

Joint SDG Fund
PORTOFLIO ON INTEGRATED POLICY AND LNOB

Joint Programme 2022 Final Report

Cover page

Country: Mauritania

Joint Programme title: Developing an integrated social protection model in the region of Guidimakha, Mauritania

Short title: Integrated Social Protection Model in Mauritania

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End date: 02/10/2022

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Budget (Joint SDG Fund contribution): \$2 million

Overall budget (with co-funding): \$10 million

Total estimated expenditure (in USD, for the whole JP by 31 Oct 2022): 1,942,720.2 million

Total estimated commitments: (in USD for the whole JP by 31 Oct 2022): 57,280 (final evaluation)

Short description of the Joint Programme:

The Joint Programme (JP) is developing a pilot approach for a coherent, integrated, regional model of existing social protection programmes and supporting social protection dialogue in Mauritania, based on a vision shared by the Government, the UN, the World Bank, and civil society actors. The initiative is addressing the issues of fragmentation and gaps in Mauritania's support to vulnerable populations by improving the articulation between existing safety net programmes, developing the critical missing pieces of a coherent social protection system, as well as a data system for vulnerable groups. UNICEF, WFP and ILO have mobilized expertise to support national efforts to create an integrated social protection system, piloted in the Guidimakha region (population estimated at 280,000). The region is one of the most vulnerable in the country and an area of convergence of the new UNDAF (CPDD). Evidence and empirical experience will enable the upgrading of the national social protection strategy and programmes, while developing a more holistic, coherent and applicable model that can be replicated in other regions or scaled-up to national level, as well as accelerating the achievement and monitoring of specific SDG targets related to poverty reduction, social protection, policy strengthening and gender equality.

Executive summary

COVID-19 hit Mauritania shortly before implementation of the Joint Programme (JP) was due to begin in 2020 and, simultaneously, a restructuring of Mauritania's social protection institutions led to the fragmentation of the country's social protection mechanisms. Given the COVID-19 context, funding was repurposed for the COVID-19 response in 2020, providing an opportunity to demonstrate the relevance and scalability of shock-responsive safety-net modalities in the region.

Against the backdrop of these challenges, and despite delays in 2020, the JP was able to implement planned activities to achieve its goal of strengthening coherence and improving articulation between existing safety net programs and ensuring that they reach some of the most vulnerable people in the region. The development of the integrated social protection model has also allowed Mauritania to launch the process of revising its national social protection strategy (SNPS).

More than 890,000 people have been reached by JP activities in 2020, 2021 and 2022. In 2021 and 2022, the JP focused on strengthening the inclusiveness and relevance of the Social Register, helping the authorities improve the targeting process and providing technical support for the review of the National Social Protection Strategy document (NSPS). In mid-2021, a joint study (World Bank, WFP and UNICEF) was finalized, and the implementation of its recommendations allowed the start of updates of the Social Register with the inclusion of all vulnerable households (including people with disabilities) to shocks, and to make the existing procedures as reliable, inclusive and efficient as possible.

Another key achievement is the finalization of the study on the articulation of social safety nets in February 2022, where several options for the articulation of social safety nets were identified and discussed at the national level (for validation). The selected options were presented to regional stakeholders in March 2022, and a final selection of the model was made to be piloted in the Guidimakha region during the lean season of 2022. This will be addressed through the ongoing overall national social protection review process.

The JP also aims to improve the capacity of vulnerable populations to access basic services as well as to improve knowledge of existing social services in the target area. In the context of the pandemic, interventions aimed to ensure continuity of health and nutrition services, as well as continuity of learning.

A total of 92,746 vulnerable people have benefited from social protection services such as cash transfers, basic social infrastructure including water, education, health and civil status.

With the support of the JP, the process of revising the NSPS was reactivated at the end of 2021. The review process is underway, and a new version of the strategy is expected by the end of December 2022. This will facilitate the process of improving the articulation of existing regular and shock-sensitive safety nets. The several studies carried out in the framework of this joint project will feed into the revision process of the NSPS.

Result 1: Articulate protective and productive safety nets (Lead organization: WFP)

Estimated rate of completion as of 02 August 2022: 100 %

Result 2: Promotion of basic social services (Lead organization: UNICEF)

Estimated rate of completion as of 02 August 2022: 100 %

Result 3: Rollout of social insurance schemes (Lead organization: ILO)

Estimated rate of completion as of 02 August 2022: 100 %

Result 4: Technical and policy dialogue to inform the different phases of implementation of the National Social Protection Policy (Lead organizations: UNICEF, ILO)

Estimated rate of completion as of 02 August 2022: 100 %

I. Overall progress and priority, cross-cutting issues

I.1 Context and the overall approach

Ensuring an adaptive and strategic JP

Three major risks were identified during development of the JP: i) fragmentation of social protection mechanisms; ii) occurrence of a major health crisis; and iii) staff turnover in government institutions, particularly following the creation of *Taazour*. All these materialized at the start of the programme, before field activities had started, before partners in the intervention area were mobilized, and before the mitigation measures envisaged in the risk management plan were put in place.

- Implementation of the JP began in February 2020 but was slowed by the emergence of COVID-19 and measures imposed to limit its spread. Movement restrictions between regions and the reduced presence/availability of government staff affected JP activities. Measures were eased gradually from June 2020 and the PUNOs were able to resume collaboration with partners to implement the JP's activities in September 2020. However, a second wave in November 2020 and a third wave from July 2021, accompanied by renewed containment measures, again impacted implementation. The emergence of COVID-19 made it necessary to adjust the JP to mitigate the impact of the crisis on vulnerable households, in support of the Government's social protection response (see the section on 'COVID-19 Impact', below).
- The national agency *Taazour*, whose mandate is to centralize and coordinate the implementation of most social protection programmes, was the main contact for the PUNO for cash transfer and food assistance programmes. Ensuring continuity with previous investments in shock response programmes has proved difficult in the context of COVID-19. The bulk of the Government's cash response was provided through *ad hoc* interventions that follow targeting and delivery modalities that were not subject to prior consultation. This highlights the critical importance of streamlining and integrating the modalities of shock response intervention in Mauritania.
- The *ad hoc* COVID-19 cash transfer interventions were managed outside the social protection consultation framework (the steering committee of the NSPS), which is also the steering body of the JP. Reactivating the leadership of the NSPS steering committee was difficult in the emergency context of 2020 and revision of the NSPS was put on hold. However, during the last quarter of 2021, this was solved and the SNPS steering committee was reinvigorated.

