



Mauritania

Sectoral Scenarios for Mauritania

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Last updated 13 December 2023 using IFs v7.63

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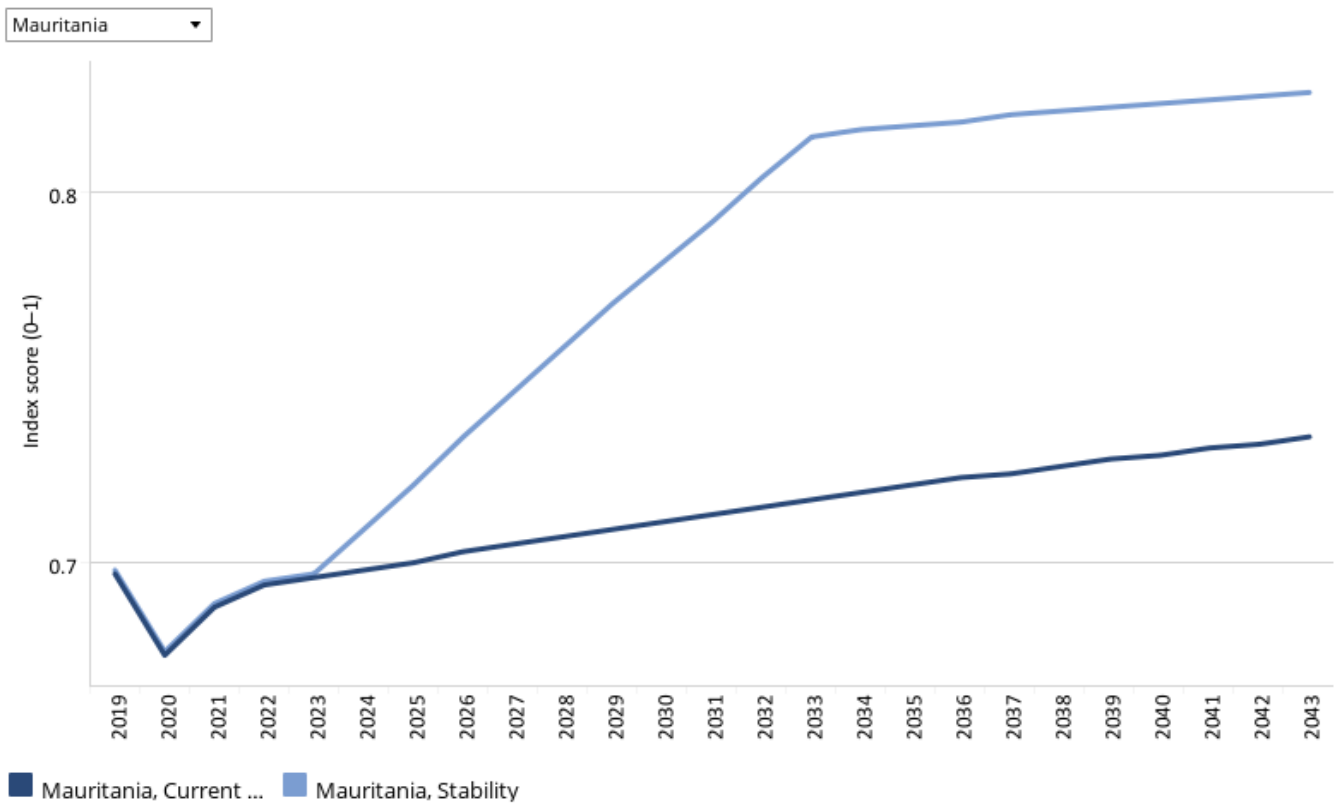
Sectoral Scenarios for Mauritania

- Stability scenario
- Demographic scenario
- Health/WaSH scenario
- Agriculture scenario
- Education scenario
- Manufacturing scenario
- Leapfrogging scenario
- Free Trade scenario
- Financial Flows scenario
- Infrastructure scenario
- Governance scenario
- Impact of scenarios on carbon emissions



Stability scenario

Chart 13: Governance security in CP and Stability scenario, 2019–2043
IFs index 0–1



Source: IFs 7.63 governance security index using internal war and government risk

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The Stability scenario represents reasonable but ambitious reductions in the risk of regime instability and lower levels of

internal conflict. Stability is generally a prerequisite for other aspects of development and this would encourage inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI) and improve business confidence. Better governance through the accountability that follows substantive democracy is modelled separately.

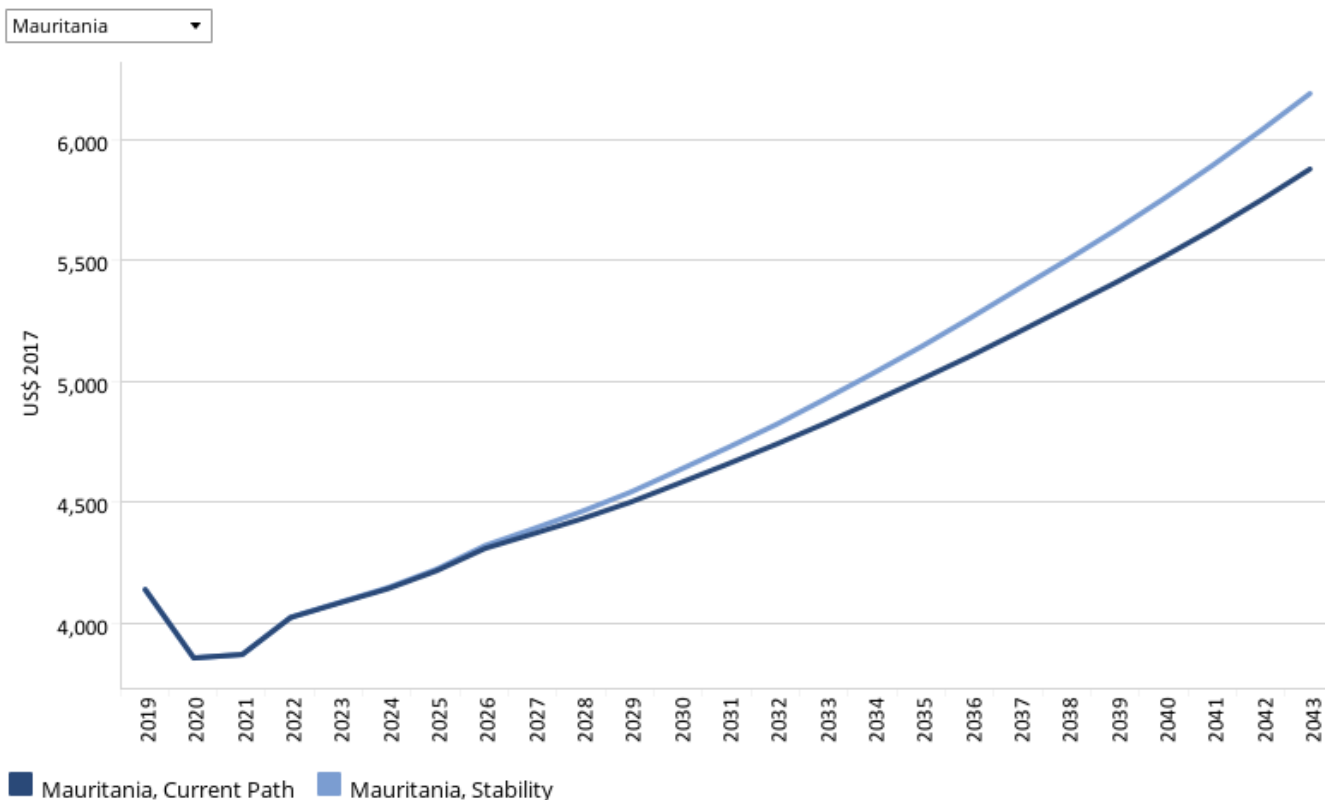
The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

Compared to Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, Mauritania is somewhat of an exception in the Sahel. However, there are signs that armed groups might be operating very closely to the Mauritanian and Senegalese borders in the Malian region of Kayes. Trafficking on the eastern border with Mali is another challenge. To the north, the Polisario Front and Moroccan forces have been clashing near the border with Mauritania since November 2020. Algeria, which is in support of the Polisario Front, has deployed troops in the area, and the Mauritanian government created a Sensitive Defense Zone in the border area with Algeria to be able to monitor the movements of armed groups, traffickers and smugglers.[1]

The Stability scenario reflects significant interventions in increasing regime stability, lowering levels of internal conflict, resulting in reduced military expenditure and larger inflows of FDI.

On the security dimensions of governance, Mauritania scores last in North Africa but around the average of Africa's lower middle-income economies (0.7). In the Stability scenario, security in Mauritania will improve further to a score of 0.8 in 2043.

Chart 14: GDP per capita in CP and Stability scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



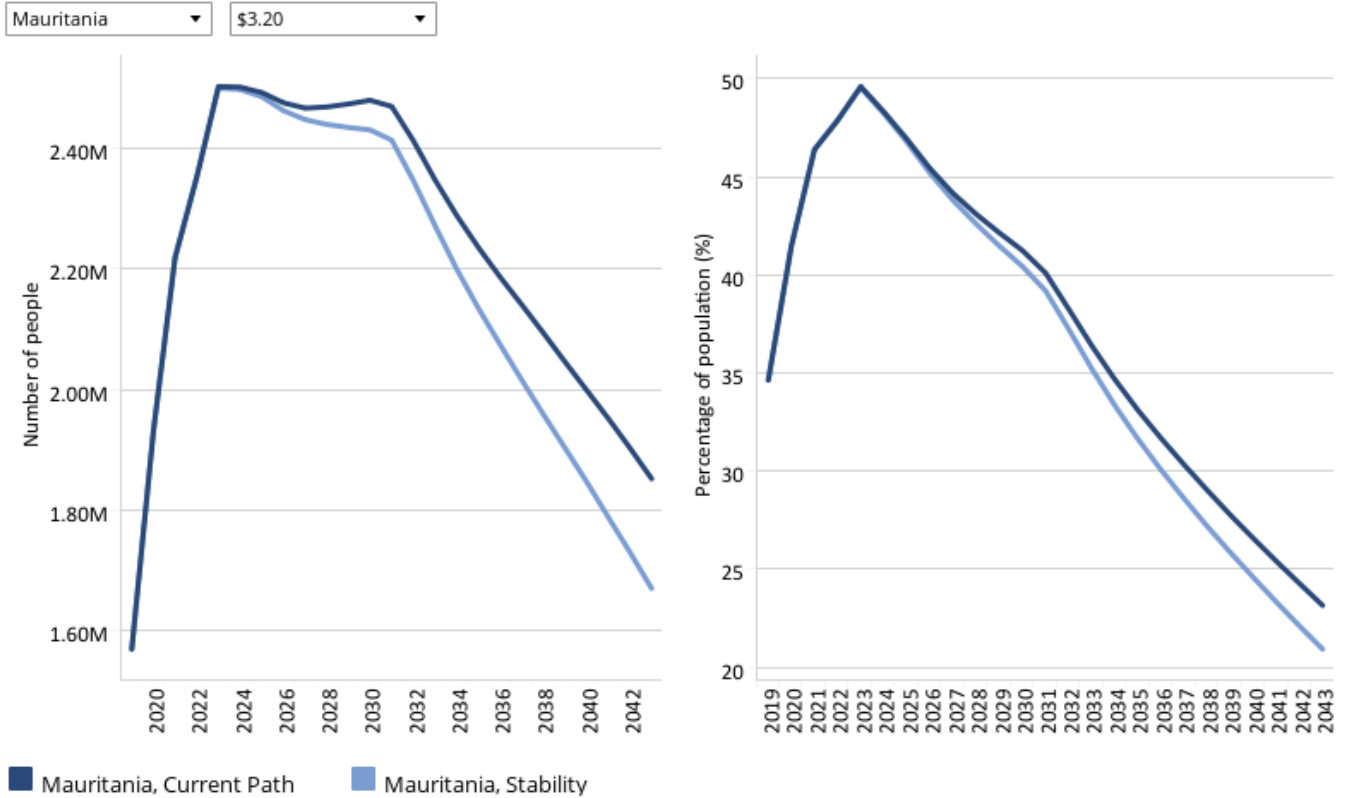
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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In 2019, Mauritania's GDP per capita was US\$4 138, almost US\$1 000 above the average lower middle-income GDP per

capita of US\$3 056. In the Stability scenario, Mauritania's GDP per capita will increase to US\$6 192 by 2043 — an increase of US\$313 compared to the Current Path forecast.

Chart 15: Poverty in CP and Stability scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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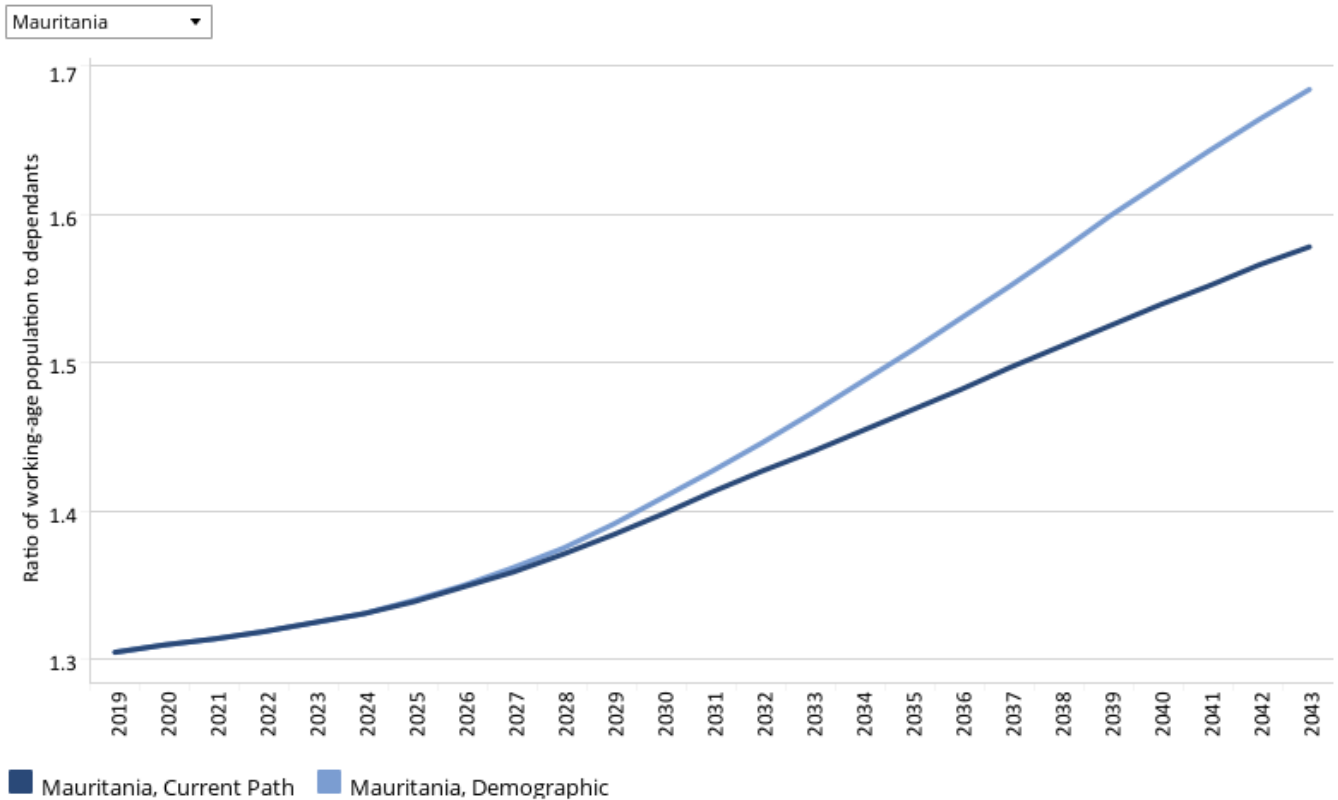
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As a lower middle-income economy, the US\$3.20 benchmark to define extreme poverty applies to Mauritania. In 2019, almost 1 million people were living below the US\$3.20 poverty line, equivalent to 34.6% of the population. In the Stability scenario, about 1.67 million people will live in extreme poverty by 2043 compared to 1.85 million on the Current Path. Despite the increase in absolute terms, Mauritania would see the share of its population living in poverty drop to 20.9% compared to 23.2% on the Current Path.



Demographic scenario

Chart 16: Demographic dividend in CP and Demog scenario, 2019–2043
Ratio of working-age population to dependants



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects

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This section presents the impact of a Demographic scenario that aims to hasten and increase the demographic dividend through reasonable but ambitious reductions in the communicable-disease burden for children under five, the maternal mortality ratio and increased access to modern contraception.

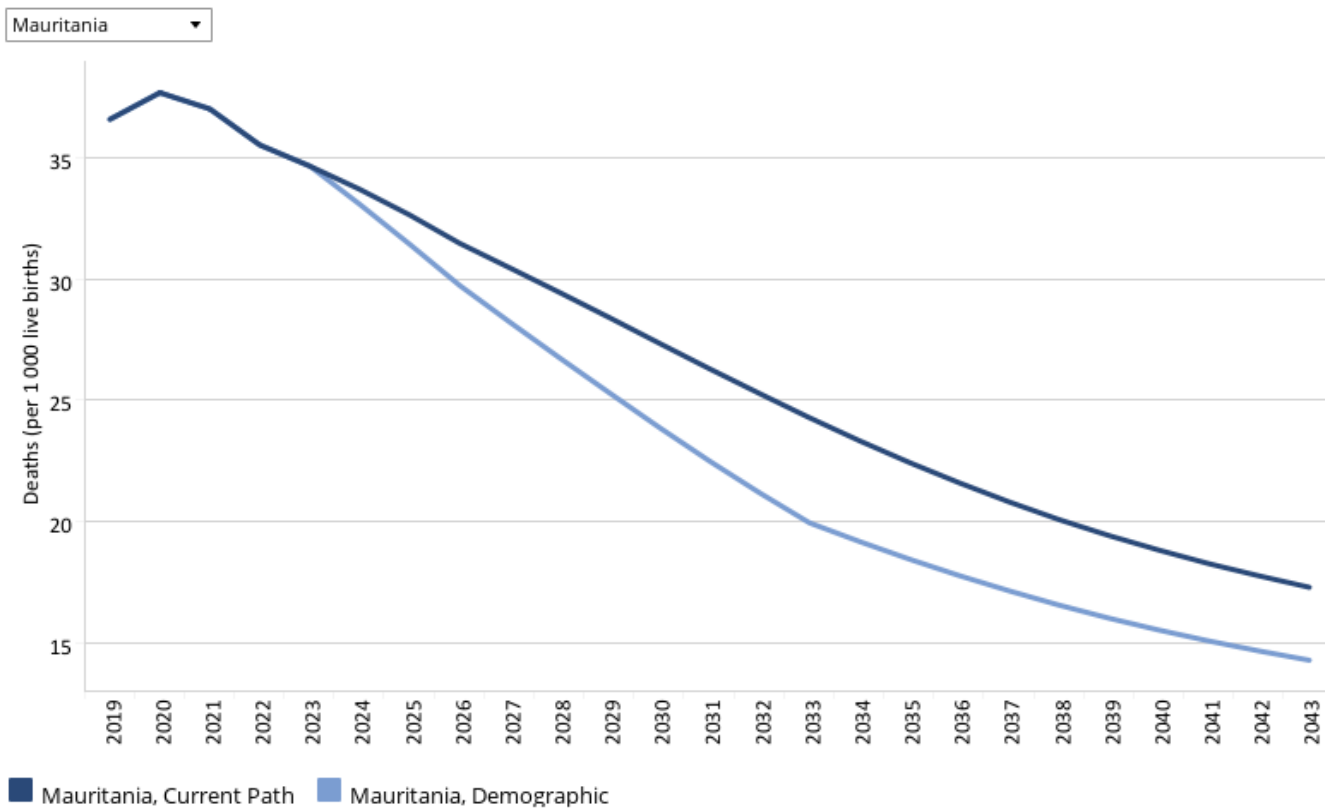
The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

Demographers typically differentiate between a first, second and even a third demographic dividend. We focus here on the contribution of the size of the labour force (between 15 and 64 years of age) relative to dependants (children and the elderly) as part of the first dividend. A window of opportunity opens when the ratio of the working-age population to dependants is equal to or surpasses 1.7.

Given Mauritania's current stage in the demographic transition, increased access to modern contraception will have a noticeable impact on the country's total fertility rate, which was estimated at 4.6 children per fertile woman in 2019. In the Demographic scenario, fertility rates will decline more quickly than on the Current Path. By 2043, the average fertility rate will drop to 2.9 births per woman compared to 3.2 on the Current Path. A lower average fertility rate would slow down population growth and translate into a smaller population by 2043: 7.8 million instead of 8 million people.

