Food assistance has been provided to 792,208 beneficiaries, of which 195,394 (25%) have been assisted with cash and 596,814 (75%) with in-kind. WFP and its partners, CRS, Diakonia and NGOs funded by Echo were involved. Due to lack of funding, the partners assisted the targeted populations with half-rations. The worrying situation noted by EFSA in May 2018 led WFP to revise the ration upwards to 70% by June 2018. It should be noted that of the 792,208 people assisted, 105,532 received hybrid assistance (cash for cereals and in kind for oil and legumes). To date, 159,469 people have received livelihood support of which 8,595 (5%) through cash and 150,873 (95%) in kind. Livestock prices continued to decline, stopping livestock exports to Nigeria, and slowing flows to Sudan and Libya, weakening the incomes of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists.

Lean season response from January to June 2018: From January to June, the FSS response to the pastoral and pre-lean season in Mali targeted 253,000 people with food assistance covering 65% of needs, and 118,300 households with livelihoods support covering only 23% of needs. The FS response specifically targeting pastoral areas, which were strongly affected by a particularly harsh and long pastoral lean season this year, reached only 14,500 households with emergency livestock support. Besides this emergency response, an additional 67,300 households benefited from resilience building support in the pastoral sector.

Plans for the next 6 months: As of July, food assistance planned by humanitarian actors for the agro-pastoral lean season (from June to September) targets 1 million people out of the 1.6 million estimated people in need of immediate assistance during this period i.e. a coverage of 62%. The GFD planned by the government for 932,000 people are still blocked and might not take place earlier than September because of the electoral period. In terms of livelihoods support, 26,700 households should receive assistance for their agricultural activities and 27,500 households for their livestock activities during the 2nd semester.

Since March 2018, the food security sector ensures the coordination of the response plan which is implemented in two phases: Phase 1 (March-May) already finished and ongoing Phase 2 (June-September). This response plan to the lean season was established by the Government of Mauritania and the humanitarian actors in November 2017. It is based on the data of "Cadre Harmonisé" (CH) carried out in November 2017, updated on March 2018 and who indicated that over 602,000 people will be in a critical food security situation during the lean season in 2018, corresponding to CH Phase 3 and 4. The food security partners (NGOs, UN Agencies) provide unconditional cash and in-kind assistance to affected households living in areas identified as red and yellow by the Comité Départemental (CODEPH) but also provides livelihood protection through agricultural and pastoral support. One of main challenges is related to the funding. As of June, the response plan covers 58% of the 470,674 targeted beneficiaries for phase 2.