

Arab Barometer VIII

Morocco Report

2024

Executive summary

Morocco has endured multiple crises in recent years including the Coronavirus pandemic and the earthquake that hit the country on September 9, 2023. The aftermath of these crises produces what could be described as two Moroccos: one for the wealthier and better educated, another for the poorer and less educated. Moroccans are clearly divided in their views of almost all issues based on their socioeconomic status (SES).

Economic pressure persists, with only a third of Moroccans rating their economy positively. While optimism about the future of the economy has increased, it is largely driven by those with a higher socioeconomic status. Their less-fortunate compatriots are far less optimistic and more concerned about increasing inequality and food insecurity.

Trust in the Moroccan government remains relatively low, but trust in parliament, regional government, judiciary, and civil society organizations has increased. Still, those struggling financially tend to be less trusting of all these bodies. Similarly, satisfaction with government performance on economic issues is low, especially among the poor. Moroccans are more satisfied with the provision of certain services, including security and infrastructure. On the other hand, education in particular is among the public services in which Moroccans exhibit the lowest levels of satisfaction.

Corruption remains a major concern, with the government seen as not doing enough to combat it. This view is especially true among people with lower socioeconomic status. Wealthier and more educated Moroccans are more positive in their rating of the government's work on combating corruption. However, many Moroccans are resorting to bribery or connection to navigate the bureaucracy.

Economic conditions and corruption are causing Moroccans to consider emigrating. Youth and those facing financial pressure are far more likely to have a desire to leave their country, mainly in pursuit of better economic opportunities. Western countries remain the preferred destination for most of the potential migrants in Morocco, many of whom are willing to leave even if they did not have the required documents to do so.

While support for democracy has fluctuated over the past few years, recent trends suggest an increase in support for democratic governance. Moroccans acknowledge that democratic systems have their shortcomings, yet they maintain a belief that democracy is preferable to other forms of governance and particularly support a multi-party parliamentary system.

Support for women's rights has slightly declined recently, with the majority of Moroccans believing that men are better suited for political leadership, for example. Along with that, there remains some disparities in views of women's rights when it comes to education, employment, and social roles within the household. Moroccans say that violence against women has decreased, but they recognize that women continue to face harassment in public and in the workplace.

In recent years, the environment has become front and center in the minds of Moroccans. Environmental challenges, especially water scarcity and pollution are widespread, and most citizens say climate change has a direct effect on their daily lives. In the aftermath of the September 2023 earthquake, Moroccans are more aware of climate change and want their government to do more to address it. They acknowledge and recognize the government's efforts to help the victims as well as the efforts of citizenry, local and international civil society organizations.