The interventions in the Demographic scenario let Mauritania benefit from a greater demographic dividend than on the

Chart 17: Infant mortality in CP and Demog scenario, 2019–2043
Deaths per 1 000 live births



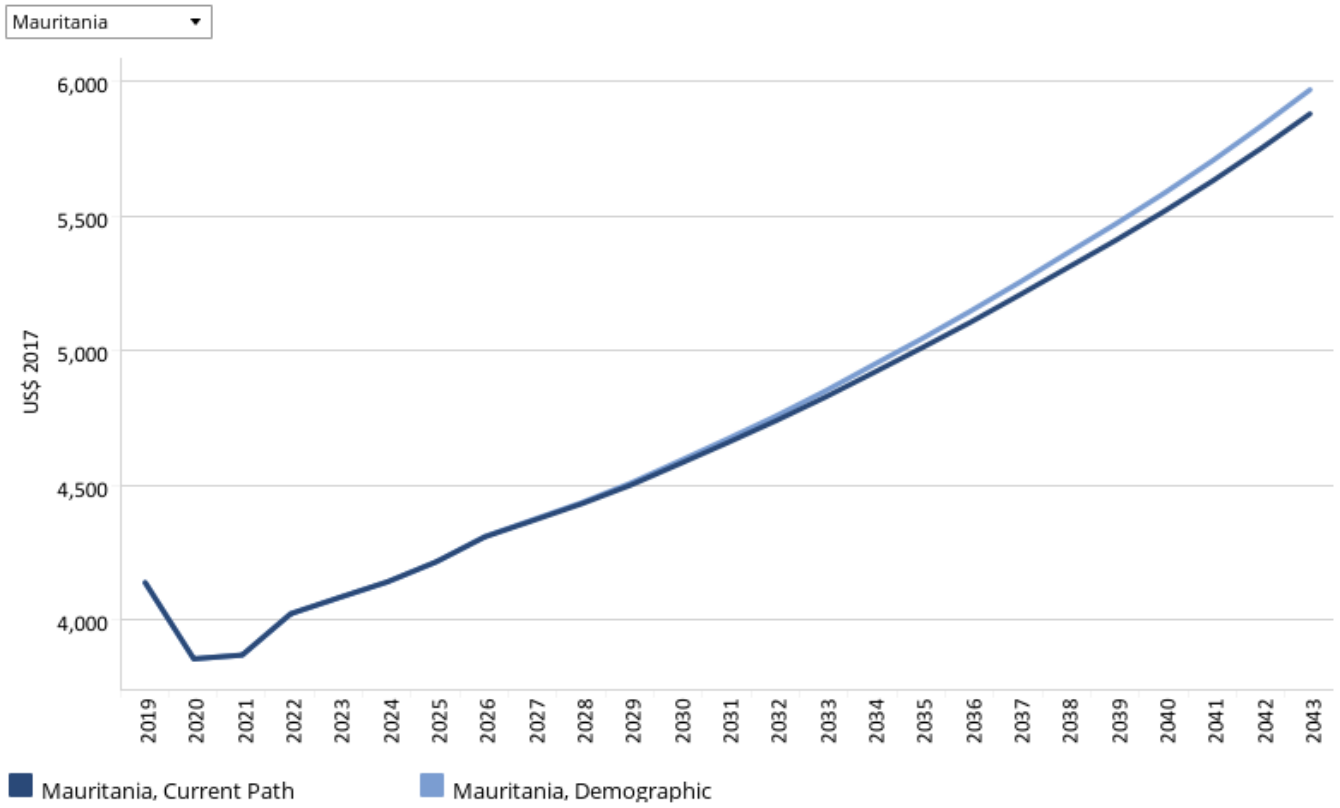
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation Mortality Visualization Tool data

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The infant mortality rate is the number of infant deaths per 1 000 live births and is an important marker of the overall quality of the health system in a country.

At 36.6 infant deaths per 1 000 live births, infant mortality in Mauritania is the highest in North Africa, followed by Algeria, Morocco and Egypt. However, it is significantly below the average for the group of African lower middle-income economies which is 46.6 deaths per 1 000 live births. Infant mortality in Mauritania has improved greatly since 1990 when it stood at 69.9 deaths per 1 000 live births. The Demographic scenario will reduce infant mortality rates in Mauritania to 14.3 deaths per 1 000 live births by 2043 compared to 17.1 deaths in the Current Path forecast.

Chart 18: GDP per capita in CP and Demog scenario, 2019–2043
 Purchasing power parity



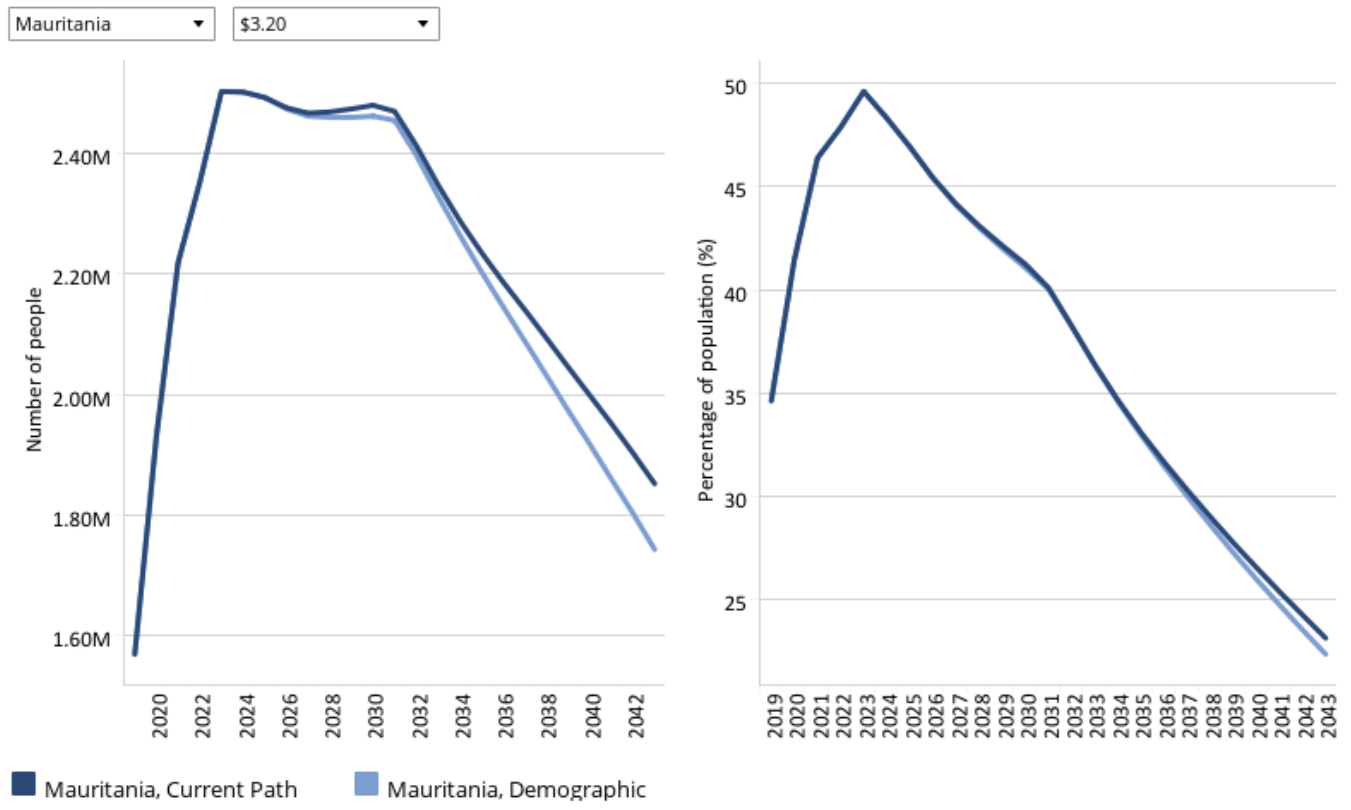
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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In the Demographic scenario, Mauritania's GDP per capita is expected to increase from US\$4 138 in 2019 to US\$5 969 compared to US\$5 879 on the Current Path.

Chart 19: Poverty in CP and Demog scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

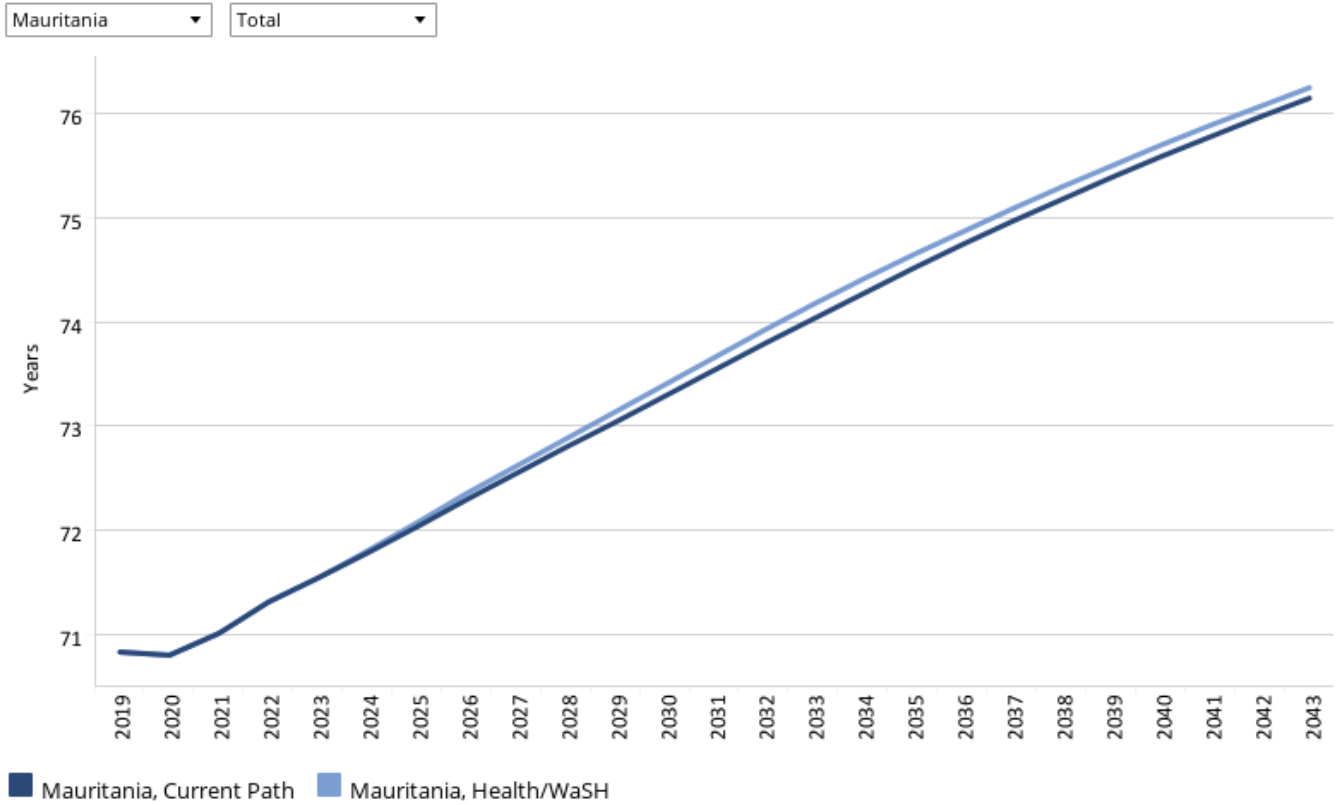
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Compared to the Current Path forecast, the Demographic scenario will reduce the share of the population living in extreme poverty (using US\$3.20) from 34.6% in 2019 to 22.4% in 2043 compared to 23.2% on the Current Path. In absolute terms, the number of poor people would still rise, but slower population growth means that instead of 1.85 million people living in poverty in the Demographic scenario, it would be 1.46 million people.



Health/WaSH scenario

Chart 20: Life expectancy in CP and Health/WaSH scenario, 2019–2043



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Institute for Health Metrics Evaluation GBD Foresight Tool data

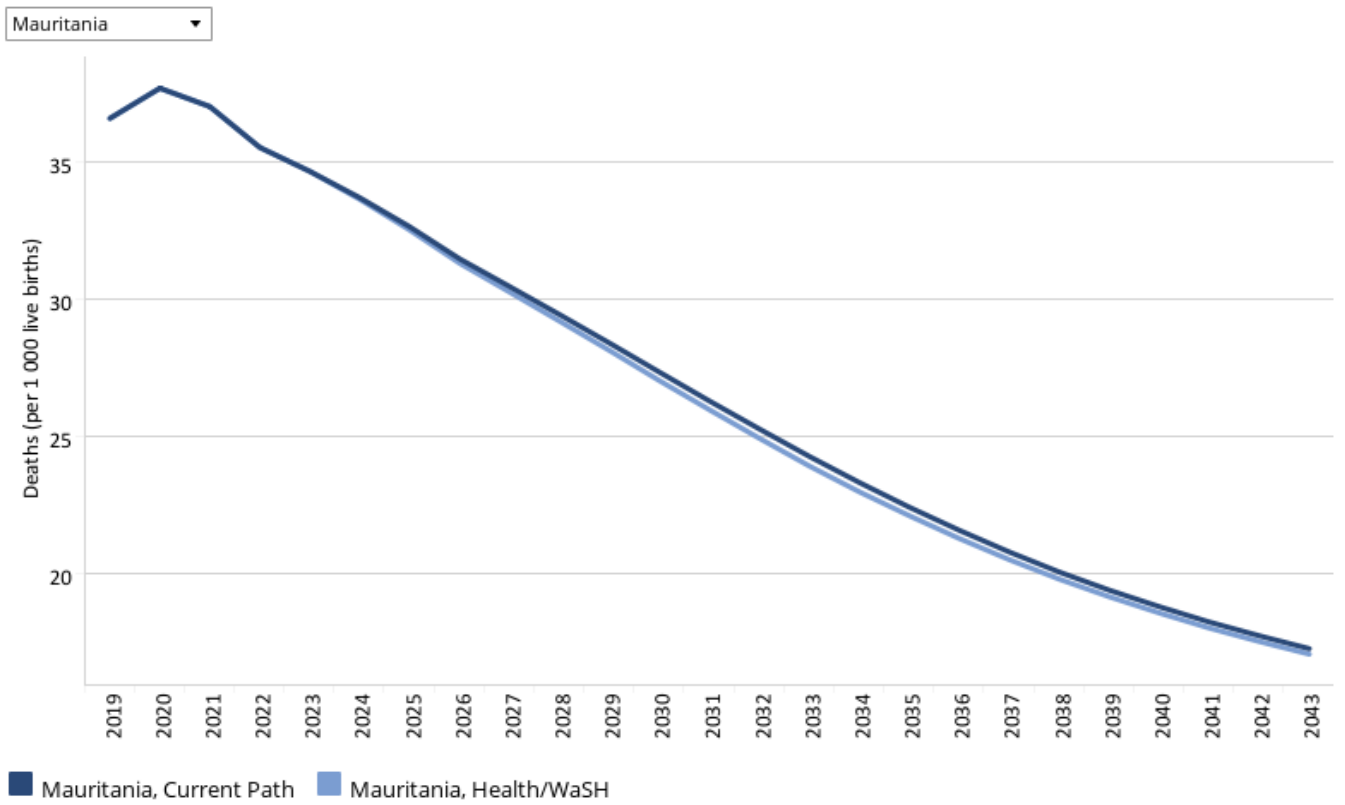
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This section presents reasonable but ambitious improvements in the Health/WaSH scenario, which include reductions in the mortality rate associated with both communicable diseases (e.g. AIDS, diarrhoea, malaria and respiratory infections) and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) (e.g. diabetes), as well as improvements in access to safe water and better sanitation. The acronym WaSH stands for water, sanitation and hygiene.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

In 2019, average life expectancy for Mauritians was 70.8 years, ranking last in North Africa. On the Current Path, life expectancy will increase to 73.1 in 2043. In the Health/WaSH scenario, average life expectancy is expected to increase to 74.1 years. This is exactly in line with the average life expectancy for Africa’s lower middle-income economies in the Health/WaSH scenario which is forecast to be 74.1 years by 2043.

Chart 21: Infant mortality in CP and Health/WaSH scenario, 2019–2043
Deaths per 1 000 live births



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation Mortality Visualization Tool data

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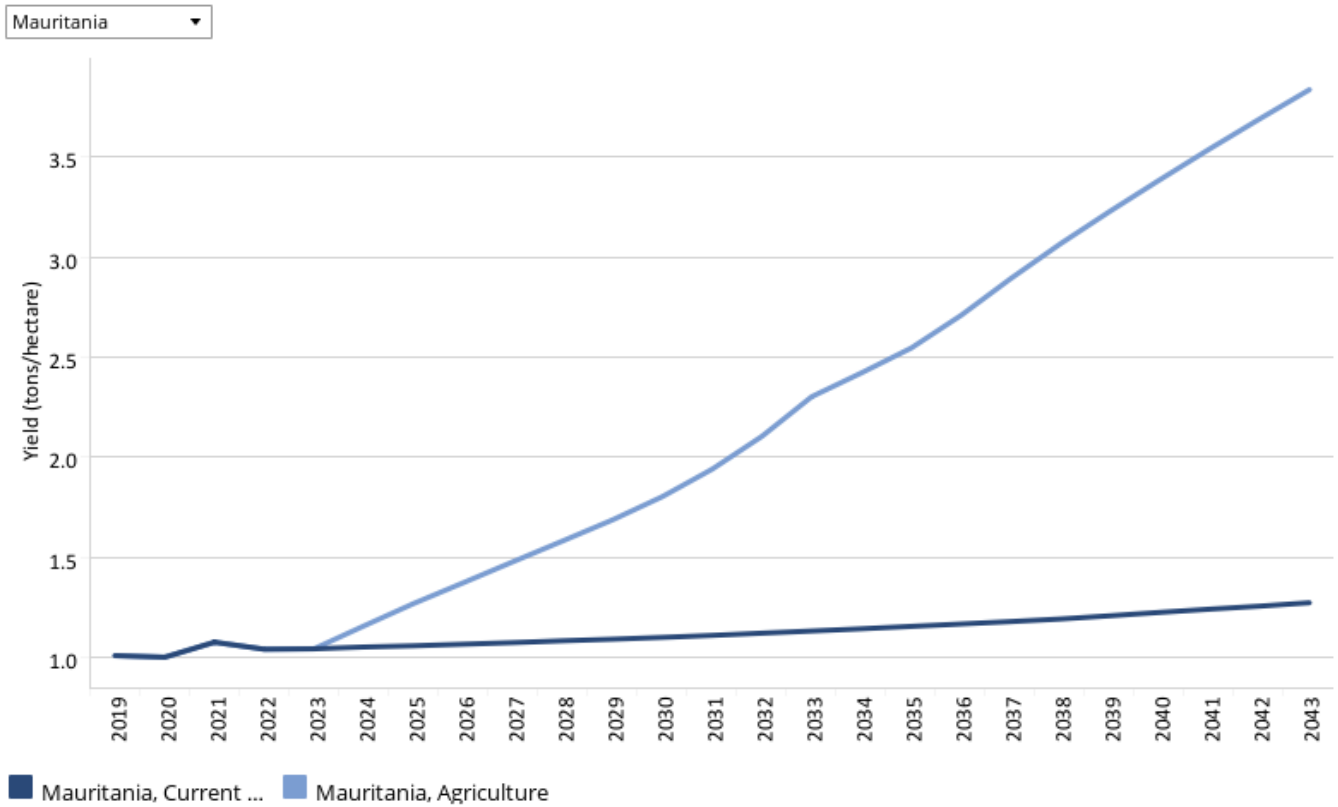
In 2019, Mauritania had an infant mortality rate of 36.6 deaths per 1 000 live births — the highest in North Africa. The interventions in the Health/WaSH scenario reduce Mauritania’s infant mortality to 17.1 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2043, the same as in the Current Path forecast.



Agriculture scenario

Chart 22: Yield/hectare in CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043

Pre-loss levels



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from FAOSTAT on-line statistical service data

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The Agriculture scenario represents reasonable but ambitious increases in yields per hectare (reflecting better management and seed and fertiliser technology), increased land under irrigation and reduced loss and waste. Where appropriate, it includes an increase in calorie consumption, reflecting the prioritisation of food self-sufficiency above food exports as a desirable policy objective.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

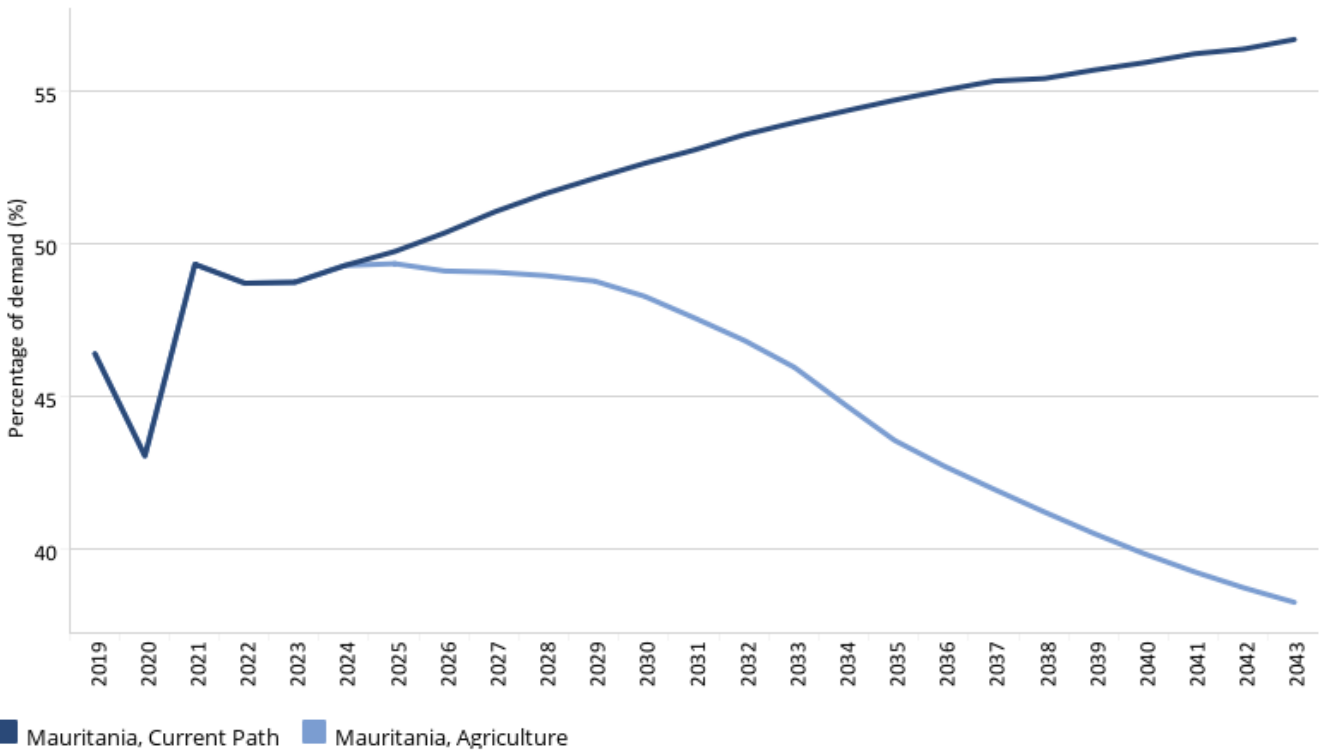
The data on yield per hectare (in metric tons) is for crops but does not distinguish between different categories of crops.

