



Reporting Period: January to June 2022

Highlights

During the lean season of 2022, 20% of the population will be severely food insecure (versus 11% in 2021), with a high risk of a rapid deterioration of the nutritional situation. A broader scale emergency response is required. The nutritional emergency affects 22 of 55 districts with a global acute malnutrition rate of over 15% and/or a SAM rate of over 2%.

Due to the multiplication of incidents across the border with Mali, an increase of almost 15% of the population of the M'Berra camp has been recorded. In addition 850 Mauritanian households returned from Mali with 736,400 livestock heads in March 2022. This situation requires special attention for a rapid multisectoral response in the camp and host communities in order to maintain cohesion and social peace in this border area where the security situation is fragile.

Given the occurrence of confirmed cases in neighbouring countries, a second campaign against the polio epidemic took place in March with the support of UNICEF.

Mauritania

Situation Report No. 01



Situation in Numbers



59,814 COVID-19 confirmed cases
58,306 recoveries
983 deaths (March 2020-June 30th, 2022)



1,335,183 people have been fully vaccinated

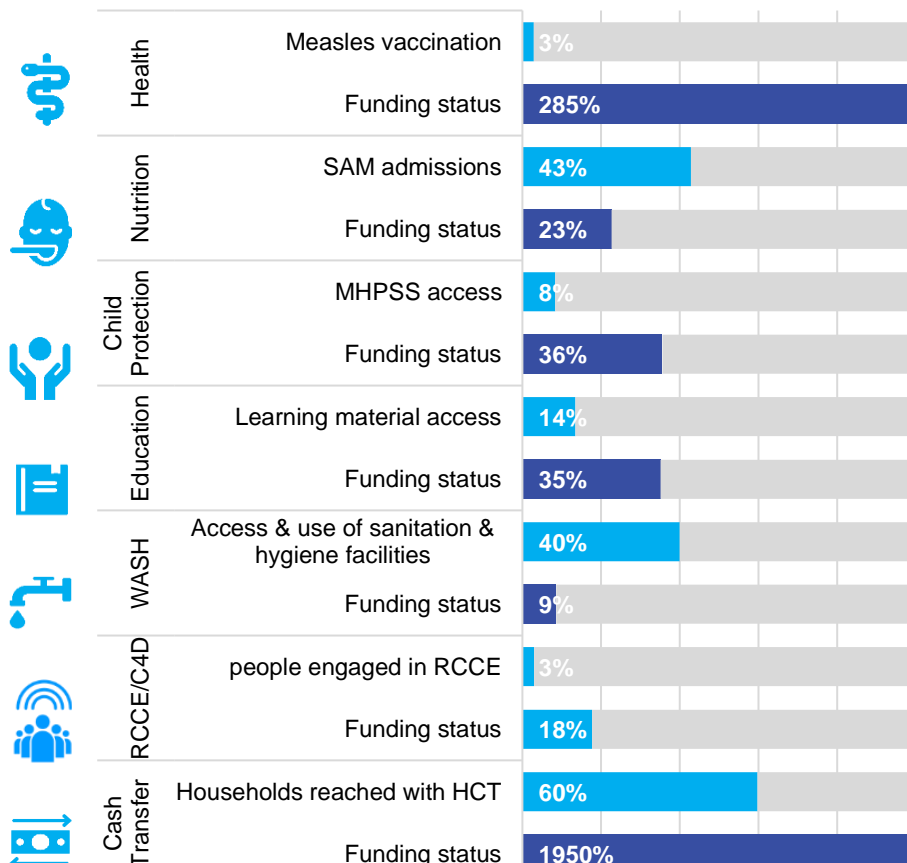


715,000 People in need

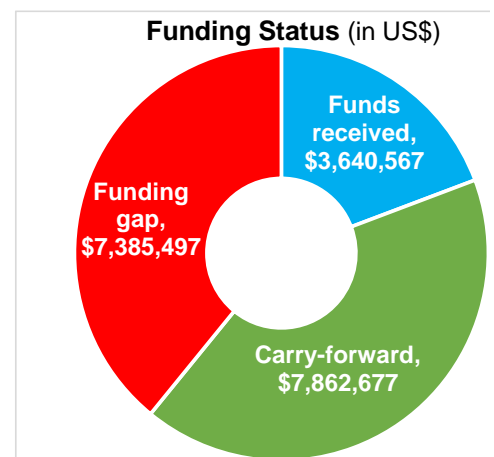


435,000 Children in need

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status*



Needs US\$ 18,8 million



*The funding available includes the carry-over and funds received in the current year.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

The HAC 2022 is currently funded at 29,1% for interventions relating to nutrition, health, WASH, education, child protection, C4D community engagement, and social protection. It's worth noting that only US\$ 3.6 million were received during the reporting period, while 7,8 million were carried over from 2021, of which 50% is related to cash transfer. There is a great need for sustaining efforts along the humanitarian-developmental nexus. UNICEF Mauritania wishes to express its heartfelt gratitude to all public and private sector donors.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

According to the results of the Cadre Harmonisé (March 2022), 878,921 individuals and 36 Moughata (departments) will face crisis conditions (phase 3+) during the peak of the upcoming lean season (June-August 2022). This corresponds to 20% of the population, one of the highest rates in the Sahel region, and reflects an increase of 64% compared to 2021. It is also the highest level ever recorded by the Cadre Harmonisé in Mauritania. Based on the SMART survey of 2021, the Nutrition Technical Group estimated the burden of acute malnutrition in 2022 at 135,250 cases, of which 32,740 SAM (severe acute malnutrition) cases.

