

MOROCCO

Region: North Africa (Global North)

Population (2022): 37.5 million (40th)

Life Expectancy at Birth (Women): 74.31 years (109th)

Governance System: Unitary parliamentary semi-constitutional monarchy

Capital: Rabat

Land Area (km²): 446,300 (54th)

Major Languages: Arabic, French

Select Global Rankings

GDP (2022): 61st (134,182 US\$ Millions)

Human Development Index: 123rd (Medium)

Fragile States Index - Inverted: 90th (Cat. 6)

Good Country Index: 55th

Human Freedom Index: 134th

World Happiness Ranking: 100th

Select Global Rankings (Gender-Focus)

Gross National Income Per Capita (Women): 130th

Gender Social Norms Index: 52nd

Women's Power Index: 121st

Social Institutions and Gender Index (World Cup rank): 31st

Gender Inequality Index: 104th

Global Gender Gap Index: 136th

Women Peace & Security Index: 138th

Elite Sport System Rankings

2020 Summer Olympic Women's Medals (% of Total): 0 (0%)

2022 Winter Olympic Women's Medals (% of Total): no medals

Global Cup Ranking (Women): 41st

Football/World Cup Profile

FIFA Region: CAF

FIFA Ranking: 72

World Cup Appearance: 1st

Best World Cup Performance(s): Debut

Qualification: African Cup of Nations semi-finalist

World Cup Group: H

Last World Cup Appearance: none

MOROCCO in International (Gender) Affairs (by Jonah Lee)

When Morocco became a French protectorate through the signing of the Treaty of Fez in 1912, the nation maintained its pre-colonial structure but was [indirectly ruled and controlled through the incorporation of French administration](#). This system would play a critical role in the advancement of the nation. Through the construction of railways and roads, the French increased the exporting of their greatest resources, [phosphate and agricultural produce](#), to develop a modern economy that appealed to settlers of the newly colonized land. Since its independence in 1956, Morocco continues to stand as a nation [influential to Africa and the Arab world](#). Currently ruled by King Mohammad VI, the country has undergone significant political reform in the past decade. These changes were inspired by the anti-government uprising known as the [Arab Spring](#) and resulted in Morocco [transitioning from a traditional monarchy to more of a hybrid government](#) that encourages societal input through lessening the power of the king and increasing that of the prime minister and democratically elected parliament. Regarding relations with other countries, Morocco has a [free-trade agreement](#) with the United States that has stood since 2006. This has aided the nation in improving their business climate and establishing themselves as a hub for sales, finance, assembly, and shipping. The [bilateral economic relations](#) between the two countries have only increased since 2006, with the value of goods exported from Morocco to the US

going from \$446 million to \$1.60 billion and exports from the US to Morocco rising from \$481 million to \$3.49 billion. On a more global scale, the country belongs to a number of international organizations including the Arab League, United Nations, and Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). A recent notable membership was [Morocco's readmission into the African Union \(AU\)](#) after 33 years of absence as a result of the Western Sahara Conflict, though there is still ongoing dispute.

The [Family Code](#), passed in 1958, subjected women to the authority of their husbands and prioritized the purpose of reproduction. When the Code was reformed in 2004, it marked the greatest progression towards gender equality for Moroccan women and finally gave them a voice in marriage and children. Some of the many [advancements](#) made by this change included the raising of the minimum age for women to get married to 18 years, allowing for property sharing between couples, retention of children's custody for mothers, and improved inheritance rights. Though the change in policy was a grand step in the right direction for women's rights, it is also important to recognize that years of living disadvantaged to men has resulted in further struggle. Morocco already struggles with [issues of literacy and education](#), and of the 10 million citizens who cannot read or write, 62% are women. This plays into the lack of employment opportunities where Moroccan women only represent 25.5% of the active population. Progressions have been made by parliament and a task force created by UN Women to improve the gender gap in employment through implementing [mandatory quotas](#) in which women must occupy at least 30% by 2024 and 40% by 2027 of the boards of publicly traded companies. Regarding sport, soccer is one of the nation's most popular sports and Morocco's women's team will be the [first Arab nation to compete in the World Cup](#). They are also the only country in the world to have [two tiers of professional women's football](#), which has aided in the influence and spread of the game throughout North Africa.