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Kingdom of Morocco



VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



2020
NATIONAL REPORT



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"This session of the United Nations General Assembly is of particular importance, especially since it will essentially see the adoption of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Plan." "It is an opportunity to reiterate our collective commitment to achieving the lofty goals called for by the United Nations' Charter and fulfill the aspirations of peoples around the world".

Excerpt from the Speech of His Majesty King Mohammed VI to the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, on September 30, 2015, in New York.






"I look forward to seeing the proposed development model become the cornerstone for the establishment of a new social contract in which all stakeholders will be involved: the state and its institutions as well as the driving forces of the nation, namely the private sector, political parties, trade unions, civil society organizations and the citizens".



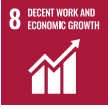




Excerpt from His Majesty King Mohammed VI's Address to the Nation, August 20, 2019, on the occasion of the 66th anniversary of the Revolution of the King and the People.





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FOREWORD

This report has been produced on the eve of the voluntary national review on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, to which the Kingdom of Morocco has decided to lend itself for the second time since 2016, during its participation in the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which will be organized this year from July 7 to 17, 2020 under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

It presents the level of achievement by our country of these goals, under 2020, and the prospects for their evolution by 2030, and thus falls within the framework of the stipulations of paragraphs 79 and 84 of Resolution 70/1 on the Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on September 25, 2015 and to which our country has subscribed, like the international community, after having been one of the active contributors to the development of such Agenda.

The national character of this report owes it as much to the participatory process which presided over its preparation as to the institutional independence and scientific competence of the High Commissioner's Office for Planning, the national institution in charge of demographic and socio-economic studies, foresight, and official statistics, that has assumed the mission of developing content of this report, after ensuring the monitoring and evaluation of the achievements on which it reports.

The mission of implementing this participatory approach was assigned by decree of July 17, 2019 to a "National Commission on Sustainable Development" chaired by the Head of Government and made up, as full members, of all ministerial departments, large national institutions, large public entities, socio-professional organizations, and non-governmental organizations. The High Commissioner's Office for Planning, which is a member of the National Commission, is charged, by the provisions of the same decree, with the dual mission of taking stock of the achievements of the SDGs per government department and of assessing the prospects for their development in the light of the public policies announced by the Government.

Since 2016 and twice, this participatory option has been, in fact, the rule in the process of producing reports of the same nature. This option was the rule then within the framework of a partnership between the Moroccan Government, the High Commission for Planning and the representations in Morocco of the United Nations system and gave rise to national and regional consultations in which participated, alongside delegates from all the relevant ministerial departments, representatives of business circles as well as members of the academia and of civil society.

The creation of the "National Commission on Sustainable Development" has, moreover, responded to one of the recommendations resulting from these consultations and to a conclusion of the report of the Court of Auditors on the SDGs addressed to the Government, inviting, both, the latter to give this participatory process a permanent institutional framework ensuring the pluralism of contributions and the impartiality of their evaluations.

Prepared by the High Commissioner's Office for Planning on the basis of the statistical data base (SDB) dedicated by High Commission for Planning to the SDGs and the reports by goal of the government departments concerned, this report, after having been submitted for debate within the "National Commission on Sustainable Development" and after having received their unanimous approval, was adopted by the Moroccan Government as a National Report on the achievements by the Kingdom of Morocco, for the year 2020.

This report presents the panorama, per goal, of the achievements by the Kingdom of Morocco, of the 2015-2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Program, and assesses the evolution scenarios for 2030, in the light of governmental, institutional, economic, social, and environmental policies.

A report on the contributions of civil society to the analysis of the SDGs and its role in their achievement by 2030 is, as has been the practice since 2016, presented in the appendix, even if this consultation – it should be specified - was, this time, organized online, due to the exceptional circumstances of the pandemic.

A preamble provides a summary of the contents of the report as it was sent to the United Nations on the eve of the 2020 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and posted on the official website of this Forum.

This report is called upon to be the subject of a broad communication campaign, with the participation of all national institutions and our international partners, in particular among United Nations organizations, which should cover both the national and territorial levels, with the goal of consolidating collective ownership of the SDGs and strengthening the operational capacities of actors at all levels of national life, in the process of both their implementation and the monitoring and evaluation of their achievement.

AHMED LAHLIMI ALAMI

High Commissioner for Planning

PREAMBLE

Under the High Directives of His Majesty King Mohammed VI and with His active commitment, the Kingdom of Morocco, by subscribing in 2015, with the international community, to the Sustainable Development Goals agenda, immediately considered these goals as one of the transformational dimensions of its national development model, the renovation of which is now subject to a broad national debate.

Morocco's implementation of the SDGs was, in fact, part of a vast investment effort, which began in the early 2000s, for which it mobilized a third of its GDP in the fields of economic and social infrastructure, the fight against poverty and social inequalities, and the development of its natural resources, with particular sensitivity to the effects of climate change.

These efforts have enabled the country to strengthen its accumulation of physical capital, promote its human capital, accelerate its transition to clean development and thus improve the content of its economic growth in terms of employment, poverty reduction, social and territorial inequalities and reduction in dependence on fossil fuels, in a context marked by the international financial crisis of 2008 and three years of drought in the last decade.

Thus, economic growth reached an average of 4.2% over the 2000-2018 period, unemployment fell to 9%, poverty fell from 8.9% in 2007 to 2.9% in 2018, and inequalities have been curbed with an enhancement of the potential of all regions of the country. By investing in renewable energies, Morocco now has an electricity capacity from renewable sources representing 34% of the national capacity of the electricity mix. Efforts have also been made in the rehabilitation of towns, hydraulic sanitation, and the extension of the forest area.

In the wake of the consolidation of its development model, several institutional reforms were implemented in application of the provisions of the 2011 Constitution of the Kingdom. This is how consultation and deliberation institutions such as those for the advancement of women, child protection or assistance to people with disabilities were set up. Likewise, a National Charter for the Environment and Sustainable Development has been adopted.

Eager to ensure the coordination of the SDGs and ensure their monitoring and evaluation, a National Commission for Sustainable Development has been set up under the Head of Government with the participation of the various ministerial departments and the High Commission for Planning, an institution responsible for the statistics. In this context, a statistical platform dedicated to the SDGs was developed and a computable general equilibrium model was developed to monitor and evaluate the SDGs on a periodic basis.

Under these conditions, the Covid-19 pandemic came, however, to disrupt the development efforts undertaken by the country following its direct negative effects on the entire economy and indirectly through its consequences on Morocco's main partners. Morocco was quick to react in mitigating the effects of this pandemic. The country resorted to lockdown at very early stage, which made it possible to control the pressure on its health system. At the same time, the country undertook a set of actions to guarantee the continuity of basic public social services, in particular in the field of education and training, notably through teleworking and digitization. Likewise, a special fund for the management of the pandemic has been created, benefiting from significant budgetary resources and financial contributions from all actors, both businesses and households as well as civil society.

The fact remains, however, that economically, despite the support provided to households and businesses, this pandemic is said to have caused a potential overall loss of 8.9 points in terms of economic growth in the second quarter of 2020.

In addition, and as part of its commitment to achieving the SDG agenda at the international level, Morocco sets up global partnership, in particular South-South cooperation, as a strategic axis of its foreign policy and, in this regard, the country grants a central place to Africa within this cooperation.

Preparatory framework for the 2020 Voluntary National Review

The 2020 Voluntary National Review relating to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is part of the process of implementing the provisions of paragraphs 79 and 84 of Resolution A/RES/70/1 "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

After that of 2016, this second review is of particular importance. It operates in a national and international context marked by profound changes on the way to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2019 edition of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, by choosing the theme of "Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development", marks a tipping point in the action of the international community, after having reviewed, during the first cycle of voluntary reviews, the progress made on the 17 goals and submitted for debate the four cross-cutting themes constituting strategic areas of the 2030 Agenda.

Likewise, five years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Morocco has subscribed to the international community's commitment to achieve this agenda by 2030 and has made significant progress in this area. This review is therefore intended to be a crucial step in the strategic planning process focused on the SDGs, making it possible to make a retrospective diagnosis of the main advances and to explore the promising paths for the achievement of these goals by 2030.

It draws its strength from the participatory approach that was adopted in its preparation. In June 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans Living Abroad and the High Commissioner's Office for Planning organized, with the support of the United Nations system in Morocco, a national consultation to draw up the progress of the SDGs and prepare the participation of our country in the High Level Political Forum on sustainable development of 2020. That consultation saw the participation of representatives of the government, of the Parliament, of the Court of Auditors, of public institutions, of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council, local authorities, universities, media, and non-governmental organizations. This consultation was an opportunity for all these stakeholders to discuss their achievements and their thoughts on the accelerators of the implementation of the SDGs, which they have undertaken since at least 2016.

In addition to their participation in national, regional and thematic consultations, the various stakeholders contributed to this national review by carrying out actions that fall within their own fields of competence, which made it possible to further strengthen the mobilization process and collective ownership of the 2030 Agenda.

In this context, the High Commissioner's Office for Planning has carried out a series of actions, including:

- (i) The organization, between 2017 and 2019, in collaboration with the Wilayas and the regional councils and in partnership with the UNFPA, of three regional consultations¹, with a view to their generalization to the rest of the regions of the Kingdom, with the aim of sensitizing territorial actors to the contextualization of the SDGs at the level of their geographic areas and to the need to set up regional statistical databases;

¹ Regions of "Tangiers-Tétouan-Al-Hoceima", "Fez-Meknes", and "Marrakech-Safi".

- (ii) The posting on its institutional site of an SDG platform and a site dedicated to the SDGs, containing the quantified indicators of these goals, their metadata as defined by the United Nations and other related work, produced by the High Commission for Planning, as well as a regional database;
- (iii) The completion in 2016 of a national household survey on their perception of the main dimensions and targets of the SDGs, which made it possible to broaden the awareness of Moroccans about the 2030 Agenda and to better understand their concerns through in relation to the main dimensions of sustainable development;
- (iv) Widening the scope of the production of statistical information through the reform of statistical surveys in terms of their content, their territorial, thematic and gender-specific coverage, improvement of collection and exploitation methods data, and by carrying out new surveys. The revision focused on the National Employment Survey and Business Surveys. The new surveys carried out relate in particular to the survey on violence against women with an important novelty consisting in collecting the data necessary to assess the economic and social cost of this phenomenon, a new survey on the standard of living of households, and the launch of a reflection on a new methodological approach for carrying out the next General Population and Housing Census in 2024;
- (v) Assessment of the capacity of the national statistical system to accommodate the SDG indicators. This system produces 102 indicators out of 244, that is to say about 42% of them. According to their classification, this proportion reaches 56.5% of level I indicators (61 out of 108), 37% of level II (35 out of 95), and 9% of level III (3 out of 34).

Regarding partnerships for the support and monitoring of the SDGs, Morocco, through the High Commission for Planning, signed, in January 2019, a partnership agreement with the UNDP and 10 UN agencies in Morocco for the support for the monitoring and reporting of the SDGs in Morocco.

The Parliament is particularly involved through the organization of seminars on the SDGs and the questioning of the Government on the modalities of integrating these Goals in its overall policy and its sectoral strategies.

In 2018, the Court of Auditors carried out a mission to assess the level of preparation of the Moroccan Government for the implementation of the SDGs and published a report on this subject, the main recommendation of which to the Government is to put in place a mechanism for coordinating and defining responsibilities in the process of monitoring the SDGs.

In accordance with this recommendation, the Government set up in July 2019 a National Commission for Sustainable Development, chaired by the Head of Government, which entrusted the High Commissioner's Office for Planning, an independent national institution in charge of statistics, with the mission of "preparation of annual reports on the implementation of the SDGs. By virtue of the decree² creating this commission, the review and reporting on the SDGs have become annual and a SDG monitoring and support committee has been set up within the said national commission for this purpose and chaired by the services of the Head of Government.

² Decree No. 2.19.452 of July 17, 2019 (Official Bulletin No. 6799 of July 29, 2019, Arabic version).

From December 2019, the process of preparing this report took place within the framework of this monitoring and support committee, before being validated by the National Commission for Sustainable Development at its meeting held, under the presidency of the Head of Government on June 3, 2020. In order to ensure the involvement of all ministerial departments in the national review, all of these departments have appointed, on the instructions of the Head of Government, their focal points in as interlocutors of the High Commissioner's Office for Planning. A series of meetings were held for the preparation of the said report in accordance with United Nations guidelines.

The National Human Rights Council (NHRC) has carried out several actions and organized national and regional meetings on the link between the SDGs and the protection of human rights.

The Economic, Social and Environmental Council participated in national consultations and carried out a study recommending the need to create an institutional framework allowing in particular, a concerted and coherent implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Non-governmental organizations were involved through the organization, exclusively on their behalf, of an online consultation between March 24 and April 20, 2020, which made it possible to highlight their contributions to the implementation of the SDGs. The results of this consultation are attached to this report.

This voluntary national review made it possible to take stock of the achievements of the SDGs and to identify the challenges to be met in order to give new impetus to the process of their implementation. These challenges relate mainly to territorial ownership, the consistency of public policies, the coordination of the national statistical system, and the development of funding.

The presentation of the results of this national review to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development constitutes, for the Kingdom, an appropriate opportunity to exchange with peers on the achievements, challenges and opportunities for cooperation in achieving the SDGs.

Implementation status of the SDGs and scenarios for their evolution by 2030

Morocco considers the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a global development framework which overlaps in most of its ambitions with the social project to which Moroccans aspire and whose outlines and principles have been defined by His Majesty King Mohammed VI.

The implementation of this program is taking place, of course, while taking into account the financing measures defined by the Addis Ababa Action Plan on financing for development and the goals of the Paris Agreement on the climate and of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Morocco has, in fact, embarked since the early 2000s on major societal sustainable development projects. With the advent of the global SDG program, Morocco's choices are strengthened and the reforms and strategies undertaken take on new dimensions. The approach adopted by Morocco for the implementation of this program revolves around structuring approaches focused on the promotion of human rights, the transition to the green economy, advanced regionalization, social and territorial cohesion, participation citizen and the development of strategic partnerships, particularly South-South and triangular partnerships.

Political and institutional environment

In 2016, the first national consultation on the contextualization of the Sustainable Development Goals resulted in six guidelines necessary to establish a favorable framework for their implementation of the SDGs. They relate to (1) broadening the process of appropriation of the SDGs, (2) aligning the Sustainable Development Goals with national priorities, (3) controlling the coordination of public policies, (4) the " adaptation of the statistical information system, (5) the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the SDGs and (6) the development of appropriate financing modalities.

Since then, thanks to a number of institutional, economic, social and societal reforms, combined with cross-cutting, sectoral, and categorical strategies, notable progress has been made in terms of ownership of the SDGs, alignment of public policies on these goals, strengthening the institutional and technical mechanism for monitoring / evaluation and reporting, as well as in terms of funding sources. In addition, the decade of acceleration of achievements in favor of sustainable development coincides with the Kingdom's commitment to building a new development model capable of constituting a catalyst and an appropriate framework for the acceleration of the implementation of the SDGs by 2030.

Alignment of public policies with the SDGs

The Voluntary National Review showed that the institutional actors were indeed aware of the value of a common reference to the same framework of integrated goals and that they had well aligned their programs and strategies in relation to the SDGs.

The diagnostic study on the level of alignment of sectoral strategies with the SDGs, carried out using the "RIA analysis" approach, made it possible to have an initial mapping of priorities, an overall assessment of the level of integration of the targets in these strategies, to identify accelerator targets and an approximate correspondence between the SDGs and the National Strategy for Sustainable Development.

Integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development

In order to understand the SDGs, while taking into account their integrated and indivisible nature, Morocco has adopted integrated strategies such as the National Initiative for Human Development which aims at both the fight against poverty and exclusion, the promotion of health and education services, the development of income-generating activities for the poor, and the development of disadvantaged areas. It is also about the National Strategy for Sustainable Development which integrates the majority of the targets in its goals and strategic pillars. Morocco has also developed technical tools, in particular, a computable general equilibrium model that allows analysis of the consistency of public policies and the interactions between the SDGs. The country has also adopted analytical approaches to cross-cutting themes to take into account the integrated nature of the SDGs, in this case, issues relating to human development, social protection, gender equality, growth and employment, inequalities and integrated management of natural resources.

"Leaving no one behind"

As part of the "human rights approach", Morocco places the categories of poor and vulnerable populations and disadvantaged territories at the centre of its public policies. The National Initiative for Human Development is, in this regard, the key to Morocco's success in achieving the MDGs and one of the main levers for achieving the vital SDG targets.

Inclusion of those left behind begins with their identification and analysis of their demographic and socio-economic characteristics. To this end, Morocco has developed an efficient national statistical system, particularly in terms of collection, processing and dissemination of statistical data and socio-economic analyzes relating to these categories, which has made it possible to better inform public decision-making and the advocacy action of NGO actors in favor of their cause. Likewise, a set of integrated strategies have been implemented in favor of these categories, namely the government's plan for equality "ICRAM", the integrated strategy for child protection, the integrated strategy for people with disabilities, and the integrated strategy for youth.

The decentralization of the development process within the framework of advanced regionalization is also a relevant approach to improve the effectiveness of public policies in terms of the inclusion of disadvantaged people and areas.

Mobilization of financing for the implementation of the SDGs

Morocco has embarked on a series of projects to effectively and efficiently use existing resources and to further mobilize internal and external financial resources. This involves the implementation of the budgetary approach based on performance in the public sector, the reform of the tax system, the preservation of macroeconomic balances, the strengthening of investments in industrial sectors to high added value, contracting with the private sector, attractiveness of foreign direct investments, and prudent management of public debt.

Current status of SDG implementation

Taking stock of the achievements of the SDGs, a review of the progress status reveals three salient facts:

- (i) Some targets have already been reached 10 years ahead of their deadlines, namely the eradication of hunger, the reduction of maternal and child mortality, the generalization of primary schooling, the achievement of gender parity in all school cycles and general access to water and electricity.
- (ii) Some targets will be reached before 2030. This is particularly the case for the fight against poverty, the improvement of the nutrition of children under 5 years, and the generalization of schooling in all school cycles.
- (iii) Some targets that present major challenges of which Morocco is aware and is working to meet them by 2030. This concerns, in particular, the reduction of social, territorial and gender inequalities, the promotion of economic growth and decent employment, especially for young people and women, the preservation of marine and terrestrial biodiversity, and the fight against the effects of climate change.

In terms of improving the living conditions of the populations, hunger was already eradicated in 2014 and poverty was reduced in 2018 to 2.9%. The nutrition of children under 5 years has improved since 2018, and wasting was reduced to 2.6%. In 2019, access to basic social services was generalized in urban areas and almost generalized in rural areas, where it reached 97.4% for water, 99.6% for electricity and 91% for sanitation. Housing conditions have also been improved since the proportion of unhealthy urban housing fell from 8.4% in 2004 to 3.6% in 2018.

In addition, significant efforts have been made in the field of rural opening up, thanks to rural road network construction programs, bringing the rural opening-up rate in 2017 to 79.3% versus 54% in 2005.

In the field of health, Morocco has, in 2018, already or almost achieved the targets relating to maternal and infant mortality. The maternal mortality rate is thus 72.6 deaths per 100 000 live births in 2018, the mortality rate for children under 5 years is 22.16 per 1 000 live births and that of neonatal mortality is 13.56 deaths per 1 000 live births. Likewise, the medical coverage rate reached 68.8% in 2019.

In the field of education, after the generalization of primary education and the achievement of gender parity in virtually all school cycles, the enrolment rate in college secondary reached 92% in 2019.

In the economic field, despite a difficult international context, the Moroccan economy has shown resilience and evolved at an average annual rate of 4.2% between 2000 and 2018, at a time when real GDP per capita increased from 16 000 Moroccan Dirhams to around 28 000 Dirhams.

The reforms, in particular economic ones in which Morocco is engaged, have made it possible to establish a favorable business climate. Since 2010, more than 30 regulatory, procedural and institutional reforms have been carried out within the framework of the National Business Environment Committee (NBEC), relating to the simplification of business creation procedures, improvement of the procedure for "obtaining building permits through the creation of a one-stop shop for town planning and an electronic platform in Casablanca, strengthening the protection of minority investors through the reform of the law on public limited companies or the reform of the

Commercial Code. The results of these efforts were not long in coming. In 2019, Morocco was ranked 53rd among 190 world economies by the World Bank's Doing Business 2020 report, posting an increase of 7 ranks compared to 2018 (60th rank) and 75 ranks compared to 2010 (128th rank). The country ranks first in North Africa, 3rd in Africa and 3rd in the MENA area.

Regarding renewable energies, Morocco is part of a process of carrying out major electrical plans from solar and wind sources, which has enabled it to have an electrical capacity from renewable sources representing 34% of the national capacity of the electricity mix and a renewable electricity production of 20% of total electricity production.

Regarding climate change, Morocco is committed to reducing its GHG emissions by 42% by 2030, even though its greenhouse gas emissions remains at a low level (emissions of GHGs were only 86 123.7 Gg E.CO2 in 2016). The country has also launched a disaster risk management strategy.

Regarding peace, security and the quality of institutions, Morocco has embarked on major projects relating to the reform of its judicial system, the fight against crime and violence, human trafficking and migrant smuggling and against terrorism and smuggling, nationally and internationally. In this context, citizen participation in the development of public policies and their implementation has become common practice in Morocco.

Regarding the partnership, Morocco considers the global partnership as a strategic pillar of its foreign policy. In this context, the country grants the African continent a central place in its South-South and triangular cooperation strategy, as evidenced by its return to the African Union and the large number of Royal Visits in several African countries, with the importance of the agreements signed and of the projects launched with these countries.

In one decade, more than 1 000 bilateral agreements and conventions have been signed and entered into force between Morocco and its African partners, and around forty joint commissions have been set up. Several investment promotion conventions and preferential trade agreements and tariffs have also been signed. Concrete measures have been taken on the cancellation by Morocco of its debts owed by the least developed African countries and the facilitation of access to products from these countries.

The relationship between Morocco and its African neighbors has always been marked by its attachment to social and human development. Thus, in the field of human capital development, Morocco has tripled, over the past five years, the number of foreign students enrolled in Moroccan public universities, a large majority of whom benefit from scholarships.

These relations are a powerful lever for the successful implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement that Morocco signed in March 2018.

In addition, Morocco, subscribing to the Royal Vision for Africa, has put in place a National Strategy for Immigration and Asylum, characterized, in particular, by the humanist principles of this Charter and the respect for human rights. For its implementation, Morocco has revised laws and regulations to allow migrants to access a range of services, such as health, education and vocational training. The country is committed to the creation of an African Migration Observatory which will be based in Rabat. Thus, the Moroccan immigration policy is considered a successful experience and has become a leading reference at the African level, and His Majesty the King was appointed Leader of the African Union on the migration issue.

Impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on Morocco's development process³

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted the development trajectory undertaken by the country, because of its negative repercussions on internal economic and social life and on the dynamics of its main partners, in particular, the countries of the European Union.

Effects of the pandemic on economic growth

According to recent forecasts from the High Commission for Planning, the economic activity during the first quarter of 2020 has experienced a significant slowdown, with economic growth which would have fallen to + 0.7%, instead of + 1.9% in a scenario without Covid-19. The impact of this pandemic and its corollary, the lockdown, would be greater in the second quarter, since economic growth would be cut by 8.9 points compared to its evolution before the Covid-19 crisis. In total, this would represent a potential overall loss in terms of GDP of around 29.7 billion Dirhams for the first half of 2020.

These results are due to the accentuation of the decline in agricultural value added following the poor performance of cereals, the fall in foreign demand addressed to our country (-12.5% in the second quarter of 2020), due to the prolongation of lockdown periods in several partner countries. Faced with this decline, our exports of goods and services in volume should fall by 6.1% and domestic demand would suffer from the extension of the lockdown period in Morocco over more than half of the second quarter. Growth in household consumption is expected to weaken by 1.2% in the second quarter of 2020, while investment should continue to decline at a rate of -26.5%. Imports, for their part, are expected to decline by 8.4%.

Per line of business, the tertiary sector would suffer from the reduction in trade and transport and the almost total cessation of activity in accommodation and catering, and the added value of the secondary sector would contract by 8.9%, in annual variation in the same quarter.

Effects of the pandemic on business activity

The qualitative survey carried out by the High Commission for Planning on a sample of 4 000 organized companies showed that:

- 57% of all companies said they had permanently or temporarily stopped their activities;
- The sectors most affected by this crisis are accommodation and catering with 89% of businesses shut down, the textile and leather industries and the metal and mechanical industries with 76% and 73%, respectively, as well as the construction sector with nearly 60% of businesses shut down;
- Regarding the effect of the crisis on employment, 27% of companies are said to have temporarily or permanently reduced their workforce. Nearly 726 000 jobs (excluding the financial and agricultural sector) are said to have been reduced, or 20% of the workforce of organized businesses;
- VSEs (Very Small Enterprises) represent 72%, SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) 26%, and LEs (Large Enterprises) represent 2% of the enterprises that have temporarily or permanently shut their doors;

³ For more information, see the detailed notes in the appendix.

- Almost 67% of exporting companies have been affected by the health crisis. One in 9 companies are said to have stopped its activity once for all, 5 out of 9 companies are said to have proceeded to a temporary stop. In terms of jobs, textile and leather exporters are the most affected with a reduction of more than 50 000 jobs.

Effects of the pandemic on the socio-economic and psychological situation of households

The results of another household survey, carried out by telephone, by the High Commissioner's Office for Planning show, per theme, that:

- 93% of households declare that basic food products are available;
- 34% of households say they have no source of income because of the cessation of their activities;
- 19% of households received state aid to compensate for the loss of employment;
- 48% of households declared that children attending primary school continue to take distance education on a regular basis, using the various digital media in place (51% for college, 69% for secondary and 56% for higher education);
- 40% of households forgo health services in the event of chronic illnesses for fear of being contaminated by Covid-19, 53% in the event of ordinary illnesses, 61% of children's vaccinations, 51% of antenatal and postnatal consultations and 64% reproductive health services.
- For 49% of households, anxiety is the main psychological impact of lockdown. This proportion reaches 54% among households residing in slums, versus 41% among those living in modern housing. Then comes fear that is felt by 41% of Moroccan households, mainly among households headed by a woman (47%), versus 40% headed by a man, and among poor households (43%) versus 33% among the well-off.

Measures to combat the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic ⁴

To mitigate the health, social and economic effects of this pandemic, Morocco has taken a series of important measures, under the High Royal Directives, relating in particular to lockdown and the creation of a special fund to manage the effects of Covid-19, to support the purchasing power of vulnerable households and the activities of the affected businesses.

The budget allocation for the Fund was set at 10 billion Dirhams, but thanks to voluntary contributions from natural and legal persons, both public and private, the budget reached, on April 24, 2020, approximately 32 billion Dirhams.

In the health sector, the measures undertaken concerned the mobilization, under the Royal Directives, of military medicine to strengthen public medical structures, the mobilization of the early detection and epidemiological monitoring system, the strengthening of the capacity of health infrastructures and of the medical staff. Medical and paramedical equipment, including masks and hygiene products, were provided to the entire population and at an affordable price.

⁴ A detailed note on the measures taken, in the appendix

In order to ensure the continuity of vital public services, measures taken have focused on the use of distance education and training, teleworking, and the implementation of online public services.

To mitigate the social effects of the pandemic, lump sum allowances have been granted monthly to employees and households working in the informal sector.

Specific measures have also been taken, directly or through the support of civil society associations, in favor of vulnerable categories including street children, people with disabilities, the elderly and women facing difficulties.

Particular attention has been given to the prison population, as a number of prisoners have received a Royal Pardon and important preventive measures have been taken to protect them against the spread of the virus.

The monitoring and care of Moroccans stranded abroad were ensured through the creation of monitoring units at the level of the central administration in Morocco and at the level of Diplomatic Missions and consular centers abroad.

In terms of public finances, the measures taken focused on the rationalization of public expenditure, the reallocation of resources to priority sectors, the use of drawing on the precautionary and liquidity line (PLL) contracted with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Likewise, the lending rate was reduced by the Central Bank from 2.25% to 2% in order to support access to bank loans by households and businesses.

Businesses, especially very small, small and medium-sized ones, have benefited from measures aimed at reducing their costs, supporting their cash flow and supporting investment.

In order to ensure concerted and effective management of the pandemic, specialized coordination committees have been set up. These are the steering committee⁵ for monitoring the pandemic situation, the scientific and technical committee⁶ for monitoring and informing public decisions on medical and scientific aspects; and the economic watch committee⁷ for monitoring changes in the economic situation and identification of support measures for affected households and economic sectors. In parallel, watch units have been set up at the level of the various ministerial departments.

To successfully end the crisis, a transparent and responsible communication strategy has been put in place.

Scenarios for the evolution of the SDGs by 2030⁸

In order to shed light on the choices of public policies to meet the challenges relating to the implementation of 2030 Agenda, three scenarios for the evolution of the national economy and their repercussions on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals were analyzed, using a computable general equilibrium model developed by the High Commission for Planning in collaboration with UNDP.

5 Made up of the Ministries of Health and the Interior, as well as the Royal Gendarmerie, military medicine, and civil protection services.

6 Committee to the Ministry of Health.

7 Made up - under the coordination of the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Administrative Reform - of the Ministries of the Interior, Foreign Affairs, Agriculture and Fisheries, Health, Industry, Tourism and of Labour, as well as the Central Bank, the Professional Group of Moroccan Banks, the General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises, the Federation of Chambers of Industry, Commerce and Services, and the Federation of Chambers of Crafts.

8 For more details, see the note in the appendix.

A trend scenario traces the evolution of the Moroccan economy by projecting until 2030 the socio-economic achievements observed in recent years.

A so-called probable scenario taking into account the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the national economy, traces the trajectory of its evolution with a gradual recovery after the period of recession caused by this pandemic.

A so-called desirable scenario is intended to be a proactive scenario where the national economy would benefit from the reforms and opportunities offered today in the national and international context.

1. The trend scenario

According to the scenario, the Moroccan economy should continue to grow by 3% per year between 2020 and 2030. In terms of the components of final domestic demand, household consumption would grow at 2.9% per year, private investment at 2.1% and public consumption at 3.3%. The external trade deficit is said to be growing, despite the 3.8% increase in exports, higher than the 3.2% increase in imports.

At the sectoral level, market services would register the highest added value, followed by manufacturing, utilities and agriculture. The growth rate would be 3% per year by 2030 for market and utilities and is expected to be between 1.9% and 3% on average, respectively for agriculture and manufacturing. The mining industry sector is said to have the lowest growth rate, less than 1%.

The indicators relating to all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would therefore improve in 2030.

The field of education, in particular, would see a 16.7% drop in the proportion of out-of-school adolescents and a 6.4% increase in the preschool enrolment rate, of 1.4% of the completion rate for the primary cycle, and of 4.5% of secondary and 12% of the enrolment rate in higher education.

In the field of health, infant and neonatal mortality rates are said to have fallen significantly by 15.3% and 12.7% respectively. Maternal mortality would drop by 20.1%.

There would also be a 2% increase in the proportion of the population with access to drinking water and 5.7% to sanitation.

In addition, the inequalities measured by the Gini coefficient, should experience a slight increase, going from 39.5% in 2019 to 39.6% in 2030, i.e. a growth of 3.6% over the entire period.

2. The probable scenario

This scenario assumes that the effects of the recession caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in several countries, in particular Morocco's trading partners, would disappear only after the next two years, due to the slowdown, or even the end of production, disruption of supply chains, and slowing global demand. The demand addressed to Morocco would be weak and would experience a very long return to normal. Once this disruption has passed, a certain revival of vigor in the world economy would return, driven mainly by the good behavior of emerging and developing economies, consequently positively impacting the demand addressed to Morocco.

However, certain factors of uncertainty could jeopardize the strength of the global economy that would be drawn after the Covid-19 pandemic, in particular the risks of accentuating trade retaliation measures between the United States and China, and their impacts on the production of raw materials of energy origin as well as the uncertainties relating to Brexit.

The Moroccan economy would show resilience since dynamic national exports would return, driven by the performance of the sectors forging the backbone of Morocco's global trades as well as by the performance that would be observed in terms of flows of foreign direct investments (FDIs) received by Morocco. Such positive results would be corollary to the reforms deployed by Morocco in terms of modernizing its production system and strengthening its competitiveness.

The rate of GDP growth would be improved to reach 4% per year and would be a corollary to the deployment of several sector programs and strategies that have contributed to the modernization of the country's infrastructure and to the raising of the specialization profile of its production system. The manufacturing industries and market services sectors are expected to grow by 3.9% and 4.5% respectively, while the agricultural sector will experience growth of 2.5% on annual average over the next ten years.

In this context, the SDG indicators would experience improvements compared to the trend scenario. In the area of education, the decline in the proportion of out-of-school adolescents would be 23.8% instead of 16.7% in the trend scenario. There would also be larger declines in infant and neonatal mortality rates, of around 21.8% and 18.3% instead of 15.3% and 12.7% respectively in the trend scenario. Maternal mortality would decrease by 28.3% instead of 20.1%.

3. The desirable scenario

This alternative scenario, which is intended to be desirable, is simulated to highlight the gain that Morocco could achieve in terms of economic growth and progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals if certain conditions are met. It is essentially a matter of the substantial improvement in the return on investments made and a consequent enhancement of the opportunities offered by free trade agreements in terms of expanding foreign markets. Strengthening industrial integration in certain promising sectors and raising their competitiveness are also necessary to alleviate the competitive pressures created by imports on the national productive fabric. Mobilization of public investment would be further supported in favor of economic infrastructure, including roads, highways, ports, airports and dams. In this scenario, the national economy would gain almost two points of growth compared to the trend scenario.

The manufacturing sector would be a driving force in this dynamic and its evolution would be 6.4% on annual average over the next ten years. Likewise, the market services sectors as well as that of agriculture would experience notable improvements with growth of 4.9% and 3.8% respectively.

In terms of the Sustainable Development Goals, their evolution would be significant compared to the trend scenario.

In the field of education, the decline in the share of out-of-school adolescents would be 30% instead of 16.7% in the trend scenario. In the health sector, the maternal mortality rate would drop to 47 deaths per 100 000 live births instead of 58 in the trend scenario, that is to say a drop of 35.2%.

Next steps

The voluntary national review for the year 2020 made it possible to consolidate a set of achievements, but also to identify a number of avenues for strengthening the process of implementing the SDGs in Morocco. So the next steps can be summarized in the following main actions:

- 1.** Widen the process of ownership and involvement with the various stakeholders, at national, regional and territorial level. This involves, in particular, ensuring wide dissemination of the national report to these stakeholders, continuing to organize national and regional consultations and strengthening the capacities of administrations and local authorities in the planning and implementation of SDGs as well as monitoring and reporting on their achievement.
- 2.** Consolidate the framework and mechanisms for the consistency of public policies in favor of an effective and efficient implementation of the SDGs.
- 3.** Strengthen the integration of the SDGs and their priority targets in the budget process. A first list of priority SDGs and targets and those that could play an accelerating role in achieving the 2030 Agenda has been drawn up. For the consolidation of the process of their implementation, these priorities will be integrated into the budget process, which would strengthen the consistency between the strategies and the operational action plan for the implementation of the SDGs.
- 4.** Further develop the organizational capacity of the national statistical system. In order to consolidate the performance and strengthen the capacity of its national statistical system, Morocco has drawn up a new law, currently in the process of approval, in accordance with the fundamental principles of official statistics, adopted by the United Nations.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE SDGS PER GOAL



End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The fight against poverty has always been one of the national priorities in Morocco to establish an inclusive society and consolidate the implementation of the "leaving no one behind" principle advocated by 2030 Agenda.

The approach adopted to this end is based on a set of strategies aimed at combating precariousness and exclusion, widening access to basic social services, developing the social protection system and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable populations against climate shocks.

In this regard, the National Initiative for Human Development is the most constructive long-term strategy in terms of fight against poverty and social exclusion and in terms of realization of the "leaving no one behind" principle.

Launched by His Majesty King Mohammed VI - may God assist him - on May 18, 2005, this initiative stands out as an innovative public policy, by its philosophy, its decentralized approach, its coordination and inclusion approach, ensuring the spatiotemporal integration of the various sectoral public interventions, and an adapted system of inclusive and multi-level territorial governance.

These assets have earned it the third best social initiative of general interest worldwide by the World Bank in 2015.

Between 2015 and 2018, around 44 000 projects were carried out with a global investment of around 44 billion Dirhams.

Successive drinking water supply and electrification programs were also initiated in the 1990s, which led to widespread access to these basic services.

Strategies and programs have also been implemented to strengthen the social protection system of vulnerable social categories, in its dual dimension of insurance and assistance, in the face of social, economic and climatic risks, including in particular drought and disasters.

These efforts have made it possible to considerably improve household living standards and substantially reduce poverty in all its forms.

In addition, new strategies are being deployed in order to consolidate the gains in these areas and meet the persistent challenges, particularly in terms of the fight against rural poverty and the generalization of social protection against the various shocks.

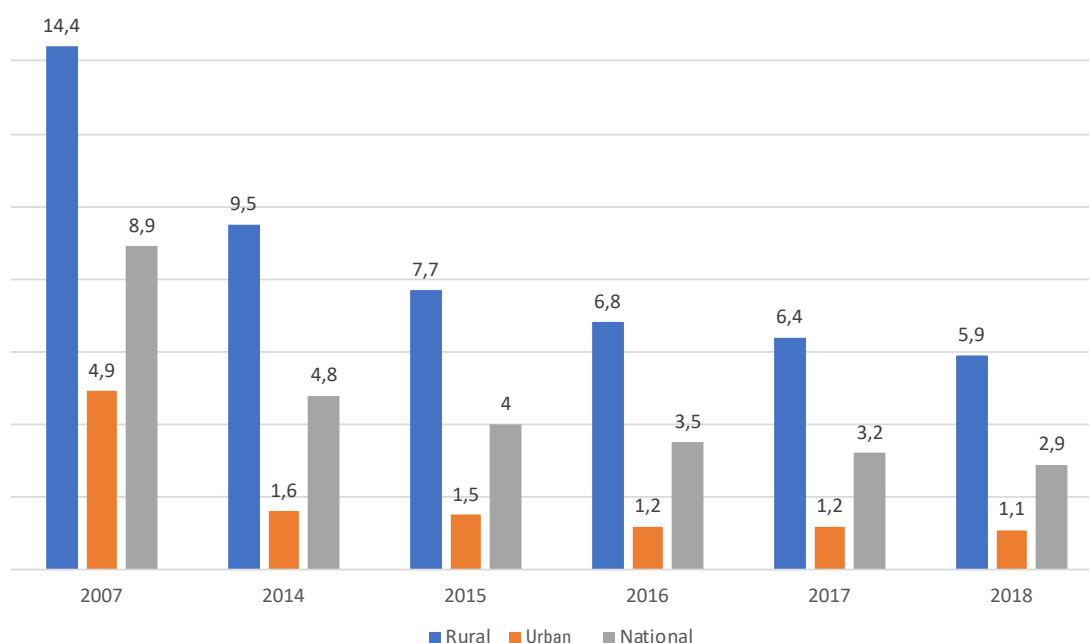
Progress status

End poverty in all its forms

Between 2014 and 2018⁹, the monetary poverty rate was marked by a downward trend, while remaining relatively high in rural areas, among women and in certain regions. It went from 4.8% to 2.9% nationally. With a rate of 1.1% in 2018, poverty is tending towards eradication in urban areas, while in rural areas, despite its decline, it is still at 5.9% after having stood at 9.5 % in 2014.

⁹ The poverty rate for 2018 is estimated econometrically by reference to the imputation methodology from one survey to another.

Graph 1: Evolution of absolute monetary poverty (%)



Source: High Commission for Planning (HCP)

The number of people whose annual spending level below the poverty line fell from 2 755 million in 2007 to 1 605 million in 2014 and 1 021 million in 2018.

At the regional level, six regions recorded in 2014 poverty rates higher than the national average and grouped together three-quarters (74%) of the poor, namely the regions of Drâa-Tafilalet (14.6%), Béni-Mellal- Khénifra (9.3%), Marrakech-Safi (5.4%), the Oriental (5.3%), Fez-Meknes (5.2%) and Souss-Massa (5.1%).

The same downward trend was observed for multidimensional poverty. Its rate has, in fact, decreased between 2004 and 2014, from 25% to 8.2% nationally, from 9% to 2% in urban areas and from 45% to 18% in rural areas.

The number of people poor according to the criteria of multidimensional poverty reached about 2.8 million in 2014, 85% of whom are rural dwellers.

The analysis, by source, of multidimensional poverty, shows that educational deficiencies of adults and children contribute more than half, deprivation of access to basic infrastructure with 20%, housing with 14% and health services with 11%.

At the regional level, it is observed that it is the poorest regions which experienced the greatest decline in multidimensional poverty between 2004 and 2014, in particular the regions of Marrakech-Safi (from 34.0% to 11.3%), Tangiers-Tétouan-Al Hoceima (from 30.3% to 9.5%) and Béni-Mellal-Khénifra (from 31.0% to 13.4%).

As for vulnerability, it also experienced a decline between 2007 and 2014, dropping from 17% to 12.5% nationally, from 13% to 8% in urban areas and from 24% to 19% in rural areas.

Strengthening social protection mechanisms

Significant improvements have been recorded by the national social protection system, in its two components, "social insurance" and "social assistance".

The rate of medical coverage reached almost 68.8% in 2019 instead of 52% in 2015, thanks to the expansion of the medical assistance scheme (RAMED), the establishment of compulsory health insurance (AMO) and social security schemes for the independent workers and the self-employed.

At the same time, a set of social development and assistance programs for poor and vulnerable populations have been implemented, while other actions are underway, which would make it possible to consolidate the access of these categories to a wide range of social services.

In this context, this concerns the "Social Cluster" strategy and other programs including the National Initiative for Human Development, which strengthen social protection and the economic empowerment of women and young people in a situation of precariousness and people with disabilities, care for people in difficult situations, and the social integration of people in precarious situations. The protection of deprived children is also at the centre of these efforts, through the "cities without street children" initiative.

Moreover, given their place in the memory of Morocco, the members and family of the Resistance and the Liberation Army benefit from a specific program to improve their material, social, health, and moral conditions.

Towards a new integrated public policy on social protection

In application of the High Royal Instructions, the Government is committed, using a participatory approach, to the development of an integrated public policy for social protection. This policy will constitute a framework of reference and convergence of all existing or new social protection mechanisms.

Strengthening the resilience of populations against climate risks

In order to meet its commitments made under the Sendai Framework, Morocco has put in place a national disaster risk reduction strategy. This makes it possible to consolidate social protection mechanisms, particularly for poor and vulnerable populations.

Main challenges

The main challenges to be met in terms of sustainability of achievements and acceleration of poverty and vulnerability reduction are as follows:

- The reduction of poverty and vulnerability, particularly in rural areas, among women and in disadvantaged regions;
- The acceleration of the generalization of the social protection system, in particular in favor of the poor and vulnerable populations;
- The enlargement of the middle classes through, among other things, the reduction of social, spatial and gender inequalities.

Strategies and Programs

The reduction of poverty and vulnerability was the result of the implementation of a set of human development strategies and programs, including:

- The National Initiative for Human Development (NIHD). With its phase III (2019-2023) and a budget of 18 billion Dirhams, it is committed to four programs, relating to the catching up of deficits in infrastructure and basic social services, support for people in precarious situations including the elderly, sick or disabled, improving the income and economic inclusion of young people and boosting the human capital of rising generations.
- Programs to promote access for rural populations to drinking water, electricity and roads, in particular the Grouped Drinking Water Supply program, the Global Rural Electrification Program and the National Program for the Construction of Rural Roads;
- The "cities without slums" program for the eradication of slums in 85 towns and urban communities and the improvement of household living conditions;
- The program to strengthen social actions in favor of populations in difficult situations and the creation, for this purpose, of a Support Fund for Social Cohesion.
- The assistance program for people with specific needs, aimed at promoting the rights of people with disabilities and improving their access to basic social services;
- The program to improve the material, social, health and moral conditions of the Resistance family and the Liberation Army;
- The Green Morocco Plan, in particular its pillar II intended for the modernization of solidarity agriculture and the fight against poverty among small farmers. To this is added the agricultural aggregation, which is an innovative model of organizing small farmers around private actors or professional organizations with strong managerial capacity.
- The national development strategy for oasis and argan areas adopted in 2013 to promote the inclusive and territorial development of oasis and argan areas. It revolves around a comprehensive development program for these areas taking into account economic, social, human, cultural and environmental levels.
- The program to reduce territorial and social disparities in the rural world, by opening up rural populations and mountain areas, as well as improving their quality of life and promoting their access to education services, health, drinking water, electrification, and rural roads;
- Medical coverage plans, in particular RAMED and AMO;
- The Government Plan for Equality "ICRAM" in its two versions (2012-2016 and 2017-2021);
- The risk management strategy which contributes to strengthening the protection system for poor and vulnerable populations.

Evolution of SDG1 indicators

Targets	Indicator Code	Indicators	2007	2014	2018	Target Value for 2030
Target 1.1 By 2030, completely eradicate extreme poverty worldwide (currently means living on less than \$ 1.25 a day)	1.1.1	1.1.1 Proportion of the population living below the internationally set poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and place of residence (urban / rural area) (in %)	3,9	0,1	0	0
Target 1.2 By 2030, halve at least the proportion of men, women and children of all ages suffering from one form or another of poverty, as defined by each country.	1.2.1	1.2.1 Proportion of the population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age (in %).	8,9	4,8	2,9	2,4
		1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in a situation of poverty in all its forms, as defined by each country (in %).	-	8,2	-	4,1
1.3 Put in place social protection systems and measures for all, adapted to the national context, including social protection floors, and ensure that, by 2030, a significant proportion of the poor and vulnerable people benefit from them.	1.3.1	1.3.1 Proportion of the population benefiting from social protection bases or systems, by sex and by population groups (children, unemployed, elderly, people with disabilities, pregnant women and newborns, victims of work accidents, poor and vulnerable) (in %.)	-	-	-	100
	1.3.1a	1.3.1a Medical coverage rate (in %)	(2015) 52	(2016) 59	(2019) 68,8	100

Source: National Survey on Household Consumption and Expenditure 2013-2014 (NSHCE), and National Survey on Household Living Standards (NSHLS), 2007, High Commissioner's Office for Planning (HCP).