In addition, the recent situation in Ukraine has had significant impacts on food prices in Mauritania as well as on pastoralism. The food security situation is also compounded by a significant acceleration in the influx of refugees due to heightened tensions and the multiplication of incidents across the border with Mali. More than 8,260 Malians arrived in Mauritania during the first semester of 2022, including 3,926 children and 1,164 adult women. Insecurity in Mali is also causing the return of Mauritanian transhumant herders. According to an interagency rapid assessment using IOM's Emergency Tracking Tool (ETT), more than 850 Mauritanian households returned from Mali in March 2022 with urgent needs in terms of access to clean water, food, feed for livestock, and shelter. Many had lost assets, properties, and productive capital (livestock) as they escaped violence. Returning pastoralists manage herds estimated at 736,400 livestock heads, putting further pressure on already scarce resources in the region and sparking fear of tensions with the host population over access to water.

In December 2021, Mauritania experienced the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic with a daily peak of more than 1,200 cases. As a result, restrictive measures were reinforced, including curfew, ban on gatherings in public spaces, and mandatory testing and vaccination at entry points of the country. The government accompanied these measures with awareness campaigns and the promotion of preventive measures against COVID-19, with the support of technical and financial partners, including UNICEF. These measures were lifted in February 2022, following significant decrease in new cases. Awareness-raising remained necessary to maintain compliance with the barrier measures and to improve vaccination coverage. The vaccination strategy has been extended to children aged 12-18, starting December 2021. As of 30 May 2022, 928,387 people have received at least one dose (66,4%) and 1,335,183 are fully vaccinated.

Efforts towards eradicating polio in Mauritania continued during the first semester of the year, given the occurrence of confirmed cases in neighbouring countries (Senegal, Gambia and Mali). 889,689 children under the age of five were vaccinated during the second campaign (29 March to 01 April 2022). UNICEF is providing technical and financial support for communication and vaccine management.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response



From January to May 2022, 24,542 pregnant women received two doses of maternal and neonatal tetanus vaccine, (21% of the annual target), including 9,230 in the regions supported by UNICEF (Hodh El Chargui, Assaba and Guidimakha). Besides, 59,484 new-borns (37% of the annual target) were vaccinated against tuberculosis, including 7,422 (49% of the annual target) in the regions supported by UNICEF.

