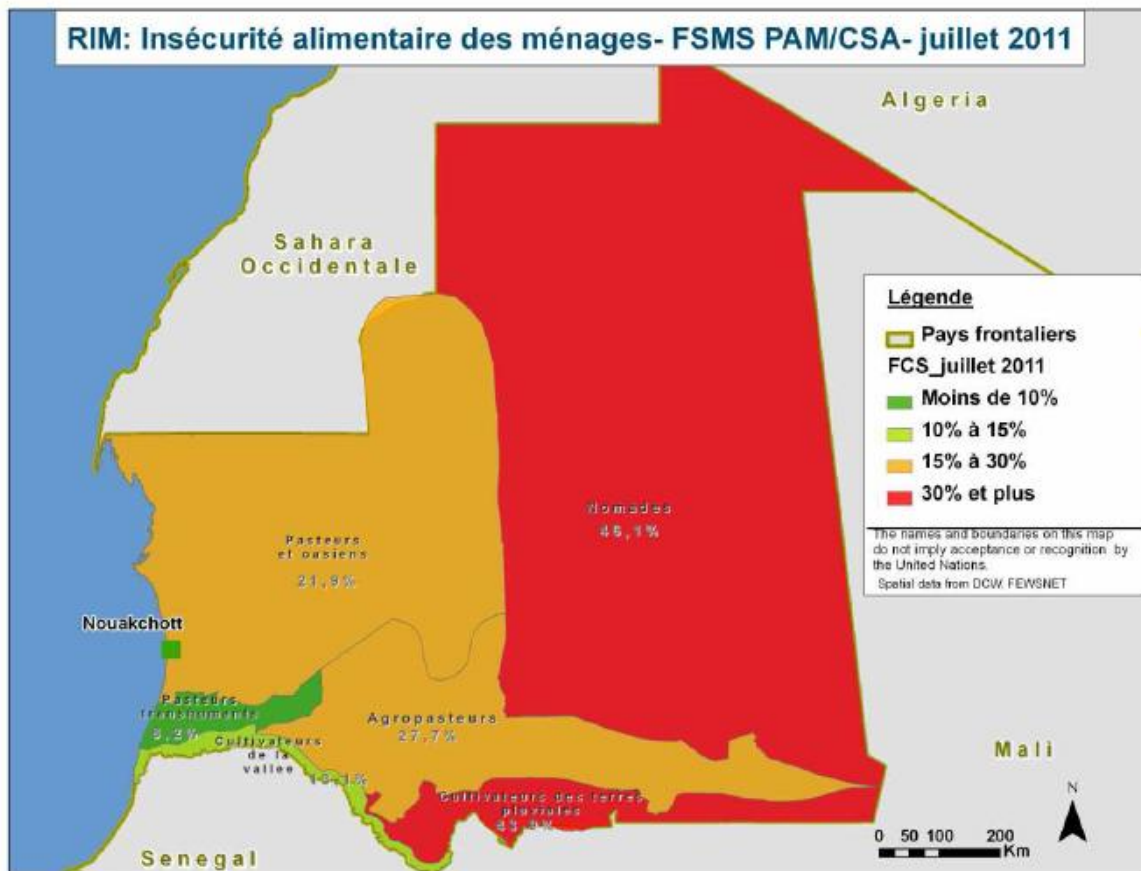
The decline in rainfall has led to serious consequences in terms of:

- Significant decline of agricultural production compared to the last 5 years ;
- Deficiency of herbaceous pasture that severely affects livestock development and deteriorate terms of trade for livestock-foodstuffs;
- Livestock are dying by the hundreds due to the lack of pasture;
- Decline in milk production (largely for self consumption) with consequences of malnutrition especially for children;
- Rising crop prices;
- Insufficient food supplies – serious famine especially in the south and south-east of Mauritania.

The situation in Mauritania is aggravated by the fact that the neighboring countries of western Mali and northern Senegal also suffer from low delayed rainfall and droughts in parts of the countries meaning they are also facing deficits in the production of staple cereals and healthy livestock. Cross-border exchange of basic grains and seasonal movement of livestock, traditionally providing a safety net for Mauritanian farmers during lean periods, will also fail. There are currently increases in coarse-grain prices in neighbouring countries, which will affect the domestic market because of the intense trans-

border flow of basic foodstuffs. It should be noted that Mauritania imports on average more than 70% of its food needs.

