

# AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND



**COUNTRY: ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA**

## **VULNERABLE YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INTEGRATION SUPPORT PROJECT**

### **PROJECT APPRAISAL REPORT**

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**RDGN/AHHD DEPARTMENTS**

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June 2021

Translated Document

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## Currency Equivalents

March 2021

UA 1 = MRU 51.6500

UA 1 = USD 1.43927

UA 1 = EUR 1.18742

## Fiscal Year

January - December

## Weights and Measures

1 kilogram (kg) = 2.204 pounds

1 metre (m) = 3.28 feet

1 millimetre (mm) = 0.03937 inch

1 kilometre (km) = 0.62 mile

1 hectare (ha) = 2.471 acres

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFD	French Development Agency
AfDB	African Development Bank
ABWP	Annual Budget and Work Programme
AHHD	Human Capital, Youth and Skills Development Department
ARMP	Procurement Regulatory Agency
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CAPEC	Credit and Savings Association
CLC	Local Consultative Council
CNJ	National Youth Council
CNSS	National Social Security Fund
CPE	Coordination of Employment Projects
CSP	Country Strategy Paper
E&S	Environmental and Social
EETFP	Technical Education and Vocational Training School
ENESI	National Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector
EPCV	Permanent Survey of Household Living Conditions
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GTEFP	Thematic Employment and Vocational Training Working Group
HCI	Human Capital Index
INAP-FTP	National Institute for the Promotion of Technical and Vocational Training
KfW	German Development Bank of Credit and Reconstruction
MEDD	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
MEJS	Ministry of Employment, Youth and Sports
MRU	Mauritanian Ouguiya
MSE	Micro and Small Enterprise
NEET	Not in Employment, Education or Training
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IOM	International Organization for Migration

IRR	Internal rate of return
ISS	Integrated Safeguard System
NAPA	National Adaptation Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPV	Net Present Value
ONS	National Bureau of Statistics
OS	Operational Safeguard
PAFEJ	Youth Training and Employment Support Project
PAHABO	Hydro-Agricultural Development Project in West Brakna
PAREJ	Support Project for Youth Business Resilience in the G5 Sahel Countries
PATAM	Agricultural Transformation Support Project
PEJ	Youth Employability Project
PMP	Procurement Methods and Procedures Plan
PMU	Project Management Unit
PRECAMF	Microfinance Actors Capacity Building Project
PROCAPEC	Credit and Savings Fund Promotion Agency
RDGN	Regional Development, Integration and Business Delivery (North Africa)
RGA	Revenue Generating Activity
RGPH	General Census of Population and Housing
SCAPP	Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity Strategy
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
Techghil Agency	National Agency for the Promotion of Youth Employment
TFP	Technical and Financial Partner
ToR	Terms of Reference
UA	Unit of Account
USAID	US Agency for International Development
WB	World Bank

## Project Information Sheet

### Client Information

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<b>DONEE</b>	:	Islamic Republic of Mauritania
<b>EXECUTING AGENCY</b>	:	Employment Project Coordination, Ministry of Employment, Youth and Sports

### Financing Plan

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Source	Amount (UA)	Instrument
ADF	3,000,000	Grant
Government	302,092	
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>3,302,092</b>	

### Key African Development Bank (AfDB) Financial Information

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Loan/Grant Currency	Unit of Account
Interest type	N/A
Interest rate margin*.	N/A
Commitment fee	N/A
Other fees* (if any)	N/A
Deadline	N/A
Grace period	N/A
FRR, NPV (baseline scenario)	N/A
ERR (baseline scenario)	N/A

*if applicable*

### Timeframe – Main Milestones (Expected)

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Concept Note approval	(January 2020)
Project approval	(June 2021)
Effectiveness	(October 2021)
Last disbursement	(December 2025)
Completion	(December 2025)

## Project Summary

<p><b>General Project Overview</b></p>	<p>The project will provide targeted support to the Government by concretising a programme-based approach that will offer a tangible path toward the implementation of the National Employment Strategy Action Plan. More specifically, it aims to support Government efforts at considering women, youths (aged 15 to 24) and low-skilled primary and secondary school leavers as priority targets of Mauritania's employment policy. Thus, the project's main objective is to improve the quality of life for people aged 15 to 24 and belonging to the "Not in Education, Employment, or Training" (NEET) group—especially young women—in Brakna Region, one of the most disadvantaged regions, through skills development and entrepreneurship. In this regard, the project will help to develop information and intermediation services, as well as technical and professional skills of young people, while providing technical and financial support to entrepreneurs and stakeholders in the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem. The implementation period is four (4) years, from September 2021 to December 2025. The project cost is estimated at UA 3.302 million, including the Mauritanian government's counterpart funding of UA 0.302 million.</p>
<p><b>Project Deliverables</b></p>	<p>Although the project's impact area will be the Brakna Region, it will benefit the entire country through cross-cutting activities such as the upgrading of the Techghil agency's existing "Employment Desk" ("Accueil Emploi") information system for the registration and monitoring of job seekers, and the strengthening of INAP-FTP to plan and manage demand-driven vocational training, as well as activities aimed at supporting decentralised structures of the Ministry of Employment, Youth and Sports (MEJS). The project will directly impact (i) 24,757 young people through sensitisation activities, (ii) 4,000 young people (50% of whom girls) through life skills training, (iii) 850 young people (40% of whom girls) through skills training and certification, (iv) at least 450 young people (30% of whom girls) who will have internships, (v) 700 entrepreneurs (50% of whom girls) will receive technical and financial support to implement their projects, and (vi) four (4) employment offices and four (4) CAPEC agencies will be set up and provided the necessary equipment and training to operate, thus making it possible to strengthen the presence of state agencies in remote regions to serve the people.</p>
<p><b>Needs Assessment</b></p>	<p>Project identification was initiated by the Mauritanian government following its prioritisation of the NEET youth cohort. The report, "The Employment and Informal Sector Situation in Mauritania, 2017", prepared by the country's National Office of Statistics (ONS) on employment prospects, highlights the challenge posed by NEET youths. The report notes that a relatively large proportion of young people (44.2%) are currently outside the employment and education system. The policies the report proposed to support this vulnerable group include (i) developing vocational programmes accessible to school dropouts, (ii) promoting self-employment by providing short- and medium-term funding to micro-enterprises, (iii) supporting young people, especially women, in micro-entrepreneurship, and (iv) developing tools for labour market integration. Therefore, there is an urgent need to take concrete action to improve the employability of this vulnerable population by providing access to (i) services and information on employment opportunities, (ii) professional skills necessary for a successful transition to employment, and (iii) credit with support to enable these young Mauritians to successfully engage in entrepreneurial activities.</p>
<p><b>Comparative Advantages and the Bank's Value-added</b></p>	<p>For several years, the Bank has been one of Mauritania's key development partners, having financed several projects in skills development and employment promotion with tangible results. Thus, this project complements (i) the Youth Training and Employment Support Project (PAFEJ), which focused on improving the employment situation of young people through the development of a National Employment Strategy and its operationalisation by integrating employment into sector policies allowing for the structuring of state intervention and a better anchoring of training in the productive sector by developing tools for analysing the skills needs of the labour market, (ii) the Micro-finance Actors Capacity Building Project (PRECAMF), which helped to build stakeholder capacity in terms of supply and demand for microfinance services, and (iii) the Support Project for Resilience of Youth Enterprises in G5 Sahel Countries (PAREJ) aimed at helping young entrepreneurs to cope with the effects of COVID. Therefore, the Bank's accumulated experience in Mauritania in this regard is an important comparative advantage. Furthermore, the Bank's project team was able to build a strong partnership during this project appraisal, through a cooperative relationship with the World Bank Group, one of the most important partners currently active in the employment sector. This synergy has been concretized through parallel financing with the World Bank Group's Youth Employability Project for USD 40 million. The complementarity between these two projects will help to reduce the fragmentation of employment projects and strengthen government leadership by supporting an economic inclusion programme for vulnerable youths. The project could also serve as a catalyst for funding from other Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs).</p>

**Knowledge Management**

One of the objectives of the project is knowledge building, given the sector and the nature of the activities funded. The project will contribute to knowledge building through the identification of technical solutions for a specific population, namely the NEET group in the following areas: (i) life skills; (ii) technical skills training and apprenticeship modalities; (iii) entrepreneurial culture; and (iv) business management. This knowledge will be imparted through the provision of consultancy services and specific training in the above-mentioned areas. Specifically, training modules will be developed by specialists and complemented with a trainers' training programme. These training programmes will foster the production of reports and other technical documents that will be published and shared to enable the ecosystem actors acquire knowledge on best practices and lessons learned.



## Results-based Logical Framework

PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK				
A. PROJECT INFORMATION				
<b>PROJECT AND SAP-CODE:</b> VULNERABLE YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INTEGRATION SUPPORT PROJECT - SAP-CODE: P-MR-I00-003			<b>COUNTRY/REGION:</b> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA/RDGN	
<b>PROJECT GOAL:</b> Improve the quality of life of vulnerable youths in Brakna Region through skills development and entrepreneurship				
<b>ALIGNMENT INDICATOR(S):</b> (i) Poverty rate in Brakna Region; (ii) Under-employment rate in Brakna Region; and (iii) Percentage of self-employed girls in Brakna Region				
B. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS				
RESULTS CHAIN	UNITS	REFERENCE (2020)	TARGET AT THE END OF THE PROGRAMME (2025)	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
<b>OUTCOME 1: STRENGTHENED ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM</b>				
INDICATOR 1.1: Survival rate of new businesses	Percentage	NA	70%	MEJS Statistics and Project Activity Report
INDICATOR 1.2: Percentage of girl entrepreneurs supported and promoted by the project who have started their own business	Percentage	Zero	60%	Project implementation report
<b>OUTCOME 2: IMPROVED PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION OF VULNERABLE YOUTH IN BRAKNA REGION</b>				
INDICATOR 2.1: Graduation rate of youth trained	Percentage	Zero	85%	Implementation report
INDICATOR 2.2: Rate of integration of training beneficiaries after six (6) months	Percentage	Zero	70%	Techghil Agency activity reports
INDICATOR 2.3: Number of direct jobs created	Number	Zero	700, of which 50% girls	Implementation report
INDICATOR 2.4: Number of indirect jobs created	Number	Zero	1,500	Implementation report
<b>COMPONENT I: SUPPORT TO INFORMATION AND INTERMEDIATION SERVICES FOR AN INCREASED YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY</b>				
<b>OUTPUT 1: IMPROVED ACCESS TO SUPPORT, INFORMATION, GUIDANCE AND INTERMEDIATION SERVICES</b>				
INDICATOR 1.1: Number of Techghil Agency branches established	Number	Zero	4 operational branches	Techghil Agency activity reports
INDICATOR 1.2: Number of Techghil Agency employees whose technical capacity has been strengthened	Number	Zero	20	Techghil Agency activity reports
INDICATOR 1.3: Number of young people having benefited from information, guidance and intermediation services	Number	Zero	5000, of which 50% girls	Techghil Agency activity reports
<b>OUTPUT 2: VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE WITH LIFE SKILLS TO FACILITATE THEIR SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS</b>				
INDICATOR 2.1: Number of young people benefiting from life skills training sessions	Number	Zero	4000, of which 50% girls	Techghil Agency activity reports
INDICATOR 2.2: Number of young beneficiaries of life skills training opting for a technical training or apprenticeship pathway	Number	Zero	2600, of which 50% girls	Techghil Agency activity reports
INDICATOR 2.3: Number of young beneficiaries of life skills training who wish to enter directly into an entrepreneurial pathway	Number	Zero	1400, of which 50% girls	Techghil Agency activity reports

<b>COMPONENT II: DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL SKILLS AND PROMOTION OF YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS IN THE EMERGING SECTORS</b>				
<b>OUTPUT 3: INAP-FTP TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR VULNERABLE YOUTHS STRENGTHENED</b>				
INDICATOR 3.1: Number of technical and vocational training schools upgraded	Number	Zero	2	INAP-FTP activity reports
INDICATOR 3.2: Number of new training resources developed	Number	Zero	10	INAP-FTP activity reports
INDICATOR 3.3: Number of young people benefiting from training leading to qualifications and certification	Number	Zero	850, of which 40% girls	INAP-FTP activity reports
INDICATOR 3.4: Number of young recipients of technical training and apprenticeships provided internships	Number	Zero	450, of which 30% girls	Implementation report
<b>OUTPUT 4: SUPPORT AND COACHING SERVICES FOR YOUNG MICRO-ENTREPRENEURS ESTABLISHED</b>				
INDICATOR 4.1: Number of young entrepreneurs mentored and coached	Number	Zero	700, of which 50% girls	Implementation report
INDICATOR 4.2: Number of local value chains targeted and strengthened by the project	Number	Zero	8	Implementation report
INDICATOR 4.3: Number of microenterprise projects incubated in the agricultural incubator set up by the Techghil Agency with project support	Number	Zero	100	Implementation report
<b>OUTPUT 5: FACILITATED ACCESS TO FINANCE</b>				
INDICATOR 5.1: Number of newly created PROCAPEC agencies	Number	Zero	4	PROCAPEC activity reports
INDICATOR 5.2: Number of entrepreneurs with access to microcredit	Number	Zero	1400, of which 50% girls	PROCAPEC activity reports
<b>COMPONENT III: PROJECT MANAGEMENT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION</b>				
<b>OUTPUT 6: PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT ESTABLISHED AND OPERATIONAL</b>				
INDICATOR 6.1: Project staff trained	Number	Zero	20	Implementation report
INDICATOR 6.2: Monitoring and evaluation system set up and functioning	Yes/No	No	Yes	Implementation report
INDICATOR 6.3: Communication actions carried out	Number	Zero	24	Implementation report
INDICATOR 6.4: Actions promoting the sharing and dissemination of practices carried out	Number	Zero	5	Implementation report
INDICATOR 6.5: Impact assessment study conducted	Yes/No	No	Yes	Implementation report
<b>Component 1. Support to information and intermediation services for an increased youth employability</b>			<b>UA 0.754 million</b>	
<b>Component 2. Development of technical skills and promotion of young entrepreneurs in the emerging sectors</b>			<b>UA 1.723 million</b>	
<b>Component 3. Project management, monitoring and evaluation</b>			<b>UA 0.523 million</b>	

## Project Implementation Schedule

Year	2021		2022				2023				2024				2025			
Activity/Quarter	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>1. Project appraisal</b>																		
Approval																		
Signature of the loan agreement																		
Effectiveness																		
First disbursement																		
<b>2. Project implementation</b>																		
Official launch																		
Implementation of the 2021 investment programme																		
Onboarding, information, sensitisation activities for potential beneficiaries																		
Implementation of the 2022 investment programme																		
Orientation, counselling and enrolment of project beneficiaries																		
Life skills training activities																		
Implementation of the 2023 investment programme																		
Vocational skills training and internship placement activities																		
Implementation of the 2024 investment programme																		
Vocational skills training and internship placement activities																		
Training on entrepreneurship, coaching, mentoring, support, microcredit																		
Implementation of the 2025 investment programme																		
Training in entrepreneurship, coaching, mentoring, support, microcredit																		
<b>3. Supervision</b>																		
Supervision by the Bank																		
Submission of audit reports																		
Mid-term review																		
<b>4. Completion</b>																		
Project completion																		
Completion report																		

# **REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF BANK GROUP MANAGEMENT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON THE PROPOSAL TO AWARD A GRANT TO THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA FOR THE VULNERABLE YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INTEGRATION SUPPORT PROJECT**

Management hereby submits this report and recommendation regarding a proposal to award a grant of UA 3 million to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to finance the Vulnerable Youth Employability and Socioeconomic Integration Support Project in Brakna Region, Mauritania.