As for children over one year of age, 16,251 received three doses of pentavalent vaccine and 14,039 doses of measles vaccine. Target achievement for the period January to May 2022 ranges from 70% for the measles vaccine to 80% for the three doses of pentavalent. For the annual target, the objectives achieved range from 43% for the measles vaccine to 49% for the third dose of pentavalent vaccin.



As part of the fight against polio, the country has organized the second round of vaccination. The vaccine was administered to more than 800,000 children from 0 to 59 months.

The evaluation of this second campaign rejected 19 Moughataa for unsatisfactory results. A catch-up campaign will be organized in July.

As of June 30, 2022, the country has recorded 59,814 COVID-19 positive cases since the beginning of the pandemic, of which 58,306 are cured. Out of the target of 2,902, 865 people to be vaccinated, 1,928,387 have received at least one dose (66,4%) and 1,335,183 are fully vaccinated at the end of May 2022.

UNICEF continues to support the Government in the areas of logistics, cold chain, and vaccine management for both the routine EPI and the Supplementary Immunization Activities against Poliomyelitis and COVID-19. In addition, support is provided for the development and implementation of activities aiming to improve the population's demand for immunization through financing and technical support for SBC activities.

Nutrition

During the first semester of the year, 588,778 (90%) children aged 6-59 months were screened for acute malnutrition and 11,925 SAM cases admitted for treatment, which represents 43 % of the annual target (27,829) and 36 % of the annual burden (32,740). SAM admissions are 20 % higher than last year at the same time (2,345 cases in 2021). These numbers are underestimated due to underreporting with 73% of the report completed during the first semester of the year.

178, 090 caregivers of children aged from 0 to 23 months received infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling in communities platforms and facilities. The three key IMAM (Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition) indicators at the national level met SPHERE standards with a cure rate of 88,5 %, a death rate of 1%, a default rate of 9.5 %, and a non-response rate of 1 %. An estimated 29,500 cartons of therapeutic food (RUTF) are needed for the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) to cover the burden.

In January, through the Ministry of Health's integrated mass campaign supported by UNICEF and other partners, 592,566 (87%) children aged 6-59 months received vitamin A supplementation and 540,670 (89%) children aged 12-59 months received a deworming tablet.

WASH

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, 140 health workers from private health structures in Nouakchott (40) and Nouadhibou (100) were trained and sanitation facilities constructed in 3 regional hospitals (Kiffa, Tidjikdja and Rosso) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. Besides, hygiene kits were distributed in 25 schools in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou in partnership with the Ministry of Education, to improve hygiene conditions and practice. Besides, 19 health facilities are supported in this region. In Assaba, 15 schools and 43 health facilities are supported.

Relief supplies were prepositioned at central level (Ministry of Interior's Directorate of the Civil Protection) and in 5 regions (Guidimakha, Gorgol, Trarza, Assaba and Hodh Chargui) as preparedness measure related to the floods. The stock includes a large quantity of bleach (13,650 bottles of 1 liter) and 10 motorized pumps (85m³/h each), IPC items (nose masks, PPE, Hand Washing devices, soap, chlorine based produce, etc...) were also provided to the Ministry of Health.

Education

The multiplication of incidents across the border with Mali has led to new arrivals in the Hodh Chargui region, including Mauritians settled in Mali. During the reporting period, large-scale, rapid, multi-sectorial assistance was delivered to newly Malian refugees, and returning children and adolescents, and assistance provided to vulnerable host families and communities in the Hodh Chargui region. Education in emergency services were provided to children and adolescents, including in terms of supply. Thus, 44 Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits and slates were distributed to 1,100 children (including 584 girls) in Mberra camp's pre-school. Teaching materials, desks and tables were provided to 138 teachers in the camp and 5,186 elementary school students (including 2,533 girls) and 460 secondary school students (including 148 girls) received their second allocation of school supplies. 100 Mahadras in the camp, involving 6,574 learners (including 2,816 girls), received supplies to improve their learning environment (hygiene kit, teaching materials, mats, blackboard). Technical and financial support was provided for the organization of end year exams in middle school, involving 141 candidates, including 48 girls.



