



المملكة المغربية
Kingdom of Morocco



GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM 2023

**MOROCCO'S PATH
OF ACHIEVEMENTS
BEST PRACTICES
AND PLEDGE**

GENEVA, 13-15 DECEMBER 2023



HIS MAJESTY THE KING MOHAMMED VI ACCOMPANIED BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE MOULAY RACHID VISITING THE MOROCCAN FIELD HOSPITAL IN THE ZAATARI REFUGEE CAMP (JORDAN)

In His Message to the first World Humanitarian Summit, held on May 23, 2016 in Istanbul, His Majesty The King Mohammed VI stressed *“To address the suffering and tragedies that arise from the current international situation, marked by a staggering rise in the number of refugees and migrants worldwide, it is important to focus today on everything that is pragmatic, by adopting a rational approach and coming up with proactive and forward-looking proposals, suitable for developing humanitarian action, away from any political instrumentalization.”*



In the global and regional context marked by tensions and forced mobility, Morocco's stability is a remarkable enabler for making transition from a country of departure and transit, to a host country for a growing number of migrants and refugees.

In August 2023, the Kingdom counted more than 19.133 refugees and asylum seekers, registered in the UNHCR Office in Morocco.

Morocco's determination to promote the social integration of refugees has been demonstrated on many occasions. Among the major achievements in this area was the introduction, in 2013, of the National Immigration and Asylum Strategy - SNIA, in line with the Royal guidelines set out by His Majesty the King Mohammed VI.

This National strategy stands out for its comprehensive and humanist approach, in accordance with the Kingdom's constitutional fundamentals and international commitments, and in partnership with Non-Government Actors.

The operationalization of this National Strategy, set out in an Action Plan, has enabled refugees and asylum-seekers to benefit from the full range of services, including access to education, healthcare, housing, social and humanitarian assistance, legal protection, vocational training and self-employment, on an equal basis with Moroccan citizens.

The first edition of the Global Forum for Refugees, held in December 2019 in Geneva, enabled the various stakeholders to discuss the actions to be implemented for refugees' international protection, and launch mechanisms for responsibility sharing that were envisioned by the Global Compact.

Participants made some 840 pledges and shared more than 400 examples of good practices that show how the Global Compact can make a difference in refugees' lives.

On this occasion, Morocco has contributed by 300,000\$ to support registration and documentation operations, which it considers an important tool ensuring the integrity of the refugee protection system.

Since 2019, the Kingdom has continued to implement its commitments relating to migrants and refugees, with a view to guaranteeing their rights and facilitating their integration into Moroccan society.

In the same spirit, the Kingdom held, on June 2023, the Third Global Consultation on Refugees and Migrants' Health, to assess progress and good practices in promoting this category's health and well-being, as well as host communities. Ministers and Government representatives adopted the 'Rabat Declaration', a groundbreaking political declaration calling to strengthen international commitments to improve refugees and migrants' health.

Moroccan public governance has made great progress towards promoting refugees' living conditions, through the multi-stakeholder and partnership approach enshrined in the Global Compact for Refugees, which resulted in a significant involvement, in addition to public actors, of the private sector and the civil society.

GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM 2023

MOROCCAN ACHIEVEMENTS

1. ACCESS TO HEALTH

- Adoption of 2021-2025 National Strategic Health and Immigration Plan, the reference framework for all stakeholders involved in improving the access of migrants and refugees to health promotion and medical care services.
- Integration of refugees in National Public Health Programs and free access to preventive and curative primary health care programs: chronic diseases (cardiovascular conditions and diabetes) and communicable diseases (tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS), mental health, pregnancy and childbirth monitoring program, family planning program, school health program, integrated childcare, national immunization program...
- Integration of migrants and refugees in the national surveillance and response plan for Coronavirus infection 2019-nCoV, and in the vaccination campaign free of charge.
- Organization of humanitarian and social actions during the COVID-19 pandemic, in conjunction with 59 NGOs and with international organizations' support: Distribution of hygiene and cleaning kits, food kits and vouchers /Awareness-raising on prevention measures against COVID-19.
- Integration of migrants and refugees in the 'SEHATI' portal of Health Department dedicated to information, health education and awareness-raising on prevention against COVID-19.
- Launch of the generalization of social coverage for migrants and refugees. A Partnership Agreement has been signed between the Ministry of Health and UNHCR on 14/11/2022, to facilitate refugees and asylum seekers' access to medical and social coverage and to extend their access to public hospitals (secondary and tertiary health care levels).
- Inclusion of 'health and migration issue" in initial training curriculum of public health specialization cycle to strength health professionals' skills on migrants and refugees' specific needs.
- 'Second bio-behavioral study on migrants in Morocco' designed to assess migrants and refugees' Health in general, and specifically HIV/AIDS prevention and care, tuberculosis, viral Hepatitis COVID 19, reproductive health, access to health services.
- Several «Public-Private» Partnerships concluded to promote refugees' access to health care, education, and integration into the labor market (Noufissa Pharma Foundation⁵, National Council of the Order of Physicians, TIBU-Morocco Foundation for inclusion through sport, Inter-professional Federation of the Poultry Sector).
- Organization of medical caravans and awareness-raising sessions for refugees, with the support of International Organizations and Moroccan Civil Society.

