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THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN
IN MOROCCO

COUNTRY FACTSHEET: DECEMBER 2024

Factsheet on the situation of Children in Morocco

Data Factsheet – December 2024

Prepared by UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office

This country factsheet provides a snapshot of the situation of children, adolescents and youth in Morocco, aligned with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and relevant child-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The factsheet gives an overview of the most recent child-related statistics, drawing on internationally comparable indicators available through global databases. Indicators have been chosen based on the availability of historical data from 2010 and geographic coverage, with priority to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators.

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- (1) Demographic and Economic Overview
- (2) Right to health and healthcare
- (3) Right to proper nutrition
- (4) Right to education
- (5) Right to be protected
- (6) Right to an equitable chance in life
- (7) Right to a clean and safe environment

HIGHLIGHTS

- Morocco is a **lower-middle income** economy. The GDP per capita has increased by 2% in 2023 after 0% in 2022..
- Children represented **almost a third** of the population in 2023.
- The country has made notable progress in terms of reducing child mortality , achieving **more than 60% reduction** in under-five mortality rates between 2000 and 2022 . However, access to antenatal care remains **considerably low** with households from the poorest quintile and rural areas disadvantaged.
- **Almost all children** had received 3 doses of the DTP vaccine and 2 doses of the measles vaccine, with coverage 99% for both in 2023.
- **More than one-third of the youth** aged 15 to 24 were unemployed in 2022, with females being disadvantaged (44% vs 29%)
- In 2018, **14% of women aged 20 to 24** reported being married before the age of 18, with a **significant disparity between rural and urban** areas: 21% in rural areas compared to 9% in urban areas.
- The proportion of children living in multidimensional poverty **reduced from 42% in 2011 to 24% in 2018.**
- **About one-fifth** of the Moroccan population was covered by at least one social protection benefit. in 2022.
- The level of water stress was **medium** and the children’s climate risk index was classified as **medium-high** in 2020.

Disclaimer

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Demography and Economy

Demography

% of the population 2023

Children (0-4 years)	8.4
Children (0-17 years)	31.1
Adolescents (10-19 years)	17.2

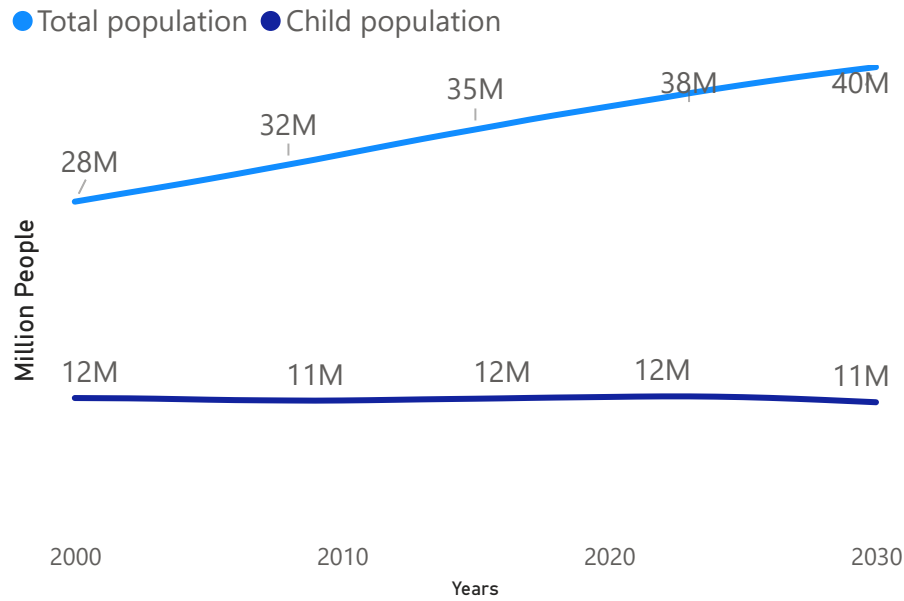
Number of births per year (in thousands) 2023

Number of births	630
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Average number of children per woman over the childbearing years 2023

Total fertility rate	2.2
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Population Trends and Projections (2000-2030)



Total population 2023

2023

38M

Child population 2023

2023

12M

Population growth rate (annual % change)

2023

1.0

Urban population (%)

2023

65.1

Refugees & asylum seekers (% of total population)

2023

0.02

% of children (0-17) years amongst refugee population

2023

33.8

% of children (2-17) years with functional difficulties

No Data

Economy

Annual GDP and GDP per Capita Growth (2000-2023)

