

# MAURITANIA

## Summary of SASPP-Supported Projects

December 2024

This project summary for Mauritania includes the following sections:

(1) project development objective, (2) financing, (3) components, and (4) results framework. An annex provides the project costs by component.

### 1. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

SASPP activities in Mauritania are anchored in the Social Safety Net System Project II (SSNSP). The project development objective of the SSNSP is to increase the **effectiveness and efficiency of the nationwide adaptive social safety net system and its coverage** of poor and vulnerable households with targeted social transfers, **including in refugee and host communities**.

### 2. FINANCING

Project	Approval Date	Closing Date	Financing Source	Financing (US\$ million)
<a href="#">Social Safety Net System Project II</a> (P171125)	10-Mar-2020	30-Sept-2025	IDA	45.00
			SASPP	7.00
			Government	20.00
<a href="#">Additional Financing for the Social Safety Net System Project II</a> (P175778)	17-Mar-2021	30-Sept-2025	SASPP	13.00
<a href="#">Second Additional Financing for the Social Safety Net System Project II</a> (P181523)	25-April-2024	30-Sept-2026	IDA	26.00
			SASPP	10.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>121.00</b>

The project has also benefited from two parallel co-financings from AFD in March 2022 and December 2022 for a total amount of €7.5 million.

## 3. PROJECT COMPONENTS

### About the project

**This project aims to strengthen and expand the social safety net system in Mauritania to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty.** It builds on the outcomes of the now closed Mauritania Social Safety Net System Project (P150430), which supported the establishment of a national social registry to target poor and vulnerable households, the implementation of a national Social Transfer Program (Tekavoul), and the creation of a shock-responsive social safety nets program (Elmaouna) to assist food-insecure households during the lean season. The four components listed in the following pages constitute its framework.

**The Second Additional Financing will scale up existing activities in line with the government's strategic vision for an integrated adaptive social protection system.** It will continue to focus on increasing access to safety nets, building households' resilience to shocks, and encouraging investment in human capital, particularly in health and education. The project will support Mauritania in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) towards climate change mitigation and adaptation.

### Project beneficiaries and target areas

**The project is supporting the updating of the social registry across the entire territory of Mauritania, ensuring comprehensive coverage.** As of November 2024, more than 305,000 of the poorest households have been registered in the social registry, surpassing the target of 200,000 households. A comprehensive update and expansion of the national social registry is currently underway, with more detailed information being collected for the bottom 40% of the poorest households in the country. Registered households are indirect beneficiaries, who could become eligible to benefit from social programs using the social registry.

**The safety net program Tekavoul operates with national coverage, delivering consistent activities across all regions.** These include cash transfers and human capital accompanying measures. The Tekavoul program currently supports more than 140,000 households, including refugee households and households in host communities, and recently beneficiaries in Nouakchott. The program is mostly funded by the Government's own budget and the project is supporting 54,861 of these households (including 7,214 refugee households and 10,215 households in host communities), far exceeding its 45,000 households' target. Additionally, the government almost doubled the nominal transfer value between 2020 and 2023, and in 2024, increased up to 3,600 MRU (~US\$77.84). The project's second additional financing will continue this support and has ensured that this nominal transfer value increase is also provided to refugees benefiting from the program (the second additional financing will support an additional 5,000 vulnerable refugee households in and outside of the Mbera camp). Finally, some beneficiaries identified to exit the program have also received economic inclusion activities.

**Shock-responsive programs (Elmaouna and Tekavoul choc) are directed at poor and vulnerable households in areas identified annually by the early warning system.** The project has provided support to 184,165 vulnerable households with shock-responsive transfers, far exceeding the initial target of 24,000 households. In 2021, the project also contributed to the second national COVID-19 intervention by supporting 91,000 vulnerable households with a one-off monetary transfer; and Elmaouna significantly scaled up its interventions during the 2022 lean season, reaching 71,971 food insecure households. The funding sources for these activities vary: while most beneficiaries are supported by the government's budget, others are financed by the SASPP and World Bank (IDA) project. Finally, the project will support an additional (potentially overlapping partly with regular social safety nets) 15,000 vulnerable households affected by food insecurity and floods.

