

MAURITANIA

Summary of SASPP-Supported Projects

February 2023

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

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)
Social Safety Net System Project II (P171125)	10-Mar-2020	30-Sept-2025	IDA	45.0
			SASPP	7.0
			Government	20.0
Additional Financing for the Social Safety Net System Project II (P175778)	17-Mar-2021	30-Sept-2025	SASPP	13.0
Total				85.0

The project has also benefited from two parallel co-financings from AFD in April 2021 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 (SSN) 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 has established a social registry to target poor and vulnerable households, implemented a national social transfer program (Tekavoul), and created a shock-responsive SSN program (Elmaouna) to assist food-insecure households during the lean season.

Project beneficiaries and target areas

The project's implementation areas vary depending on the activities. The Social Registry is being deployed and updated throughout the entire territory of Mauritania, while the safety net program Tekavoul is being implemented in 15 districts (including the Hodh Chargui region). Shock-responsive cash transfers support poor and vulnerable households in areas identified each year by the Early Warning System.

The project supports 54,000 households through the regular cash transfer program Tekavoul, including 7,200 refugee households from the M'bera camp. The government is now financing (i) the expansion of Tekavoul to an additional 50,000 households to cover the entire territory, but also (ii) the increase of the nominal amount given to each beneficiary household, which has doubled between 2020 and 2023.

The number of households assisted by the shock-responsive program Elmaouna during the lean season varies from year to year depending on the severity of the shock. In 2022, Elmaouna shock response program significantly scaled up its intervention during the lean season, reaching 69,074 food insecure households, 47,000 of which were supported through the project, 18,000 supported through the government's own budget, and 4,074 from WFP support.

The transfer amount is adjusted according to the number of individuals in each household, with an average transfer of 2,700 MRU (US\$75) per month over the course of four months.

Indirect beneficiaries include 200,000 households registered in the Social Registry who will benefit from social programs, users of the Social Registry, and local communities that will benefit from economic spillovers of cash transfers.

Component 1:

Updating and enhancing the Social Registry

(\$7.3m: \$4.9m IDA, \$0.9m SASPP, and \$1.5m government)

This component is implemented by the Taazour General Delegation. It supports a full update of the Social Registry and inclusion of eligible refugee households and its usage for operational and strategic purposes.

Subcomponent 1.1:

Updating and expanding the Social Registry

(\$6.9m: not specified)

This subcomponent aims to update the Social Registry in Mauritania, including the entire process of community targeting, data collection, and verification stage. It finances 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 better 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.

Subcomponent 1.2:

Promoting the use of the Social Registry

(\$0.4m: not specified)

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 prioritizes households in the Social Registry for certain interventions, and its design and terms of use is being defined through participatory dialogue with stakeholders. 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:

Enhancing the socio-economic inclusion of poor households

(\$51.2m: \$34.5m IDA, and \$16.7m government)

This component aims to address challenges that hinder the socio-economic inclusion of the poorest households. The objectives include scaling up the conditional cash transfer program Tekavoul to reach a total of 45,000 households in extreme poverty, developing an economic inclusion scheme for households exiting the program, and piloting a Civil Registry enrollment for households.

Subcomponent 2.1:

Scale-up the Tekavoul program

(\$47.6m, not specified)

This subcomponent expands the National Social Transfer Program, Tekavoul to a total number of 54,000 households, including 7,200 refugee households. The subcomponent finances the costs of the cash transfers, payment fees, and operating costs for social promotion.

Subcomponent 2.2:

Re-certification and development of an exit strategy for Tekavoul

(\$2.8m: not specified)

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.

Subcomponent 2.3:

Facilitating civil registration

(\$0.8m, not specified)

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 lack of knowledge about ID benefits, and supply-side barriers such as clerks' lack of knowledge about the law's requirements. The approach will be collaborative, involving various actors such as the National Agency for Identification and Population Registration, Taazour, Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, and UNICEF, which are providing technical assistance. The subcomponent finances costs related to mobile units, cash transfers, communication tools, evaluation, and participative workshops.

Component 3:

Strengthening the shock response system for households vulnerable to climate-shocks

(\$11.1m: \$5m IDA, \$6.1m SASPP)

This component aims to strengthen the Government-led shock response system to support vulnerable households in coping with climate shocks causing food and nutritional insecurity. The objectives include enhancing the Early Warning System (EWS) and shock response coordination framework, supporting the implementation of shock-responsive safety net programs, designing a financing strategy to respond to climate-related shocks, and supporting a Central Emergency Response Committee (CERC) for situations of urgent need of assistance. The component is mainly implemented by the Food Security Office (CSA) and is intended to establish an Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) system in Mauritania.

