

Islamic Republic of Mauritania: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper Progress Report

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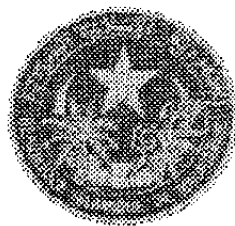
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ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

Honor – Brotherhood - Justice



**REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY PAPER
IN 2002**

JUNE 2003

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AAAIID	Arab Association for Agricultural Investment (<i>Association arabe pour l'investissement agricole</i>)
ADB	African Development Bank
ADER	Rural Electrification Development Agency (<i>Agence pour le développement de l'électrification rurale</i>)
ADU	Urban Development Agency (<i>Agence pour le développement urbain</i>)
AMM	Association of Mayors of Mauritania (<i>Association des maires de Mauritanie</i>)
ANEPA	National Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation Agency (<i>Agence nationale de l'eau potable et de l'assainissement</i>)
APROMI	Association of Microfinance Professionals and Operators (<i>Association des professionnels et opérateurs de la micro-finance</i>)
APW	Access to potable water
ASAP	Agriculture sector adjustment program
BCM	Central Bank of Mauritania (<i>Banque centrale de Mauritanie</i>)
BE	Basic education
BGR	Road Management Office (<i>Bureau de gestion routière</i>)
BHU	Basic health unit
BNT	National Transportation Office (<i>Bureau national des transports</i>)
CAMEC	Central Procurement Office (<i>Centrale d'achats</i>)
CAPEC	Popular Savings and Loan Association (<i>Caisse populaire d'épargne et de crédit</i>)
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBS	Competitive bidding specifications
CCD	Convention to Combat Desertification
CCIA	Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture (<i>Chambre de commerce, d'industrie et d'agriculture</i>)
CCP	UDP Coordination Unit (<i>Cellule de coordination du PDU</i>)
CDHLCPI	Commission on Human Rights, Poverty Reduction, and Integration (<i>Commissariat aux droits de l'homme, à la lutte contre la pauvreté et à l'insertion</i>)
CEP	Poverty Reduction Project Execution Unit (<i>Cellule d'exécution du Projet de réduction de la pauvreté</i>)
CFEPE	Preschool Teacher Training Center (<i>Centre de formation des éducateurs de la petite enfance</i>)
CFPF	Center for the Training and Advancement of Women (<i>Centre de formation et de promotion féminine</i>)
CGEM	General Confederation of Mauritanian Employers (<i>Confédération générale des employeurs de Mauritanie</i>)
CMAP	Mauritanian Center for Policy Analysis (<i>Centre Mauritanien d'Analyse de Politiques</i>)
CNC	Community Nutrition Center (<i>Centre de nutrition communautaire</i>)
CNRE	National Water Resources Center (<i>Centre national de ressources en eau</i>)
CNROP	National Center for Oceanographic and Fisheries Research (<i>Centre national de recherche océanique et de pêche</i>)
CNTS	National Blood Transfusion Center (<i>Centre national de transfusion sanguine</i>)
CREN	Center for Recovery and Nutritional Education (<i>Centre de récupération et d'éducation nutritionnelle</i>)
CSA	Food Security Commission (<i>Commissariat à la sécurité alimentaire</i>)
CSLD	Strategic Framework for Combating Desertification (<i>Cadre stratégique de lutte contre la désertification</i>)
DCL	Local Government Directorate, MIPT (<i>Direction des collectivités locales du MIPT</i>)
DFI	Basic importation right (<i>droit foncier à l'importation</i>)
DPP	Detailed preliminary project
DRASS	Regional Health and Social Action Directorate (<i>Direction régionale de l'action sanitaire et sociale</i>)

DREF	Regional Basic Education Directorate (<i>Direction régionale de l'enseignement fondamental</i>)
DSPCM	Offshore Inspection and Fisheries Surveillance Directorate (<i>Direction de la Surveillance des Pêches et du Contrôle en Mer</i>)
EDF	European Development Fund
EDS	Demographic and social survey (<i>Enquête démographique et sociale</i>)
EIB	European Investment Bank
EIG	Economic interest group
EMEA	Mauritanian livestock and agriculture survey (<i>Enquête mauritanienne sur l'élevage et l'agriculture</i>)
EMP	Environmental management program
ENER	National Road Maintenance Enterprise (<i>Entreprise nationale d'entretien routier</i>)
EPCV	Ongoing living conditions survey (<i>Enquête permanente sur les conditions de vie</i>)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FAP	Training Support Fund (<i>Fonds d'Appui à la Formation</i>)
GERM	Improve your business management (<i>Gérez mieux votre entreprise</i>)
GPP	Petroleum Product Distributors Association (<i>Groupement des distributeurs de Produits Pétroliers</i>)
HFAR	Health facility access ratio
HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
HIVPR	HIV/AIDS prevalence ratio
HLI	High labor-intensiveness
IEC	Information-Education-Communication
ILO	International Labour Office
IMF	Head tax (<i>Impôt minimum forfaitaire</i>)
INAP	Professional Training Support Institute (<i>Institut d'Appui à la Formation Professionnelle</i>)
IRF	Tax on property income (<i>Impôt sur le revenu foncier</i>)
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (German cooperation agency)
LLDCs	Least developed countries
MAED	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development (<i>Ministère des affaires économiques et du développement</i>)
MCE	Expanded Exchange Market (<i>Marché de Change Elargi</i>)
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MDRE	Ministry of Rural Development and Environment (<i>Ministère du développement rural et de l'environnement</i>)
MEMAU	Mauritanian Economic Model (<i>Modèle de l'économie mauritanienne</i>)
MEN	Ministry of National Education (<i>Ministère de l'éducation nationale</i>)
MET	Ministry of Equipment and Transportation (<i>Ministère de l'équipement et des transports</i>)
MFIs	Microfinance institutions
MICOs	West Asian Investment and Credit Unions (<i>Mutuelles d'investissement du crédit oasien</i>)
MIPT	Ministry of the Interior, Post, and Telecommunications (<i>Ministère de l'intérieur, des postes et télécommunications</i>)
MOUGHATAA	An administrative subdivision. Mauritania has 53 moughataas distributed among its 12 wilayas.
MPEM	Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy (<i>Ministère des pêches et de l'économie maritime</i>)
MSAS	Ministry of Health and Social Action (<i>Ministère de la santé et de l'action sociale</i>)
MSB	Microenterprise and small business
MTEF	Medium-Term Expenditure Framework
NDB	Nouadhibou
NICT	New information and communications technologies
NKC	Nouakchott
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health (<i>Organisation Internationale de l'Epizootie</i>)
OMVS	Organization for the Development of the Senegal River
ONS	National Statistics Office
PAC	Project to assist municipalities (<i>Projet d'aide aux communes</i>)

PACAD	Program to assist cooperatives in difficulty (<i>Programme d'appui aux coopératives en difficulté</i>)
PADDEM	Project to Support Deconcentration and Decentralization in Mauritania (<i>Projet d'Appui à la Déconcentration et à la Décentralisation En Mauritanie</i>)
PAFIEM	Project to support economic and financial administrations in Mauritania (<i>Projet d'appui aux administrations économiques et financières en Mauritanie</i>)
PAN/LCD	National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (<i>Plan d'Action National de lutte contre la désertification</i>)
PANE	National Environmental Action Plan (<i>Plan d'Action Nationale sur l'Environnement</i>)
PARP	Project for Rural Development in Rainfed Zones (<i>Projet d'Aménagement Rural en Zone Pluviale</i>)
PASK	Program to Combat Poverty in Aftout Sud and Karakoro (<i>Programme de lutte contre la pauvreté dans l'Aftout Sud et le Karakoro</i>)
PCIME	Integral coverage of childhood diseases (<i>Prise en charge intégrée des maladies de l'enfant</i>)
PDLAIM	Integrated Program for the Development of Irrigated Agriculture in Mauritania (<i>Programme de Développement Intégré d'Agriculture Irriguée en Mauritanie</i>)
PGFF	Refrigerant management plan (<i>Plan de gestion des fluides frigorigènes</i>)
PGRNM	Project for natural resource management in Mauritania (<i>Projet de gestion des ressources naturelles en Mauritanie</i>)
PGRNP	Project for natural resource management in rainfed zones (<i>Projet de gestion des ressources naturelles en zone pluviale</i>)
PGRPDE	Project to manage pasturelands and develop livestock breeding (<i>Projet de gestion des ressources pastorales et développement de l'élevage</i>)
PIP	Public investment program
PNAN	National Nutrition Action Plan (<i>Plan d'action national pour la nutrition</i>)
PNBG	National Good Governance Plan (<i>Programme national de bonne gouvernance</i>)
PNDSE	National Education Sector Development Program (<i>Programme national de développement du secteur éducatif</i>)
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (<i>Cadre stratégique de lutte contre la pauvreté</i>)
RAMSAR	Convention on Wetlands (named after the city where the Convention was signed)
RDF	Regional development fund
RGPH	General population and housing census (<i>Recensement général de la population et de l'habitat</i>)
ROSC	Report on the Observance of Standards and Codes
RPTES	Review of Policies, Strategies, and Programs of the Traditional Energy Sector
SAMIN	Arab Company for Inchiri Mines (<i>Société Arabe des Mines de l'Inchiri</i>)
SDAU	Urban improvement and development schema (<i>Schéma de développement et d'aménagement urbain</i>)
SECF	Secretariat for the Status of Women (<i>Secrétariat d'Etat à la condition féminine</i>)
SME	Small and medium-size enterprises
SMI	Small and medium-size industry
SNDE	National Water Company (<i>Société Nationale de l'Eau</i>)
SNIM	National Industrial and Mining Company (<i>Société nationale industrielle et minière</i>)
SNS	National security stock (<i>Stock national de sécurité</i>)
SOCOGIM	Construction and Property Management Company (<i>Société de construction et de gestion immobilière</i>)
SOMELEC	Mauritanian Electric Company (<i>Société mauritanienne de l'électricité</i>)
SONADER	National Rural Development Company (<i>Société nationale pour le développement rural</i>)
SONELEC	National Electric Company (<i>Société nationale de l'électricité</i>)
SPOs	Socioprofessional organizations
SPP	Summary preliminary project
ST	Statistical tax
TDW I	Tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough
TOR	Terms of Reference
TPE	Technical and professional education
TPT	Technical and professional training
UDP	Urban development program

UHT	Ultra-high tension
UM	National currency unit (ouguiya)
UNCACEM	National Union of Savings and Loan Associations (<i>Union Nationale des Caisses Agricoles de Crédit et d'Épargne de Mauritanie</i>)
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
VAT	Value-added tax
Wilaya	Administrative region. Mauritania has 13 wilayas, plus the district of Nouakchott.
WTO	World Trade Organization

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, whose implementation has now reached the second year, has been the key instrument in Mauritania's economic, social, and institutional development policy. Accordingly, following the PRSP adoption in January 2001, a number of departments revised their strategies and adopted Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEFs) which now enable them to align themselves with the objectives, orientations and action plan of the PRSP. This is particularly so in the areas of education, health, urban development, rural development, and transportation infrastructure. Preparation of a global MTEF and MTEFs for water resources, rural electrification, and fisheries, has now been initiated.

2. The efforts of stakeholders in the fight against poverty, whether in the private sector, civil society, or development partners, are geared towards achieving the objectives of the PRSP. This reflects, on the one hand, the government's determination to use the PRSP as a fundamental development policy tool and, on the other hand, the effective adoption of the PRSP by all national and external stakeholders.

3. Moreover, the reaching by Mauritania of the Completion Point under the Enhanced HIPC Initiative in June 2002, as well as the forgiveness of its debt vis-à-vis Paris Club creditors, demonstrates the determination of its development partners to support the PRSP implementation.

Outcome of the second year of PRSP implementation

4. The results of PRSP implementation in 2002 attest to the successful execution of most of the important actions planned (see Box 1) and the achievement of significant results in the priority areas.

5. The pursuit of policies to accelerate growth, maintain macroeconomic stability, and enhance the competitiveness of the economy have thus made it possible to attain an economic growth rate of about 3.3 percent, notwithstanding an unfavorable international economic climate, cold rainfall, and less total rainfall than customary. Annual inflation has been contained at 4 percent. Moreover, the budget surplus was 6.2 percent of GDP and the external current account (excluding official transfers) was in balance. Public expenditure rose significantly in the priority sectors (education, health, and targeted programs to combat poverty), from 8.0 percent of GDP in 2001 to 10.6 percent of GDP in 2002.

6. The policies aimed at anchoring growth in the economic environment of the poor, made it possible to reach out to benefit that group, particularly through: (i) targeted programs to combat poverty (see Box 2); (ii) programs to promote microfinance, with loans amounting to UM 2.5 billion in 2002 (more than 50 percent of which were from CAPECs) extended to 113,034 recipients, 49,936 of whom were rural, and a volume of mobilized saving which increased from UM 576 million in 2001 to UM 894 million in 2002; and (iii) literacy campaigns and professional training programs that served more than 5,000 persons.

7. Finally, the implementation of human resource development policies and the expansion of basic services have had encouraging results in the areas of: (i) education, where

the rate of access to the first year of basic education rose from 97 percent in 2001 to 111 percent in 2002 and the disparities between access by boys and girls were virtually eliminated; (ii) health, where the rate of full three-dose DTC vaccination rose from 52 percent in 2001 to 70 percent in 2002.

8. The **participatory PRSP process** was continued into 2002 and still fully involves all stakeholders in combating poverty (administration, elected officials, civil society, private sector, and development partners). This report was prepared on the basis of the work carried out by topic-based Technical Groups, and was subsequently enriched by the contributions of regional and national workshops. In addition, the CDHLCPI worked directly with the poor with a view to ensuring the involvement of the PRSP's beneficiary population and thereby securing its ownership of the effort.

Major lessons learned

9. The major lessons from two years of PRSP implementation relate to: (i) the relevance of its strategic orientations and the need to revise some of its objectives; (ii) the economy's vulnerability to exogenous shocks; (iii) the need to improve financial intermediation to unleash the private sector as the driving force behind economic growth; (iv) the rapid development of a national absorption capacity in line with to PRSP ambitions (v) the priority towards regionalizing the PRSP; and (vi) the need for further involving civil society organizations in the implementation of poverty reduction programs.

Outlook for 2003-04

10. The government is determined to press ahead with the implementation of policies and programs aimed at improving the living conditions of the people, consistent with the strategic orientations of the PRSP.

11. Emphasis will therefore be placed on continuing and intensifying the implementation of policies aimed at: (i) accelerating growth and preserving macroeconomic stability, in particular by implementing an action plan to enhance the competitiveness of the economy and develop the export sectors; (ii) anchoring growth in the economic environment of the poor, by implementing the UDP, rural development programs, the strategy for universal access to services, and targeted programs to combat poverty; (iii) developing human resources by implementing the PNDSE and the 2002-2004 MTEF for the health sector; and (iv) improving governance and enhancing institutional capacities, with implementation of the PNBG and the national strategy for improving public absorptive capacities.

12. The action plan for 2003-04 is supported by a Public Investment Program (PIP) in the amount of about UM 119 billion, of which UM 33.2 billion has yet to be mobilized.

Risks

13. Carrying out the PRSP continues to be confronted by the risks already identified in the first report during its implementation: (i) fluctuations in world markets; (ii) poor weather conditions; and (iii) weak institutional capacity. These risks are compounded by possible shortfalls in mobilizing the resources necessary for the intensified implementation of the priority actions for 2003-04.

External assistance needs

14. External assistance continues to be necessary in order to ensure the successful implementation of the PRSP. First, as noted above, it is necessary to rapidly mobilize the resources necessary to secure the full financing of the priority plan of actions for 2003-04. In addition, technical and financial assistance are essential for strengthening national capacities for designing, executing, and monitoring/evaluating policies to combat poverty.

Box 1: Principal Measures Taken in 2002, by PRSP Pillar

Pillar 1: Accelerated and redistributive growth

- Adoption of an action plan to enhance the competitiveness of the economy and develop the export sectors, and organization of a donors' roundtable;
- Tax relief for businesses; and
- Increase budget allocations for the social sectors and for the targeted programs to combat poverty (share of government budget increased to 10.6 percent of GDP, compared to 8.0 percent in 2001).

Pillar 2: Growth anchored in the economic sphere of the poor

- **Targeted programs to combat poverty:** implementation by the CDHLCPI of targeted programs to combat poverty in the major poverty pockets in rural areas and in the periphery of the major cities (see Box 2).
- **Urban development:** (i) initiation of the ambitious Urban Development Program (UDP), including the launching of the preparatory work for the Welcome Center for households to be resettled; and (ii) preparation of an MTEF covering the 2002-04 period.
- **Rural development:** (i) submission to the government of a draft implementing decree for the Farming Code; (ii) drafting of a livestock development policy letter; (iii) implementation of the annual programs of the PGRNP, PDIAIM, Oasis Project, and the Control Center; and (iv) continuation of the program to support agricultural food industries with marketing national production, with special emphasis on market research and identifying facilities to finance exports.
- **Cross-cutting measures for income and job creation:** (i) preparation of strategies to promote microfinance and microenterprises; (ii) continued support for microfinance; and (iii) the pursuit of professional training programs and programs to integrate higher education graduates in search of their first jobs.

Pillar 3: Developing human resources and expanding access to basic services

- **Education:** (i) recruitment of 454 new instructors; (ii) completion of new infrastructure (1,880 classrooms); (iii) renovation of programs; (iv) continuous training of staff; (v) availability of instructional tools; and (vi) introduction of a new organization chart for the MEN.
- **Health and nutrition:** (i) construction and equipment of 54 health posts and rehabilitation of 7 regional hospitals; (ii) establishment of the CAMEC and the CNTS; (iii) revision of cost recovery provisions to improve financial access to health care on the part of the poorest; (iv) adoption of strategic plans for certain programs (AIDS, Malaria, RS); and (v) establishment of a sizable number of CNCs and revitalization of the CRENS.
- **Water resources:** (i) preparation of a draft Water Code; (ii) continuation of work to extend the APWs of Nouadhibou and 9 other secondary cities; (iii) initiation of the safe drinking water supply project for the city of Kiffa; and (iv) continued guidance of the Aftout Es-Saheli project.
- **Universal access:** Establishment and start-up of activities of the Agency to Promote Universal Access to Services.

Pillar 4: Improving governance and strengthening capacities

- Adoption of the Budget Execution Law for fiscal year 2001;
- Formulation of the National Good Governance Program (PNBG);
- Implementation of measures to strengthen capacities for public investment programming, execution, and monitoring/evaluation;
- Effective startup of the work of the Mauritanian Center for Policy Analysis (CMAP) serving the administration, elected officials, and civil society;
- Implementation of a program to enhance the professionalism of 30 Mauritanian NGOs.

INTRODUCTION

1. Mauritania has just completed the second year of implementation of its first PRSP. Adopted in January 2001, the PRSP is the key instrument in the country's economic, social, and institutional development policies. This status took concrete form in the adoption of the PRSP by all stakeholders in the fight against poverty, as the framework for mobilizing and harmonizing all efforts. Hence, the MTEFs for education, health, urban development, and transportation infrastructure reflect the alignment of these sectors' priorities to the objectives and ambitions of the PRSP. They will soon be complemented by MTEFs for rural development, water resources, and rural electrification, as well as a global MTEF.
2. Furthermore, the fact that the development partners' interventions are aligned with the strategic orientations of the PRSP, denotes its effective adoption by the international community and the effectiveness of the coordination role played by the government.
3. A stock-taking of the second year of PRSP implementation reveals a number of positive changes, despite an unfavorable context in 2002 characterized by poor weather conditions (rainfall shortage, cold rains early in the year) and an international economic climate marked by slack demand for Mauritanian products, resulting in reduced fishery products and iron ore exports.
4. The priority actions carried out in 2002 focused on: (i) the pursuit of economic and financial policies aimed at preserving macroeconomic stability and enhancing the competitiveness of the economy; (ii) bolstering the policies focusing growth on the economic environments involving the poor, by starting the ambitious Urban Development Program (UDP), continuing the rural development programs and the target programs to combat poverty, and preparing strategies for the development of microfinance and microenterprise; (iii) developing human resources by implementing the PNDSE, launching the campaign to promote books and reading, and implementing the action plan for the health sector; and (iv) improving governance and strengthening institutional capacities, with the formulation of the PNBG and the launching of a review of the problems associated with capacity building in the context of the PRSP.
5. There was also a major turning point in 2002: Mauritania reached the completion point under the enhanced HIPC Initiative for debt reduction. Subsequently, the creditor countries in the Paris Club cancelled all of Mauritania's debt. This makes it possible to envisage the mobilization of additional resources for financing the PRSP, which will be a decisive factor in its success.
6. The initial lessons drawn from a review of execution, midway through the first action plan of the PRSP, make it possible to introduce corrective measures so as to achieve the medium-term objectives. In this regard, the government is resolved to accelerate the implementation of priority actions for the period 2003-04, with a Public Investment Program (PIP) in the amount of almost UM 119 billion, of which UM 33 billion must still be lined up.
7. The purpose of this report is to take stock of PRSP execution in 2002 and to assess the outlook for 2003-04. The report is the outgrowth of wide-ranging consultations involving all stakeholders (administration, elected officials, civil society, private sector, and development partners) in the framework of the participatory process of the PRSP. Indeed, a first draft was drawn up in light of the reports from topic-based Technical Groups, then modified following regional workshops, and finally validated in the course of national meetings.
8. The report is organized as follows: a brief overview of PRSP implementation in 2002 and the major lessons learned are presented, followed by the outlook for the 2003-04 period, including

the identification of priority actions, risks, and requirements for external assistance. Finally, annexes set forth: (i) the revised objectives of the PRSP; (ii) the matrix for monitoring the priority measures; (iii) the cost of the priority action plan; (iv) the medium-term macroeconomic framework; and (v) the MTEFs for certain priority areas.

1. TAKING STOCK OF THE SECOND YEAR OF PRSP IMPLEMENTATION

9. The monitoring of the implementation of the priority actions undertaken during the second year of PRSP implementation was the subject of a broadly participatory process, involving all the relevant stakeholders engaged in poverty reduction (government, elected officials, civil society, private sector, development partners). This process took place at various levels: in the work of technical committees, thematic groups, regional workshops, and national meetings. The consultative process now makes it possible to assess the execution of the measures called for in 2002.

10. It thus appears that Mauritania made significant progress in the implementation of the PRSP. Efforts were concentrated particularly on: (i) implementing measures aimed at accelerating growth driven by the private sector and stimulated by the development of economic and social infrastructures; (ii) carrying out major programs in the priority sectors of the PRSP; and (iii) introducing of actions to build capacity and strengthen governance.

11. Experience also shows that achieving the objectives of the PRSP will require addressing a number of structural and institutional constraints, including: (i) the lack of diversification of the economy and its vulnerability to exogenous shocks; and (ii) the inadequacy of national capacities for program development, implementation, and monitoring/evaluation.