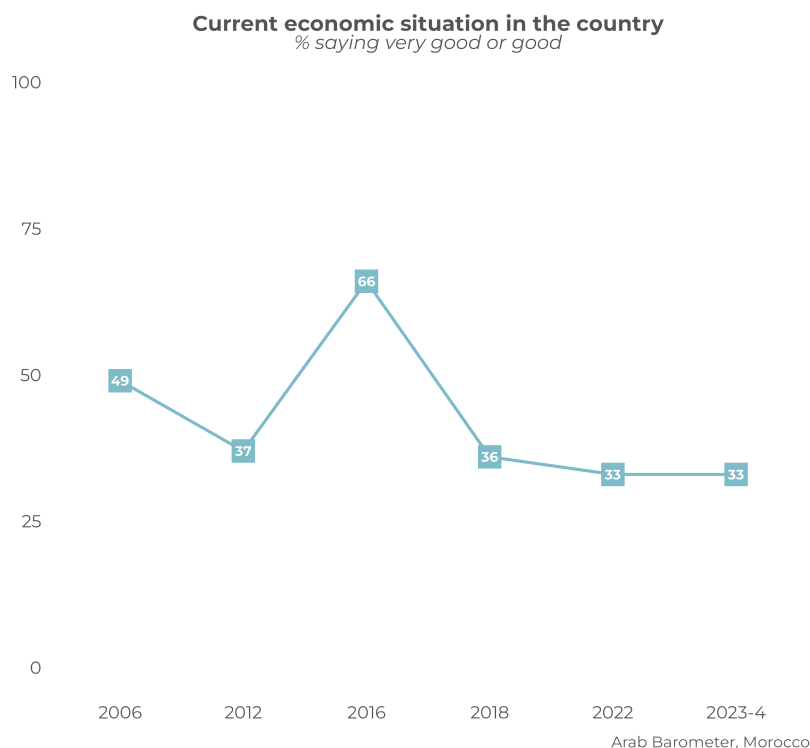
Though occupied with the aftermath of the earthquake, Moroccans are following the events unfolding in Gaza. They are convinced that neither the Israeli government nor the Israeli public are committed to a two-state solution, unlike their Palestinian counterparts whom they perceive as working to ensure the two-state solution materializes. People in Morocco see regional powers, namely Arab and Muslim-majority states, as the main advocates for Palestinian rights, while Western powers support Israel. With the recent events in Gaza, support for normalization has plummeted. Alongside, views of global and regional powers have been significantly affected, with Russia and China clearly gaining and Western countries falling behind, with similar patterns exhibited for views of foreign leaders.

These are among the main findings of a nationally representative face-to-face survey conducted in Morocco. The survey included 2,411 randomly selected citizens from across all regions of Morocco and was fielded from December 11, 2023 to January 30, 2024 using a multistage clustered sample. The margin of error for the reported results is ± 2 percentage points. The surveys are part of Arab Barometer's eighth wave which is the the largest publicly available survey that captures the sentiments of citizens across MENA amidst the current crisis taking place in the Middle East. Additional information about the surveys can be found at www.arabbarometer.org.

Economy

Moroccans continue to feel the economic pressures caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Four years after the beginning of the pandemic, only a third of Mo-

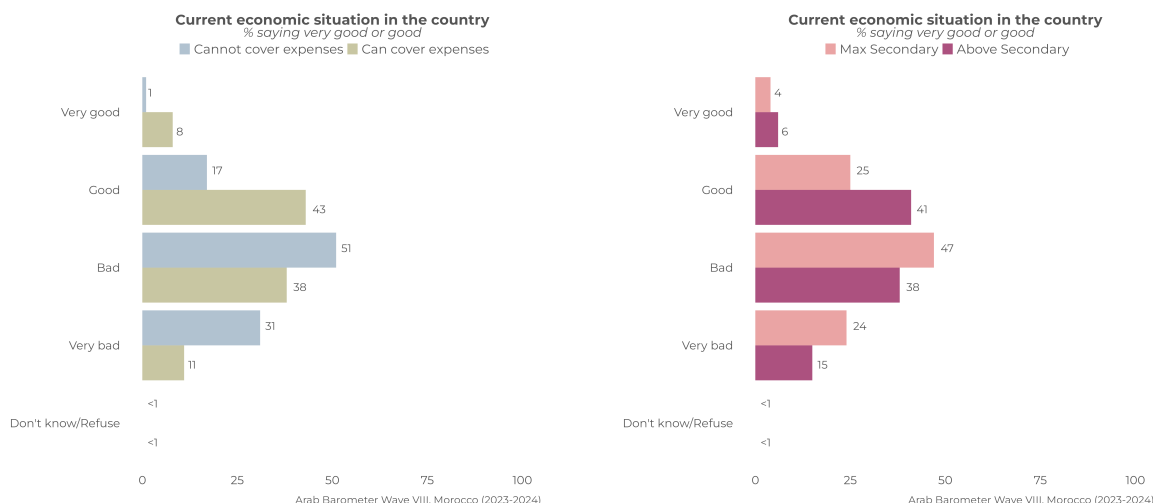
Moroccans say the economic situation in their country is very good or good. This level is unchanged from 2022 and is half of the level in 2016 when two thirds (66 percent) rated the economy positively. It is therefore no surprise that Moroccans list the economy as the top challenge facing the country (22 percent). Although it remains the top challenge in Morocco, the percentage of people who say it is the first challenge is down by 11 points since 2022.



