



IsDB 
البنك الإسلامي للتنمية
Islamic Development Bank

معاً لمكافحة الفقر
REDUCING POVERTY
ISFD
صندوق التضامن الإسلامي للتنمية
Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development



Mauritania

5-Year Action Plan to Fight Avoidable Blindness
2nd Generation

Why the need is so urgent?

The Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness (AFAB) is a partnership program launched by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in 2008, with the aim of using South-South partnerships to prevent and cure vision problems, giving people not just the gift of sight, but a path out of poverty. The first generation had a tremendous success with thousands of people having their vision restored through successful cataract surgery. The second generation (AFAB II) ramps up the scale, targeting more eye conditions, building capacity in more countries. AFAB II is led by the IsDB and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD).

Some Alarming Eye Health Facts from Mauritania



CATARACT accounts for **50% OF TOTAL BLINDNESS CASES**. Only a few local surgeons are trained to operate cataracts.



85,000 PATIENTS are waiting for **CATARACT SURGERY**.



UNCORRECTED REFRACTIVE ERRORS are one of the principal causes of avoidable blindness.



14.7% OF PEOPLE OVER 50 live with low vision.



The Opportunity

The country is facing major challenges in providing quality services. These include lack of qualified ophthalmology subspecialists, high concentration of ophthalmologists in Nouakchott and lack of eye health staff in rural areas. The country is facing the shortage of basic equipment and financial resources. In addition, there is absence of planning framework and gap in national level coordination.

The National Program for Control of Blindness with support of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) has developed an Action Plan for eye health which

will contribute to addressing some of the key problems affecting the delivery of quality eye care in Mauritania. The newly developed Action Plan as part of AFAB II is the opportunity for eye health to be part of it and achieve:

- (1) better organization of the eye health system that is fully integrated to the national health system,
- (2) more qualified and well-trained eye health workers who are working in improved infrastructures,
- (3) better knowledge of the prevalence of blindness and ocular diseases and strong data collection.

Led by the government of Mauritania, the above interventions will act as a catalyst for change.

Our vision is crystal clear:

Each Mauritanian will have access to quality comprehensive eye health services

Do you know that 9% of people over 50 are affected by blindness, among the highest in Africa? In a country with a population of 4,000,000 where approximately 85,000 people are blind, there is an

urgency to act now. We are hopeful, as we know that nearly 80% of the world's blindness can be prevented or easily cured with just the right medical intervention or treatment.

Taking a System-Strengthening Approach

To stimulate a lasting change for individuals and for generations to come, we look beyond the visible symptoms and tackle the root causes of the country's fragile eye health system. Our aim to develop a comprehensive eye care, bring services to the people, train human resources for eye health and strengthen

the overall system by investing in equipment and promoting the integration of eye health within the general health system. We believe that realizing this vision requires investments in the following areas:



With your contribution you can:



Join an international Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness (AFAB)



Help Ministries of Health in the poorest countries in Africa build robust eye health systems



Enable millions of people to enjoy an independent life



Give people access to locally produced glasses



Help in the diagnosis of eyesight problems and cure preventable blindness before it's too late



Enable hospitals and clinics to get access to the right equipment, trained nurses and eye health personnel to give the best possible treatment



Give over a million people access to ophthalmologists who speak their own language