Disaster and risk reduction mechanism is being initiated through a partnership with the French Red Cross, the Mauritanian Red Crescent and the Directorate of Civil Protection. The resilience of the refugees in Mberra camp, as well as the host community of Bassiknou is strengthened through the establishment of a protective framework against risks and disasters. Formal and non-formal education staff (167) were trained in disaster education and preparedness, teaching techniques in emergencies, and the use of a manual on emergency education and preparedness. Contingency plans were developed for 16 Schools, 8 in the Mberra Camp and 8 others in the host community.

To ensure quality, safer and protective environment for refugee children, 2 schools destroyed by weathering are being rehabilitated to be delivered for the beginning of the school year 2022-2023, planned in September.

Child Protection

During the first semester of 2022, Child protection actors (AMSME, ADICOR, COAN, MDM) identified 1,223 children (717 girls) with protection needs in Hodh Chargui, Assaba, Guidimakha, Gorgol and Nouakchott. Of these, 422 children (408 girls) are survivors of violence, including physical, sexual and gender-based violence : 170 girls experienced female genital mutilation, 69 early marriage and 174 are rape survivors.

In response, UNICEF and its partners provided services to 1,155 children (675 girls), including psychosocial support for 936 children, socio-economic support for 617 children and 242 children were referred to civil registration centers and received their birth certificate. In addition, 212 out-of-school children were identified, of whom 16 have already been reintegrated into school.

Interventions aiming at improving access to reproductive health information and services for adolescents were implemented for vulnerable adolescents in two districts of Nouakchott region in partnership with Medicos Del Mundo Spain. To this end, 2 information and counseling units are operational in 2 health facilities and health providers were trained on adolescents needs. Outreach activities conducted in the moughataa of Dar Naim and the moughataa of Arafat resulted in increased attendance : 445 adolescents and young people, including 376 girls, visited the information and counseling units and obtained informations on sexual and reproductive health. A socio-anthropological study on menstrual hygiene and the use of washable sanitary towels is underway and will provide data on practices, knowledge and behaviour of girls and adolescents regarding menstrual health and hygiene.

Supply and logistics

As part of the emergency response, supplies worth US\$ 667,095 were distributed across the country from January to June 2022, including RUTF and anthropometric items (US\$ 61,625), along with educational items (US\$ 91,256) and PPEs to support COVID-19 response (US\$ 239,657).

The country office is still supporting the Ministry of Health in the improvement process of supply chain for vaccines; vaccination equipment and nutrition items (36,000 cartons of RUTF acquired through procurement service for Ministry of Health and Nutrition Matching fund initiative). In addition, the country office's logistical support continues to facilitate the rollout of immunization throughout Mauritania.

Since January 2022, the country received from COVAX and bilateral agreement, a total of 1,631,010 doses of all vaccines, distributed as follows : 928,800 doses of Jonson & Jonson (J&J) 272,610 doses of PFIZER (from US government), 429,600 doses of AstraZeneca.



Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

Despite its excellent ranking in terms of vaccination coverage in the sub-region (3rd place), Mauritania experienced a resurgence of COVID-19 cases in early 2022. Unfortunately, this enthusiasm for the adoption and acceptance of the vaccine has given way to a relaxation of the barriers against the disease, notably in the wearing of masks and the non-respect of social distance. This was compounded by peaks in the measles and polio epidemics. In response, the Ministry of Health, with support from UNICEF, undertook intensive communication and social mobilisation efforts. Communication and community participation interventions have been consolidated based on the results of the Covid-19 vaccine post introduction perception survey, which revealed, among other things, an increased demand for information on vaccine efficacy and safety. This included the production of non-media materials, radio and TV spots (8), micro-programmes, roundtables and interactive programmes in French and the 4 national languages broadcast in the national media and local radio stations (15). Nearly 2,000 community volunteers, recruited through an inclusive and representative community process in all 15 regions, participated in home visits to promote immunization while contributing to community monitoring of family practices essential for health, well-being and community development. Approximately 10,000 people voiced their concerns and questions and received answers through educational lectures and other participatory processes.

