

To: Donors

From: Agricultural Development Initiatives, Inc.
(ADI)

Date: 5 March 2026

Subject: A narrative history of ADI's work to
promote baseball and softball in Mauritania
From 2007 through February 2026

This narrative is written in three parts:

1. The development of baseball in Mauritania
2007 to present,
2. The financial situation,
3. An appeal for funding,
4. Notes

Part 1: The development of baseball in Mauritania 2007 to present

Since 2007, ADI has been active playing
baseball and softball with children in Nouakchott,
Mauritania. The activity quickly drew enough
children to have two teams.



The interior grounds of the Olympic Stadium in
the Tévgrah Zeina community provided a secure
open space to hit and catch a ball. The activity
was made easier by an active group of adults
who had been playing softball occasionally and
fielding a team sometimes for an annual

tournament, hosted by the American Embassy in
Dakar Senegal.



Given a land use plan¹ for the Olympic Stadium
that included a softball field and a positive
relationship with the Director of the Olympic
Stadium, a plan was hatched in 2009 to create a
level field within the stadium complex. ADI
completed that field and an adjacent rugby field
in 2011. According to the plan, trees were
planted around the perimeter and the sand dunes
were leveled to meet plan specifications. Softball
for children and youth was a thriving activity in
2012.



Too quickly, the Government of Mauritania made
a land deal and sold off the portion of the stadium
grounds that held the softball field. An
arrangement was made to move the rugby field
and relocate the softball field on adjacent spaces.
However, the insecurity of the field space and

changes in the international community led to 2014 being the last year for organized softball in Nouakchott.



In 2022, Sidy Mohamed Boidaha formed a board of directors and requested recognition as the Association of Mauritania for Baseball and Softball (AMBS). The Olympic Committee of Mauritania assured the leaders of the AMBS that existence as an association, regular activity teaching the sport within the nation, and a stable number of adherents would insure recognition as the sport federation overseeing competition and extension of the softball and baseball within Mauritania. The traditional way of organizing sports for children and for adults in Mauritania is to position players within clubs.



In 2023, the first training for umpires and coaches and player development camp was held at the Capital Stadium in October. 20 men and women attended the coach's training each morning and 97 players age eight to twelve attended the camp. Professional trainers from Global Sports Partners (GSP) led the teaching.

Staff from the Ministry of Sports, PE teachers from local private schools, and other adults who are active in youth sports participated in the coach's training.



In 2024, players and coaches gathered once a week to practice and play pick-up games. The field space was paid for by the AMBS at a rate (\$123 (US) per month) negotiated with the Olympic Stadium. ADI organized and paid the local coaches who oversaw the players at each gathering. In March 2024, trainers from GSP assisted AMBS and ADI to hold baseball training at four private elementary schools. The lessons took place during physical education classes and focused on the rules and the experience playing Baseball Five, a game based on baseball that

includes less equipment and five or more players per side.



In 2024, AMBS coaches formalized the habit of beginning each practice with a word of the day. In three minutes, a coach shares a positive character trait and impresses on the players the importance of valuing principles that lead to a healthy life. This routine continues as AMBS goes forward with organizing sports training.

In addition, AMBS gatherings recognize five simple rules for practice and games.

1. Play with all your heart;
2. Run in such a way as to win the prize;
3. Keep the field clean;
4. Always congratulate the team that beats you;
5. Treat others better than you treat yourself.

By teaching a word of the day and by insisting that children play with clean words and good sportsmanship, baseball practice functions as a place for children to grow physically, emotionally, and socially.

In November 2024, the athletes and Little League coaches who led the player development camp came from Winston Salem, North Carolina. Thirteen adults led the six day camp. 101 players aged eight to twelve registered and participated in the camp that took place each afternoon Monday through Friday and on Saturday morning..



In 2024, the first club formed in the community of Cité Plage. On occasion, the Cité Plage Club challenged the members of the Tévgrah Zeina community to play a friendly match. Such challenge matches, when announced in advance, create a lot of excitement. The team making the challenge announces the year of birth of the nine players who will play in the match. The opposing neighborhood must compose a team with players the same age or younger. This age rule assures fair play. And there were other aspects of growth. Weekly games evolved to assign players to play under one coach and with the same group of team mates during short seasons. This pattern for organizing coaches, parents, and players continued in 2025.