World Bank 2023/2024 Income classification

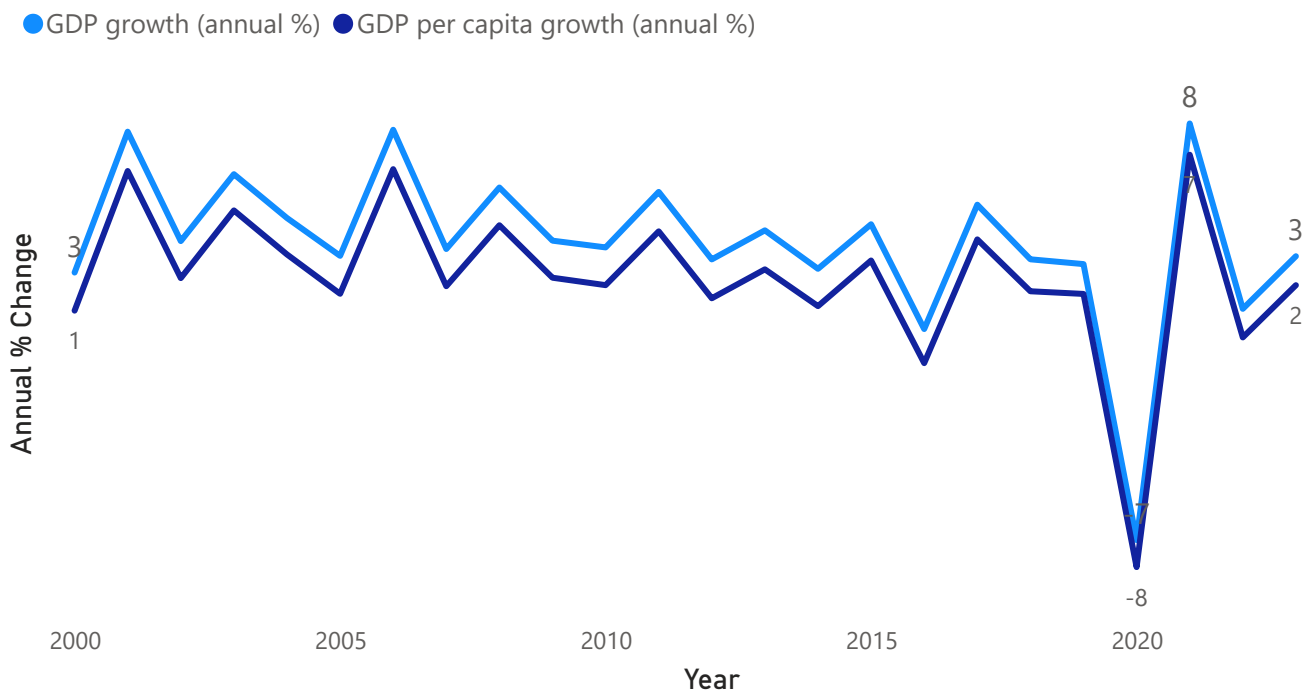
Lower middle income

Indicator 2023

GDP per capita (current US\$)	3672.1
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Indicator 2023

Inflation, consumer prices (annual %)	6.1
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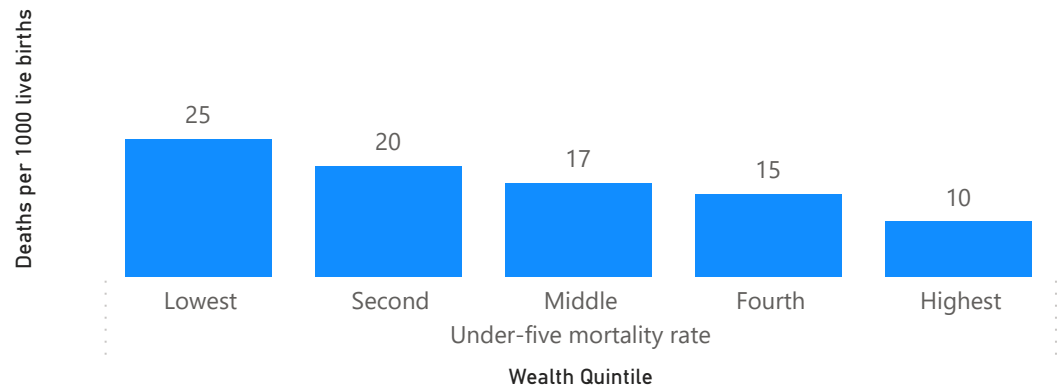
Child Mortality

Mortality rates (deaths per 1,000 live births)	2000	2022
Neonatal mortality rate	29	11
Infant mortality rate	44	15
Under-five mortality rate	52	17