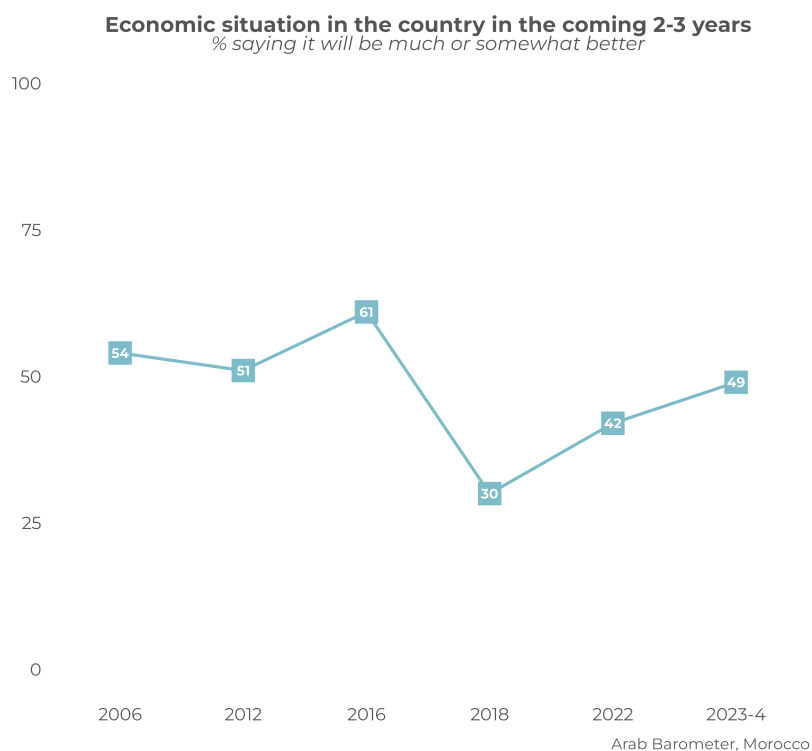
Perceptions of the economy reflect a massive gap between Moroccans of different levels of SES. Half (51 percent) of those who can cover their expenses say the economy is very good or good, compared with only 18 percent of those who cannot cover their expenses. Moreover, while nearly half (47 percent) of the college-educated population rate the economy positively, fewer than three-in-ten (28 percent) of the less-educated share this view.

Arab Barometer – Wave VIII

Morocco Report



While views of the current situation have not changed over the past few years, Moroccans today are more optimistic about the future of their economy than they were in the last six years. Roughly half say the economy will be much (14 percent) or somewhat (35 percent) better in the upcoming years. This year's level is up seven points from 2022 (42 percent) and 19 points from 2018 when only three-in-ten expressed optimism about their economic future.