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

In Morocco, the fight against hunger, the improvement of food and nutritional security, and the promotion of sustainable agriculture, are among the national priorities. The progress made means that hunger and malnutrition are no longer major issues today.

These nutritional improvements are the result, among other things, of the improvement of the annual availability of food products per capita and of the coverage of food needs, of the stability of consumer prices of foodstuffs, and of the improvement of food quality.

Progress status

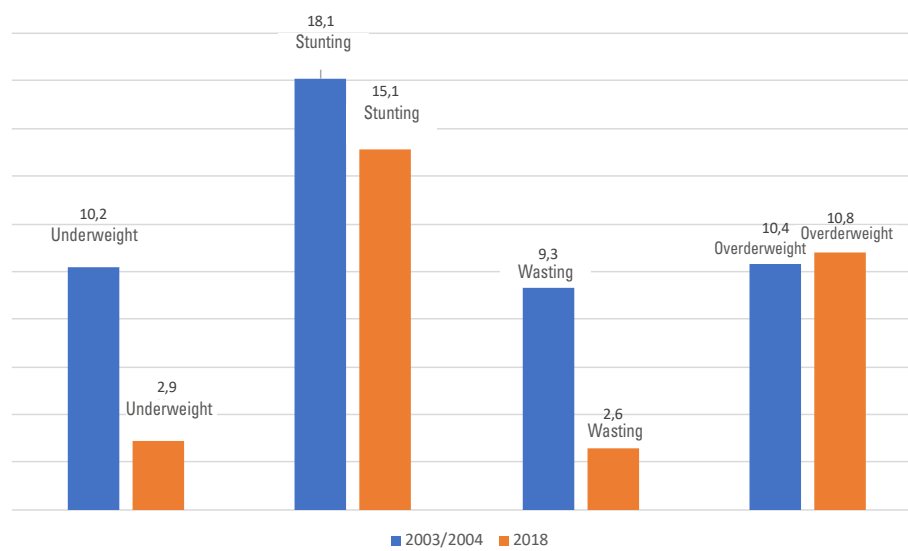
Fight against hunger and improve children's nutrition

In terms of the fight against hunger, the proportion of the population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption, which is equal to zero in urban areas, decreased between 2007 and 2014, from 0.9% to 0.1% at the national level and from 2 % to 0.2% in rural areas.

The nutrition of children under 5 years has seen continuous improvement. Between 2004 and 2018, underweight was reduced from 10.2% to 2.9%, stunting fell from 18.1% to 15.1%, but it remains, in 2018, twice as high in rural areas than in urban areas (20.5% versus 10.4%) and more important for boys compared to girls (17.3% versus 12.7%).

Likewise, wasting fell from 9.3% to 2.6%, while overweight was contained at around 10.5% (12.3% for boys versus 9.2% for girls).

Graph 2: Indicators of malnutrition in children under 5 years (in %)



The annual availability per capita evolved between 2008 and 2018 at a rate varying, depending on the product, from 16% for cereals to 43% for white meats, with the exception of sugar, which experienced a reduction of 6%.

Table 1: Evolution of the annual availability of food products per capita between 2008 and 2018

Foodstuffs	2008	2018	Rate
Cereals (kg/capita)	189	219	16%
Fruits and vegetables (kg/capita)	245	290	18%
Olive oil (L/capita)	3	4	33%
Red meats (kg/capita)	13	17	31%
White meats (kg/capita)	14	20	43%
Milk (L/capita)	60	74	23%
Sugar (kg/capita)	36	34	-6%

Source: Department of Agriculture

Likewise, the rate of coverage of food needs by agricultural production has reached satisfactory levels. Between 2008 and 2018, it went from 98% to 100% for fruits and vegetables, from 97% to 100% for white meats, from 98% to 100% for red meats, from 94% to 98% for milk, from 93% to 94% for olive oils, from 50% to 72% for cereals, and finally from 38% to 47%, between 2007 and 2017, for sugar.

Over the same period, the consumer food price index has been relatively stable, despite the increase in the prices of these foods on the world market.

In terms of quality, products rich in calories (cereals, sugars and sweet products) are declining in favor of products rich in protein (meat, fish, eggs, dairy products) whose share of food expenditure moved from 33% in 2001 to 36% in 2014.

Moreover, the analysis of food expenditure by social category¹⁰ shows that the gap between the richest 10% and the least well-off 10% continues to widen, going from 7 001 Dirhams in 2001 to 10 947 Dirhams in 2014. By area of residence, the difference in this food expenditure between city dwellers and rural dwellers increased slightly over the same period, from 1 396 Dirhams to 1 575 Dirhams.

¹⁰ National Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys 2001 and 2014, High Commission for Planning.

Promotion of the situation of small farmers, especially women, and of sustainable agriculture

In order to promote the situation of small farmers, especially women, Morocco adopted, in 2019, three pieces of legislation relating to collective lands known as "Soulaliyates", establishing the right of Soulaliyate women to exploit these agricultural lands.

Likewise, several efforts have been made within the framework of the Green Morocco Plan, in favor of sustainable agriculture, focusing in particular on:

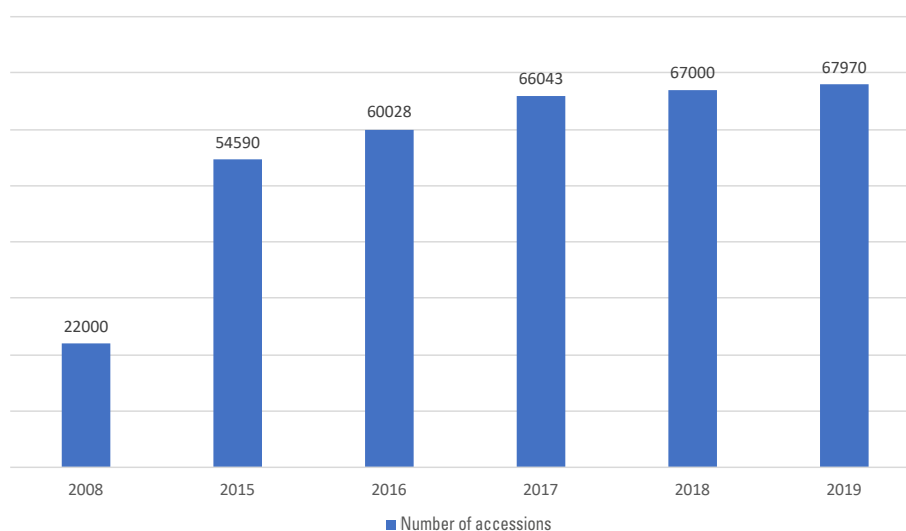
- The conversion of cereals to crops with high added value and less sensitive to climate hazards (olive, almond, carob, cactus);
- The development of local products with the aim of generating additional agricultural income;
- The intensification of animal and plant sectors through supervision of operators, allowing the improvement of yields and the enhancement of production;
- Equipment of around 600 000 hectares using water-saving irrigation techniques, which represents 36.5% of all irrigated areas;
- The reuse of unconventional water, in particular through the desalination of seawater;
- The establishment of agricultural insurance (multi-risk and multi-sector) covering 1 005 000 hectares;
- The development of organic farming over an area of approximately 9 500 hectares.
- The conclusion and implementation of 19 sector program contracts between the Government and professionals in the agricultural sector for the development and upgrading of the main agricultural production sectors by 2020 as well as a program contract development of agro-food industries.
- Strengthening the valuation, processing and marketing of agricultural products through the development of agricultural production valuation and processing units, the ongoing establishment of 7 agropoles in addition to the establishment of logistical and commercial platforms.

In addition, in order to deal with the deterioration in the quality of food and therefore to preserve human and animal health and to protect the environment, two laws aimed at regulating the use of agricultural pesticides and fertilizers have been adopted, namely the law relating to plant protection products and the law relating to fertilizers, to their adjuvants and to the growing media.

In terms of preserving the genetic diversity of seeds, crops and livestock, Morocco is one of the first countries to ratify several conventions, including in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Global Plan of Action on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

It is thus engaged in the conservation, characterization and evaluation of genetic resources, as well as in the promotion of research, training and technology transfer. In this sense, the number of plant genetic resources stored in gene banks increased from 22 000 to 67 970 accessions between 2008 and 2019.

Graph 3: Evolution of the number of plant genetic resources stored in the gene bank



Source: National Institute of Agronomic Research

To further promote the productive capacities of the agricultural sector, Morocco is strengthening its cooperation relations with various international partners in order to attract more investment to this sector. Public and private investments in the agricultural sector increased from 5.6 billion Dirhams in 2008 to 12.9 billion Dirhams in 2018. Thus, the Agricultural Orientation Index of public expenditures (AOI) has improved between 2008 and 2016 dropping from 0.4 to 1.05 and remained almost stable over the 2016-2018 period.

To ensure the proper functioning of agricultural markets, Morocco deploys, in accordance with its international commitment, continuous efforts to comply with Article 9 of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture under which subsidies to export are subject to reduction commitments. Likewise, an agricultural product price information system has been put in place to promote rapid access to market information for foodstuffs and derived products.

Main challenges

Despite the progress made in the fight against hunger and malnutrition, as well as the promotion of sustainable agriculture, many challenges remain, the main ones being:

- The sustainability of achievements in a context characterized by the effects of climate change and the degradation of natural resources damaging the productive base of food production systems, the increase in the prices of food and energy products on international markets and the increase food consumption due to population growth;
- Reduction of social, territorial and gender disparities in access to sufficient, healthy and quality food;
- The reduction of threats to the sustainability of genetic resources and which are likely to increase with demographic change and the anarchic exploitation of natural resources;
- Mobilization of financial resources;
- Strengthening governance at regional and national level and the convergence of the interventions of all actors in the field of nutrition.

Strategies and Programs

The progress recorded by Morocco in the area of improving food security and nutrition and the promotion of sustainable agriculture are the results of the implementation of a set of strategies and programs, including:

- The “Green Morocco Plan” (2008-2020) whose goals were to strengthen the weight of agriculture in the national economy, consolidate its integration into national and international markets, reduce poverty and reduce the vulnerability of small farmers and ensure the long-term sustainability of natural resources.
- The “Generation Green 2020-2030” agricultural strategy. This strategy is based on two foundations concerning the human element and the pursuit of the dynamic of agricultural development: The first foundation aims to promote the human element, and this through the emergence of a new generation of agricultural middle class, the birth of a new generation of young entrepreneurs and a new generation of professional organizations in the agricultural sector. The second foundation aims to strengthen value chains and develop agricultural sectors. In addition, the strategy aims to improve distribution circuits for agricultural products as well as the development of sustainable and resilient agriculture, in particular through the implementation of the 2020-2027 national drinking water supply and irrigation program.
- The Halieutis strategy (2009-2020) for the development of the marine fisheries sector which has enabled, in addition to increasing the competitiveness and conservation of marine ecosystems, the diversification of the national diet.
- The National Nutrition Strategy (2011-2019), it aimed to improve the nutritional status of the populations, by improving their quantitative and qualitative accessibility to quality food products, strengthening coordination between the various nutrition stakeholders, and the development of research in this area.
- The Global and integrated National Nutrition Program. Institutionalized in 2019, this program falls within the framework of the implementation of the National Nutrition Strategy and is perfectly in line with international commitments, in particular the Declaration of the 2nd International Conference on Nutrition of 2014, the SDGs and the Decade of Action on Nutrition 2025. Morocco’s National Nutrition Program aims to improve indicators of the nutritional status of the population throughout life, to promote a healthy lifestyle in order to prevent nutritional disorders and nutrition-related diseases, and to strengthen institutional and professional skills in nutrition.
- The Strategy for the fight against childhood obesity (2018-2025) on the prevention and control of childhood overweight and obesity, and awareness of the promotion of child and adolescent nutrition.

Evolution of SDG2 indicators

Targets	Indicator Code	Indicators	2003-2004	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Target Value for 2030
2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round	2.1.1	Prevalence of undernourishment (in %)	(2007) 0,9	0,1	-	-	-	-	0
2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.	2.2.1	Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age (in %).	(2004) 18,1	-	-	-	-	15,1	0
	2.2.2	2.2.2.a Prevalence of wasting (weight for height <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standard) among children under 5 years (in %)	9,3	-	-	-	-	2,6	0
		2.2.2.b Prevalence of overweight (weight / height > +2 standard deviation from the median of WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age (in %).	10,4		-	-	-	10,8	0

2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.	2.5.1	Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities.	-	-	54590	60028	66043	2018 : 67000 2019 : 67970	-
2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries	2.a.1	2.a. Agriculture Orientation Index for government expenditure	(2008) 0,4	-	-	1,05	1,05	1,05	-

Source:: National Population and Family Health Survey (2003-2004 and 2018), Ministry of Health, National Household Consumption and Expenditure Survey (2013- 2014), High Commission for Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests, and National Institute of Agronomic Research.



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

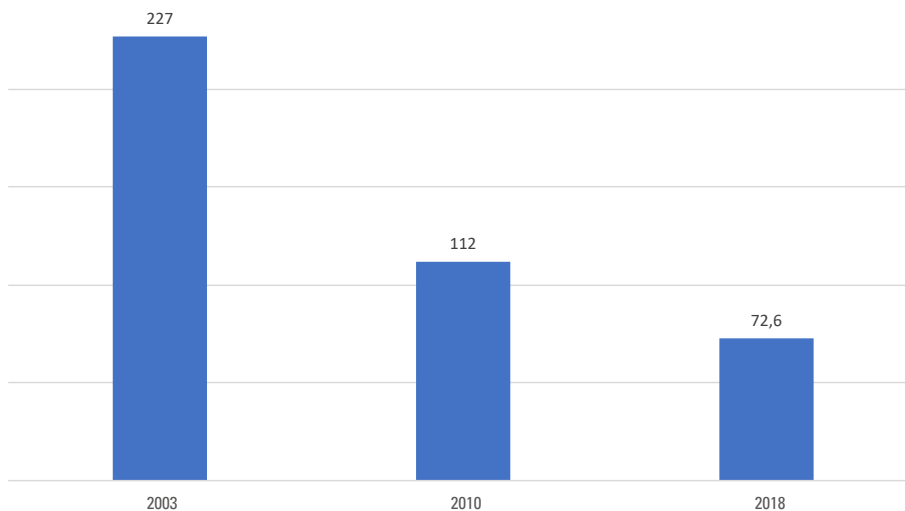
The health and well-being of populations is one of the goals of any development strategy and is a central theme in the global sustainable development agenda. It interacts directly or indirectly with all the other SDGs, insofar as it constitutes, at the same time, a result for some goals and a cause for some others. Thanks to the efforts made in this area, Morocco has made considerable progress, but it still faces a set of challenges and this is how it initiates new strategies to face them.

Progress status

Maternal and child health

The maternal mortality rate fell from 112 deaths per 100 000 live births in 2010 to 72.6 in 2018. The progress was more marked in urban areas than in rural areas, since this rate stood in 2018, respectively, at 44.5 and 111.1 deaths per 100 000 live births.

Graph 4: Maternal mortality rate per 100 000 live births

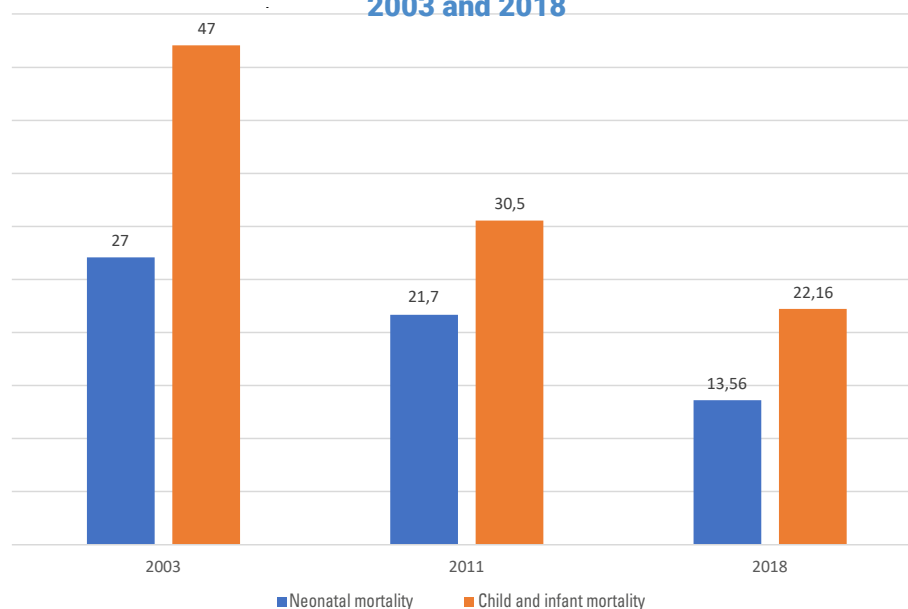


Source: Ministry of Health and High Commission for Planning (HCP)

This decrease is due to the development of health services offered to women, in particular the generalization of free access to all services related to childbirth at the level of public hospitals. Thus, the proportion of childbirth assisted by qualified health personnel increased between 2011 and 2018 from 73.6% to 86.6% at the national level, from 92.1% to 96.6% in urban areas and from 55% to 74.2% in rural areas.

As for neonatal mortality, it fell, during the same period, from 21.7 to 13.56 deaths per 1 000 live births. The infant and child mortality rate has been reduced from 30.5 to 22.2 per 1 000 live births and that of children under one year of age from 28.8 to 18 per 1 000 live births.

Graph 5: Neonatal and infant-juvenile mortality rate per 1000 live births between 2003 and 2018



Source: Ministry of Health

Control of communicable diseases

On the epidemiological level, Morocco has implemented a strategy to respond to communicable diseases, in particular HIV-AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

In terms of HIV, the latest estimates of the epidemic provided by the Ministry of Health and UNAIDS show that the number of new HIV infections remains low in the general population, at 0.03 per 1 000 HIV-negative people in 2019.

Regarding tuberculosis, the annual incidence, all forms combined, fell between 2015 and 2018, from 101 cases to 99 cases per 100 000 inhabitants. A national anti-tuberculosis strategic plan 2018-2021 has been put in place to reduce the number of deaths linked to this disease by 40% by 2021.

For malaria, Morocco has not detected any indigenous cases since 2005, but it records an average of 450 imported cases.

For viral hepatitis B, the incidence fell from 12 cases in 2016 to 11 cases per 100 000 in 2019.

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), mental health and traumas

The epidemiological transition that Morocco has undergone has resulted in an increasingly heavy burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) on the national health system, in particular cancers, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and chronic respiratory diseases. In 2018, the death rate from these diseases reached 12.4%.

The suicide death rate fell from 4.8 per 100 000 inhabitants in 2015 to 2.9 in 2016. Of the 1 014 suicide cases recorded in 2016, 613 are women (60.4%).

Prevention and treatment of abuse of psychoactive substances

With regard to mental health, priority has been given to developing the supply of psychiatric care through the setting up of 9 integrated psychiatric services in hospitals in 9 provinces, the purchase of psychotropic drugs and the coverage of therapeutic interventions for drug addiction disorders (follow-up of approximately 25 700 patients in 2018 compared to 15 168 in 2016).

Alcohol consumption increased, according to the WHO, from 0.69 liters per capita (aged 15 and over) in 2016 to 0.74 liters in 2018.

Deaths and injuries from traffic accidents

The prevention of road traffic accidents is a real concern in Morocco and significant efforts have been made to this end. Thus, the mortality rate linked to accidents on public roads per 100 000 inhabitants fell from 11 deaths in 2016 to 9.37 deaths in 2019.

The goal of the public authorities is to reduce this rate to 5.6 deaths per 100 000 inhabitants by 2025. Thus, the new national road safety strategy 2017-2026 aims to reduce the number of deaths from road accidents by 25% by 2021 and half and by 2026.

Access for all to sexual and reproductive health care services

The significant reduction in maternal mortality could be explained, in particular, by the improvement in pregnancy monitoring, childbirth in a supervised environment and the improvement in the quality of care.

The proportion of women who benefited from qualified prenatal consultations increased by 11 points between 2011 and 2018 to reach 88.5%, while that of deliveries assisted by qualified personnel increased from 73.6% in 2011 to 86.6% in 2018.

The share of non-single women aged 15 to 49 using a contraceptive method increased from 67.4% in 2011 to 70.8% in 2018.

The teenage birth rate (15 to 19 years old) also fell from 32 births per 1 000 adolescent girls in 2011 to 19.4 in 2018.

Universal health coverage

The adoption in 2002 of the Basic Medical Coverage Code (CMB) and the establishment in 2005 of the compulsory health insurance component (AMO) for employees and a medical assistance scheme for the economically disadvantaged (RAMED) since 2012, made it possible to achieve a medical coverage rate of 68.8% of the Moroccan population in 2019 versus 52% in 2015. Coverage was extended in 2015 to students not covered through the establishment of compulsory health insurance (AMO) for the benefit of students in public and private higher education for a target population of 288 000 students. Subsequently, 232 083 students were registered.

This coverage is based on the principle of free access and dematerialized management via an electronic portal which allows students to follow up on their applications for enrolment in the Compulsory Medical Insurance (AMO) scheme (<http://cme.enssup.gov.ma>).

In addition, students have free access to healthcare services offered by 21 university medical centers.

The rate of medical coverage of the Moroccan population is expected to improve with the adoption of three implementing decrees specific to the medical coverage of self-employed workers, in particular midwives, physiotherapists and Adouls (religious notaries) and by the coverage, shortly, of self-employed individuals exercising a liberal activity.

In addition, Morocco attaches particular importance to Former Resistance fighters and Former Members of the Liberation Army and is devoting to them a program of generalization of medical coverage and access to essential health services.

As part of the implementation of the national migration strategy, Morocco pays attention to medical coverage for migrants, in a regular situation and for refugees. In this context, more than 23 758 migrants benefited, in 2019, from access to all national public health, primary and emergency health care programs.

Reduction of deaths and illnesses due to unsafe water and poor sanitation and poor hygiene

The death rate attributable to unsafe water, poor sanitation and poor hygiene (access to inadequate WASH services) is 1.9 deaths per 100 000 inhabitants in 2019.

Reduction in deaths from ambient air pollution

The mortality rate attributable to ambient air pollution was 28 deaths per 100 000 inhabitants in 2019 (source: study carried out by the Ministry of Health in 2019).

Strengthening tobacco control

In order to fight tobacco consumption, in 2004 Morocco signed the “Framework Convention for Tobacco Control” which the WHO adopted in 2003. In 2017, the results of the national survey on the factors of risks of non-communicable diseases (MS, 2017) show that 13.4% of Moroccans aged 18 and over smoke tobacco. In 2018, more than 11% of Moroccans aged 15 and over used tobacco. Morocco forecasts a reduction in tobacco consumption among this population category of around 20% by 2029.

Access to vaccines and drugs

Morocco is one of the pioneering countries that are committed to ensuring all children maximum protection against the risks of morbidity and disability related to infectious diseases. Thanks to the National Immunization Program, Morocco has been able to maintain very high vaccination coverage rates. Thus, the proportion of children aged 12-23 months fully vaccinated improved from 90.9% in 2011 to 94.5 in 2018.

Deficit in human resources

Despite its reduction, the lack of sufficient human resources remains one of the major challenges of the health sector. The medical density increased from 6.7 per 10 000 inhabitants in 2017 to 7.2 in 2019 and the paramedical density from 8.5 in 2017 to 8.9 per 10 000 inhabitants in 2019. To fill this deficit in medical and paramedical personnel, Morocco has created budgetary items for the benefit of the Ministry of Health as well as university hospitals. In this regard, 11 894 were created for the last three years (2017, 2018 and 2019) as well as 4 000 additional positions under the 2020 finance law.

It should be noted that the problem related to human resources in the health sector cannot be resolved by strengthening the workforce, but by ensuring staff performance and a better distribution of the use of staff as part of the reflection initiated for a global overhaul of the health system.

Indeed, it is the performance of the number of staff used that depends in large part on the quality of care provided and the proper functioning of health structures.

To mobilize the necessary financing for the health system, the State has made a strong commitment to financing the health sector, with the aim of guaranteeing better provision of care to citizens. The total budget (excluding the Commitment Appropriations) dedicated to the Ministry of Health increased between 2015 and 2019 from 13 096 million Dirhams to 16 331 million Dirhams, i.e. an average annual growth rate of around 3.5%.

Note that the said budget was increased in the 2020 finance law to 18 669 million Dirhams, an increase of more than 14.3% compared to 2019.

To these credits are added the additional amounts mobilized to support the implementation of RAMED (Medical Assistance Plan of social assistance and national solidarity for the benefit of the poor) (for more than 8.03 billion Dirhams since 2014) as well as donations from the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to finance construction projects and equipment of University Hospitals and the upgrading of public hospitals (8 billion Dirhams).

Likewise, a significant budgetary effort has been made to upgrade hospitals. Thus and from 2016, a program to upgrade hospital infrastructure was put in place with an annual budget of 1 billion Dirhams from 2016 onwards.

To face the challenges of the sector, the budget allocated to it increased by 42% between 2015 and 2020, rising, respectively, from 13.1 to 18.6 billion Dirhams.

Legal framework for the reduction and management of health risks

In Morocco, the legislation is favorable to the protection of health and the reduction of risks, particularly with regard to food safety, environmental health (air and water pollution, waste management, nuclear radiation and chemicals), occupational health and safety, road safety and patient safety with regard to drugs and blood transfusions. This legislation is to a large extent aligned with regional and global priorities and commitments, including the International Health Regulations (2005).

In this context, several environmental strategies and programs have been put in place to protect the environment and the health of populations, as part of a partnership and concerted approach.

Main challenges

Alongside the progress made, there are still challenges to be taken up in order to progress towards the achievement of the SDGs relating to health. They are, in particular, the following:

- Providing the health sector with sufficient and qualified human resources;
- Reduction of regional disparities in terms of the availability of certain specialists such as cardiologists and endocrinologists (more than 50% work on the Rabat-Casablanca axis);
- Accelerating the reduction in preventable deaths and certain morbidities linked to social determinants such as poverty and the level of parental education.
- Improving knowledge of HIV status and expanding the offer of HIV care services;
- The mobilization of the necessary financing for the health system. The sector's overall expenditure does not exceed 5.8% of GDP and its general budget barely reaches 5.86% of the general state budget (the Abuja Declaration recommends 15% and WHO 10%). This would reduce the burden of health expenditure on households which directly support, according to the 2015 National Health Accounts, more than half (50.7%) of health expenditure. In this regard, the mobilization of financing for the health system must be accompanied by an improvement in the efficiency of allocation of health expenditure by ensuring to promote efficiency, eliminate waste and take concrete measures to optimize resources, and increase sustainability and accountability in the health sector;

- The development of the Health Information System to ensure regular monitoring of the causes of death and provide information on the SDG indicators (data for 13 out of 27 indicators are not available);
- Improving the governance of the health system, in particular through partnerships and pooling the efforts of all players in the system;
- The extension of basic medical coverage.

Strategies and Programs

In the area of health, the 2025 Health Plan constitutes the overall strategic framework for responding to the challenges identified. It is broken down into a number of strategies and programs including:

- Integrated national policy for child health by 2030;
- National Strategy for the Elimination of Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths: “Every mother and every newborn matter”;
- 2011-2019 National Nutrition Strategy;
- Strategy for the prevention of the reintroduction of malaria in Morocco aims at screening and early and free treatment of imported cases;
- Multisectoral strategy for the prevention and control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2019-2029;
- National strategy for the promotion of the mental health of children, young people and adolescents;
- 2017-2021 National Strategic Plan to fight HIV;
- National Pharmaceutical Policy for equitable access to essential drugs at an affordable price;
- National Response Plan against Acute Viral Bronchiolitis in infants aims to standardize the care of infants and set the terms of their care during the autumn-winter season;
- 2020-2029 National cancer prevention and control plan;
- 2020-2030 National multisectoral mental health plan;
- 2019-2021 National plan to accelerate the upgrading of emergencies;
- Pregnancy and Childbirth Surveillance Program (PCSP) which aims to develop a package of essential interventions in line with new WHO recommendations;
- National Immunization Program which aims to achieve uniform vaccination coverage greater than or equal to 95% at all levels, to obtain, with the other countries of the region, the certification of the eradication of polio, to maintain the elimination of Neonatal Tetanus and elimination of measles and control of Congenital Rubella Syndrome around 2020;
- National tuberculosis control program aimed at reducing the number of deaths by 40% by 2021;
- National Family Planning Program to respond to unmet needs;
- 2017-2026 National road safety strategy;
- Program to boost human capital for rising generations, maternal and child health component, of the 3rd phase of the NIHD (National Initiative for Human development).

Evolution of SDG3 indicators

Targets	Code ind.	Indicators	2010	2011	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Target Value for 2030
3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100 000 live births.	3.1.1	3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio.	112	-	-	-	-	-	72,6	-	< 70
	3.1.2	3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel.	-	73,6	-	-	-	-	86,6	-	100
3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1000 live births.	3.2.1	3.2.1 Under-5 mortality rate.	-	30,5	-	-	-	-	22,16	-	12
		3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate.	-	21,7	-	-	-	-	13,56	-	7
3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.	3.3.1	3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1 000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0,03	0
	3.3.2	3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 100000 population	-	-	-	101	-	-	99	-	30
	3.3.3	Malaria incidence per 100000 population at risk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Imported malaria incidence rate per 100 000 population	0	0	0	0,013	-	-	--	0	0
	3.3.4	3.3.4 Hepatitis B incidence per 100 000 population	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	11	0
	3.3.5	3.3.5 Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases (parasitic diseases)	-	-	-	-	9590000	-	-	-	-

3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and well-being.	3.4.1	3.4.1. Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease (%)	-	-	-	12,5	-	-	12,4	-	4,16
	3.4.2	3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate per 100 000 population	-	-	-	4,8	2,9	-	-	-	2,6
3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol	3.5.1	3.5.1 Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders. (patients monitored)	-	-	-	-	15168	-	25685	-	-
	3.5.2	3.5.2 Harmful use of alcohol, defined according to the national context as alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in liters of pure alcohol.	-	-	-	-	0,69	0,74	-	-	0,4
3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.	3.6.1	3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries (per 100 000 population)	-	-	-	1,1	-	-	0,937	-	0,55
3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programs	3.7.1	3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (15 to 49 years) who use modern family planning methods (in %)	-	56,7	-	-	-	-	58,0	-	100
	3.7.2	3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (10-14 and 15-19) per 1 000 adolescent girls of the same age group.	-	32,0	-	-	-	-	19,4	-	-

3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.	3.8.1	3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population).	-	-	-	-	59	-	-	68,8	100
	3.8.2	3.8.2-a Proportion of the population devoting a large part of its domestic expenditure or income to health care services (1) greater than 10%	-	-	13,4	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3.8.2-b	3.8.2-b Proportion of the population devoting a large part of its household expenditure or income to health care services (2) more than 25% of household expenditure			2						
3.9 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and pollution and from contamination of air, water, and soil.	3.9.1	3.9.1 Death rate attributable to indoor air pollution and ambient air pollution (/ 100 000 inhabitants)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	-
	3.9.2	3.9.2 Mortality rate attributable to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (access to inadequate WASH services)	-	-	-	-	1,9	-	-	1,9	1,4
	3.9.3	3.9.3 Death rate attributable to unintentional poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate	3.a.1	3.a.1 Prevalence of current tobacco use by people aged 15 and over (comparative rates by age).	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,3	-	-
3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all.	3.b.1	3.b.1 Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national program. (in %)	-	90,9	-	-	-	-	94,5	-	95

3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States.	3.c.1	3.c.1 Density and distribution of health personnel per 10 000 population									
		- Medical density per 10 000 population	-	-	-	-	-	6,7	-	7,2	-
		- Paramedical density per 10 000 population.	-	-	-	-	-	8,5	-	8,9	-

Source: ENPSF 2011 and ENPSF 2018, Ministry of Health, National Demographic Survey 2009-2010, High Commission for Planning, National survey on household consumption and expenditure, High Commission for Planning 2014, National Committee for the Prevention of Traffic Accidents (CNPAC).



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

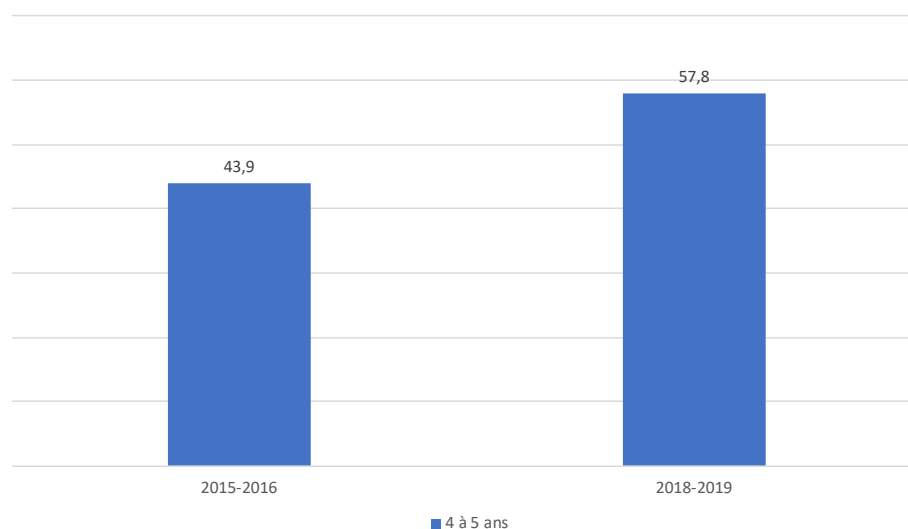
In accordance with the Constitution of the Kingdom, the education and training system works for the realization of the principle of the right to quality education for all citizens and of equal opportunities in order to contribute to the achievement of 2030 Agenda. The 2015-2030 strategic vision for the reform of the School has made it possible to establish the basic concepts of a new school for Morocco by 2030. It integrates all the targets of SDG4. Framework law 51.17, relating to the reform of the education, training and scientific research system, adopted in 2019, constitutes an appropriate legal framework for the implementation of this strategic vision. To this end, significant efforts have been made in terms of human and financial resources. The budget allocated to the sector increased by 10% between 2016 and 2020, from 56 billion Dirhams to more than 72 billion Dirhams and the number of teachers was reinforced by the recruitment, between 2016 and 2019, of 70 000 teachers, in application of the Royal Directives calling, in particular for inclusive education and training, children with disabilities benefit from specific education and training programs. Likewise, children of refugees and immigrants are enrolled in the national education system.

Progress status

The evolution of education access indicators attest to progress in the generalization of preschool, primary, college, qualification and post-baccalaureate higher education, and in reducing disparities between the sexes and between urban and rural areas.

The specific preschool rate for children aged 4 to 5 has improved significantly to reach 57.8% in 2018-2019. In addition, and in order to further improve this rate, the Ministry launched a national program for the development of preschool spread over 10 years (2018-2028) which aims to generalize preschool by 2027-2028.

Graph 6: Evolution of the specific preschool rate for children aged 4 to 5 (in %)



Source: Department of National Education

For the primary education cycle, enrolments are constantly increasing. They reached 4 418 329 students in 2018-2019, representing a specific enrolment rate for the 6-11 age group of 99.8%. It should be noted in this regard that the rural environment has experienced a sustained increase in this indicator (100%). In other words, the generalization of access to this education cycle is almost acquired for the case of Morocco with in addition a performance in the sense of a reduction of the delay of access compared to the standard set for each level in the 6-11 age group.

In terms of quality and equity, the indicators have progressed positively. Indeed, in 2018-2019, the share of classes with an enrolment less than or equal to 36 was around 85.4%, the gender parity index (Women/Men) reached 0.95 and the gender parity index environments (Rural/Urban) is 1.14, which reflects the importance Morocco gives to this environment to reduce spatial disparities in terms of schooling.

Likewise, for college secondary education, the specific enrolment rate for the 12-14 age group has reached 91.8% in 2018-2019, thus recording an increase of 2.1 points compared to the previous year. On the other hand, the gender parity index (Women/ Men) has reached 0.91 and the urban-rural parity index (Rural / Urban) is around 0.65.

For qualifying secondary education, considerable progress has been recorded in recent years, resulting in a specific enrolment rate for the 15-17 years age group of 66.9% in 2018-2019, when the proportion of classes with an enrolment less than or equal to 36 pupils is around 71%. The gender parity index (Women/ Men) has reached 1.08.

Vocational training

In terms of vocational training, significant efforts have been made to strengthen the employability of young people and the socio-professional promotion of employees, namely:

- **The development of the reception capacity of the vocational training system:** In 2018, the total number of training institutions in the public and private sectors reached 2 042 and the number of trainers rose to 20 156. The number of trainees has increased by 3.4%, between 2016 and 2018, moving from 418 864 to 433 007. Girls represent 38% of vocational training trainees. The number of trainers reached 20 156 for the year 2017-2018, of which 51% are permanent trainers. This percentage is 55% in the public sector versus 46% in the private sector.
- **The recognition of the workplace as a privileged space for the acquisition of skills,** 80 inter-company training centers have been created which train 13 240 apprentices;
- **The development of a partnership with the economic sector,** through a policy of contracting with professional branches in order to involve them more in the management of training, and the launch of a program for the creation of sectoral training centers, including management is delegated to professionals, particularly in the aeronautics, automotive, textile, clothing and renewable energy sectors;
- **The development of the private vocational training sector;**
- **The adoption of the competency-based approach for the reengineering of the Vocational Training (VT) system.**
- **The development of training for the benefit of socially vulnerable populations;**

- **The establishment of mechanisms for the development of on-the-job training** (CSF and GIAC), and recently the adoption of Law No. 60.17 on the organization of continuing training for the benefit of private sector employees, certain categories of staff in public institutions and enterprises and other self-employed persons who exercise a private activity.

Higher education

At the higher education level, continuous efforts have been made to expand access, promote equality and equity, improve quality, enhance employability, and develop scientific research. In fact, the total number of students has increased by 28.5% between 2015 and 2019, from 747 882 to 960 741 and the enrolment rate for the 18-24 age group improved by 10 points, from 28.8% to 38.4%.

The percentage of female students has increased from 48% to 49.4%. Their proportion of winners increased from 48.9% in 2015 to 49.3% in 2018.

In terms of positive discrimination, 62% of the accommodation capacity of university housing is reserved for girls.

In 2019, the total number of higher education institutions reached 403 institutions across the 12 regions of the Kingdom.

Inclusive education and training: programs for learners with disabilities.

As part of the Royal Vision of inclusive education and training, Morocco implemented in 2019 a national program for the education of children with disabilities under the slogan: "We shall not leave any child behind". When the program was launched, 80 000 students with disabilities continue their studies in regular classes and 8 000 students, 37% of whom are girls, in integrated classes. The results of the first year of implementation of this program include a number of qualitative advances, namely the institutionalization of the function of educating children with disabilities and the creation of administrative structures that will carry the program at all central, regional and provincial levels, the adoption of Ministerial Order No. 047.19, the establishment of an adequate training program for actors and partners, and the allocation of a budget of 47 million Dirhams for the year 2020. More than 384 students, 38% of whom are girls, also benefit from vocational training. In addition to the education system, other education programs are offered by specialized institutions. Students with disabilities also benefit from actions relating to accessibility in new or existing university establishments and housing estates, equipping public universities with Braille systems and priority access to social support programs.

In addition, the children of refugees and immigrants benefit, on an equal footing with Moroccan children, from educational support programs, in particular school canteens, boarding schools, school transport, The Royal Initiative "One Million Schoolbags" and the "Tayssir" financial assistance program for schooling. In terms of vocational training, more than 652 migrants benefit from vocational training with a diploma or qualification certificate.

At the level of higher education, several achievements marked the 2015-2019 period, namely:

- Prioritization of this category in social support programs for students with regard to the granting of scholarships, accommodation and catering;
- The development of educational content and adequate assessment methods: equipping 8 public universities with means and mechanisms to facilitate "the Braille method" for the benefit of blind students, creation and equipment of 9 reception centers for the benefit of

blind, both male and female, visually impaired, deaf and hearing-impaired students, and increase in the number of accredited sections in the field of inclusive education (24 sections).

Strengthening social support for students

In order to improve access to higher education and leave no one behind, the following activities were carried out:

- Widening the base of scholarship holders to reach 374 682 scholarship holders, an increase of 31% between 2015 and 2019;
- The satisfaction of 86% of scholarship requests for undergraduate students (Bachelor cycle);
- Strengthening of the accommodation and catering capacity of students with costs borne mainly by the Government (more than 95%).

ICT knowledge and skills development for young people

In order to integrate information and communication technologies (ICT) to improve access and the quality of education in primary and secondary schools, Morocco launched in 2005, a GENIE Program focused on three main components, namely the training of teachers, the development of digital resources and the development of educational uses. This program allowed more particularly:

- Connection of 6 784 schools (GENIE 3);
- The training of 200 000 teachers (MOS & MCE) and the certification of 100 000 MOS teachers and 4 000 MCEs;
- The production of digital content;
- The participation of more than 4 million students in the Africa Code Week initiative;
- Connecting 250 000 educational executives to taalim.mataalim.ma

In the field of higher education, several actions have been carried out in terms of widening the use of information technologies in order to reduce congestion, relating in particular to the establishment of digital platforms for online courses (MOOCs, SPOOCs,...).

Fight against illiteracy

According to the GCPH (General Census of the Population and Housing) 2014, the literacy rate of the population aged 10 and over is 77.8% for men, 57.9% for women and 67.8% for all. The literacy rate of the population aged 15 to 24 is 92.8% for men, 85.2% for women and 89% for the whole.

Literacy programs are aimed at the population over the age of 16 who cannot read or write. These programs are under the supervision of the National Agency for the Fight against Illiteracy. They aim to reduce the illiteracy rate to 20% by 2021 to reach 10% in 2026, to eradicate illiteracy among young people aged 15 to 24 and to improve the skills of the population.

Education to global citizenship

Morocco has initiated a project entitled "Empowering the education system to promote education for global citizenship and the concept of living together" which aims to strengthen the capacities of students, teachers, administrators, trainers and inspectors to prevent and counter the hate speech and all types of violence through education for global citizenship and the promotion of the concept of living together.

The country also committed in 2018 to a project entitled "Support for the promotion of tolerance,

good citizenship, citizenship in schools and the prevention of risky behavior" deployed in cooperation with UNDP and the Mohammadia League of Ulemas (religious scholars).

This project is based on support and capacity building for educational executives and the resources of socio-educational services through the establishment of a network of "Coordinators" of school life and the development of action plans specific to each establishment for the promotion of the social participation of young people. The various activities programmed in this context will help to manage frustrations, promote tolerance and build social links in the service of strengthening social cohesion, civic values, and good citizenship.

In addition, within the framework of the implementation of the National Strategy for Immigration and Asylum (NSIA), several measures have been programmed for the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity.

These include the inclusion of values and consideration of cultural diversity in school books, the development of a values guide for faculty and the implementation of initiatives in terms of awareness-raising and the promotion of living together and interculturality, in collaboration with international organizations and civil society, initiatives intended mainly for schoolchildren and children in summer camps.

On the other hand, programs are being carried out in terms of education for sustainable development, for example the environmental upgrading program for rural schools, the program for setting up environmental clubs in schools and youth centers, the training program for eco-facilitators, and other programs.

Construction of schools

A great effort has been made to build schools in both urban and rural areas. In 2018-2019, the number of primary schools was 7 789 nationally, including 4 762 in rural areas. That of college secondary schools is 2007 at the national level, including 872 in rural areas, while that of qualifying secondary schools is 1 236 at the national level, including 360 in rural areas.

In order to support the school infrastructure network, Morocco has extended its efforts to a new school model known as "community schools". They embody a new concept in educational provision, aimed at compensating for satellite schools in order to ensure quality education for children in rural areas and to fight the dropping out phenomenon.

This model aims to bring together students from the same municipality in schools with boarding and school transport. This model also allows for participatory management where all stakeholders are directly involved in the management of the school.

To expand the network of these schools, the Ministry of National Education has launched a program to create 150 community schools by the 2021/2022 school year.

Many schools had access to electricity in 2018-2019 (92.6% of schools in primary education in rural areas compared to 97.7% in urban areas).

Main challenges

Despite its progress, the education and training system is called upon to meet a number of challenges which relate, in particular, to the following points:

The generalization of schooling in all school cycles, except primary, while ensuring equal access between girls and boys and between rural and urban areas;

- The generalization of preschool, a lever for quality education;
- The fight against dropping out of school especially among girls, particularly in rural areas;
- Promotion of the quality of learning;
- The fight against illiteracy and digital illiteracy;
- Improving the quality of higher education through its internal and external performance;
- Strengthening the employability of graduates from higher education through the diversification of the educational offer, the further development of vocational training and the implementation of soft-skills;
- Improving the supply of higher education to cope with its massification;
- The mobilization of sufficient and sustainable funding for the implementation of the ambitious reform resulting from the framework law and the development of scientific research;
- The reduction of territorial disparities in education and training, including arts education. As for the vocational training system, in the years to come it will face major challenges related to the upgrading of the economy and the social and professional integration of marginalized sectors and populations, namely:
 - **Challenges linked to upgrading the economy:** vocational training is indeed called upon to demonstrate great capacities for adaptation and innovation, in relation to changes in technology and business structures.
 - **Challenges of social and professional integration:** the sector does not have for only purpose the satisfaction of the needs of the structural economic sectors, but it is also called upon to inject technicality into the unstructured sectors and promote integration and reintegration of marginalized populations to prevent social exclusion knowing that the Moroccan economic fabric is marked by an informal sector constituting the largest reservoir of jobs and a predominant rural environment.
 - **Quality challenges:** vocational training has seen a marked evolution over the years, but quality has not seen the same momentum. Investing in new pedagogical approaches, in the training of trainers, in the governance of institutions and in improving their internal and external performance are all areas on which the system must focus to meet quality requirements.