## **I. STRATEGIC THRUST AND RATIONALE**

### **1.1. Project Linkage with Country Strategy and Objectives**

**1.1.1. The project contributes to the operationalisation of the National Employment Strategy (SNE 2019-2030) and aligns with the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity (SCAPP 2018-2030).** The strategy places employment as a priority objective of inclusive economic development and considers the development of human capital and access to basic services as the second thrust thereof. Specifically, it contributes to the implementation of the National Employment Strategy<sup>1</sup> (2019-2030), which has four pillars: (i) coordination with sector policies; (ii) support to human capital development; (iii) strengthening of public employment services; and (iv) improvement of the employment governance framework. Furthermore, the SNE defines *"women, youths (15-24 years old) and low-skilled persons with primary and secondary education as the priority targets of Mauritania's employment policy"*, with the aim of integrating 110,000 people into the workforce by 2030. Lastly, in its general policy statement of September 2019, the Government of Mauritania underscored the importance of employment by making it one of its strategic priorities. In particular, the government intends to *"implement an employment strategy that will make it possible to create tens of thousands of new high-quality jobs in an inclusive and equitable manner"* and to put in place *"an annual youth employment programme, especially in growth sectors."*

**1.1.2 The project is also part of the Bank's indicative intervention programme under the Mauritania Country Strategy Paper (2016-2022).**<sup>2</sup> The CSP has two pillars: (i) promote agricultural transformation; and (ii) improve power supply. Through this Strategy, the Bank supports Mauritania's efforts to improve the quality of life for its people and diversify its economy. Thus, the project falls under Pillar 1 "Promote the agricultural transformation", which has helped to accelerate Mauritania's transition from a predominantly traditional agriculture to a high value-added one. More specifically, by focusing the operation on a geographic area (Brakna Wilaya [District]) where agriculture is the main activity, the project, through the training, coaching and financing components, will contribute to greater social inclusion and poverty reduction, which are drivers of economic transformation and the creation of agricultural value chains.<sup>3</sup> The project also aligns with the Bank's Ten-Year Strategy (2013-2022), its strategic priorities (High 5s), notably "Improve the quality of life

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<sup>1</sup> Financed by the Bank under the Youth Training and Employment Support Project (PAFEJ).

<sup>2</sup> The CSP 2016-2020's mid-term review was approved in January 2019. This review confirmed that the two pillars remained development priorities in Mauritania. In addition, the CSP was extended in December 2020 to December 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Emphasis will be placed on the promotion of value chains of key sectors for the local economy of Brakna Region, notably rice growing, market gardening, poultry production, and sheep rearing.

for the people of Africa”, and its third special focus area, “Gender”. It also ties in well with the Jobs for Youth in Africa (JfYA) Strategy (2016-2025) (2016-2025).

## 1.2 Rationale for Bank Involvement

### 1.2.1. **Despite a significant decline in the last decade, the incidence of poverty remains high in Mauritania, with 33% of the population living below the poverty line.**<sup>4</sup>

Until the early 2000s, the average annual decline in the poverty rate was barely under one percent. However, between 2008 and 2014, poverty reduction accelerated at an average annual rate of almost two percentage points. This was largely due to improvements in the welfare of agricultural producers and livestock farmer because of higher commodity prices. During this period, 11% of the population was lifted out of poverty. Most of the progress was recorded in the predominantly rural regions of Hodh El Chargi, Gorgol, Brakna, Adrar and Tagant. Much of this progress, at least in the short term, is likely to be offset by the flow-on effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting recession. Despite these trends, the highest poverty rates will probably remain among rural households engaged in agriculture and livestock farming (in Guidimakha, Tagant, Brakna and Assaba). In the coastal provinces where urban populations are concentrated, poverty rates are generally lower than in other parts of the country.

**1.2.2. Regarding human development, Mauritania is among the least developed countries, according to the Human Capital Index (HCI).** The country was ranked 150<sup>th</sup> out of 157 countries in the World Bank's HCI 2018. Mauritania's score of 0.35 means that a child born today would be 35% more productive as an adult if he/she had received full education and healthcare. Mauritania's score and ranking are low mainly because of poor school performance. Although the average 18-year-old is expected to complete 6.3 years of schooling, this figure falls to 3.4 when adjusted for quality of education, meaning that 2.9 years are lost.

**1.2.3. Mauritania's population is dominated by young people living in urban areas; this segment of the population is a source of wealth for the country, as well as a factor of fragility.** More than 60% of Mauritania's population is under the age of 25 (61.6% in 2019). A high proportion of youths fail to make a successful transition to the labour market, remaining unemployed or largely inactive in the labour market. Youths aged 15 to 24 have a labour force participation rate that is significantly lower than that of the overall working-age population (25.5 percent against 45). The youth unemployment rate is also more than double that of the total working age population (Table 1). The total labour force participation rate for men is 2.2 times higher than for women. Furthermore, low employment growth figures, especially in rural areas, have led to increased rates of urbanisation and migration, both seasonal and permanent. Nouakchott and the coastal provinces have received the highest figures, with an annual population growth rate of 4.4% in the capital city since 2000. As a result of these trends, most youths who are neither employed nor engaged in education or training (NEET) reside in Nouakchott or in other urban areas.

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<sup>4</sup> The national poverty line is defined as MRU 17,720.

**Table 1.1: Employment Indicators by Age Group, Gender and Place of Residence (2017)**

Age group/Gender	Labour Force Participation Rate			Employment Rate			Unemployment Rate		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
<b>15-64 years - Total</b>	<b>47.00 %</b>	<b>43.72 %</b>	<b>45.55 %</b>	<b>36.70 %</b>	<b>35.15 %</b>	<b>36.01 %</b>	<b>21.93 %</b>	<b>19.60 %</b>	<b>20.94 %</b>
<b>Men</b>	64.07 %	66.14 %	64.89 %	52.40 %	56.18 %	53.90 %	18.22 %	15.06 %	16.94 %
<b>Women</b>	32.80 %	30.07 %	31.50 %	23.63 %	22.35 %	23.02 %	27.97 %	25.68 %	26.93 %
<b>15-24 years- Total</b>	<b>23.83 %</b>	<b>27.69 %</b>	<b>25.50 %</b>	<b>13.73 %</b>	<b>16.18 %</b>	<b>14.79 %</b>	<b>42.37 %</b>	<b>41.55 %</b>	<b>41.99 %</b>
<b>Men</b>	32.16 %	38.06 %	34.39 %	20.88 %	25.34 %	22.57 %	35.05 %	33.43 %	34.37 %
<b>Women</b>	16.41 %	21.46 %	18.80 %	7.36 %	10.68 %	8.93 %	55.16 %	50.21 %	52.48 %

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey Data (2017)

**1.2.4. Self-reported gaps in practical work skills, information technology and organisational skills reflect those perceived by businesses.** Young people interviewed during World Bank surveys in 2017 tended to rate their skills as deficient in practical experience, project management and advanced IT knowledge. These gaps confirm the lack of skills reported by businesses. The self-assessment of basic skills and language skills is similar across all educational levels. Moreover, **entrepreneurship remains the focus of interest for many young people; nearly 22% say they are ready to start their own business.** This result is consistent with previous analyses that have shown that almost 20% of young people on the continent say they are self-employed.

**\*Box 1: Impact of COVID-19 on Employment**

The spread of COVID-19 and the ensuing economic down-turn has a direct impact on employment. Four groups are particularly vulnerable. First, workers in the service and construction sectors depend on close interactions with customers and are therefore severely affected by social distancing. Second, workers in the informal sector are unlikely to receive unemployment benefits and temporary workers face a high risk of being the first to lose their jobs. According to the Labour Force Survey (2017), 91.1% of the non-agricultural private sector's labour force in informal jobs did not declare their earnings to the National Social Security Fund (CNSS). This reduces the probability of receiving benefits to mitigate the negative impact of (partial) job losses. Third, workers in urban areas are vulnerable because a disproportionate share of jobs are in the service sector. Fourth, workers in the agricultural sector may witness a decrease in their productivity because of limited access to input markets and lower sales because of the closure/inaccessibility of produce markets.

**1.2.5. The main constraints on employment are** (i) low work demand due to low job creation in emerging sectors, (ii) insufficient sensitisation, lack of access to services and information on livelihoods and employment options, (iii) inadequate capacity development in practical and vocational skills, and (iv) a recurrent problem of access to finance for those who embark on self-employment/entrepreneurship.

**1.2.6. The youth cohort in the Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) group has become a priority for the Mauritanian government.** Government's 2017 Employment Outlook Report<sup>5</sup> highlights the challenge posed by NEET youth. The report notes that a relatively large proportion (44.2%) of young people are currently outside the

<sup>5</sup> "State of Employment and the Informal Sector in Mauritania in 2017", ONS, August 2017.

employment and educational system. Among the policies the report recommended for the support of this vulnerable group are (i) the development of vocational programmes accessible to early school leavers, (ii) the promotion of self-employment by providing short- and medium-term funding for micro-enterprises, and (iii) the development of labour market integration tools.

**1.2.7. Limited demand for labour has resulted in the creation of only a few jobs in the emerging sectors.** In terms of labour market demand, recent economic growth has resulted in some employment growth, but not enough to absorb all new entrants to the labour market. The different phases of the growth cycle covering the period 2000-2014 confirm this trend. From 2004 to 2012, a 1% increase in real GDP led to the creation of 3,576 jobs. Between 2012 and 2017, the slow-down in the mining sector resulted in a stagnation in growth which also had an impact on employment growth figures. At the same time, labour productivity improved slightly over the past five years, increasing by 0.2 percentage points, compared to the previous period.

**1.2.8. Young Mauritians generally have limited access to services and information on employment opportunities.** This is particularly the case for young people who have no education, or who dropped out of the school system early at primary or secondary level. These young people are much more likely to approach employers directly or use personal connections in their job searches, rather than relying on a competitive system or job search agencies that may be better equipped to match their skills with the right employer. As a result, many young Mauritians with little education have a greater propensity to seek self-employment and create their own income-generating activities.

**1.2.9. Lack of access to credit and technical know-how prevents young Mauritians from successfully engaging in productive income-generating activities.** The poorest and most vulnerable young people find it difficult to obtain credit from commercial banks for such activities.<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, they generally lack the technical knowledge to set up a micro-enterprise (business plan, registration, etc.) and manage it successfully (basic accounting, supervision of additional staff, etc.) to maintain their means of subsistence.

**1.2.10. Young Mauritians generally lack the professional skills for a successful transition to employment.** The 2017 Country Strategic Diagnostic identified the shortage of skilled labour as a major obstacle to long-term inclusive growth in the country. For example, many private sector employers report difficulties in recruiting staff with requisite skills, including people with practical experience, project management skills or technical skills, especially in the information and communication technology (ICT) or mining sectors. This situation is exacerbated by the educational system drop-out rate. More than 24% of children aged 6 to 15 are out of school.<sup>7</sup> Moreover, retention remains a problem at primary school level, with one-third of pupils dropping out before the end of primary education. In Mauritania, secondary schools provide a few basic skills. However, the secondary school drop-out rate has been on the rise since 2014.

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<sup>6</sup> This situation is accentuated by the fact that the main alternative financing methods are in an embryonic stage in Mauritania.

<sup>7</sup> See Annex A.3 (Technical Annexes) of the Project Appraisal Report.

**1.2.11. Mauritania’s agricultural sector is an important provider of employment, with a share of 30% of the active population, although it does not enable the population to be out of poverty.** The agricultural sector is by far the largest employer. However, the quality of jobs offered remains questionable, given the persistence of poverty and unemployment. The sector accounts for just over 50% of jobs in seven regions of the country and 25% in five others. Self-employment accounts for 84% of overall employment and remains highly precarious: 61% of agricultural businesses are self-employed, compared to 47% of non-agricultural enterprises; 61% of agricultural jobs are considered seasonal or temporary. Almost one in five workers receive no compensation of any kind for their work (19%). Thus, over the 1995-2015 period, the agricultural sector’s contribution to GDP declined from 37% to only 23%; failing to create enough value-added to lift people out of poverty.

**1.2.12. The choice of Brakna Region is eminently justified.** Despite the economic potential, especially in the primary sector, Brakna *wilaya* (district) remains one of the country’s pockets of poverty (43.3% according to the Permanent Survey of Household Living Conditions (EPCV 2014)) and recorded an unemployment rate of 10.3% in 2017 (11.7% for men and 9.2% for women). This rate exceeds 21% for the 20-24 and 25-29 age groups (more than 64% of the unemployed are under 35). Over 45% of people aged 14-35 are neither in school nor employed. In addition, this project will be in perfect synergy with the Agricultural Transformation Support Project (PATAM) approved by the Bank in December 2018. Specifically PATAM, which is an extension of the Brakna West Irrigation Development Project (PAHABO) will finance (i) the establishment of transformative irrigation infrastructure (200 ha of market gardens for women and 3,300 ha of flood recession agriculture) and (ii) the promotion of value chains (focusing on two key sectors - rice and market gardening). Thus, this project will strengthen PATAM through training, support and coaching of young people, as well as the financing component for the commencement of professional activity, while allowing young people to continue to benefit from existing and/or ongoing irrigation infrastructure.

### **1.3. Aid Coordination**

**1.3.1. At the national level, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Promotion of Productive Sectors is responsible for aid coordination.** This mission is carried out by the General Directorate of Financing, Public Investments and Economic Cooperation. It identifies the projects and programmes to be implemented, helping to channel and implicitly coordinate actions between the various technical and financial partners (TFPs) and the sector ministries. Furthermore, **as the ministry responsible for youth employment in Mauritania, the Ministry of Employment, Youth and Sports (MEJS) created the *Employment Project Coordination (CPE) in 2020.*** The CPE is responsible for the overall planning, coordination, implementation, and administrative and fiduciary management of all MEJS projects involving donor funding. The CPE is also charged with establishing partnership agreements with various agencies involved in project implementation, resource mobilisation, project performance evaluation and communication of project outcomes.



**1.3.2. A Thematic Employment and Vocational Training Working Group (GTEFP)<sup>8</sup> was set up in 2017 to ensure coordination between TFPs in Mauritania.**

The GTEFP ensures that all parties are fully informed of the progress of/difficulties facing projects/programmes in the sector. It is involved in (i) policy dialogue and the harmonisation of donor support in the employment sector and the technical and vocational training sub-sector; (ii) monitoring and promoting achievements for greater aid effectiveness; and (iii) mobilising financial support. As a dynamic member of this working group led by the European Union (EU), the Bank works closely with TFPs, including civil society organisations, to provide relevant expertise and responses to the employment-related challenges identified in general and vulnerable youths in particular.

