

# 31. Country profile: Mauritania



## 1. Development profile

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania is situated in the North West part of Africa and is the 29<sup>th</sup> largest country in the world. The country has a low population density with a population of only 3.2 million, where over one-half of the population are under the age of 30. The vast Sahelian country has a semi-desert climate, is rich on natural resources (including vast mineral wealth), and have an advantageous geographic position between the Maghreb and the rest of Sub Saharan Africa<sup>1</sup>. The country has been through multiple coups since it gained its independence from France in 1960. Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya led a successful military coup in 1984 and ruled Mauritania for two decades. In 2005, a bloodless coup overthrew president Taya and established a military council that oversaw a transition to democracy. The country's first free and fair election was held in 2007, but president Abdullahi was subsequently deposed by a military coup in 2008 and the country is now ruled by General Aziz. Mauritania's diverse population continues to experience ethnic tensions between the black communities, located in the south, and white and black moor groups, located in northern areas. Another threat to the country's stability and development is terrorism.<sup>2</sup>

Poverty is a problem in Mauritania with 46 percent of the population living in poverty, especially in rural areas where more than 68 percent are affected by poverty and food insecurity.<sup>3</sup> While adverse and volatile climate conditions increase food insecurity, the vulnerability is structural, "the means of production are limited; agricultural capacity is under-exploited, farmland is prone to desertification, and low agricultural output (30 percent of national cereal needs) has led to a high dependence on imports to address these needs."<sup>4</sup> Since 2008, the Government has been implementing policies and programmes to reduce food insecurity that have been met with some success. Another concern regarding poverty is malnutrition that peaks at 5 percent above the World Health Organization alarm threshold.<sup>5</sup> Mauritania is expected to meet the two Millennium Development goals concerned with education and gender equality, but will probably not meet the rest. For example, the under-five

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<sup>1</sup> *Mauritania: Country Brief*. (2009, September). Retrieved from World Bank: <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/AFRICAEXT/MAURITANIAEXTN/0,,menuPK:362350~pagePK:141132~piPK:141107~theSitePK:362340,00.html>

<sup>2</sup> *Mauritania*. (2010, April 1). Retrieved from US Government, Central Intelligence Agency: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mr.html>

<sup>3</sup> *Mauritania*. World Food Programme

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Mauritania*. (n.d.). Retrieved from World Food Programme: <http://www.wfp.org/countries/mauritania>

mortality rate is higher than other countries in the region.<sup>6</sup> A current issue facing women and girls in Mauritania is genital mutilation. It is estimated that 72 percent of women and girls in Mauritania have undergone female genital mutilation and even though there has been some efforts to ban the practice, it remains a great threat to women's health and is a violation of their basic rights.<sup>7</sup>

Poor management of natural resources has led to the disappearance of cultivatable land, trees and water sources, and the spread of waterborne diseases. It is estimated that land degradation and its ensuing effects cost the Mauritanian Government upwards of \$192 million USD per year. The country has one of the worst rates of deforestation in Africa which is estimated to cost the country about \$84 million USD every year in lost earnings.<sup>8</sup> Access to water is increasingly difficult to come by and it is estimated that only 3 percent of Mauritania's water supply is purified; a situation that fosters the spread of waterborne diseases, the treatment of which costs the government up to 15 million USD annually. Rapid urbanisation has increased water pollution in cities and low rainfall and desertification are forcing residents of rural areas to travel upwards of 80 kilometers to find water.<sup>9</sup> In cities, water is provided by private companies and many people spend half of their income on water, which does not leave much to pay for basic necessities as food, rent and medicine.<sup>10</sup>

Despite recurrent droughts that force thousands of people into the cities, over half of the population is still dependent on agriculture and livestock for their survival. Mauritania has large deposits of iron ore which account for 40 percent of the nation's exports.<sup>11</sup> There are also substantial gold and copper deposits, as well as natural gas and oil reserves off the coast. Mauritania has based its future development plans on the exploitation of these reserves, as they are expected to yield millions of barrels of oil. It has been reported, however, that the oil and natural gas extractive sectors are not performing as well as expected.<sup>12</sup>

