

# Joint SDG Fund PORTOFLIO ON INTEGRATED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LNOB

## Joint Programme 2020 Annual Progress Report

### Template

## 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**

**Start date (month/year): February, 2020**

**End date (month/year): February, 2022**

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**Budget (Joint SDG Fund contribution): 2,000,000 USD**

**Overall budget (with co-funding): 10,000,000 USD**

**Annual Financial Delivery Rate (= Total JP expenditures / transferred funds x 100%): 44%**

**Rate of Committed Funding (= Total JP commitments / transferred funds x 100%): 64%**

**Short description of the Joint Programme** : Building on a shared vision of the government, the United Nations, the World Bank, and civil society actors, the Joint Programme will develop a pilot approach of a coherent integrated regional model of existing social protection programmes and support the social protection dialogue in Mauritania. The initiative will address issues of fragmentation and critical gaps in Mauritania's support to vulnerable populations by improving the articulation between safety net programmes, developing the critical missing pieces of a coherent social protection system as well as a data system for vulnerable groups. The participating United Nations organizations (PUNOs) will mobilize their expertise to support national efforts in the creation of an integrated social protection system piloted in the region of Guidimakha, one of the areas of convergence of the new UNDAF (CPDD) and one of the most vulnerable regions of the country. Evidence and empirical experience will allow upgrading the national social protection strategy and programmes and propose a more holistic, coherent and applicable model for replication in other regions or for scale-up at national level, as well as to accelerate the achievement and monitoring of specific SDGs targets related to poverty reduction, social protection, policy strengthening and gender equality. Valued at US\$ 10 million, with a US\$ 2 million contribution from the Joint SDG Fund and US\$ 8 million from the three PUNOs, the programme is aligned with the new World Bank investment in social protection in the Guidimakha region and may contribute to model interventions which could be replicated in other regions of Mauritania.

## Executive summary

As a result of JP coordination efforts, Mauritania was invited to be an observer to the General Assembly of the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to achieve sustainable development goals (USP2030), and eventually became a member of USP2030. The Social Security Survey (SSI) provides the country for the first time with a comprehensive picture of data on social protection for children, the unemployed, the elderly, the disabled, pregnant women, newborns, victims of occupational accidents, and the poor and vulnerable. The report will be published as part of the next global survey on social security, including contributory and non-contributory programs. The indicators on the coverage of social protection benefits and on the revenue and expenditure of social protection schemes have been established on the basis of data provided by all relevant government programs. These SSI indicators are a tool for the government for monitoring progress in social protection coverage and to report on SDG 1.3.

PUNOs, together with the WB, support the authorities to improve the targeting process of the social registry, the flagship tool for social protection. To this end, a joint study has been launched with the objectives of 1) make existing procedures as reliable and efficient as possible; 2) guarantee the inclusion of all forms of poverty to reduce the risk of exclusion for user programs; 3) maintain a dynamic database using user feedback. The primary data collection carried out during the first phase of the survey enabled some preliminary conclusions to be drawn, particularly on the risk of exclusion of some poor households from the social register. This study contributes to the complete updating of the social register and should enable the inclusion of all poor households vulnerable to shocks; to the JP's LNOB approach and to ODD 1.3 "Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and vulnerable".

In the context of the re-purposing of funds to respond to COVID-19 pandemic, the PUNOs were able to test innovative approaches to adaptive safety nets - test the scaling-up these safety nets in a context of food and health crises, and to create 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).

## A. Annual Progress

### A.1 The overall approach

#### *Broader context and JP changes*

- The Islamic Republic of Mauritania registered its first confirmed case of COVID-19 on 13 March, 2020. As of 31 December, 14,364 confirmed cases are reported, including 11,381 recoveries and 347 deaths. The COVID-19 pandemic is occurring in a national context marked by a lean season particularly difficult : 15% of the population has faced food and nutrition crisis conditions between June and August, 2020.
- The implementation of the joint programme began in February, 2020 and was slowed down following the emergence of COVID-19 in Mauritania and the measures to limit the spread of the virus. The prohibition on traffic between the regions and the presence of administration staff reduced to basic services have weighing heavily on the implementation of the joint programme since March. The progressive and partial lifting of restrictive measures allowed the resumption of collaboration with partners for the implementation of the program's activities in September, however the country has been experiencing a second wave since November and new restrictions have been taken impacting the implementation of the JP. Given the sudden change in the situation, it was necessary to reconsider the support that the joint programme could provide for mitigating the impact of the crisis on vulnerable households by supporting the Government's efforts in the area of social protection (i.e. allocation of US\$ 13.4 million to the poorest households, including women headed households, elderly and people with disabilities). The Taazour agency, whose mandate is to centralize and coordinate the implementation of most social protection programs, has naturally become the main contact for the PUNO, particularly for cash transfer and food assistance programs. Ensuring continuity with previous investments made to develop ex ante shock response programs has so far proved difficult in the context of COVID-19, given that the bulk of the cash response is provided through ad hoc interventions that follow targeting and delivery modalities that have not been subject to prior consultation. This underscores once again the critical importance of streamlining and integrating the modalities of shock response intervention in Mauritania.
- The three major risks identified during the development of the joint programme, namely: i) the fragmentation of social protection mechanisms; ii) the occurrence of a major health crisis; and iii) staff

turnover in government institutions, particularly following the creation of the Taazour Agency; materialized at the start of the program, when any field activity had not yet started, partners in the intervention area had not yet been mobilized and the mitigation measures envisaged in the risk management plan were not yet in place.