Under-five deaths
2022

11K

Inequalities in Under 5 Mortality Rate 2022



Maternal and Child Health

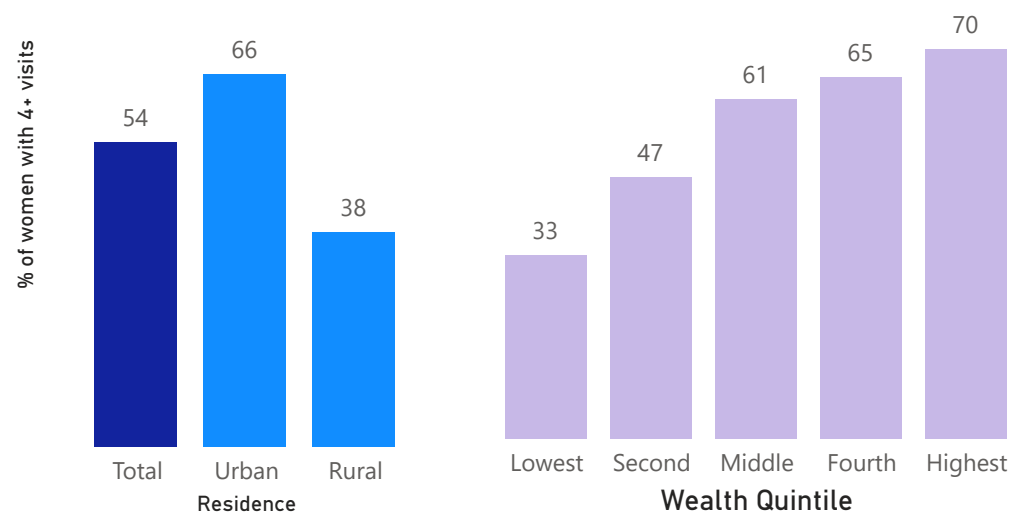
Health care and services (% of women, 15-49 years, 2018 with a live birth in the last 2 years)

Antenatal care 4+ visits	54
Institutional deliveries	86
Skilled birth attendant	87

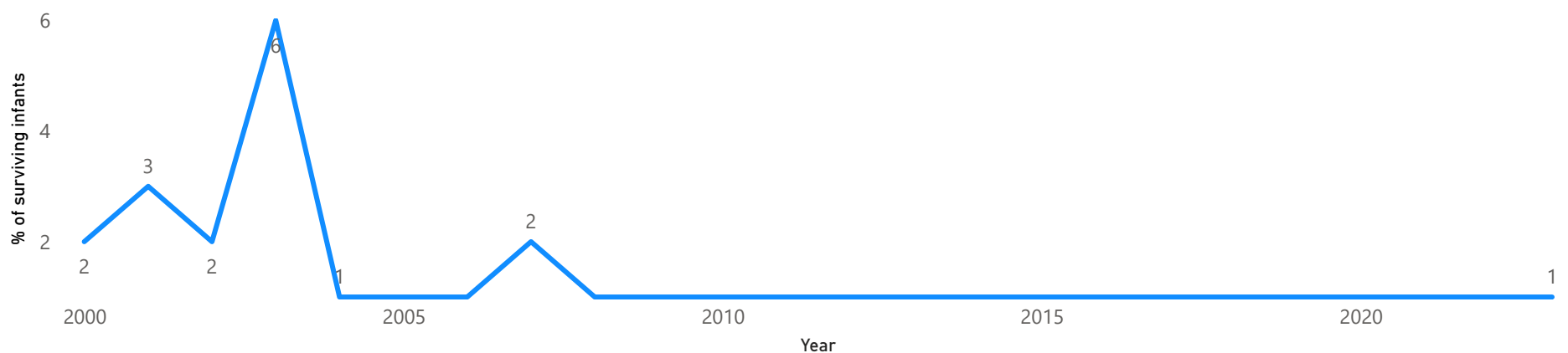
Immunization (% of children, 0-2 years) 2023

Received 1st dose of DTP	99
Received 2 doses of measles vaccine	99
Received 3 doses of DTP	99

Inequalities in Access to Antenatal Care 2018



Zero-dose Children (No Vaccination for DTP1)