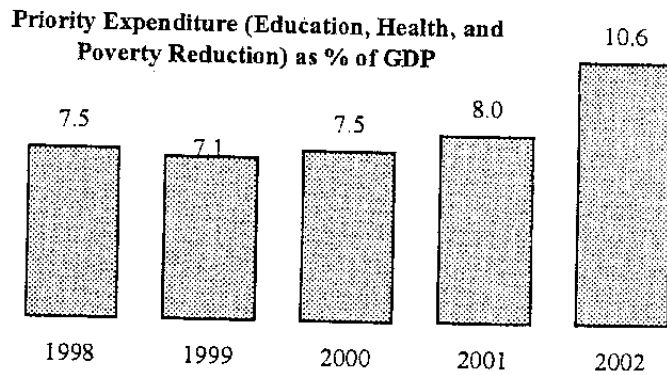
12. The major actions carried out in 2002 and the obstacles encountered are presented as follows: (i) growth and macroeconomic framework; (ii) the priority areas of the PRSP; (iii) cross-cutting areas of the PRSP; and (iv) building capacity and strengthening governance. Subsequently, the report presents the review of the principal milestones of the participatory process, and the summary of the preliminary lessons drawn from two years of PRSP implementation.

1.1 Growth and the macroeconomic framework

Macroeconomic framework

15. ***Economic growth*** reached 3.3 percent in 2002, despite an unfavorable economic climate characterized by cold rains at the start of the year, rainfall shortage, and a reduction in fishery products and iron ore exports. The sectors directly affected by this economic climate (agriculture, livestock, mining, and fisheries) accounted overall for a negative contribution of 1.7 percent to growth in 2002. The principal sources of growth were the manufacturing sectors other than fisheries, construction and public works, services, and public administration. Sound fiscal and monetary policies made it possible to stimulate domestic demand while containing average annual inflation at 4 percent, although prices were rising faster toward the end of the year owing to imported inflation and cereal shortages. The cumulative financial compensation from the EU under the fisheries agreement for 2001 and 2002, was reflected in a budget surplus of 6.2 percent of GDP and a balanced external current account (excluding official transfers), thus promoting the accumulation of domestic assets and foreign exchange reserves, which cover nearly 8.7 months of imports.

16. Concerning *public finances*, the measures taken included: (i) continuation of tax system simplification and tax reduction with the implementation of the reforms included in the 2002 Budget Law and the adoption of new measures in the 2003 Budget Law (reduction in the business profits tax (BIC) to 20 percent, reform of the tax on wages and salaries (ITS)); (ii) broadening of the tax base through the elimination of



exemptions and the strengthening of tax administrations, making it possible to offset the tax relief measures (fiscal pressure remained thus constant); (iii) improved budget programming with the preparation of new sectoral MTEFs; and (v) increase allocation of public expenditure destined to poverty reduction, made possible by reaching the completion point under the enhanced HIPC Initiative. Consequently, the share in the government's budget of the social sectors and the poverty-reducing programs, increased from 8.0 percent of GDP in 2001 to 10.6 percent of GDP in 2002.

17. *External sector.* The government adopted a priority plan of actions aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of the economy and its integration into world trade (see Box 4), and organized a round table to mobilize the required financing. In addition, measures have been taken to improve the functioning of the exchange market (monitoring committee and BCM intervention on the Expanded Exchange Market (MCE), financial intermediation, repatriation of export receipts, etc.) while preserving its external competitiveness. Concerning external debt, in 2002 Mauritania reached the completion point under the enhanced HIPC Initiative and obtained debt relief of about US\$304 million from Paris Club creditors.

18. In the **mining** sector, the standard mining convention has been adopted, seven detailed maps have been produced, and several new exploration permits have been granted. Consequently, 15 operators holding a total of 76 exploration permits are now involved in the area of prospecting, an indicator of the sector's growing attractiveness. Moreover, SNIM continued its investments aimed at increasing its production capacity and improving its productivity. Finally, SAMIN was sold to a foreign investor, now preparing to resume production at the Akjoujt mine. In the **oil and natural gas** sector, four off-shore drillings have been performed, confirming the discovery of oil fields (reserves estimated at 200 million barrels) and natural gas fields (30 billion cubic meters).

19. The major actions taken in the **fisheries** sector concerned were: (i) the adoption of the decree implementing the fisheries code; (ii) the preparation of resource development plans; (iii) the strengthening of surveillance activities; (iv) the holding of the 5th IMROP working party on evaluating stocks and fisheries; (v) the continued implementation of the training program for the sector; (vi) the completion of a project to enhance the value of small pelagic fish in the neighborhoods on the periphery of Nouakchott, benefiting the poorest; (vii) the training of 250 women in value enhancement and marketing; (viii) the extension of the non-industrial fishing port of Nouadhibou (NDB); (ix) the undertaking of studies on the removal of stray animals and on port infrastructures (the Tanit pelagic fishing port, extension of the NDB port); and (x) the construction of a pipeline for transporting fuel between the refinery and the NDB port.

20. A number of important actions were taken in the area of **tourism**: (i) creation of an office for promoting the sector; (ii) preparation of a development strategy for the sector; (iii) promotion of

the tourism activity through participation in fairs and expositions; and (iv) the development of basic infrastructure contributing to broadening the number of tourist destinations.

Enhancing private sector dynamism

21. The major measures carried out in this area include: (i) the simplification of the tax system and tax relief for businesses (lowering the BIC rate to 25 percent and subsequently to 20 percent under the 2003 Budget Law, carrying deficits forward for 5 years, full deductibility of the head tax (IMF), uniform rate of 0.5 percent for the registration duty, elimination of the proportional business license duty, extending VAT reimbursement to imports of capital goods, etc.); (ii) adoption of the texts implementing the investment code, mobilization of external resources for the preparation of implementing provisions for the commercial code, and dialogue with social stakeholders on the preliminary draft labor code; (iii) conduct of a study on economic regulation and its impact on growth and poverty reduction; (iv) imparting new dynamism to the CCIA and mobilizing financing for the introduction of a Commercial Information Center in order to increase access to external markets and improve the terms of trade; (v) strengthening the government-private sector partnership through the Consultation Committee and organization of regional workshops to promote private investment in Mauritania, with the conduct of prior studies on the promising niches in each region; and (vi) establishment of the technical structures of the Multisectoral Authority and the acquisition of frequency management equipment.

Growth-supporting Infrastructure

22. In **transport**, the implementation of PRSP actions has resulted in: (i) more rapid investment in road infrastructure (completion of the rehabilitation of two segments of the Espoir road, initiation of work on the Nouakchott-Nouadhibou road, and initiation of other projects such as the Rosso-Bodhé road) and the allocation of significant resources to road maintenance (UM 1.6 billion in 2002 and UM 2 billion in 2003); and (ii) the start of work to expand the airport at Néma, and the launching of studies on the construction of a new international airport in Nouakchott. Also in 2002, an MTEF was prepared for transport infrastructure (see Annex 8) and for revitalizing the Road Management Office (BGR). With respect to ports, the studies on the creation of a coastal fishing port at Tanit and the improvement of a pelagic fishing port at Nouadhibou were finalized.

23. In the **energy** sector, the major actions undertaken include: (i) promulgation of the law on oil and natural gas; (ii) the selection, following a competitive bidding process, of an international operator for providing the country with petroleum products following the cancellation of the agreement on the operation of the Nouadhibou refinery; (iii) continued work on the Project to Secure the Supply of Petroleum Products, which will make it possible to develop a new berth in a protected area, a new storage area, and pipes for transferring fuel and butane gas to the depots; (iv) postponement of the privatization of SOMELEC, as the competitive bidding process was not successful owing to the low level of a sole bid lodged, and continued monitoring of the international climate in this sector with a view to re-launching the process; (v) connecting Nouakchott with the Manantali Power Plant; and (vi) development of an investment plan for rural electrification.

24. On what concerns new information and communications technologies (**NICTs**), activities in 2002 included: (i) the implementation of the NICT development strategy; (ii) the completion of several information technology training and information activities, enhancing the visibility of Mauritania on the web; and (iii) the launching of projects with a pronounced NICT focus. In **telecommunications**, coverage of the national territory has been improved by: (i) connecting all regional capitals to the cellular system, as well as several Moughataas; (ii) tending the landline system to 6 new Moughataas; and (iii) taking actions aimed at improving service quality.

1.2 Priority areas of the PRSP

Rural development

25. In *livestock*, the main actions taken were as follows: (i) preparation of a draft decree for the implementation of the Farming Code, following broad consultation among its users, and including a mechanism for enhancing the awareness of local governments and socio-professional organizations (SPOs) inspired to the Sharia and local communications mechanisms and cultures; (ii) drafting of a livestock development policy letter with priority action plan emphasizing animal health measures; (iii) improvement in collective resource management as a measure to mitigate the effects of drought and natural disasters; (iv) support for the development of priority subsectors (cattle, leather and hides, red meat, family poultry farming, milk) and animal health (OIE procedure for declaring countries free of rinderpest disease); and (v) the effective startup of the Noaukchott Slaughterhouse Company.

26. In *agriculture*, the main actions taken include: (i) the implementation of the annual programs of the PGRNP, PDIAM, project OASIS, PACAD, and the Control Center; (ii) the continued pursuit of the program supporting food crop industries and the marketing of national produce, with particular emphasis on the search for markets and facilities for export; (iii) the continued training of small producers in agricultural diversification; (iv) the consolidation of agricultural credit in order to promote irrigated agriculture and the agricultural diversification program; (v) the implementation of the program to equip production zones through the creation of a sub-sector for providing plant health treatment products, establishing seed security stocks, building 100 stores, and introducing plows to 400 villages; and (vi) the protection of crops against disease and predators (sesamia, Acrididae, birds).

27. In 2002, *targeted programs* to combat poverty were implemented in the major poverty pockets in the country. For the most part, these activities were conducted by the CDHLCPI and benefited all the wilayas, in the context of regional programs of priority actions for combating poverty (see Box 2).

Urban development

28. The second year of PRSP execution coincides with the first year of implementation of the Urban Development Program (UDP). The year 2002 saw the beginning of activities of the new structures (CCP and ADU) in charge of urban development, and the preparation of an MTEF for the sector covering the 2002-04 period (see Annex 7). Concerning the coordination and monitoring of UDP execution, an evaluation of the necessary measures to strengthen the institutional framework and strengthen the capacities of intervening structures was carried out, with a view to optimizing the projected investments. In this respect, technical assistance teams are being hired to help the CCCP, the DCL, and the AMM. The program to improve living conditions in the shanty towns in Nouakchott has begun, and the setting up of the welcome center for households to be resettled is underway.

Education

29. In the education sector, PRSP implementation in 2002 has contributed to bring about positive changes in the sector's indicators. In particular: (i) the rate of access to the first year of schooling increased from 97 percent to 111 percent, thanks notably to the completion of a program to construct 900 classrooms, hire 464 instructors, and implement a law making the schooling of children mandatory; (ii) quality improvements were sought through the free distribution of essential textbooks to all children in school, whether public or private; the delivery of 81,400

student desks and 10,000 pedagogical kits for teachers; continued efforts to renew programs that have made it possible to train 6,000 instructors and school directors in new programs, as well as the introduction of incentive measures for teachers assigned to disadvantaged areas; (iii) the restructuring and professional enhancement of higher education teaching have been initiated, and the purchase of hardware for the Internet rooms of the various institutions and of 5,000 library books are in progress; (iv) the strengthening of capacities in structures responsible for preschool children was started, with the realization of a training session for trainers at CFEPE; (v) literacy campaigns have been continued and measures have been taken to build bridges between informal and formal education; (vi) pedagogical and administrative management tools have been developed and made available to the various stakeholders; and (vii) management and steering instruments for the educational system have been put in place, including a geographical information system and a model for optimizing teacher assignments.

30. In addition, 2002 was the year of the effective launching of the national campaign to promote books and reading throughout the entire country. The objective of this program is to improve everyone's access to knowledge in general, and to techniques that make it possible to improve productivity and living conditions in particular. This initiative saw the mobilization of the government, private sector, civil society organizations and private citizens. This concerted effort has resulted in the following actions: (i) the allocation to the Book and Reading Promotion Fund of resources from all parties involved; (ii) the beginning of the construction of 53 libraries in Moughataa capitals; and (iii) the beginning of the distribution of books covering various topics and areas.

Box 2: Targeted programs to combat poverty

The implementation of targeted programs to combat poverty in the periphery of urban areas and the major poverty pockets in rural areas is aimed at directly contributing to the reduction of poverty and inequality. These programs, which complement the actions carried out by the sectoral departments, are characterized by: (i) specific targeting of the poorest and most vulnerable groups and areas; (ii) the search for an immediate impact on improving the living conditions of the affected populations; and (iii) a participatory approach that fully involves administrative authorities, local elected officials, civil society, and the beneficiaries themselves. The execution of these programs is generally delegated to municipalities, specialized agencies, NGOs, etc.

The major programs carried out in 2002 are:

I In urban areas:

I.1 The "Twize" program to revitalize solidarity channels, which targets people living in the periphery of urban areas who have extremely limited economic capacities, precarious housing conditions, and poor access to credit. It has four components: housing, microfinance, community activities, and training. This program made it possible to build 1,730 housing units and grant 896 loans (79 percent of them to women), with a recovery rate of 99.7 percent, which contributed to significant improvement in the living conditions and incomes of the target populations.

I.2 In 2002 the program to combat exclusion benefited more than 600 persons (handicapped, orphans, beggars, etc.) in the city of Nouakchott. Its components are: (i) providing food and sanitation services to the individuals concerned; (ii) education, literacy programs, professional training; and (iii) support for income-generating activities.

II In rural areas:

II.1 The "Toumze" program for the regeneration of small subsistence-level livestock raising, which targets rural populations with extremely limited economic capacities who do not own their own herds. Its objectives are to contribute to food security, improve nutritional conditions, and generate incomes. The program made it possible to distribute 20,000 units (annual growth rate of 49.1 percent in Aftout).

II.2 The rural infrastructure program, whose primary objective is to overcome the shortage of socioeconomic infrastructures in rural areas. It focuses on the following issues: (i) safe drinking water: pastoral wells, tube wells, water supply facilities (more than 150 works); (ii) improvements to agricultural water supply: dikes, minidikes, runoff deflection barriers, dams (almost 50 works); (iii) access to the interior: mountain passes, fords, crossing works, rural roads; (iv) livestock farming support: pastoral centers; and (v) socioeducational infrastructure.

II.3 The support program for cooperatives in difficulty (PACAD), which benefits disadvantaged village-level communities along the river (wilayas of Trarza, Brakna, Gorgol, and Guidimagha). It makes it possible to solve the problems resulting from the government's divestiture in the early 1990s, in particular the deterioration of land improvements and the problems obtaining agricultural credit. It has three components: (i) rehabilitation of improved lands (more than 1,000 hectares rehabilitated); (ii) the financing of seasonal crop credit; and (iii) the organization and supervision of farmer groups. In 2002, support was extended to 25 cooperatives.

III Program to support income-generating activities:

The program to support income-generating activities (IGAs) is aimed at improving the incomes of beneficiaries and providing basic commodities to the people. In 2002, the wilayas of Hodh Echargui, Assaba, Brakna, Tiris-Zemmour, and Inchiri benefited from this program with the establishment of: (i) 625 IGAs in urban areas (crafts, small trade, etc.); and (ii) 132 other activities in rural areas (village-level shops, grain mills, etc.), which benefited 40,000 persons in rural areas.

IV Associated programs:

IV.1 The professional training and functional literacy programs benefited 740 persons (of whom 500 live in rural areas) receiving professional training in various fields (small urban trades, animal health, agricultural techniques, and management of cooperatives), while 25,000 persons took part in functional literacy training.

IV.2 The CDHLCPI has recently established regional coordination offices responsible for: (i) participating in identifying PRLPs, (ii) providing complete information on programs and approaches to combat poverty and on the national human rights policy; (iii) monitoring program execution; and (iv) participating in the effective regionalization of the PRSP.

Health

31. Implementation of the PRSP in 2002 made it possible to carry out the following activities: (i) strengthening decentralization by increasing financial allocations to the regions (between 200 percent and 400 percent) and by hiring 13 accounting officers and 11 statisticians; (ii) direct recruitment of 289 health officials and employees, and training in progress for 12 pediatricians, 12 obstetrics and gynecology specialists, and 390 paramedicals; (iii) construction and equipping of 54 health posts; (iv) imparting new dynamism to regional hospitals (rehabilitation of seven hospitals, equipment of eight others now in progress, construction and equipment of the Nouadhibou hospital, training of senior physicians, and assignment of eight surgeons); (v) purchase of a large amount of vehicles and equipment (blood banks, computer hardware, etc.); (vi) establishment of CAMEC and the CNTS; (vii) revision of the cost recovery provisions ensuring that some medications and consumable supplies will be free, the establishment of a special fund for covering the costs of indigents in order to ensure the financial accessibility of the poorest to essential health care; (viii) conducting two pilot experiments on reducing the impact of health expenditure on the poorest in Nouakchott (obstetric flat fee) and in the two Hodhs (indigence project); (ix) preparation and implementation of the contracting approach with NGOs; (x) adoption of strategic plans for certain programs (AIDS, malaria), establishment of the National Council for Combating AIDS chaired by the Prime Minister, and beginning the evaluation of the multisectoral program; and (xi) continued implementation of the NUTRICOM project through the introduction of a sizable number of CNCs and the revitalization of the CRENS.

Safe drinking water and sanitation

32. The following actions have been taken in the drinking water and sanitation sector: (i) preparation of a draft Water Code which is expected to be promulgated soon; (ii) continuing work to extend the APW for Nouadhibou and 9 other secondary cities; (iii) startup of an ambitious project to provide safe drinking water to the city of Kiffa; and (iv) continuing efforts on village-level and pastoral water and sanitation systems, such as the Rural Water Resource Program in the southeast, the Espoir Water Project, and the Program for the Nouakchott-Nouadhibou-Tiris area. The preparation of the Aftout Es-Saheli project has continued and it is envisaged that the necessary funding will be mobilized by end-2003.

1.3 Cross-cutting areas of the PRSP

33. Important measures have been taken in the area of **employment**: (i) the preliminary draft Labor Code has been approved by the National Labor Council and is now being reviewed by the government; (ii) a study has been conducted on the improvement of the treatment of employment-related issues; and (iii) the Employment Information System (SIME) has been improved through the updating of the component "Training Institutions" file and the establishment of the new component "Employers in the Structured Sector."

34. In the area of **micro-enterprise** promotion, a strategy and action plan have been prepared and in the process of being approved. The artisanal craft sector has received particular attention and a artisanal code has been finalized and endorsed by the relevant stakeholders, government and Parliament. Other activities have been taken which benefit craftsmen in various areas, including training, information, and credit. Furthermore, the CDHLCPI has introduced programs on income-generating activities (IGA) in five wilayas throughout the country, making it possible to finance 625 activities aimed at 8,248 recipients regrouped into 628 cooperatives, and 132 activities aimed at 48 Community Development Associations (ADCs) grouping together 28,800 people.

35. In **micro-finance**: (i) a strategy and action plan were finalized in April 2002 and are currently in the process of being approved; (ii) the outstanding balance of loans granted rose to UM 2,464 million in 2002 (of which over 50 percent is from CAPECs) to 113,034 recipients, of which 49,936 are in rural areas; (iii) the volume of saving mobilized increased from UM 576 million in 2001 to UM 894 million in 2002; an ethics code and a guide for creating microfinance institutions (MFIs) have been prepared; (v) the CDHLCPI has supported 14 MFIs by means of an operating subsidy (UM 12 million), the granting of UM 180 million in loans, and making 63 university graduates available; and (vi) several training sessions have been organized (APROMI, CEP, etc.).

36. In the area of **professional training**, an ambitious reform program was launched in 2002 under the PNDSE, with the introduction of the steering mechanism for technical and professional training (TPT) by creating the INAP and the FAP. In addition, 730 people have benefited from qualifying training programs financed by the CDHLCPI, including 500 on small trades through mobile units in five wilayas and 230 unskilled youths on small urban trades (electrical, plumbing, carpentry, etc.) in 5 cities in the country. Two new public training institutions (the CFPPs of Tidjikja and Ajoun) were also inaugurated in 2002.

37. The program on **integration of jobless graduates** has made it possible to integrate 1,229 graduates, 60 through financing microprojects, 63 in the MFIs, and the remainder in public administration and CDHLCPI projects. In addition, the window services made available by the CDHLCPI in the form of a one-stop shop for registering and orienting graduates have continued to operate in 2002.

38. Efforts for the **advancement of women** were continued in 2002 through: (i) launching of the process of re-updating the strategy for the advancement of women; (ii) the performance of several support activities for women's cooperatives through qualifying training and management training (nonindustrial fishing, GERME), credit (MFI organization and training); (iii) the strengthening of CFPPs; and (iv) dissemination of the Personnel Status Code through information and public awareness campaigns.

39. Concerning **combating exclusion**, actions related to the insertion of marginalized groups, in particular through pursuit of the program to combat begging, the undertaking of a study on a "orphanhood program" in Noaukchott's shanty towns, and the development of a social protection strategy at the national level.

40. Important actions have been taken in the area of **food security** concerning: (i) the prevention and management of food crisis situations through the operation of a Food Security Observatory responsible for gathering, processing, and distributing data on the country's food security; (ii) the establishment and management of a National Security Stock; (iii) the establishment of a mechanism for humanitarian and emergency action responsible for funding, supervising, or coordinating appropriate interventions in the event of a structural or short-term food shortage; (iv) the definition of programs or microprojects in the food security area; and (v) the identification, monitoring, and evaluation of the micro-efforts envisaged or undertaken in this area.

41. As for **universal access to basic services**, the last 12 months of PRSP implementation were characterized by: (i) the establishment of the organisms of the Agency responsible for this mission, and the preparation of an ambitious program of multiyear actions, and the manual of universal access procedures; (ii) the preparation of an investment plan for rural electrification; and (iii) the launching of projects to improve water supply and the provision of electricity and telecommunications in twenty localities throughout the national territory.

42. For the **environment** the actions carried out involved: (i) endorsement of the strategy and national action program on Biodiversity and on Combating Desertification, and finalization and presentation to the Conference of Parties of the initial national report on climate changes; (ii) the census of the bird population in rain-fed areas; (iii) systematization of environmental impact statements for all programs and projects; (iv) implementation of the process of harmonizing national legislation and regulations with the international conventions ratified by Mauritania, and their adaptation to Sharia and local customs; and (v) preparation of the second national report on climate change and the report on national biodiversity inventory.

43. Concerning forestry and the protection of nature, the actions taken included: (i) the preparation of a master plan for firewood and charcoal supply of major urban centers; (ii) the establishment of plantings over 10,500 hectares coupled with seeding by air in the Northern parts of Trarza and Brakna, as well as in Tagant; and (iii) the maintenance of the firebreak over a linear distance of 21,000 kilometers.

