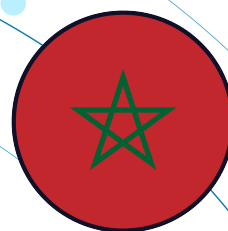


Sustainable Development Goals Tracker

MOROCCO 2020

Voluntary National Review





Rapport du Royaume du Maroc concernant les premières mesures en matière de mise en œuvre de l'Agenda 2030 pour le Développement Durable

1. Introduction :

Le Royaume du Maroc s'est porté volontaire pour présenter à l'occasion de la session du Forum Politique de haut niveau sur le Développement Durable (FPHN) un état des lieux sur l'intégration des Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD) dans ses stratégies et programmes de développement. Cet acte volontaire s'inscrit dans le cadre de l'engagement du Royaume dans le processus de mise en œuvre des ODD, depuis les consultations nationales qu'il avait lancées en mars 2013.

Le Royaume du Maroc a fait des contributions substantives aux travaux du Groupe de travail sur les ODD, s'articulant autour de plusieurs thématiques: lutte contre la pauvreté, l'autonomisation de la femme, les énergies renouvelables, la protection de l'environnement, l'urbanisation, le réchauffement climatique etc...

La session de juillet 2016 du Forum constitue la première après l'adoption des ODD. C'est une occasion pour le Royaume du Maroc de présenter les résultats des premières consultations nationales, tenues à Rabat du 3 au 5 mai 2016, sur la mise en œuvre des ODD. Ces consultations ont été l'occasion d'un débat national sur les stratégies marocaines de développement et des politiques publiques, qui constitueront un instrument important d'appropriation des ODD.

Le Royaume du Maroc saisit cette occasion pour présenter les principaux axes d'actions sur lesquels il s'engage pour relever les défis de mise en œuvre de cet Agenda très vaste et renforcer l'intégration des ODD dans ses politiques nationales de développement durable.

Le Royaume Maroc saisira l'occasion de cette plateforme d'apprentissage mutuel et d'échange d'expériences et de bonnes pratiques entre les Etats en matière de développement durable pour identifier les opportunités de coopération, aussi bien dans le cadre de la coopération Nord/Sud que Sud/Sud.

2. Contextualisation :

Durant les quinze prochaines années, les efforts déployés au niveau mondial en faveur du développement durable s'appuieront sur les 17 Objectifs et 169 cibles connexes formulés dans le nouvel Agenda 2030.

Après un processus de négociation intense mené pendant trois années par les 193 Etats membres de l'ONU et au cours duquel le Maroc a pu faire valoir ses préoccupations,

Morocco VNR 2016 Report

الاستعراض الوطني الطوعي لإنجاز أهداف التنمية المستدامة



2020
التقرير الوطني



Morocco VNR 2020 Report



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Morocco
2020

Voluntary National Review (VNR)

VNRs Submitted: 2 (50%)



SDGs Achieved: 0 (0%)

SDGs On-Track: 0 (0%)

SDGs Off-Track: 17 (100%)

SDGs No Progress: 0 (0%)



Introduction

Morocco submitted this Voluntary National Review (VNR) in preparation for its second assessment of progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to be presented at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development from 7 to 17 July 2020. The country prepared through an extensive participatory process led by the High Commission for Planning—an institution renowned for its independence and statistical expertise—the report incorporates contributions from all ministerial departments, national institutions, socio-professional organisations, and civil society. This work was carried out under the coordination of the National Commission for Sustainable Development, established by decree on 17 July 2019. The inclusive methodology builds on the approach adopted since 2016, ensuring that Morocco's review remains nationally driven and based on a transparent assessment of progress towards the SDGs and the prospects for the years ahead (United Nations, 2020a; United Nations, 2020b).



VNR Framework Approach to assess Morocco's Progress Towards the 2030 Agenda

A **VNR** is a self-assessment process through which the United Nations (UN) Member States review and report on their progress in implementing the **2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development and its **17 SDGs**. These reviews are voluntary, country-led, and inclusive, allowing each nation to share experiences, identify challenges, and highlight best practices.

VNRs are essential because they promote accountability and transparency in the implementation of the SDGs, allowing countries to demonstrate their commitment and progress openly. They help governments track progress, identify gaps, and strengthen policies, ensuring that national development strategies remain aligned with the **2030 Agenda**. Moreover, **VNRs** facilitate knowledge sharing among nations by enabling the exchange of experiences, innovations, and lessons learned. They also encourage multi-stakeholder participation, bringing together government institutions, civil society, the private sector, and academia in a collaborative effort to advance sustainable development. Finally, the VNRs serve as the foundation for the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) reviews, providing evidence-based insights that guide global discussions on accelerating progress towards achieving the SDGs.

Objectives of VNRs

- Assess a country's progress towards achieving the SDGs.
- Identify key challenges and barriers to implementation.
- Share lessons learned and innovative approaches.
- Mobilise support, partnerships, and policy coherence for sustainable development.

Methodology to Measure VNRs Progress

VNRs assess development performance using quantitative and qualitative data, aligning national priorities with SDGs targets. Countries use available indicators and national statistics to evaluate whether they are:

- Achieved, on-track, moderately off-track, seriously off-track or no progress.
- Facing data gaps or methodological challenges.

Due to incomplete or inconsistent data, some assessments rely on proxy indicators or qualitative descriptions of progress. Each SDG is rated on a **0–5 scale** to measure Morocco's progress towards the **2030 Agenda**.

- 0 – No Progress:** No measurable progress or data available.
- 1 – Severely Off-Track:** Very little advancement; major gaps persist.
- 2 – Off-Track:** Limited progress with minimal improvement.
- 3 – Moderately Off-Track:** Some progress achieved, but key challenges remain.
- 4 – On-Track:** Noticeable progress made; close to achieving the target.
- 5 – Achieved:** Goal fully met with sustained performance and monitoring in place.

This scale helps to quantify Morocco's SDGs performance, showing where strong progress exists and where further policy actions are needed. VNRs are vital tools for evaluating and accelerating progress towards the **2030 Agenda**. They enable countries to reflect on achievements, recognise shortcomings, and strengthen collective action for a more sustainable and equitable world.

Explanation of Analysis (Applied to Morocco SDG Report)

This analysis applies the *VNR framework* to Morocco's SDG Report. Initially, the report was processed using an AI tool to extract, summarise, and categorise data related to the **17 SDGs**. The AI provided preliminary insights into Morocco's progress, challenges, and measurable indicators. Following the AI review, the information was cross-verified by two independent human experts to ensure factual accuracy, contextual relevance, and alignment with the official UN SDG indicators. This validation step strengthened the reliability of the data interpretation.

Finally, a team of SDG experts conducted an in-depth qualitative and quantitative analysis to identify key challenges, potential solutions, and policy-level recommendations. The comprehensive approach, integrating AI-driven insights with expert validation, provides a balanced, evidence-based assessment of Morocco's progress towards achieving economic growth, highlighting strategic areas for improvement, innovation, and sustainability.

Overall Progress

Table 1 presents Morocco's progress across the **17 SDGs**, with ratings assigned to each goal based on the report's findings. The ratings reflect the extent of progress made, highlight areas where challenges have been addressed, and identify those that remain unresolved.