Strategies and Programs

In order to consolidate its achievements and meet the challenges still posed in the field of education and training, Morocco has implemented a multitude of strategies, including:

- **The 2015-2030 Strategic Vision for Education** supported by a portfolio of strategic projects relating to the implementation of the framework law which is inspired by the 2015-2030 strategic vision¹¹. This portfolio is structured around three areas:
 - 1. equity and equal opportunities, 2. promoting the quality of education and training, 3. governance and mobilization.

¹¹ Since its adoption in August 2019, the framework law has become the main frame of reference for the reform

- **The Professional Training Development Roadmap** drawn up following the High Royal Guidelines and approved in April 2019, which revolves around five axes and aims to give new impetus to the Vocational Training sector. It gives great importance to updating the current system, opening up to new professions and target populations, improving quality, and setting up a new generation of vocational training centers that are multisectoral, multifunctional and with a regional calling (centers for the training to trades and skills, called "Cités des Métiers et des Compétences").
- **Framework law 51.17** relating to the reform of the education and training system which constitutes a contractual and binding national framework aimed at ensuring the continuity and sustainability of the reform, the full application of the provisions, and the mobilization of the all partners. In addition to these two major aims of the reform, namely equity and quality, there is a third which concerns "the promotion of the individual and of society". With this in mind, the reform aims, among other things, to open up the prospects for lifelong learning and the matching of apprenticeships and training to the needs of the country and to the professions of the future). It should be recalled that a national commission chaired by the Head of Government has been set up to ensure the steering and monitoring of the implementation of this framework law;
- **Programs for the generalization and inclusion of schools.** These are programs to support the education of underprivileged children, in particular the Royal Initiative of one million schoolbags and the TAYSSIR Program, non-formal education programs, in this case the "**Forsa for all**" program which aims to ensure that every young person has access to quality education, training or employment by 2030, and the Child to Child operation which aims to raise awareness among educational stakeholders experts, authorities and civil society as well as students and families on the issue of non-schooling and dropping out, with a view to finding appropriate local solutions. They also concern inclusive education, such as the national program for the education of children with disabilities entitled «We shall leave no child behind " or actions undertaken in favor of children of refugees and migrants. Other programs launched in favor of equity, namely the program for "the generalization and improvement of the quality of preschool" launched, under the High Patronage of His Majesty, in July 2018 and, in the field of 'non-formal education, the program to build 80 new generation «second chance schools (E2C-NG)" by the 2021/2022 school year.

In addition to these programs, the Department of Higher Education and Scientific Research has strengthened educational inclusion through the social support program for the benefit of students from disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly in terms of scholarships, accommodation, catering, and health.

- **Programs to promote the quality of education and training,** in particular, the institution of the vocational baccalaureate (junior high school degree / G.E.D.) and professional college courses, the GENIE Program for the integration of ICT in education, the project education for citizenship and the fight against violence; and actions to integrate the environmental dimension into training courses. In addition, other structuring programs launched by the Ministry with the goal of improving the quality of education, and more particularly, the strengthening of language proficiency, the establishment of international courses in lower and upper secondary schools, the revision of school textbooks, and the improvement of

initial teacher training, the establishment of an active and integrated system of educational and vocational guidance;

- **In higher education**, a flagship program has been launched by the Government to train "the teacher of the future";
- **Cultural development programs as a lever for promoting the quality of the education system.** These programs mainly concern the strengthening of cultural infrastructures, the promotion of reading and artistic education, while taking into consideration equal access and the rights of people with specific needs;
- **The program for the creation of "centers of artistic and cultural development".** These centers aim to meet the needs for personal fulfillment and development of children, to develop their artistic and literary creativity;
- **The 2021 National Strategy for Vocational Training** has five main goals consisting of guaranteeing the right to vocational training, improving the competitiveness of the company, maximizing professional integration, integrating National Education and Vocational Training (VT) and strengthen the governance of public vocational training policy;
- **The literacy programs** which aim to reduce the illiteracy rate to 10% by 2026, eradicate illiteracy among young people aged 15 to 24 and improve the skills of the working population;
- **The program to boost the human capital of rising generations**, of the 3rd phase of the National Initiative for Human Development (NIHD), in its support component for the generalization of preschool which consists in the establishment of 15 000 units in remote rural areas during the period and also, another component that contributes to the fight against school dropout through, in particular, school transport, learning support, the "Houses of male students and Houses of Female students" ("Dar Attalib and Dar Attaliba"), and other support programs.

Evolution of the SDG4 indicators

Targets	Code indic.	Indicators	2014	2016	2017	2018	2019	Target Value for 2030
4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes	4.1.1	4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions(%))	-	a),i) math. 40.6 ii) in reading: 36, c) 40.7.	-	-	-	100
4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education	4.2.2	Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex (%)	-	National 45.6 Girls 41.3 Boys 49.8 Urban 56.8 Rural 31.1	National 52.4 Girls 47.8 Boys 46.7 Urban 61.9 Rural 39.8	National 47.9 Girls 44 Boys 51.5 Urban 57.5 Rural 35.2	National 62.1 Girls 58.3 Boys 65.7 Urban 70.9 Rural 50.4	100
4.3 D'ici à 2030, faire en sorte que toutes les femmes et tous les hommes aient accès dans des conditions d'égalité à un enseignement technique, professionnel ou tertiaire, y compris universitaire, de qualité et d'un coût abordable	4.3.1	4.3.1 Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex (%)	-	-	15-24 years: National 46.8 Girls 42.4 Rural 18.1 15 years and more: National 15 Girls 15.7 Rural 9	15-24 years: National 47.5 Girls 44.4 Rural 18.4 15 years and more: National 15.7 Girls 17.2 Rural 10	15-24 years: National 48.2 Girls 45.7 Rural 18.8 15 years and more: National 16.1 Girls 18.2 Rural 10.2	100

4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship	4.4.1	4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill (%)		-	-	a) Info. 15-24 years: 83.7 >= 15 years: 51.1 b) connection 15-24 years: 60.2 >=15 years: 38.8	-	-
4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.	4.5.1	4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated.		parity by sex: 0.94 primary. 0.87 college. 0.97 secondary. Parity by environment: 1.13; 0.55 and 0.23 respectively	parity by sex: 0.94 primary. 0.88 college. 1.01 secondary. Parity by environment: 1.13; 0.58 and 0.24 respectively	parity by sex: 0.95 primary. 0.90 middle School. 1.05 secondary. Parity per environment: 1.13; 0.60 and 0.25 respectively	parity by sex: 0.95 primary. 0.90 middle School. 1.08 secondary. Parity by environment: 1.13; 0.60 and 0.27 respectively	1,00
4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.	4.6.1a	Literacy rate of the population aged 10 and over (%)	Nat: 67.8; W (57.9) M (77.8)	-	-	-	-	0

4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.	4.a.1	4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions	-	Primary: Total: 91.5 Urban: 97.5 Rural: 87.7 Lower secondary education: 87.7 Total: 94.9 U: 97.0 R: 92.0 Upper secondary education: 95.8 U: 96.8 R: 93.0	a) Primary: Total 92.6 Urban: 97.7 Rural: 89.4 1st cycle of secondary education: 95.6 Urban: 97.6 Rural: 92.9 2nd cycle of secondary education: 97.5 Urban 97.9 Rural 96.3 2) Primary 78.7 1st cycle Secondary education 78.7 2nd cycle of Secondary Education 85.9 3) Primary: 77 1st cycle Secondary education 84.5 2nd cycle of secondary education: 88.9 4) Primary 17.3 1st cycle of secondary education: 31.3 2nd cycle of secondary education: 36.4	a) Primary: Total 93.9 Urban 98.0 Rural 91.3 1st cycle of Secondary Education: Total 96.5 Urban 97.9 Rural 94.6 / 2nd cycle of Secondary education: Total 97.6 Urban 98.0 Rural 96.5 b) Primary 79 1st cycle of Sec. Edu. 84.9 / 2nd cycle Sec. Edu 86.5 c) Primary 77.2 1st cycle of Sec. Edu. 84.9 2nd cycle Sec. Edu. 89.2 a) Primary 17.3 b) 1st cycle Sec. Edu. 31.1 / 2nd cycle Sec. Edu. 35.9	a) Primary: Total 100 Urban 100.0 Rural 92.6 1st cycle of secondary education: Total 95.9 Urban 97.4 Rural 94.0 Upper secondary education: Total 96.5 Urban 100.0 Rural 95.6	-
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Source: Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research, GCPH 2014, High Commission for Planning.



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Progress has been made in Morocco in terms of enhancing the role and status of women and gender equality, as determining factors for sustainable development. Equality and gender parity are established as constitutional values, and a set of laws and reforms have been adopted, as well as an integrated public policy for equality, strategies and programs that have been initiated in favor of the promotion of women's rights.

Progress status

A legal framework favorable to gender parity and non-discrimination based on gender

In Morocco, the legal framework is very favorable to the promotion of gender equality and non-discrimination based on sex.

The Constitution of the Kingdom, which is the fundamental law of Morocco, prohibits discrimination and "cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or one that violates human dignity". Its provisions stipulate the principle of equal rights between genders - civil and political, economic, social, cultural, environmental rights (article 19), the right to physical and moral integrity of individuals (article 22), but also the principle of gender parity through the creation of the Gender Parity Authority and the fight against all forms of discrimination (Articles 19 and 164).

In 2017, Law No. 79-14 relating to this Authority was adopted. Morocco also adopted, in 2015, the bill approving the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

In addition, the Labor Code prohibits any discrimination against employees or based, among other things, on gender.

The Family Code established the principle of equality between men and women. It stipulated among other things equal eligibility to enter into a marriage contract, the support of the family jointly by the couple, and equal rights and reciprocal duties of the spouses.

In addition to Law No. 78.14 relating to the Family and Childhood Advisory Council, Law No. 19.12 relating to working and employment conditions of domestic workers, Law No. 27.14 relating to trafficking in human beings, the amendment of Law No. 77.03 relating to audiovisual communication, the reforms relating to the Labor Code, the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, the repeal of Law No. 14.05 relating to the conditions for opening social protection institutions and their management and its replacement by law No. 65.15 relating to social protection institution, and the referral of the draft law No. 19.13 amending and supplementing article 10 of the Cherifian dahir (Royal decree) No. 1.58.250 enacting the nationality law, authorizing a foreign man married to a Moroccan woman to acquire the Moroccan nationality by means of marriage, as is the case of a foreign woman married to a Moroccan man, knowing that the law in the process of being amended authorizes this possibility only for a Moroccan husband allowing his foreign wife to enjoy the Moroccan nationality based on a declaration.

Combating violence against women and girls

Morocco adopted, in 2018, **Law No. 103.13 on violence against women**. It is a uniform and coherent legal text which guarantees legal protection, as well as the institutional mechanisms for the care of women victims of violence, prevents all its forms, and guarantees the necessary support, guidance and access to the various services available. As part of supporting the implementation of

this law, the implementing decree, published in May 2019, deals with a set of regulatory situations that apply mainly to the mechanisms for supporting women victims of violence.

National, regional and local commissions, as well as units for the care of women victims of violence have thus been set up in addition to a National Observatory of Violence against Women and a National Observatory of the image of women in the media put in place since 2014.

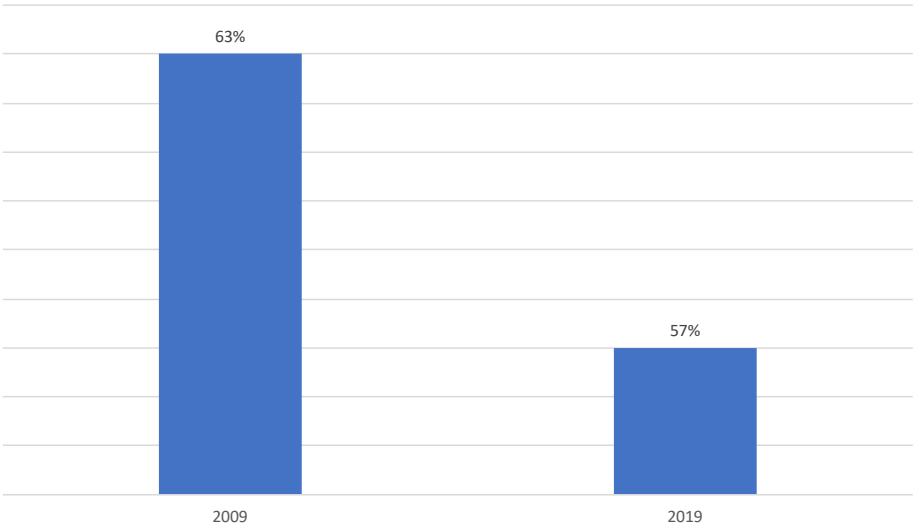
In this sense, the national police (General Directorate of National Security, DGSN) has set up Support Units for Women Victims of Violence and reception officers in 440 police districts to ensure the reception of these victims under optimal conditions, in addition to institutional units set up at the level of the services of the Royal Gendarmerie, hospitals, and courts.

In addition to these measures, annual awareness campaigns are organized to combat this phenomenon. All these measures have just been reinforced by the launch of a program to set up **65 Multifunctional Spaces for Women (MSWs)** at the regional and local level for care to be provided to women who are victims of violence (reception, listening, temporary accommodation, referral to specialist workers, and medico-psychosocial support) and a 2020-2030 national strategy to combat violence against women.

Downward trend in violence against women

The results of surveys on the prevalence of violence against women, carried out by the High Commissioner’s Office for Planning in 2009 and 2019, show indeed a general downward trend in the phenomenon between these two years. The rate of prevalence of violence, all forms and contexts combined, has decreased among women aged 18-64 from 63% in 2009 to 57% in 2019.

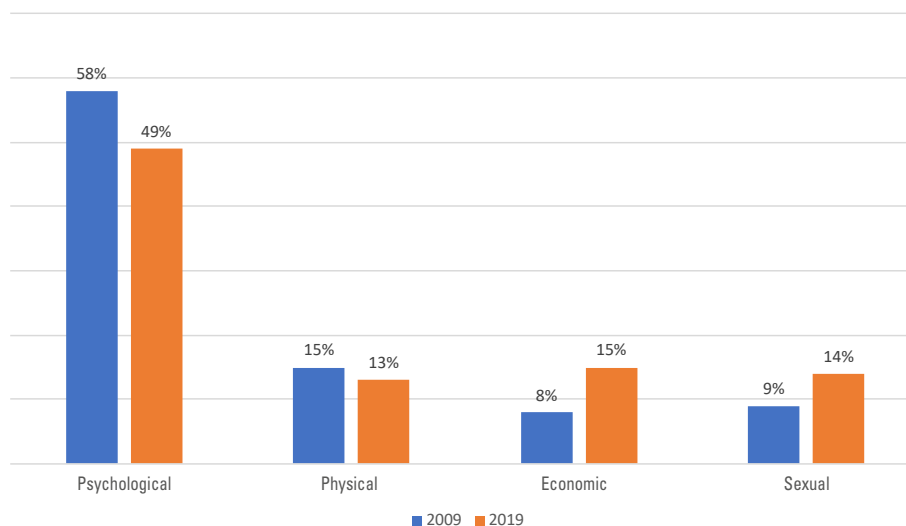
Graph 7: Evolution of the prevalence rate of violence in all its forms (18-64 years old)



Source: High Commission for Planning, Violence against women surveys 2009 and 2019

By type of violence, psychological and physical violence fell, between 2009 and 2019, from 58% to 49% and from 15% to 13%, respectively. In contrast, economic and sexual violence increased from 8% to 15% and 9% to 14% respectively. The same trends are noted in the two places of residence except for physical violence which has increased in rural areas, from 9% to 13%.

Graph 8: Evolution of violence according to type between 2009 and 2019



Source: High Commission for Planning, Report of the Violence Against Women Survey, 2019.

Per living space, violence fell from 33% to 13% in public spaces and from 24% to 19% in the place of education. However, the domestic context, including the conjugal and family context (including the in-laws), remains in 2019, the most marked by violence, with 52%, showing a slight increase compared to 2009 (more than 1 point). In the professional environment, violence reaches 15%, those of psychological type and economic discrimination are relatively the most dominant.

Women victims of violence inflicted by their partner

In 2019, with a prevalence rate of 46% in the space (5.3 million women), women, aged 15 to 74, victims of violence in 2019 perpetrated by a husband or ex-husband, a fiancé or an intimate partner, are predominantly married women with a prevalence of 52%. This form of violence affects 59% of young women aged 15-24, 54% of women with an average level of education, and 56% of unemployed women.

Violence in the conjugal context remains, in 2019, dominated by psychological violence since 43% of women aged 15 to 74 are victims of this form of violence by their intimate partners.

The proportion of women victims of physical or sexual or psychological violence is 44% with no significant difference between the two places of residence. This share fell by 5 percentage points, from 51.5% to 46.8% if we consider only the 2009 target population of women aged 18 to 64. The prevalence of psychological or physical or sexual violence in the marital context is preponderant among the youngest since the prevalence drops from 16% for women aged 55 to 74 to 58% from 15 to 24 years.

Women victims of sexual violence inflicted by someone other than their intimate

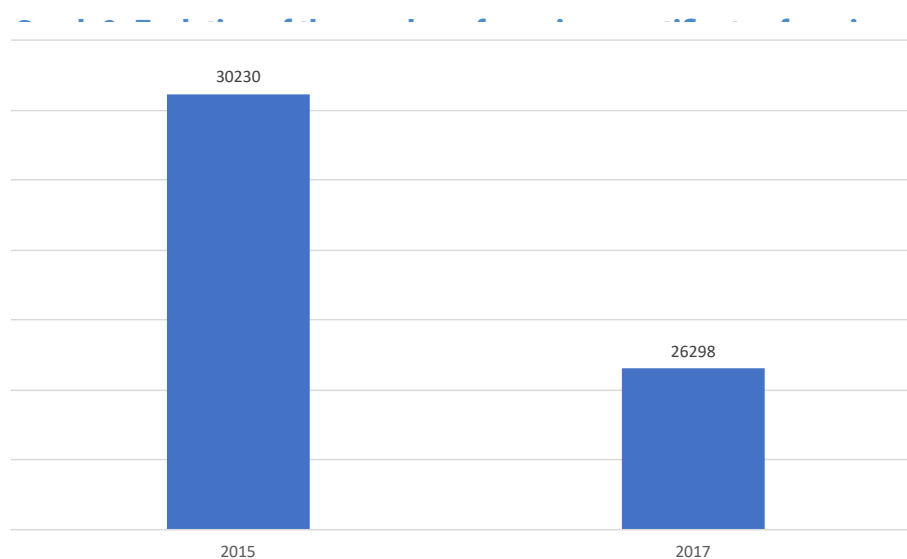
Between 2009 and 2019, the proportion of women and girls aged 15 to 74 who were victims of sexual violence inflicted in the previous 12 months by someone other than their intimate partner increased by 4 points (4.3% compared to 8.5%).

By location, 10.5% of cases of this type of violence were suffered by women and girls aged 15 to 74 years in education and training spaces. This proportion is 16.2% in rural areas and 9.3% in urban areas.

In addition, it is important to point out that among all the incidents of sexual violence (which are mainly due to acts of sexual harassment) suffered by women during the last 12 months, 50% took place in public space (57% in urban areas and 34% in rural areas). This proportion is 81% among incidents of extra-marital violence (82% in urban areas and 79% in rural areas).

Underage marriage

Underage marriage records dropped between 2015 and 2017 from 30 230 to 26 298, while marriage applications for girls under 18 fell from 39 757 in 2016 to 38 722 in 2017.



Source: Ministry of Justice

Time spent by women on unpaid domestic work

The results of the National Time Use Survey conducted by the High Commission for Planning in 2011/2012 showed that the proportion of time devoted by Moroccan women to care and unpaid domestic work amounts, on average, to 21.2 %, i.e. 5 hours per day (23.4% or 5 hours 33minutes in rural areas and 19.7% or 4hours38min in urban areas). It is almost 7 times higher than that spent by men (3.3%).

By age group, this proportion is 25.3% for women aged 25-34, 24.4%, for those aged 35-49, 18.8% for women aged 50-64 17.9% among young people aged 15- 24 years and 12.5% in women aged 65 and over.

Moreover, girls aged 7 to 14 spend 3.4 times more time than boys on domestic chores.

Participation of women in decision-making processes

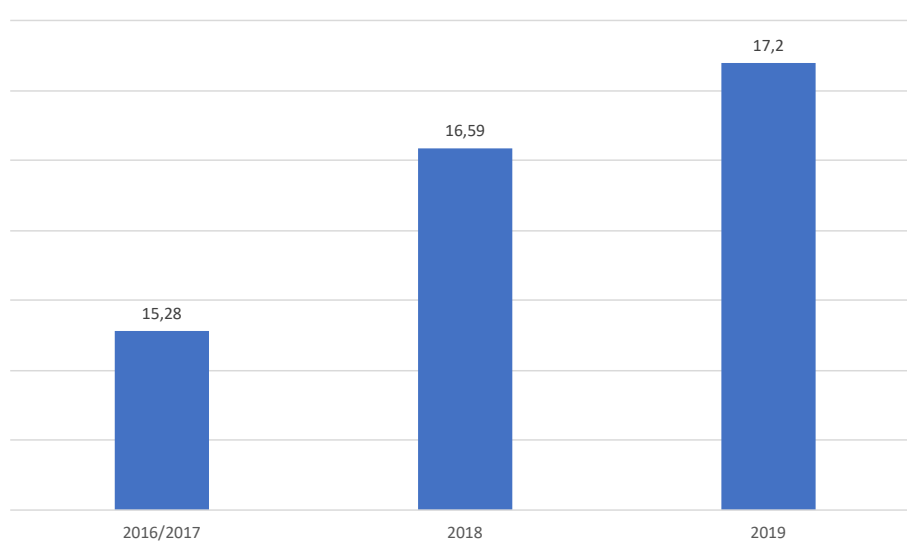
Female representativeness in the House of Representatives increased from 16.7% in 2011 to 20.5% in 2016. Their weight in the House of Councilors (Senate) reached 11.67% in 2015 versus 2.2% in 2009. However, the number remains below the minimum quota of one-third set by the United Nations.

At the level of regional councils and other territorial councils, the presence of elected women is growing steadily. Between 2009 and 2015, their proportion in these councils increased from 12.38% to 21.18% at the municipal level and from 2% to 4% at the provincial level. As for the regional

councils, their number has increased during the same period from 27 to 255 elected, bringing their weight for the year 2015 to 37.6%. It should be noted that two women do chair two regions in Morocco (out of a total of 12 regions).

Likewise, the rate of feminization of the public service reached 40% in 2019 and that of women's access to positions of responsibility (services and divisions) and to senior positions increased from 22.2% in 2016 to 23.5% in 2019. Their access to higher employment increased from 15.3% to 17.2% over the same period.

Graph 10: Evolution of the rate of feminization of senior jobs in the public service



Source: Department of Administrative Reform

To facilitate the reconciliation of private and professional life for women, two laws were adopted, relating respectively to the granting to women of one hour per day of sick leave for breastfeeding for 18 months and to the setting up of early childhood care structures in the administrations.

In addition, a gender observatory in the public service was established in 2014 to ensure continuous monitoring of the implementation of the principle of gender equality in the public service.

Similarly, two constitutional institutions are chaired by women (the High Authority for Audiovisual Communication-HACA and the National Human Rights Council--CNDH).

Important reform to strengthen women's access to ownership and control of agricultural land

In terms of access to property, Moroccan land law applies to women and men without discrimination. In general, discrimination against women is due to the rules of inheritance law and customs, as was the case with Soulaliyate lands where women were deprived of the right of use. To correct this situation, Morocco adopted in 2019 Law No. 62.17 relating to administrative supervision over Soulaliyate communities and the management of their property, allowing women to enjoy their right of access to this type of land.

Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT): a means of strengthening the empowerment of women

Morocco is committed to the digitalization process through, among other things, the implementation of the Morocco Digital 2020 Strategy to promote sustainable and inclusive development.

In terms of mobile phone equipment, 95% of the population aged 12-65 had a mobile phone in 2016.

By sex, this proportion reached 93.4% for women and 96.4% for men. Between 2017 and 2018, women equipped themselves more than men with mobile phones, since their equipment rate, after being the same (91.5%), rose to 92.5% and 92.3% respectively.

Table 2: Proportion of the population with a cell phone, per gender (in %)

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Women	92,2	93,4	91,7	92,5
Men	95,5	96,4	91,7	92,3

Source: National Telecommunications Regulatory Agency

Gender-sensitive budgeting (GSB): an instrument for monitoring financial efforts in the service of gender equality

The integration of the gender issue was institutionalized through the Organic Law relating to the Finance Law of 2015, providing for the obligation to systematically take this issue into account in the budget and reporting process of the all ministerial departments.

In addition, a Centre of Excellence for Gender Sensitive Budgeting (CE-BSG) has been set up to monitor and report on efforts in this area.

Main challenges

Morocco has been able to make considerable progress in the area of gender equality, but there are still challenges relating to:

- The territorial translation of the various policies and programs relating to the achievement of gender equality
- Increased fight against violence against women;
- Driving change towards a more egalitarian culture and the fight against sexist stereotypes and prejudices;
- The elimination of underage marriage;
- The promotion of the participation of women in the labor market and in decision-making;
- The establishment of a favorable environment making it possible to reconcile family and professional life;
- The development of a statistical system capable of monitoring and further monitoring the situation of gender equality at national and regional levels.

Strategies and Programs

An integrated public policy for gender equality

In this context marked by encouraging societal transformations and avant-garde legislative achievements which have made it possible to repeal several forms of discrimination against women, Morocco adopted in 2013 its first Governmental Plan for Equality 2012 - 2016 " ICRAM ", an operational plan aimed at enshrining equity and equality between men and women in different sectors.

The evaluation of the ICRAM 1 plan, which ended in December 2016, led to the development of the 2nd Governmental Plan for Equality 2017-2021, ICRAM 2 plan, adopted in August 2017 by the Council of Government.

Thus the strategic vision of the ICRAM 2 plan is that of SDG5, namely "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls", while supporting a human rights-based approach.

It is within this framework that the impetus created by the implementation of the Governmental Plan for Equality "ICRAM", in its two versions 1 and 2, made it possible to mobilize all sectors for the integration of gender in their policies and programs, including the sectors responsible for water resources management and the sector responsible for environmental protection issues.

This plan is based on results-oriented planning and on the territorial approach in terms of programming and monitoring, according to a human rights, participatory and democratic approach, which will undoubtedly lead to a closer treatment of the needs of citizens on the one hand, and will participate in the reduction of social and territorial inequalities, on the other.

This plan has seven pillars, four are thematic and three are cross-cutting. They are as follows:

- 4 thematic pillars: 1. Strengthening the employability and economic empowerment of women; 2. Women's rights, in relation to the family; 3. Participation of women in decision-making; 4. Protection of women and strengthening of their rights.
- 3 cross-cutting pillars: 5. Dissemination of the culture of equality and fight against discrimination and stereotypes based on gender; 6. Mainstreaming gender in all government policies and programs; 7. Territorial variation of the goals of the ICRAM Governmental Plan 2.

These seven pillars are supported by a system of governance, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the ICRAM 2 Plan.

The Strategy for the Institutionalization of Gender Equality in the Public Service (2016-2020) and the creation, for this purpose, of an Interministerial Consultation Network on Gender Equality;

The National Action Plan for Democracy and Human Rights (NAPDHR) 2018-2021, which aims to consolidate the process of political reform, institutionalize human rights, strengthen the dynamics of awareness of rights of Man, and support initiatives contributing to the emergence of participatory democracy. This national plan is the result of a collective national effort that has embodied the political will of the Government to meet its commitments, to create lasting mechanisms for establishing the foundations of the rule of law and to promote the process of reform and democratization.

This national plan includes four pillars relating to democracy, governance, economic, social, cultural and environmental rights, and the protection of categorical rights and their promotion, at the head of which are the rights of women and girls, in addition to the legal and institutional framework

encompassing the rights of the targeted categories within a common frame of reference, by setting the commitments of all the actors, divided into 427 measures, in order to ensure the consolidation of human rights and enshrine the full citizenship for both sexes.

The Integrated National Program for the Economic Empowerment of Women by 2030, drawn up according to a participatory approach in a partnership framework with UN-Women, has as a vision "the economic empowerment of women, a national priority and a pillar of the new development model of the country " and made up of three (03) main strategic pillars identified as priorities: access to economic opportunities, education and training and an environment conducive and sustainable to the economic empowerment of women, protecting and improving their rights.

The National Strategy for Combating Violence against Women by 2030 aims to anticipate the work of the government within the framework of a clear strategic vision among the stakeholders, and to support the legal reforms carried out in the field of the protection of women against violence, discrimination, exploitation, torture and trafficking in human beings and others, while strengthening the preventive approach and restrictive, social, institutional and cultural measures that strengthen the protection of women against all forms of gender-based violence.

The National Health Program for the care to be provided to women victims of violence, in order to respond to the need to implement the principles and provisions of the Constitution of the Kingdom, for the voluntary involvement of Morocco in the implementation of the SDGs, to implement the commitments expressed in the framework of the 2017-2021 government program, to give a territorial dimension to actions to fight against the various forms of violence and discrimination, and to ensure better coordination of efforts at the national, regional and local level for more efficiency and impact.

Programs to strengthen the participation of women culture professionals in cultural and artistic events, in cultural awareness campaigns in favor, in particular, of children with cultural values, in intercultural dialogues as well as making available to female civil society cultural spaces for the organization of cultural and / or awareness raising events.

The Strategy of the High Commission for Former Resisters and Former Members of the Liberation Army "HCARAMAL" aims to fight against all forms of discrimination against women resistance fighters, widows of former resistance fighters and former members of liberation and women and girls having rights and ensuring access for this category of population to the rights, services, advantages and privileges granted;

The National Initiative for Human Development, which puts women at the heart of its programs through, in particular, support for women in precarious situations, the economic integration of women and maternal health.

In addition to other sectoral strategies that have allowed the transversal integration of equality issues at the level of different development programs and the improvement of the targeting system of categories in difficult situation and the strengthening of their protection.

Evolution of the SDG5 indicators

Targets	Code indic.	Indicators	2009	2012	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Target Value for 2030
5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	5.2.1	5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15-49 years subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age (%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	0
	5.2.2	5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of the incident (%)	4,3	-	-	-	-	-	8,5	0
5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.	5.4.1	5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location. (%)	-	Nat 21.2 Urban 19.7 Rural 23.4	v-	-	-	-	-	-

5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	5.5.1	5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments (%)	-	-	a) 2011: 16.7 b) 37.6 Regional Council	a) 2016 : 20,5	-	-	-	-
	5.5.2	5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions (%)	-	-	-	-	15,28	16,59	17,2	-
5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Program of Action of the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences	5.6.1	5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care (%)	47,0	25,1	-	-	-	-	-	100
5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.	5.b.1	5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile phone, by sex (%)	-	-	W: 92.2 M:95.5 (Individuals aged 12-65	W: 93.4 M:96.4 (Individuals aged 12-65	W: 91.7 M:91.7 (individuals aged 5 years and more	W: 92.5 M:92.3 (individuals aged 5 years and more		100

Source: Department of Administrative Reform, National Telecommunications Regulatory Agency, Ministry of Interior, Legislative elections of 2011 and 2016, National Survey on the prevalence of violence against Women of 2009 and 2019, High Commission for Planning.



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

In Morocco, the potential of water resources is, on average, around 22 billion m³ per year, including 18 billion m³ of surface water and 4 billion m³ of groundwater. Rainfall is characterized by great temporal and spatial variability. Aware of the economic, social and strategic issue of water, Morocco committed very early to a national policy for the control and mobilization of water resources and the adoption of an integrated water planning and management approach.

This policy has made it possible to provide the country with an important hydraulic infrastructure currently made up of 145 large dams with a capacity of 18.6 billion m³ and 130 small dams with a capacity exceeding 100 million m³, while 14 other large ones dams are being built.

Progress status

Almost general access to drinking water

The development of water mobilization, production and distribution infrastructure has made it possible to secure the supply of drinking water.

In fact, widespread in urban areas, access to drinking water in rural areas reached over 97% in 2019¹².

Mobilization of unconventional water

To meet the increased demand for water, Morocco has initiated projects aimed at mobilizing unconventional water, notably the desalination of seawater and the reuse of wastewater.

In terms of seawater desalination, the current total production capacity of seawater desalination plants is 118 161 m³ / day: 6 stations to meet drinking water needs (Laâyoune, Boujdour, Tan-Tan, Akhfennir, Sidi El Ghazi, and Roco Chico) and two stations to meet the industrial needs of the OCP group (Jorf Lasfar and Laâyoune). This capacity will reach nearly 458 309 m³ / day after the completion of work on the stations under construction, i.e. the equivalent of 167 million m³ / year: 3 drinking water stations (Laâyoune, Al Hoceima, and Tarfaya), a station to meet the industrial needs of the OCP group in Laâyoune, a pooled station in Agadir for drinking water and irrigation of the Chtouka perimeter and a station for irrigation in Dakhla.

In addition, a study to set up a seawater desalination project in the Casablanca-Settat region was launched by the Water Department in December 2018 and it is expected that it will be completed at the end of 2020. This project will help meet the drinking water needs of the Greater Casablanca by 2050, estimated at 200 Mm³.

Regarding the reuse of purified wastewater, the volume of wastewater treated and mobilized for reuse reached 64 Mm³ / year in 2019, with a goal of reaching 100 Mm³ / year from 2020 and 341 Mm³ / year by 2050.

¹² Based on Department of Water data.

Access to sanitation

Regarding access to liquid sanitation services, it has seen significant progress over the past two decades thanks to the National Sanitation Program (NSP) launched in 2006. Indeed, access to sanitation services at the national level, including the use of septic tanks, increased from 96.5% in 2016 to 96.9% in 2018¹³.

In urban areas, the connection rate to the public liquid sanitation network was estimated at over 76%¹⁴ at the end of 2019 and efforts are underway to achieve full connection by 2030.

On the other hand, in rural areas, the connection to the sewerage network remains very weak given the nature of the geography and the dispersion of dwellings. This situation makes the use of septic tanks very widespread in a proportion of more than 75%. In order to make up for this delay, a National Rural Sanitation Program project was set up. Likewise, a pilot project to introduce rural ecological sanitation techniques in Morocco was carried out in cooperation with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

In addition, in order to strengthen the integrated management of sanitation services, Morocco launched in 2019, in a participatory framework, the National Pooled Sanitation Program (NPSP), which brings together the National Sanitation Program (NSP), the National Rural Sanitation Program (NRSP), and the National Program for the Reuse of Purified Wastewater. The NPSP aims to improve the rate of connection to the sanitation grid both at the level of cities and at the level of the main agglomerations in rural centers, as well as the promotion of the reuse of purified wastewater, particularly for the irrigation of golf courses and green spaces.

The reuse of purified wastewater plays an important role in saving water and preserving the natural environment, and provides a new, sustainable and constant resource. The proportion of treated wastewater in urban areas reached 55% in 2019 versus 7% in 2006¹⁵.

In terms of water quality, the sampling campaigns that were carried out at the monitoring stations and the water samples taken for physical, chemical, organic, and bacteriological analyzes, showed, for the financial year 2016 / 2017, that 70% of the stations have good to average water quality for surface water, and 56% for groundwater.

The rationalization of water consumption is a fundamental pillar of the national water strategy. Water withdrawals from the reservoirs of large dams amounted to 4 030 Mm³ during the 2018/2019 financial year, of which around 80% was intended for the agricultural sector.

With the goal of rationalizing this consumption, a National Irrigation Water Saving Program (Conversion to localized irrigation) has been set up. In 2019, 580 000 irrigated hectares were converted to localized irrigation, exceeding the target of 550 000 hectares set for 2020.

13 High Commission for Planning, national employment survey, 2016 and 2018.

14 Ministry of Interior.

15 Ministry of Interior.

In addition, efforts are continuing in partnership and in consultation with partners to achieve the goal set by the National Water Plan (NWP) project, namely the reconversion of 70% of the irrigated area by 2050.

Also, a program to improve the yields of drinking, industrial and tourist water distribution networks was launched. In 2019, the nationwide average rate of return was 76%. The target is 80% for 2030 and 85% for 2040.

In addition, important regulatory provisions aimed at combating the wastage of this resource have been taken under the new water law, including the strengthening of the action of the water police in terms of monitoring the hydraulic public domain and its protection against any illegal use.

In addition, it should be recalled that Morocco embarked very early on the integrated, decentralized and concerted management of water resources, in accordance with the provisions of Law 10-95 on water. Mechanisms have been created for this purpose, including the creation of 10 Watershed Management Agencies (WMAs) and the institutionalization of the Higher Council for Water and Climate.

Currently, the new law 36-15 has reinforced these achievements by creating the Watershed Councils which constitute a regional forum for discussion and consultation around the problem of water.

In terms of the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems, the strategic orientations of the national water policy planned for the next 30 years by the National Water Plan (NWP), include among its three pillars, the preservation of water resources and of the ecosystems, and improved management in the face of extreme weather phenomena, in particular the fight against floods and landslides.

To this end, and to improve the protection of people and property against flooding, a first National Flood Protection Plan (NFPP) was established in 2002 and was updated in 2017, proposing measures for adaptation to the real and potential risks associated with extreme events. This plan was prepared in close consultation and coordination with all the Departments and partners concerned by the theme of floods. In this context, the number of vulnerable black spots treated in partnership with local authorities has exceeded 250 points, affecting more than 160 localities.

Concerning the "Water and sanitation" goal, Moroccan universities are starting to confirm their performance in international rankings. According to "The Times Higher Education Impact Ranking 2020" which gives the performance of universities with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Ibn Tofail University of Kénitra manages to occupy honorable places. It ranked 1st in Morocco, 1st in Africa, 2nd among Arab countries and 37th globally, the second Moroccan university being Hassan II University in Casablanca.

For the agricultural sector, which remains the primary consumer of water, the programs initiated by Morocco as part of its irrigation policy enabled at the end of 2019:

- Equipment or in the process of equipping nearly 82 280 hectares as part of the Irrigation Extension Program (IEP) downstream of the dams;
- The preservation of the water table by the mobilization of unconventional water through various projects which are part of the Promotion of Public-Private Partnership in irrigation, among others seawater desalination projects, and at the end of 2019, 4 public-private partnership projects had been contracted. These are:

- The project to safeguard the citrus-growing area of El Guerdane;
- The irrigation project for the safeguard of the Azemmour - Bir Jdid coastal area;
- The seawater desalination project for the irrigation of Chtouka Ait Baha;
- And the Dakhla seawater desalination project for irrigation.

These irrigation programs undertaken under the Green Morocco Plan have enabled the equipment of 750 000 hectares for an investment of 31.6 billion Dirhams for the benefit of 220 000 farms. They have also saved more than 2 billion m³ of water.

While significant progress has been made in the management of water resources, the development of sanitation services, and the protection of water-related ecosystems, the sector still faces significant challenges that need to be solved.

Main challenges

The water and sanitation sector faces several challenges, including:

- The scarcity of water resources. Like many countries in the world, Morocco is not immune to the effects of climate change which have an impact on its already limited water potential. The share of water available per inhabitant continues to shrink, dropping from around 2 560 m³ / inhabitant / year in 1960 to 620 m³ in 2019;
- The unreasonable consumption of water;
- The high cost of unconventional water mobilization projects, which requires a strong involvement of stakeholders and the strengthening of funding;
- The increase in sources of water pollution;
- The constraints linked to the reality on the ground and to scattered and remote dwellings in rural areas, making it difficult, expensive, if not impossible, to establish individual connections to the drinking water and sewage grids;
- The delay in the application of the provisions of some laws and regulations;
- The complexity of the institutional framework which makes coordination and consultation more difficult;
- The problem of land for the establishment of sanitation and wastewater treatment works;
- The inadequacy of the cost recovery system of the liquid sanitation service;
- The municipalities, which have jurisdiction for water management, do not have sufficient means and capacities to carry out projects and ensure the sustainability of infrastructures.

Strategies and Programs

The 2020-2050 National Water Plan (NWP) project: The 2020-2050 National Water Plan project sets strategic guidelines at the national level in water resources management. It is established according to a participatory approach involving the various ministerial departments and public entities operating in the water sector, and also incorporates the aspect of adaptation to climate change.

The programs undertaken under the Green Morocco Plan (GMP) for the control and management of irrigation water, namely:

- **The Irrigation Extension Program (IEP) downstream of dams:** This program aims to create new perimeters and to strengthen the irrigation of existing perimeters dominated by dams built or planned on an area to be developed of 160 000 hectares. This program will eventually make it possible to remedy the underutilization of nearly 1.2 billion m³ of water mobilized at these dams. At the end of 2019, nearly 82 280 hectares were equipped or in the process of being equipped under this program;
- **Promotion of Public-Private Partnership in irrigation:** This program aims to preserve the water table by mobilizing unconventional water through various projects including, among others, seawater desalination projects;
- **The 2020-2027 national program for the supply of drinking water and irrigation:** This program aims to speed up investments in the water sector by 2027 in order to anticipate the difficulties of supplying drinking water and irrigation faced in particular in the hydraulic basins most affected by the water deficit during the drought of 2015-2018;
- **The National Program for Pooled Sanitation and Reuse of Treated Wastewater (NPSP):** This program has just been prepared within an interministerial cooperation framework aimed at the pooling national liquid sanitation programs in urban and rural areas and the reuse of purified wastewater.

Evolution of SDG6 indicators

Targets	Indicator Code	Indicators	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Target Value for 2030
6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.	6.1.1	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services.	-	91,4	92,2	92,4	93,0		100,0
6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate sanitation and hygiene services for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations	6.2.1	6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a handwashing facility with soap and water.	-	95,5	96,5	96,2	96,9		100,0
6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated waste water, and increasing recycling and safe reuse globally	6.3.1	6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated	(2006) 7	-	45,0	-	-	55,0	100,0
	6.3.2	6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality	-	-	-	70,0	-		100,0
6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity	6.4.2	6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	61,0	-	-	-	-		-

Source: Ministry of Interior, Department of Water, National Employment Survey 2016 to 2019, High Commission for Planning.



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

Morocco, due to its demographic growth and its needs for economic and social development, generates an increasingly important energy demand. Energy demand has continued to increase, reaching 21.25 million tons of oil equivalent (TOE) in 2018 versus 19.7 million tons of oil equivalent in 2016. Oil is the most widely used energy source, with 52.9% of national energy consumption.

Faced with this increased demand, Morocco remains very dependent on the outside world for its energy supply, with a dependency rate which, despite its decline, which still stood at 91.7% in 2018 versus 93.4% in 2016.

In order to reduce this dependence and support the sustainable development of the country, significant efforts have been made in terms of population access to electricity and diversification of the energy mix and the electricity mix, in particular through the development of renewable energy, and especially energy based on wind and solar power, for which Morocco has great potential.

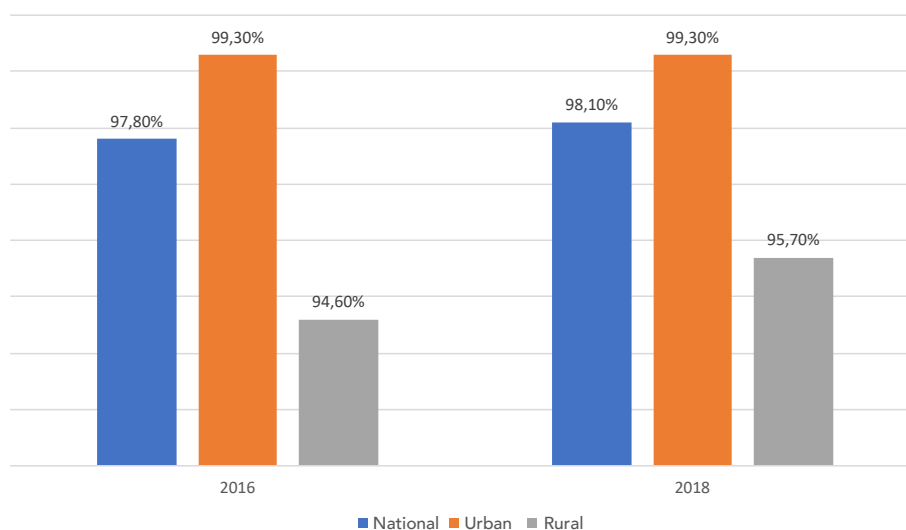
Progress status

Generalization of population access to electricity service

Thanks to the rural electrification programs and initiatives launched in the mid-1990s, Morocco has been able to guarantee access to electricity for almost all of its population.

The proportion of the Moroccan population with access to electricity increased from 97.8% in 2016 to 98.1% in 2018¹⁶.

Graph 11: Evolution of the proportion of Moroccans with access to electricity by place of residence



Source: High Commission for Planning (HCP)

¹⁶ High Commission for Planning, National Employment Survey, 2018.