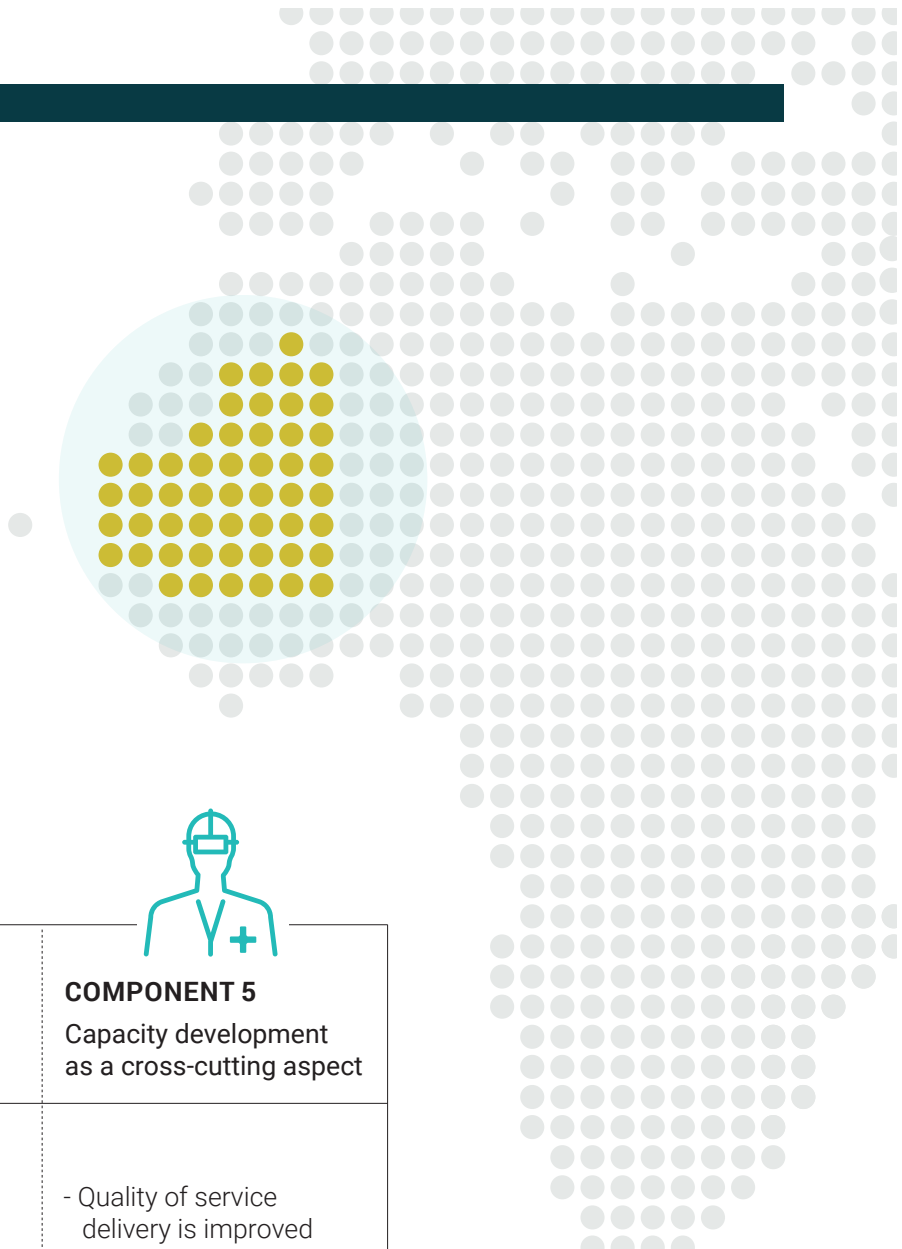





The Change we Are Seeking

The change we are seeking is reflected in our ambitious five-year AFAB II Action Plan, which addresses the change within the following 5 components:



	COMPONENT 1 Provision of eye care services with a focus on cataract	COMPONENT 2 Uncorrected Refractive Errors (URE) treatment
The change we are seeking at SERVICE PROVISION LEVEL	Patients have sustainable access to cataract services	Primary school children are screened and treated for uncorrected refractive errors.
The change we are seeking at HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT LEVEL	The number of eye health specialists in Mauritania increased	The personnel dedicated to the detection and correction of refractive errors in schools are well trained.
The change we are seeking at INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT LEVEL	Selected health facilities are equipped to provide efficient and quality eye health services.	Teachers have basic equipment such as visua acuity charts to screen children and two optical shops have been established and maintained
The change we are seeking at LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND AWARENESS LEVEL	A National Eye Health Strategic Plan prepared.	Parents, children, and community members in the pilot areas are aware of Uncorrected Refractive Errors.
WHAT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE.	24,000 CATARACT SURGERIES ARE PERFORMED.	10,000 CHILDREN IN NEED BENEFIT FROM GLASSES.



 COMPONENT 3 Glaucoma services	 COMPONENT 4 Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) treatment	 COMPONENT 5 Capacity development as a cross-cutting aspect
<p>Patients have access to diagnostic and specialized glaucoma care.</p>	<p>Patients are screened for DR and treated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality of service delivery is improved
<p>1 ophthalmologist is trained as glaucoma specialist and 2 other specialists received short term training in glaucoma diagnosis</p>	<p>2 ophthalmologists are trained as Diabetic Retinopathy specialists</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The overall eye health system is stronger as a result of better training for eye health workers
<p>The technical platform for the management of glaucoma is reinforced in 1 tertiary hospital (Nouakchott)</p>	<p>The tertiary hospital in Nouakchott provided with necessary equipment for RD treatment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A National Eye Health strategic plan is in place providing strategic direction
<p>A glaucoma reference care unit is adequately set up</p>	<p>A Diabetic Retinopathy reference care unit is adequately set up</p>	
<p>A REFERENCE CENTER FOR GLAUCOMA TREATMENT IS IN PLACE.</p>	<p>A REFERENCE CENTER FOR DIABETIC RETINOPATHY TREATMENT IS IN PLACE.</p>	<p>QUALITY OF EYE CARE SERVICES IMPROVED.</p>

We Invest our Experience, Expertise and Resources to

1. Improve the quality of provided services;
2. Build up human resources;
3. Provide the necessary supporting infrastructure;
4. Foster leadership and governance structures.