By June 2025 four teams competed in a six week series of games. On June 28, 2025, the Lions (Team A) upset the previously undefeated team Happy Bee (Team B) to win the championship of the spring short season. In July, the Mayor of one interior town expressed interest to have baseball promoted as an activity for children in his town



In October 2025, the Winston Salem trainers returned to lead the third player development camp. This camp was also held over six days, Monday through Saturday, October 20 to 25. In addition, eight coaches sent by the Mayor of Selibaby attended a six day coach / umpire training. The Ministry of Sports rented space at one of the community centers and each morning the coaches from Selibaby and a few community coaches from Nouakchott learned the game.



Materials were collected by the Winston Salem community and left for teams to use in Mauritania. Currently, the AMBS and ADI oversee eight trunks. Each trunk can support a team to learn baseball: 20 gloves, a set of bases, one bat, one catcher's protection, a rules sheet, and eight tee balls. In the last week of December

2025, the AMBS had over 60 children practicing baseball in Mauritania.



In November, noticing that the AMBS had eight months of unpaid field rental fees at the Olympic Stadium², ADI asked the AMBS to stop renting the field. A letter was written and the lease agreement stopped. Practice sessions were moved from the protected / controlled area within the stadium to the communities where players live. Since December 2025 and continuing to present, children's ball practice happens on open spaces that exist within Riyadh community, Dar Naim community, and Cité Plage community.



Last week, February 6, 2026, neighbors held another challenge match on the practice field at Dar Naim. In the first game, which is played from a tee and is filled by less experienced players, Riyadh won 12 to 1. Then in the second match played by the nine most experienced players with a neutral coach delivering each pitch, Dar Naim won 18 to 13 in a highly competitive match.

Part 2: The financial situation

For many years from 1985 to 2005, adults from Nouakchott gathered to form a team and play softball in the annual West Africa Invitational Softball Tournament (WAIST) held at a field owned by the US Embassy in Dakar Senegal. Travel to Dakar, lodging in Dakar, and Team shirts for the Nouakchott Nomads were traditionally paid for by the individual families who participated.

From 2007 to 2009, there was no cost associated with playing softball. Adults and children gathered to practice and play on space that is inside the wall of the Olympic Stadium Complex. If on a particular day a group desired to play on the well kept soccer field within the actual stadium, then that per day charge was negotiated and paid by the individuals making the request.

Following the Partnership Project in 2007 when ADI and the Office of the Olympic Stadium created a land use plan, the stadium director, Ahmedou Sidina Ould Bach played a key role in securing space for the children playing softball to be welcomed. In 2009, ADI developed the rough space in the northeast corner of the Olympic Stadium Complex property by removing trees and trash, collecting the valuable top soil, taking down the rugby goal posts, leveling the space, and erecting the rugby goal posts in a new position. This work cost approximately \$11,000 (US) and was funded by ADI donors.

From 2010 to 2014: ADI continued to develop the space in 2010 and 2011 by removing dunes that surrounded the two fields, planting trees, and creating a walking space along the perimeter of the baseball field and rugby field. All work was done according to the land use plan presented by the Stadium. This work cost approximately \$3000 each year and was funded by ADI donors.

When the Olympic Stadium Complex sold stadium land to create space for hotels, Director Bach made efforts to ensure that softball would

continue to have a space within the stadium. The rugby field was moved to a new location. And the baseball backstop was relocated onto the rugby field. The cost of removing and remounting the rugby goal posts was paid for by the rugby club and the cost of removing and remounting the backstop was paid for by ADI.

Children's softball grew to have 75 players and five organized teams by 2012. Youth softball included 20 on average and met once each week. Children's teams were populated with about 30% of players coming from the international community and included children of more than 20 nations. The other 70 % of players were white Moors, Wolof, Soninke and Pular children.

The typical fee for a season of ten weeks was \$10 (US). ADI continued to oversee the organization of teams and practices. In a few cases the family was not able to pay the fee and a scholarship for \$10 was provided by ADI. Local merchants sponsored teams with a season donation of \$75 (US) which was used to buy team shirts and drinks shared after matches. Many interested adults, who did not have children in the softball program, continued to organize teams and to attend the annual WAIST Tournament in Dakar.