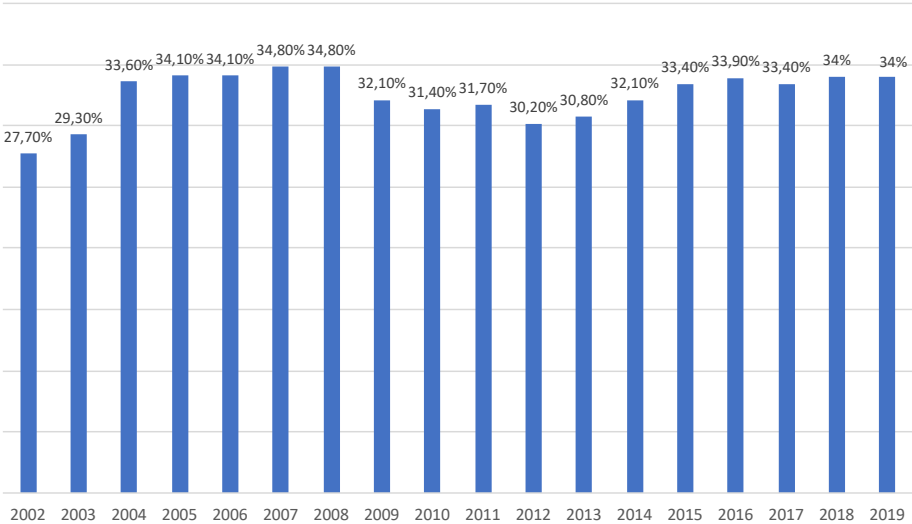
At the end of 2019, being generalized in urban areas, the rural electrification rate reached 99.72% instead of 22% in 1996. These advances in electrification had significant impacts on improving the living conditions of the rural and peri-urban populations and the diversification of the rural economy.

Notable progress in the production of renewable energies

Morocco has been committed, since 2009, to a new dynamic of development of renewable energies from sources, in particular solar and wind.

Thus, the installed electrical capacity of renewable sources reached 3 700 MW in 2019, made up of 710 MW of solar energy, 1 220 MW of wind energy, and 1 770 MW of hydroelectric energy, which represents 34% of the national electric capacity. Renewable electricity production represents 20% of total electricity production in 2019 instead of 16.5% in 2016 or 9.7% in 2012.

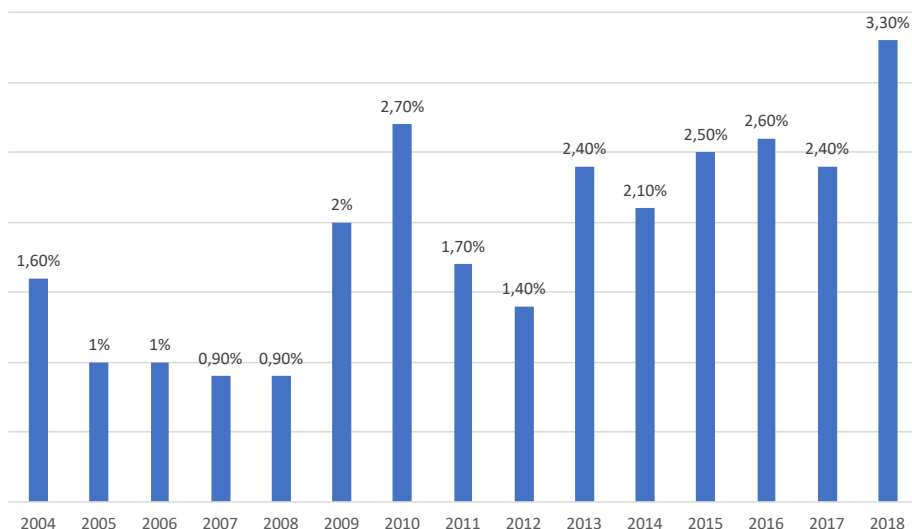
Graph 12: Share of renewable energies in the total installed electrical capacity



Source: Ministry of Energy, Mining, and Environment

In addition, the share of renewable energy consumption in final energy consumption reached 3.3% in 2018 versus 2.6% in 2016.

Figure 13: Share of renewable energy in final energy consumption

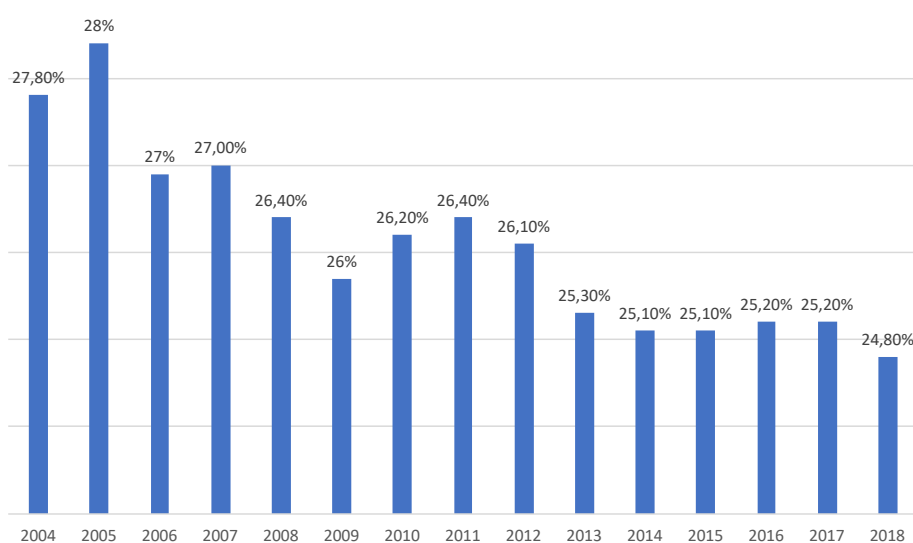


Source: Ministry of Energy, Mining, and Environment

A slight improvement in energy efficiency

Energy efficiency, measured by energy intensity expressed by the degree of decoupling between economic development and energy consumption, is one of the major challenges in terms of sustainable development. Planned to be halved in 2030, primary energy intensity in Morocco fell from 27.8 tons of oil equivalent (to produce 1 million Dirhams of GDP (toe / 1Mdhs of GDP) in 2004) to 24.8 toe / 1Mdhs of GDP in 2018.

Graph 14: Primary energy intensity



Source: Ministry of Energy, Mining, and Environment

This improvement in energy efficiency has been the result of undertaking an arsenal of measures to reduce energy consumption, in key sectors, namely residential, transport, agriculture, and industry. These measures mainly focused on banning the import of obsolete vehicles, improving thermal regulations applicable to new buildings, raising awareness, and distributing 8.1 million low energy light bulbs as part of the INARA operation conducted with the support of World Bank, as well as the introduction of the UTC + 1 time system.

A solid legal and institutional framework

Since 2009, a legal and institutional framework has been put in place to support the national energy strategy, the goal of which is to implement stricter standards for the promotion of renewable energies and energy efficiency; in particular, the adoption of Law 13-09¹⁷ relating to renewable energies which allowed for the opening of electricity production from renewable sources to competition, and access to the electricity network for private operators as well as the export of green electricity; in addition, law 47-09¹⁸ relating to energy efficiency aims to exploit the country's significant energy-saving potential.

On the other hand, the institutional framework has been strengthened by the creation of the implementation structures namely MASEN (Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy), Energy Investment Company (EIC), Moroccan Energy Efficiency Agency (MEFA), training institutes in the field of renewable energies, as well as the Institute for Research in Solar Energies and New Energies (IRSENE) which is an entity dedicated to research and development in renewable energies.

A USD 1 billion Energy Development Fund (EDF) was created in 2009 to finance renewable energy and energy efficiency projects and support energy service companies.

Strengthening Research & Development in the fields of renewable energies and energy efficiency

Research & Development (R&D) occupies a prime place in the transition of the Moroccan energy system; in fact, scientific platforms dedicated to solar energy research have been set up, in this case, GREEN ENERGY PARK which carries out research on all the links of the R&D value chain in partnership with international research centers and the industries in the renewable energy sector to ensure technology transfer.

Morocco has allocated 250 million Dirhams from the EDF fund to support and encourage applied and technological research in the renewable energy sector. In this regard, funding of 800 million Dirhams is allocated for the 2018-2023 period, creation of R&D platforms, and support for start-ups in the field of new energies and energy efficiency.

¹⁷ Decree No. 2-10-578 (April 11, 2011) noting that a draft law amending and supplementing this law and under preparation

¹⁸ Enacted by "Dahir" (Royal decree) No. 1-11-161 (September 29, 2011) as well as the publication of decree No. 2-17-746 relating to the compulsory energy audit and the creation of audit bodies and decree No. 2-18-165 establishing the specifications for service companies (November 21, 2019).

Main challenges

Despite the importance of the measures put in place, some challenges persist in the energy sector, in particular those relating to the following dimensions:

- The reduction of energy dependence on the outside;
- The reduction of the still predominant share of fossil fuels in the national energy mix;
- Satisfying the increased energy demand of energy-intensive sectors, in particular transport and industry;
- The development of investment in R&D in order to keep up with the accelerated pace of innovations in this field;
- The greater attractiveness of foreign investments, which remain sensitive to the international economic situation;
- The fight against the effects of climate change, in particular on the availability of water resources as sources of hydroelectric production.

Strategies and Programs

The progress made in terms of access of populations, especially in rural areas, to electricity, is the result of a set of programs, including mainly:

- The Global Rural Electrification Program, launched in the mid-1990s. It aims, through its last tranche for the period 2019-2023, to cover 1 270 villages with 30 900 households, which would increase the rural electrification rate to 99.93% in 2023.
- The National Initiative for Human Development (NIHD) which has initiated decentralized electrification projects in villages far from the rural world through, among other things, solar panels (photovoltaic kits). These actions are part of the Territorial and Social Disparities Reduction Program (TSDRP), and the institutional governance mechanism of the National Strategy for the Development of Rural Areas and Mountain Areas which is programmed for the 2020-2023 period.

To meet its needs and diversify its energy sources, Morocco has adopted since 2009, under the High Royal Instructions, an energy strategy. Its strategic goals do focus on achieving a diversified and optimized energy mix around reliable and competitive technological choices, the development of renewable energies and the strengthening of energy efficiency, as well as regional integration and sustainable development.

For the implementation of this strategy, several programs have been launched, in the short, medium, and long term, of which the main ones are:

- The 2009-2013 National Plan for Priority Actions which aimed to restore the balance between electricity supply and demand, by acting, on the one hand, on the strengthening of production capacities with the creation of additional power of 1 400 MW and, on the other hand, on the rationalization of energy use;
- The integrated solar and wind energy production programs, namely the Moroccan Solar Plan (MSP) and the Integrated Wind Program (IWP). Their goal is to achieve in 2020 a share of renewable energies of 42% of the installed electrical power and 52% by 2030. Indeed, the installed electrical power of renewable origin will increase to 12 896 MW in 2030 with a investment estimated at 30 billion Dirhams;

- The energy efficiency programs in the main energy consuming sectors, in particular industry, transport and construction, launched as part of the implementation of the national energy efficiency strategy, the goal of which is to achieve energy savings of around 20% by the end of 2020;
- The 2019-2023 green equipment plan is an investment program which aims to achieve by 2023 an additional overall capacity of 3 743 MW, of which 99.4% is from renewable sources;
- The development plan for photovoltaic solar power plants with a total capacity of 320 MW, namely the Noor Tafilalt solar photovoltaic project (120 MW) and the Noor Atlas solar photovoltaic project (200 MW);
- The program to develop a network of platforms dedicated to Research & Development and innovation in the fields of renewable energies and energy efficiency.

Evolution of SDG7 indicators

Targets	Indicator Code	Indicators	2015	2016	2017	2018	Target Value for 2030
7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.	7.1.1	Proportion of population with access to electricity (in %)	97,3	97,8	97,8	98,1	100
7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.	7.2.1	Share of renewable energy in final energy consumption (in %)	2,5	2,6	2,4	3,3	-
7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.	7.3.1	Energy intensity [ratio between primary energy and gross domestic product (GDP)] (in toe / 1Mdhs of GDP)]	25,1	25,2	25,2	24,8	-

Source: Ministry of Energy, Mining, and Environment, National Office of Electricity and Drinking Water (NOEDW), National Employment Survey, High Commission for Planning.



DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, conducive to sufficient job creation and the fight against inequalities and poverty, is one of the strategic pillars of Morocco's approach for the implementation of the SDGs.

Significant efforts have been made to this end in terms of economic reforms, development of productive sectors, infrastructure and strengthening of human capital. Admittedly, notable results have been obtained, despite a restrictive international environment, in terms of economic growth, improvement of the income of the populations, but challenges still remain significant, in particular at the level of job creation, especially for young people and women.

Progress status

A positive development of economic growth, despite a restrictive international environment

The Moroccan economy has seen its growth rate evolve from 3.1%, at constant prices, in the 1990s to nearly 4.2% on an annual average between 2000 and 2018. In the wake of the acceleration of the wealth creation process National GDP per capita (GDP / capita), at constant prices, rebounded sharply, from 16 003 Dirhams in 1999 to 27 811 Dirhams in 2018.

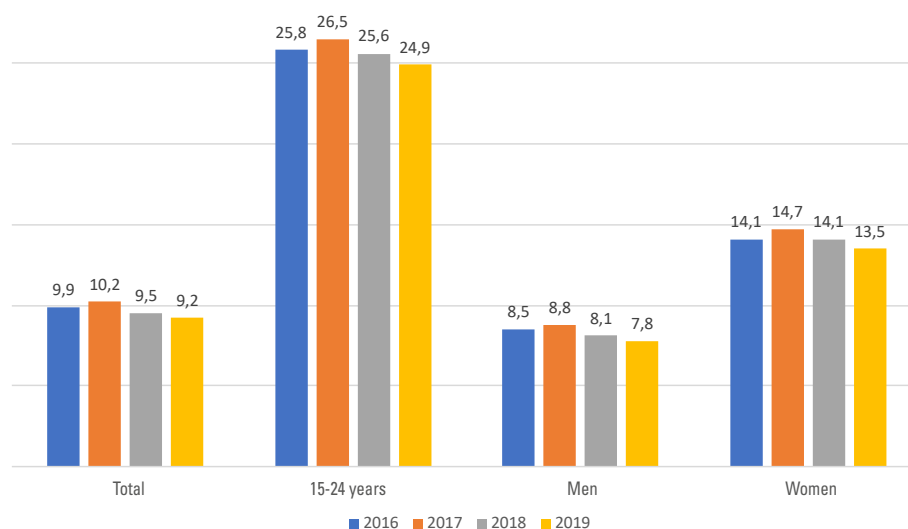
The improvement in the growth profile of the Moroccan economy has been made possible thanks to the gradual diversification of its sources, which is based as much on the modernization of traditional sectors as on the emergence of new promising niches. The primary sector posted an increase in its added value of around 4.4%, with a contribution to GDP growth of 0.6 point. For the agricultural sector, progress was made, thanks in part to the Green Morocco Plan, in terms of economic growth during the 2008-2018 period. Agricultural GDP, a key and synthetic indicator of results, increased from 77 billion Dirhams in 2008 to 105.7 billion Dirhams in 2016 and to 125.4 billion Dirhams in 2018, with an average annual growth rate of + 5.25%. Indeed, this GDP increased by 63% between 2008 and 2018 and by 19% between 2016 and 2018. Agricultural GDP per capita in rural areas improved by + 66% between 2008 and 2018 and by + 20% between 2016 and 2018, which contributed to improving the purchasing power of populations, especially rural populations.

The secondary sector grew at a rate of 3.3%, bringing its contribution to economic growth to 0.9 points. The tertiary sector showed particular dynamism, growing at a rate of 4.2% and contributing 2.1 points to the growth of national added value. Among the engines of the tertiary sector is tourism, which saw its GDP increase between 2016 and 2018 from 66.9 billion to 76.9 billion, bringing its contribution to the national GDP from 6.6% to 6.9%. Economic growth in Morocco remains, moreover, dependent on internal demand, the contribution of which was between 2015 and 2018 at 13.7 points. The contribution of external demand was, on the other hand, negative, with -5.3% (+ 8.5% for exports and -14% for imports).

Main characteristics of the labor market

In 2019, the employment rate of the active population is 41.6% for the whole country, 36.9% in urban areas, and 50.3% in rural areas. At the national level, 65.5% of active men have a job compared to only 18.6% of women. The unemployment rate for men affects 7.8% of the active male population, while it reaches 13.5% for women. Young people aged 15-24 still find it very difficult to access the labor market. The employment rate in this category hardly exceeds 18.9% at the national level (28.3% in rural areas and 12.5% in urban areas).

Graph 15: Evolution of the unemployment rate (in %)



Source: High Commission for Planning (HCP)

Informal employment represented 36% of the entire workforce employed nationally in 2013. Its distribution per non-agricultural sectors shows that this type of employment is more exercised in trade and industry with a respective rate of 68% and 37%, followed by services with 21.5% and construction with 21.7%.

In addition, 26.5% of young people aged 15-24 were, in 2019, not in school and neither employed nor trained. Likewise, the proportion of children between the ages of 7 and 17 who worked stood at 3.3% in 2018.

Levels of access to banking services

Morocco has put in place a financial inclusion strategy aimed at promoting "equitable access for all individuals and businesses to formal financial products and services for use suited to their needs and means".

Between 2015 and 2018, the number of bank branches in Morocco increased from 6 139 to 6 503 and that of automated teller machines (ATMs) from 6 529 to 7 289¹⁹.

In addition, the results of a FINDEX survey on the level of financial inclusion in Morocco, carried out in collaboration with the World Bank in 2017, showed that 34%²⁰ of adults have a formal account with, however, disparities by gender (41% for men versus 17% for women), age (33% for adults aged 25 and over versus 16% for young people aged between 15 and 24), place of residence (37% in urban versus 20% in rural areas), by income (35% for the richest 60% versus 19% for the poorest 40%) and by employment status. The disparities by gender according to this last characteristic are low for employees (54% for women versus 57% for men). They are, however, important among "self-employed" (21% for women versus 35% for men) and "unemployed" people (13% for women versus 33% for men).

¹⁹ Bank Al-Maghrib: "Annual report on banking supervision", Years 2015 and 2018

²⁰ Ministry of Economy and Finance and Bank Al-Maghrib "National Strategy of Financial Inclusion", Summary Note, September 2018

Likewise, the level of financial inclusion for VSEs and micro-enterprises remains low. According to the results of a survey carried out by the Moroccan Foundation for Financial Education with 1 000 VSEs, micro-enterprises and auto-entrepreneurs, only 48% of them have a bank account and only 6% have contracted a bank loan. The financial inclusion of micro-enterprises and very small businesses is hampered mainly by the weakness of their activities (45%), lack of need (41%) and by their lack of confidence in banks (13%)²¹.

Main challenges

Despite the performances achieved, economic growth remains fragile insofar as it is still highly dependent on the international economy and climatic hazards. Thus, the question of the sustainability of these achievements constitutes a great challenge to be taken up and arises acutely, mainly due to a trend context which is characterized by a certain contraction of the European economies, by a reduction in the incomes of the emigration and by new trade constraints. Sector transformation also remains very slow, despite the breakthrough of a few industrial sectors.

In addition to this dependence on the international context, the current level of economic growth in Morocco remains insufficient to absorb new arrivals on the labor market, which constitutes a major challenge for public policies. The current situation in Morocco is indeed showing significant deficits, which must be absorbed. In general, the economic development and employment of young people and women involves overcoming barriers related to supply, demand, and labor market efficiency. It is also important to reduce informal employment and improve the quality of employment. This also represents a major challenge in improving the quality of jobs, to which one must add the low rate of social coverage and the rate of unionization. In these conditions, focusing public policies on the creation of decent jobs is essential.

Strategies and Programs

Boosting economic growth

In order to promote the growth of its national economy, Morocco has launched several strategies and programs in the areas of productive sectors and infrastructure. At this level, all sectoral plans, including the "Generation Green" strategy or the Industrial Acceleration Plan, contribute to the improvement of economic growth, productivity, and employment.

The new development strategy for the agricultural sector, called "Generation Green 2020-2030" was launched in February 2020. While aiming to capitalize on the achievements of the Green Morocco Plan, this second step aims to further boost the agricultural sector. This strategy consists in the emergence of a new generation of agricultural middle class (350 000 to 400 000 households), and the birth of a new generation of young entrepreneurs and the creation of 350 000 jobs in the benefit of young people.

Morocco has put in place a 2014-2020 Industrial Acceleration Plan, thus consolidating the achievements of the Emergence Plan and the National Pact for Industrial Emergence. This plan aims to create half a million jobs, half of which come from FDIs and the other from the renovated national industrial fabric, and increase the industrial share in GDP by 9 points, from 14% at 23% in 2020.

²¹ Ministry of Economy and Finance and Bank Al-Maghrib "National Strategy of Financial Inclusion", Summary Note, September 2018

The main measures of this plan are the establishment of an integrated industry via ecosystems, improvement of the competitiveness of SMEs by facilitating financing and support in terms of training and access to land, and improving Morocco's international positioning by supporting businesses for access to external markets.

The 2020 vision for the tourism sector, designed in a logic of continuity with the 2010 vision, aims to continue efforts to make tourism one of the engines of economic, social, and cultural development in Morocco. It is focused on regional promotion, sustainable development, the establishment of a culture of quality service at all levels of tourism activity, and the development of human capital. It aims to increase the capacities and diversification of the sector and, ultimately, to increase the share of tourism GDP by 2 points.

In addition, several national and international festivals dedicated to the arts and artistic expressions of heritage have been organized to preserve and enhance the intangible cultural heritage in the diversity of artistic genres, and to support contemporary creations. They not only help to make known the richness of culture but also constitute a solid platform for cultural tourism, not to mention the support to cultural projects dedicated to the promotion of cultural tourism led by cultural actors at national level and residing abroad, governed by the call for projects.

In addition, efforts have been initiated for the territorial, national and international establishment of a cultural economy in favor of young talents, women and seniors through the creation of cultural companies. It also involves the promotion of income-generating professions in the fields of culture, the promotion of artistic mobility between countries, and the strengthening of North-South and South-South relations in the cultural sector. These advances contribute to strengthening Morocco's global positioning as an artistic hub through the promotion of its diversity which draws on the various sources of Moroccan culture (Amazigh, Andalusian, African, Mediterranean, Hebrew, Sahrawi, and others).

Employment and decent work

Morocco has launched a set of strategies and plans aimed primarily at promoting job creation, mainly focusing on the development of human capital, strengthening of labor market intermediation and development of the governance framework of the work market. In this sense, Morocco has put in place the National Employment Strategy (SNE) 2015-2025 and the National Employment Promotion Plan (PNPE) 2018-2021 which aims to create 1.2 million jobs in by 2021.

The measures provided by the PNPE include the following:

- Establishing a link between the level of incentives and the number of jobs in the investment charter;
- Support for the development of the voluntary sector given its potential in creating jobs;
- Encouragement of the development of targeted programs relating to services of social utility and general interest;
- The implementation of procedural measures allowing the submission of cooperatives to public contracts;
- The establishment of support mechanisms for companies in difficult situations in order to limit job losses;
- Support for the creation of employment opportunities by meeting the needs for services of social utility and public interest (local services);

- The establishment of a labor market watch committee responsible for monitoring job creations and job losses and assessing the impact on employment of sector strategies and plans.
- Encouraging the creation of businesses through the development of a system of support programs for self-employment and the development of the spirit of entrepreneurship in all levels of education.

In addition, and to deal with the problem of employment, particularly among young people and vulnerable people, the PNPE has adopted a set of measures aimed at improving the current system of Active Employment Programs (PAE) and to put in place other measures in favor of specific categories such as rural youth, migrants and ex-prisoners.

Thus, in addition to strengthening and broadening the scope of ANAPEC's action and regularly evaluating current EAPs, the PNPE advocates for the development of new programs aimed at improving employability and supporting salaried employment, development of the performance of private employment agencies, strengthening of proximity through agencies and employment spaces, the acquisition of mobile units and the development of remote services.

With regard to the categories of the working population considered vulnerable, it is necessary to mention measures which aim, inter alia, to:

- Promote salaried employment according to an approach of targeting jobs / professions practiced by people with disabilities according to the nature of the disability;
- Promote self-employment within the framework of partnership with the National Mutual Aid, the Social Development Agency (ADS), the NIHD, and the Social Cohesion Fund;
- The economic inclusion of young people through the creation from 2019, within the framework of the third phase of the NIHD, of platforms at the level of the provinces dedicated to listening, guiding and supporting young entrepreneurs and project leaders, and also for the integration of young people into the labor market and the strengthening of their chances by adapting their qualifications and developing their technical skills;
- Set up subsidized contracts for the benefit of migrants in a regular situation financed by international cooperation and the Moroccan regions and self-employment support programs for these categories of people;
- Strengthen training services and programs in favor, in particular, of migrants and mobilize civil society associations to inform and guide migrants on these integration opportunities.

Concerning the integration of young people into the labor market and in particular NEETs, and more specifically the promotion of employment and self-employment, the PNPE has adopted actions in favor of NEETs through the creation of new formal jobs in favor of this category of young people, the development of soft-skills, the teaching of languages and the direct support of these young people through training and awareness-raising actions, by social supervisors trained for this purpose.

Also, the Action Program of the High Commissioner's Office for Former Resistance Fighters and Former Members of the Liberation Army aims to promote employment through actions focused on the development of productive activities, entrepreneurship, the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises and the creation of cooperatives, in particular through the encouragement of the descendants of ARAMAL to self-employment, to entrepreneurial action and to the granting

of financial aid for the creation of small and medium-sized enterprises. In the context of self-employment, the number of small and medium-sized enterprises created amounted to 322 in 2019 versus 83 in 2016 while the number of cooperatives created was 27 in 2019 versus 14 in 2016.

With regard to the measures taken to suppress forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labor (target 8.7), the legal arsenal and regulations have been enriched by laws and implementing decrees that have been promulgated in recent years (Law No. 19.12 setting the working and employment conditions of domestic workers, "Dahir" (Royal decree) No. 1-00-312 setting and prohibiting the worst forms of child labor, decree No. 2-04-682 specifying the work prohibited to minors under 18, women and employees with disabilities).

In terms of workplace safety, the Ministry of Labor and Professional Integration has drawn up, in partnership with the social partners and the stakeholders concerned, the National Occupational Health and Safety Plan (2020-2024) which is articulated around the development of a national occupational health and safety system, the strengthening of governance and social dialogue, the promotion of a culture of prevention and the development of training in occupational safety and health.

In terms of improving the functioning of the labor market and working conditions, the PNPE has adopted a set of measures such as the development and modernization of the labor inspectorate and the supervision and promotion of new forms of job.

Financial inclusion

The National Financial Inclusion Strategy put in place in 2018 aims to define a common vision and national guidelines with a view to reducing the disparities that persist in terms of access to and penetration of financial services. The goal is to make financial inclusion a real vector of socio-economic development and to allow equitable access for all individuals and businesses to formal financial products and services (transactions, payments, savings, financing and insurance) for a use adapted to their needs and their means, in order to promote economic and social inclusion. Actions were directed towards priority segments, in particular the rural world, very small businesses, women and young people, following the diagnosis made and confirmed by the results of the Findex survey.

The efforts made to achieve the goals of this strategy include:

- The revision, in December 2018, of the law on microfinance to facilitate access to financing for very small businesses via the increase in the micro-credit ceiling from 50 000 Dirhams to 150 000 Dirhams;
- The establishment of the INNOV INVEST (IIF) seed fund which is endowed with 500 million Dirhams, financed by a loan from the World Bank. This fund covers investment in public-private funds, venture capital or Business Angels specializing in the initiation of start-ups and innovative companies, and financing through grants and honorary loans in favor of holders projects;
- The establishment of a legal framework for collaborative financing "Crowdfunding", able to allow the collection of funds from a large public in order to finance entrepreneurship and innovation and support the emergence of projects social, cultural and creative;

- The preparation of a bill on credit bureau activity with a view to broadening the scope of application to alternative data (mobile telephony, water, electricity, etc.) relating to natural persons, originating from non-financial entities.

In addition, an **Integrated Business Support and Financing Program** has been launched and aims to create around 27 000 new jobs and support 13 500 additional businesses, through the financing of entrepreneurship.

A special trust account "Support fund for the financing of entrepreneurship" was created, within the framework of the 2020 finance law, and endowed with an envelope of 6 billion Dirhams spread over a 3-yr period, financed in equal parts by the Government and the banking sector;

NIHD's income improvement and economic inclusion program for young people, endowed with 4 billion Dirhams, which aims to encourage entrepreneurship, employability, and the social and solidarity-based economy.

In addition, an Integrated Business Support and Financing Program has been launched and aims to create around 27 000 new jobs and support 13 500 additional businesses, through the financing of entrepreneurship.

Evolution of SDG8 indicators

Targets	Indicator Code	Indicators	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Target Value for 2030
8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries.	8.1.1	Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	2,5	1,2	3,1	-0,2	2,7	1,6	-	-
8.2 Achieve higher levels of productivity of economies through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labor-intensive sectors	8.2.1	Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person	2,1	3,3	4,4	1,3	4,2	1,7	-	-
8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises including through access to financial services.	8.3.1	Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex	-	(2013) 36,3	-	-	-	-	-	-
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.	8.5.2	Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities		9,9	9,7	9,9	10,2	9,5	9,2	-

8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education	8.6.1	Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment, or training	-	28,9	27,9	27,5	29,3	27,5	26,5	-
8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms	8.7.1	Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labor, by sex and age (%)	-	-	-	-	-	3,3	-	0
8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.	8.9.1	Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate	-	6,7	6,5	6,6	6,8	6,9	-	-
8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.	8.10.1	a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100.000 adults	20,8	24,1	24,6	24,8	24,9	-	-	-
	8.10.2	b) Number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100.000 adults.	19,7	25,0	26,3	26,8	27,2	27,8	-	-

Source: Ministry of Economy and Finance and Bank Al-Maghrib, National Employment Survey, High Commission for Planning.



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Economic growth, social development and the fight against climate change depend heavily on investment in infrastructure, the development of sustainable industry and technological progress.

In this regard, Morocco has placed the development of the infrastructure and industrial sectors at the centre of its development process. Several advances have thus been made, but challenges still remain and strategies to meet them have been put in place.

Progress status

Development of transport infrastructure

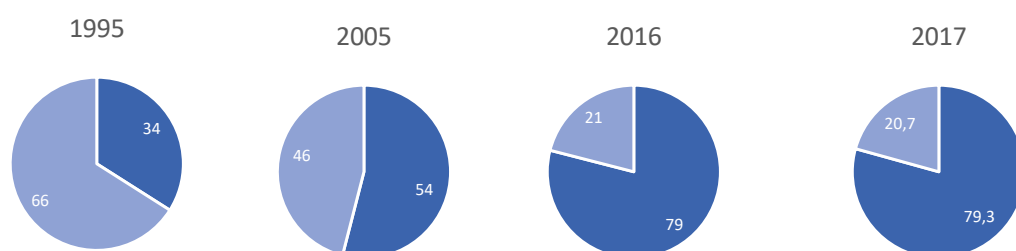
Water and electricity infrastructure have been addressed in SDG6 and SDG7 respectively. This SDG deals with transport infrastructure and information and communication technologies.

Morocco has made transport infrastructure a basic lever to support development. In recent decades, it has thus carried out major projects to improve its economic competitiveness, develop its national territory and strengthen its attractiveness, as well as to support its social development.

Currently, the national heritage in transport infrastructure consists of 57 334 km of classified roads including 44 215 km of paved roads, 1 192 km of expressways, 1 800 km of motorways, 2 109 km of railways, 200 km of high speed rail lines, 40 ports and 25 airports. The transport sector contributed 4.3% to the total national added value in 2017.

Rural road construction programs have contributed to rural opening up. The proportion of the rural population living in douars (small villages) located less than one kilometer from a passable road reached 79.3% in 2017 compared to 54% in 2005.

Graph 16: Evolution of the rural areas opening-up rate (in %)



Source: Ministry of Equipment, Transportation, Logistics, and Water

To consolidate these efforts, a new program to reduce territorial and social disparities in the rural world was launched in 2015 aimed at reducing socio-economic differences between social strata and between territories in terms of infrastructure and basic social equipment.

The road component of this 7-year program requires the mobilization of an amount of 36 billion Dirhams, intended for road infrastructure. This involves the construction of 22 000 km of rural roads and tracks for an amount of 28 billion Dirhams and the safeguarding of 8 000 km of classified rural roads of proximity for an amount of 8 billion Dirhams.

In the field of transport development and given their roles in the expansion and integration of markets by facilitating the movement of people and goods, Morocco has worked to provide safe and quality transport services that participate in the 'inclusion of populations, improvement of traffic flow and road safety and promotion of the logistics sector.

Thus, the activity of the transport sector achieved 4 923 million passenger-kilometers in 2017 by rail instead of 5 208 passenger-kilometers in 2016 (35 million passengers transported by rail in 2018 compared to 39.5 million travelers in 2016). Rail freight traffic reached 3 888 million tons-kilometers in 2017 versus 3 831 tons-kilometers in 2016 (27 million tons of goods transported by rail in 2018 versus 28.2 million tons in 2016).

For maritime transport, Moroccan ports handled an overall traffic of 137.5 million tons in 2018, versus 121.06 million tons in 2016, an increase of 13.5%. Passenger and cruise traffic also recorded a positive increase of 8.2%, going from 4 968 000 passengers in 2016 to 5 375 000 in 2018.

The airline sector, for its part, achieved a record traffic of 20 358 000 passengers in 2017, an increase of 11.63% compared to 2016.

Promotion of sustainable industry

In Morocco, the share of the industrial sector in the overall GDP remained almost stable between 2016 and 2018, with 15.7%, while the manufacturing value added per inhabitant rose, respectively, from 4 606 Dirhams / capita to 4 933 Dirhams / capita.

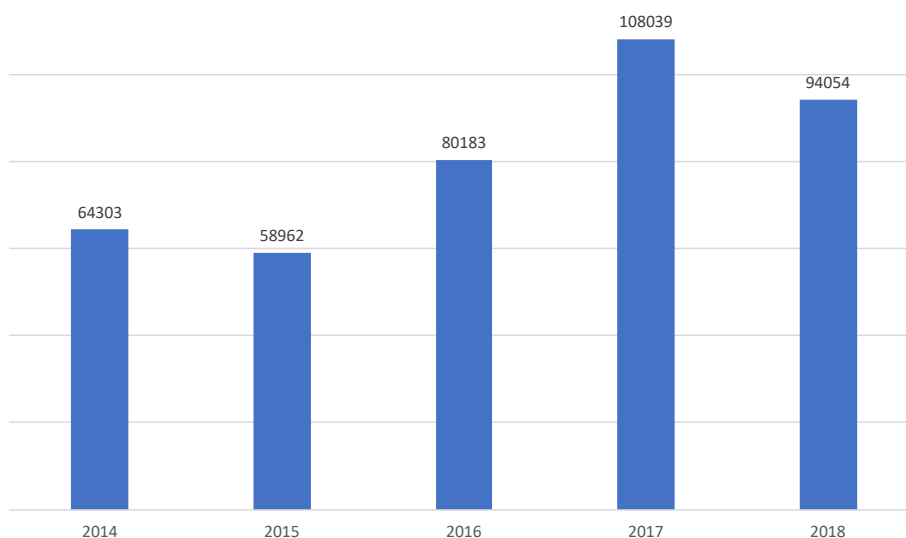
Regarding the proportion of industrial employment (including crafts) in total employment, it increased from 11.3% in 2016 to 12% in 2018.²²

Industrial Acceleration Plan 2014-2020 (IAP): The dynamics of the Industrial Acceleration Plan have made it possible to create 54 industrial ecosystems covering several sectors, in particular, the automobile, aeronautics, electronics and electricity, textiles and leather, chemistry-parachemistry, pharmaceuticals, agro-industry, renewable energies, mechanical and metallurgical industries, and offshoring. The various sectors organized have set specific goals in terms of jobs, turnover, and exports via performance contracts.

The various investment projects implemented under the IAP have created more than 405 000 jobs between 2014 and 2018 (2 years before the completion of the IAP), 49% of which are women.

²² High Commission for Planning, National Employment Survey 2016 and 2018.

Graph 17: Creation of industrial jobs



Source: CNSS (National Social Security Fund), MITGDE survey

Industry is an essential factor in the trend of the trade balance. Industrial exports represented in 2018 more than 55.2% of Morocco's total exports and grew at an average rate of 8.2% over the period 2014-2018, driven mainly by the automobile and aeronautics.

The automobile has been at the forefront of the exporting sectors since 2015. The automotive sector achieved an export turnover of 72.5 billion Dirhams in 2018 versus 42.8 billion Dirhams in 2014 with an average annual growth rate of 14.1 %.

Likewise, the aeronautical branch is at the top of the branches having recorded the highest increase in its exports with an annual rate of change exceeding 20% during the same period.

The textile sector represents a strategic sector within national industrial activity through its contribution to the aggregates of the industrial sector (27% of jobs and 7% of industrial added value).

The Agro-Food Industries sector occupies an important place in the industrial sector through its participation in the creation of jobs, added value, and turnover.

The sustained momentum of new global businesses has made it possible to attract foreign direct investment s (FDIs) to the industrial sector, which benefited from 18% of total FDIs in 2018, which places this sector in second place after the insurance sector.

Improving access to financing for micro-enterprises

Very Small, Small and Medium Enterprises (VSMEs) represent 93% of all businesses in Morocco. 64% are VSEs and 29% are SMEs²³. They play an important role in creating employment.

The participation of small industrial enterprises²⁴ in the creation of industrial added value reached 4% of national GDP in 2014.

In order to give new impetus to these economic entities, the "Morocco SMEs" Agency supported,

23 High Commission for Planning, National survey conducted among companies, 2019. /

24 A small industrial enterprise is any enterprise which employs less than 50 people and generates a turnover not exceeding 10 million Dirhams (High Commission for Planning, structure survey).

between 2014 and 2019, around 1 300 VSEs for the implementation of 1 729 individual investment projects. These projects represent a global investment of around 8.3 billion Dirhams, with commitments to create more than 78 508 jobs, 50% of which are direct jobs. This agency is also deploying an accelerated post-creation support program dedicated to young innovative companies (YICs) with high potential for job creation and growth.

Particular attention is paid to support from the informal to the formal with the establishment of the status of auto-entrepreneur (an appropriate tax component, as well as social cover, support and dedicated funding). As such, between 2015 and 2019, 118 496 self-employed entrepreneurs were registered with entrepreneurial support from 2 878 self-employed entrepreneurs.

Financing remains among the major obstacles hindering the smooth running of Moroccan business, especially small business. 35% of companies applied for a loan from a banking institution in 2018. This proportion is 56% for large companies and 27% for very small businesses. Among the VSEs who applied for a loan, 28% did not receive a favorable response to their loan request, due to insufficient guarantees for 52% of companies and lack of confidence in the company for 20 %. According to the 2019 National Business Survey, the proportion of small industrial enterprises having resorted to external financing was 5.2% in 2018.

Environmental concerns of industrial projects

Industrial projects carried out within the framework of the IAP are subject to all the environmental regulations in force allowing them to be included in a Sustainable Development framework, in particular, Law No.12-03 relating to impact studies on the environment. Any industrial project is subject to an environmental acceptability authorization.

In addition, the industrial company is subject to several conventions and concepts relating to the preservation of the environment without jeopardizing its development such as the Rotterdam Convention applicable to certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides which are the subject of international trade, the Basel convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal, the Stockholm convention on persistent organic pollutants, or even “the Responsible Care” and others.

To encourage a green economy and a clean industry that respects the environment, industrial ecosystems have not failed to develop recycling and industrial and energy recovery channels to ensure the development and improvement of their competitiveness through promotion of the Circular Economy and the rationalization of the consumption of materials (water, energy efficiency and raw materials). In this sense, a cross-cutting Green Ecosystem project is being set up in collaboration with the private sector.

Morocco has committed over the past decade to establishing the bases of Sustainable Development in the rational management of natural resources, energy consumption, industrial waste, and this within the framework of compliance with national regulations and its international commitments.

Innovation and new Information and Communications Technologies

Technological progress is the basis of efforts to achieve environmental goals, such as the optimal use of resources and energy. To do this, industries are called upon to continuously innovate and develop the best technologies, solutions and equipment to meet expectations in terms of operational and environmental performance and minimize the impact of their activities on the environment.

However, the budget allocated to research and development in Morocco remains limited, not exceeding 0.8% of GDP in 2018.

Notwithstanding this, several achievements have been made to promote, develop and enhance scientific research and innovation, including in particular:

- The funding of calls for research projects with an innovation focus: priority research program, research program around phosphates, medicinal and aromatic plants, road safety, Ibn Khaldoun program (Human and social sciences), Al Khawarizmi (artificial intelligence and Big data), and other projects
- The development of partnerships and international cooperation in the field of advancing scientific research and innovation;
- Support and support for scientific and technical events and events;
- The launch of a study on indicators of scientific research and innovation;
- The strengthening of the pooling cluster within NCSTR (construction of the new headquarters of the technical support units for scientific research, with an investment budget of 35 million Dirhams and renewal of its scientific equipment, establishment of the university data centre, access to international databases for scientific and technical information, strengthening of the high-speed university network "MARWAN", subscription to anti-plagiarism software, etc.);
- Encouraging the creation of a structure to promote the results of scientific research (incubators, university-business interfaces, etc.);
- The launch of a national program for the establishment of innovation cities within universities;
- The establishment of excellence research grants (NCSTR excellence grants, CIFRE/France-Morocco grants, nanosatellite grant, international cooperation grants, research program grants, etc.).

Morocco has also made great efforts to facilitate access to information and communication technologies by actively working for its generalization and the reduction of the digital divide. Thus in 2019²⁵, the number of Internet subscribers stood at 25.28 million, recording a penetration rate of 71.33%. The distribution of this park shows the supremacy of the mobile Internet with 23.68 million subscribers against only 1.48 million for ADSL and 121 237 for optical fiber. As far as the 4G subscriber fleet is concerned, it amounts to 15.72 million subscribers. For its part, the number of mobile telephone subscribers reached 46.67 million, i.e. a penetration rate of 131.14%. It should be noted that the deployment of 5G and Internet of Things technologies is being prepared.

As for the rate of equipment of households with computers / tablets, it has been on an upward trend since 2010. Between 2015 and 2018, this rate rose from 54.8% to 60.6%.²⁶

It should be noted that the development of access to telecommunications services has been driven mainly by the entry into the market of new operators and the drop in tariffs, particularly in the mobile telephony and Internet segments.

In the area of international cooperation in the field of new technologies, Morocco has developed, since its independence, a policy of scientific cooperation, through several bilateral and multilateral

²⁵ ANRT, Analysis of the development of the telecom sector in Morocco at the end of December 2019.

²⁶ ANRT, Annual survey for the collection of ICT indicators from households and individuals at the national level

projects. Several types of cooperation have been launched by the Department of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the National Centre for Scientific and Technical Research (CNRST).

Morocco has also signed several cooperation agreements in the field of scientific research and innovation, in particular the partnership for research and development in the Mediterranean region with the EU (PRIMA).

Main challenges

Transport infrastructure sector

The major challenge for the transport infrastructure sector lies in the conservation of road assets and the strengthening of its resilience to climate change. Morocco is experiencing extreme climatic events, the rate of which seems to be increasing in recent years due to climate change causing significant damage, especially for rural municipalities whose limited financial resources do not allow them to take charge of the necessary maintenance operations.

In addition, investment in logistics areas is also faced with the challenge of quickly having land holdings that can be used immediately at the right locations and at the best prices. As a result, a significant public financial effort must be provided in order to secure and mobilize the land intended for the development of logistics zones, which must be competitive and well connected to the various transport networks.

Other challenges also arise for the maritime and air transport sectors. Indeed, the liberalization of maritime and air transport fostered the competitiveness of the two sectors, but it eventually created the challenge of strong international competition. Indeed, national shipping companies and airlines have been the subject of several difficulties:

- The strong international competition which the national maritime flag and the Moroccan airlines could not face, resulted in a slowdown in their development.
- The costs and delays associated with port passages remain too high. These delays are attributable to relatively cumbersome procedures, to the management of information deemed inefficient, and to the under-exploitation of the benefits of new information technologies.
- The eruption of regional competition was manifested by the launch of major port projects in neighboring countries such as the Harbor-Center of El Hamdania in Algeria and the harbor of Enfidha in Tunisia.

Industrial sector

The ambition to include Morocco in a process of industrial acceleration inevitably involves rising up to a set of challenges, including local integration, training more suited to the new requirements of productivity and competitiveness and integration of national companies into industrial dynamics and improvement of the balance of payments by promoting the purchase of service products from the local fabric.

Nevertheless, despite the efforts made, SMEs still face a set of problems which hamper their development and prevent them from improving their contribution to added value. Hence the need to redouble efforts to face strong global competition, the modernization of management resources, the use of modern and clean technologies, the resolution of problems related to financing, the adequate training of human resources, and the search for skilled people having the keys to success and innovation.

Moreover, the informal sector is still a brake on the development of industrial sectors. It represents 11.5% of national GDP, escapes all forms of taxes, and develops new forms of exclusion and poverty linked to the degradation of employment. The research and development (R&D) sector continues to face the weakness of private funding as well as the aging and weak increase in the number of research professors.

In terms of NICTs, despite the achievements recorded, considerable disparities in terms of equipment persist, particularly between rural and urban areas, explained among other things by the geographical distribution of mobile networks and the inaccessibility of prices for certain segments of the population, which reduces their ability to acquire ICT equipment and access the Internet. In addition, there is the quality of the digital infrastructure, which needs to be improved in order to cover white areas not served by telecommunications networks, culture and digital uses, which are still limited, particularly among citizens. Addressing these gaps is necessary to ensure digital equity and allow universal access to knowledge and thereby promote R&D, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Strategies and Programs

Equipment, Transport and Logistics

Morocco has embarked on vast infrastructure development programs and the liberalization of various modes of transport, in support of the country's economic development and its ambition to integrate into the world economy. Several master plans for 2030-2035 have been defined and broken down into development programs in the road, motorway, rail, port and airport areas.

The Strategy of the Ministry of Equipment, Transport, and Logistics revolves around three main pillars, namely the development of transport infrastructure, the emergence of a profitable and competitive transport economy, safety and quality of transport services.