180 health workers, 20 call centre operators and digital influencers; 40 journalists and 113 religious leaders were trained and equipped on key issues to reach different audiences and help mitigate harmful rumours towards immunisation in general and Covid-19 in particular. To this end, the Ministry of Health, with support from UNICEF, has set up a media and digital monitoring system to track and manage rumours at all levels of the health pyramid, allowing communication strategies to be adjusted in real time.

To promote equity in immunization, special efforts were also made to reach the most remote populations and hard-to-reach locations. UNICEF mobilized more than a dozen consultants specialized in social and behavioral change and more than 15 NGOs with partnership agreements to intensify community mobilization and collect community feedback through various community engagement platforms. Together, these interventions reached over 500,000 people between March and June 2022.



Social Protection

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a fourth cycle of cash distribution (2,000 MRU per cycle) was organized in Nouakchott. Out of the 10,000 households caring for a person living with a disability targeted, 9,661 were reached in the 9 communes of Nouakchott. This distribution was organized with the Ministry of Social Action, Children and the Family (MASEF) through a local financial institution using the digital payment platform of the Social Registry and Information System General Directorate (DGRSSI). The selection process of 3,000 IGA for cash transfer beneficiaries is being finalised.

In addition, two cycles of cash transfer distribution were carried out in rural areas to the benefit of 32,172 households with a child under 5 years of age, a pregnant or lactating woman or a female head of household. Each household received, in addition of the national cash programme (Tekavoul), the sum of 1,600 MRU representing 4 months of cash for the first cycle and 1,200 MRU representing 3 months of cash for the second cycle. These distribution operations were supervised by the MASEF.



Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

The cluster system is not activated in Mauritania. 3 coordination meeting of the nutrition sector were held during the reporting period, under the co-leadership of UNICEF and the Ministry of Health, in partnership with the food security sector led by WFP.

In Bassiknou, UNICEF led the update of the contingency plan related to the floods and the capacity mapping exercise for the WASH Sector involving all the humanitarian partners and the local authorities. Technical support was also provided to the WASH Working Group members.

UNICEF has increased its support role to the government during the COVID-19 pandemic. As co-leader of the RCCE pillar, UNICEF has supported the implementation of the communication strategy through mass sensitization campaigns and the evaluation of this strategy through rapid perception surveys which have enabled the readjustment of approaches to reach all segments of the population and to address structural barriers and obstacles to immunisation.

Technical and financial support has been provided to the coordination of the Ministry of Health on the issue of vaccination, including COVID-19. The program's implementing partners worked in complementarity in the different regions of the country to support awareness campaigns for vaccination against Covid-19 and measles in early 2022.

As coordinator for the IPC pillar, UNICEF is continuing its support for the improvement of hygiene conditions in the care facilities against COVID-19 by supervising activities in the care units, distributing consumables and equipment and conducting periodic evaluations together with the Directorate of Public Hygiene.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Publications

