

**PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)
IDENTIFICATION/CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No.: PIDC95615

Project Name	
Region	AFRICA
Country	Mauritania
Lending Instrument	IPF
Project ID	P162168
Borrower Name	Eco-développement
Implementing Agency	Eco-développement
Environment Category	C - Not Required
Date PID Prepared	30-Nov-2016
Estimated Date of Approval	15-Dec-2016
Initiation Note Review Decision	The review did authorize the preparation to continue

I. Introduction and Context

Country Context

Mauritania is a mostly desert country with a population of about 3.5 million. It is a modest oil producer and has a wealth of natural resources, particularly in the mining sector. Mauritania's waters have some of the most abundant fish stocks in the world. It faces multiple development challenges that include the efficient use of revenue derived from natural resources, competitiveness, diversification, and poor governance.

After a military coup followed by a transition to democracy in 2005-2006, the country's authorities engaged in constructive dialogue with development partners. Mauritania was granted debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). Following another military coup in 2008, the international community suspended most of its activities in the country. The World Bank reengaged in September 2009, following elections that led to the formation of a national unity government and the lifting of international sanctions. In the past several years, Mauritania has enjoyed political stability with the June 2014 presidential elections taking place peacefully.

Despite robust economic growth, Mauritania's poverty rate remains high, particularly in rural areas. The main constraints to poverty reduction are low productivity of the rural economy, a lack of human capital-intensive sectors, governance issues, the quality of public services, and vulnerability to exogenous shocks. Mauritania ranks 156th among 188 countries on the United Nations Human Development Index. Mauritania's competitiveness is hampered by a small formal economic base, a lack of diversification, and a weak legal framework.

Reducing inequalities and tackling wealth redistribution are key challenges that Mauritania can overcome, provided that it continues its commitment to good governance, particularly in the mining

sector and in the supervision of State enterprises. Good governance also plays a key role in strengthening social resilience in order to facilitate the improvement of public services such as health and education services, particularly in the areas of maternal health, infant and child mortality, and combating hunger.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

Education can be mobilized as a significant tool for reducing poverty and inequality and laying the ground for sustained economic growth. The government of Mauritania recently allocated additional funding for education and expenses for primary education represent 44% of the total sector expenses. However, the country remains far from reaching universal basic education objectives, as a significant proportion of children (around 20%) are not enrolled in school and a large proportion of those who are enrolled drop out before completing their cycle, reducing substantially their chances to acquire the basis of a sustainable education (completion rate at primary education is around 61%).

The schooling conditions remain difficult with broken-down facilities, lack of table benches, incomplete schools, and little school supplies. Education quality remains a major concern for parents as the pupils acquisition level in Mauritania is very low given the fact that the average curriculum acquisition rate by the pupils at the primary school is between 33 and 50%. The government lacks mechanisms for systematically listening to citizens' claims, and civil society does not have necessary capacity for meaningful dialogue, advocacy or other public action towards improvement of basic education public service.

Relationship to CAS/CPS/CPF

The proposed project is aligned with the World Bank's Mauritania Country Partnership Strategy (FY14-FY16) by directly contributing to outcomes 8A and 11. The former focus on improving the quality of basic education and the latter on improving financial management at decentralized/local government levels. More specifically, by monitoring the implementation of the basic education budget, the project will contribute to improving educational outcomes by generating efficiencies in education spending and by improving accountability of local governments.

II. Project Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The Project's objective is to improve budget transparency in basic education by monitoring implementation of the budget and evaluating the quality of the services provided at the local level using online and offline social accountability tools.

Key Results

The PDO level indicators for the project are:

- Increased interaction and collaboration between stakeholders at the local level for co-production of information to improve basic education in schools.
- Increased number of actions informed by citizen monitoring to improve budget transparency and education services.

III. Preliminary Description

Concept Description

IV. Safeguard Policies that Might Apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01		x	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		x	
Forests OP/BP 4.36		x	
Pest Management OP 4.09		x	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		x	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		x	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12		x	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		x	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		x	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		x	

V. Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	0.605	Total Bank Financing:	0
Financing Gap:	0		
Financing Source			Amount
Global Partnership for Social Accountability			0.605

VI. Contact point

World Bank

Contact: Josef S. Trommer
 Title: Senior Operations Officer
 Tel: 473-6242
 Email: jtrommer@worldbank.org

Contact: Sheikh Alhaji Yayah Sesay
 Title: Operations Officer
 Tel: 5342+3319
 Email: ssesay@worldbank.org

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Name: Eco-développement
 Contact: Sidi Med Lemine Khalifou
 Title: Chairman of Ecodev
 Tel: 22222314609
 Email: sidiml.khalifou@ecodev.mr

Implementing Agencies

Name: Eco-développement
 Contact: Sidi Med Lemine Khalifou
 Title: Chairman of Ecodev
 Tel: 22222314609

Email: sidiml.khalifou@ecodev.mr

VII. For more information contact:

The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 473-1000
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

Public Disclosure Copy

Public Disclosure Copy