

33. Country profile: Morocco



1. Development profile

Morocco is a North-African country with a population of more than 31 million, primarily Sunni Muslims of Arab/Berbers ancestry. The main part lives to the west of the Atlas Mountains which insulates the country from the desert.¹

Morocco gained their independency in 1956 after being a protectorate of France (Spain having the protection power over certain areas) since the Treaty of Fes in 1912. After Morocco became independent, the country got back control over certain Spanish ruled areas, but Spain still controls the small coastal enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla in the north. The official language is Arabic, but French still serves as the primary language of commerce and government.²

Even though education is free and compulsory through primary school, many children (particularly girls in rural areas) do not attend school and, if they do, the majority drop out after elementary school. This becomes clear from looking at literacy rates which equal only 10 percent for females in rural areas. It is 39 percent among women in general and 65 percent for men which state the differences in gender as well.³ At the King's initiative, the parliament made changes to the Family Code in 2004 to make the situation for women better. It included making polygamy only allowed with the permission from the first wife and a judge, raising the legal age for marriage for girls to 18, and simplifying divorce procedures for women. Due to the court judges not applying the law strictly, women still suffer from violence and inequality in Morocco.⁴

The Morocco consists of a strong monarchy with a weak Parliament and judicial branch, meaning that the dominant authority is the King. The King appoints the prime minister along with the ministers of foreign affairs, interior, defence and Islamic affairs and approves all other ministers. Besides that, it is the King that calls for elections, dissolves parliament, rules by decree and is the head of the military.⁵

¹*World Factbook: Morocco* (2010, September). Retrieved from United States Central Intelligence Agency: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mo.html>

²*Countries and Regions: Morocco* (2010, September). Retrieved from the U.S. Department of State: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5431.htm>

³ Ibid.

⁴ *Morocco: Current Issues*. (2010, February). Retrieved from Congressional Research Service: <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RS21579.pdf>

⁵ Ibid.

The economy in Morocco is relatively good with macroeconomic stability, generally low inflation and moderately high growth rates over the past years. The country's primary challenges are to accelerate growth, with the growth rate declining in 2009 and 2010, and reduce unemployment and underemployment. In 2009 the overall unemployment was 9.9 percent but as high as 33 percent among urban youths.⁶

Morocco controls 75 percent of the world's phosphate market through internal and Western Saharan mines, but the phosphate industry is dominated by the royal family making much of the economy dominated by the royals.⁷

Morocco is a moderate Arab state with close relations with Europe, the United States and is a member of both the UN and various Arab organisations. Morocco fights terrorism and the King has promoted significant initiatives to counter extremists and dissuade individuals from becoming radicalised. Though, Morocco has experienced terrorism at home in both 2003 and 2007 by Moroccans, which showed the country's vulnerability to extremists who capitalise on widespread poverty and social exclusion.

Morocco has an ongoing dispute with Polisario about Western Sahara where Morocco occupies 80 percent of the territory and wants sovereignty over the whole area. Morocco's claim of Western Sahara has complicated the relationship with Algeria and Sub-Saharan countries due to these countries recognising Polisario as the territory's legitimate government.⁸

The percentage of people living under the poverty line has fallen from more than 50 percent in 1960 to less than 15 percent today, but there are still 5 million people living in poverty. Of these, three quarters live in rural areas. The fight against poverty contains of some public generosity and aid from the state though different kind of programs, but none of these are build on the principle of capacity building by making people able to take care of themselves over time. This means that Morocco is not fighting long term poverty but only short term.⁹

The Moroccan government has created the National Initiative for Human Development to assist in determining the best course for improving and expanding social protection programmes in the country. The program had a mid-term review in 2008 and many potential changes were recommended, but the government was slow to adopt the recommended changes, not doing so until 2009. The reason behind the delay was stated as being the necessity of time to get approval from all agencies involved and to develop a public statement.¹⁰

⁶ *Countries and Regions: Morocco*. U.S. Department of State.

