



MAURITANIA

Women, Business and the Law (WBL), in collaboration with the Global Financing Facility (GFF), has collected data on laws affecting women's and girls' access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH), as well as frameworks supporting their implementation. Data were collected through desk research and a questionnaire administered to country experts. The analysis is organized around five indicators. For each indicator, the legal framework is assessed based on domestic laws and regulations. The supportive framework is assessed based on instruments—such as national policies, strategies, and guidelines—that are currently in effect and support the implementation of these laws.

INDICATOR

WHAT DOES IT MEASURE?

		<i>Legal Frameworks</i>	<i>Supportive Frameworks</i>
	SRH rights	Right to SRH; guaranteed access to free SRH services without discrimination	Existence and contents of an operational SRH policy or strategy
	Violence against women and girls (VAWG)	Prohibition of female genital mutilations (FGM)	Adoption of measures to eradicate FGM
	Family planning	Absence of legal restrictions on SRH services, such as the need for consent from a husband, male guardian, parent or third party	Family planning guidelines or protocols
	Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)	Legal mandates for CSE in schools	Guidelines for delivery of CSE in schools
	Right to education	Girls' legal right to attend school during pregnancy and after childbirth	Policies to keep girls in school and allow pregnant and parenting students to attend school

LEGAL AND SUPPORTIVE FRAMEWORKS

Mauritania has a comprehensive and defined framework for:

SRH RIGHTS

Loi N° 2017-025 relative à la Santé de la Reproduction guarantees the right to and access to SRH services without discrimination based on sex or gender, age, or marital status.

The *Plan Stratégique National Intégré pour la Santé Reproductive, Maternelle, Néonatale, Infantile, de l'Adolescent et de la Nutrition (SRMNIA-N) 2022–2026* aims to expand access to family planning, including for adolescents, address gender-based violence, and strengthen the legal and policy framework for SRHR.

The *Plan d'Action National Budgétisé en faveur de l'espacement des naissances 2019–2023* also sought to expand access to quality family planning and SRH services.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Loi N° 2017-025 relative à la Santé de la Reproduction prohibits FGM, while *Ordonnance N° 2005-015 portant protection pénale de l'enfant* establishes criminal penalties for the practice, including fines and up to three years' imprisonment.

FAMILY PLANNING

No provisions in the law require women to obtain consent from their husband or male guardian, or adolescents to obtain parental or a legal guardian's consent to access SRH services. Similarly, the law does not require any third-party consent that may restrict access to SRH.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

The *Ordonnance N° 2005-015 portant protection pénale de l'enfant*, provides that parents, guardians, and school officials who refuse to let a girl under 18 continue her education due to pregnancy can be punished with a fine and imprisonment up to one year.

POLICY OPPORTUNITIES

The data reveal gaps in Mauritania's legal and supportive frameworks across the five indicators assessed. Strengthening these frameworks can help accelerate the country's progress toward gender equality and to improve health outcomes for women, children, and adolescents.

Mauritania may wish to consider translating the following gaps into policy opportunities:

SRH RIGHTS

The *Plan Stratégique National Intégré pour la Santé Reproductive, Maternelle, Néonatale, Infantile, de l'Adolescent et de la Nutrition (SRMNIA-N) en Mauritanie 2022-2026* does not explicitly include and budget any awareness or sensitization campaigns on SRH rights.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Ordonnance N° 2005-015 portant protection pénale de l'enfant criminalizes FGM against children, while *Loi N° 2017-025 relative à la Santé de la Reproduction* prohibits FGM more broadly but does not establish

penalties for the practice. The law also does not address cross-border FGM.

FAMILY PLANNING

The law does not guarantee access to SRH services for unmarried individuals and adolescents, or in case practitioners raise conscientious objections.

No guidelines on the delivery of SRH services have been published.

COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

The law does not mandate the provision of CSE in schools. The government has not published any guidelines for the delivery of CSE in schools.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

The law does not explicitly provide for the right of parenting girls to attend school after childbirth.

Similarly, the government has not adopted any policies to keep girls in school, or to allow pregnant or parenting students to attend school.

WBL SRH LEGAL FRAMEWORKS DATA

	QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
SRH Rights	1.1 Does the law provide for the right to sexual and reproductive health?	Yes	Loi N° 2017-025 relative à la Santé de la Reproduction, Art. 7
	1.2 Does the law guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	Loi N° 2017-025 relative à la Santé de la Reproduction, Art. 9
	1.2.1 If the answer to question 1.2 is Yes, does the law guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services free of cost?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	1.3 Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to sexual and reproductive health services based on sex/gender?	Yes	Loi N° 2017-025 relative à la Santé de la Reproduction, Art. 7
	1.4 Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to sexual and reproductive health services based on age?	Yes	Loi N° 2017-025 relative à la Santé de la Reproduction, Art. 7
	1.5 Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to sexual and reproductive health services based on marital status?	Yes	Loi N° 2017-025 relative à la Santé de la Reproduction, Art. 7
VAWG	2.1 Does the law criminalize FGM?	Yes	Loi N° 2017-025 relative à la Santé de la Reproduction, Art. 22; Ordonnance N° 2005-015 portant protection pénale de l'enfant, Art. 12
	2.1.1 If the answer to question 2.1 is Yes, is the individual performing the FGM procedure criminally responsible?	No	Ordonnance N° 2005-015 portant protection pénale de l'enfant, Art. 12
	2.1.2 Is a parent or legal guardian criminally responsible for allowing FGM to be performed on a minor under their legal custody?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	2.2 Does the law criminalize cross-border FGM?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Family Planning	3.1 Is the law free of provisions requiring a husband or male guardian to consent for a woman to access sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
	3.2. Is the law free of provisions requiring parental or a legal guardian's consent for an adolescent to access sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
	3.3 Is the law free of provisions requiring any other form of third-party consent to access sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
	3.4 Does the law guarantee sexual and reproductive service delivery in case practitioners raise conscientious objections?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
CSE	4.1 Does the law mandate comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in schools?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Right to Education	5.1 Does the law provide for the right of pregnant girls to attend school?	Yes	Ordonnance N° 2005-015 portant protection pénale de l'enfant, Art. 35
	5.2 Does the law provide for the right of adolescent girls to attend school after childbirth?	No	No applicable provisions could be located

WBL SRH SUPPORTIVE FRAMEWORKS DATA

	QUESTION	ANSWER	SOURCE
SRH Rights	1.1 Has the government adopted a sexual and reproductive health policy or strategy?	Yes	Plan Stratégique National Intégré pour la Santé Reproductive, Maternelle, Néonatale, Infantile, de l'Adolescent et de la Nutrition (SRMNIA-N) en Mauritanie 2022-2026; Plan d'Action National Budgétisé en faveur de l'espacement des naissances de la Mauritanie 2019-2023
	1.1.1 If the answer to question 1.1 is Yes, does the policy or strategy include the provision of sexual and reproductive health services among its targets/strategic actions?	Yes	Plan Stratégique National Intégré pour la Santé Reproductive, Maternelle, Néonatale, Infantile, de l'Adolescent et de la Nutrition (SRMNIA-N) en Mauritanie 2022-2026; Plan d'Action National Budgétisé en faveur de l'espacement des naissances de la Mauritanie 2019-2023
	1.1.2 If the answer to question 1.1 is Yes, does the policy or strategy include awareness campaigns among its targets/strategic actions?	No	Plan Stratégique National Intégré pour la Santé Reproductive, Maternelle, Néonatale, Infantile, de l'Adolescent et de la Nutrition (SRMNIA-N) en Mauritanie 2022-2026; Plan d'Action National Budgétisé en faveur de l'espacement des naissances de la Mauritanie 2019-2023
VAWG	2.1 Has the government adopted measures aimed at eradicating FGM?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Family Planning	3.1. Has the government published guidelines on family planning?	No	Insufficient evidence located
CSE	4.1 Has the government published guidelines for the delivery of CSE in schools?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Right to Education	5.1 Has the government adopted policies to keep girls in schools?	No	Insufficient evidence located
	5.2 Has the government adopted policies to allow pregnant students to attend school?	No	Insufficient evidence located
	5.3 Has the government adopted policies to allow adolescent parenting students to attend school?	No	Insufficient evidence located