The map below shows the regions worst affected by food insecurity (by WFP and the Commission for food security of the Government):



Source : WFP/CSA

Agriculture occupies 67% of the Mauritanian workforce and constitutes some 17% of GDP, at the same time livestock production involves about 60% of the population and constitutes 12% of GDP. Because of the importance of agricultural and pastoral production systems based on rain, a significant decrease in rainfall has dramatic consequences on the food and pastoral situation especially in rural areas.

Urban areas depend largely on food imports. Therefore, the increase of prices on the international market is strongly reflected on the domestic food markets. For example, in September 2011, retail prices of wheat recorded a 50% increase over the 2009-2010 levels.

Thus, local cereal production, which in normal years covers 30% of the needs in the country, is estimated to decline from about 120,000 tonnes in 2011 to 29,000 tonnes in 2012. 60% of these crops come from rain fed production systems. All these indicators suggest that the period from January to July 2012 will be particularly challenging for the vast low-income population of Mauritania in terms of food security and nutrition.

*Weight – size average z-scores and the occurrence of food insecurity in the LWF program intervention areas during 2011 (without new data expected in early 2012 – as mentioned above):*

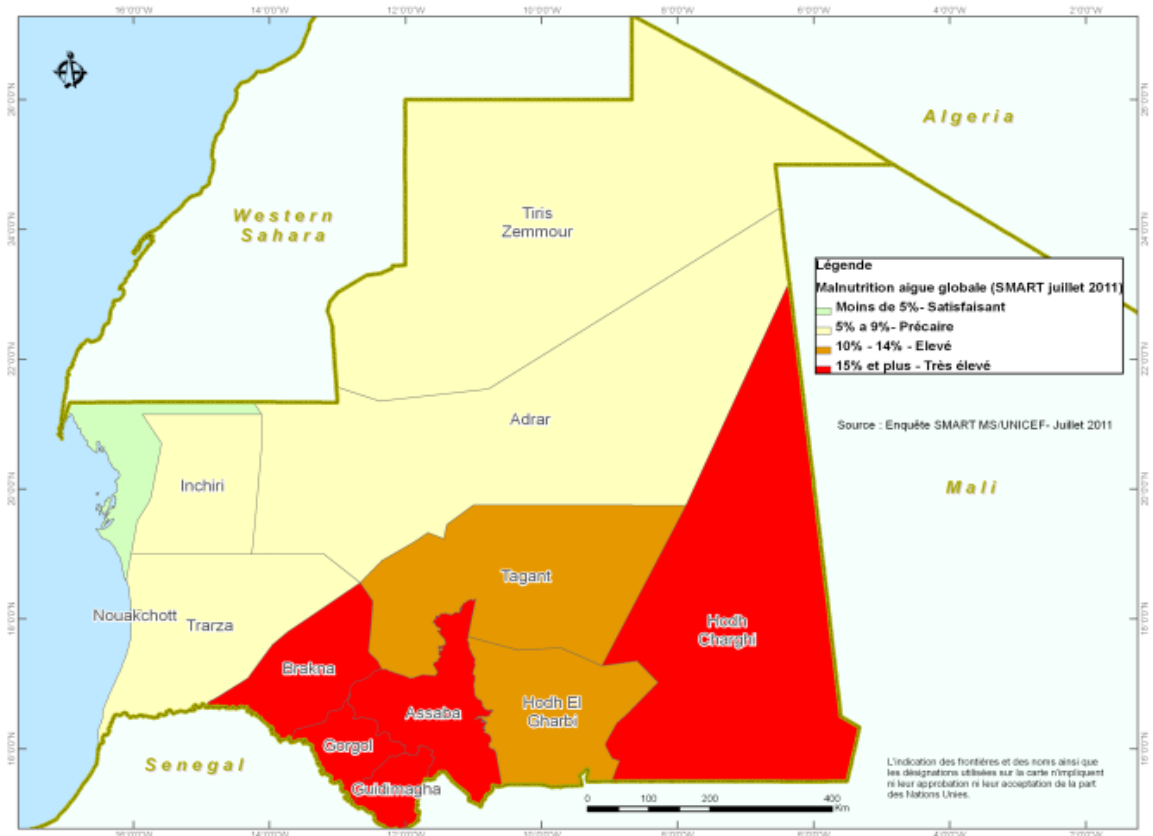
Area	n	Average z-scores, +/- ET	Combined effect (z-score < -2)	Occurrence of food insecurity
South-East (HodhEcharghi and Hodh Egharbi)	659	-0,76 +/- 0,90	1,09	➤ 30%
South (Brakna, Gorgol)	718	-0,91 +/- 0,76	1,0	between 15% et 30%
Trarza	668	-0,76 +/- 0,88	2,28	between 10% et 15%
Nouakchott Urban	568	-0,55 +/- 0,86	1,26	< 10%