In 2019, yields in Mauritania stood at 1 metric ton per hectare, which is low compared to the average of 5.1 metric tons per hectare of the average for Africa's lower middle-income peer group and an average of 6.5 metric tons per hectare for North Africa as a region. In the Current Path forecast, yields in Mauritania will increase very modestly to 1.3 tons by 2043 — an increase of 30%. In the Agriculture scenario though, they will increase by 280% over the same time period and amount to 3.8 metric tons per hectare. The result is that instead of producing 2.2 million metric tons of crops in 2043, Mauritania would produce 3.3 million metric tons, which is 45% more.

Chart 23: Agriculture imports in CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043
 Net imports for meat, crops and fish, % of demand



Mauritania



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Food and Agriculture Organization Food Balance Sheets data

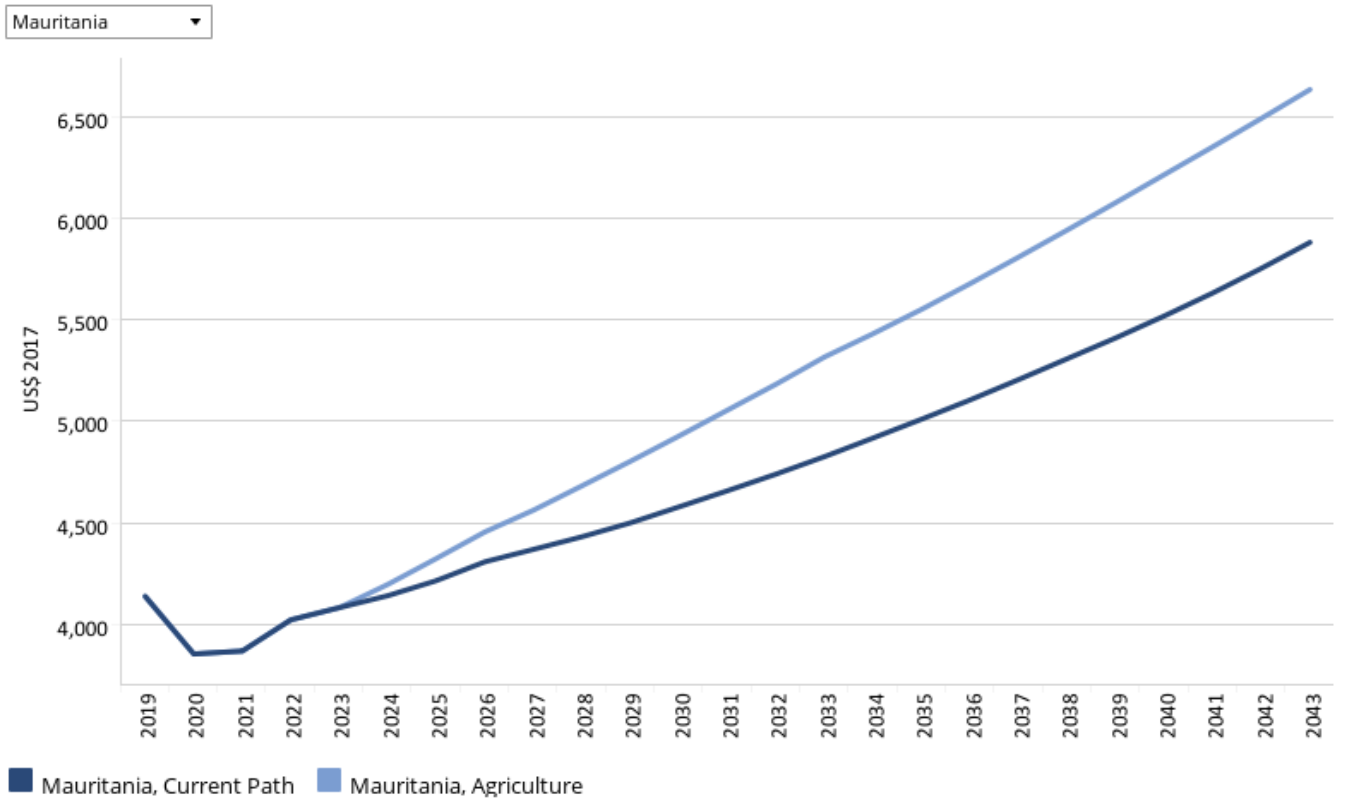
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In 2019, total agricultural demand in Mauritania exceeded production by 1.2 million metric tons. That gap is forecast to become larger, reaching 2.9 million metric tons by 2043 meaning that demand will be growing much faster than production.

In 2019, net agricultural imports accounted for just over 46.4% of agricultural demand. On the Current Path, import dependence is set to increase by more than 10 percentage points as imports are expected to account for 56.7% of demand by 2043. The Agriculture scenario will not reverse this rather extreme situation but improve it. By 2043, import dependence will stand at 38.2% of agricultural demand. The country will produce 64.6 million metric tons of crops, meat and fish, and therefore exceed the expected demand of 50 million metric tons.

Chart 24: GDP per capita in the CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



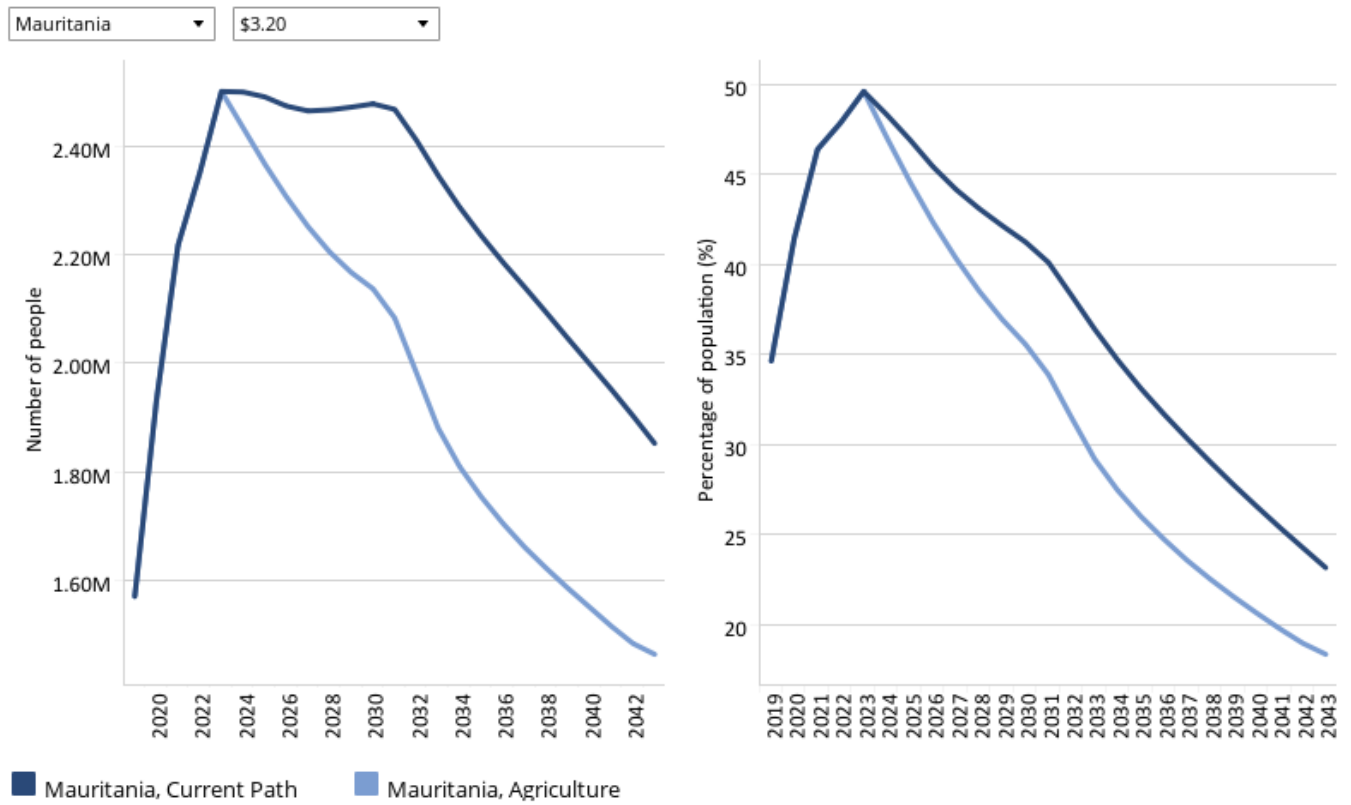
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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The Agriculture scenario will increase the GDP per capita from US\$4 138 to US\$6 632 by 2043, US\$753 more than on the Current Path. In fact, the interventions in the Agriculture scenario are the ones that imply the greatest boost for GDP per capita among the sectoral interventions. However, Mauritania’s GDP per capita will be significantly lower than the average of its lower middle-income peers in Africa, which is expected to be US\$9 582 in the Agriculture scenario.

Chart 25: Poverty in CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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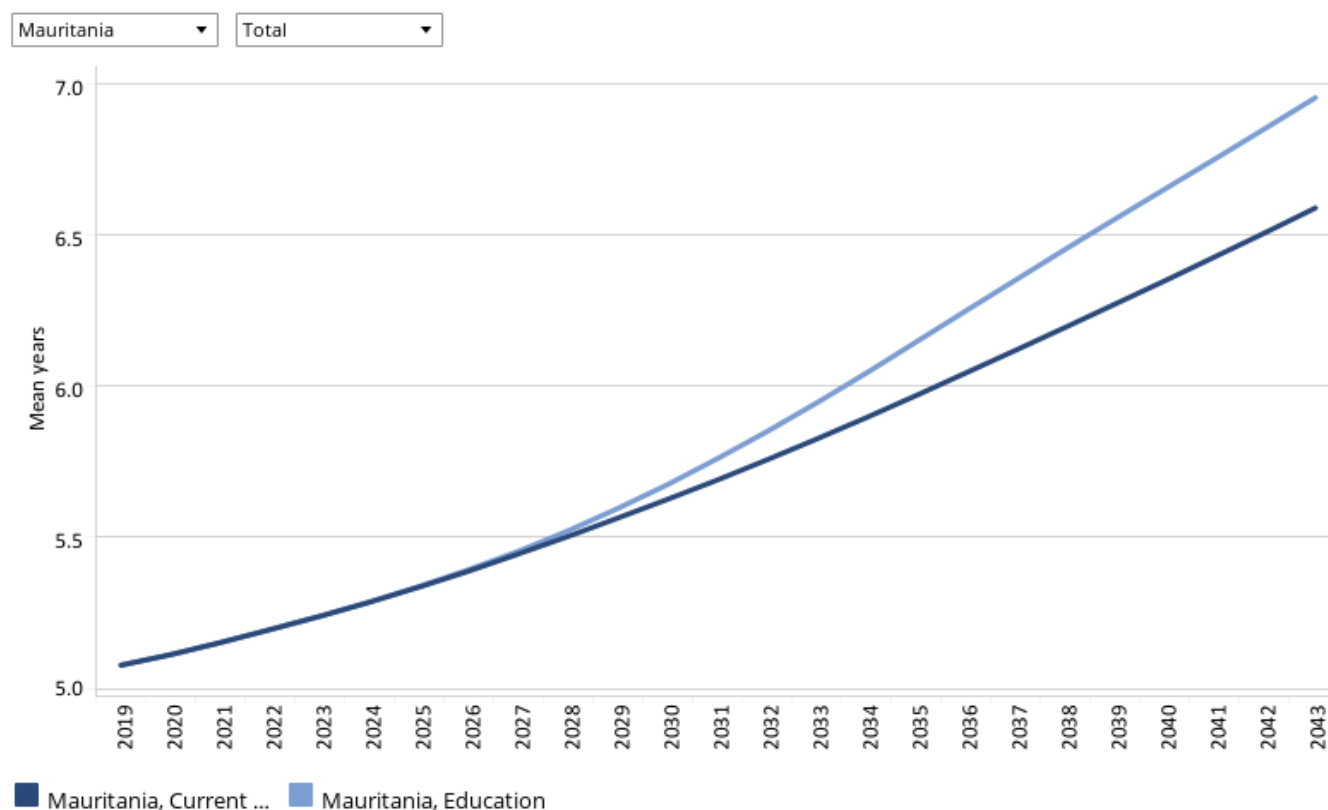
The positive impact of the interventions in the Agriculture scenario on poverty is significant: by 2043, only 18.3% of Mauritania's population will be living in extreme poverty compared to 23.2% in the Current Path forecast. The interventions in the Agriculture scenario imply that by 2043, 1.46 million Mauritanians will live in poverty rather than 1.85 million as projected on the Current Path. Mauritania outperforms its lower middle-income peer group. In the Agriculture scenario, 33.5% of the population is expected to live below the poverty line by 2043. However, Mauritania remains the poorest country in North Africa, followed by Egypt and at great distance Tunisia and Algeria.



Education scenario

Chart 26: Mean years of education in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043

Mean years of adult (+15) education



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Barro-Lee data

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The Education scenario represents reasonable but ambitious improved intake, transition and graduation rates from primary to tertiary levels and better quality of education. It also models substantive progress towards gender parity at all levels, additional vocational training at secondary school level and increases in the share of science and engineering graduates.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

In the Education scenario, the mean years of education increases from 5.1 years in 2019 to 7 years in 2043. This represents an improvement of 0.4 years compared to the Current Path forecast of 6.6 years. Mauritania performs significantly worse than its income peer group with an average mean of 7.2 years of education in 2019 that could increase to 8.8 years by 2043 in the Education scenario. The country also ranks last within North Africa, followed by Morocco.

Girls are disadvantaged in accessing education in Mauritania. In 2019, the mean years of education for the female population was 4.4 years compared to 5.7 years for males. The interventions in the Education scenario would somewhat reduce the gender gap. Females could reach 6.6 mean years of education by 2043 versus 7.3 years for males compared to 7 and 6.2 years, respectively, on the Current Path.

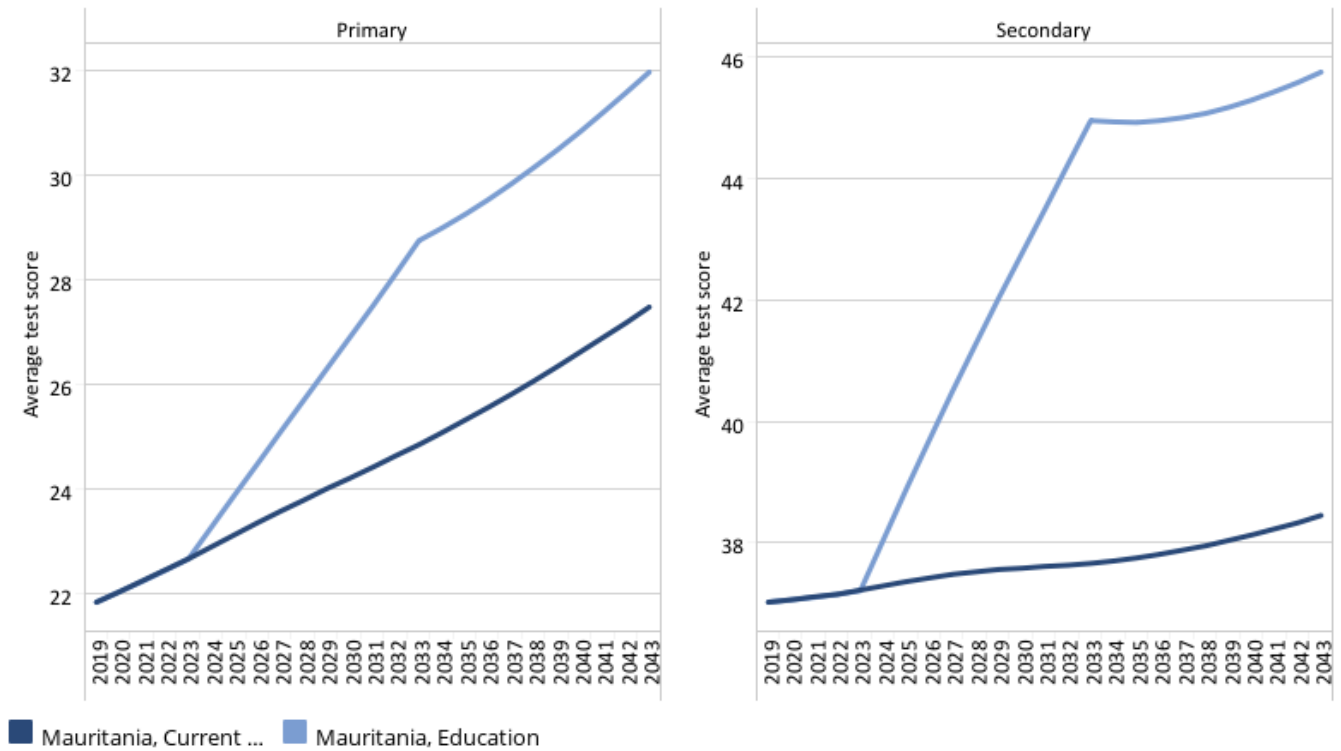
Despite progress in Mauritania's education sector, several challenges persist. Those include low quality basic education,

low access to and quality of secondary education, low transition rates to secondary school, in particular for girls, and the lack of qualified teachers in secondary schools.[2]

Chart 27: Education quality in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043
Average test scores for primary and secondary learners



Mauritania



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Bank EDSTATS

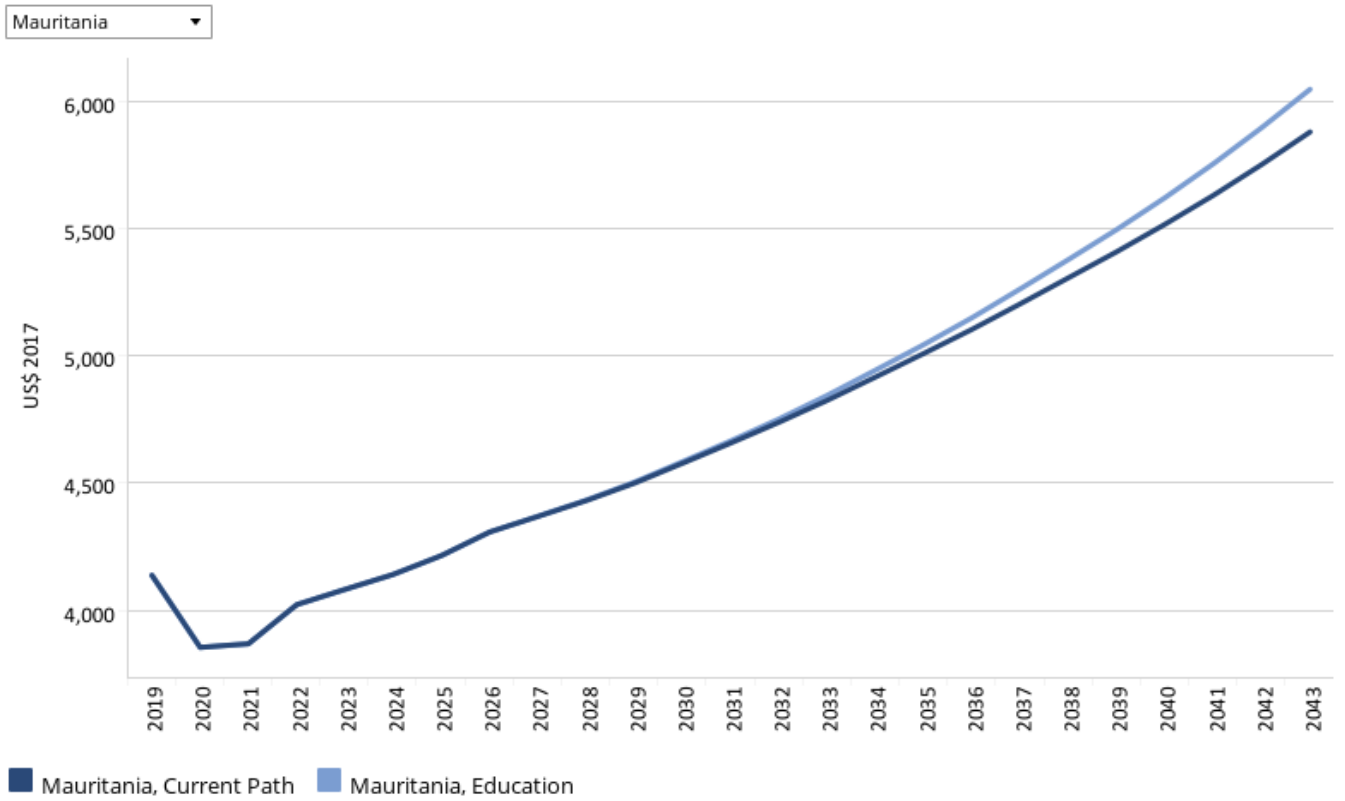
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Mauritania's primary test score in 2019 was 21.8 and therefore much lower than average for Africa's low middle-income countries which was 33.6. On the Current Path, Mauritania will reach a score of 27.5 by 2043 compared to the average score of 35.3 for its peer group. The Education scenario will accelerate progress improving average test scores for primary learners to 32 in 2043.