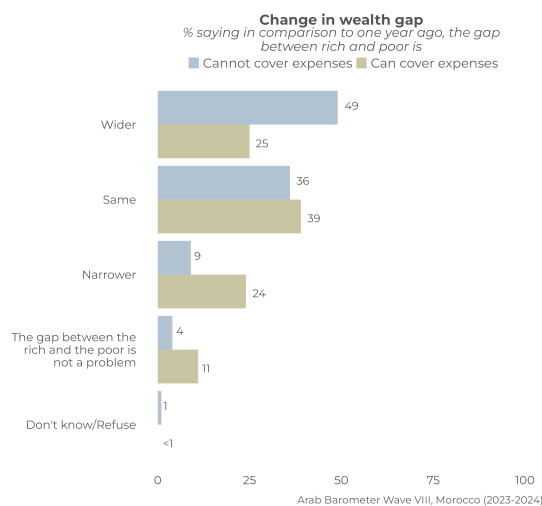
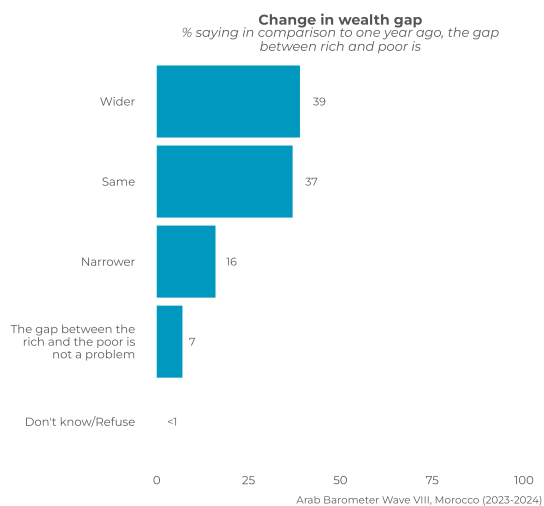


Despite an increase in optimism generally, an income-based gap in views persists. While roughly two-thirds (64 percent) of those who can cover their expenses say the economy will be much or somewhat better in the near future, fewer than four-in-ten (38 percent) of those who cannot cover their expenses say the same. A smaller gap based on educational attainment also exists. A majority (58 percent) of those with higher education believe the economy will be better in the upcoming years, while fewer than half (46 percent) of people with only a high school degree or less share the optimism.

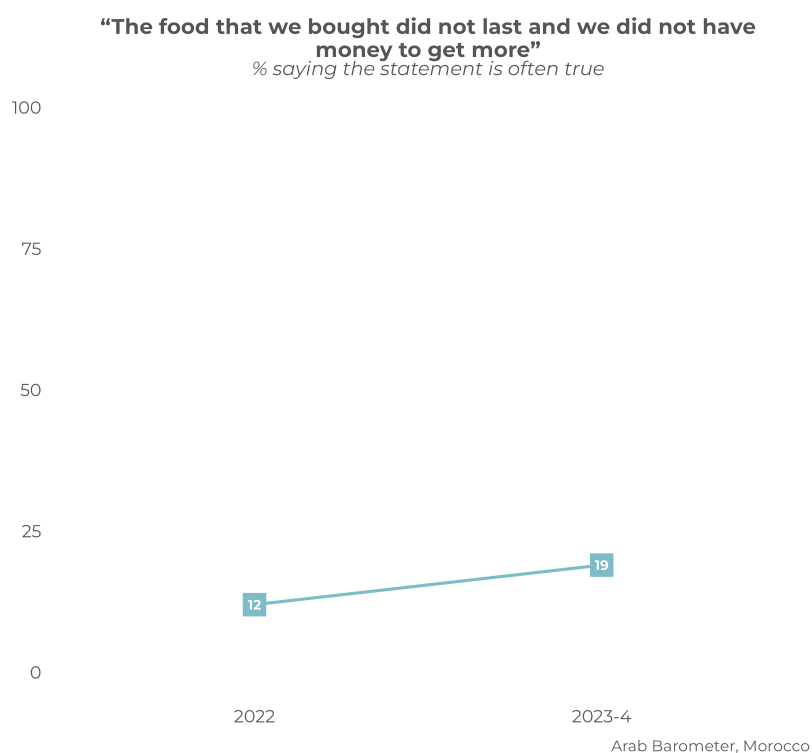
Four-in-ten Moroccans (39 percent) say that the wealth gap has become wider compared to last year. This level represents a 5-point decrease from 2022 when 44 percent said the same. Unsurprisingly, socioeconomic status plays a critical role in determining views of economic inequality. For people who cannot cover their expenses, roughly half (49 percent) say the wealth gap has become wider. In comparison, only a quarter of those who can cover their expenses say the same. Furthermore, while another quarter of the latter group thinks that the wealth gap has narrowed, no more than one-in-ten (nine percent) of the former share this view. Additionally, people in the Northern region (26 percent) are less likely to say the wealth gap has become wider than their compatriots in the East (41 percent), the Center (44 percent), and the South (44 percent).

Arab Barometer – Wave VIII

Morocco Report



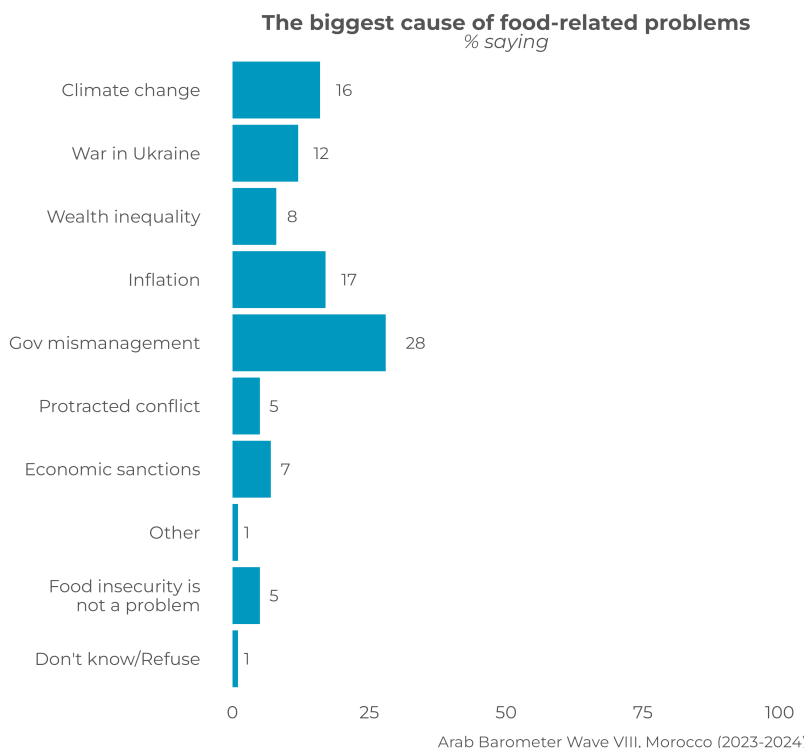
One prime symptom of economic inequality and hardship is food insecurity. When asked if they ran out of food and did not have money to get more in the last 30 days, nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of Moroccans say that this has often or sometimes been the case. This is a drastic increase from what was perceived in 2022 when only 36 percent said the same. A similar trend has been found in other countries in Arab Barometer Wave VIII, suggesting that this alarming trend is one found across much of the region.



In its eighth wave, Arab Barometer included questions to further investigate the issue of food insecurity in the region. More than half (57 percent) of Moroccans say that the availability of food is a problem to a great or a medium extent. A similar percentage (59 percent) says the same about the affordability of food in the country. People who cannot cover their expenses are more likely to be concerned with the availability (66 percent) and affordability (69 percent) of food compared to those who are better-off financially (46 percent, respectively). Notably, those with only a high school education or less are far more concerned (63 percent) with the affordability of food than their college-educated compatriots (46 percent); yet, there are no differences in views when it comes to the issue of availability.