**Nutrition:**

A nutritional survey conducted by the Ministry of Health with support from UNICEF also highlights that among children of 6 to 59 months, the rate of acute malnutrition in the country reaches, already from July 2011, an average of 11.1% and severe acute malnutrition 1%. However, these percentages differ between the various areas of the country. The southern and eastern parts of the country, areas where LWF intervenes, are the most affected and malnutrition rates are above the threshold of 15% (the nutritional emergency threshold set by the WHO).

A new survey by UNICEF was carried out in December 2011 and its results will be announced at the beginning of the year 2012.

The map below shows the areas of acute malnutrition (source joint survey Ministry of Health and UNICEF)



The table below shows the rate of acute malnutrition between Jan and July 2011 (joined survey by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF):

Areas of Survey 2011	janv-11	juil-11
Hodh Echarghi	10,6	14,8
Hodh Gharbi	4,4	12,4
Brakna	9,2	18
Gorgol	6,6	15,7
Trarza	5,2	5,9
Nouakchott	2	4,8

#### **ACTIONS TO DATE, AND EMERGENCY NEEDS:**

Following thorough food security assessments by the Mauritanian Government, WFP and other agencies in July and October 2011, the Government of Mauritania has officially declared an emergency situation throughout the southern and south-eastern territories and developed a response plan with various components. These components relate in particular to the sourcing of community food security reserves, a program of food distribution for extremely vulnerable groups, nutritional support for children from 6 to 59 months, a price subsidy for basic food items and assistance with fodder for livestock.

Costs involved amount to USD 157 million. State budget support will cover USD 80.2 million, or 51%. The Government appeals for assistance from the UN system and international NGOs operating in Mauritania in order to bridge the financial/material gap needed for the realisation of the emergency plan in order to save precious human life.

UN organizations have activated the emergency financing mechanism of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) of UN-OCHA for a total of more than 2 million USD, in addition there are specific actions planned by the national and international NGOs.

However, because of the magnitude of the food crisis, many needs will be un-responded and gaps will remain. Especially children, pregnant and lactating women and elderly people will be affected. In order to secure acute and the longer term needs for food of these most vulnerable persons and house, LWF Mauritania in its operational areas intends a two-prawn approach:

#### **Acute crisis phase**

- Immediate distribution of food supplies to save lives.

#### **Post-crisis phase**

- Activities assisting vulnerable households with more long-term projects - vegetable growing, applying improved irrigation techniques.
- Small livestock breeding (poultry).
- Assistance with fodder for livestock for livestock rehabilitation.
- Income generation from vegetable and livestock growing.

There will be a strong capacity building component to these small scale gardening, irrigation and income generating projects with improved techniques and materials.

**PROPOSED EMERGENCY RESPONSE:****- OBJECTIVE(S) OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

- To save the lives of the most vulnerable people by providing nutritious food supplies.
- To build capacities of vulnerable households so that they can produce their own food on long-term basis and earn a small income in order to gain a level of independence from humanitarian assistance.

**- TARGET POPULATIONS:**

The emergency response will focus on most vulnerable areas where LWF is already operating, namely the southern region of Brakna, the southeastern region of Hodh Echarghi and in Nouakchott town.

The total number of beneficiaries of this operation will be 30.000 persons for a period of 6 months. Of this 3,500 are children, 13,700 are women and 12,800 are men.