**1.3.2. However, it should be noted that several small-scale youth employment programmes are currently implemented in Mauritania, most with funding from development partners.**

A recent inventory of youth employment programmes<sup>9</sup> identified 14 initiatives run by various organisations. The majority of these have relatively small budgets (between USD 0.3 million and USD 10 million) and cannot be sustained once donor funding ends. These programmes are mainly devoted to alleviating constraints at the individual level through vocational training, skills development activities, job search assistance, micro-enterprise financing, and job coaching and placement services. However, most of these programmes address only one or a few constraints, leaving out many vulnerable young people not served by the existing programmes.

## **II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **2.1. Project Objectives**

The main objective of the project is to improve the quality of life for the people in Brakna Region through skills development and entrepreneurship. Specifically, the project seeks to promote the employability of young people, especially vulnerable young people aged 15 to 24, particularly women who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). The project is spread over four years and is estimated to cost UA 3 million.

### **2.2. Project Components**

The project is structured around three components as shown in the table below:

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<sup>8</sup> Many development partners belong to this group and support Mauritania's employment sector. These include the AfDB, the EU, the World Bank, the French Development Agency (AFD), the German Development Bank (KfW), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

<sup>9</sup> See Annex 4 for an overview of ongoing and completed employment and training programmes in the last three years.

**Table 2.1: Project Components**

#	Components	Estimated Cost (UA million)	Description of Components
1	Support to information and intermediation services for an increased youth employability	0.754	<p>Design and implement communication and awareness-raising campaigns.</p> <p>Produce communication materials (programme presentation brochures, flyers, posters, advertisements, etc.).</p> <p>Organise 16 mass awareness campaigns and 5 community campaigns (audio-visual, social networks ...).</p> <p>Operationalise support and guidance structures.</p> <p>Upgrade the existing Employment Desk (“<i>Accueil Emploi</i>”) information system hosted by the Techghil Agency (formerly ANAPEJ) for the registration and follow-up of job seekers and job opportunities.</p> <p>Develop life skills training programmes and job search and preparation materials.</p> <p>Train 4,000 young people in life skills.</p> <p>Create four (4) Employment Centres and provide them with the necessary equipment to operate.</p> <p>Provide training for trainers and Techghil Agency staff.</p> <p>Support the operationalisation of the Agricultural Incubator in Boghé.</p>
2	Development of technical skills and promotion of young entrepreneurs in the emerging sectors	1.723	<p>Conduct a survey to identify training needs in niche areas, as well as potential partners.</p> <p>Strengthen INAP-FTP to plan and manage demand-driven vocational training.</p> <p>Activate quality assurance mechanisms.</p> <p>Follow up on the results of the training.</p> <p>Acquire (additional) equipment for the courses identified by the project at the two training schools.</p> <p>Provide sub-project training for 850 young people, as well as 450 youth internships.</p> <p>Develop project management training modules.</p> <p>Train 700 promoters on project management.</p> <p>Strengthen the capacity of CAPEC staff (analysis of training needs, development of training content) through the development of a training guide and training for CAPEC agents.</p> <p>Furnish and equip 4 CAPEC branches.</p> <p>Recruit 4 Credit Officers and Cashiers for 4 new branches created under the project.</p> <p>Provide a line of credit to PROCAPEC.</p> <p>Conceptualise an operational monitoring and evaluation system for the projects to be financed.</p> <p>Develop a study on the impact of funding on youth employment.</p>
3	Project management, monitoring and evaluation	0.523	<p>Support to Project Management Unit (PMU) staff.</p> <p>Train PMU staff.</p> <p>Develop an administrative, financial and procurement manual.</p> <p>Acquire accounting software.</p> <p>Provide technical assistance to the Procurement Regulatory Agency (ARMP).</p> <p>Prepare annual external audits (financial, technical and E&amp;S).</p> <p>Implement the ESMP and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP).</p>

**2.2.1. Component 1: Support to information and intermediation services for an increased youth employability.** Under this component, the project will support a series of activities aimed at providing outreach, orientation and support for professional projects, assistance in finding jobs, and training in life skills. These activities build on the employment information and intermediation services currently offered by the Techghil Agency and will improve quality, broaden the scope of skills, and extend to a larger number of young people in existing and new locations.

Therefore, the project will finance multiple activities, including (i) the design and implementation of communication and public awareness campaigns, (ii) the production of communication materials (programme presentation brochures, flyers, posters, spots, etc.), (iii) the organisation of 16 mass publicity campaigns and 5 community campaigns (audio-visual, social networks, etc.), (iv) the upgrade of the Techghil Agency's existing Employment Desk ("*Accueil Emploi*") information system for the registration and monitoring of job seekers and employment opportunities, (v) the development of life skills training programmes and job search and preparation materials, (vi) the establishment of 4 job centres with the necessary equipment for their operation, (vii) life skills training for 4,000 young people, (viii) payment of salaries for additional temporary staff to be recruited by the Techghil Agency for the project, including staffing of the mobile (itinerant) counters, (ix) support for the operationalisation of the Agricultural Incubator in Boghé, and (x) the upgrading of office equipment and information and communication technologies (ICT). To enable project beneficiaries to focus on their career development, support will be provided to cover the cost of participation in training and internships (transport, food, etc.). This would also cover young women's accommodation expenses or allowances to cover childcare costs, if necessary. This component will be implemented by the Techghil Agency under the supervision of Employment Project Coordination (CPE).

**2.2.2. Component 2: Development of technical skills and promotion of young entrepreneurs in the emerging sectors.** The project will support two sub-components: support to technical skills development and apprenticeship; and technical and financial support to entrepreneurs and actors in the entrepreneurial system.

***Sub-component 2.1: Support to learning and technical skills development***

This sub-component seeks to strengthen the employability of vulnerable youth through short-term technical training and internships in private sector enterprises to prepare them for formal or informal paid employment. Specifically, this component will train young people in the Brakna Region growth sectors, which will have been previously identified through an analysis of jobs and employment opportunities and/or specific requests from employers.

Thus, young people referred by counsellors in the first component will be further screened and selected by INAP-FTP to benefit from one of the following:

- a. Technical skills training and internships in the formal sector. Technical training consists of short-term vocational training (three to six months) complemented by an internship in a formal enterprise (three months) that would provide the skills and qualifications required by local enterprises; and

- b. Technical skills training and internship in the informal sector. This activity will be particularly relevant to vulnerable young people with little or no education who may be able to find paid employment with master craftsmen or in low-skilled entry-level jobs in the informal sector. The duration will be the same as in the formal sector, but most of the training will be provided by a master craftsman as part of a traditional apprenticeship. Alternatively, professional associations, cooperatives, federations of master craftsmen or NGOs could prepare a (simplified) training and apprenticeship proposal to fill skill gaps in their trade. Like technical training and apprenticeships in the formal sector, the training preparing young people for the informal sector will also emphasise the possibility of engaging in areas that can support existing climate change mitigation and adaptation activities.

Recognising that enterprises and business associations may perceive the transaction costs of participating in the project to be rather high, the project will use the following modalities to motivate potential participants: (i) training providers will be responsible for seeking the interest of enterprises to participate and for preparing demand-driven training and internship proposals; (ii) the National Employers' Union will encourage private enterprises to take on interns in line with the existing agreement to offer at least 2,000 internships per year; (iii) representatives of private companies will sit on the committee that decides on the competitive selection of training proposals, in line with INAP-FTP's current practice of allocating the apprenticeship tax within the framework of 2FTP; (iv) interested companies and professional associations can benefit from training and technical assistance to identify skills needs; and (v) young people will receive allowances to attend the programme regularly.

Under this sub-component, the project will finance technical assistance and equipment for a number of objectives, namely: (i) identifying training needs in niche areas and potential partners through a survey; (ii) strengthening INAP-FTP to plan and manage demand-driven vocational training; (iii) implementing quality assurance mechanisms; (iv) rehabilitating the two Technical Education and Vocational Training Schools (EETFPs) in Aleg and Boghé; (v) acquiring (additional) equipment for the courses identified by the project at the two EETFPs; (vi) providing training projects for 850 young people and internships for 450 young people; and (vii) paying allowances to young people to participate in training and covering all the costs necessary for the completion of the identified training courses. The implementation and supervision of this sub-component will be the responsibility of INAP-FTP under the supervision of the CPE.

***Sub-component 2.2: Technical and financial support to entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial ecosystem actors***

Under this sub-component, the project will address the main constraints and market failures that prevent vulnerable youths from becoming self-employed. While skills and work experience are important, opportunities for young people also need to be extended to interventions that stimulate and increase self-employment opportunities in both the formal and informal sector. This component will support activities that address the following challenges faced by vulnerable youths: (i) inadequate access to finance (including self-financing, collateral requirements and repayment conditions for microcredit); (ii) lack of basic management skills; (iii) lack of visibility and relevant

networks to start and grow a business; and (iv) limited information and capacity to take advantage of existing programmes.

The project will support entrepreneurship training, facilitate access to finance (a combination of no self-financing requirement and microcredit) and coaching/mentoring services for the development of self-employment activities (including income-generating activities). These services will be targeted at young people who have successfully participated in the orientation and completed the life skills training.

The project will finance the following: (i) the development of training modules on project management, (ii) the training of 700 promoters on project management, (iii) the building of CAPEC staff capacity (analysis of training needs, development of training content) through the development of a training guide and training of CAPEC staff, (iv) equipping and furnishing of 4 branches of the Credit and Savings Association (CAPEC); (v) the recruitment of 4 credit agents and cashiers for 4 new branches created as part of the project, (vi) granting the Promotion and Savings Fund Promotion Agency (PROCAPEC) a line of credit to finance microcredits for eligible young people, (vii) designing an operational monitoring and evaluation system for projects to be financed, and (viii) conducting a study on the impact of financing on youth employment. The implementation and supervision of this sub-component will be the responsibility of PROCAPEC under the CPE's supervision.

### ***2.2.3. Component 3: Project management, monitoring and evaluation***

This third component will support activities related to project management, monitoring and evaluation. It will support the establishment of a PMU, as part of the new Employment Project Coordination (CPE) mechanism of the Ministry of Employment, Youth and Sports, which will be responsible for ensuring that the project is implemented in accordance with the financing agreement letter, the project appraisal report and the project implementation manuals (the operational manual, as well as the administrative and financial management and procurement manual). Furthermore, the Coordination Unit will be responsible for the overall monitoring and evaluation functions.

Specifically, this component will finance (i) PMU staffing, including a project coordinator, a procurement specialist, an administrative and finance officer, a gender and social safeguards specialist, an accountant and an administrative assistant, (ii) PMU staff training, (iii) the development of the administrative, financial and procurement manual, (iv) the procurement of accounting software, (v) technical assistance to the Procurement Regulatory Agency (ARMP), (vi) the preparation of annual external audits (financial, technical and E&S), and (vii) the implementation of the ESMP and SEP.

## **2.3 Technical Solutions Adopted and Alternatives Explored**

**2.3.1.** The project consolidates the achievements of PAFEJ and is an opportunity to concretise the major thrusts of the Employment Strategy, with one of its objectives being offering young people (15-24 years old), women and low-skilled people primary and secondary education opportunities for sustainable employment. Consultations with stakeholders, including those involved in vocational training, informed the choice of the selected technical solution. In addition to meeting the challenges of equity, this solution has the advantage of contributing to creating sustainable jobs and wealth in the long term, rapidly generating income and building the capacity of beneficiaries to develop a savings

and entrepreneurship culture. This option also gives young people ownership of the development process through the gradual empowerment of grassroots actors in the search for viable solutions to the poverty situation in the region. In this regard, it constitutes one of the best practices recommended for job creation. Moreover, building the capacity of entrepreneurs promotes harmonious, structured and organised local development. The other technical solutions are mainly the implementation of social safety nets for the poorest through "subsidies", and the direct allocation of financial resources to poor families. These solutions were not chosen because of their low sustainability and efficiency and their long-term budgetary impact.

**Table 2.2: Alternative Solutions Considered and Reasons for Rejection**

<b>Alternative Solution</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Cause of Rejection</b>
Grants to young entrepreneurs	Provide grants of between USD 200 and USD 400 to young entrepreneurs benefiting from the programme.	This type of financing can be used as start-up financing for an income-generating activity or to secure additional financing. However, given the nature of the target population, it is almost impossible to raise additional funds or find the necessary guarantees to complete their financing scheme. Moreover, the small amounts granted do not allow these young people to break out of the circle of vulnerability/poverty.
Cash allocation	Make cash transfers to poor families to support them.	Impact on the national budget but limited impact on the number of jobs created.
Use of sector budget support	Use a sector budget support programme to implement the SNE	The approach adopted in Mauritania would be to integrate reform support programmes into sector investment projects focused on structural measures that leverage sector performance and employability. For example, the budget support financed by the Bank in 2020 (in response to the COVID-19 pandemic) helped to mitigate the social impact of the pandemic, especially on vulnerable persons, and provided support to the economic sector through fiscal measures and access to financing for the resumption of activities. The holistic approach adopted in the proposed project will bolster and sustain these achievements.

#### **2.4. Project Type**

The choice of an investment project was made to provide targeted support to the Government by concretising a programme-based approach that will offer a tangible path toward the implementation of the National Employment Strategy (SNE). To this end, the project, which has parallel financing of USD 40 million from the World Bank Group's Youth Employment Project (PEJ) across six geographic zones, would help to reduce the fragmentation of employment projects and strengthen government leadership in supporting an economic inclusion programme for vulnerable youths. Thus, in addition to complementing the World Bank PEJ, the project could be used to fund part of the programme-based approach, thereby attracting funding from other Technical and Financial Partners.

#### **2.5. Project Cost and Financing Mechanisms**

The project's total cost, net of taxes and customs duties, is estimated at UA 3 million. This cost comprises UA 2.734 million (91.14%) in local currency and UA 0.266 million (8.86%)

in foreign exchange. A 4% provision for physical contingencies and 2% for price escalation were added to the base cost. The Bank's financing covers 97.11% of the cost of completed services in MRU, 20.22% of goods procured in MRU and 100% of completed works in MRU. Contracts for goods and services procured in foreign exchange will be financed 100% from the grant up to the amount of the expenditure category. The estimated cost per component, expenditure category and source of financing, as well as the annual breakdown of expenditure, are summarised in the tables below.