- In the context of the response to the COVID-19 crisis, the government has focused on ad hoc cash transfer interventions that are managed outside the social protection consultation framework, namely the steering committee of the national social protection strategy (NSPS), which is also the steering body of the joint programme. Reactivating the leadership of the NSPS steering committee is difficult in the emergency context that the country has been experiencing for several months. The revision of the NSPS adopted in 2013, which had begun with the technical validation of the ToR, has not really progressed since October 2020, even though it is an opportunity for the agencies involved in the joint program and more broadly the actors of social protection. Regarding the updating of the NSPS steering committee that will be in charge of this process, the process has been initiated, but without much success. Pending the high-level government decision on the NSPS review exercise, which will have an impact on the NSPS steering committee, the establishment of a project-specific steering committee involving the various departments involved in the joint program could make it possible to give impetus to the coordination dynamics required at the central level.
- During the presentation of the Government's progress report and the outlook for 2021, the Prime Minister stated: "At the same time, the country's main development strategies will be drawn up, adopted or revised. This will concern the National Report on Human Development, the National Population Policy, the National Strategy for Social Protection and the National Strategy to Combat Corruption. »
- The Taazour National Agency's flagship program, Tekavoul, continues serving as a gateway for the various actors working to promote and provide access to basic social services to create bridges and systematic links between safety net programs and basic social services, thereby providing the most vulnerable populations and communities with integrated packages of interventions and helping to ensure the breaking of multidimensional and intergenerational poverty.

#### *Ensuring that JP remains strategic and catalytic*

- The joint program 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". It contributes to the operationalization of the convergence zone approach promoted by the UNDAF/CPDD 2018-2022, the interventions being carried out in the Guidimakha region, which is one of the three convergence zones of the United Nations system, with the objective of strengthening regional capacities and mechanisms for coordination, planning, monitoring and optimal coordinated management of existing resources. The data on social protection produced by the JP (Social security inquiry) will feed the update of the common situation analysis.
- Thanks to the **adjustment to the JP allowed in context of the repurposing for COVID-19**, the agencies were able to test innovative approaches to adaptive safety nets - test the scaling-up these safety nets in a context of food and health crises, and to create 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).

The re-purposing of funds which contributed to the response to the gap aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic in Guidimakha made it possible to assist 5,410 households, or 47,168 people, in 12 communes. This intervention contributed to the considerable scaling up of the COVID response and thus to the first test of the tools developed ex-ante for ensuring the efficiency of social nets that are reactive to shocks (use of the CODEP geographic targeting methodology and the social register for household targeting, predefined transfer modalities and values, etc.). Scaling up has allowed to test the responsiveness to shocks of the harmonized tools developed within the framework of the Food Security Group (GSA): procedures for geographic prioritization, household targeting, calculation of the ration for each category of household (according to its size), etc. These tools are essential to the operation of a national social protection system adaptive to shocks because they allow scaling up in a few days thanks to standardized procedures easy to replicate by all the actors involved in the response. The government (CSA) coordinated the response well (with the help of the WFP, via the GSA), thanks to the monthly updating of the monitoring matrix, which allows each actor to be positioned both geographically (to avoid overlap) and methodologically.

Regarding the implementation of the health insurance pilot project for 300 disabled people through the MASEF Directorate of Handicapped Persons, the process of identifying the health insurance beneficiaries is ongoing. The disabled people identified will be affiliated to the CNAM in January, 2021.

- The **JP interventions were adjusted to consider the context of the health emergency**. The safety net response to the lean season has been integrated into COVID-19 Response Plan. The interventions carried out within this framework followed a protocol adapted by the partners of the food safety group to reduce the sanitary risks. Thus, in addition to the adoption of reinforced hygiene measures and social distancing on the distribution sites, the operations of geographical prioritization were entirely carried out remotely thanks to a new method using essentially objective data (rainfall, biomass, surface water, global malnutrition rate, recurrence of shocks). In addition, to limit the risks of spreading the virus, cash transfer distributions were combined into two interventions, each covering two months of food ration, rather than four monthly distributions as is normally done. Interventions contributing to the promotion of access to basic social services and infrastructure at the regional level have also been adjusted for ensuring continuity of services during the health crisis. Infection prevention and control and risk communication actions were also carried out within this framework.
- In response to the pandemic, the government set up a health response plan, followed by a multi-sector plan and a solidarity fund including assistance to vulnerable households. The multisectoral response plan and the President's first priority program developed before the health crisis were consolidated in September 2020 in the President's Expanded Priority Program, which aims to create the conditions for economic recovery using a sustainable, inclusive and innovative approach. One component of this expanded program is devoted to social services and includes interventions in favor of vulnerable households (cash-transfer) and aiming at improving the supply of basic social services. The country team doesn't currently have a UN **SERP**, as its efforts in 2020 were focused on supporting the implementation of the health response plan and the development of the government's national multisectoral plan. The development of the SERP is planned by the Country Team in the first quarter of 2021 and resources have been mobilized to this end. The SERP will be aligned with the Government's tools, which give an important place to social protection.

## A.2 Update on priority issues

### *SDG acceleration*

The JP aims at developing a pilot approach to a coherent integrated regional model of existing social protection programs and will support dialogue on social protection in Mauritania. The theory of change is based on the activities, outputs, intermediate outcomes, and impact results of the program. All the activities implemented by the PUNOs - including the complementary activities provided for in the overall budget - are structured around the following axes:

1. articulation of productive safety nets and protection;
2. promotion of social services;
3. deployment of social insurance schemes; and
4. evaluation and linkage with national policy dialogue.

These axes contribute to seven outputs, which represent the expected short-term changes in the common SDG agenda. These outputs will in turn contribute to two outcomes (via intermediate results) that will also be fed by additional programs, financing and mechanisms implemented outside the framework of the SDO Fund. Ultimately, this set of outcomes will directly support the achievement of five major MDGs (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 and will indirectly tackle ten other SDGs.

- Articulation of productive safety nets and protection (1): the vertical and horizontal expansion of social safety nets during the health crisis was tested to effectively meet the needs of the region's poor and vulnerable households. This action also responds to LNOB's approach, which at the heart of the Joint Program 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 register 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 the Taazour national agency 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 in order 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 Register and should allow for the inclusion of all poor households that are vulnerable to shocks; to the LNOB approach of the JP and to the 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 for ensuring 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 expand access to safe water and sanitation services, while ensuring the connection of health centers 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 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 in 2021. 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. The ABND process is a powerful tool for supporting the revision of the national social protection strategy. 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.

