



WFP/Agron Dragaj

UNHAS Mauritania

- UNHAS Mauritania at a Glance**
- UNHAS provides access to 42 user organizations comprising of NGOs, UN agencies, donors, the diplomatic community and humanitarian partners.
 - On average, UNHAS transports 160 passengers and 800 kg of light cargo per month to 6 locations.
 - In 2015, UNHAS conducted 11 medical evacuations and 3 so far in 2016, out of Bassikounou.
 - 2016 Budget Requirements: USD 4.5 million
 - As of April 2016, UNHAS is facing funding shortfalls amounting to USD 2.6 million that might derail the overall humanitarian efforts if funding is not received shortly.

Although security in Mauritania has remained relatively stable, the overall situation in the Sahel-Sahara region has been volatile. Violent clashes in northern Mali in early 2012 triggered massive waves of displacements into Mauritania, where a refugee camp was established 50 kilometers from the Malian border in the Hodh el Charghi region. In response, humanitarian activities were scaled up to meet the growing needs and the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) was established in the country so as to facilitate access for aid workers to remote locations. Since its inception in 2012, UNHAS Mauritania has played a crucial role towards the implementation and monitoring of humanitarian projects in the country. The service has been the backbone of aid organizations' activities, providing humanitarian access to hard-to-reach locations of the country reachable promptly by air.

Mauritania's humanitarian needs are vast. The country continues to host Malian refugees and their return is contingent upon full restoration of peace and security in their native Mali. Food insecurity and overall vulnerability remain high as a result of reoccurring natural hazards such as droughts and floods, increasing food prices and overall scarcity of resources.

Given the vast distances between areas of humanitarian intervention and the fact that road travel is unsafe, air transport is the most efficient way to access people in need. There are currently no commercial air service providers in the country that meet international aviation safety standards. 42 user organizations comprising NGOs, UN agencies, donor organizations and diplomatic missions rely on UNHAS to implement and monitor their activities in Mauritania.

Until September 2014, the operation used a fleet of two aircraft due to limitations posed by the reduced usable length at Bassikounou airstrip. Following the extension of the airstrip, UNHAS now uses one aircraft, the Nouakchott-based Beechcraft 1900 to serve all destinations in the country resulting in significant savings due to a reduction in operational costs. In 2016, UNHAS will continue to facilitate the humanitarian community's access out of Nouakchott to at least five regular destinations including Bassikounou, Nema, Kaedi, Kiffa and Aioun.

As of April 2016, UNHAS Mauritania is facing a shortfall of USD 2.6 million. Available resources will not allow to sustain the operation beyond August 2016. If additional funds are not secured in due time, UNHAS will have to consider reducing the number of flights provided or even suspend the operation, hampering access for aid workers to populations in need.





Thanks to the following donors for their support in 2015/2016

WFP Aviation

Over the years, WFP Aviation has developed a comprehensive service provision portfolio including:

- **UNHAS**
provision of passenger and light cargo air services on behalf of the humanitarian community; provision of capacity for medical and security evacuations of relief workers;
- **Strategic Airlifts**
ad-hoc cargo flights for WFP and external clients;
- **Airfreight Services**
charter of cargo space on scheduled commercial aircraft;
- **Airdrops**
for food delivery during emergency operations;
- **Third Party Services**
long-term air services for UN agencies and other organizations on a cost recovery basis.

UNHAS

UNHAS makes up the core of WFP Aviation activities. The service

delivers access to beneficiaries in some of the world's most remote, isolated, and insecure locations enabling the implementation and monitoring of humanitarian interventions in life-saving thematic areas. UNHAS is a common air service providing all humanitarian entities with equal access. When no other means of reaching communities is available, aid organizations can count on UNHAS to provide access.

Currently, UNHAS has 15 operations including Afghanistan, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia and Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen. UNHAS transports approximately 287,100 passengers and 5,900 mt of light cargo yearly. Operations and fleet remain flexible to meet changing demands.

Provision of Humanitarian Air Services in Mauritania

Duration:

01 January to 31 December 2016

Requirements:

USD4.5 million



Belgium



Denmark



ECHO
Humanitarian Aid
and Civil Protection



Luxembourg



USA

*'We are fully satisfied with the service rendered to our staff [...]. As we don't have any other alternative means of transport, we solicit donor support for the survival of this shuttle in 2016' -
Baliou Diagana, Head of Human Resources of LWF/DWS in Mauritania, 2015*

For more information or bookings, please contact:

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