How we will deliver the AFAB II Objectives

To achieve the changes, we have a clear strategy and a clear plan to translate our vision into lived reality.



COMPONENT 1
Provision of comprehensive eye health services with a focus on cataracts

PEOPLE WITH CATARACT HAVE ACCESS TO IMPROVED SERVICES DELIVERY

- Perform 6,000 cataract surgeries at health facilities and mobile outreach per year.
- Provide equipment and consumables to the main hospital of Nouakchott and 1 regional hospital.
- Conduct awareness sessions on eye diseases through local radios.
- Train at least 10 additional ophthalmic technicians.
- Train 2 trainers and 4 technicians in equipment maintenance.

REQUIRED BUDGET: USD 2,738,461.–



COMPONENT 2
Uncorrected Refractive Errors (URE) treatment

AT LEAST 200,000 PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE SCREENED AND TREATED FOR UNCORRECTED REFRACTIVE ERRORS

- Screen 200,000 children attending primary school in for refractive errors.
- Provide glasses to 10,000 children in need.
- Train 200 teachers in visual screening and referral techniques.
- Create and maintain at least 2 optical shops.
- Equip 6 optometrists and 8 ophthalmic technicians with the necessary materials for refraction.
- Conduct awareness sessions on URE through local radios.

REQUIRED BUDGET: USD 722,401.–



COMPONENT 3
Glaucoma services

PATIENTS HAVE ACCESS TO DIAGNOSTIC AND SPECIALIZED GLAUCOMA CARE

- Equip the tertiary hospital in Nouakchott with necessary equipment for glaucoma treatment.
- Train 1 glaucoma subspecialist.
- Train 2 general ophthalmologists in basic glaucoma.

REQUIRED BUDGET: USD 652,439.–



COMPONENT 4
Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) treatment

PATIENTS ARE SCREENED FOR DIABETIC RETINOPATHY AND TREATED

- Equip the tertiary hospital in Nouakchott with necessary equipment for Diabetic Retinopathy treatment.
- Train 2 Diabetic Retinopathy subspecialists.

REQUIRED BUDGET: USD 386,860.–



COMPONENT 5
Capacity development as a cross-cutting aspect

A NATIONAL EYE HEALTH STRATEGIC PLAN IS IN PLACE PROVIDING STRATEGIC DIRECTION

- Finalize the strategic plan to fight avoidable blindness.
- Conduct a survey on eye diseases; these are activities or results.

REQUIRED BUDGET: USD 248,000.–

Joining Forces

WE BELIEVE IN PARTNERSHIPS. TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE CHANGE

With the Mauritanian Government in the driving seat, we are joining forces to expand coverage and quality of eye health services across the country.

Our partners include national ministries, the civil society and community structures, international non-governmental organizations, technical and financial partners. They are all working together to effectively deliver change.

Total Budget Breakdown

49 %

Eye care service delivery:

USD 2,351,600.-

8 %

Human resources development:

USD 372,570.-

36 %

Infrastructure and equipment:

USD 1,688,191.-

3 %

Advocacy, awareness raising and governance:

USD 143,800.-

4 %

Coordination, monitoring and evaluation: USD 192,000.-

Budget required for Mauritania: USD 4,748,161.-

The Government of Mauritania Commits at least USD 480,000– to Fund:

- Facilities of performing cataract surgery (Hospitals and other centers);
- Link with referral hospital for school children for further investigation;
- Salaries for ophthalmologists;
- Salaries for eye health technicians;
- Awareness and advocacy.

It is an ambitious plan. However, the results will not just be eye-opening, they will be life-changing.

Our Wider Impact

Your support to this Action Plan will directly contribute to our vision that each Mauritanian shall have access to comprehensive quality eye health services. We therefore invite you to provide the gift of sight to thousands of people. You can help them see a clear path out of poverty. In addition, as part of the second

generation of the Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness, the advantage is immense. Through stimulating South-South partnerships, the 13 AFAB II member countries will also benefit, laying the foundations for strong and sustainable eye health services across the African continent.

OUR VISION + YOUR INVESTMENT = **A BRIGHTER FUTURE**





IsDB 
البنك الإسلامي للتنمية
Islamic Development Bank

معاً لمكافحة الفقر
REDUCING POVERTY
ISFD
صندوق التضامن الإسلامي للتنمية
Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development

Imprint: The Islamic Development Bank · Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
8111 King Khalid St. - Al Nuzlah Al Yamanian Dist. · Unit No. 1 Jeddah 22332-2444
Tel: +966-12-6361400 · Fax: +966-12-6366871 · E-mail : afab@isdb.org · Website: www.isdb.org