1.4 Strengthening institutional capacities and governance

44. The actions carried out in the areas of consolidation of the rule of law included: (i) training magistrates; (ii) creating a website for the Chancellery and providing it with computer equipment; (iii) laying the first stone for the Nouadhibou Palace; (iv) equipping the courts of Nouakchott and Kiffa; (v) organizing consultation days on the development of an action plan for promoting and protecting human rights, with the establishment of a steering committee for this program; and (vi) training activities relating to Human Rights.

45. In the area of strengthening capacities of the government, the following actions have been taken: (i) dissemination of the provisional results of the RGPH; (ii) the completion of five studies on public administration in the context of the preparatory phase of the PNBG; (iii) restructuring of the MEN; (iv) organization of a forum on poverty monitoring indicators; (v) startup of the introduction of a monitoring and evaluation system for CDHLCPI programs; (vi) methodological work on the general census of agriculture and livestock; and (vii) introduction of the CMAP.

46. In the area of public resource management, the principal actions taken in 2002 involved: (i) the conduct of studies on the public finance system (ROSC and CFAA); (ii) the launching of the computerization of expenditures on goods and services; (iii) completion of an audit of the expenditure financed by HIPC resources in 2001 and ongoing dialogue with partners on monitoring the implementation of actions financed by these resources; and (iv) adoption of the final budget execution law for the 2001 budget.

47. The execution of public investment projects has improved significantly in recent years. This improvement in absorptive capacity is largely the result of the continuing implementation of measures, aimed at strengthening the management capacities of public administration in general and enhancing performance of public investment programming, execution, and monitoring/evaluation. These measures related primarily to:

- The preparation of the MTEF for use as the basis for allocating resources in certain sectors (health, education, transportation, rural development, and urban development); a global MTEF is now being finalized and will be used in preparing the 2004 Budget Law;
- The application of the new Government Procurement Code, which allows for more rapid execution of public investment projects;
- The intensification of training activities for project managers;

- The introduction of monitoring/evaluation structures in the major spending departments (MEN, MSAS, MDRE, MET) and increase in the number of portfolio reviews with the principal donors and lenders.

48. The major actions taken in respect of decentralization are: (i) delegation of the MIPT's supervisory powers to the walis and hakems in order to enhance decentralization and deconcentration; (ii) preparation of a circular on the functioning of municipal administration; (iii) preparation of a report on the decentralization and good governance strategy; (iv) publication of a municipal information journal, *El Belediya*; (v) reform of the accounting and financial nomenclature used by municipalities; (vi) startup of the UDP, completion of the PADDEM, and implementation of KfW 3; (vii) a significant increase in FRD; and (viii) launching of the study on regionalization.

49. In the area of building capacity among civil society, the priority actions carried out are: (i) promulgation of Decree 2002-030 on the procedure for authorizing development associations; (ii) establishment of the Consultative Commission on Authorizing Development Associations; (iii) implementation of a training plan for 30 national NGOs on technical and practical issues; and (iv) drafting of the legal status of the cyber forum.

1.5 Participatory approach

50. The mechanisms adopted since April 2000 for the preparation and monitoring/evaluation of the PRSP continues to involve all the stakeholders in poverty reduction (administration, elected officials, civil society, private sector, and donors and lenders). Accordingly, this report was prepared on the basis of the work carried out by the Technical Thematic Groups and was the subject of consultation and validation at regional workshops and national meetings (see Box 3).

51. In addition, with a view to improving the participatory process, the CDHLCPI in 2002 engaged in direct consultation with the poor. These efforts constitute an important stage in strengthening the global process of consultation on the PRSP. They are aimed at: (i) broadening the consultation process for the PRSP, integrating the views of the public, particularly the poor and vulnerable groups; (ii) promoting the creation of communication spaces and dialogue for citizens, contributing to attitude change; and (iii) fostering an environment conducive to exchange and consultation, with a view to boosting the ownership of the PRSP.

1.6 Principal lessons

52. The principal lessons drawn from the two years of implementation of the poverty reduction strategy relate to: (i) the relevance of the strategic orientations of the PRSP, but also the need to revise some of its objectives; (ii) the economy's vulnerability to exogenous shocks; (iii) the need to improve financial intermediation in order to enable the private sector to serve as the main engine of growth; (iv) the importance of rapidly developing capacities for managing the economy and executing public expenditure programs, according to the ambitions of the PRSP; (v) the priority of regionalizing the PRSP along with enhancing the decentralization and de-concentration of resources; (vi) the urgency of putting in place a territorial development policy that enhances the supply of basic services (according to the 2000 RGPH, 88 percent of the localities in the country have populations of 500 or less); and (vii) the need to involve civil society organizations more in the implementation of programs to combat poverty.

53. The second year of PRSP implementation also shed light on the need to improve and intensify the participatory approach toward formulation, implementation, and monitoring of the

PRSP, so as to strengthen commitment and the national consensus in favor of the PRSP and promote participation by the poor and making the most of their social capital.

54. Finally, additional work on the main characteristics and determinants of poverty, carried out on the basis of data collected in 2000 (see Box 4), indicate that:

- The poor tend to move towards areas where poverty is decreasing, thereby offsetting the gains made in reducing (the incidence of) poverty in these areas. It would therefore be advisable to intensify and accelerate the execution of policies and programs aimed at keeping the population in its own original regions, as part of a harmonious territorial development logic.
- The rate of reduction in inequality (Gini), which contributed to the relatively fast decline in the incidence of poverty during the period 1990-1996, has slowed down significantly between 1996-2000, thereby dampening the effects of growth on poverty reduction during this period. In a context where economic growth has yet to reach the desired pace, this phenomenon calls for the implementation of policies and programs aimed at reducing inequality, by anchoring growth in the economic environment of the poor and boosting human resource development.

Box 3: Consensus-Building for PRSP Implementation in 2002

The process of participation, dialogue and consensus-building regarding the implementation of the PRSP was conducted through the ongoing efforts of the thematic technical groups and consensus-building committees, and by holding annual events, such as inter-regional workshops and national sessions. The purpose of this process is to: (i) achieve broad consensus among all stakeholders on the assessment of the second year of implementation of the PRSP; (ii) hear proposals and recommendations for a better and clearer articulation of the outlook for 2003-2004; and (iii) strengthen the participatory approach to the PRSP. Central and local governments and central and regional government technical units took part in these events as did senators and members of congress, mayors, the private sector, NGOs, socio-professional organizations, and the media.

1. General comments

Participants welcome the institutionalization of the inter-regional workshops organized for consensus building, which are meant to provide a forum for exchanges and communication that would reinforce the partnership associated with implementation of the PRSP. Notwithstanding their satisfaction with the efforts undertaken to combat poverty, participants realize that the process of PRSP regionalization now under way will largely determine the effectiveness and impact of the overall strategy. Just as they did in respect of the 2001 review, participants insisted on the presentation of assessments by region, to enable regional stakeholders to judge the assessment on the basis of a knowledge of their regions and their local concerns.

2. Broad concerns

An overview of these various workshops shows that the major concerns of the participants are about: (i) regionalizing the PRSP, which must begin as soon as possible; (ii) deepening and strengthening decentralization; (iii) making local stakeholders responsible for the design and execution of poverty reduction programs and projects; (iv) developing livestock rearing and promoting rural economic activity; (v) defining methodologies and intervention criteria to be used in poverty reduction programs for better priority targeting of vulnerable socioeconomic groups and areas; (vi) striving to increase efficiency in public expenditure; (vii) targeting women and promoting women's activities; (viii) improving in the drinking water supply; (ix) using information and communications as a vehicle and condition of participation; and (x) continuing to promote the participatory approach.

3. Rooting growth in the areas of economic activity in which the poor are engaged

Regarding rural development, participants point out that: (i) priority must be given to the livestock sector, in light of its role and potential in reducing poverty; (ii) natural resources must be well managed in terms of the movement of cattle; (iii) small farmers must be supported and agrarian reform effectively implemented to give these farmers access to land ownership; (iv) local production must be protected and supported to enhance its competitiveness; (v) a strategy to protect productive infrastructure must be put in place; and (vi) a poverty reduction project needs to be set up in Aftout Nord and an integrated development project implemented for the palm plantations.

In terms of urban development, while participants welcome the launching of the Urban Development Program (PDU), they recommend: (i) extension of the CDHLCPT's "Twize" program to the regional capitals; (ii) combating disorderly settlement; (iii) promotion of income generating activities in peri-urban areas; and (iv) effective involvement of civil society in the implementation of urban policies and in the management of social infrastructure.

4. Human resource development and access to basic social services

In the area of education, participants recommend: (i) equipping schools with educational materials; (ii) promoting bilingualism in the schools; (iii) supporting the communes in performing their role in education; and (iv) implementing systems designed to educate nomadic children.

Regarding health, the recommendations focus on: (i) expanding the network of regional hospitals and increasing their staffing; (ii) providing all health facilities with medical equipment and equipment maintenance; (iii) expanding and developing community nutrition programs.

Concerning water, the proposal is to implement a communications strategy for better water management, continue the policy of reducing the cost of water, particularly for the poor, and create regional laboratories for water quality control, and capacity building for regional waterworks brigades.

5. Governance and capacity building

The main recommendations made in these areas are: (i) continue the program for training judges; (ii) strictly apply the principle of proper compensation; (iii) generate public awareness about the rule of law, create regional committees to promote human rights; (iv) connect the regional government authorities to the Internet; (v) strengthen the control of public resource management; (vi) create regional structures to monitor and assess public expenditure; (vii) intensify capacity-building programs for civil society organizations; and (viii) effectively implement the decentralization policy set out in the PRSP.

Box 4: Poverty Breakdown and Poverty determinants

Special breakdown of poverty:

The spatial breakdown shows that the decline in poverty in 2000 is attributable for the most part to reductions in every zone (assuming constant population). However, this positive effect is attenuated by the negative impact of the population shift from one zone to another. The population tends to move toward areas where poverty is most significantly on the wane. Without this negative population effect, the reduction in the incidence of poverty would have been 4.7 percent instead of the 3.3 percent actually observed.

Contribution of growth and redistribution:

A breakdown into a growth effect and an inequality effect shows that the improvement in the status of the poor in 2000 as compared to 1996 is attributable mostly to growth (measured by the growth in average expenditure). It appears, according to this breakdown, that regardless of the residential environment, growth clearly contributes to poverty reduction, whereas inequality causes the poverty level to become worse. At the national level, slightly less than 30 percent of the growth effects have been wiped out by the increase in inequality, while in urban areas the negative effects of inequality exceed 30 percent of the growth effects. These results indicate that the poverty reduction approach in Mauritania between 1990 and 1996 is different from that between 1996 and 2000. During the first period, the reduction in poverty is traceable mostly to the reduction in inequality, even though growth did have a positive effect, while for the 1996-2000 period the poverty reduction is attributable entirely to the growth effect, while inequality played a rather negative role.

Breakdown of inequality:

The breakdown by zone (urban vs. rural) shows that inequality within groups represents 84.2 percent of total inequality. Moreover, analysis of total inequality indicates that even though inequality is more significant in rural areas, it is urban areas that contribute the most to it (43.4 percent of inequality is due to inequality in urban areas, as compared to 40.9 percent in rural areas). This same breakdown for the 1996 data shows that the inequality within each zone is worse, while the inequality of one versus the other is less (the inequality between zones declined from 20.7 percent in 1996 to 15.8 percent in 2000). The breakdown by major ecological areas indicates that the weight of intra-group inequality is 82.6 percent and that Rural Other accounts for the greatest contribution to inequality (28.7 percent), followed by Nouakchott (24.8 percent), meaning that 53.5 percent of the inequality stems from inequality within these two settings. Moreover, these two areas by themselves account for about 65 percent of the inter-group inequality.

Determinants of poverty:

An econometric model where the dependent variable is per capita expenditure for 2000 has been estimated separately for the rural and urban environments. The results of this model make it possible to observe that in urban areas, the level of education of the head of household has a positive impact on the household's standard of living, contrary to household size for which there is a negative correlation. Moreover, in the urban setting, the status of the head of household's occupation has an influence on the household's standard of living: wage earners in the public sector fare the best.

In rural areas, the negative effect of household size is quite clear, and as regards the status of the head of household's occupation, it is found that there is a better standard of living for wage earners in the private sector and a clear disadvantage for independent farmers as compared to wage earners in the public sector.

2. OUTLOOK FOR THE 2003-04 PERIOD

55. In view of the lessons drawn from two years of PRSP implementation and from the risk analysis, it is considered necessary to: (i) revise the objectives for 2004; and (ii) redefine the priority actions whereby the objectives can be achieved.

56. The revised PRSP objectives for 2004 are: (i) reduction in the incidence of poverty to 41.3 percent in 2004, taking account of the increased pace of per capita GDP growth and of the increase in poverty reduction expenditure (basic infrastructure, social services, and safety nets); (ii) increase in the enrollment ratio to 90 percent; (iii) a decline in child mortality from 135 to 128 (per 1,000 live births) between 2000 and 2004 and in the malnutrition rate for children under 5

from 32 percent to 20 percent over the same period; and (iv) improvement in the rate of access to a safe drinking water system to 45 percent by 2004.

2.1 Priority actions and the PIP for 2003-04

57. To achieve these objectives, the final phase of implementation of the PRSP will be marked by continued intensification of efforts, consistent with the strategic focuses of the PRSP, with a view to: (i) achieving sustained economic growth anchored in the economic environment of the poor; (ii) developing human resources and extending access to basic services; and (iii) strengthening institutional capacities and enhancing governance. In addition, 2003 will feature the implementation of an emergency program aimed at benefiting the victims of the poor weather conditions.

Acceleration of economic growth

58. Accelerated economic growth will be sought in particular by: (i) the pursuit of fiscal and monetary policies aimed at stimulating investment and improving productivity while maintaining macroeconomic stability; (ii) implementation of the action plan for enhancing the competitiveness of the economy and its trade integration (see Box 5), and maximizing the growth potential of the export sectors (agriculture, livestock, fisheries, tourism, mining, and oil and natural gas); (iii) promoting the private sector; and (iv) the development of growth-supporting infrastructures.

59. In the area of macroeconomic policies, the government will pursue: (i) tax reforms to eliminate distortions, improve equity and reduce transaction costs, broaden the tax base, and bolster collections; (ii) increased public expenditure, in particular expenditure aimed at poverty reduction and infrastructure development, by improving efficiency and equity of expenditure allocation through the preparation of a global MTEF that ensures consistency with the macroeconomic framework and the priorities of the PRSP, as well as revitalizing domestic demand; (iii) strengthened external debt management with a view to ensuring long-term sustainability, through the search for external financing of investment expenditure on concessional terms and the formalization of creditor participation in the HIPC Initiative; and (iv) monetary and exchange policies aimed at accelerating private investment, maintaining price stability, and boosting the external competitiveness of the economy.

60. These efforts will be complemented by specific measures to promote the private sector by: (i) strengthening competition (regulatory framework, observance of competition, regulation of the transportation and oil and natural gas sectors, etc.); (ii) consolidating the legal reform; (iii) improving the regulatory framework by the adoption of implementation texts for the commercial code, and implementation of the recommendations of the study on economic regulation, in particular those concerning the simplification and quality improvement of regulations, with the conduct of ex post impact analysis and convergence with the countries of the UMA and ECOWAS; (iv) simplifying the tax system and providing tax relief with respect to productive activities; (v) preparing and implementing a financial sector development strategy; (vi) adopting a new labor code; (vii) implementing measures to facilitate trade; (viii) introducing cross-cutting measures such as enterprise upgrading, standardization and quality control, and trade information; and (ix) continuing the state-private sector consultation effort and public awareness campaigns on business opportunities in the interior (see Box 5).

Box 5: Competitiveness and commercial integration

On April 10, 2002, the government adopted a priority action plan aimed at improving the competitiveness of the national economy and its integration into international trade. This action plan consists of four packages of measures focusing on:

- Improvement of the competitiveness of the economy by pursuing efforts aimed at simplifying the tax system and providing tax relief for enterprises, improving access to credit and reducing real interest rates, improving and effectively implementing trade regulations and competitiveness regulation and reducing the transaction costs associated with government and the courts, lowering production factor costs by stimulating competition in the transportation and telecommunications sectors, and developing the transportation, energy, NITC, and safe drinking water infrastructures;
- Facilitation of trade by establishing a committee for consultation between customs and the private sector piloted at the ministerial level, adapting the national regulations to the multilateral legal framework and simplifying procedures, adopting the electronic document interchange (EDI) system and introducing greater selectivity in inspections, broadening the use of the ASYCUDA system and building the capacities of the customs administration (organization, resources, training, incentives, ethics code, etc.);
- Institutional support for increasing trade, with a strengthening of the major institutions responsible for export promotion and the negotiation of trade agreements, the effective establishment of export promotion entities (National Tourism Office, Fisheries Product Promotion Center), the evaluation and implementation of a standardization and quality control program focused on a priority basis on the export sectors, and creation of a trade information center; and
- Support for policies to develop the export sectors aimed at stimulating the sustainable growth of these sectors, improving their productivity and competitiveness, and enhancing the international market access their products enjoys.

To mobilize the financing and technical assistance necessary for carrying out the measures included in the action plan and not covered by programs currently under way, on November 17-18, 2002, the government organized a roundtable which gathered together most of the country's development partners. The overall financing of the portfolio of projects corresponding to these measures amounts to US\$11,686,527, of which US\$1,843,032 will be provided by the Mauritanian Government and US\$9,843,495 is expected to be mobilized in the months ahead, in that the development partners showed a keen interest in the projects presented at last November's roundtable. During the 2003-04 period, the government is resolved to continue pursuing and advancing these reforms, which should have a significant impact on accelerating growth and reducing poverty.

61. Finally, growth potential will be maximized by: (i) implementing the rural development programs (see below); (ii) improving fisheries resource management and the integration of the fisheries sector with the economy through the development of processing infrastructures and units, training human resources, and strengthening the quality management, promotion, and marketing functions; (iii) continuing projects to expand the production capacities of SNIM and improve its productivity; (iv) accelerating investment in the mining sector (prospecting, takeover of Akjoujt mines, gold exploitation) and the oil and natural gas sector (exploration, production test on reserves discovered, possible exploitation) stimulated by the business environment and by the international economic climate; (v) developing the tourism sector thanks to stability in the country, the introduction of an institutional and regulatory environment that serves as an incentive, ecological and cultural diversity, and the completion of new infrastructures, in particular the Nouakchott-Nouadhibou road and the expansion of the Nema airport; and (vi) the dynamism of the construction and public works sector and the transportation sector, with the implementation of the Urban Development Program and the infrastructure expansion that will have a positive long-term impact on growth by improving factor mobility through an integration of local markets and improved access to external markets.

- 62. In the area of *transportation infrastructure*, the actions set forth in the MTEF will be implemented: (i) construction of the Rooso-Boghé and Kaédi-M'bout-Sélibaby roads; (ii) completion of the construction of the Aïoun-Niouro road to Mali and the Nouakchott-

Nouadhibou road in order to ensure Mauritania's enhanced integration into its regional space; (iii) expansion of the Nouadhibou port, construction of a pelagic fishing port at Nouadhibou and the Tanit port; and (iv) construction of the Nouakchott airport. In addition, measures will be introduced to strengthen the state-private sector partnership in financing and managing this sector. Competition in the transportation sector will be increased in order to reduce costs and improve service quality. Particular attention will be devoted to infrastructure maintenance, with increased resource allocations and the introduction of appropriate management instruments.

63. Regarding *energy*, actions will focus on the following: (i) electrification of the valley starting from Manantali; (ii) preparation and implementation of the MTEF for rural electrification; (iii) construction of infrastructures for enhancing the security of oil supplies; and (iv) strengthening the regulation of the sector with the establishment of the National Oil and Natural Gas Commission. With regard to the *NICTs*, the government intends to continue implementing its strategy and promoting the development of infrastructure and services.

Box 6: Government and private sector consultation

The drive to make the private sector the primary engine of economic growth has prompted the public authorities to introduce gradually, over more than a decade, a series of economic, institutional, and legislative reforms aimed at improving the business environment and promoting private investment.

In this framework, a National Committee for Government/Private Sector Consultation (CNCESP) was established in 1996 to create a permanent mechanism for consultation between the government and private agents on the various issues of interest as regards to the development of the private sector.

In 2002, new dynamism was imparted to this mechanism by revamping the composition of the CNCESP to ensure better representation of economic agents, and by the establishment of a permanent and autonomous Secretariat responsible for organizing and monitoring the consultation process.

Each year, an indicative consultation program is drawn up and used, following adoption by the CNCESP, as the basis for dialogue between the government and private sector representatives.

Carrying out the programs for 2000-01 and 2002 resulted in major recommendations, which have been implemented, as regards to simplification of the tax system and tax relief for enterprises and improving the system of private investment incentives (new Investment Code promulgated in January 2002). Other no less important recommendations have been implemented in the areas of trade, tourism, transportation, construction and public works, and fisheries.

In accordance with the guidelines of the PRSP, the government is resolved to consolidate and advance its consultation with the private sector so as to guarantee the complete success of Mauritania's economic and social policies.

To this end, the indicative consultation programs for 2003 and 2004 will address the various aspects of private investment promotion, particularly in the sectors with significant potential, and the government will ensure that the recommendations adopted by the CNCESP will be implemented.

Anchoring growth in the economic environment of the poor

64. The government will continue to promote the anchoring of growth in the economic environment of the poor by introducing targeted projects and integrated development programs in urban and rural areas, as well as through cross-cutting measures supporting microenterprise and job creation. Furthermore, with a view to ensure the effectiveness and long-term viability of public investment, a study will be conducted on the development of a master plan for territorial development.

65. The implementation of the long-term strategy for *rural development* will be intensified by: (i) enhancement of the growth potential of the livestock sector through the strengthening of the

institutional and regulatory environment, the improvement of animal health, infrastructure expansion, integration of the sector into the economy, the development of derivative products, and the promotion of the export-oriented sub-sectors; (ii) the expansion of irrigated agriculture, thanks in particular to improved access to production factors (land tenure reform, transfer of collective perimeters, consolidation of agricultural credit, etc.) and inputs, infrastructure development (rehabilitation of perimeters, roads-tracks and improved vehicle access, energy, processing center, refrigerated storage, etc.), the supply of training, research, and extension services, and the promotion of diversification of export-oriented production; and (iii) improvement in the rate of agricultural growth in the other ecological zones through the development of rural infrastructures, increased access to factors, and their productivity supported by the supply of extension services. Implementation of this strategy will be supported by the execution of several projects (Phase II of the PGRNP, PDIAIM, Project on Raising/Managing migratory livestock).