Across all activities, the project will continue to strengthen its gender approach, including addressing key gender gaps. It further aims to significantly enhance the inclusion of people living with disability.

## Component 1:

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### Updating and Enhancing the Social Registry

(Total budget US\$9.1 million, of which \$5.3 million IDA, \$2.3 million SASPP, and US\$1.5 million government)

This component supports the Taazour General Delegation to implement a full update of the social registry, the inclusion of eligible refugee households, and its use for operational and strategic purposes.

### Subcomponent 1.1:

#### Updating and expanding the Social Registry

**This subcomponent aims to support the updating of the social registry in Mauritania, including the entire process of community targeting, data collection, and verification stage.** It finances some of the costs related to community targeting, socio-economic data collection, and quality insurance. The objective is to complete a full update every three years, with about 67,000 households registered per year. The inclusion of poor refugee households in the social registry is a positive step towards coordination between humanitarian actors and the government. The methodology to identify poor refugee households is based on the profiling work carried out by the UNHCR and WFP.

**The second additional financing will continue to support for the social registry update and expansion, implemented by the Taazour General Delegation, which began in 2022.** The update is already complete in 55 Moughataas (departments), with the final Moughataa set to be completed by the end of January 2025. The government will also scale up the social registry from its original target of 200,000 to 300,000 households, equivalent to all households in the bottom two quintiles. It will also support the development and piloting of a strategy for the continuous update of the social registry to make it more dynamic, enabling households in need to register or update their eligibility status at any time, including refugees. This is essential to ensure programs have access to relevant and current information to target their programs, particularly shock-response programs.

### Subcomponent 1.2:

#### Promoting the use of the Social Registry

**This subcomponent aims to enhance the use of the social registry in Mauritania both at operational and strategic levels through three activities:** (a) piloting a household social registry identification card, (b) strengthening communication and outreach efforts, and (c) providing capacity building for promoting the use of the social registry for planning. The household social registry identification card will allow prioritization of households in the social registry for certain interventions. This subcomponent also supports the Social Registry Directorate to scale-up its communication and outreach efforts while strengthening data protection. It finances the costs associated with the pilot social registry card, outreach strategy development, and capacity building.

## Component 2:

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### Enhancing the socio-economic inclusion of poor households

(Total budget US\$70.4 million, of which \$47.2 million IDA, US\$6.5 million SASPP, and US\$16.7 million government)

This component aims to support efforts addressing the challenges that hinder the socioeconomic inclusion of the poorest households.

## Subcomponent 2.1: Scale-up the Tekavoul program

**This subcomponent supports the expansion of the National Social Transfer Program, Tekavoul, contributing to the national program with support to 54,681 households, including 7,500 refugees and 10,512 host community households.** The subcomponent finances some of the costs of the monetary transfers, payment fees, and operating costs for social promotion. The second additional financing will allow the project to maintain its commitments to beneficiaries in terms of sustaining regular cash transfers for recipients, financing quarterly transfers up to 1,500 MRU (US\$40 equivalent) and social promotion activities for 2024 and 2025 to existing beneficiaries. This complements government's financing of the rest of the total quarterly transfer (3,600 MRU). The second additional financing will also support efforts addressing challenges associated with the timeliness of payments by streamlining the process. It will also support a scale up of Tekavoul to an additional 5,000 refugee households (to reach a total of 12,500 households supported by Tekavoul) and an increase in the transfer amount for refugee households to align with the value for non-refugee households (3,600 MRU). Lastly, the second additional financing will support a scale up of economic inclusion measures to support 5,000 Tekavoul host communities and refugee households.