[Link with UNDAF/ UNSD Cooperation Framework](#)

The JP contributes to **UNDAF/CPDD Strategic Priority 3 - Governance**, particularly to Outcome 4 "Central and local institutions ensure more efficient and transparent administration of public policies" in the following ways:

- It contributes to operationalization of the convergence zone approach promoted by UNDAF/ CPDD 2018-2022. The interventions target Guidimakha region, which is one of the three convergence zones of the UN System, with the objective of strengthening regional capacities and mechanisms for coordination, planning, monitoring and optimal coordinated management of existing resources.
- In 2021, the JP supported the regional authorities in establishing a regional coordination steering committee under the leadership of the Wali of Guidimakha. This committee, composed of the heads of decentralized services, meets monthly under the leadership of the Wali's advisor, with technical support from a national consultant expert in social protection recruited by the JP for this purpose. Thanks to this committee, the actors at regional level have a better understanding of social protection and actively participate in implementation of the programme.
- Another initiative to strengthen the convergence zone is the IOM/WFP/UNICEF/ILO platform in Guidimakha where synergies and complementarities between the different programmes are discussed.
- The data on social protection produced by the JP's "Social Security Inquiry" (SSI) will feed into the updated common situation analysis. Results of the SSI were presented at a national workshop at the end of March 2021, which allowed national actors and donors to take ownership of this tool, providing them with a complete mapping of social protection institutions, programmes and data that will be updated annually.
- Training of government actors and social protection institutions will be organized in the first quarter of 2022; to build their capacity in collection, analysis, use and dissemination of social protection data and statistics.

[COVID-19 impact](#)

The JP was adjusted to contribute to addressing the socio-economic impact of COVID-19. This enabled the PUNOs to test innovative approaches to adaptive safety nets, including (a) testing their scale-up in the context of food and health crises, and (b) creating new partnership dynamics around health coverage. These two pilot initiatives will inform future adjustments to social safety net systems and the extension of medical coverage to those left behind (people with disabilities).

- **Testing the scale-up of adaptive social safety nets in response to COVID-19.** Part of the funding was re-allocated to the COVID-19 emergency response, for addressing gaps in social protection aggravated by the pandemic in the Guidimakha region, making it possible to assist 5,410 households in 12 communes (47,168 people) in 2020. During

this period, tools developed for shock responsive social safety nets prior to COVID-19 were tested (using the national standard geographic targeting methodology (CODEP) and the social register for household targeting, predefined transfer modalities, and values, and calculation of rations according to household size). These harmonized tools were developed within the framework of the Food Security Group (GSA) and are essential to the operation of a shock-responsive national social protection system because they allow scale-up in a few days thanks to standardized procedures that are easy to replicate by all actors involved in the response.

- In 2021, this experience was repeated with further improved tools and approaches and approximately 4,894 households in the 12 most vulnerable communes (42,675 people) were covered by the cash transfer programs.
- The 2021 lean season response was prepared and implemented in coordination with the government, UN agencies, and national and international NGOs within the framework of the food security group. The partners all reviewed, improved and agreed on the response modalities used in the 2021 lean season response, such as geographic prioritization, household targeting, rationing, M&E tools, communication, etc.
- The National Food and Nutritional Crisis Prevention and Response Mechanism was institutionalized in April 2021 (Decree N°0602021), with the Response Implementation Coordination Committee (CCMR), which oversees the mapping of social safety net actors through the monthly update of the monitoring matrix.
- Piloting the extension of health coverage to people as part of the COVID-19 response, 300 disabled people were targeted to receive support as part of the health insurance pilot project for disabled people in the Guidimakha region. These beneficiaries were provided with health insurance cover by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MASEF) and the Ministry of Health (*Caisse Nationale d'Assurance Maladie*) in January 2021.

JP interventions were also adapted to the COVID-19 operating context. The lean season safety net response was integrated into the COVID-19 Response Plan. Interventions under this framework followed protocols adopted by the partners of the GSA to reduce the risk of transmission. Hygiene measures and social distancing were enforced at distribution sites, and the process of geographic prioritization was carried out remotely using a new method based on objective data (rainfall, biomass, surface water, global malnutrition rate, and recurrence of shocks). In addition, cash transfers were combined into two distributions, each covering two months' worth of rations (instead of the usual four monthly distributions). Interventions to promote access to basic social services and infrastructure at the regional level were also adjusted to ensure continuity of services during the crisis. Infection prevention and control and risk communication actions were also carried out within this framework.

1.2 Update on priority cross-cutting issues

UN Development System reform - UN coherence at the country level

- This JP has strengthened the dynamics of collaboration, not only between the PUNOs (UNICEF, WFP, ILO), but also with other sister agencies (UNHCR, WHO) and social protection actors such as the World Bank.
- The social protection coordination platform, with the participation of the main UN agencies involved in social protection, has been re-launched. This framework has been important for defining common strategies around advocacy issues, including the revision of the NSPS.
- Owing to the strengthening of coordination between UN agencies, we have been able to make concerted contributions to the planning process for the updating of the Regional Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity, particularly on the social protection pillar.

Going beyond "business as usual" to produce catalytic results at scale

- Under this joint project, the three agencies had to co-finance and provide technical support to the government on priority issues such as targeting and the process of updating the social register. This project model was discussed and presented as a good example in the UNCT Heads of Agency Retreat given its capacity to mobilise technical support around priority issues.
- Analyses and tools produced by agencies such as the ILO, WFP or UNICEF are used and promoted by other agencies in the planning of their activities.

SDG acceleration

The JP is expected to contribute directly towards the achievement of five SDGs: SDG 1 - Eradicate poverty in all its forms and throughout the world; SDG 3 - Enable all people to live in good health and promote the well-being of all people at all ages; SDG 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; SDG 10 - Reduce inequalities within and between countries; and SDG 17 - Strengthen the capacity to implement the Global Partnership for Development and revitalize it. It will indirectly contribute towards attainment of ten other SDGs.

- Articulation of productive safety nets and protection (1): Vertical and horizontal expansion of social safety nets during the health crisis was tested to meet the needs of the region's poor and vulnerable households. This action also responds to the 'leave no one behind' (LNOB) approach, which at the heart of the JP is reaching the invisible, those who are not counted in official data and particularly in the social register, with the aim of expanding the scope and inclusion of existing social protection mechanisms at the national and regional levels (SDG 1.3).
- Articulation of productive safety nets and protection (1) & evaluation and linkage with national policy dialogue (4): The social registry is one of the flagship tools of social protection. UNICEF, WFP and the World Bank agreed to launch a joint study with the overall objective of supporting *Taazour* to improve the social registry targeting process. The objectives of the study are: 1) to make existing procedures as reliable and effective as possible; 2) to ensure the inclusiveness of all forms of poverty to reduce the risk of exclusion for user programs; 3) to maintain a dynamic database using user feedback. This study contributes to the complete updating of the Social Registry and should allow for the inclusion of all poor households that are vulnerable to shocks; to the LNOB approach of the JP and to SDG 1.3 "Implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and vulnerable".
- Promotion of social services (2): In the context of the response to the health crisis, efforts have been made to ensure the continuity of health and nutrition services for women and children, ensuring continuity of learning despite school closures by supporting distance education (health) programs, and expanding access to safe water and sanitation services, while ensuring the connection of health centres and schools to water supply systems. These interventions contribute to SDGs 3, 4 and 6.
- Deployment of social insurance schemes (3): The coordination efforts undertaken in the livestock sector under the Guidimakha region child protection mechanism articulate SDG 8.7 with SDG 1.3, accelerating progress in both cases. The diagnosis of the CNSS's information system has been finalized and is contributing to improving the management of funds and the extension of social security in connection with SDG 1.3.
- Evaluation and linkage to national policy dialogue (4): As part of the support provided to the government in setting up a process for the systematic collection and review of social protection data, the Social Security Survey (SSI) provided a comprehensive overview of social protection data in both contributory and non-contributory systems and the calculation of indicators 1.3.1. The completion of the SSI in 2020 supports the planned revision of the NSPS. Ongoing CP discussion with WB and ILO social protection specialists to support an Assessment Based National Dialogue (ABND) that will build on the government's current efforts to revise the NSPS. This process will help intensify the government's initiative with all stakeholders on social protection. It will provide an overview of the social protection system in Mauritania, including the recent situation of the ISS, identify priority recommendations and evidence of accessibility and financial sustainability. ABND is also a tool for raising awareness on social protection for ministries, workers, employers, civil society and development partners. Additional funding is being considered, if necessary.