66. In the area of *urban development*, the government will implement targeted programs aimed at strengthening the equipment of towns and cities for supporting economic activity and reducing poverty in urban settings. These programs will also make it possible to strengthen an integrated approach to community development articulated around the following components: (i) the promotion of decent social housing; (ii) support for income-generating activities; (iii) strengthening the capacities of target groups; and (iv) supplying grassroots urban infrastructures. This orientation will be supported by actions to improve the environmental framework through the organized collection and removal of household waste. The outlook for the years ahead as regards urban development depends upon the highly sizable investment effort to be made by the government in favor of strengthening equipment in the regional capitals and the gradual integration of the shanty towns in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou. This orientation should result in gradually slowing the mounting inequalities between cities and regions, through coordinated intervention by the government, the municipalities, the private sector (formal and informal), and civil society (NGOs, associations, neighborhood organizations, etc.).

67. The *targeted programs to combat poverty* will be consolidated, intensified, and spread to cover all areas of intensive poverty and the poorest/most vulnerable population groups in the country. In this context, a number of programs are planned: (i) the program to promote stone-cutting in the context of heavily labor-intensive works (paving of mountain passes for providing road access to isolated areas, urban sidewalks, and the construction of stone housing and the stone lining of agricultural water works); (ii) integrated interventions by the PASK in the moughataas of Ould Yengé (Guidimagha), Kankossa (Assaba) and M'bout (Gorgol); (iii) continuation of the PACAD in the wilayas of Trarza, Brakna, Gorgol, and Guidimagha; (iv) continuation of the "Toumze" project in the wilayas of Inchiri, Trarza, Brakna, and Gorgol; (v) continuation of the rural infrastructure program (trails, dams, dikes, etc.); and (vi) initiation of the program to enhance the value of the Kankossa pool through the development of forage and vegetable crops. Implementation of these programs will be supported by the establishment in 2003 of nine regional coordination offices for the CDHLCPI, covering the national territory in its entirety.

68. Cross-cutting measures will also be undertaken in order to support accelerated growth in the environment of the poor, with: (i) implementation of strategies to develop microfinance and microenterprise; (ii) carrying out large-scale programs of professional training and literacy training; (iii) continuation of programs for the placement of school graduates; and (iv) intensification of the support for income-generating activities for women and the improvement of their productivity.

69. Finally, *social protection* measures will continue to be put in place, with: (i) strengthening the program for the insertion of vulnerable social groups (the handicapped, beggars, orphans, prison populations, etc.); (ii) monitoring food deficit situations with the introduction of appropriate rapid warning mechanisms and the development of the mapping of vulnerability areas; and (iii)

implementation of the *emergency program* for 2003 benefiting drought victims. This program, with an estimated cost of UM 10.6 billion, will cover in particular the distribution of food for humans and livestock, the health and nutritional situation of populations at risk, support for livestock breeding (animal health, implementation of the "Toumze" project, distribution of subproducts from livestock), support for agriculture (completion of agricultural water works, off-season production, and rainfed zones), and the establishment of an AGR benefiting cooperatives and ADCs (see Annex 9).

Development of human resources and expansion of basic services

70. The development of human resources and the expansion of basic services continue to be the principal pillars of PRSP implementation. Indeed, the extent of the progress made in these areas will serve as a way of measuring the efficiency and effectiveness of the programs implemented as well as the impact of resource utilization. In this regard, appropriate monitoring/evaluation indicators will be defined for the areas considered and monitored systematically.

71. In *education*, particular emphasis will be placed on: (i) the implementation of measures to improve the retention rate; (ii) continuing the process of establishing the support fund for TPT; (iii) development of scientific and technological education and the promotion of research; (iv) enhancing the professionalism and diversifying the supply of training; and (v) improving the quality and internal efficiency of education. In addition, the efforts to promote books and reading will be intensified and broadened to cover the entire country.

72. In the *health* sector and in keeping with the programs included in the MTEF, the following activities will be carried out: (i) preparation of a set of policy documents (sector policy letter, human resources policy, hospital policy, medication policy) aimed at framing future action more satisfactorily; (ii) continuing the activities already begun with respect to the construction and outfitting of health structures, personnel training facilities, and structures for enhancing public awareness; (iii) consolidation of priority programs (Expanded Vaccination Program (PEV), Fight against Malaria and AIDS); (iv) strengthened decentralization with a view to enhancing the functionality of regional and departmental structures (hospitals in the largest moughataas); (v) widespread application of the successful experiences in the context of mutual systems; (vi) extension of the community nutrition centers and CREN; (vii) implementation of the emergency nutrition plan drawn up in 2002; and (viii) improved implementation capacities through the training of administrative personnel in the sector in the areas of programming, financial management, and monitoring and evaluation, with the active involvement of civil society (contracting) and communities (health committees).

73. In the area of *water resources*, the government will continue and intensify the implementation of ambitious programs aimed at equipping underserved areas and strengthening existing infrastructures to meet increased demand. This includes in particular: (i) completion of the Kiffa APW project; (ii) completion of the APWs for the semi-urban centers in the wilayas of Guidimagha and Gorgol; (iii) the completion of village-level water programs; and (iv) the introduction of water infrastructures in the context of the targeted programs to combat poverty. In addition, financing will be sought for the completion of the Aftout Es-Sahli Project and the rehabilitation of the Nouakchott APW network. Studies will also be conducted for establishing the legislative, regulatory, and standards framework and for the definition of a national sanitation strategy. Finally, an MTEF will be prepared for the sector.

74. Concerning *universal access* to basic services, the agency entrusted with this mission will seek to implement its multiyear action program through the private sector. This program will make it possible to expand the private supply of infrastructure services, in particular in urban, semi-

urban, and peri-urban settings, and in so doing to contribute to the integration of domestic markets, expansion of the productive base, and reduced vulnerability in these areas. In tandem, the ADER will continue its efforts in the area of rural electrification.

Governance and capacity building

75. Successful implementation of the PRSP requires good governance and the strengthening of the institutional and human capacities of the national stakeholders in combating poverty (administration, parliament, local governments, private sector, and civil society). In this regard, the government will adopt and initiate the implementation of the National Good Governance Program (PNBG) in 2003. Furthermore, a capacity building strategy will be finalized.

76. On the rule of law, the implementation of the PNBG will be reflected in: (i) strengthening Parliament's capacities through training, improvements in internal organization, and the development of the information system; (ii) continued strengthening of the judicial sector through the training of magistrates and court aides, the provision of infrastructure and human and material resources, the establishment of a legal observatory, imparting new dynamism to the judicial inspectorate, and the dissemination of information; (iii) the promotion of human rights through strengthened consultation, training, and public awareness campaigns; and (iv) consolidation of the democratic process, continuing the spirit of the recent municipal and legislative elections that were saluted by the international community for their transparency.

77. On what concerns public administration, studies will be conducted with a view to preparing a new reform of the public sector, seeking to adapt it efficiently to its missions, bring it closer to users, simplify procedures, introduce quality management, and establish a human resource management system that provides sound performance incentives (qualifications-based recruitment, wages, continuous training, merit-based promotions). The following actions have already been planned: (i) the reorganization of departments on the basis of audits; (ii) strengthened capacities in the strategic areas of economic management, programming, and monitoring/evaluation, through the implementation of several programs; and (iii) development of an administrative network using fiber optic technology. Moreover, in order to take advantage of the relaxation of budgetary constraints resulting from debt relief, improving absorptive capacity will continue to be one of the government's key concerns (see Box 6).

Box 7: Improving absorptive capacity

During the period 2003-04, the government will continue and deepen the reforms aimed at improving absorptive capacity by implementing a cohesive package of measures aimed at simultaneously:

- Strengthening design and programming capacities;
- Strengthening project execution capacities;
- Strengthening capacities for monitoring and evaluation;
- Harmonizing the procedures of donors and lenders;
- Strengthening private sector capacities.

As regards strengthening design and programming capacities, the measures planned deal primarily with: (i) preparation of the global MTEF and sectoral MTEFs; (ii) improving the quality of the PIP by more effective selection of public investment on the basis of multiyear programming; (iii) strengthening planning structures, and (iv) improving intersectoral coordination.

Improving project execution capacities will mostly entail measures to: (i) revise the Procurement Code and disseminate the new regulations among the officials involved in government procurement; (ii) improve project management by writing procedural manuals and annual work programs with budgets; (iii) systematize portfolio reviews with most donors and lenders and conduct supervision missions more regularly; (iv) impart new dynamism to Monitoring Boards to make them genuine project monitoring instruments; and (v) produce periodic reports on project management.

The measures planned for monitoring and evaluation will target: (i) improved training for the staff of project monitoring units and planning/monitoring structures and upgrading their material resources; (ii) gradual creation of monitoring and evaluation structures in the ministries which lack them; (iii) promotion of a framework for regular consultation between the various project structures with a view to harmonizing data gathering methods and instruments and promoting the exchange of information; and (iv) the introduction or strengthening, at the project level as well as in the supervisory administrations, of mechanisms for monitoring project and program impact.

Harmonization of the procedures of donors and lenders will be sought through approaches deemed the most appropriate for achieving greater convergence in the application of procedures, while taking into account the specific requirements of each partner. In this framework, the government will emphasize the budgetary support approach over the project approach.

In the area of strengthening private sector capacities, the government intends to: (i) develop and implement an appropriate training program for strengthening the capacities of national enterprises; (ii) encourage partnership/association between national and foreign enterprises; (iii) examine the possibilities of establishing specialized guarantee and financing institutions; and (iv) introduce a database on the construction and public works sector and define the technical standards applicable to that sector.

78. The sound management of public resources is a critical factor in achieving the poverty reduction objectives. It will be sought by: (i) modernizing the tax administrations with a view to increasing their yield and reducing transaction costs for the private sector; (ii) improving the budget allocation process by adopting a global MTEF and unifying the budget; (iii) revising the legal framework for budget execution and the gradual decentralization of payment authorization; (iv) computerization of public expenditure and strengthening the accounting system; and (v) the development of the public expenditure monitoring, control, and evaluation system.

79. Decentralization will continue to receive sustained attention through the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, improved resource mobilization, and building the management capacity of the municipalities. The main activities in 2003 will be: (i) implementation of programs in support of decentralization; (ii) introduction of mechanisms for distributing FRD; and (iii) formalizing the region as a decentralized territorial governing body. Furthermore, the **implementation of the PRSP at the regional level** will enter an active phase, in keeping with the provisions of the guideline law on combating poverty (see Box 8).

80. As regards to capacity building in civil society, the following activities will be carried out in 2003: (i) finalization and launch of the FAPONG campaign; (ii) introduction of the procedure for authorization of development associations; and (iii) implementation of programs to build capacity of NGOs, labor units, and the media.

81. The establishment of an **integrated system for monitoring and evaluation** of the PRSP is one of the government's priorities for the next two years. In particular, major efforts will be made to strengthening the poverty monitoring and analysis system so as to enhance its ability to identify the impact of policies and programs on the people's living conditions and to make relevant recommendations so as to enhance the chances of PRSP success. These efforts will focus mainly on: (i) revision of the PRSP indicators; (ii) the regular conduct of targeted surveys (EPCV for 2003/04, Agricultural Survey, Enterprise Survey, etc.); (iii) carrying out qualitative studies and surveys; (iv) strengthening administrative statistics; (v) developing the poverty analysis function through training and modeling; (vi) systematically performing analysis of the social and poverty impact of the reforms; and (vii) adapting the institutional framework to the regionalization requirements of the PRSP. Finally, the system for monitoring and evaluating the PRSP should make it possible to provide the information needed for monitoring achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (see Box 9).

Box 8: The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

On September 8, 2000, the leaders of 192 United Nations member countries meeting at the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which constitutes a solemn undertaking by the highest levels of government in favor of poverty reduction and sustainable human development. This declaration led to the development of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)—global objectives for 2015, which constitute an ambitious agenda for reducing poverty as well as its causes and manifestations.

The objectives are as follows: Halve extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education and gender equality, reduce by two-thirds the mortality rate among children under five, and by three-quarters the ratio of women dying in childbirth, reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of malaria, and achieve sustainable development and environmental sustainability. They further include the objective of developing a global partnership for development, with objectives for aid, trade, and debt relief. Each objective is associated with targets (quantified objectives) as well as indicators.

The first follow-up report on MDGs in Mauritania was prepared in January 2003, with assistance from the Agencies of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). It concluded that satisfactory progress is being made as regards to changes in the incidence of poverty, access to education, safe drinking water, gender equality, and the empowerment of women. However, performance is more modest as regards the objectives for child mortality, maternal health, HIV/AIDS, malaria, and the environment.

In order to achieve the MDGs, since February 2003 the government has been implementing a project to support the national ownership of these objectives with a view to achieving improvements in public policies. This project is aimed at improving public policy formulation and strengthening the management of the economy by taking the MDGs into account.

2.2 Risks

82. Implementation of the PRSP continues to be confronted by risks associated with: (i) the vulnerability of the economy; (ii) the inadequacy of institutional capacities; (iii) weaknesses in public resource management; and (iv) mobilization of the financing for the action plan.

83. Economic growth, and hence poverty reduction, remains vulnerable to world market price fluctuations owing to the strong concentration of goods exports (almost 100 percent) on two products (iron and fish), and the vagaries of the weather given the sizable weight of the rural sector

in national output (18.9 percent of GDP for agriculture and livestock in 2001) and in employment (over 50 percent), particularly among the poorest.

84. In respect of institutional capacities, successful PRSP implementation depends in large measure on: (i) improving absorptive capacity and successful efforts to enhance the project management capacities of various stakeholders, in particular those at the grassroots (municipalities, local operators, and NGOs); (ii) the public sector's capacity to improve the business climate and stimulate competition; and (iii) development of the strategic functions of prospective analysis, economic management, budget programming, monitoring, and evaluation, and aid coordination.

85. Regarding public resource management, the major constraints pertain to: (i) the capacity to target the poor; (ii) insufficient delegation of resources to the level of the sectors and regions that are accountable for results; and (iii) the weakness of the public expenditure monitoring system.

86. Mobilization of the financing for the priority actions for 2003-04 is essential to achieving the objectives of the strategy and the Millennium Development Objectives. The delays in mobilizing funding for the additional financing requirements attributable to international economic conditions may retard the implementation of this action plan.

2.3 External assistance needs

87. External assistance continues to be a decisive factor in the success of the PRSP at two levels: (i) the mobilization of resources for financing the action plan; and (ii) enhancing national capacities for program design, execution, and monitoring/evaluation.

88. The **2003-04 action plan**, covering the last two years of the first PRSP period, is supported by a PIP in the amount of almost UM 119 billion, of which over UM 33 billion must be mobilized in order to permit program execution in 2004. As regards financing the PRSP action plan for the 2003-04 period, the additional requirements identified (see Annex 4) amount to almost US\$150 million.

89. Regarding capacity building, the requirements for external assistance relate for the most part to the following areas:

- Economic management and the development of ex ante analysis instruments for assessing the impact of public policies on household living conditions;
- Preparation of the global MTEF and the MTEFs for the water resources, rural electrification, and fisheries sectors, as well as the finalization of the MTEF for the rural development sector;
- Evaluation of the social and anti-poverty impact of the education and health policies;
- Regionalization of the PRSP, with the development of Regional Poverty Reduction Programs (RPRPs);
- Conduct of the next phase of the ongoing survey of living conditions (EPCV) for the period 2003-04, which should take the new requirements for regionalization of the PRSP into consideration;
- Introduction of an integrated system for PRSP monitoring and evaluation;
- Building private sector capacities so that it can fully serve as the driving force behind growth; and
- Strengthening civil society's capacities for designing, implementing, and monitoring/evaluating targeted programs to combat poverty.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Revised Poverty Reduction Objectives

Priority objectives and performance indicators	Baseline		Quantified objectives		
	Date	Value	2004	2010	2015
Reduce poverty					
Number of poor (in thousands)	2000	1,161	1,141	860	706
Incidence of poverty	2000	46.3%	41.3%	27.1%	19.7%
Incidence of extreme poverty	2000	31.4%	26.9%	13.2%	6.6%
Depth of poverty	2000	17%	14.3%	6.7%	3.4%
Severity of poverty	2000	8.2%	6.6%	2.3%	1.0%
Gini index	2000	39%	39%	36.7%	35.6%
Accelerate economic growth¹					
Annual rate of GDP growth	2000	5.2	6.1	5	5
Annual rate of per capita GDP growth	2000	2.7	3.5	2.5	2.5
Investment ratio, including oil exploration investment (in percent of GDP)	2000	32.1	42.6	35.6	35.8
Preserve macroeconomic stability					
Inflation rate (in percent)	2000	3.3	3.7	3.5	3.5
Budget balance (in percent of GDP)	2000	-4.4	-2.7	-3.0	-3.0
Current external balance, excluding official transfers and oil (in percent of GDP)	2000	-5.8	-8.0	-10.0	-9.8
Gross reserves (in months of imports)	2000	6.9	6.4	6.0	6.0
Improve overall education level					
Gross primary enrollment ratio	2000	88%	90%	98%	100%
Gross enrollment ratio of girls	2000	85%	92%	98%	100%
Proportion of children completing basic cycle	2000	55%	56%	76%	100%
Proportion of girls reaching 6 th year of basic cycle	2000	51%	58%	73%	100%
New entrants in first year of secondary school	2000	14,814	17,991	27,816	46,514
Student/teacher ratio in first cycle of secondary school	2000	32	26	27	27
Adult illiteracy ratio	2000	42.8%	23%	13%	5%
Education expenditure as a percentage of GDP	2000	4.5%	6.2%	6%	6%
Improve overall health conditions					
Life expectancy at birth (years)	1998	53.6	56	59	62
Synthetic fertility index	2000	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.2
Infant/child mortality rate per 1,000	2000	87	80	75	72
Infant/child mortality rate per 1,000	2000	135	128	123	122
Proportion of assisted childbirths	2000	56.9%	64%	71%	74%
Prevalence of HIV among pregnant women	2000	0.5	< 1	< 1	< 1
Health service coverage ratio within 5 km radius	2000	67%	77%	90%	95%
Malnutrition rate (weight for age) among children under 5	2000	32%	20%	15%	13%
Increase access to safe drinking water					
Proportion of households connected to water system	1997	35%	45%	54%	60%
Price per cubic meter of water (in U.S. dollars)	1997	1.03	1.03	1.07	1.10
Increase incomes and improve living conditions in rural areas					
Incidence of rural poverty	2000	61.2%	54.9%	44.0%	34.0%
Incidence of extreme rural poverty	2000	44.1%	36.0%	28.8%	24.0%
Gini index in rural areas	2000	36.7%	34.2%	32.2%	30.6%
Annual rate of agricultural GDP growth	2000	0.5%	5.5%	10%	10%
Yield of irrigated rice (metric tons/ha/year, with off-season crop)	2000	4.2	5.4	10	12
Rate of live animal health coverage (required vaccines)	1999	60%	70%	77%	85%
Yield of dryland food crops	2000	0.5	0.8	1.0	1.0
Increase incomes and improve living conditions in at-risk neighborhoods of major cities and secondary cities					
Target population (in thousands)	2000	540	266	540	700
Number with access to microcredit (in thousands)			20	40	80
Cumulative volume of microcredits (in millions of ouguiyas)	2000	200	2,500	5,000	6,000
Number of land tenure deeds regularized in poor neighborhoods	2000	800	16,000	30,000	40,000
Number of newly improved plots			8,000	20,000	35,000
Access to subsidized housing in poor neighborhoods (households)	2000	300	10,000	20,000	35,000
Per capita consumption of safe drinking water (liters per day) in poor neighborhoods	1997	10 to 20	20 to 30	40	50
Rate of access to safe drinking water in poor neighborhoods	1997	35%	40%	50%	60%
Price per cubic meter of water (in U.S. dollars) in poor neighborhoods	1997	2 to 3	<1	<0.5	<0.5
Price per cubic meter of water in poor neighborhoods as a multiple of price in other neighborhoods	1997	5	1	0.8	0.8
Rate of access to sanitation services in poor neighborhoods	2000	10%	15%	26%	36%

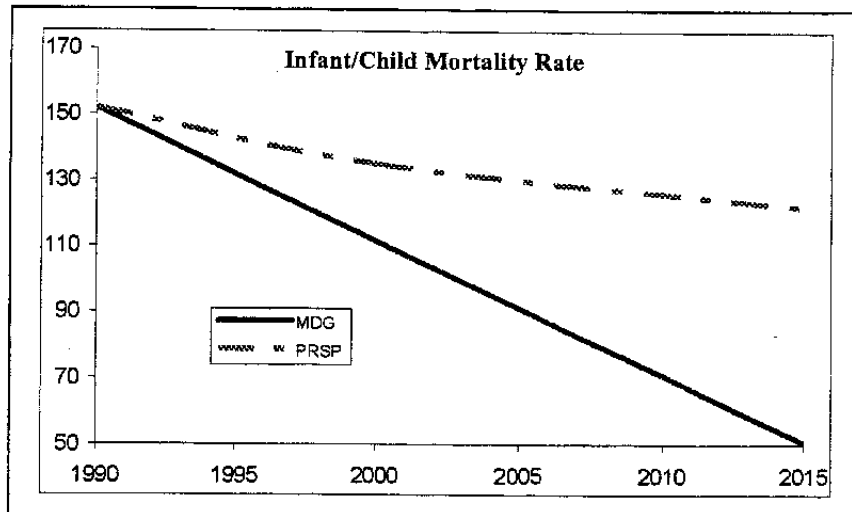
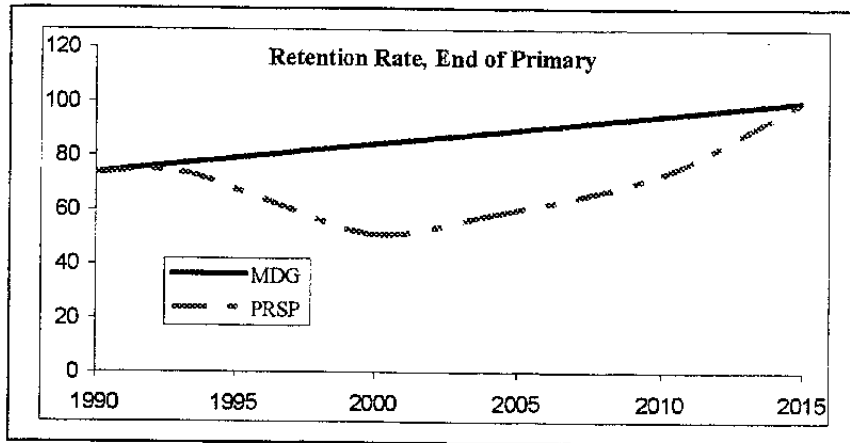
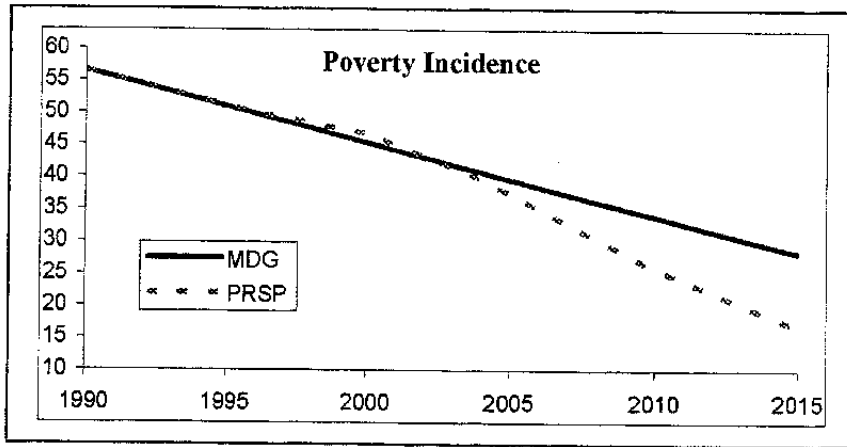
¹ The 2002 data are still provisional for GDP, public finances, and the balance of payments. The estimates for 2002 and the projections will be revised upon completion of the macroeconomic framework exercise currently in progress.

