### Country: **Mauritania**

### **COUNTRY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE SUMMARY[[1]](#footnote-1)**

### Reporting period: **2018-2022**

### **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (1/2 page maximum)**

From a growth rate of 2.1% and a Human Capital Index of 0,527 (ranked 161st/189 countries) in 2018, Mauritania has based its development priorities on the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity (SCAPP 2016-2030) as a reference framework for interventions conducted by the Government and its partners in its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 2030 and the 2063 Agenda.

In line with the United Nations Cooperation Framework of the in Mauritania, the ending CPD (2018-2023) was structured around three development priorities for Mauritania: (1) Achieving strong, inclusive and sustainable growth integrated into the design and implementation of public policies (Axis 1); (2) Improving governance, strengthening institutional capacities and combating radicalization and the security threat (Axis 2); and (3) Promoting sustainable natural resource management and resilience to disasters and climate change (Axis 3).

The main successes of UNDP Mauritania have been its anchoring with the UNSDCF objectives, the SDG and the country priorities in strengthening the technical, financial and organizational capacities of national institutions to ensure operational coordination in environment, ecosystem protection, inclusive governance and effective disaster risk management. The programme has covered over 62 percent of the regions and impacted the lives of more than half of the national population. UNDP’s thought leadership, advisory and operational support to the government have contributed to implementing smart development solutions in priority sectors such as health system particularly during COVID-19 response, justice, energy transition, youth and women employment, civic engagement and volunteerism and national planning systems. Resulting from UNDP’s interventions, the government has mobilized over USD 118 Million to finance priority development needs in the most vulnerable region of the Hodh Ech Chargui.

Strictly based on the principle of Leave No One Behind (LNOB), this has been done through the ability of UNDP to leverage its status as a multi-sectoral agency to work in an integrated manner, not only with the Government agencies and their local branches, but also with the civil society organizations, the private sector organizations, the technical and financial partners, while preserving the UN as One principle by partnering with other UN agencies (ILO, UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR etc..).

In terms of climate risks management, Mauritania has established, with the support of UNDP, its position in the global strategy for mitigating the impacts of climate change with an ambitious national contribution, providing a framework for implementing the Paris Agreements and following up on the COP27. UNDP also supported the deployment of three geospatial databases for monitoring the SDGs, which have facilitated the mobilization of more than USD100 million for development financing in the most isolated regions.

Contributing to the UN Cooperation Framework results on gender, and linked to country office Gender Strategy 2022-2025, UNDP has targeted gender equality and women empowerment through joint programmes with UNWOMEN, UNFPA and other UN Agencies to update the national gender strategy and enhance gender equality in the public administration and gender equality seal. A strong focus was also made on women's entrepreneurship and the activation of a youth inclusion policy with a national youth empowerment platform involving 10,000 young people (60% are women) and the Public-Private Partnership dynamic. This led to the establishment in 2021 of the first national mechanism to support youth and women's employment, with a budget of more than USD 93.5 million.

Overall, the programme has brought about changes in women's empowerment and their integration into society, in addition to increasing their self-confidence (315 women and youth representing 104 local cooperatives have been trained) and new jobs (94 community cooperatives, mainly composed of rural women with 768 jobs, 510 of which were for women). UNDP interventions have contributed to the increased participation of women and youth in political life (20% % of the parliament members are women).

Remarkable efforts were also made to promote the renewable energies as a vector of social inclusion for communities, offering the prospect of electrification and access to public services for 200 villages and the environment governance through a national strategy to reduce carbon impact, integrating the role of women in its implementation. Between 2015 and 2022, the share of renewable energies in the mix that rose from 32% to 48% as well as the level of access of rural population to electricity (5% to 43%). On another hand, the evolution of the corruption perception index (27% in 2016 to 28% in 2020) resulted in a clear improvement in Mauritania's global ranking[[2]](#footnote-2).

### **II: Country Programme Performance Summary**

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| **Country information** |  |
| **Country name: Mauritania** |
| **Current country programme period: 2018-2023** |
| **Outcomes** | **Total Expenditure** | **Key Indicators of outcome (1-4 per outcome)** | **Progress made against key indicators** |
| 1. The institutions in charge of economic steering develop and implement policies that contribute to inclusive and sustainable growth.
 |  **5,257,823** | * 1. The employment rate by sex,
	2. Poverty rate

