



Combined Project Information Documents / Integrated Safeguards Datasheet (PID/ISDS)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 15-Jan-2019 | Report No: PIDISDSA25600



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country Mauritania	Project ID P168232	Project Name Mauritania Adaptive Social Protection AF	Parent Project ID (if any) P150430
Parent Project Name Mauritania Social Safety Net System	Region AFRICA	Estimated Appraisal Date 20-Aug-2018	Estimated Board Date 20-Feb-2019
Practice Area (Lead) Social Protection & Labor	Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA	Implementing Agency AGENCE TADAMOUN

Proposed Development Objective(s) Parent

The objectives of the proposed Project are to support the establishment of key building blocks of the national social safety net system and to provide targeted cash transfers to extreme poor households.

Proposed Development Objective(s) Additional Financing

The Project Development Objectives are to support the establishment of key building blocks of the national social safety net system and to improve access to targeted cash transfers for poor and vulnerable households

Components

- Support to National Social Safety Net System
- Support to Social Transfer Program
- Project Management

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	2.30
Total Financing	2.30
of which IBRD/IDA	0.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

Non-World Bank Group Financing



Trust Funds	2.30
SAHEL ADAPTIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAM	2.30
Environmental Assessment Category	
C-Not Required	
Decision	
The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate	

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

- 1. Economic growth has been largely reliant on a volatile extractives sector that has gone through a boom and bust cycle in the past decade.** Extractives industries have been the engine of economic development for over a decade, representing an average of 25 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), 82 percent of exports and 23 percent of fiscal revenues. High extractives prices during the 2009-2014 commodity boom has supported a state-driven development model with significant public investment in infrastructure and a large role for public enterprises. However, the boom did little to encourage economic diversification and private sector-led growth. Growth averaged a 4.2 percent during that period, at par with Sub-Saharan Africa average, and was primarily led by domestic demand for non-tradeable services. The recent decline in global commodity prices has brought growth into a grind and exposed Mauritania’s vulnerabilities: a non-diversified economy facing significant challenges of job creation in the private sector. The ambitious public investment program along with increased foreign borrowing compounded these rising pressures leading the country to a situation of high risk of debt distress. Rigid exchange rate policies and a lack of monetary policy tools limited the ability of the central bank to address structural imbalances and respond to the terms of trade (ToT) shock, eroding as such the competitiveness of the economy.
- 2. The bust prompted a severe fiscal adjustment that helped macroeconomic stability but fell short in accelerating structural reforms to boost growth and promote the private sector.** In 2016 and 2017, the Government realized the need to address the underlying macro-economic and structural challenges and have embarked on a fiscal consolidation plan that was successful in stabilizing the economy. It has also opted to initiate reforms to boost the flexibility of exchange rate policies, improve the effectiveness of the monetary policy, and strengthen the supervisory framework for the financial sector. It has done so with support of a new IMF Extended Credit Facility (ECF) program. These combined with reforms in the business environment, irrigation, fisheries and livestock, have led to a moderate recovery with growth reaching 3.5 percent in 2017. Nevertheless, the challenge ahead is to raise Mauritania’s growth potential (currently as low as



3.5 percent) by boosting competition and skills and enabling a much larger space for the private sector, while maintaining macroeconomic stability.

- 3. Slowing economic growth has put an end to the strong poverty reduction.** Rising real per-capita GDP enabled Mauritania to reach lower-middle-income status in 2010, and the poverty rate declined by an estimated 11.5 percentage points between 2008 and 2014¹. Poverty reduction occurred principally in rural areas and was driven by rural-urban migration, changes in prices of agriculture products, as well as increased spending on social-protection programs and public infrastructure investment. Income inequality declined as the Gini coefficient fell from 35.3 percent in 2008 to 31.9 percent in 2014. While the income gap between rural and urban areas narrowed, the income distribution within each area remained largely unchanged. However, this progress is highly sensitive to growth and climatic conditions. The slowdown in economic activity coupled with high fertility rates (4.54 per woman) and droughts, such as the one observed in 2017, jeopardizes these poverty gains.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