Per mode of transport, this strategy includes :

- A Road Plan for 2035: it includes programs for the construction of roads and rural tracks, the continuation of the expressway program to reach a length of 2211 km in 2022 and 3017 km by 2030, as well as that the extension of the motorway network;
- A master plan for railway lines by 2040: this is an ambitious strategic plan aimed at developing and modernizing the rail network. Its goal is to triple the current network, by building an additional 2 743 km of conventional rail and 1 500 km of high-speed lines;
- A National Road Safety Strategy for 2025;
- A national port strategy for 2030: a new approach has been adopted, based on the concept of a port hub which will allow each of the Kingdom's regions to promote its assets, resources and infrastructure and to benefit from the economic dynamism generated through ports;
- A national civil aviation strategy "AJWAE"; and
- A national strategy for the development of logistics competitiveness by 2030.

Ministry of Industry, Trade, and of the Green and Digital Economy:

The Industrial Acceleration Plan (IAP); launched in 2014 by the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and of the Green and Digital Economy (MICEVN), aims to give new impetus to the industrial sector and strengthen its positioning as a major lever for growth and job creation. Spread over the 2014-2020 period, the IAP aims to create 500 000 jobs, increase the industrial share in the GDP by 9 points,

moving from 14% to 23%, and rebalance the trade balance by replacing imports and strengthening exports.

In this context, the Government undertakes to provide appropriate and specific support, in particular, the mobilization of land, the training of resources and the provision of financing.

The IAP was designed according to a new approach based on the establishment of efficient ecosystems, aimed at the integration of value chains and the consolidation of local relations between large companies and SMEs. Thus, it defines a series of integrated measures in order to provide support adapted to the needs of companies and to provide them with a favorable framework for the development of their activities. It was rolled out in 2018 at the regional level, with the aim of having a greater impact at the local level and improving the incentives and the local investment environment to support effective implementation of the IAP in the regions.

In terms of financing, a public industrial investment fund (Industrial Development Fund - FDI), with an envelope of 20 billion Dirhams, will allow the industrial fabric to consolidate, modernize and develop its capacity to substitution for imported products.

A new Industrial Acceleration Plan is being prepared for the 2021-2025 period. This plan will allow for the recognition of achievements and their generalization to all regions and the integration of new innovative ecosystems accompanied by measures encouraging investment in industry as well as the development of research and innovation and the promotion of technology.

Also, the transition to a green and inclusive economy will be one of the pillars of this plan. This pillar will help improve the country's economic growth.

Support programs for very small enterprises (VSEs) and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

The programs dedicated to SMEs are, in particular, IMTIAZ-CROISSANCE (excellence-growth) and ISTITMAR-CROISSANCE (investment-growth).

In addition to supporting the State, the banking sector has undertaken, under an agreement signed with the State, to support industrial companies via competitive rates, support for restructuring, support for internationalization, and other measures.

In addition, with the same concern to alleviate the problem of financing small businesses and in application of the High Royal Directives, an Integrated Business Support and Funding Program was launched in January 2020. This program is based on three main pillars:

- The financing of entrepreneurship;
- The coordination of support and coaching activities for entrepreneurship at the regional level;
- Financial inclusion of rural populations.

This program intended to support young graduates by facilitating their access to bank loans to finance their projects, to support small and medium-sized enterprises operating in the field of exports, particularly to Africa, and to allow for a better integration professional and economic workers in the informal sector; and projects carried out in rural areas. In terms of goals, it will contribute each year to the creation of around 27 000 new jobs and the support of 13 500 additional companies. Within the framework of this program, the creation of a "support fund for the financing of entrepreneurship" was created, the purpose of which is to support operations to support the

financing of entrepreneurship with a budget of 6 billion Dirhams, over a period of 3 years, including 3 billion Dirhams from the banking sector. The fund targets financing as a priority for projects in the informal sector, by self-employed people, by start-ups, as well as by micro- and very small enterprises, including in the rural world. A regional coordination committee to support project leaders and micro-enterprises in facilitating access to bank financing will be set up in each region.

Sustainable Development Initiatives

Morocco has started several initiatives to encourage a green economy and a clean and environmentally friendly industry, namely:

- The development of a National Strategy for Sustainable Development;
- The creation, in 2000, of a Moroccan Clean Production Center (MCPC);
- The development of energy efficiency in businesses and the establishment of a national energy efficiency strategy;
- The entry into force, on July 1, 2016, of Law No. 77-15 prohibiting the manufacture, import, marketing and use of plastic bags.

The establishment of financial incentives such as the Industrial Depollution Fund (FODEP) and the Voluntary Industrial Water Depollution Mechanism (VIWDM) for the upgrading and environmental compliance of the industrial and artisanal sector, thus strengthening the competitiveness of national companies

Innovation, development research, and NICT

Morocco has not ceased to provide efforts capable of supporting R&D through functional and transversal plans, in particular: the National Strategy for the Development of Scientific Research by 2025 and the Strategic Vision of Educational Reform 2015-2030.

The establishment of the INNOV INVEST Fund (IIF) in 2018 with its ecosystem of incubators (equipped with prototyping devices) and funders, endowed with 500 million Dirhams, financed by a loan from the World Bank, devoted to the financing of innovation.

In addition and with a view to building an environment conducive to the emergence of a high added value economy and to position Morocco as a technology-producing country, the innovation strategy " Innovation Morocco" was adopted in June 2009, on the occasion of the first national innovation summit. The latter had set two overall goals for 2014, namely:

- Creation of 200 innovative start-ups;
- Filing of 1 000 Moroccan patents.

These two indicators have been largely achieved through the contribution of the various projects launched within the framework of the defined strategic pillars, in particular (1) Governance and legal framework, (2) Innovation funding, (3) Infrastructures and clusters and (4) Talent mobilization.

In this sense, efforts have been made by the Department of Higher Education and Scientific Research through the establishment of a national program in partnership with MICPO to support the filing of invention patents at the level universities and research centers. This program enabled universities and research centers to file 123 patents in 2019 out of a total of 192 patents of Moroccan origin.

Morocco has developed strategies in the field of information technology development, namely the Morocco Digital 2013 Plan which had as a strategic priority to "promote social transformation by

making high-speed Internet accessible and by promoting access to exchanges and knowledge". The Digital Morocco 2020 strategy aims, among other things, to democratize digital uses in the private sector and among citizens, by reducing the digital access divide by 50% and ensuring the connection of 20% of SMEs to the Internet and invest in quality telecom infrastructures throughout the national territory and generalize free Outdoor- Wi-Fi in all public spaces.

Among the important operationalization measures taken as part of this strategy, we can cite the creation in 2017 of the Digital Development Agency (DDA) responsible, among other things, to promote the dissemination of digital tools and the development of their use by citizens. Among the 16 projects launched by DDA, we note support for the establishment of the infrastructure necessary for the digital transformation of the country (data centre, Internet access points, etc.).

In December 2019, the Agency approved the General Guidelines for the Development of the Digital sector in Morocco by 2025, in response to the challenges the country is facing in particular in terms of improving digital infrastructure, developing culture and digital uses which are still limited among citizens, businesses and public administrations, and also in terms of the adoption of the necessary and simplified tools for the effective implementation and large-scale use of digital platforms. The note aims, among other things, to set up an inclusive society through digital technology in order to contribute to the reduction of social inequalities.

In addition, the execution of the National Broadband Development Plan launched in 2012 is continuing to achieve its goal of enabling Morocco to have the latest generation of telecommunications infrastructures and to generalize access to an Internet service with a minimum bandwidth of 2MB / s to the entire population over a ten-year horizon.

Evolution of the SDG9 indicators

Targets	Code indic.	Indicators	2005	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Target Value for 2030
9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all	9.1.1	Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road.	54	-	-	79	79,3	-	100
	9.1.2	Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport: - Rail transport (in millions of passenger-kms) - Rail transport (in millions of ton-km); - Maritime transport (in millions of tons) - Maritime transport (in millions of passengers) - Air transport (in millions of passengers)				5507 4782 121,06 4,97	5449 5351 137,5 5,37 20,36		
9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries.	9.2.1	a. Manufacturing value added value, as a proportion of GDP and per capita (%)	-	14,0	16,1	15,7	15,7	15,7	28,0
		b. Manufacturing Value added, as a proportion of GDP and per capita (in Dirhams (MADs / capita)	-	-	4672	4606	4788	4933	-
	9.2.2	Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment	-	-	11,2	11,3	11,7	12,0	-
9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, particularly in developing countries, to financial services including affordable credit and their integration into value chains and markets	9.3.1	Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added	-	4,0	-	-	-	-	-
	9.3.2	Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit	-	-	-	-	-	5,2	-

9.4 By 2030 upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities.	9.4.1	CO ₂ emissions per unit of value added.		(2010) 15,2	-	11,9	-	-	-	
9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending 2030	9.5.1	Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP	-	0,8	0,79	0,78	0,78	0,8	-	
	9.5.2	Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants	-	1024	-	1074	1800	-	-	
9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities.	9.b.1	Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added	-	21,6	22,4	23,3	22,6	24,3	-	
9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020	9.c.1	Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology.	2G	-	99,2	99,2	99,6	99,6	99,7	100
			3G	-	80,0	80,0	95,0	96,0	98,0	100
			4G	-	-	45,4	68,0	93,0	96,0	100

Source: Ministry of Equipment, Transportation, Logistics, and Water, Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research, ANRT.



Reduce inequality within and among countries

The reduction of social and spatial disparities embodies one of the major concerns at the origin of the revision of the development model announced by His Majesty The King on the occasion of the opening of the parliamentary session in October 2017. Such an inquiry is likely to establish a new social pact capable of bringing more consistency and better targeting to the service of sustainable, balanced and inclusive development.

Progress status

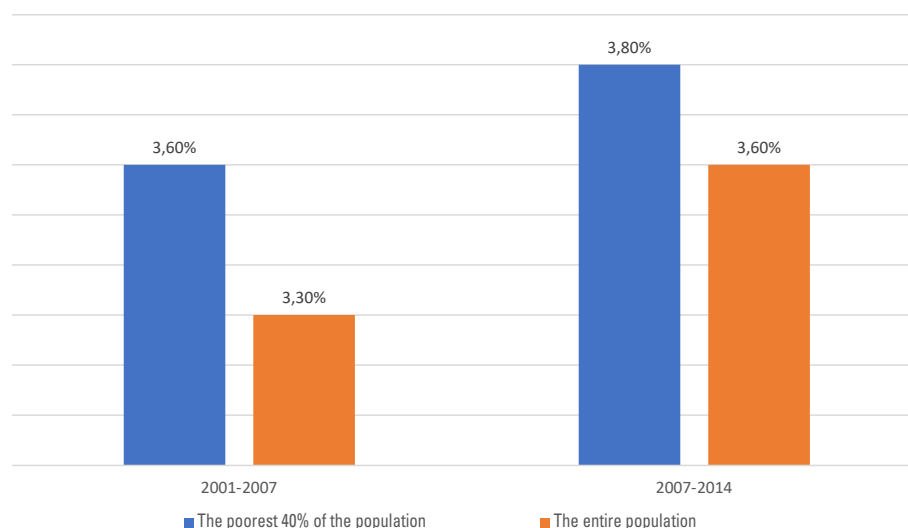
Income inequalities, measured by the Gini index of living standards, showed a slight downward inflexion in their rigidity, from 40.6% in 2001 to 39.5% in 2014.

The 40% of the most disadvantaged population saw their standard of living per capita increase by 3.6% and 3.8% during the periods 2001-2007 and 2007-2014 versus 3.3% and 3.6% for the entire population and 3.3%, over the two periods, for the 20% with the highest income.

By area of residence, this improvement is more pronounced in rural than in urban areas. Its rate thus increased, between the same periods, from 3.5% to 3.9% for rural people and from 3.5% to 3.7% for city dwellers.

In terms of empowerment and social, economic and political integration of populations, it should be noted that the proportion of people living on less than half of the median income reached 11.7% in 2014 (compared to 12.6% in 2001). This proportion does not show any differentiation by sex, but nevertheless shows a strong difference by place of residence, since it stands at 22.1% in rural areas against only 4.7% in urban areas.

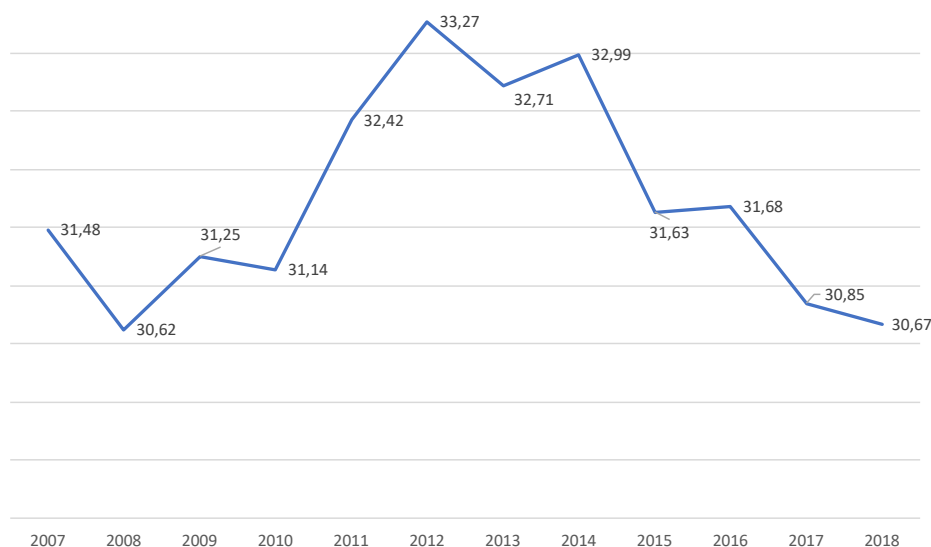
Graph 18: Average annual growth rate of household expenditure per capita



Source: High Commission for Planning

The share of labor in GDP, including wages and social transfers, reached 30.67% in 2018, almost the same level recorded a decade earlier (30.62% in 2008). Examination of the evolution of this indicator reveals an increase from 2011 (increase of 1.29 points compared to 2010) until 2014, where it experienced a continuous decline to reach relatively the same level before 2011.

Graph 19: Share of labor in GDP



Source: High Commission for Planning

In addition, the evolution of the growth-poverty elasticity reveals that growth is becoming increasingly important in poverty reduction with an elasticity coefficient falling from 2.7% in 2001 to 2.9% in 2007 and then at 3.6% in 2014.

This growing influence of the economic sphere reaffirms the imperative of including the social question within the framework of a global and integrated approach to development.

At the economic level, regional inequalities still persist and we note that only three regions peaked at more than 58.6% of national GDP in 2017. The regional GDP varies for the same year, between 31.9% in the Casablanca-Settat region and 1.3% in that of Dakhla Oued-Ed-Dahab, an absolute difference of 30.6 points. Compared to 2016, there is an increase in the average absolute difference of 58.1 billion Dirhams to reach 60.4 billion Dirhams in 2017.

At the social level, the Human Development Index (HDI) varied in 2014, between 0.791 in the region of Casablanca-Settat and 0.677 in that of Béni Mellal-Khénifra. While this index increased by 1.9% nationally on an annual average between 2004 and 2014, it fluctuated regionally between 1.3% in the southern regions and 2.3% in the Tangiers-Tétouan-Al Hoceima region. The two regions of Béni Mellal-Khénifra and Draa-Tafilalet show the lowest HDI levels (0.677 and 0.679 respectively versus 0.742 at the national level in 2014) combined with a delay in catching up with an average annual increase below that recorded at the national level (1.6% and 1.7% respectively between 2004 and 2014, versus 1.9% at the national level).

In addition, the multidimensional poverty varied in 2014 between 13.4% recorded in the region of Béni Mellal-Khénifra and 4.1% in the region of Casablanca-Settat and the southern regions. Education, which is the main source of deprivation, fluctuates between 48.2% in the Béni Mellal-Khénifra region and 63.5% in that of Casablanca-Settat. Such a finding places educational equity

at the centre of the issue of inequalities, the average number of years of schooling varies in this regard, between 7.08 years in the region of Laâyoune - Sakia El Hamra and 4.76 years in the region of Marrakech-Safi, considered thus as the most unequal in terms of access to education.

Also, the Gini index of inequality of standard of living at the regional level presents strong disparities, it oscillates between 34.4% recorded in 2014 in the region of Béni Mellal-Khénifra and 44.2% in that of Rabat-Salé-Kénitra, an absolute difference of 9.8 points compared to only 8 points in 2001. The most pronounced fluctuations between these two years were observed in the regions of Casablanca-Settat and Souss-Massa with a decrease of 3.6 points each, suffered by the regions of the South and of Rabat-Salé-Kénitra, whose inequalities became paradoxically amplified by 5.2 and 4.3 points respectively.

By area of residence, the rural shows greatly accentuated vulnerabilities compared to the urban area in terms of human development, detrimental to its development. In 2014, poverty and vulnerability were at 9.5% and 19.4% in rural areas versus 1.6% and 7.9% respectively in urban areas. The illiteracy rate stands at 47.5% in rural areas, more than double the level recorded in urban areas (22.6%). As for the dropout rate, it is more marked in college secondary with 18.1% in rural areas (16.8% for girls) compared to 6.2% in urban areas (4.3% for girls) for the 2016-2017 school year.

In addition, the design and implementation of the national land use planning policy, based on a territorial approach fostering the territorial consistency of public interventions, contributes to reducing territorial inequalities through adequate planning documents and instruments. This approach is based on the sustainable development of the territory in all its components: economic, social, cultural, environmental, and governance-related. It is based on a framework represented by the National Land Use Planning Charter and the National Land Use Planning Scheme (NLUP).

Regarding the disparities according to gender, it should be noted that strong gaps persist in many areas. In terms of participation in economic activity, the female activity rate was barely 22.2% in 2018 (versus 70.9% for men), it is all the alarming as it is part of a worrying trend decreasing (24.8% in 2015 versus 28.1% in 2000). For its part, illiteracy largely penalizes women compared to men with a rate of 42.1% versus 22.2% for men in 2014, a gap that seems to proliferate compared to the net preschool rate reaching 41.6% among girls versus 48.8% for boys (school year 2017-2018).

In terms of migration policy, Morocco has two National Strategies relating to Moroccans Residing Abroad (MRAs) and to Immigration and Asylum (NSIA strategy). As part of the latter, Morocco has revised laws and regulations to allow migrants to access public services under the same conditions and on the same basis as for Moroccan citizens.

In this context, actions were undertaken in 2014 and 2017, namely mainly the regularization of the situation of nearly 50 000 migrants, as well as the opening of access for migrants and refugees to certain regulated professions (nurses and midwives), and the possibility of creating cooperatives and their access to self-employed status.

Morocco also strives to encourage the integration of migrant children into the Moroccan education system. During the 2018-2019 school year, 3 636 migrant children were enrolled in formal education, 79 students benefited from tutoring courses, 550 children benefited from the Royal initiative "one million school bags", 468 migrant children benefited from the "Tayssir" program, 353 immigrants benefited from the non-formal education program, and 535 children benefited from the national summer camp program.

Morocco is also campaigning for better management of the migration issue on a continental scale, which is how it proposed to the African Union to create and host an African observatory for migration and development, responsible for collecting and analyzing data on migration.

Main challenges

Despite the progress made by the public authorities in the field of reducing social and regional inequalities, several challenges should be addressed, namely:

- The need for an optimal trade-off between the choices of economic efficiency and social and territorial equity of public interventions allowing an adequate reallocation of resources in the service of inclusive and sustainable economic growth;
- The acceleration of the reduction of inequalities in living standards which show some resistance to the decline, even more a worrying increase in certain regions (Regions of the South, Rabat-Salé-Kénitra and Oriental);
- The promotion of the various regional clusters in the creation of national wealth. An economic catch-up effort needs to be made in most regions. Indeed, the creation of a third of sectoral added value alone requires the contribution of 7 regions in primary education, 9 regions in secondary education and 8 in tertiary education (2017);
- The acceleration of the implementation of the site of advanced regionalization and administrative deconcentration, in particular through the operationalization of interregional solidarity and social upgrading funds, the clarification and precision of the attributions transferable to the regions, as well as that the deployment of transfers of skills and resources to decentralized services;
- The implementation of territorial development programs and the support of the partners concerned, given the dominance of the sectoral approach, the lack of funding, the integrated nature of the projects that emanate from them and the weak capacity of the territories to manage such projects;
- The acceleration of the development process of the rural world within the framework of an integrated and forward-looking vision, ensuring a better articulation between the rural world and the urban world;
- The management of migratory flows to Morocco and their socio-economic integration as well as the development of a statistical system on international migration;
- Put an end to the fragmentation of initiatives and the plurality of stakeholders that compromise the consistency and effectiveness of the social protection system, as noted by His Majesty The King in His Throne Address of July 29, 2018.

Strategies and Programs

The National Initiative for Human Development (NIHD), launched in 2005, was named in the Top 3 of the best high impact social programs in the world (World Bank, 2015). This initiative aims to reduce major socio-economic deficits and foster the economic integration of the most disadvantaged, materialized by the implementation of more than 43 000 development projects in phases I and II. Its Phase III (2019-2023) aims to consolidate the achievements and build the future, and revolves around 4 programs relating to making up for deficits in infrastructure and basic

social services, support for people in precarious situations, improving income, economic inclusion of young people, and boosting the human capital of rising generations.

Sustainable Development Strategies and Programs for Sensitive Areas

The sensitive areas which cover more than 50% of the national territory are made up of oases, mountains and coastlines. They have been the subject of sustainable territorial development strategies and programs such as the sustainable territorial development programs of the High Atlas, the Anti Atlas, the Rif and the Tafilalet oases.

The Green Growth and Territorial Development Strategy, drawn up in 2018, aims to develop a coherent and integrated global framework of public action in favor of green growth in order to enlighten decision-makers and support territorial actors, at different levels, to perpetuate a dynamic of sustainable development of the territories.

The New Orientations of Public Policy for Regional Planning (under development). Their goals are to specify the fundamental orientations of the State in matters of territorial planning and development at the national, interregional and regional levels, to foster the territorial consistency of public interventions on the national territory, to ensure the articulation of the choices of development and supervision of territorial strategic planning documents and accompany and support sustainable territorial development initiatives in line with Morocco's international commitments such as global agendas, mainly 2030 Agenda.

The Program for the Reduction of Social and Territorial Disparities in Rural Areas (2017-2023) with a budget of 50 billion Dirhams, aims in particular to open up rural populations as well as to improve and generalize access to basic services related to electricity, drinking water, health and education. Under the 2017, 2018 and 2019 action plans, a budget of 22.45 billion Dirhams has been mobilized under this program.

Likewise, the National Program for the Integrated Development of Emerging Rural Centers (PNDI-CREM), that is part of the government program (2017-2021), aims to identify territories with a set of development factors. and which are capable of supervising the dynamics of the surrounding areas, the strengthening of links between the urban environment and the rural world, and the strengthening of the competitiveness of the territories, as well as the establishment of governance mechanisms fostering partnership and contractualization.

The National Strategy for Moroccans Residing Abroad (MRAs) targets three main strategic goals, namely, the preservation of the Moroccan identity of Moroccans around the world, the protection of their rights and interests and the strengthening of their contribution to the development of the country and the promotion of its image, values and culture, abroad. It is broken down into 10 specific goals, 8 programs (6 sectoral and 2 cross-cutting), 40 projects and 106 actions.

The National Strategy for Immigration and Asylum (NSIA), adopted in 2013, revolves around 4 strategic goals: facilitating the integration of regular immigrants, upgrading the regulatory framework, upgrading the institutional framework and manage migratory flows while respecting human rights. It is broken down into eleven areas: Education and culture, Youth and sport, Health, Housing, Social assistance, Vocational training, Employment, Management of flows, and the fight against trafficking, International cooperation and partnerships, Regulatory and contractual framework, Governance and communication.

In addition to these major programs and strategies, other initiatives contribute to reducing inequalities through their inclusive dimensions and which cover various fields relating to health, education, agriculture, infrastructure, social protection and land planning.

In terms of health, the Health 2025 plan aims in particular to establish an integrated health system with an offer accessible to all, supported, among other things, by the Medical Assistance Plan (MAP) and the strengthening of the Compulsory Illness insurance coverage.

In the field of education, programs such as Tayssir or the Royal initiative "one million school bags" launched since 2008-2009, mainly aim to fight against school dropout and encourage the education of children from poor families, working reduce inequalities of opportunity relating to education.

In the area of agriculture, the Green Morocco Plan, for its part, provides for the modernization of small-scale agriculture in Pillar II in order to fight poverty and concerns between 600 000 and 800 000 farmers.

As for infrastructure, several programs contribute to the reduction of inequalities, including the Global Rural Electrification Program, the Program for General Access to Drinking Water, the National Program for Rural Roads, and the National Liquid Sanitation and Wastewater Treatment Program.

In terms of strengthening social protection, other programs have been put in place including the "DAAM" program aimed at providing direct support to widowed women in vulnerable situations, the compensation for job loss (IPE, 2013), the family mutual aid fund (2011), providing exceptional assistance to divorced women living with their children, as well as programs for people with disabilities aimed at strengthening their education and training, and their professional integration.

Advanced regionalization

It is important to raise the importance of the site of advanced regionalization in the promotion of balanced territorial development, by strengthening the powers and resources of local authorities and the creation of two funds relating to social upgrading and interregional solidarity.

In this context, the adoption of a new administrative deconcentration charter is able to accelerate the reduction of inequalities through a consolidation of the process of territorialization and the convergence of public policies at the subnational level, and consequently, fostering establishment of balanced regional development.

Also, the reform of Regional Investment Centers and the creation of unified regional investment commissions, by virtue of Law No.47.18 that was enacted on February 13, 2019, are likely to strengthen the territorial attractiveness, in particular of the most deprived regions, and consequently promote economic and social life in these regions. Thus, the regional convergence process could accelerate in favor of inclusive development where no territory is left behind.

Evolution of the SDG10 indicators

Targets	Indicator Code	Indicators	2007	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Target Value for 2030
10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average	10.1.1	T Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population.	3,6	3,8	-	-	-	-	-
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status	10.2.1	Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	-	11,7	-	-	-	-	-
10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality	10.4.1	Share of labor in GDP, including wages and social transfers	-	32,99	31,63	31,67	31,10	30,67	-

Source: High Commission for Planning.



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Like many countries in the world, Morocco has experienced continuous urbanization since it gained independence. The urbanization rate thus increased from 29.1% in 1960 to 55.1% in 2004 and then to 60.3% in 2014. This urbanization has resulted in a strong expansion of urban areas, the emergence of metropolises, and an important process of peri-urbanization and the concentration of populations and human activities along or near the coasts. This urban dynamic has also witnessed major changes on the social, economic, environmental and political levels.

Although cities represent places of wealth creation and employment opportunities and where the economic, cultural and social exchanges that support our economic performance and social progress converge, they still face several challenges and consider themselves as sources of negative impacts on the environment. These challenges relate to the growing needs for basic equipment and services, mainly housing and transport service needs, to the increase in fuel consumption and air pollution, to the increase in the volume of solid waste and liquids, as well as the emergence of non-resilient neighborhoods that remain vulnerable to various risks, particularly natural disasters, particularly those linked to climate change.

Our country is thus, like many other countries in the world, faced with the challenge of revising its methods of urban management and planning to make urban spaces less vulnerable, more inclusive and endowed with adequate infrastructure services.

Progress status

The strong urban growth in Moroccan territory has fostered the emergence of new units which have contributed to the fabric of the urban framework. The number of cities and urban centers in Morocco almost doubled between 1994 and 2014, going from 195 to 364 towns or centers.

With a view to supporting these territorial development dynamics and in order to face up to urban challenges, particularly in terms of housing, transport, basic services, but also with a view to the preservation of the environment and natural resources, and as part of the broad guidelines of international agreements, programs and agendas, in particular the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, Morocco has set itself as a major goal to develop a sustainable and operational urban planning based on consultation, participation and incentives, and to prepare the future of the territories by 2040.

In this context, the Department of Regional Planning and Town Planning has undertaken numerous initiatives to take advantage and better benefit from the positive role of urbanization, in particular through:

- **The renewal of the foundations of the Urban Policy** which will make it possible to bring consistency to urban action, to rethink the relations between city centers, outskirts and rural territories, between metropolitan areas and the rest of the territories with a view to sharing the values of better living together and solidarity at the national level, as well as at the regional and local level;
- **The readjustment of the Urban Planning System** by adopting innovative and forward-looking approaches and mechanisms to improve the mode of governance, to make urban policies and sectoral programs consistent, to strengthen land control and management, and to establish funding arrangements;

- **The repositioning of actors** in the new territorial organization in relation to the new development dynamic and in particular of urban agencies as a key technical support tool, making it possible to accompany the territorial reform.

Also and with a view to establishing the principles of sustainable town planning, this department has worked on the establishment of a legal framework relating to town planning which takes into account the imperatives linked to environmental protection, generalization of the coverage of the national territory in urban planning documents with a new generation of urban development master plans (UDMP) at the scale of metropolitan areas, large cities, territories under demographic pressure or experiencing significant urban dynamics, which enabled 74% of municipalities to be covered in planning documents in 2019 (1 113 out of 1 503 municipalities) compared to 53.3% in 2016, the opening up to the urbanization of nearly 100 000 hectares, the establishment of a new generation of urban renewal projects, eco-cities, eco-neighborhoods, and the establishment of technical benchmarks for urban planning as operational decision-support tools.

In addition and with a view to improving and strengthening the resilience of the territories in the face of natural risks, the department is working to cover the national territory with 31 urbanization suitability maps by 2021 as technical references prior to the preparation of various planning and territorial management documents.

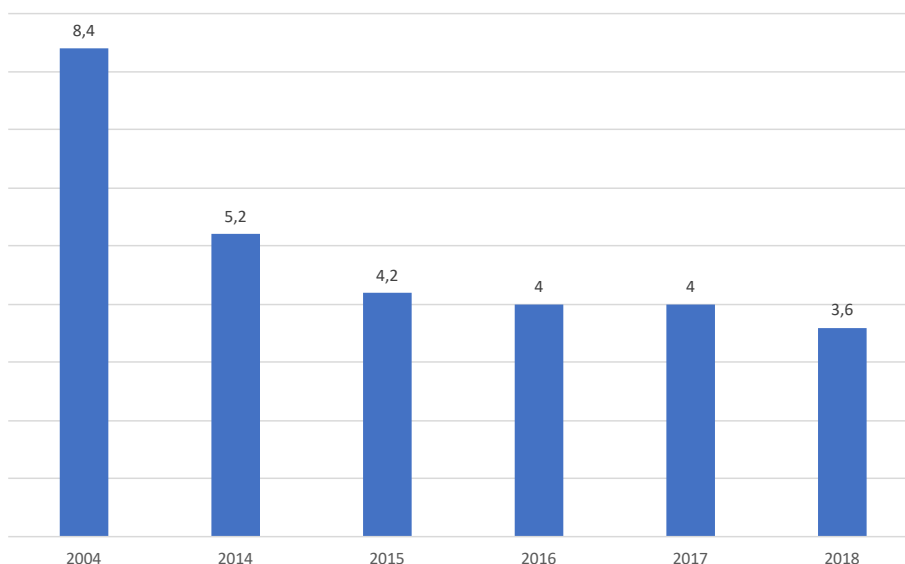
In terms of housing, Morocco has always considered the fight against substandard housing and for access to decent, affordable housing adapted to different social strata a national priority. Also, special attention has been paid to the preservation and rehabilitation of old fabrics and traditional housing, which constitute tangible and intangible heritage, the enhancement of which represents an opportunity for local development.

The Department of Housing and Urban Policy has initiated several programs with strategic goals aimed at improving the living conditions of vulnerable households, reducing the housing deficit through the intensification of the supply in social housing, improving access to local services and public facilities, preserving and rehabilitating old fabrics and adopting sustainability approaches in housing projects, thus fully fitting into the dynamic transition towards the model of the sustainable and inclusive city that SDG11 has drawn up for 2030.

Major reforms accompanied these programs and involved the institutional component, through the strengthening of the public and private sector, financing through the creation of support and support funds, taxation via tax incentives, the legal component and regulatory by overhauling the legal and technical arsenal.

These efforts have made it possible to record undeniable achievements resulting in the reduction of the housing deficit which fell from 1 240 000 units in 2002 to 1 million in 2007 then to 425 000 units in 2018 and by the continuous decrease in the proportion of basic urban housing, going from 8.4% in 2004 to 4% in 2016, and then to 3.6% in 2018.

Graph 20: Evolution of the rate of basic housing in urban areas



Source : High Commission for Planning

These achievements have resulted in the improvement of the living conditions of thousands of Moroccan families (more than 1.5 million inhabitants have seen their housing conditions improve under the Cities Without Slums program, i.e. 288 419 households).

Also, more than 120 723 households (i.e. more than half a million inhabitants) affected by the problem of housing threatening to collapse have benefited from operations within the framework of the Dwellings Threatening to Collapse (DTC) program aimed at fighting against dilapidated constructions and dwellings threatening to collapse, and aimed at preserving the life of the inhabitants. Between 2016 and 2019, 28 operations were undertaken for the treatment of DTCs for the benefit of 17 309 households, for a total budget of 1.6 billion Dirhams.

However, improving the living conditions of households goes beyond improving the built environment, urban mobility and traffic safety are becoming more and more worrying in urban areas, especially in large cities. While 11 Moroccan cities (Casablanca, Marrakech, Oujda, Agadir, El Jadida, Kénitra, Tangiers, Tétouan, Béni-Mellal, Dakhla, and Khémisset) have already implemented their urban travel plan, the General Directorate of Local Authorities (GDLA) is continuing its efforts technical and financial support for other local authorities in drawing up their Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP). The upgrading of urban infrastructure and the development of public transport currently occupy a priority place in the actions of the public authorities. Their positive impact is not limited to improving the fluidity of traffic but also to reducing accidents in urban areas where three quarters of road traffic accidents occur.

Thus, progress has been recorded in the economic and administrative capitals of Morocco through the development and modernization of urban public transport (tramway, modern buses, and the renewal of the large taxi fleet). Also, a technical reference guide has been drawn up to provide a framework for all planning interventions and to sensitize elected officials and stakeholders on the obligations of each in the field of road safety.

Likewise, the "Support Fund for Urban and Interurban Transport Reforms" (SFTR), created in 2007 and amended in 2014, and which annually mobilizes 2 billion Dirhams would significantly contribute to the financing and implementation of projects of Collective Transport in Clean Sites (TCSP) in large Moroccan cities.

Citizen participation in the management of local affairs and the involvement of the latter as well as that of the various local actors in the development, monitoring and evaluation of public policies is increasingly taking shape in the concern of making the effective, efficient municipal action, and more adapted to the real needs of the citizen.

As part of the preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage, Morocco recently concluded a set of multi-partnership agreements for the benefit of seven ancient cities with a total cost of 2.9 billion Dirhams. The planned projects aim to rehabilitate basic infrastructure, restore cultural heritage, improve access to social services, and strengthen the economic and tourist appeal of these cities.

The other adopted programs aim to count, safeguard and promote cultural and natural heritage, strengthening the appropriation of heritage as a component of a rich and diverse identity. As a result, the number of cultural goods inventoried, studied and published has increased from 242 in 2017 to 1 370 in 2018 and 600 in 2019. The number of identified sites and research programs increased from 13 in 2017, to 110 in 2018 and 18 in 2019. While the registration and classification rate of sites, historic monuments and movable property stands at 90% in 2017 and 97% in 2019.

In addition, and in accordance with Morocco's obligations in implementing the 1970 UNESCO convention, in particular that relating to the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property, the Ministry of Culture and Communication has drawn up a reference guide which aims to strengthen knowledge in the field of the fight against this trafficking and for the protection of cultural heritage.

In addition and in order to protect the cultural heritage of the Resistance and the Liberation and to preserve historical memory, the High Commission for Former Resistant Fighters and Former Members of the Liberation Army created, between 2016 and 2019, several memorial spaces and gave to more than 120 public places the names of Former Resistant Fighters and Former Members of the Liberation Army.

With regard to natural disasters, the national strategy for natural disaster risk management (2020-2030) reinforces actions and measures already underway such as the establishment of a Monitoring and Coordination Center (CVC), the organization of preparations for interventions ahead of catastrophic events, equipping several sites with warning systems, observation and forecasting equipment, as well as taking this phenomenon into account in urban planning documents through the 'development of maps of suitability for urbanization.

Increased urbanization is also resulting in massive production of solid waste whose collection and disposal are more difficult due to the proliferation of slums. Efforts have been made to deal with this situation through the adoption of several laws and the launch in 2008 of the National Household Waste Program. Thanks to this program, the professionalized waste collection rate has seen a very significant increase, going from 44% in 2008 to 95% at the end of 2019, thus exceeding the target of 90% targeted for the year 2020²⁷. Similarly, the rate of controlled landfills increased from 11% in 2007 to around 63% at the end of 2019.

²⁷ Source: Ministry of Interior

Regarding air quality, the cost of its degradation increased between 2000 and 2014 to reach 9.7 billion Dirhams equivalent to 1.05% of GDP. Aware of the impact of this degradation on the national economy and on human health, the authorities have made of the fight against air pollution one of the national priorities for environmental protection and sustainable development. It is in this sense that the public authorities have set up a National Air Program (2018-2030) whose main goals are to improve air quality in all the cities of the Kingdom, strength the national air quality monitoring network, and strengthen governance and communication in this area.

Main challenges

The future of Morocco will be played out mostly in cities and even more so in the metropolises. Nonetheless, in the absence of an urban policy and of preventive strategic measures, urbanization faces the risk of not being able to take full advantage of the potential and the levers of economic growth which it generates, which results in social imbalances and environmental issues and increased citizens' expectations and demands.

This requires establishing, supporting and implementing an integrated and coherent "renovated national urban policy" which takes into account emerging urban dynamics, transformational projects initiated, and new reforms started, as well as a policy which is based on international commitments and agreements.

In terms of housing, the main challenges relate to:

- The inadequacy of the monitoring and control system of the "Cities without Slums" program, the continuous increase of the number of households, and the densification of the current slums which call into question the initial programming and planning;
- The land tenure constraints that risk hampering the treatment of slums not yet programmed in some cities;

The constraints identified in terms of the fight against housing threatening to collapse and for the protection and preservation of cultural heritage are the following

- The high population density and its low involvement and the complexities associated with this type of housing;
- The need to support the inventory of dwellings threatening to collapse, by means of technical expertise.

The constraints identified to guarantee everyone's access to safe public spaces and fight marginalization and spatial and social exclusion in urban and peri-urban areas:

- The weak integration of the social dimension in the projects. In addition, it must be noted that, given the growing needs in terms of infrastructure, equipment and community services in the neighborhoods (roads, lighting and tree planting, public spaces and green spaces), an additional effort remains to be made by local actors (particularly capacity building).

Furthermore, the challenge of urban mobility remains strongly linked to accelerated urbanization. The main issues at this level concern accessibility (more particularly that of people with reduced mobility), proximity to infrastructure and services, control of the parking and traffic of vehicles, upgrading of public transport, and the development of soft mobility.

Regarding heritage, one deplores the disappearance of ancestral practices and know-how, the difficulties linked to financing and the degradation of heritage by human and natural interventions.

However, the cross-cutting character of certain actions poses the challenge of resolving multiple constraints related to procedures, to the gray areas of the law, the disconnect in terms of timetables, the support of civil society, and other issues.

Strategies and Programs

Several programs implemented contribute to the improvement of the living environment in urban areas:

- **The National Urban Structure Scheme (NUSS).** Its goal is to enlighten decision-makers, as to the structuring and strengthening of the national urban framework, in a logic of territorial equity and reduction of disparities between urban and rural areas, as well as between regions;
- **The National Strategy for Urban Renewal.** Its goal is to establish a vision of development and development of the land potential in the existing urban fabrics and the rationalization of the consumption of the territories, with the ambition of allowing the construction of future models of sustainable development of the cities of tomorrow and enhancing their capacity for urban renewal;
- **The National Program of "Cities without slums"** which aims to eradicate all slums which involve approximately 421 699 households in 85 cities;
- **The Dwellings-threatening-to-collapse Program** which consists of intervening at the level of dwellings threatening to collapse and old urban fabrics to allow for the securing and improvement of the living conditions of the households who reside there;
- **Social Housing Programs (housing program of 250 000 Dirhams (25 000 dollars) and housing program of 140 000 Dirhams (14 000 US dollars)** aimed at enabling households of different categories to access suitable housing. Those programs made it possible to diversify the supply and reduce the overall deficit;
- **The Urban Upgrade Program** which aims to deal with the spatial and territorial imbalances and disparities that exist in and between urban and peri-urban areas;
- **Intervention in Ancient Urban Fabrics.** A set of programs aimed at enhancing and rehabilitating these fabrics, enhancing their attractiveness, boosting economic activity, and thus improving the living conditions of their inhabitants;
- **The National Household Waste Program (NHWP).** Launched in 2008 to cover a 15-year period, this program aims to improve and professionalize the collection, cleaning and construction of controlled landfills for household and similar waste for the benefit of all urban centers.
- **The National Strategy for Urban Travel.** This strategy was put in place in 2008. Its updating for the 2030 horizon aims to establish an efficient, high-quality, low-cost urban transport system that respects the environment and guarantees sustainable financial viability, with priority being given to public transport;
- **The National Air Program (2018-2030).** Its specific goals are to improve air quality through the strengthening of efforts to reduce atmospheric emissions, strengthening of surveillance, strengthening of the legal framework, communication and awareness-raising targeting the stakeholders and the population, as well as the capacity building of the actors involved in this field;

- **The Knowledge of Archaeological Sites and Scientific Research Program** and the Program of Events for the Promotion of Cultural Heritage;
- **The Programs-contracts** for the financing and implementation of the Integrated Development Programs of the regions, particularly those of Laâyoune - Sakia Lhamra, Guelmim-Oued-Noun, Dakhla-Oued Eddahab during the 2016-2021 period. They include the creation of cultural infrastructures, the enhancement of Hassani music, the listing of rock carving sites as protected sites and the creation of a rock carving centre, as well as the Hassani Intangible Heritage Inventory Program and the Integrated Program for the territorial development of the province of Kénitra (2015-2020).

In order to continue the efforts started and speed up the implementation of the SDGs, important actions are being implemented, including:

- A program to upgrade emerging centers;
- A national strategy for natural disaster risk management;
- **The Operational Plan of the Ministry of Culture:** In the field of the protection of cultural heritage in particular for transmitted goods, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, has drawn up with the support of the Spanish Cooperation Program, a reference guide on “the mechanisms for combating illicit trafficking in cultural property”. In this context, training sessions were organized for the benefit of judges, magistrates, police officers, and customs officers in this area.

Evolution of the SDG11 indicators

Targets	Indicator Code	Indicators	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Target Value for 2030
11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.	11.1.1	Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (in %)	5,2	4,2	4,0	4,0	3,6		0
11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality, municipal and other waste management	11.6.1	Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities (household waste)	(2008) 44	-	-	77,5	86	95	-

Source: Ministry of Interior and High Commission for Planning.

Morocco is part of the international dynamic of transforming production and consumption patterns towards sustainability through numerous actions, in line with the political orientations defined, particularly in the productive sectors. Progress has certainly been made, particularly in terms of natural resource management and waste management. However, technological and financial challenges remain to be overcome.

Progress status

National legal framework

The adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns is based on the strengthening of the legal framework in the field of environmental conservation and environmental assessments. In this context, a set of laws and regulations were adopted during the 2000s. These include Law No. 11-03 on the protection and enhancement of the environment; Law No. 12-03 on environmental impact studies; Law No. 47-09 on energy efficiency; Law No. 13-03 relating to the fight against air pollution; Law No. 39-12 relating to the organic production of agricultural and aquatic products; Law No. 77-15 prohibiting the manufacture, import, export, marketing and use of plastic bags, and Law No. 28-00 on waste management and disposal.

Multilateral environmental agreements

At the international level, Morocco has ratified the main multilateral conventions relating to hazardous chemicals, namely the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and signed the Minamata Convention on Mercury. In this context, Morocco has already submitted 3 reports on the implementation of these conventions (2 for the Basel Convention and 1 for the Stockholm Convention).

National Plan on Sustainable Production and Consumption Patterns

At the strategic level, Morocco drew up in 2016, a National Framework Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns and two sectoral plans: "Sustainable eco-construction and building" and "Sustainable agriculture and food", within the framework of a Switchmed Regional Program funded with support from the European Union.

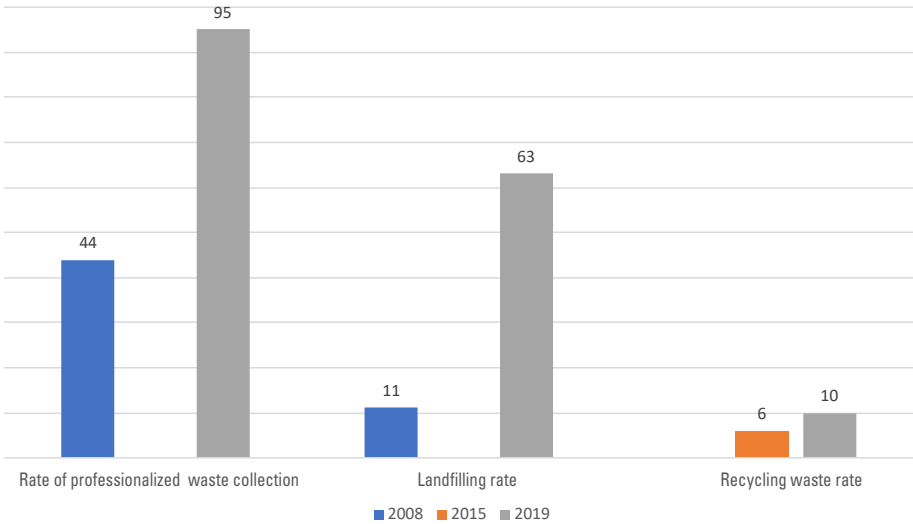
The implementation of the Framework Plan was initiated through several activities targeting capacity building of actors (civil society, private sector, etc.), and support for the establishment of demonstration projects in the circular economy at the level of industrial companies in 4 sectors (Agri-food industries, Textile, Chemistry and mechanical metallurgy).