Table 1. SDG Progress Scoring

Score: 3	
Justification	- Morocco's long-standing fight against poverty is rooted in its commitment to building an inclusive society aligned with the principle of "<i>leaving no one behind</i>." - This approach focuses on reducing precariousness and exclusion, expanding basic social services, strengthening social protection, and improving the resilience of vulnerable groups to climate shocks. - The National Initiative for Human Development (INDH), launched on 18 May 2005, embodies this vision through its decentralised, inclusive, and coordinated governance model.
Challenges	- Poverty and vulnerability remain more pronounced in rural areas, among women, and in disadvantaged regions such as Drâa-Tafilalet and Béni-Mellal-Khénifra. - Regional disparities endure, particularly in education, infrastructure, health access, and economic opportunities. - Expanding and sustaining social protection for poor and vulnerable groups is another key challenge, alongside reducing social, spatial, and gender inequalities and strengthening climate resilience for at-risk populations.



Progress/ Solutions	- Recognised as the 3rd best social initiative worldwide by the World Bank in 2015, INDH enabled the completion of 44,000 projects between 2015 and 2018, with an investment of 44 billion dirhams. - Significant advances were also made in access to drinking water and electrification since the 1990s. - Poverty reduction has been substantial: the monetary poverty rate fell from 4.8% in 2014 to 2.9% in 2018, reaching 1.1% in urban areas and 5.9% in rural areas. - Multidimensional poverty also declined nationally from 25% in 2004 to 8.2% in 2014. Social protection improved markedly, with medical coverage rising from 52% in 2015 to 68.8% in 2019, driven by Régime d'Assistance Médicale (Medical Assistance Scheme) (RAMED), Assurance Maladie Obligatoire (Compulsory Health Insurance) (AMO), and new schemes for non-salaried workers.
Unsolved Challenges	- Vulnerabilities remain significant, with 19% of rural populations still considered vulnerable in 2014. - Persistent gaps in multidimensional poverty—especially in education, access to infrastructure, and health services—underscore the need for more integrated territorial approaches. - Enhancing resilience to climate risks and ensuring the convergence of social protection mechanisms within the new integrated national policy also remain priority areas.

2 ZERO HUNGER



Score : 3

Justification	- Morocco places the fight against hunger, improved food and nutritional security, and sustainable agriculture at the centre of its national priorities. Progress in reducing malnutrition and strengthening agricultural systems is supported by increased annual food availability, stable consumer prices, and improved food quality. - Efforts such as the 2019 adoption of laws on Soualalyate lands have strengthened the rights of rural women and small farmers. - The Green Morocco Plan has further promoted sustainable agricultural practices, including shifting to high value-added crops, expanding water-saving irrigation over 600,000 hectares, and promoting agricultural insurance covering 1,005,000 hectares, alongside expanded organic farming and improved regulation of pesticides and fertilisers.
Challenges	- Climate change and the degradation of natural resources pose risks to agricultural productivity and food systems, while rising global food and energy prices further threaten sustainability. - Social, territorial, and gender disparities persist in access to sufficient and nutritious food, with rural children still experiencing higher stunting rates (20.5% vs. 10.4% in urban areas in 2018). - The sustainability of genetic resources remains vulnerable to demographic pressures and unsustainable land use. - Governance and coordination gaps at regional and national levels continue to limit the convergence of interventions in food security and nutrition.

<i>Progress/ Solutions</i>	- Significant progress has been achieved in reducing hunger and improving child nutrition. - The population not meeting minimum caloric intake dropped from 0.9% to 0.1% nationally between 2007 and 2014, while underweight among children under five fell from 10.2% to 2.9% between 2004 and 2018. - Food availability per capita improved between 2008 and 2018, with increases ranging from 16% for cereals to 43% for white meats, alongside rising self-sufficiency levels—reaching 100% for fruits, vegetables, and white meats. - Investments in gene banks expanded plant genetic resources from 22,000 to 67,970 accessions between 2008 and 2019, while public and private agricultural investment rose from 5.6 billion dirhams in 2008 to 12.9 billion dirhams in 2018. - Strategies such as the Green Morocco Plan, Green Generation 2020–2030, Halieutis, and the National Nutrition Programme continue to guide sustainable growth and improved nutrition.
<i>Unsolved Challenges</i>	- Key unresolved issues include ensuring the long-term sustainability of food production systems in the face of climate uncertainty, securing adequate financial resources for large-scale agricultural and nutrition programmes, and narrowing widening gaps in food expenditure among social groups—where the richest 10% spend 10,947 dirhams compared to 7,001 dirhams for the poorest 10% in 2014. - Strengthening governance structures, improving regional coordination, and enhancing multi-stakeholder convergence remain essential to address persistent inequalities and support resilient, inclusive, and sustainable agricultural development.



Score: 3

<i>Justification</i>	- Health and well-being are central to Morocco's development strategy and form a core pillar of its commitment to the SDGs. - They directly influence, and are influenced by, other SDGs, making progress in this area essential for inclusive and sustainable growth. - Morocco has achieved notable advances in maternal and child health, disease control, and access to health services, yet persistent gaps—particularly in human resources, governance, and regional equity—continue to shape the government's efforts and justify the adoption of new strategies and reforms.
<i>Challenges</i>	- The health system continues to suffer from shortages of qualified human resources, with physician density only improving from 6.7 to 7.2 per 10,000 inhabitants between 2017 and 2019. - Regional disparities persist, particularly in the availability of specialists concentrated mainly in the Rabat–Casablanca axis. - Financial constraints remain significant, with health expenditure representing only 5.8% of GDP and 5.86% of the national budget—well below international recommendations. - Additional challenges include gaps in the Health Information System, the need to accelerate reductions in avoidable deaths linked to poverty and education levels, strengthening HIV services, and improving governance through better coordination and accountability mechanisms.

<i>Progress/ Solutions</i>	- Morocco has made substantial improvements in health outcomes, particularly between 2010 and 2019. - Maternal mortality declined from 112 to 72.6 deaths per 100,000 live births, and neonatal mortality fell from 21.7 to 13.56 per 1,000. - Strengthened healthcare provision, free maternal services, and increased skilled birth attendance—from 73.6% in 2011 to 86.6% in 2018—have driven these gains. Progress is also evident in combating communicable diseases, with HIV incidence at 0.03 per 1,000 in 2019, reduced tuberculosis incidence, and no indigenous malaria cases since 2005. - Universal health coverage expanded significantly, reaching 68.8% of the population in 2019, supported by RAMED, AMO, and student insurance schemes. - Vaccination coverage remained high, rising from 90.9% in 2011 to 94.5% in 2018, and mortality linked to unsafe water and sanitation fell to 1.9 per 100,000 in 2019. These improvements are reinforced by multiple national strategies, including the Health Plan 2025, child and maternal health strategies, nutrition plans, and disease-specific programmes.
<i>Unsolved Challenges</i>	- Several issues remain unresolved and require continued attention to ensure sustainable progress. - Ensuring equitable healthcare access across regions, providing sufficient and well-distributed medical staff, and securing long-term financing for the health sector remain pressing priorities. Progress on reducing household out-of-pocket health expenditure—currently 50.7%—has been slow, highlighting the need for more efficient allocation and use of health resources. - Data limitations persist, with 13 out of 27 SDG health indicators lacking complete information. - Expanding basic medical coverage to all categories, including self-employed workers, and improving system performance and accountability are essential steps. Finally, persistent environmental and lifestyle-related health risks, including air pollution-related deaths at 28 per 100,000 in 2019 and rising Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) burdens, underscore the need for sustained, multisectoral action.