⁷ *Morocco: Current Issues*. Congressional Research Service.

⁸ *Countries and Regions: Morocco*. U.S. Department of State.

⁹ 50 years of Human Development & Perspectives to 2025. (2006, January). Retrieved from United Nations Development Programme:
http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/nationalreports/arabstates/morocco/nhdr_2005_morocco-en.pdf

¹⁰ *WHO-Rabat-Morocco*. (2007, September). Retrieved from World Health Organisation:
http://www.who.int/social_determinants/resources/isa_mar.pdf

Socioeconomic indicators ¹¹	
Population (millions)	31.61
GNI per capita, PPP (current USD)	4,190
GDP (current USD) (billions)	88.89
GDP composition by sector 2005 (%)	Agriculture -19.2 Industry- 31.3 Services- 49.4
GDP growth rate (%)	5.6
Percent below poverty line (%)	15
Inflation (%)	5.9
GINI index	40.9
Adult literacy rate (%)	56.4
Life expectancy (years)	71
Child dependency ratio	42.1
Elderly dependency ratio	7.4
HIV prevalence (%)	0.1
Overseas development aid per capita (current USD)	n/a
Net official development assistance (USD millions)	n/a
Remittances as % of GDP	216 ¹²
2009 Human Development Index (HDI) ranking	130

2. Vulnerability analysis

2.2 External shocks

In Morocco a large part of the labour force (44 percent) depends on agriculture and is therefore very vulnerable to rainfall fluctuations. Besides that the country suffers from environment issues as land degradation/desertification, water supplies contaminated by raw sewage, siltation of reservoirs, and oil pollution of coastal waters.

The 2008 financial crisis have not had a large impact on the Moroccan economy due to a solid banking sector, a healthy stock market with primarily local investors and a restricted capital account. The country's export in certain areas did fall in 2009 but not significantly.¹³

¹¹ *Country Data*. (2010, September). Retrieved from World Bank: <http://data.worldbank.org/country/morocco>

¹² *Countries: Morocco* (2010, September). Retrieved from United Nations Development Report: http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/country_fact_sheets/cty_fs_MAR.html

¹³ *Government Response to International Crisis: The Case of Morocco*. (2009, March). Retrieved from Carnegie Endowment For International Peace: <http://www.carnegieendowment.org/events/?fa=eventDetail&id=1456>

2.3 Political situation

The political situation in Morocco is in general stable but the country is not built on democracy which can result in public riots if the public is unsatisfied with the king's work. The country still lacks many democratic rights and institutions

Morocco was listed as number 80 out of 180 countries in the Corruption Perception Index in 2008, dropping 8 places from 2007, making corruption a current political issue as well.

2.4 HIV/AIDS

The HIV prevalence in Morocco is less than 0.1 percent and the estimated people living with HIV is 21,000 people. Even though the HIV prevalence seems low, the rate exceeds 5 percent among vulnerable groups in some regions and it appears that the HIV epidemic is growing, especially among young people. The government has strengthened the national response to HIV during the last few years, but there still remain significant barriers to people accessing services.

2.5 Climate concerns

Morocco has several climate concerns facing it today. There are problems of desertification and land degradation caused by soil erosion by farmers, overgrazing, and destruction of vegetation. The water supplies are being polluted by raw sewage, and the coastal areas are facing many different pollution concerns.¹⁴

2.6 Food security

Morocco faces some concerns when it comes to food security. While the country is expected to meet the minimum food requirements until 2013, the poorest 10 percent of the population will not be able to meet its nutrition requirements. The country is usually able to compensate for any domestic production shortfalls through commercial imports.¹⁵

3. Monitoring and evaluation

All social assistance programmes in Morocco are administrated by the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training along with other organisations, with the Ministry providing the general supervision of the programs.¹⁶

¹⁴ *World Factbook: Morocco*. United States Central Intelligence Agency.