Likewise, a support program for green entrepreneurship in relation to sustainable consumption and production patterns has been set up.

Management of household waste and chemicals

In addition, with the goal of implementing the foundations of a green and inclusive economy in Morocco, the management of waste production, its reduction and its recovery are essential dimensions. In this perspective, the environmental policy for waste management is based on the National Household Waste Program (NHWP). In 2019, the rate of professionalized waste collection reached 95% versus 44% in 2008, while the landfilling rate stood at 63% versus 11% in 2008. The recorded recycling rate was 10% versus only 6% in 2015, thanks to the efforts of local authorities and to the support of the Ministry of Interior and the Department of Environment.

Graph 21: Evolution of the indicators of the National Household Waste Program (%)



Source: Ministry of Interior

The third phase of the National Household Waste Program (NHWP) attaches importance to the establishment of sorting and upstream recycling centers and to the recovery of waste, which should make it possible to ensure additional sources of funding for this sector and the integration of ragpickers in the recycling sector.

In terms of the ecological and rational management of chemicals and their wastes, and within the framework of the first National Implementation Plan of the Stockholm Convention, submitted in 2006, the environmentally sound management and disposal of oil polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) have been included among the priority actions. A PCB management and disposal program has been put in place aimed at strengthening the regulatory framework and national capacities for the safe management and disposal of PCBs and the establishment of a local infrastructure for the dismantling of equipments and decontamination of oils and materials for reuse.

As such, there was the elimination of 1 080 tons of PCB equipment and treatment of 450 tons of oils contaminated by PCBs, the establishment of a pilot register of discharges and transfers of pollutants at the level of some industrial units, and the encouragement of industrialists to apply the general system of classification and labeling of chemicals.

Funding and involvement of the private sector and businesses

With the goal of the emergence of a green economy, specific funds to finance actions to protect the environment and reduce pollution linked to industrial production have been set up, such as: the Industrial Pollution Fund and the National Environment and Sustainable Development Fund.

Efforts are also being made by companies to develop a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) approach by integrating environmental issues into their production strategies, like the GCME (General Confederation of Morocco's Enterprises) which launched the CSR label in January 2017. On another level, the Clean Tech-Morocco Project has set up a call for projects to young entrepreneurs, start-ups and national SMEs for the promotion of innovation in the field of waste recovery, water saving, and energy efficiency.

Other initiatives have been initiated to promote a low-carbon circular economy approach, in particular the adoption of the framework law establishing the national charter for the Environment and Sustainable Development, which is the benchmark for all public policies, and which reflected the will of our country to place economic, social and cultural development efforts in a sustainable perspective. Among the principles set out in this framework law, there is the principle of responsibility and the obligation to repair damage caused to the environment, as well as the principle of extended producer responsibility (EPR), and subsequently, with the launch of waste recovery channels (batteries, tires, lubricating oils, edible oils, electrical and electronic waste, etc.) and the creation of the National Waste Reduction and Recovery Program (NWRPP) on the basis of the specificities of each of the 12 regions of the Kingdom. Thus, for each region, the deposits of different types of waste and their projections for 2030 are established, as well as the potential for the development of waste recovery channels to enable local populations to benefit from the wealth and green jobs generated by these activities. There have also been implemented eco-labeling and environmental certification systems such as the SPG label for agroecology farms and the green key label for tourist facilities.

In terms of transport, there has been the adoption of a pollution control standard equivalent to the "Euro IV" standard for the approval of new vehicles, which has resulted in a substantial reduction in fuel consumption and an improvement in air quality. The National Railways Office also gets infrastructure and traffic activities ISO 14001 certified, and also has maintenance and rolling stock activities certified.

Digital transformation and the dematerialization of processes also allow stakeholders to engage in sustainable consumption and production. For example, the National Ports Agency has set up the PORTNET one-stop-shop to simplify and speed up the formalities procedures for the entry and exit of goods, as well as accelerated customs clearance, which has made it possible to make huge savings.

Education and awareness-raising

The other part of a strategy to transform consumption patterns targets consumers through education. In this context, significant efforts are made by the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection for the education of children and youth to the issue of sustainable development, in particular through the International Eco-Schools Program (6-12 year-olds), which has 2 160 schools registered for this Eco-schools program in 12 regions. Within the same context, a "Hassan II International Environmental Training Center " dedicated to environmental awareness, education

and training was inaugurated in June 2019 by the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection. Other initiatives have been launched by the Departments concerned, in particular the production and distribution of audiovisual and written awareness-raising materials, such as spots, capsules, brochures, leaflets, posters, and other media, but also through the development of mobile environmental awareness and education units called the "Green Caravans".

Main challenges

The transition to sustainable production and consumption modes involves the mobilization of consumers through the establishment of competitive prices for green products as well as the involvement of a large unorganized and underexploited informal component, particularly in the waste management and recycling sector. Likewise, several challenges remain to be addressed, in particular the need for:

- Support and awareness-raising of producers in general and of large companies and multinational companies in particular;
- Conduct of cultural transformation on the part of individuals;
- Creation of green jobs, empowerment of citizens and businesses, promotion of innovation, research and development.

Strategies and Programs

Morocco has undertaken a series of actions aimed at reconciling the imperatives of socio-economic development and the preservation of the environment. These include:

- **The 2020 Tourism Strategy:** A number of issues were taken into consideration when designing the 2020 vision, in particular the diagnosis of environmental constraints by site. The goal is to define for each territory a tourist density threshold not to be exceeded in order to remain within the limits of the viable framework for tourism sustainability. Thus, initiatives have been put in place such as the integration of environmental considerations into tourism benchmarks, awareness raising, and promotion of initiatives and communication;
- **The National Household Waste Program (NHWP):** Launched in 2008 to ensure the collection of household waste to achieve a collection rate in urban areas of 90% in 2020 and 100% in 2030, to carry out controlled landfills of household and similar waste for the benefit of all urban centers (100%), and to rehabilitate and close all illegal landfills (100%) by 2022. The NHWP also aims to generalize prefectural and provincial master plans for the management of household and similar waste, and also aims to organize and develop the sorting, recycling and recovery sector to achieve a recycling rate of 20% in 2020 and reuse of waste in other forms of at least 30% in 2022. To strengthen the NHWP and speed up its implementation, an annual employment program is established. A national action plan has also been drawn up relating to the emergence and structuring of sectors working in the recovery of plastic waste, batteries, oils, tires, paper, construction waste, and electronic equipment;
- **The National Waste Reduction and Recovery Program:** This program was implemented in order to prevent and minimize the production of waste and maximize the reuse, recycling and use of environmentally friendly substitute materials in all regions of the Kingdom. The program aims to develop waste recovery channels (used batteries), cardboard paper, plastic waste, used tires, end-of-life vehicles, as well as construction and demolition waste;

- **The National Liquid Sanitation Program (NLSP):** Initiated since 2006, the NLSP aims to improve sanitary conditions in the municipalities involved and to improve the environment in river basins. The program consists of the rehabilitation and extension of the network, the connection and strengthening of the rainwater network, the construction of purification stations, the renewal of equipment, and the acquisition of operating equipment. This program has a new version called National Plan for Pooled Sanitation (NPPS) which was started in 2019. Its goal is the construction of wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) which will make it possible to release unconventional water resources;
- **The Exemplary Administration Pact (EAP) for 2019-2021:** Launched as part of the operationalization of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD); this covenant aims to encourage public institutions to lead by example and adopt eco-friendly approaches, notably through rational management of resources, the introduction of sustainable mobility, and the establishment of a sustainable public procurement policy;
- **The Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform Plan:** This plan was put in place as part of the implementation of international commitments to mitigate the impacts of climate change by reducing the use of fossil fuels and reducing GHG emissions. The Moroccan experience in this area is gaining U.N. recognition. Morocco is in fact cited as an example in the reform of fossil fuel subsidies by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in its 2019 report on commodities and development.

Evolution of the SDG12 indicators

Targets	Indicator Code	Indicators	2015	2019	Target Value for 2030
12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.	12.5.1	National recycling household waste rate (in %)	6	10	-

Source: Ministry of Interior



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Morocco is committed to the fight against global warming as part of a proactive and responsible approach, by strengthening its institutional and legal environment and the implementation of structuring climate-oriented programs. These achievements emanate from a high-level political will reflected in Morocco's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, expressed in its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC-Morocco).

Morocco took early its responsibilities by including climate issues at the heart of all its development programs, even though its greenhouse gas emissions remains at a low level (emissions of GHGs were only 86123.7 Gg E.CO2 in 2016).

The country has ratified the Paris Agreement in September 2016 and made public, under this Agreement, its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) on September 19, 2016. This NDC is currently under review as part of a broad consultation process with all stakeholders. The NDC being revised upwards, in accordance with the commitments under the Paris Agreement, will be submitted to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in the spring of 2020. Morocco also submitted its 3rd National Communication in 2016 and two biennial update reports in 2016 and 2019 respectively and will submit its 4th National Communication at the end of 2020.

Progress status

Morocco's Vulnerability to Climate Change

Due to its geographical position, its climatic conditions and the diversity of its ecosystems, Morocco is one of the southern Mediterranean countries particularly threatened by global warming.

In parallel to the gradual change in meteorological variables, the effects of climate change are also manifested by an increase in the intensity and the probability of occurrence of extreme climatic phenomena, such as cold spells, heat waves, droughts, floods, landslides, and other events resulting in natural disasters causing losses that are costly and likely to compromise the country's efforts in terms of economic and social development.

Based on the history of extreme events that have affected Morocco in recent decades, one can see that the most important disaster risks in terms of potential human and economic impacts are floods, earthquakes and landslides.

In Morocco, the agricultural sector, especially rainfed agriculture ("bour" agriculture), remains very vulnerable to climate conditions. Climate change exacerbates this vulnerability. Indeed, the cereal yield, for example, can move from 4 to 17 quintals (0.4 to 1.7 tons) per hectare, from a dry year to a year of good rainfall. Irrigated agriculture is also impacted since the water requirements of these crops can move from 7% to 12% due to increased temperatures and evapotranspiration.

The infrastructure sector, in particular the transport infrastructure network, is also seriously affected by the impacts of extreme events in Morocco. The repair of the exceptional damage to the road infrastructure has cost around 4 billion Dirhams for the floods between 2008 and 2011. The damage caused by the exceptional floods of 2014-2015 on the national road network was significant by its impact and by the extent of the affected territories. This damage was evaluated at 1 756 million Dirhams during the 2014-2015 winter session. This bad weather caused significant damage to the engineering structures with the collapse of two bridges in Agadir and Al Haouz, as well as landslides, damage to sanitation structures, and the deterioration of pavements. This damage had

serious repercussions on road traffic, forcing users to remain stranded or to travel long distances to reach destinations.

Table 3: Number of deaths or injured persons due to natural disasters

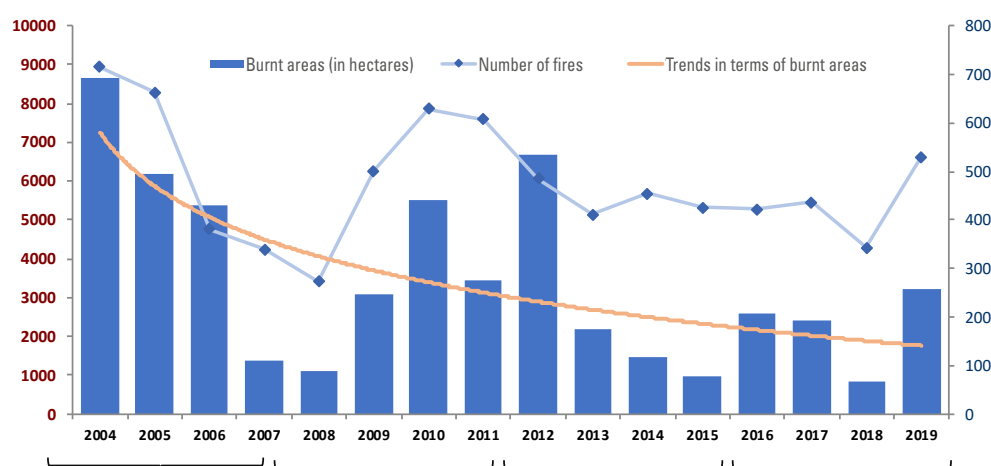
Indicators	2016	2017	2018	2019
Floods:				
Deaths	26	4	4	38
Injured persons	485	10	7	30
Landslide:				
Deaths	5	0	1	15
Injured persons	9	0	0	0
Collapse of constructions:				
Deaths	5	7	8	0
Injured persons	22	3	6	0

Source: Ministry of Interior

In addition, in terms of forest fire risk management, significant intersectoral efforts have been made, within the framework of the master plan for the prevention and fight against forest fires. The goal is to prevent and mitigate the impact of this scourge on forest resources and the property of the population.

Indeed, the analysis of the history of fires shows, as shown in the graph below, that the average burnt area is decreasing.

Graph 22: Evolution of the average burnt forest area in Morocco



Source: Department of Water and Forests

It should be noted that in 2009 Morocco has set up a Special Fund to combat the effects of natural disasters (SFND). From 2016 onwards, Morocco, with the support of the World Bank, has set up a government program for the integrated management of natural disaster risks which enabled the

adoption of an annual call for projects, open to ministerial departments, public institutions, and local authorities, and the overhaul of the SFND.

Morocco's efforts for the resilience of its population and its territory

At the national level, Morocco has set for itself a vision for 2030 to make its territory and civilization more resilient to the impacts of climate change while ensuring a rapid transition to low-carbon economic growth. In this sense, many efforts are being made on several levels, in particular:

- **The consolidation of governance linked to climate change**, which involves the institutionalization of the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory System (NIS-GHG) (Decree No. 2-18-74 of March 21, 2019, which aims to collect and process data relating to the activities of sectors emitting greenhouse gases and any other data necessary for the preparation, according to international standards, of the national report on the GHG inventory), the institutionalization of the National Commission on Climate Change (NCCC) and on Biological Diversity (NCBD) (Decree No. 2-19-721 of April 27, 2020) as a consultation and coordination body for the implementation of the national policy on fight against climate change and for the preservation of biological diversity.
- Morocco has also set up the Morocco Climate Change Competence Center (4C Morocco) which constitutes a platform for strengthening the skills of relevant actors from different sectors (public, economic, research & training, civil society, local authorities, etc.) and a hub for the development and dissemination of skills in the field of climate change, a hub that is open to its national and African environment.
- On the other hand, in order to strengthen the legal aspect, a law project is being finalized with the aim to define the fundamental basis of a national climate action, to set national goals for the fight against climate change, and to contribute to international efforts to combat climate change through effective and consistent implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement.
- **Strengthening the resilience of populations, natural resources, ecosystems, and productive sectors that are most sensitive to climate change.** Measures to adapt to climate change focused, initially, on water resources, the agricultural sector, fishery resources, forests and biodiversity. Then, additional interest is given to sensitive ecosystems (oases, mountains and coastline), to road infrastructure, to soil, to housing, as well as to the health and well-being of citizens.
- **The voluntary commitment to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.** As such, Morocco has voluntarily committed, in its 1st NDC submitted in 2016, to reduce its GHG emissions aiming to achieve an unconditional target of 17% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 compared to the emissions projected at the same year, with an additional reduction of 25% dependent on substantial support from the international community. This would bring the total reduction in GHG emissions to 42% compared to the emissions projected under the BAU (Business as usual) scenario, particularly in the areas of energy, agriculture, transport, waste, forests, industry, and housing.
- **The inclusion of local authorities in climate dynamics.** The national climate policy pays particular attention to the territories and devotes one of its major pillars to the establishment of the imperatives of integrated management of climate change in the planning and management processes of the territories. This pillar also relates to the generalization of

Regional Climate Plans (RCPs) and aims to improve territorial knowledge in terms of climate change. In the same spirit, concerning sensitive territories, there was the development of a project to revitalize oasis agroecosystems through an integrated, sustainable and landscaping approach in the Draa-Tafilalet Region.

- **Capacity building and South-South cooperation.** In order to promote South-South cooperation, the Kingdom of Morocco has launched several national and continental initiatives, in particular those that were launched on the occasion of COP22, namely the triple S initiative which aims to promote Stability, Security and Sustainability to fight migration resulting, among other things, from environmental degradation and climate change; the Adaptation of Agriculture in Africa (Triple A) initiative as well as initiatives relating to the creation of three African climate commissions, at the initiative of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, namely: the "Sahel Climate Commission", "the Congo Basin Climate Commission", and "the Small Islands Developing States Climate Commission".
- The operationalization of these three commissions is accompanied by support from 4C Morocco center to identify investment plans and adequate financial vehicles for their implementation.
- **Access to funding.** In terms of access to climate finance, Morocco has drawn up a country strategic program with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) which reflects the main sectoral priorities in terms of projects and programs to be financed by this Fund, in addition to the promotion of direct access to the GCF through the accreditation of national entities such as the Agricultural Development Agency (ADA) and CDG Capital financial institution. The Kingdom of Morocco has 06 projects approved by the GCF, including 03 national projects and 03 others of a multi-country nature.
- Morocco has also benefited from the support of several international initiatives including the NDC Partnership, the NAMA-Facility, and the German Cooperation.

In addition, the adoption and implementation of local risk reduction strategies are carried out through projects dedicated to risk management, the co-financing of which can be provided by the Fund for the Fight against Natural Disasters (SFND). Those strategies are also carried out through capacity building and the mobilization of human capital in terms of disaster risk management. In the same vein, other initiatives have been launched by ministerial departments such as the Subnational Climate Finance Expertise Program (SCFEP), launched by the Ministry of Interior. This program is set up within the framework of the Agreement between the General Directorate of Territorial Governments, the Global Fund for Cities Development, the Moroccan Association of Presidents of Municipal Councils, and the Association of Regions of Morocco.

- **Communication, education, and awareness-raising.** Morocco contemplates the development of education components dealing with climate change by i) preparing specialized teachers in the subject, ii) inserting informational programs at different school and university levels, and iii) developing related educational courses on climate change, intended for different school levels through the creation of appropriate educational materials and activities".

Main challenges

To materialize its vision on climate change, Morocco must initiate planning that addresses the root causes of vulnerability while facing challenges of different kinds, including:

- **Control of governance and institutional coordination related to climate change:** Issues related to climate change are cross-cutting and involve several stakeholders whose responsibilities are sometimes interdependent. Effective governance is essential in order to ensure the consistency of public policies at the horizontal and vertical level.
- **The strengthening of the country's resilience and adaptation capacities and the territorialization of climate actions:** Indeed, it is clear that although the issue of adaptation is very present in the national discourse, it remains a slowly emerging subject in public policies. Responses to climate-related pressures and hazards, in sectoral strategies, are often limited to reactive, short-term emergency measures, and do not take into account future climate changes and the needs of the territories. The capacities of local authorities in terms of adaptation to climate change will have to be strengthened, particularly in the sectors of water, agriculture, and transport infrastructure.
- **Strengthening of risk prevention and management:** The preparation for risk management is faced with the challenges of the lack of coordination between the multiple actors involved and the high cost of the emergency response process. Likewise, feedback based on experience remains limited, making it impossible to identify the means necessary for prevention, recovery, and reconstruction.
- **Improving the knowledge of environmental issues:** Access to environmental education and information as well as capacity building and awareness-raising are essential elements that should be strengthened.
- **Financing:** This involves promoting synergies between development and climate finance and accessing new and innovative sources of finance, particularly private funds.

Strategies and Programs

The materialization of Morocco's vision against climate change is taking place through transformational projects in all economic sectors of the country, in particular a pioneering energy policy including the niche relating to energy efficiency; a policy of mobilization, development of water resources and fight against floods and drought; agricultural planning fostering the food security of its population; an environmentally sustainable transport policy; a social approach for a resilient housing sector; and an approach to the sustainable management and exploitation of fishery resources.

Morocco has also incorporated measures relating to climate change in its strategies and national planning, notably through:

- **The National Strategy for Natural Disaster Risk Management (2020-2030)** is in line with the approach laid down by international standards, in particular those of the Sendai Framework for Action (2015-2030) for disaster risk reduction. Its 5 major pillars revolve around 1) strengthening the governance of natural risk management, 2) improving the knowledge and assessment of these risks, 3) the establishment of instruments for the prevention of these risks and the development of resilience, 4) the preparation for recovery and reconstruction, and, 5) the promotion of scientific research, of international cooperation,

and capacity building in terms of risk management. This strategy was accompanied by a five-year operational implementation plan over the 2020-2025 period consisting of 18 programs and 56 projects. An emergency priority action plan has been drawn up for the 2020-2022 triennium to address the shortcomings and deficiencies in terms of preparation for the management of these risks. Thus, an interministerial coordination committee has been set up, in the form of a central commission to which regional branches will be backed up. The next step involves strengthening and reforming the legal and regulatory framework for natural risk management.

- **The National Long-Term Low-Emissions and Development Strategy for 2050 (LT-LEDS)** which is being prepared in consultation with the various sectors and which aims to capitalize on Morocco's achievements in terms of energy transition, and to ensure the consistency and alignment of public policies in this area, with long-term goals, through the establishment of an inventory of structural trends in terms of decarbonization of the national economy and energy transition and of their system dynamics.
- **The process of designing the National Climate Plan (NCP)** which sets a vision for 2030 based essentially on the measures and orientations of the NSSD, Morocco's NDC, and on the various sectoral strategies, and aimed at establishing a sustainable low-carbon and climate-resilient development mode, involving and further mobilizing all sectoral and territorial players. This Plan should also provide a concrete response to Morocco's climate commitments in terms of both adaptation and mitigation.
- **The process of formulating the National Adaptation Plan (NAP).** This process took place in accordance with the technical guidelines adopted by the UNFCCC Secretariat. The NAP has three major goals, namely: i) to adequately and urgently strengthen the resilience of the population and of the territories ii) to increase high-level national political support for adaptation and iii) to mobilize technical and financial support at the international to adaptation.
- The NAP process constitutes an opportunity for the harmonization and the establishment of the necessary articulations between all the international processes and commitments under way, namely the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- **Regional Climate Plans (RCPs):** The first two regions Souss Massa-Draa and Marrakech-Safi have already finalized their RCPs. The development of RCPs for the other regions is planned for 2020 and 2021.
- **The establishment of a monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV)** system to meet the needs in terms of implementation of the Paris Agreement. This system, which is currently being implemented, will cover the 3 types of MRV: MRV relating to GHG emissions, an MRV relating to mitigation actions: e.g. monitoring and evaluation of the results of policies or mitigation projects, and an MRV of the support received and provided: e.g. monitoring the granting and obtaining of climate resources (financial, technological, etc.) provided by States or international organizations.
- **The National Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Action Plan (NLUP)** is being developed within the framework of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC). Morocco has been a CCAC partner since 2014.

- **The Agricultural Insurance Program:** In order to fight the effects of climate hazards on the agricultural sector, the Government encourages farmers to join this program which offers 2 insurance products, one for multi-risk insurance for cereals, legumes and oilseeds, which made it possible to increase the areas insured from 327 000 hectares in 2011-2012 to more than one million hectares from 2016 onwards. The other insurance concerns fruit trees which provides insurance against 6 hazards (frost, hail, excess water in the fields, high temperatures, strong winds, and chergui (hot and dry wind) which aims to ensure in 2020 an annual area of 50 000 hectares.

Evolution of SDG13 indicators

Targets	Indicator Code	Indicators	2016	2017	2018	2019	Target Value for 2030
13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.	13.1.1	Total number of deaths and injured persons due to flooding, landslides or building collapses.	552	24	26	83	-

Source: Ministry of Interior.

The oceans, seas and coastline, which Morocco has at its disposal, play multiple geostrategic roles, in this case political, economic and environmental ones. Consequently, the management, conservation and sustainable use of these ecosystems are central priorities for public authorities.

The coastline, as the main component of these ecosystems, which extends over two maritime facades with 3 500 km and displaying a specific cultural richness, is considered to be one of the most sensitive areas with sites capable of harboring significant biodiversity and developing aquaculture.

In view of Morocco's geostrategic situation, the national coastline is, on the one hand, threatened by pollution originating from maritime traffic and economic activities, and, on the other hand, remains an area that is highly vulnerable to natural and anthropogenic hazards, in particular, those linked to marine actions, through accidental marine pollution known as "oil slicks" as well as erosion and marine submersion.

Progress status

Aware of the roles and risks that threaten its maritime assets, Morocco has carried out a series of actions in favor of the sustainable management of this area, including in particular:

- **The integration of sustainability concerns in port management:** Morocco has integrated port security, safety and environment as strategic pillars by reconciling the protection of the ports and of the maritime environment with economic and social development, through the establishment of national and international arrangements for waste and wastewater management in ports, in accordance with the provisions of the international MARPOL convention;
- **The launch of diagnostic studies of the state of coastal and maritime areas:** In 2019, the public authorities launched regional studies to assess the vulnerability of Moroccan coasts to natural risks and accidental marine pollution;
- **The preservation and protection against the acidification of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).** Spread over 1.2 million square kilometers and constituting an appropriate area for small scale and coastal fishing, this zone is characterized by a diversity of fish resources (500 species of which only 60 are exploited).

Other progress has been made in the context of the implementation of the National Strategy for Integrated Coastal Management, dealing particularly with:

- The implementation of the NSSD (National Strategy on Sustainable Development);
- The design of a specific strategy;
- Development of a cartographic atlas of the coastline;
- The creation of a coastal observatory;
- The development outline of the areas most exposed to risks;
- The identification of 5 focus areas namely, Casablanca-Settat, Dakhla, Souss-Massa, Oriental region, and Tangiers-Tétouan-Al Hoceima where strategic talks were held with territorial actors of the 5 regions.

In addition, the maritime fishing sector with its three types, coastal, small scale, and deep-sea fishing, contributes to the economic development of the country. The production of this sector in 2018 amounted to around 0.9 million tons, i.e. a contribution to the national GDP of 1.02% and to total exports of 0.8% (excluding processed products).

In order to regulate the exploitation of fish resources in an efficient manner and to restore fish stocks, Morocco has undertaken to strengthen its legal framework through the adoption of several decrees and laws to combat overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. In addition to these efforts, there is the ban on the use of gillnets for the preservation of vulnerable species.

In addition, strengthening scientific research in the oceans is at the heart of Morocco's concerns. Currently, an important infrastructure distributed in all the coastal zones supervises and ensures the setting up of the scientific research framework in this field.

In addition to progress at the national level, Morocco plays an active role on the international scene in the preservation of marine ecosystems. To this end, it fully adheres to the international Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular marine diversity, which sets the goal of constituting a network of protected areas covering at least 10% of the oceans. However, the proportion of marine protected areas, compared to the total surface of the country, evaluated in 2016 at 0.0007%, remains low compared to this goal.

Similarly, Morocco has ratified several international conventions related to the intangible cultural heritage that is specific to the coastline, in this case the 1972, 2001 and 2003 conventions.

In this context, Morocco has emphasized the need to highlight the cultural and natural coastal heritage in the strategic pillars of the National Coastal Plan.

Thus, measures have been taken for the inventory and classification of historical monuments and archaeological sites of the coast and the restoration and enhancement of the Cultural Heritage of the Coastline in 2018-2019.

Main challenges

Beyond these advances made by Morocco in the field of the preservation of marine ecosystems, many challenges are still to be faced, in particular:

- The fight against all forms of pollution to which the coastline is exposed;
- Increasing the resilience of coastal areas, as sensitive areas exposed to both the phenomenon of submersion and erosion, thus requiring integrated management;
- The coastal development of activities and presence of the population requires the control of urbanization in coastal areas and the fight against its environmental effects on the coastline and on sea fishing;
- Coastal governance in view of the multiplicity of stakeholders responsible for its management, which further complicates the coordination of their actions;
- The transposition of international conventions on marine pollution and ship safety into national legislation;
- The fight against the overexploitation of fish resources;
- The development of the contribution of aquaculture to the national fish supply;
- The fight against unreported and unregulated fishing, requiring a strengthening of human resources for efficient control of national coasts;
- Promotion of scientific research and marine technical transfers;

- The availability of data specific to the coastline, in particular those relating to the impacts of climate change;
- The link between the different planning documents;
- The implementation of the strategy by the partners involved.

Strategies and Programs

To face the threats posed to the sustainability of coastal areas and marine fisheries and to the resulting economic, social and environmental problems, Morocco has put in place development strategies and plans for the sectoral, spatial, and sustainable development of the marine fisheries sector and of the coastline. These are mainly:

- **The National Strategy for Integrated Coastal Management which is now in phase 3 relating to the design of this strategy and the development of a cartographic atlas:** It sets itself the goal of defining a concerted and shared policy and prospective vision of the Moroccan coastline. The strategy will provide actors with skills on the coastline with the necessary insights for an integrated and territorialized management of the coastline by defining the challenges, goals, appropriate modes of governance and the priorities for the development and integrated planning of this area, by seeking a fair balance between the imperatives of protection and the need to manage it reasonably. The strategy will integrate economic dimensions through the enhancement of the potential of the coastline, the creation of jobs, and the environmental aspects;
- **The National Coastal Plan:** it is part of the implementation of the provisions of the law relating to the coastline, concerning the preservation and enhancement of coastal areas;
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in the Oriental region;
- The Coastal Development Program of the central Rif;
- The Oualidia Project;
- Monitoring the quality of bathing water on Moroccan beaches;
- Monitoring of sand (including marine litter) on Moroccan beaches;
- Monitoring of land-based pollution conveyed to the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea;
- The fight against pollution of the Marchica lagoon;
- The Coastal Protection Program;
- The Master Plan for the Promotion of the Public Maritime Domain;
- **The Halieutis strategy (2009–2020):** It is based on three principles, namely sustainability, performance, and competitiveness. To do this, a set of levers have been designed and relate to traceability, skills building, the legal system, governance, and the organization of the sector. This strategy encompasses a multitude of programs and actions, including:
 - The national coastal development program;
 - The fisheries development plans;
 - The "IBHAR" program;
 - The satellite positioning and monitoring system for fishing vessels;

- The creation of new generation fish markets;
- The development of marine protected areas;
- The development of aquaculture.
- **The National Port Strategy 2030:** It aims to support the development of the national economy by anticipating demand for port infrastructure and by further integrating Morocco into global competitiveness. One of its goals is the strengthening of the adaptive capacity of the port system in order to seize the geostrategic opportunities that the Halieutis strategy offers, in this case the development of sites dedicated to aquaculture.

Evolution of SDG14 indicators

Targets	Indicator Code	Indicators	2015	2016	2017	2018	Target Value for 2030
14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.	14.2.1	Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches (in millions square kilometers).	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	-
14.5 Consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.	14.5.1	Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas (in %).	-	0,0007	-	-	-
14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism	14.7.1	Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries (in %).	1,0	1,08	1,06	1,02	-

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Fisheries, Rural Development, and Water and Forests, Department of Fisheries and High Commission for Planning.

Forest ecosystems, spanning more than 9 million hectares, represent a strategic issue for the Kingdom, and constitute a multifunctional space which conditions the rural economy of the users and residents. Moreover, the social, economic, and environmental functions performed by forest formations are estimated at 17 billion Dirhams / year. In addition, the ecological dimension affirms the role of forests in (1) the conservation of biodiversity, (2) soil protection and the regulation of the water cycle, and (3) the fight against desertification.

The importance of these functions and the sustainable management of these ecosystems, where the effect of climate change is very marked, is a national priority.

Progress status

For the implementation of the countries' commitments relating to the 2030 Agenda, Morocco had made numerous efforts and put forward a set of action levers to accelerate the required transformations, particularly in relation to the issues of terrestrial ecosystems.

The measures taken concern the institutional and legislative aspects as well as those technical, financial and operational in order to establish the prerequisites required for the efficient implementation of programs and projects and to ensure their adequate execution and monitoring.

In terms of general policy legislative measures, these affect natural ecosystems, in this case forests, mountains, soils, protected areas, biodiversity and endangered species.

They contain the following main actions:

- The establishment and continuous consolidation of a forest policy, according to a participatory and integrated approach, for the sustainable management of forest areas;
- The development and periodic updating of action plans and sector strategies;
- Strengthening of the governance framework for forest policy: i) operationalization of governance and guidance bodies; ii) establishment of coordination and partnership mechanisms;
- The updating and adaptation of the legal arsenal governing the management and use of forest resources.

Significant efforts for the preservation, restoration and sustainable management of terrestrial ecosystems and freshwater ecosystems have been implemented, while ensuring to stop deforestation, and increase reforestation.

In this sense, the achievements have mainly focused on:

- The reconstitution of forest ecosystems by reforestation, regeneration and silvopastoral improvement over an area of 35 000 hectares / year, according to an integrated approach based on the promotion of forestry research;
- The demarcation of 98% of forest estates;
- Forest monitoring against any external aggression;
- Improving the contribution of forests and forest products to the local economy, through the organization of users and forest sectors.

These efforts made it possible to slightly improve the surface of forest areas, as a proportion of the land surface of + 0.06% between 2015 and 2019 (8.06% in 2019), and the proportion of forests with a forest management plan experienced a gain of 31 points in % during the same period (83% in 2019).

Also taking into account the importance of biodiversity in the socio-economic development of Morocco, considerable efforts have been made both in terms of overhauling the legal framework, as well as on the strategic level through the establishment of the national strategy of Morocco. Sustainable Development which devoted one of the seven challenges to "improving the management and development of natural resources and strengthening the conservation of biodiversity".

Morocco aims to make of biodiversity a pillar of sustainable development and the well-being of society. To do this, six strategic pillars and 159 actions of the 2016-2020 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan have been recommended for the conservation of the biodiversity that composes it.

In addition, it proposes to put in place actions allowing the preservation of biodiversity such as conservation programs, the involvement of local populations in the management of natural resources, the establishment of protected areas, and other programs

Thus, all the various natural environments of the national heritage have been identified and participate in the network of Sites of Biological and Ecological Interest (154 SBEIs) which extends over nearly 2.5 million hectares.

Achievements also focused on the development of 10 national parks, the designation of 38 wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention and the creation of 29 biological reserves of threatened, extinct and reintroduced species.

These efforts made it possible to slightly improve the proportion of sites that are important for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity in protected areas by 1.05% between 2015 and 2019 (9.90% in 2019).

For mountain areas, which extend over more than a quarter of the national territory and are home to significant reserves of biological diversity, they constitute a vital element of the overall environmental balance. These areas have significant potential, comprising in particular more than 60% of our forests and more than a third of the usable agricultural area. They represent the water tower of the country where all the rivers originate and where 26 lakes and bodies of water are located.

The network of protected areas extending across these mountainous areas is of capital importance in terms of area and endemism, and includes 7 national parks and 83 sites of biological and ecological interest (SBEIs), that is to say 70% and 54% of the network of parks and SBEIs at the national level.

Moreover, desertification is a strategic issue for the country. In fact, 93% of the national territory is in an arid and semi-arid climate, which constitutes a permanent threat both for the agricultural sector and for infrastructure.

Considerable efforts have been made to reverse the process of land degradation, reduce the extent of desertification and mitigate its repercussions.

Several large-scale programs have been undertaken, namely:

- Adaptation of the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification to specific zonal features, leading to the identification of eight homogeneous zones;
- The operationalization of the monitoring system and the creation of two Technical Centers for Desertification Monitoring;
- Watershed development works (800 000 hectares) with mechanical corrections of the ravines, the fight against water erosion on 250 000 hectares between 2015-2019;

- The fight against silting up in continental and coastal areas over more than 41 000 hectares;
- The program for the development of rangelands and the regulation of transhumant flows which aims at the creation, resting, and planting of plant fodder shrubs over more than 650000 hectares, as well as the development of pastoral hydraulics.

Thus, the proportion of degraded land in relation to the total area is around 5.35% between 2000 and 2015.

Likewise, the efforts undertaken in connection with the fight against poaching and trafficking in protected plant and animal species particularly include:

- The establishment of wildlife surveillance systems and the gradual creation of 19 surveillance and control units;
- The strengthening of the legal arsenal by Law No. 29-05 relating to the protection of species of wild flora and fauna and the control of their trade has made it possible to establish a specific national list of Moroccan species, in addition to the integration of globally threatened species appearing in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- Coordination with the various stakeholders involved in the fight against poaching and illegal trade in wildlife species.

In addition, Morocco attaches increasing importance to the mobilization of financial resources from all sources in order to finance programs for the preservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems.

In relation to the financial component, the budget allocated to the forestry sector has experienced a clear positive evolution of more than 70% during the last decade, knowing that the National Forest Fund contributes 80%.

In addition, during the 2015-2019 period, the budget allocated to the forestry development program increased by 11% and that dedicated to the program to combat desertification and protect nature recorded an increase of more than 30%.

In addition, funding mobilized within the framework of international cooperation, both financial and technical, has amounted to nearly USD 200 billion over the past two decades.

Main challenges

Subject to multiple and complex risks, natural spaces, in particular forests, are constantly faced with various threats that affect their degree of resilience in relation to human action and the effects of climate change.

The main challenges lie in:

- The organization of the sustainable management of sylvo-pastoral routes;
- Control of fuelwood harvesting;
- Strengthening the preservation of wild biodiversity in the various natural ecosystems;
- The fight against land degradation by strengthening the development of watersheds, the fight against desertification and silting, and for reforestation and natural regeneration;
- Control of forest fires;

- The strengthening of Research & Development and the transfer of knowledge in the field of natural land areas.

Strategies and Programs

As part of its commitment to the process of sustainable development as a whole, Morocco has initiated and is continuing several national programs. This concerns the 2015-2024 ten-year program, ensuring the continuity of the program (2005-2014) and maintaining the same priorities and concerns.

This ten-year plan is built around the following priority areas:

- The fight against desertification and silting up as well as the fight against water erosion in mountain areas;
- The fight against fires;
- The governance of natural spaces, the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity;
- The conservation and rehabilitation of forest ecosystems.

With the aim of further strengthening control over the management of natural spaces, Morocco has adopted the "Forests of Morocco 2020-2030" strategy for the development of the water and forest sector in Morocco. It aims to meet the goals related to stopping deforestation and also aims to recover 30 years of forest degradation. It is built around four fundamental focus areas:

1. Reinventing and structuring the participatory approach;
2. Differentiating and developing spaces according to their calling;
3. Investing and modernizing the core business, and
4. Rebuilding the institution.

The National Development Strategy for Oasis and Argan Areas, which aims to rehabilitate 200.000 hectares of argan forest and 48.000 hectares of palm groves and the extension of 17.000 hectares of new palm groves. All this is crowned within the framework of the program contracts concluded between the State and the professionals for the date tree and argan sectors.

In addition to the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD), Morocco has developed the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2020 which aims to make Morocco's biodiversity a pillar of sustainable development and well-being of Moroccan society.

Evolution of SDG15 indicators

Targets	Indicator Code	Indicators	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Target Value for 2030
15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements	15.1.1	Forest Area as a Proportion of Total Land Area (in %)	8	-	-	-	8,06	-
	15.1.2	Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type (in %)	8,85	-	-	-	9,90	-
15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world	15.3.1	Degraded land area, as a proportion of the total land area (between 2000 and 2015)(in %)	5,35	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Fisheries, Rural Development, and Water and Forests.

SDG16 promotes peaceful societies, inclusion and equal access to justice. The adoption of the 2011 constitution reaffirms Morocco's irreversible choice to build a democratic and modern state based on the rule of law, and the commitment to subscribe to the principles, rights and obligations set out in international human rights charters and conventions.

Although Morocco has made progress in this direction, challenges remain, particularly in terms of the establishment of a fully independent and more transparent justice system, inclusive decision-making and resolution of issues related to the exercise of fundamental freedoms and human rights in the context of new information and communication technologies, as well as the resolution of the issues induced by terrorism.

Progress status

Access to justice

Morocco initiated a substantial and comprehensive reform of its judicial system which was crowned by the adoption of the "Charter for the Reform of the Judicial System" in 2013. The institutional independence of the judiciary was enshrined in the establishment of the Superior Council of the Judicial Power, the institution of the Presidency of the General Prosecutor's Office and the revision of the penal system, in particular by the development of the draft Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure and by the modernization of the judicial administration including several actions have been dematerialized (the **"mahakim.ma" site and the e-justice mobile app**). In addition, a comprehensive review of the law governing military justice was undertaken, allowing the military court to rule only on matters relating to military discipline. In terms of the unsentenced detainees, the proportion of this population in relation to the total number of inmates increased from 40% in 2016 to 39% in 2018.

Fight against violence and for the guarantee of rights

The strategy of the Ministry of Interior is fundamentally based on proximity to citizens in order to guarantee them better protection against risks and the establishment of a preventive security system promoting sustainable development and social peace. Thus, a national crime monitoring observatory will soon be set up. Morocco has also started to overhaul the penal code and criminal procedure and promote the role of the public, social policies and education in the fight against violence.

In figures, the number of victims of intentional homicide per 100 000 inhabitants was around 1.34 in 2015 and 1.6 in 2016²⁸. More than half of households, in 2016²⁹, estimated that the level of crime is low or zero in their environment. In 2019, 10% of women lodged a complaint with the police or another competent authority following the most serious incident of physical and / or sexual violence suffered in the last 12 months, compared to 3% in 2009. This proportion rises to nearly 13% in cases of physical violence and 3% in cases of sexual violence. They are less than 8% to do so in the event of domestic violence versus 11.3% for non-domestic violence³⁰.

28 Ministry of Justice

29 High Commission for Planning-National survey on household perception of some targets of the main SDGs

30 High Commission for Planning-National survey on violence against women 2009 and 2019

Morocco has continued to consolidate the programs undertaken in favor of children. In 2014, the Government set up an interministerial commission responsible for monitoring the implementation of national policies and plans on children, in particular the national implementation program (2015-2020) of the integrated public policy for child protection adopted in 2015.

Furthermore, in order to ensure the protection and prevention of all forms of violence of which children are victims, institutional units have been created. In addition, legislative measures have been taken criminalizing acts of child abuse, violence and sexual assault. The right of the child to enjoy his or her identity is a key element for the enjoyment of other fundamental rights. In this regard, the Moroccan Government has launched two national campaigns to register children not registered with the civil status (October 2017 and April 2019). In 2018, the proportion of children under 5 years who were registered by a civil status authority reached 96.9%³¹.

With regard to trafficking in human beings, the legislator adopted, in August 2016, the law to combat trafficking and in 2018, the decree establishing the National Commission responsible for coordinating measures to combat and prevent this phenomenon. In addition, the said commission was installed in May 2019. The Kingdom of Morocco has implemented, since November 2013, a National Strategy for Immigration and Asylum. In addition to these measures, Morocco spares no effort to implement preventive actions, but also a comprehensive national response against smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons.

The new law relating to the reorganization of the National Human Rights Council (CNDH)³² reinforces the mandate of this institution by granting it the competence to exercise the attributions related to the national mechanisms of recourse in matters of protection of human rights, in particular the establishment of three mechanisms against torture and violations of the rights of children and people with disabilities. In addition, the CNDH is accredited for the fourth time for the period 2015-2020, to "A" status as an institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles. In addition, the new law on the institution of the Ombudsman was adopted.

Morocco has stepped up interaction with UN human rights mechanisms. Thus, since 2012, five special procedures have visited Morocco³³ and five national reports have been examined by the various treaty bodies.³⁴

Protection of the freedom of opinion and expression

The strengthening of this aspect concerned both legislative and institutional aspects, including the law relating to the press and publishing, the law establishing the National Press Council which set up a self-regulatory mechanism for the press profession and the 2016 law relating to the status of professional journalists consolidating the rights and freedoms of journalists.

31 Ministry of Health, National Population and Family Health Survey 2018

32 Law number 76-15 published in Official Bulletin number 6652 of March 1, 2018.

33 Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (2018), Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity (2016), Special Rapporteur on right to food (2015), Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (2013), Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, especially Women and Children (2013).

34 Sixth periodic report on the application of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (2016) and fourth periodic report on the application of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2015), periodic reports on the application of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2014), initial report on the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on rights of the child, regarding the involvement of children in armed conflicts (2014) and initial report on the implementation of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (2013).

Fight against money laundering

Morocco has been working for two decades to put in place several legal and institutional instruments aimed at promoting the national system for combating money laundering. During this period, the national system was subjected to a few evaluations to highlight the efforts of our country in this context, the most important of which is the evaluation of October 2013, following which Morocco was withdrawn from the negative list of the Financial Action Task Force.

On the legislative front, Morocco is in the process of finalizing a new bill aimed at filling the gaps identified in the mutual evaluation report and revising aspects relating to money laundering in the penal code and criminal procedure.

At the institutional level, efforts have been directed towards strengthening investigating bodies and the conclusion of international judicial cooperation conventions related to the fight against crime.

Fight against terrorism and illicit trafficking

Morocco is heavily involved in the fight against terrorism and has intensified its efforts, proceeding at the preventive level, among other things, to reform the religious field and strengthen international coordination. Morocco has also ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its related protocols, and has a set of legal texts that frame and regulate the circulation of weapons within it and prohibit the manufacture or the illegal possession of weapons and participates in efforts to combat the illicit proliferation of weapons.

Fight against corruption

Morocco ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2007 and set about implementing its provisions through several legal and institutional reforms. The Kingdom of Morocco has also adopted an integrated national anti-corruption strategy and created in 2017 the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) responsible for ensuring the implementation of this strategy. In addition, the integrity scan was carried out within the framework of cooperation with the OECD and a self-assessment of the Moroccan legislative framework in accordance with the provisions of chapters 2 and 5 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption was carried out. In addition, the toll-free number for denouncing corruption was launched, the national complaints portal "chikaya.ma" was set up in 2018, in addition to the strengthening of central and decentralized inspection and audit units.

The incidence of corruption suffered by businesses declined significantly between 2013 and 2019, from 37% to 16.9%³⁵.

The law establishing the National Authority for Probity, Prevention and the Fight against Corruption made it possible to broaden the powers and strengthen the action and resources of this institution.