Score: 3		4 QUALITY EDUCATION 
Justification	- Morocco's commitment to SDG 4 is grounded in its Constitution, which guarantees the right to quality education and equal opportunities for all citizens. - The 2015–2030 Strategic Vision for school reform and Framework Law 51.17 (2019) provide the legal and strategic basis for transforming the education, training, and research system. - Substantial human and financial investments—including a 10% budget increase between 2016 and 2020 and the recruitment of 70,000 teachers between 2016 and 2019—reflect the State's determination to expand access, improve quality, and reduce inequalities, while ensuring inclusion of children with disabilities, refugees, and migrants.	

Challenges	- Universal access is not yet achieved at all school levels, particularly in preschool and upper secondary, and disparities persist between rural and urban areas, as well as between boys and girls in certain cycles. - School dropout remains a concern, especially among rural girls. Ensuring higher quality learning outcomes, reducing illiteracy and digital illiteracy, and strengthening employability through better alignment between training and labour market needs remain central issues. - The rapid growth of higher education has also heightened pressure on infrastructure, staffing, and financing. - In vocational training, quality gaps, limited responsiveness to technological change, and difficulties with integrating marginalised populations pose further constraints.
Progress/ Solutions	- Morocco has recorded notable advances across all levels of education. Preschool enrolment reached 57.8% in 2018–2019, supported by a national programme targeting universal access by 2027–2028. - Primary schooling has nearly reached universal coverage with a 99.8% enrolment rate in 2018–2019, including 100% in rural areas. - Lower secondary enrolment rose to 91.8% and upper secondary to 66.9% in 2018–2019, accompanied by improved gender parity indicators. - Significant expansion has also taken place in vocational training—with 2,042 institutions and 433,007 trainees in 2018—and in higher education, where enrolment increased by 28.5% between 2015 and 2019. - Inclusion efforts strengthened support for students with disabilities and migrant children, while digital transformation programmes such as GENIE improved ICT access, benefiting over 200,000 teachers and millions of students. - Infrastructure expansion, including the creation of community schools, further supports rural schooling.
Unsolved Challenges	- Key unresolved issues relate to sustaining adequate and long-term financing for major reforms, reducing territorial disparities, and ensuring effective governance and coordination across institutions. - Improving the internal and external efficiency of higher education, addressing the needs of the informal sector through vocational training, and enhancing institutional capacities remain pressing concerns. - Persistent inequalities in access for vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, rural communities, and socially disadvantaged youth, require sustained and targeted interventions. - Ensuring the relevance and quality of training programmes, integrating soft skills, and strengthening research and innovation systems also remain essential yet ongoing challenges for achieving SDG 4 by 2030.



Score: 3

Justification	- Morocco's strong commitment to gender equality is grounded in its Constitution, which guarantees equality, prohibits discrimination, and establishes the principle of parity through dedicated institutions. - Over the past decade, a solid legal and policy framework has been developed—including the Family Code, the Labour Code, Law No. 79-14 (2017) on the Parity Authority, and Morocco's 2015 approval of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW. - Additional reforms governing domestic work, human trafficking, audiovisual communication, and social protection further consolidate women's rights. - The adoption of Law No. 62.17 in 2019 restored Soulatiyate women's right to access and use communal lands, signalling a major step in correcting long-standing discrimination. These foundations justify Morocco's broader efforts to embed gender equality as a pillar of sustainable development.
Challenges	- Persistent challenges include uneven territorial implementation of gender policies, continued prevalence of violence—particularly sexual and economic violence, which rose between 2009 and 2019—and the persistence of discriminatory social norms and stereotypes. - Women remain under-represented in decision-making bodies despite progress, with parliamentary representation still below the one-third UN benchmark. - Gender gaps in labour market participation, unpaid domestic work—where women spend an average of 21.2% of their time compared to 3.3% for men—and access to equal economic opportunities continue to constrain progress. - The rise in sexual violence outside intimate partnerships, from 4.3% to 8.5% between 2009 and 2019, highlights unresolved protection gaps, especially in educational settings and public spaces.
Progress/ Solutions	- Morocco has undertaken wide-ranging measures to promote women's rights and combat violence. - Law No. 103.13 (2018) provides a unified framework for prevention, protection, and support for women victims of violence, reinforced by its 2019 implementing decree. - National and regional commissions, care units, and observatories—alongside 440 police district units and specialised services within the Royal Gendarmerie, hospitals, and courts—strengthen support mechanisms. - A declining trend in overall violence was recorded, with prevalence falling from 63% in 2009 to 57% in 2019, alongside reductions in psychological and physical violence. - Progress is also evident in reducing child marriage, improving women's mobile phone ownership (93.4% in 2016), enhancing participation in public life, and increasing feminisation of the civil service to 40% in 2019. - Gender-responsive budgeting and the Integrated Government Plan for the Promotion of Equality (ICRAM) 1 (2012–2016) and ICRAM 2 (2017–2021) plans have further integrated gender considerations into national and sectoral policies.

Unsolved Challenges	- Key unresolved issues relate to sustaining reductions in violence, eliminating child marriage, and ensuring women's full and equal participation in economic life and governance. - Achieving a balanced division of unpaid care work remains critical, as does building a more robust statistical system capable of capturing gender-disaggregated data at national and regional levels. - Persistent gender stereotypes and limited access to leadership positions continue to hinder progress. - Strengthening coordination among institutions, ensuring effective enforcement of laws, and expanding services—particularly in rural areas—remain essential to fully realising gender equality and delivering on the ambitions of SDG 5.
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6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Score: 3	
Justification	- Morocco's water policy is driven by the country's limited and highly variable water resources—an average of 22 billion m³ per year, including 18 billion m³ of surface water and 4 billion m³ of groundwater. - Early recognition of water's economic and social importance led to the adoption of an integrated, long-term national strategy focused on mobilisation, infrastructure development, and sustainable management. - This approach has enabled the construction of 145 large dams with a capacity of 18.6 billion m³ and 130 small dams exceeding 100 million m³, forming the backbone of national water security and supporting consumption, irrigation and resilience to climate shocks.
Challenges	- Despite progress, Morocco continues to face major structural challenges, including worsening water scarcity, with per capita availability falling from 2,560 m³/year in 1960 to 620 m³/year in 2019. - Inefficient water consumption, rising pollution, high costs of unconventional water mobilisation, and delays in legislative implementation further complicate progress. - Rural areas face particular constraints due to dispersed settlements and difficult terrain, which hinder network connections. - Institutional complexity, limited municipal capacities, land acquisition constraints, and inadequate cost-recovery mechanisms in sanitation also impede service expansion and infrastructure sustainability.
Progress/Solutions	- Significant progress has been made in expanding drinking water access, which reached more than 97% in rural areas in 2019, and in mobilising unconventional water resources through seawater desalination and wastewater reuse. - Current desalination capacity stands at 118,161 m³/day, soon to reach 458,309 m³/day upon completion of ongoing projects. - Wastewater reuse reached 64 Mm³/year in 2019, with targets of 100 Mm³/year from 2020 and 341 Mm³/year by 2050. - Sanitation access has also improved, reaching 96.9% nationally in 2018, supported by the National Sanitation Programme and the 2019 launch of the National Shared Sanitation Programme. - Efforts in irrigation modernisation have converted 580,000 hectares to localized irrigation by 2019, exceeding the 2020 target and contributing to substantial water savings.