The average test score for secondary learners in Mauritania was 37, somewhat below the average of 41.7 for its income peer group. It will increase to 38.5 on the Current Path and to 45.8 in the Education scenario.

Chart 28: GDP per capita in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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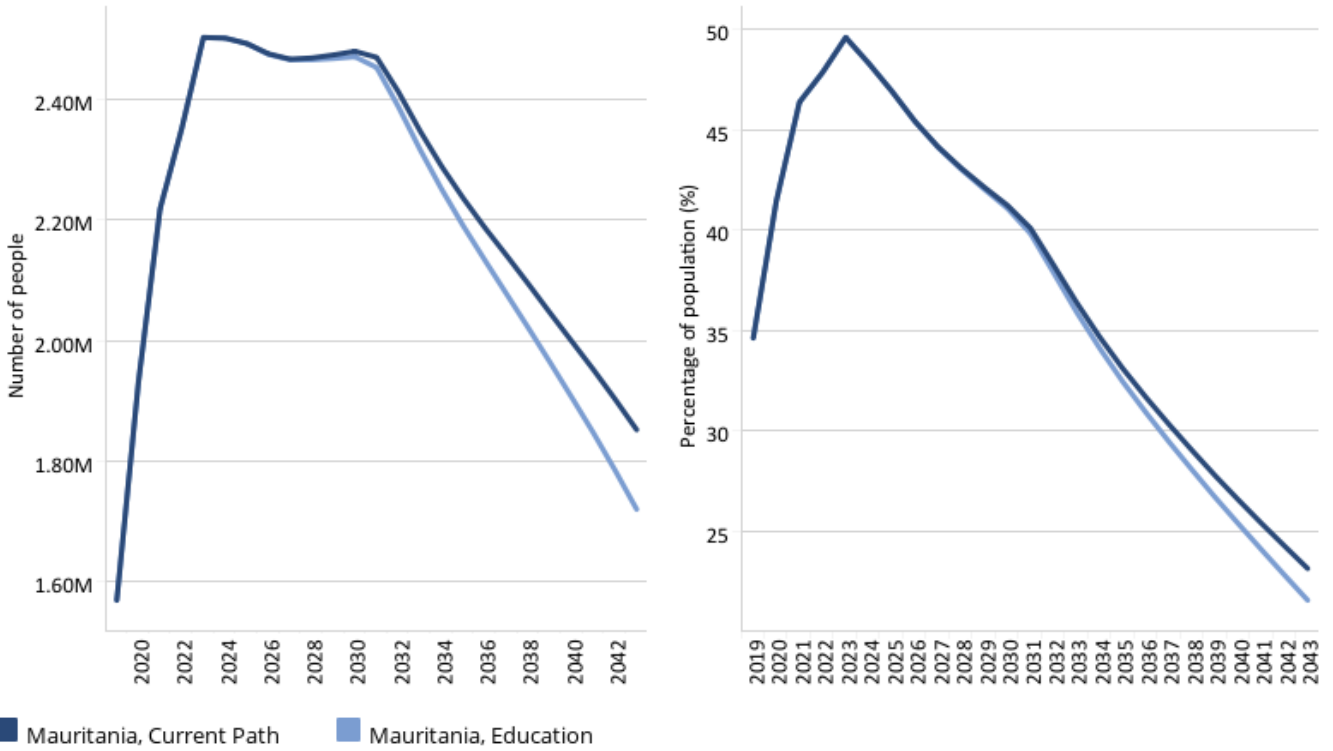
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Mauritania's GDP per capita will increase to US\$5 879 in the Current Path forecast compared to US\$6 047 in the Education scenario — a gain of US\$168.

Chart 29: Poverty in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Mauritania \$3.20



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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In the Education scenario, 21.6% of Mauritania's population will live in extreme poverty by 2043, down from 34.6% in 2019. This translates to 1.72 million poor people in 2043 compared to 1.85 million in the Current Path forecast for 2043.



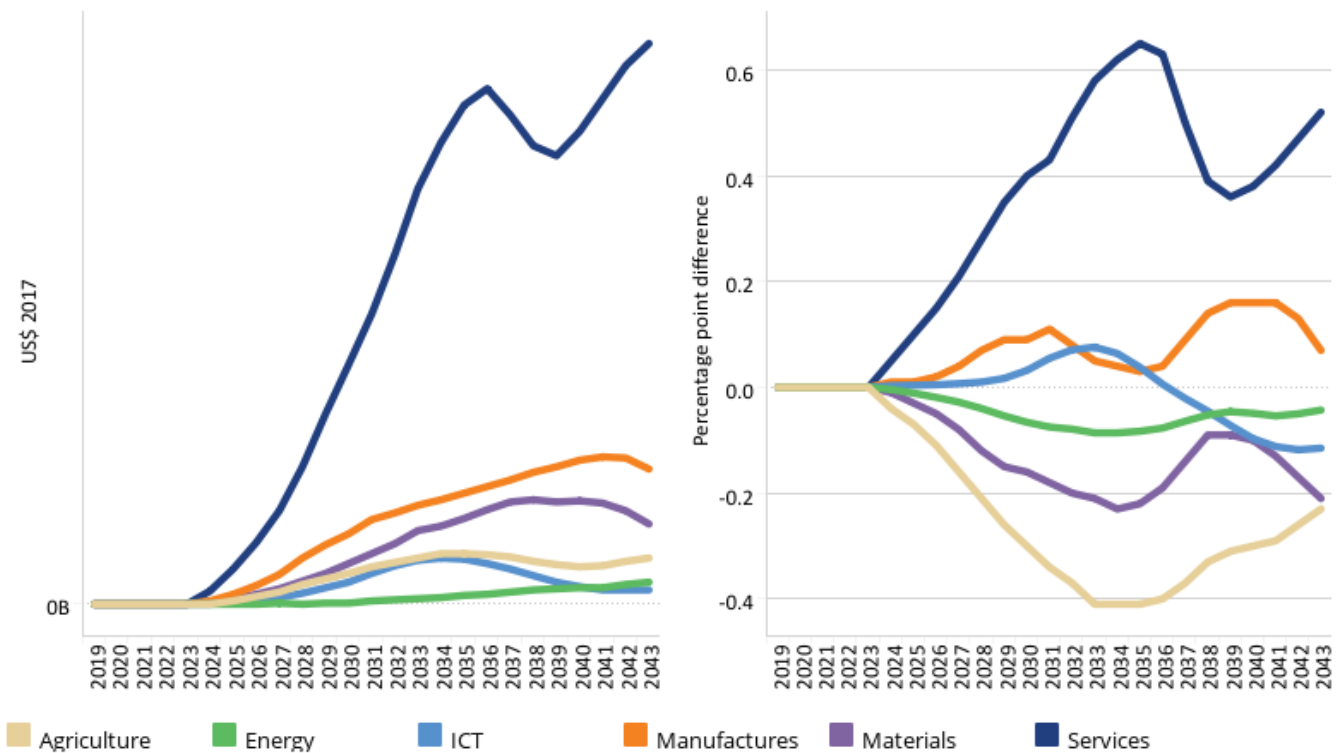
Manufacturing scenario

Chart 30: Value added by sector in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019–2043



Absolute and % point difference GDP

Mauritania



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook database

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The Manufacturing/Transfers scenario represents reasonable but ambitious manufacturing growth through greater investment in the economy, investments in research and development, and promotion of the export of manufactured goods. It is accompanied by an increase in welfare transfers (social grants) to moderate the initial increases in inequality that are typically associated with a manufacturing transition. To this end, the scenario improves tax administration and increases government revenues.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

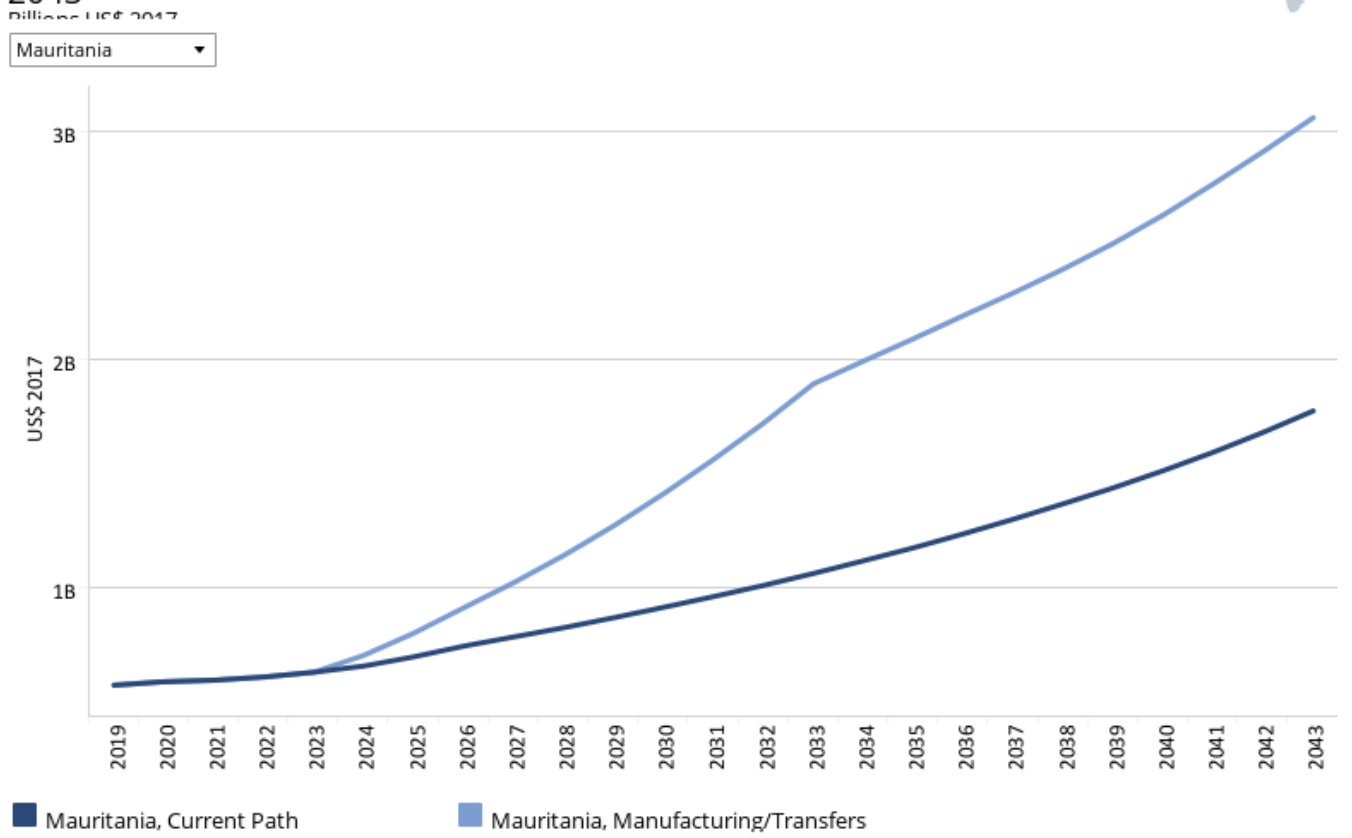
Chart 30 should be read with [Chart 8](#) that presents a stacked area graph on the contribution to GDP and size, in billion US\$, of the Current Path economy for each of the sectors.

In the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario, the service sector will experience the largest gain in terms of its relative contribution to GDP. Its contribution is expected to increase by 0.52 percentage points in 2043. The service sector is followed by the manufacturing sector that will see its relative contribution to GDP increase by 0.07 percentage points in 2043. The increased importance of the service sector is most prevalent between 2034 and 2036.

The value of the service sector is forecast to increase by US\$0.6 billion in the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario compared to the Current Path forecast. The Manufacturing/Transfers scenario will increase the contribution from the manufacturing

sector by US\$0.1 billion in 2043 compared to the Current Path forecast. The contribution of the agriculture sector to GDP is set to drop by 0.23 percentage points. Its value is expected to remain steady.

Chart 31: Gov welfare transfers in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019-2043



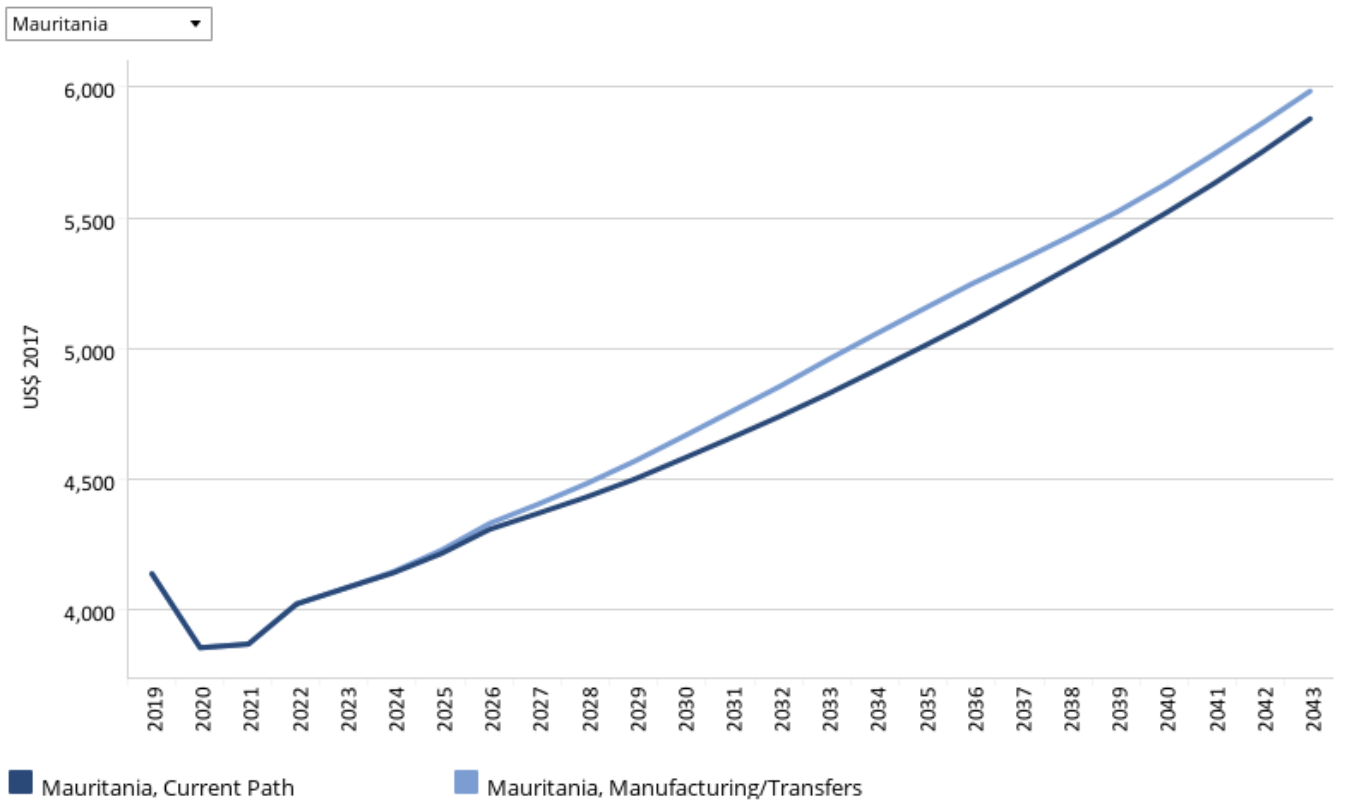
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

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In the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario, government to household welfare transfers will increase more than fivefold over the coming two decades from US\$0.6 billion in 2019 to US\$3.1 billion in 2043. On the Current Path, government to household transfers will grow at a slower rate reaching US\$1.8 billion in 2043. On both trajectories, Mauritania’s level of government to household transfers is significantly lower than the average for its African income peer group which stood at US\$5 billion in 2019 and will reach US\$12.7 billion versus US\$18.6 billion in the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario and the Current Path forecast, respectively.

Chart 32: GDP per capita in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

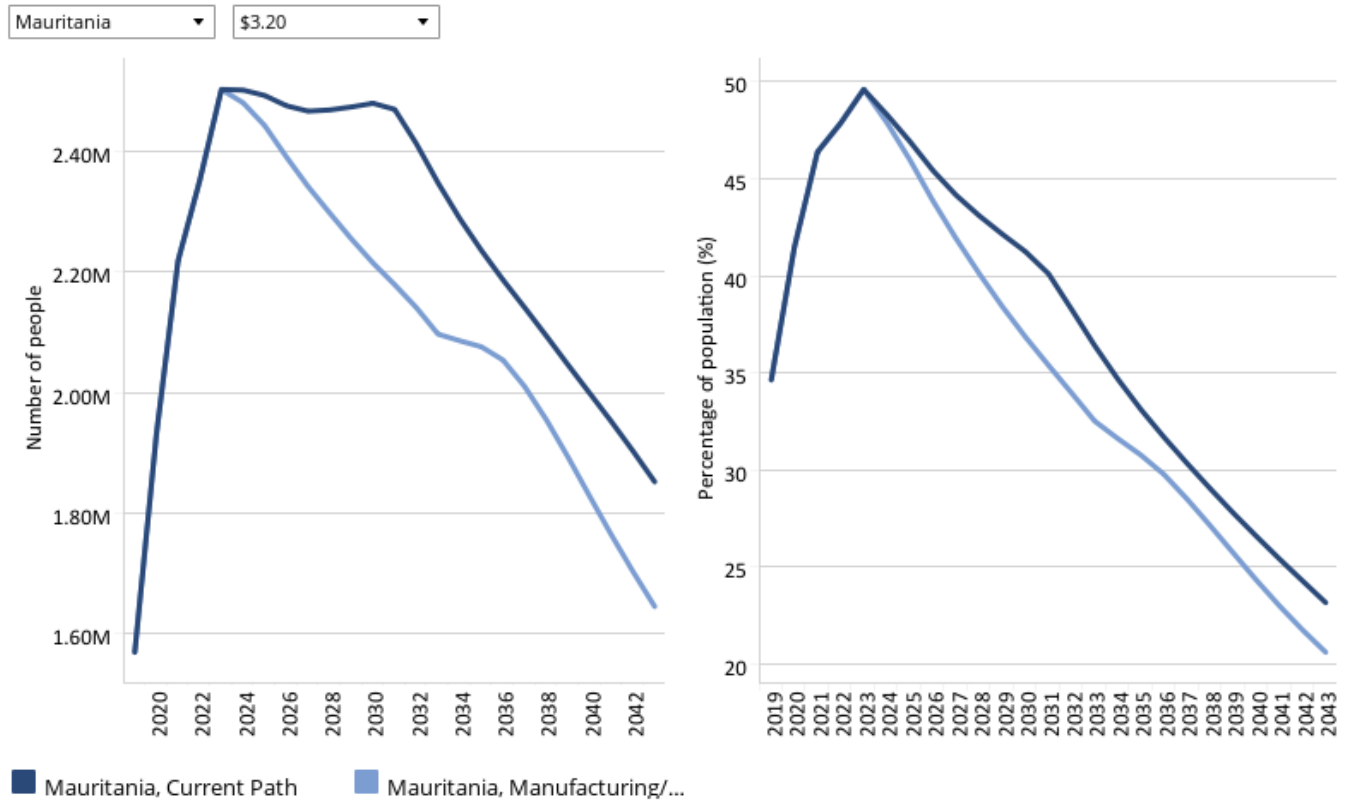
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Mauritania's GDP per capita will increase by US\$160 in the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario and reach US\$6 047 compared to US\$5 876 on the Current Path in 2043.