Annex 1 bis: Monitoring Indicators for Short-Term Poverty Reduction

Priority objectives and performance indicators	Baseline		Quantified objectives			
	Date	Value	2001	2002	2003	2004
Accelerate economic growth						
Annual rate of GDP growth	2000	5.2	4.0	3.3	5.4	6.1
Annual rate of per capita GDP growth	2000	2.7	1.6	0.9	2.9	3.6
Investment ratio, including in the oil sector (in percent of GDP)	2000	32.1	34.5	33.0	43.1	42.6
Preserve macroeconomic stability						
Inflation rate, period average (in percent)	2000	3.3	4.7	4.0	6.4	3.7
Budget balance (in percent of GDP)	2000	-4.4	-5.5	6.2	-2.1	-2.7
Current external balance, including oil related payments and excluding official transfers (in percent of GDP)	2000	-9.3	-18.3	-11.7	-22.1	-27.6
Gross reserves (in months of imports)	2000	6.9	6.8	8.7	7.2	6.4
Improve overall education level						
Rate of access to basic education	2000	93	97	111	111	111
Retention ratio	2000	55	51	48	52	56
Gross enrollment ratio	2000	88	87	88	88	90
Rate of access to first cycle of secondary school ²	2000	25	28	26	26	28
Education expenditure as a percentage of GDP	2000	4.5	4.6	5.9	5.9	6.2
Improve overall health conditions						
Proportion of assisted childbirths	2000	56.9		60	62	6
Rate of DTC3 vaccination	2000	39.9	52	70	75	75
Prevalence of HIV among pregnant women	2000	0.5	0.5	<1	<1	<1
Health expenditure burden, first quintile	2000	0.3	0.3	<0.3	<0.3	<0.3
Education expenditure as a percentage of GDP	2000	1.6	2.0	3.4	3.4	3.5
Increase incomes and improve living conditions in rural areas						
Growth Rate of agricultural GDP	2000	-7.6	-13.4	-10.0	14	5
Yield of irrigated rice (metric tons/ha/year, with off-season crop)	2000	4.2	4.5	4.8	5.1	5.4
Yield of dry land food crops	2000	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8
Increase incomes and improve living conditions in at-risk neighborhoods of major cities and secondary cities						
Cumulative volume of microcredits (in millions of ouguiyas)	2000	200				2,500
Number of land tenure deeds regularized in poor neighborhoods	2000	800				16,000
Number of newly improved plots						
Access to subsidized housing in poor neighborhoods (households)	2000	300				10,000

² Number of new entrants/corresponding age cohort.

Annex 1 ter: Comparison of PRSP Objectives and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)



Annex 2: Matrix of Priority Measures of the PRSP

Objectives for 2001-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
FOCUS 1: ACCELERATED AND REDISTRIBUTIVE GROWTH				
Growth - Accelerate growth and reach a trend rate of 7 percent: • Implementation of macro policies, external sector policies, etc.	• See macro policies, external sector policies, etc.	• See macro policies, external sector policies, etc.	• See macro policies, external sector policies, etc.	• See macro policies, external sector policies, etc.
Macroeconomic framework - Maintain an inflation rate below 3 percent and a consolidated government deficit below 3 percent: • Maintain revenue and expenditure levels consistent with PRSP objectives and corresponding to 25.7 percent and 27.8 percent of GDP on average • Introduction of domestic taxation reform - Maintain current account deficit (excluding official transfers) below 15.5 percent of GDP and external reserves of 6 months' imports: • Pursuit of a monetary policy based on market forces, through the use of indirect liquidity management instruments and the development of the Treasury bill market • Implementation of development policies and programs for export sectors (SNIM, agricultural diversification, tourism) - Reduce gaps between borrowing and lending rates: • Maintain real effective exchange rate at a level consistent with the current account objective	• Annual objective 2001 • Reduce BIC from 40 percent to 35 percent and increase deductibility of the IMF from 50 percent to 75 percent • Creation of the Large Enterprise Directorate and strengthening of tax collection teams • Creation of the special facility, gradual transfer of government deposits from banks to the BCM • See export sectors	• Annual objective 2002 • Direct taxation reduction and simplification in the context of the 2002 Budget Law • Strengthening of tax collection teams (additional budget allocations, creation of an advances system, incentive bonuses for staff) • Creation of the special facility, gradual transfer of government deposits from banks to the BCM • See export sectors	• Annual objective 2002 • Reduce BIC from 35 percent to 25 percent and full deductibility of the IMF • Elimination of the proportional business license tax and simplification of the flat-rate levy of this tax • Increase in taxable base of the IRF and reduction in its rate, with elimination of deduction • Strengthening of tax collection teams (additional budget allocations, introduction of IT application software, provision of computer equipment, vehicles, personnel incentives, etc.) • CPMC review of the issue of transferring public deposits from banks to the BCM • See improvement in the economy's competitiveness and its integration into world trade, below	• Annual objective 2003 • Direct taxation reduction and simplification in the context of the 2003 Budget Law • Strengthening of tax collection teams (creation of an advances system, personnel incentives, etc.) • Initiation of the gradual transfer of government deposits from banks to the BCM • See export sectors
• Maintain real effective exchange rate at a level consistent with the current account objective	• Annual objective 2001	• Annual objective 2002	• Annual objective 2002	• Annual objective 2003

Objectives for 2001-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop competition in the financial sector and promote saving • Observance by banks of the risk division ratio, in accordance with performance contracts signed between the BCM and the commercial banks • Opening of financial sector to other banks • Conduct of a study on development of the financial sector • Access to appropriate instruments for gathering saving, with TA from IMF and WB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual objective 2001 • Authorization of a new bank in 2001 • Drafting of TOR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalization of study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observance by banks of the loan concentration standards, in accordance with the performance contracts • Start-up of activities of a new bank (BACIM) in April 2002 • Finalization of TOR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual objective 2003 • Launch of study
<p>Development of private sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create an environment conducive to development of the private sector: • Application of revised codes on business law • Reduction and simplification of direct and indirect taxation (VAT) applicable to enterprises • Elimination of obstacles to competition (in transportation) and gradual expansion of the jurisdiction of the Regulatory Authority - Improve the attractiveness of the economy to foreign investors: • Preparation of an action plan to enhance the competitiveness of the economy and integrate it into the world economy • Continuation of privatization programs (electricity, telecoms) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promulgation of codes • Number of VAT rates reduced to two, elimination of municipal taxes on international trade, reduction of business taxes in 2002 Budget Law, reduction in BIC to 25 percent, reduction in registration duty for small businesses, reduction in IRF to 6 percent • Deregulation of transportation, Law on the Multisectoral Regulatory Authority adopted, TA in progress to simplify administrative procedures • Conduct of a study on the competitiveness of the economy and its integration into the world economy • Telecoms: Legal framework, privatization of MAURITEL, awarding of two GSM licenses, coverage of all moughataas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of implementing texts for Commercial Code, Investment Code, and creation of a Legislation Server • Creation of a Regulatory Authority for the transportation sector, establishment of the technical organs of the Multisectoral Regulatory Authority • Adoption of an action plan to enhance the competitiveness of the economy and integrate it into the world economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of texts identified Mobilization of FDI for financing the preparation of the texts and the installation of a legislation server • Extension of VAT reimbursement to imports of capital goods • Allow losses to be carried forward to 5th year • Elimination of the proportional business license tax (flat-rate levy) • Setting registration duty at unified rate of 0.5 • IMF deductible at 100 percent • Establishment of the technical organs of the Multisectoral Regulatory Authority • Adoption of an action plan to enhance the competitiveness of the economy and integrate it into the world economy • Organization of a donors' roundtable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of implementing texts for Commercial Code, Investment Code, and creation of a Legislation Server • Reduction in BIC rate to 20 percent • ITS reform (CFAF 10,000 deduction and progressive taxation in 2 tranches) • Effective operation of the Regulatory Authority (AR) and implementation of activity programs • Mobilization of financing • Implementation of the action plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity: Adoption of Electricity Code, breakup of SONELEC activities into SOMELEC and SNDE, prequalification of investors for the privatization of SOMELEC, preparation of bidding specifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity: Sale of 54 percent of SOMELEC share capital to a strategic partner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOMELEC privatization process declared unsuccessful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of the enterprise and the economic climate to determine the advisability of relaunching the privatization effort

Obj.04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoters: mining, tourism, culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See above 		
<p>Developments: Fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure management of fish resources view to sustainable Continue research plan of CNR Publication of results Allocation fishing catches to permissible level desherly by the CNROF Introduce surveillance mechanism strengthened cooperation partners for surveillance Strengthen integration into the: Gradual upgrading of fisheries infrastructure Encourage of fisheries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of a semiannual report in July 2001 Freeze on fishing for cephalopods, monthly publication of maximum fishing catches Careening of the Abba fishing vessel with financing from the AFD and the government budget, careening of the Argun fishing vessel with DSPCM budget financing Study on the financial autonomy of the DSPCM Substantial allocation for surveillance in the context of the fisheries agreement with the EU Offloading of production of all national vessels, obligation for some foreign vessels to offload their production in Mauritania 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of a semiannual report Freeze on fishing for cephalopods, monthly publication of maximum fishing catches Feasibility study on a VMS and radiotechnic surveillance system Offloading of production of all national vessels, obligation for some foreign vessels to offload their production in Mauritania 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of a scientific bulletin Publication of the semiannual report Meeting of 5th working party on evaluating stocks and fisheries Conduct of research campaigns on the ecology of species, surveys on nonindustrial and continental fishing, analyses for quality control Freeze on fishing for cephalopods, monthly publication of maximum fishing catches Adoption of implementing decree for Fishing Code Launching preparation of the improvement plan for cephalopods A satellite surveillance system is introduced on the basis of a technical and financial study Offloading of production of all national vessels, obligation for some foreign vessels to offload their production in Mauritania 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of annual and semiannual reports Preparation of the five-year plan of IMROP (2003-07) Development of the Geographical Information System (SIG) Investigations, database Preparation of a development plan for nonindustrial fishing Transfer of part of the maximum industrial fishing catch to nonindustrial fishing Adoption of the improvement plan for cephalopods Strengthened offshore presence: increase in flight hours and inspections, introduction of a system for monitoring vessels by satellite
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion in local fisheries Increase of value added and employment: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Companies for processing pelagic fish products and tuna, with foreign operators, have been created and the plants are under construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See measures for integrating the fisheries sector into the national economy and enhancing competitiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See measures for integrating the fisheries sector into the national economy and enhancing competitiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a standards system for a Mauritania label on fisheries products; initial operation of the Center for Fisheries Product Promotion

Ob.04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • , Implement structure program port, fishing port, litt) and promote participation in their 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of the nonindustrial fishing port of Nouadhibou (NDB), mobilization of financing for a littoral development pole opposite Tiguent, mobilization of financing for a littoral development pole opposite PK144 (National Highway 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek financing for a pelagic fishing part at NDB, completion of the study on developing a nonindustrial fishing port in Tanit, implementation of a littoral development pole opposite PK144 (National Highway 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pelagic fishing port at NDB pending financing, study on developing a nonindustrial fishing port at Tanit completed and its financing has been identified (ADB), technical studies and bidding specifications for implementation of a littoral development pole opposite PK144 (National Highway 1) completed • Preparation of plans for improving and developing cephalopods, nonindustrial and littoral fishing, and organization of the first national seminar on development • Installation of pipelines for PAN refinery in NDB • Expansion of nonindustrial port of NDB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilization of financing for a pelagic fishing part at NDB, completion of the study on developing a nonindustrial fishing port in Tanit (G5) • Preparation of plans for improving and developing cephalopods, nonindustrial and littoral fishing, and completion of the study on the artificial reef
<p>Mining</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote the mining sector contribution to the economy • Dissemination of the Mining Code and arrangements for foreign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination of the Mining Code, initiation of cartographic work in northern and central zones, presentation of geophysical findings on northern zone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination of the Mining Code, cartographic work central zone, establishment of a data room, and presentation of cartographic findings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promulgation of the law establishing a standard mining agreement • Decree setting mining taxes and royalties • Establishment of a data room, and presentation of cartographic findings, geological mapping of entire national territory at 1:500,000, production of 33 maps at 1:200,000, establishment of an SIGM and of SIGE • Decree implementing the mining law on the environment and quarries • Several new exploration permits have been granted (gold, diamonds, etc.) and encouraging indicators have been found 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued efforts to promote the mining sector, in particular as regards oil, diamonds, gold, copper, and phosphates • Finalization of regulatory texts • Mapping of entire national territory at 1:500,000, 26 geological at 1:200,000 of areas with high mining potential • Airborne geological survey of extreme south
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue exploration program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration program 2001 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration program 2002 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discovery of oil and gas fields (4 offshore wells) and continued exploration in this area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration program 2003: Drilling of additional oil wells and mining probes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement investment <p>Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build tourism potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of bidding specifications for implementation of the Spirale project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Spirale project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of program to renew the equipment of SNIM and enhance productivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of work in May 2003

Ob-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization with the Tourism private foreign meetings on the t • Establishing framework which is favorable investment • Promoting tourism collaboration • Developing tourism trades 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of a preliminary draft Master Plan • Adoption of implementing provisions of the Law on Tourism • Participation in various international fairs and expositions • Seek financing for a Hotel and Tourism Training Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalization and implementation of the Master Plan • Participation in various international fairs and expositions • Mobilization of financing for a Hotel and Tourism Training Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a Tourism Promotion Office • Finalization of the Master Plan under way: a first workshop for discussion of the document • Submission of the report on the legal arsenal of the sector, prepared in cooperation with the PSVPCM • Participation in various international fairs and expositions • Search for financing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption and implementation of the Tourism Master Plan • Adoption of the provisions on certain professions, establishment of an appropriate financing mechanism for tourism enterprises • Participation in various international fairs and expositions, preparation of a website on tourism, production of a guide on the Adrar • Mobilization of financing for a Hotel and Tourism Training Center
<p>Basic infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce and strengthen the national economy • Implementing infrastructure (roads, bridges, etc.) • Encourage sector participating of transport • Deregulate transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical study, mobilization of financing, and release of bidding specifications for the NKC-NDB road, initiation of work on reinforcing and rehabilitating the Magta Lahjar-Djouk and Djouk-Kiffa trunks • Ministerial decree 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial work on NKC-NDB road, finalization of studies on Rosso-Boghé road, and launching call for competitive bids • Completion of the preliminary study and technical and economic analysis of the new Nouakchott international airport • Start-up of work to upgrade the Néma airport • Launch of studies to identify appropriate instruments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MTEF on transportation infrastructure is finalized • Initial work on NKC-NDB road, finalization of studies on Rosso-Boghé road • Completion of the preliminary study and technical and economic analysis of the new Nouakchott international airport • Start-up of work to upgrade the Néma airport • The study which was to be carried out to this end has yet to be started • Continued efforts to impart new dynamism to the Road Management Office (BGR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of a study on the quality and size of paved roads • Continued implementation of the national road program • Completion of the study on the Nouakchott international airport and the work to expand the Néma airport • Launch of studies to identify appropriate instruments • Continued efforts to enhance competition in this sector
<p>Electricity actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce and improve the supply of electricity and telecommunications and reduce the government's deficit • Breakup and privatization of the Sity branch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakup completed, preparation of SOMELEC privatization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Privatization of SOMELEC (April 2002) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsuccessful call for bids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued efforts to privatize SOMELEC

Ob-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuit program in elect • Promotfication and control • Enhancroleum product • Privatiat of MAUR • Continuit programs, in celluaritcular • Continun of the law on the f • Strengthlatory Authori 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Startup of expansion of Nouakchott power plant, initial work on Manantali-Nouakchott power line • Study of Investment Plan for Rural Electrification, study of controlling energy savings in public buildings • Initiation of Security Project for Petroleum Products • Privatization completed • Connection of five new cities: Zouérate, Kiffa, Rosso, Atar, and Guerou • Continued implementation of the law on the telecom sector • Expanding the jurisdiction of the Regulatory Authority to the electricity and postal sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of expansion of Nouakchott power plant, initial completion of Manantali-Nouakchott power line • Study of a wind generating park at Nouadhibou • Construction of a berth in a protected area, a storage area, and transfer pipes • Operators' annual investment program • Continued implementation of the law on the telecom sector • Expanding the jurisdiction of the Regulatory Authority to the water sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of expansion of Nouakchott power plant • Connection of Nouakchott to interconnected grid of Manantali • Study not performed • Construction of a berth in a protected area, a storage area, and transfer pipes in progress • All regional capitals and a number of major urban centers are covered by mobile telephony • Connection to the fixed grid of Boghé, Timbédra, Maghtaa Lahjar, and Boutilimit • Continued efforts to improve quality: Replacement of central telephone switchboards • Extension of Internet access to Boghé, Timbédra, Maghtaa Lahjar, and Boutilimit, upgrading of broadband Internet access from 2.5 mbps to 4.5 mbps • Continued implementation of the law on the telecom sector • Expanding the jurisdiction of the Regulatory Authority to so-called "network" activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connection of cities of Rosso, Kaédi, and Boghé to Manantali grid, startup of electrification program for 11 CLM cities • Study of a wind generating park at Nouadhibou • Completion of work • Operators' annual investment program, including extension of the landline telephone grid • Connection of Maghama, M'bout, Mederdra, Rkiz, Nouakchott-Kaédi axis • Connection of 5 new moughataas by MAURITEL and of Aouin, Néma, and Boghé by Mattel • Replacement of central switchboards in remaining sectoral capitals
FOCUS 2: GROWTH ANCHORED IN THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT OF THE POOR				
<p>Rural develk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase poverty in rural • Implemority investrrogram for the sect <p>Livestock</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study on updating the rural sector strategy and on investment opportunities in the agricultural and agrofoodstuffs sector • Preparation of a PIP for the rural sector 2002-04 • Implementation of annual programs of the PDIAIM and other subsectoral programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational and functional study of the MDRE structures and institutional strengthening • Study of the impact of tariff reform in the context of deregulating the rice market • Implementation of annual programs of the PDIAIM, the PGRNP, the PARP, the Oasis Project, the PGDRNM (French cooperation), and the PGRPDE (ADB-OPEC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft of study available • Study of the impact of tariff reform in the context of deregulating the rice market • MTEF being prepared • Implementation of annual programs of the PDIAIM, the PGRNP, the PARP, the Oasis Project, the PGDRNM (French cooperation), and the PGRPDE (ADB-OPEC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of annual programs of the PDIAIM, the PGRNP, the PARP, the Oasis Project, the PGDRNM (French cooperation), and the PGRPDE (ADB-OPEC)

OI-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<p>Tap the stock breeding productivity of animals, and promote leather, and hides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing Code • Conduct current and future the livestock economic growth • Implement priority investment in the sector • Preparation, follow up support small and the value of livestock export <p>Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversification and enhance of small farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promulgation of the Farming Code, legal consultation on the implementing texts, and consultation with stakeholders (SPOs, local government, etc.) • Preparation of the preliminary report from the study on the current and future contribution of the livestock sector to national economic growth and poverty reduction • Construction of 3 veterinary centers and 15 vaccination parks, assignment of four veterinarians to Kaédi, Kiffa, Timbédra, and Afoun, introduction of 2 pastoral poles in Hodh El Gharbi • Consolidation of the Toumze Project in Brakna (3,823 small ruminants distributed to 1,400 poor families) and Adrar • Study on the creation of units for manufacturing livestock feed and establishment of such a unit, study on the leather and hides subsector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on implementing texts and publication of the decrees and orders implementing the Farming Code • Preparation of a development policy letter on livestock, definition of a priority action plan • Support for development of priority subsectors (livestock, leather and hides, red meat, family poultry rearing, milk) • Improved collective management of resources, preparation for the effects of drought and natural disasters • Expansion of the Toumze Project to wilayas suffering from the storms of 2002 and to Tiris-Zemmour • Study on the leather and hides subsector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of consultations on implementing texts • Preparation of a development policy letter on livestock, definition of a priority action plan • Support for development of priority subsectors (livestock, leather and hides, red meat, family poultry rearing, milk) • Conduct of 10 training sessions on the administration and management of local resources for 200 beneficiaries, and for 20 poultry farmers on technical and economic aspects of engaging in poultry farming • Expansion of the Toumze Project to wilayas suffering from the storms of 2002 and to Tiris-Zemmour and Inchiri 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination of herds • Livestock infrastructure: health post, 24 veterinary pharmaceutical storage depots, 23 vaccination parks • Continued efforts to enhance milk production • Improved collective management of resources, preparation for the effects of drought and natural disasters • Consolidation and expansion of the Toumze Project • Study on the leather and hides subsector • Protection of crops against grasshoppers, fight against sesamia, fight against grain-eating birds, fight against pilgrim locust
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidation of agriculture • Rehabilitate irrigated areas (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the PDIAIM • Conduct of 5 studies covering 210 hectares and approval of 19 submissions for pilot diversification operations covering 81 hectares 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual program of the PDIAIM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual program of the PDIAIM • Launch of rice rehabilitation and improvement programs (1,000 hectares) • As part of the project, 33 dams in the Achram border area, 17 dams and the calls for bids for 30 tube wells completed • Initiation of the project for agricultural water supply in Brakna West 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual program of the PDIAIM

01-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for domestic markets (PDIAM) • Supported on the production of agricultural products of PACAD • Trainers in agriculture • Program to support national agriculture • Selection of improved seeds and climate improvement • Program for the construction of dams, dikes, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocol of agreement signed with the Large Properties of Mauritania (GDM) to test 18 varieties for export • 21 perimeters covering 494 hectares distributed as follows: Trarza: 15 covering 300 hectares; Brakna: 2 covering 65 hectares; Gorgol: 4 covering 129 hectares • 19 cooperatives benefited from training in diversification, including 8 collective perimeters and 11 privately held • Organization of successive campaigns by 3 economic interest groups (GIEs) in the upper Fleuve in the amount of UM 270 million and 6 factory advisors in Trarza in the amount of UM 270 million • The Control Center was able to test 411 metric tons of rice seed harvested over an area of 100 hectares in the hot off-season • Project Oasis: Conventions signed for constructing 9 barriers at Tagant and Adrar, completion of two dams at Hodh El Gharbi, award of the contract for building 4 dams in Assaba • "Small Dams of Hodh El Gharbi" Project: Preparation of bidding specifications for the selection of enterprises, construction of 8 to 10 dams in Hodh El Gharbi, installation of gates at dams • PARP Project: 6 dams being built at Tagant, 5 dams under study at Brakna, work with BYPASSES at Tagant, support for 9 women's cooperatives at Tagant and Brakna 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study on measures to promote exports and trade in agricultural products • Annual program of the PACAD • Continued training of small producers in agricultural diversification • Continuation of the program to support the marketing of national agricultural production • Annual program of the Control Center • Program for building dams, runoff deflection barriers, dikes, etc., from the MDRE, CSA, and CDHLCPI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual program of the PACAD • SONADER: (i) diagnostic assessment of 127 basic cooperatives, 9 OPFs and 30 individual producers; (ii) training of 498 administrators of cooperatives in administration and management; (iii) 30 outreach meetings on the legislation in force, and 4 regional workshops • Annual program of the Control Center • Project Oasis: Dams at Touiemirt and Soguenni, dikes Legranne, Hseytine, and Dakhlet-Kourouraye, and 10 runoff deflection barriers in Adrar • CSA: Preparation of programming materials for Belbghorbane, Diabdioula, Oued Abary, El Varaa, Laouija, Toueikater, Tichouten, N'khaila, Tlamid, Oudey Talaba, Lefchreicha, Gweissoulboum, Touajil, Moilah, Amjeilid, M'haireth, and Taghadent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual program of the PACAD • Grassroots supervision of farmers • Introduction of the mechanism for distributing the improved seeds • Program for building dams, runoff deflection barriers, dikes, etc., from the MDRE, CSA, and CDHLCPI Startup of construction of 10 dams in Affolé
Real propercapital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDHLCPI: Construction or rehabilitation of 9 dams and 39 dikes at Aftout and Hodh Chargui, construction of the Laftah dam at Assaba 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDHLCPI: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 dikes built in Hodh Chargui, 17 in Gorgol, 11 and 7 dams at Brakna - Construction of BYPASSES, study of the El Ghaira-Barkéol-Loueissi trunk and the Ararech BYPASS, rehabilitation of the Laftah dam in Assaba - Construction of dikes to gain access to the villages of B'den and N'Diogo in Trarza 	

OK-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<p>Improves to real and financial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparenc and implementing decreed Property and Gound extension of the rs • Consolision of the agricultik (UNCA • Supporty of savings and loarural areas <p>Training, re services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotfer, applied researchitraining • Implemational Agricultin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination and publication of Decree 2000/89 of July 17, 2000, development of a program for regularizing 500 cases • Consolidation of agricultural credit, in particular through crop credit. An amount exceeding UM 400 million was freed up for improving an anticipated surface area of 7,857 hectares • Identification of a support program in the context of the microfinance strategy currently being prepared • Introduction of pilot outreach efforts regarding the introduction of forage and oil-bearing crops, signature of a sunflower marketing agreement with the AAAID 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a real property observatory, study on the advantages and drawbacks of the limits on the size of real property • Consolidation of agricultural credit • Finalization of the support program, creation of 10 microcredit funds (PGPDE), repurposing of MICOs, financial consolidation of 30 MICOs • Implementation of the annual program, including the creation of a subsector for providing processing products, establishment of seed security stocks (100 warehouses for 10-15 villages), tilling techniques and introduction of plows in 400 villages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOR drafted and forwarded for objections if any • Consolidation of agricultural credit • Finalization of the support program, creation of 10 microcredit funds (PGPDE), repurposing of MICOs, financial consolidation of 30 MICOs • Creation of a subsector for providing processing products, establishment of seed security stocks, holding of 3 workshops to promote certified seed in the major production areas of the valley, tilling techniques and introduction of plows in 400 villages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a real property observatory, study on the advantages and drawbacks of the limits on the size of real property
<p>Rural infras</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasey, and accessistructures in rural ar 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a long-term rural infrastructure development strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a long-term rural infrastructure development strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the long-term rural infrastructure development strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemational infrastronstruction of ruralorks to open access t 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening access and providing infrastructure in the context of CDHLCPI programs: opening up Barkéol by building passages, opening up Bden and N'Diago (Trarza) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program for opening access and providing infrastructures identified in the context of CDHLCPI programs and the Oasis Access Project (EU), study of the Kaédi-M'Bout trunk, study and access work for the production zones between Gani and Dar El Barka, study on pass improvement for Oued Ketchi (PARP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program for opening access and providing infrastructures identified in the context of CDHLCPI programs and the Oasis Access Project (EU), study of the Kaédi-M'Bout trunk, study and access work for the production zones between Gani and Dar El Barka, study on pass improvement for Oued Ketchi (PARP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of 42 dams (28 dams in Hodh El Gharbi, Assaba, Tagant, Brakna, Gorgol and Adrar to be built by the MDRE); rehabilitation and strengthening of 30 dikes and small dikes by the CDHLCPI and the CSA • Program on the reaming of water supply axes in Trarza • Implementation of the infrastructure program for crop area protection in eight agricultural wilayas
<p>Targeted prt poverty in rural areas:</p>				

OI-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote areas of extreme grassroots communitarianisms in the implementation of grant programs: • Pursue local poverty reduction programs involving local government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of basic infrastructures in poor areas, training of groups of cooperatives, construction and outfitting of multipurpose banks and village-level shops, provision of draft animal plows, carts and barbed wire for small farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursuit of regional and local poverty reduction programs involving local governments and NGOs • Implementation of an integrated poverty reduction program in Aftout Sud and Karakoro (PASK) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursuit of regional and local poverty reduction programs involving local governments and NGOs • In startup phase: recruitment of personnel, drafting of procedures manuals, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursuit of regional and local poverty reduction programs involving local governments and NGOs • Effective startup of the PASK
<p>Food security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve essential foodstuffs, transport and attenuate crises • Introduce management procedures for National Security Stock (NSS) • Initial Food Security Observations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparent management procedures in the context of the protocol of agreement (on the management and use of the SNS) • Establishment and normal functioning of the OSA (half-yearly bulletins on food security) 	<p>Annual program of the CSA (microprojects, OSA activities, etc.), in particular on the basis of EU financing</p>	<p>Preparatory work for evaluating the financial volume of the national counterpart</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to bring storage infrastructures up to standards: rehabilitation of 7 warehouses holding 1,000 metric tons each <p>Preparation of management procedures and documentation and implementation of the organization chart, as well as staff training for the Technical Unit of the National Security Stock (NSS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signing of a Protocol of agreement on the establishment, management, and use of the SNS • Receipt of the physical stock of the NSS: 6,000 metric tons of wheat • Establishment of an institutional mechanism responsible for organizing emergency food aid • Strengthening of the tools for identifying and monitoring food vulnerability: revision of methodologies, computer training of staff, and introduction of a Geographical Information System (GIS) • Establishment and coordination of the new national framework for consultation on food security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a financial stock valued at €2,800,000, or the equivalent of 14,000 metric tons of grain • Strengthening the CSA's stock maintenance capacities by procuring maintenance equipment • Expanded monitoring of populations at risk to cover vulnerable groups in peri-urban areas • Preparation of a national food vulnerability map

OI-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen connection between and attenuate actions aimed at improvement in food security • Implementation of the Micro-Program—HLLI A1 • Implementation of the Focission (CSA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A program with 132 microprojects (EU financing) is now being carried out by the AEMP • Conduct of programs on: Rural Development and Food Security, Community Support for Food Security, Special Adrar Project 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct of a study on food consumption standards and habits in Mauritania • Formation of the regional network on standards for information gathering on food security • Creation of a website on food security in Mauritania • Execution of a self-financed CSA program covering 86 microprojects • Conduct of 176 microprojects in the context of the Food For Work (FFW) program of the WFP • Formation of the regional network on standards for information gathering on food security • Execution by the AEMP of a program with 71 microprojects on food security financed by the European Union 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodic monitoring of cross-border flows of food products • Strengthening human capacities of the Observatory for the analysis and processing of data, by carrying out a training plan • Monitoring the impact of food security actions • Study of local strategies for adjusting to food crises • Strengthening of the Observatory's documentation center • Building the publication capacities of the OSA • Carrying out 38 microprojects on food security in the amount of UM 681 million in the context of the PACSA • Conduct of 231 microprojects in the FFW program financed by the WFP
<p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preserves: • Implementation of the INE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climatic changes: Studies on attenuating emissions of greenhouse gasses, workshop to validate these studies, initiation of vulnerability and adaptation studies on the bases of two sectors deemed the most vulnerable (agricultural and littoral environment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convention on Biological Diversity: validation of the national program and strategy, Climatic Changes: issuance of reports to the Convention Secretariat in Bonn, Rainfed areas: inventory of birds, PAN/LCD: finalization of program, organization of the validation forum, and information campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convention on Biological Diversity: validation of the national program and strategy, Climatic Changes: issuance of reports to the Convention Secretariat in Bonn, Rainfed areas: inventory of birds, PAN/LCD: finalization of program, organization of the validation forum, and information campaign 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation to expand rural areas • Implementation of reforestation programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of a campaign to expand butane use with oasis associations, and establishment of butane use units in rural areas • Areas reforested (Project Oasis and PARP), consolidation of 35 reforestation sites (198 hectares), mechanical stabilization of dunes (totaling 6,800 meters in length, PGRNP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARP: butane use campaigns in 5 communities in Brakna and 10 in Tagant • Preparation of a master plan for providing firewood and charcoal to major urban centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of butane use campaign • Project submitted to Interministerial Committee for approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of butane use campaign • Continued efforts as regards reforestation, forest protection, and aerial seeding

Ob.04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion as a development projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental impact study conducted for the UDP and the PASK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reforestation campaign involving 4,500,000 plants (10,500 hectares), maintenance of 21,000 km of firebreaks, aerial seeding in the northern parts of Trarza, Brakna, and Tagant Environmental impact study of programs and projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reforestation campaign involving 4,500,000 plants (10,500 hectares), maintenance of 21,000 km of firebreaks, aerial seeding in the northern parts of Trarza, Brakna, and Tagant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of grazing land (15,000 hectares of firebreak to be developed in Hodh El Gharbi, Hodh El Chragui, Assaba, Guidimakha, Gorgol, Brakna, and Trarza, of which 11,040 km by the MDRE, defensive preparedness Environmental impact study of programs and projects
<p>Urban devel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure development result with all stakeholders Preparation of development policy Revisions on land tenure to property owners in the part of the poor Revision of urban management and SDAU) Development of city strategies for NDB and the capitals Establishment of an agency for development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of an urban development policy letter Publication of Decree 2000/85 implementing Ordinance 83/127 on property ownership and government land reform Finalization of SDAU reports for NKC and NDB Validation of the concerted strategies for the cities of NKC, NDB, and Kaédi Establishment of the ADU (Urban Development Agency) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of provisions on land tenure Approval of SDAU reports for NKC and NDB Gradual development of city strategies for the other regional capitals Annual program of the ADU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of SDAU reports for NKC and NDB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition of a legal framework defining the major legal rules and standards to be observed in respect of construction and town planning Development of simplified land cadastres for NKC and NDB Updating of development strategies for the cities of NKC, NDB, and Kaédi Preparation of development strategies for the cities of Atar, Kiffa, and Zouérate Construction of 10 latrine blocs in the resettlement area of El Mina Creation of community infrastructures and facilities in the at-risk neighborhood of El Mina and in the poor and under-equipped neighborhoods (Dar Naim, Riad, and Teyaret) Relocation in the El Mina resettlement area of the households located on the sites of roads planned in the context of the restructuring Technical studies for the construction of a waste removal center Technical studies for the restructuring and improvement of the Nouakchott nonindustrial fishing area

Ob-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of the administrative for town planning - Provide capitals with basic economic development • Implement priority investment program in regional capitals • Implement program for restructuring at-risk neighborhoods - Restructure the viability of at-risk of NKC and NDB, as to basic infrastructure, electricity to 500,000 persons • Expand access to subsidized self-construction, involving municipalities - Improve: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiation of the organizational and financial audits of SOCOGIM, the DCL, the AMM, and the municipalities of NDB and NKC, as well as audits of poverty reduction activities in urban areas • Launch of the study on the priority investment program • Restructuring plan for the at-risk neighborhood of El Mina, initiation of the subdivision of the resettlement zone, SPP and DPP study of investment programs, establishment of the Resettlement/Compensation Commission • Restructuring plan, subdivision of relocation area, SPP and DPP study of investment programs, establishment of Relocation/Compensation Commission • Continuation and consolidation of the Twize pilot phase, with the construction of 460 housing units and the granting of 505 housing credits and 793 economic credits • Study of microfinance for housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalization of the organizational and financial audits of SOCOGIM, the DCL, the AMM, and the municipalities of Nouadhibou and Nouakchott • Finalization of the study on the priority investment program • Operations to prepare for restructuring of the kébbé of El Mina, identification of entitled parties, initiation of detailed technical studies (DPPs) for basic infrastructure and equipment • Annual program • Continuation and consolidation of the Twize project pilot phase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audits finalized • Finalization of the study on the priority investment program • Preparation of DPPs (roads, water, electricity, community equipment, sanitation) • Annual program of the UDP • 175 subsidized housing units completed and 625 under construction, granting of 1,730 IGAs, publication of procedures manuals (housing, community access, microfinance) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational and financial audits of the CUN and the 9 municipalities • Recruitment of technical assistance teams to work with SOCOGIM, the DCL, and the AMM • Effective startup of the UDP • Preparation of site for relocated households; relocation thereof • Provision of basic infrastructure in Nouakchott • Provision of basic infrastructure in Nouadhibou and 11 regional capitals • Lot viability enhancement activities in Nouakchott, via SOCOGIM • Provision of water and electricity services • Strengthening of institutions and capacity building • Continuation and consolidation of the Twize operation at NKT, but also in secondary cities (NDB, Kiffa, Néma, Akjoujt) • Initiation of "Twize-Rajaa" operation: enhancing value of local materials for building subsidized housing units <p>Initiation of a program for promoting the use of cut stone for masonry construction and urban improvements: paving of passage ways, roads, road borders, public squares. Pilot operation in the cities of Atar, Ajoun and Kiffa</p>

Ob-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental investment, solid waste management, environmental education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Launching of a strategy study on solid waste management ▪ Drafting of an Environmental Management Program (PGE) • Establishment of a CDHLCPI program on waste collection and evacuation in Boutilimit and Magta Lahjar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Launching of technical and environmental studies for the construction of a Technical Waste Management Center and transit site • Validation and implementation of the PGE • Expansion of the CDHLCPI program on waste collection and evacuation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Launching of technical and environmental studies for the construction of a Technical Waste Management Center and transit site, and launching of a study on the professional re-employment of trained market gardeners • Validation and implementation of the PGE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification of financing for construction of a Technical Waste Management Center and transit site • Continued implementation of the PGE • Launching by the CDHLCPI of the “Nadhava” programs (household waste collection) in the cities of Néma, Akjoujt, Kaédi, and Sélibaby
<p>Fight against</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote of marginalized persons' integration into the: • Continue to include vulnerable, indigent - Reduce areas: • Introduction with NGOs, protect youth and children • Develop and methodology, gather data on vulnerable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of a pilot program to combat begging • Implementation of a pilot microcredit program benefiting handicapped higher education graduates • Implementation of a pilot program, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and the NGO for the defense of children's rights • Conduct of special studies on the status of the handicapped 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued reflection on how to reduce begging • Consolidation of program • Consolidation of program • Conduct of special studies on the status of the handicapped 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study on the inclusion of marginalized groups, opening of 4 centers (El Mina, Sebkhah, Arafat, and Dar Nam) taking in 460 beggars • Financing of 60 IGAs benefiting beggars and granting of 60 credits to finance microprojects initiated by unemployed school graduates • Study on the implementation of a program for orphans in the at-risk neighborhoods of Nouakchott 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued reflection on how to reduce begging • Consolidation of program • Implementation of the Nouakchott orphans' program • Conduct of special studies on the status of the handicapped
<p>Jobs, microbusiness and microenterprise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance job creation in the labor market 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reorganize the labor market 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study on the possibilities of broadening and improving the targeting of the benefits for job-creating firms under the new Investment Code, finalization of the revision of the Labor Code, feasibility study on the privatization of the labor placement service, revision of the conditions applicable to the use of foreign labor 	<p>Revision of Labor Code finalized, approval in progress. The three other studies planned have not been carried out</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of conditions for implementing a mechanism for context-based placement

Ob-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotredit on the part of ten in partical • Consolsion of microcred support to MFIs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of studies on the introduction of a strategic framework for microenterprise and microfinance • Implementation of the annual program of the CDHLCPI, the SECF, etc., in favor of MFIs, Mobilization of saving by MFIs: over UM 120 million in credit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of a strategic framework for microenterprise and microfinance • Implementation of the annual program of the CDHLCPI, the SECF, etc., in favor of MFIs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct of a study on streamlining the management of employment questions, and organization of a review workshop gathering all stakeholders concerned to discuss the recommendations of said study • Introduction by the Labor Market Information System (SIME) of a database, to be updated annually, on professional training and higher education institutions and on employers in the structured sector • Strategies devised and being validated • Implementation of the CDHLCPI program: UM 180 million in credits to MFIs; Availability of 63 school graduates for their staff; Several training sessions organized (APROMI, CEP, etc.) for MFIs • Implementation of the SECF program: 1,433 IGAs financed benefiting 30,613 women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of the use of foreign labor and introduction of a strategy guaranteeing better positioning of Mauritanian workers to fill all job opportunities in the economy • Study on the possibilities of broadening and improving the targeting of the benefits for job-creating firms under the new Investment Code • Adoption of and outreach efforts on the Labor Code (adoption, issuance of implementing decrees and orders, updating of collective bargaining agreement, etc.) • Follow the workshop's recommendations as regards reorganization, revitalization, and mobilization of the human and material resources needed to build the capacities of the Employment Directorate • Updating of the SIME database on professional training and higher education institutions and on employers in the structured sector • Consolidation and strengthening of the gains made by the SIME • Validation and implementation of the national microfinance strategy and the SBM strategy • Seek coverage of the financing requirements of MFIs in the amount of UM 300 million • Strengthening of MFIs' capacities through training programs: training of elected officials and MFI supervisors, improved design and implementation of IEC programs, functional literacy campaigns for customers and supporters of MFIs • Strengthening and broadening of the Sect's microfinance experience in peri-urban and rural areas

Ob-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of Fund for strengthening and peri-urban areas • Continuation of programs for women - Combatment: • Continuation of the program of young school graduates in collaboration with the - Developing for unskilled women the access to professional training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the capacities of MFIs by establishing an equilibrium subsidy of over UM 12 million • Feasibility study on the Fund and establishment of an implementation framework • Implementation of Income-Generating Activities Programs financed by the CDHLCPI (Adrar, Nouakchott, Nouadhibou, Assaba, Hodh El Chargui, Hodh El Gharbi) • Implementation of the CDHLCPI's insertion program benefiting nearly 1,000 school graduates: qualifying training, re-employment, insertion as literacy trainers, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of equilibrium subsidy if necessary • Establishment of a Risk Insurance Fund (FAR) • Implementation of Income-Generating Activities Programs financed by the CDHLCPI • Implementation of the CDHLCPI's insertion program benefiting school graduates: qualifying training, re-employment, insertion as literacy trainers, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the capacities of MFIs by establishing an equilibrium subsidy of UM 12 million and agreement in principle on a second subsidy of UM 18 million • It has not been set up • 625 IGAs financed by the CDHLCPI benefiting 8,248 individuals in 628 cooperatives as well as 132 activities benefiting 48 Community Development Associations (ADCs) representing a population estimated at 28,800 persons • Conduct of a study on the revision of the legal and regulatory framework; Drafting and validation of the ethics code and a guide for the creation of an MFI • 1,229 school graduates have benefited from the program: 500 in literacy programs, 300 in the MIPT (book promotion), 208 in the urban community of NKT, 63 in the MFIs, 60 have received financing for microprojects, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability to MFIs of the UM 18 million equilibrium subsidy • Establishment of a guarantee insurance system for microfinance (FAR or other) • Implementation of new IGA programs and consolidation of the former ones; study on the impact of the IGAs • Creation of GIEs in the area of electrifying markets benefiting unemployed school graduates • Financing microprojects benefiting 400 school graduates • Implementation of qualifying training programs for 300 school graduates: • Establishment of professional orientation bureaus and multimedia access points • Study of the labor market mechanism and the effectiveness of insertion programs • Feasibility study on a job promotion agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Startup of professional training centers (Géma, Atar) • Consolidation of the training of the mobile 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Startup of 3 regional professional training centers (Kiffa, Néma, Atar) • Implementation of qualifying training and microenterprise management (GERM) programs for 370 women, at the CFPFs of Nouakchott, Kaédi, and Aioun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the national professional training program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inauguration of two new public training institutions (the CFPFs of Tidjikja and Aioun) • Training of 442 women by the SECF: 197 women from poor areas trained in processing products from nonindustrial fishing, 120 women in SBM management, and 125 other women in MFI management and administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of the construction work on two new training centers in Aleg and Kaédi • Training in microenterprise management and granting of microcredits to 400 women • Training of 200 women in the processing and marketing techniques for products from nonindustrial fishing