- 4.** The national social protection Strategy, adopted in 2013, began implementation in 2014. The Government has placed responsibility for the strategy's implementation with the MEF. The strategy is supported by all donors and partners, who are members of its technical committee. However, the inter-Ministerial Steering Committee (to pilot the strategy), and the associated Technical Committee (to validate the design of interventions) had limited activities in 2017. In 2017, the 2012-2016 strategy implementation plan has been evaluated by the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) and a new action plan is under preparation.
- 5.** In 2017, the government has validated the SCAPP (Strategie pour la Croissance Accélérée et la Prospérité Partagée - Strategy for accelerated growth and shared prosperity). Among its core measures, it includes the key axes of the national social protection strategy. The implementation of the strategy is currently focused on two main pillars: (i) a national social registry of vulnerable households and (ii) a national cash transfer program targeted to extreme-poor households. Furthermore, efforts have started to organize and coordinate social protection responses to shocks and disasters (an element that is also central to the SCAPP).
- 6.** In 2018, the Social Registry Direction (created in 2016 under the Direction Générale responsible for the design of strategies, policies and programs in the MEF) continued to strengthen its team and procedures. The government aims to cover the entire territory by 2020. Some organizations have used the Social Registry to target their programs (Tadamoun, Food security Office, World Food Program and Oxfam) and others have committed to use it (Health ministry), highlighting the relevance of this instrument.
- 7.** Until 2014, Mauritania's core safety net interventions were structured mostly around crisis response and food subsidy and distribution. The country's two main channels of support for the poor were the Program Emel and universal price subsidies. The Program Emel, put in place as a

¹ According to the latest available household survey.



response to drought and food price increases, includes two main components: (i) preventing human food insecurity through emergency food distribution, cereal banks and a network of subsidized food shops (the Boutiques Emel), and (ii) preserving livestock through fodder supply, animal health measures and access to water points. As part of the first component, the Boutiques Emel (about 1,470 shops selling rations of basic foodstuffs at subsidized prices) were found to be relatively well targeted. However, they suffer from a relatively low efficiency especially as international food prices have decreased (and hence the size of the subsidies in the program) and volumes of food sold decreased [as a result, in 2016, 55% of the budget went to operational and administrative costs].

8. Subsidy expenditures were also high at 2.1 percent of GDP on average since 2008, and above the African average of 1.4 percent of GDP. The analysis of energy subsidies highlighted that they are regressive and led to increased inequality. For example, in 2014, more than 25 percent of butane and electricity subsidies went to the richest 10 percent, but only 1-2 percent to the poorest 10 percent. The reform of butane subsidies, electricity, or the EMEL program (respectively, 8 billion, 6 billion and 14 billion Ouguiyas in 2014) would support financing targeted social safety nets, while improving the efficiency of public spending.
9. As per the National Social Protection Strategy, the Government decided to complement its emergency response with a long-term safety net focused on the chronically poor. The national social transfer program "Tekavoul" aims to target about 100,000 households nationwide (all extreme poor households in the country), starting in the "hope triangle" (southern region with the highest number of extreme poor). The national social transfer program has started implementing in 2016. In November 2017, the Mauritania President announced that the program will be extended in the coming years.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Original PDO

The objectives of the proposed Project are to support the establishment of key building blocks of the national social safety net system and to provide targeted cash transfers to extreme poor households.

New proposed PDO

The objectives of the Project are to support the establishment of key building blocks of the national social safety net system and to improve access to targeted cash transfers for poor and vulnerable households.

Key Results

The indicators used to monitor progress in reaching the development objectives are:

- Number of households registered in the Social Registry with support from the Project;
- Number of Social Transfer Program beneficiaries supported by the Project (households);
- Targeting accuracy.



The main Intermediate Results Indicators are:

- *Support to National Social Safety Net System:*
 - Households with complete information in Social Registry.
 - Social Registry grievance mechanism implemented;
- *Support to Social safety net Programs:*
 - Total number of Social safety net Programs beneficiaries (individuals);
 - Beneficiaries of Safety Nets programs - Tekavoul transfers program (number)
 - Beneficiaries of the safety nets program Tekavoul - Female (percentage)
 - Beneficiaries of Elmaouna - Shock-responsive safety net program (number)
 - Share of Tekavoul beneficiary households attending social promotion activities;
 - Share of Tekavoul beneficiaries receiving payments on time;
 - Share of Tekavoul beneficiaries who know their rights and responsibilities;
 - Tekavoul Program grievance mechanism implemented.

