

UNICEF

Annex

CHILD RIGHTS STATISTICS

MOROCCO

Maternal and Child health

- Women have well improved access to contraception (63% in 2004 against only 19% in 1980);
- Total Fertility Rate reached 2.5 per woman in 2004 against 5.9 in 1980;
- Acces of women to Prenatal Care has also widely improved reaching reaching 68% against only 25% in 1987; and assistance to delivery of 61% in 2004 against 26% in 1987; with a considerable disparity affecting mainly rural areas;
- The most worrying problem which is also a women's right to survival issue is maternal mortality rate which is 227 for 100 000 live births marking only one point less in comparison with 1997;
- Infant mortality is still a great challenge for Morocco (40‰ in 2004 against 36,6‰ in 1997) this worrying increase was affected mainly by neonatal mortality (27‰ en 2004 contre 19,7‰ en 1997);
- Despite the large coverage of vaccines (94% in urban areas and 84% in the rural), 5 children of 100 die before the age of 5; mainly as a result of Acute Respiratory disease and diarrhea.
- Malnutrition is also one of the causes of early child mortality, if the Underweight prevalence has dramatically decreased in the last decade, acute malnutrition affects 9.3% against 3% in 1997
- Finally health services in schools have been renovated since 1987, but do not reach all schools. More importantly, needs of adolescents¹ and access to appropriate health services were neglected up to 2004 where specific programs were designed, while serious risks to adolescent's health are not yet fully and appropriately addressed especially Tobacco, drugs and AIDS, etc.

Birth registration

- Morocco adopted law n° 37-99 related to compulsory birth registration, addressing definitely at legislative level the problem of single mother's children identity and right to a name.

Child Right to development (*education reform*)

- Ongoing implementation of the education Charter which aim to achieve universal education between 2000 and 2009, improve the quality of Curricula and restructuring of the whole education system;
- The efforts of implementing the charter have not been evaluated rigorously so far, and there is no evidence that the reform has achieved its initial goal;

¹ 6,5 millions are aged between 10 et 19 years old

- The MoE with other education stockholders (i.e.: High Council for education) should be urged to undertake an independent evaluation of the charter to increase accountability and embark in a results based reform of education with clear accountabilities both at national and local levels.

Access to education

- The goal of achieving universal preschool education by 2004 was not met, only 50,1% was achieved with important geographical and gender disparities, varying from 28% to 70% on regional disparities and only 35% for rural girls on gender disparities and 39,4% of girls at national level;
- With regard to youth access to education, only 11% reach the higher education.

quality of education

- Ongoing initiatives of improving the quality of education are welcomed by all education stockholders in Morocco, UNICEF supported a development of a quality grid through which the system is analyzed and recommendations on quality issues are made, this grid is being generalized and UNICEF reaffirmed its commitment to continue supporting these efforts in its current Programme of Cooperation (2007-2011);
- However, the content of school manuals is still an issue, it's being criticized by some NGOs and education specialists, because they are not fully in line with principles and values of equality, non discrimination and tolerance that Morocco committed to promote.

Child Right to Participation (*In the family*)

- The few studies available on child participation within their families show that parents do not generally take into account the opinion of their children;
- Unless new evidence will show otherwise, the more families are poor, the less the child opinion is taken into account.

In schools

- The education charter reform framework promote child participation through human rights and citizenship clubs, established partnerships between MoE and NGOs, mainstreaming of child participation and citizenship in manuals, etc. these initiative welcomes by all stakeholders remain limited and not evaluated to draw lessons and consolidated plans for a more effective participation.

In residential care institutions and centers in conflict with the law

- A qualitative study of UNICEF in 2005 showed that children in residential care institutions do not take part in the placement decision; they do not also participate in setting activities planned within institutions. No periodic review of the placement are undertaken and children are not consulted, their stay last for a long period ranging from 3 to 15 years away from their families except in holidays for those who are regularly in touch with their families;
- Despite law harmonization of domestic legislation with CRC, elaboration and publication of a guide on the rights of the children in conflict with the law, the right to participation in these centers is not promoted, due to lack of care standards in line with CRC including qualified human resources and management style of these institutions.

In Judiciary system

In the media

- Children and young people feel ignored by Moroccan media. Except some leisure media products, there is a lack of programs and specialized media dedicated to children, and giving them a voice in a real participatory way;
- Furthermore, the image of children and young people in the media is exclusively related to episodic events and sensational issues.
- Ethical issues related to children exposure or presence in the media is not systematically taken into account.

