



MAURITANIA

COUNTRY FACT SHEET 2022

Photo: IOM/ Desjardins 2018

PUBLISHER

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The information contained in this Country Fact Sheet was researched with best intentions and care. However, IOM Germany assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions. Furthermore, IOM Germany cannot be held accountable for conclusions or decisions drawn from the information provided in this Country Fact Sheet.

For further information on voluntary return and reintegration, please visit the information portal www.ReturningfromGermany.de, or contact your local return and reintegration office.

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1 HEALTH CARE

General information on health care

The health care system in Mauritania is structured into both public and private sectors. There are public health care centers and national hospitals throughout the country, under the supervision of the Ministry of Health, providing basic services such as maternal and child healthcare and general medication. The serious cases are usually evacuated to the capital city Nouakchott because of a lack of infrastructure and equipment in other regions and the more complex cases can be evacuated to other countries (Algeria, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia, Turkey).

Health insurance

There are insurance companies who provide private health insurance, requirements for registration vary depending on the company. The National Health Insurance Fund commonly known as CNAM (Caisse Nationale d'Assurance Maladie) provides public insurance. The CNAM is restricted to national employees and their dependents (spouse, children up to the age of 21, children without age limit suffering from disabilities preventing them from working). CNAM covers 75% of medical consultation and laboratory tests costs (to be reimbursed), 90% of hospitalization costs, 95% of chronic disease costs, and 100% of evacuation costs for government employees. For employees of the private sector, CNAM covers 88% of the costs, the employer covers 8% and the employee covers the remaining 4%. The registration process for CNAM is explained on their website: <http://www.cnam.mr/index.php/fr/>.

The General Delegation for National Solidarity and the Fight against Exclusion commonly known as TAAZOUR provides 100% health insurance coverage for the people below the poverty line. To benefit from this program, a person must be registered through a census conduct by the Social Register Agency and meet the vulnerability criteria, determined by the agency.

Availability of medical facilities and doctors

Medical facilities are available throughout the country but can be scarce and lack equipment and personnel in most small cities and rural areas. Nouakchott is the only city with adequate treatment and to where serious cases are evacuated. For further information the National Hospital of Nouakchott can be reached at +222 45 24 21 46 or through their Facebook page (Centre Hospitalier National de Nouakchott <https://www.facebook.com/chn121/?mibextid=LQQJ4d>)

Admission to medical facilities

In the public sector, patients usually consult a general practitioner who will refer them to a specialist if needed. There is no specific waiting time, the patient presents themselves in the hospital early in the morning to secure a number on the day's waiting list. In the private sector, the patient is free to choose which doctor to consult. The waiting time and appointment management differs from hospital to hospital.

1 HEALTH CARE

Availability and costs of medication

Most medications or their substitute are available but certain medications prescribed in other countries might not be available. Shortages of certain medications can occur because of import delays or other factors. Medication prices are determined by the Ministry of Health. It is important to note the presence of counterfeit medications on the market, despite the Ministry of Health's effort to eradicate this problem.

General information on COVID-19

The country imposed its first lockdown at the end of March 2020, after the first COVID-19 cases were confirmed. Since then and due to the rising number of cases, the government declared a state of emergency and imposed various lockdowns of different levels and durations, and introduced other measures including social distancing, cancelation of public gatherings and wearing face masks.

A daily situation report is published by the Ministry of Health, containing information on the number of cases and number of vaccinated people. More information can be found on the ministry's Facebook page : Ministère de la Santé <https://www.facebook.com/MSMauritanie?mibextid=LQQJ4d>

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: Everyone can access the health care system. Private insurance is available to everyone while public health insurance is restricted to employed nationals.

Registration procedure: Each private insurance company have their own procedure and requirements, more information to be found directly by contacting them. To be registered at the CNAM the following documents should be presented at their front office or closest representation in public hospital.