Policy integration and systems change

Following the study on the articulation of social safety nets, proposals for reforms were made to the Government for the integration of social safety net programmes and for greater efficiency. Regarding the social registry, important recommendations were made to the Government to strengthen inclusiveness and reliability in the data updating process. At the level of the social survey, the tools developed will be institutionalized, so that the National Institute of Statistics can produce data in a systematic way and report regularly on the social protection situation. Scaling up the support system for people with disabilities is also already being done by the Government, based on the model tested in the Guidimakha region. Lastly, the ABND process is a powerful tool for supporting the revision of the NSPS. This process will help intensify the government's initiative with all stakeholders on social protection. It will provide an overview of the social protection system in Mauritania, including the recent situation of the ISS, identify priority recommendations and evidence of accessibility and

financial sustainability. ABND is a tool for raising awareness on social protection for ministries, workers, employers, civil society and development partners. Additional funding is being considered, if necessary.

Contribution to improvement of the situation of vulnerable groups

In line with Mauritania's NSPS, the JP aims to ensure that all population groups can benefit from the components of the social protection package. People in extreme poverty and food insecurity listed in the Social Registry are targeted, and mechanisms are used to identify and include those who may have been left behind when the Social Registry or social safety net programmes were rolled out, or who may have fallen into poverty or food insecurity since then.

Improving the situation of vulnerable groups as part of the COVID-19 response (with funding reallocation):

Since the start of the joint project in 2020, the vertical and horizontal expansion of social safety nets approaches tested during the COVID-19 crisis to effectively address the needs of poor and vulnerable households in the region has been successful in reaching the most vulnerable people including those left out of the Social Register. This intervention aimed to reach the invisible (those who are not counted in the official data and in the social register) with the aim of expanding the number of people targeted by existing social protection mechanisms at the national and regional levels. The collaboration between the three agencies and the Government has enabled coordinated responses ranging from four months to 12 months to cover the needs of 92,746 vulnerable people in the Guidimakha region (more than 50 per cent women), whose food and nutritional security has been affected by the pandemic and the drought shock.

A pilot intervention in support of the initiative of the MASEF and the National Health Insurance Scheme was developed to provide health insurance cover for 300 disabled people in the region (COVID-19 response). By the end of the programme 800 disabled people in the Guidimakha region were covered with health insurance. During the health crisis, basic social services efforts focused on ensuring continuity of health and nutrition services for women and children, and continuity of learning for children despite school closures via distance learning programs. In addition, rural populations without access to safe water and sanitation services were targeted and provided with infrastructure to ensure adequate drinking water and sanitation. Owing to this intervention, nearly 9,000 people have access to drinking water. The JP also supported the inclusion of labour inspectorates in the child protection mechanisms coordinated by the MASEF, notably by strengthening the capacities of regional directorates on identification and referral mechanisms provided to working children who are out of school and have no civil status. The existing referral system has enabled identified children to be referred for access to health, education, nutrition and civil status, etc. In 2022, as part of the fight against child labour sensitive to social protection (refer to UNICEF-ILO report "The role of social protection in the elimination of child labour"), a tripartite declaration was finalized between the government, workers' organizations and civil society.

Other key results include:

- In 2020 and 2022, the food assistance for asset (FFA) component benefitted 28,109 people (12,649 women). Asset creation consisted of surface water control works, soil conservation, securing cultivation areas for market gardening activities, and some environmental protection actions (dune fixation and reforestation). These works contribute to better water and soil management for agriculture which, in turn, should make crops safer, reduce malnutrition rates and potentially improve the resilience of beneficiary communities. The work was carried out by 1,717 people from the beneficiary community (900 women) through cash-for-work transfers.
- Three hundred out-of-school children (47 per cent girls) were enrolled in school. In addition, 428 newly identified out-of-school children received support for their reintegration into school. All these children have benefited from accelerated learning programs in Arabic, French, arithmetic, reading and writing, and have received school supplies. These children are monitored and supported daily, to diminish the risk of academic drop-out.
- Indirect support was provided to approximately 500 pastoralists and their families in the Guidimakha region to help them empower at-risk children and youth to understand their right not to work, the dangers of child labour in the livestock sector, and the critical importance of obtaining decent work for the well-being of their communities, including mobilization to improve access to social protection.
- A strategic inspection plan in the livestock sector for the prevention of child labour and the implementation of the existing regulatory framework in the Guidimakha region has been initiated.
- The study on the social register launched by the PUNO in partnership with the World Bank, aimed at ensuring the inclusion of all forms of poverty to reduce the risk of exclusion of program users, was validated and elicited the

Government's highest commitment by deploying it in major cities such as Nouakchott and Nouadhibou, through a revival of the social register.

Estimated number of individuals that were reached through JP efforts in 2020-2022: **890,843 people** (percentage women and girls: **51%**)

Mainstreaming Gender equality and women's empowerment

- Gender equality and women's empowerment has been considered across all the initiatives implemented, including the scale-up of the safety nets in a context of food and health crises that targeted in particular vulnerable households headed by women among its beneficiaries, and the study on the Social Registry, which, through its axis 2, emphasizes the inclusion of the most vulnerable people (such as women and children).
- The PUNO are working with the WB to support the Mauritanian Government to include gender mainstreaming tools in all social protection programmes. Support for improvement of the Social Registry is illustrative of this, as it is the main tool for targeting the poorest and most vulnerable households and should be improved to consider the gender dimension.