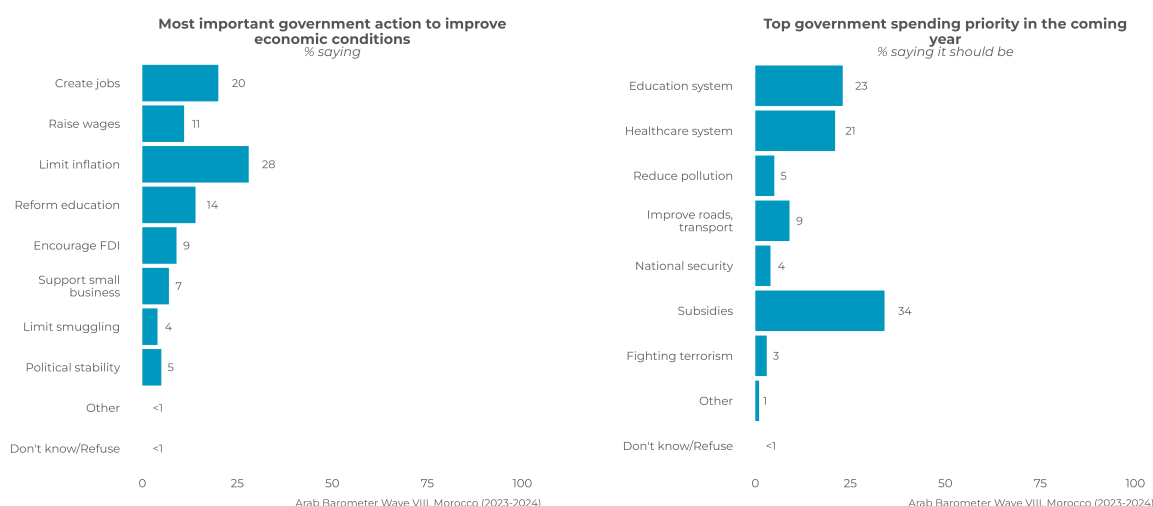
Moroccans do not agree on a single cause for food insecurity. Roughly half cite domestic factors as the biggest cause of food-related problems. These include government mismanagement (28 percent), inflation (17 percent), and wealth inequality (eight percent) among others. Global factors, including climate change (16 percent) and the war in Ukraine (12 percent), also play a role in food insecurity. Notably, Moroccans in the Eastern region are almost twice as likely to cite climate change as the biggest cause of food insecurity compared with their counterparts in the other regions. Additionally, those struggling to

make ends meet are 11-points more likely to cite government mismanagement than their better-off compatriots.



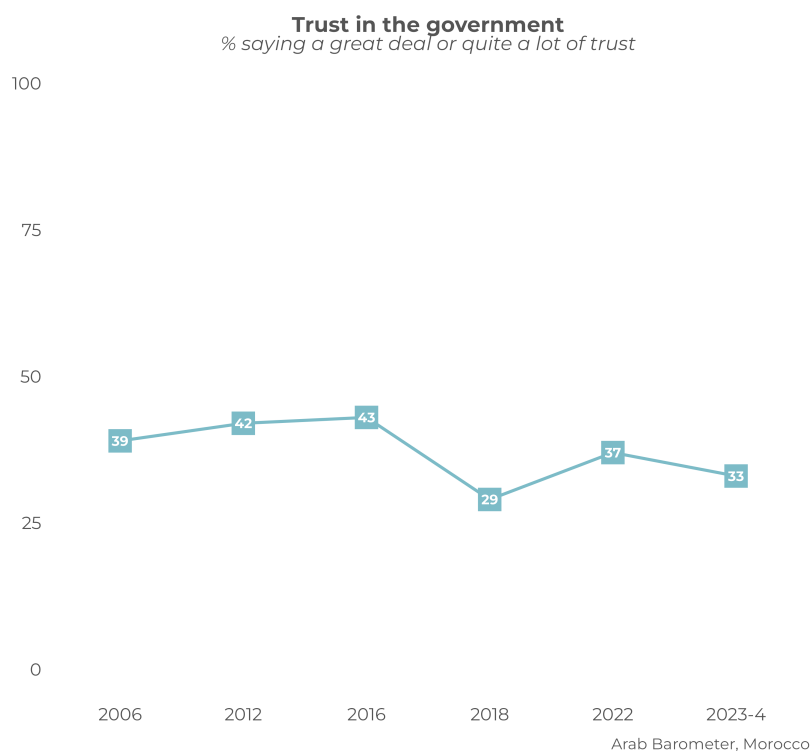
Although there is an agreement that the government bears a responsibility in improving economic conditions, there is little consensus on what action the government should take to achieve this goal. Fewer than three-in-ten (28 percent) Moroccans say the government should concentrate on limiting inflation. A fifth say that job creation should be the focus, while 14 percent want education reform and one-in-ten (11 percent) want wage increases. Fewer than one-in-ten cite encouraging foreign investments (nine percent), supporting small businesses (seven percent), ensuring political stability (five percent), or limiting smuggling (four percent) as the most important action the government should take to improve the economy. Furthermore, a third (34 percent) of Moroccans say that subsidies should be the government's top spending priority in the upcoming year. This level is seven points higher than in 2022 when only 27 percent of Moroccans said the same. Education (23 percent) and healthcare (21 percent) follow. It is noteworthy that while a third (32 percent) of people who can cover their expenses want the government to prioritize spending on education, only 15 percent of their compatriots who are struggling to cover their

