





COVID-19

Emergency ResponseSituation Report

Mauritanie — Décembre 2020

Liste des abréviations

WV: World Vision

MASEF: Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and the Family

PROCAPEC: Promotional agency for the Popular Savings and Loan Banks

CLUSTER: Grouping of intervention programmes

WHO: World Health Organization

ICP: Head Nurse

NOWS: National Office of Water Services

VIAMO: Via Mobile

CHW: Community Health Worker

CDC: Community Development Centre

NEDI: National Education Department Inspection

ADP: Area of Development Programme

RC: Community Relay

NGO: Non Gouvernemental Organization

WASH: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

CMT: Crisis Management Team

RTL: Real Time Learning (*Apprentissage en temps réel)

SUMMARY

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Beneficiaries of the response

• Girls: 77.862

• Boys : 68.491

Total amount spent on the response

Women: 107.485

US\$ 418.000

• Men: 68.85 I

• TOTAL:322.689

A word from the National Director



The outbreak of COVID-19 since December 2019 in China has resulted in an economic, social and health crisis worldwide. In Mauritania, from the first weeks of its appearance on the national territory in March 2020, the Authorities closed the borders by land, air and sea. Faced with the adverse effects of the pandemic, the Government has developed and implemented a response plan to curb the health crisis socio-economic and its It is in this context that World Vision Mauritania has collaborated with its government partners (MASEF, Ministry of National Education) and civil society in particular (the association of peer educators, the Association of Imams and the High Authority of Ulemas) to support the most vulnerable families and children affected by this pandemic.

These actions have had an impact on more than 300,000 direct beneficiaries and 1,800,000 indirect beneficiaries for a total investment of US\$418,000.

It is within this framework that information and awareness campaigns through the network of 15 local radio stations linked to the National Radio in a network with Chinguetti TV and child protection caravans have made it possible to broadcast messages on the protection of children and households against COVID 19, the fight against abuse, forms of mistreatment and even violence against children and adults in the context of the COVID 19 pandemic

The above-mentioned campaigns were animated and led by various resource persons including religious leaders, sociologists, educators, doctors, and reached a target audience of 1,800,000 people at the national level.

The commitment and dynamism of religious leaders in raising awareness can to be acknowledged here, in a context where people had many concerns about the information circulating about the pandemic.

The partnership with the Ministry of National Education to support learning in the context of COVID-19 has made it possible, among other things, to improve provisions for compliance with barrier measures in schools and facilitate the continuity of teaching and learning.

The partnership with the association of pairs éducateurs through the production and distribution of 4 videos summarising good practices on the barrier measures enacted by the Ministry of Health in the four national languages (Arabic, Pulaar, Soninke and Wolof) made it possible to reach various audiences.

Significant realisations made by World Vision Mauritania, such as the distribution of WASH kits, school kits, fortified flour, cash and masks are also highlighted in the report.

Thank you for your support that has brought relief to children, families and communities in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alex Whitney

National Director



Key figures

• Number of health structures supported: | | 4

• Number of bleach bottles supplied: 14.760

• Number of soaps supplied: 43.824

• Number of hand washing devices supplied: 271

• Number of 450ml hydro-alcoholic gel bottles distributed 948

Distribution of WASH kits by Cluster

Clusters	Boxes of soap	Boxes of bleach
Nouakchott	950	480
Boghé	1450	730
Kaédi	1100	520
Kiffa	900	430
Barkéol	600	340
TOTAL	5000	2500

Mohamed Deddew, head doctor of Boghé health center



« World Vision is a reliable partner. Many organizations intervene occasionally in the Moughataa. Even beyond the COVID-19 crisis, WV's support with monitoring, for instance, is significant.

The leading partner of Boghé in the response to COVID was objectively WV, in terms of equipment support, awareness-raising and field presences. What WV has brought at the commune level has reached us. The amount was therefore sufficient, be it for gloves, masks or disinfectants. ».

Ebbe Moustapha, nurse at Raachid health unit

« World Vision provided us with hygiene kits to sustain us for a few months.

In addition to this, the raising of awareness in the communities has made it possible to be as familiar as possible with suspect cases and to take them into care. As a result, not a single positive case has been reported here in Raachid. ».



WASH kits in the communes



Key figures

Number of bleach bottles supplied : 16.965

Number of soaps supplied: 45.120

Number of hand washing devices settled: 272

Number of 450ml hydro-alcoholic gel bottles distributed: 720



Best practice: How Boghé town hall set up a pioneering cross-cutting communal system.

