



Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

Appraisal Stage

(ESRS Appraisal Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 11/13/2023 | Report No: ERSR02931



I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Operation Data

Operation ID	Product	Operation Acronym	Approval Fiscal Year
P179558	Investment Project Financing (IPF)	INAYA Elargi	2024
Operation Name	Advancing Universal Health Coverage Program for Human Capital in Mauritania		
Country/Region Code	Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient)	Region	Practice Area (Lead)
Mauritania	Mauritania	WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA	Health, Nutrition & Population
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Ministry of Health	29-Jan-2024	29-Feb-2024
Estimated Decision Review Date	Total Project Cost		
04-Dec-2023	87,300,000.00		

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Proposed Development Objective

Project Development Objective (PDO) is to improve the accessibility, quality and use of reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, and adolescent health and nutrition services in the selected regions, and in case of an Eligible Crisis or Emergency, to respond promptly and effectively to it.

B. Is the operation being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?

No

C. Summary Description of Proposed Project Activities

[Description imported from the PAD Data Sheet in the Portal providing information about the key aspects and components/sub-components of the project]

By implementing the MPA program, the government will facilitate the attainment of its national objective to provide universal access to essential quality health and nutrition services and protection against financial risks associated with illness, without any forms of exclusion or discrimination, and with the population's full participation. The first phase of the proposed program aims to increase the quality and use of essential reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and



adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAH-N) services. To increase the quality and coverage of essential health services, the project will help scale-up performance-based financing (PBF), using financial incentives to improve health facility performance and motivate health service providers. Furthermore, the first phase involves transitioning the RBF program to a national program with an organizational structure mandated by national authorities. Moreover, the program will support strengthening community-driven interventions for promotive and preventive care, making use of the existing community structures and health workers at the community level, and targeting the most vulnerable populations. The first phase of operations comprises four components that aim to improve the utilization of quality RMNCAH-N services in selected regions that are most deprived in Mauritania. Component 1: Improve quality and use of RMNCAH-N services. This component will have two sub-components: (i) Improve delivery of quality RMNCAH-N services, using PBF; and (ii) Improve equity in use of RMNCAH-N services. Component 2: Strengthen health systems. This component will support the government to prepare for and implement the health sector reforms and to strengthen institutional capacity to use data for evidence-based decision making towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). This component will have three sub-components: (i) Organize and regulate health systems; (ii) Ensure health facilities meeting standards; and (iii) Increase national capacity for pandemic preparedness, prevention, and response. Component 3: Project management and monitoring and evaluation. This component will finance operating costs of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU), including salaries of consultants and regular monitoring and supportive supervision. Component 4: Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC). A CERC is included in the project in accordance with Investment Project Financing (IPF) Policy, paragraphs 12 and 13, for Situations of Urgent Need of Assistance and Capacity Constraints. This will allow for rapid reallocation of [loan/credit/grant] uncommitted funds in the event of an eligible emergency as defined in OP 8.00. A CERC Manual will guide the activation and implementation of the CERC, and an Emergency Action Plan will be prepared to confirm activities and financing for a specific event. The Window for Host Communities and Refugees (WHR) funds reallocated to the CERC will only be used to benefit refugees and host communities.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings

[Description of key features relevant to the operation's environmental and social risks and opportunities (e.g., whether the project is nationwide or regional in scope, urban/rural, in an FCV context, presence of Indigenous Peoples or other minorities, involves associated facilities, high-biodiversity settings, etc.) – Max. character limit 10,000]

The project will cover the regions of Guidimakha, Hodh Ech Chargui, Hodh El Gharbi, Assaba, Brakna, Tagant, Trarza, Gorgol, and Inchiri. Mauritania faces significant challenges in its health sector, including poor maternal and child health outcomes, limited access to healthcare for children, high rates of malnutrition and noncommunicable diseases, and inefficient healthcare financing. The government has implemented a National Action Plan on Health Security and is reforming healthcare financing to improve universal health coverage and transparency. Efforts are also being made to expand health insurance coverage. The World Bank-supported INAYA project has played a crucial role in increasing access to essential healthcare and nutrition services for vulnerable populations, including refugees. By utilizing financial incentives, the project enhances the autonomy and performance of healthcare facilities, promoting equity in healthcare provision. These combined efforts demonstrate a commitment to strengthening the healthcare system and ensuring the well-being of all individuals in Mauritania.

D.2 Overview of Borrower's Institutional Capacity for Managing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

[Description of Borrower's capacity (i.e., prior performance under the Safeguard Policies or ESF, experience applying E&S policies of IFIs, Environmental and social unit/staff already in place) and willingness to manage risks and impacts and of



provisions planned or required to have capabilities in place, along with the needs for enhanced support to the Borrower – Max. character limit 10,000]

The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Health, which is already implementing the INAYA project (P156165) to be closed soon. The Ministry of Health has experience implementing health projects using the World Bank Operational Policy on environmental and social safeguards, (INAYA), as well as projects using the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), through the COVID-19 project (P173837). The two projects are being implemented by the same ministry but with different PIUs. The environmental and social performance to support the management of environmental and social risk and impacts under INAYA I has been assessed as moderately satisfactory. The current INAYA project team has one environmental consultant and one Social consultant who are helping with the preparation of required E&S instruments. For the purpose of INAYA II, an environmental and social specialist will be recruited. Bank team will work closely with the E&S to be recruited to build needed capacity regarding E&S risks and impacts management under ESF. Based on the assessment of the current INAYA project, improvement is needed in regular monitoring of activities on the field, the environmental and social screening process, as well as regarding E&S reporting.

II. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Moderate

A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Moderate

[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating, in accordance with the ES Directive and the Technical Note on Screening and Risk Classification under the ESF – Max. character limit 4,000]

The environmental risk classification for the project is moderate under the World Bank ESF. Main environment related risks will be linked to the management of the increase in biomedical waste as a result of the increase in the use of health services; and occupational health and safety (OHS) related to (i) working conditions in health centers and hospitals and (ii) small scale civil works such as upgrading water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities in some primary health care centers. All these risks and impacts will be assessed and managed through the environmental and social instruments.

A.2 Social Risk Rating

Moderate

[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating, in accordance with the ES Directive and the Technical Note on Screening and Risk Classification under the ESF – Max. character limit 4,000]

The social risk classification for the project is moderate based on risks that could arise as a result of project activities under sub-component 2. These risks include: i) a potential social risk related to marginalized, vulnerable or remote social groups being unable to access health screening services ; ii) the exclusion and discrimination of certain categories of people, such as vulnerable refugees, from access to basic social services as health; iii) risks of an increase in Female Genital Mutilation practices consideration the already high rate in the project area and the potential use of community volunteers; iv) labor conditions; v) risks of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual harassment (SEA/SH), including gender-based violence, related to the distribution of cash within households (risk of disputes, risk of tensions, risk of misuse of objectives, etc.). While these issues could occur, they are not expected to happen on a large scale, nor are they expected to be significant because of the design of the project.

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[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating. This attribute is only for the internal version of the download document and not a part of the disclosable version – Max. character limit 8,000]

B. Environment and Social Standards (ESS) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered

B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards

ESS1 - Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts will be required for activities under components 1, 2 and 3. These activities will entail risks related to the increase of biomedical waste, and OHS related to working conditions. However, the challenge of protecting and empowering refugees and improving the resilience of host populations could include social risks during the implementation. To manage these risks, the project has updated the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) prepared for the INAYA (P156165) project under the Bank’s Operational safeguard Policies, using the Bank Environmental and social Framework (ESF), and shall be disclosed prior to project Appraisal. The project will prepare and disclose by negotiations a new national biomedical waste management plan, as the validity of the one used for INAYA I has expired (five years). The project being based on the Performance Based Financing (PBF) as mechanism to increase outputs, quality and coverage of health services using financial incentives to improve health system performance and motivate health care providers, the ESMF provides a screening process of all activities, including civil works if needed at some points of the project implementation. The update of the ESMF takes into consideration the current environmental and social contexts, integrating lessons learnt and outcomes of any environmental and social audits and/or completion reports. Implementation of the Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) can cause impacts and risks too. An addendum CERC-ESMF will be prepared, as early as possible during project implementation, to guide the management of potential risks and impacts related to the implementation of CERC activities, including guidance on the E&S screening process. A stakeholder engagement plan (SEP), including the project Grievance Mechanism (GM), was prepared prior to project appraisal. It outlines a structured approach for community outreach and two-way engagement with stakeholders, in appropriate languages, and adopting measures to include vulnerable and disadvantaged groups (poor, disabled, elderly, isolated communities, refugees), and will be based upon meaningful consultation and disclosure of appropriate information. The Borrower has also prepared an Environmental and Social Engagement Plan (ESCP). It provides clear measures, timeline and define responsibilities, including commitments regarding subsequent E&S instruments preparation.

ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

This ESS is relevant. Main stakeholders include: The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Promotion of Productive Sectors, the Ministry of Health (MoH), the community health committees, community agents, community-based organizations (CBOs), social and behavioral change communication (SBCC); United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF); the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Taazour Agency; Health Association, and key civil-society organizations. The Borrower prepared a SEP in a manner that is accessible and appropriate, considering any specific needs of groups that may be



differentially or disproportionately affected by the project. The SEP outlines: a) the key stakeholders; b) stakeholder engagement methods, tools, techniques, and channels such as key message dissemination through community-based organizations, radio and social media; c) how often the engagement will occur throughout the project; d) how feedback will be solicited, recorded and monitored over the project; e) who will be charged/responsible with this engagement; f) timeline for this engagement; g) resources for engagement. Particular attention is given to identifying and providing tailored sensitive stakeholder engagement opportunities to vulnerable groups, disadvantaged and remote communities. The SEP will be disclosed prior to appraisal and updated as relevant throughout implementation. The Grievance Mechanism (GM) described in the SEP is an update of the existing GM for the INAYA 1 project, to address grievances and receive feedback from all stakeholders and beneficiaries in a timely manner and following due process. The GM will be cognizant of and follow required levels of discretion, and appropriateness, especially when dealing with cases of sexual harassment and GBV. The GM will be accessible to all stakeholders, especially poor and vulnerable people.

ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions

Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

The existing Project implementing agency is staffed with direct and indirect workers and civil servants. The current INAYA project was prepared under the Operational safeguard policies and does not have labour management procedures. Prior to negotiations, the Borrower will prepare Labour Management Procedures (LMP) which will include measures to ensure that the health and safety of workers, especially women are given adequate attention. As direct workers performing critical project functions, requirements under ESS2 will be applicable to both the PIU and relevant results-based finance institutions. Key issues to be addressed in the Labor Management Procedures include terms and conditions of employment, nondiscrimination and equal opportunity, worker's organizations. Due diligence is also needed to ensure Borrower meets requirements on child labor, forced labor and occupational health and safety. Civil servants will be bound by their public sector contracts unless their contract has been transferred to the project. Provisions regarding forced and child labor and occupational health and safety will also apply to civil servants. As the Project intends to provide support to the Community Health System through different categories of workers including community health workers (CHWs), community agents, and volunteers, the LMP will be prepared accordingly and not be limited to civil servants. The LMP will also have the details of the grievance redress mechanism for workers and the roles and responsibilities for monitoring such workers.

ESS3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

Medical wastes and general wastes from the health care facilities have a high potential of carrying microorganisms that can infect the community at large if they are not properly disposed of. There is a possibility for the infectious microorganism to be introduced into the environment if not well contained within the health care facilities. Biomedical waste is mainly expected from the increase of people having access to health care facilities. The project will prepare by negotiations a new national biomedical waste management plan, as the validity of the one used for INAYA I has expired. taking into consideration the purchase of equipment, commodities, and medications planned, that may be totally different from the previous projects. It must help beneficiary centers, hospital to implement good practices in terms of the management of Biomedical Waste, also in line with the world Bank group ESSH guidance for

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medical facilities. The Borrower will ensure that Biomedical Waste Management (BWM) system is environmentally friendly.

ESS4 - Community Health and Safety

Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

This ESS is relevant, poorly managed biomedical waste could pose harm to surrounding communities or patients coming to the primary health facilities and hospitals. The Biomedical Waste Management Plan will take account measure to protect healthcare professionals and patients. It will also take into consideration the climate vulnerability of the sites to prevent contamination of natural resources, especially surface and groundwater, in case of extreme events such as flooding.

ESS5 - Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

Not Currently Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

This ESS is not considered relevant at this point as the project will not support activities that involve land acquisition or lead to physical and/or economic displacement. In case there is a need for land acquisition leading to economic or physical displacement during project implementation, site-specific Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) would be developed to the satisfaction of the Bank and implemented prior to commencement of any civil works/construction.

ESS6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Not Currently Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

This ESS in not currently relevant. The confirmation will be provided at Appraisal stage. No planned activity is expected to impact Biodiversity conservation and sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources.

ESS7 - Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

Not Currently Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

This standard is not considered relevant as there are no Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities currently identified in the project area. Should the presence of indigenous communities be confirmed through further screening during implementation, the necessary assessments, consultations, and instruments will be undertaken per the requirements of this standard.

ESS8 - Cultural Heritage

Not Currently Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

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The project is planning upgrading of WASH facilities in certain health centers. This activity will certainly involve excavations. Therefore this standard is relevant. The ESMF provides guidance regarding the management of chances finds during civil works, which will also be reflected in site specific ESMPs.

ESS9 - Financial Intermediaries

Not Currently Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

This standard is not relevant for the suggested project interventions as no financial intermediaries will be used.

B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Operations on International Waterways

No

OP 7.60 Operations in Disputed Areas

No

B.3 Other Salient Features

Use of Borrower Framework

No

[Explanation including areas where "Use of Borrower Framework" is being considered - Max. character limit 10,000]

The project will not use the Borrower environmental and social framework in assessments or development and implementation of investments. However, it will comply with all relevant national environmental and social legal requirements.

Use of Common Approach

No

[Explanation including list of possible financing partners – Max. character limit 4,000]

N/A

B.4 Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

[Description provided will not be disclosed but will flow as a one time flow to the Appraisal Stage PID and PAD – Max. character limit 10,000]

The project is planning upgrading of WASH facilities in certain health centers. Potential E&S risks will be related to the increase of biomedical waste, occupational health and Safety related to work conditions, and possible discrimination against a particular subpopulation group. The current INAYA (P156165) Project’s Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) was updated to reflect assessment in line with the World Bank’s Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and provide guidance regarding the screening process of activities. A biomedical waste management plan will be prepared prior to project negotiations.

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C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities

C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required by implementation?

[Description of expectations in terms of documents to be prepared to assess and manage the project’s environmental and social risks and by when (i.e., prior to Effectiveness, or during implementation), highlighted features of ESA documents, other project documents where environmental and social measures are to be included, and the related due diligence process planned to be carried out by the World Bank, including sources of information for the due diligence - Max. character limit 10,000]

N/A

III. CONTACT POINT

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V. APPROVAL

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