### *Vulnerable groups*

- In line with the national social protection strategy, the program aims at ensuring that all population groups can benefit from the various components of the social protection package. People in extreme poverty and food insecurity listed in the Social Registry are targeted, supported by mechanisms to identify and include those who may have been left behind when the Social Registry or social safety net programs were rolled out, or who may have fallen into poverty or food insecurity since then. As such, the testing of the vertical and horizontal expansion of social safety nets during the health crisis was conducted in order to effectively address the needs of poor and vulnerable households in the region. It aims at reaching the invisible, those who are not counted in official data and especially in the social registry, with the aim of expanding the scope and inclusion of existing social protection mechanisms at national and regional levels. This 4-month intervention met the needs of 4,996 households in the Guidimakha region, i.e. 34,735 people composed of 17,159 men and 17,576 women who were food and nutritionally insecure as a result of the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The reallocation of funds in response to the health crisis has also allowed the implementation of a pilot intervention aimed at providing medical coverage for 300 disabled people in the region. At the end of the program at least 800 disabled people in Guidimakha will be made aware of the advantages of health insurance.
- As part of the activities to support the implementation of safety net programs in the Guidimakha region, 19,954 students in 102 schools in Guidimakha benefited from social feeding. The food assistance for the creation of assets (FFA), targeted 12,009 beneficiaries composed of 5,917 men and 6,290 women through the implementation of assets for the control of surface water, soil conservation, securing cultivation areas, for the development of market gardening activities and some environmental protection actions (dune fixation and reforestation). The works carried out contribute to better water and soil management for agricultural purposes. Their impacts should make harvests safer, reduce the rate of malnutrition and possibly improve the resilience of the beneficiary communities. The works were carried out by 1,717 people from the beneficiary community consisting of 817 men and 900 women through cash transfers.

- In response to the health crisis, basic social services efforts have focused on ensuring the continuity of health and nutrition services for women and children, and continuity of learning for children despite school closures by supporting distance education programs. In addition, rural populations without access to safe drinking water and sanitation services were targeted and benefited from infrastructure that guaranteed them an adequate supply of drinking water and sanitation. Thanks to this intervention, 5,614 people have access to drinking water. By the end of the program, it is expected that more than 3,000 additional people will have access to this resource, representing a total of approximately 8,614 people.  
 A total of 300 children, 47 percent of whom were girls out of school, were enrolled in school after identification. In addition, 428 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 on a daily basis in order to prevent them from dropping out.
- Indirect support was provided to about 500 pastoralists and their families in the Guidimakha region to help them empower children and youth - at least those at risk - to understand their right to be free from child labor, the dangers of child labor in livestock sector, and the crucial importance of achieving decent work for the well-being of their communities, including mobilization to improve access to social protection. This support aims at establishing a strategic inspection plan in the livestock sector for the prevention of child labor and the implementation of the existing regulatory framework in Guidimakha.  
 The study on the social register launched by the PUNOs in partnership with the World Bank, also aims to ensure the inclusion of all forms of poverty in order to reduce the risk of exclusion for program users.

#### Gender marker

- The gender dimension is taken into account in all the initiatives implemented, including, the scaling-up of the safety nets in a context of food and health crises and that benefit in particular vulnerable households headed by women, and the study on the Social Registry, which, through its axis 2, emphasizes the inclusion of the most vulnerable people (women, children, etc.);
- The three Agencies are working together with the WB to support the Mauritanian Government in having gender mainstreaming tools in all social protection programs. Support for the improvement of the Social Registry is an illustrative example of this, as it is the main tool for targeting the poorest and most vulnerable households and should be improved to take into account the gender dimension.

#### Human rights

- The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council (HRC) in its thirty-seventh session from 18–29 January 2021 has analyzed the reports submitted by the Mauritanian government and a compilation of information contained in reports of treaty bodies and special procedures and other relevant United Nations documents. The Committee on the Rights of the Child drew the attention of Mauritania to target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, and recommended that Mauritania intensify its efforts to improve the standard of living of children as a matter of priority, 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 multisectoral 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 Guidimakha, in the context of the COVID response.*
- The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Mauritania to: (a) prioritize the 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 participation of labor inspection and livestock inspection with the child protection mechanisms coordinated by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MASEF), in the setting up of an identification and referral mechanisms to the existing social services of child herders.*
- The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Mauritania to adopt a human rights-based approach to disability and: (a) 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 Ministry of Social Affairs and the National Health Insurance CNAM to extend the health insurance to disabled vulnerable people in Guidimakha. The targeting of beneficiaries focuses on disabled children as priority selection criteria.*

### Partnerships

#### At global level

- Following coordination efforts of the JP, Mauritania has been invited to be an observer to the General Assembly of the USP2030 and eventually become member of the USP2030, the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

#### At the central level:

- Collaboration with the Ministry of Economy (MOE) was marked by the official designation of a programme coordinator by the Director General of Strategies and Policies. This high-level manager and technician at the same time, participates actively in the coordination of the JP and acts as an interface between the Agencies (JP) and the Government at both the central and decentralized levels. He ensures overall coherence and efficiency in the implementation of the JP as a whole by facilitating working meetings, participates in the planning of joint missions and informs on the progress of the revision of the NSPS and the Steering Committee.
- Very good collaboration with Taazour, the newly created Delegation to implement the President of the Republic's Social Protection Program, notably Tekavoul, Emel, Social Registry. In 2020, the Social registry Management was supported to launch a high-level study for its improvement through three axes.
- Technical support for the updating of the NSPS, the Agencies were called upon to accompany the MOE in the process of revising the NSPS and updating its steering committee;
- The close collaboration with the World Bank was also marked by the sharing of ideas, approaches and tools, the most recent being the joint launch (co-financed by the WB, UNICEF and WFP) of the study on the Social Register.
- The JP has discussed with ILO, EU and WB social protection specialists for eventually supporting an Assessment-based National Dialogue (ABND). ABND is a powerful instrument to proactively contributing to unite social protection stakeholders in Mauritania. Social partners, employers and workers, of key economic sectors would be brought together in order to integrate them in the revision process of the NSPS at national level. These stakeholders are essential for developing the contributory schemes of social security institutions and the complementarities of the system. The recommendations of the ABND national dialogue take into account government priorities and are ultimately endorsed by policy makers. It involves several key stakeholders like ministries (Social Welfare, Health, Labor, Education, Rural Development, Finance, Planning, and others), local governments, social security institutions, workers' and employers' representatives, civil society organizations, national statistical institutes, academia and development partners.

