



INTEGRATED SDG INSIGHTS MAURITANIA

This initiative supports the articulation of national commitments to SDG transformation, towards accelerated SDG action in the second half of the 2030 Agenda.



SDG MOMENT: MAURITANIA

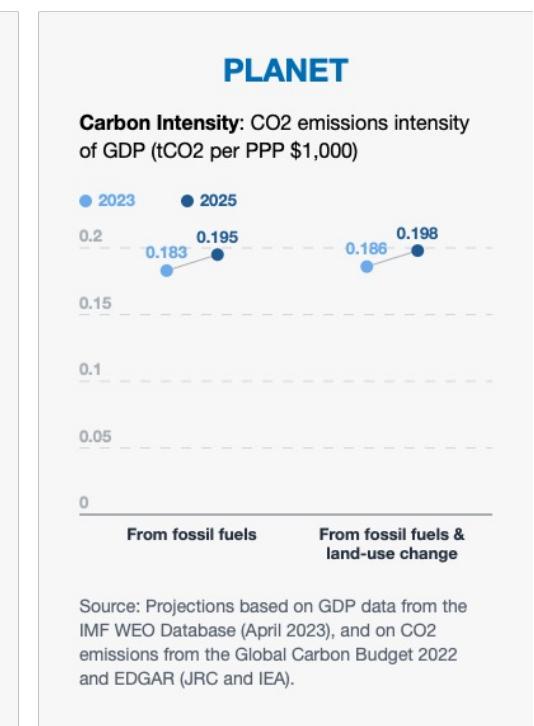
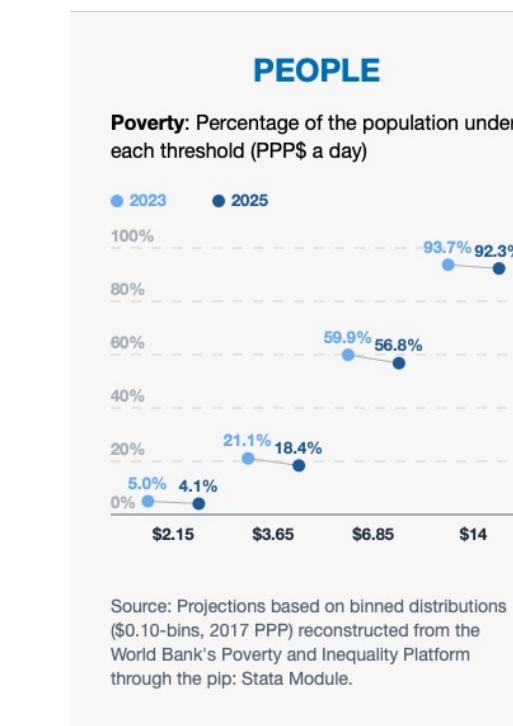