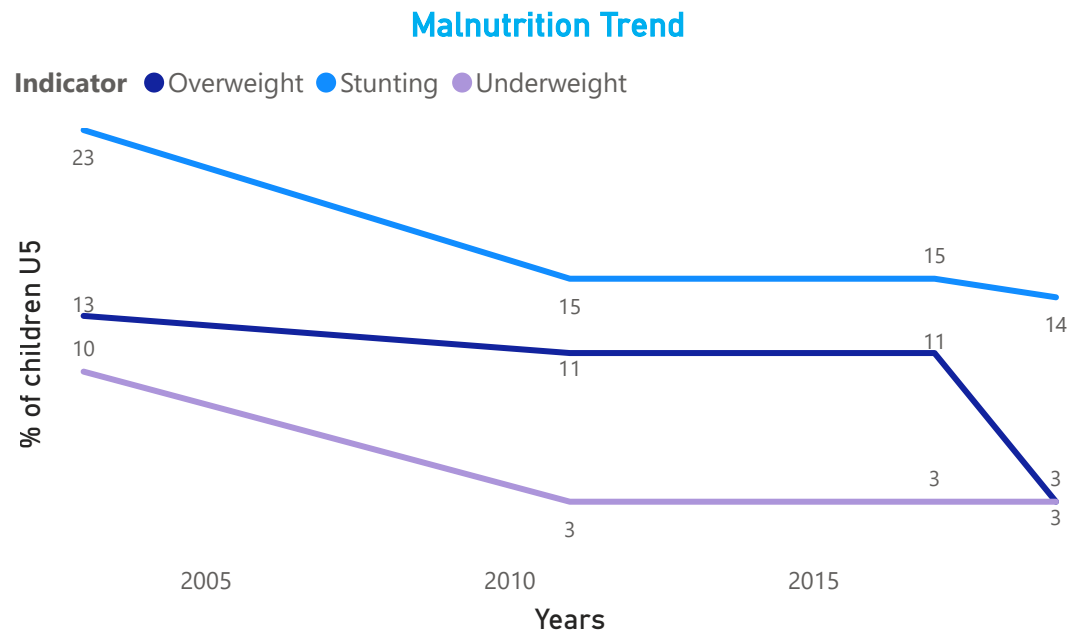


Right to proper nutrition

Nutrition

% of Children	2017
Exclusive breastfeeding (0-5 months)	35

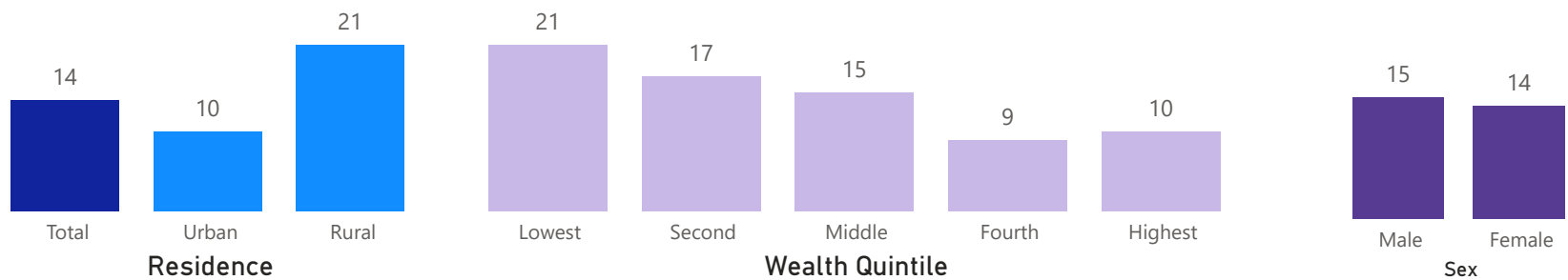
Malnutrition (% of children, under 5 years)	2019
Overweight	3
Stunting	14
Underweight	3
Wasting	2



Inequalities in Stunting

2019

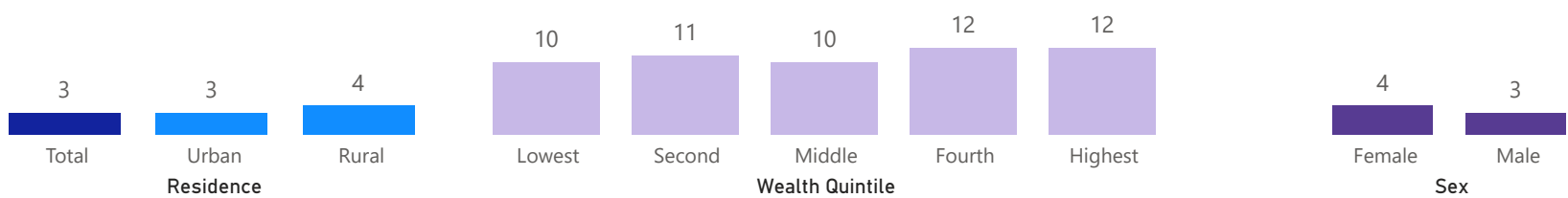
% of children under 5 years



Overweight Inequalities

2019

% of children under 5 years





Education, Training and Employment

School net attendance by education level (% of children of the relevant age group)	Year
Pre-Primary	No Data
Primary	No Data
Lower Secondary	No Data
Upper Secondary	No Data

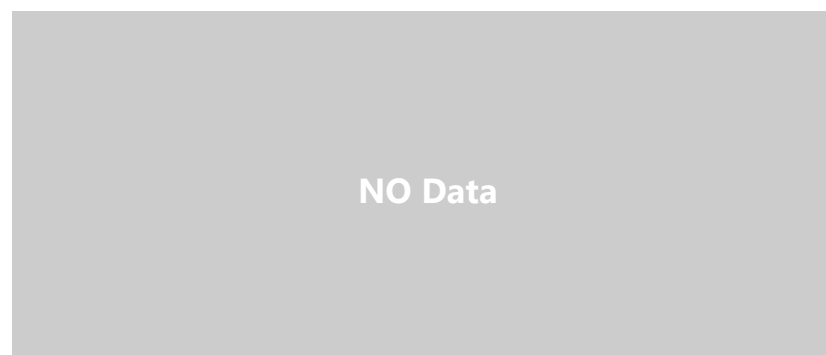
School completion by education level (% of children of the relevant age groups)	Year
Lower Secondary	No Data
Primary	No Data
Upper Secondary	No Data

Out-of-school children by educational level (% of children of the relevant age groups)	Year
Lower Secondary	No Data
Primary	No Data
Upper Secondary	No Data