Socioeconomic Indicators <sup>13</sup>	
Population (millions)	3.20
GNI Per Capita, PPP (current USD)	2,000
GDP (current USD) (billions)	2.86
GDP Composition by Sector (%)	Agriculture – 13

<sup>6</sup> *Mauritania*. (n.d.). Retrieved from African Economic Outlook: [http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en/countries/north-africa/mauritania/#/social\\_context\\_human\\_resource\\_dev](http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en/countries/north-africa/mauritania/#/social_context_human_resource_dev)

<sup>7</sup> *Mauritania: Fatwa Alone will not Stop FGM/C*. (2010, January 31). Retrieved from Medilinks: <http://medilinkz.org/news/news2.asp?NewsID=30067>

<sup>8</sup> *Desertification threatens to wipe out livelihoods, communities*. (2008, December 2). Retrieved from Medilinks: <http://medilinkz.org/news/news2.asp?NewsID=25827>

<sup>9</sup> *Mauritania: Water Treks Grow Longer, Rougher*. (2009, January 7). Retrieved from Medilinks: <http://medilinkz.org/news/news2.asp?NewsID=26022>

<sup>10</sup> *Mauritania: Govt Needs to Invest*. (2009, July 7). Retrieved from Medilinks: <http://medilinkz.org/news/news2.asp?NewsID=28053>

<sup>11</sup> *Mauritania*. US Government, Central Intelligence Agency

<sup>12</sup> *Mauritania: Country Brief*. (2009, September). Retrieved from World Bank: <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/AFRICAEXT/MAURITANIAEXTN/0,,menuPK:362350~pagePK:141132~piPK:141107~theSitePK:362340,00.html>

<sup>13</sup> *Country Data*. (n.d.). Retrieved from World Bank: <http://www.worldbank.org/data/countrydata/countrydata.html>

	Industry- 47 Services- 41
GDP Growth Rate (%)	1.9
Percent Below Poverty Line (%)	46.3
Inflation (%)	-2.6
GINI Index	39.0
Adult Literacy Rate (%)	55.8
Life Expectancy (years)	64
Child Dependency Ratio	67.5
Elderly Dependency Ratio	4.6
HIV Prevalence (%)	0.8
Overseas Development Aid Per Capita (current USD)	116
Net Official Development Assistance (USD Millions)	364
Remittances as % of GDP	0.1
2009 Human Development Index (HDI) Ranking	154

## 2. Vulnerability analysis

### 2.1 External shocks

Mauritania is vulnerable to droughts and other adverse weather conditions along with trade shock due to the country's export revenue almost solely depend on the mining and fishing sector.<sup>14</sup> The vulnerability to trade shocks came clear during the global financial crisis that led to a decrease in commodity prices, for example a decrease of 40 percent in trading prices for iron, which has hurt the Mauritanian mining sector.<sup>15</sup> Besides that, the food insecurity increased greatly throughout the country when food prices surpassed the purchasing power of most of the population in 2008.<sup>16</sup> Mauritania is also extremely vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation due to its fragile ecosystem.

### 2.2 HIV/AIDS

While the prevalence rate is estimated at 0.8 percent, which is low for the region, there is concern that this figure does not accurately reflect the situation in Mauritania. As a conservative Muslim nation, discussions of safe sex are taboo which for example leads to condoms not being able to be sold openly in shops and pharmacies.<sup>17</sup> Besides that, only few people go for voluntary testing and religious leaders consistently discourage people from participating in HIV/AIDS education seminars or having anything to do with community outreach programmes that deal with HIV/AIDS. One woman

<sup>14</sup> *Mauritania: Country Brief*. World Bank

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> *Mauritania*. (n.d.) Retrieved from World Food Programme: <http://www.wfp.org/countries/mauritania>

<sup>17</sup> *Fighting AIDS in Conservative Mauritania*. (2009, August 04). Retrieved from Medilinks: <http://medilinkz.org/news/news2.asp?NewsID=28371>

explained, “apart from the social worker from Terra Vivante and the medical doctors who treat me, nobody knows about my HIV status, not even my parents.... Because immediately they know, everybody will run away from me and I will be blamed for the cause of my own illness. If you have HIV, people see it has a punishment for being ungodly.”<sup>18</sup>

