Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index Africa (HANCI-Africa)

Key data for Mauritania

HANCI-Africa compares 45 African countries for their performance on 22 indicators of political commitment to reduce hunger and undernutrition. Country scores are calculated in relation to the political commitment of the other countries in the index.

**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.

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

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

HANCI_Africa_2014_MR
### Key data for Mauritania

#### Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public spending</th>
<th>Score*</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>HRCI Rank of 45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending ¹</td>
<td>4.19%</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>21st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public spending on health as share of total public spending ¹</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Joint 24th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to land (security of tenure) ²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to agricultural research and extension services ²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil registration system — coverage of live births</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functioning of social protection systems ²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laws</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level of constitutional protection of the right to food ²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equality of women's access to agricultural land (property rights) ³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equality of women’s economic rights ¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitution recognises the right to social security (yes/no)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Possible scores are: ① <75% of agriculture (Maputo) and health (Abuja) spending pledges ② >=75% and <100% ③ >=100%
2 Possible scores are: ① Weak ② Moderate ③ Strong

#### Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public spending</th>
<th>Score*</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>NCI Rank of 45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Separate budget for nutrition (No/Sectoral only/Yes)</td>
<td>Sectoral only</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Joint 16th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population with access to an improved water source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population with access to improved sanitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care visits for pregnant women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition features in national development policy ¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Nutrition Policy/Strategy (yes/no)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination (yes/no)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laws</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICMBS ² Enshrined in domestic law</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Possible scores are: ① Weak ② Moderate ③ Strong (Note: Performance relative to other countries).
2 Possible scores are: ① Not Enshrined in Law ② Voluntary Adoption ③ Fully enshrined.

³ International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes

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