Efficient institutions

The efficacy of public action appears as a condition for the success of development strategies and the achievement of the SDGs in Morocco. To do this, several reforms have been adopted, in particular the National Charter of Administrative Deconcentration and the Charter of Public Services, which consists of establishing a framework of reference for the principles of public services.

³⁵ World Bank - Business survey conducted in 2013 and 2019.

Aware that electronic administration is a guarantee of transparency, better public governance and a vector for improving the administration / user relationship, Morocco has made information technologies a lever for the construction of an administration at the service of the citizen. Indeed, the effort deployed in this direction integrates three dimensions: support for the dematerialization of public services and the evaluation of the electronic transformation of public services, capacity building of administrations to share best practices in the field of electronic administration, and the development of a normative framework for the implementation of ICT solutions by public administrations.

Despite a total of more than 453 online services spread over 87 public administrations, more efforts are required to anchor information technologies in public administration. In this sense, it should be noted that the master plan for the digital transformation of public administration is being drawn up and that a bill on digital administration is in the process of being adopted.

Between 2016 and 2019, the rate of feminization in public administration (not including personnel from auxiliary forces and the Court of Auditors) did not exceed 36%. The Moroccan administration has a high level of management (more than 65%) and is concentrated in four regions: Rabat-Salé-Kénitra, the Greater Casablanca-Settat, Fez-Meknes, and Marrakech-Safi. Almost 61% of civil servants are aged over 40 and less than 13% are aged under 30³⁶.

Strengthening participation and openness

The adoption of the law on the right of access to information³⁷ constitutes a major turning point for the consecration of citizens' rights by allowing them to access information from all public administrations and institutions.

The Kingdom of Morocco is committed with a firm conviction to join the Partnership for an Open Government (OGP) in 2018, considered as a structuring process which can only consolidate its achievements in terms of transparency, fairness, integrity, and participatory democracy.

Morocco has made significant efforts to initiate reforms and sectoral programs aimed at ensuring citizen participation in the decision-making process, in the formulation of public policies and in the development of the country. Citizen participation was initiated by the consecration of the right to present petitions and motions as well as public consultation.

The NIHD (National Initiative for Human Development) has developed a relevant ecosystem that works in human development and participates in decision-making in an organizational framework at different scales. Also, the 3rd phase of the NIHD is based on a renewed and unifying governance enshrining the principles of participation, contractualization, and partnership.

Main challenges

The main challenges lie, in particular in the following points:

- The reform of the judicial system which includes four essential issues: the consecration of the guarantees of a fair trial, the fight against torture and its prevention, the guarantee of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty, and the development of the penal system in particular through the integration of alternative sentences and revision of the legal framework governing pardon;

³⁶ Department of Administrative Reform;

³⁷ Law No. 31-13 published in the Official Bulletin No. 6670 of May 3, 2018

- The consecration of the guarantees of public liberties;
- Strengthening of the legal framework and public policies relating to guaranteeing the rights of vulnerable categories;
- The development of an efficient, transparent and responsible administration at the service of citizens and development;
- Encouraging citizen participation in the mechanisms of participatory democracy and promoting the role of civil society in the development of human rights;
- Strengthening convergence between the different decision-making levels.

Stratégies et programmes

Several strategies, plans and programs contribute to the achievement of this goal:

- The National Action Plan on Democracy and Human Rights (NAPDHR) (2018-2021) aims to consolidate the process of political reforms, institutionalize the protection and promotion of human rights and encourage initiatives contributing to the emergence of a participatory democracy;
- The integrated public policy for child protection in Morocco 2015-2025 aims to strengthen the legal framework, set up integrated territorial mechanisms, standardize structures and practices, promote protective social standards and set up systems information, follow-up-evaluation and monitoring;
- The reform of the justice system, adopted in 2013, mainly aims to consolidate the independence of the judiciary, bring morality into the judicial system, strengthen the protection of rights and freedoms by justice, increase the effectiveness and efficiency of justice, develop the institutional capacities of the judicial system, as well as modernize the judicial administration and strengthen its governance;
- The reform of the religious field, launched in 2004, aims to protect Morocco against inclinations of extremism and terrorism and to preserve its religious frame of reference based on moderation, openness and tolerance;
- The national anti-terrorism strategy is based on several pillars, namely reform of the religious field, security prevention, human development and regional and international cooperation;
- The national anti-corruption strategy, adopted in 2015, aims to strengthen citizens' confidence in institutions and improve business integrity and Morocco's international positioning;
- The 2018-2021 National Administration Modernization Plan aims to establish an administration serving citizens and businesses, responsible for the continuity of public services subject to quality standards;
- The Civil Status Modernization Program aims to generalize civil status to all citizens and modernize the sector by using ICTs and revising laws and regulations;
- The National Immigration and Asylum Strategy (2014) aims to ensure better integration of immigrants and better management of migratory flows within the framework of a coherent, comprehensive, humanistic and responsible policy;
- The 2017-2021 government plan for equality, whose axis 4 aims to protect women and strengthen their rights.

Evolution of SDG16 indicators

Targets	Indicator Code	Indicators	2009	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Target Value for 2030
16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere;	16.1.1	Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100 000 population, by sex and age	-	-	1,34	1,6	-	-	-	-
	16.1.3	16.1.3 Proportion of the population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence, and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months (for women (%))	63	-	-	-	-	-	57	-
		a. Proportion of the population experiencing physical violence (for women, in %)	15,2	-	-	-	-	-	13,0	-
		b. Proportion of the population experiencing psychological violence (for women, in %)	58	-	-	-	-	-	49	-
		c. Proportion of the population experiencing sexual violence (for women, in %)	8,7	-	-	-	-	-	14,0	-
16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children.	16.2.3	Proportion of young women aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18	4,1	-	-	-	-	-	-	0

16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and ensure equal access to justice for all.	16.3.1	Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms (for women)	3,0	-	-	-	-	-	10,5	0
	16.3.2	Unsentenced Detainees as a Proportion of Overall Prison Population	-	-	-	40	-	39	-	-
16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.	16.6.1	Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar).								
	16.6.2	Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services	-	-	-	16,1	-	-	-	-
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels	16.7.1	Distribution of positions (by sex, age, disability status and population group) in public institutions (legislative bodies, public services and judicial bodies at local and national level), compared to the national distribution	-	35,0	-	35,8	-	-	-	-
16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration	16.9.1	Proportion of children under 5 years who have been registered by a civil status authority, by age	-	-	-	-	-	96,9	-	100

Source: Ministry of Justice, - High Commission for Planning- National Survey of Household Perception of some targets of the main SDGs - National Survey on the Prevalence of Violence against Women 2009 and 2019, High Commission for Planning.



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

The international community wished to associate the new goals with financial and non-financial means which allow for their implementation. This is why SDG17 is added to the 16 development goals, which lists areas that can contribute to the implementation of the agenda.

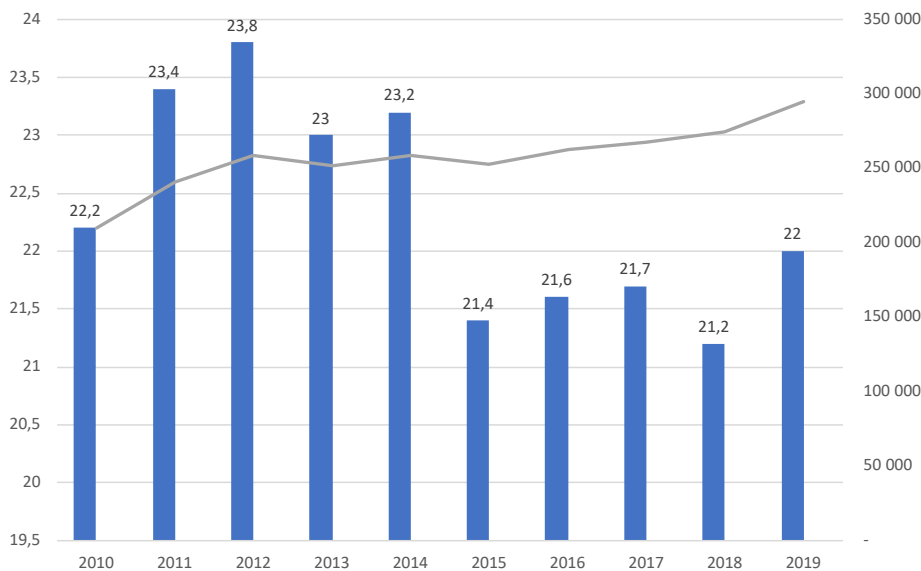
The overall orientations of this goal do focus on improving international aid to developing countries and facilitating their access to investment, technology, and world trade.

Progress status

Finance

The mobilization of internal funding sources is essential for the achievement of the SDGs. Between 2015 and 2018, the proportion of government revenue in the GDP stabilized around 21% before rising to 22% in 2019.

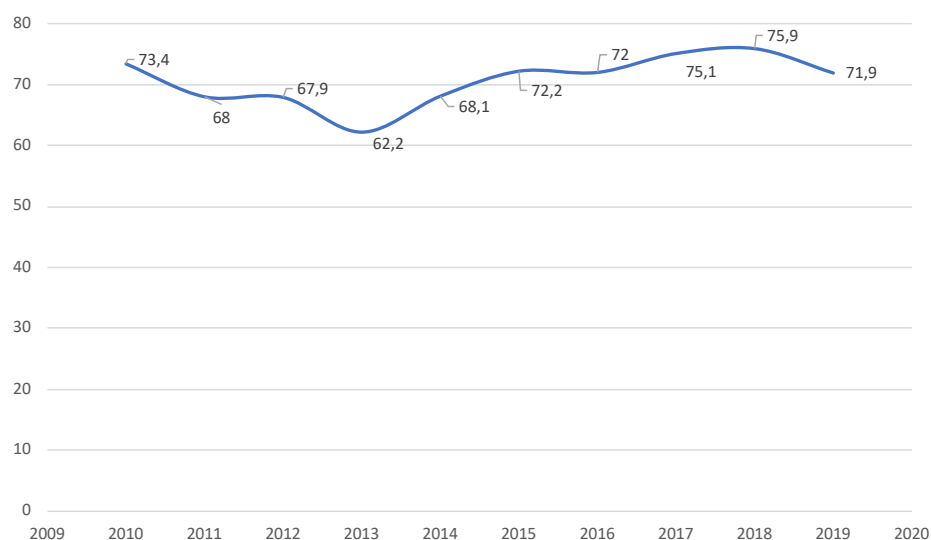
Graph 23: Public revenues as a proportion of GDP



Source: Department of Economy and Finance.

In addition, the proportion of the national budget financed by national taxes has recorded, since 2014, an overall upward trend, going from 68.1% in 2014 to 75.8% in 2018. A trend reversal was observed in 2019 with a proportion of 71.9% due, in particular, to the realizations under non-tax revenues.

Graph 24: Proportion of the national budget financed by national taxes



Source: Department of Economy and Finance.

In addition, net FDI flows to Morocco fell by 29.3% at the end of 2019 compared to the previous year, reaching an overall value of USD 3.5 billion. This figure corresponds to 11.37% of the national budget.

Graph 25: Evolution of FDIs as a proportion of the national budget

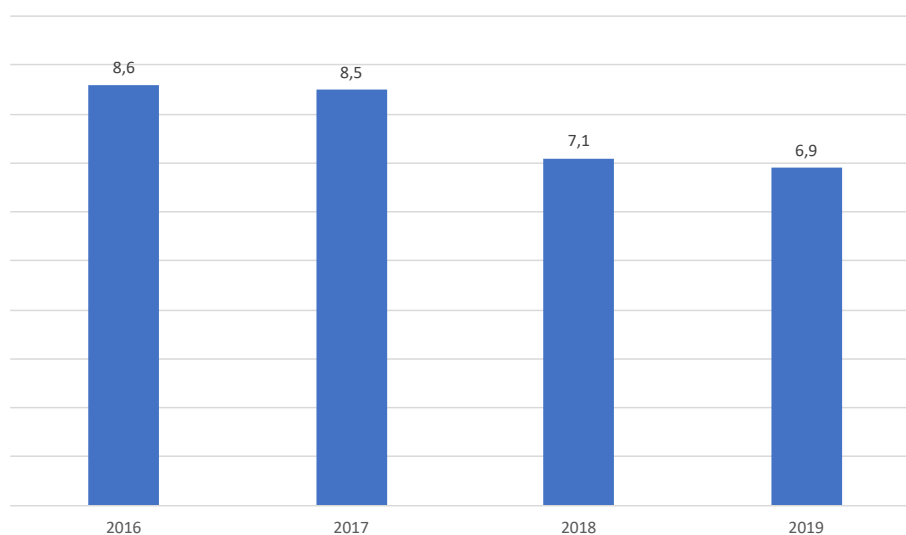


Source: Department of Economy and Finance

At the same time, Morocco continues to promote its investments abroad, particularly in Africa, occupying one of the first ranks of African investors in the continent. These investments span several sectors, such as banking, telecommunications, insurance, real estate and industry.

In addition, as part of the debt management efforts led by the public authorities, the share of public external debt service in exports of goods and services fell between 2016 and 2019, from 8.6% to 6.9 %.

Graph 26: Proportion of external public debt service in exports of goods and services



Source: Elaborated from data from the Treasury and External Finance Directorate

In the wake of the consolidation of the Gross National Income, transfers from Moroccans Residing Abroad (MRA) posted a clear increase to reach 64.9 billion Dirhams in 2018 versus 62.5 billion Dirhams in 2016.

New technologies and innovation

Morocco, through the Department of Higher Education and Scientific Research has developed, since its independence, a policy of scientific cooperation, through numerous bilateral programs with several countries (France, Germany, Tunisia, etc.) and multilateral especially with the EU.

In addition, the NCSTR has signed several cooperation agreements with similar foreign entities (CSIC and AEIC (Spain), CNRI (Italy), as well as GRICES (Portugal), CSIR (India), and other institutions.

In this context, and by way of example, the Department of Environment (DE) has concluded several partnerships with multilateral and bilateral organizations (GEF, WB, Green Climate Fund, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, Germany, EU, Japan, etc.), with a view to exchange of experience, transfer of knowledge, technical assistance as well as the development of projects in the various fields of the environment.

In the field of technology, efforts are also being made to ensure the strengthening of the partnership with the African market, with the development in particular of infrastructure and common physical networks, the export of Moroccan expertise and the encouragement of African talents to join Moroccan companies.

In terms of access, fixed Internet subscriptions with speeds below 10 Mbps have declined in favor of subscriptions with speeds equal to or greater than 10 Mbps. In 2017, fixed Internet subscriptions reached 3.86 per 100 inhabitants, broken down by connection speed, as follows³⁸:

³⁸ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>

Table 4: Fixed Internet subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, broken down by connection speed

Connection speed	2017
[256 Kbits/s - 2 Mbits/s[0.01
[2 Mbits/s - 10 Mbits/s[3.08
>= 10 Mbits/s	0.77
Total	3.86

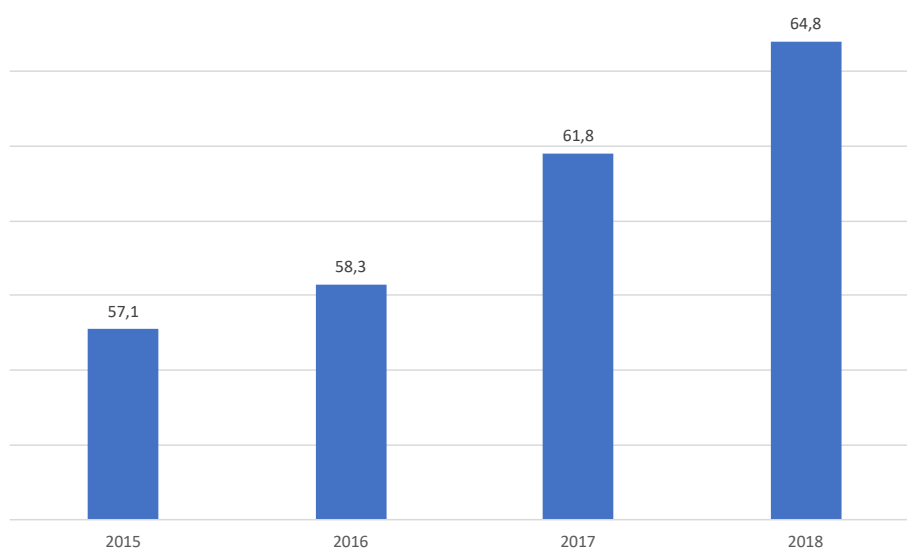
Source: National Telecommunications Regulatory Agency

The Internet market in Morocco has experienced strong momentum since the liberalization of the sector. The main driving force behind this growth is mobile internet compared to fixed internet. This can be explained, in part, by the weakness of the ADSL and optical fiber subscribers, which stood at 1.48 million and 121.237 subscriptions respectively at the end of 2019. ADSL access with speeds less than or equal to 4MB / s represent 63.3% of the overall ADSL Internet fleet³⁹.

Aware of this state of affairs and in order to ensure the expansion of fixed broadband, Morocco continues to work on the development of fixed broadband networks (FTTH, etc.) as part of the implementation of the National Plan for the development of high and very high speed Internet (NPHS).

Regarding the use of the Internet among Moroccans, this figure increased from 58.3% to 64.8% between 2016 and 2018⁴⁰, which allows the country to be above the world average by almost 6 points (58.8% of the world's population is connected).⁴¹ However, despite efforts to promote universal access to the Internet, gaps persist between urban and rural areas. In 2018, the Internet penetration rate (mobile and fixed) was 71.7% in urban areas versus 53.3% in rural areas.

Graph 27: Proportion of the connected population



Source: National Telecommunications Regulatory Agency

39 ANRT, Analysis of the evolution of the telecommunications sector in Morocco at the end of March 2019.

40 ANRT, Annual survey for collecting ICT indicators from households and individuals at the national level.

41 <https://www.internetworldstats.com/stats.htm>

Foreign Trade

The Kingdom of Morocco, a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), is attached to the Multilateral Trade System which constitutes a reference for its trade policy. Morocco has made significant efforts to establish fair and favorable world trade, in particular, industrialization and continental integration in Africa. Today, Morocco grants preferential access to certain products from 34 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Africa⁴². Trade and tariff agreements have been concluded with Guinea and Senegal, providing for exchanges of tariff exemptions.

The average tariffs applied by Morocco to goods from developing countries show a downward trend from 7.5% in 2016 to 6.8% in 2019. This decrease also concerned imports from Least Developed Countries (from 8.3% to 5.3% in 2019) and from Small Island Developing States (from 3.4% to 1.5%). Moreover, Morocco is in compliance with its international obligations, insofar as a large number of tariffs it applies to its imports at the world level are relatively low and lower than the bound tariffs as shown in the table below).

Table 5: Bound and MFN tariffs applied by Morocco (in %)

	2015	2016	2017
Average of the final bound tariffs	41,3	41,3	41,3
Average of the applied MFN tariffs	11,5	11,5	11,4
Trade Weighted Average	9,3	10,4	9,9

Source: WTO, World tariff profile, 2018 and 2019

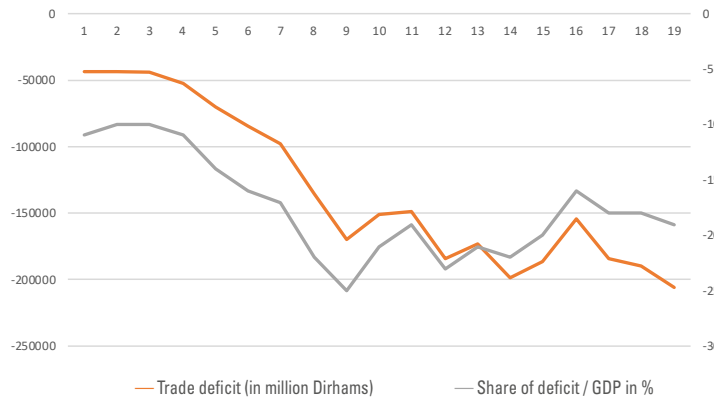
In March 2018, Morocco signed the agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA), the goal of which is to create an African Commercial Free Trade Area, where 90% of trade in goods would be exempt from customs duties and the eventual elimination of non-tariff barriers by establishing common standards.

In May 2019, Morocco ratified the WTO Trade Facility Agreement (TFA). This agreement aims to smooth the flow of goods and to simplify the export and import process, resulting in lower trade costs.

Morocco has a significant deficit in its trade balance in goods, i.e. 18.6% of GDP in 2018, in a context of strong international competition. The structure of imports reflects Morocco's traditional dependence on energy (7.4% of GDP in 2018) and food products (4%). Morocco's new global trades have increased the need for capital goods, which represented 10.9% of GDP in 2018. Regarding exports, they experienced an annual growth of 8% during the period 2016-2019 with the achievement of great performances in the development of the shares of the flagship sectors: the automotive industry (26%), agricultural and agro-food products (21%), phosphates and derivatives (18.9%).

⁴² Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Central African Republic, Niger, Uganda, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Chad, United Republic of Tanzania, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, São-Tomé and Príncipe, Togo, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Zambia

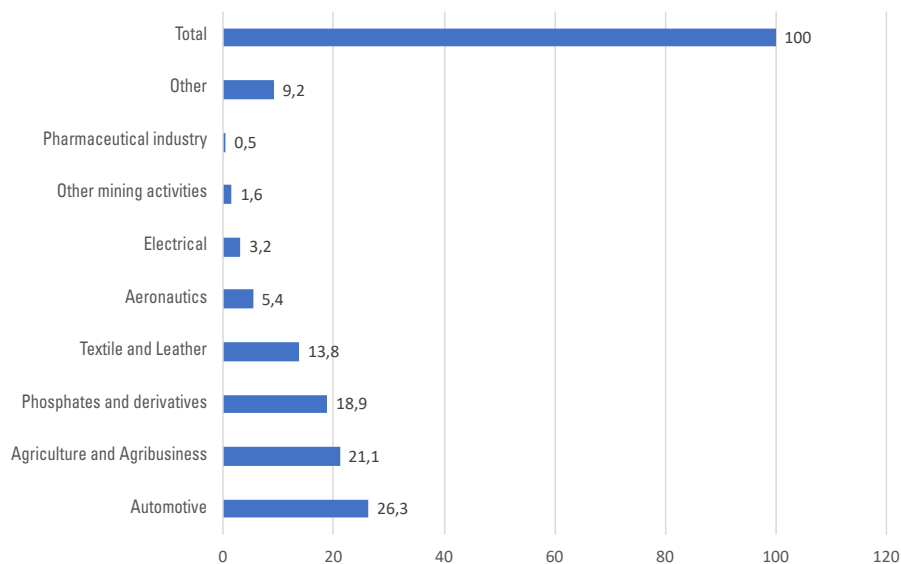
Graph 28: Morocco's trade balance



Source: Moroccan Foreign Exchange Office and High Commission for Planning

The exports momentum has been supported by numerous promotional programs and actions developed by the Morocco' Investment and Trade Agency (AMDIE) through the organization of sectoral missions for the benefit of private actors, as well as the promotion of the participation of "Made in Morocco" in trade fairs and other commercial events targeting strategic markets. These actions notably contributed to the consolidation of Morocco's share in world exports, with an average annual growth of exports estimated at 7.9% over the 2010-2018 period.

Graph29: Exports of the main sectors (%)



Source: Exchange Office and High Commission for Planning (HCP)

According to the "World Trade Statistical Review" (WTO, 2019), Morocco is ranked 45th exporter in 2018, with an amount of 29 billion USD, far behind Turkey (168 billion USD), but ahead of Egypt (28 billion USD), representing a share of 0.2% in total world merchandise exports.

In the African region, Morocco is ranked second as an exporter, after Egypt for an amount of 18 billion USD in 2018, a share of 0.4% in the total world exports of commercial services.

In 2016, Morocco adopted a new law on foreign trade, setting, in accordance with the international commitments of the Kingdom of Morocco, the general regime of foreign trade, the conditions under which import and export operations are carried out and measures to protect national production. In addition, a new status has been granted to indirect exporters since 2017 in order to integrate ecosystems with their suppliers as well as free export zones with industrial companies established in the national territory.

In accordance with the commitments made within the framework of WTO negotiations, Morocco has implemented reforms in terms of trade facilitation (dematerialization of customs procedures, reduction of import and export times, one-stop shop "PortNet », etc.). In February 2018, the Government Council adopted a decree establishing the "National Coordination Commission for the Facilitation of Foreign Trade Procedures".

If Morocco was able to improve its market share at the global level, going from 0.11% in 2007 to 0.15% in 2018, it is still positioned behind its competitors, in this case India (1.79%), Turkey (0.95 %) and Egypt (0.16%).

This situation is inherent to several factors, of an exogenous and endogenous nature, in this case the low competitiveness of the exportable supply, non-tariff barriers (rules of origin, health standards, etc.) and the acceleration of imports of capital goods and semi-finished goods, particularly from countries with which Morocco has concluded free trade agreements.

Table 6: Share of Morocco's foreign trade (in %)

	2016	2017	2018
In the world exports of commercial services	0,4	0,4	0,4
In the world exports of goods	0,2	0,2	0,2
Share of the Moroccan market worldwide	0,14	0,15	0,15

Source: Studies and Financial Forecast Department(SFFD)

Multi-stakeholder partnerships and capacity building

Morocco, as His Majesty King Mohammed VI – may God assist Him - said, is committed "to tripartite and multilateral cooperation and to balanced and mutually beneficial partnerships". Indeed, Morocco has established South-South cooperation, enshrined in the Preamble to the Constitution, as a strategic axis of its foreign policy.

In this momentum, several partnerships have emerged in several areas. South-South cooperation in the field of agricultural development and food security is indeed one of the fundamental elements of the Green Morocco Plan, launched in 2008. In this context, Morocco and FAO have established a strategic alliance in order to support the efforts of African partner countries, especially the Least Developed Countries. A trust fund of one million dollars, administered by the FAO and supplied by Morocco, was created to finance cooperation projects aimed at increasing agricultural productivity and improving the management of natural resources. 38 agreements and conventions have been signed since 2014, with 18 African countries in the agricultural sector. Fertilizer production units have been set up, among others, in Ethiopia and Nigeria. Several tripartite agreements have been signed in this context with several African countries (Mali, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Eswatini, Tunisia, Cameroon and soon other countries).

Regarding renewable energies, Morocco, together with Ethiopia, announced the creation of the Coalition for Access to Sustainable Energy in 2019. This Coalition, carried at the national level by the Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy (MASEN), aims at universal access to energy through the massive use of clean energies. In addition, a memorandum of understanding between AFD and CDG was signed, aimed at strengthening their partnership around energy, ecological, territorial, social and financial inclusion transitions as well as cooperation with Africa. Bilateral agreements (signed in 2018) with India have been implemented.

In terms of Sustainable Development, three commissions for the countries of the Sahel, the Congo Basin and island states were set up on the sidelines of the COP22 organized in Marrakech in 2016, to structure the technical support to fight against the climate change (COP22 in 2016). Following this same goal, the Initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture to Climate Change (“Triple A Initiative”) was launched by Morocco at COP22. The African Gas Pipeline project, the subject of an agreement between the Kingdom of Morocco and Nigeria, will be beneficial to the entire West Africa in terms of economic competitiveness and regional integration, inclusive growth, and social development. In addition, Morocco is developing its South-South cooperation with India and China through the exchange of experiences and the strengthening of research and technological development programs.

On the environmental side, around 153 million USD have been mobilized within the framework of multilateral cooperation (Global Environment Fund, Green Climate Fund, World Bank, UNEP, etc.) and bilateral cooperation (Germany, Italy, European Union, ...) for the implementation of projects and programs contributing to the transfer of best practices, technology and know-how as well as capacity building in the field of environment and sustainable development.

On the other hand, in the area of South-South cooperation, around twenty cooperation agreements have been signed with countries of the South, particularly in Africa, in this area. For their implementation, Morocco has mobilized approximately USD 900 000 for a technical assistance and capacity building program for southern partner countries, especially those of Africa.

In terms of migration, an African Migration Observatory was created, and Morocco carried out two migrant regularization operations between 2014-2015 and 2016-2017. The first made it possible to regularize more than 23 000 migrants. In the second, more than 28 000 applications were filed. Morocco launched a South-South Cooperation Action on migration (2019-2021) between Morocco, Ivory Coast, Mali, and Senegal, with the support of the European Union, with the goal of facilitating and promoting the sharing of experiences and the transfer of practices in migration matters between institutional, administrative and non-governmental stakeholders in the four countries.

Regarding humanitarian action, Morocco's action is broken down into emergency operations and humanitarian aid, generally consisting of donations of medicines, paramedical equipment, food products, tents, hygiene products, equipment, and other goods. Morocco was re-elected, for the second consecutive term, to chair the Humanitarian Affairs Segment of ECOSOC for the 2019-2020 cycle.

Several international cooperation programs in the field of culture have been adopted, including in particular cultural and scientific cooperation agreements adopted between higher education institutions and foreign institutions or even measures taken to Ensure the protection and conservation of movable, immovable, intangible and natural cultural property, in particular through the effective application of the World Heritage Conventions with UNESCO in 1972, 2001, 2003 and 2005.

In the religious field, Morocco has carried out several initiatives with African countries for the training of Imams from these countries, focused on fundamental training in Shariaa and human sciences as well as short-term training. Thus, the Mohammed VI Foundation of African Ulemas (religious scholars) was conceived by its Founder, the Commander of the Faithful, His Majesty King Mohammed VI - may God assist him - in 2015, for two essential considerations, in this case the feeling of historical responsibility and the demands of the present and the future for the protection of religious affairs.

Partnership between the Government, the Associations and the public-private sector

The development of the partnership system between the State and associations constitutes a strategic issue for the consolidation of the pillars of the rule of law. In this context of strengthening the governance and transparency of public financing as well as the promotion of partnerships with civil society, Morocco has undertaken, from 2015, the publication of an annual report on the situation of the partnership between the Government and the associations and has created the electronic portal « **charaka-association.ma** » dedicated to the public financing of associations.

In order to benefit from the production and innovation capacities of the private sector to accelerate the pace of infrastructure development and the provision of public services, recourse to public-private partnership (PPP) is essential. In this context, Law No. 86-12 on public-private partnership contracts was promulgated in 2015, thus contributing to the creation of a new effective development lever. The draft bill number 46-18 amending and the supplementing law number 86-12 relating to PPP contracts were voted by majority by the two chambers.

The implementing texts are being finalized.

However, after the entry into force of the PPP Contract Law in June 2015, it was found that:

- The PPP program has not been developed despite the significant potential of the PPP projects identified;
- The projects examined by the PPP Commission for a decision by the Minister of the Economy and Finance are below ambitions.

To this end, Law No. 86-12 is amended by Law No. 46-18 which was unanimously approved by the House of Representatives on February 4, 2020. The said law makes the following main amendments:

- Extension of the scope of application to local authorities, their groups and their organizations to cover all the public persons concerned;
- Establishment of a "National Commission for Public-Private Partnerships" with the Head of Government, empowered to adopt, among other things, a national program of annual and / or multi-year public-private partnerships and to establish the conditions and modalities for possible derogation to the law, in particular with regard to the prior assessment procedure and the negotiated procedure;

- Simplification of the spontaneous offer process and clarification of the conditions for using the negotiated procedure;
- Harmonization of the provisions of the law with those of sectoral laws which provide for the use of public-private partnership.

At the same time, the public authorities have undertaken several efforts in terms of training, support, and monitoring of strategic studies and prior project evaluations, as well as the management of validated projects.

The use of PPPs has grown significantly in several areas, such as infrastructure, health, education, urban transport, agriculture. The potential projects communicated by the various partners that may be the subject of PPP present an important budget but remain dependent on the results of PPP tests (which can reach 20% and 25% compared to the annual average of overall public investment). The projects examined by the PPP Commission are estimated at 3 316 billion Dirhams between 2016 and 2019.

In terms of Program-Contracts (CPs), the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Administration Reform has undertaken the implementation of an action plan aimed at restructuring certain PECs within the framework of Program-Contracts (CP) with the State (as is the case in particular with ONEE, ONCF, RAM, ONDA, OFPPT, GBAM, ANP, HAO, CNSS). The number of contracts in progress includes the CPs between the Government and the RADEEMA Marrakech utility for the 2017-2019 period and between the Government and the CMR retirement fund for the 2018-2020 period.

Note that some CPs have expired and have been the subject of a retrospective evaluation such as the CP of Barid Al-Maghrib (Postal administration) (2014-2017), ONEE (National Electricity and Drinking Water Office) (2014-2017), and of the Bouregreg Valley Development Agency (2014-2018).

Capacity of the national statistical system to accommodate SDG indicators

The diagnostic updated by the High Commission for Planning shows that the national statistical system as a whole produces 102 indicators out of 244, or 41.8%.

Per type of indicator classified by level, the national statistical system can produce 61 level I indicators; or 56.5% of the indicators in this category, numbering 108. For level II indicators, the number produced is 35 indicators out of 95, or 37%. As for the category of level III indicators, 34 in number, the NSS can produce only 3 indicators, or nearly 9% of the indicators in this category.

Main challenges

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, a number of challenges should be faced, including:

- The development of financing for the implementation of the SDGs;
- The promotion of scientific research and technological innovation as well as the strengthening of partnerships between the State, the private sector, regions and universities;
- The diversification and strengthening of the competitiveness of the national exportable supply. In this context, it should be noted that in 2019, the weight of exporting companies in all companies reached only 7%. Along with its strength in attracting international companies, Morocco is called upon to further develop local companies capable of fitting into global value chains;

- Consolidation of the consistency of public policies at the national level, at the territorial level and between the two national and territorial spheres;
- The development of partnerships between all stakeholders (State, local authorities, universities, private sector, civil society);
- Promotion of international cooperation in the field of North-South and South-South scientific research;
- Promotion of the capacity of the national statistical system to support the SDG indicators.

Strategies and Programs

A series of sectoral strategies and programs has been or is being initiated to promote the different dimensions of Morocco's partnership strategy.

The field of finance

- The Constitution of July 29, 2011 established the performance approach of public action by instituting the principles of transparency and accountability, preserving the balance of State finances and strengthening parliamentary control over government action and the evaluation of public policies.
- The adoption of the performance-based budget approach, as part of the new organic finance law adopted in 2015, aimed at rationalizing existing expenditure and improving the effectiveness of public policies;
- Tax reform in order to establish tax fairness and promote national and foreign investment;
- Improving the business climate through a set of legal and institutional reforms, which would improve the attractiveness of foreign direct investments;
- The preservation of macroeconomic balances.

Domaine de recherche scientifique et innovation

- La stratégie nationale pour le développement de la recherche scientifique à l'horizon 2025 qui vise l'augmentation de la part du PIB affectée au financement de la recherche scientifique à 3% en 2025 ;
- L'initiative Maroc-Innovation dont l'objectif est de construire un environnement favorable à l'éclosion d'une économie à forte valeur ajoutée et de positionner le Maroc en tant que pays producteur de technologies ;
- La stratégie Maroc-digital 2020 qui vise à développer le numérique et en faire un outil de transformation économique et sociale du pays et renforcer son rôle actif au service des pays partenaires.

Field of scientific research and innovation

- The national strategy for the development of scientific research by 2025, which aims to increase the share of GDP allocated to financing scientific research to 3% by 2025;
- The Morocco-Innovation initiative, the goal of which is to build an environment favorable to the emergence of a high added value economy and to position Morocco as a technology-producing country;

- The Morocco-digital 2020 strategy which aims to develop digital technology and make it a tool for the country's economic and social transformation and strengthen its active role in the service of partner countries.

Trade domain

- The national "Morocco Export Plus" strategy with a strengthening of the financial means of the Export Promotion Fund, whose budget reached 200 million Dirhams, on annual average over the 2010-2018 period;
- Export support programs were implemented during the 2016-2020 period, in this case a support program for first-time exporters, an export growth contract program and support for sectoral professional associations. In 2018, the Moroccan Agency for Investment and Export Development supported 344 exporting companies.

Consistency of policies and institutional structures:

- The establishment with the Head of Government of a National Commission for Sustainable Development in charge of coordinating the implementation of the SDGs and monitoring their achievement;
- The adoption of a new organic finance law as a lever for the modernization of the Moroccan public administration, making it possible to strengthen the consistency of public policies, improve the performance of public action and the quality of the services provided citizens, to consolidate the role of Parliament in budgetary control and the evaluation of public policies. The instruments used in this context relate to the globalization of credits, the strengthening of budgetary deconcentration and contractualization between the central administrations and their deconcentrated services, the medium-term expenditure framework for a three-year and sliding budget programming, and reliance more on performance monitoring than ex ante monitoring.

Strengthening the capacity of the national statistical system to support the SDG indicators:

- Reforms of surveys in terms of their methodological approaches and their thematic and territorial coverage in order to enrich the database through the production of new indicators and the development of categorical and spatial disaggregations;
- The initiation of a process of digitizing all production and data dissemination lines;
- Modernization of the legal framework of the national statistical system by drafting a new bill in accordance with the fundamental principles of official statistics, recommended by the United Nations.

Evolution of the SDG17 indicators

Targets	Indicator Code	Indicators	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Target Value for 2030
17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.	17.1.1	Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source (in %)	23,2	21,4	21,6	21,6	20,7	22,7	-
	17.1.2	Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes. (in %)	68,1	72,2	72,0	74,9	75,8	71,9	-
17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources.	17.3.1	Foreign direct investment, official development assistance and South-South cooperation, as a proportion of the total national budget (these are inflows here)	14,13	15,82	11,97	13,83	17,28	11,37	-
	17.3.2	Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP	6,2	6,1	6,2	6,2	5,9		-
17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress.	17.4.1	Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services (in %)	7,4	7,6	8,6	8,5	7,1	6,9	-
17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology	17.8.1	Proportion de la population utilisant Internet	-	57,1	58,3	61,8	64,8		100

17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda.	17.10.1	Weighted tariff - average (applied by Morocco)	-	9,3	10,4	9,9	-	-	-
17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020.	17.11.1	Share of Morocco in global exports	-	0,14	0,14	0,15	0,15	-	-
17.12 Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access.	17.12.1	Average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing states (applied by Morocco)	-	-	-	-	-		-
		1a. To developing countries	-	-	7,5	7,4	7,2	6,2	
		1b. To the least developed countries	-	-	8,3	9,7	10,0	5,3	
		1c. To small island developing states	-	-	3,4	4,0	3,7	1,5	

Source: Ministry of Economy and Finance, Customs and Direct Tax Administration, ANRT, WTO, Foreign Exchange Office, High Commission for Planning

I. Response strategy against the Covid-19 pandemic

1. Responses strategy

Morocco was one of the most responsive countries in containing the coronavirus pandemic and mitigating its health, social and economic repercussions. In this regard, a series of measures have been taken, under the High Royal Directives, to both preserve the health of populations, help vulnerable social categories and mitigate the effects of the pandemic on the economic life of the country.

Thus, on March 17, Morocco created, in application of the High Royal Instructions, a special fund for the management of the Coronavirus pandemic "Covid-19" in the service of support to the health system and mitigation of effects on households and businesses. Its budget allocation was set at 10 billion Dirhams, but thanks to voluntary contributions from natural and legal persons, public and private, it reached, on April 24, approximately 32 billion Dirhams. These voluntary contributions revealed, beyond their financial amount, the ancestral values of solidarity and mobilization of the Moroccan people.

This solidarity is a good practice not only within the country, but also one of the guiding principles of Morocco's partnership strategy, especially with the African continent. Thus, His Majesty the King called for the establishment of an operational framework to support African countries in containing the pandemic and to exchange experiences and best practices in terms of the mitigation of its economic and social effects. This Royal initiative was, moreover, welcomed by several Heads of State and by the Pan-African Parliament.

In addition, preventive measures were also taken within the framework of the state of health emergency, relating in particular to lockdown, the suspension of sea and air transport of passengers, the suspension of courses in all schools, nurseries, educational and vocational training establishments, the closure of mosques, the suspension of sports activities, the limitation of the functioning of public spaces, with the exception of premises for the sale of basic necessities and the obligation to wear a mask.

In the health sector in particular, the measures undertaken concerned the mobilization, under the Royal Directives, of military medicine to strengthen public medical structures, the mobilization of the early detection and epidemiological monitoring system, the strengthening of the health care reception facilities, of the medical staff, and of the medical equipment.

In this context of the state of health emergency, measures have been taken to ensure the continuity of vital public services. These are the use of distance education and training, teleworking, and the implementation of online public services.

In order to guarantee the normal supply of the national markets in basic products, the measures taken have, essentially, concerned the follow-up and the regular control of the situation of supply, of prices and quality, and of the exemption of import taxes on basic food products.

The measures taken also concerned the provision to all and at an affordable price, of medical and paramedical equipment, in particular masks and hygiene, cleaning and disinfection products, which are national products.

In addition, to mitigate the social effects of the pandemic, monthly lump sums have been granted to employees and households working in the informal sector.

Specific measures have also been taken, directly or through the support of civil society associations, in favor of vulnerable categories including street children, people with disabilities, the elderly and women facing difficulties. These measures focused on the provision of urgent and local services, protection from violence, psychological support and the provision of advice and guidance. In this context, the prison population was surrounded with special attention, since a number of prisoners received a Royal Pardon and important preventive measures were taken to protect them against the spread of the virus.

Moroccans stranded abroad have also been at the centre of the strategy for dealing with the effects of the pandemic. To this end, cells to monitor their situation and their care have been created at the central administration level in Morocco and at the level of Diplomatic Missions and consular centers.

The efforts to control the implications of Covid-19 have been extended to cover public finances, macroeconomic balances and companies, especially, the most affected. These efforts focused on the rationalization of public spending and the reallocation of resources to priority sectors, the adoption of a decree authorizing the Government to exceed the ceiling on external borrowing to cope with the repercussions of the pandemic, which enabled the Government to resort to drawing on the precautionary and liquidity line (LPL) contracted with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In the same framework, the Central Bank of Morocco (Bank Al-Maghrib) has taken monetary and prudential measures, including, among other things, the reduction of the key rate from 2.25% to 2%, in order to support access to bank credit by households and businesses. As for the measures reserved for enterprises, in particular very small, small and medium-sized enterprises, they involved (i) the reduction of their costs through the suspension of their social contributions and the postponement of the repayment of bank loans and of the tax filings, (ii) the support of their cash flow by accelerating the payment of their debts by the Government and the creation of a "Damane Oxygene" mechanism to facilitate their access to bank loans, (iii) investment support via the "Excellence-Technology" program aimed at financing 30% of the investment cost intended the production of equipment used in the fight against the coronavirus and the facilitation of access to public procurements.

Also, and in order to ensure concerted and effective management of the pandemic, specialized coordination committees have been set up to take care of important aspects within the framework of the national response strategy against this pandemic.

These are the steering committee for monitoring the pandemic situation, the scientific and technical committee for monitoring and clarifying public decisions on medical and scientific aspects and the economic watch committee for monitoring the changes in the economic situation and the identification of support measures for affected households and economic sectors.

At the same time, monitoring units have been set up at the level of the various ministerial departments.

The crisis management measures were accompanied by a transparent and responsible communication strategy, focusing on a presentation on a regular basis of the evolution of the pandemic situation and an increased education of the populations to the need to comply with the state of health emergency in order to successfully exit the crisis.

II. Assessment of the effects of the pandemic on economic and social life

As part of its work to monitor the socio-economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the national economy and the situation of households, the High Commissioner's Office for Planning (HCP) carried out a study to estimate losses in economic growth and qualitative surveys of businesses and households.

1. Effects on economic growth

According to recent forecasts from the High Commission for Planning, economic activity during the first quarter of 2020 has experienced a significant slowdown, with economic growth having increased by 0.7%, instead of 1.9% in a scenario without Covid-19. The impact of this pandemic, and its lockdown corollary, would be greater in the second quarter, since economic growth would be cut by 8.9 points compared to its pre-Covid-19 crisis. In total, this would represent a potential overall loss in terms of GDP of around 29.7 billion Dirhams for the first half of 2020.

These results are due to the accentuation of the decline in agricultural value added following the poor performance of cereals, the production of which is said to have fallen to its lowest level since 2007. They are also attributable to the fall in foreign demand addressed to our country (-12.5% in the second quarter of 2020), due to the extension of the lockdown periods in several partner countries. Faced with this decline, our exports of goods and services in terms of volume should decline by 6.1% over the same period.

In addition to these negative shocks, domestic demand, which usually acts as a damper of fluctuations, would suffer from the prolongation of the lockdown period in Morocco over more than half of the second quarter. Growth in household consumption is expected to weaken by 1.2% in the second quarter of 2020, while investment should continue to decline at a rate of -26.5%. Imports, for their part, are expected to decline by 8.4%, suffering from lower demand for raw materials, capital goods and consumer goods. In terms of lines of business, the tertiary sector would suffer from the reduction in trade and transport and from the almost total cessation of activity in the field of accommodation and catering, and the added value of the secondary sector would decline by 8.9%, in annual variation in the same quarter.

2. Effects on business activity

The qualitative business survey focused on a sample of 4 000 organized businesses operating in the manufacturing, construction, energy, mining, fishing, trade, and commercial non-financial services. Its main results show that:

- Almost 142 000 companies, that is to say 57% of all companies, declared to have stopped their activities permanently or temporarily, whereas for those companies that continue to operate (43% of total companies), half of them are said to have reduced their production to adapt to the conditions imposed by this situation. 81% of them are said to have reduced it by 50% or more;
- The sectors most affected by this crisis are accommodation and catering (with 89% of companies that have stopped their operations), the textile and leather industries, metal and mechanical industries with 76% and 73%, respectively, as well as the construction sector with nearly 60% of businesses having stopped their operations;

- Regarding the effect of the crisis on employment, 27% of companies are said to have temporarily or permanently reduced their workforce. Thus, and according to the results of the survey, nearly 726 000 (excluding the financial and agricultural sector) positions have been reduced, or 20% of the workforce of organized businesses. These losses mainly affected services, industry (including fishing, energy and mining), and construction with job reduction rates of 17.5%, 22% and 24% respectively;
- By business category, VSEs (Very Small Enterprises) represent 72%, SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) 26%, and LEs (Large Enterprises) 2% of enterprises having temporarily or permanently stopped their operations. 49% of VSMEs that were active during the reference period of the survey, are said to have reduced their production due to the current health crisis, and more than half of the reduced workforce (57%) are employees of VSMEs;
- Almost 67% of exporting companies are said to have been affected by the health crisis. One in 9 companies is said to have stopped its activity permanently, 5 in 9 companies are said to have resorted to a temporary cessation of activity, while one third of companies are still in business but are said to have reduced their production. One third of the companies that remain in operation have been forced to cut production. A reduction of 133 000 jobs (18% all sectors combined) is to be deplored in the export sector, where textile and leather exporters are the most affected sectors with a reduction of more than 50 000 jobs, that is to say 62% of the total number of jobs reduced in that sector.