## Subcomponent 2.2: Re-certification and development of an exit strategy for Tekavoul

**This subcomponent supports the design of a re-certification strategy for the Tekavoul program,** with households still classified as poor or extreme poor re-enrolled for a new five-year cycle of support, and those found to be no longer eligible exiting the program and receiving an economic inclusion package. The economic inclusion package consists of training on life skills and referral of specific household members to existing economic inclusion programs available in their district. The subcomponent finances the development of materials to include economic inclusion in the social promotion curriculum, the complementary mentoring package to accompany the households for six months after Tekavoul transfers end, and a referral system and partnerships with ongoing programs.

**The second additional financing will contribute to economic inclusion measures for approximately 6,000 households exiting the program, particularly women.** The package of economic inclusion measures builds on the lessons learned from an earlier pilot which was rigorously evaluated, and on efforts to consolidate economic inclusion programs in the country. It consists of three phases: (i) pre-creation support; (ii) monetary grants; and (iii) post-creation support.

## Subcomponent 2.3: Facilitating civil registration

**This subcomponent explores ways to help Tekavoul beneficiaries obtain a National Identity Number and supports a pilot intervention to build lessons learned.** It addresses demand-side barriers such as limited awareness of ID benefits, and supply-side barriers such as gaps in staff capacity regarding legal requirements. The approach will be collaborative, involving actors such as the National Agency for Identification and Population Registration (ANRPTS), Taazour, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, and UNICEF, which provides technical assistance. The subcomponent finances costs related to mobile units, communication tools, evaluation, and participative workshops. The second additional financing will also support the ANRPTS to facilitate the registration of Tekavoul beneficiary households in the civil registry, including through community outreach sessions and the coordination with all actors involved in the civil registration process.

## Component 3:

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### Strengthening the shock responsive system for households vulnerable to climate and other covariate shocks

(Total budget US\$36.1 million, of which \$US14.8 million IDA and US\$21.3 million SASPP)

This component aims to strengthen the government-led shock response system in its mandate to support vulnerable households in coping with climate shocks causing food and nutritional insecurity.

#### Subcomponent 3.1:

##### Enhancing the early warning system and the shock response coordination

**This subcomponent aims to strengthen the capacity of the Food Security Observatory (OSA) to run the early warning systems for climate-related hazards.** It supports primary data collection, data analysis, and the development of a food insecurity prediction model. Additionally, the subcomponent supports the establishment of the shock response coordination framework and helps operationalize this framework through capacity building and other activities. This will be achieved by supporting the government's roadmap for setting up a joint committee, the preparation of draft decrees and regulations, and the development of standardized operating procedures, among other things.

#### Subcomponent 3.2:

##### Supporting the implementation of shock-responsive safety net programs

**This subcomponent aims to support the implementation of shock-responsive safety net programs through three activities:**

- (1) Implementation of the Elmaouna program. The transfer amount varies according to the number of individuals in each household, with an average transfer of 2,700 MRU (US\$67) per month over the course of four months.
- (2) Implementation of Tekavoul Choc, a shock-responsive component that expands the Tekavoul program to respond to shocks expanding vertically (temporary transfer increase) and horizontally (increase in number of beneficiaries) in areas where Elmaouna does not provide support.
- (3) Foster the use of a common payment platform by actors involved in the shock response, building on the nationwide electronic payment platform established by Tekavoul, which can be used by other social programs. Elmaouna has been using the platform since 2017 and WFP tested it in 2018. The subcomponent supports the development of tools and covers fees for NGOs and UN agencies to use the payment platform.

**The second additional financing will support the scale up of the shock responsive programs – Elmaouna and Tekavoul Choc – in 2024 and 2025.** This component will support the government in reaching an additional 15,000 vulnerable households affected by either floods or climate-induced food insecurity during the lean season with shock-responsive transfer channeled via the FNRCAN financing mechanism. This will complement government and development partners' contributions to the FNRCAN and contribute to establishing the FNRCAN as the main financing vehicle for food security responses.