Estimated % of overall disbursed funds spent on Gender equality and Women empowerment by the end of 2021: **30%**¹

Human rights

The JP has drawn upon relevant human rights analysis to shape its activities and ensure that it contributes to addressing human rights priorities identified in Mauritania, as follows:

- The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council in its 37th session from 18–29 January 2021 analysed the reports submitted by the Mauritanian Government and a compilation of information contained in the reports of treaty bodies and special procedures and other relevant UN documents. The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) drew the attention of Mauritania to SDG target 1.3, on implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all and recommended that Mauritania prioritises intensifying its efforts to improve the standard of living of children, paying particular attention to housing, nutrition, water and sanitation. It urged Mauritania to allocate sufficient funds for the expansion of its national cash transfer programme and the implementation of its multi-sectoral strategic plan on nutrition, focusing on families with several children, refugee families and families living in rural and remote areas.
 - ⇒ *The JP has contributed by reinforcing the allocation of additional funds for the expansion of the national cash transfer programme focusing on households in rural areas of the Guidimakha region, within the context of the COVID-19 response.*
- The CRC urged Mauritania to prioritize adoption of a comprehensive strategy to eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and against children from disadvantaged or vulnerable groups, including children living in slavery or in slavery-like conditions.
 - ⇒ *The JP has contributed by supporting the inclusion of labour and livestock inspections as part of the child protection mechanisms coordinated by the MASEF, by setting up identification and referral mechanisms to add to the existing social services provided to child herders.*
- The CRC urged Mauritania to adopt a human rights-based approach to disability and ensure that all children with disabilities, including those in rural and remote communities, had access to adequate healthcare and mental health services, including early detection and intervention programmes.
 - ⇒ *The JP has contributed by supporting the initiative of the MASEF and the National Health Insurance CNAM to extend health insurance to disabled vulnerable people in the Guidimakha region. Disabled children are prioritised during targeting.*

¹ This is a qualitative estimate, as this was not a specific indicator within the JP's results framework.

Partnerships

At global level

Following the coordination efforts of the JP, Mauritania was invited to be an observer to the General Assembly of the USP2030 (the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to Achieve the SDGs) and eventually to become member of the USP2030.

At national level

- Collaboration with the Ministry of Economy was marked by the official designation of a programme coordinator by the Director General of Strategies and Policies. This high-level manager and technician participates actively in the coordination of the JP and acts as an interface between the PUNOs and the Government at both national and regional levels. He ensures overall coherence and efficiency in the implementation of the JP by facilitating working meetings, participating in the planning of joint missions and updating on the progress of the revision of the NSPS and the Steering Committee.
- Very good collaboration with *Tazour*, the newly created agency to implement the President of the Republic's Social Protection Programme (including *Tekavoul*, EMEL program and the Social Registry).
- Close collaboration with the WB was marked by the sharing of ideas, approaches and tools, including the joint launch (co-financed by the WB, UNICEF and WFP) of the Study on the Social Registry.
- The Study Monitoring Committee, of which the three agencies and the WB are members, supported the Social Registry Directorate until the final validation. This committee will continue its technical support in implementing the study's recommendations.

At regional level

- Communication with representative coordinating bodies, including the Guidimakha Regional Development Council and the Regional Council was established and maintained. Two JP workshops were organized in November 2020 and March 2021 in the Guidimakha region. The last workshop saw the establishment of the JP by order of the *Wali*, bringing together key services in the field of social protection.
- Technical support is provided at regional level through a national expert recruited for this purpose.
- Each Agency according to its mandate and priorities in Guidimakha liaises with its partners to avoid dispersion.

Mobilizing additional funding and/or financing

The data produced through this project has contributed significantly to the mobilisation of funds in support of the COVID-19 response, notably a joint UNICEF-WFP programme on social protection, funded by BMZ/KFW.

Strategic meetings

Type of event	Yes	No	Description/Comments
Annual JP development partners'/donors' event			In both 2020 and 2021 the annual JP event was cancelled (originally planned for Q4 of each year). In 2020, the event was cancelled due to the second wave of COVID-19 and the absence of progress on the NSPS revision. In 2021, the event was cancelled because of the latest wave of COVID-19 (Omicron).
JP launch event			The launch had to be postponed due to COVID-19 containment measures. The poor internet connection of partners in the region made it difficult to hold a remote workshop involving all stakeholders. With the partial lifting of COVID-19 measures, two JP workshops were held in November 2020 and March 2021 in the Guidimakha region. The last workshop saw the establishment of the pilot by order of the <i>Wali</i> , bringing together key services in the field of social protection. Owing to the technical support and monitoring of the national expert recruited for this purpose, other technical meetings were organized with the Regional Committee under the lead of the <i>Wali</i> of the

			Guidimakha region, which largely allowed the activities to be carried out in accordance with the project action plan.
Restitution workshop of ILO's SSI	X		The SSI restitution workshop, held on 31 March 2021, was an opportunity to bring together statisticians working in several ministerial departments and the National Agency for Statistical Development with the technical support of the ILO Social Protection Department (SOCPRO). This workshop, chaired by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Labour, was an opportunity to present the tools for collecting social protection data and the methodology for calculating social protection indicators, particularly indicator 1.3.

Innovation, learning and sharing

The JP has taken important action to improve innovation and learning in Social Protection, providing synergy and complementarity to gain a collective understanding of how systems and processes for fighting poverty work by putting in place a solid and coherent Social Protection System.

- In response to the COVID-19 crisis in 2020, within the framework of the JP, WFP was able to put its expertise in the Social Safety Net to good use to respond quickly to the pandemic. This approach has been a unique opportunity for the optimization and strategic use of existing tools and procedures of the PUNOs.
- WB, UNICEF and WFP have co-financed a study on the improvement of the social registry. By the end of the study, Mauritania's Social Registry management will have a single document to serve as an inclusive targeting tool. This approach is not only cost-effective, but also a means of strengthening the Government's institutional capacities.
- ILO led a study on obstacles to access the contributory scheme in the Guidimakha region and at national level, including problems in collecting contributions or related to the choice of informal solutions.

II. Annual Results

Overall progress

- On track (expected annual results achieved)
 Satisfactory (majority of expected annual results achieved)
 Not-satisfactory (majority of expected annual results not yet achieved)

The materialization of the three major risks identified at the start of the programme created significant delays in implementation of the JP's activities. By the end of 2020, the majority of expected annual results had not been achieved. However, in 2021, significant progress was made in implementation. Among these advances, the finalization of the study on the improvement of the targeting procedures of the Social Registry, the launch of the study on the articulation of social safety nets and the launch of the process of revision of the NSPS are particularly notable

Achievements are reported against the JP outcomes and outputs below, and in detail in Annex 1. While all interventions planned under the JP remain relevant, their implementation timeline needed to be adjusted. An extension request was made to achieve the expected results. The project was extended for 6 months (March – August 2022)

Contribution to Fund's global results

Contribution to Joint SDG Fund Outcome 1 (as per annual targets set by the JP)

- Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement were implemented with greater scope and scale.
- The pilot project to integrate 300 disabled people into the health insurance system in the Guidimakha region was scaled up by the Government through *Tazour*, with 100,000 households now covered by health insurance.
- The tools of the ILO Social Security Inquiry and the methodology for determining social protection indicators as well as the calculation of indicator 1.3 could be used by the National Statistics Agency for the collection and analysis of social protection data.

