



Existing rates of: **Wasting: 11.6%** **Stunting: 22%** **Proportion of population underweight: 19.5%**

Source: Gov. of Mauritania (National Nutrition Survey, 2012)

Strong Performance

The Government encourages varied agricultural research and extension services, and local farmer organisations are involved in setting policy priorities. The extension system is effective and properly reaches out to poor farmers. Government policies, strategies and mechanisms seek to ensure gender equity in access to extension services.

Relative to other HANCI countries, Mauritania's medium/long term national development policy (PRSP III) assigns strong importance to nutrition.

The National Nutrition Policy/Strategy identifies time bound nutrition targets and a multisectoral and multistakeholder policy coordination mechanism has been set up.

Policymakers in Mauritania benefit from regular nutrition surveys that are statistically representative at national level. The last survey was published in 2011.

The Government of Mauritania promotes complementary feeding practices and has achieved two high doses of vitamin A supplementation for 99% of children in 2013.

Areas for improvement

Spending on agriculture (4.19% of public spending in 2013), does not meet government commitments set out in the African Union's Maputo Declaration (10% of public spending).

Mauritania's spending in its health sector (9.9% of public spending in 2012) does not fully meet (15%) commitments set out in the Abuja Declaration.

In Mauritania, the law gives women and men equal economic rights and equal legal access to agricultural land. However, these laws are not effectively enforced and discriminatory practices against women continue, increasing their vulnerability to hunger and undernutrition.

The Government of Mauritania has not enshrined the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes into domestic law.

Weak access to an improved source of drinking water (49.6% in 2012) and an improved sanitation facility (26.7% in 2012) prevents positive outcomes for hunger and nutrition in Mauritania.

In Mauritania, constitutional protection of the right to food and the right to social security is weak.

Civil registration rates are weak (58.8% in 2011) and potentially hold back children's access to critical public services such as health and education.



Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

Public spending	Score*	Year	HRCI Rank of 45
Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending ¹	4.19%	2013	25th
Public spending on health as share of total public spending ¹	9.9%	2012	26th
Policies			
Access to land (security of tenure) ²	Moderate	2013	Joint 36th
Access to agricultural research and extension services ²	Strong	2013	Joint 15th
Civil registration system — coverage of live births	58.8%	2011	28th
Functioning of social protection systems ²	Weak	2014	Joint 12nd
Laws			
Level of constitutional protection of the right to food ³	Weak	2011	Joint 20th
Equality of women's access to agricultural land (property rights) ⁴	In Law, not in Practice	2014	Joint 4th
Equality of women's economic rights ⁴	In Law, not in Practice	2011	Joint 5th
Constitution recognises the right to social security (yes/no)	No	2006	Joint 31st

¹ Possible scores are: ● <75% of agriculture (Maputo) and health (Abuja) spending pledges ● >=75% and <100% ● >=100%

² Possible scores are: ● Weak ● Moderate ● Strong

³ Possible scores are: ● Weak ● Moderate ● Strong

⁴ Possible scores are: ● Not in Law ● In Law Not in Practice ● In Law & Practice

Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)

Public spending	Score*	Year	NCI Rank of 45
Separate budget for nutrition (No/Sectoral only/Yes)	Sectoral only	2014	Joint 20th
Policies			
Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children	99%	2013	Joint 1st
Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no)	Yes	2014	Joint 1st
Population with access to an improved water source	49.6%	2012	Joint 42nd
Population with access to improved sanitation	26.7%	2012	30th
Health care visits for pregnant women	84.2%	2011	28th
Nutrition features in national development policy ¹	Strong	2011-2015	8th
National Nutrition Policy/Strategy (yes/no)	Yes	2014	Joint 1st
Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination (yes/no)	Yes	2014	Joint 1st
Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)	Yes	2014	Joint 1st
National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)	Yes	2011	Joint 1st
Laws			
ICMBS [^] Enshrined in domestic law ²	Not Enshrined in Law	2014	Joint 44th

¹ Possible scores are: ● Weak ● Moderate ● Strong (Note: Performance relative to other countries).

² Possible scores are: ● Not Enshrined in Law ● Voluntary Adoption ● Fully enshrined.

[^] International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes