

Houwiyeti — Mauritania's AI Facial-Biometric Digital ID for E-Government Access

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Mauritania

Quality score: 60/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

Summary

Mauritania's Houwiyeti app authenticates citizens to e-government services via AI facial recognition instead of passwords, with offline verification for rural areas. Piloted in 2023 with 70+ staff, it rolled out nationally in August 2024; no uptake figures published since.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	1/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability beyond pilot	2/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-08-08

Ministry of Digital Transition, Innovation and Public Sector Modernisation (MTNIMA) / National Agency for People Registry and Secure Documents, with UNDP and TECH5/SmartMS — accessed 2026-08-08

UNDP — Mauritania pilots digital ID app — accessed 2026-08-08

Biometric Update — Mauritania launches digital ID app — accessed 2026-08-08

Identity Week — TECH5 pilot testing details — accessed 2026-08-08

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