Contribution to Joint SDG Fund Output 3 (as per annual targets set by the JP)

- Integrated policy solutions to accelerate progress on the SDGs began with the launch of the NSPS review process and the introduction of the universal health insurance process. Health coverage will now cover workers in the informal sector, thanks to the Government's creation of the CNASS in 2022. By the end of 2022, Mauritania will have an updated version of the NSPS that is inclusive and sensitive to shocks.

JP Outputs and Outcomes

1. Achievement of expected JP outputs

Output 1.1. The various components of an integrated safety-net package are better articulated and piloted in the Guidimakha region to support women's choice and empowerment.

- Activities related to repurposing of funds for the COVID-19 response in 2020 were achieved, demonstrating the relevance and scalability of shock-responsive safety-net modalities.
- Activities related to the improved articulation of existing regular/shock-responsive safety nets were initially delayed, mostly due to (i) difficulties engaging effectively with the Government as it tackled competing priorities during the COVID-19 crisis, (ii) changes in the institutional landscape (the creation of *Taazour*), and (iii) delays in the revision of the NSPS and its governance bodies (where the JP was meant to be anchored). These issues hampered dialogue at both technical and political levels in 2020.
- In 2021, progress was made towards the achievement of Output 1.1. WFP signed a Partnership Agreement with *Taazour* in 2020, which smoothed collaboration. Bilateral initiatives on social protection have intensified since then, including discussions on the coherence and synergy between the different social safety net programmes.
- In March 2021, a workshop was held on the articulation of existing social safety nets, allowing actors involved in humanitarian and development programmes to discuss the different options for articulating their programmes. As planned, a committee has been set up to follow up on discussions and to develop an integrated social protection model.
- In 2022, two workshops were held at the central and regional levels for a technical validation of the integrated social protection program model.
- All the options necessary for the operationalization of the model of articulation of social protection programs having been thus validated, it is up to the government to launch the necessary reforms, through the process of revision of the NSPS
- To ensure the coherence and harmonization of intervention modalities, WFP supported the Government in planning the emergency response and in implementing their National Response Plan, including in the Guidimakha region. The plan integrates the emergency assistance interventions of humanitarian and development stakeholders. These were documented by December 2021 to improve targeting and assistance approaches. The capitalization workshop for the 2021 response, organized in January 2022, was an opportunity to identify targeting approaches and improvement tools. A workshop report with recommendations was produced and used to draw lessons and inform preparations for the 2022 national response plan.

Output 1.2. Enhanced reactivity, inclusiveness and relevance of the Social Registry, including for the most vulnerable women, men, boys and girls.

- PUNOs together with the WB are supporting the authorities to improve the targeting process of the social registry. To this end, a joint WB, WFP and UNICEF study was launched in 2020 and finalised in July 2021, with the objectives of 1) making existing procedures as reliable and efficient as possible; 2) guaranteeing the inclusion of all forms of poverty to reduce the risk of exclusion for user programmes; 3) maintaining a dynamic database using user feedback. The final report was validated in June 2021 and the implementation of the recommendations is also supported by PUNOs and the WB.
- The study was initially delayed due to COVID-19, as the technical expertise of the government and partners was diverted from long-term objectives to crisis response activities. As a result, the final testing of the feedback procedures will be delayed until the lean season of 2022.
- Following discussions between the UNDP and the Directorate General of the Social Register, it is expected that the implementation of some of the recommendations, including the full update, will be initiated to help improve the

targeting of the most vulnerable households that are currently not registered. It is also expected that the Social Register will target people with disabilities.

Output 1.3. Improved ability of vulnerable populations to access basic social services (both in terms of quality and quantity), including for women, men, boys and girls.

Owing to the joint project, the child referral system put in place has enabled to identify social services in the community, to identify the specific needs of children living in households benefiting from social safety net programs, and thus to establish a mechanism for linking the demand for and supply of social services in the community.

- A total of 1,453 children, 47 percent of whom were out-of-school girls, were enrolled in school after identification. In addition, 709 out of school children recently identified, are currently benefiting from support for their reinsertion at school. All these children benefited from accelerated learning programs in Arabic, French, arithmetic, reading, writing, and were supported in terms of school supplies. These children continue to be monitored daily to prevent them from dropping out.
- A social referral system has been set up. It allows the mapping of social services in the community, to identify the specific needs of children living in households benefiting from social safety net programmes, and thus to establish a mechanism for connecting the demand and supply of social services in the community.

Output 1.4. Increased household knowledge of existing basic social services and their access conditions as well as essential family practices, child protection, and gender equity notions.

Under this output, interventions aimed at adapting social and behavior tools to enable their deployment across all social protection platforms and social safety net programmes to ensure coherence, complementarity, and articulation of C4D delivery mechanisms to target communities. In 2020, social and behaviour change materials related to COVID-19 prevention were distributed to field facilitators of the *Tekavoul* social safety net programme. The JP has contributed to boosting the policy dialogue around the NSPS through high-level joint advocacy by the UN system agencies. The JP also provided capacity-building for government officials through various training courses on contributory and non-contributory social protection. The JP has also generated evidence through several studies on different social protection issues, including:

- The study on the challenges of access to social protection in Mauritania
- The Social Protection Floor in Mauritania
- The ILO Social Security Enquiry
- Analysis of the fiscal space in Mauritania
- The joint UNICEF, WFP, WB study on the Social Register
- The study on the feasibility of health insurance for workers in the informal economy
- The study on the articulation of social protection programmes in Mauritania

The study on barriers and challenges to access to social protection, particularly in the livestock sector in the Guidimakha region was completed on 31 March 2021 and its findings were validated in a workshop on 8 June 2021. The study provides an overview of the contributory potential of the informal sectors in rural areas. The methodology to be applied is based on ILO's guide on the extension of social protection to the informal sectors, which was translated to French.

The study on the feasibility of health insurance for workers in the informal economy in the Guidimakha region was carried out and presented to the stakeholders in a workshop on October 21, 2021. This study will enable the implementation of a pilot community health insurance scheme in Guidimakha in partnership with the Regional Council, the MASEF, and the NGOs active in this field.

The update of the information system of the National Social Security Fund (CNSS) (act. 3.1) is essential for the progressive inclusion of the informal sectors in expanding the contributory social security schemes to the rural / informal sector in Mauritania. Digitization also contributes to improving the collection of contributions and financial potential of this institution. It makes it easier to bring employers and workers into the system. The new target architecture of the CNSS, will enable the ever-growing electronic traffic to be more fluid and will respond effectively and efficiently to the new requirements of the CNSS due to the expansion of its activity to a larger population.