Required documents:

- National identification card accompanied by its photocopy.
- Salary slip for active personnel, pension slip for retired civil servants or certificate from the CNSS for the others, dated less than three months ago, mentioning the CNAM contribution
- Employment contract or an official certificate from the establishment for non-civil servants, or a decision to retire.
- A recent photo

2 LABOUR MARKET

General information on labour market

The Mauritanian population is estimated at 4,3 million people and is characterized by its youth, with more than half of the population under the age of 20. The potentially active population, made up of people aged between 14-64, represents 45.9% and 54.5% of the male and female population (respectively). Mauritania's economy remains dominated by informal activities: 91.1% of employed persons in the private nonagricultural sector are in informal jobs. The predominant branches of activity in the informal sector (excluding agriculture) are trade (44%), services (21.9%) and manufacturing (26.3%).

The unemployment rate increased over the recent years and is estimated at 11.5 %. Unemployment affects women more than men, and remains a youth issue, where more than one in five young people under the age of 25 is unemployed.

Finding employment

To find employment in Mauritania, people rely mostly on networking since there isn't a proper sector of job placement agencies and only few vacancies are advertised. The advertised positions can be found mostly on these websites:

- <http://www.cnc.gov.mr/TousC.aspx> (for government positions)
- <https://beta.mr/>
- <https://www.rimtic.com/>
- <https://www.emploimauritanie.com/>

Unemployment assistance

The government employment agency Techghil offers an information portal <http://www.techghil.mr/> , where

job offers, training opportunities, internships and information on the activities and services of the agency can be found. Specialized counselors in charge of accompanying job seekers are also present in the agency different offices present throughout the country.

Further education and training

There are many training centers and school, mostly located in Nouakchott, that offer trainings on different subjects, including languages. The best way to obtain information on registration and fees is to contact the schools and training centers directly (see contact information section).

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: The Techghil agency is open to Mauritanian nationals. Other private training centers are open to everyone without restrictions but registration requirements vary.

Registration procedure:

Job seekers can preregister online on the Techghil website, after which an appointment with a counselor will be fixed, or they can directly go the closest agency office with their documents to be registered.

Required documents:

- National identity card
- Diplomas and certificates if applicable



Photo: Unsplash/ Renato Brazili 2019

3 HOUSING

General information on housing

The urban Mauritanian population increased from 9.1% in 1965 to 55.3% in 2020. Urban growth is most pronounced in urban centers such as Nouakchott, Nouadhibou, and Zouérat. These areas are home to almost one-third of Mauritania's population. Although the Mauritanian authorities have supervised the planning and urban rehabilitation of informal housing and slums since 2010, there is still significant pressure on available infrastructure and services. This leads to various social, economic, and environmental problems, including problems of housing quality and affordability in these urban areas. Urban households spend about one-fifth (20.4%) of their resources on housing. Expenditure on housing consists of electricity, gas, and other fuels (6.8%), rent (5.9%), water supply and other housing-related services (5.3%), and maintenance and repair of dwellings (0.8%). Compared to the average monthly net salary of MRU 6 000 (US\$141) the price of renting in the urban area is exorbitant. Furthermore, access to land ownership in urban areas is a long and difficult process, especially for the most impoverished segments of the population. The persistence of an informal land market sustains rampant speculation around land prices.

Finding accommodation

There is no public assistance to find accommodation. The formal real estate market in urban areas, and most notably in Nouakchott, is mainly focused on developing modern housing solutions for the most affluent and expatriates. Local real estate agencies assist in finding

high-end flats and accommodation in the city center and residential areas surrounding embassies and offices of international organizations. Some of these agencies can be found at:

- https://www.expatrium.com/ad_category/location-maison-appartement/
- <https://diaouha-agence-immobiliere.business.site/>
- <https://www.goafricaonline.com/mr/annuaire/agences-immobilieres>

In contrast, those who cannot afford the prices of formal real estate agencies resort to the informal market, which can be risky. Several “brokers” are offering their services to advertise or find houses/apartments for rental or sale. These brokers contacts are usually shared informally between people. There is also an advertisement website <https://www.voursa.com/> on which various houses/apartments for rental or sale can be found at different prices ranges.

It should be noted that market prices aren't regulated by the government. Owners are free to impose whatever price they deem fit to their properties.

