

Facts and figures

Moroccan migration

- Moroccans began to migrate to Spain at the end of the 1980s. Their arrival, marked Spain's transformation from a sending country into a receiving one.
- 70% of Moroccan women in Spain arrived under the family reunification process (either formally or informally), while only 20% of men arrived in Spain this way.
- 70% of males reported that they migrated with the intention to work while only 20% of females affirmed the same.
- Moroccan males tend to be concentrated in low-wage sectors such as construction (38.5%), agriculture and fishing (18%), and industrial work (13.7%). This implies that these migrant men work in the sectors hardest hit by the crisis in Spain.
- De-skilling is common as Moroccan women now find themselves in employment sectors different from the ones available to them in their country of origin. The dominant industry for women in Morocco is factory work, which is not the case in Spain.
- Like other women, Moroccans, in Spain tend to work in the service industry, mostly in domestic service (16.5%), hotels (19%), retail (18.5%) and the remaining 40% in other sectors. Moroccan women are not as concentrated in areas of domestic work because it often involves residing within employer households which neither the women themselves nor their partners accept.
- The process of migration and the economic reality of the destination country contribute to the considerable rise (49.3%, 22.3 percent more) in the percentage of employed women.

Remittances

- In 2008 Morocco received €4.5 billion in remittances, representing 9% of the country's GDP.
- In 2006 Morocco received close to €520,200,000 in remittances from Spain.
- Men send an average of €100 to €150 every month and women send between €50-100 each month or every two to three months.
- Remittances are utilized to sustain the needs of households and/or to construct or renovate existing homes. The majority use remittances to cover costs for food, living, health and education, and in particular, to attend to the needs of dependent family members.
- 80% of Moroccan remittance senders are men.
- Remittances are sent more frequently when a wife or children remain in Morocco, yet initially male migrants prefer to save in Spain to prepare for family reunification.

Recommendations

- Mainstream gender in all State institutions. Access to resources for the implementation of public policies should be made contingent upon the evaluation of these initiatives in terms of their commitment to gender equality, especially at the local level.
- Train Moroccan embassy personnel in Spain so that they can support migrants in becoming protagonists in the development of their country of origin.
- Strengthen institutions designed to represent migrants abroad, e.g. the Immigration Advisory Council.
- Encourage a collective spirit amongst migrants. An important part of this involves working to dismantle prejudices against religious organizations amongst immigrants. Mosque and prayer groups are an effective means of socializing and collective action, including in migrants' country of origin. In an environment in which migrant women's mobility is limited, religious life affords the necessary legitimacy for them to participate in public life.
- Involve local authorities in all co-development initiatives and processes, including capacity building activities.
- Pressure the Moroccan government to carry out basic development interventions that would make local communities attractive for returning migrants, e.g. access to potable water, infrastructure improvements, and education. It is also recommendable to train local governmental and non-governmental staff, among whom women should have a significant presence.