#### At the regional level:

- Communication with representative coordinating bodies, including the Guidimakha Regional Development Council and the Regional Council is established and maintained even if the launch mission could not take place due to the pandemic.
- Each Agency according to its priorities in Guidimakha and mandate liaises with its partners to avoid dispersion.

### Strategic meetings

Type of event	Yes	No	Comments
JP launch event	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Planned on several occasions, the workshop had to be postponed due to the restrictive measures related to the pandemic, including the ban on interregional travel. The poor connection to internet of partners in the region makes it very difficult to hold a remote workshop involving all stakeholders.</i>

			<i>The workshop is scheduled for February, 2020 in the capital of Guidimakha.</i>
Annual JP development partners '/ donors' event *	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>A discussion was held with the RCO and the agencies involved in the 2nd joint SDG-F program (SDG funding window) to organize a joint meeting of the partners in the last quarter of the year 2020, given that the second program focuses on Zakat which is a component of the social protection system. This event was to take place in a national context characterized by the revision of the NSPS. Due to the second wave of COVID and the restrictions related to it and the absence of progress on the NSPS revision, this activity will be rescheduled at the beginning of 2021.</i>

### *Funding and financing*

- The JP and WB have discussed eventual additional funding of the Assessment Based National Dialogue (ABND), a national dialogue process based on evaluation which identifies priority areas for government intervention and estimates their cost. It brings together the different stakeholders to identify the existing social protection situation in the country, policy gaps, implementation issues and challenges. It then formulates recommendations to address these problems and establish a Social Protection Floor (SPF).
- UNICEF and WFP have jointly mobilized USD 15 million from BMZ to provide essential social assistance to nearly 350,000 of the most vulnerable people as part of the socio-economic response to the pandemic and to strengthen national social protection systems to make them more responsive to shocks and sensitive to nutrition and children.

In 2021, the WFP, UNICEF and the WB will participate in the virtual workshops on Social Protection financed by the BMZ in the Sahel and this will be an opportunity to launch an appeal for mobilizing further funding for social protection programs.

### *Innovation, learning and sharing*

- Among the strong points noted in 2020, within the framework of the JP, the WFP was able to put its expertise in the Social Safety Net (SNS) to good use to respond quickly to the welding crisis and pandemic at the DGK without great difficulty. This approach has been a unique opportunity for the optimization and strategic use of the existing tools and procedures of the PUNO.
- For the first time also, the PUNOS, (WB, UNICEF and WFP) have co-financed a study on the improvement of the SR with each one a priority axis. Contrary to what had been done until the end of the study, Mauritania/SR management will have a single document serving as an inclusive targeting tool. This approach is not only cost-effective, but also effective in terms of strengthening the Government's institutional capacities.
- Study on obstacles to access to the contributory scheme in Guidimakha and at the national level, including problems in collecting contributions or related to the choice of informal solutions (ILO lead). These actions are an important asset for the FNOs in that they provide 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.

### *Strategic communications*

Due to the context of the COVID-19 crisis, the implementation of program activities was delayed in the field and it was not possible to produce HIS content and communication during this period. The other program activities related to the studies are ongoing or have just been finalized (SSI). Communication around the results of these exercises will be ensured.

## **B. 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);  
Please, explain briefly:

The majority of expected annual results aren't achieved at the end of the year due to the materialization of the 3 major risks identified at the start of the program, when any field activity had not yet started, partners in the intervention area had not yet been mobilized and the mitigation measures envisaged in the risk management plan were not yet in place.

Following the emergence of COVID-19 in Mauritania, measures were taken for limiting the spread of the virus. The prohibition on traffic between the regions and the presence of administration staff reduced to basic services have weighed heavily on the implementation of the joint programme since March. The PUNOs seized the adjustment to the JP allowed in context of the repurposing for COVID-19, to test innovative approaches to adaptive safety nets - test the scaling-up these safety nets in a context of food and health crises, and to create 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). Moreover, the JP interventions co-funded by the agencies were adjusted to consider the context of the health emergency. Thus, the safety net response to the lean season has been integrated into COVID-19 Response Plan and followed a protocol to reduce the sanitary risks. Interventions linked to basic social services and infrastructure at the regional level have also been adjusted to ensure continuity of services during the health crisis. Infection prevention and control and risk communication actions were also carried out within this framework. Despite these adaptation efforts, some activities have experienced delays, which could not be overcome due to the arrival of the second wave of the epidemic and the new restrictive measures put in place to prevent the transmission of the virus.

Despite these constraints a number of advances have been made. As a result of JP coordination efforts, Mauritania was invited as an observer to the General Assembly of the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to achieve sustainable development goals (USP2030) and eventually became a member of USP2030. The Social Security Survey (SSI) provides the country for the first time with a comprehensive picture of data on social protection for children, the unemployed, the elderly, the disabled, pregnant women, newborns, victims of occupational accidents, and the poor and vulnerable. The report will be published as part of the next global survey on social security, including contributory and non-contributory programs. The indicators on the coverage of social protection benefits and, on the revenue, and expenditure of social protection schemes have been established on the basis of data provided by all relevant government programs. These SSI indicators are a tool for the government to monitor progress in social protection coverage and to report on SDO 1.3. PUNOs together with the WB support the authorities to improve the targeting process of the social registry, the flagship tool for social protection. To this end, a joint study has been launched with the objectives of 1) make existing procedures as reliable and efficient as possible; 2) guarantee the inclusion of all forms of poverty in order to reduce the risk of exclusion for user programs; 3) maintain a dynamic database using user feedback. The primary data collection carried out during the first phase of the survey enabled some preliminary conclusions to be drawn, particularly on the risk of exclusion of some poor households from the social register. This study contributes to the complete updating of the social register and should enable the inclusion of all poor households vulnerable to shocks; to the JP's LNOB approach and to ODD 1.3 "Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and vulnerable".

All interventions planned under the JP remain relevant, but their chronogram need to be adjusted. An extension request is being considered in order to achieve the expected results of the program.