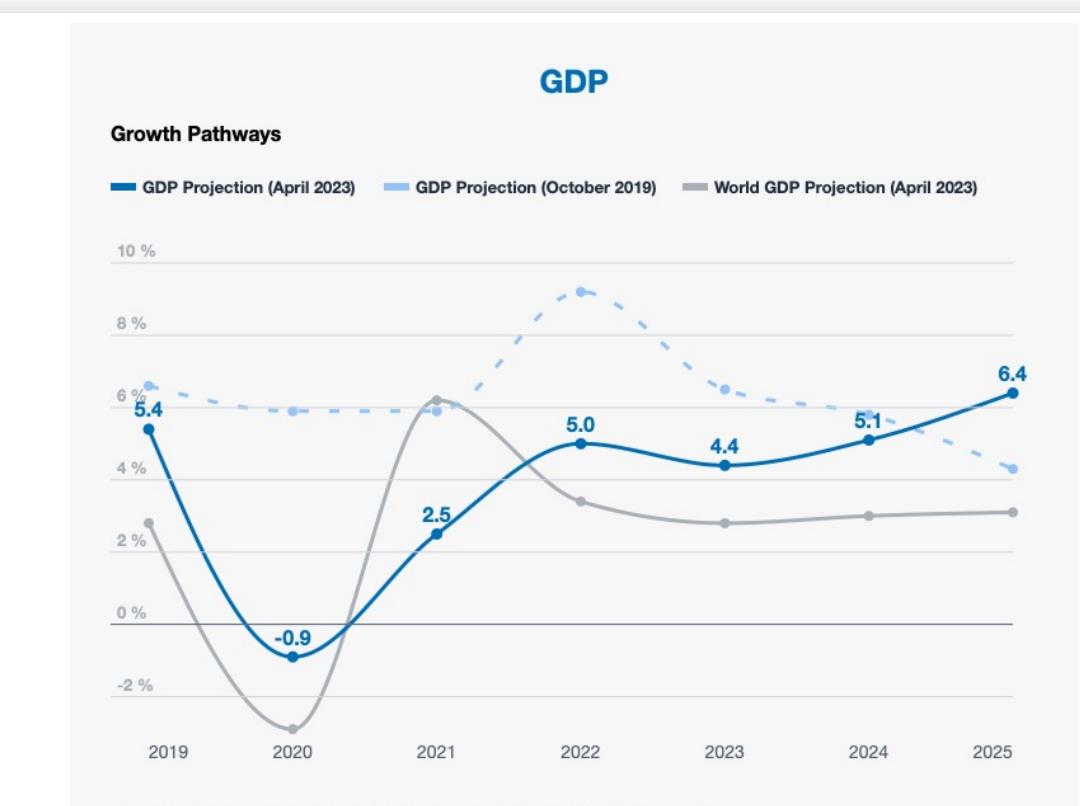
While economic growth is a key element in achieving the SDGs, many countries are intent on moving beyond growth as a yardstick for progress. In the short run, growth enables the SDGs; but in the long run, the SDGs aim to transform the pattern of growth itself.

Mauritania's economy is in mitigation phase in 2023, but is projected to accelerate by 2024-2025.¹ This pace of growth is characterized by being 78% higher, on average, than that of the world, and is converging to the country's growth trajectory projected before the pandemic. Accordingly, Mauritania's commitments to achieving the SDGs are focused on shared prosperity.

Despite the positive impact of this pace of economic growth on extreme poverty reduction, more than three-quarters of the rural population is poor, and gender equality in the distribution of productive and public resources remains a major challenge. Moreover, this economic expansion occurs at the expense of the environment as the country's carbon emissions intensity of GDP is expected to increase at an annual rate of 3% under current conditions.²

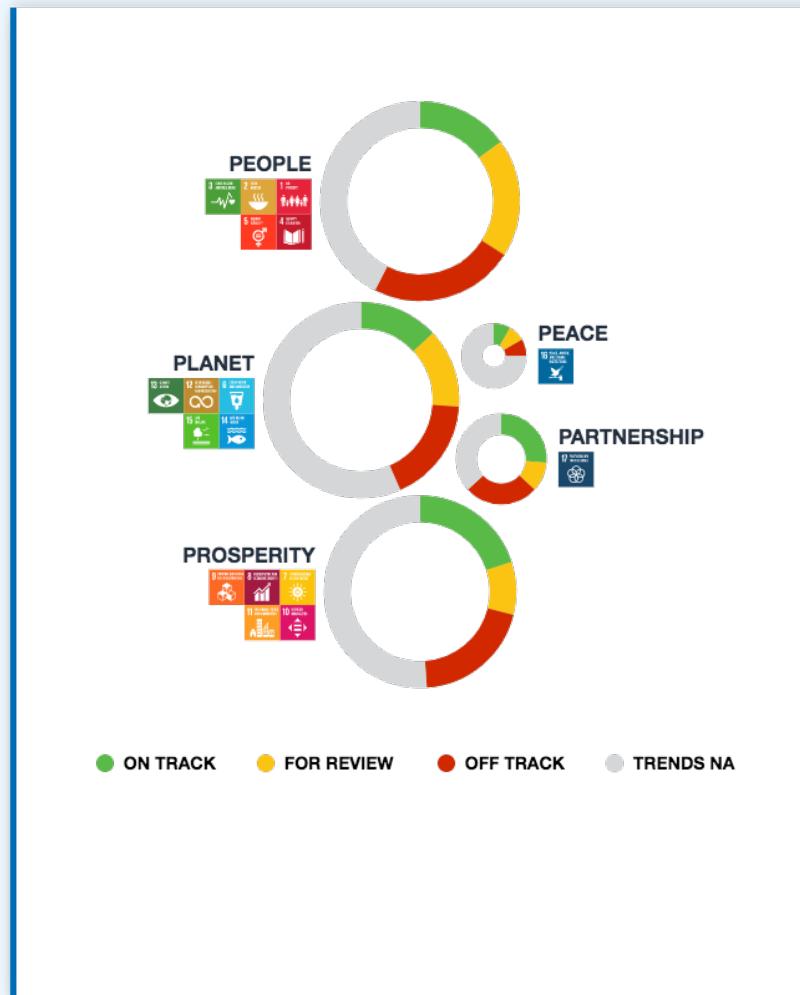
¹ The economic cycle is determined by adjusting the country's current GDP growth forecasts (April 2023) by their gap relative to the forecasts made before the pandemic and subsequent crises (October 2019). If the adjusted rates (not shown) are below 2%, the economy is considered in mitigation; it is coping if the adjusted rates range between 2%-4%, and it is in acceleration if they are above 4%.

² CO2 emissions intensity of GDP is computed as tonnes of CO2 per \$1,000 (2017 PPP).



SDG TRENDS

Understanding how Mauritania performs against the SDG targets provides a baseline landscape against which to build integrated SDG pathways. SDG progress tracking follows [UN Stats](#) standards and [methodology](#), and is aligned with country profiles.



Recent data indicates that Mauritania has come less than three-fifths of the way towards achieving the SDGs and its performance ranks 133rd out of 166 countries. The current trajectory reveals that 20% of targets are likely to be met, 57% of targets have seen limited progress and 23% of targets have deteriorated.

Trends in detail:

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/MRT/sdg-trends>

SDG PRIORITIES

Mauritania's national priorities are analysed using machine learning to reveal the most prominent SDGs referenced in national policy documents. This analysis uses a custom-built model for SDG classification. It considers 100k+ terms, including phrases and expressions.



Key documents for analysis:

1. UN Common Country Analysis 2021
2. Universal Periodic Review Report for Mauritania
3. President's Expanded Priority Programme
4. Second Action Plan of Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity (SCAPP) 2021-2025 Volume I and II

Priorities in detail:

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/MRT/current-priorities>

SDG INTERLINKAGES

SDG interlinkages reveal how actions directed towards one SDG can impact others. Uncovering and understanding these interactions can help Mauritania to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to navigate trade-offs.

Based on a global framework for interlinkages, Mauritania's SDG progress is colour-coded at the target level.

Building from national priorities, the following pathways reflect policy investments with the most potential to accelerate the SDGs for Mauritania:

- Target 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- Target 8.5: Full employment and decent work with equal pay
- Target 11.2: Affordable and sustainable transport systems
- Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions



ACCELERATION PATHWAYS



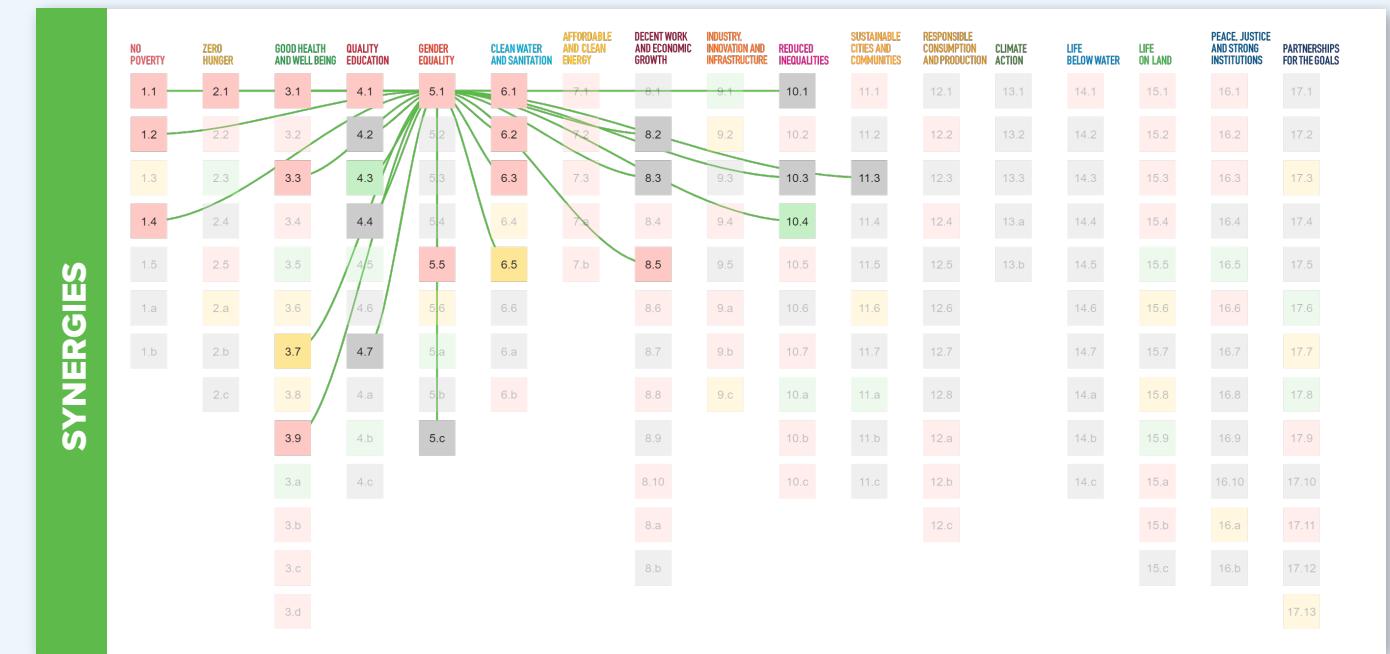
SDG INTERLINKAGES

5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

Mauritania has made slow progress on gender equality, driven by positive developments in women's equal access to public services and by women's political power and representation. Major challenges remain such as the fact that 30% of human development progress in Mauritania is beset by the persistence of inequalities. In recent years actions were taken to improve the political and legal environment conducive to the promotion of gender equality, and specific public programmes have been dedicated to strengthening the economic empowerment of women.

The intensification of these efforts will contribute to accelerating the sustainable reduction of poverty and of multiple deprivations (SDG 1), particularly in terms of food security and child nutrition (SDG 2), the education of girls and boys (SDG 4) and improved maternal, child and reproductive health (SDG 3). Reducing inequalities in access to productive resources, assets and know-how is also crucial to support productivity and diversified economic growth (SDG 8).

● ON TRACK ● FOR REVIEW ● OFF TRACK ● TRENDS NA



Explore the interlinkages at:

<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/MRT/synergies-and-tradeoffs>

SDG INTERLINKAGES

8.5: By 2030 achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

Mauritania still faces significant job creation challenges. A total of 87% of workers are not covered by a pension plan, while more than 56% of workers are independent with deficient social security coverage.

The deployment of the social protection-employment accelerator should strengthen the employment intensity of economic growth to sustain a reduction of inequalities (SDG 10), promote universal access to health care (SDG 3) and reduce poverty (SDG 1). Harnessing green employment opportunities through an energy transition (SDG7), climate action (SDG13) and the sustainable management of land resources (SDG 15) are also within reach in a Sahel country subject to the harmful consequences of climatic hazards.

● ON TRACK

● FOR REVIEW

● OFF TRACK

● TRENDS NA

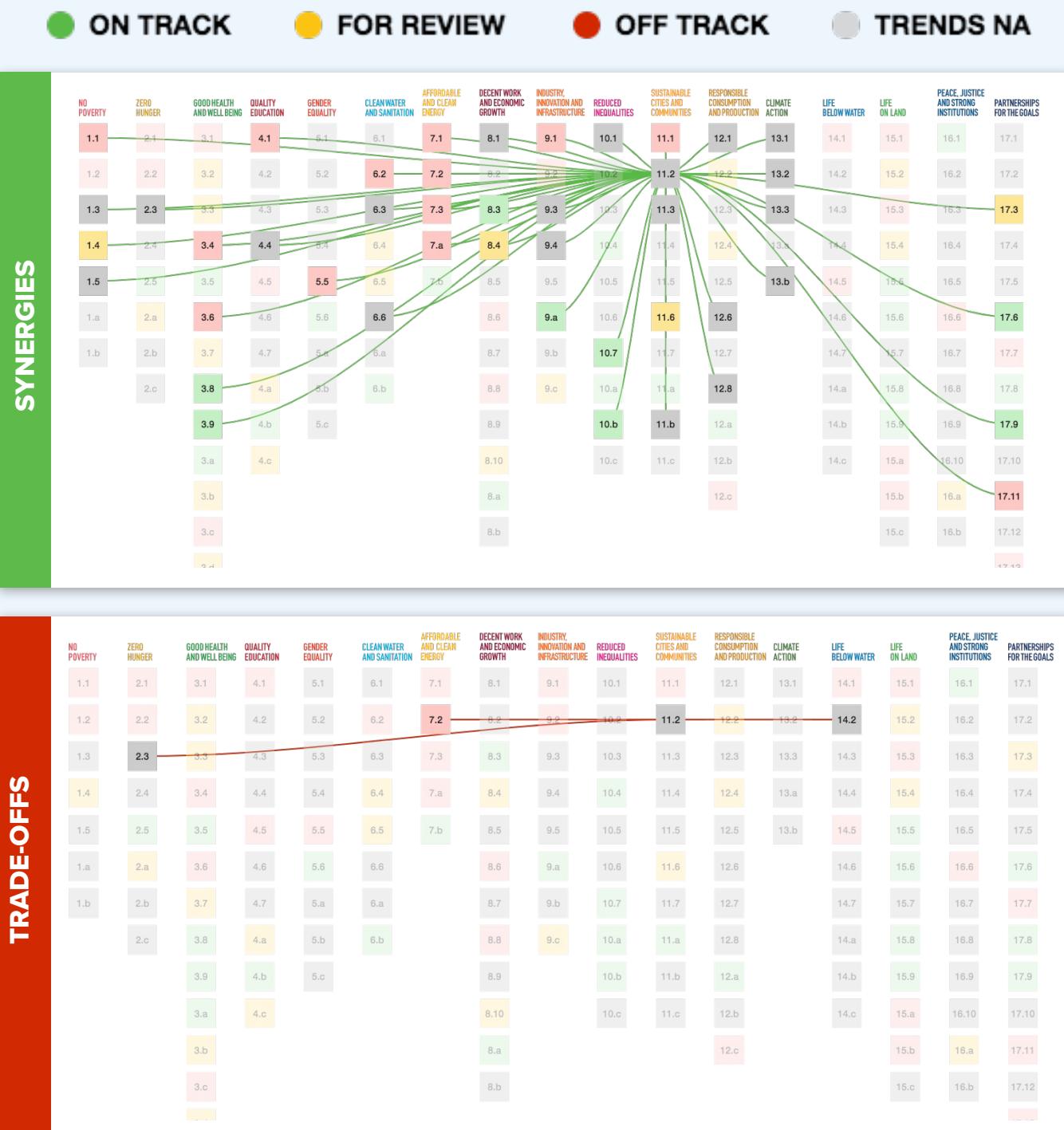


SDG INTERLINKAGES

11.2: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

Transport infrastructure is an important lever for economic growth in general, especially given the dynamics of inter-Wilayas trade in a vast country such as Mauritania. Between 2019 and 2021 433 km of paved roads were constructed, and road safety improvement efforts reduced the road accident fatality rate from 44.85 in 2016 to 28.8/1 million inhabitants in 2020.

Efforts will be continued to strengthen productivity support corridors (SDG 8), to open up production areas to enhance food security (SDG 1) and to ensure the connectivity of isolated areas or of their inclusiveness (SDG 10), and to promote improved access to basic services, in particular health (SDG 3) and education (SDG 4).



Explore the interlinkages at:

<https://data.undp.org/sdq-push-diagnostic/MRT/synergies-and-tradeoffs>

SDG INTERLINKAGES

16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

Mauritania has identified the establishment of credible, transparent and inclusive institutions as an imperative for its ambition to accelerate growth for shared prosperity. There has been progress in political governance and in creating greater social cohesion.

The country is committed to strengthening the political integration of young people and women, but also to institutionalizing a quality political dialogue, to improving the governance of parties and associations and, finally, to enabling access to information for civil society. National efforts will also emphasize the strengthening of administrative, economic and financial governance to ensure adequate financing of development priorities and to create an environment conducive to private investment.

ON TRACK

FOR REVIEW

OFF TRACK

TRENDS NA



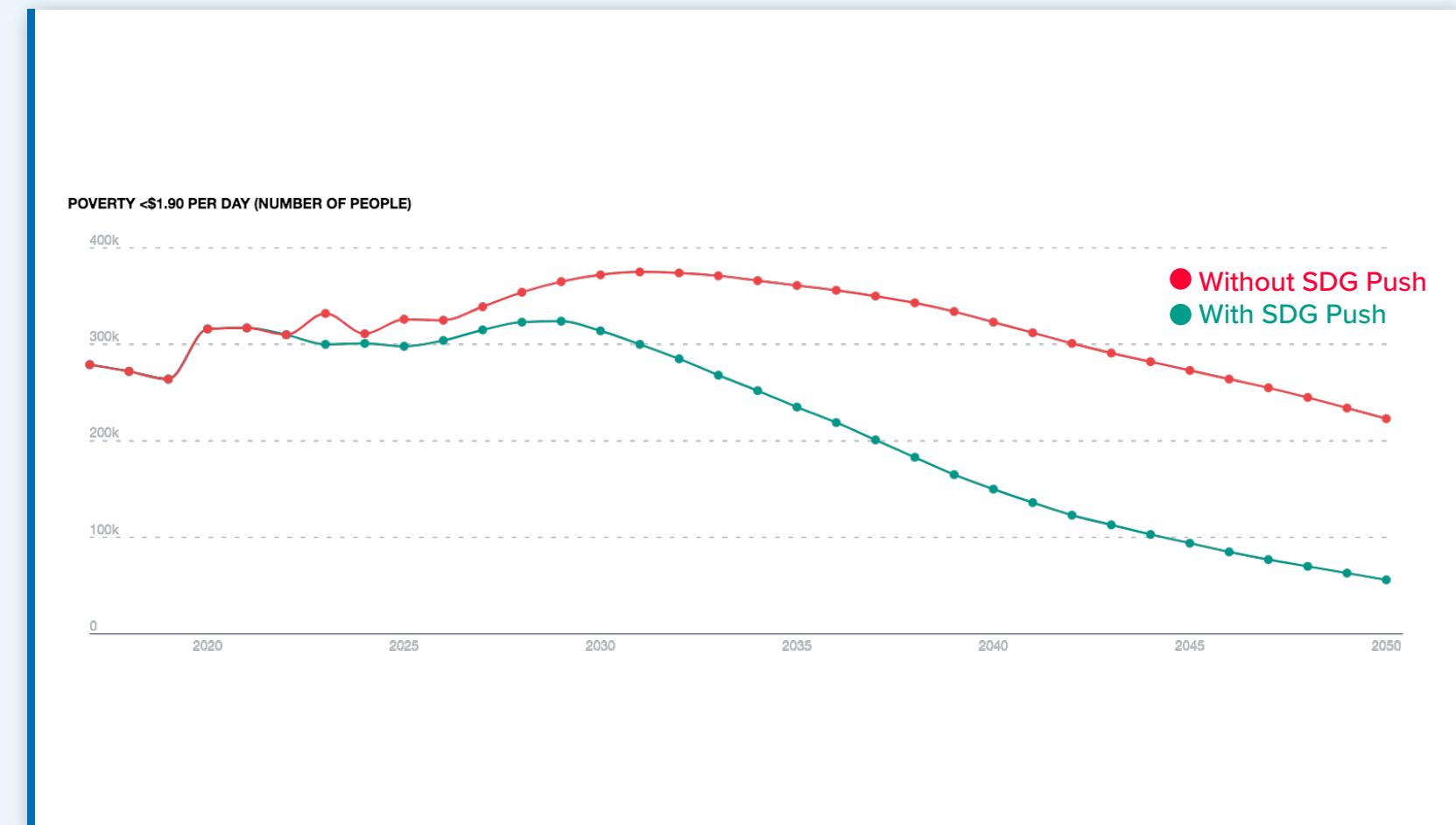
FUTURES SCENARIOS

Achieving the SDGs is possible.

The ‘SDG Push’ is a futures scenario based on 48 integrated accelerators in the areas of Governance, Social Protection, the Green Economy and Digital Disruption. It uses national data to explore the impact on human development by 2030 and by 2050 across key SDG indicators.

Incorporating ‘SDG Push’ accelerators into development interventions in Mauritania can reduce the number of people living in poverty over time.

People living in poverty	By 2030	By 2050
Without the SDG Push	370,000	220,000
With the SDG Push	310,000	56,000



Explore SDG Futures Scenarios at:
<https://data.undp.org/sdg-push-diagnostic/MRT/future-scenarios>

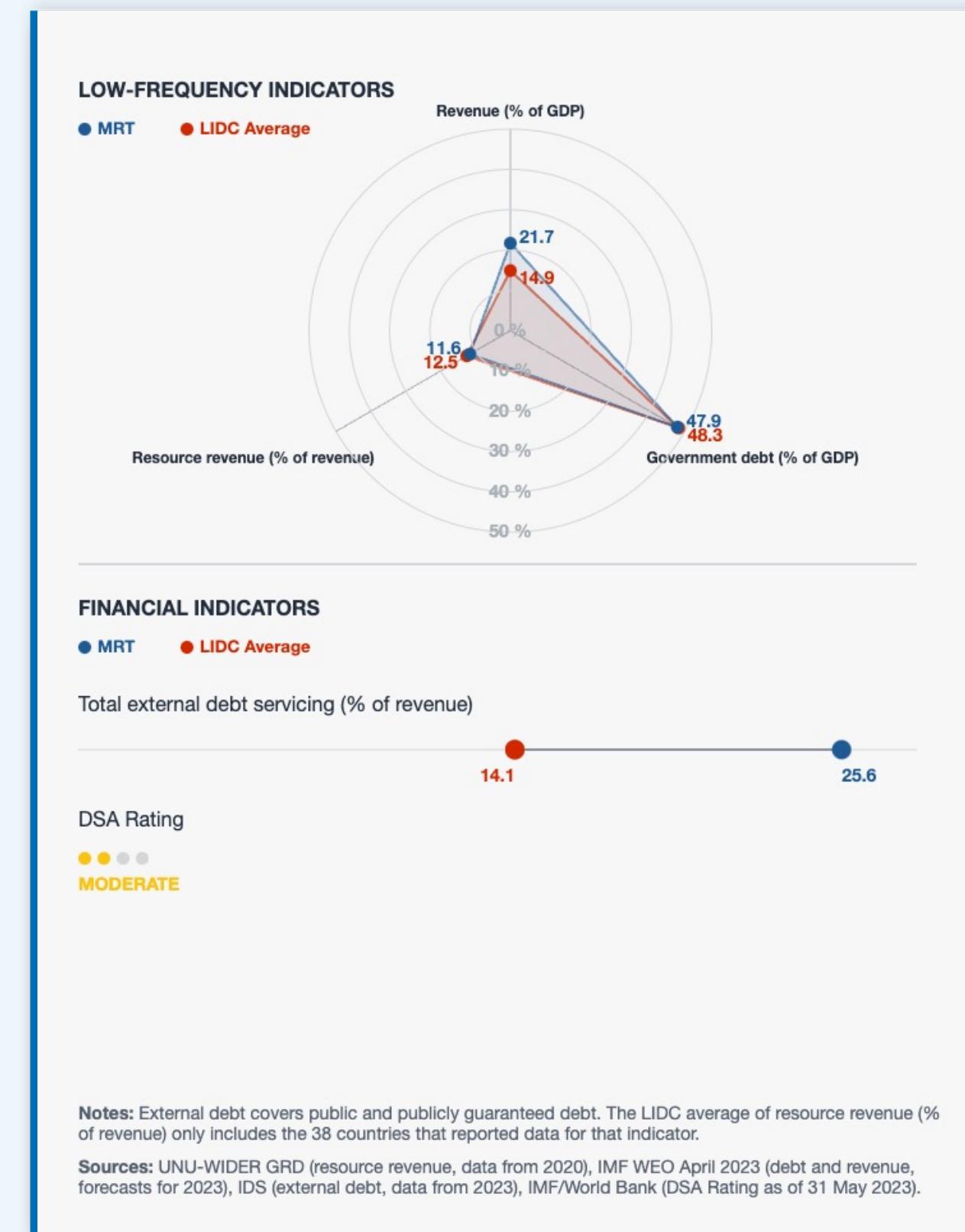
FISCAL AND FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS

The radar diagram shows low frequency data points linked to government revenue and debt as a proportion of GDP and the natural resource share of total revenue. The financial indicator graphs show external debt servicing relative to revenue and the country's latest Debt Sustainability Assessment (DSA) risk rating.

Mauritania's gross government debt, projected at 47.9% of GDP in 2023, is close to the low-income developing countries (LIDC) group of 48.3%. The country is projected to collect 21.7% of GDP in revenue this year – significantly above the LIDC group ratio of 14.9% – with natural resources accounting for about 12% of said revenue. However, non-extractive taxes will reach only 13.5% of non-extractive GDP (IMF data). There is room to improve tax collection.

Mauritania's public external debt servicing this year is expected to be as high as 25.6% of revenue compared to 14.1% for the LIDC average. Nevertheless, the latest DSA from February 2023 rates the country at 'moderate risk' of debt distress.

Improved efficiency will also enhance the fiscal space. For instance, Mauritania spends 3.6% of GDP on social protection with a coverage of 6.6%, while countries like Niger or Burkina Faso spend less (between 0.1% and 1.4% of GDP) with higher coverage (9.9% and 20.6%)



SDG STIMULUS

Countries are facing a reduced fiscal space and high debt levels, rising interest rates and increasing exposure to climate-related shocks. The acceleration pathways identified here need the appropriate means of implementation to move from aspiration to reality. The [SG's SDG Stimulus plan](#) lays out a blueprint as the means to implement them through four key actions:

- Providing liquidity to support recovery in the near term
- Enhancing debt relief for vulnerable countries
- Providing better leverage lending
- Aligning financial flows with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, according to country-level priorities and needs, for example through the roll-out of the UN Integrated National Financing Framework

Given the projected fiscal and financial constraints faced by Mauritania, possible funding options for the investments derived from the identified interlinkages are as follows:

- Tax and revenue reform
- Debt for SDGs
- Climate finance
- Blended and public-private finance
- SDG-aligned business environment and investment
- Accessing financial markets and insurance
- Remittances, philanthropy and faith-based financing

**United Nations
Secretary-General's
SDG Stimulus
to Deliver
Agenda 2030**

FEBRUARY 2023