**Table 2.3: Estimated Costs by Component**

Components	In UA million			In USD million			% Currency
	F.E.	L.C.	Total	F.E.	L.C.	Total	
<b>Component 1: Support to information and intermediation services for an increased youth employability</b>	0.045	0.716	0.761	0.063	1,002	1,065	5.90%
<b>Component 2: Development of technical skills and promotion of young entrepreneurs in the emerging sectors</b>	0.129	1.524	1,653	0.180	2,134	2,314	7.78%
<b>Component 3: Project management, monitoring and evaluation</b>	0.079	0.638	0.717	0.110	0.894	1,004	10.96%
<b>Total base cost</b>	0.252	2,878	3,130	0.353	4,030	4,383	
Physical contingencies (4%)	0.010	0.109	0.119	0.013	0.153	0.167	
Price escalation (2%)	0.004	0.048	0.053	0.006	0.068	0.074	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.266</b>	<b>3,036</b>	<b>3,302</b>	<b>0.372</b>	<b>4,251</b>	<b>4,623</b>	<b>8.05%</b>

**Table 2.4: Sources of Financing (in UA million)**

Sources of Financing	F.E.	L.C.	Total	% Total
AfDB	0.266	2,734	3,000	90%
Mauritanian Government	0	0.302	0.302	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.266</b>	<b>3,036</b>	<b>3,302</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 2.5: Project Costs by Expenditure Category (in UA million)**

Expenditure Categories	AfDB in UA million				Govt. in UA million			
	F.E.	L.C.	Total cost	% F.E.	F.E.	L.C.	Total cost	% F.C.
A. Goods	0.191	0.049	0.240	79.78%	0	0.026	0.026	0%
B. Services	0.061	2,033	2,093	2.89%	0	0.149	0.149	0%
C. Works	0	0.040	0.040	0%	0	0	0	0%
D. Operation	0	0.471	0.471	0%	0	0.112	0.112	0%
<b>Total base cost</b>	<b>0.252</b>	<b>2.592</b>	<b>2.844</b>	8.86%	<b>0</b>	<b>0.286</b>	<b>0.286</b>	0%
Physical contingencies (4%)	0.010	0.099	0.108	8.86%	0	0.011	0.011	0%
Price escalation (2%)	0.004	0.044	0.048	8.86%	0	0.005	0.005	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.266</b>	<b>2.734</b>	<b>3.000</b>	8.86%	<b>0</b>	<b>0.302</b>	<b>0.302</b>	0%

**Table 2.6: Expenditure Schedule by Component (in UA million)**

Components	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Component 1: Support to information and intermediation services for an increased youth employability</b>	0.401	0.219	0.071	0.071
<b>Component 2: Development of technical skills and promotion of young entrepreneurs in the emerging sectors</b>	0.425	0.891	0.168	0.168
<b>Component 3: Project management, monitoring and evaluation</b>	0.241	0.162	0.157	0.157
Physical contingencies (4%)	0.041	0.048	0.015	0.015
Price escalation (2%)	0.018	0.021	0.007	0.007
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.125</b>	<b>1.342</b>	<b>0.417</b>	<b>0.417</b>

**Table 2.7: Financing Plan by Component (in UA million)**

Components	AfDB	Govt.	Total UA	AfDB	Govt.	Total USD
<b>Component 1: Support to information and intermediation services for an increased youth employability</b>	0.715	0.046	0.761	1,001	0.064	1.065
<b>Component 2: Development of technical skills and promotion of young entrepreneurs in the emerging sectors</b>	1.633	0.019	1.653	2.287	0.027	2.314
<b>Component 3: Project management, monitoring and evaluation</b>	0.496	0.221	0.717	0.694	0.309	1.004
<b>Total base cost</b>	<b>2.844</b>	<b>0.286</b>	<b>3.130</b>	<b>3.982</b>	<b>0.401</b>	<b>4.383</b>
Physical contingencies (4%)	0.108	0.011	0.119	0.151	0.015	0.167
Price escalation (2%)	0.048	0.005	0.053	0.067	0.007	0.074
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.000</b>	<b>0.302</b>	<b>3.302</b>	<b>4.200</b>	<b>0.423</b>	<b>4.623</b>



## **2.6. Project Area and Beneficiaries**

2.5.1. The project will be implemented in the Brakna Region for the benefit of vulnerable youths aged 15-24, especially women in the NEET group. The choice of the region is more than justified for the following reasons: (i) Brakna is one of the country's poorest districts (*wilayas*), with a 43.3% poverty rate, compared to 31% at the national level (National Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector - ENESI-2017); (ii) according to the 2013 General Population and Housing Census (GPHC) conducted by the National Office of Statistics (ONS), the estimated 312,277 population of Brakna *Wilaya* is predominantly young, and about 75% of this population is aged below 30 and predominantly female (53%); (iii) unemployment particularly affects young people—two-thirds of the unemployed are under 24; (iv) 24,757 youths representing 46% of the 12-24 age group in the *wilaya* area, are classified as NEETs, accounting for 9% of the national total and exceeding the national average (41%); and (v) the complementarity between the project and the World Bank Group's intervention in six regions of the country (the three *wilayas* of Nouakchott, and the *wilayas* of Hod Gharbi, Hod Echargui, Assaba, Trarza and Guidimaka).

Although the project impact area will be the Brakna Region, the project will benefit the entire country through cross-cutting activities such as upgrading the Techghil Agency's existing Employment Desk ("Accueil Emploi") information system for the registration and monitoring of jobseekers, strengthening INAP-FTP to plan and manage demand-driven vocational training, as well as other activities for the benefit of the MEJS decentralised structures. The project will directly benefit the following target population: (i) about 24,757 youths through sensitisation activities; (ii) 4,000 youths through life skills training; (iii) 850 youths through training towards qualification and certification; (iv) 450 youths through internship placements; and (v) 700 entrepreneurs who will receive technical and financial support for their projects.

## **2.7 Participatory Approach to Project identification, Design and Implementation**

2.7.1 Considering the COVID-19 pandemic context, the project design is based on an integrated and participatory approach to increase beneficiary ownership of activities, on the one hand, and their impact in increasing youth employability through the coordination selected activities, on the other. The project was conceived and developed in collaboration with several national and international stakeholders. The Bank's identification, preparation and appraisal missions met with central, regional and local authorities, the civil society, beneficiary representatives and the private sector. Discussions with national authorities made it possible for previous project lessons to be reviewed, best practices identified, and the content of the new project, its cost and impact area determined. Based on the results of two preparatory studies to identify employment opportunities, promising trades, the most appropriate skills training and youth expectations in Brakna Region, consultations with civil society and beneficiary representatives helped to generate information on the population's immediate needs and the best way to focus the project to meet these needs. The consultations also enabled the Bank's missions to sensitise the beneficiaries on the need to organise themselves to better monitor the project and become involved in its implementation. Consultations with other partners focused on ongoing operations, future projects and programmes, and the search for synergies to optimise the impact of operations.

2.7.2. The choice of activities and the impact area, and the targeting of project beneficiaries is part and parcel of ongoing coordination with Government and the World

Bank technical teams to ensure optimal synergy between the two projects to be implemented by the CPE. Furthermore, the government will ensure better synergy between the project, PAMPEJ approved by the Bank in 2016, PATAM approved in 2019, and PAREJ approved in March 2021.

**2.7.3 The consultative momentum created during the project preparation phases will be maintained during the implementation phase.** The Terms of Reference (ToRs), specifications and other documents prior to the implementation of activities will be validated by technical agencies prior to submission for the Bank's no-objection and calls for expressions of interest. The implementation of each activity will be subject to stakeholder assessment of progress for possible adjustments and corrections. The Bank's supervision missions will meet locally with all project stakeholders. In addition, the Bank will encourage the project team to adopt a participatory approach in implementing its work programme.

## **2.8. Bank Group Experience and Lessons Reflected in Project Design**

**2.8.1. The Bank's Portfolio:** As of 1 April 2021, the Bank's portfolio in Mauritania included 18 operations amounting to UA 253.4 million; 65.57 per cent of Bank's commitments in Mauritania (3 projects, including one line of credit to a local bank) are for non-sovereign operations. There are fifteen (15) public sector operations, three of which are multi-national/regional for a total UA 86.6 million. The main areas of intervention in public sector projects include agriculture (30.5%), transport (28.7%), governance (15.5%), water and sanitation (15.6%), and the social sector (9.7%). The configuration of the total active portfolio reflects a preponderance of the mining and transport sectors, which account for almost 50% of Bank commitments in Mauritania, of which 91% for infrastructure development.<sup>10</sup>

2.8.2. The overall portfolio disbursement rate is 67.7%, and the performance of the national public sector active portfolio is deemed satisfactory, with a score of 3 on a scale of 1 to 4. The sovereign operations portfolio has an average age of 3.57 years, and the disbursement rate for these relatively young operations is 38.7%. The portfolio does not contain any operations classified as problem projects (PP) or potentially problematic projects (PPPs). The monthly Flashlight report indicates a satisfactory implementation of the Bank's operations portfolio in Mauritania, with a relatively low level of flagged projects since July 2017 (less than 20%). **Moreover, the Borrower met all the conditions precedent to the first disbursement of the previous social sector loan/grant agreements.**

2.8.3. However, even if the overall quality of the portfolio is deemed satisfactory, implementation problems persist. These include: (i) start-up delays due to a lack of project ownership by the Mauritanian side; (ii) delays in the procurement process; (iii) and weak project implementation capacity. Measures to address these challenges include: (a) improving quality at entry by setting up project management units prior to approval; (ii) establishing more rigorous and realistic procurement plans; and (iii) assessing enforcement

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<sup>10</sup> The Support Project for G5 Sahel Member Countries to Fight the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, the Programme to Build Resilience to Food and Nutrition Insecurity in the Sahel (P2RS - UA 11.5 million), and the Rosso Bridge Construction Project (UA 25 million).

capacity problems and consequently building capacity. All these lessons were factored into the project design.

**2.8.4. Lessons from previous projects: This project complements the two previous operations financed by the Bank Group in the employment sector,** namely the Microfinance Actors Capacity Building Project (PRECAMF), completed in 2014; and the Youth Training and Employment Support Project (PAFEJ), an institutional support mechanism approved in 2014 and scheduled for completion in June 2021. Without any doubt, PRECAMF helped to build stakeholder capacity in micro-finance supply and demand services. For its part, PAFEJ focused on improving the youth employment situation through the development of a National Employment Strategy and its operationalisation by mainstreaming employment into sector policies that would help to structure the State's intervention and better anchor training in the productive sector, while developing tools for analysing the skills needs of the labour market.

The achievements of these two projects and the lessons learnt from their implementation were factored into the project preparation. Thus, the new project will build on the achievements of previous and ongoing operations financed by the Bank and other development partners in Mauritania.

**2.8.5. The main lessons drawn from the completion reports, including PRECAMF, are as follows:** (i) the competence of the project team, comprising civil servants experienced in managing development projects with various donors, contributes greatly to project success; (ii) the multiplicity of contracts for both works and services contributes to the extension of the projects lifecycle and increases the workload of the project teams within the Ministry and the Bank; (iii) delays in project implementation are due to inadequate management mechanisms; and (iv) the inadequacy of sustainability measures.

**2.8.6. For greater effectiveness, the following measures were proposed for this project:** (i) the PMU will comprise experts familiar with Bank procurement, financial management and disbursement rules and procedures, and will receive technical support from the Information Systems and Communication Directorate at MEJS. This team's capacity will be built through the organisation of training sessions during the project implementation phase; (ii) although the project is not a co-financed operation, it was prepared in close coordination with the World Bank team to ensure perfect synergy and complementarity of activities between the projects. In addition, to ensure a level of decision-making, effective management and achievement of project objectives, the CPE which currently hosts the World Bank's PJE will also host the PMU; (iv) actions and measures will be promptly taken to ensure the sustainability of achievements, based on beneficiary ownership of the process for organizing, planning and managing micro- and small enterprises (MSEs), among others, thanks to the management training that entrepreneurs will receive.

## **2.9 Key Performance Indicators**

**2.9.1. Indicators for measuring project performance are set out in the results-based logical framework.** The key performance indicators selected for the project are as follows: (i) number of youths receiving life skills training; (ii) number of technical and vocational training schools upgraded; (iii) number of new training resources designed; (iv) number of youths receiving the qualification and certification training; (v) rate of integration of

training beneficiaries after six (6) months; (vi) number of young entrepreneurs mentored and coached; (viii) number of local value chains targeted and strengthened by the project; (ix) number of entrepreneurs gaining access to micro-credit; and (x) number of micro-enterprise projects incubated in the agricultural incubator set up by the Techghil Agency with project support.

**2.9.2. Project performance indicators will be mainstreamed into the new Monitoring and Evaluation System that will be set up under the project.** The PMU will be responsible for collecting and analysing the data needed for the verification of these indicators, which will be regularly documented in the quarterly and annual activity reports, the specific monitoring-evaluation reports and the information bulletins published by the project. They will also be monitored during Bank field supervision missions with a view to taking corrective action, if necessary.

### III. PROJECT FEASIBILITY

#### 3.1. Economic and Financial Performance

**Table 8: Key Economic and Financial Data<sup>11</sup>**

IRR: 28%; NPV: USD 19,381,324 (baseline scenario at 10%), over ten years
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Source: Authors' calculations.

**The project is economically viable and socially beneficial to Mauritania, which aspires to accelerated growth and collective prosperity.** The global approach was adopted for the economic analysis. This method consists of estimating all the investment costs related to training activities, labour market intermediation, technical and financial support for young entrepreneurs, as well as other recurrent costs, and comparing them to the expected gains, to deduce the internal rate of return. Accordingly, an informed choice was made by considering only the average annual increase in the expected income of direct project beneficiaries. Thus, the direct costs incurred under the project are spread over five years, according to the disbursement plan, and the economic and financial performance was assessed based on a 10-year investment life. Therefore, the main expected project benefits are derived from (i) net direct income for participants in life skills and employability training, (ii) additional income for beneficiaries of technical and skills training, and (iii) profits for young entrepreneurs undergoing entrepreneurship training, as well as financial and non-financial support. The project also generates other benefits excluded from this analysis. These include direct job creation for women and youths through the financing of micro-enterprises, as well as net gains to communities, including changes in human capital stock. The rate of return of 28%, derived from the economic and financial analysis, is higher than the opportunity cost of capital established at 10%. Sensitivity tests show the robustness of the IRR and the viability of the project under the following assumptions: a low scenario with a 20% drop in expected revenue or the same scenario with a two-year postponement of the project, which increase the IRR to 21% and 20%, respectively.

**3.1.2 The project will contribute to the social and economic inclusion of Brakna Region through the socio-economic integration of vulnerable and unskilled youths.** The training programmes will provide access to employment for 4,000 youths (half of whom women) in the growth sectors of the Mauritanian economy. The project will also

<sup>11</sup> See Technical Annex B5 for detailed calculations.

strengthen the training ecosystem in technical and entrepreneurial skills for young people, thus contributing to the increase in training opportunities in Brakna Region. Furthermore, the consolidation of the micro-enterprise support system and facilitation of access to financing will increase the local productive capacity and contribute to the creation of at least 700 new direct jobs and more than 1,500 indirect jobs. The project will also contribute to the improvement of women's labour market participation rate, which is among the lowest in the world (31.5%). Moreover, it will strengthen their economic autonomy as entrepreneurs, given that women make up a large proportion of young NEETs.

### **3.2. Environmental and Social Impact**

In the Bank's Integrated Safeguards System (ISS), the project is classified as Category 2, since it activates Operational Safeguard 1 (OS1) for an environmental and social assessment, and Operational Safeguard 5 (OS5) on working conditions, health and safety. The project presents limited negative environmental risks and impacts due to the rehabilitation of the Technical Education and Vocational Training Schools and agricultural, sylvicultural and pastoral activities that may be developed in the project area with the micro-credits granted. The project also presents moderate social risks (including gender), but these can be curbed. As the initial risk of gender-based violence (GBV) is moderate, the PMU will, in conjunction with the relevant stakeholders, promptly assess the risk of GBV. Implementation measures to prevent and mitigate the potential risks of gender-based violence involving project workers will be included in the GBV action plan. The project will not result in physical or socio-economic displacement. However, if this arises, the Bank's procedures will be applied.