(Urban/rural, Female-headed households/Male-headed households * 1. Gini index
	2. Percentage of Sustainable Development Goal indicators with disaggregated data
 | 1.1. The employment rate did not change significantly between 2014 (40.6%) and 2019 (40.2%) as did the labor force participation rate which fell slightly to 45.8% in 2019 against 46.6% in 2014. Regardless of age, place of residence and education, the percentage of women in employment (25.5%) is twice lower than that of men (57.8%) despite women empowerment efforts illustrating the initial deep gap to be bridged to reach equal labor force participation. 1.2: The income poverty rate decreased from 30,9% to 28,2% between 2014 and 2019 with rural communities accounting for 75.3% of total poor (poverty incidence is 41.2% against 14,4% in urban areas) while household with female head are likely to be less poor (poverty headcount is 21,7% against 31,2% for men)  1.3:The Gini index fell from 0.34 to 0.32 between 2014 and 2019, reflecting a proportionally greater increase in the income of the poor than the national average increase, although strong spatial disparities persist.1.4: 67% of SDG Goal indicators are provided with disaggregated data |
| **UNDP Contribution:**The strategic positioning of UNDP for improving public policy targeting through upgrade national planning system, enlarging economic opportunities, particularly for the empowerment of women and young people, and strengthening economic activities in isolated areas has contributed to poverty reduction (2.7 points), unemployment (0.65 points) and inequalities (2 points). Mauritania moved to the rank of medium human development country in 2022 with an HDI of 0.556 against 0.546 in 2019. UNDP's contribution to improving livelihoods, particularly targeting the poorest areas, has not been sufficiently buoyed by increased availability and access to basic social services. As a result, the multidimensional poverty rate stood at 58.4% (latest available figure).**Progress and Achievements in CP outputs:*** **Output 1.1**: National institutions in charge of economic affairs (MEF) were able to develop various strategic plans, enhance policy and legal frameworks for the implementation of programme budgets, renovate the budget preparation application called “TAHDHIR”, develop and/or use economic decision tools including tools for understanding the new context of the African Continental Free Trade (ACFTA); a Computable General Equilibrium Model (CGEM) to inform budget allocations. Decentralized planning and monitoring capacities were strengthened with the elaboration of two regional plans and the strengthening of the technical and operational capacity of the Regional Planning and Poverty Monitoring Units.
* **Output 1.2**: 2,972 new jobs were created through several interventions to promote employment and income-generating activities for women (agriculture, marketing, production). Beyond direct jobs, these interventions have improved the livelihoods of and economically empowered 5,097 people, including 3,568 women and 300 young people.
* **Output 1.3**: National statistical and monitoring institutions have increased capacities and expertise to implement a toolbox for monitoring the SDGs in Mauritania resulting in 67% of SDG disaggregated data, as well as a pilot digital tool for monitoring and reporting on development progress in one region (Hodh Ech Chargui).
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| 1. The democratic institutions work in a more transparent and participatory manner, the justice and prison system is more independent and effective, the democratic space is expanded (especially for civil society organizations and marginalized groups) to improve peaceful coexistence, social cohesion and security.
 |  **33,532,528** | 2.1 Percentage of women in national parliaments 2.2 Index of corruption perception 2.3 Perception of terrorism as a crime by young people and women 2.4 Extent to which there is open access to data on government budgets, expenditures, and public procurement 2.5 Percentage of state expenditures allocated to regional and local levels | 2.1: Stable with a steady drop from 21% to 20%, the proportion of women in the national parliament is still lower compared to the 33% expected2.2: The Index of corruption perception 29 % steadily dropped from 29% to 28%2.3: The perception of terrorism as a crime increased globally from 49% to 50% while remaining stable both for young people (50%) and women (49%) compared to the baseline.2:4: The extent to which there is open access to data on government budgets, expenditures, and public procurement remained higher (3 points over 4).2.5: The percentage of state expenditures allocated to regional and local levels remained stable with a steady drop from 9% to 8%. |
| **UNDP Contribution:**The UNDP strategic choices highly contributed to lay the structural foundations for an improvement in the population’s living environment, building on justice modernization and an inclusive digital transformation that articulates the government priorities in term of the national digital Agenda and local taxation as levers for accelerating development, as well as the channeling of Zakat revenues into local socio-economic investments and the operationalization of decentralization allowing the consolidation of the development of local governance. Progress and Achievements in CP Outputs:The country programme has identified the following priorities, taking into consideration the social and economic factors: (i) operationalizing frameworks and mechanisms for citizen participation in democratic processes, and in the monitoring of public action, particularly women and youth; (ii) modernizing of public administration using digital transformation to enhance efficiency, and accountability; (iii) bringing justice closer to the citizen; (iv) consolidating decentralization; (v) strengthening the public policies strategic planning and monitoring frameworks, including blended financing compliant with environmental sustainability, and gender equality to reduce inequalities.  * **Output 2.1**: Overall, the technical and organizational capacities of judicial actors have been tremendously strengthened for law enforcement. The opening up of the judicial service offer has facilitated the awareness and the assistance of more than 1,000,000 million people, through the operationalization of regional houses of justice, and the qualification of more than 2 000 agents and actors of justice. Overall, 15 courts of justice at the national (03) and subnational (12) level were organized and equipped for delivering Justice record.
* **Output 2.2**: Capacities of three (03) operational CSOs legally authorized to represent victims in the justice system were strengthened and supported by UNDP.
* **Output 2.3**: The vulnerable groups, particularly women and youth, were supported and have been able to play an important role in community early warning committees. In this regard, income generated activities were created to improve their resilience to climate risks. Overall, the livelihoods and economic autonomy of 5,097 people were improved, including 3,568 women and 300 youths. About 120 people had a direct access to legal aid services (80 men and 40 women).
* **Output 2.4:** The national inclusive gender framework was developed in partnership with UNWOMEN and is under dissemination. Capacities of diverse local administrations were strengthened for budgeting (3), monitoring (2), and planning (3). At the vein, six (06) regional SCAPP-based were developed.
* **Output 2.5**: The number of women supported by UNDP participating as candidates in elections was quite impressive (505 with 282 for local and 223 for national) compared to the expectations (400). For the youth, 160 people were supported by UNDP, thus 40 youth men in national elections and 20 in local elections; and 40 young women in national elections and 60 in local elections.
* **Output 2.6**: The contribution of UNDP to improve the awareness and knowledge of the dangers of radicalization and terrorism is impressive (6 young people over 10 in 2022 compared to less than 2 over 10 in 2019). This high level of perception is equal differently from young women or young men.