¹⁵ Food Security Assessment: North Africa. (2004, May). Retrieved from United States Department of Agriculture: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/GFA15/GFA15c.pdf>

¹⁶ *Social Security Programs Throughout the World: Africa 2009*. (2009, August). Retrieved from International Social Security Administration: <http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/progdesc/ssptw/2008-2009/africa/moroc.pdf>

4. Social assistance programmes overview

*All currency conversions are based on 17 February 2010 rates:

- 1 DZD = 0.01341 USD
- 1 EUR = 1.369 USD
- 1 GBP = 1.57161 USD.¹⁷

Programme # 1: social insurance	Programme name	Old Age, Disability, Survivors ¹⁸
	Programme components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Old-age pension: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The pension equals 50% of the insured's average monthly earnings in the last 96 months and 1% of average monthly earnings for every 216 days of insurance exceeding 3,240 days (with a maximum of 70%). ○ The maximum average monthly earnings for benefit calculation purposes are MAD 6,000 (USD 725.40). ○ The minimum pension is MAD 600 (USD 72.54) and the maximum pension is 70% of the average monthly earnings. ▪ Disability pension: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The pension equals 50% of the insured's average monthly earnings in the last 96 months and 1% of average monthly earnings for every 216 days of insurance exceeding 3,240 days (with a maximum of 70%). ○ The maximum average monthly earnings for benefit calculation purposes are MAD 6,000 (USD 725.40). ○ The minimum pension is MAD 600 (USD 72.54) and the maximum pension is 70% of the average monthly earnings. ○ Constant-attendance supplement: 10% of average monthly earnings are paid. ▪ Survivor pension: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Survivor pension: The widow(er) receives 50% of the deceased's pension. ○ Orphan's pension: Each eligible orphan receives 25% (50% for each full orphan) of the deceased's pension. ○ All survivor benefits combined must not exceed 100% of the deceased's pension. ○ Funeral grant: Funeral grant equals MAD 12,000 (USD 1450.80).
	Programme coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Salaried workers and apprentices in industry, commerce, forestry, agricultural cooperatives, and associations; persons employed by landlords, craftsmen, and certain categories of self-employed persons; and certain categories of fishermen. ▪ Voluntary coverage for previously insured persons. ▪ Exclusions: Self-employed persons. ▪ Special systems for civil servants and for certain other categories of employees.

¹⁷ *Currency Converter*. (n.d.). Retrieved from OANDA: <http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>

¹⁸ Table text from *Social Security Programs Throughout the World: Africa 2009*. International Social Security Administration.

	Beneficiary determination process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Old-age pension: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Age 60 with at least 3,240 days of coverage. ○ Age 55 for miners with at least 5 years of underground work. ○ It is necessary to have retired from employment. ○ If the coverage qualifying conditions for the insured person is not at the normal age of retirement, the person can continue to work or contribute on a voluntary basis. ○ Early pension: -An early pension can be paid when age 55 if the insured person has been covered for at least 3,240 days and if the employer agrees to pay the National Social Security Fund an amount equivalent to the value of the pension. ▪ Disability pension: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The insured must have been injured in a non-occupational accident, must be assessed with a total loss of earning capacity, and have at least 1,080 days of coverage (including at least 108 days in the last 12 months before the disability began). ○ There is no minimum qualifying period for a disability resulting from an accident. ○ Constant-attendance supplement: Supplement paid if the insured requires constant attendance of others to perform daily functions. ▪ Survivor Pension: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The deceased had to be a pensioner or meeting the contribution conditions for the disability pension at the time of death. ○ Eligible survivors are the widow(er) and orphans younger than age 15 (18 if an apprentice, 21 if a student and no limit if disabled).
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insured person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3.96% of gross monthly earnings. ○ The minimum monthly earnings for contribution calculation purposes are equal to the legal minimum wage (MAD 1,183 (USD 143.02) dirhams in the agricultural sector and MAD 1,841.84 (USD 222.68) dirhams in the nonagricultural sector) and the maximum monthly earnings for contribution calculation purposes are MAD 6,000 (USD 725.40). ▪ Self-employed person: Not applicable. ▪ Employer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 7.93% of gross monthly payroll. ○ The minimum monthly earnings for contribution calculation purposes are equal to the legal minimum wage and the maximum monthly earnings for contribution calculation purposes are MAD 6,000 (USD 725.40). ▪ Government: None.
	Legal framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First law: 1959 ▪ Current law: 1972 (social security scheme), 1981 (agricultural and forestry workers), and 2004 (early retirement)