3. Effects on households

In order to follow the adaptation of the lifestyle of households under the constraints imposed by the lockdown and in order to assess the impact of the coronavirus on their economic, social and psychological situation, the High Commissioner's Office for Planning (HCP) carried out a survey among households, by telephone. Its results, by theme, are as follows:

Compliance with lockdown measures: 79% of the population have fully complied with the quarantine rules and 99.5% have adopted protective gestures to protect themselves against Covid-19.

Availability of consumer and hygiene products: for 93% of households, basic food products are available. However, their prices rose during the lockdown for 24% of households, while they experienced no change for 75% of households.

Sources of income during lockdown: 34% of households say they have no source of income due to stopping their activity (35% of rural and 33% of city dwellers). This proportion reaches 44% for poor households, 42% among households with precarious housing, 54% for craftsmen and skilled workers, 47% for merchants, and 46% among workers and agricultural laborers.

Compared to their current financial situation, for 38% of households, income just covers expenses, 22% of households draw on their savings, 14% resort to debt, and 8% rely on state aid to cover their daily expenses.

Public aid to households: 19% of households received state aid to compensate for job loss: 13% under the RAMEL program and 6% under the assistance program for formal employees ((implemented by the Moroccan Social Security Fund, CNSS).

According to the source of aid, 31% of the transfers received come from the Government through the Assistance Program for Formal Employees (implemented by CNSS). With respect to all Moroccan households, the share of households benefiting from this aid program amounts to 6%.

Distance education and training: For 48% of households, children attending primary school pursue distance education on a regular basis, using the various digital media put in place. This share is 51% for college students, 69% for high school students, and 56% for higher education students. It should be noted, however, that for 18% of households, children attending school do not follow distance learning (29% in rural areas and 13% in urban areas).

Difficulties in following lessons, reported by households, are mainly due to the lack or insufficiency of remote access channels (51% of households with children in primary school and 48% in middle school). This constraint weighs more on rural households (55% and 54% respectively) and poor households (60% and 53% respectively). The insufficiency of these channels is, moreover, the main difficulty for 41% of households with children in secondary school, and 29% in higher education.

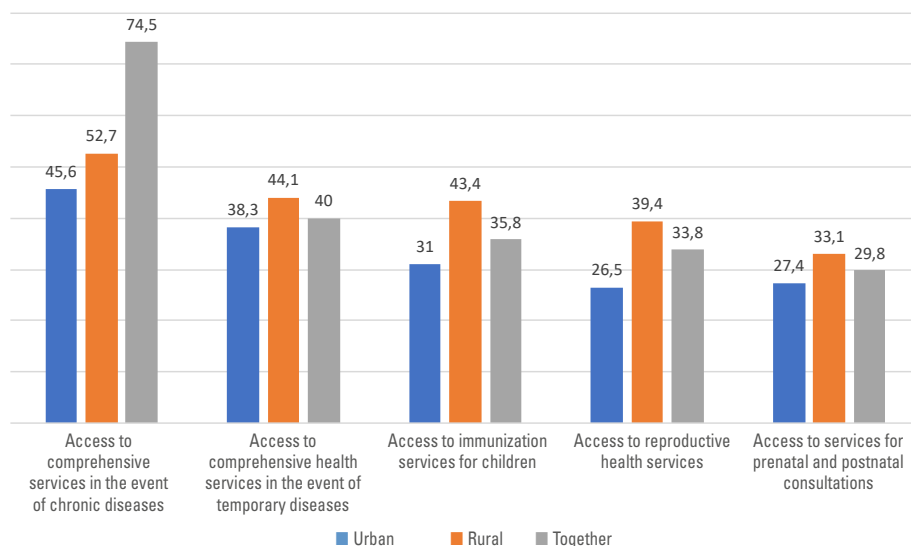
Social networks are the most used channels for taking distance learning courses: 40% of households with children in primary school, 44% in middle school and 46% in secondary school. National television channels come second with 39% for primary education, 29% for college and especially in rural areas, respectively 63% and 44%.

The use of digital platforms set up by the Ministry of National Education increases with the level of education: 9% for primary, 20% for college and 30% for secondary. These digital media are less widespread in rural areas (respectively 4%, 12%, and 27%). The platforms set up by private education institutions are used by 27% of households with children in primary school, 34% in middle school and 52% in secondary school. Those created by higher education institutions are used by 37%.

75% of parents assist their children in primary school, 36% on a regular basis. These percentages are respectively 81% and 44% in urban areas, 64% and 20% in rural areas, 84% and 60% in the private education sector and 71% and 31% in the public sector.

Use of health services: Sanitary lockdown hinders access to health care, especially for people with chronic illnesses.

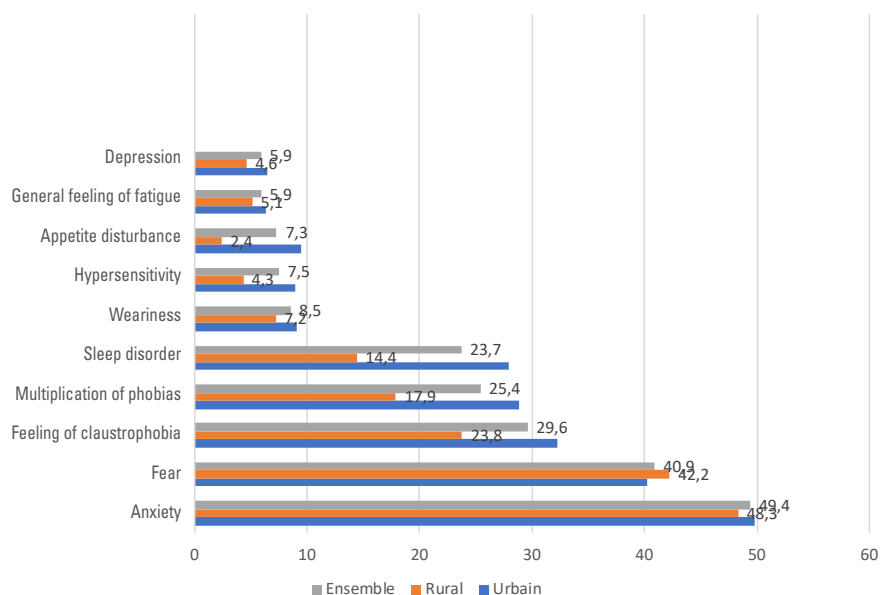
Proportion of target populations not using comprehensive health services



Source : High Commission for Planning – 2020

Psychological reactions: The main effects of lockdown on the psychological state of households are illustrated in the graph below:

Psychological impacts of confinement on households (in %)



Source : High Commission for Planning – 2020

In the event of an extension of the lockdown period, one in two households (53%) would be ready to bear, but with difficulty, with a possible extension of the lockdown period and 36% would bear it without difficulty.

More than 80% of households believe that material support to needy households is the most effective way for a successful lockdown. Other measures were mentioned, in particular granting

compensation for job loss (38%), facilitating the local supply of food and non-food products (38%), providing school children with the necessary equipment to succeed in the training. remotely (28%), and providing home assistance to vulnerable people (25%).

III. Outlook for the SDGs by 2030

The United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development reviewed, during the first cycle of voluntary national reviews, the progress recorded since 2016 at the level of the 17 goals and submitted for debate the four cross-cutting themes constituting the strategic areas of the 2030 Agenda. In line with this first cycle, the Forum adopted, for its 2019 edition, the main theme "Accelerated action and transformative paths: concretizing the decade of actions and achievements in favor of Sustainable development".

Like the international community and five years after the adoption of 2030 Agenda, the Kingdom of Morocco, having made significant progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, is working and seeking to mobilize all means available, national and international, to meet its commitments under the SDGs over the next decade.

Morocco has embarked, under the High Royal Directives, on a project to overhaul its development model. This would be such as to provide an adequate prospective framework for tracing its sustainable development route and, consequently, to give a new impetus to the dynamics of reforms and strategies, already initiated or planned, in favor of the acceleration of the implementation of the SDGs.

In order to approach the challenges to be taken up in relation to the 2030 Agenda and to shed light on the choice of priority public policies to be undertaken in this regard, scenarios for the evolution of the SDGs were simulated on the basis of a model of computable general equilibrium (Sustainable Development Goal Simulations; abbreviated SDGSIM), developed by the High Commission for Planning in collaboration with UNDP.

The SDGSIM model is built to conduct analyzes of medium and long-term development policies, particularly those related to the 2030 Agenda. It provides a global and coherent view of the economy, in particular the links between production and the creation of income and the interactions between the micro and macroeconomic behavior of the different economic agents which are households, companies, the State (budgetary and fiscal policies) and the rest of the world.

The accounting framework for the model is provided by the Social Accounting Matrix (SAM), produced by the national accounts. On the basis of data from the survey on consumer spending and the survey on employment, this has been the subject of a more detailed disaggregation to support a large part of the targets retained by the 2030 Agenda.

In this context, 43 sectors (activities and basic products) have been selected at the production level to properly capture inter-sectoral exchanges within the national productive fabric. The factors of production have also been disaggregated to distinguish between labor, capital, land (for agricultural crops), and natural resources (divided between forestry, fishing and mining).

It should therefore be noted that the labor factor has been segmented according to skill levels with a view to matching the level of education. Households, for their part, were disaggregated by area and by income level to capture the redistribution within households and hence the levels of poverty and inequality.

On this basis, three scenarios for the development of the national economy were analyzed as well as their repercussions on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. First, a trend scenario was developed and traces the evolution of the Moroccan economy by projecting until 2030, the socio-economic achievements observed in recent years. A second scenario, said to be probable, supports the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the national economy and traces the trajectory of its evolution, with a gradual recovery after the period of recession caused by this pandemic. The third so-called desirable scenario is intended to be a proactive scenario where the national economy would benefit from the reforms and the opportunities offered today in the national and international context.

4. The trend scenario

The trend scenario assumes the consolidation of the economic dynamics of recent years. It assumes, in fact, that the shares observed in 2019, for the main macroeconomic indicators in relation to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), would be maintained until 2030. These are in particular public consumption, public investments, private investments (domestic and foreign), foreign and domestic financing (net interest borrowing) for government and the private sector, the level of foreign exchange reserves and transfer payments relating to the government or to the rest of the world.

Overall, the Moroccan economy should continue to grow by 3% per year between 2020 and 2030. In terms of the components of final domestic demand (absorption), household consumption, by far the most important, is expected to grow at 2.9% per year, private investment at 2.1% and public consumption at 3.3%. The external trade deficit is said to be growing, despite the 3.8% increase in exports, higher than the 3.2% increase in imports.

At the sectoral level, market services would register the highest value added, followed by manufacturing industry, utilities and agriculture. The growth rate would be 3% per year by 2030 for market services and utilities and is expected to average between 1.9% and 3% respectively for agriculture and manufacturing. The mining industry sector is said to have the lowest growth rate, below 1%.

The indicators relating to all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would thus improve in 2030. The field of education, in particular, would see a drop of 16.7% in the proportion of out-of-school adolescents and an increase. 6.4% of the pre-school enrolment rate, 1.4% of the primary and 4.5% secondary school completion rate and 12% of the higher education enrolment rate.

In the health sector, infant and neonatal mortality rates are said to have fallen significantly by 15.3% and 12.7% respectively. Maternal mortality would drop by 20.1%. There would also be a 2% increase in the proportion of the population with access to drinking water and 5.7% to sanitation.

In addition, the inequalities measured by the Gini coefficient, should experience a slight increase, going from 39.5% in 2019 to 39.6% in 2030, i.e. a growth of 3.6% over the entire period.

Table 1: SDG indicators in 2019 and in the trend scenario in 2030 (in %)

SDG Indicators	Situation in 2019	Basic scenario in 2030	Variation
Preschool enrolment rate (% gross)	61,3	65,2	6,4%
Primary completion rate (% of relevant age group)	95,9	97,3	1,4%
College completion rate (% of relevant age group)	64,6	67,5	4,5%
Adolescents not attending school (% college school age)	10,3	8,6	-16,7%
Higher enrolment rate (% gross)	35,9	40,2	12,0%
Infant mortality rate, under 5 years (per 1 000)	22,2	18,8	-15,3%
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	13,6	11,8	-12,7%
Population using at least basic drinking water services (% of the population)	93,0	94,8	2,0%
Population using safely managed drinking water services (% of population)	79,8	86,3	8,1%
Population using at least basic sanitation services (% of population)	96,9	102,4	5,7%
Maternal mortality rate (per 100 000 live births)	72,6	58,0	-20,1%
Population using safely managed sanitation services (% of population)	68,2	82,3	20,6%

5. The probable scenario

This scenario assumes that the recession caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in several countries, in particular Morocco's trading partners, would not be re-established until the next two years, due to the slowdown or even the cessation of production, disruption of supply chains and slowing global demand.

In this context, the demand addressed to Morocco would be low and would experience a very long return to normal during this period. However, once this disruption has passed, a certain revival of vigor in the world economy would return, driven mainly by the good behavior of emerging and developing economies, consequently positively impacting demand addressed to Morocco.

However, this outlook should not lose sight of the persistence of some major uncertainties, the occurrence of which could jeopardize the strength of the global economy that would emerge after the Covid-19 pandemic. These are particularly the fears related to the intensification of trade retaliation measures between the United States and China, the eminent risks of a probable resurgence of geopolitical tensions, especially at the crossroads of the major production areas of raw materials of energy source as well as the uncertainties relating to Bruit.

Faced with this international context with globally mixed developments, the Moroccan economy would show resilience since a dynamism of national exports would be back, driven by the performance of the sectors forging the backbone of Morocco's global professions as well as by the performance that would be observed on the side of foreign direct investment (FDI) flows received by Morocco. Such positive results would be corollary to the reforms deployed by Morocco in terms of modernizing its production system and strengthening its competitiveness.

In this context, the rate of GDP growth would be improved to reach 4% per year and would be

a corollary to the deployment of several sector programs and strategies that have contributed to the modernization of the country's infrastructure and to raising the specialization profile of its production system. This is how the manufacturing industries and market services sectors will grow by 3.9% and 4.5% respectively, while the agricultural sector will experience an annual average growth of 2.5% over the next ten years.

In this context, the SDG indicators would experience improvements compared to the trend scenario. In the area of education, the decline in the share of out-of-school adolescents would be 23.8% instead of 16.7% in the trend scenario. There would also be larger declines in infant and newborn mortality rates, of around 21.8% and 18.3% instead of 15.3% and 12.7% respectively in the trend scenario. Maternal mortality would drop by 28.3% instead of 20.1%.

Table 2: SDG indicators in 2019 and in the probable scenario in 2030 (in %)

SDG Indicators	Situation in 2019	Basic scenario in 2030	Variation
Preschool enrolment rate (% gross)	61,3	67,2	9,6%
Primary completion rate (% of relevant age group)	95,9	97,9	2,1%
Children not attending school (% of primary school age)	0,5	0,4	-17,0%
College completion rate (% of relevant age group)	64,6	68,9	6,6%
Adolescents not attending school (% college school age)	10,3	7,9	-23,8%
Higher enrolment rate (% gross)	35,9	42,4	18,1%
Infant mortality rate, under 5 years (per 1 000)	22,2	17,4	-21,8%
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	13,6	11,1	-18,3%
Population using at least basic drinking water services (% of the population)	93,0	95,6	2,7%
Population using safely managed drinking water services (% of population)	79,8	89,1	11,6%
Population using at least basic sanitation services (% of population)	96,9	98,8	2,0%
Maternal mortality rate (per 100 000 live births)	72,6	52,1	-28,3%
Population using safely managed sanitation services (% of population)	68,2	89,7	31,6%

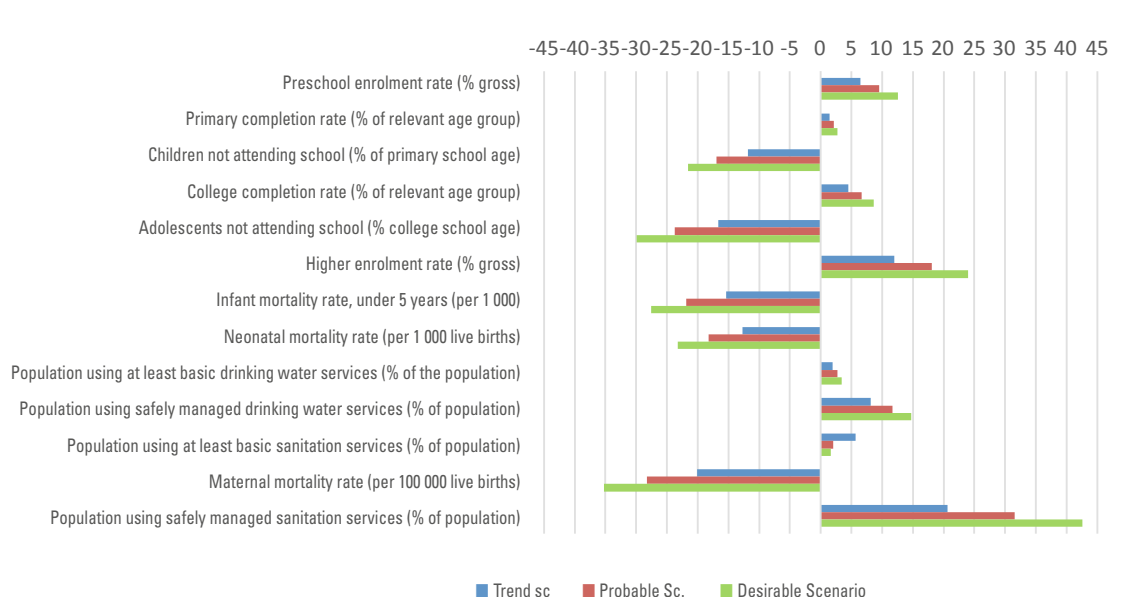
6. The desirable scenario

This alternative scenario, which is intended to be desirable, is simulated to highlight the gain that Morocco could achieve in terms of economic growth and progress in achieving the sustainable development goals if certain conditions are met. It is essentially a question of the substantial improvement in the return on investments made and a consequent enhancement of the opportunities offered by free trade agreements in terms of expanding external markets. Strengthening industrial integration in certain promising sectors and raising their competitiveness are also necessary to alleviate the competitive pressures created by imports on the national productive fabric. Mobilization of public investment would be further supported in favor of economic infrastructure, including roads, highways, ports, airports, and dams.

In this scenario, the national economy would gain almost two points of growth compared to the trend scenario. The manufacturing sector would be a driving force in this dynamic and its evolution would be 6.4% on annual average over the next ten years. Likewise, the market services sectors as well as that of agriculture would experience notable improvements with growth of 4.9% and 3.8% respectively.

From the standpoint of the sustainable development goals, their evolution would be notable compared to the trend scenario as shown in the figure below. In the field of education, the decline in the share of out-of-school adolescents would be 30% instead of 16.7% in the trend scenario. In the health sector, the maternal mortality rate would drop to 47 deaths per 100 000 live births instead of 58 in the trend scenario, i.e. a drop of 35.2%.

Figure: Change in SDGs by scenario (in % compared to 2019)



IV. Main results of the consultation with civil society concerning the implementation of the SDGs

1. Context, goal, and methodological elements of the consultation

In application of the participatory approach in the preparation of the high-level report on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a consultation with civil society was organized, within the framework of cooperation between the High Commissioner's Office for Planning (HCP), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and 10 other UN agencies.

The main goal of this consultation was to highlight the efforts of the fabric of NGOs with its different horizons, in participating in the process of implementation and reporting on the SDGs.

It was organized online from March 24 to April 20, 2020. A questionnaire was, for this purpose, made available to all associations, accessible on the institutional websites of ministerial departments, High Commission for Planning, and UNDP, with a press release announcing the event and the terms of participation.

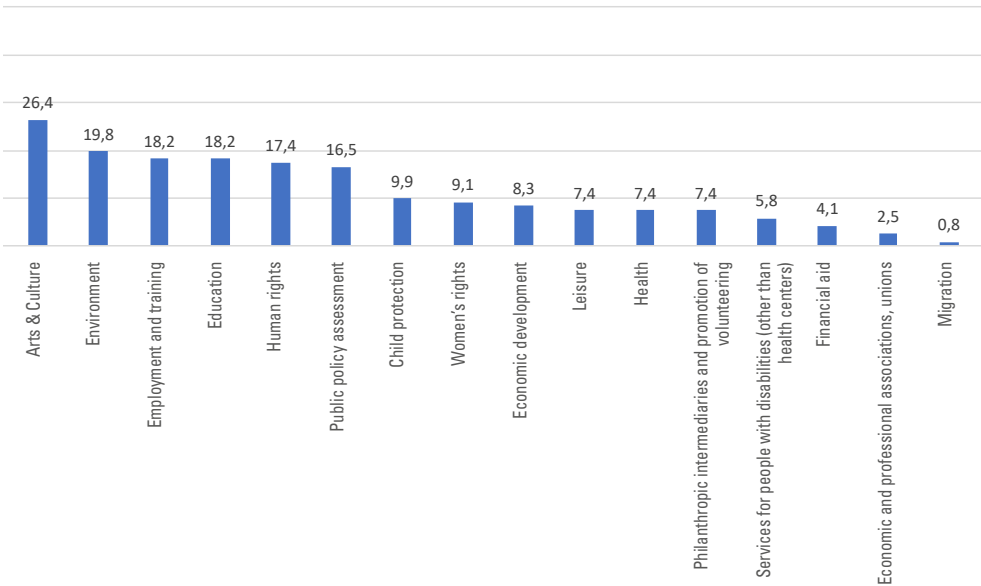
2. Main results of the consultation

Répartition des associations participantes par région : au total 121 associations ont participé à la consultation, couvrant l'ensemble du territoire national, dont 78% se concentrent dans six régions, à savoir Rabat-Salé-Kénitra et Casablanca-Settat avec 16,5% chacune, Marrakech-Safi (13,2%), Guelmim-Oued Noun (11,6%), l'Oriental (10,7%) et Fès-Meknès (9,1%).

Ciblage territorial : Classées selon leur rayonnement géographique⁴³, 52,1% des associations ayant répondu ont déclaré que leurs actions sont de portée locale, 51,2% de portée nationale, 49,6% de portée régionale et 19,8% de portée internationale.

Domaines d'intervention : Les résultats de la consultation montrent que les associations participantes se préoccupent de la quasi-totalité des domaines des ODD, mais avec une préférence pour certains d'entre eux. Le développement humain, la jeunesse et la culture sont, en effet, les principaux domaines qui bénéficient le plus de l'action associative. 2 associations sur 3 (62%) interviennent dans le domaine du développement humain, alors que plus de 2 parmi 5 (42%) ciblent la jeunesse, au moment où plus d'1 association sur 4 (26,4%) exerce dans le domaine de l'art et de la culture et 20% dans l'environnement.

Distribution of associations according to focus areas



Source: Consultation with civil society

Level of knowledge of the SDGs: These associations also have a high level of knowledge of the SDGs since 77% of them believe that their level of knowledge of the 2030 development agenda is relatively high (from 3 to 5 out of a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 corresponding to the "very familiar" level).

43 C'est une question à réponses multiples

Distribution of associations according to the level of knowledge of the SDGs (scale of 1 to 5, with 1 “not at all familiar” and 5 “very familiar”)

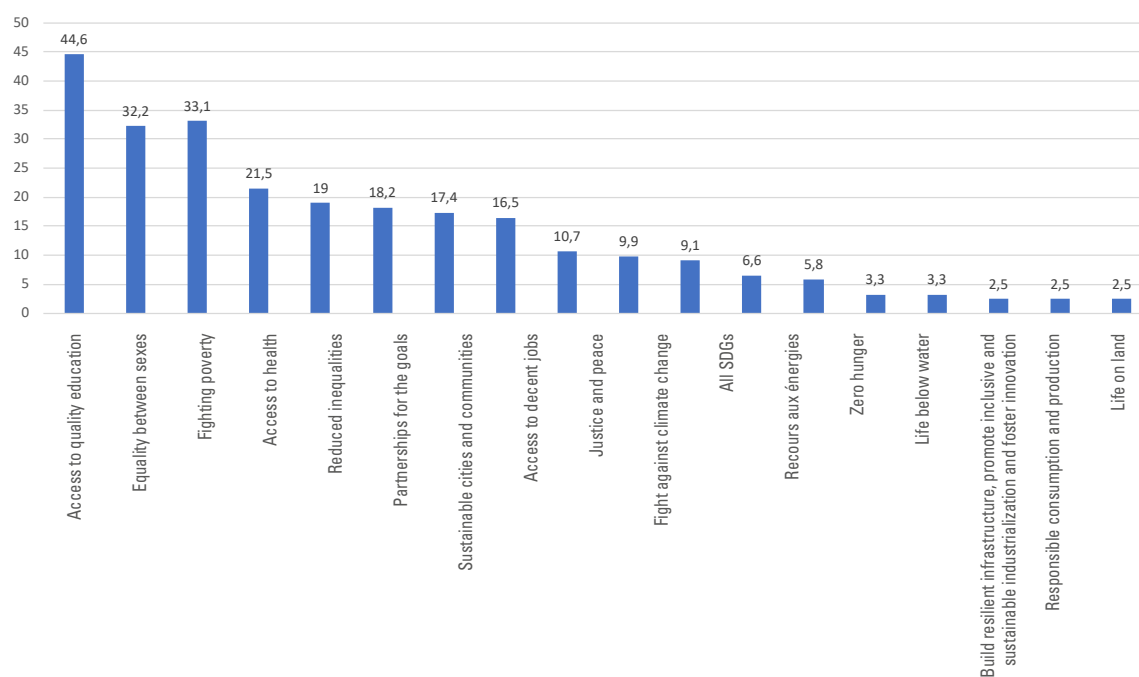
Scale	Numbers	%
1	17	14
2	11	9,1
3	30	24,8
4	34	28,1
5	29	24,0
Total	121	100

Source: Consultation with civil society

Participation in meetings on SDGs: The participation of associations in meetings on the SDGs remains, overall, very limited, given that around two-thirds (61.2%) did not participate in any meeting and only 10.7% took part in national consultations. organized in 2016 and 2019. Regarding international events on sustainable development, 11.6% participated in the African Regional Forum and less than 1% (only one association) participated in the United Nations High Level Political Forum.

When asked about the main SDGs targeted by their actions, it seems that the associative actors participating in the consultation act in favor of all the SDGs, but they pay more attention to SDG4 on the promotion of education, with 44.6%, followed by SDG1 on the fight against poverty, with 33.1%, and SDG5 aimed at achieving gender equality, with 32.2%.

Distribution of associations according to the targeted SDGs



Source: Consultation with civil society

Territorial level targeted in terms of achieving the SDGs: It emerges from the consultation that the region constitutes the appropriate space for the majority of non- governmental organizations. Indeed, this space is targeted by 51.2% of NGOs, followed by the local level with 47%. International influence is also present in the action of around 16% of NGOs.

Target populations: The population groups benefiting from the efforts of these NGOs are mainly young people who are targeted by 90% of the NGOs, followed by women with 72%, children with 62% and people with disabilities with 35%.

Distribution of associations according to the population groups targeted by their actions		
Main population groups targeted	Membership of associations	Share of the associations (%)
Women	85	70,2
Children	75	62,0
Youth	109	90,1
Senior citizens	31	25,6
Migrants	30	24,8
People with disabilities	42	34,7
Nomadic populations	15	12,4
Other	5	4,1

Source: Consultation with the civil society

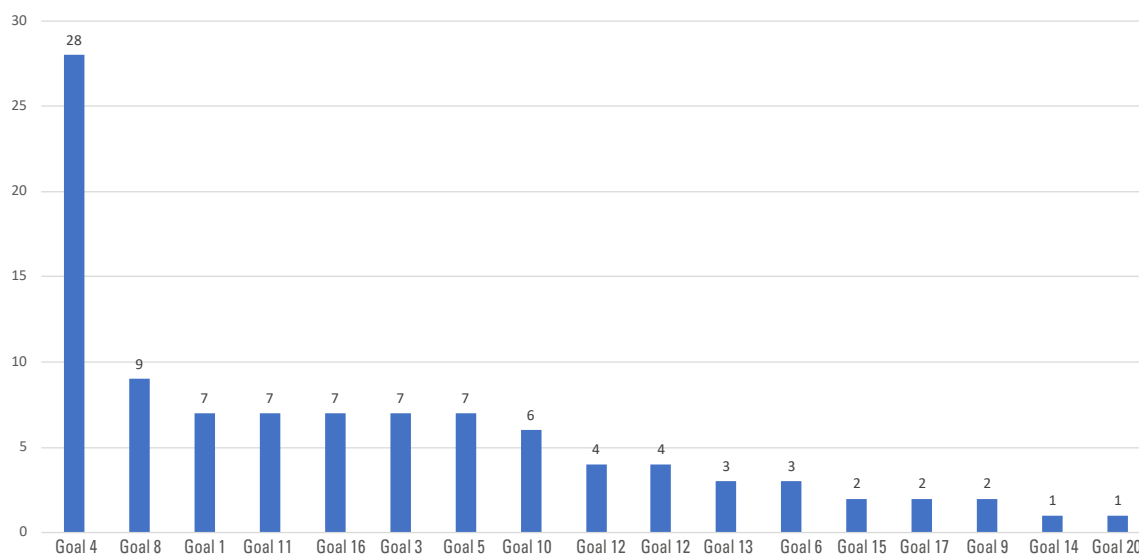
Nature of the contributions in the implementation of the SDGs: it takes different forms, including awareness raising and capacity building which monopolize the contributions of more than 80% of associations. Direct project implementation and advocacy are no less important, occupying the third and fourth form of contributions with 61.2% and 55.4% respectively.

Breakdown of associations according to the nature of their contributions to the implementation of 2030 Agenda		
Main population groups targeted	Membership of associations	Share of the associations (%)
Advocacy	67	55,4%
Awareness-raising	97	80,2%
Capacity building	97	80,2%
Implementation of projects	74	61,2%

Source: consultation with civil society

Main actions carried out since 2015 in favor of the SDGs: The flagship actions undertaken since 2015 have mainly benefited SDG4 (Education), followed by SDG8 (Growth and employment) with 9% and then five SDGs with 7 % each (SDGs 1, 3, 5, 11, and 16).

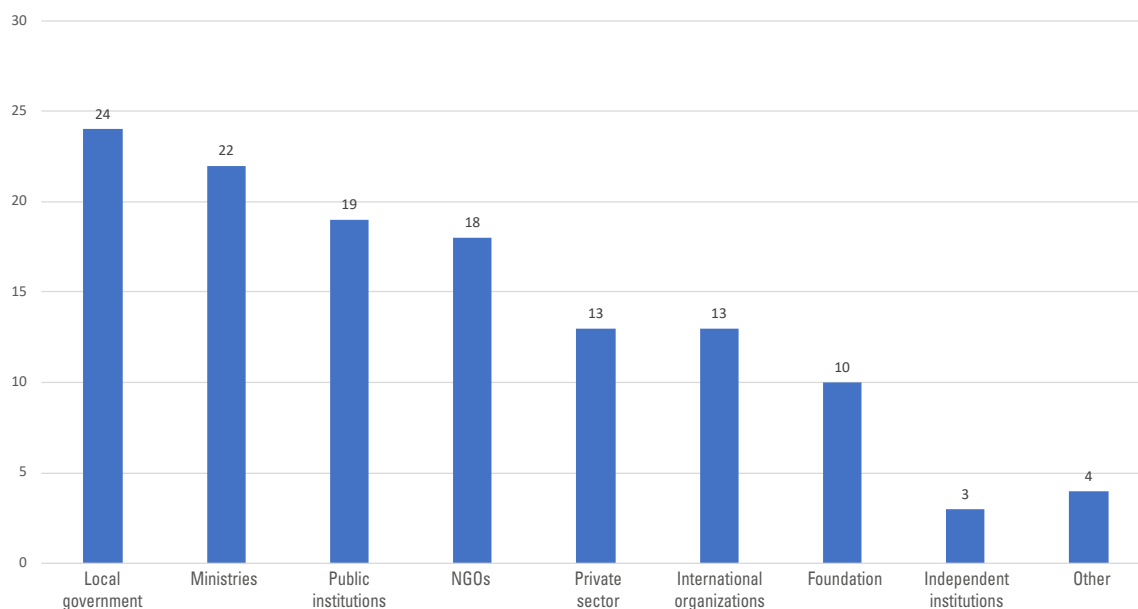
Breakdown of the flagship actions carried out per SDG since 2015



Source: consultation with civil society.

Main partners: The main partners of these associations in carrying out their flagship actions are local authorities involved in 19% of actions, followed by ministerial departments with 18%.

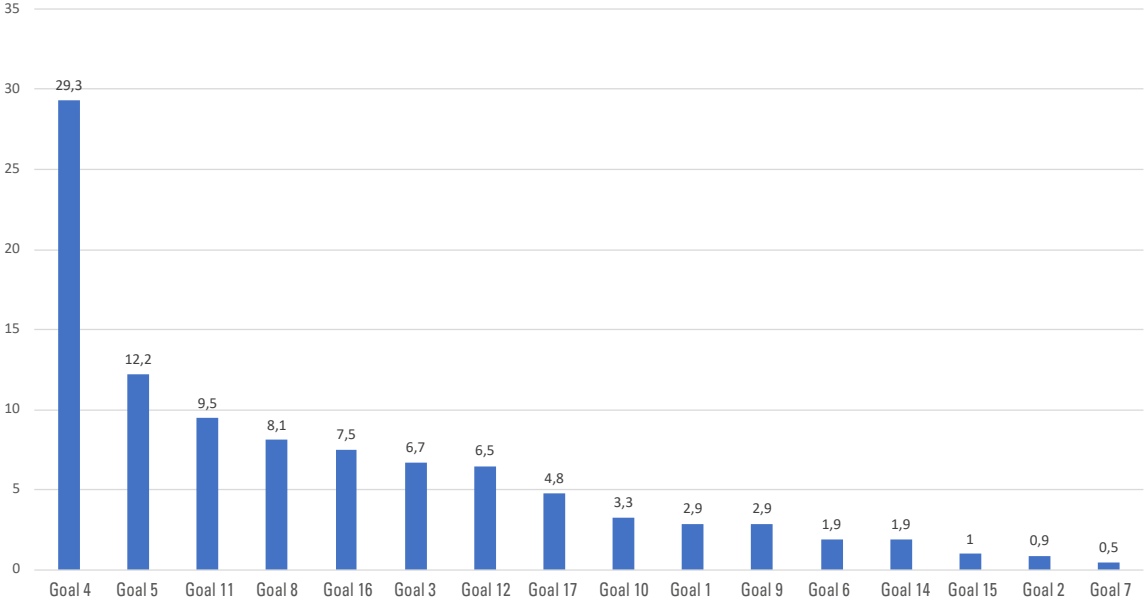
Breakdown of completed projects by type of partner



Source: Consultation with civil society.

Main actions contemplated per SDG: The actions contemplated by the associations participating in the consultation relate primarily to SDG4 (Education) with 29%. Goal 5 (Gender equality) would benefit from 12.2% of the main actions contemplated.

Main actions contemplated per SDG



Source: Consultation with civil society.

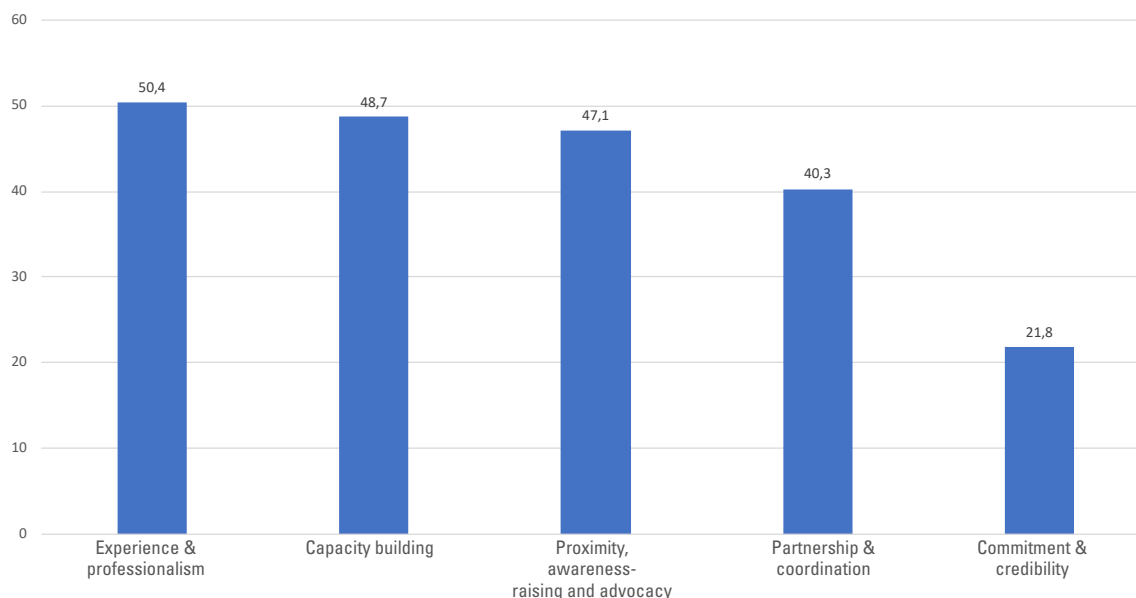
Self-assessment and factors promoting the roles of associations in achieving the SDGs: Beyond the efforts they deploy, associations consider that their roles in the implementation of the SDGs can be improved, but this perfection is dependent on a number of factors.

In this context, the associations rely, first of all, on "experience and professionalism" with more than 50% of the associations, followed closely by "capacity building" with almost 49%.

Proximity, awareness and advocacy are also a source of improving the contributions of civil society to the implementation of the SDGs since they are thus designed by 47% of associations, followed by partnership and cooperation with 40%.

Thus, around 90% of associations appreciate "important to very important" the roles they can play in achieving the SDGs.

Main factors for strengthening the role of associations in achieving the SDGs

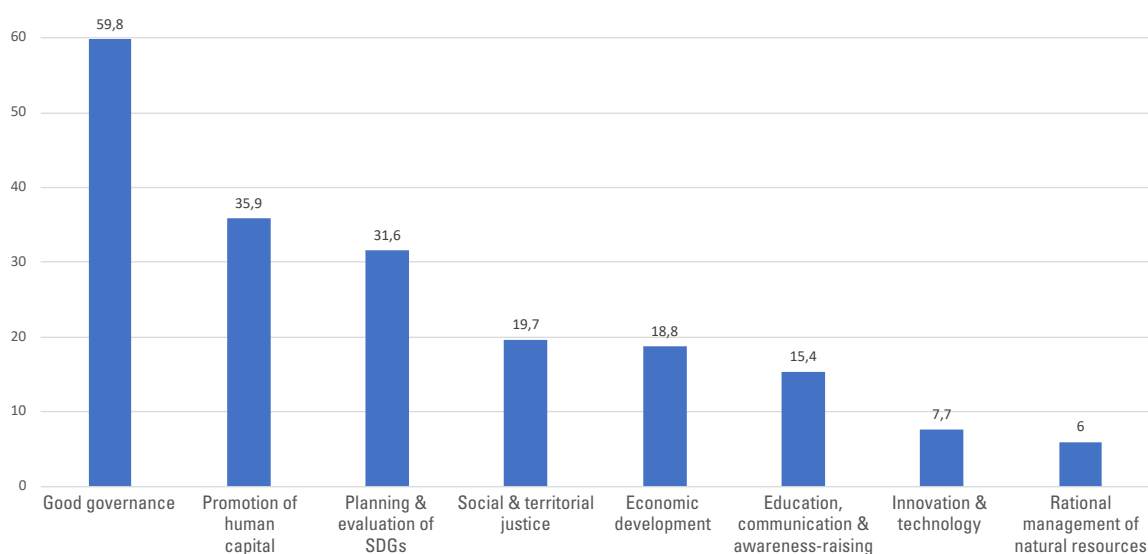


Source: Consultation with the civil society

Proposals for levers allowing Morocco to speed up the implementation of the SDGs: 60% of NGOs consider that good governance, in particular the involvement of civil society and the strengthening of its human, financial and logistical capacities, constitutes a powerful lever on which Morocco should act to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

NGOs also establish the promotion of human capital and the planning and evaluation of the implementation of the SDGs as an obligatory step so that Morocco can speed up its pace of achievement of these Goals and the related targets.

Main levers proposed to speed up the achievement of the SDGs



Source: Consultation with civil society.

List of acronyms

4C	Climate Change Competence Center
AcFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AFE	Trade Facility Agreement
AMB	Basic Health Insurance
AMC	Complementary Health Insurance
AMDIE	Moroccan Agency for the Development of Investments and Exports
CHI	Compulsory health insurance
AMPCC	Moroccan Association of Presidents of Communal Councils
ANRT	National Telecommunications Regulatory Agency
AOI	Agricultural Orientation Index of public expenditure
APALD	Authority for Gender Parity and the Fight against All Forms of Discrimination
ARM	Association of Regions in Morocco
AU	African Union
BAM	Barid Al-Maghrib
BAU	Business as Usual
CC	Climate change
CCAC	Climate and Clean Air Coalition
CCP	City Climate Plan
CE-BSG	Center of Excellence for Gender Responsive Budgeting
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all the forms of Discrimination against Women
CFC	Chlorofluorocarbons Elimination Schedule
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMPP	Moroccan Center for Clean Production
CMR	Moroccan Pension Fund
CNCB	National Commission on Climate Change and Biological Diversity
CNDH	National Council for Human Rights
CNRST	National Center for Scientific and Technical Research
CNS	National Health Accounts
CNSS	National Social Security Fund
COP	Conference of the Parties
DDA	Digital Development Agency
HVAC	Monitoring and Coordination Center
DE	Department of Environment
DH	Dirham
DTC	Dwelling threatening to collapse
EAP	Exemplary Administration Pact
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EU	European Union

ENCDM	National Survey on Household Consumption
ESISE	Educational Statistical Information System Explorer
FACS	Social Cohesion Support Fund
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMDV	Global Fund for the Development of Cities
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GCME	General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises
GFCF	Gross Fixed Capital Formation
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
GMP	Green Morocco Plan
GPE	Governmental Plan for Equality
GSB	Gender Sensitive Budgeting
GWh	Giga Watt-Hour
HAO	Al Omrane Development Holding
HCP	High Commission for Planning
GPE ICRAM	Governmental Plan for Equality called ICRAM: Concerted Initiatives for the Strengthening of Moroccan Women's Acquisitions
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDF	Industrial Development Fund
INBA	National Institute of Fine Arts
INSAP	National Institute of Archaeological and Heritage Sciences
IPE	Compensation for Loss of Employment
ISADAC	Higher Institute of Dramatic Art and Cultural Animation
KFW	German Bank
LCL	Low Consumption Lamps
LOF	Organic Law relating to the Finance Law
MAD	Moroccan Dirham
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution
MASEN	Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEME	Ministry of Energy and Environment
MoE	Ministry of Education
MENA	North Africa and Middle East
NCD	Non Communicable Disease
MRA	Moroccan Residing Abroad
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System
MVDHI	Voluntary Industrial Water Depollution Mechanism
NACC	National Anti-Corruption Commission
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAPDHR	National Action Plan for Democracy and Human Rights

NCD	Non Communicable Disease
NCP	National Climate Plan
NFP	National Flood Protection Plan
NHWP	National Household Waste Program
NICTs	New Information and Communication Technologies
NIS-GHG	National Greenhouse Gas Inventory System
NPPS	National Plan for Pooled Sanitation
NRSP	National Rural Support Programme
NSIA	National Strategy for Immigration and Asylum
NSP	National Sanitation Program
NSSD	National Strategy for Sustainable Development
NWP	National Water Plan
NWRRP	National Waste Reduction and Recovery Program
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OFPPT	Office for Vocational Training and Work Promotion
ONDA	National Airports Authority
ONEE	National Office for Water and Electricity
PAGER	Grouped Drinking Water Supply Program in Rural Areas
NAPDHR	National Action Plan for Democracy and Human Rights
PC	Program Contract
PNAir	National Air Program
PNDI-CREM	National Program for the Integrated Development of Emerging Rural Centers
PNPE	National Plan for the Promotion of Employment
PNRR	National Rural Road Construction Program
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PPA	Purchasing Power Parity
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PCSP	Pregnancy and Childbirth Surveillance Program
PTOS	Public Transport in Own Sites
RAM	Royal Air Maroc
RAMED	Medical Assistance Plan
RCP	Regional Climate Plan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SBEI	Site of Biological and Ecological Interest
SCFEP	Subnational Climate Finance Expertise Program
SFND	Special Fund for Combating the Effects of Natural Disasters
SFTR	Support Fund for Urban and Interurban Transport Reforms
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
SNDRZM	National Strategy for the Development of Rural Areas and Mountain Areas
SUMP	Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans
TOE	Tons of Oil Equivalent
TIMSS	Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study

TSDRP	Territorial and Social Disparities Reduction Program
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
VSE	Very Small Enterprise
VTCs	Vocational training centers
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
WMA	Watershed Management Agency
WWTPs	Wastewater Treatment Plants

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