In this regard, an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) were produced by MEJS and validated by the Directorate of Environmental Assessment and Control (DECE) of the Mauritanian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) with the issuance of the environmental and social compliance certificate. These documents were published on the Bank's website on 22/04/2021 (see the link<sup>12</sup>), more than 30 days before the presentation of the project to the Bank's Board of Directors. The MEJS did the same on its website on 23/04/2021 (see the link<sup>13</sup>).

Through SEP's implementation, the project will develop operational arrangements for the involvement and social mobilisation of various stakeholders. It will ensure the establishment and operation of a complaints handling mechanism at project coordination level and within the internal structures of MEJS, which will collaborate with various project stakeholders to address any dispute and/or complaints lodged. A specific mechanism will be put in place to appropriately handle sensitive complaints. The project will use the following tools: website, hotline and email.

The PMU will be responsible for implementing the ESMP and SEP and will use project funds to recruit a social and gender safeguards expert. It will entrust monitoring the

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.afdb.org/fr/documents/mauritanie-projet-demployabilite-et-dinsertion-socioeconomique-des-jeunes-vulnerables-peisejv-p-mr-i00-003-pges>  
<https://www.afdb.org/fr/documents/mauritanie-projet-demployabilite-et-dinsertion-socioeconomique-des-jeunes-vulnerables-peisejv-p-mr-i00-003-plan-dengagement-des-parties-prenantes-pepp>

<sup>13</sup> <https://mejs.mr/2021/04/23/rapport-final-pges-peisejv-vf/>  
<https://mejs.mr/2021/04/23/rapport-final-pepp-peisejv/>

implementation of mitigation measures resulting from the ESMP to the agency responsible for overseeing the rehabilitation works in the two technical education and vocational training schools. A capacity building plan for various stakeholders in environmental and social safeguards will be implemented as part of the PMU's responsibility.

In terms of environmental and social monitoring/evaluation, the project will be subject to: (i) the submission of a specific quarterly ESMP and SEP implementation report, and (ii) an annual M&E audit for the project's duration.

### 3.3 Gender

**The project is classified as Category 2 in the Bank's "Gender Marker System" because several of the main outcomes will help to reduce gender inequality.** The project will consider the gender dimensions of all its components and proposes the following actions in favour of women: (i) it targets a 50% representation of young women in all components. To reach this figure, awareness campaigns for parents and young girls will be launched, and facilities for access to training services (transport and/or accommodation costs as well as childcare allowances) will be offered. In some cases, the relocation of trainers (mobile training) will be envisaged to allow those who cannot leave their families to receive the training; (ii) women's realities will be considered when developing curricula, and a variety of trainers will be engaged to spark women's interest; (iii) personalised and group coaching activities will also be initiated to mentor young women setting up their businesses. Mentoring and *role model* activities are also proposed to motivate young women to venture into traditionally male-dominated business ventures through the choice of training areas and entrepreneurship; (iv) sensitisation of parents on the prevention and fight against early marriage is also envisaged to foster women's economic independence. The detailed gender analysis as well as the action plan for implementing the proposed activities are provided in Technical Annex C. 2.

### 3.4 Climate Change and Green Growth

Mauritania's natural resources and environment are under pressure from climate change partly because of the country's limited environmental governance. Extreme events such as droughts, flash floods and rising temperatures are becoming more frequent and intense, causing economic damage to the country. These changes have an impact on the resilience of social, economic and environmental ecosystems and lead to increased desertification, forest fires, loss of natural habitats, water shortages and extreme heat waves, which trigger displacement.

Years of severe drought directly correspond with periods of economic slow-down—more than 60% of Mauritians derive their livelihoods from agriculture and livestock. These sectors are particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change and are characterised by low levels of productivity. Despite its many challenges, Mauritania has the potential to achieve more diversified and resilient economic growth through investment in environmentally sustainable production and the optimisation of resource use.

Furthermore, there is great potential for green growth not only in the energy sector, which could generate much of the country's electricity needs from renewable energy sources (abundant wind and solar resources), but also in the restoration of degraded environments, which can provide green jobs and generate income. Green jobs can also be created in

Mauritania through eco-tourism, agro-pastoralism, and sustainable fishing. Mauritania's National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA)<sup>14</sup> identifies the development of fisheries as one of the priorities for climate change resilience through general control and monitoring of fisheries resources, sensitisation of various stakeholders, avoidance of over-exploitation of fisheries and implementation of fisheries management, and climate adaptation plans.

Nature conservation should be the main pillar of the national economy, but it is necessary to enhance institutional knowledge on the challenges and opportunities of climate change and green growth.

## **IV. IMPLEMENTATION**

### **4.1 Implementation Arrangements**

#### **4.1.1. Institutional Arrangements**

The project will be implemented by a Project Management Unit (PMU) to be established within the Employment Project Coordination (CPE) under the Ministry of Employment, Youth and Sports (MEJS). The CPE was set up in 2020 and is headed by a National Coordinator whose responsibilities include the overall planning, coordination, implementation, and administrative and fiduciary management of all MEJS projects involving donor funding. The PMU is also responsible for establishing partnership agreements with various agencies involved in project implementation, resource mobilisation, project performance evaluation, and communication of project outcomes. The PMU will be headed by a project technical coordinator. Under the direct authority of the CPE's National Coordinator, the project technical coordinator will be charged with the day-to-day management and execution of all project activities, including the selection, supervision, and performance evaluation of PMU staff. The PMU staff will be recruited on a competitive basis and will include: (i) an administrative and finance officer; (ii) a procurement specialist; (iii) an accountant; (iv) gender and environmental and social safeguards specialists; and (v) an administrative assistant. The monitoring and evaluation specialist and the communications expert, both of whom are already employed at the CPE, will work closely with the project PMU to carry out their assigned tasks.

In addition, a Steering Committee (SC) will be established to guide project implementation and ensure multisector collaboration. The SC will meet as often as necessary and at least twice a year, to approve the overall annual work plan prepared by the CPE/PMU, review progress and agree on performance targets and schedules for activities proposed under the different components. The SC will be chaired by MEJS, with a Vice-chairmanship provided by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Promotion of Productive Sectors, and will include representatives of the Regional Authorities in Brakna *Wilaya*, the Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training and Reform, the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Techghil Agency; INAP-FTP, PROCAPEC, the National Union of Employers, and the Association of Brakna mayors.

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<sup>14</sup> The oversight body for the NAPA process is the Steering Committee chaired by the Director of Research and Planning in the Ministry of Economy and Development and comprising ten (10) members representing the different employment sectors.

## 4.1.2 Procurement Arrangements

**4.1.2.1. Applicable Procurement Policy and Framework:** All services, including consultancy services, financed from Bank's resources will be procured in accordance with the Procurement Framework for Bank Group-funded Operations ("AfDB Procurement Policy"), October 2015 edition, and the provisions set forth in the financing agreement. In line with this policy and following the various evaluations conducted, it was agreed that all procurements listed in paragraph B. 4.3.1 of Technical Annex B. 4 will be undertaken in accordance with the country's procurement system ("National System") embodied in Law 2010-44 of 22 July 2010 and Decree No. 2020/122/PM/M.A.E.P.S.P/M.F/ amending and supplementing certain provisions of Decree No. 2017-126 of 02 November 2017, and repealing and replacing the provisions of the implementing decrees of Law No. 2010-044 on the Public Procurement Code (CMP). All other procurements, listed in paragraph B. 4.3.2 of the same annex, will be made in accordance with the Bank's procurement methods and procedures, using the Bank's standard bidding documents. The use of the National System will improve efficiency through the following actions, among others: (i) greater ownership of the procurement system to be used by the executing agency; and (ii) time saving by eliminating a second control (after control by national entities) that duplicates the Bank's ex-ante review. **However, the Bank reserves the right to request the Borrower to revert to the use of the Bank's System if** (a) the legal framework for public procurement were to change to a system that the Bank deems unsatisfactory, (b) the executing agency failed to comply with provisions in force, or (c) the appropriate risk mitigation measures included in the risk assessment action plan were not taken.

**4.1.2.2. Assessment of procurement risks and capacity:** Procurement arrangements, which include risk assessment, appropriate risk mitigation measures, procurement capacity (of which procurement implementation details and associated control mechanisms), are detailed in Annex B.4.

## 4.1.3. Financial Management

The project will be implemented under MEJS coordination and supervision through the CPE. The CPE is a newly created structure mandated to coordinate and assume fiduciary functions for all donor-funded employment assistance projects. The CPE is headed by a National Coordinator who is responsible for ensuring compliance with all fiduciary procedures for the implementation of annual work programmes and budgets, among others. As the authorising officer of the project budget coordinator, the CPE National Coordinator will be supported by a PMU headed by a Technical Coordinator and comprising a finance officer, a procurement officer, and an accountant, among others, who will be recruited on a competitive basis before the first disbursement of the grant. The implementation of the different components will require the operational input of other ministries and executing agencies (Techghil Agency, INAP-FTP, PROCAPEC, etc.) with which the CPE will sign agreements detailing the implementation modalities, roles, responsibilities, and performance indicators that will be subject to an annual review.

The overall risk related to the financial management of the project, including the risk of non-control, is substantial in view of the proposed financial management system and risk mitigation measures. Thus, the CPE/PMU will (i) prepare the Annual Work Programme and Budget (AWPB) before the beginning of each year, which will be submitted to the



Steering Committee for approval; this AWPB will clearly distinguish the resources of the Bank and those of the Government (counterpart contribution); (ii) use an administrative, financial and accounting procedures manual and an operations manual for its financial operations; (iii) keep separate accounts for project operations and prepare quarterly financial monitoring reports on the implementation of the AWPB, which must be transmitted to the Bank within 45 days following the end of the quarter and annexed to the corresponding activity reports; and (iv) be required to produce annual project financial statements for submission to the external audit. The templates for the periodic financial monitoring report and annual financial statements must be approved by the Bank.

#### **4.1.4. Disbursement Method**

Disbursements by the Bank will be made in accordance with the Bank's disbursement rules and procedures as set out in the 2020 Disbursement Manual, using the two disbursement methods: (i) direct payment for service contracts, and (ii) special account. For the special account method, the Government of Mauritania will open a special account in a commercial bank acceptable to AfDB. The disbursement modalities will be specified in a disbursement letter addressed to the Mauritanian authorities.

#### **4.1.5. Project External Audit**

Annual audits of project financial statements shall be conducted by an audit firm recruited on a competitive basis and in accordance with the terms of reference for audits of Bank-financed projects/programmes. The PMU shall submit annual project audit reports to the Bank latest six months following the end of the fiscal year under review.

#### **4.1.6. Fiduciary Risk**

The assessment of the PMU's financial management capacity and associated fiduciary risks, as well as the details of the financial management arrangements recommended for project implementation are set out in the Financial Management Technical Annex.

### **4.2. Monitoring**

4.2.1. Regular monitoring of project outcomes is the weakest link in the project implementation process, especially in Mauritania. For that reason, the implementation schedule proposed for this project factored in the MEJS experience in managing activity completion timeframes and the Bank's experience in processing dossiers from previous similar projects, particularly the experience gained in managing PAFEJ and PAMPEJ. The project activities are scheduled to start in the fourth quarter of 2021 and end in the fourth quarter of 2025. The grant closing date is set for 31 December 2025.

4.2.2. A monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism will be set up to collect information to document performance indicators and ensure regular reporting on project activities. The PMU will be responsible for overall project monitoring and evaluation. It will be charged with consolidating and analysing all data and monitoring the various indicators, as well as the interim goals. The PMU will also ensure that all technical executing agencies collect and disseminate data on key performance indicators. Techghil Agency, INAP-FTP and PROCAPEC will set up operational monitoring systems for project interventions to enable proper data management and reporting of their respective activities. Furthermore, the PMU shall produce and submit quarterly progress reports on

activities to the Steering Committee and the Bank. In this regard, the PMU will use the CPE’s existing M&E mechanism for project monitoring activities and assist implementing the mechanism at the central and local level. Lastly, this mechanism will be fed with information from Bank and Government monitoring and supervision missions. These supervision missions, including field visits, will be carried out by the wider project team set up within AHHD/RDGN.

4.2.3 Several additional actions will be needed to build the capacity of technical entities to ensure reliable and efficient monitoring and evaluation. First, the project will support the Techghil Agency by equipping its current information system to collect basic data on beneficiaries, services offered and beneficiary outcomes. The project will also support INAP-FTP to build an information system to track training inputs, outputs and outcomes at the individual level. The project will also provide technical assistance to the PMU<sup>15</sup> and executing agencies to design the project monitoring and evaluation system and develop operational monitoring systems at the programme level. Lessons learned from evaluating the achievements made will be used for continuous project improvement.

4.2.4. The project’s detailed implementation schedule is presented at the beginning of the report. Completion of programme activities is scheduled for December 2025. The table below presents a snapshot of the project’s provisional implementation schedule.

No.	Activities	<u>Monitoring/Feedback Loop</u>	<u>Entity Responsible</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
1	Project appraisal		AfDB	February/March 2021
2	Board approval	Letter to the government	AfDB	June 2021
3	Grant effectiveness	Signature of the grant agreement and fulfilment of conditions precedent to first disbursement	Government/AfDB	October 2021
4	Implementation of activities	Quarterly and annual activity reports and checklists for supervision missions	Government/AfDB	December 2021-December 2025
5	Mid-term review	Mid-term review report	Government/AfDB	December 2023
6	Completion of activities	Completion report	Government/AfDB	December 2025
7	Auditing	Audit reports	Government	March 2026

### 4.3. Governance

4.3.1. The project will be implemented by a PMU set up within the CPE, under the supervision of MEJS. The PMU will be headed by a project technical coordinator. The project technical coordinator will be responsible for the day-to-day management and implementation of all project activities, including the selection, supervision and performance evaluation of PMU staff.

4.3.2. Within the framework of the project's third component—project management, monitoring and evaluation—there is a provision for the training of PMU staff, and

<sup>15</sup> Six months following project completion, the PMU will conduct a basic telephone survey to assess participants’ employment status.

assistance to the Procurement Regulatory Agency (ARMP), as well as the procurement of a financial and accounting management software. These activities will support the CPE in its strategy for better governance of programmes that implements.

#### 4.4. Sustainability

**4.4.1. The choice of implementation partners and actions scheduled reflect the desire to sustain project achievements after its implementation.** The project will be implemented by a PMU under the overall supervision of Mauritania’s new Employment Project Coordination. The establishment of the CPE will enhance project coordination in terms of employment, sharing of experiences and best practice, and pooling of human, material and financial resources. This will be a sure way to sustain project achievements. Furthermore, investments in capacity building for the identified ecosystem actors (CPE, Techghil Agency, INAP-FTP, and PROCAPEC) will equip the local ecosystem with technical skills, tools and resources that will remain useful over time. The micro- and small enterprises set up thanks to the technical and financial support to young project leaders will also sustain the project on socioeconomic integration.

4.4.2. The project is also part of a sustainable development approach, and its sustainability is based on the fact that most of the activities to be financed were identified with the collaboration of various stakeholders during preparation and evaluation missions. Moreover, building the capacity of the management unit and the coaching/mentoring/support to project leaders provide the beneficiaries opportunities for personal and business development. Regarding micro-finance, the project, which aligns squarely with the National Financial Inclusion Strategy of the Central Bank of Mauritania, primarily supports an existing agency, PROCAPEC. The project's contribution includes building PROCAPEC's capacity and helping it to modernise its management and recovery methods. Therefore, this support strengthens the sustainability of these public entities.