	Administrative framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training (http://www.emploi.gov.ma) provides general supervision. Managed by a tripartite board and director general, the National Social Security Fund (http://www.cnss.ma) administers the program.
--	---------------------------------	--

Programme # 2: social insurance	Programme name	Sickness and Maternity¹⁹
	Programme components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sickness benefit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The benefit is paid from the fourth day of incapacity and for a first claim equals 66.7% of the average daily covered wage received during the 6 months before the incapacity began; for subsequent claims during any of the last three months before the incapacity began. The minimum benefit equals 66.7% of the legal minimum wage (MAD 1,183 (USD 143.02) dirhams the agricultural sector and MAD 1,841.84 (USD 222.68) dirhams in the nonagricultural sector) and the maximum average monthly earnings for benefit calculation purposes are MAD 6,000 (USD 725.40). Maternity benefit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The benefit equals 100% of the average daily covered wage received in the 6 calendar months before the expected date of childbirth and is paid for up to 14 weeks. The minimum benefit is 66.7% of the legal minimum wage and the maximum average monthly earnings for benefit calculation purposes are MAD 6,000 (USD 725.40). Workers' Medical Benefits: Basic health care is provided. Dependents' Medical Benefits: Basic health care is provided.
	Programme coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salaried workers and apprentices in industry, commerce, forestry, agricultural cooperatives, and associations; persons employed by landlords, craftsmen, and certain categories of self-employed persons; and certain categories of fishermen. Special systems for civil servants and for certain other categories of employees. Exclusions: Self-employed persons.
	Beneficiary determination process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash sickness benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The insured must have at least 54 days of contributions in the previous 6 months of coverage for the first claim and at least 6 days of contributions for subsequent claims. For non-occupational accident the minimum qualifying period is nonexistent. Cash maternity benefits: To get cash maternity benefits, the insured must have at least 54 days of contributions in the 10 months before the expected date of childbirth.
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insured person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.33% of gross monthly earnings for sickness insurance. 2% of gross monthly earnings for the basic health care system.

¹⁹ Ibid.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The minimum monthly earnings for contribution calculation purposes are equal to the legal minimum wage and the maximum monthly earnings for contribution calculation purposes are MAD 6,000 (USD 725.40). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Self-employed person: Not applicable. ▪ Employer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 0.67% of gross monthly payroll for sickness insurance. ○ 3% of gross monthly payroll for the basic health care system. ○ The minimum monthly earnings for contribution calculation purposes are equal to the legal minimum wage. ○ The maximum monthly earnings for contribution calculation purposes for sickness insurance are MAD 6,000 (USD 725.40) but there is no maximum for the basic health care system. ▪ Government: None.
	Legal framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First law: 1959. ▪ Current law: 1972 (social security scheme), 1981 (agricultural and forestry workers and 2002 (basic health coverage).
	Administrative framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training provides general supervision. ▪ Managed by a tripartite board and director general, the National Social Security Fund administers the program. ▪ National Sickness Insurance Agency (ANAM) supervises the basic health care system. ANAM is administered by a board headed by the prime minister and comprises representatives of government, employers, trade unions, and sickness insurance funds. Care providers are not represented on the board but may provide advice if consulted.

