H.E. Abdel Aziz Ould Dahi  
Minister of Economy and Industry  
Ministry of Economy and Industry  
Nouakchott  
Islamic Republic of Mauritania

Excellency:

Re: Mauritania: Grant Number D1890-MR  
(Health System Support Project)  
Amendment to the Financing Agreement

We refer to the Financing Agreement (“Agreement”) between the Islamic Republic of Mauritania (“Recipient”) and the International Development Association (“Association”), dated June 16, 2017, for the above-referenced Project, for which an additional financing is also sought, and subsequent discussions.

We are pleased to inform you that the Association hereby proposes to amend the Agreement to reflect possible additional financing to the Project, as follows:

1. All references to “Tadamoun Agency” are hereby changed to “Taazour General Delegation”.

2. Section 6.01 is hereby amended to read:

   “The Recipient’s Representative is its minister in charge of economy”.

3. Schedule 1 of the Original Financing Agreement is hereby amended in its entirety and replaced with the Schedule 1 in Annex 1 to this Letter.
4. Section I.A.(1) of Schedule 2 to the Original Financing Agreement is hereby amended to read:

“The Recipient shall vest its Ministry of Health with the responsibility of implementing the overall Project. To that end, the Recipient shall: (A) cause the Ministry of Health to: (a) maintain an RBF Technical Unit until the completion of the Project, to be specifically responsible *inter alia* for overseeing the PBF Payments and the Conditional Cash Transfers under Parts A and B of the Project; and (b) establish and maintain a technical working group throughout the Project, to provide orientation for regional PBF implementation; all with the terms of reference and composition satisfactory to the Association; and (B) recruit or designate for the Project: (a) two PBF specialists; (b) a coordination and communications specialist; and (c) a monitoring and evaluation specialist; all with terms of reference and qualifications satisfactory to the Association.”

5. Section I.E of Schedule to the Original Financing Agreement is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

“1. The Recipient shall ensure that the Project is implemented with due regard to appropriate health, safety, social, and environmental standards and practices, and in accordance with the Safeguards Instruments. Except as the Association shall otherwise agree in writing, and subject to compliance with the same consultation and information disclosure requirements as applied to the adoption of the aforesaid Safeguards Instruments in the first instance, the Recipient shall not amend or waive any provision of the Safeguards Instruments.

2. The Recipient shall, in its Project Reports, report on progress made on compliance with the Safeguards Instruments under the Project, giving details of measures taken in furtherance of the Safeguards Instruments and any conditions which interfere or threaten to interfere with the timely implementation of the Safeguards Instruments, and remedial measures taken or required to be taken to address such conditions.

3. The Recipient shall ensure that all advisory, analytical, planning, institutional capacity building, strategizing and such other services carried out under the Project shall be carried out according to terms of reference, satisfactory to the Association, requiring such services to deliver products which take into account, and are consistent with, the Association’s social and environmental safeguard policies.

4. The Recipient shall maintain, throughout Project implementation, and publicize the availability of a grievance mechanism, in form and substance satisfactory to the Association, to hear and determine fairly and in good faith all complaints raised in relation to the Project and take all measures necessary to implement the determinations made by such mechanism in a manner satisfactory to the Association.”
6. Section IV.B.2. of Schedule 2 to the Original Financing Agreement is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

"The Closing Date is April 30, 2023".

7. In the Appendix of the Original Financing Agreement, the definitions in Annex 2 are added or modified and placed in alphabetical order to read as follows, and the rest of the definitions are renumbered accordingly to maintain alphabetical order.

All the terms and conditions of the Original Financing Agreement that have not been amended hereby shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

Please indicate your agreement with the foregoing, by countersigning and dating the two original copies of this letter and returning one countersigned original copy to the Association. Upon receipt by the Association of said original countersigned by the authorized representative of the Recipient and dated, this amendment shall become effective as of the latest of the following two dates: (1) the date of countersignature of this letter or (2) the Effective Date of the Additional Financing Agreement.

Sincerely,

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

[Signature]

Laurent Mancelli
Country Manager for Mauritania
Africa Region

AGREED:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

[Signature]

Authorized Representative

Name: Abdel Aziz Ould DAHI
Title: Minister of Economy and Industry
Date: AU-10-2020
Annex 1

SCHEDULE 1

Project Description

The objective of the Project is to improve utilization and quality of Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health (RMNCH) services in selected regions.