*Contribution to Fund's global results*

*JP Outputs and Outcomes*

### **Achievement of expected outputs**

#### **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.**

The study on the development of an integrated FFS model could not be launched because of the COVID-19 pandemic, nevertheless, reflections along these lines are being undertaken with key partners, such as Taazour, BM, UNICEF, etc.

A program that has adopted the targeting and complementary transfer modalities has been tested in the Guidimakha region.

**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 support the authorities to improve the targeting process of the social registry, the flagship tool for social protection. To this end, a joint study has been launched with the objectives of 1) make existing procedures as reliable and efficient as possible; 2) guarantee the inclusion of all forms of poverty in order to reduce the risk of exclusion for user programs (this objective contributes directly to output 2.1); 3) maintain a dynamic database using user feedback. The primary data collection carried out during the first phase of the survey enabled some preliminary conclusions to be drawn, particularly on the risk of exclusion of some poor households from the social register. This study contributes to the complete updating of the social register and should enable the inclusion of all poor households vulnerable to shocks; to the JP's LNOB approach and to ODD 1.3.

**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.**

Due to the health crisis, a number of national surveys have been delayed. This is the case for the results of the EPCV, which are not yet available at the time of the preparation of the annual report. The lack of data makes it impossible to measure the results achieved at the end of the year.

In response to the pandemic, basic social services interventions have focused on ensuring continuity of health and nutrition services for women and children, and continuity of learning for children despite school closures by supporting distance education programs. In addition, rural populations without access to drinking water and sanitation services were targeted and benefited from infrastructure. Thanks to this intervention, 5,614 people now have access to drinking water.

A total of 300 children, 47 percent of whom were girls out of school, were enrolled in school after identification. In addition, 428 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 on a daily basis in order to prevent them from dropping out.

**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.**

PC interventions aim at adapting C4D tools used for deployment on all social protection platforms and social safety net programs to ensure coherence, complementarity and articulation of C4D delivery mechanisms to target communities. In 2020, C4D materials related to COVID prevention were distributed to field facilitators of the Tekavoul social net program.

**Output 1.5: Social security programmes' tools and procedures reviewed, adapted and tested to expand contributory social security schemes (including community-based) to the rural/informal sector in Mauritania**

- 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, insofar 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 in particular to the expansion of its activity to a larger population.
- The International Training Center ITC in Turin has trained fourteen officials of CNSS in statistical methods and actuarial tools, as well as pension management. This also contributes to the achievement of Output 1.5.

- The study of barriers (Act. 3.2.1) will provide recommendations for a better access to social protection. The focus will be the organized socio-professional sectors in Guidimakha. It will also provide 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 has been translated to French with support from the JP, a joint funding of ILO and JP.

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

The completion, for the first time ever in Mauritania, of the ILO Social Security Inquiry, as well as the informed SDG indicators 1.3.1 provides a source of reliable data for social security institutions and social protection programs in Mauritania. Actuarial studies and the health insurance feasibility study are scheduled for 2021. The study on the challenges and barriers to access to social protection social protection is underway. Due to the health crisis, a number of national and regional surveys have been delayed. This is the case for several data collection exercises planned to feed the program dashboard. Thanks to the SSI, data on the CNSS scheme and the social benefits provided by MASEF in the region are available.

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

As planned, the agencies have supported the government in the revision of the NSPS. The terms of reference for the exercise have been technically validated, but the exercise itself, which is a prerequisite for the operationalization of the revised strategy, has not yet begun.

**Contribution to Outcome**

**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 SSI is the main source of global data on social protection, used daily by policy makers, officials of international organizations and researchers. The SSI informs SDG Indicator 1.3.1: Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons. The SSI data revealed the following data that contribute to the calculation of Indicator 1.3.1 in particular :

1. Population of pension age, depending on the country statutory pension age: Total 16%; Male : 28%; Female : 3%
2. Working age population contributing to pension schemes: Total 6%; Male : 9%; Female : 3%
3. Persons with severe disabilities : Total 8%; Male : 11%; Female : 4%

**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 ToRs for the revision of the NSPS have been technically validated, but the exercise to provide the country with a new strategy, has not begun.

*Workplan*

- JP workplan was modified
- JP workplan was not modified

Explain briefly: In addition to the opportunity offered by the Fund to redirect part of the funds to the COVID-19 pandemic response that was seized by the agencies, the program timeline has been adjusted to take into account the constraints related to the restrictions put in place to limit the spread of the virus that severely hampered the implementation of field activities between March and September and again in November 2020.

Due to the delay registered since mid-March, most of the activities planned for 2020 have been delayed for a two quarters period.

## C. Plan for the Next Year of implementation

### *Next year*

#### **Pathway 1 : Articulation of productive safety nets and protection**

- Interventions for articulating and integrating social safety nets on the one hand and to improving the coherence of targeting, assistance programs and assistance modalities of existing safety net programs on the other hand will continue at both central and decentralized levels;
- The actions for supporting the improvement of the social register initiated in 2020 to ensure better responsiveness, inclusion and relevance of the register will continue.

#### **Pathway 2 : Promotion of social services**

- Interventions for promoting access to basic social services and infrastructure in the Guidimakha region will continue.
- A referral mechanism for improving access to basic social services and demand creation among vulnerable populations will be put in place.

#### **Pathway 3 : Deployment of social insurance schemes**

- Actuarial evaluations of CNSS and CNAM for ensuring their technical and financial viability for the extension of their systems to the informal sector and vulnerable populations in rural areas.
- Finalization of the study on the challenges and barriers to social protection in Guidimakha and recommendations for better access to social protection.
- Realization of the study on the "Feasibility of a health insurance project for the populations of the informal sector in the wilaya of Guidimakha.
- Continued support for the modernization of the information systems of the CNSS and CNAM to ensure quality services to the socially insured.
- Promoting and implementing tripartite dialogue and social participation to support the deployment of social security schemes in Guidimakha and capacity building of the workers, employers, regional authorities and civil society.