Chart 33: Poverty in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019–2043

Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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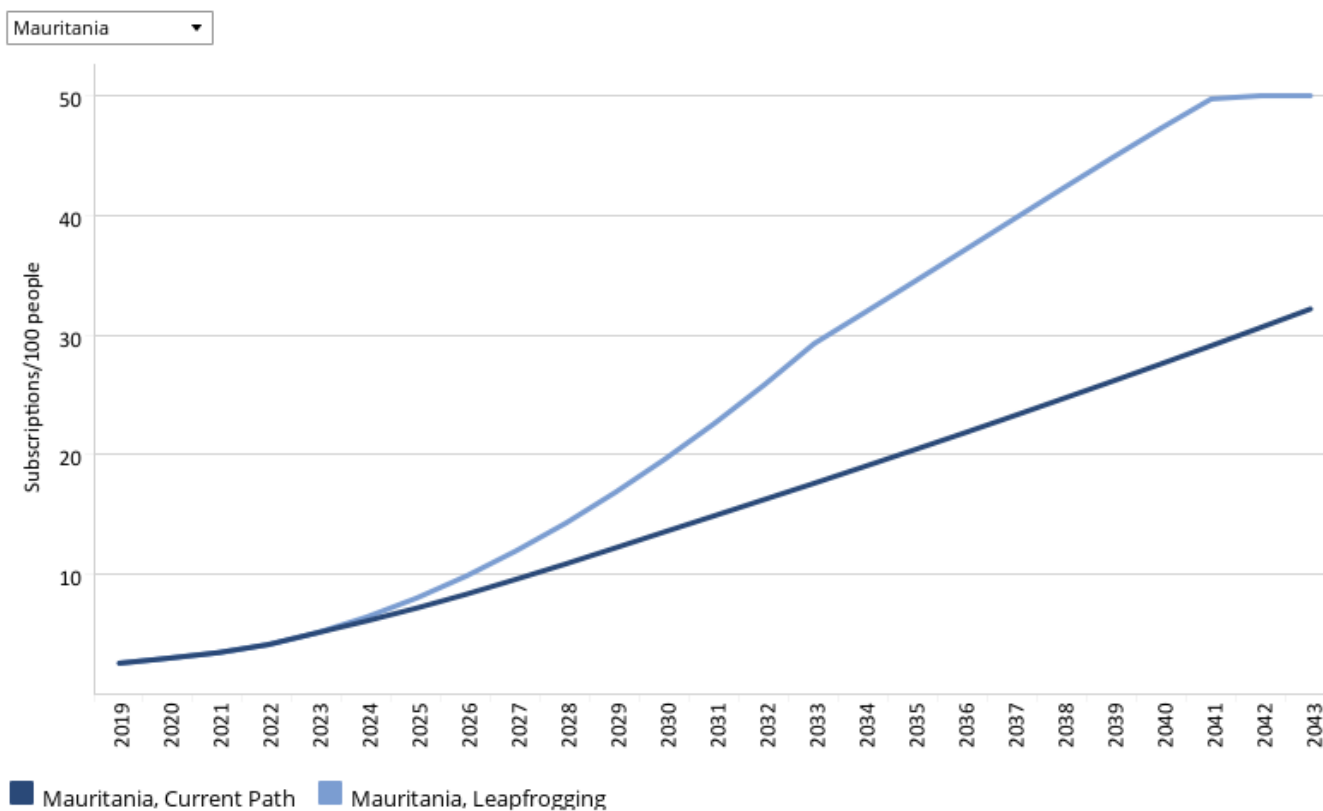
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The Manufacturing/Transfers scenario will reduce the share of Mauritians living below the poverty line from 34.6% in 2019 to 20.6% in 2043 compared to 23.2% in the Current Path forecast. This represents a 2.6 percentage point improvement that will translate to 200 000 people escaping poverty in 2043 in the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario.



Leapfrogging scenario

Chart 34: Fixed broadband access in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043
Subscriptions per 100 people



Source: IFS 7.63 initialising from International Telecommunication Union data

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The Leapfrogging scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious adoption of and investment in renewable energy technologies, resulting in better access to electricity in urban and rural areas. The scenario includes accelerated access to mobile and fixed broadband and the adoption of modern technology that improves government efficiency and allows for the more rapid formalisation of the informal sector.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

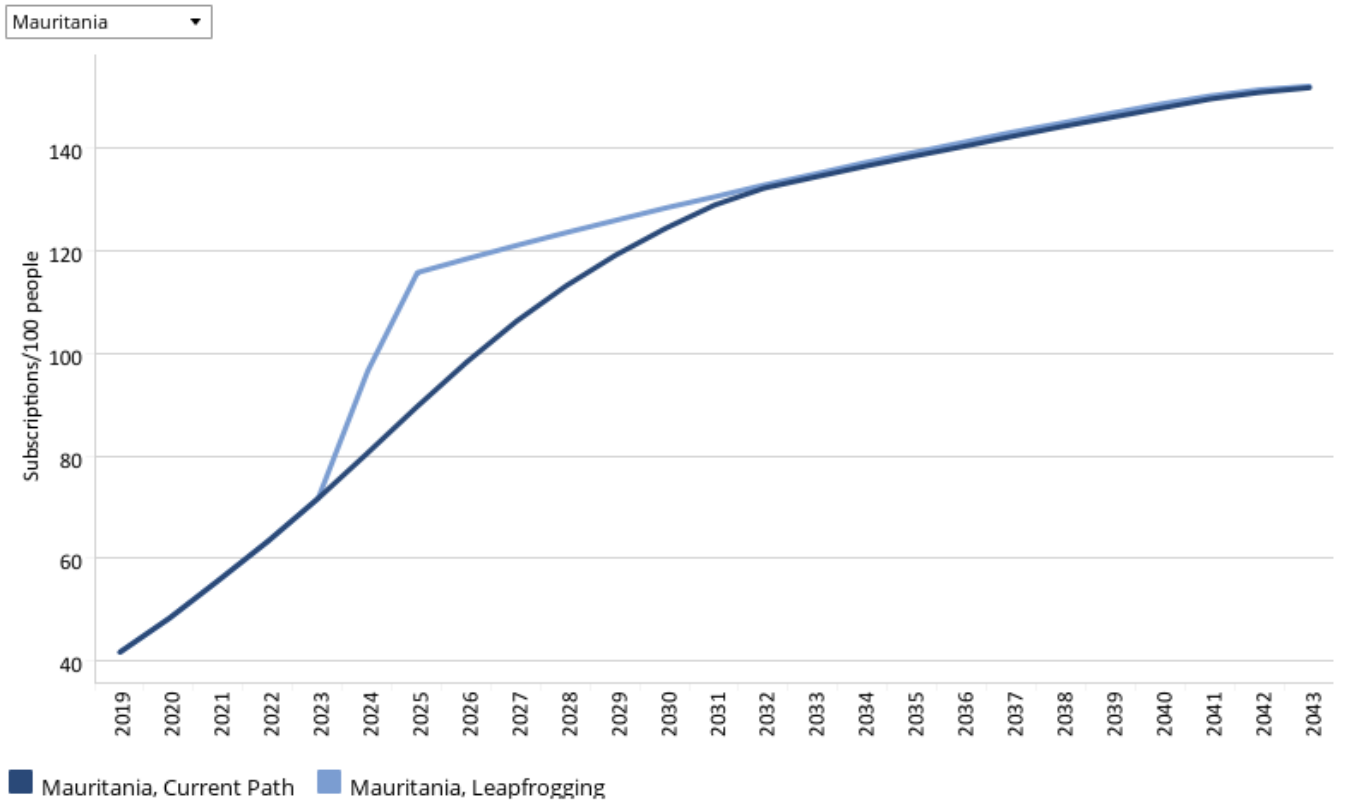
Fixed broadband includes cable modem Internet connections, DSL Internet connections of at least 256 KB/s, fibre and other fixed broadband technology connections (such as satellite broadband Internet, ethernet local area networks, fixed-wireless access, wireless local area networks, WiMAX, etc.).

Fixed broadband access positively impacts economic growth, enabling communities to interact and share information, and spur on innovation as people and businesses connect to other Internet users across the world. Increasing Internet access through fixed broadband access has driven economic growth in the various parts of the world, as detailed in the Leapfrogging scenario.

Mauritania, like most African lower middle-income countries, had a very low fixed broadband rate of 2.6 subscriptions per 100 people in 2019. In the Leapfrogging scenario, fixed broadband is set to increase more than nineteen-fold to 50

subscriptions per 100 people by 2043, though still a very low number. On the Current Path, the subscription rate will increase to only 32.2 subscriptions per 100 people.

Chart 35: Mobile broadband access in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043
Subscriptions per 100 people



Source: IFS 7.63 initialising from International Telecommunication Union data

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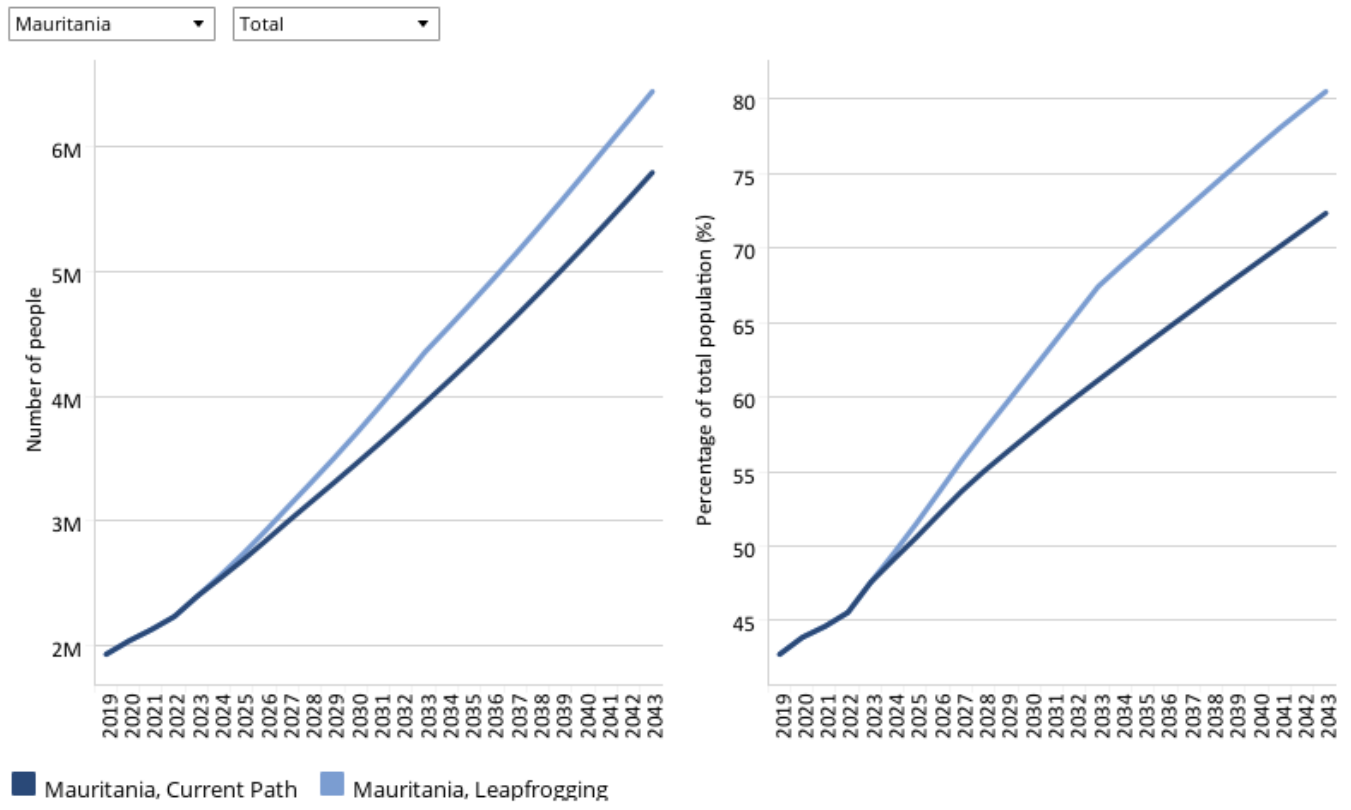
Mobile broadband refers to wireless Internet access delivered through cellular towers to computers and other digital devices.

As the Leapfrogging theme explains, the advantage of cellular Internet access is the low cost compared to fixed broadband access, allowing more people to benefit from Internet access. Not only does mobile phone usage spur innovation through increased communication and exposure to multiple sources of information, but it also enables people to document instances of election tampering or police abuse, which would previously have been very difficult.

In 2019, Mauritania had a mobile broadband subscription rate of 41.7 subscriptions per 100 people, a rate that is somewhat lower than the average of 49.1 subscriptions per 100 people for Africa’s lower middle-income economies. Mauritania ranks 13th within its peer group.

Mobile broadband in Mauritania will increase rapidly and reach 129 subscriptions per 100 persons by 2031 on the Current Path versus 130.6 subscriptions in the Leapfrogging scenario forecast. The difference between the Leapfrogging scenario and the Current Path forecast is greatest between 20254 and 2030. Thereafter, subscriptions increase more slowly as the saturation effect sets in, reaching 152 subscriptions per 100 people by 2043. In other words, mobile broadband subscriptions will increase either way but the Leapfrogging scenario accelerates this development by a couple of years.

Chart 36: Electricity access in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of population

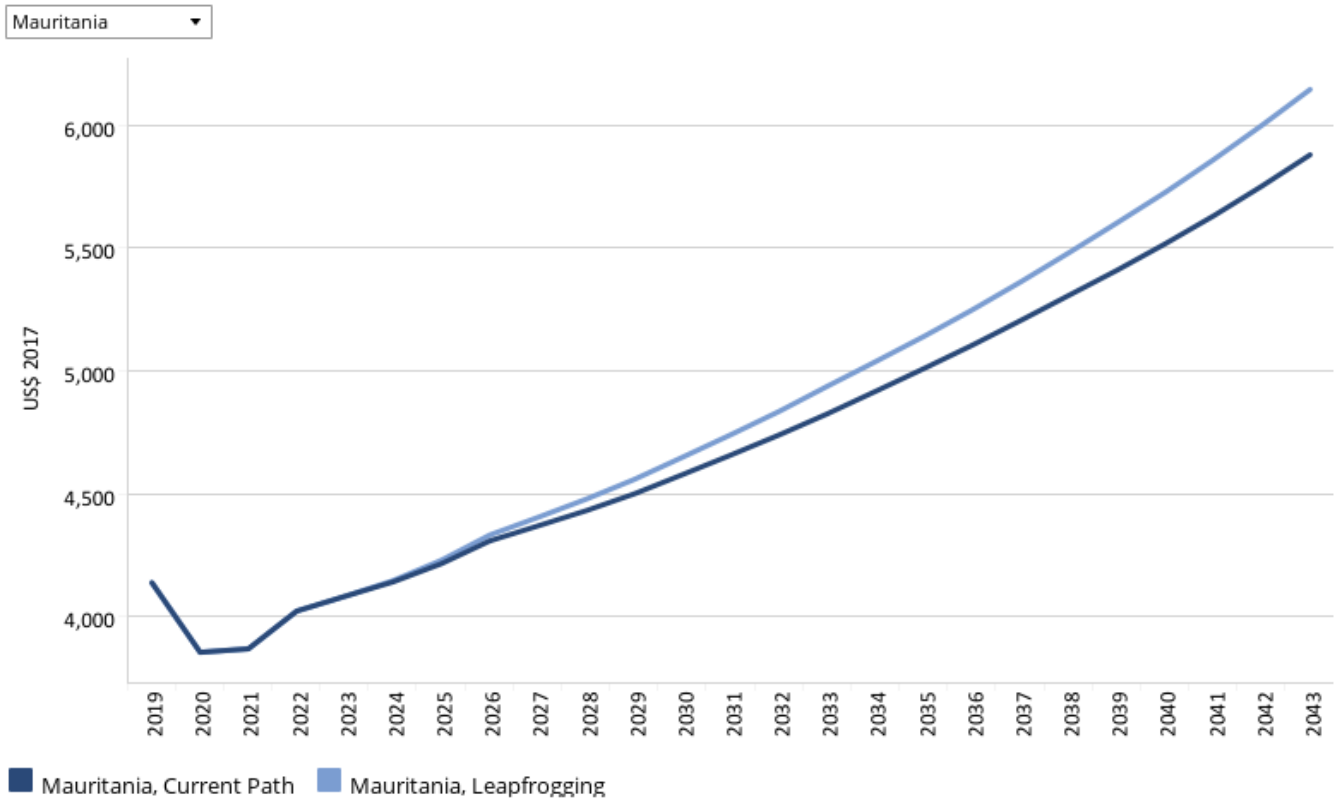


Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

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In 2019, 1.9 million people in Mauritania had access to electricity which was equivalent to an access rate of 42.7%. In the Leapfrogging scenario, 80.5% of the population is expected to have access to electricity by 2043 compared to 72.3% in the Current Path. The urban–rural divide is significant in Mauritania, and the interventions in the Leapfrogging scenario will reduce the gap from a 70 percentage point difference to a 33.4 percentage point difference between the urban and the rural access rate.

Chart 37: GDP per capita in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



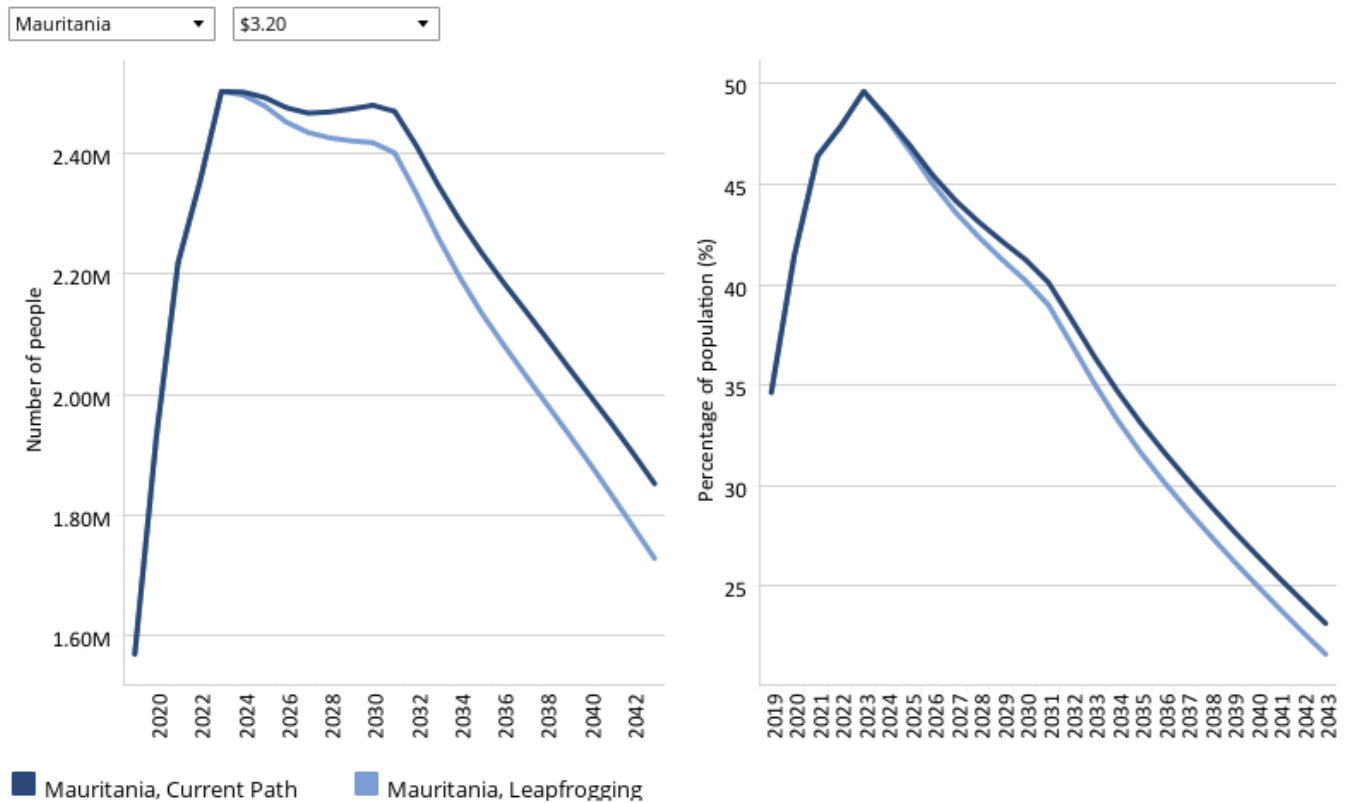
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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In the Leapfrogging scenario, Mauritania’s GDP per capita will increase from US\$4 138 in 2019 to US\$6 145 compared to US\$5 879 on the Current Path — a difference of US\$266. In the Leapfrogging scenario, Africa’s lower middle-income economies will on average have a GDP per capita of US\$9 619 by 2043, which is 57% higher than Mauritania’s.