In 2013 and 2014, the children's softball league gained some autonomy as a small organization that existed without having a charter, statutes, bylaws, or recognition by the government. The league continued to function with four teams and a commercial sponsor for each team. There was a treasurer who held the funds and two Americans organized children's teams, practices, and match play during these years. 2014 was the final year for children's softball in Nouakchott.

From 2022 to present: From 2015 to 2021, several efforts were made to write a charter, statutes, and bylaws for an association tasked with governing baseball and softball. Those efforts were never successful.

In 2022, Sidy Mohamed Boidaha (a local business man), Bekaye Sy Samba (an NGO administrator), and Boukhary Bougress (a business man and former player on the 2002 Mauritania National Soccer Team) submitted the statutes and formed the board of the Association of Mauritania for Baseball and Softball (AMBS), serving respectively as President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The papers were received by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and processed. Since 2022, the AMBS is recognized as a nonprofit organization that is properly authorized to function.³

In 2023, ADI began to invite partners to assist in programming for the AMBS. Coaches from Global Sports Partners (GSP) and from the Winston Salem area have been the primary partners that ADI has shared with AMBS. Each year ADI commits a portion of operating expenses to build the capacity of the AMBS.

Year	Funding by ADI	Percent of ADI Total Expense
2023	\$14,817	5%
2024	\$28,274	12%
2025	\$55,157	27%
2026 projected	\$55,700	25%

This funding has created much meaningful activity and joy in the hearts of children. 174 players age 8 to 12 years have registered to attend practice and play on teams in 2024 and 2025. Three teams are functioning in neighborhoods outside of Tevgrah Zeina. AMBS is making progress in sharing the sport of baseball with more children each year.

However, the financial reality is that ADI's pockets are empty. As a result of total expenses being more than total income for each of the past 3 years, ADI's end of year cash balance has been depleted.

Year	Income	Expense	Cash on Hand at year end
2025	111,897	156,005	\$14,641
2024	112,726	149,722	\$58,863
2023	146,233	198,759	\$95,519
2022	211,107	182,726	\$147,224
2021	196,981	123,892	\$123,053
2020	131,700	127,900	\$48,547

ADI is not in a financial position to underwrite the development of baseball in Mauritania in 2026. GSP and Winston Salem partners have generously paid for their own cost of transportation to implement coach training and player development camps. However, neither groups is ready to assume a funding role.

ADI is in the best position to oversee outside funding assistance because the NGO is recognized by the government of Mauritania and ADI has fund management infrastructure in place. ADI would like to see AMBS grow into a fully functioning federation.

Part 3: An appeal for funding

Mauritania is one of four Islamic Republics in the world (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Mauritania, and Iran). Being thankful for the spirit of openness and exchange that exists, it is logical to extend the community activities that manifest and build social coherence. Teaching children to compete in baseball is one such activity.

At one of the recent player development camps, a mother came to an American coach and said, "Thank you for sharing your culture with us." The woman had brought her two daughters to experience the camp. The baseball field is a place for healthy cultural exchange. When we build meaningful experiences on the baseball field, we are making peace.

We need your help. Please help us to secure the resources that will allow baseball to grow in Mauritania.

In order to move AMBS toward its goal of becoming the Federation for Baseball and Softball in Mauritania, ADI has developed a plan for action. The plan includes four parts.

Part A: Build capacity in the AMBS as a well functioning, responsible, grassroots social organization.

The AMBS board of directors must commit to the process of growth. This commitment includes holding five regular meetings over the next ten months in 2026. ADI will engage a mentor from the humanitarian relief and economic development community in Nouakchott to go alongside of and mentor AMBS President Sidi Mohamed Boidaha in the process of growing his board.

ADI will encourage President Sidi Mohamed to form relationships with others who serve as the President of the Federation of Baseball in African nations. In addition, ADI will encourage the AMBS President to make AMBS an associate

member of the World Baseball and Softball Confederation in Africa.

ADI will work with the AMBS to strengthen relations with the Ministry of Sports and the national Olympic Committee. In the future, these two groups will be part of recognizing AMBS as an association that has grown and is ready to assume the title and role of a federation. Regular communication and reporting progress will be part of building and maintaining strong relations with governing bodies.