Social grants for housing

Social housing is a challenge for the Mauritanian state and the city of Nouakchott. There are no social grants for housing, nonetheless, the government have constructed basic social housing units in some cities such as Nouakchott, Zouerat and Selibaby. To benefit from these social houses, the person needs to be registered as vulnerable during the census conducted

3 HOUSING

by the Social Register Agency. The criteria are fixed by the government and there is no possibility of self-enrollment.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: There are no temporary housing facilities or shelters. People usually rely on their families or acquaintances to provide shelter on arrival. There are social houses granted by the government through the Social Register Agency.

Registration procedure: The person needs to get registered during the census conducted by the Social Register Agency.

Required documents:

To be registered, a person must present their national identity card during the census.



Photo: IOM/ Desjardins 2018

4 SOCIAL WELFARE

Social welfare system

Nationals who were identified living below the poverty line during a census conducted by the Social Register Agency.

Access for returnees:

Eligibility and requirements: Nationals who were identified living below the poverty line during a census conducted by the Social Register Agency

Registration procedure and required documents: The person needs to get registered during the census. There is no possibility of self-enrollment.

Required documents: National identity card.

Pension system

The National Social Security Fund (NSSF) manages the social security system in Mauritania. The scheme covers three (03) branches (family benefits, occupational risks and old age, disability and death pensions). In addition, the NSSF manages a Health and Social Action Fund (FASS) which provides subsidies to national organizations whose activities are in line with its social mission. The financing of the social security system is essentially composed of contributions from employers (13%) and employees (1%) and operates on a pay-as-you-go basis. Membership in the Social Security system is mandatory in accordance with Article 2 of Law 67039 of February 3, 1967, without any distinction of race, nationality, sex or origin, for:

- All workers governed by the Labor Code and the Merchant Marine Code;

- Students of professional schools;
- Trainees and apprentices;
- Government employees who do not have a special social security system.

The Government employees (civil servants, military) have their own public sector pensions schemes.

Access for returnees:

Eligibility and requirements: Pensions schemes are not available for unemployed or independently employed people. More information on the schemes and eligibility can be found at : <https://cnss.mr/pension/>

Registration procedure and required documents: Registration is usually done through the employer. More information can also be found at the closest NSSF agency : <https://cnss.mr/contact/>

Required documents: Varies from one employer to another.

Vulnerable groups

Most government actions to help vulnerable people (people with disability, people living under the poverty line) are targeting nationals. The General Delegation for National Solidarity and the Fight against Exclusion commonly known as TAAZOUR aims to provide different types of assistance through their various programs (TEKAVOUL, DARI, etc.). As explained above, the registration is done by census conducted by the Social Register Agency. The Ministry of Social Action, Childhood and Family provides a fund for people with disability or with special needs, provided that the person meets the criteria.

5 EDUCATION

General information on education

The educational system is structured into both a public and a private sector. Education in Mauritania is compulsory for all children between age 6 and 14. General education is provided in public and private schools and mahadras (religious schools), located throughout the country although in many rural areas only one school is available resulting in classes of more than 50 students sometimes. Some private schools are implementing different education programs such as the French system, the American system and the Turkish system. Higher education is provided by technical and vocational institutes, universities and colleges located mostly in Nouakchott City. After successful completion of the national university entrance exam, students are oriented

to the different available institutions based on their grades and depending on their grades some obtain scholarships to study in the neighboring countries (usually Senegal, Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia).

The public education sector is facing many problems such as

- Low quality of general education
- Low secondary school completion rates (only 55% for girls and 61% for boys in 2013)
- Lack of qualified teachers.
- Lack of adequate infrastructure for schools
- Frequent changes of government policies (official languages for education programs, gradual suppression of private school implemented oct 2022)



Photo: IOM/ Nero 2018

5 EDUCATION

Cost, loans, and stipends

All public-school enrollment is limited to a registration fee. Tuition fees for private general education schools vary from 9000 MRU to around 250 000 MRU a year depending on the school and area. Additional fees include costs for schoolbooks, uniforms, and others. There are two types of government scholarships available for higher education:

- The first consists of an amount destined to cover transportation fees for student enrolled in the public university of Mauritania. The student needs to provide a copy of their Baccalauréat, a university registration certificate, a written request, and a copy of their national identity card.
- The second is a scholarship for studies in the neighboring countries. The student must have obtained the required grade (depends on the year) and they must submit a copy of their Baccalauréat, their grade transcript, a written request, and a copy of their national identity card.