## 2.3 Political instability

Because of the recent political upheaval, inflows of foreign aid (which account for 20 percent of GDP, 35 percent of government revenues and 90 percent of public investment) have declined.<sup>19</sup> After the military coup in 2008, which most international communities condemned, many international communities cut off help to Mauritania. For example suspended the African Union Mauritania’s membership and France and the United States stopped all humanitarian aid. Besides that, the World Bank, IMF and EU stopped all their operations and the EU even threatened to impose sanctions against the country.<sup>20</sup>

## 3. Monitoring and evaluation

As stated in the Poverty reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), the objectives of the monitoring and evaluation system are:

- monitor the entire poverty situation,
- monitor the implementation of specific programmes,
- evaluate the “specific impact of the major public programmes and the PRSP overall on growth, poverty, and living conditions in general.”<sup>21</sup>

## 4. Social assistance programmes overview

\*All currency conversions are based on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010 Rates

- 1 MRO = 0.00375 USD
- 1 EUR = 1.369 USD
- 1 GBP = 1.57161 USD.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> *Mauritania*. African Economic Outlook

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> *Islamic Republic of Mauritania: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper*. (2007, January). Retrieved from IMF: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/prsp/prsp.asp#M>

<sup>22</sup> *Currency Converter*. (n.d.). Retrieved from OANDA: <http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>

Programme# 1: social insurance system	Programme name	Old Age, Disability, and Survivors <sup>23</sup>
	Programme components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Old-age pension:</b> The pension is equal to 20% of the insured's average monthly earnings in the last 3 or 5 years (whichever amount is greater) plus 1.33% of average monthly earnings for each 12-month period of coverage exceeding 180 months, up to 80%. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The maximum monthly earnings for benefit calculation purposes are 70,000 ouguiyas (\$262.66).</li> <li>○ The minimum pension is equal to 60% of the highest regional minimum wage.</li> <li>○ The highest regional minimum wage is 9,559 ouguiyas (\$35.87).</li> <li>○ Benefit adjustment: Benefits are adjusted periodically according to changes in the cost of living, depending on the financial resources of the National Social Security Fund (The last adjustment was made in January 1998).</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Old-age settlement:</b> A lump sum is paid equal to 1 month of wages for each year of coverage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The maximum monthly earnings for benefit calculation purposes are 70,000 ouguiyas (\$262.66).</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Disability pension:</b> The pension is equal to 20% of the insured's average monthly earnings in the last 3 or 5 years (whichever amount is greater) plus 1.33% of average monthly earnings for each 12-month period of coverage beyond 180 months, up to 80%. For each year that a claim is made before the normal retirement age, the insured is credited with a 6-month coverage period. The maximum monthly earnings for benefit calculation purpose are 70,000 ouguiyas \$262.66). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The minimum pension is equal to 60% of the highest regional minimum wage.</li> <li>○ The highest regional minimum wage is 9,559 ouguiyas (\$35.87).</li> <li>○ Constant-attendance supplement: 50% of the pension is paid.</li> <li>○ Benefit adjustment: Benefits are adjusted periodically according to changes in the cost of living, depending on the financial resources of the National Social Security Fund (The last adjustment was made in January 1998).</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Survivor pension:</b> The widow(er) receives 50% of the deceased's pension.</li> <li>▪ <b>Orphan's pension:</b> Each eligible orphan receives 25% of the deceased's pension; 40% for each full orphan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All survivor benefits combined must not exceed 100% of the deceased's pension.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Survivor settlement:</b> A lump sum is paid equal to 1 month of the deceased's pension for each 6-month period of coverage.</li> <li>▪ <b>Benefit adjustment:</b> Benefits are adjusted periodically according to changes in the cost of living, depending on the financial resources of the National Social Security Fund (The last adjustment was made in January 1998).</li> </ul>
	Programme duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Voluntary coverage for persons previously insured for at least 6 consecutive months.</li> </ul>

