



# MAURITANIA



## Country Facts



- ACORD has been working in Mauritania since 1995.
- ACORD works in the regions of Hodh El Gharbi, Hodh Echarghi, Assaba, Gorgol and Guidimakha.
- ACORD partners with 8 civil society organizations in Mauritania to build capacity and sustainability.
- The ACORD team in Mauritania is comprised of 22 staff, 100% of whom are Mauritanian.
- Last year, ACORD programs touched the lives of 315,223 Mauritanians in the most marginalized, hard to reach communities.



**ACORD (Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development)** is a Pan-African non-governmental organisation that has been working for social justice and development in Africa since 1976. Our work is guided by a number of fundamental values and working principles, chief amongst these is our belief that people themselves are the primary actors in their own development.

ACORD works in common cause with people who are poor and those who have been denied their rights to obtain social justice and development and, ultimately, to become part of locally-rooted citizen movements. ACORD has facilitated the emergence of over 2000 strong and autonomous grassroots organisations across Africa.

## Country Priorities

In Mauritania, ACORD's overarching goal is to contribute to the reduction of poverty and the vulnerability of excluded or marginalized social groups through the promotion of economic and social opportunities, the promotion of their participation and integration into development processes, the realization of human rights and equitable access to resources and services.

### RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS

- **Specific Objective 1:** Strengthen the livelihoods of marginalized communities and their ability to successfully defend their rights and improve their welfare through the realization of food sovereignty;
- **Specific Objective 2:** Strengthen response capacities to emergencies and food and humanitarian crises;

### RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES PROMOTION

- **Specific Objective 3:** Develop knowledge on positive relationships between men and women and effective ways to address gender inequalities to improve the status, development and influence of women;
- **Specific Objective 4:** Contribute to improving the health of marginalized populations in Mauritania and their ability to advocate for inclusive policies and programs as a means of achieving universal access to health services and sustainable development.

### PEACE BUILDING AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

- **Specific Objective 5:** Facilitating a supportive environment where marginalized communities become effective agents of peace restoration and conflict transformation, in support of stability and inclusive development.

## OUR PARTNERS:

ACORD works in collaboration with the international organizations Oxfam Intermon and Save the Children Spain, and the local organizations ADICOR, ODZASAM, EGEDPEM, AMAD and APLV. ACORD's funding partners in Mauritania include the European Union (DEVCO and ECHO), AECID, UNICEF and the United States Embassy.

To learn more, please visit our website

[www.acordinternational.org](http://www.acordinternational.org)

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## ACORD in Mauritania

Working with a competent technical team as well as local partners at the heart of communities, ACORD works to foster food security and build the resilience of poor rural households in Mauritania through the securitisation of agro-pastoral production and the promotion of sustainable agriculture.

Our focus is on improving access to food through investing in infrastructure, increasing the efficiency of irrigation and agricultural techniques, improving natural resources management and facilitating locally-owned disaster management and crisis responses. Since 2012, ACORD has also been a key contributor to the fight against food insecurity and malnutrition through cash transfers and the distribution of nutritional complements to vulnerable populations in Hodh El Gharbi.

ACORD empowers small producers and marginalised social groups (in particular women and descendants of former slaves) through advocacy training and rights awareness sessions and facilitates their participation in local and national decision making processes on matters affecting their lives. ACORD has been involved since 2011 in programmes that fight the legacy of slavery and discrimination in Mauritania through the promotion of human rights, education, peaceful reconciliation and political participation of ex-slaves communities and their descendants, in particular women and girls.

ACORD's extensive knowledge of the local context and proven participatory methodologies, have made us a partner of choice for international and national actors to intervene - be it in post-disaster activities, recovery, public sensitisation, peace building, capacity building, or in national programmes aimed at boosting agricultural production.

ACORD is the only international NGO operating in the Hodh el Gharbi region, a vast region in the South-East, at the border with Mali. Our presence and networks in the country's capital is also a strong added value to our advocacy work as it allows us to bring the voice and priorities of the marginalised rural communities we work with to the fore of the public debate at the national level.

### Project Spotlight

**Strengthening the Fight Against the Legacy of Slavery in Mauritania:** The goal of this project is to break the cycle of poverty and exclusion communities of former slaves are trapped in and ensure that legal and regulatory provisions against slavery are taken into full account by communities as well as competent authorities. The project promotes the rights of communities of former slaves and the implementation of the legal and regulatory framework against slavery through targeted capacity-building and sensitization, as well as fostering the social and professional integration of ex-slaves communities, in particular women and young people, to break the practice of servitude by descent, through literacy courses, grants to education and support to professional training for young people.

### Project Spotlight

**Enhanced Governance Towards Agropastoral Resilience:** The project, implemented in the Hodh el Gharbi region, is part of a national initiative of the EU and the Government of Mauritania for institutional strengthening toward enhanced agropastoral resilience. It aims at reducing local vulnerabilities affecting vegetal and animal production, fostering sustainable management of natural resources and resilience, and at improving the operationalization of preparedness and rapid response mechanisms.

The project revolves around three axes of intervention:

- Enhancing the governance modes and capacities for decision-making in development planning at the local, departmental and regional level
- Strengthening the adaptation of local actors and communities to the effects of climate change through the promotion and adoption of environmentally sustainable practices
- Pre-positioning a contingency plan in case of a crisis during the project.

## 2016 Impact in Numbers:

# 179,840

Women were reached

# 36

Civil Society Organizations have enhanced capacities

# 312,139

Individuals have increased access to basic services

# 13,211

Beneficiaries have adopted enhanced livelihoods strategies



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