Unsolved Challenges	- Key unresolved issues include the need for stronger coordination across institutions, accelerated implementation of regulatory reforms, and increased financing for costly desalination and wastewater reuse projects. - Persistent rural disparities in sanitation and water service coverage remain difficult to overcome due to geographic and financial constraints. - Pollution pressures continue to threaten surface and groundwater quality, while climate change intensifies drought frequency and reduces natural recharge. - Addressing these gaps will require fully operationalising the National Water Plan 2020–2050, strengthening local governance capacities, improving demand management, and ensuring that all water-related interventions remain aligned with long-term resilience and sustainability objectives.
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7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Score : 3	
Justification	- Morocco's rapidly growing population and expanding economic and social needs have driven a sharp rise in energy demand, increasing from 19.7 million tonnes of oil equivalent (TOE) in 2016 to 21.25 million TOE in 2018. - Despite progress, the country remains heavily dependent on external energy sources, with a dependence rate of 91.7% in 2018. - To reduce this vulnerability and ensure sustainable development, Morocco has intensified efforts to diversify its energy and electricity mix, expand electrification, and accelerate the development of renewable energies—particularly solar and wind, where Morocco holds strong natural potential.
Challenges	- Morocco must continue reducing its heavy dependence on external energy sources and decrease the dominant share of fossil fuels in its energy mix. - Rising energy demand from transport and industry creates additional pressure, while the pace of research and innovation requires increased and sustained investment. - Foreign investment remains sensitive to global economic conditions, and climate change effects—especially reduced water resources affecting hydroelectric production—pose increasing risks. - Ensuring long-term energy security while meeting development goals therefore remains a complex task.
Progress/Solutions	- Major progress has been achieved in electrification, with national access increasing from 97.8% in 2016 to 98.1% in 2018, and the rural electrification rate reaching 99.72% in 2019, up from 22% in 1996. - Renewable energy capacity reached 3,700 MW in 2019, including 710 MW solar, 1,220 MW wind and 1,770 MW hydro, representing 34% of national electrical capacity. - Energy efficiency has improved, with primary energy intensity falling from 27.8 toe/1 billion dirhams of GDP in 2004 to 24.8 in 2018, supported by measures such as thermal regulations, vehicle import restrictions and the INARA programme. - A strengthened legal and institutional framework—including MASEN, SIE, AMEE and IRESEN—and an Energy Development Fund of USD 1 billion have enabled expanded investment, research, and innovation.

Unsolved Challenges	- Key unresolved issues include the need to accelerate the energy transition to reduce fossil fuel dependence, expand renewable capacity beyond current targets, and strengthen energy efficiency across all sectors. - Meeting growing energy demand in a sustainable manner requires overcoming financing gaps, upgrading ageing infrastructure, and expanding R&D to keep pace with technological change. - Climate-related vulnerabilities, particularly declining hydropower potential, remain a persistent challenge. Further efforts are needed to enhance institutional coordination, secure stable investment flows, and fully implement long-term strategies such as the national energy strategy and green equipment plans to ensure an equitable, resilient, and sustainable energy future.
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Score : 2	
Justification	- Morocco places inclusive and sustainable economic growth at the centre of its SDG implementation, recognising its importance for generating sufficient employment and reducing poverty and inequality. - Significant efforts have been made to modernise productive sectors, reinforce infrastructure, and strengthen human capital. - These reforms have contributed to notable improvements in economic performance and household income, yet the country continues to face major challenges—particularly in creating enough jobs for young people and women and in ensuring that growth translates into broad-based social progress.
Challenges	- Despite this progress, economic growth remains vulnerable to external shocks, climate variability, and fluctuations in global markets. - Job creation is insufficient to absorb new labour market entrants, with an employment rate of 41.6% in 2019 and a youth employment rate of only 18.9%. - Gender disparities persist, with just 18.6% of women employed compared to 65.5% of men, and unemployment disproportionately affects women (13.5%) and young people. - Informal employment remains widespread, accounting for 36% of the workforce in 2013, particularly in trade and industry. Structural limitations—including slow sectoral transformation, low social protection coverage, and persistent inequalities in access to financial services—continue to hinder inclusive growth.
Progress/Solutions	- Economic growth has shown a positive long-term trend, rising from an average of 3.1% in the 1990s to nearly 4.2% between 2000 and 2018, while GDP per capita increased from 16,003 dirhams in 1999 to 27,811 dirhams in 2018. - Growth drivers have diversified, with the primary sector expanding by around 4.4%, supported by the Green Morocco Plan, which helped agricultural GDP climb from 77 billion dirhams in 2008 to 125.4 billion dirhams in 2018. - The secondary sector grew at 3.3% and the tertiary sector at 4.2%, with tourism GDP rising from 66.9 billion dirhams in 2016 to 76.9 billion in 2018. Financial inclusion has progressed, with bank branches increasing from 6,139 to 6,503 between 2015 and 2018, and ATMs from 6,529 to 7,289. - Employment strategies—such as the National Employment Strategy 2015–2025 and the PNPE 2018–2021—have sought to boost job creation, support entrepreneurship, and promote decent work, while sectoral strategies like Generation Green 2020–2030 and the Industrial Acceleration Plan aim to increase productivity and generate employment.

Unsolved Challenges	- Key unresolved issues include the need to accelerate structural transformation to reduce dependence on climate-sensitive and external factors and to improve job quality by reducing informality. - Labour market inefficiencies and persistent barriers for women, rural populations, and young NEETs (26.5% of those aged 15–24 in 2019) require more targeted and sustained interventions. - Financial inclusion gaps remain significant, particularly for women, rural populations, and micro-enterprises, with only 34% of adults holding a formal account in 2017. - Ensuring the sustainability of economic gains, strengthening decent work, and aligning employment outcomes with Morocco's ambitious sectoral strategies remain central challenges that require continued investment, institutional coordination, and inclusive policy design.
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Score: 3	
Justification	- Investment in infrastructure, sustainable industry and technological progress is essential for Morocco's economic growth, social development and resilience to climate change. - Recognising these interlinked priorities, Morocco has placed infrastructure and industrial development at the core of its national strategy, aiming to enhance competitiveness, improve territorial equity and strengthen the foundations of long-term sustainable development.
Challenges	- Despite these advances, transport infrastructure remains vulnerable to climate-induced damage, and logistical land availability continues to hinder development. The maritime and air sectors face intense international competition, while port transit procedures remain inefficient. - In industry, SMEs struggle with financing, informality remains widespread, and skills gaps limit productivity. - R&D investment is still low at 0.8% of GDP, and digital disparities persist, particularly between urban and rural areas. Weak digital infrastructure and limited digital literacy further constrain the benefits of technological progress.
Progress/Solutions	- Significant progress has been made across transport, industry and ICT. By 2017, Morocco's transport network expanded to 57,334 km of classified roads, 1,800 km of highways and 2,109 km of railways, while rural accessibility rose to 79.3% from 54% in 2005. - Industrial performance strengthened through the Industrial Acceleration Plan, which created 54 ecosystems and over 405,000 jobs between 2014 and 2018, with exports in key sectors such as automotive reaching 72.5 billion dirhams in 2018. - Access to ICT has also improved, with 25.28 million internet subscribers in 2019 and mobile penetration reaching 131.14%. Efforts to enhance innovation include R&D funding programmes, university–industry partnerships and the establishment of the INNOV INVEST Fund.