Output 2.1. Gender-sensitive evidence generated and lessons learned on the implementation of the integrated social protection model (for replicability and scale-up)

- ILO's SSI was completed for the first time in Mauritania to provide a source of reliable data for social security institutions and social protection programmes in Mauritania. Its findings were validated at national workshop in March 2021, enabling national actors to take ownership of the tool and providing them with a complete mapping of social protection institutions, programmes and data that will be updated annually. Training of stakeholders was conducted on social protection indicators in March 2021 to build their capacity to collect, analyse, use and disseminate social protection data and statistics more effectively.
- In April 2021, the feasibility study on health insurance in the informal economy in the Guidimakha region was launched. In October 2021, it was submitted to stakeholders for validation.
- The study on the challenges and barriers to access to social protection is underway (see Output 1.5).
- The joint UNICEF, WFP, and WB study on the social registry aims to facilitate the inclusion of all forms of poverty in the social protection system to reduce the risk of exclusion for programme users (see Output 1.2).
- Due to the health crisis, several national and regional surveys had been delayed, including several data collection exercises planned to feed the programme dashboard. Owing to the SSI, data on the CNSS scheme and the social benefits provided by MASEF in the region are now available.
- The setting up of a monitoring and evaluation system of the regional pilot was delayed due to data collection and analysis constraints during the COVID-19 crisis. Quantitative data was available in mid-2021 and is being complemented with qualitative data. A consultant was hired to conduct a desk review of quantitative data and collect qualitative data. Completion of this activity is linked to implementation of other components of the JP, and its timeline has been adjusted accordingly to ensure it monitors all JP results.

Output 2.2. Improved dialogue and coordination at all levels on social protection.

- Work to enhance coordination at regional level was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Regional coordination support activities began in March 2021 with a joint mission to the region by the three PUNOs (supported by the regional representative of the MASEF). The recruitment of a project coordinator at field level was finalised in June 2021 and a second joint mission was conducted in October 2021 by the members of the steering committee, including the PUNOs.
- An *ad hoc* steering committee was set up at national level to monitor and validate the various stages of the JP's implementation. This steering committee is composed of government technical staff (from ministries involved in social protection), the PUNOs, the WB and NGOs working on social protection. An initial meeting was held in November 2021, to present the project and report on the regional mission that took place in March. It aims to promote dialogue between national and regional levels.
- Revision of the NSPS is still pending, therefore it has not been possible to undertake all the planned activities to support its operationalization. However, the following key developments have taken place in the last quarter of 2021:
 - The inter-ministerial committee in charge of social protection met on 15 December 2021 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister and asked the technical committee (established by Order 94 of January 8, 2014), to review the status of implementation of the strategy, to draw up the terms of reference for the strategy, and to propose a new steering mechanism for the strategy
 - Following these recommendations, the Technical Committee met on 8 January 2022 to draw up a roadmap for updating the strategy to be submitted to the inter-ministerial committee.
 - In early January 2022, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Promotion of Productive Sectors (MAEPSP) and the Secretary General of the MASEF organised a high-level coordination meeting for the discussion around the NSPS revision process. Key government institutions and technical and financial partners participated in the meeting. The Government is expected to validate a roadmap defining the steps and technical support needed from social protection stakeholders.

2. Achievement of expected JP outcomes

Outcome 1: Improved effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of social protection services in the region of Guidimakha, as a result of social protection programmes being integrated, expanded, more accessible and inclusive.

- The mapping of existing programmes and the analysis of coherence mechanisms has enabled decision-makers and social actors to identify opportunities for complementarity and optimization of resources in the implementation of programmes.
- Duplications and opportunities for coherence have been identified and will be tested through the model.

Outcome 2: UNDAF/CPDD Strategic priority 3 – Governance – Outcome 4) Central and local institutions ensure a more efficient and transparent conduct of public policies.

- The programme has strengthened the coordination mechanism of social protection actors, both at provincial and national levels.
- A coordination committee at regional level to harmonize the actions of different actors, including the technical contributions in the policy documents being developed by different sectors.

3. Monitoring and data collection

To ensure a good monitoring and data collection system, a field coordinator was positioned in the Guidimakha region to work directly with government actors and non-governmental organization partners. Data collection tools have been put in place. The data is validated through the regional coordination committee, before being sent to national level.

Lessons learned and sustainability of results

- The development of the integrated social protection model is timely, as Mauritania is in the process of reviewing its national social protection strategy.
- Working together is not merely about each agency working in silo to complete its activities under the JP. Genuine willingness to look beyond the mandate of each individual agency is necessary, putting the best interests of the beneficiaries first.
- Synergy in the implementation of actions makes it possible to be more effective and efficient and strengthens the credibility of the government (when its partners are effectively mobilized for action).
- Capacity-building of governmental actors enables them to take ownership.

III. Plan for the final phase of implementation

Towards the end of JP implementation

The results reported at the end of the programme remain consistent with those set out in the JP document. However, it is important to highlight that the model for the articulation of national programmes, which was discussed and technically validated, could not be tested on the ground as this process requires reform to be operational. Articulation has only been tested through the JP's implemented by the three agencies involved in this programme. To ensure that the expected results are achieved, field missions with partners were being organized at the regional level until the end of the programme. At the national level, advocacy efforts were also carried out and have helped accelerate implementation of activities requiring political approval, including contributing towards unblocking the NSPS revision process.

Risks and mitigation measures

A major challenge that continues to have an impact on JP implementation is the slow pace of the revision of the NSPS and its governing committee. The following mitigation measures are being taken:

- Promoting the effective functioning of the steering committee established specifically for this programme, under the lead of the Ministry of Economic Affairs.
- Recruitment of social protection experts to coordinate implementation of the JP at regional level and to liaise with local authorities.

Annex 1: Consolidated Annual Results

1. JP contribution to global Fund’s programmatic results

- Provide data for the Joint SDG Fund global results (as per targets defined in the JP document).

Global Impact: Progress towards SDGs

Select up to 3 SDG indicators that your Joint Programme primarily contributed to (in relation to SDG targets listed in your JP ProDoc):

SDG: 1.3

SDG: 3.8

Global Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale

Outcome indicators	Expected 2021 target	2021 result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected final target
1.1: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scope ²	1	Ongoing SNPS review process Validation of the new plan for the SCAPP		SNPS validation by the end of December 2022 The SCAPP validated
<i>List the policies:</i>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing revision of the SCAPP • Ongoing revision of the SPNS 				
1.2: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scale ³	1	same as above		Same as above
<i>List the policies:</i>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing revision of the SCAPP • Ongoing revision of the SPNS 				

²Scope=substantive expansion: additional thematic areas/components added or mechanisms/systems replicated.

³Scale=geographical expansion: local solutions adopted at the regional and national level or a national solution adopted in one or more countries.

Global Output 3: Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented

Output indicators	Expected 2021 target	2021 result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected final target
3.1 Number of innovative solutions that were tested (disaggregated by % successful-unsuccessful)	1	Ongoing process		
3.2: Number of integrated policy solutions that have been implemented with the national partners in lead	1	Ongoing process		

Did your Joint Programme contribute to strengthening of national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators in 2020-2021?