Approval and verification of foreign diplomas

Diplomas obtained abroad are recognized and, in some cases, provide more employment opportunities since an education abroad is usually sought after. Depending on the case, some should be verified by the Equivalence Committee of the Mauritanian Ministry of Education and Higher Education or legalized by the embassy or consulate of the country where the diploma was obtained.

Access for returnees:

Eligibility and requirements: National Mauritanian returnees can enroll in any school, whether public or private.

Registration procedure: It varies from an institution to another

Required documents:

- Copy of valid national identity card
- Grade transcript
- Entrance exam certificate for certain universities



Photo: IOM/ Nero 2018

6 CHILDREN

General situation of children and infants

Mauritania ratified the CRC in 1991, as well as the Optional Protocol on the sale of children. It also has a General Child Protection Code established in 2018. Children can bring cases through their representatives, and private prosecutions are permitted. The National Commission on Human Rights is entitled to receive complaints about human rights violations and grant compensation. A legal aid law ensures legal aid for children in front of all courts from arrest to trial and appeal. NGOs can file and intervene in some cases. Despite these provisions, there are various obstacles to access to justice in Mauritania. An ordinance on the judicial protection of children provides for specialized courts but only some of these courts have been effectively created. The cultural aspect combined with the level of poverty mean that practices such as child marriage and child labor are still applied. Routine vaccination campaigns are organized by the Ministry of Health, where medical personnel go door-to-door to vaccinate children from 0 to 5 against polio or catch up on other vaccines, give vitamin A supplements, and promote the registration of children. There are not many amusement parks or activity centers that can accommodate children, and even fewer in cities other than Nouakchott. The French Institute of Mauritania in Nouakchott offers some activities such as movie sessions, a media library, dance, painting, and music classes. There is also an equestrian center in Nouakchott. The Olympic stadium in Nouakchott provides private Karate courses for children.

(Non-) governmental actors dealing with children's well-being and rights

There are several local and international NGOs who provide child protection, and other related services. UNICEF works together with the Government and other UN agencies to address a wide range of issues such as child protection, education, and access to vaccination. Other international NGOs present in Mauritania include Save the Children and Terre des Hommes.

Access for returnees:

Eligibility and requirements: Children of Mauritanian nationality can be enrolled in any private or public school. Schools start in October and end in May.

Required documents:

- Copy of valid identity card or passport
- Birth certificate
- Grade transcript
- Vaccination card



Photo: IOM/ Desjardins 2018

7 CONTACTS

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

UN agency for Migration
 Ilot Secteur université lot 433-435, Tévragh Zeina – Nouakchott
 +222 45 24 40 81
iomnouakchott@iom.int

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UN agency for Child protection
 UN Compound, Tévragh Zeina
 +222 45 29 98 00
mauritania@unicef.org

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

UN agency for protection of rights of refugees
 Ilot K, Tévragh Zeina
 +222 45 29 35 10
 8000 3000
www.unhcr.org

Ministry of Health

Health facility
 Jamal Abdel Nasser Avenue, Nouakchott
 BP 115
 +222 22 28 79 99
telemedecine@sante.gov.mr
www.sante.gov.mr

National Hospital Center of Nouakchott

Health facility
 Jamal Abdel Nasser Avenue, Nouakchott
 BP 612
 +222 45 24 21 46
contact@chn.mr
www.chn.mr/

Cheikh Zayed Hospital

Health facility
 Dar Naim, Nouakchott
 +222 45 29 84 98

Kissi Clinic

Health facility
 Tévragh Zeina, Nouakchott
 +222 22 66 40 20
cliniquekissi@gmail.com

El Ihsane Clinic

Health facility
 Carrefour Cité Smar, Tévragh Zeina Nouakchott
 +222 27 24 50 24
Clinic.elihane@gmail.com