#### **Pathway 4 : Evaluation and linkage to national policy dialogue**

- Consolidation and validation of the ISS Survey and training of resource persons on social security survey techniques
- The project dashboard will be finalized
- A coordination mechanism at the operational level will be supported
- the cohesion and operationalization of the revised national social protection strategy

### *Towards the end of JP implementation*

The final results expected at the end of the program remain in line with those planned in the joint program document. Given the impact of the health emergency on the implementation of program activities, additional time is required to achieve these results, which remain more relevant than ever. A request will be submitted to this effect for an extension of the program for a period of 6 months. The intensification of field missions with partners at the central and decentralized levels, the pursue of advocacy efforts at the highest level to accelerate the implementation of activities requiring political approval, and the mobilization of human resources (partly already achieved) assigned to the region of intervention will make it possible to achieve these results.

### *Risks and mitigation measures*

At the time of the writing of this report, the second wave of COVID-19 seems to have passed, but one or more other waves related to the different variants of the virus that are spreading around the world are not excluded. The program activities will be adjusted to consider the risks related to the impact of the restrictive measures

on the implementation of the program and thus limit additional delays. This risk inevitably requires a more flexible approach to program implementation. It also represents an opportunity as it led to the first nationwide emergency cash transfers by the Government, which have benefited more than 200,000 households. In particular, the presence of personnel in the field will ensure a proximity presence that should limit disruptions due to possible travel restrictions.

Difficulties related to the non-functionality of the Steering Committee for the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) encountered during the past year have slowed down the implementation of interventions. While awaiting the high-level government decision on the NSPS review exercise, which will have an impact on the NSPS steering committee, the establishment of a project-specific steering committee involving the various departments involved in the joint program could help boost the coordination momentum required at the central level, particularly in connection with the national dialogue on social protection.

The launch of the intervention plan linked to COVID, as well as the safety nets put in place by the newly created social solidarity agency TAAZOUR could reduce the financing and impact of other existing social protection programs of the various sectoral ministries involved in the deployment of the NSPS. Advocacy efforts will be made to reduce this risk.

## Annex 1: Consolidated Annual Results

### 1. JP contribution to global programmatic results (annual)

#### Global Impact: Progress towards SDGs

List up to 3 main SDG targets that your Joint Programme primarily focused on in 2020

#### World impact : Progress towards SDG

Indicate up to 3 main objectives of the SDGs that your joint program has mainly focused on in 2020SDG: 1.3  
SDG: 3.8

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

1.1 Did your Joint Programme contribute to the implementation of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerate SDG progress in terms of scope<sup>1</sup> in 2020?

Yes

No

Explain briefly: Result in line with the annual target of 0 for 2020 (target 1 for 2021)

1.2 Did your Joint Programme contribute to the implementation of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerate SDG progress in terms of scale<sup>2</sup> in 2020?

Yes

No

Explain briefly: Result in line with the annual target of 0 for 2020 (target 1 for 2021)

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

1.3 Number of innovative solutions tested in 2020

Total number disaggregated by % successful and unsuccessful: 0

Provide the list

Explain briefly: Result in line with the annual target of 0 for 2020 (target 1 for 2021)

1.4 Number of integrated policy solutions implemented with the national partners in lead in 2020

Total number: 0

Provide the list :

Explain briefly: Result in line with the annual target of 0 for 2020 (target 1 for 2021)

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

<sup>1</sup>Scope=substantive expansion: additional thematic areas/components added or mechanisms/systems replicated.

<sup>2</sup>Scale=geographical expansion: local solutions adopted at the regional and national level or a national solution adopted in one or more countries.

- Yes  
 No

Explain briefly: Result in line with the annual target of 0 for 2020 (target 1 for 2021)

1.6 Did your Joint Programme develop a functioning partnership framework for integrated policy solutions for accelerating progress on SDGs in 2020?  
Votre programme commun a-t-il élaboré un cadre de partenariat fonctionnel pour des solutions politiques intégrées afin d'accélérer les progrès en matière de SDG en 2020

- Yes  
 No

Explain briefly: not expected in the framework of the JP. Ce résultat n'est pas attendu dans le cadre du PC

## 2. Selected global performance indicators (annual)

2.1. Did your Joint Programme contribute to the improvement of overall UNCT coherence in 2020?

- Yes, considerably contributed  
 Yes, contributed  
 No

Explain briefly: The creation of a social protection system considering informal self-help mechanisms such as tontines, Zakat, diaspora remittances, was highlighted by the participants in the social protection training (February 2020). Discussions were held between UN agencies, the World Bank and the IMF on Zakat on the sidelines of the workshop. A Zakat project was developed by UNDP, FAO and UNFPA and funded by the SDG Fund under the call for proposals for SDG funding. Exchanges between the two programmes will be encouraged and the group of UN actors involved in social protection expanded to include these actors as well as UNHCR and IOM who are already active in the social protection of refugees and migrants.

2.2. Did your Joint Programme contribute to reduced transaction costs for participating UN agencies in their interaction with national/regional and local authorities and/or public entities compared to other Joint Programmes?

- Yes,  
 No  
 N/A (if there are no other joint programmes in the country)

Explain briefly: WFP has a long-term agreement (LTA) with a research firm. Within the framework of the joint study on social registry, WFP has made this LTA available to UNICEF and the WB, thus reducing the transaction costs related to the provider selection process (financial and indirect time costs of human resources involved in the service procurement process) and enabling the process to be concluded more quickly.

2.3. Was your Joint Programme aligned with the UNCT Results Groups in 2020?

- Yes  
 No

Explain briefly: The results groups are aligned on the strategic priorities of the UNDAF/CPDD, including strategic priority 3 related to governance to which this JP contributes.

2.4. Did your Joint Programme secure additional funding resources in 2020?

- Yes  
 No

Explain briefly: The partnership between agencies and explicit reference to the innovative joint social protection programme informed a proposal submitted by both agencies to BMZ in the framework of the socio-economic response to the pandemic, which resulted in the joint mobilization of USD 15 million from BMZ to provide essential social assistance to nearly 350,000 of the most vulnerable people and to strengthen national social protection systems to make them more responsive to shocks and sensitive to nutrition and children. Interventions under this new program complement the PC's interventions in the area of adaptive social safety nets.