Programme # 4: employer-liability system, involving compulsory insurance with a private carrier	Programme name	Work Injury²⁰
	Programme components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Temporary Disability Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The benefit is paid from the day after the accident happened and until full recovery or certification of permanent disability is reached. ○ The benefit equals 50% of the insured's covered earnings during the first 28 days and thereafter 66.7% of the earnings. ○ The minimum annual earnings for benefits are MAD 16,474 (USD 1991.71) with a maximum of MAD 65,507 (USD 7919.80). ▪ Permanent Disability Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The pension is equal to 100% of the insured's average insurable earnings if the insured is assessed with a total disability. ○ Partial disability: The pension equals the insured's average insurable earnings multiplied by 0.5 times the assessed degree of disability if the disability degree is between 10% and 50% and by 1.5 times if the degree is more than 50%. ○ If the disability is less than 10%, a lump sum is paid.

²⁰ Ibid.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The minimum annual pension is MAD 16,474 (USD 1991.71) with the maximum annual earnings for benefit calculation purposes being MAD 65,507 (USD 7919.80). ○ Constant-attendance supplement: 40% of the disability pension is paid if the insured requires the constant attendance of others to perform daily functions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workers' Medical Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Benefits include transportation, medicines and medical, surgical and hospital care. ▪ Survivor Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Survivor Pension: The widow receives 30% of the deceased's average covered earnings if younger than age 60 and 50% if age 60 or older. ○ Orphan's pension: The first two orphans younger than age 16 (18 if an apprentice, 21 if a student or disabled) is paid 15% of the deceased's average insurable earnings and 10% for each additional orphan (20% for each full orphan). ○ Other eligible survivors (in the absence of above): Parents, grandparents, and certain other dependents are allowed to receive cash benefits. ○ All survivor benefits combined must not exceed 85% of the deceased's average insurable earnings and the maximum annual earnings for benefits are MAD 65,507 (USD 7919.80). ○ Funeral grant: Full costs for the burial is paid by the employer.
	Programme coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Salaried workers. ▪ Special system for civil servants. ▪ Exclusions: Self-employed persons.
	Beneficiary determination process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is no minimum qualifying period.
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insured person: None. ▪ Self-employed person: Not applicable. ▪ Employer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The total cost is met through the direct provision of benefits or the payment of insurance premiums. ▪ Government: None.
	Legal framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First law: 1927. ▪ Current law: 1963.
	Administrative framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training provides general supervision and enforces the law through its Work Accident Service. ▪ Courts award benefits.

Programme # 5: employment related system	Programme name	Family Allowances ²¹
	Programme components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Family allowances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MAD 600 (USD 72.54) a month for the first three children and MAD 36 (USD 4.35) a month for the next three children.
	Programme coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Salaried workers and apprentices in industry, commerce, and agriculture. ▪ Persons employed by craftsmen or by certain categories of self-employed persons. ▪ Special system for civil servants and for certain categories of employees. ▪ Exclusions: Self-employed persons.
	Beneficiary determination process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Family allowances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The insured must have had at least 108 days of contributions in the previous 6 months of coverage (earnings of at least 60% of the legal minimum wage (MAD 1,183 (USD 143.02) dirhams in the agricultural sector and MAD 1,841.84 (USD 222.68) in the non-agricultural sector)). ○ The eligible child must reside in Morocco and be younger than age 12 (18 if apprentice, 21 if a student or a female relative caring for at least two infants in the insured's household, no limit if disabled).
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insured person: None. ▪ Self-employed person: Not applicable. ▪ Employer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 6.4% of gross payroll ▪ Government: None.
	Legal framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First law: 1942 and 1959. ▪ Current law: 1972.
	Administrative framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training provides general supervision. ▪ Managed by a tripartite board and director general, the National Social Security Fund administers the program. ▪ Employers may pay allowances provided by the National Social Security Fund directly to employees.

²¹ Ibid.