Yes

The program is seen as a positive model, and lessons learned for future interventions, including at the government level where coordination between ministries is also a challenge.

2. Results as per JP Programmatic Results Framework

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Expected 2021 target	2021 Result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected final target
Outcome 1: Integrated and improved social protection programmes result in enhanced efficiency, inclusiveness and utilization of social protection services at regional level					
<i>Outcome 1 Indicator 1</i> SDG 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable	0	1	Ongoing process	N/A	1
<i>Outcome 1 Indicator 2</i> SDG 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance	TBD (national target) (EPCV 2014)	% of men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable who have access to basic services etc.	Partial contribution of the project	N/A	Partial contribution of the project

<i>Outcome 1 Indicator 3</i> SDG 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	TBD (national target) (EPCV 2014)				
Output 1.1: The various components of an integrated safety-net package are better articulated and piloted in Guidimakha, in a way that deliberately supports women’s choice and empowerment					
<i>Output 1.1 Indicator 1</i> Proof of concept of the integrated safety net model developed and endorsed for piloting, demonstrating a common vision and accounting for gender considerations	0	1	Ongoing process	The objective is not yet 100% achieved, but significant progress has been made with the production of a final note presenting several options for the articulation of social nets. The selected option were also validated by the Government.	1
<i>Output 1.2 Indicator 2</i> Number of programmes implemented in Guidimakha, adopting complementary and gender-sensitive targeting and transfer modalities ⁴	0	6	4	N/A	6
Output 1.2: Enhanced reactivity, inclusiveness and relevance of the Social Registry, including for the most vulnerable women, men, boys and girls					
<i>Output 1.2 Indicator 1</i> Standard procedures are developed and approved by both the Social Registry and user programmes to account for user feedback and ensure inclusiveness of the most vulnerable women, men, boys and girls	0	1	1	N/A	1
<i>Output 1.2 Indicator 2</i> Standard procedures for user feedback and inclusiveness of the most vulnerable women, men, boys and girls are tested in the Guidimakha region	0	1	Ongoing process	The processes for user feedback has been initiated with support from HQ for data security/protection of surveyed populations.	1
Output 1.3: Improved ability of vulnerable populations to access basic social services (both in qualitative and quantitative terms), including for women, men, boys and girls					

⁴ The non-exhaustive list of safety-net programmes includes: Tekavoul, El Maouna, EMEL, Governmental and non-Governmental lean season food or cash assistance, School feeding, Food Assistance for Assets (Governmental and non-Governmental).

<p><i>Output 1.3 Indicator 1</i> % of vulnerable population accessing basic social services in Guidimakha</p>	<p>- 64% of the population have access to a health facility within 5 km of their homes - 67% of births delivered at home - 18% gross primary and secondary school enrolment rate</p>	<p>+ 60 % of the vulnerable children identified in the Guidimakha region have access to basic social services</p>	<p>Achieved</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>+ 60 % of the vulnerable children identified in the Guidimakha region have access to basic social services</p>
<p><i>Output 1.3 Indicator 2</i> Establishment of referral mechanism to improve access to basic social services and demand creation among vulnerable population</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The referral system has been put in place and is being now tested.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Output 1.4: Increased household knowledge of existing basic social services and their access conditions as well as essential family practices, child protection, and gender equity notions</p>					
<p><i>Output 1.4 Indicator 1</i> Number of vulnerable households (including female headed households) benefiting from safety-nets in Guidimakha region</p>	<p>TBD (EPCV 2019, RTM household survey, NSPS steering committee, SCAPP) A determiner EPVC 2019</p>	<p>+20% of the initial number of households benefiting from safety nets in the Guidimakha region</p>	<p>Linking Tekavoul (national safety net programs) with social services</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>+20% of the initial number of households benefiting from safety nets in Guidimakha</p>

Output 1.5: Social security programme's tools and procedures reviewed, adapted and tested to expand contributory social security schemes (including community-based ones) to the rural/informal sector in Mauritania					
<i>Output 1.5 Indicator 1</i> Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable (SDG 1.3.1)	TBD (Social Security Inquiry)	+20% of the population covered by social protection floors	Support for the implementation of the SSI.	N/A	+20% of the population covered by social protection floors
Outcome 2: Central and local institutions ensure a more efficient and transparent conduct of public policies (UNDAF/CPDD strategic priority governance - outcome 3)					
<i>Outcome 2 Indicator 1</i> SDG 10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality	1 (NSPS adopted in 2013)	2	Ongoing process SNPS to be validated by the end of 2022.	The roadmap and the Term of reference validated, capacity building of key stakeholders, review of the current SNPS document, technical support	2
<i>Outcome 2 Indicator 2</i> SDG 17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development	0	1	1	The programs has contributed to enhancing Social protection Coordination mechanism	1
Outcome 2: Central and local institutions ensure a more efficient and transparent conduct of public policies (UNDAF/CPDD strategic priority governance - outcome 3)					
Output 2.1: Gender-sensitive evidence generated and lessons learned on the implementation of the integrated social protection model (including for replicability and scale-up)					
<i>Output 2.1 indicator 1</i> Actuarial studies and other technical reports submitted and cleared by the national authorities	To be determined (Social Security Inquiry)	n/a	1	The study has been validated by the Government	
<i>Output 2.1 indicator 2</i> Project dashboard established	0	1			1
Output 2.2: Improved dialogue and coordination at all levels on social protection					
<i>Output 2.2 indicator 1</i> Operationalization of the revised NSPS			Ongoing process	The process is ongoing the final validation is planned for December 2022.	

Annex 2: Strategic documents

- Complete the tables below by focusing on documents that are of particular strategic importance for the JP results – primarily **legal acts, strategies, policy documents, methodological guidance (e.g. SOPs) and reports on comprehensive analysis.**

2.1. Contribution to social protection strategies, policies and legal frameworks

Strategic documents developed or adapted by JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on extending social protection coverage (Yes/No)	Focus on improved comprehensiveness of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on enhancing adequacy of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on improving governance, administration and/or implementation of social protection system (Yes/No)	Focus on cross-sectoral integration with healthcare, childcare, education, employment, food security, etc. (Yes/No)	If published, provide the hyperlink
Social Security Inquiry – Mauritania (SSI)	12/20	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
World Social Protection Report 2020–22	11/21	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_817572.pdf

Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution (but did not produce or lead in producing)

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on extending social protection coverage (Yes/No)	Focus on improved comprehensiveness of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on enhancing adequacy of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on improving governance, administration and/or implementation of social protection system (Yes/No)	Focus on cross-sectoral integration with healthcare, childcare, education, employment, food security, etc. (Yes/No)	If published, provide the hyperlink
Translation from English to French through the ILO's Social Protection Department (SOCPRO) of the Guide to extend social security to workers in the informal economy	11/20	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Guide in English (JP contributed to translation)

2.2. Focus on vulnerable populations

Strategic documents developed or adapted by JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on gender equality and women empowerment (Yes/No)	Focus on children (Yes/No)	Focus on youth (Yes/No)	Focus on older persons (Yes/No)	Focus on other group/s (List the group/s)	Focus on PwDs (Yes/No)	Included disaggregated data by disability - and whenever possible by age, gender and/or type of disability (Yes/No)
N/A								

Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution (but did not produce or lead in producing)

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on gender equality and women empowerment (Yes/No)	Focus on children (Yes/No)	Focus on youth (Yes/No)	Focus on older persons (Yes/No)	Focus on other group/s (List the group/s)	Focus on PwDs (Yes/No)	Included disaggregated data by disability - and whenever possible by age, gender and/or type of disability (Yes/No)
N/A								

Annex 3: Updated JP Risk Management Matrix

- Update the table from your JP document with the most recent analysis of risks and corresponding mitigation measures. This should support the narrative update provided in part C above.