Boghé was an example of a coordinated and integral response to COVID-19. Dika Kane, Secretary General of the town hall reports that: « During May, WV supported Boghé municipality to an appreciable extent, which in turn enabled us to target the most vulnerable families identified in the area. ».

In fact, on March 17th, when the alert was raised at the national level, the city team reacted immediately by asking for consultation with local and national civil associations.

Village cooperatives (especially women's) and volunteers have provided more hygiene products for distribution, targeting women heads of household, who are the most vulnerable.

For a better respect of barrier measures, handwashing kits are installed at police stations, health posts, hospitals, markets and other public places.

Partnership with the Sebkha municipality: Cash transfers for 100 families, and donation of 8 motorised tricycles to support the town hall's fieldwork.



Sebkha commune has obtained funding from World Vision for a cash transfer (2,700 Mru per month, for 3 months), starting in June, benefiting 100 families in Sebkha. The beneficiaries are composed of 35 families in the Kouva district, 35 families in Basra, 15 families in the administrative area, and 15 families in the former 5th district. According to the mayor of the municipality of Sebkha Mr Aboubacar Soumaré « A tripartite committee (town hall, prefecture and World Vision) was established to identify beneficiaries. c

« At the same time, 850 food packages (25kgs, 10kgs of pasta, 5kgs of sugar, and 5L of oil), were also provided through the imams, who identified the needy families around each mosque. » affirms the mayor of Sebkha, Aboubacar Soumaré.

Motorised tricycles in illustration

In the fight against Covid I 9, the Sebkha town hall has sealed a partnership with World Vision, which allowed the delivery of 8 motorised "WAW" tricycles and hygiene kits (soaps and bleach), in June 2020.

Souleymane LÔ, head of social affairs at Kaedi town hall:

« "World Vision has been the leading stakeholder that we have witnessed on field with our communities.

As for its impact, we did not make a succinct evaluation but we are satisfied at the commune level, because the transparency that prevailed meant that we did not have any complaints. This is historical in our eyes, especially when it comes to money. And all this has been done in the most absolute discretion. »





Dr Jemal Ahmed Taleb, Kiffa mayor: « There has been a response plan here since the first national case in Mauritania was declared ».

Kiffa is the second city after Nouakchott and the most affected by COVID-19 (many people on dialysis have been infected). World Vision had no activities in Kiffa town, but during this exceptional pandemic,

The NGO's support has been massive and responsive. I followed WV's activities in the field, and whether it was for awareness raising or the distribution of hygiene kits, the part played by WV was decisive in our eyes in preserving the health of the Assaba communities, and of Kiffa in particular. ».

RECOMMENDATION:

They concern the after affects of COVID on fragile socio-professional groups: couscous and milk saleswomen, restaurants (the 3 professions most affected by the sanitary crisis), all these small businesses, must be supported, because their activities have been economically impacted. Extensive socio-economic support must be thought of for these numerous small activities.

Street vendors have been hit hard by the economic repercussions of this health crisis. Their activities have been immobilised by state measures, in a context where poverty was already endemic here.

Cheikh Ould Moctar, Guerrou mayor: « World Vision has consistently supported us in our response to COVID »



The challenge today is the significant laxity of the population in the practice of barrier gestures, despite the significant efforts made by WV in raising awareness in particular.

« The WFP and the national programme Taazour have provided monetary support, but this is still insufficient on the whole because it only concerns 600 people. The only organization that supported us during this crisis period was WV. And these are not empty words because WV's presence here dates back a very long time. » points out the mayor of Guerrou, Cheikh Ould Moctar.





Aissata Diallo, beneficiary of the cash transfer in Kaedi

« We asked Sebkha municipality to make their own identification of the most vulnerable citizens. A committee made up of community volunteers, religious and community leaders and representatives of the town hall drew up a list based on defined criteria including the presence of children under the age of 5 in the household, the state of deterioration of the housing and the socio-economic situation of the household. (Safietou Ba, a child sponsorship officer at the World Vision programme in Sebkha, "We have to be careful not to overlook the fact that the children are in the home ».