2. ACCESS TO EDUCATION

- Access to public-school system granted to all refugees (formal and non-formal education system, tutoring and preschool education).
- Last school year, 6515 migrants and refugees' pupils attended public education. The total number of refugees' pupils broken down by cycle was 576 in primary education (83%), when Private schools catered for 120 pupils (17%).
- Ministry of National Education has undertaken programs and actions of school tutoring for children in special situations, among them pupils from migrant and refugee families. These actions are implemented by schools through basic support (3 hours per week) and intensive support during the preparation of certification exams.
- Promotion of direct integration of migrants and refugees' children in mixed classes with Moroccans. Thus, the integration scheme offers migrant and refugees children the opportunity to benefit from remedial education systems through the second chance school.
- Availability, at the Ministry of Higher Education, of an equivalence system for diplomas obtained abroad.
- Integration of migrant and refugee's children in the "Caravan" and "Child to Child" operations for identification, sensitization and orientation of out-of-school children, carried out annually by the National Education Department.
- Integration of migrant and refugee's children in social programs for dropout prevention ("Tayssir": social support through conditional cash transfers/ Operation "One Million Schoolbags"/ school canteens and boarding schools).
- Conclusion of several Public-Private partnerships to promote refugees' access to education: TIBU-Morocco Foundation for inclusion through sport..).
- Setting up clubs for living together in schools to promote 'culture of acceptance of others' from an early age.
- Raising media awareness on migration and asylum issues through the organization of several training sessions for media with support of international organizations (Integration of migration and asylum component in initial training courses of the Higher Institute of Information and Communication).
- Launching the territorialisation of National Strategy of Immigration and Asylum process at regional and local levels, through the implementation of several awareness and capacities reinforcement actions for territorial actors.
- On 29 April 2021, in the spirit of the SNIA and the GCR, Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research signed an agreement with UNHCR to facilitate refugees' integration in preschool, primary, secondary and higher education establishments, as well as vocational training.
- Five Moroccan Universities signed a MoU with UNHCR (Hassan II-Ain Chock University, Abdelmalek Saadi School of Legal, Economic and Social Sciences of Tangier, FSJEC Law Clinic of Mohammed V University of Rabat-Agdal, International University of Rabat - Political Science Branch and Hassan I, University of Oujda) to organise Trainings for University students on international refugee's protection.

- Establishment of three legal clinics accessible for refugees and asylum seekers.
- Carrying out awareness-raising actions for migrants and refugees, by the legal clinics of the universities within the framework of the project 'Legal Empowerment of Migrants and refugees' with the support of international organizations.

3. BORDER MANAGEMENT

- Establishment of close collaboration between local authorities, specialised UN organisations and civil society actors, to implement extensive direct assistance and psychological support programmes for foreigners in vulnerable situation in Morocco.
- Suspension of legal and regulatory deadlines concerning expiry of validity of residence permits, during COVID-19 health crisis.
- Consolidation of a humanized management of borders, an innovative concept that breaks down barriers between migration paradigms and brings them into coherence, by placing respect of migrants and refugees' rights and non-refoulement principle at the very center of migration governance, beyond any security consideration. Humanized borders' management is focused on reception, orientation, care, support and monitoring of irregular migrants and asylum seekers, as well as unaccompanied minors and Human Trafficking victims, in close collaboration with specialized UN organisations and civil society actors.
- Planning and implementation of awareness raising actions and reinforcement of territorial actors' capacities to accompany the territorialisation of the SNIA.
- Development of a proactive and fruitful cooperation between 'Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Ministry of Interior/UNHCR', based on 1951 Geneva Convention's provisions relating to the Status of Refugees.
- The Ministry of Interior has also stepped up ongoing training activities in partnership with specialized UN organizations (UNHCR, OHCHR, IOM, UNODC), in addition to ongoing training programs carried out in partnership with EU agencies.
- Implementation of several actions to inform and raise awareness on SNIA programs, to bring authorities closer to the realities and issues related to migration and asylum.