Part B: Move neighborhood teams to affiliate with pre-existing, recognized sport clubs from the geographic region.

Neighborhood teams that have 15 or more players need to seek out an affiliation with a local sports club. Parents of players and coaches who have worked with players must move together and seek to be recognized by and affiliate with a sports club. Terms for the affiliation should be simple. The club affiliation agreement should protect the players and player families, provide for sponsorship by commercial or charitable groups, and envision continued relations with the AMBS.

The business that is sponsoring the club should be prepared to fund

Team shirts \$10 x 15	\$150
Team coach encouragement \$10 x 20	\$200
Transport to six games \$30 x 6	\$180
Field rental /Umpire fee \$15 x 6	\$90
Team snack on game day .80 x 15 x 6	\$80
Cost to Sponsor a Team	\$700

The AMBS trains coaches and umpires. AMBS must prepare qualified responsible coaches to lead teams. AMBS must prepare qualified responsible umpires to oversee games⁴. ADI will continue to conduct training sessions for coaches and umpires. The goal is to maintain a pool of qualified coaches and umpires who are available to serve clubs and to officiate at matches.

Part C: Create new neighborhood teams

In 2026, ADI is targeting Selibaby as the next urban area to organize baseball teams. Toward this end, the material necessary for two teams to function is already on site. Eight community coaches who were chosen by the office of the Mayor have already received the preliminary training.

In 2026, prior to the November Coach and Umpire training, ADI will request qualified personnel from Kaedi and from Nouadibou be sent to attend the training.

Part D: Seek a field in the capital city that is central to the movement of people and owned by AMBS.

A long run goal for the development of softball and baseball in Mauritania is to have a field that is located in a central part of town available to host matches between neighborhood clubs. Currently, a property that is adjacent to the United States Embassy must be considered as a potential field. Also, space in the old airport, adjacent to the intersection Carrefour Madrid must be considered as a potential field. Alternatively, space in the southern part of the town, near the port, is open and can be considered

Toward accomplishing these four aspects of movement forward, ADI has created the following budget.

Part A	
Mentor Engagement	\$1,000
Part B	
Club Engagement	\$1,000
Part C	
New Teams	\$55,700
ADI Project Management	18000
Project Labor Coach 1	3200
Lead Volunteer Support	2400
Nouakchott Storage	400

Nouakchott Office	6500
Added Coach Support	1000
Transport, Phone, other	1200
Project Monitoring and Evaluation	3000
Volunteer Teaching Team 1	10000
Volunteer Teaching Team 2	10000
Part C Field Support requested	\$55,700

Part D	
Field Acquisition	\$400,000

For the purpose of promoting baseball and softball in Mauritania, ADI appeals for a grant of \$57,700 that can be made available early in 2026.

For the purpose of securing a field, 200 meters by 200 meters, to be used for coaching and match play, AMBS appeals for a grant of \$400,000 that can be made available later in the year and based on the actual purchase price of the field.



It's time to play ball!

Notes:

1. The land use plan was completed by Tracy Sides and Homewood Nursery in Raleigh, North Carolina as the result of a partnership project conducted by ADI and the staff of the Olympic Stadium Complex in 2007.

2. In November 2025, AMBS had an outstanding bill of \$123 per month for January, February, April, May, June, October, and November 2025. $\$123 \times 7 = \861 (US).

3. ADI is a US based not for profit organization formed in 2001. ADI was recognized by the IRS as a 501 c 3 organization in 2002. In 2004, ADI submitted a request to be recognized and authorized to function as a not for profit organization in Mauritania. On April 4, 2007, ADI was recognized and received authorization to function in Mauritania. ADI has been active in Mauritania continuously since 2004 and is currently recognized by the government of Mauritania. (NIF 70100075, CNSS 1313602016)

4. Within AMBS, the Directeur Technique, is the AMBS member / volunteer who is in charge of training umpires and coaches. Todd Helm serves at the Directeur Technique and uses his role as CEO of ADI as a vehicle for promoting events, finding volunteers, and planning to carry out training activities. The Board of Directors of ADI is supportive of all of ADI's efforts to build capacity in local organizations as a means toward national economic development.

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