<sup>23</sup>Table text from *Mauritania Social Security Programs Throughout the World: Africa 2009*. (n.d.) Retrieved from United States Government, US Social Security Administration: Office of Retirement and Disability Policy: <http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/progdesc/ssptw/2008-2009/africa/mauritania.html>

	<b>Programme coverage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wage earners, including temporary and occasional workers, seamen, household workers, trainees, apprentices, and technical college students.</li> <li>Exclusions: Self-employed persons.</li> <li>Special systems for civil servants and armed forces personnel.</li> </ul>
	<b>Beneficiary determination process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Old-age pension:</b> Age 60 (men) or age 55 (women) with at least 20 years of coverage, including at least 60 months of contributions in the last 10 years (including contributions made under the previous program). The pensionable age is reduced by 5 years if the insured is prematurely aged. Employment must cease. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The pension is payable abroad only under reciprocal agreement.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Old-age settlement:</b> Paid at age 60 (men) or age 55 (women) if the insured does not meet the qualifying conditions for a pension.</li> <li><b>Disability pension:</b> Paid if the insured is assessed with a permanent loss of earning capacity of at least 66.7% and has at least 5 years of coverage, including at least 6 months of contributions in the last 12 months. There is no qualifying period if the disability is the result of a non-occupational accident. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Constant-attendance supplement: Paid if the insured requires the constant attendance of others to perform daily functions.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Survivor pension:</b> Paid to eligible survivors if the deceased was a pensioner, met the qualifying conditions for an old-age pension or a disability pension, or had at least 180 months of coverage at the time of death.</li> <li><b>Survivor settlement:</b> Paid to eligible survivors if the deceased did not meet the qualifying conditions for a pension. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligible survivors are a widow aged 50 or older or disabled or a dependent, disabled widower and children younger than age 14 (age 21 if a student, no limit if disabled).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<b>Finance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Insured person:</b> 1% of covered earnings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The maximum monthly earnings for contribution calculation purposes are 70,000 ouguiyas (\$262.66).</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Self-employed person:</b> Not applicable.</li> <li><b>Employer:</b> 2% of covered monthly payroll. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The maximum monthly earnings for contribution calculation purposes are 70,000 ouguiyas (\$262.66).</li> <li>Contributions are paid monthly by employers with 20 or more employees or quarterly by employers with 1 to 19 employees.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Government:</b> None.</li> </ul>
	<b>Legal framework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First law: 1965.</li> <li>Current law: 1967 (social security)</li> </ul>
	<b>Administrative framework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Civil Service, Employment, Youth, and Sport provides general supervision.</li> <li>Managed by a tripartite board, the National Social Security Fund administers the program.</li> </ul>

Programme# 2: social insurance system	Programme name	<b>Sickness and Maternity<sup>24</sup></b>
	Programme components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Sickness benefit:</b> No statutory benefits are provided.</li> <li>▪ <b>Maternity benefit:</b> The benefit is equal to 100% of the insured's average daily earnings in the 3 months before work ceased. The benefit is paid for up to 14 weeks, including 8 weeks after the date of childbirth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The maximum monthly earnings for benefit calculation purposes are 70,000 ouguiyas (\$262.66).</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Workers' Medical Benefits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Employers provide medical services for employees through the employer medical service program or through the joint interemployer medical service program for firms with fewer than 750 workers.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Dependents' Medical Benefits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Employers provide medical services for employees' dependents through the employer medical service program or through the joint interemployer medical service program for firms with fewer than 750 workers,</li> <li>○ Some health and welfare services are also provided to mothers and children under Family Allowances, below.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Programme duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The maternity benefit is paid for up to 14 weeks, including 8 weeks after the date of childbirth.</li> </ul>
	Programme coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Cash sickness benefits:</b> No statutory benefits are provided.</li> <li>▪ <b>Cash maternity benefits:</b> Employed women.</li> <li>▪ <b>Medical benefits:</b> Employed persons covered under the labor code and their dependents.</li> </ul>
	Beneficiary determination process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Cash sickness benefits:</b> No statutory benefits are provided.</li> <li>▪ <b>Cash maternity benefits:</b> The insured must have at least 12 months of coverage and 54 days or 360 hours of employment in the last 3 months.</li> </ul>
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Insured person:</b> None.</li> <li>▪ <b>Self-employed person:</b> Not applicable.</li> <li>▪ <b>Employer:</b> 2% of covered monthly payroll. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The maximum monthly earnings for contribution calculation purposes are 70,000 ouguiyas (\$262.66).</li> <li>○ Contributions are paid monthly by employers with 20 or more employees or quarterly by employers with 1 to 19 employees.</li> <li>○ The employer contributions finance medical benefits only. Cash maternity benefits are financed under Family Allowances, below.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Government:</b> None.</li> </ul>
	Legal framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ First laws: 1952 (cash maternity benefits) and 1963 (medical benefits).</li> <li>▪ Current laws: 1967 (cash maternity benefits) and 1976 (medical benefits).</li> </ul>