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| 1. The institutions and communities contribute to the sustainable management of natural resources, to anticipate and respond to crises and the effects of climate change
 |  **4,334,327** | 3.1 Share of renewable energies in the mix (SCAPP)3.2 Percentage of rural population with access to electricity 3.3 Economic loss from natural hazards (e.g. geo-physical and climate-induced hazards) as a proportion of Gross Domestic Product  | 3.1: The share of renewable energies in the mix rose from 32% to 48% 3.2: The percentage of rural population with access to electricity rose significantly from 5% to 43%3.3: The economic loss from natural hazards stayed at its level of 17% as no new data was collected. |
| **UNDP Contribution:** The UNDP CP identified five major outputs to support the Government in achieving this outcome: (i) Strengthening the national institutions technical, financial and organizational capacities to ensure operational environmental coordination, ecosystem protection and effective disaster risk management, (ii) Equipping the vulnerable communities with capacities, resources and create an enabling environment to enhance the resilience of socio-economic development assets and community livelihoods through effective disaster and climate risk management, (iii) Providing the national actors with adequate technical, financial and organizational capacities for the effective integration of Climate Change and disaster risk reduction into development policies and strategies and for the promotion of the use of renewable energies, (iv) Strengthening the capacities of the national institutions and rural communities to develop and implement sustainable models to access renewable energy, (v) Strengthening the technical and organizational capacities of the national institutions for effective gender responsive management of water resources.**Progress and Achievements in CP Outputs:**At the end of the cycle, technical, financial and organizational capacities of national institutions to ensure operational coordination in terms of the environment, ecosystem protection and effective disaster risk management have been improved. 15 regional, inclusive and gender-sensitive bodies (at the level of the 15 Wilayas of the Country) were operationalized for early warning and crisis management. The energy mix and the extension of the rural electrification network increased respectively from 32% in 2015 to over 48% in 2022 and from 5% in 2015 to 43% in 2022. * **Output 3.1**: 110 experts (36 women) of the Government at national level have strengthened their technical capacities and are able to perform effective management of national climate commitments and apply advocacy techniques for environmental justice and the adoption of resilient production and consumption patterns. 70 experts (10 women) of the Government and Civil Society have strengthened their technical capacities on disaster risk management, ecosystem protection, urban resilience, and the integration of the climate change dimension into development strategies and policies. UNDP support has allowed Mauritania to acquire its first legal framework for the management of waste.
* **Output 3.2**: The partnership between the UNDP and the specialized actors of civil society in communities at risk of degradation have made it possible to secure more than 10 hectares of agricultural production areas allowing 15 000 inhabitants of the municipality of Tidjikja to continue their economic exploitation threatened by advancing sand dunes.
* **Output 3.3**: UNDP support has allowed renewable energies to be institutionalized in the electricity code through consideration of rural electrification. While renewable energies were previously considered as experimental, their institutionalization in the electrical code makes it possible to consider a strategy for the sustainability of renewable energies in Mauritania.
* **Output 3.4**: UNDP technical support and advocacy in partnership with the GEF and the government have improved the strategic and operational framework for sustainable energy transition in Mauritania through the availability of a Master Plan for Rural Electrification. In terms of population access to a sustainable source of energy, an innovative national model of isolated solar power plants is available, making it possible to envisage access to energy, at affordable cost, for more than 250,000 inhabitants of 200 poor and isolated villages. In 2022, 23000 people (14,000 women) have improved access to energy through UNDP support.
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| **Summary of the CPD final evaluation****Coherence**The CPD is strategically and operationally relevant, and is perfectly aligned with the development priorities of Mauritania. It is in line with the President Expanded Priority Program for Economic Recovery (ProPEP), the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity (SCAPP 2016-2030), the National Strategy for the Environment and Sustainable Development (SNEDD), the National Determined Contribution CDN, while concentrated to the UNSDCF priorities. **Effectiveness**The effectiveness is viewed through the package and the quality of projects developed and implemented during the 2018-2022 period. In addition to the physical achievements, the CPD has produced results and induced important changes in the strategic plan that reinforce its degree of effectiveness through numerous reforms and the development of relevant institutional tools and instruments that have been carried out in various areas.**Efficiency**The financial management of this offer has shown some efficiency, as it has been supported within a management framework of good standing that optimizes the use of resources. The support and technical assistance provided by UNDP were deemed satisfactory and planning of activities was done on a fairly regular basis with results that were well appreciated by the various partners met. The CPD has developed partnerships with government authorities through the ministries concerned, as well as with the supporting NGOs that have accompanied the implementation of projects in the field. **Durability**The anchoring of the CPD outputs under the seal of national execution modalities which gives responsibility to national entities encouraged to a certain extent, national authorities to take ownership of projects, which in turn ensures the sustainability of results, particularly in terms of strategic institutional levels. **Key Achievements**:Globally, the CPD 2018-2023 is a relevant response at the regional and local levels with regard to environmental conservation, building people's resilience to climate change and disaster risks, access to water and energy. It has highly supported the government in integrating environment, climate change and renewable energy into national development strategies and policies. Thus, the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity (SCAPP 2016-2030) devotes the 8th building block of its 3rd lever to environmental governance, rational management of natural resources and disaster risk reduction. The securing of 31 market gardening and rain-fed areas in the Wilaya of Assaba, for a population of about 6,650, 65% of whom are women, has helped strengthen livelihoods of women's resilience to the effects of climate change and various crises related to natural and climatic disasters.**Major Lessons Learnt:**The implementation of this CPD has revealed the cross-cutting dimension of the of UNDP Mauritania's CPD 2018-2022, which also reflects its relevance and coherence with the country's development policies and strategies. Most of the projects are complementary and have a direct or indirect impact on a wide range of development areas such as the economy, environment, governance, resilience, energy, water and sanitation, etc. The institutional support mechanism for the activities of the Sustainable Development Unit has brought speed to the execution of specific activities with the national partners, thus contributing to the effectiveness of the interventions.  The national institutional anchoring of large-scale projects with strong environmental and socio-economic impacts, such as the EPA project and MINIGRIDS, contributes significantly to strengthen the strategic positioning of UNDP in Mauritania. This anchoring has been a driving factor in the ownership of UNDP intervention by government authorities.  |