4. HOUSING

- Ensuring access for migrants to state-subsidized social housing programs (purchase) under the same conditions as Moroccans.
- Carrying out several emergency and temporary housing programs for migrants and refugees in vulnerable situations, with Civil Society NGOs and International Organizations support.

5. SUPPORT OF EMPLOYMENT

- Opening ANAPEC -National Employment Agency- services to refugees (job search workshops, positioning interviews), active employment programs (IDMAJ, TAEHIL, AWRACH), as well as supporting project holders, and removal of the national preference for employment contracts, to facilitate regularized migrants and refugees' economic integration (since 2015, 5610 migrants and refugees have been registered at the ANAPEC, 1858 participated in job interviews, 1803 participated in job search workshops, and 188 migrants and refugees successfully integrated job market).
- Strengthening refugees' opportunities to formal businesses creation and access to entrepreneurship and grouping in cooperatives (revision of law n° 112-12 on cooperatives).
- Carrying out pilot initiatives aimed at mobilizing microfinance institutions on inclusion of refugees, and implementation of several projects aimed at strengthening support for migrants and refugees residing in Morocco in terms of self-employment.
- Raising employers' awareness on employment equity and equal treatment.
- The Vocational Training Department entered into a partnership agreement with UNHCR on April 29, 2021, to streamline refugees' access to national education, higher education and vocational training areas in Morocco.
- Granting access for Refugees to training programs offered by public vocational training institutions and centers (OFPPT, National Mutual Aid, Department of Crafts), as well as private vocational training institutions, on an equal basis with Moroccans, to increase their chances of obtaining decent employment.
- Allocation of a 5% quota to migrants and refugees in apprenticeship training centers under the Department of Craft through relevant agreements.
- Granting Interim registration certificates to individuals from foreign educational systems, pending the issuance of equivalency for their required level of education, according to a revised guidance circular in this regard.
- Creation of over 900 income-generating activities (IGAs) for refugees supported by AMAPPE (Association Marocaine d'Appui à la Promotion de la Petite Entreprise), covering various sectors such as commerce, catering, cooking, and services.
- Organization of annual events, such as World Refugee Day, to raise awareness, share success stories and strengthen commitment to refugees' economic and social integration.
- Launch of an awareness-raising campaign on ethical recruitment in December 2021, for one year, in partnership with the IOM.
- Launch and diffusion of a 'Guide on foreigner's employment', via the TAECHIR information system (www.travail.gov.ma).
- Facilitating 'the work contract visa' for refugees: 'Dematerialisation Procedure' through implementation of «Taechir» online system and opening of local counters.
- Opening foreigners' access to certain regulated professions in the medical sector (nurse, midwife, doctor).

- Simplifying foreigners -particularly regularized migrants and refugees- integration procedures into Moroccan labour market.
- Partnership Agreement between the TIBU-Maroc (NGO) and the HCR in April 2021, to promote young refugees' integration into second chance school (new generation) and training and professional programs in the sport sector;
- Partnership Agreement between the UNHCR, the 'AMAPPE' and the 'ENGG' (National School of Business and Management of Beni-Mellal in June 2021, to promote research on refugees' economic integration.

6. SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- Access to legal assistance including the provision of a lawyer, translation services and waiver of legal costs to refugees.
- Integration of refugees into National Social Assistance Programmes, enabling them to benefit from a multitude of services in National Mutual Aid establishments (accommodation, distribution of clothing and hygiene kits, professional training, etc.).
- Integration of refugee's children, including unaccompanied minors, in child protection programmes.
- Integration of female refugees into antidiscrimination programs, including listening and counselling services and legal and psychological assistance, with Civil Society support.

7. NATIONAL DATA ON REFUGEE POPULATION

- Studies on 'Socio-economic impact of Covid-19 on refugees in Morocco' realized in 2020, and on 'Socio-economic situation of refugees in Morocco' realized in 2022' conducted by the High Commission for Planning.
- Integration of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in national surveys, including in the upcoming national census in 2024, by developing innovative methods and tools to product and disseminate refugee-related data and analysis.
- Harmonization of statistics on refugees recognized by Moroccan Government, as part of the initiative launched in 2021 by the HCP, to establish an 'integrated information system on migration in Morocco', including refugees.
- The HCP is a member of the expert group on statistics on refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless persons, established by UN Statistical Commission in 2016.