<sup>24</sup>Table text from *Mauritania Social Security Programs Throughout the World: Africa 2009*. United States Government

	<b>Administrative framework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Civil Service, Employment, Youth, and Sport provides general supervision.</li> <li>Managed by a tripartite board, the National Social Security Fund administers the program.</li> </ul>
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	Programme name	Work Injury <sup>25</sup>
	Programme components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Temporary Disability Benefits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The benefit is equal to 66.7% of the insured's average daily earnings. The benefit is paid from the day after the disability began until full recovery or certification of permanent disability.</li> <li>The maximum monthly earnings for benefit calculation purposes are 70,000 ouguiyas (\$262.66).</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Permanent disability pension:</b> If the insured is assessed with a total disability, the pension is equal to 85% of the insured's average monthly earnings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The maximum monthly earnings for benefit calculation purposes are 70,000 ouguiyas (\$262.66).</li> <li>Constant-attendance supplement: If the insured requires the constant attendance of others to perform daily functions, 50% of the pension is paid.</li> <li>Partial disability: A percentage of the full pension is paid according to the assessed degree of disability; if the assessed degree of disability is less than 15%, a lump sum is paid equal to 3 years of pension.</li> <li>Benefit adjustment: Benefits are adjusted periodically according to changes in the cost of living, depending on the financial resources of the National Social Security Fund (The last adjustment was made in October 1975).</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Workers' Medical Benefits:</b> Benefits include medical and surgical care, hospitalisation, house calls, medicines, appliances, transportation, and rehabilitation.</li> <li><b>Survivor Benefits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survivor pension: A widow or a widower with a disability receives 20% of the deceased's average monthly earnings.</li> <li>Orphan's pension: Each orphan younger than age 14 (age 21 if an apprentice, a student, or disabled) receives 10% of the deceased's average monthly earnings; 15% for each full orphan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orphans are also entitled to benefits under Family Allowances, below.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Dependent parent's and grandparent's pension: Each dependent parent and grandparent receives 10% of the deceased's average monthly earnings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All survivor benefits combined must not exceed 100% of the deceased's pension.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Funeral grant: A lump sum is paid equal to 30 days of the deceased's earnings.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>25</sup>Table text from *Mauritania Social Security Programs Throughout the World: Africa 2009*. United States Government



	<b>Programme coverage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wage earners, including temporary and occasional workers, seamen, household workers, trainees, apprentices, and technical college students.</li> <li>Exclusions: Self-employed persons.</li> <li>Special systems for civil servants and armed forces personnel.</li> </ul>
	<b>Beneficiary determination process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Work injury benefits:</b> There is no minimum qualifying period.</li> </ul>
	<b>Finance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Insured person:</b> None.</li> <li><b>Self-employed person:</b> Not applicable.</li> <li><b>Employer:</b> 3% of covered monthly payroll; 2.5% of gross monthly payroll if the employer provides medical care and temporary disability benefits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The maximum monthly earnings for contribution calculation purposes are 70,000 ouguiyas.</li> <li>Contributions are paid monthly by employers with 20 or more employees or quarterly by employers with 1 to 19 employees.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Government:</b> None.</li> </ul>
	<b>Legal framework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First law: 1932.</li> <li>Current law: 1967 (social security).</li> </ul>
	<b>Administrative framework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Civil Service, Employment, Youth, and Sport provides general supervision.</li> <li>Managed by a tripartite board, the National Social Security Fund administers the program.</li> </ul>