### **Subcomponent 3.3:**

#### **Designing a financing strategy to respond to shocks leading to food and nutrition insecurity**

**This subcomponent has two activities:** (1) contribute to the design of a financing strategy to respond to shocks leading to food and nutritional insecurity, and (2) support the establishment a Common Financial Vehicle to respond to those shocks. The subcomponent supports the government in designing a financing strategy related to shocks affecting food and nutrition security through a participatory process with stakeholders, including the African Development Bank and the WFP. It also supports the government in designing and formalizing the operational rules for the Common Financial Vehicle, which would cover shocks associated with climate-related events. The second additional financing will support the FNRCAN in its continued consolidation and advocacy, to ensure it becomes the unique financing mechanism for food insecurity crises.

### **Subcomponent 3.4:**

#### **Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC)**

**This CERC is included for situations of urgent need of assistance.** It will allow for rapid reallocation of project proceeds in the event of a natural or man-made disaster or crisis that has caused or is likely to imminently cause a major adverse economic and/or social impact. To trigger this component, the Government needs to declare an emergency or provide a statement of fact justifying the request for the activation of the use of emergency funding. To allocate funds to this component, the Government may request the World Bank to reallocate project funds to support response and reconstruction.

## **Component 4:**

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### **Project Coordination and Management**

(Total budget US\$5.4 million, of which US\$3.6 million IDA and US\$1.8 million government)

This component supports the management of the project, including fiduciary management, safeguard functions, and monitoring and evaluation. It supports administrative staff, equipment and operating costs, audits, training, and reporting, as well as activities included in the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan. The team also serves as a focal point for dialogue with other actors working with refugees and host populations.

## 4. RESULTS FRAMEWORK

(As of December 2024, date of latest intermediate results)

Project Development Objective Indicators				
Indicator	Unit of Measurement	Baseline (01-Jul-2020)	Actual (25-April-2024)	Target (30-Sept-2026)
<b>Objective: Increased effectiveness of the nationwide adaptive social safety net system.</b>				
Beneficiaries of the Elmaouna and Tekavoul Choc programs receiving shock responsive cash transfers on time	Percentage		n/a	80
<b>Objective: Increased efficiency of the nationwide adaptive social safety net system</b>				
Programs using the social registry to select their beneficiaries	Number	7	15	15
<b>Objective: Increased coverage of poor and vulnerable households with targeted social transfers, including in refugee and host communities</b>				
Beneficiaries of social safety net programs	Number	186,000	1,207,927	1,279,927
• Beneficiaries of social safety net programs - Female	Number	93,000	773,356	819,452
• Beneficiaries of social safety net programs - Refugees	Number	0	44,370	71,000
• Beneficiaries of social safety net programs - Host communities	Number	0	91,686	91,686
• Beneficiaries of social safety net programs - Persons with disability	Number	0	n/a	2,000
• Beneficiaries of social safety net programs - Youths	Number	73,700	481,479	510,178
Intermediate Results Indicators				
<b>Component 1: Updating and enhancing the Social Registry</b>				
Households with complete information in social registry	Number	150,000	187,234	300,000
• Households with complete information in the social registry - Refugee	Number	0	14,012	22,000
• Households with updated information in the social registry (less than 3 years)	Percentage	50.00	56.00	90.00
Cases from the social registry grievance redress mechanism resolved in a timely manner	Percentage	70.00	29.00	80.00
Spot-check surveys carried-out and disclosed publicly	Number	0	3	30
Community members reporting positive feedback on household registration outcome for the social registry	Percentage	0.00	0.00	80.00
<b>Component 2: Enhancing the socio-economic inclusion of poor households</b>				
Households benefiting from the national safety net program Tekavoul	Number	31,000	54,582	59,681
• Households benefiting from the national safety net program Tekavoul - Refugees and hosts	Number	0	17,442	22,548
• Beneficiaries receiving payments on time	Percentage	98.00	54.00	98.00