D. Project Description

A. Project Components

10. To achieve the development objectives, the Project has three components: (1) support to National Social Safety Net System, (2) support to National Social Transfer Program, and (3) Project Management.

Component 1: Support to National Social Safety Net System (US\$4.30m equivalent: US\$2.0m IDA Grant, US\$1.0m ASP grant, US\$1.3m counterpart funding including 0.3m from the AF)

11. The objective of this component is to support the central Government's capacity for the establishment and coordination of the national social safety net system. The component will support: (a) the implementation of the Social Registry, and (b) a series of analyses to strengthen the implementation of the SNPS and the design of the social safety net system in Mauritania



Subcomponent 1.1: Implementation of the Social Registry (US\$3.30m: US\$1.5m IDA Grant, US\$1.0m counterpart funding, and US\$0.8m ASP grant including 0.3 from the AF).

12. This sub-component will support the development and implementation of the Social Registry (SR). The first task of the SR will be to identify households for programs supported by Component 2. However, it is developed with a view to serve all targeted social programs in Mauritania. In practice, subcomponent 1.1 will support:
- a. *Design and implementation of social registry tools and mechanisms.* Development of the Management Information System (MIS), calculation of quotas and Proxy-Means Test (PMT), grievance mechanisms, communication material, etc. – and acquisition of key equipment, software and hardware.
 - b. *Implementation of the Social Registry.* The implementation of the SR for a share of the targeted population (150,000 out of 200,000). Activities include community targeting, implementation of questionnaires, management of grievances, as well as preparation of lists of eligible households for targeted programs.
 - c. *Evaluation activities.* Activities to assess the implementation of the SR, evaluate its targeting efficiency, and potentially propose adjustments or reforms.

Subcomponent 1.2: Support to the implementation of the National Social Protection Strategy (US\$1.0m: US\$0.5 IDA Grant and US\$0.5m ASP grant)

13. Subcomponent 1.2 will contribute to the strengthening of the capacity of the central actors responsible for spearheading the national social protection strategy. It supports activities aimed at informing the design of interventions or analyzing their impacts and strengthening the early-warning system and emergency contingency plan. During the mid-term review, it was decided to revise Sub-component 1.2 by including the implementation of analytical work on the following 5 topics:
- (a) Definition of a fund-raising strategy for the social safety net system. To implement an effective social protection policy, the government must commit itself now to financing the social safety net system - Social Registry, Tekavoul program, shock response mechanism - by mobilizing the necessary funds and putting in place the appropriate financing tools. The deployment of the Social Registry, the Tekavoul Program and the Elmanoua Program throughout the country requires the gradual mobilization (2019) of an annual budget of 1.3 billion Ouguiyas (MRU) by 2021 (\$35 million). The project must define a strategy to mobilize these funds (responsibility for this axis: National Project Coordination).



- (b) Analysis of the strategic role of the Social Registry as a tool for analysis (determination of poverty profiles), capitalization (history of program support by beneficiary), coordination (geographical distribution of interventions) and planning (analysis of needs based on the data collected). This analysis could be carried out by a committee bringing together a group of stakeholders involved in these strategic roles and reported regularly to the SNPS Technical Committee. (Responsibility for this area: Social Registry Direction).
- (c) Impact of social safety nets on the local economy. A study on the impact on the economy and household well-being is under way. However, the impact of social nets on local economies is also perceived in areas where the Tekavoul program has already been implemented (increased trade and economic transactions), highlighting the multiplier effects of social nets. A qualitative and quantitative analysis could help to better understand and highlight this type of impact (Responsibility for this axis: Coordination of Tekavoul Program)
- (d) Support for the establishment of a permanent shock response system. The implementation of this system is recommended by SCAPP. This mechanism should make it possible to improve the efficiency of shock response programs (in particular those relating to climate change) through the integration of five mechanisms: (1) the Early Warning System, (2) the framework defining the annual response plan, (3) the targeting mechanism, (4) the tools for social transfer to beneficiaries and (5) the shock financing strategy. Within the framework of adaptive social protection, the project will facilitate dialogue, analysis and implementation of these 5 mechanisms. (Responsibility for this axis: Food Security Office).
- (e) Linkage between social safety net programs: as some households will benefit from both the Tekavoul and Elmaouna programs, the government may decide to clarify their articulation (cumulative cash transfers or adjustment) after analyzing the advantages and disadvantages of the different options. (Coordination of the Tekavoul Program and Emergency Action Direction of the Food Security Office)