<b>Programme #4: social insurance</b>	<b>Programme name</b>	<b>Family Allowances<sup>26</sup></b>
	<b>Programme components</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Family allowances:</b> 300 ouguiyas (\$1.13) a month is paid for each child.</li> <li><b>Prenatal allowance:</b> 240 ouguiyas (\$0.90) is paid for each month of pregnancy. The allowance is paid in three equal parts.</li> <li><b>Birth grant:</b> A lump sum of 2,880 ouguiyas (\$10.81) is paid for each of the first three births. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some health and welfare services are also provided to mothers and children.</li> <li>Benefit adjustment: Benefits are adjusted periodically according to changes in the cost of living, depending on the financial resources of the National Social Security Fund. (The last adjustment was made in 1992.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<b>Programme coverage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employed persons (special systems for civil servants and armed forces personnel)</li> <li>Exclusions: Self-employed persons.</li> </ul>

<sup>26</sup>Table text from *Mauritania Social Security Programs Throughout the World: Africa 2009*. United States Government

	<b>Beneficiary determination process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Family allowances:</b> The child must be younger than age 14 (age 21 if an apprentice, a student, or disabled). The parent must work at least 18 days a month or be the widow of a beneficiary.</li> <li>▪ <b>Prenatal allowance grant:</b> The mother must undergo prescribed medical examinations.</li> <li>▪ <b>Birth grant:</b> The mother and child must undergo prescribed medical examinations.</li> </ul>
	<b>Finance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Insured person:</b> None.</li> <li>▪ <b>Self-employed person:</b> Not applicable.</li> <li>▪ <b>Employer:</b> 8% of covered monthly payroll. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The maximum monthly earnings for contribution calculation purposes are 70,000 ouguiyas (\$262.67).</li> <li>○ Contributions are paid monthly by employers with 20 or more employees or quarterly by employers with 1 to 19 employees.</li> <li>○ The employer contributions also finance cash maternity benefits under Sickness and Maternity, above.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Government:</b> None.</li> </ul>
	<b>Legal framework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Current law: 1967 (social security), first law: 1965.</li> </ul>
	<b>Administrative framework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ministry of Civil Service, Employment, Youth, and Sport provides general supervision.</li> <li>▪ Managed by a tripartite board, the National Social Security Fund administers the program.</li> </ul>

<b>Programme# 5: welfare and social services</b>	<b>Programme name</b>	<b>Urban Development Program<sup>27</sup></b>
	<b>Programme overview</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Urban Development Program Project will support Mauritania's central and local governments improve living conditions, and promote employment opportunities in the main towns, with a special focus in slums. It will further strengthen the institutional framework, and capacity for urban, and land management.</li> </ul>
	<b>Programme components</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provision of basic urban infrastructure in the main cities, which in addition to consultant services for technical studies, and works supervision, include a ten-year program for slum upgrading in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou. To prevent future squatter settlements, land allotment, allocation, and development will be funded - based on loan conditionality - with a twenty year reimbursement period, and five-year grace period. Labor-intensive economic, and environmental protection activities will be promoted, implemented in partnership with the private sector, namely for crafts, and fishing activities, agricultural market development, and solid waste management.</li> <li>▪ Access to micro-credit for land tenure regularisation, home construction, or enterprise development.</li> </ul>

<sup>27</sup>Table text from *Projects and Operations*. (2001, November 8). Retrieved from World Bank: <http://web.worldbank.org/external/projects/main?Projectid=P069095&theSitePK=40941&piPK=64290415&pagePK=64283627&menuPK=64282134&Type=Overview>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening municipal and government administration capacity along with provision of technical assistance and training for institutional and capacity building for the development of urban communities and micro-enterprises.</li> <li>Financing of incremental expenditures incurred on account of project management, auditing, monitoring, and operating costs of implementing agencies.</li> </ul>
	<b>Programme duration</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> October 2001 until 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2011
	<b>Financial commitments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>African Development Bank: \$2,000,000,</li> <li>French Agency for Development: \$3,000,000,</li> <li>International Development Association: \$ 70,000,000,</li> <li>Kreditanstalt Fur Wiederaufbau (Germany): \$4,000,000.</li> </ul>
	<b>Administrative framework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Bank</li> <li>The implementation Agency is the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development.</li> </ul>