#### 4.5. Risk Management

**4.5.1.** The table below outlines the main risks associated with project implementation, as well as the mitigation measures.

RISK CATEGORY	RISK DESCRIPTION RISK	RATING	MITIGATION MEASURES	RISK PILOT
Sector operations	Insufficient capacity for cross-sector coordination at the national level and for consultation at the local level.	M Moderate	Establishment of an inter-sector steering committee at the national level, as well as a local consultative council (CLC).	CPE/Bank
Sector operations	Absence of change in young people's attitudes towards self-employment, as well as weak entrepreneurial culture.	M Moderate	Information, sensitisation and training activities to promote an entrepreneurial culture among young people.	PMU/Bank
Capacity of the executing agency	Delay in mobilising counterpart funding in the past.	M Moderate	A strong government commitment to the rapid mobilisation of counterpart funding.	PMU/ Bank - LIMR
Capacity of the executing agency	CPE newly created, and therefore has potential low capacity to implement and track project activities.	M Moderate	The PMU, which will be created within the CPE, will comprise experts who are well versed in Bank procurement, financial management and disbursement rules and procedures, and will receive technical support from the head of ICT at MEJS. This team will benefit from capacity building through	CPE/Bank

RISK CATEGORY	RISK DESCRIPTION RISK	RATING	MITIGATION MEASURES	RISK PILOT
			the organisation of training sessions during the project implementation phase.	
Capacity of the executing agency	Delay in project implementation due to the length of time it takes financial institutions to process loan applications.	M Moderate	Establishment of a partnership with PROCAPEC and provision of technical assistance for enhanced efficiency and effectiveness in the processing of dossiers. Personalised support to young beneficiaries.	PMU/Bank
Capacity of the executing agency	Complexity of the institutional set-up for project implementation at the level of ministries and entities involved.	M Moderate	Dynamic dialogues with the different actors and strengthening of existing coordination mechanisms with an inclusive steering committee. Designation of a single counterpart (facilitator) in each ministry and entity concerned.	PMU/Bank
Capacity of the executing agency	Lengthy procurement timeframes in the past.	M Moderate	Obtain technical assistance, develop and implement the PMP, improve front-end expenditure (procurement monitoring) and back-end expenditure (disbursement planning and monitoring).	PMU/Bank

#### 4.6. Knowledge Building

4.6.1. The activities selected for the project will develop knowledge beneficial to a specific population, namely NEETs. The knowledge covers the following issues/areas: (i) life skills; (ii) technical skills training and apprenticeship modalities; (iii) entrepreneurial culture; (iv) business management; and (v) capacity building of the Techghil Agency and PROCAPEC. The knowledge will be imparted through the provision of consultancy services and specific training in the above areas. Training modules will be developed by specialists, and trainers' trainers provided. Thus, the project will contribute to knowledge development on gender mainstreaming, the reduction of gender gaps between regions, with special focus on the removal of constraints on women's skills development and positioning in the labour market, and the diversification of sectors. To promote the ownership of project activities at the national and local level, emphasis will be laid on the development of local skills.

4.6.2. The resulting studies will be published and disseminated to furnish ecosystem actors with knowledge on best practice, lessons learnt and relevant information on youth needs and aspirations and employment opportunities, and other information useful for decision-making in Brakna Region. As the overall coordinating entity for employment projects, the CPE will spearhead the leveraging and dissemination of this knowledge.

### V. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

#### 5.1. Legal Instrument

**A Protocol Agreement will be signed between the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the African Development Fund**

## **5.2. Conditions Associated with the Bank's Intervention**

**5.2.1 *Conditions precedent to effectiveness of the Protocol Agreement:*** The Protocol Agreement shall become effective on the date of its signature by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the African Development Fund.

**5.2.2 *Conditions precedent to first disbursement of the grant:*** Notwithstanding the effectiveness of the Grant Protocol Agreement, the Fund will proceed with the first disbursement of grant resources only if the Donee fulfils the following conditions to the Fund's satisfaction:

- (i) Provide the Fund with evidence of establishing the Project Management Unit (PMU) within the Employment Project Coordination (CPE) under the Ministry of Employment, Youth and Sports (MEJS), appointing the project technical coordinator and recruiting other members of the PMU on a competitive basis, namely: (i) an administrative and finance manager; (ii) a procurement specialist; (iii) an accountant; (iv) a gender and environmental and social safeguards specialist; and (v) an administrative assistant, whose qualifications and experience will have been previously deemed acceptable by the Fund.

**5.2.3 *Other conditions:*** The Donee further commits to meet the following conditions within the timeframe and to the Fund's satisfaction:

- (i) Provide the Fund with evidence of establishing the Project Steering Committee and appointing its members latest six (6) months after effectiveness of the Grant Protocol Agreement.
- (ii) Prepare and submit the project administrative and accounting procedures manual and the project operations manual to the Fund for approval latest six (6) months following the first disbursement; and
- (iii) Provide the Fund with evidence of procuring the accounting software needed for the project latest six (6) months following the first disbursement.

**5.2.4 *Undertakings:*** The Donee undertakes to do the following to the Fund's satisfaction:

- (i) Implement the project in accordance with the Fund's Safeguards Policies, the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and applicable national legislation, in a manner satisfactory to the Fund, in substance and form;
- (ii) Prepare and submit to the Fund quarterly reports on the implementation of the ESMP and SEP, including information on weaknesses identified and corrective actions taken to address them;
- (iii) Refrain from any action that would prevent or hinder the implementation of the ESMP and SEP, including any modification, suspension, waiver and/or cancellation of any provision, in whole or in part, without the prior written approval of the Fund;

- (iv) Cooperate fully with the Fund in the event that the implementation of the project or any change in its scope results in unforeseen displacement and/or resettlement of people; and to commence work in the area affected by the implementation of the project only on the condition that all project-affected persons have been compensated and/or resettled in accordance with the resettlement plan prepared;
- (v) Implement the Action Plan for the reduction of gender inequalities in employment in Brakna Region; and
- (vi) Contribute Three Hundred and Two Thousand Units of Account (UA 302,000) equivalent to Fifteen Million Five Hundred and Ninety-Eight Thousand Three Hundred Mauritanian Ouguiyas (MRU 15,598,300) as counterpart funding (the "Counterpart") to the project costs, and accordingly ensure that each annual counterpart instalment as indicated in the Annual Work Programme and Budget (AWPB) prepared by the PMU and approved by the Steering Committee, is included in the national budget for each year of project implementation, for payment to the CPE in accordance with the State's Budget and Financial legislation. A copy of the relevant year's Finance Act incorporating the inclusion of the counterpart in the national budget shall be submitted to the Fund latest ninety (90) calendar days from the date of approval of the said budget by Parliament.

### **5.3. Compliance with Bank Policies**

**5.3.1** The project complies with all applicable Bank policies.

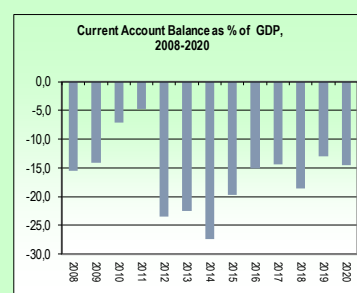
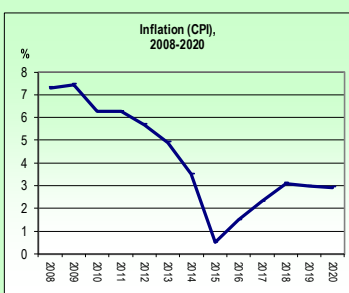
## **VI. RECOMMENDATION**

Management recommends that the Board of Directors of the Fund approve the proposal to award a UA 3 million grant to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to finance the Vulnerable Youth Employability and Socio-economic Integration Support Project, subject to the terms and conditions stipulated in this report.

# Annex I: Comparative Socio-Economic Indicators of the Country

## Mauritania Selected Macroeconomic Indicators

Indicators	Unit	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (e)	2020 (p)
<b>National Accounts</b>								
GNI at Current Prices	Million US \$	4 088	5 098	4 788	4 754	5 108	...	...
GNI per Capita	US\$	1 170	1 260	1 150	1 110	1 160	...	...
GDP at Current Prices	Million US \$	4 344	4 832	4 686	4 925	5 237	6 697	6 800
GDP at 2010 Constant prices	Million US \$	4 344	5 410	5 513	5 717	5 920	6 317	6 676
Real GDP Growth Rate	%	4,8	0,4	1,9	3,7	3,6	6,7	5,7
Real per Capita GDP Growth Rate	%	1,8	-2,5	-1,0	0,8	0,7	3,8	2,9
Gross Domestic Investment	% GDP	39,2	38,7	39,9	39,2	42,3	42,2	43,1
Public Investment	% GDP	31,4	7,8	8,1	7,5	8,4	8,9	9,5
Private Investment	% GDP	7,8	31,0	31,9	31,7	33,9	33,2	33,7
Gross National Savings	% GDP	30,6	19,1	26,1	27,9	29,6	28,2	30,9
<b>Prices and Money</b>								
Inflation (CPI)	%	6,3	0,5	1,5	2,3	3,1	3,0	2,9
Exchange Rate (Annual Average)	local currency/US\$	27,6	32,4	35,2	35,7	35,7	37,0	38,6
Monetary Growth (M2)	%	11,9	0,5	7,3	7,5	7,6	...	...
Money and Quasi Money as % of GDP	%	301,5	330,7	337,1	339,7	343,4	...	...
<b>Government Finance</b>								
Total Revenue and Grants	% GDP	21,9	29,4	28,2	28,1	28,7	28,1	28,1
Total Expenditure and Net Lending	% GDP	22,4	32,8	28,3	28,1	27,2	28,2	28,7
Overall Deficit (-) / Surplus (+)	% GDP	-0,5	-3,4	-0,1	0,0	1,6	-0,1	-0,7
<b>External Sector</b>								
Exports Volume Growth (Goods)	%	14,0	2,0	-2,6	18,8	0,1	10,2	5,4
Imports Volume Growth (Goods)	%	12,7	-13,3	17,2	-5,3	10,3	2,0	4,9
Terms of Trade Growth	%	10,3	-17,2	24,4	-11,1	-3,0	10,4	-10,4
Current Account Balance	Million US \$	-313	-953	-705	-713	-973	-872	-985
Current Account Balance	% GDP	-7,2	-19,7	-15,1	-14,5	-18,6	-13,0	-14,5
External Reserves	months of imports	1,3	3,8	4,0	3,6	3,4	...	...
<b>Debt and Financial Flows</b>								
Debt Service	% exports	3,5	10,7	12,7	11,7	11,9	10,9	11,2
External Debt	% GDP	56,2	81,9	87,8	87,6	81,5	76,7	75,8
Net Total Financial Flows	Million US \$	373	352	210	270	...	...	...
Net Official Development Assistance	Million US \$	374	318	294	284	...	...	...
Net Foreign Direct Investment	Million US \$	131	502	271	587	71	...	...



Source : AfDB Statistics Department: African; IMF: World Economic Outlook, October 2019 and International Financial Statistics, October 2019; AfDB Statistics Department: Development Data Portal Database, January 2020. United Nations: OECD, Reporting System Division.

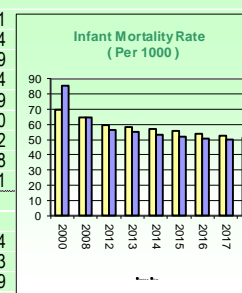
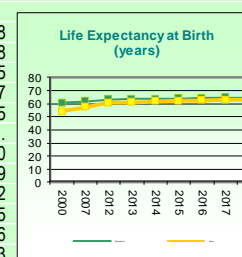
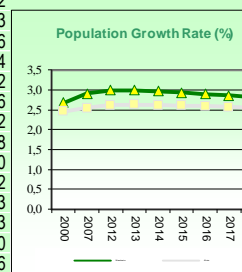
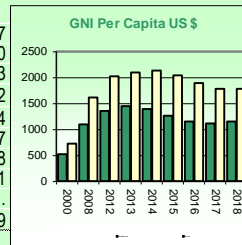
Notes: ... Data Not Available (e) Estimations (p) Projections

Last Update: January 2020

# Mauritania

## COMPARATIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	Year	Mauritania	North Africa	Africa	Developing Countries
<b>Basic Indicators</b>					
Area ( '000 Km²)	2019	1 031	6 784	30 067	94 797
Total Population (millions)	2019	4,5	202,9	1 306,3	6 384,0
Urban Population (% of Total)	2019	56,1	55,9	43,3	50,3
Population Density (per Km²)	2019	4,4	30,0	44,5	69,2
GNI per Capita (US \$)	2018	1 160	3 243	1 783	4 844
Labor Force Participation* - Total (%)	2019	45,9	45,2	63,2	60,7
Labor Force Participation** - Female (%)	2019	28,9	21,0	54,6	45,8
Sex Ratio (per 100 female)	2019	100,8	101,2	99,8	107,1
Human Develop. Index (Rank among 189 countries)	2018	161	...	...	...
Popul. Living Below \$ 1.90 a Day (% of Population)	2007-18	6,0	2,0	35,6	11,9
<b>Demographic Indicators</b>					
Population Growth Rate - Total (%)	2019	2,8	1,8	2,7	1,2
Population Growth Rate - Urban (%)	2019	4,3	2,1	3,6	2,3
Population < 15 years (%)	2019	39,9	31,3	40,6	27,6
Population 15-24 years (%)	2019	19,1	16,0	19,3	16,4
Population >= 65 years (%)	2019	3,2	6,0	3,5	7,2
Dependency Ratio (%)	2019	75,6	59,5	78,7	54,6
Female Population 15-49 years (% of total population)	2019	24,4	25,3	24,2	25,2
Life Expectancy at Birth - Total (years)	2019	64,9	74,0	63,5	70,8
Life Expectancy at Birth - Female (years)	2019	66,5	75,9	65,3	73,0
Crude Birth Rate (per 1,000)	2019	33,3	23,4	33,0	20,2
Crude Death Rate (per 1,000)	2019	7,1	5,5	8,0	7,3
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	2018	51,5	19,3	48,7	31,3
Child Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	2018	75,7	23,0	70,2	42,0
Total Fertility Rate (per woman)	2019	4,5	3,0	4,4	2,6
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 100,000)	2017	766,0	76,1	432,3	230,0
Women Using Contraception (%)	2019	20,8	62,2	39,1	61,7
<b>Health &amp; Nutrition Indicators</b>					
Physicians (per 100,000 people)	2010-18	18,7	87,2	33,4	121,8
Nurses and midwives (per 100,000 people)	2010-18	92,5	192,0	107,8	240,8
Births attended by Trained Health Personnel (%)	2010-17	69,3	88,7	61,7	78,5
Peop. Using at least basic drinking water services (% of Pop.)	2017	70,7	94,9	66,3	87,7
Peop. Using at least basic sanitation services (% of Population)	2017	48,4	90,8	40,3	68,5
Percent of Adults (aged 15-49) Living with HIV/AIDS	2018	0,2	0,1	3,4	...
Incidence of Tuberculosis (per 100,000)	2018	93,0	43,9	202,3	154,0
Child Immunization Against Tuberculosis (%)	2018	90,0	96,3	81,4	84,9
Child Immunization Against Measles (%)	2018	78,0	91,4	76,1	85,2
Underweight Children (% of children under 5 years)	2010-17	24,9	5,8	17,5	14,5
Prevalence of stunting	2010-17	27,9	18,4	34,0	23,6
Prevalence of undernourishment (% of pop.)	2017	10,4	4,3	18,5	12,3
Current health expenditure (% of GDP)	2016	4,2	5,5	5,3	5,4
<b>Education Indicators</b>					
Gross Enrolment Ratio (%)					
Primary School - Total	2010-19	99,9	108,6	100,1	104,1
Primary School - Female	2010-19	102,8	107,9	98,0	104,4
Secondary School - Total	2010-19	36,8	87,9	52,6	71,9
Secondary School - Female	2010-19	37,1	87,7	50,4	71,4
Primary School Female Teaching Staff (% of Total)	2010-18	33,4	63,8	48,6	62,9
Adult literacy Rate - Total (%)	2010-18	53,5	74,2	66,9	84,0
Adult literacy Rate - Male (%)	2010-18	46,2	81,6	70,8	88,2
Adult literacy Rate - Female (%)	2010-18	43,4	67,5	60,0	79,8
Gouvernement expenditure on Education (% of GDP)	2010-17	2,6	4,2	4,3	4,1
<b>Environmental Indicators</b>					
Land Use (Arable Land as % of Total Land Area)	2016	0,4	3,5	8,0	11,4
Agricultural Land (as % of land area)	2016	38,5	20,8	38,2	38,3
Forest (As % of Land Area)	2016	0,2	1,4	13,2	31,9
Per Capita CO2 Emissions (metric tons)	2014	0,7	2,7	1,2	3,5



Sources : AfDB Statistics Department Databases; World Bank: World Development Indicators;

last update :

April 2020

UNAIDS; UNSD; WHO, UNICEF, UNDP; Country Reports.