Chart 38: Poverty in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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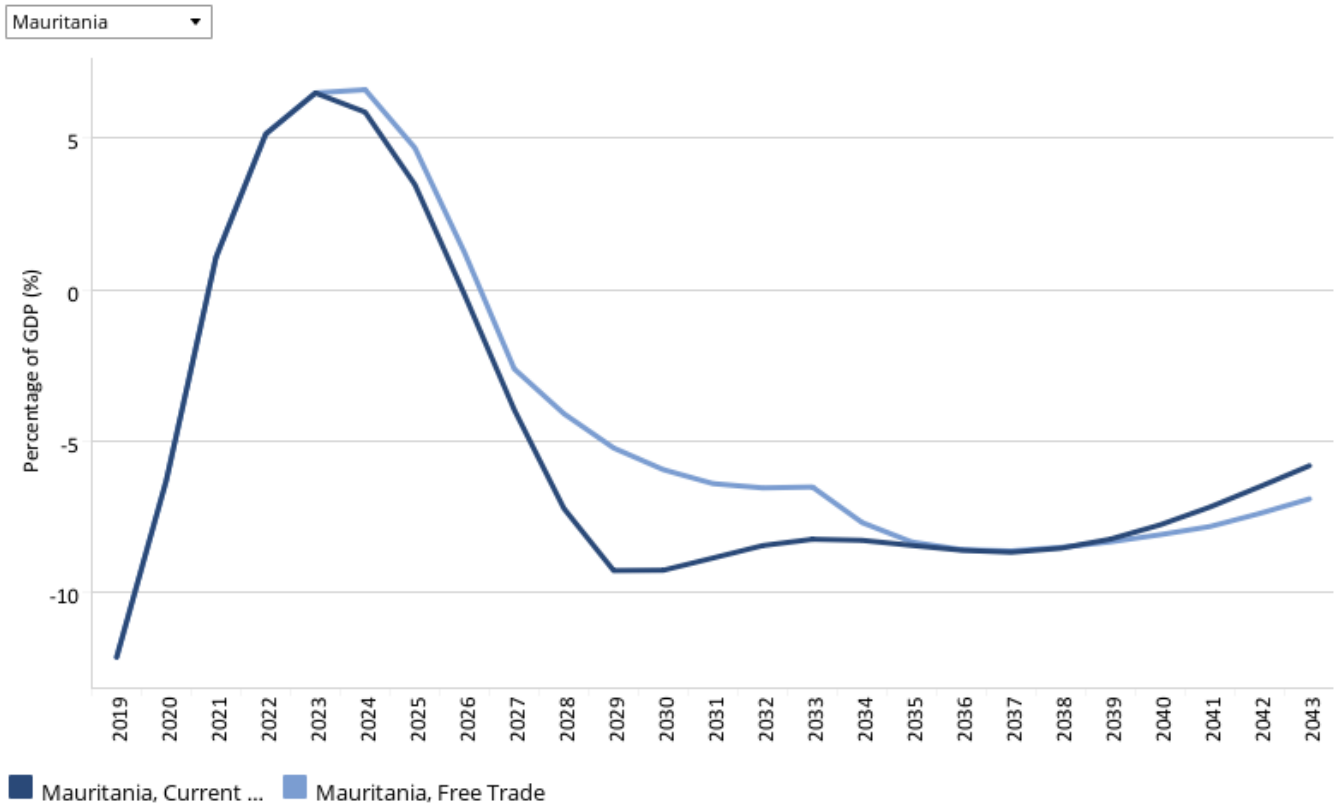
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The interventions in the Leapfrogging scenario are projected to benefit poverty reduction efforts in Mauritania. The share of the population living below the US\$3.20 poverty line will drop by 13 percentage points from 34.6% in 2019 to 21.6% by 2043 compared to 23.2% on the Current Path trajectory. When assessing absolute numbers, the Leapfrogging scenario will reduce the number of people living in poverty to 1.73 million versus the projected 1.85 million in the Current Path forecast. The average poverty rate for Mauritania’s lower middle-income peer group in the Leapfrogging scenario is 36%.



Free Trade scenario

Chart 39: Trade balance in CP and Free Trade scenario, 2019–2043
% of GDP



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

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The Free Trade scenario represents the impact of the full implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by 2034 through increases in exports, improved productivity and increased trade and economic freedom.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

The trade balance is the difference between the value of a country's exports and its imports. A country that imports more goods and services than it exports in terms of value has a trade deficit, while a country that exports more goods and services than it imports has a trade surplus.

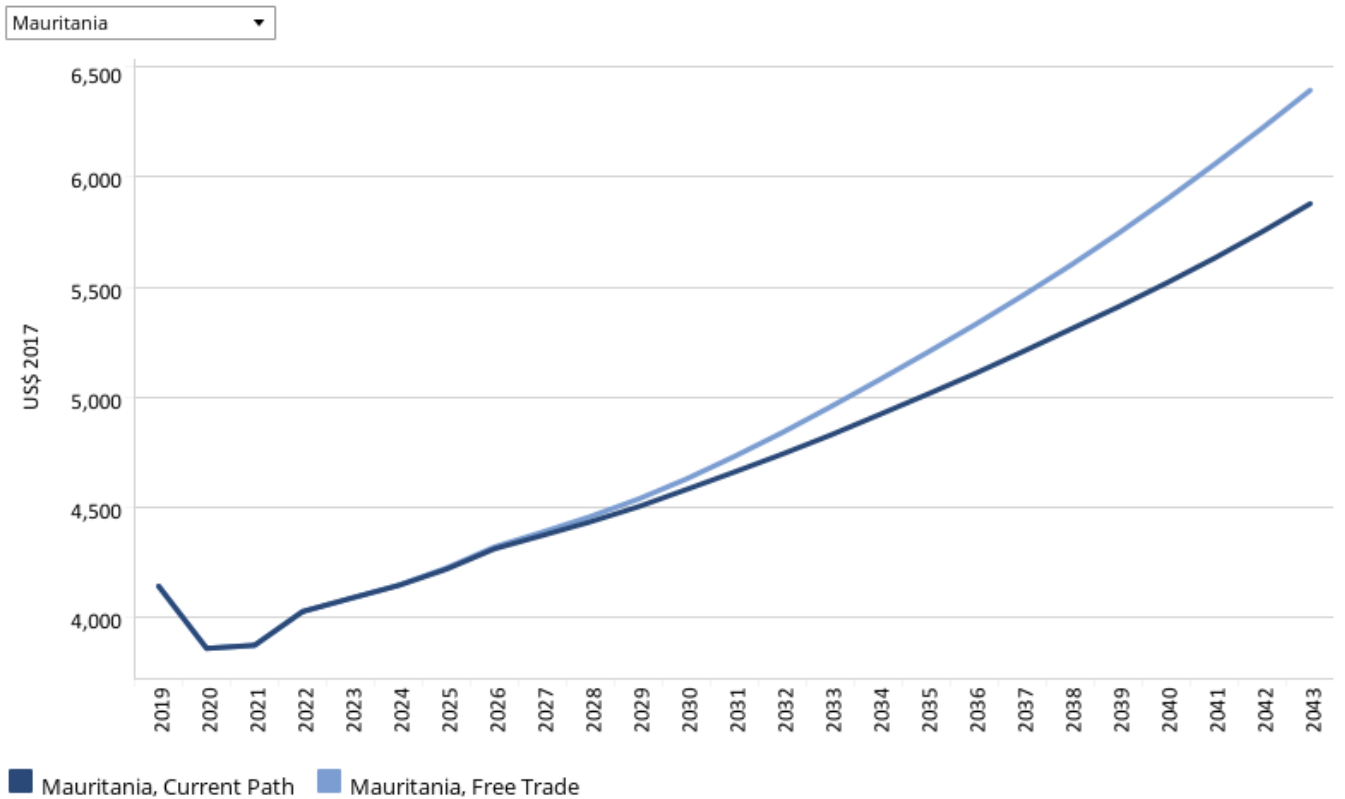
In 2019, Mauritania's major trading partner countries for exports were China, Spain, Japan, Russia and Italy, and for imports they were the UAE, Spain, China, Belgium and France.[3] Mauritania imports more than it exports and hence has a negative trade balance. The country's 2019 trade deficit stood at 12.1% of GDP. In the Free Trade scenario, that deficit will reduce significantly until 2030 when it will stand at 5.9% of GDP. Thereafter, the deficit begins to grow again reaching 6.9% of GDP in 2043. In the Current Path forecast, the path is similar although the trade deficit is forecast to be smaller in the medium term and higher in the longer term reaching 5.8% of GDP by 2043.

The implementation of the AfCFTA in the Free Trade scenario reduces the short-term trade deficit for Mauritania versus the Current Path forecast. However, between 2039 and 2043, the trade deficit will be lower on the Current Path than in the

Free Trade scenario.

Chart 40: GDP per capita in CP and Free Trade scenario, 2019–2043

Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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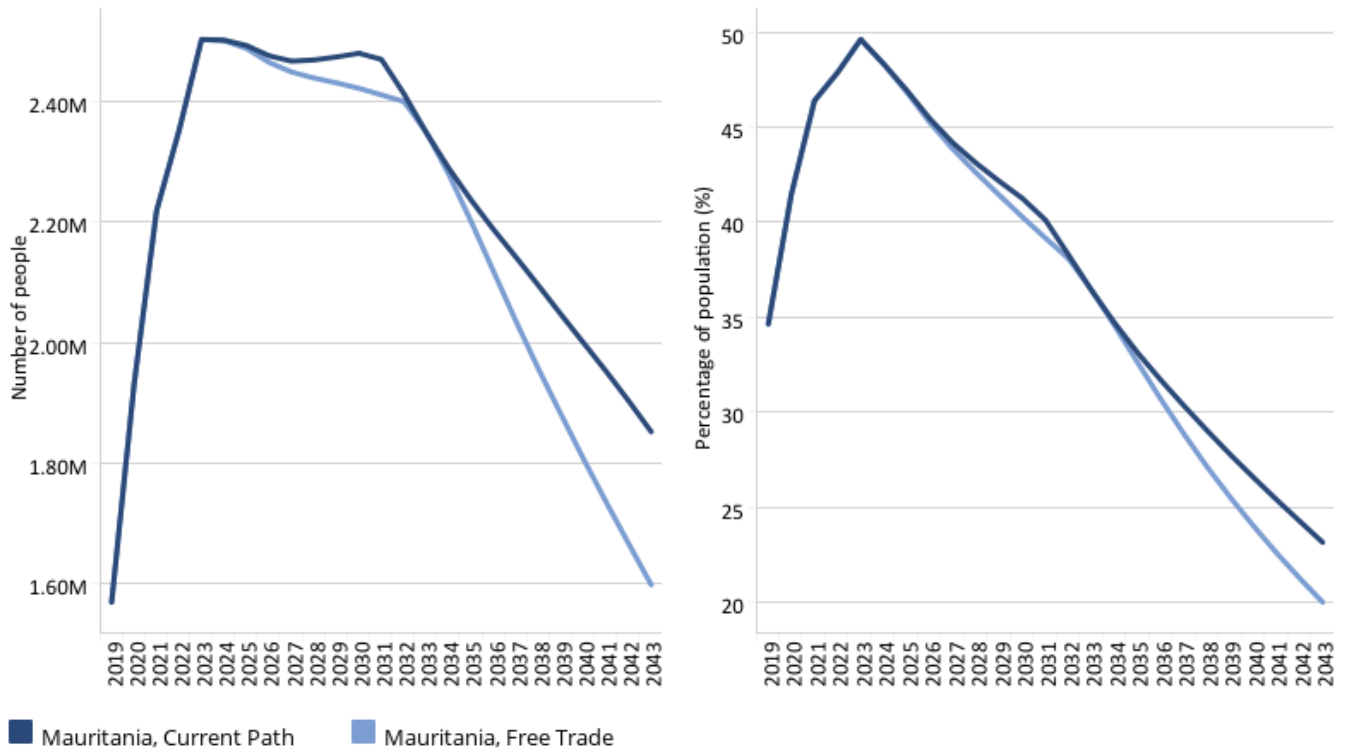
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The GDP per capita is projected to increase to US\$5 879 on the Current Path versus US\$6 396 in the Free Trade scenario — a gain of US\$517. The Free Trade scenario interventions result in the second greatest boost to Mauritania’s GDP per capita among the sectoral interventions after the Agriculture scenario. The average GDP per capita for Africa’s lower middle-income peer group will reach US\$10 050 in the Free Trade scenario.

Chart 41: Poverty in CP and Free Trade scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Mauritania \$3.20



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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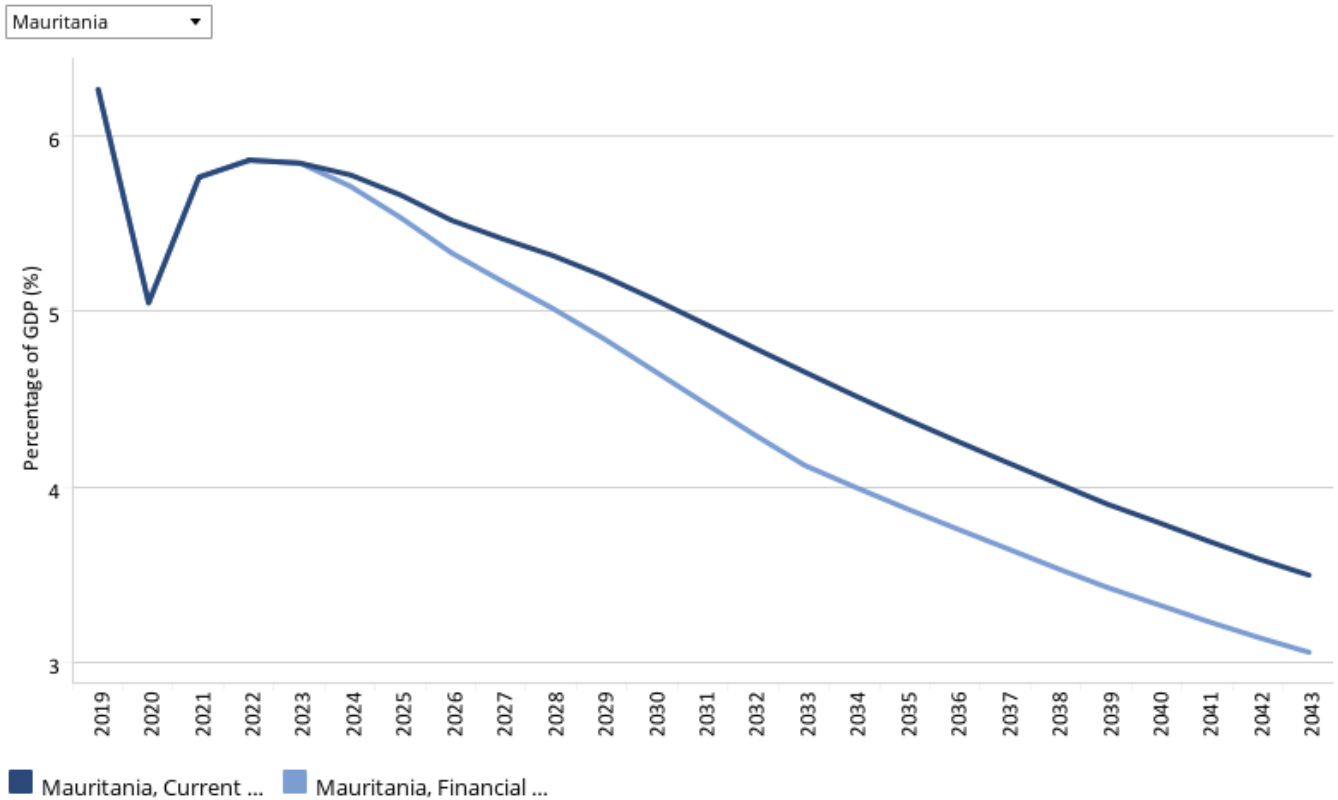
Trade openness will reduce poverty in the long term after initially increasing it due to the redistributive effects of trade. Most African countries export primary commodities and low-tech manufacturing products, and therefore a continental free trade agreement (AfCFTA) that reduces tariffs and non-tariff barriers across Africa will increase competition among countries in primary commodities and low-tech manufacturing exports. Countries with inefficient, high-cost manufacturing sectors might be displaced as the AfCFTA is implemented, thereby pushing up poverty rates. In the long term, as the economy adjusts and produces and exports its comparatively advantaged (lower relative cost) goods and services, poverty rates will decline.

In the Free Trade scenario, poverty in Mauritania will decrease more rapidly. By 2043, 20% of the population will live in poverty in the Free Trade scenario compared to 23.2% in the Current Path forecast. The 3.2 percentage point difference translates to 250 000 Mauritians who will escape poverty as a result of the interventions in the Free Trade scenario.



Financial Flows scenario

Chart 42: Foreign aid in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043 % of GDP



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Development Assistance Committee of the OECD data, and World Bank and OECD GNI estimates.

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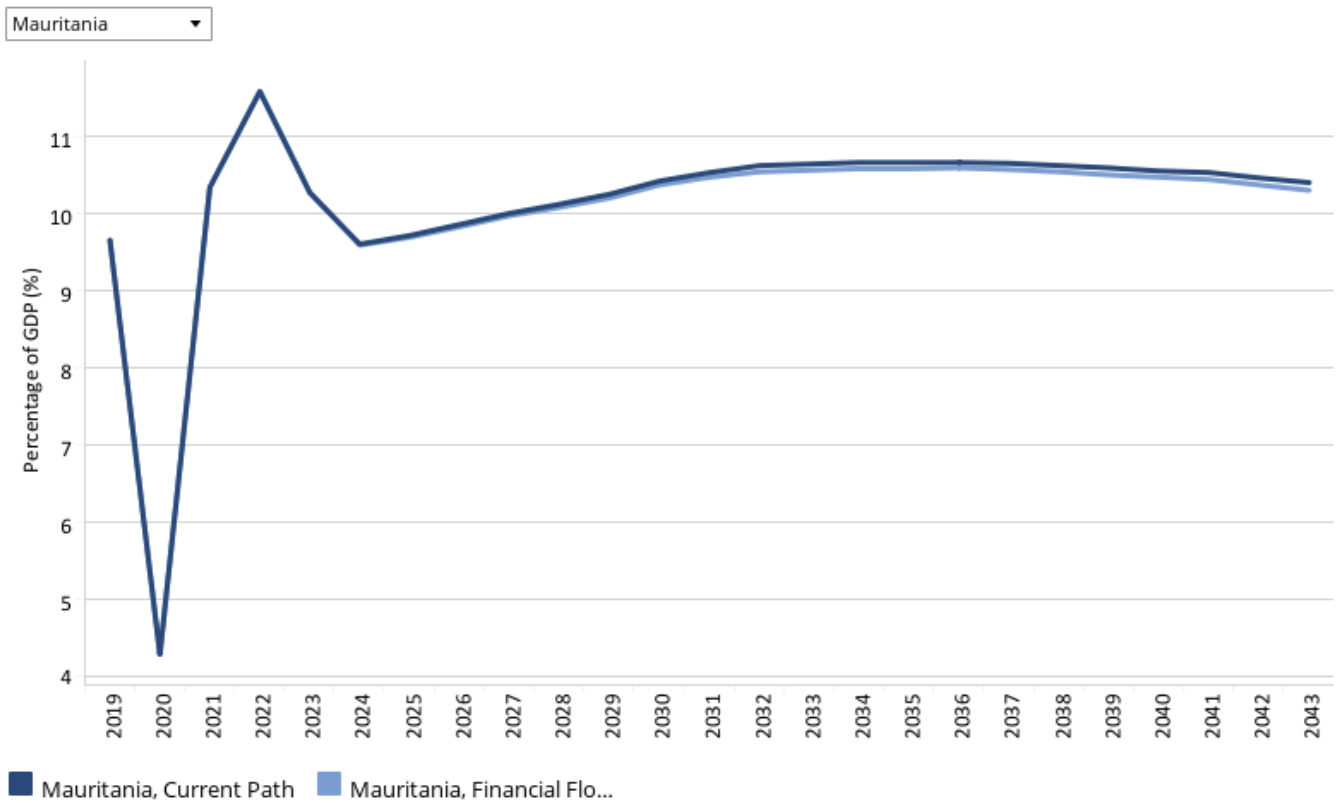
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The Financial Flows scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious increase in worker remittances and aid flows to poor countries, and an increase in the stock of foreign direct investment (FDI) and additional portfolio investment inflows to middle-income countries. We also reduced outward financial flows to emulate a reduction in illicit financial outflows.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

Compared to the average for Africa's lower middle-income countries of 1.67%, foreign aid accounted for a much higher share of GDP in Mauritania at 6.26% in 2019. In fact, the country ranks fifth out of 23 lower middle-income economies on the continent in terms of aid receipts as a percentage of GDP. In both the Current Path forecast and the Financial Flows scenario, the contribution of foreign aid to GDP is projected to fall to 3.5% of GDP on the Current Path and to 3.1% in the Financial Flows scenario.

Chart 43: Inflow of FDI in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043
% of GDP



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook database

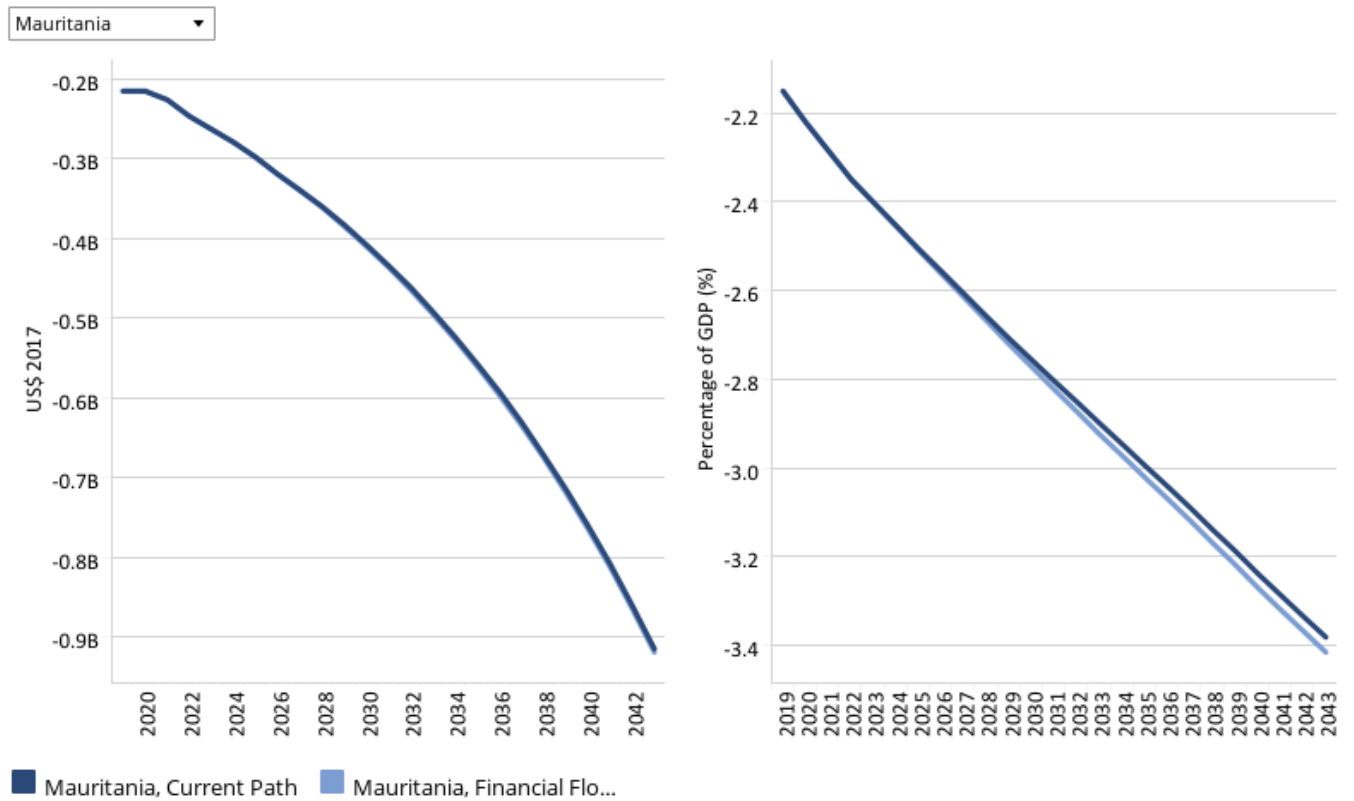
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FDI flows to Mauritania accounted for 9.6% of GDP in 2019. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on FDI flows manifested in the sharp drop to 4.3% in 2020. In the Financial Flows scenario, FDI as a share of GDP is projected to recover and even surpass pre-pandemic levels. By 2043, FDI flows are expected to account for 10.3% of Mauritania’s GDP. However, on the Current Path, inflows are expected to be slightly higher accounting for 10.4% of GDP. In Africa’s lower middle-income economies, FDI is set to account for 4% in the Financial Flows scenario and for 3.5% on the Current Path.