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MOROCCAN BEST PRACTICES

ACCESS TO HEALTH

- National Health and Immigration Strategic Plan 2021-2025 adopted to improve migrants and refugees access to preventive and health services and medical care. The strategic plan includes 5 main areas: 1. Strengthening surveillance, monitoring, evaluation, and research; 2. Health promotion and prevention; 3. Appropriate care; 4. Governance; 5. Capacity building of actors.
- National Campaigns to improve Birth Registration of all unregistered children - including migrants and refugees- organized, under the slogan 'Registration in the civil register, a constitutional right: I am registered, therefore I exist'.
- Integration of migrants and refugees in the national surveillance and response plan for Coronavirus infection 2019-nCoV, and in the vaccination campaign free of charge.
- Launch of the generalization of social coverage for migrants and refugees. A Partnership Agreement has been signed between Ministry of Health and UNHCR on 14/11/2022, to facilitate asylum seekers and refugees' access to medical and social coverage and to extend their access to public hospitals (secondary and tertiary health care levels).
- The hosting by Morocco, on June 2023, of the third Global Consultation on Refugees and Migrants' Health, to assess progress and good practices in promoting this category's health and well-being, as well as host communities. Ministers and Government representatives adopted 'TheRabat Declaration', a groundbreaking political declaration calling to strengthen international commitments to improve refugees and migrants' health.

NATIONAL DATA ON REFUGEE POPULATION

- Studies on 'Socio-economic impact of Covid-19 on refugees in Morocco' carried out in 2020, and on 'Socio-economic situation of refugees in Morocco' in 2022' conducted by the High Commission for Planning.
- Integration of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in national surveys including upcoming national census in 2024.

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

- Educational integration scheme for children from immigrant, asylum seekers' and refugee's families established with the aim of setting up an organisational, administrative, and pedagogical framework and formalising the educational integration process by specifying the stages, actions, participants, and periods of implementation (Circular no. 139-18 of October 5, 2018 relating to the integration of foreign students).
- Inclusion of the values of tolerance, coexistence cultural diversity in curricula, textbooks, school life, and teacher training in the field of education.
- Award organised to encourage students and young journalists to convey positive discourses on migration and asylum in partnership with ISIC with the support of International Organizations.

SUPPORT OF EMPLOYMENT

- Integrating a module on international migration in the Permanent National Employment Survey (2025-2027).
- Carrying out pilot initiatives to raise awareness and encourage employers to recruit migrants and refugees through the simplified procedure dedicated to this purpose.
- Collaboration between Private sector - CGEM and UNHCR to promote refugees' self-reliance, by providing information sessions for refugees on labour regulation in Morocco.
- Implementation of the multi-stakeholder and partnership approach enshrined by the Global Compact for Refugees to promote refugees' living conditions, which resulted in a significant involvement, in addition to public actors, of private sector and civil society.

LOOKING BEYOND 2023 MOROCCAN PLEDGE TOWARDS 2027

Since the first edition of the GRF in 2019, Morocco has made great progress within the framework of the continuous implementation of the National Strategy on Immigration and Asylum towards promoting refugees' living conditions, through the multi-stakeholder and partnership approach enshrined in the Global Compact on Refugees, which resulted in a significant involvement of Public Actors, Private Sector and Civil Society.

Looking ahead to the second edition, Morocco pledges to advance the following action-oriented priorities:

- Consolidating the implementation of the 'Humanized Border Management' and improving the processes in place, with a view to broadening its field of application, by integrating other countries through the development of a 'Regional Charter on Humanized Borders Management', as initiated by 'the Rabat Process'.
- Consolidating refugee's integration in National Public Health Programs, Primary and Emergency Health Care and generalizing social coverage for all migrants and refugees.
- Keep promoting educational integration scheme for children from refugees' and asylum seekers' families.
- Consolidating regularized migrants and refugee's integration into Moroccan labor market.
- Integrating of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in national surveys including in the upcoming national census in 2024.
- Support of African partners in methodological conception, collection and analysis of the 'Survey on the socio-economic situation of refugees', by capitalizing on the experience acquired by the High Commission for Planning, within the framework of the survey carried out in 2022.



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