### 3. Results as per JP Results Framework (annual)

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Expected 2020 target	2020 Result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected 2021 target	Expected final target (if different from 2021)
<b>Outcome 1: INTEGRATED AND IMPROVED SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES RESULT IN ENHANCED EFFICIENCY, INCLUSIVENESS AND UTILIZATION OF SOCIAL PROTECTION SERVICES AT REGIONAL LEVEL</b>						
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</i>	0	0	0		1	
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</i>	To be determined (national target) (EPCV 2014)	% of men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable who have access to basic services etc.	Data not available yet	The data will be provided through the EPCV a national study currently under finalization		
Outcome 1 indicator 3 <i>5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere</i>	To be determined (national target)					
<b>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</b>						



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</i>	0	1	0	The study on the development of an integrated FFS model could not be launched because of the COVID pandemic 19, Nevertheless, reflections along these lines are being undertaken with key partners, such as Taazour, BM, UNICEF, etc.	1	
Output 1.1 indicator 2 <i>Number of programmes implemented in Guidimakha, adopting complementary and gender-sensitive targeting and transfer modalities<sup>3</sup></i>	0	2	0	A program that has adopted the targeting and complementary transfer modalities has been tested in Guidimakha.	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 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</i>	0	1	0	The study on improving the Social Registry has been launched and the first elements of response on user feedback and to ensure the inclusion of women, men, boys and girls most vulnerable are described in the first deliverable.	1	
<i>Output 1.2 indicator 2 Standard procedures for user feedback and inclusiveness of the most vulnerable women, men, boys</i>	0	0	0	The study on the improvement of the Social Register has been launched and the first response elements on	1	

<sup>3</sup> The non-exhaustive list of set 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>and girls are tested in the Guidimakha region</i></p>				<p>user feedback and the inclusion of the most vulnerable women, men, boys and girls are being tested in the Guidimakha region are described in the first deliverable.</p>		
<p>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</p>						
<p>Output 1.3 indicator 1 % of vulnerable population accessing basic social services in Guidimakha</p>	<p>In Guidimakha - 64% of the population have access to a health facility within 5 kilometres of their homes - 67% of births delivered at home - The gross primary and secondary school enrolment rate is 18%</p>	<p>+10 % of the vulnerable population in Guidimakha have access to basic social services</p>	<p>No data</p>	<p>Due to the health crisis delays have been recorded in the implementation of several surveys, the results of which are still expected.</p>	<p>+ 20 % of the vulnerable population in Guidimakha have access to basic social services</p>	
<p><i>Output 1.3 indicator 2: Establishment of referral mechanism to improve access to basic social services and demand creation among vulnerable population</i></p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</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 Number of vulnerable households (including female headed households) benefiting from safety-nets in Guidimakha region</i></p>	<p>To be determined (EPCV 2019, RTM household survey, NSPS steering committee, SCAPP)</p> <p>A déterminer EPVC 2019</p>	<p>+10% of the initial number of households benefiting from safety nets in Guidimakha</p> <p>+10% des ménages bénéficiant des filets sociaux au Guidimakha par rapport à la situation de référence</p>	<p>Data not available yet</p>	<p>The EPCV has been roll-out but the results aren't validated yet due to the constraints linked to the health crisis</p>	<p>+20% of the initial number of households benefiting from safety nets in Guidimakha</p>	
<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</p>						
<p><i>Output 1.5 indicator 1 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)</i></p>	<p>To be determined</p> <p>(Social Security Inquiry)</p>	<p>+10 % of the population covered by social protection floors</p>		<p>1. Population of pension age, depending on the country statutory pension age</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Total 16%</li> <li>- Male : 28%</li> <li>- Female : 3%</li> </ul> <p>2. Working age population contributing to pension schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Total 6%</li> <li>- Male : 9%</li> <li>- Female : 3%</li> </ul> <p>3. Persons with severe disabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Total 8%</li> <li>- Male : 11%</li> <li>- Female : 4%</li> </ul> <p>NB/ Indicators will be calculated based on the final compilation of data.</p>	<p>+20% of the population covered by social protection floors</p>	

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Expected 2020 target	2020 Result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected 2021 target	Expected final target (if different from 2021)
<b>Outcome 2 CENTRAL AND LOCAL INSTITUTIONS ENSURE A MORE EFFICIENT AND TRANSPARENT CONDUCT OF PUBLIC POLICIES (UNDAF/CPDD STRATEGIC PRIORITY GOVERNANCE - OUTCOME 3)</b>						
<i>Outcome 2 indicator 1 SDG 10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality</i>	1  (NSPS adopted in 2013)	2  (Reviewed NSPS validated)	1	The ToRs for the revision of the NSPS have been technically validated but the revision process is behind schedule due to the efforts focused on the response to the pandemic to which social protection actors are strongly contributing (socio-economic response to the crisis).	2  (Reviewed NSPS validated)	
<i>Outcome 2 indicator 2 SDG 17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development</i>	0	0	0		1	
<b>Output 2.1 Gender-sensitive evidences generated and lessons learned on the implementation of the integrated social protection model (including for replicability and scale-up)</b>						
<i>Output 2.1 indicator 1 Actuarial studies and other technical reports submitted and cleared by the national authorities</i>	To be determined (Social Security Inquiry)	Not available	Not available	Indicators will be calculated based on the final compilation of data.		
<i>Output 2.1 indicator 2 Project dashboard established</i>	0	1	0	Due to the health crisis delays have been recorded in the implementation of several surveys, the results of which are still expected, and which contribute to the dashboard. Thanks to the SSI, data on the	1	

				CNSS scheme and the social benefits provided by MASEF in the region are available.		
Output 2.2 Improved dialogue and coordination at all levels on social protection						
<i>Output 2.2 indicator 1 Operationalization of the revised NSPS</i>	No	No	No		Yes	

## Annex 2: List of strategic documents

### Strategic documents that were produced by the JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it
Social Security Inquiry – Mauritania (SSI)	12/20	SSI enables the construction of a social protection database that covers information on the schemes, the benefits they provide, the coverage they provide, their revenues and expenditures. This database will make it possible to take stock of Mauritania's social security system and monitor its evolution. It will also make it possible to calculate Indicators 1.3.1 of SDGs in order to monitor Mauritania's social security commitments.

### Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it
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	Lessons learned from international experience. This guide will support the various studies planned related to the extension of social protection to the informal sector, within the framework of the SDG JP. See here: <a href="https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/Emodule.action?id=25">https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/Emodule.action?id=25</a> The JP contributed to the translation of the document into French

## Annex 3: Strategic communication results

3.1. Have you created a strategic communication plan for the Joint Programme?

- Yes  
 No

Explain briefly: The communication plan detailing the communication strategy is already included in the JP document (annex 5).

3.2. What percentage of the annual budget towards communications was used from the total budget? (Note that the entire JP comms budget must be min 5% of the total JP budget)

Explain briefly: 0% in 2020, Due to the context of the COVID-19 crisis, the implementation of programme activities was limited and it was not possible to produce HIS and communication content during this period. Budget towards communication will be used in 2021.

3.3. Have visibility outcomes increased due to the provided funding for JP strategic communications?

- Yes  
 No

Explain briefly: Due to the context of the COVID-19 crisis, the implementation of programme activities was limited and it was not possible to produce HIS and communication content during this period.

3.4. Does the Country Profile Page on the Joint SDG Fund website contribute to your JP outreach?

- Yes  
 No

Explain briefly: The update of the JP published on the Joint SDG Fund webpage has been relayed on social networks

3.5. How many articles (interviews, human interest stories, press releases, expert insights, etc.) about your JP were published by an external media outlet (Non-UN published)?

Total number:0

Explain briefly: Due to the context of the COVID-19 crisis, the implementation of programme activities was limited and it was not possible to produce HIS and communication content during this period.

3.6. How many articles (interviews, human interest stories, press releases, expert insights, etc.) about the Joint Programme were published by the UNCT and JP PUNOs?

Total number:0

Explain briefly: Due to the context of the COVID-19 crisis, the implementation of programme activities was limited and it was not possible to produce HIS and communication content during this period.

3.7. Have you received an increase of social media followers?

- Yes  
 No

Total number: (Not mandatory)

Explain briefly: no data

*Multi-Media Faucets*

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists)

*Social Media Campaigns*

Title of the document	Type (FB/Twitter/LinkedIn/Etc.)	Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists)

**Annex 4: Updated JP Risk Management Matrix**

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					
<b>High turnover among key Government counterparts</b>  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 will ensure all new involved counterparts are duly briefed	All PUNOs
<b>Disasters/shocks triggered by natural hazards and climate change and/or</b>	12	4	3	The program activities will be adjusted to consider the risks	All PUNOs

<p><b>health-related outbreaks that will severely affect targeted communities</b></p> <p>Coronavirus-related risks (new waves related to variants of the virus) Natural hazards such as droughts/floods may lead to an increase in the number of people in need of assistance, spur pastoral/agropastoral population movements, and may divert attention/resources away from project priorities, all of which can influence the implementation of the programme.</p>				<p>related to the impact of the restrictive measures on the implementation of the program and thus limit additional delays. This risk inevitably requires a more flexible approach to program implementation. It also represents an opportunity as it led to the first nationwide emergency cash transfers by the Government, which have benefited more than 200,000 households. In particular, the presence of personnel in the field will ensure a proximity presence that should limit disruptions due to possible travel restrictions. Close monitoring of the situation by partners on the ground at UN level, regular communication with donors on resource needs. Dedicated staff appointed for the project implementation.</p>	
<p>Programmatic risks</p>					
<p><b>Potential difficulties in the partnership between PUNOs</b></p> <p>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 Gvt counterparts and partners. This could also be caused by potential delays / differences in implementation pace among PUNOs.</p>	8	2	3	<p>Co-working sessions are regularly held among UNICEF, ILO and WFP. A member of the UN coordination team will facilitate planning, and a coordinator will be recruited to ensure implementation and coordination between agencies</p>	All PUNOs
<p><b>Challenges related to human resources</b></p>	16	3	3	<p>Anticipate hiring of key positions. Proactive headhunting.</p>	All PUNOs



Difficulties to timely recruit adequate expertise for project implementation.					
<p><b>Limited community involvement</b> Without community support, the package of interventions will not be sufficiently comprehensive, particularly in interventions regarding behaviour change. 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>	12	3	3	PUNOs will use 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
<b>Institutional risks</b>					
<p><b>Challenges related to the intersectoral nature of social protection</b></p> <p>Fragmentation of current social protection mechanisms may prevent the shift to an integrated model within the two-year timeframe of the project.</p> <p>Difficulties related to the non-functionality of the Steering Committee of the National Social Protection Strategy (SNPS)</p>	16	5	5	While awaiting the high-level government decision on the NSPS review exercise, which will have an impact on the NSPS steering committee, the establishment of a project-specific steering committee involving the various departments involved in the joint program could help boost the coordination dynamic required at the central level, particularly in connection with the national dialogue on social protection. Efforts will be made at the national and regional levels – particularly the Social Protection steering committee –	All PUNOs

				to communicate the added value of an integrated approach. Full participation of all stakeholders will be sought in planning, implementation and monitoring. Preparatory work with stakeholders at the national and district levels will be ensured.	
<p><b>Uncertainties related to the operationalization of newly established regional institutions</b></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>	9	4	4	High level advocacy efforts with governments and Guidimakha leaders can limit this risk. PUNOs are proactive in keeping abreast of developments in the implementation of the decentralization reform.	All PUNOs
<b>Fiduciary risks</b>					
<p><b>Lack of financial resources</b></p> <p>PUNOs face difficulties in mobilizing financial resources for their complementary actions identified as part of this project.</p> <p>The launch of the intervention plan linked to COVID, as well as the safety nets put in place by the newly created social solidarity agency TAAZOUR could reduce the funding and impact of other existing social protection programs of the various sectoral ministries involved in the deployment of the NSPS.</p>	12	2	3	Proactive resource mobilization efforts of all PUNOs, and sustained advocacy towards Government authorities to ensure adequate investment level.	All PUNOs