Note : n.a. : Not Applicable ; ... : Data Not Available. \* Labor force participation rate, total (% of total population ages 15+)

\*\* Labor force participation rate, female (% of female population ages 15+)



## Annex II: Table of AfDB Operations in the Country

State of Banque en Mauritanie's active portfolio – 1st March 2021								
Department	Title of project	Source of funding	Approval date	Signature	Completion date	Total amount approved	Total amount disbursed	% disburse
<b>NON-SOVEREIGN GUARANTEED OPERATIONS</b>								
<b>Finance</b>								
PIFD	Line of credit - Banque populaire de Mauritanie - SME programme	AfDB	20-mai-16	10-nov-16	09-nov-21	5 031 482,71	5 031 482,71	100,00%
<b>Industry and mines</b>								
PISD	SNIM - GUELBI II EXTENSION PROJECT	AfDB Non-Sovereign	16-sept-09	01-déc-09	31-déc-13	125 787 067,65	125 787 067,65	100,00%
<b>Infrastructure</b>								
PISD	SNIM DRAINAGE PROJECT	AfDB Non-Sovereign	22-nov-17	28-juin-18	01-janv-26	35 330 000,00	7 066 000,00	20,00%
<b>3</b>	<b>TOTAL: Private sector and non-sovereign</b>					<b>166 148 550,36</b>	<b>137 884 550,36</b>	<b>82,99%</b>
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR</b>								
<b>Transport</b>								
PICU	ROSSO-SENEGAL BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT	ADF/Multinational loan	09-déc-16	12-mars-17	30-nov-22	25 000 000,00	355 000,00	1,42%
<b>Agriculture</b>								
RDGN.2	EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN AID FOR FLOOD VICTIMS IN THE WILAYA OF GUIDIMAKHA	FSU/Grant	28-oct-19	22-janv-20	30-juin-21	650 153,92	0,00	0,00%
AHFR.0	MAURITANIA - AFRICAN DISASTER RISK FINANCE PROGRAMME	ADF 15/Grant	16-sept-20	05-oct-20	31-déc-22	1 500 000,00	516 450,00	34,43%
RDGN.2	Programme for Building Resilience to Food and Nutrition Insecurity in the Sahel (P2RS)	ADF/Multinational loan	15-oct-14	11-déc-14	30-déc-21	11 500 000,00	7 682 000,00	66,80%
RDGN.2	PROJECT TO SUPPORT AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN MAURITANIA (PATAM)	FADF 14 /Loan	12-déc-18	25-janv-19	31-déc-24	7 000 000,00	1 238 300,00	17,69%
		NTF/Loan	12-déc-18	25-janv-19	31-déc-24	6 000 000,00	600,00	0,01%
<b>Social Sector</b>								
RDGN.2	PROJECT TO SUPPORT THE PROMOTION OF MICRO-, SMALL- AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES AND YOUTH	ADF/Loan	21-sept-16	04-nov-16	30-juin-22	2 624 000,00	1 393 344,00	53,10%
		ADF/Grant	21-sept-16	04-nov-16	30-juin-22	521 360,00	521 360,00	100,00%
RDGN.2	Youth Training and and Employment Support Project (PAFEJ)	ADF/Grant	28-nov-14	11-déc-14	30-juin-21	2 000 000,00	1 738 800,00	86,94%
AHHD	SUPPORT PROJECT FOR G5 SAHEL MEMBER COUNTRIES TO COMBAT THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC	ADF 14/Regional grant	09-juin-20	05-août-20	30-avr-23	3 324 552,06	2 952 534,68	88,81%
<b>Governance</b>								
RDGN.1	Project to support the modernisation of financial infrastructure	ADF 14/Loan	15-déc-17	11-févr-18	31-déc-22	3 600 000,00	454 320,00	12,62%
RDGN.1	Top-up loan for the project to support the modernisation of financial infrastructure	ADF 14/Loan	01-avr-20	02-juil-20	31-déc-23	400 000,00	0,00	0,00%
ECGF	Governance Support Project for Inclusive Growth Promotion (PAGOCI)	ADF/Grant	17-nov-14	11-déc-14	31-août-21	2 000 000,00	1 706 000,00	85,30%
ECGF	COVID-19 RESPONSE SUPPORT PROGRAMME	ADF 15/ Grant	22-juil-20	27-juil-20	30-juin-22	7 500 000,00	7 500 000,00	100,00%
<b>Water and Sanitation</b>								
RDGN.2	The National Integrated Rural Water Sector Project (PNISER)	ADF/Loan	07-déc-12	12-févr-13	31-déc-21	3 052 000,00	2 645 473,60	86,68%
		ADF/Grant	07-déc-12	12-févr-13	31-déc-21	2 448 000,00	2 224 987,20	90,89%
		Grant RWISSI	07-déc-12	12-févr-13	31-déc-21	2 882 034,22	2 614 293,24	90,71%
RDGN.2	Project to improve the climate resilience of water sector investments	Global Environment Fund (GEF) /Grant	08-juil-16	11-oct-16	31-déc-21	4 564 273,60	215 890,14	4,73%
RDGN.2	PROJECT FOR A STUDY ON INCLUSIVE SANITATION IN FIVE MAURITANIAN CITIES	AfricaWater Facility Fund	05-nov-20		31-déc-22	667 834,46	0,00	0,00%
<b>15</b>	<b>TOTAL: public sector</b>					<b>87 234 208,26</b>	<b>33 759 352,86</b>	<b>38,70%</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>253 382 758,62</b>	<b>171 643 903,22</b>	<b>67,74%</b>

Source: SAP-PS, March 2021

**Annex III: Map of the Project Area**



## Annex IV: Inventory of Employment and Training Programmes in Mauritania

Name of programme	Implementation dates	Fiduciary responsibility	Technical implementation	Funding sources	Total	Target group (all groups, youth, without diplomas, mahadras...)	Number of beneficiaries	Project area	Gender (women-specific activities or provisions)	Composantes								Comments	Contact
										Orientation	Vocational training	Life-skill training	Subsidy or transfer of productive assets	Access to financial services	Support - Coaching	Other components (specify)			
Support for women's empowerment in Mauritania through the strengthening of experiences in the social economy	2017-2019	ONG ACTIONS	ONG ACTIONS	AECID	EUR 85,800	Women	-	Gorgol, Guidimakha and NKT	Monitoring of work schedules, childcare support for women, review of taxation and information on social security available to families, especially single-parent families, and participatory and HD approach.										Mohamed Tolba - mtolba@worldbank.org
Support to PNDE II - C2D 3 (sectoral approach)	2012-2018	DFTP/INAP - DPMIP - ANAPEJ	DFTP/INAP - DPMIP - ANAPEJ	AFD	EUR 3,000,000	All	-	VT component (EUR 2.7 million) 5 centres (LTI Nouakchott, and CFP in Kiffa, Aloun, Selibaby, CSET);	No		x							Equipment/rehabilitation/materials/creation of new curricula/training of trainers	Abderrahmane N'Dongo - ndongoa.mr@gret.org
Road maintenance school	2015-2017	ILO	BIT/ANAPEJ/DFTP	EU	EUR 1,500,000	Vulnerable youth	400	Brakna, Gorgol, NKT, Trara, Assaba, Hodh El Gharbi	Public awareness campaign and regular and sustained dialogue with female learners and their families by the educational advisor/prioritisation of women in the selection		x	x			x	Training of trainers	Certificates of competency/2 qualifying courses/GERME/life skills training (employability handbook) financial literacy, soft skills	Diakite Alassane A. - diakiteca@state.gov	
EMELI - Empowering Mauritanian Youth through Education, Leadership and Personal Development	2017-2020	IOM	IOM with implementation partners - INAP-FTP/ANAPEJ/Naval academy/CFPM	USAID	USD 7,200,000	Mahadra graduates/products	600	Mahadras' vocational training centre in Nouakchott	Women's representation in the training (30%)/awareness and information campaigns.		x	x	x		x				Agnes Tillinac - atillinac@iom.int
Youth and empowerment	2016-2019	GRDR	GRDR CCFD-TS/CORD/AZHAR NGO	EU	EUR 700,000	Youth	-	Nouakchott (Trarza), Kaedi (Gorgol) and Kiffa (Assaba)	Activities tailored to young women/representation		x	x						Objective: to support young people running civil society organizations in the structuring of their businesses, networking, and eligibility and search for funding. In this way, they will be able to work towards social cohesion through initiatives relating to integration and employment. Citizenship training/Geographical Education and Common Identity (EGIC)/training in the social and solidarity economy, business creation and savings.	Mohamed Mahmoud Bowba - medboba@yahoo.fr
Migr'Actions programme	2017-2019	ANAPEJ	ANAPEJ/Pôle Emploi (France), ANAPEC (Morocco), ANETI (Tunisia)	EU	EUR 1,717,200 (regional project covering 5 countries)	Youth	-	Nouakchott	No									R1 - The national public employment services have structured service offers and are able to intervene for the benefit of the target groups; R2 - The information systems on the labour market are operational and the information channels favour a regionalisation of migration issues; R3 - Innovative actions are developed to support the implementation of realistic mobility projects and the socio-professional integration of the target groups.	Henning Baur - henning.baur@kfw.de
PAFEJ - Youth Training and Employment Support Project	2014-2019	MEF	Employment Ministry/ILU	AFDB	EUR 2,500,000	Youth	8000	Mauritania	No							x		Institutional support Research studies	Matthieu Lefebvre - mlefebvre@worldbank.org
PAFPA - Project to Develop Training through Apprenticeship	2013-2015	GRET	INAP-FTP	AFD/EU	EUR 1,800,000	Informal apprenticeship sector - youth (15-35 age bracket)	900	Nouakchott, Rosso, Atar, Bogue	50% of young people trained are girls		x		x					Introduction of Certificates of Competency	Hamady Ould el Bekaye - hbekaye@yahoo.fr
PAFTP - Support for the Development of Technical and Vocational Training	2011-2017	DPEF	DPEF/INAP-FTP	WB	EUR 17,000,000	All	8042	Mauritania	No		x		x					Support through skills training	Oussama Ben Abdelkrim - O.BENABDELKARIM@AFDB.ORG
PAMPEJ - Project to Support the Promotion of Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises and Youth Employment	2017-2021	Employment Ministry	Employment Ministry/ILU	AFDB	EUR 6,300,000	All	-	Mauritania	About 52% of the project's target population are women. Within the framework of financial services, approximately 60% of the loans granted and 40% of their amounts should go to women.					x	x			(i) Support to entrepreneurship and job creation; (ii) Operationalisation of the Microfinance Refinancing Fund (FOREM) and support to MFIs and (iii) Management of the project	Oussama Ben Abdelkrim - O.BENABDELKARIM@AFDB.ORG
PECOBAT - Improvement of the employability of young people and the capacities of SMEs through the development of the construction sub-sector in local materials and professional training in construction school sites	2016-2021	ILO	ANAPEJ/DFTP/MEN	EU/AFD	EUR 6,700,000	Vulnerable youth	2000 environ	Assaba Brakna Guidimagha Gorgol	Prioritisation of women in the selection	x	x	x			x	Support for integration	Certificates of competency - self-employment training, financial education	Housseinou Kassougue - kassougue@ilo.org	

