

## EMERGENCY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (EDP)

### Mauritania Youth Employability Project

**DONOR(S)**

World Bank

**PARTNER COUNTRY**

Mauritania

**CODE**

P162916

**AMOUNT**

40.000.000 USD

**DATES**

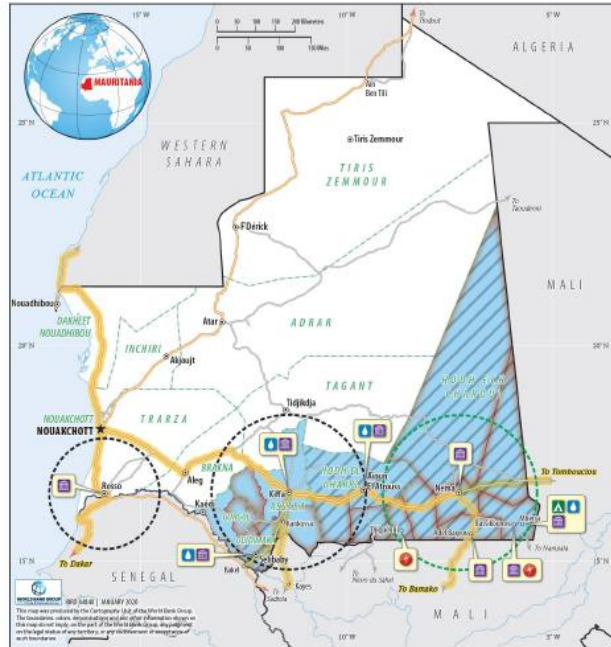
September 2021 – June 2026

**IMPLEMENTING AGENCY**

Ministry of Employment, Youth and Sports

**EDP Pillar**

Pillar III: Strengthening social cohesion



*The World Bank's spatial approach in Mauritania  
Implementing areas: Nouakchott, Hodh el Gharbi, Hodh ech Chargui, Assaba, Trarza, and Guidimaka*

## DESCRIPTION

The World Bank's Mauritania Youth Employability Project (PEJ) aims to improve the employability, meaning the skills needed to enter, remain and progress in the labour market, of vulnerable youth in Mauritania. The overall budget of the project is US\$ 42 million, of which the World Bank is contributing US\$ 40 million and the Mauritanian government US \$2 million.

The project is part of the Sahel Alliance's response to the G5 Sahel's [Emergency Development Programme \(EDP\)](#), an initiative aimed at stabilising the border areas of the G5 Sahel countries, and supports the implementation of Mauritania's **National Employment Strategy (SNE) 2018-2030**.

## TARGET GROUP

The main target group benefiting from this project is vulnerable young people aged between 15 and 24 in Mauritania. Considered vulnerable are those with less than secondary education who are unemployed, inactive or working under precarious conditions.

## PROJECT APPROACH

The project builds on lessons learned from previous World Bank projects, including the Mauritania Skills Development Support Project (P118974), and the World Bank's 2017 study "[Mauritania - Transforming the Jobs Trajectory for Vulnerable Youth](#)" which analyses the challenges of youth employment in Mauritania and highlights the fragmentation of different youth employment initiatives in Mauritania. Consequently, the PEJ employs a

holistic approach that aims to strengthen government leadership in the youth employment sector by supporting, among other, an integrated economic inclusion programme for vulnerable youth. This programme contributes directly to the implementation of the National Employment Strategy (SNE).

In line with the World Bank's geospatial approach to development in Mauritania, the project focuses on the six selected areas of Nouakchott, Hodh el Gharbi, Hodh ech Chargui, Assaba, Trarza, and Guidimaka. In these areas, about 60 000 young people will benefit from the project.

### **The project is structured around 4 components:**

**Component 1:** Orientation, Job Counselling, and Life Skills Training (IDA US\$12.6 million equivalent)

**Component 2:** Technical Skills Training and Internship (IDA US\$12.6 million equivalent)

**Component 3:** Fostering Micro-entrepreneurship for Income-generating Activities (IDA US\$12.6 million equivalent)

**Component 4:** Contingency Emergency Response (US\$0 million)

**Component 5:** Project management, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) (US\$ 4.2 million, including US\$ 2.2 million from the World Bank and US\$ 2 million from the Mauritanian government)

### **STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION**

The project came into effect on 31 August 2021. The technical coordination unit of the project is under the responsibility of the CPE (Coordination of Employment Projects) of the Ministry of Employment.

The entire team has been recruited, including a technical project coordinator, an administrative and financial manager, a procurement specialist, a training and micro-entrepreneurship specialist, a monitoring and evaluation specialist, a management information system specialist, a communication specialist and a gender and social safeguards specialist.

#### **What is the Emergency Development Programme?**

In 2018, the Heads of State of the G5 Sahel asked the Executive Secretariat of the G5 Sahel (SEG5 Sahel) to launch quick-impact emergency projects. Consequently, the Emergency Development Programme (EDP) came into life in order to stabilise fragile border areas identified by the G5.

In response to the G5 Sahel's request to finance the PDU, the Sahel Alliance's members collectively mobilised EUR 266 million dedicated to 22 projects and programmes in total.