**III. Country Programme Resources**

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| **Focus Area** | **Programme Expenditure ($)** | **% of Total** |
|  | Regular (TRAC) | Other | Total |  |
| Poverty and SDGs |  2,022,680  |  3,235,143  |  5,257,823  |  12% |
| Democratic Governance |  8,522,789  |  25,009,739  |  33,532,528  |  78% |
| Environment and Sustainable Development |  2,465,730  |  1,868,597  |  4,334,327  |  10% |
| Total |  13,011,199  | 30,113,479 |  43,124,678  | 100% |

\*Data source: 2018-2022 expenditures (not 2023) from Stream and Executive snapshot .

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| **Data sources:**  |
| 1. UNDP Human Development Report, 2018 and 2021
2. Common Country Assessment, 2020, Mauritania
3. UNDP, 2020, Results Oriented Annual Report, UNDP Mauritania
4. UNDP, 2021, Results Oriented Annual Report, UNDP Mauritania
5. UNSDCF, 2022, CPDD 2018-2022 Final Evaluation Report, UNSDCF Mauritania
6. UNDP, 2022, CPD 2018-2022 Final Evaluation Report, UNDP Mauritania
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1. This assessment of results is to be prepared only in the absence of a completed Independent Country Programme Evaluation (ICPE) for the cycle. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. From 142nd/189 in 2016 to 137th/189 in 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)