« I have 2 brothers and sisters under the age of 5 and I have become their mother since the death of our mother a few weeks ago. If you count my 2 babies aged 6 months and 3 years, it is as though I have 4 children with me. My mother was the head of the family. My dad is having a very hard time. I am braiding today. I used to knit a few boubous, but bad eyesights made me stop" says A. Diallo, with a broken voice, still mourning the loss of his mother"».

In Kaedi (capital of the Gorgol region in southern Mauritania), where she lives, the welding coupled with the COVID-19 crisis have further complicated matters for the already fragile households. And for this young woman married very (too) early, still far from her majority, a whole horizon of immediate responsibilities is taking shape. A horizon made a little clearer for 3 months, thanks to the support in cash transfer from World Vision (for a total of 8,300 Mru) and the distribution of Misola flour for 2 of the children who were malnourished, and herself, severely anaemic.

"Her late mother herself was severely anaemic, in addition to her 6-month-old daughter," says Ousmane Diallo, education specialist and head of cash distribution at Kaedi for World Vision.

Mariam Sy, beneficiary in El Mina

100 beneficiaries received cash transfer support for 3 months as part of World Vision's integrated response to COVID-19 in the municipality of El Mina. .

Mariam Sy is one of them. This mother of two 2-year-old twins, Awa and Adama, is a beneficiary of the cash distribution at the PROCAPEC bank in El Mina district. They have 4 older brothers. "The 5,400 Mru from the first distribution covered the family's expenses for two months. The money received for this second distribution will be used to improve the household's food supply, especially for the children" she explains hesitantly, under the gaze of her husband.

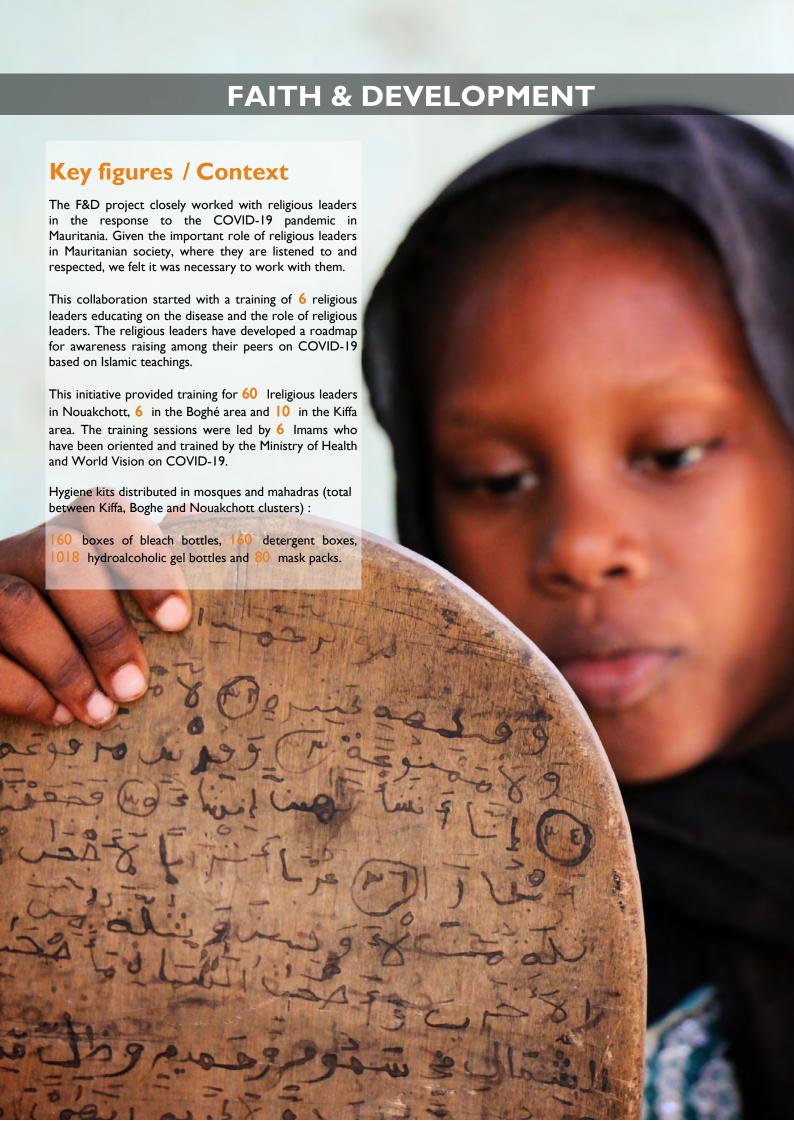
"We don't necessarily have a balanced diet all the time due to a lack of funds; things are even more difficult in this COVID-19 period, so the priority is to eat well and provide for the family's basic needs. My husband is a taxi driver. With people moving around less during COVID-19, he obviously brings in less money. This money will make up for the loss of income, thanks God" she says, before taking her twins by the hands and walking a few steps to join her husband.