<b>Programme# 6: welfare and social services</b>	<b>Programme name</b>	<b>Community Rural Based Development<sup>28</sup></b>
	<b>Programme objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The development objective of the Community Based Rural Development Project is to improve the living conditions of village communities in terms of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sustainable income increase,</li> <li>access to basic socio-economic services,</li> <li>improved natural resource management practices.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The project would achieve its objective through capacity building, and investments in economic, social and environmental sub-projects, implemented by these communities. The capacity building component, reflects the fact that the long-lasting impact of community investments critically depends on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The organisational and managerial capacities of village communities to design, and implement effective development plans.</li> <li>The technical capacity of providers of services to these communities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<b>Programme components</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project consist of three subcomponents to support capacity building: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consulting services to design and implement investment planning, and training assistance in organisation and management capacity building of rural municipalities. Besides that, capacity building of agricultural services and capacity building of rural micro-enterprises.</li> <li>Development of investment funds, through Village Investment Funds, and Rural Communal Road Funds, focused on improving socioeconomic conditions.</li> <li>Project management, monitoring and evaluation, to provide management, administrative, and financial support during project implementation, as well as monitoring of performance indicators, and reporting requirements.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>28</sup>Table text from *Projects and Operations*. (2004, April 2). Retrieved from World Bank: <http://web.worldbank.org/external/projects/main?Projectid=P081368&theSitePK=40941&piPK=64290415&pagePK=64283627&menuPK=64282134&Type=Overview>

	<b>Programme duration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20<sup>th</sup> April 2004 until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010.</li> </ul>
	<b>Financial commitments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Development Agency: \$45,000,000.</li> <li>Local Communities: \$7,300,000.</li> </ul>
	<b>Administrative framework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Rural Development and Environment are implementing the project.</li> </ul>

Programme#7: welfare and social services	<b>Programme name</b>	<b>Higher Education Project<sup>29</sup></b>
	<b>Programme overview</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Higher Education Project will help the Government of Mauritania's strategy on improving qualified graduates skills, needed for increased productivity, and diversification of its economy. The project is designed to improve the quality of the learning environment, and the relevance of courses in regards to the labor market, and in addition, to establish pedagogic, administrative, and financial management systems in the Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs).</li> </ul>
	<b>Programme Components</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through its two main components, the project will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finance the modernisation of the university instruction, relevant to the economy's needs. It will thus facilitate a shift from classic supply-driven programs, to greater focus on science, technology, and demand-driven, occupationally oriented courses, and, from traditional lecture-based instruction, to more emphasis on individual study, and applied research, through course modernisation, faculty upgrading, and accreditation.</li> <li>Implement the new policy framework for higher education as outlined in the Education Sector Development Program.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The main thrust of the reform is the transfer of autonomy to the University, and other IHEs, in strategic goal setting, budgets, instructional programs, and personnel management.</li> </ul>
	<b>Programme duration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3<sup>rd</sup> August 2004 until 31<sup>st</sup> march 2012</li> </ul>
	<b>Financial commitments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Development Association: \$15,000,000</li> </ul>
	<b>Administrative framework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Education is implementing the project.</li> </ul>

<sup>29</sup>Table text from *Projects and Operations*. (2004, July 15). Retrieved from World Bank: <http://web.worldbank.org/external/projects/main?Projectid=P087180&theSitePK=40941&piPK=64290415&pagePK=64283627&menuPK=64282134&Type=Overview>

