

BELLMON PROFILE

COUNTRY NAME: **Mauritania**

YEAR: **2003**

MONETIZED: **Wheat**
TITLE II
COMMODITIES

MONETIZATION PROGRAM **World Vision/
Doulos Community**

DATE OF LAST BELLMON ANALYSIS **February 2000**

CONTACT Hamid Mansaray
World Vision/Mauritania
Ilot O – 95
BP 335, Nouakchott
Tel (222-2) 25 91 41
Fax (222-2) 25 25 54
hamid_mansaray@wvi.org



Doulos Mauritania – Maternal Child Health Program

COUNTRY BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania is a large coastal country, covering an area of 1,030,700 km² and bordered by Western Sahara, Algeria, Mali and Senegal. With an estimated population of 2.8 million and a per capita GNI of US \$350¹, Mauritania is classified as low human development country and a **Low-Income Food-Deficit Country**². In 2002, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) ranked Mauritania as 152 out of 173 in its Human Development Index (HDI)³. 26.3% live below the poverty line of one dollar a day⁴.

The Mauritanian economy is dominated by agriculture, mining and fishing. The agricultural sector employs an estimated 64 percent of the labor force representing approximately 23 per cent of GDP. The industrial sector is composed of mining and fisheries which provide all export earnings. The Mauritanian economy remains vulnerable to external shocks, including climatic changes and related plagues such as locusts, and fluctuations in world prices for its principal exports.

¹ World Bank "Mauritania at a Glance" www.worldbank.org/data 10/23/02

² A Least Developed Country (LDC) is a UN General Assembly classification for "those low-income countries that are suffering from long-term handicaps to growth, in particular low levels of human resource development and severe structural weakness." A LIFDC is an FAO classification which includes all basic foodstuffs net importing countries with a per caput income below the level used by the World Bank to determine IDA.

³ UNDP « Human Development Report 2002 » p. 152

⁴ Ibid p. 159

DISINCENTIVE DATA

The main foods consumed locally in Mauritania include wheat, rice, millet, sorghum and vegetable oil. Table I shows whether each commodity is produced locally, imported and/or programmed.

Table 1: Mauritania – Food Consumed, Produced Imported and Programmed

Foods Consumed locally	Produced locally	Imported	Programmed
Corn	x		
Millet	x		
Rice	x	X	
Sorghum	x		
Veg oil (clear)		X	x
Wheat		X	x

CROP PRODUCTION

Over 90% of the land area of Mauritania is desert. Less than 1% of the land is capable of sustaining crops. Livestock is the most important component of the agriculture sector (14.2% of GDP), while fishing, an important supplier of foreign exchange, contributes just 4.3% including processing. Millet and sorghum account for 83% of acreage and 43% of output of cereal crops (1999 figures). Paddy rice, grown almost exclusively on irrigated land, has expanded considerably in recent years and now accounts for 52% of cereal output.

Harvests vary considerably according to rainfall and are subject to attacks by locusts and other pests. Imported cereals (including food aid) supply roughly two-thirds of Mauritania's requirement. Cereals regularly imported are wheat, rice and coarse grains, with wheat representing approximately two thirds of the total. The national diet is grain based supplying 54% of caloric intake, with an estimated per capita consumption of 176 kilograms in 1998. With the exception of rice, grains are raised for local consumption on subsistence sized, owner-operator plots. Their grain crops include sorghum, millet, corn and rice. Large landholders owning from 10 to 2,000 hectares raise rice as a cash crop for sale in national markets. Rice paddies owned by village dwellers vary in size from ¼ to ½ hectare. Their production is consumed in the village.

WHEAT MARKET ANALYSIS

Table 2: Mauritania – Title II Commodity: Wheat Production, Imports and Consumption over the last five years

Commodity: Wheat MT	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Average
Production	0	0	0	0	0	0
Imports (Commercial)	158,085	216,205	241,737	224,748	181,264	204,408
Food Aid	17,170	9,816	20,395	11,698	15,340	14,884

Sources: 1) *Direction des Politiques et du Suivi- Evaluation/Ministere du Developpement Rural et de l'environnement (DPSE/MDRE)* 2) *Commissariat de Securite Alimentaire (CSA)*

There is currently one industrial operating wheat mill in Mauritania – Les Grands Moulins de Mauritanie. Wheat is also milled through small cyclone mills and manually in households. Wheat is also imported for use in animal feeds.

STORAGE DATA:

The port of Nouakchott is situated on the central west coast of Mauritania. The port consists of two quays: the "Wharf Quay" and the "Port of Friendship Quay". The Wharf Quay is located 11km SSW of downtown Nouakchott. Two berths are available; the original barge berth is composed of a platform 86m x 21.17m, max draft 5m and is used for the pumping of asphalt. The second berth is formed by an extension of the original berth, length 55m, max draft 8.5m and used for the pumping of gas and cement.

Food shipments are unloaded through the Port of Friendship Quay, which is located five kilometers south of the wharf and 15km SSW of downtown Nouakchott. A single quay of length 585m provides four berths, three of which are used for cargo handling. A) Berth No 1: length 148.5m, draft 9m. B) Berth No 2: length 169.5m, draft 9.5m - 10m. C) Berth No 3, length 190m, draft 10m - 10.3m. There is also a Service Berth (for tug boats): length 77m, draft 9m.

Unloading facilities include 2 x 8 ton mobile cranes on rails and a 30-40 ton forklift. Wharf Quay storage comprises one warehouse of 1,200 square meters and open storage of 21,244 square meters. Port of Friendship storage comprises two warehouses of 7,904 square meters each and open storage of 45,682 square meters. Approximately 250 vessels visit the port annually.

Port and handling facilities are adequate for the unloading of Title II food commodities and there is sufficient storage available at the port.