Beneficiaries selected within the framework of strong community involvement

« We asked Sebkha municipality to do their own targeting of their most disadvantaged populations, in the most vulnerable areas of the commune. With this initial selection, we went to see the local community and religious leaders with a committee made up of volunteers, leaders and representatives of the town hall, who supported us in narrowing down the list, based on the presence of children under 5 years old in the household, the visibly dilapidated state of the house, and the social and economic situation of the household. » explains Safietou Ba, sponsorship agent at the World Vision cluster in Sebkha.





Imam Ahmed Tijane Daouda Dia, religious leader in Boghe

« We have received 3 online training sessions and received the technical and health tools to raise awareness of the pandemic in communities that are sometimes reticent, especially on the barrier gestures in religious assemblies.

We were able to couple this scientific knowledge with the religious word and authority in order to raise awareness in our communities.

I passed on these lessons learned to other imams in the commune, which in turn, like an effective information channel, made it possible to reach more communities.

World Vision was taboo here for a while, equating the work of this structure with proselytism. Over the past three years, the communities have seen the impact of their actions, and they are more receptive to its messages and those of mediators like us.

I took part in a number of radio broadcasts where awareness was promoted with live questions that we answered. ».

RECOMMENDATION: See if Zoom training can be more focused and face-to-face. Many local leaders are not used to using IT tools.



The approach by VIAMO

In the framework of awareness-raising on protection against COVID-19, WV Mauritania used VIAMO, a pro-method practice as an approach, in terms of disseminating key messages. This involved sending audio messages in the national languages (Arabic, Pulaar, Soninke and Wolof) and in French. These messages contained essential advice on how to protect against VIDOC-19. The choice was made for CSAs, community relays, community volunteers, ICPs, etc., who are people who can influence a large number of individuals

the community.
Summaries of the results obtained through this approach.

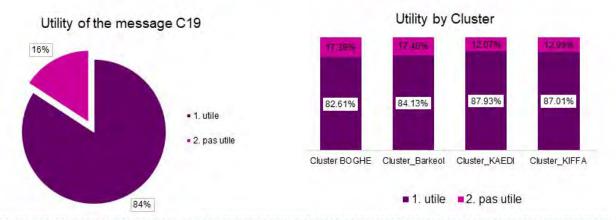
given the activities they carry out within

Key figures

- Total number of contacts: 1025
- Contacts who received a message: 941
- Unique respondents: 872 (85%)
- Key Message Audience (> 75% du message): 746 (86%)
- Evaluation respondents: 366 (42%)



Utility of the Key message



84% of respondents to the survey found the content on COVID useful. KAEDI and KIFFA who recorded the highest rates of listening (89 and 85%) also showed the highest rates of satisfaction (88 and 87%).

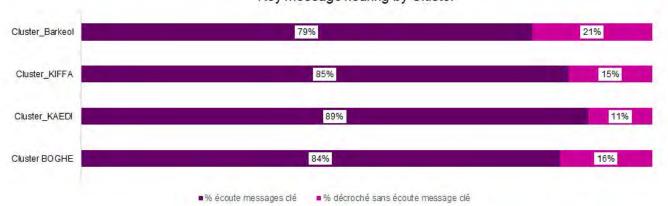
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World Vision

Key message hearing by Cluster





KAEDI's cluster, with a rate of 89%, recorded the highest audience rating.

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Key figures:

- 240.000 distributed soaps
- 37.500 bleach bottles distributed
- 10.000 Registered Children (RC)
- 60.000 beneficiaries (including RCs)
- 8 standstill water points, rehabilitated

WASH combined with community awareness has been an important part of the national response of World Vision Mauritania to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to curb the spread of the corruption virus, the WHO recommended, among other barrier measures, regular hand washing with soap, or the use of alcohol-based hand gel solution. To intensify preventive measures, a package of WASH services was offered to the communities targeted by the response. This was done at the household level, 10 000 children in the sponsorship and their families (60.000 bénéficiaries) have received hygiene kits each composed of I box of soap (48 pieces) and 06 bottles of bleach.