**- PROPOSED ASSISTANCE:****Acute Crisis Phase:**

This activity involves a monthly provision of assorted food items to 250 most vulnerable households for three months at the value of USD 42 per month per household. Food vouchers will be given to the selected vulnerable households against which they can obtain the monthly food ration. High protein biscuits will be distributed mainly to the cases of severe malnutrition with focus on children, pregnant and lactating women, as well as elderly people.

A contingency stock of high energy biscuits BP5 of 6,000 boxes will be established (3,000 boxes coming from NCA assistance and 3,000 boxes are applied for in this appeal) enabling us to intervene fast in cases of urgent needs.

**Post-Crisis Phase:**

These activities will focus on strengthening 300 vulnerable households to become more self-reliant in situations of food shortages, i.e. less dependent on humanitarian assistance. To achieve this improved vegetable growing and livestock breeding will be introduced by the project – harvests to be used partly for self consumption and partly for earning a small cash income.

150 households will be trained to grow their own food in small irrigated vegetable gardens and 150 households will learn how to breed and maintain improved domestic livestock. The type of assistance – vegetable gardening or livestock breeding – will depend on the climatic/geographic conditions of the project location. To start-up, each of 150 households will receive small basic gardening tools and assorted vegetable seed as well as the equipment for a simple irrigation-by-drip system, and 150 households will be provided with a set of small livestock, i.e. two goats or sheep and four to five chicken for breeding plus fodder for the first phase of the project.

The indicators used to measure success will be:

- ✓ Number of people with improved nutrition status among the recipients of food aid.
- ✓ Number of households with improved food security and self-reliance, among households receiving the long-term rehabilitation assistance.

- **IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS:**

The implementation of the emergency projects will be carried out by LWF's local partners in each of the three areas of intervention accompanied and supported by LWF technical field staff. LWF will sign a project specific Memorandum of Understanding, accompanied by the ACT Code of Conduct on Sexual Exploitation, Abuse of Power and Corruption, with each local partner outlining the details of the intervention – mutual obligations and responsibilities, approaches, e.g. Rights-based approach (RBA), materials to be distributed during the actual crisis and the working methods of the longer term project in the post-crisis phase.

The emergency intervention will also strongly implicate local communities, organized in Community Based Organizations (CBOs), who will select the most vulnerable individuals and households for inclusion into the acute emergency assistance program as well as the projects with longer term impact during the post-crisis phase. To ensure best use of emergency assistance and to avoid duplications, specific arrangements will have to be made with the other actors, i.e. the partners of the Emergency Forum, such as Government, UN agencies, national and international NGO's.

- **COORDINATION:**

This intervention will fill gaps and complement the activities by the Government as well as national and international NGO's in the domain of food security and nutrition. It will prevent duplications through LWF presence in the intervention areas and close regular information sharing and coordination with the other actors. In addition, at national level, there will be frequent coordination meetings, as well as publications and reports shared during the regular gatherings of the Emergency Forum.

At the regional level, efforts will be made to ensure information sharing with the ACT Alliance members operating in the Sahel regions of West Africa. However, because of the long distances between the countries in which the member organizations are working, operational coordination can only be considered with northern Senegal and western Mali.

- **COMMUNICATIONS:**

The LWF Emergency Coordinator will be the contact person for issues concerning the emergency intervention. He will supervise all activities, communicate with the national and international stakeholders and ensure the dissemination of regular good quality LWF reports, as well as reports from the other actors and media information. Visibility will be maintained, although low key, in order to protect project areas, communities and LWF staff from the threats posed by the regional Al Qaida network. (LWF has elaborated a firm security policy with detailed instructions on how to act and protect staff and projects in the various possibilities of insecurity).

- **PLANNED IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:** Indicate planned duration of activities.

The intervention is scheduled for a period of 6 months: from 1<sup>st</sup> February to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Elaboration of an Emergency Appeal for drought victims in Mauritania.
- No immediate funding advance required at this stage.
- No RST support required.