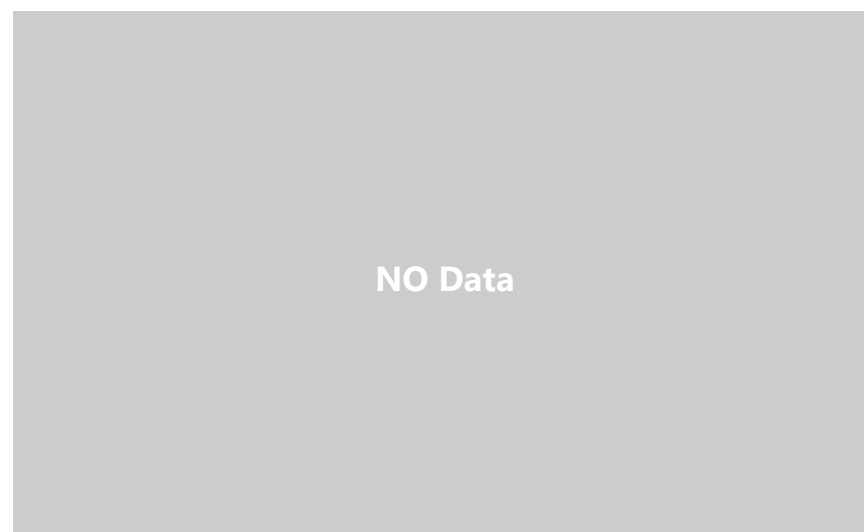
Reading/ Math proficiency	2019
Proportion of students at the end of primary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics	18
Proportion of students at the end of primary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading	No Data

Share of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) by sex	2014
Total	35
Male	17
Female	54

School Completion Rates by sex



Inequalities in Out of School Children of Upper-Secondary School Aged Children

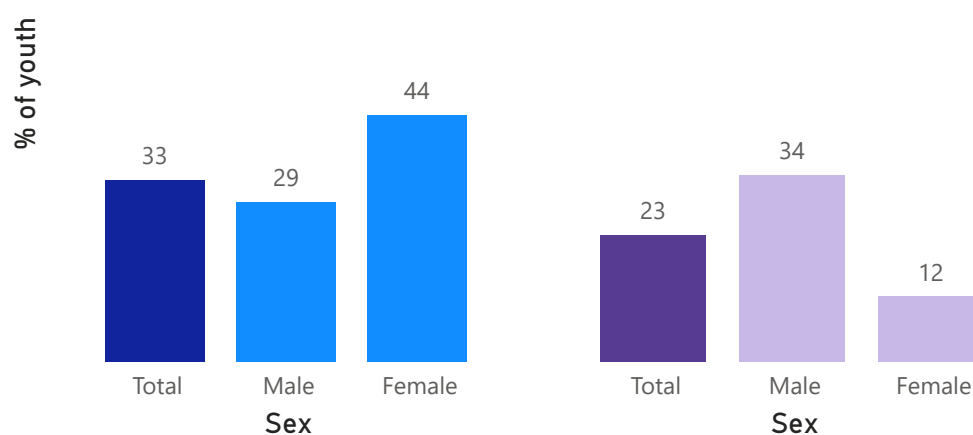


Unemployment rates in Youth (15-24 years)

2022

Labor Force Participation in Youth (15-24 years)