Ob-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemg and jobs program (constru processing of agriock products, etc.) fors - Promotâness, and microer • Draftinjon of the Crafts C • Establishes Chamber 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of CFPFs and introduction of an incentive system for trainers • Implementation of qualifying training programs in Sélilibaby, Kiffa, Rosso, Atar, Nouadhibou, and Nouakchott • Preparation of a study on the Crafts Code 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of qualifying training programs in all training centers • Finalization and analysis of the recommendations of the study • Establishment of the Trades Chamber 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 730 persons have been trained: 500 via the mobile units, 210 in Kiffa, Selibaby, Nouadhibou, and Atar, 10 girls in calligraphy and sculpture at Nouakchott, and 10 girls in hairdressing at Nouakchott • Initiation of the activities of the "technical and professional training" component of the PNDSE and launch of the activities of the INAP-TPT • Drafting of a new Crafts Code • The Trades Chamber has not been established: the delay is largely attributable to the process of drafting and adopting the Crafts Code 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and implementation of a qualifying training program benefiting poor women in peri-urban and rural areas • Implementation of the professional training program for 5,000 persons throughout the entire national territory • Continued efforts to enhance the quality and quantity of professionals in professional training • Startup of new training methods (alternation, apprenticeships) in various institutions • Introduction of a system for monitoring TPT recipients Study on the informal sector • Implementation of the new Crafts Code • Establishment of the organizational schema and the Chamber • Creation of 10 new savings and credit banks for crafts • Implementation of a training program for traditional craftsmen • Development of an export strategy for crafts products
FOCUS 3: DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND EXPANSION OF BASIC SERVICES				
<p>Education, II</p> <p>Basic educat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase to the 1st year of 100 percent by 2003 regional and gender ss: 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make se full cycle the stanbuilding 1,533 cabilitating 564 oth • Recruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of schools to be completed, construction of 900 classrooms, launching of the program to build 250 other classrooms, construction of enclosures for 90 schools • Recruitment of 1,300 instructors and revision of the annual recruitment objective (650) under the PNDSE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of the construction program • Continuation of the recruitment program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,880 classrooms built or being built • 454 teachers recruited; 1,300 now receiving training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of the number of schools offering complete cycles • Construction of 900 classrooms • Opening of 200 canteens • Study of the causes of school dropout by girls and the awarding of prizes to laureates • Increase the number of bilingual teachers Training of 1,300 teachers, 650 for the start of the 2003/04 school year and 6500 for 2004/05

Obj-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce teachers in disadvantaged areas - Improve the situation in particular in rural areas: • Provide pedagogical materials with student desks - Improvements: • In-service training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of teachers assigned to disadvantaged areas, identification of modalities for awarding the bonus • Free distribution of over 980,000 schoolbooks and pedagogical kits during the school year, distribution of 100,000 student desks in all schools • Enhanced professionalism of initial training and improvement in linguistic skills, organization of training sessions on the multigrade approach and large groups, reaching 1,500 teachers, linguistic development: survey to identify 2,400 teachers, pilot training on new programs for 135 teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarding of bonuses • Continue program to provide all schools with pedagogical materials, and equip them with student desks • Continued in-service training for teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 percent of teachers benefited • 10,000 pedagogical kits and 80,600 student desks distributed to all schools • 7,500 teachers and inspectors trained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarding of bonuses • Provide schools with basic educational infrastructure and equipment and with standardized management tools • Devise and implement a new textbook policy • Continue the process of designing and publishing pedagogical tools • Strengthening of technical and practical training of the supervisory teams at normal schools (ENIs) • Continued process of enhancing the professionalism of inspector training • Continued process of experimenting with and validating new programs • Training of 10 percent of school directors in 3 wilayas
<p>Secondary education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop secondary education to note the expansion: • Construction of classrooms - Ensure to permit continuation of education for girls in areas: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of 9 secondary schools, initiation of construction of 10 others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of construction program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 secondary schools and 2 expansions under construction, technical studies initiated for 38 secondary schools in the interior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction and outfitting of new secondary schools, rehabilitation, expansion, and outfitting of existing institutions • Continued efforts aimed at improving gender equity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment for first cycle - Improve quality and teaching in particular in rural areas: results: • Outfitting with student desks and pedagogical kits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment and training of 548 teachers • Initiate the provision of student desks and pedagogical kits to all institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of recruitment and training program • Complete the provision of these items 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150 teachers trained and recruited • 26,435 student desks distributed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a support fund for private schools • Recruitment of student teachers eligible for assignment with new 2004/05 school year • Construction and outfitting of two laboratories and an Internet room at the Higher Normal School (ENS)

Ob-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-serviters <p>Technical education (ETP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve of the labor force integration of rural economy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of training • Procured equipment • Training <p>Higher educ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure a between training • Procure material • Study of, and relevance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced aimed at improving higher education <p>Central admin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve system and management: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of inspectors responsible for experimentation with new programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiation of the program for constructing and rehabilitating training centers • Initiate the procurement of computer tools and equipment for the ETP centers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical identification of material • Consultation with the private sector, introduction of the survey mechanism and of short professional courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued in-service training for teachers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of the program for constructing and rehabilitating training centers • Procurement of computer tools and equipment for the ETP centers • Training of ETP trainers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of material 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,014 teachers and 89 inspectors trained <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two regional professional training centers created at Afoun and Tidjikja • Outfitting of the two regional centers created • Recruitment of trainers for the centers created <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of 5,000 books for the libraries of these institutions in progress • Organization of a consultation workshop involving all public and private stakeholders on the topic of ENS restructuring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launching of an environmental study of the campus site • Preparation of a procedures manual for a national scientific research support fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of teaching conditions: purchase of calculators and geometry kits, construction of science workshops • In-service training of 1,200 persons • Development of reference guides for initial training of teachers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of the requirements for four formal and informal activity sectors • Technical support for the promotion of FAP-TPT activities • Rehabilitation and expansion of institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of the Strengthened INAP-TPT (procurement of additional equipment, consolidation of technical units) • Analysis of training requirements of enterprises (development of analytical tools and establishment of a monitoring/evaluation system) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of books for the libraries of these institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the scientific research support fund • Support for general subsectors in the form of pairing

Obj-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce adapted and high level management • Modernization of administrative • Strengthen regional administrative <p>Literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop adapted literacy • Design literacy manual • Introduce system for literacy personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting and experimentation in 3 moughataas • Definition of teacher assignment criteria • Validation of the organizational audit of the MEN • Providing computer equipment and office furniture at the central level, issue of bidding specifications for outfitting the DREFs • Introduce budget decentralization in the 2002 Budget Law • Design of four manuals, revision of pamphlets for functional literacy training, production of 8,000 manuals • Increase wages of literacy training personnel, recruitment of 136 literacy trainers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of teacher assignment criteria • Outfitting of the DREFs • Continued decentralization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting and application of management and operating criteria for public institutions • Application of criteria for the creation of institutions and reorganization of the school network • Creation of a unit responsible for the school map • Criteria defined, validated, and applied • Adoption of a new organization chart for the MEN • Outfitting of DREFs in progress • Continued decentralization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadening the experimental scope of the school map • Continuation of the process of strengthening the institutional capacities for DRP (development and participatory research) • Development of a Generalized Educational Information System • Decentralization of procedures and delegation of appropriate responsibilities to the Regional Directorates of National Education • Development of a performance-based pedagogical management system • Introduction of participatory management procedures, in particular pedagogical tools and a subsidy system for improving educational performance in the schools • Continued decentralization • Revision and validation of literacy programs • Preparation of literacy manuals and guides • Training of literacy trainers • Establishment of the Literacy Fund
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the mahad effort • Implement literacy program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of a technical specifications sheet for use in identifying mahadras with the capacities required to contribute to the literacy training effort, identification of mahadras that will have to implement the literacy program • Literacy training for 16,000 persons in Hodh Echarghi, Hodh El Gharbi, Gorgol, Assaba, and Guidimakha 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the literacy program by the mahadras • Continuation of the literacy program of the SELAEO, CDHLCPI, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach effort in progress • 100,000 provided with literacy training, 330 literacy trainers recruited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study for the establishment of bridges between local education and formal education • Study of the basic education programs to be implemented by the mahadras • Publication of mahadra programs • Continuation of the literacy program of the SELAEO, CDHLCPI, etc. • Development of an action plan for the mobile units in rural areas
Health, nutr				

OI-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<p>Improves provided to the poorest, and rec and mortal the major disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the number of health posts ensuring maternal and child health problems, at all levels <p>Enhancing, efficient and accessible:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiation of: Construction of 54 health posts in the wilayas of Assaba, the two Hodhs, Guidimakha, Brakna, Trarza, and Gorgol, and a Health Center in Nouakchott, rehabilitation and outfitting of 7 regional hospitals • Training of 12 surgeons, initiation of training of 12 pediatricians and 12 obstetrics-gynecology specialists, recruitment of 25 physicians, 15 pharmacists, recruitment of 90 paramedicals and 93 midwife assistants, recruitment in progress of 57 medical and paramedical personnel • Preparation of a draft decree on bonuses for regional assignment and technical skills • Preparation for the establishment of the CAMEC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of 54 health posts in the wilayas of Assaba, the two Hodhs, Guidimakha, Brakna, Trarza, and Gorgol, and a Health Center in Nouakchott, rehabilitation and outfitting of 7 regional hospitals • Continuation of training program • Adoption and implementation of the draft decree on bonuses for regional assignment and technical skills • Establishment of the CAMEC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 health posts accepted, 15 completed, and 5 nearing completion, work started on 5 hospitals, materials being approved for 2 • Training in progress for 24 residents at the National Institute of Medical Specialties, including 12 pediatricians and 12 obstetrics-gynecology specialists • Recruitment of 127 supervisors, including 14 physicians, 2 surgeons, one ENT specialist, graduation of an ENSP class consisting of 34 midwives, 75 state nurses, 100 social and medical nurses, and 102 midwife assistants • Training in progress for 390 persons, including 200 IMS, 100 IDE, 60 SFE, 18 laboratory technicians, and 12 radiology technicians • The draft order on the regional assignment and technical skills bonuses has been written and adopted and is now being implemented • Effective establishment of the CAMEC as of August 2002 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of 80 health posts and 3 health centers, and continuation of ongoing rehabilitation of 7 regional hospitals • Outfitting of 7 regional hospitals and the CHN outpatient clinic • Initiating construction work on a cardiac surgery unit at the Cheikh Zayed Hospital • Continued health training of 390 health personnel at the ENSP • Initiation of a new class of surgeons at the INSM, and continued training of pediatricians and gynecologists • Continued training of medical personnel • Continued implementation of the regional assignment and technical skills bonuses • Preparation of a development policy on human resources • Outfitting of the medication quality control laboratory • Development of a medication policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing the cost recovery health care levels • Study of a system for covering costs, in cooperation with the relevant departments • Involving and making decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study appraising and revising the provisions governing the cost recovery system • Implementation of a study on indigence, experimentation with sharing obstetrical risk in Nouakchott • Revision of the legal provisions relating to the management of regional and outlying health facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of mutual insurance for health risks • Subsidization and covering costs of indigents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of certain forms of mutual insurance on an experimental basis • Drafting of regulatory provisions on the SRC which set forth proportions for the coverage of indigent patients at the health facility level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued contracting and broadening of experience with flat-rate fee for risk sharing to one region in addition to Nouakchott • Launching of indigence project at the level of the two Hodhs: application of the decree and orders relating to the SRC and calling for caring for indigents at no charge

Ob-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvement of the health sector: • Strengthening of the health sector to improve its ability to respond to the health needs of the population • Psychosocial care for HIV/AIDS - Improving and managing the health sector and improving the health status of the population: • Completing the costs and preparing the health sector and improving the health status of the population • Introducing budgeting and improving its execution - Improving the health status of the population: • Implementing the TAGHDIYA community nutrition program • Expanded Child Recovery Centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of 3 blood banks for regional hospitals and establishment of two anonymous and free tracking units • Training of physicians, psychologists, and midwives at hospitals and health centers in the psychological, medical, and social care of persons living with HIV/AIDS, training of physicians, nurses, and midwives in properly treating opportunistic infections • Review of public expenditure on health, and taking its recommendations into account in preparation of the MTEF • Preparation of an MTEF 2002-04, and organization of regional and regional planning workshops 2002-04 • TAGHDIYA annual community nutrition program • Establishment of 70 Malnourished Child Recovery Centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of 5 blood banks for regional hospitals and establishment of anonymous and free tracking units • TAGHDIYA annual community nutrition program • Expansion of Malnourished Child Recovery Centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of 5 blood banks in Kiffa and Nouakchott • Establishment of the Multisectoral Committee to Combat AIDS • Opening of 46 CNC centers • Startup on rehabilitation of 14 CRENs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the sectoral health program in the context of the fight against AIDS • Training health care personnel in the treatment of persons living with HIV/AIDS and opportunistic infections • Implementation of the POAS (annual operational plan for health and social services), evaluation of the PDS 1998-2002, and preparation of the MTEF 2004-06 • Continued implementation of the TAGHDIYA project, expansion of community nutrition centers and CRENs • Completion of rehabilitation of 14 CRENs
<p>Safe drinking water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoting resource management and sustainability 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform: Revision of the legislative framework of regulatory mechanisms • Conducting water management on economic grounds • Study on water resources in particular areas (conductographic reconnaissance) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of Water Code, creation of the SNDE and CNRE • Conduct of the study on water management and the study on economic rate setting • Initiation of study on water resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of Water Code, establishment of a Regulatory Authority with jurisdiction for water, creation of a Water Resources and Sanitation Directorate focused on the planning, programming, and monitoring functions • Submission of recommendations to a workshop involving all stakeholders in water management (government, municipalities, private sector, consumers, farmers, livestock breeders) • Finalization of study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code not adopted, creation of the DHA, strengthening of the DHA, CNRE, and ANEPA in the context of the PARSEA • Preparation of terms of reference for studies on implementing reform of the water and sanitation sector • Finalization of study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for implementation of water sector reform, establishment of legislative, regulatory, and standards framework • Conduct of studies • Continuation of program of studies on water resources by the CNRE

Obj4	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<p>Improve access to a sufficient quantity of safe drinking water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the Aftout-Esing BOT Continue investment program Involve the private sector in the financing, and maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of the detailed SPP and AFESD agreement in principle to participate in financing Study (with IDA financing) of a Rural Water Resources Investment Plan 2002-121, with a priority program covering 2002-07 Completion of infrastructure works, including: Expansion of Tintane APW, Creation of Boumdeid and Jelwe APWs, Expansion of Tiguent APW Creation of the ANEPA, responsible for monitoring delegations to the private sector of the management, maintenance, and renewal of infrastructures in rural and semi-urban areas Creation of the Agency for the Promotion of Universal Access to Services, which, in addition to the ANEPA, will provide the support necessary for building operators' capacities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updating of regional inventories of water points, Study of the Boulenouar region, continued study of the Adrar and Tagant oasis areas Launching of Aftout-Es-Saheli project Holding of a donors' roundtable Completion of rural, semi-urban and urban water supply infrastructures Launching of a study on pricing water for sale in the APWs of secondary centers Training of operators in the public/private partnership as regards the work and management of semi-urban APWs Startup of activities of the Agency for the Promotion of Universal Access to Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updating of regional inventories of water points (Brakna: initiated), study of the Boulenouar region completed, continued study of the Adrar and Tagant oasis areas Consultation with partners for financing the Aftout-Es-Saheli project Completion of the investment plan and priority program Completion of the Nine Cities Project and the APWs Kaédi, Mederdra, and Nouadhibou, completion of 40 water points, 20 APWs, and 44 wells Study not performed Training of 80 percent of managers and signature of contracts for improving the management of APWs Effective startup of activities of the Agency for the Promotion of Universal Access to Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued updating of regional inventories of water points, conduct of Phase II of the study of Dhar, hydrological studies in Awker, Adrar, Tagant, and Tiris-Zemmour Financing expected to be lined up during first half of 2003, initiation of project Implementation of the priority investment plan, launching of regional investment plans Completion of 66 tube wells in rural areas, 13 water points, and 25 APWs Launching of a pricing study Continued training of managers Implementation of the Agency's annual program
<p>Sanitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and evacuate 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revising framework for municipal level solution Developing waste management Implementing promotion (latrines/pools) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiation of revision of intervention framework for municipalities Launching of studies on the Master Sanitation Plan for Nouakchott, preparation of studies for the wilaya capitals Implementation of a pilot program as part of the Twize Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of the revision Completion of studies on the Master Sanitation Plan for Nouakchott, preparation of studies for the wilaya capitals Implementation of a pilot program as part of the Twize Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment of a consultant for devising a national sanitation strategy Delayed pending completion of the study noted above Completion of studies on the Master Sanitation Plan for Nouakchott Preparation of a solid waste management strategy for Nouakchott 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devising a national sanitation strategy See study referred to above See study referred to above Creation of a Technical Center for waste collection in Nouakchott Implementation of a program in the moughataa of El Mina under the UDP

Ob-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<p>Universal access services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote services by the disadvantaged and integrate • Establish for the promotion of universal services implementation of its development program <p>Electricity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase and promote sources: • Conduct on electricity • Startup of ADER and use <p>Postal service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tap the postal network through the microfin offers: • Implement reform <p>NICTs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand infrastructure in disadvantaged areas to promote the new technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the Agency for the Promotion of Universal Access to Services • Rural electricity: Preliminary rate study associated with the operation to disseminate 3,000 photovoltaic kits conducted by ADER; Urban electricity: Privatization of SOMELEC will make it possible to guarantee rates accessible to the most disadvantaged urban groups • Startup of operations of the ADER and user cooperatives • Initial implementation of postal reform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Startup of activities of the Agency for the Promotion of Universal Access to Services • Implementation of the 3,000 kits program • ADER annual program • Continued implementation of postal reform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the Agency for the Promotion of Universal Access to Services • Bidding specifications completed for the 3,000 kits operation, performance of work in progress; development of an investment plan for rural electrification • ADER annual program • Recruitment of technical assistance for the implementation of postal reform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective startup of activities of the Agency for the Promotion of Universal Access to Services • Electrification (rural) of 14 localities by generating stations in the wilayas: Trarza, Adrar, and Nouadhibou • Electrification (rural) of 3,000 households using photovoltaic kits • Continued implementation of postal reform • Action program of operators; Action program of the Universal Access Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish legal frameworks for NICT operators • Support urban and rural teletext of poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of an NICT development strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption and implementation of the NICT development strategy • Implementation of an initial program (see Universal Access Agency) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the NICT development strategy • Conduct training activities for the Outreach Administration • Establishment of the CyberCommune of Aioun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the NICT development strategy • Implementation of an initial program (see Universal Access Agency)
FOCUS 4: STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES FOR GREATER EFFICIENCY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY				
<p>Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen and bring justice closer to citizens: 				

Obj04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continureform • Implemcam to build court castructures • Decentrapport for the regional courts • Facilitatce by the poor (elin fees, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promulgation and effective implementation of the Law on the Personnel Status Code • Outfitting of several courtrooms in Nouakchott • Training on personnel status for magistrates • Preparation of a preliminary draft law on judicial assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting of a reform program • Completion of outfitting of Nouakchott courts • Training on personnel status • Finalization and adoption of a draft law on judicial assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of a priority program (preparation of implementing provisions for the Commercial Code, training of magistrates) and mobilization of its financing from the IDA (IDF) • Office automation and IT equipment provided to the appeals courts of Nouakchott, Kiffa, and Nouadhibou; Construction of courts in final stages in the moughataas of Teyarett, Arafat, and Riyad; Work on other courts in the moughataa of Nouakchott in progress • Three training seminars for magistrates and training abroad of 18 magistrates; recruitment of 20 magistrates for training at the ENA • Preparation of the preliminary draft law organizing judicial assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the priority program (drafting of implementing provisions of the Commercial Code, adoption of the draft decree on the commercial registry and the status of bailiffs, training of magistrates) • Continued work on court construction in the moughataa of Nouakchott • Continued training of magistrates • Adoption of the law organizing judicial assistance
<p>Public admir</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvebuild analyticspect of poverty. • Carry ourveying prioritiehe informang system of the MEI, and CDHLC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct the EPCV 2000 survey, the EDS survey, and the agricultural survey • Writing of poverty profile and the EDS report • Processing of RGPH data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch the introduction of a MEMAU Poverty model • Dissemination of results and conduct of topical studies on poverty • Dissemination of RGPH results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Bank mission to introduce the 123PRSP model and training of senior staff in its use • Completion of methodological work on the general census of agriculture and stock farming (RGAE), with FAO support • Dissemination of provisional RGPH results in June 2001 and final results completed in 2002, and organization of a forum on the poverty monitoring indicators (PMIs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation and launch of the EPCV 2003 survey • Workshops for disseminating the final results from the RGPH and disseminating the reports thereon • Analysis of RGPH data and continued preparatory work on the RGAE, and conduct of the agricultural survey
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of the information system of the MEN and the CDHLCPI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of a system for the monitoring and evaluation of CDHLCPI programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on the introduction of a system for the monitoring and evaluation of CDHLCPI programs • Effective restructuring of the MEN (January 2003) • In the context of the preparatory phase of the PNBG, carry out five studies on public administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued work toward the introduction of a system for the monitoring and evaluation of CDHLCPI programs

Obj-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the CMAP • Study on the analysis of public policies • Conduct of organizational audits in five (5) departments in 2002 • Evaluation of organizational audits performed throughout the country • Study of the government's role and missions in the context of a globalizing economy • Strengthening the human resources of the Organization and Methods Office (BOM), of the programming and research directorate (economic modeling), and of the government-private sector consultation unit 	
<p>Local govern</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengt of local govern: them the resourcquit their respons • Implemral taxation reform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadening of municipal taxation powers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of the reform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delegation of the MIPT's supervisory powers to the walis and hakems in order to strengthen decentralization and deconcentration (Orders No. 804 of 10/12/2002 and No. 1130 of 10/26/2002) • Drafting of a circular on the functioning of municipal administration • Preparation of a report on the decentralization and good governance strategy • Publication of an information newspaper, <i>El Belediya</i> • Reform of municipalities' accounting and financial nomenclature (joint decree) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of regional units of the DCL • Adaptation of selected legal provisions to the institutional environment • Initiation of a training program • Auditing and inspection of municipalities • Introduction of a municipal development portal • Advancement of the local taxation reform • Implementation of the management and procedures manuals for the municipalities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengtlal capacities in the maintenance of collee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of support programs for the municipalities (PADDEM, PAC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Startup of the UDP, completion of PADDEM pilot experiments, implementation of KfW 3, implementation of first phase of PAC project (GTZ) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective startup of the UDP • Completion of the PADDEM • Implementation of KfW 3 and of the PAC • Increase in government transfers and significant increase in RDF (UM 600 million) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform of the RDF and introduction of credit activation mechanisms • Implementation of the municipal contracts (urban municipalities) • Initiation of a project to support decentralization (German cooperation)