Component 2: Support to Social Transfer Program (US\$25.0m equivalent: US\$12.0m IDA Grant, US\$8.0m counterpart funding and US\$5.0m ASP Grant including US\$ 2.0 from the AF)

- 14. The objective of this component is to support the design and implementation of two Social safety net Programs:
 - The Tekavoul program implemented by Tadamoun Agency, which aims to fight chronic poverty. It is a conditional cash transfer (CCT) program in which households are enrolled for an initial 5-year cycle. The program combines regular transfers with social promotion activities designed to promote knowledge of essential family practices and investment in households' human capital and resilience. One of the motivations for combining regular transfers and social promotion activities lies in the fact that poverty taxes the mind and impedes the capacity to focus on the future. Hence, the relief provided by regular cash transfers provides a unique opportunity for poor households to invest and adopt new



- practices. Furthermore, experience suggests that cash alone is not sufficient to shift practices, but that combining regular transfers with promotion activities that aim at encouraging investments in human capital for greater productivity and at deploying strategies to diversify income sources and to promote adaptation to shocks can indeed be transformative.
- The Elmaouna program implemented by the Food Security Office, which aims to strengthen household resilience after a climate shock. Elmaouna is a permanent non-conditional program that is implemented on an as-needed basis and aims to mitigate the impact of shocks such as drought on household well-being. The program embraced the principles of adaptive social protection by using the fundamental instruments of social protection, in particular the Social Registry and the government payment platform established by Tekavoul. The pilot program was first implemented during the 2017 lean season. It is currently designed to respond to drought-related shocks, but it could be adapted to respond to other shocks that would affect poor households in Mauritania.
15. The Government's strategy also includes a third pillar dedicated to reinforcing provision of basic social services. This activity is outside of the scope of the project but will be supported indirectly through the information collected through the SR. The component will support: (a) program tools and processes, (b) payment of transfers to beneficiaries and (c) social promotion activities and productive activities to increase resilience.



Subcomponent 2.1: Development of program tools and processes, monitoring and evaluation and operational costs (US\$4.0m: US\$2.5 IDA Grant, US\$1.0m counterpart funding and US\$0.5m ASP Grant)

16. Subcomponent 2.1 will focus on supporting the tools and processes to effectively implement the programs. In practice, subcomponent 2.1 will support:
- a. *The development of the programs tools.* For both programs,, the Project supports the MIS development including modules for the registration of beneficiaries, payment of transfers, verification of households with respect to their conditionality (if any), management of grievances and redress (to respond to complaints and ensure a high level of transparency), management and monitoring of daily program activities, and production of regular reports on program implementation. Operational manuals which specifies the roles of all actors, as well as the formats, communication tools, and all support required for implementation have been developed for each safety net program.
 - b. *Operational costs.* These include core consultant program staff and operating costs at central and regional levels and equipment and operating costs for the programs. Overall, core staff will include the central technical team (a Program Coordinator, a Social Promotion Specialist, a Payment Specialist, a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist, and a MIS expert) as well as regional teams where the programs are implemented. The Project will support those staff that are not civil-servants, and the cost of their routine activities.
 - c. *Monitoring and evaluation costs.* Monitoring and evaluation will mostly rely on regular monitoring based on the MIS as well as supervision in the field. Additional activities will be supported as needed, including process evaluations that review the implementation of the programs and identify bottlenecks; and spot checks to assess the quality of implementation and respect of procedures in selected localities (spot checks)
 - d. *Impact Evaluation.* The Tekavoul program will undergo a rigorous impact evaluation to measure its impacts on beneficiaries, in particular: (i) the impact of Tekavoul on household living conditions, health, nutrition and education of children, (ii) the impact of social promotion activities on the adoption of new behaviors in hygiene, nutrition and parenting practices, (iii) the impact of Tekavoul's combination with productive support measures, and (iv) the impact of variants of the productive support package (with or without psycho-social support, with or without a grant).