2022



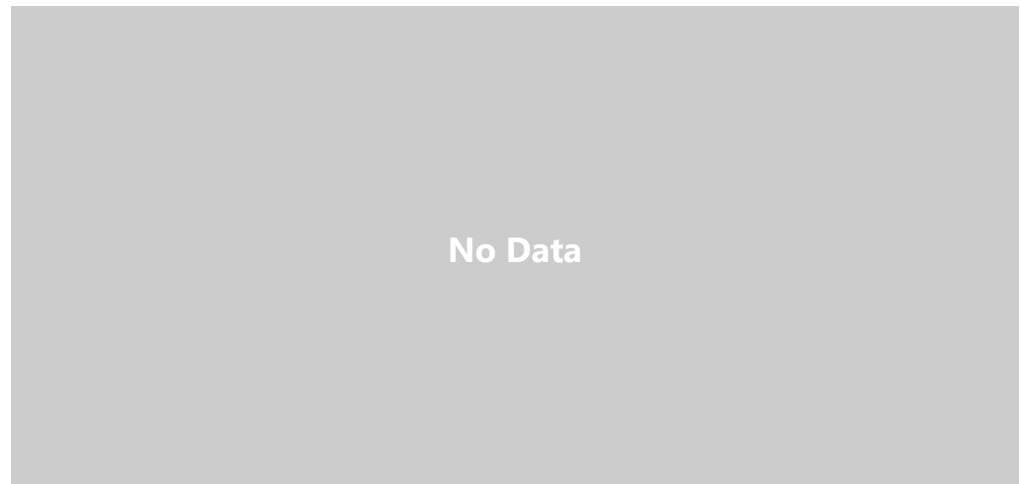


Violence

Inequalities in Violent Child Discipline

Violent child discipline (% of children aged 1-14 years) Year

Violent Child Discipline	
Total	No Data
Male	No Data
Female	No Data



Inequalities in Child Marriage before 18

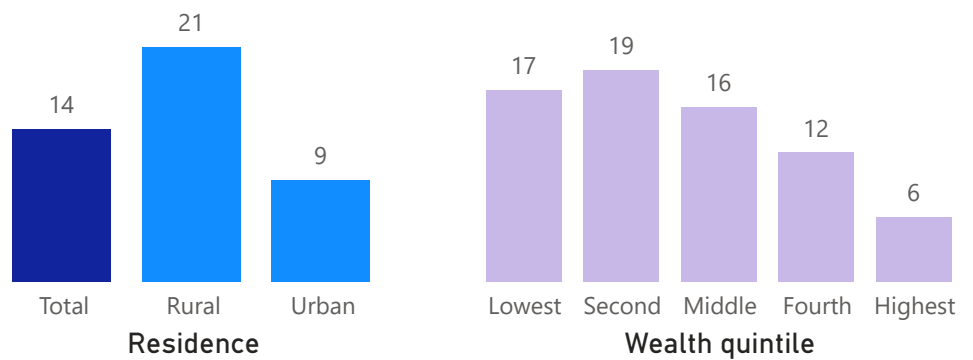
Child marriage (% of women aged 20-24 years) 2018

Married before 15	1
Married before 18	14

Child labour (% of children aged 5-17 years) Year

Child labour	No Data
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% of women 20-24 years



Birth Registration

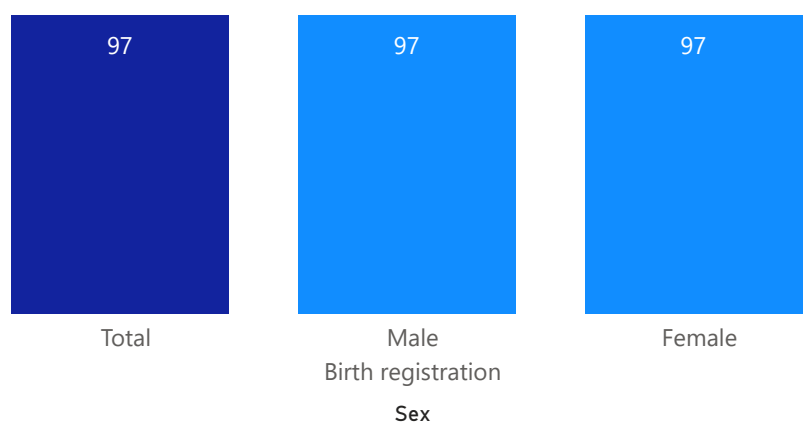
Inequalities in Birth Registration

2018

Birth registration (% of children under 5 years) 2018

Birth registration	
Total	97
Rural	96
Urban	98

% of children under 5 years





Right to equitable chance in life

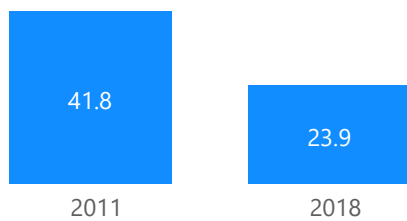
Poverty

Monetary poverty 2020

Children (0-17) living in households with income below the national poverty line (% of all children) 5.1

Children (0-17) living below \$2.15 poverty line (extreme poverty) (% of all children)	Children (0-17) living below \$3.65 poverty line (% of all children)	Children (0-17) living below \$6.85 poverty line (% of all children)
1.5	10.2	43.6

Child multidimensional poverty headcount ratio

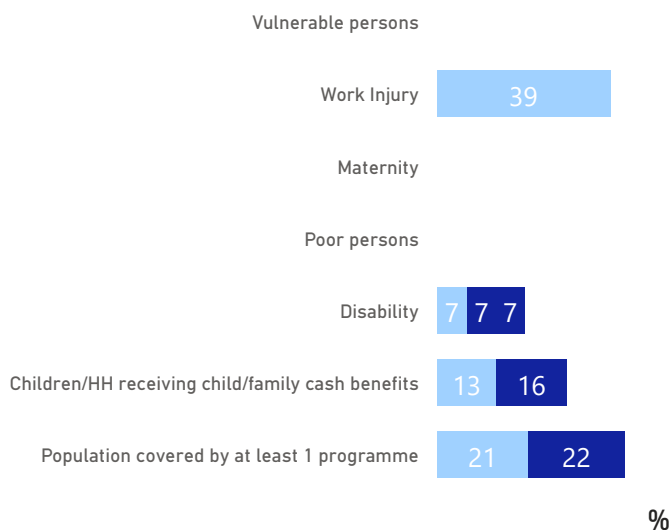


Dimensions of Multidimensional Poverty	Water	Household does not have piped water into dwelling or yard
	Sanitation	Unimproved toilet facility Shared toilet
	Housing	Primitive floor/Type of Household Overcrowding (more than 3 people per room)
	Health	Unskilled birth assistance (0-23 months) Not fully immunized (12-59 months) No antenatal care (0-23 months)
	Nutrition	Infant and Young Child Feeding (0-23 months) Wasting (0-4 years) Stunting (24 <months) Obesity (24 <months)
	Education	Not enrolled in school Two or more grades behind school/did not
	Information	No access to any information or communication device