The Project consists of the following parts:

Part A: Improving utilization of quality RMNCH services through performance-based financing (PBF)

1. Provision of PBF Payments to health service providers

   Improving utilization of quality RMNCH services through: (a) providing PBF Payments and small investment grants to Eligible RMNCH Service Providers (posts, centers and hospitals), in accordance with the qualitative and quantitative indicators specified in the PBF Manual; and (b) providing PBF Payments to community health workers in accordance with the qualitative and quantitative indicators linked to community-level activities specified in the PBF Manual.

2. Verification and counter-verification

   Supporting verification and counter-verification activities through: a) conducting quality and quantity assessments of health services provided by the Eligible RMNCH Service Providers and community health workers, prior to (on a quarterly basis) and after (on a semester basis) the PBF Payments are made; and b) paying performance bonuses to RBF implementing bodies in accordance with the PBF Manual.

Part B: Support to increasing demand for health services

1. Conditional Cash Transfers to stimulate demand for health care

   Promoting and facilitating access to health services through: (a) (i) updating the Tekavoul Manual to integrate the new Conditional Cash Transfers under this Project and (ii) providing Conditional Cash Transfer payments to Eligible Beneficiaries on a quarterly basis upon utilization of health services in accordance with the updated Tekavoul Manual; (b) strengthening existing mechanism to support demand-side interventions, including modifying, hosting and managing the database for the national social safety net system, and community-based engagements; and (c) paying for the Taazour General Delegation’s staff costs and costs associated with verification and cross-verification.
2. **Strengthening of community health**

   Operationalizing the community health strategy through: (a) completing and implementing the community health strategy and developing a budgeted action plan with necessary implementation elements such as social mobilization, capacity-building of community stakeholders, communication, Training manuals, profiles, and terms of reference; and (b) strengthening local organizations’ capacity to increase demand for health services and accountability, and supporting awareness raising activities for women and mothers.

**Part C: Capacity building and Project Management**

   Supporting capacity building and Project management through: (a) strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Health and other entities involved in RBF and Project management, including monitoring and evaluation, public financial management and procurement, health management information system, RBF methods, and database management; (b) assisting with implementation of the universal health coverage (UHC) policy through developing a health financing assessment framework, conducting feasibility and actuarial studies and workshops, preparing the UHC strategy, developing a road map and an action plan, and preparing relevant implementing law and decrees; and (c) supporting Project management through financing Operating Costs, Training, and equipment; paying salaries of international and national consultants; installing adapted waste disposal systems, and revising and implementing Safeguards Instruments for the Project; and conducting technical assistance to build climate-resilient health system.

**Part D: Contingent Emergency Response (CERC)**

   Contingent emergency response through the provision of immediate response to an Eligible Crisis or Emergency, as needed.
APPENDIX

Section I. Definitions

“Environmental and Social Management Framework” or “ESMF” means the ESMF, prepared by the Recipient, satisfactory to the Association, disclosed in country on February 23, 2017 and at the World Bank’s InfoShop on February 24, 2017, and updated for publication in country on January 15, 2020, and on the World Bank’s website on January 15, 2020, providing details about the process for management of the environmental and social aspects of the activities to be carried out under the Project, including risks of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse and the measures to be taken to offset, reduce or mitigate such adverse impacts, including measures that endeavor to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse, as the same may be amended from time to time with the Association’s prior written concurrence.

“National Biomedical Waste Management Plan” means the plan prepared by the Recipient, satisfactory to the Association, dated February 15, 2017, that sets out the environmental protection measures, in respect of the Part C of the Project, as well as administrative and monitoring arrangements to ensure the implementation of said plan, as said may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement of the Association, and such term includes all schedules and agreements supplemental thereto.

“Original Financing Agreement” means the financing agreement entered into between the Recipient and the Association dated June 16, 2017, under Grant Number D1890-MR, as amended.

“PBF Payments” means payments to eligible health facilities and health providers in accordance with the PBF Manual’s conditions of eligibility, definitions, and indicators of performance.

“Safeguards Instruments” means collectively the National Biomedical Waste Management Plan and the ESMF, and any other supplemental safeguard instrument deemed necessary and satisfactory by the Association for purposes of implementation of the Project.

“Taazour General Delegation” means the Délégation Générale TAAZOUR à la Solidarité Nationale et à la Lutte contre l’Exclusion, established pursuant to Decree No. 385-2019 of December 1, 2019, or its successor as may have been agreed upon in writing with the Association.

“Taazour General Delegation’s Legislation” means Decree No. 385-2019 of December 1, 2019, as amended.