Ob-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study o 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in government transfers (UM 153 million in 2001) Development and validation of a training plan on urban and municipal development Study on the respective jurisdictions and responsibilities of the government and the municipalities Preparation of terms of reference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in government transfers and significant increase in RDF Implementation of the training plan on urban and municipal development Implementation of the concessions framework for municipal commercial services Launching of study and implementation of the regional reform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of terms of reference and establishment of an experts committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the reform of regionalization
<p>Civil society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of civil society, in the economic process, and development practices in power Support build the capacities Support and enhancement of national actions of coordination program Expand the cyberforum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of a draft Implementing Decree for the Law on the special legal regime of Development Associations Participatory preparation of a training program for national NGOs, including theoretical and practical aspects Study on the establishment of a fund for supporting the grassroots initiatives carried out by NGOs (FAPONG) Broadening civil society participation in the cyberforum to include municipalities and the media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of the draft decree Implementation of the training program for 30 national NGOs on the technical and practical aspects Finalization of study Expansion of the cyberforum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promulgation of Decree 2002-030 on the procedure for authorizing development associations Implementation of the training program for 30 national NGOs on the technical and practical aspects Finalization of study Expansion of premises and increased technical and logistical support; Establishing the legal status of the cyberforum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization of open door sessions on the national and international NGOs (3rd edition) Seek financing for a new training program for national NGOs Establishment of the FAPONG Expanding cyberforum activities
<p>Private sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure by the private investing investment capacityship with national private operators to credit for national improve knowledge and public v 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build priorities 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of a training plan, study of possibilities for creating mutual associations of enterprises Gather data on the unit price series, the distance coefficient, etc. Introduce technical standards applicable to the sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not done Not done Not done 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of a training plan, study of possibilities for creating mutual associations of enterprises Gather data on the unit price series, the distance coefficient, etc. Introduce technical standards applicable to the sector
<p>Public resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure transparent management: 				

Ob-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comput • Introduction for justifyir • Submisdget Executient • Supporte for audit work anof its annual report - Ensure ng of the impact ure on poverty • Prepara:Term Expend • Introduudgets for the educectors and for the ors • Evaluatf public expendr sectors, and of HIPG PRSP on poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical studies on automating the payroll • Computerize pensions: preparation of a computerization program • Preparation of terms of reference and bidding specifications for computerizing expenditure on goods and services • Introduction of a nomenclature for justifying documentation • Establishment of commissions to prepare the draft law, adoption of a settlement law • Provide the Audit Office with human and material resources under the 2001 Budget Law • Startup of work to prepare a global MTEF • Introduction of program budgets for the education and health sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computerization of expenditure on goods and services • Submission of a draft Budget Execution Law to Parliament • Preparation of a global MTEF • Introduction of program budgets for rural development, urban development, and transportation infrastructure • Introduction of an evaluation system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of technical studies on automating the payroll • Completion of the nomenclature for justifying documentation • Adoption of the settlement law in 2001 (Law 39-2001); Adoption of the final Budget Execution Law for 2001, adopted in 2002 • Establishment of the technical teams to initiate work with a view to completing the global MTEF in June 2003 • Introduction of program budgets based on the MTEFs for urban development and transportation infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computerization of pensions: preparation of a computerization program • Computerization of expenditure on goods and services • Support to the Audit Office for audit activities; Provide the Audit Office with human and logistical resources • Preparation of a global MTEF to serve as the basis for preparing the 2004 Budget Law • Finalization of the MTEF for rural development; preparation of the MTEFs for the water resources, rural electrification, and nonindustrial fishing sectors • Evaluation of the impact of expenditure in the health and education sectors
<p>Implementatnd evaluation, im, and further upda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure ng and regular tSP: • Implemsp through Regionson Programs (RPRPs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promulgation of the Orientation Law on Poverty Reduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradual implementation of the Regional Poverty Reduction Programs (RPRPs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of two methodological tools: the "Methodological Guide" and the "toolbox" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradual implementation of the RPRPs in the first 5 wilyas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat mechanism used for to ensure rigorous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat of the institutional mechanism used for the PRSP: meetings of technical committees and groups, preparation of topic-based reports • Continued work by topic-based technical committees and groups • Workshops and meetings to monitor PRSP implementation held in January 2002 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of an integrated system for PRSP monitoring and evaluation • Continued work by topic-based technical committees and groups • Workshops and meetings to monitor PRSP implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct of a study on the introduction of an integrated system for PRSP monitoring and evaluation • Continued work by topic-based technical committees and groups • Workshops and meetings to monitor PRSP implementation planned for February-March 2003 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of an integrated system for PRSP monitoring and evaluation • Continued work by topic-based technical committees and groups • Workshops and meetings to monitor PRSP implementation

Ob-04	Priority actions carried out in 2001	Priority actions planned for 2002	Priority actions carried out in 2002	Priority actions planned for 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed common the PRSP • Participalution of the PRS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of report on PRSP implementation in 2001, augmented on the basis of new poverty data • Development of a concerted communication strategy on the PRSP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of report on PRSP implementation in 2002 • Validation and implementation of the communication strategy • Preparation of the Evaluation Outline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalization of the report on PRSP implementation in 2002 scheduled for March 2003 • Dissemination of documentation on the PRSP using multiple media (CD-ROM, paper, etc.) • Introduction of an integrated system for PRSP monitoring and evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of report on PRSP implementation in 2003 • Validation and implementation of the communication strategy • Introduction of an integrated system for PRSP monitoring and evaluation

Annex 3: Program of Priority Actions and Costs³

This annex corresponds to Annex 4 of the Report on PRSP Implementation in 2001, corrected to reflect the MTEFs for education, health, urban development, and transportation infrastructure that have recently been prepared. MTEFs for the other priority sectors (rural development and water resources) as well as a global MTEF are currently in preparation.

Priority areas	Priority actions	2002		2003	2004
		Proj.	Actual	Proj.	Proj.
Focus 1: Accelerated and redistributive growth (costs in millions of ouguiyas)					
		381	70	9,080	18 915
Macroeconomic framework stabilized		PM	PM	PM	PM
Deepening of reforms in the legal and judicial incentives framework for business		100		200	300
Promotion of mining activities				280	435
Strengthening the integration of the fisheries sector into the national economy	Pelagic fishing port	PM	PM	PM	PM
	Autonomous port of Nouadhibou			300	300
	Tanit port			1,410	1,880
	Optimal achievement of growth potential of nonindustrial fishing: jobs, value added, spillover effects	PM	PM	PM	PM
	Rational management of resources	50		60	100
	Training and retraining in nonindustrial fishing trades	150		200	200
Infrastructure supporting growth	Nouakchott-Nouadhibou road			2,700	8,100
	Nouakchott airport	81	70	1,080	
	Rosso-Boghé road			2,850	7,600
Focus 2: Growth anchored in the economic sphere of the poor					
Rural development		3,677	3,108	5,224	6,567
Improved production, productivity, and diversification	Agricultural water supply improvements in the river valley			74	717
	Diversification of agricultural production	PM	PM	PM	PM
	Consolidation and expansion of the land tenure reform program	100	75	100	100
	Program for research on and dissemination of improved seeds	100	75	150	200
Environment	Promotion of forestry subsectors	77	58	250	270
	Butane use program	300	225	450	450
	Consolidation of oasis development activities	150	113	250	250
Development of livestock subsector	Development of milk production	80	60	100	180
	Implementation of the Farming Code	PM	PM	PM	PM
	Improved livestock production for export			100	100
	Increase in number of vaccination parks and veterinary stations	50	38	100	100

		2002		2003	2004
Priority areas	Priority actions	Proj.	Actual	Proj.	Proj.
	Selection of well adapted breeds and extension work	100	75	200	250
Targeted programs to combat poverty in rural areas		1,400	1,400	1,600	2,000
Rural infrastructure (dirt roads, dams, etc.)		1,200	900	1,700	1,800
Urban development		6,850	550	22,514	15,273
Improvement of living conditions in cities	Program to equip and enhance the viability of at-risk neighborhoods in Nouakchott	2,068	130	3,512	1,150
	Other infrastructure and equipment in Nouakchott	2,087		13,012	10,899
	Improved new urban areas	500		40	45
	Priority investment program for other regional capitals	1,000		4,602	2,344
	Microcredit for housing and IGAs	500	420	450	450
	Promotion of economic activities and employment	495		674	174
Institution building in the sector	Strengthened capacities of administrations and municipalities	200		224	211
Focus 3: Development of human resources and expansion of basic services					
Education		15,989	5,624	8,494	12,057
<i>Program to expand education</i>					
Basic	Recruitment of teachers		284	236	343
	Indemnity for teachers assigned to disadvantaged areas		78	240	269
	Other expenditure (school furniture, textbooks, etc.)	115	1,008	1,061	842
	Construction of classrooms for basic education	3,467	800	1,400	1,500
First cycle of secondary school	Construction of secondary schools	2,393	700	1,020	1,100
	Recruitment of teachers		96	98	165
	Outfitting schools with student desks	224	90	245	300
Technical and professional education	Construction and rehabilitation	1,044	70	370	900
	Specialized equipment	1,112	-	-	850
Private education	Support fund	238	-	238	247
<i>Program to improve quality:</i>					
Basic	Rehabilitation and reconstruction of classrooms	2,023	75	275	750
	Outfitting schools with student desks	187	700	115	220
	Procurement of pedagogical kits	276	50	100	120
	In-service training of teachers	886	250	560	700
First cycle of secondary school	Rehabilitation of secondary schools	628	-	100	350
	Other expenditure (school furniture, textbooks, etc.)	41	543	572	453
Second cycle of secondary school	Information technology	23	80	115	220
	Laboratories	80		184	276
	Libraries	80	50	125	188
	In-service training	208	40	150	180

Priority areas	Priority actions	2002		2003	2004
		Proj.	Actual	Proj.	Proj.
Technical and professional education	Training the trainers	592	-	145	180
	Training the trainers		-	50	54
Modernization of the administration of education	Institutional support	2 019	500	800	950
Health		7,448	5,784	7,154	7,458
Broadening health care coverage and increasing the access of the poor to health services	Construction program (health posts and health centers)	1,538	1,310	2,875	2,841
	Equipment program	1,342	1,248	548	548
Reduction of morbidity associated with major diseases	Rolling stock	786	503	498	511
	STD/AIDS	183	104	468	475
Protection of maternal and child health	Expanded vaccination program	322	233	641	750
	Malaria	120	58	391	427
	Tuberculosis	45	29	147	155
Availability of medications	Reproductive health	454	237	350	470
	PCIME	191	184	57	85
Strengthening capacities of central and regional administrations	CAMEC	97	55		
	Control laboratory				
Training centers		1,961	1 565	987	951
Information system		226	123	124	150
		183	135	68	95
Safe drinking water and sanitation		1,482	610	2,125	2,939
Improved access to safe drinking water in rural areas	50 tube wells and 10 mini-systems per year	802	610	923	1,610
Improved access to safe drinking water in urban areas	Urban water systems, water points	550		1,050	1,179
Water resources	Study on improved management of water resources	PM	PM	PM	PM
	Study on water resources	130		152	150
Other services	Establishment of the Universal Service Access Agency	500	110	500	4,353
Focus 4: Strengthened governance and institutions					
Governance		140	0	220	220
	Strengthened capacities of NGOs and grassroots community organizations and their involvement in program design and implementation	PM	PM	PM	PM
	Introduction of program budgets in the remaining priority sectors (rural development, urban development, water)	90		120	120
	Support for Audit Office	50		100	100
PRSP Information and Updating System	See Annex 2	150	0	375	525
TOTAL		36,617	15,856	55,686	68,307

Annex 4: Medium-Term Macroeconomic Framework

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Performance indicator						
Annual growth rate	5.2	4.0	3.3	5.4	6.1	6.0
Inflation rate	3.3	4.7	4.0	6.4	3.7	3.5
Budget balance (in percent of GDP)	-4.4	-5.5	6.2	-2.1	-2.7	-2.9
Current balance, excluding official transfers and oil ⁴ (in percent of GDP)	-5.8	-10.4	-0.6	-9.5	-8.0	-7.1
Gross reserves (in months of imports, excluding oil)	6.9	6.8	8.7	7.2	6.4	6.0
Budget (in percent of GDP)						
Government revenue	25.3	20.6	37.6	29.4	28.4	27.9
Expenditure and net lending	29.7	26.1	31.3	31.6	31.1	30.8
Current	17.2	16.9	19.5	19.3	19.1	18.6
Capital	7.4	8.1	10.8	12	12	12.1
Education	4.4	4.5	5.5	5.8	5.9	6.1
Health	1.6	1.9	2.9	3.4	3.5	3.6
Balance of payments						
Trade balance (in millions of U.S. dollars)	8.5	-33.7	-87.7	-130.7	-132.7	-145.2
Exports	344.7	338.6	330.3	341.2	367.5	392.9
Imports	336.2	372.3	418	471.9	500.2	538.1
Current balance, including official transfers and oil (in percent of GDP)	-2.7	-10.6	-5.2	-21.5	-22.1	-27.6
Current balance, including official transfers but excluding oil (in percent of GDP)	0.8	-2.7	5.9	-33	-2.9	-2.2
Overall balance (in millions of U.S. dollars)	12.8	-64.8	55.6	-74.7	-62.8	-41.8
Memorandum items:						
Nominal GDP (in billions of ouguiyas)	229.4	251.3	269.1	296.4	325.6	356.9
Exchange rate (US\$/UM)	240.0	255.6	271.7	268	272.7	278.2
Financing gap ⁵ (in millions of U.S. dollars)	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.4	139.5	178.9

Annex 5: Revised Medium-Term Expenditure Framework for Education

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Major indicators					
Rate of access to basic education	93	97	111	111	111
Retention ratio	55	51	48	52	56
Gross enrollment ratio	88	87	88	88	90
Rate of access to first cycle of secondary school ⁶	25	28	26	26	28
Budget					
Total expenditure (in millions of ouguiyas)	10,072	11,191	14,800	17,114	19,359
Current	8,320	8,692	9,666	9,995	10,429
Capital	1,752	2,499	5,134	7,119	8,929
Administration	330	328	352	495	437
Basic	3,867	3,951	4,354	4,605	5,293
Secondary	2,315	2,338	2,738	2,892	2,847
Technical and professional	324	337	420	350	356
Normal schools	264	266	294	317	317
Higher	1,219	1,471	1,507	1,337	1,179
Expenditure (in percent of GDP)	4.4	4.5	5.5	5.8	5.9

Annex 6: Revised Medium-Term Expenditure Framework for Health

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Performance indicator					
Infant/child mortality ratio	87				80
Rate of DTC3 vaccination	39.9	52	70	75	75
Proportion of assisted childbirths	56.9		60	62	64
HIV prevalence rate	0.5	0.5	< 1	< 1	< 1
Health expenditure burden, first quintile	0.3	0.3	< 0.3	< 0.3	< 0.3
Budget					
Total expenditure (in millions of ouguiyas)	3624	4876	7750	9953	11258
Current	2500	2600	4844	5429	6567
Capital	1100	2300	2906	4524	4691
P1. Availability of human resources			1453	1629	1970
P2. Geographical accessibility			2422	2171	1407
P3. Availability of material resources			678	1086	1595
P4. Disease control and quality improvement			1259	2171	3190
P5. Social action			194	1448	2064
P6. Institutional capacity building			1744	1448	1032
Health expenditure as a percentage of GDP	1.6	2.0	2.9	3.4	3.5

Annex 7: MTEF for Urban Development

Programs (costs in millions of ouguiyas)	2002	2003	2004
P1. Institution building in the sector	814	1681	459
Reforms	516	1 457	248
Building of execution capacity	298	224	211
P2. Improvement of living conditions in cities in the interior	3,849	4,602	2,344
P3. Improvement of living conditions in Nouakchott	4,155	16,524	12,049
At-risk neighborhoods	2,068	3,512	1,150
Other infrastructure and equipment	2,087	13,012	10,899
P4. Environment	782	1 121	1 050
P5. Promotion of economic activities and employment	495	674	174
Total	15,064	42,807	28,584

Annex 8: MTEF for Transportation Infrastructure

PROGRAMS (in millions of ouguiyas)	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
<i>National roads, of which:</i>					
Magta Lahjar-Djouk	1,587	0	0	0	1,587
Djouk-Kiffa	1,227	0	0	0	1,227
Nouakchott-Tiguent	0	0	0	336	336
Tiguent-Rosso	0	0	0	336	336
Boutilimit-Aleg	0	0	0	306	306
Aïoun-Kobeni-Nioro	1,238	1,858	619	0	3,715
Rosso-Boghé	0	2,044	4,088	4,088	10,221
Nouakchott-Nouadhibou	2,313	5,397	5,397	2,312	15,419
Kaédi-M ^h Bout-Sélibaby	0	0	1,050	1,050	2,100
Atar-Kseirtorchane	550	0	0	0	550
Sélibaby-Gouraye	0	0	180	180	360
<i>Other national roads</i>	0	640	2,232	5,191	8,063
<i>Regional and municipal roads</i>	792	1,462	1,962	2,251	6,467
Subtotal: Road infrastructure	7,707	10,761	13,296	10,859	42,623
Port infrastructure	76	2,374	3,475	3,472	9,397
Airport infrastructure	685	1,555	500	500	3,240
Repair and maintenance	2,292	2,534	2,408	2,404	9,638
Capacity building and upgrading to standards	20	205	90	65	380
<i>Subtotal for sector</i>	<i>10,780</i>	<i>17,429</i>	<i>19,769</i>	<i>17,300</i>	<i>65,278</i>
Current budget of MET	498	498	498	498	1,992
<i>Total expenditure for sector</i>	<i>11,278</i>	<i>17,927</i>	<i>20,267</i>	<i>17,798</i>	<i>67,270</i>

Annex 9: Summary of Emergency Plan

Following the drought that afflicted Mauritania in 2002, in November 2002 the government decided to trigger the regulatory mechanism for emergency assistance provided for under Decree 2002-17 of March 31, 2002. In consequence, an Interministerial Committee on Emergency Situations, representing all departments concerned by food security and assisted by a permanent coordination and monitoring unit, drew up an emergency plan for providing a rapid and multifaceted response to the situation facing the populations and herds in jeopardy.

I. Components of the Plan

This emergency plan revolves around four components:

- **Food aid component;**
- **Health and nutrition component;**
- **Livestock feeding and watering and animal health component;**
- **Highly labor-intensive (HLI) rural and peri-urban program component.**

(1) Food aid component

This program has two subcomponents: free distribution for the poorest, and subsidized sale prices. It will make it possible to cover the food requirements of a population of slightly over 1 million persons for a 10-month period (January-October 2003).

The free distribution subcomponent relates to 82,827 metric tons of cereal grains, 7,620 metric tons of legumes, and 3,810 metric tons of edible oil.

The subsidized sale component is UM 40 per kilogram of wheat.

(2) Health and nutrition component

The nutritional subcomponent will consist in opening community food centers (CACs) to improve the nutrition of children from birth to age 5. It will also focus on the opening and equipping of CRENs (Centers for Recovery and Nutritional Education) to handle serious malnutrition cases necessitating medical care as well as food.

This subcomponent will make it possible to serve 31,600 children among the 632 CACs and 70 CRENs.

The health subcomponent will relate to making available a supply of medications necessary for the care of the people in at-risk areas (1 million persons).

(3) Livestock component

In this area there are three subcomponents: **livestock feed, pastoral water supply, and animal health.**

kilogram). Of the total requirement of 127,000 metric tons, 40,000 metric tons should be purchased as the initial stock, with the amount used by its sale making it possible to purchase additional stocks in keeping with the rollover system.

The **pastoral water supply** subcomponent covers the following activities: drilling of 26 exploration tube wells, rehabilitation of 25 wells, and of 29 pumping stations.

Finally, the **animal health** subcomponent relates to:

- Epidemiological surveillance for the rapid detection of animal diseases, for which the risk of contagion is becoming higher because of the shrinkage in pasture areas;
- Systematic vaccination of the herd, by strengthening inter-regional or even interstate mobile veterinary teams.

(4) Income generation component

This program includes the three following subcomponents: **construction or rehabilitation of urban and rural infrastructure, income-generating activities, and rural safety nets.**

The **infrastructure** subcomponent covers the construction or rehabilitation of socioeconomic infrastructures (dikes, small dikes, wells, small water supply networks, public buildings, schools, health centers, public squares, urban improvement zones, sidewalks, reforestation zones, public parks, parking facilities, sanitation works, works of public utility in general, etc.).

The subcomponent on **income-generating activities** in rural and peri-urban areas will be oriented toward contributing to food security and to the satisfaction of basic nutritional requirements.

Finally, the **rural safety nets** component includes a small-scale grassroots livestock rearing program known as "Toumze" and a program for the production of dried meats intended for the most vulnerable population groups.

II. Operational modalities

This emergency plan is implemented in the context of the institutional arrangements provided for under Decree No. 2002-17 of March 31, 2002 organizing emergency assistance. These are the interministerial committee on emergency situations, the standing monitoring and coordination unit, and the regional emergency units.

It is planned that each component will be implemented by the specialized national structure or by any other structures designated to that end by the interministerial committee.

In this context, implementation of the various subcomponents of the emergency plan has been distributed as follows:

(1) Food aid component: The free distribution and sales operations in rural municipalities are entrusted to the Food Security Commission (CSA), which will carry them out at all levels in close collaboration with representatives of the people. Sale at subsidized prices in the regional capitals is entrusted to Sonimax

their degree of vulnerability. Management of these centers in rural areas will be entrusted to local community structures under the supervision of the health services, and Centers for Recovery and Nutritional Education (CRENs) will be opened in public health centers. In the urban centers, CREN management may be carried out in collaboration with the NGOs active on the ground.

(3) Livestock component: In the context of the livestock feed subcomponent, it is planned to locate storage facilities at the wilaya, moughataa, and municipal capitals and on transhumance routes. The storage points will be determined by a commission chaired by the Administrative Authority and including, among others, the mayor with jurisdiction over the territory in question and representatives of professional organizations of stock farmers. Supervision of this component is entrusted to the CSA. Execution of the two other subcomponents (pastoral water supply and animal health) is entrusted to the Ministry of Water Resources and to the Ministry of Rural Development and Environment (MDRE).

(4) Income generation component: Execution of the subcomponents of this component is entrusted to the CDHLCPI, which will establish decision making arrangements and management mechanisms with broad participation on the part of the administration, the municipalities, and the beneficiaries, depending upon the most appropriate participatory approach. These arrangements must be characterized by their effective decentralization and by the immediate availability of the funding necessary to make the weakly wage payments due. The subcomponents will strengthen local capacities for the execution, ownership, and full accountability for actions on the part of the beneficiaries.

The standing emergency unit will ensure the coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of all the components of the emergency plan, with assistance from the national structures concerned as well as support from outside experts in the event that proves worthwhile. It will also conduct periodic and systematic checks to ensure that the emergency assistance is effectively benefiting the target populations. On a monthly basis it will submit a detailed report to the interministerial committee on execution of the emergency plan.

III. Overview of Emergency Plan Costs

COMPONENT	COST
1. Food aid component	
Free distribution	4,905,220,275
Sale at subsidized prices	2,040,000,000
Subtotal	6,945,220,275
2. Health and nutrition component	821,958,496
Subtotal	821,958,496
3. Livestock component	
Animal health	138,000,000
Pastoral water supply	361,000,000
Animal feed	1,000,000,000
Subtotal	1,499,000,000
4. Highly labor-intensive rural and peri-urban program component	1,000,000,000
Subtotal	1,000,000,000
5. Monitoring, supervision, and implementation component	300,000,000
Subtotal	300,000,000
GRAND TOTAL	10,566,178,771