Risks	Risk Level: (Likelihood x Impact)	Likelihood: Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare – 1	Impact: Essential – 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant - 1	Mitigating measures	Responsible Org./Person
Contextual risks (e.g. social, environmental, security and safety risks)					
High turnover among key Government counterparts The rapid turnover observed among senior officials who leave their posts within a very short period of time (6 months) has an impact on the implementation of interventions.	9	3	3	The intervention ensured all new involved counterparts are duly briefed.	All PUNOs
Disasters/shocks triggered by natural hazards and climate change and/or health-related outbreaks that will severely affect targeted communities COVID-related risks (new waves related to variants of the virus) or natural hazards such as droughts/floods may lead to an increase in the number of people in need of assistance, spur pastoral/agro-pastoral population movements, and may divert attention/resources away from project priorities, all of which can influence the implementation of the programme.	12	4	3	JP activities were adjusted to consider the risks related to the impact of restrictive COVID-19 measures on implementation. The project no cost extension also represented an opportunity to better address project challenges. Close monitoring of the situation by partners on the ground at UN level, regular communication with donors on resource needs. Dedicated staff appointed for JP implementation.	All PUNOs
Programmatic/Operational risks					
Potential difficulties in the partnership between PUNOs Possible challenges could result from misunderstandings and lack of a common vision among PUNOs resulting in a fragmented project implementation and lack of overall coherence. This may lead to confusion among Government counterparts and partners. This could also be	6	2	3	Co-working sessions were regularly held between UNICEF, ILO and WFP.	All PUNOs


caused by potential delays / differences in implementation pace among PUNOs.					
<p>Limited community involvement</p> <p>Without community support, the package of interventions will not be sufficiently comprehensive, particularly in interventions regarding behavior change.</p> <p>Further, an estimated eight out of ten employed persons in Mauritania work in vulnerable forms of employment. Rural and non-formal sectors are weakly represented in tripartite dialogue mechanisms. This implies a risk of low engagement of worker and employer organizations in the dialogue at the national level and weak support to social partners at the local and regional levels in terms of strategic articulation and dialogue.</p>	9	3	3	PUNOs used their long-term partnerships, built with local stakeholders and community-based organizations (CBOs), to strengthen and sustain communities' involvement and ownership of the project.	All PUNOs
Institutional risks (e.g. political, regulatory risks)					
<p>Uncertainties related to the operationalization of newly established regional institutions</p> <p>Newly established regional council in Guidimakha may not have the coordination capacity to lead integrated social protection interventions. Potential of role overlaps between regional technical services, regional councils and Governors.</p>	16	4	4	PUNOs were proactive in keeping abreast of developments in the implementation of the decentralization reform.	All PUNOs
Fiduciary risks (financial risks, fraud & corruption risks)					
<p>Lack of financial resources</p> <p>PUNOs face difficulties in mobilizing financial resources for their complementary actions identified as part of this project. The launch of the intervention plan linked to COVID-19, as well as the safety nets put in place by the newly created social solidarity agency <i>Taazour</i> could reduce the funding and impact of other existing social protection programmes of the various sectoral ministries involved in the deployment of the NSPS.</p>	4	2	2	Proactive resource mobilization efforts of all PUNOs, and sustained advocacy towards Government authorities to ensure adequate investment level have been made to minimize this risk.	All PUNOs

Annex 4: Results questionnaire

Complete portfolio questionnaire available at: <https://forms.office.com/r/H4eZkyx9H>

Annex 5: SDG Blog

An integrated social protection model in the Guidimakha region 7 September, 2022):
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SOp0oLIL3JtmzoTibaxn6hCTo_90Xsz3/view?usp=share_link

<p>An integrated social protection model in the</p> <p>Guidimakha region, Mauritania</p>	
<p>Tuesday, Sept 7th 2022</p>	

Mauritania An unprecedented economic impact

Over the past decade, Mauritania has made great strides in managing its aid to poor and vulnerable populations. Following the adoption of the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) in 2013, the Mauritanian government has developed a range of social protection tools and programs to address deep-seated vulnerabilities, chronic poverty, and shock-related food insecurity and malnutrition. However, these interventions have remained fragmented, with limited coverage and quality of programs, and uneven resources, reach, and results. Through this joint program funded by the SDG Fund, the three agencies (UNICEF, WFP, ILO) in partnership with the World Bank, under the leadership of the Minister of Economic Affairs and Promotion of Productive Sectors (MAEPS.) The three agencies have mobilized their expertise to support national efforts in creating an integrated social protection system piloted in the Guidimakha region (estimated population 280,000 people)



Source: Photo credit: a valuable family. © Project Line of Mauritania 2022

The recovery The result of joint efforts

With the goal of supporting the social protection dialogue in Mauritania, the joint program has launched an initiative to support the government in improving the articulation between safety net programs and in developing tools to strengthen the social protection system in a coherent and efficient manner.



While it has been stalled since 2019, the process of updating the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) has been relaunched through the SDG Funds. Following a joint advocacy process put in place by UNICEF, WFP, ILO, in partnership with the World Bank and other technical and financial partners, the social protection coordination mechanism has finally been reactivated and capacity building programs relaunched.

This means a lot for the population, in particular the strengthening of the referral system of social protection beneficiaries to the rights holders, the strengthening of the link between the demand and the supply of services in terms of vaccination, access to civil status documents, or even the referral of cases of severe acute malnutrition.

Thus, significant achievements in the articulation, harmonization and coherence of social safety net programs have been observed. Among the achievements, the establishment of a coordination platform at the central and regional levels, which allowed for discussion of social protection challenges in Mauritania, and in Guidimakha in particular, as well as the joint search for adequate solutions through information sharing and joint support to the government in conducting studies and joint missions. The three agencies, in collaboration with the World Bank, have continued to advocate for the inclusion of the most vulnerable people in social protection services such as health insurance, education, civil status, balanced nutrition, and cash transfers.