In cultural and leisure settings

- Despite many initiatives targeting children and young people (educational, cultural, and sport activities), as well as more than 300 youth houses operational throughout Morocco offering various activities, art activities are of poor quality. Only sport is largely practiced regularly. However, sport infrastructures, theatre, and Music conservatories reach less than one of 10 young people.

Child Right to Protection

Working Children

- According to National statistics body (Direction de statistiques), around 642 000 children aged between 7 and 14 are enrolled in an economic activity, this represent 11% of this group age;
- The child labor phenomenon touches mainly rural areas where the percentage of working children reached 87%;
- However, there gaps in terms of official data on child labor in Morocco. In fact almost one million of school age children do not go to schools and domestic child labour is not included in the data.

Children victim of sexual exploitation

- Data on sexual exploitation of children is scare. The available data is sparse and not systematically collected;
- However, a qualitative study conducted in Marrakech showed that most of children (two thirds) victims of prostitution are aged between 16 and 18 while one third are aged between 14 and 15, and finally 7% between 10 and 13 years old. The common feature between all these children is that most of them are a low level of education, and are from poor families where the prevalence of violence is high.
- The National Observatory of child rights data calculated from calls on the hotline dedicated to support children in difficult circumstances show that three quarters of the calls are concerned with children victims of sexual exploitation and abuse;
- Morocco has taken measures at legislative level including penal law reform reinforcing sanctions related to child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Violence and maltreatment

- Recent studies on violence against children show that corporal punishment, while formally forbidden, is largely used in schools and residential care institutions;
- There is no new evidence that violence has been reduced following the studies recommendations which were well received by the Government. This needs a national clear policy on discipline measures in schools and residential care institutions which by no means include corporal punishment or any other form of violence, which is not yet the case;
- Working children mainly the youngest are often subject to maltreatment and are not protected from work as a form of violence and from maltreatment at the work place.

- Child protection Units are being implemented with support from UNICEF in selected areas to respond to cases of violence and abuse of children. They are mainly acting as coordinating body between key actors to provide appropriate protection and reintegration of children.

children living in the street

- Despite there is no official updated data on children living in the street, the number is constantly increasing and are subject to all forms of exploitation and abused, as well as exposure to drugs and other harming substances;
- Some of them are placed in centers of protection mainly centers for children in conflict with the law or residential care institutions following a judiciary decision;
- This issue is mainly tackled by NGOs; many have developed strong professionalism and capacities to respond to the needs and rights of these children.

Children in Residential Care institutions

- Present policies regarding children in institutions do not include placement criteria, periodic review of placement, and alternative care, etc. However, a new law was recently enacted that provides for more monitoring and control of placement of children in institutions. There should be a monitoring system to track concrete achievements and number of children taking benefit of the new established measures
- The number of children placed in residential care institutions was estimated in 2004 at 65000 against 38000 in 2001. The common feature among these children is that they are placed by their families who are generally poor, single headed families or vulnerable families who do not have enough resources to ensure education and related costs to their children.

Children in conflict with the law

- Thanks to penal law reform (2003), children under 18 (against 16 before) involved in criminal proceedings are better protected by the new law.
- The welcomed new legislative measures of protection of children in conflict with the law brought in line with CRC, are yet to be translated into norms and standards of care and development of best practices in terms of reintegration

Disabled children

- Disabled children in Morocco do not enjoy their rights equally with other children, their school enrollment rate is 32% against 93% at national level; they also have limited access to adequate care services, health care, and suffer from social stigma and negative attitudes.
- So far governments and NGOs interventions in this field are fragmented and do not fall under a national policy providing equal access to disabled children to basic social services and concrete implementation measures in the field.

Minor non accompanied migrants

- Morocco is not only a departure country, it becomes now a destination and transit country as well mainly by sub-Saharan children and young people and their families; who live in highly difficult circumstances and very poor access to services given their mobility and lack of adapted services;
- Minor non accompanied children are exposed to many risks sometimes at the price of their lives especially during transit to Spain through traffic networks. They are also subject of sexual exploitation and abuse and as well as exploitation economic,
- UNICEF organized in February 2007 an inter regional meeting involving Senior Child Protection Staff from WCARO and MENA regions as well as from UNICEF HQs

(Geneva, Brussels) and Innocenti Research Center to think about a common strategy and guidelines to deal efficiently with Minors non accompanied migrants children and their protection at regional and national levels. An inter regional study is on the design phase to generate new knowledge about this emerging phenomenon.