Programme# 8: welfare and social services	<b>Programme name</b>	<b>Business Environment Enhancement Project<sup>30</sup></b>
	<b>Programme overview</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The objective of the Business Environment Enhancement Project for Mauritania are to enhance the business climate through improvement in the financial, legal and judiciary sectors, and regulatory environment for business, and the support of measures to restructure selected Public Enterprise (PEs). This will facilitate private sector led growth investment in the economy and improve the services of the PEs that directly impact private sector growth and development.</li> </ul>
	<b>Programme components</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project consist of two components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first component is regarding the improvement of the business climate to foster private sector development. The first component supports Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania (GIRM's) efforts to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>strengthen the financial sector and thus improve access to finance</li> <li>improve the legal and judicial framework for business and financial activities</li> <li>streamline the regulatory environment and reduce the administrative barriers for commercial activities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The second component is for the building public-private partnerships and productivity enhancement. In order to sustain its economic performance and reduce poverty, a deeper and more ambitious public sector reform program is envisaged by GIRM. This component, therefore, will support improving corporate governance in a selected group of PEs and several reform measures in the Mauritanian electricity sector to attract increased private sector investments and participation in the local power market.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<b>Programme duration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008 until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2013.</li> </ul>
	<b>Financial commitments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Development Association: \$5,000,000.</li> </ul>
	<b>Administrative framework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implemented by the Ministry of Education.</li> </ul>

Programme# 9: welfare and social services	<b>Programme name</b>	<b>Health and Nutrition Project<sup>31</sup></b>
	<b>Programme overview</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The objective of the Health and Nutrition Support Project (HNSP) is to strengthen the health system and its capacity to improve the health and nutrition status of the population, notably of women, children, and the poor, as it will support the implementation of the government program for the health and nutrition sectors during the period 2006- 2008. HNSP will provide support to priority activities for which there is a financial gap, provided that they are consistent with the sector policy and there is agreement on their relevance.</li> </ul>

<sup>30</sup>Table text from *Projects and Operations*. (2008, May 6). Retrieved from World Bank: <http://web.worldbank.org/external/projects/main?Projectid=P102031&theSitePK=40941&piPK=64302789&pagePK=64330676&menuPK=64282137&Type=Implementation>

<sup>31</sup>Table text from *Projects and Operations*. (2006, May 17). Retrieved from World Bank: <http://web.worldbank.org/external/projects/main?pagePK=64312881&piPK=64302848&theSitePK=40941&Projectid=P094278>

	<b>Programme components</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The support will focus on five areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Further developing human resources and improving their geographical distribution.</li> <li>○ Ensuring adequate sector financing and equitable allocation of resources for the poor and for underserved geographical areas.</li> <li>○ Improving health sector management to raise efficiency.</li> <li>○ Improving the accessibility to quality and affordable health services in underserved areas.</li> <li>○ Enhancing and expanding community-based communications for improved nutrition.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<b>Programme duration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006 until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011.</li> </ul>
	<b>Finance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ministry of Health and the Secretary of State for Feminine Condition.</li> </ul>

<b>Programme# 10: welfare and social services</b>	<b>Programme Name</b>	<b>Public Sector Capacity Building Project<sup>32</sup></b>
	<b>Programme Overview</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Mauritania Public Sector Capacity Building Project aims to contribute to improving performance, efficiency, and transparency of public resources management.</li> </ul>
	<b>Programme Components</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Project will support implementation of selected elements of the Government's reform programs, focusing especially on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improving public finance management aimed at increasing transparency and efficiency.</li> <li>○ Supporting local development by implementing reforms aimed at increasing decentralisation and de-concentration.</li> <li>○ Mainstreaming environment to facilitate integration of environmental concerns in development, through harmonisation of various sector strategies and existing texts.</li> <li>○ Improving human resources management in the public sector while strengthening structures managing civil servants, as well as developing management and information tools, and training. Support will be provided to project implementation, monitoring and evaluation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<b>Programme Duration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 6th July 2006 until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011</li> </ul>
	<b>Finance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ International Development Association: \$13,000,000</li> </ul>

<sup>32</sup>Table text from *Projects and Operations*. (2006, June 16). Retrieved from World Bank: <http://web.worldbank.org/external/projects/main?Projectid=P082888&theSitePK=40941&piPK=64290415&pagePK=64283627&menuPK=64282134&Type=Overview>