In addition to this grant, a major advocacy campaign was carried out with the state authorities, in particular the National Office of Rural Water Services for the rehabilitation and reactivation of eight water points that had been shut down.

The distributions were preceded by sensitisation sessions carried out by the community relays. Most of the beneficiaries insisted on the critical importance of these sessions as a means of prevention.



Raachid in Assaba - Raachid's sponsorship management committee, led by its president Fatimetou Mint Aly, describes the support their community has received:

« Since the outbreak of this pandemic, WV has been at our side, notably through awareness-raising and the distribution of hygiene kits. To my knowledge, we have not had any case of infection so far.

World Vision's intervention, which took place very fast, as soon as the first cases appeared in Mauritania, contributed to these limitations. ».

Raachid's second sponsorship management committee. Sidi Mahmoud Ould Mohamed, is the president:

« WV ensured that the information received was provided in time and well in advance before the outbreak of cases in Mauritania and the region. We were aware of the barrier gestures very early on! And this was a sine qua none to the containment of COVID-19" explains Zeynabou Mint Lbiah.

"WV has been present here since 2014. It has faced traditional behaviours that are harmful to the very health of the communities. Awareness raising is an important weapon for change in this area. As a result, child protection is an absolute priority for these communities in particular." stated the chairman of the committee



The village is 190km from Mali, and the inhabitants of the commune, following the sensitisation, took great care to contain those returning from Mali, who were isolated for 2 weeks.

Mohamed Ould Mahmoud Moctar, 15 years president of the Raachid children's club



A survey was carried out on children at the time of the arrival of COVID-19. Mohamed carried out this survey. He is a pupil in 1st grade, and is taking his Baccalaureate next year.

« I conducted an investigation about COVID-19 in Raachid and Bougadoum. WV gave me a questionnaire given to children (between 7 and 13 years old), with 15 girls and 15 boys, the results of which were presented to them. The survey highlighted the behavioural aspects on which awareness raising should focus. At the same time, I followed the children in particular to make them aware of barrier gestures. » he explains next to his mother, who is also a hidden hero » of the district.

HIDDEN HEROES



World Vision's programmes in the Assaba region, as part of the It Takes a World (ITAW) campaign and the Hidden Heroes Mobilization Campaign, have set out to help make violence against children, and more specifically child marriage, visible. This activity was planned and implemented to provide an overview of the different forms of violence, their harmful effects and to set up a platform for actors who, in their daily lives, meet victims of violence with a view to changing their behaviour.

The activity was enhanced by the presence of the administrative authorities: the Wali, the Hakem, the Mayors, the Youth Inspectorate, the Police Commissioner, the main representatives of civil society organisations as well as children with their massive participation and their families. Each of these categories of actors affirmed their unfailing support for this mobilisation of hidden heroes. The "hidden heroes" who work on a daily basis for the well-being of children and the improvement of the living conditions of vulnerable people were honoured by the presentation of certificates.





Selma Mint M'Barek, beneficiary of enriched flou

« There are 5 children in our home, and the youngest is 5 years old. I received 8 kilos of Misola flour for them; a real support in difficult times of crisis from COVID to improve their nutrition. I have few means, with the only table I have where I sell vegetables. As a result, we didn't have any masks, and couldn't buy them because they were too expensive. But we have had masks sewn from cloth, which we wash regularly. We have integrated this thanks to the extensive and insistent sensitisation with the community development centre. ».

« Awareness-raising has been carried out in schools (262 children), and at the homes of CDC members. These 2 actions coupled



allowed us to observe a limitation of the pandemic at the level of the families of our CDC. We have not had any positive cases at COVID-19. Hundred (100) children have benefited from the distribution of 20 boxes of bleach and soap, including 9 soaps and 3 bottles of bleach per child," says the supervisor of the community development centre (CDC) of Boghé 2, Fatimata Ba. Fatimata Ba.





The Foodiye Ahmed Diagana school in Kaédi. The 6th grade teacher, Alassane Mbodj, insists on the facilitation of hand washing of students, thanks to the 2 devices installed in the school by World Vision. "We were among the 18 schools in the town that benefited from the first Mauritanian case, from the very first demonstration, from these 2 washing kits. The pupils wash their hands when they arrive at school, after recess and on their way home. There are just under 400 pupils in the school. We have also benefited from complete school supplies for the 66 pupils in the 6th grade class".