Medipole Clinic

Health facility
 Ilot K Ext S3, Tévragh Zeina, Nouakchott
 BP 557
 +222 37 77 00 77
contact@medipole.net

National Health Insurance Fund

Nouadhibou Road, Nouakchott 1919
www.cnam.mr

ASCOMA

Health insurance
 Ilot 624, Tévragh Zeina
 +222 45 29 59 00
<https://www.ascoma.com/ascoma-mauritanie/>

NASR S.A

Private health insurance
 12 Jamal Abdel Nasser avenue, Nouakchott
 BP 163
 +222 45 25 26 50
nasr@nasr.mr
<https://nasr.mr/>

Techghil

National Labour agency
 Fayssal avenue, Ksar, Nouakchott 5196
 +222 45 24 44 00
www.techghil.mr

TAAZOUR

Solidarity fund
 Nouadhiou Road, Tévragh Zeina Nouakchott
 +222 45 24 38 88
nfo@taazour.mr
www.taazour.mr

Social Register Agency

Tévragh Zeina, Nouakchott 8000 1030
<http://www.rs.gov.mr/>

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Ministry of Social Action,
Childhood and Family
Fayssal avenue, Nouakchott
+222 45 25 80 18
[https://www.masef.gov.mr/
fr/enfance=&page=1](https://www.masef.gov.mr/fr/enfance=&page=1)

Save the Children
*International NGO for child
protection*
ZRC 495, Nouakchott
+222 45 25 66 93
[https://mauritania.savethechild-
ren.net/](https://mauritania.savethechild-
ren.net/)

Terre des Hommes
International NGO for child welfare
Tevragh Zeina, Nouakchott
+222 45 25 19 16
[https://www.tdh.ch/fr/
nos-interventions/mauritanie](https://www.tdh.ch/fr/
nos-interventions/mauritanie)

National Social Security Fund
OIT place, Nouakchott
BP 224
+222 45 25 7584
<https://cnss.mr/>

Ministry for National Education
Ksar, Nouakchott
+222 30 55 68 54
[https://www.education.gov.mr/
index.php?lang=fr](https://www.education.gov.mr/
index.php?lang=fr)

Ministry for Higher Education
Ksar, Nouakchott
contact-dsi@mesrs.gov.mr
<https://mesrs.gov.mr/fr>

Al-Asriya Nouakchott
University
National University
Tevragh Zeina,
222 45 26 52 52
<http://www.una.mr/fr>

Lebanese International
University
Private University
Soukoul Road, ilot F-Nord;
Tevragh Zeina, Nouakchott
+ 222 45 25 18 88
+ 222 33 26 11 11
E-mail: info@liu.mr

EST Formations
Training
Not Ext Mod B 119, Tevragh
Zeina, Nouakchott
BP 3204
+222 45 25 62 38
info@est-formation.com
[https://www.est-formation.com/
index.html](https://www.est-formation.com/index.html)

Distance Training and Exchange
Center
Training
Palais des Congrès, Tevragh
Zeina, Nouakchott, BP 1125
+222 45 25 84 91
cfed@mauritel.mr
Mauritania_dlc@gdln.org

8 AT A GLANCE

Measures to be taken before return

- **Travel Documents:** Make sure to have a valid travel document, if not you contact the nearest Mauritanian embassy
- **Relatives:** Make sure to inform your family and friends of your return to help you settle smoothly.
- **Birth Certificates:** For children born abroad, you should legalize their birth certificate by the Mauritanian embassy
- **Education:** Have diplomas, training certificates and grade transcripts translated to French.
- **Work experiences:** Request employment certificates, if applicable.
- **Health:** Translate medical reports to French. For chronic conditions, make sure that medications are available in Mauritania.
- **Transportation:** Plan for Airport pick-up ahead as there is no taxi or shuttle system.

Measures to be taken upon arrival

- **Reintegration:** If you are eligible of any sort of reintegration assistance, you should contact IOM Mauritania the soonest after your arrival. You will be given an appointment and you will receive detailed counseling.