<https://www.unicef.org/mauritania/recits/enseigner-au-camp-de-Mberra>
[Lely, Première de la classe au Camp de réfugiés de Mberra, est la plus brillante parmi ses frères et sœurs.](https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFMauritanie/photos/a.1572076779701093/3069021426673280/)
[Rokhya : « Faire face au défi de la malnutrition malgré la pandémie »](https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFMauritanie/photos/a.1572076779701093/3069021426673280/)
<https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFMauritanie/photos/pcb.3040554849519938/3040554366186653/>
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<https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFMauritanie/posts/3126341900941232>
<https://fb.watch/emrQDcmAP/>
<https://fb.watch/emruFL6gRx/>
<https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFMauritanie/posts/3083287621913327>
<https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFMauritanie/posts/3084708408437915>
https://www.unicef.org/mauritania/recits/la-voix-de-lalia-une-survivante-qui-refuse-le-silence?fbclid=IwAR1O7YM_FtZYKpe8duAD5MKV1aMLxfXBHKvgaBVQNphBS7SXE8Cj8s09-Go
<https://www.unicef.org/mauritania/recits/sidahmed-gardien-de-leau-et-de-la-vie-à-zerg?fbclid=IwAR05RDjjFRZRftrIqKNdofc8e-WncgPa3sGagLlaOU5ro7rGdOBZZgOUeFI>
<https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFMauritanie/posts/3094619364113486>
<https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFMauritanie/photos/a.1572076779701093/3097515290490560/>
<https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFMauritanie/posts/3100657426843013>
https://www.unicef.org/mauritania/recits/aicha-lhonneur-perdu-de-la-famille?fbclid=IwAR3XgNzw7M_DevzeclUexyKcVvCvdFkUgjlXewhZvzpY7aqq6hbEuiNEWfo
<https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFMauritanie/posts/3115343902041032>
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https://www.unicef.org/mauritania/recits/rokhya-face-au-defi-malnutrition-la-pandemie?fbclid=IwAR3MJBa8yjdqUuY8r1DHBgvP80f1-MC-fVvYgiUYRd_MAOjAgyu8WChyqU

Next SitRep: 27 January 2023

UNICEF Mauritania : <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/mauritania>

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Annex A Summary of Programme Results

Indicator	UNICEF Total Target	Total result
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)		
People reached through messaging on prevention and access to services	381,283	500,000
Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	100,000	3,000
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	100,000	
WASH		
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	14,200	10,474
Number of healthcare facilities staff workers and community health workers provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	5,000	312
Number of healthcare facility staff workers and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	140	140
Number of children under treatment for SAM with access to safe water, for drinking, cooking and hygiene through household water treatment	27,829	0
Number of children with access and using appropriate sanitation and hygiene facilities in health and nutrition centres and schools in refugee camps, host communities and villages with high SAM burdens	20,000	8,000
Health		
Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases among children, pregnant and breastfeeding women	132	
Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare services, including immunization, prenatal and postnatal care, HIV care and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) response care in UNICEF supported facilities[1]	82,017 children; 29 158 women	-
Number of children aged 0 to 11 months reached with measles vaccination in the refugee camp and host population	90,900	2,667
Number of children aged 0 to 59 months with common childhood diseases reached with appropriate and integrated management of childhood disease services	7,740	-
Nutrition		
Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months who received IYCF counselling through facilities and community platforms	149,272	95,245
Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)	27,829	11,925
Number of pregnant and lactating women reached with an integrated package of IYCF services	169,480	96,420
Education		
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning		
Number of school-aged boys and girls (aged 3 to 17 years) in the refugee camp and host community affected by humanitarian situations receiving learning materials	98,653	13,320
Number of out-of-school boys and girls aged 3 to 17 years with access to education	6,400	1,650
Child Protection and GBV		
Children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	24 500	2039
Women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions	27,400	7 318
Social Protection		
Number of households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across the sectors	70,000	41,833

Annex B Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2022	Resources available from 2021 (Carry-over)	\$	%
Health	1,248,144	2,195,781	1,361,249	0	0
Nutrition	5,200,597	522,615	654,850	4,023,132	77
Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA	2,760,000	358,559	623,222	1,778,219	64
Education	3,080,000	0	1,081,292	1,998,708	65
WASH	3,600,000	95,160	215,267	3,289,573	91
Social Protection	200,000¹	0	3,900,000	0	0
C4D community engagement and AAP	2,800,000	468,452	26,797	2,304,751	82
Total	18,888,741	3,640,567	7,862,677	13,394,383	70,9

¹ This budget is the one included in the HAC 2022, which does not reflect the actual funding needs to achieve the HAC target for the sector. A review of the HAC will take place during the course of 2022, which will include an adjustment of the amount required for the social protection response.