Subcomponent 2.2: Payment of transfers to beneficiaries (US\$17.0m equivalent: US\$8.0m IDA Grant, US\$6.0m counterpart funding and US\$3.0m ASP Grant including US\$ 2.0 from the AF)

17. Subcomponent 2.2 will focus on supporting the payment of cash transfers to households benefitting from safety net programs. In practice, subcomponent 2.2 will support:



- e. *Payment of transfers to 25,000 beneficiary households of the Tekavoul program.* This corresponds to approximately 25 percent of extreme-poor households in Mauritania. The national program itself aims to reach all of Mauritania's households living in extreme poverty, approximately 100,000 households or 620,000-700,000 individuals, by 2020. The 25,000 households will enter progressively in the program, as described in the results framework presented in Annex 1. The transfers will be paid to the person in charge of the daily activities surrounding children's health, nutrition and education. In most cases, the recipients will be the mother of the households' children. The payment will be made conditional on the household participating in the promotion activities supported by Subcomponent 2.3.
- f. *Payment of cash transfers to 7,000 households (cumulative number over 3 years) benefiting from the Elmaouna program.* The intervention areas will be defined on the basis of analyses by the Food Security Observatory (departments and municipalities with the highest levels of food insecurity) and beneficiaries will be identified from the Social Register according to vulnerability criteria. The Elmaouna program is intended to become one of the government's tools for responding to shocks as part of a concerted and inclusive response plan.
- g. *Payment of financial fees associated with Tekavoul and Elmaouna programs.* The fees will be specified in the service provision contract made with the financial institution(s) in charge of the payments. Special efforts are made to ensure a reasonable cost, in line with international best practice and local conditions. In the long term, the network of payment operators could become a common government payment platform for any programs delivering cash transfer.

Subcomponent 2.3: Promotion of investment in human capital and resilience (US\$4.0m: US\$1.5 IDA Grant, US\$1.0m counterpart funding and US\$1.5m ASP grant)

18. Subcomponent 2.3 will focus on supporting the provision of social promotion activities and productive measures package to beneficiaries. In practice, subcomponent 2.3 will support:
- a. *Social promotion through:*
 - i. *The development of modules and materials for social promotion.* The basic curriculum for social promotion activities will be structured in 20 modules (1 per quarter over a 5-year cycle) around three themes: (i) early childhood development (ECD), (ii) hygiene and (iii) nutrition.
 - ii. *The implementation of social promotion activities.* The social promotion activities will be based on a three-month cycle including a face-to-face social promotion session every quarter (conditionality of cash transfer) and inter-sessional activities including the broadcasting of a series of radio-novella with the use of solar radio distributed to beneficiary groups. This sub-component will also support programming, supervision and monitoring of activities by the Tadamoun Agency (the National Agency in charge of Fighting against the Consequences of Slavery, Promoting Insertion, and Fighting against Poverty) central and regional teams.



- b. *Productive measures* through:
 - iii. *The development of modules and materials for productive measures activities*: The overall objective of productive measures is to offer a package of accompanying measures to facilitate productive initiatives of populations in extreme poverty who are already beneficiaries of the Tekavoul program. The package of activities includes (i) assistance and coaching, (ii) community awareness of social aspirations and norms, (iii) facilitation of savings groups for beneficiaries, (iv) life skills training, (v) management training (GERME) and (vi) a one-time grant to initiate or develop productive activities.
 - iv. *Implementation of productive measures activities*: The implementation of activities will be carried out with the support of NGOs in 3 districts: Barkéol, Selibabi and Gabou. The beneficiaries of the productive measures package will be young people between 18 and 39 years of age selected among Tekavoul beneficiary households.
- c. *The identification of the modalities of new cash delivery conditionalities for the Tekavoul program*. The project will work on operational and strategic modalities to condition the cash transfer to maternal and child health. It is proposed to build on existing and future experiences, programs and instruments, in particular the demand component of the World Bank-funded INAYA project (Results-Based Financing Health Project).