Subcomponent 3.1:

Enhancing the early warning system and the shock response coordination

(\$1.5m, not specified)

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

Subcomponent 3.2:

Supporting the implementation of shock-responsive safety net programs

(\$8.9m, not specified)

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 will be adjusted according to the number of individuals in each household with an average transfer of 2,700 MRU (US\$75) per month over the course of four months.
- (2) Implementation of a pilot program to expand the Tekavoul program to respond to shocks by increasing the number of beneficiaries selected from the Social Registry. Tekavoul responds to shocks by 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. There is an existing nationwide electronic payment platform established by Tekavoul that can be used by other social programs. Elmaouna has been using the platform since 2017, and WFP tested it in 2018. The subcomponent support the development of necessary tools and covers fees for NGOs and UN agencies to use the payment platform.

Subcomponent 3.3:

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

(\$0.7m, not specified)

This subcomponent has two activities: (1) designing a financing strategy to respond to shocks leading to food and nutritional insecurity, and (2) establishing 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.

Subcomponent 3.4:

Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC)

(No initial allocation)

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:

Project Coordination and Management

(\$2.4m: \$0.6m IDA, \$1.8m government)

This component supports the management of the proposed project through the establishment of a fiduciary coordination team, which ensures the project is efficiently implemented in compliance with various manuals and agreements. 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 28-October-2022, date of latest IRS)

PDO Indicators				
Objective: Increased effectiveness and efficiency of the nationwide adaptive social safety net system				
Indicator	Unit of Measurement	Baseline (01-Jul-2020)	Actual (28-Oct-2022)	Target (30-Jun-2025)
Programs using the Social Registry to select their beneficiaries	Number	7	14	15
SSN programs' beneficiary households avoiding negative coping strategies (national/refugees)	Percentage	n/a		70%
Objective: Increased coverage of poor and vulnerable households with targeted social transfers, including in refugee and host communities				
Beneficiaries of social safety net programs	Number	186,000	1,104,863	934,321
• Beneficiaries of social safety net programs - Female	Number	93,000	607,674	522,923
• Beneficiaries of social safety net programs - Refugees	Number	0	44,370	19,500
Intermediate Results Indicators				
Component 1: Updating and enhancing the Social Registry				
Households with complete information in Social Registry	Number	150,000	187,234	200,000
• Households with complete information in the Social Registry - Refugee	Number	0	14,012	7,500
• 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 by the Social Registry	Number	0	3	30
Community members reporting positive feedback on household registration outcome for the Social Registry	Percentage	0.00	0.00	80.00
Component 2: Enhancing the socio-economic inclusion of poor household				
Households benefiting from the national safety net program Tekavoul	Number	31,000	54,582	45,000
• Households benefiting from the national safety net program Tekavoul - Refugees and hosts	Number	0	17,442	14,000
• Share of beneficiaries receiving payments on time	Percentage	98.00	54.00	98.00
Cases from the Tekavoul grievance redress mechanism resolved 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
Component 3: Strengthening the shock responsive system for households vulnerable to climate and other covariate shocks				

Households benefiting from shock-responsive safety net programs supported by the project	Number	0	165,531	168,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Households benefiting from shock-responsive safety net programs supported by the project (cumulative) - Refugees and hosts (Number	0	17,423	15,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Households supported by the COVID-19 safety net intervention 	Number	0	90,849	70,000
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: Project Costs by Components (in US\$ million)

Project Components	Original (P171125)			Additional Financing (P175778)	Total Project and components
	IDA	SASPP	Government	SASPP	
TOTAL Project	45.0	7.0	20.0	13.0	85.0
Component 1: Updating and enhancing the Social Registry	4.9	0.9	1.5		7.3
Subcomponent 1.1: Updating and expanding the Social Registry					6.9
Subcomponent 1.2: Promoting the use of the Social Registry					0.4
Component 2: Enhancing the socio-economic inclusion of poor households	34.5	0.0	16.7		51.2
Subcomponent 2.1: Scale-up the Tekavoul program					47.6
Subcomponent 2.2: Re-certification and development of an exit strategy for Tekavoul					2.8
Subcomponent 2.3: Facilitating civil registration					0.8
Component 3: Strengthening the shock response system for households vulnerable to climate-shocks	5.0	6.1	0.0	13.0	24.1
Subcomponent 3.1: Enhancing the early warning system and the shock response coordination					1.5
Subcomponent 3.2: Supporting the implementation of shock-responsive safety net programs				13.0	21.9
Subcomponent 3.3: Designing a financing strategy to respond to shocks leading to food and nutrition insecurity					0.7
Subcomponent 3.4: Contingent Emergency Response Component	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0
Component 4: Project Coordination and Management	0.6	0.0	1.8		2.4

Acknowledgements

The SASPP is a multi-donor trust fund managed by the World Bank that supports the strengthening of adaptive social protection systems in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal) to enhance the resilience of poor and vulnerable households and communities to the impacts of climate change. The program is supported by Denmark, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