Unsolved Challenges	- Key unresolved issues include maintaining and climate-proofing the road network, accelerating the transition to a competitive and low-carbon industrial base, and improving SME access to finance. - Dependency on global market dynamics continues to expose industrial sectors to external shocks, while informality and administrative delays undermine efficiency. Persistent gaps in ICT access, affordability and infrastructure quality limit digital inclusion. - Overcoming these challenges will require coordinated investment, stronger governance, and sustained commitment to innovation and environmental sustainability.
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10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Score: 2	
Justification	- Reducing social and spatial disparities has been a central national priority since the revision of the development model announced by His Majesty the King in October 2017. - This agenda seeks to establish a renewed social pact, strengthen coherence across public interventions and ensure better-targeted policies for sustainable, balanced and inclusive development. - Persistent gaps in living standards, regional development, gender equality and access to essential services underscore the need for a coordinated, territorial and equity-focused approach.
Challenges	- Living-standard inequalities remain rigid in some regions, and the gap between territories continues to widen, with three regions producing 58.6% of national GDP in 2017. - Rural areas face significantly higher poverty, vulnerability and illiteracy rates, while school dropout remains more severe than in urban areas. - Gender disparities are equally concerning, with the female activity rate at only 22.2% in 2018 and female illiteracy reaching 42.1% in 2014. - Institutional complexity, limited financial resources, fragmented interventions and slow implementation of advanced regionalisation further hinder progress, as does the need for improved migration management and stronger territorial governance.
Progress/Solutions	- Progress has been recorded in reducing income inequality, with the Gini index falling from 40.6% in 2001 to 39.5% in 2014, and the poorest 40% experiencing faster improvements in living standards than the most advantaged groups. - Growth has become increasingly effective in reducing poverty, with elasticity rising from 2.7% in 2001 to 3.6% in 2014. Spatial disparities in education, poverty and human development remain pronounced, yet targeted initiatives—including the (INDH), the Rural Social and Territorial Disparities Reduction Programme (2017–2023) and expanded social protection schemes such as RAMED and AMO—have supported access to essential services, rural inclusion and youth integration. - Migration policies have also progressed, with the regularisation of nearly 50,000 migrants in 2014 and 2017 and expanded access to education for 3,636 migrant children in 2018–2019.

Unsolved Challenges	- Remaining issues include the need to reconcile economic efficiency with social and territorial equity, accelerate reductions in regional inequality and ensure balanced contributions of all regions to national wealth. - The operationalisation of advanced regionalisation—especially interregional solidarity funds, resource transfers and clarified responsibilities—remains incomplete. - Rural development still requires an integrated, forward-looking approach to bridge persistent service and opportunity gaps. Migration flows continue to place pressure on integration systems, and the fragmentation of social protection initiatives limits effectiveness. - Addressing these unresolved issues will require stronger territorial coordination, sustained investment, robust data systems and a renewed commitment to ensuring that no region or population is left behind.
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Score: 3

Justification	- Morocco's urbanisation has accelerated continuously since independence, with the urbanisation rate rising from 29.1% in 1960 to 55.1% in 2004 and 60.3% in 2014. - This rapid shift has expanded urban areas, intensified urban growth and driven major coastal development, generating profound social, economic, environmental and political transformations. - While cities function as engines of economic activity, employment and cultural exchange, they also face mounting pressures—rising demand for housing, transport and basic services, growing pollution, increased waste volumes and the emergence of vulnerable, non-resilient neighbourhoods increasingly exposed to climate-related risks. - These dynamics justify the urgent need to reform and modernise Morocco's urban planning and management systems to ensure safer, more inclusive and better-serviced urban spaces.
Challenges	- Without a coherent urban policy, rapid urbanisation risks deepening spatial disparities and weakening cities' economic and social potential. - The Cities Without Slums programme faces difficulties due to population growth, densification and land constraints, while interventions in dilapidated housing and heritage areas are hampered by high density, limited citizen involvement and the need for technical assessments. - Ensuring inclusive, safe public spaces is constrained by weak integration of the social dimension and limited local capacities. - Urban mobility challenges persist, particularly for accessibility, traffic management, public transport quality and active mobility. - Heritage preservation faces funding gaps, the erosion of traditional practices and procedural and legal complexities. These constraints underscore the need for stronger coordination across actors, clearer governance mechanisms and increased investment in sustainable urban systems.

<i>Progress/ Solutions</i>	- Urban growth has significantly expanded Morocco's urban network, with cities and urban centres increasing from 195 in 1994 to 364 in 2014. - In response, major reforms have modernised urban policy, planning systems and governance, with coverage by urban planning documents rising from 53.3% of municipalities in 2016 to 74% in 2019, supported by new-generation SDAUs, eco-cities, eco-neighbourhoods and nearly 100,000 hectares opened to urbanisation. - Housing programmes reduced the housing deficit from 1,240,000 units in 2002 to 425,000 in 2018, while informal housing declined from 8.4% in 2004 to 3.6% in 2018; over 1.5 million people benefited from the Cities Without Slums programme, and 17,309 households were assisted under the Housing in Danger of Collapse programme between 2016 and 2019. - Waste management also improved, with professional collection increasing from 44% in 2008 to 95% in 2019 and controlled landfill rates from 11% in 2007 to 63% in 2019, alongside progress in sustainable mobility, public transport, cultural heritage protection and disaster risk management to support resilient urban development.
<i>Unsolved Challenges</i>	- Persistent spatial and social inequalities continue to affect urban and urban areas, especially where infrastructure and basic services are still inadequate. Slum eradication remains incomplete due to planning gaps, land scarcity and demographic pressures. - The protection of vulnerable urban fabrics requires sustained technical assessment and financing, while mobility systems still face structural inefficiencies. Waste management and air-quality improvement efforts must be scaled up to match the pace of urban growth. - Heritage preservation also faces continued risks of degradation and insufficient integration into urban development. - Addressing these outstanding issues will require more robust governance, enhanced territorial planning, better financing mechanisms and deeper citizen participation to ensure that Morocco's urban transformation is sustainable, inclusive and resilient.

12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



Score: 3	
<i>Justification</i>	- Morocco's shift towards sustainable production and consumption is driven by the need to protect natural resources, reduce pollution and align with global environmental commitments. - The country has strengthened its legal framework since the 2000s, adopted key multilateral conventions and launched the 2016 National Framework Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns to guide long-term action.
<i>Challenges</i>	- Despite these achievements, technological and financial barriers persist, slowing the shift to a fully circular economy. - Cultural change among consumers remains limited, producer awareness needs strengthening, and the informal sector—particularly in waste collection and recycling—remains under-organised and under-integrated.