Chart 44: Remittances in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043

Billions US\$ 2017 and % of GDP



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

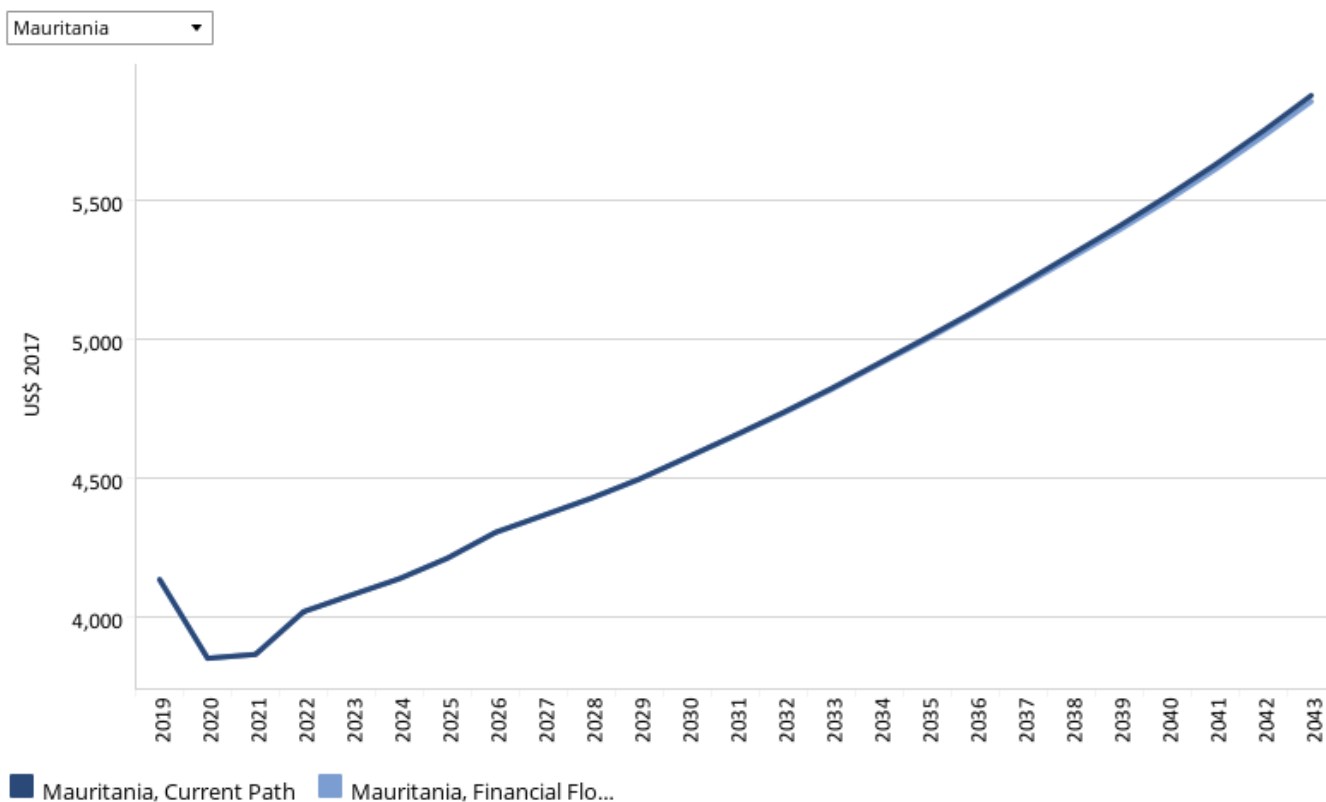
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In 2019, remittance inflows to Mauritania accounted for 2.2% of GDP which means that outflows surpassed inflows and that Mauritania is a net sender of remittances. In both the Current Path forecast and the Financial Flows scenario, remittances will drop to 3.4% of GDP. However, in absolute terms, remittances will increase from US\$7.1 billion in 2019 to US\$8.8 billion by 2043, respectively — US\$0.8 billion more than in the Current Path forecast.

The group of Africa’s lower middle-income economies shows the same trend. On average, the absolute volume of remittances will increase, but their relative contributions to GDP will decrease from about 2.6% in 2019 to 2% in 2043 in the Current Path forecast and 2.3% in 2043 in the Financial Flows scenario.

Chart 45: GDP per capita in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



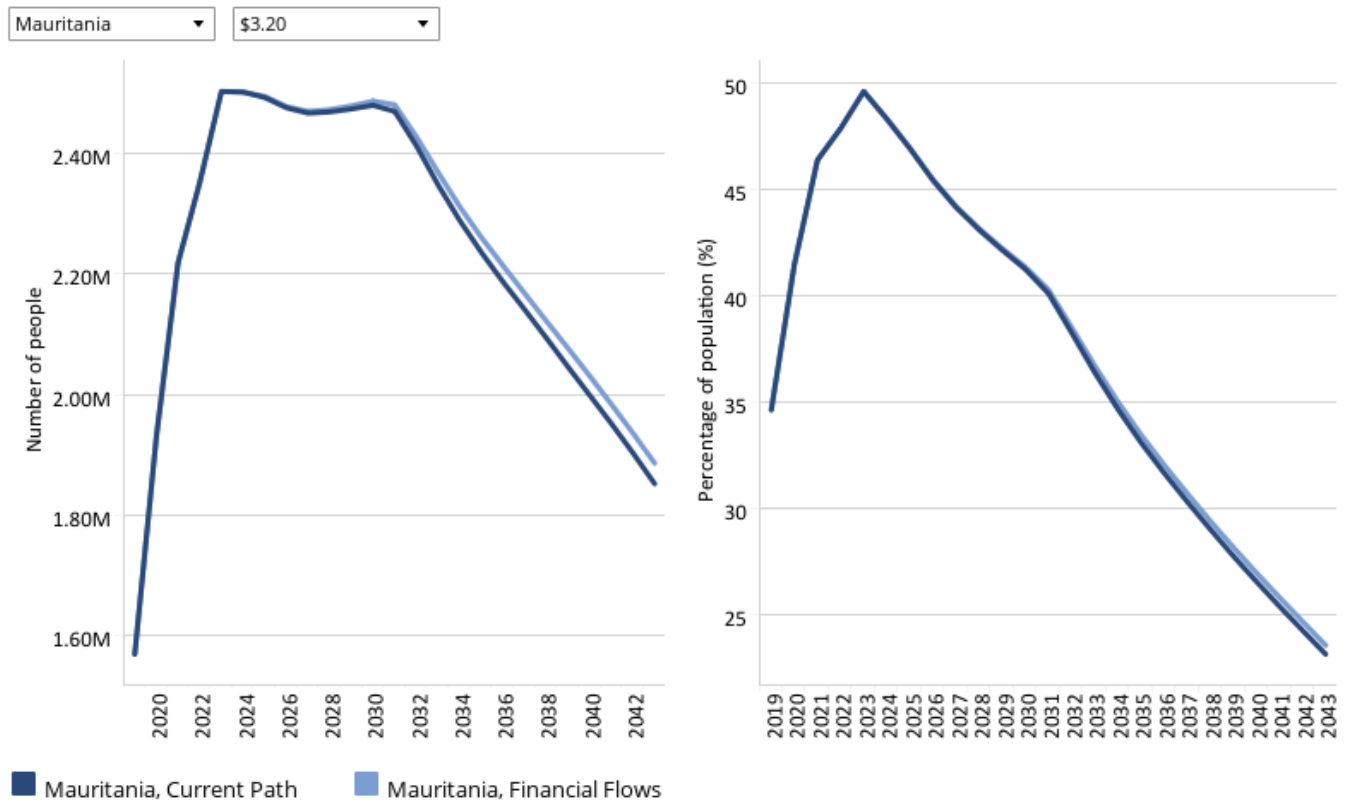
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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In the Financial Flows scenario, Mauritania’s GDP per capita will increase to US\$5 858. This represents a gain of US\$21 compared to the US\$5 879 in the Current Path forecast.

Chart 46: Poverty in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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The interventions in the Financial Flows scenario will increase the share of Mauritians living in extreme poverty to 23.6% by 2043 compared to 23.2% in the Current Path forecast. This translates to about 40 000 more people who will live in poverty in the Financial Flows scenario by 2043 compared to the Current Path forecast.



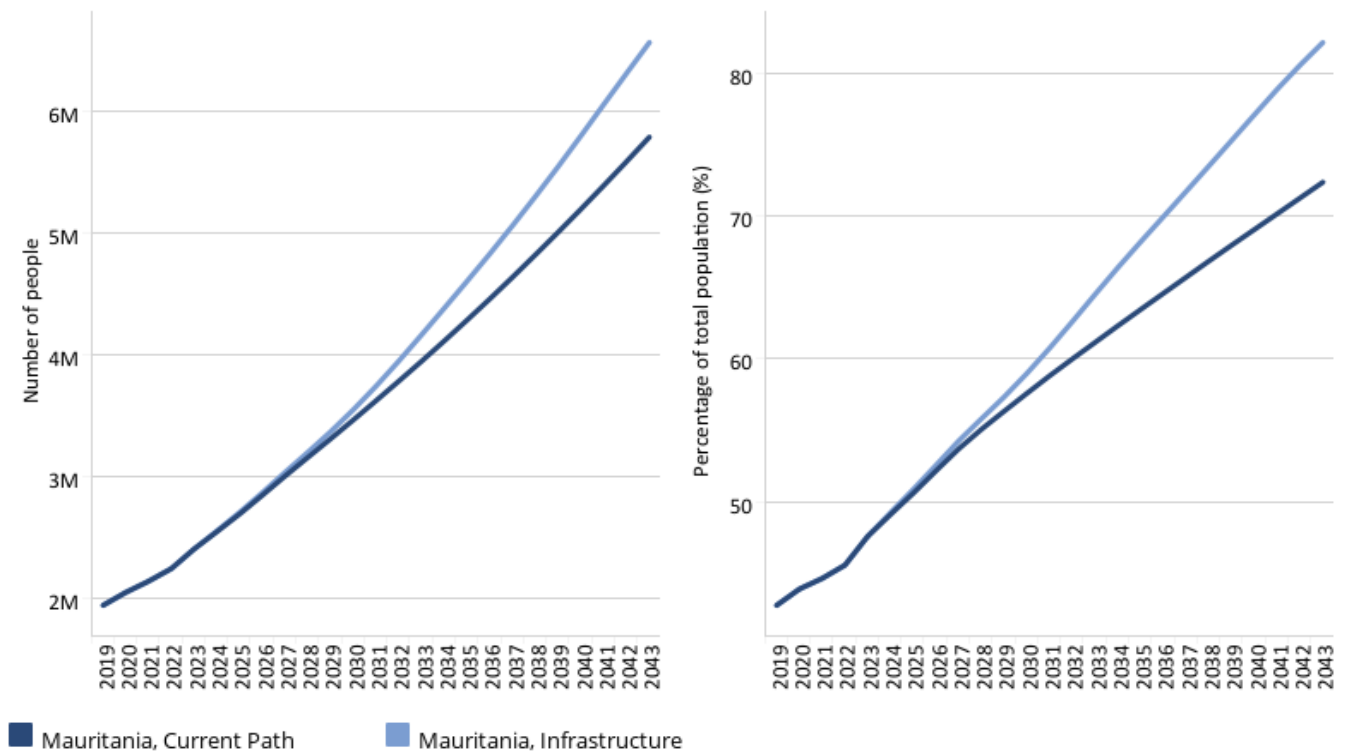
Infrastructure scenario

Chart 47: Electricity access in CP and Infrastructure scenario, 2019–2043

Millions of people and % of population



Mauritania Total



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

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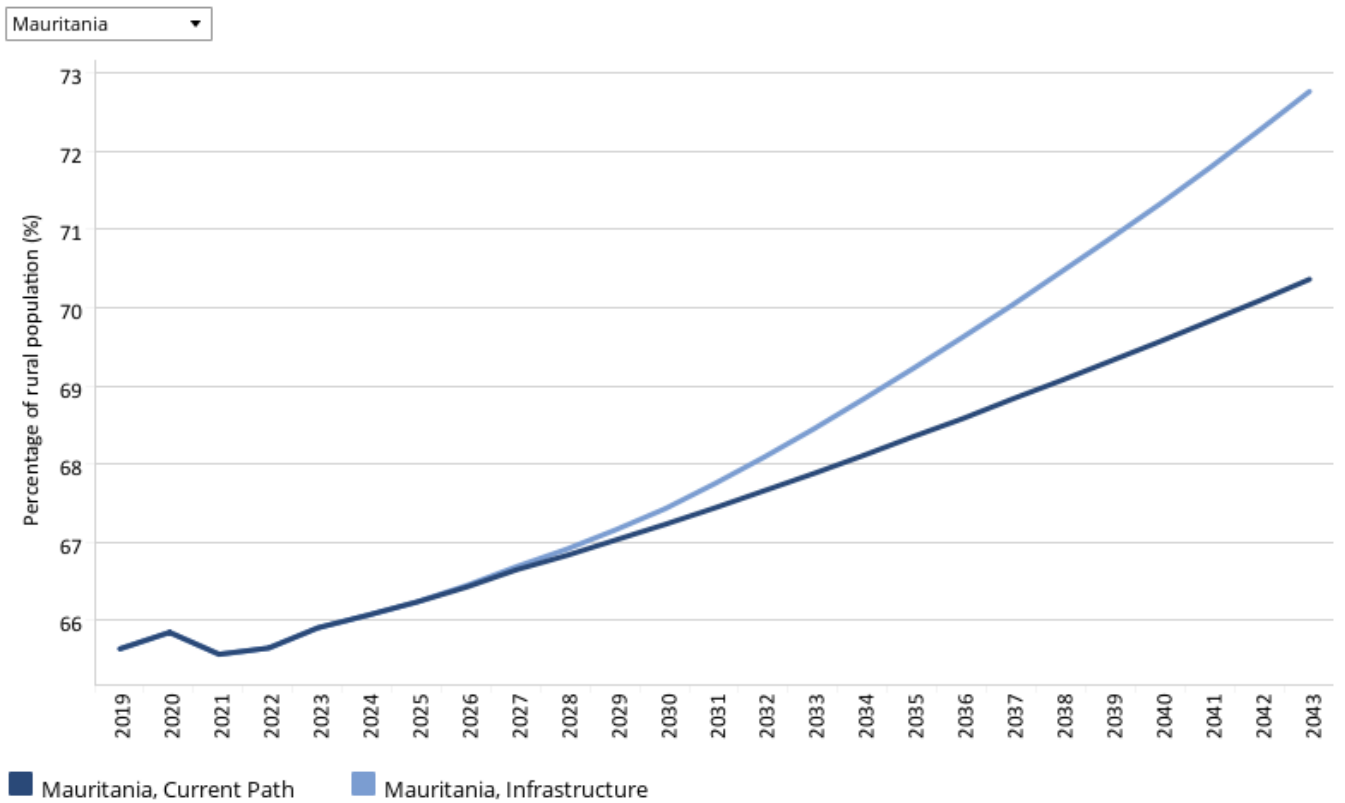
The Infrastructure scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious increase in infrastructure spending across Africa, focusing on basic infrastructure (roads, water, sanitation, electricity access and ICT) in low-income countries and increasing emphasis on advanced infrastructure (such as ports, airports, railway and electricity generation) in higher-income countries.

Note that health and sanitation infrastructure is included as part of the Health/WaSH scenario and that ICT infrastructure and more rapid uptake of renewables are part of the Leapfrogging scenario. The interventions there push directly on outcomes, whereas those modelled in this scenario increase infrastructure spending, indirectly boosting other forms of infrastructure, including those supporting health, sanitation and ICT.

The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

In 2019, 1.9 million people in Mauritania had access to electricity, equivalent to 42.7% of the population. In urban areas, electricity access is much higher than in rural areas: 75.1% versus 5.1%. With the Infrastructure scenario, overall, 82.1% of the population are expected to have access to electricity by 2043 compared to 72.3% on the Current Path. The rural-urban divide will reduce significantly with near universal electricity access in urban areas (91.8%) and 61.3% access rate in rural parts of Mauritania.

Chart 48: Rural road access in CP and Infrastructure scenario, 2019–2043
 % of rural population within 2 km of an all-weather road



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Bank Rural Access Index data

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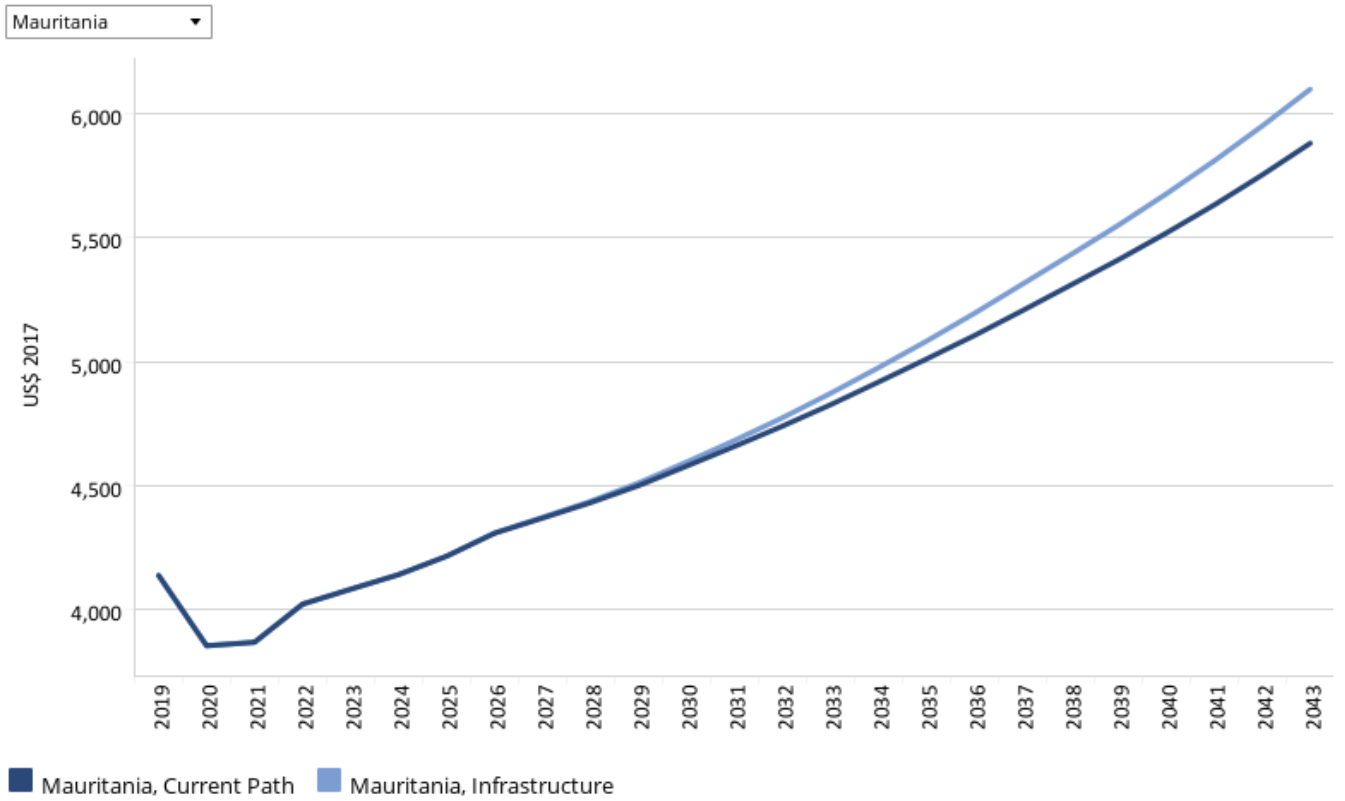
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Indicator 9.1.1 in the Sustainable Development Goals refers to the proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road and is captured in the Rural Access Index.