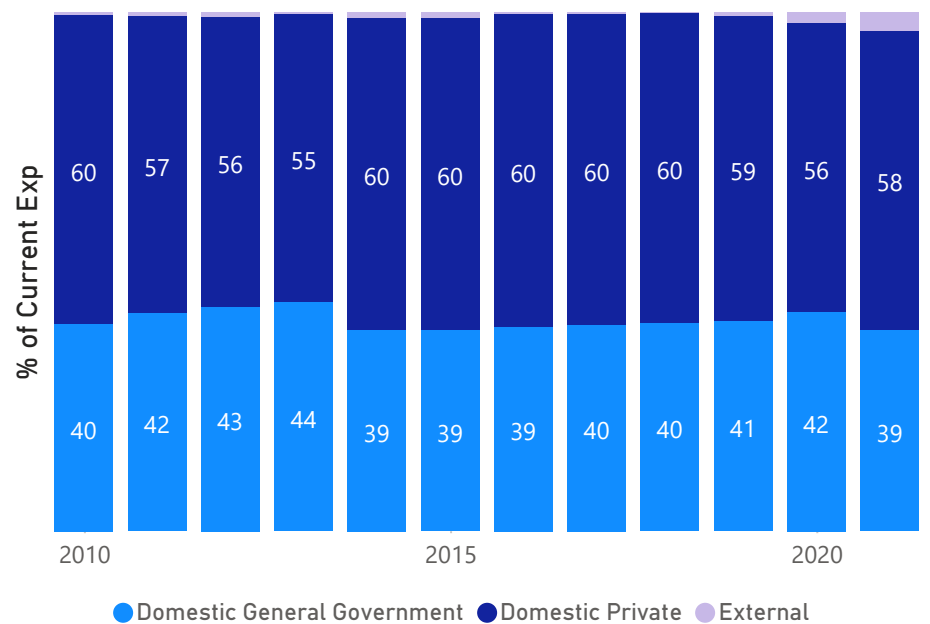
Public Expenditure on Essential services

Social Protection Coverage by Function

Time period ● 2019 ● 2021 ● 2022



Changes in the Composition of Domestic Health Expenditure



Government expenditure on health % of GDP
2018

2.1

Government expenditure on education % of GDP
2020

6.8

Government expenditure on social protection % of GDP
2010

4.5



Right to a clean and safe environment

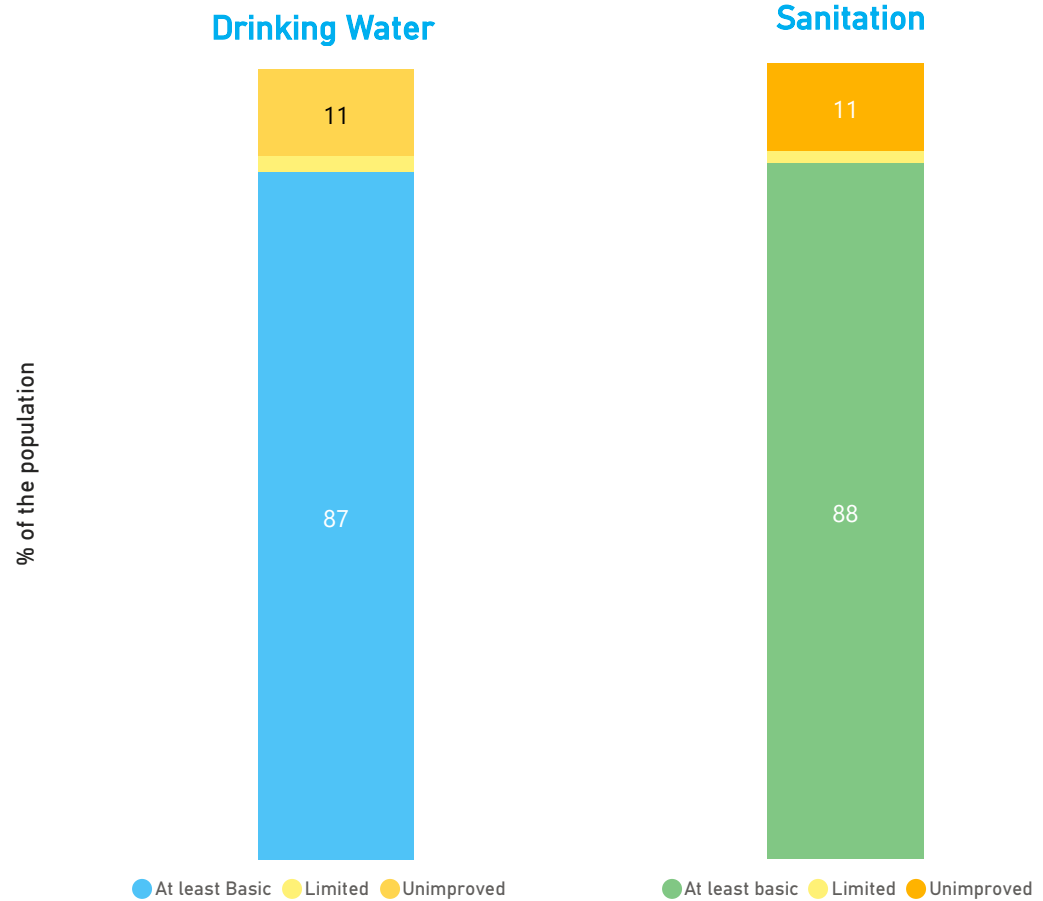
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene

2022

Household coverage (%)	2022
At least basic drinking water	87
At least basic sanitation	88

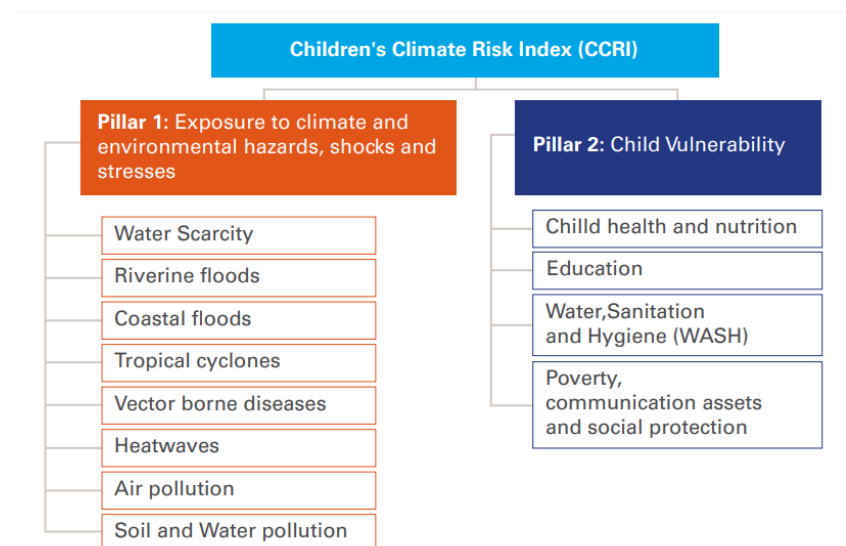
School coverage (%)	2023
Basic drinking water	90
Basic hygiene (availability of water and soap)	87
Basic sanitation	96



Water Vulnerability and Climate

Indicator	2020
Water Stress	Meduim

Indicator	2020
Children's Climate and Environment Risk Index	Medium-High
Child vulnerability	Low-Medium
Climate and environmental shocks	High



*The CCRI is a composite index which brings together geographical data by analyzing: 1) exposure to climate and environmental hazards, shocks and stresses; and 2) child vulnerability.

Child-related SDG indicators

The 2030 Agenda includes 17 Global Goals addressing the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. To chart and track how ambitious and how realistic country targets are, UNICEF created quantifiable country-level brief benchmarks for child-related indicators for which data are available to measure and monitor child rights on a common scale.

These country briefs leverage UNICEF's extensive analysis of 48 child-related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators, structured around five fundamental domains of child well-being: Survive and Thrive, Learning, Protection from Harm, Safe and Clean Environment, and Life Free from Poverty. The analysis offers a detailed, multifaceted perspective on the state of children's rights and experiences across the globe.

Availability of data on child wellbeing monitoring: Morocco has data on 36 of the 48 child related SDGs (75% availability).

For further information on the countries' benchmarking briefs, please visit [Progress on Children's Well-being: Country Briefs - UNICEF DATA](#)

Data Sources

Demography

- UN Population Division, [World Population Prospects 2024](#).
- UNHCR [Refugee Population Statistics database](#)
- Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), [Global Internal Displacement Database \(GIDD\)](#)

Economy: The World Bank Data Portal, [World Development Indicators](#).

Mortality: UN Inter-agency group for child mortality estimations ([UN IGME](#)).

Maternal and Child Health: WHO/UNICEF [estimates of national immunization coverage](#).

Nutrition: UNICEF/WHO/The World Bank [Joint Malnutrition Estimates \(JME\)](#). Country survey estimates.

Education, Training and Employment :

- National Household Surveys estimates for education data. [UNICEF MENA data warehouse](#)
- International Labor Organization (ILO). [ILOSTAT](#)
- UNESCO Institute for Statistics ([UIS](#)) and National Household Surveys estimates.

Violence: [UNICEF data warehouse](#), based on household surveys.

Poverty

- The World Bank & UNICEF (2023). [Global Trends in Child Monetary Poverty According to International Poverty Lines](#).
- ESCWA, UNICEF, UNDP and OPHI. (2023). [Second Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report](#).

Public expenditure on essential services

- [ILOSTAT](#) for social protection data
- [WHO Global Health Expenditure Database](#)
- The UNESCO Institute for Statistics ([UIS](#)) for education expenditure data

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- WHO/UNICEF [Joint Monitoring Programme for Water, Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene \(2000-2022\)](#).
- Water Stress Data: [AQUASTAT](#)
- UNICEF [Children's Climate Risk Index](#)

Most of the indicators are available at [UNICEF MENA data warehouse](#)

For more information please visit
UNICEF data (data.unicef.org) or contact:

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