<i>Progress/ Solutions</i>	- Notable progress has been achieved in waste management, with the professionalised collection rate reaching 95% in 2019 and recycling increasing to 10%. National programmes such as the Programme National des Déchets Ménagers (National Household Waste Management Programme) (PNDM), Programme National de Réduction et de Valorisation des Déchets (National Waste Reduction and Recovery Programme) (PNRVD) and Clean Tech-Morocco have helped promote recycling, energy efficiency and green entrepreneurship. - Morocco has also advanced in managing hazardous chemicals, eliminating 1,080 tonnes of PCB equipment and treating 450 tonnes of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) contaminated oils.
<i>Unsolved Challenges</i>	- Key unresolved issues include the creation of sufficient green jobs, deeper private-sector engagement, and accelerated innovation and research. - Waste sorting and recycling systems still require expansion, regional disparities persist and long-term investment is needed to ensure that targets—such as higher recycling rates and sustainable resource use—are effectively met.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Score: 3	
<i>Justification</i>	- Morocco's climate action is driven by a strong political commitment to sustainability, reflected in its early ratification of the Paris Agreement in September 2016 and the submission of its first Nationally Determined Contribution on 19 September 2016. Although national greenhouse gas emissions remained low at 86,123.7 Gg CO₂e in 2016, Morocco chose to place climate concerns at the core of all development policies. - This approach responds to the country's high vulnerability to extreme climatic events—such as droughts, floods and heatwaves—which threaten lives, ecosystems and long-term economic progress.
<i>Challenges</i>	- Despite progress, Morocco faces persistent challenges in coordinating climate governance across multiple stakeholders, integrating long-term adaptation into sectoral planning, and improving local resilience in water, agriculture and transport. - Risk prevention remains difficult due to fragmented responsibilities and costly emergency responses, while limited knowledge-sharing and public awareness weaken environmental decision-making. Securing adequate and innovative financing—especially from private sources—also remains a central obstacle to expanding climate action.
<i>Progress/ Solutions</i>	- Morocco has strengthened its governance and institutional framework through the establishment of the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory System and the National Commission on Climate Change and Biological Diversity. - It created the 4C Maroc centre to enhance national and African climate expertise, and advanced major adaptation measures across water, agriculture, fisheries, forests and infrastructure. - Significant efforts include a voluntary commitment to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by up to 42% by 2030 (conditional on international support), expanded territorial climate planning through Regional Climate Plans, and improved access to international climate finance, with six projects approved by the Green Climate Fund.

<i>Unsolved Challenges</i>	- Key unresolved issues include fully territorialising climate policy, ensuring sustained institutional coordination, and embedding future climate risks into development planning. Local authorities continue to lack sufficient technical and financial capacities to manage climate impacts, particularly in vulnerable sectors. - Additionally, long-term risk management systems require deeper reform, and education on climate change must be more widely integrated. Addressing these gaps is essential for achieving a resilient, low-carbon development model aligned with Morocco's climate commitments to 2030 and beyond.
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Score: 3	
<i>Justification</i>	- Morocco's 3,500 km coastline and extensive maritime spaces hold significant political, economic, environmental, and cultural value, making their preservation essential for national development. - These areas support rich biodiversity, artisanal and coastal fisheries, aquaculture potential, and maritime trade—all of which are vital to both livelihoods and economic growth. - However, their exposure to pollution, erosion, marine submersion, and risks such as accidental oil spills justifies the need for integrated and sustainable management. - The country's geostrategic location further amplifies the urgency of safeguarding coastal and marine ecosystems to ensure long-term environmental resilience and economic stability.
<i>Challenges</i>	- Pollution from maritime traffic, urbanisation, and economic activities remains a significant threat, alongside the increasing vulnerability of coastal areas to erosion and submersion. - The concentration of populations and economic hubs along the coastline intensifies pressure on natural resources and demands stricter urban planning. - Governance complexity, due to multiple stakeholders, often hampers coordination and effective implementation of existing strategies. - Further difficulties include combating overexploitation of fish stocks, addressing unreported and unregulated fishing, expanding aquaculture, improving coastline-specific data—particularly on climate impacts—and ensuring coherent planning across different territorial documents. - These issues are compounded by the need to fully transpose international ship-safety and anti-pollution conventions into national legislation.

<i>Progress/ Solutions</i>	- Morocco has taken substantial steps to strengthen the sustainable governance of its coasts and marine environment. Measures include integrating sustainability into port management in line with MARPOL, launching diagnostic studies in 2019 to assess coastal vulnerability, and protecting the 1.2 million km² Exclusive Economic Zone rich in diverse fishery resources. - Progress has advanced through the National Strategy for Integrated Coastal Zone Management, the creation of a coastal observatory, and the identification of priority regions such as Casablanca-Settat and Dakhla. - In fisheries, production reached around 0.9 million tonnes in 2018, supported by stronger laws to combat overfishing and illegal practices, a ban on gillnets, and significant investment in scientific research and monitoring infrastructure. - At the international level, Morocco remains an active partner, adhering to conventions on marine biodiversity and enhancing coastal cultural heritage protection in 2018–2019.
<i>Unsolved Challenges</i>	- Key gaps include insufficient human resources for effective coastal surveillance, limited progress in expanding marine protected areas beyond the 0.0007% recorded in 2016, and ongoing challenges in strengthening marine scientific research and technology transfer. - The integration and coordination of national strategies among all institutional partners remain incomplete, delaying the full implementation of frameworks such as the National Coastal Plan and the Halieutis Strategy. - Pressures linked to climate change, persistent pollution sources, and the need for more resilient coastal infrastructure also remain inadequately addressed. - Without accelerated, coordinated, and adequately resourced action, these unresolved issues could significantly undermine Morocco's environmental and socio-economic gains in the coastal and maritime sectors.



Score: 3

<i>Justification</i>	- Morocco's forest ecosystems, extending over more than 9 million hectares, are a vital national asset that support rural livelihoods and generate an estimated 17 billion dirhams through their social, economic, and environmental functions. - Forests play an indispensable role in conserving biodiversity, protecting soils, regulating water cycles, and combating desertification—functions that have become even more crucial as the effects of climate change intensify. - Given these pressures, the sustainable management of forests and terrestrial ecosystems has rightly become a national priority to safeguard ecological balance and ensure the well-being of communities that depend on them.
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Challenges	- Despite these achievements, Morocco's natural spaces remain exposed to complex and overlapping threats, many of which are heightened by human activities and climate change. Key challenges include the sustainable management of silvo-pastoral routes, controlling firewood harvesting, and strengthening the preservation of wild biodiversity across fragile ecosystems. - Tackling land degradation requires more robust watershed management, expanded measures against desertification and sand encroachment, and increased reforestation and natural regeneration efforts. Forest fires remain a major risk, demanding improved prevention and response systems. - In addition, stronger Research & Development capacities and better knowledge transfer are urgently needed to support effective ecosystem management.
Progress/ Solutions	- Significant efforts have been undertaken to advance Morocco's commitments under the 2030 Agenda, with reforms targeting institutional, legislative, technical, financial, and operational dimensions. - Key measures include the consolidation of forest policy through participatory governance, updated strategies and action plans, and legal reforms regulating forest use. Practical achievements include reforestation, regeneration, and silvopastoral improvements over 35,000 hectares/year; delimitation of 98% of forest areas; and enhanced monitoring systems. - These actions led to a +0.06% increase in forest area between 2015 and 2019 (reaching 8.06%) and a 31-point increase in forests under management plans (83% in 2019). - Biodiversity protection advanced through the identification of 154 SIBEs covering 2.5 million hectares, the creation of 10 national parks, 38 Ramsar wetlands, and 29 biological reserves. Large-scale anti-desertification programmes—including watershed works on 800,000 hectares and control of sand encroachment over 41,000 hectares—have also contributed to reducing land degradation, estimated at around 5.35% between 2000 and 2015.
Unsolved Challenges	- Several critical issues remain unresolved and continue to constrain Morocco's progress in sustainably managing its terrestrial ecosystems. - Pressing gaps include limited enforcement capacity to regulate forest resource use, the need for more comprehensive monitoring of biodiversity and desertification trends, and persistent pressures on forestlands from demographic and economic activities. - The scale of land degradation and desertification requires further investment, particularly in fragile mountainous and arid regions. - Funding—despite notable increases, such as the forestry budget rising by more than 70% over the last decade—still remains insufficient relative to the magnitude of environmental threats. Ensuring full implementation of national strategies, including “Forests of Morocco 2020-2030” and the National Biodiversity Strategy, also remains a challenge, as progress depends heavily on strengthened governance, effective inter-institutional coordination, and sustained community participation.