Cases from the Tekavoul grievance redress mechanism addressed in a timely manner	Percentage	70.00	95.00	80.00
Pilot activity to enhance civil registration among vulnerable population	Yes/No	No	No	Yes
Beneficiaries who participate in pre-creation training	Number	3,000	N/A	11,000
• Beneficiaries who participate in pre-creation training - Female	Number	0	N/A	8,800
• Beneficiaries who participate in pre-creation training - Refugees	Number	0	N/A	2,500
• Beneficiaries who participate in pre-creation training – Host communities	Number	0	N/A	2,500
Beneficiaries receiving the start-up grant and post-creation coaching	Number	0	N/A	10,500
• Beneficiaries receiving the start-up grant and post-creation coaching – Female	Number	0	N/A	8,400
• Beneficiaries receiving the start-up grant and post-creation coaching - Refugees	Number	0	N/A	2,300
• Beneficiaries receiving the start-up grant and post-creation coaching – Host communities	Number	0	N/A	2,300
Beneficiaries who started or expanded their economic activity following reception of the grant and training	Number	0	N/A	8,800
• Beneficiaries who started or expanded their economic activity following reception of the grant and training – Female	Number	0	N/A	7,400
• Beneficiaries who started or expanded their economic activity following reception of the grant and training - Refugees	Number	0	N/A	2,100
Beneficiaries who started or expanded their economic activity following reception of the grant and training – Host communities	Number	0	N/A	2,100
Millions of displaced people and people in host communities provided with services and livelihoods	Number	0	N/A	159,400
<b>Component 3: Strengthening the shock responsive system for households vulnerable to climate and other covariate shocks</b>				
Households benefiting from shock-responsive safety net programs supported by the project (cumulative)	Number	0	165,531	186,275
• Households benefiting from shock-responsive safety net programs supported by the project (cumulative) - Refugees and hosts	Number	0	17,423	20,000
• Households supported by the COVID-19 safety net intervention	Number	0	90,849	70,000
• Households benefiting from shock-responsive safety net programs supported by the project (cumulative) - flood response	Number	500	N/A	2,000
• Millions of people with enhanced resilience to climate risks	Number	0	N/A	1,117,650
Early warning system improved with the support of the project	Yes/No	No	No	Yes
The common financial vehicle has been established	Yes/No	No	No	Yes



## Annex 1: Financing by Components (in US\$ million equivalent)

Project Components	Original Project (P171125) *	First Additional Financing (P175778)	Second Additional Financing (P181523)	Total Budget
<b>1. Updating and enhancing social registry</b>	<b>6.3</b>	-	<b>2.8</b>	<b>9.1</b>
IDA	3.9	-	1.4	5.3
SASPP	<b>0.9</b>	-	<b>1.4</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Government	1.5	-		1.5
<b>2. Enhancing the socio-economic inclusion of poor households</b>	<b>44.9</b>	-	<b>25.5</b>	<b>70.4</b>
IDA	28.2	-	19.1	47.3
SASPP	-	-	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.4</b>
Government	16.7	-	-	16.7
<b>3. Strengthening the shock response system for households vulnerable to climate-shocks</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>36.1</b>
IDA	11.3	-	3.5	14.8
SASPP	<b>6.1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>21.3</b>
Government	-	-	-	-
<b>4. Project coordination and management</b>	<b>3.4</b>	-	<b>2.0</b>	<b>5.4</b>
IDA	1.6	-	2.0	3.6
SASPP	-	-	-	-
Government	1.8	-		1.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>121.0</b>

\*This reflects a reallocation of funds from the original budget reducing IDA's allocation by US\$ 1 million for Component 1 and by US\$ 6.3 million for Component 2 and increasing it by US\$ 6.3 million for Component 3 and by US\$ 1 million for Component 4.

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