## 2. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Exchange rate – 1 USD = 286 MRO

Description	Unit Type	No. Of Units/Session	Unit Cost in MRO	Budget MRO	Budget USD
<b>I. DIRECT ASSISTANCE</b>					
<b>1. Acute Emergency phase</b>					
Distribution of Food Voucher, three months to 250 individ./households ( <i>Wheat/Rice, sugar, vegetable oil</i> )	Unit	750	12 000	9 000 000	31 469
Acquisition and transportation of 3000 boxes of high energy biscuits BP5	Unit	3000	18 875	56 625 000	197 990
Supervision of distribution	Days	30	44 800	1 344 000	4 699
<b>2. Post-crisis phase</b>					
<b>2.1 Development of small irrigated vegetable plots</b>					
Purchase of kits of basic garden tools and assorted vegetable seed	Unit	150	60 000	9 000 000	31 469
Drip system (Downpipe, basin)	Unit	150	82 000	12 300 000	43 007
Identification of beneficiaries	Lump sum	3	450 000	1 350 000	4 720
<b>2.2 Development of improved domestic livestock</b>					
Animal feed for small livestock (500 kg for each household for 3 months)	Unit	150	40 000	6 000 000	20 979
Small domestic livestock (e.g. two goats or sheep and four chicken for breeding)	Unit	150	32 000	4 800 000	16 783
<b>3. Training and awareness</b>					
Supportive supervision	Lump sum	12	20 000	240 000	839
Campagne IEC	Lump sum	2	400 000	800 000	2797
				<b>101 459 000</b>	<b>354 752</b>
<b>II. TRANSPORTATION OF FOOD</b>					
Fuel and Lubrificants for vehicle for project visit	Liters	3 600	330,9	1 191 240	4 165
Food transport cost	Truck	6	300 000	1 800 000	6 294
				<b>2 991 240</b>	<b>10 459</b>
<b>III. PROJECT COORDINATION (field office direct) COST</b>					
<b>1. Coordination with Partners</b>					
Areas Management committee (3)	Committee	12	40 000	480 000	1 678
Coordinator (1)	Month	6	100 000	600 000	2 098
Operations manager (1)	Month	6	80 000	480 000	1 678
Follow up and evaluation Officer (1)	Month	6	80 000	480 000	1 678
				<b>2 040 000</b>	<b>7 133</b>

<b>IV. ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT COST</b>					
<b>1. Salaries, Administration and support cost</b>					
Salary Emergency Coordinator 50%	Month	6	90 000	540 000	1 888
Salary PME Coordinator 30%	Month	6	50 000	300 000	1 049
Salary - Representative 25%	Month	6	265 500	1 593 000	5 570
Salary Finance Manager 30%	Month	6	175 000	1 050 000	3 671
Salary Chief Accountant 40%	Month	6	48 000	288 000	1 007
Salary Accountant 40%	Month	6	35 000	210 000	734
Salary - Logistics Officer 40%	Month	6	39 000	234 000	818
Salary - Accountant Assistant 40%	Month	6	30 000	180 000	629
Office Rent - Nouakchott 30%	Month	6	90 000	540 000	1 888
Stationery and supplies LS	Month	6	40 000	240 000	839
Telephone, Fax & E-mail 30%	Month	6	80 000	480 000	1 678
Office Utilities (water and Electricity)- Nouakchott 30%	Visit	6	80 000	480 000	1 678
Fuel and Lubrificants for vehicle for project visit	Visit	8	50 000	400 000	1 399
Hire-Vehicles (Transport) for project visit	Month	8	60 000	480 000	1 678
Perdiem for Staff for project visit	Month	8	22 400	179 200	627
				<b>7 194 200</b>	<b>25 155</b>
<b>2. Equipments</b>					
GPS	Unit	1	200 000	200 000	699
Internet	Unit	1	37 500	37 500	131
Printer	Unit	1	45 000	45 000	157
				<b>282 500</b>	<b>988</b>
				<b>7 476 700</b>	<b>26 142</b>
<b>V. OTHER EXPENSES</b>					
Audit Fees		Lump Sum		500 000	1 748
Assessment Mission		Lump Sum		180 000	629
				<b>680 000</b>	<b>2 378</b>
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS</b>					
				<b>114 646 940</b>	<b>400 863</b>
ACT Appeal Fees 3%				<b>3 439 408</b>	<b>12 026</b>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE</b>					
				<b>118 086 348</b>	<b>412,889</b>