Score: 3	
Justification	- SDG 16 is central to Morocco's vision of promoting peace, inclusion, and equal access to justice. - The 2011 Constitution reaffirmed the country's irreversible commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and adherence to international human rights standards. - Despite progress, Morocco continues to face complex challenges, including the need to strengthen judicial independence, enhance transparency, ensure inclusive decision-making, and protect fundamental freedoms in a context shaped by digital technologies and emerging security threats such as terrorism.
Challenges	- Key challenges persist in ensuring full guarantees of fair trial rights, preventing torture, and strengthening protections for persons deprived of liberty. - Public freedoms require further consolidation, particularly in a rapidly changing digital environment. - Vulnerable groups still face gaps in legal safeguards and enforcement. Public administration continues to struggle with issues of efficiency, transparency, and equitable service delivery, as women represented only 36% of public administration staff between 2016 and 2019 and civil servants remain concentrated in a few regions. - Ensuring meaningful citizen participation in democratic processes and improving coordination across decision-making levels also remain significant obstacles.
Progress/ Solutions	- Morocco has advanced institutional and legal reforms to enhance justice, security, and governance. - A major milestone was the 2013 "Charter for the Reform of the Judicial System," which led to the establishment of the High Council of the Judiciary, the Office of the Prosecutor General, and modernisation of judicial administration through digital tools such as mahakim.ma. - The share of detainees awaiting trial decreased from 40% in 2016 to 39% in 2018. Efforts to combat violence include revising penal legislation, establishing a national crime observatory, and strengthening child protection through inter-ministerial coordination and civil registry campaigns, resulting in 96.9% registration of children under five in 2018. - Morocco strengthened protection mechanisms through laws against human trafficking (2016), the 2019 establishment of the National Commission, and the reinforcement of the National Human Rights Council with "A" status accreditation for 2015–2020. - Anti-corruption measures have been enhanced through the National Anti-Corruption Commission (CNAC) and tools like chikaya.ma, contributing to a drop in corruption incidence among companies from 37% in 2013 to 16.9% in 2019.

<i>Unsolved Challenges</i>	- The judicial system still requires deeper structural transformation, including the integration of alternative sentencing and revision of pardon mechanisms. - Persistent constraints affect the full exercise of freedoms of opinion and expression, despite progress in press laws and self-regulation. Vulnerable categories—women, children, persons with disabilities, migrants—continue to face barriers in practice, even where legal frameworks exist. - Public administration modernisation is advancing but remains incomplete, with over 453 online services yet to translate into fully effective e-governance. - Ensuring the implementation of strategies such as the National Action Plan for Democracy and Human Rights (2018–2021), the national counter-terrorism strategy, and the national anti-corruption strategy requires sustained political will, adequate resources, and stronger institutional coordination.
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17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



Score: 3	
<i>Justification</i>	- SDG 17 was established to ensure that the global goals are backed by sufficient financial and non-financial means of implementation. - The international community recognised that achieving the 2030 Agenda required stronger international cooperation, improved access to finance, enhanced technology transfer, and more equitable participation in global trade. - Morocco's efforts align with this objective by seeking to strengthen domestic resource mobilisation, expand international partnerships, promote scientific research, and improve trade integration.
<i>Challenges</i>	- Financing remains constrained, requiring broader mobilisation of resources and improved efficiency. - Strengthening scientific research, technological innovation, and public–private–academic partnerships remain essential. Export competitiveness is limited, with exporting companies representing only 7% of all businesses in 2019, and structural issues such as non-tariff barriers and low value-added production persist. - Ensuring coherence between national and territorial policies is an ongoing challenge, alongside the need to deepen international cooperation, particularly North–South and South–South collaboration. - Further efforts are also required to enhance the capacity of the national statistical system to produce more SDG indicators and improve data disaggregation.

<i>Progress/ Solutions</i>	- Between 2015 and 2019, Morocco made notable progress across finance, technology, trade, and partnerships. Public revenue stabilised at around 21% of GDP before rising to 22% in 2019, while the share of the budget financed by national taxes increased from 68.1% in 2014 to 75.8% in 2018. - Public external debt service fell from 8.6% to 6.9% of exports between 2016 and 2019. Remittances rose from 62.5 billion dirhams in 2016 to 64.9 billion dirhams in 2018. - Progress in technology and innovation was reinforced through bilateral and multilateral agreements, including partnerships with the EU, GEF, WB, GCF, UNDP, and UNEP. - Internet usage increased from 58.3% to 64.8% between 2016 and 2018, while the PNHD supported broadband expansion. In trade, Morocco reduced average duties on imports from developing countries from 7.5% in 2016 to 6.8% in 2019 and ratified the AfCFTA in 2018 and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in 2019. - South–South cooperation expanded significantly, including a one-million-dollar Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) trust fund, the 2019 creation of the Coalition for Sustainable Energy Access, and projects such as the African Gas Pipeline. - In environmental cooperation, Morocco mobilised approximately USD 153 million, and in migration, over 23,000 migrants were regularised in 2014–2015 and a further 28,000 applications submitted in 2016–2017.
<i>Unsolved Challenges</i>	- Domestic financing still needs diversification and resilience, especially in the face of fluctuating non-tax revenues. - Gaps in scientific research funding persist, and the ambitions of the Morocco-Digital 2020 and scientific research strategies require stronger implementation. - In trade, Morocco continues to face a high goods trade deficit—18.6% of GDP in 2018—and competitiveness challenges linked to energy and food import dependence. PPP potential remains underexploited despite legislative reforms, and projects assessed between 2016 and 2019 totalled 3,316 billion dirhams without translation into a full operational pipeline. - The national statistical system continues to produce only 61 Level I indicators, 35 Level II and 3 Level III, revealing significant gaps. Persistent disparities in internet access, limited integration of local enterprises into global value chains, and the need for greater policy coherence highlight areas requiring sustained effort up to 2030.

Source: (United Nations, 2020a; United Nations, 2020b).