The IDEN inspector, Yacoub Ousmane returns to the pandemic in Kaedi which began, in his words, "in a certain psychosis; from this frightening point of departure, the presence of World Vision, which manifested itself through support in school materials and supplies, has served the families and children of the school, and greatly contributed to allaying the fears of the community," he emphasizes.



- During the entire period of COVID-19, all staff were provided with masks and hydro-alcoholic gel.
- Hand washing facilities have been set up at the entrance to the headquarters, and in the field offices, as well as infrared temperature measurement.
- 3 Awareness-raising workshops for a better understanding of COVID-19, and on the application of barrier measures: hand washing, social distancing and wearing of masks, among others, were organized and facilitated by an imam and the organization's medical officer.

PARTNERSHIP WITH MINISTRIES AND PAIRS EDUCATEURS



To facilitate the implementation of its response plan in harmony with the Government's response plan, World Vision Mauritania has collaborated with its government partners (MASEF, Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Health) and civil society in particular (the association of peer educators, the Association of Imams and the High Authority of Ulemas) to carry out actions in favour of families and children strongly affected by this pandemic.

Partnership with MASEF for awareness-raising on child protection and prevention of gender-based violence:

Practices harmful to children and women (marriage, child labour, female genital mutilation, physical and psychological violence such as corporal punishment, insults or demoralizing verbal expressions, domestic violence) that occur within families have been exacerbated in the context of the COVID 19 pandemic.

It is within this framework that information and awareness campaigns through the network of 15 local radio stations linked to the National Radio in a loop with Chinguetti TV have made it possible to convey messages on the protection of children and households against COVID 19 and the fight against abuse, forms of ill-treatment and violence against children and adults. These campaigns were animated and led by religious leaders, social workers and the media. educators, doctors and reached more than 1.800.000 people at the national level.

Partnership with MASEF in a caravan to protect children from all forms of abuse in ten World Vision programmes:

This caravan took place in 10 programmes including Nouakchott (Sebkha, Dar El Baidha, Riyadh) to Brakna (Aleg, Boghé and Dar El Barka, Bababé) and Gorgol (Kaédi, M'Bout, Djeol), and made it possible to reach 70 012 people. The commitment and dynamism of religious leaders in raising awareness is to be commended here, especially in a context where people had a lot of doubts about the information circulating on the pandemic.

Partnership with the Ministry of **National Education to** support learning in the context of COVID

19:

This partnership has made it possible to improve provisions for compliance with barrier measures in schools and to facilitate continuity of learning through communication, the provision of hand-washing kits, masks and disinfection of classrooms.

Training of teachers in distance learning practices, production and dissemination of learning materials on paper, via radio, television and online.

Partnership with the Ministry of **Health:**

US\$50,000 was handed over to the Ministry as part of their partnership with WV. This amount was mainly used to management of patients with COVID-19.



Partnership with the association of peer educators:

4 videos capitalising on good practices on the barrier measures enacted by the Ministry of Health to prevent the mala-die of COVID-19 in the four national languages (Arabic, Pulaar, Soninke and Wolof), have been produced and shared in a vast network of World Vision partners (S4T members, early childhood network, volunteers, CSAs, relays, youth associations, commune, national NGOs etc.). These videos have also been broadcast on social networks such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, etc.





Abdoulaye Diop, HEA Manager at Worldvision Mauritania

« From the first hours of the declaration of COVID-19 in the country, World Vision Mauritania set up a Crisis Management Team (CMT) made up of all the departments that make up the national office. The CMT meets every Monday to take stock of the pandemic situation in the country in general, and in our intervention zones in particular, and to take appropriate measures.

The development and implementation of a response plan in World Vision's areas of intervention has made it possible to better coordinate actions, to make corrections in real time, and to facilitate monitoring and reporting on the results obtained.

A real-time evaluation shows a high level of satisfaction of stakeholders and beneficiaries with WV's interventions: more than 90% believe that World Vision Mauritania has been able to adapt to the changes brought about by COVID-19, and 80% consider that World Vision has contributed to limiting the spread of the pandemic. Indeed, the distribution of cash to needler households, fortified flours, school kits and WASH kits are among the actions highly appreciated by beneficiaries.»

Je porte un masque. Je protège des vies!

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