Investments in rural road infrastructure are associated with positive socio-economic impacts, such as increased rural incomes and poverty reduction, improving maternal health as well as paediatric health and increased agricultural productivity. In 2019, 65.6% of Mauritania’s rural population had access to an all-weather road. This is 4.2 percentage points above the average access rate for Africa’s lower middle-income economies at 61.4% even if 10.2 percentage points below the average for North Africa as a region.

The Infrastructure scenario will accelerate improvements in rural road access in Mauritania. By 2043, 72.8% of the rural population will have access to an all-weather road compared to 70.4% in the Current Path forecast.

Chart 49: GDP per capita in CP and Infrastructure scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



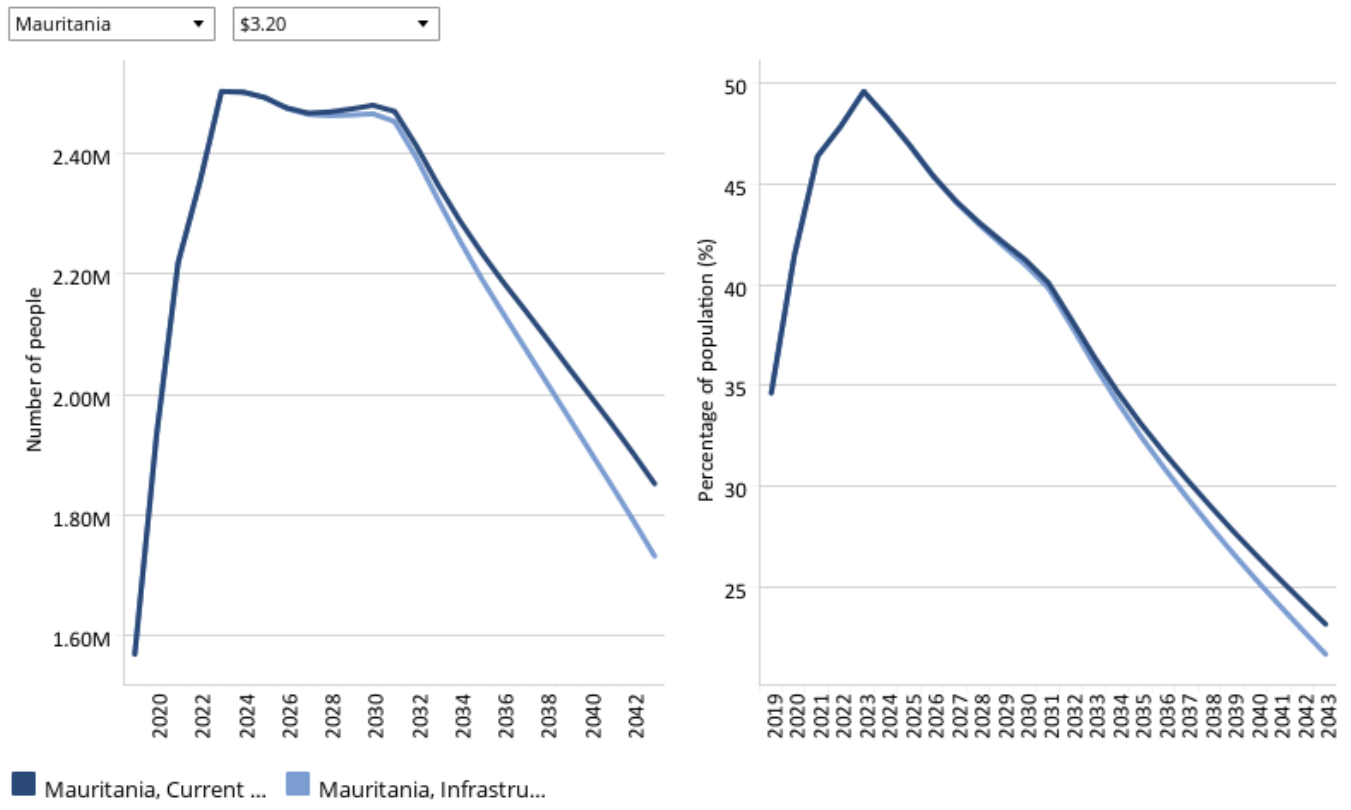
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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Improvements in the Infrastructure scenario will increase the GDP per capita from US\$4 138 in 2019 to US\$6 097 in 2043 — US\$218 above the Current Path forecast. By 2043, the average GDP per capita for the group of lower middle-income economies will be US\$7 335 in the Infrastructure scenario.

Chart 50: Poverty in CP and Infrastructure scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

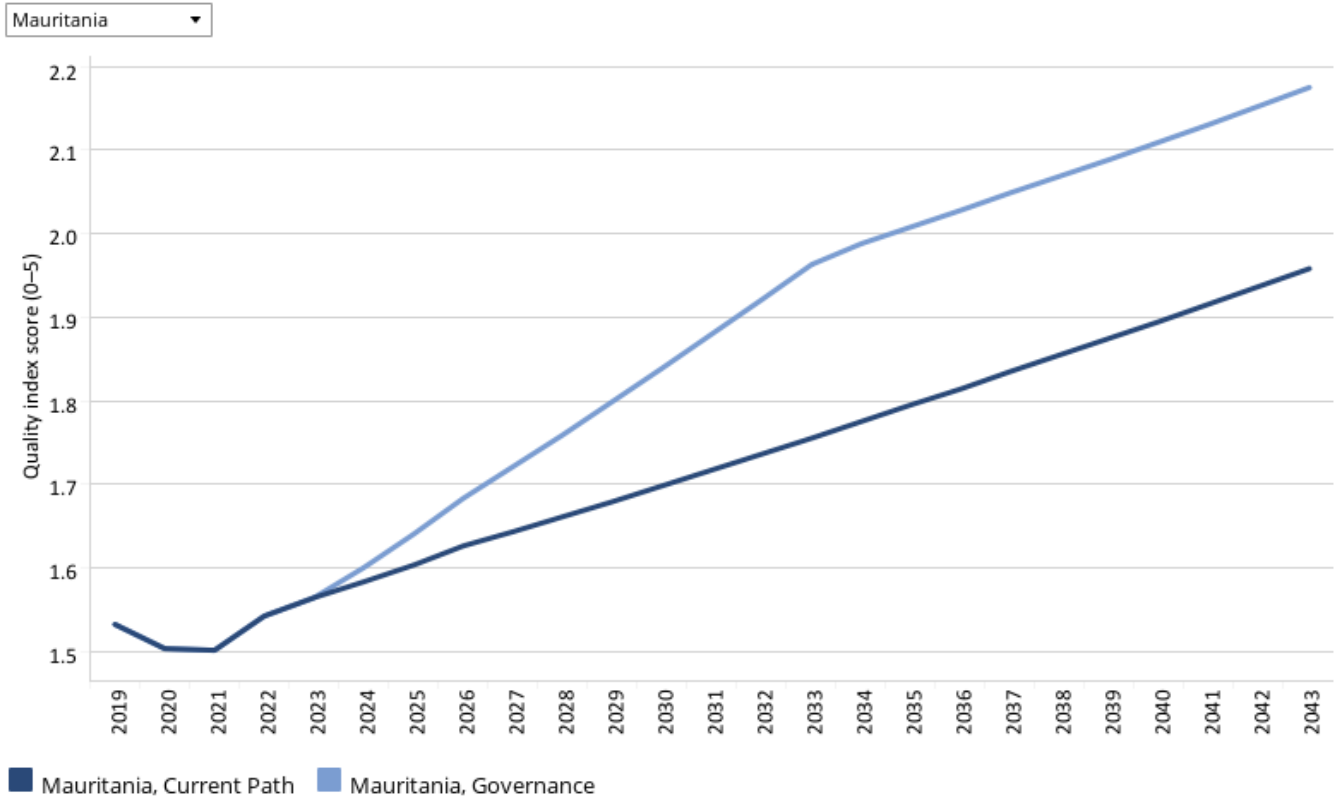
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In the Infrastructure scenario, the share of Mauritians living in poverty will drop from 34.6% in 2019 to 21.7% in 2043 versus 23.3% on the Current Path. It means that 1.73 million rather than 1.85 million people will live in poverty in that scenario.



Governance scenario

Chart 51: Gov effectiveness in CP and Governance scenario, 2019–2043
World Bank quality index score for government effectiveness



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Kaufmann, Kraay and Mastruzzi (2010) data

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The Governance scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious improvement in accountability and reduces corruption, and hence improves the quality of service delivery by government.

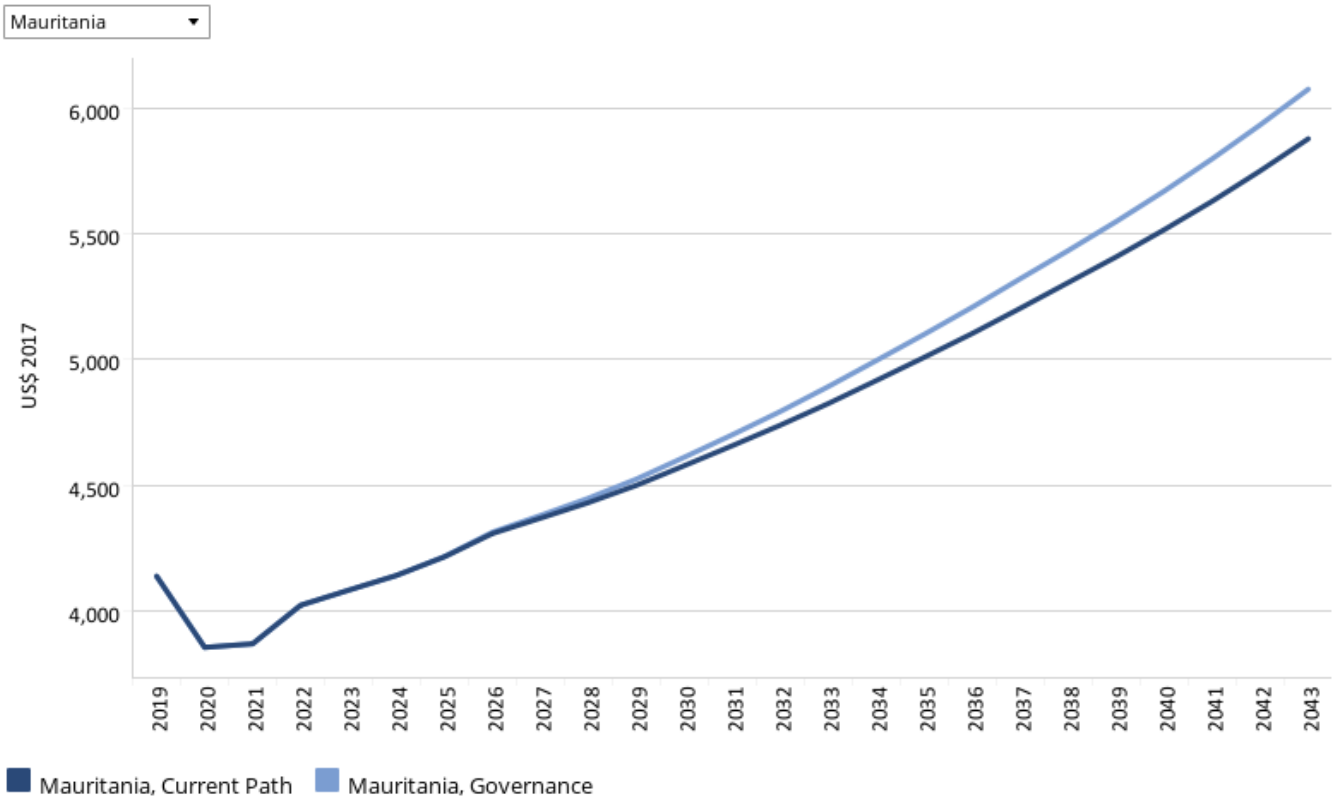
The intervention is explained [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

As defined by the World Bank, government effectiveness 'captures perceptions of the quality of public services, the quality of the civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government's commitment to such policies'.

Chart 51 presents the impact of the interventions in the Governance scenario on government effectiveness.

In 2019, Mauritania scored 1.53 on the government effectiveness index. This is below the average of its income peer group on the continent as well as North Africa's average, both with a score of 1.9. Mauritania ranks 19th among the group of 23 lower middle-income economies. In the Governance scenario, Mauritania's government effectiveness quality score will improve to 2.18 by 2043 compared to 1.96 on the Current Path.

Chart 52: GDP per capita in CP and Governance scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



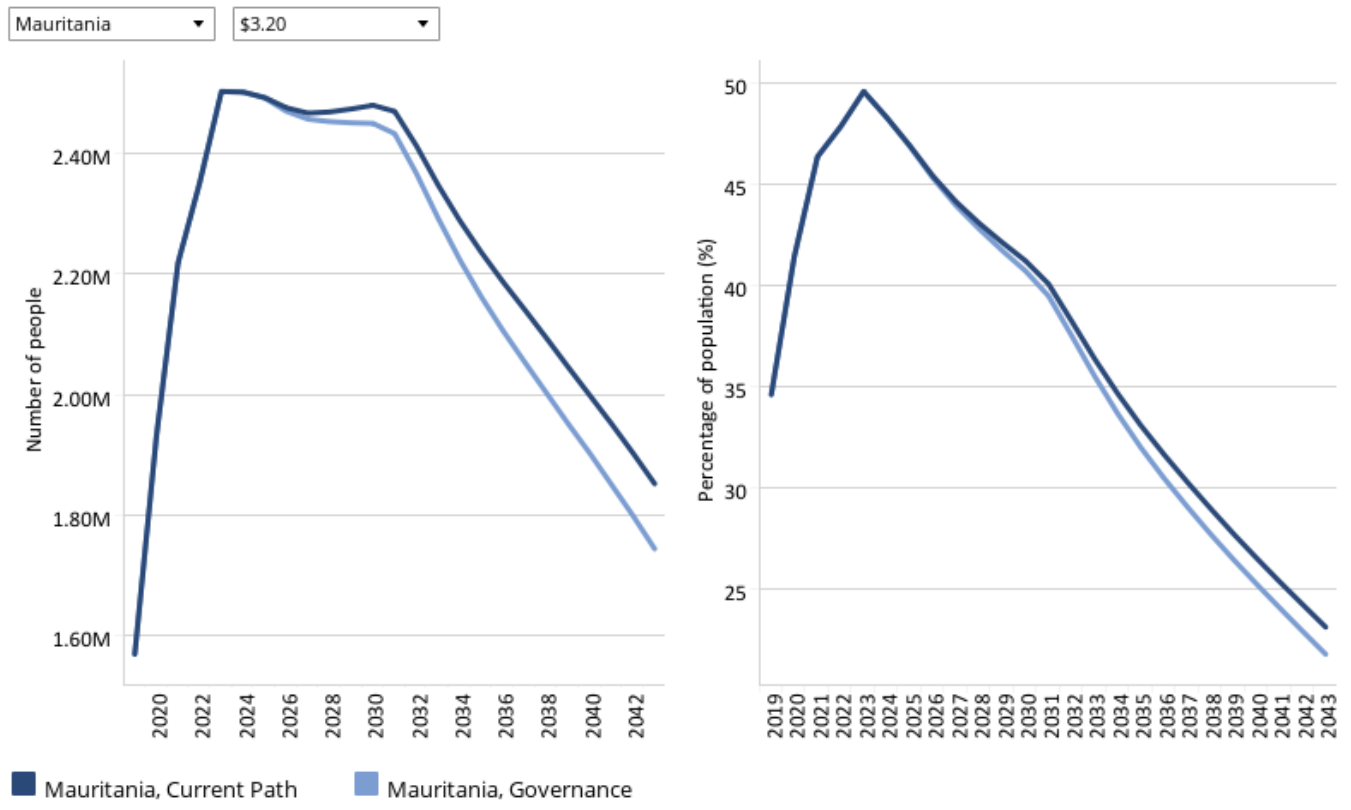
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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The GDP per capita will increase to US\$6 077 in 2043 in the Governance scenario compared to US\$5 879 on the Current Path.

Chart 53: Poverty in CP and Governance scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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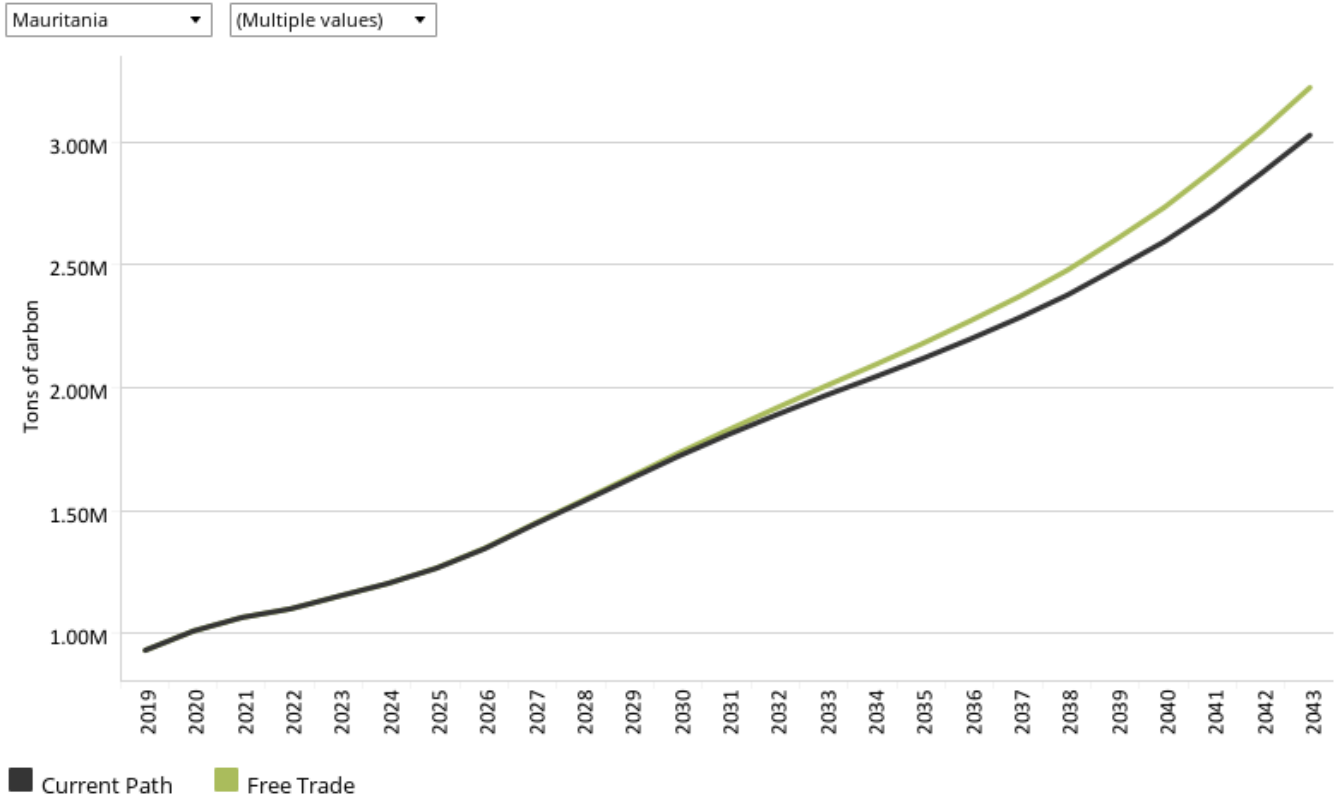
In the Governance scenario, Mauritania will reduce the share of the population living below the poverty line to 21.8% by 2043 compared to 23.3% in the Current Path forecast. The interventions in the Governance scenario will also reduce the number of Mauritians living in poverty to 1.74 million in 2043 compared to 1.85 million on the Current Path.



Impact of scenarios on carbon emissions

Chart 54: Carbon emissions in CP and scenarios, 2019–2043

Million tons of carbon (note, not CO₂ equivalent)



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center data

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This section presents projections for carbon emissions in the Current Path for Mauritania and the 11 scenarios. Note that IFs uses carbon equivalents rather than CO₂ equivalents.

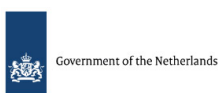
Mauritania's carbon emissions in the Combined Agenda 2063 scenario, which combines all the sectoral scenarios, are outlined in Chart 60.

Among the sectoral interventions, the Agriculture scenario will release the most carbon emissions, resulting in total emissions of 3.32 million tons compared to 3.03 million tons in the Current Path forecast. The Agriculture scenario is followed by the Free Trade and the Stability scenarios which would lead to carbon emissions of 3.23 million and 3.15 million tons, respectively, by 2043. The Infrastructure scenario is forecast to produce carbon emissions of 3.11 million tons compared to the Current Path figure of 3.03 million tons.

Endnotes

1. BTI Transformation Index, [Mauritania Country Report 2022](#)
2. Global Partnership for Education, [Mauritania](#)
3. World Integrated Trade Solution, [Mauritania trade balance, exports and import](#)

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Mustapha Jobarteh (2024) Mauritania. Published online at futures.issafrica.org. Retrieved from <https://futures.issafrica.org/geographic/countries/mauritania/> [Online Resource] Updated 13 December 2023.



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Mustapha Jobarteh joined the ISS in January 2022 as a Senior Researcher in the African Futures and Innovation programme in Pretoria. Before joining ISS, Mustapha was a senior lecturer and Head of the Department of Economics and Finance at the University of the Gambia and a research fellow with the Center for Policy, Research and Strategic Studies. His interests include macroeconomics, international trade and econometric modelling. Mustapha has a PhD in economics from Istanbul Medeniyet University, Istanbul, Turkey.

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