Major Challenges

- **Persistent Poverty and Inequality:** Despite progress in several regions, income and opportunity gaps remain significant. Vulnerable groups continue to face limited access to basic services, employment, and social protection, hindering progress across multiple SDGs.
- **Slow Economic Diversification:** Many economies remain dependent on a narrow range of sectors, exposing them to external shocks and limiting resilience. This constrains job creation, innovation, and long-term sustainable growth.

- **High Unemployment, Especially Among Youth and Women:** Labour markets struggle to absorb the growing workforce. Gender gaps and youth unemployment remain structural challenges, reducing the inclusiveness of development.
- **Pressures on Natural Resources:** Water scarcity, land degradation, biodiversity loss and unsustainable resource use continue to intensify. These pressures undermine food security, health, and climate resilience.
- **Climate Change Impacts:** Rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and ecosystem stress disrupt livelihoods, infrastructure, and economic stability. Climate adaptation and mitigation remain insufficient in many countries.
- **Gaps in Health and Education Quality:** While access has improved, disparities persist in service quality, availability of trained staff, and infrastructure. NCD and emerging health risks also strain systems.
- **Financing Constraints and Debt Vulnerabilities:** Domestic resource mobilisation remains insufficient, and many countries face rising debt pressures. This restricts investment in social protection, infrastructure, and sustainability initiatives.
- **Gaps in Data, Monitoring, and Statistical Systems:** Many national statistical systems still struggle to produce complete, high-quality, and disaggregated data. This affects evidence-based policymaking and the tracking of SDG progress.
- **Trade Competitiveness and Market Integration Barriers:** Limited diversification of exports, low productivity, and non-tariff barriers constrain participation in regional and global value chains.
- **Insufficient Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs):** PPP frameworks are often underused or face institutional and financial barriers, limiting their potential to support infrastructure, innovation, and service delivery.
- **Migration Pressures and Integration Challenges:** Irregular migration, inadequate integration policies, and pressure on border services complicate progress in social inclusion, labour markets, and human rights protection.

Key Lessons Learned

- **Strengthening Integrated Governance Improves SDG Outcomes:** Countries benefit from establishing clear, coordinated institutional frameworks to manage cross-sectoral SDG policies. Integrated governance reduces duplication, enhances accountability, and supports coherent implementation.
- **Investing in Human Capital Accelerates Long-Term Progress:** Expanding access to quality education, healthcare, and social protection strengthens resilience and productivity. Human capital investments consistently produce broad, long-term gains across multiple SDGs.
- **Sustainable Resource Management is Essential for Future Stability:** Effective management of water, land, and marine ecosystems helps safeguard economic and social development. This includes adopting ecosystem-based approaches, enforcing environmental regulations, and promoting circular-economy practices.
- **Economic Diversification Reduces Vulnerability to Shocks:** Countries that broaden their economic base—from agriculture to manufacturing, services, and green sectors—are better positioned to absorb external shocks and maintain sustainable growth.

- **Community Engagement Enhances Policy Effectiveness:** Actively involving local communities, civil society, and the private sector leads to more inclusive, accepted, and impactful policies. Participatory approaches improve sustainability and long-term ownership.

Notable Contribution

- **2015–2019** – Reforestation and silvopastoral regeneration carried out on 35,000 hectares per year to strengthen forest resilience.
- **2019:** Forest spaces grew by +0.06%, reaching 8.06%, with 98% of forest areas delimited.
- **2019:** Forests under management plans increased by 31 points, reaching 83% coverage.
- **2015–2019:** 800,000 hectares of watersheds rehabilitated, 250,000 hectares treated for erosion control, and over 41,000 hectares protected from sand encroachment.
- **2000–2015:** Degraded areas remained stable at 5.35% of total land area.
- **2015–2019:** Forestry budget increased by over 70%, including an 11% rise for forest development and over 30% for anti-desertification programmes.

Recommendations

- **Strengthen judicial independence:** Further separate judicial and executive functions to reinforce public trust in the justice system.
- **Expand digital public services:** Accelerate e-government deployment to improve transparency, efficiency, and citizen access.
- **Enhance child and women’s protection systems:** Strengthen integrated services and legal frameworks to better prevent violence and support victims.
- **Accelerate anti-corruption measures:** Empower anti-corruption bodies, increase transparency tools, and ensure strict enforcement of penalties.
- **Boost environmental and climate resilience:** Intensify coastal, marine, and forest protection measures to address pollution, erosion, and climate risks.
- **Improve data availability and quality:** Strengthen national data systems to support evidence-based policymaking and SDG monitoring.
- **Promote inclusive economic participation:** Expand opportunities for youth, women, and rural populations to reduce inequalities and foster shared growth.
- **Increase investment in social services:** Prioritise spending on health, education, and social protection to reinforce human development.
- **Strengthen migration governance:** Continue implementing humane and coherent approaches to integration, asylum, and anti-trafficking efforts.

Conclusion

Submitted in July 2020, Morocco's VNR reaffirms the country's continued commitment to the **2030 Agenda**, by strengthening SDG governance through the establishment of the National Commission for Sustainable Development and by adopting a nationally validated SDG report prepared by the High Commission for Planning. Building on major investments since the early 2000s—raising renewable energy capacity to 34%, reducing poverty from 8.9% in 2007 to 2.9% in 2018, and achieving average economic growth of 4.2%—the country has consolidated a development model aligned with the 2011 Constitution and supported by wide-ranging participatory mechanisms. Despite the significant impact of COVID-19, including an estimated 8.9-point loss of growth in the second quarter of 2020, Morocco responded decisively through early lockdown measures, digital continuity of essential services and the creation of a national solidarity fund. Going forward, Morocco's commitment to transparency, inclusive governance and strengthened South-South cooperation—particularly with Africa—will continue to guide its efforts to accelerate the implementation, monitoring and shared ownership of the SDGs by 2030.

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The SDG Tracker (SDGT) is a global research initiative, developed under the auspices of the World Association for Sustainable Development (WASD), designed to systematically analyse and score the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) submitted by United Nations member states. The SDGT aims to enhance global accountability, promote transparency, provide evidence-based insights for policymakers, and facilitate cross-country comparison and benchmarking, with all its comprehensive findings made publicly available on the dedicated SDGs Tracker Platform. For more information about this report and/or any other activities of the initiative, please visit: www.sdgstracker.org and contact us: director@sdgstracker.org.



WASD COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

WASD is delighted to be working very closely with various United Nations Agencies, most specifically with the UN Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). Both JIU and WASD are inspired by the conviction that the UN **Agenda 2030** for Sustainable Development (SD) and the **17** Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide the momentum for renewed UN engagement with the public and private sectors.

In **2018**, WASD collaborated with JIU on the UN project **Strengthening policy research uptake in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, aimed at reviewing the policy research uptake in service of the **2030 Agenda** for SD. For the first time in its **52** year history, the UN (aided by WASD) officially consulted academics and researchers from all over the world on the policy research uptake in the UN.

In **2019**, WASD also worked very closely with the UN JIU to undertake a UN system-wide review of policies, programmes, and platforms to support learning and enhancing the adequacy of training policies in the UN. The report **Policies and platforms in support of learning: towards more coherence, coordination, and convergence** was launched officially on **28** October 2020 at the opening of WASD's Online Learning Conference.

These various initiatives and events with the UN JIU have encouraged WASD to launch its **Sustainable Development Goals Tracker (SDGT)**.



Sustainability Tracker

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