Component 3: Project Management (US\$2.0m equivalent: US\$1.0m IDA Grant, US\$1.0m counterpart funding)

- 19. This component will support activities related to the management of the Project. To this end, it will support a Project operational administrative team, which will be located within the Tadamoun Agency but will support all activities, to ensure it is fully operational and successfully and efficiently implements the project in conformity with the Financing Agreement, project document and the implementation manuals (Administrative, Procurement and Accounting Manual, Social Registry Manual, and Social Transfer Programs Manuals). Specifically, this component will support:
 - a. *Core administrative project staff*, including a Project operational coordinator and fiduciary specialists (procurement and financial management) who will be located in the Tadamoun Agency and support all Project activities (the technical staff for the Social Registry and the Tekavoul and Elmaouna programs are supported under Components 1 and 2 respectively).
 - b. *Equipment and operating costs* directly linked to the daily management of the Project (utilities and supplies, communications, equipment maintenance costs, etc.).

- c. *Regular internal and external audits* (focusing on financial and procurement aspects).
- d. *Training* for the Project operational support team.
- e. *Costs associated with Project reporting*, including a mid-term review involving stakeholders and civil society.

B. Project Cost and Financing

20. The Project has a total cost of US\$31.3 million. It will be financed with an IDA grant (US\$15.0 million equivalent), a grant from the Sahel Adaptive Social Protection MDTF (US\$6.3 million including US\$ 2.3 million from the Additional Financing) and US\$10.0 million counterpart funding from the Government of Mauritania.

Table 1: Overall project costs (US\$ millions)

Project Components	Total Project	IDA	Counterpart funding	ASP Grant	From AF
Component 1 : Support to the national social safety net system	4.3	2.0	1.0	1.3	0.3
1.1. Social Registry	3.3	1.5	1.0	0.8	0.3
1.2. Support implementation of the national social protection strategy	1.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	0
Component 2 : Support to the Social Transfer Program	25.0	12.0	8.0	5.0	2.0
2.1. Design of program tools and processes	1.5	1.0	0.0	0.5	0
Operational costs and M&E	2.5	1.5	1.0	0.0	0
2.2. Payment of transfers to beneficiaries	17.0	8.0	6.0	3.0	2.0
2.3. Promotion of investment in human capital and resilience	4.0	1.5	1.0	1.5	0
Component 3: Project Management	2.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Total Project Costs	31.3	15.0	10.0	6.3	2.3
Front –end fees					
Total Financing required	31.3	15.0	10.0	6.3	2.3



21. Over time, the Project will aim to also leverage significant additional resources from both Government and the donor community. The national cash transfer program will expand and serve as a channel for additional Government resources. Furthermore, the donor community has expressed keen interest in the national cash transfer program, and preliminary discussions have taken place on leveraging additional financing from these sources also. Overall, the Social Registry and the safety net programs seek to support all extreme poor households in Mauritania, for a total cost of approximately US\$60.0 million over the initial 5-year period of this Project.

E. Implementation

A. Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

22. The overall implementation arrangements for the proposed Project include the following:
- a. The Steering Committee for the Social Protection National Strategy (SNPS): provides strategic guidance for the overall SNPS.
 - b. The Strategic orientation and monitoring Committee: Chaired by the MEF General Secretary, the Committee meets quarterly and provides strategic direction of the project
 - c. The project national coordinator: responsible for the technical coordination of the Project.
 - d. The Tadamoun Agency: responsible for the implementation of the Project.
23. The decision to trust implementation of the Project to the Tadamoun Agency is based on the mandate and overall capacity of the institution, including at the local level. It is also based on the institution's willingness to mainstream the Project into its core activities through the mainstreaming of its fiduciary functions and regional offices. This will allow the Project's learning and capacity-building agenda to contribute to strengthening the Agency's overall capacity, and will also foster the integration of the social transfer program within the Agency's existing programming, which focuses on small-scale social infrastructure (schools and health posts) and livelihoods activities.

B. Results Monitoring and Evaluation

24. Monitoring and evaluation is a key element of the Project, because it provides the regular assessment of the Project's performance to the Government, the World Bank and other development partners. In this Project, one of the core elements of both Component 1 and Component 2 is to build the capacity within the Government of Mauritania to monitor its programs. In particular, the proposed Project supports the development of Management and Information Systems for the Social Registry and the safety net programs that will allow the implementing institutions to manage and monitor the implementation of their programs.
25. In addition, the proposed Project includes a series of monitoring and evaluation activities for the Social Registry and the safety net programs. These include: process evaluations; beneficiary surveys to evaluate the quality of implementation (spot-checks), the efficiency of the targeting, and the overall satisfaction with the registry and program. Finally, the implementing agency will organize annual financial audits for the Project, annual reviews of progress, and a mid-term evaluation to guide the Project implementation. The mid-term review will involve the Project's stakeholders and civil society in the review of performance, intermediary results, and outcomes.



26. *Impact Evaluation.* The Tekavoul program will undergo a rigorous impact evaluation to measure its impacts on beneficiaries, in particular: (i) the impact of Tekavoul on household living conditions, health, nutrition and education of children, (ii) the impact of social promotion activities on the adoption of new behaviors in hygiene, nutrition and parenting practices, (iii) the impact of Tekavoul's combination with productive support measures, (iv) the grievance redress mechanism, and (v) the impact of variants of the productive support package (with or without psycho-social support, with or without a subsidy).

C. Sustainability

27. The Government of Mauritania has shown its commitment to the implementation of this strategy – by setting up a Social registry Direction in the Ministry of Economy and Finance, putting in place an Inter-Ministerial Committee to supervise the strategy implementation presided by the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Ministry of Social Affairs, of the Child and of the Family (*Ministère des affaires Sociales de l'Enfance et de la Famille MASEF*), and selecting the Tadamoun Agency and the Food Security Office to implement respectively Tekavoul's program and Elmaouna program. The Government has also committed to finance the expansion of the program to all extreme poor households, to complement the support provided by the IDA project. As part of its commitment to support targeted, efficient, social protection programs, the Government has engaged in the reform of its universal subsidies (including the successful reduction of oil subsidies). In addition to reductions in fiscal spending, this reform would also free resources for the transfer program, as a mechanism to mitigate the impact of reforms on the poor.
28. The donor community in Mauritania has gathered around the SNPS and committed to support its implementation. They have provided coordinated technical support to the definition of the methodology for the SR and the STP, and have committed to using the SR to target their own interventions. The SR methodology builds on their past experience, and has been developed in consultation with all actors, under the guidance of the Technical Committee for the implementation of the SNPS. The questionnaires used for the SR were consensually developed to include the key variables that different partners typically use for their targeting purposes, thereby ensuring the SR's versatility.
29. The project is committed to improving the claims aspects by enhancing the effectiveness of the processing system. An operational grievance redress mechanism will be put in place to ensure efficient, diligent and transparency on claims processing. The approach will be inclusive and participative. The program will also aim to monitor any gender-based violence that may arise from project intervention within households.

F. Project location and Salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)



G. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Tracy Hart, Environmental Specialist
Medou Lo, Environmental Specialist
Mamadou Moustapha Ndoye, Social Specialist

SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	No	
Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities OP/BP 4.03	No	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	No	
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	No	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	No	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	

KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

Safeguards issues and their management will remain unchanged under this AF. The project will continue to be classified under Category C (Not Required) according to the World Bank's Operation Policy and procedures on Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01).

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:

N/A



3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.

N/A

4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.

N/A

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.

N/A

B. Disclosure Requirements (N.B. The sections below appear only if corresponding safeguard policy is triggered)

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level (to be filled in when the ISDS is finalized by the project decision meeting) (N.B. The sections below appear only if corresponding safeguard policy is triggered)

CONTACT POINT

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Implementing Agencies



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