PELIMIR - Promotion of Employment and Professional Integration in Rural Areas	2016 - 2021	GIZ	GIZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	EUR 5,500,000	Youth	At least 500 young people will be integrated by 2022 and 1,000 people will be supported/trained or self-employed.	Brakna Assaba	No	x		x	x	x			Housseinou Kassougué - kassougue@ilo.org
PPI - Training and Integration Programme for 4,000 youth	2008-2009	INAP-FTP	INAP-FTP	State/Govt	3 800 000 USD (sur le volet formation/insertion)	All/Unemployed	4000	Mauritania	No	x		x		x		Support through training leading to qualifications and support for integration (placement, self-employment, etc.)	Sidi Mohamed ould Cheikh - cheikh@ilo.org
PRAPS - REGIONAL SAHEL PASTORALISM SUPPORT PROJECT	2015-2021	Ministry of Livestock	The training aspect by INAP-FTP	WB	USD 750, 000	Pastoralists, agropastoralists and their organizations -Interprofessional -Private veterinarians and animal health assistants; -public veterinary services -Services of the Ministry of Livestock -Territorial and local communities, etc.	400	Trarza, Brakna, Gorgol, Guidimakha, Assaba, Hodh Elghorbi, Hodh Echragui, Tagant, Adrar, Inchiri	-	x					Integration kits	Ulrich Hoesle - Ulrich.hoesle@giz.de Moulero Omar Adeye - moulero.adeye@giz.de	
PRESM 1-2 / Project to strengthen the employability of mahadra graduates	2011-2016	INAP-FTP	INAP-FTP/ANAPEJ	USA	USD 3,000,000	Mahadra graduates/products	300	Mahadras' vocational training centres in Nouakchott, Atar/CFPP in Kaédi/ENTPA in Aleg	No	x					Support through skills training	Harmonie Bucher - bucherh@afd.fr	
Technical and Professional Training Sector Investment Project	2015-2020	Ministry of Employment	INAP-FTP	KfW	EUR 14,000,000 (of which EUR 1,000,000 is devoted to training leading to a qualification)	15-35 age bracket	1 900	Mauritania	30% of the young people trained are girls On the rehabilitation side, there are specific provisions for girls (accessibility, safety, separate toilets, dedicated equipment for people with disabilities)		X				Support through skills training in the ICT/ public works/ renewable energy/ fisheries/agriculture/livestock sectors	Jorge Valiente - Jorge.VALIENTE@eas.europa.eu	
National Integrated Microenterprise Support Program (PNIME)	2015-2019	DPMIP	DPMIP	State/Govt	UM 90,000,000	Entrepreneurs/unemployed youth/business support structures/professional organizations in the SME sector	14 180	National	-	x	x					Victorina García - victorina.garcia@aecid.es	
PROMOPECHE	2017-2022	ILO/GIZ	ILO/GIZ/AECID	EU	USD 27,500,000	Youth, active professionals	19,000 people trained (about 4,600 in the initial training; the rest in ongoing training)	Coastal region (priority: NDS, NKT, Mhajeratt, Twilit, PK93, PK 144)	Specific targeting of women-owned SMEs (especially fish processing), integration of specific training modules, specific monitoring	x	x	x		x	x	Formal and ongoing training (design, development/update and implementation of training curricula) oriented towards trades in the fisheries resource value chain. Training of trainers Specific training on integration/professionalization Monitoring/support of socio-professional integration	Victorina García - victorina.garcia@aecid.es
Promotion of decent employment for urban youth, men and women, in Nouakchott.	2018-2022	ANAPEJ /ILO	ANAPEJ/ILO	AECID	EUR 300,000	Vulnerable youth	-	Nouakchott	Gender audit on the intermediation service	x	x		x		x	Promotion of self-employment /reception/guidance/support	Brahim Sall - bsall@worldbank.org
SAFIRE	2019-2022	3 consortia: GRET/CRF/OXFAM part of a group of 14 NGOs	OXFAM/ACF/TDH Lausanne/ARDM/AFCE/AMAD/ODZASAM CRF/GRDR/ECODEV/TD Hitalie/CRM GRET/CARITAS	EU	EUR 10,000,000	Vulnerable populations	Onboarding/orientation: 7,650 Vocational training: 2,758 Entrepreneurship/business management training: 2,960 Support/coaching: 1,285 Financial support: 565 Technical assistance to 4,700 agropastoralists	Nouakchott, Hodh el Garbi, Hodh el Chargui, Gorgol, Guidimakha, Brakna, Trarza		x	x	?	x	x	x		Benoit Boulangé - benoit.boulange@gmail.com Bocar Thiam - Thiambocar.thiam@gmail.com
Support for the economic and social development of a section of Nouakchott urban community of Nouakchott since 2017: Consolidation of associative and economic dynamics for the development of the Dar Naimurban community	2014-2017 2017-2020	CARITAS	CARITAS	Co-financed by ADF, Secours Catholique, Manos Unidas, and CCFD	EUR 2,500,000	Vulnerable youth	-	Dar Naim (NKT)	The project includes a component dedicated to supporting the self-empowerment of women and girls	x	x				x	Integration kits	Geraldine Choquel - geraldine.choquel@grdr.org
Tekavoul - productive activities	2018-2019	Tadamoun		WB	USD 1,500,000	Youth living in poverty	1 750	Barkéol and Sellibabi	Yes			X	X	X	X	Access to inputs	Jorge Valiente - Jorge.VALIENTE@eas.europa.eu

## Annex V: Outcome Indicators Monitoring Plan

Alignment Indicator			
Designation of the Indicator	Definition/Description	Source	Reference and Targets (if possible)
- Poverty rate in Brakna Region	This ratio makes it possible to determine the proportion of people in monetary poverty in Brakna Region. A person is extremely poor if his or her expenditure per capita per year is less than MRU 40,701.	ONS survey	Reference (2014): 43.3%. Target (2025): 35%.
- Under-employment rate in Brakna Region	This ratio makes it possible to determine the proportion of individuals in an underemployed situation in Brakna Region. Underemployment extends to employed persons, by the ILO's definition, who meet one of the following conditions: (i) working part-time but wish to work more and are available to do so, whether or not they are actively seeking work; (ii) working part-time (and are in a situation other than that described above) or full-time but have worked less than usual during a week in reference owing to short-time engagement (technical unemployment) or bad weather.	ONS survey	Reference (2017): 12.3%. Target (2025): 10%.
- Percentage of self-employed girls in Brakna Region	This index measures the share of young NEET women in the 15-24 age group who have started their own businesses.	PMU reports	Reference (2020): 2%. Target (2025): 50%.

### B. Outcome and Output Indicators (Performance Indicators)

Designation of the Indicator	Definition/Description	Collection Method	Responsibility for Collection	Frequency of Reporting	Planning for Results			
					2022	2023	2024	2025
OUTPUT INDICATOR 1.1: Survival rate of enterprises created	Proportion of businesses created by young people which continue to exist and remain operational three (3) years after project support	MEJS data and project activity reports	MEJS/PMU	Quarterly	0%	60%	45%	20%
OUTPUT INDICATOR 1.2: Percentage of girl entrepreneurs promoted by the project who have started their own business	Proportion of NEET girls in the 15-24 age bracket who have set up their own business with the support of the project	Project activity reports	PMU	Quarterly	0%	20%	40%	60%
OUTPUT INDICATOR 2.1: Graduation rate of trained youth	The proportion of trained 15 to 24-year-old NEETs who obtained a diploma or certificate	Project activity reports	PMU	Quarterly	0%	25%	60%	85%
OUTPUT INDICATOR 2.2: Rate of employment of beneficiaries of training after six (6) months	The proportion of all trained NEETs in the age group 15-24 who got a job in a company or started their own business 6 months after their training by the project	Techghil Agency and project activity reports	PMU/Techghil Agency	Quarterly	0%	20%	50%	70%
OUTPUT INDICATOR 2.3: Number of direct jobs created	This indicator relates to the total number of jobs generated from the	Project activity reports	PMU	Quarterly	0%	250	450	700

	recruitment of 15 to 24-year-old NEET beneficiaries of the project by the private sector (formal and informal) and the jobs generated by the establishment of businesses by young beneficiaries.							
OUTPUT INDICATOR 2.4: Number of indirect jobs created	These are jobs created to meet the demand for goods (raw materials in particular), services (services) and equipment (investments) purchased by the companies awarded the contract to carry out the work of the operation, as well as jobs generated by companies created by the project's beneficiaries but outside the project area.	Project activity reports	PMU	Quarterly	100	400	1000	1,500
OUTCOME INDICATOR 1.1: Number of Techghil Agency branches established	This indicator relates to the number of Techghil branch offices newly built and equipped by the project in the targeted localities of Brakna Region.	Techghil Agency and project activity reports	PMU/Techghil Agency	Quarterly	1	1	2	4 operational branches
OUTCOME INDICATOR 1.2: Number of Techghil Agency officials whose technical capacity has been strengthened	These are all the managers of the Techghil Agency whose technical capacities have been strengthened by the project to perform their functions effectively.	Techghil Agency and project activity reports	PMU/Techghil Agency	Quarterly	20	20	20	20
OUTCOME INDICATOR 1.3: Number of young people benefiting from information, guidance and intermediation services	This indicator relates to all NEET young people in the 15-24 age group who participated in information, guidance and intermediation activities provided by the Techghil Agency.	Techghil Agency and project activity reports	PMU/Techghil Agency	Quarterly	1000	5000	5000	5,000, of which 50% are girls
OUTCOME INDICATOR 2.1: Number of young people benefiting from life skills training sessions	This indicator is used to assess the training outcomes for all NEET young people in the age group 15-24 who participate in life skills training under the project.	Techghil Agency and project activity reports	PMU/Techghil Agency	Quarterly	1000	4000	4000	4,000, of which 50% are girls
OUTCOMEINDICATOR 2.2: Number of young beneficiaries of life skills training opting for a technical training or apprenticeship pathway	These are NEET young people in the age group 15-24 who have received life skills training and who choose to enter technical or apprenticeship training	Techghil Agency and project activity reports	PMU/Techghil Agency	Quarterly	500	2600	2600	2,600, of which 50% are girls

OUTCOME INDICATOR 2.3: Number of young beneficiaries of life skills training who wish to enter directly into an entrepreneurial pathway	These are NEET young people in the 15-24 age group who received training in life skills development and went straight into entrepreneurship.	Techghil Agency and project activity reports	PMU/Techghil Agency	Quarterly	200	800	1400	1400 of which 50% girls
OUTCOME INDICATOR 3.1: Number of technical and vocational training schools upgraded	This is the number of technical and vocational training schools rehabilitated and equipped.	INAP-FTP and project activity reports	PMU/ INAP-FTP	Quarterly	1	2	2	2
OUTCOME INDICATOR 3.2: Number of new training resources developed	These relate to new curricula developed and integrated into training courses.	INAP-FTP and project activity reports	PMU/ INAP-FTP	Quarterly	5	10	10	10
OUTCOME INDICATOR 3.3: Number of young people benefiting from training leading to qualifications and certification	This is the number of young NEETs in the 15-24 age group who followed and successfully completed a training pathway leading to a qualification and certification	INAP-FTP and project activity reports	PMU/ INAP-FTP	Quarterly	0	425	850	850, of which 40% are girls
OUTCOME INDICATOR 3.4: Number of young beneficiaries of technical training and apprenticeships on internship placements	These are NEET young people in the 15-24 age group who received technical training and apprenticeship and have obtained and completed a traineeship	Project activity reports	PMU	Quarterly	0	100	250	450, of which 30% are girls
OUTCOME INDICATOR 4.1: Number of young entrepreneurs accompanied and coached	This is the number of young NEETs in the 15-24 age group who received life skills training and entrepreneurial coaching	Project activity reports	PMU	Quarterly	0	200	700	700, of which 50% are girls
OUTCOME INDICATOR 4.2: Number of local value chains targeted and strengthened by the project	This indicator relates to all the value chains where the project has strengthened the technical capacities of actors	Project activity reports	PMU	Quarterly	3	7	8	8
OUTCOME INDICATOR 4.3: Number of micro-enterprise projects incubated in the agricultural incubator set up by the Techghil Agency with the support of the project	This indicator relates to all the micro-enterprise projects supervised by the agricultural incubator set up by the Techghil Agency with the support of the project.	Project activity reports	PMU	Quarterly	0	0	50	100
OUTCOME INDICATOR 5.1: Number of newly created PROCAPEC agencies	This is the number of new PROCAPEC branches set up with the support of the project.	PROCAPEC and project activity reports	PMU/PROCAPEC	Quarterly	2	4	4	4
OUTCOME INDICATOR 5.2: Number of entrepreneurs with access to microcredit	This is the total number of young NEETs in the 15-24 age group who received entrepreneurship training and then received a microcredit with the support of the project	PROCAPEC and project activity reports	PMU/PROCAPEC	Quarterly	0	500	1000	1,400, of which 50% girls

OUTCOME INDICATOR 6.1: Project staff trained	This indicator relates to the number of project staff who have received training for the effective performance of their duties	Project activity reports	PMU	Quarterly	20	20	20	20
OUTCOME INDICATOR 6.2: Monitoring and evaluation system in place and functioning	This is the monitoring and evaluation system, including staff, tools, mechanism.	Project activity reports	PMU	Quarterly	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
OUTCOME INDICATOR 6.3: Communication actions carried out	This indicator covers visibility, information and awareness-raising actions.	Project activity reports	PMU	Quarterly	10	20	24	24
OUTCOME INDICATOR 6.4: Actions promoting the leveraging and dissemination of good practices and dissemination carried out	This relates to the activities that enable the project team to leverage and disseminate good practice.	Project activity reports	PMU	Quarterly	0	2	4	5
OUTCOME INDICATOR 6.5: Impact assessment study conducted	This is the independent impact assessment undertaken by a contractor to measure the project's medium and long-term impact.	Study	PMU	Quarterly	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes



# ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMPLIANCE NOTE (ESCON)



A. Basic Information <sup>16</sup>	
<b>Project Title:</b> Vulnerable Youth Employability and Socio-economic Integration Support Project (PEJ-Brakna)	<b>Project "SAP code":</b> P-MR-100-003
<b>Country:</b> MAURITANIA	<b>Lending Instrument<sup>17</sup>:</b> DI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FI <input type="checkbox"/> CL <input type="checkbox"/> BS <input type="checkbox"/> GU <input type="checkbox"/> RPA <input type="checkbox"/> EF <input type="checkbox"/> RBF <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Project Sector:</b> Social	<b>Task Team Leader:</b> Oussama BEN ABDELKARIM
<b>Appraisal date:</b> From 01-12/02/2021	<b>Estimated Approval Date:</b> 01/07/2021
<b>Environmental Safeguards Officer:</b>	
<b>Social Safeguards Officer:</b> Pierre Hassan SANON	
<b>Environmental and Social Category:</b> 2	<b>Date of categorization:</b> 17/01/2020
<b>Operation type:</b> SO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSO <input type="checkbox"/> PBO <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Is this project processed under rapid responses to crises and emergencies?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is this project processed under a waiver to the Integrated Safeguards System?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

B. Disclosure and Compliance Monitoring	
B.1 Mandatory disclosure	
<b>Environmental Assessment/Audit/System/Others (specify: Environmental and Social Management Plan - ESMP)</b>	
Was/Were the document (s) disclosed <i>prior to appraisal</i> ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Date of "in-country" disclosure by the borrower/client	23/04/2021
Date of receipt, by the Bank, of the authorization to disclose	20/04/2021
Date of disclosure by the Bank	22/04/2021
<b>Resettlement Action Plan/Framework/Others (specify: .....)</b>	
Was/Were the document (s) disclosed <i>prior to appraisal</i> ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Date of "in-country" disclosure by the borrower/client	[Date]
Date of receipt, by the Bank, of the authorization to disclose	[Date]
Date of disclosure by the Bank	[Date]
<b>Vulnerable Peoples Plan/Framework/Others (specify: Stakeholder Engagement Plan - SEP)</b>	
Was the document disclosed <i>prior to appraisal</i> ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Date of "in-country" disclosure by the borrower/client	23/04/2021
Date of receipt, by the Bank, of the authorization to disclose	20/04/2021
Date of disclosure by the Bank	22/04/2021
<b>If in-country disclosure of any of the above documents is not expected, as per the country's legislation, please explain why:</b> NA.	

B.2. Compliance monitoring indicators	
Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Have costs related to environmental and social measures, including for the running of the grievance redress mechanism, been included in the project cost?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Is the total amount for the full implementation for the Resettlement of affected people, as <b>integrated in the project costs, effectively mobilized and secured</b> ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>

## C. Clearance

Is the project compliant to the Bank's environmental and social safeguards requirements, and to be submitted to the Board?  
Yes  No

Prepared by:	Name	Signature	Date
Environmental Safeguards Officer:			
Social Safeguards Officer:	Pierre Hassan SANON		22/04/2021
Task Team Leader:	Oussama BEN ABDELKARIM		22/04/2021
Submitted by:			
Sector Director AHHD:	Martha PHIRI		04/05/2021
Cleared by:			
Director SNSC:	Maman-Sani ISSA		04/05/2021

<sup>16</sup> Note: This ESCON shall be appended to project appraisal reports/documents before Senior Management and/or Board approvals.

<sup>17</sup> DI=Direct Investment; FI=Financial Intermediary; CL=Corporate Loan; BS=Budget Support; GU=Guarantee; RPA=Risk Purchase Agreement; EF=Equity Financing; RBF=Results Based Financing.