expenses share this view. More striking is the difference in views when it comes to citing subsidies as the top spending priority. While almost half (46 percent) of the lower economic class want the government to prioritize subsidies, only a fifth of the better-off people say the same.

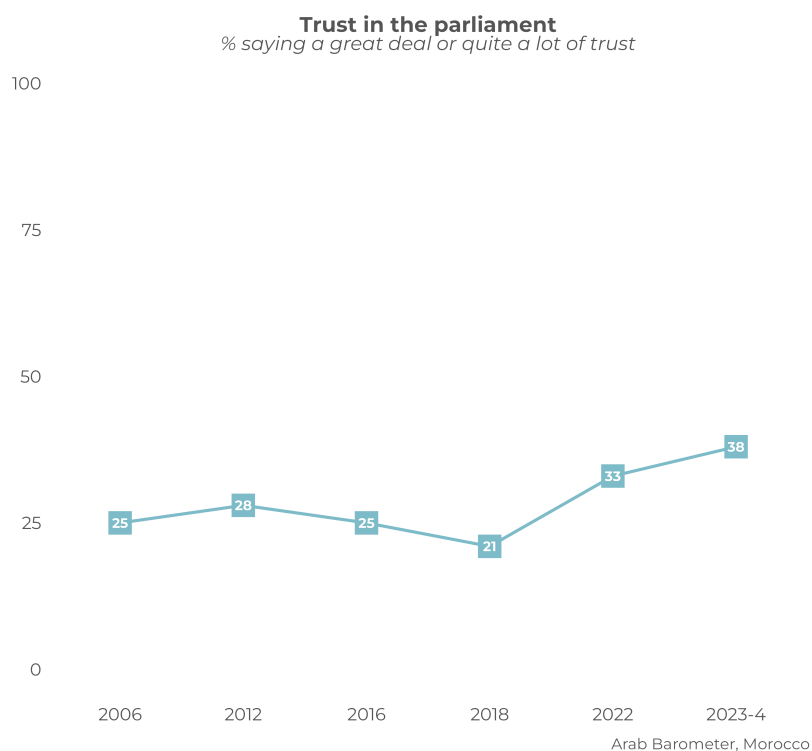


Trust in Political Actors

Trust in the Moroccan government has remained effectively unchanged in recent years. Today, a third of Moroccans say they have a great deal or quite a lot of trust in their government. This level is 10 percentage points lower than the 2016 level when 43 percent of Moroccans expressed trust in the government, which is the highest level ever recorded by Arab Barometer in the country. Income and educational attainment factor in people's trust in their government. Those who can cover their expenses are more than twice as likely to express trust than their counterparts struggling to cover expenses (46 percent vs. 22 percent). Similarly, college-educated Moroccans are 13-points more likely to trust the government than those with only a secondary education or less (43 percent vs. 30 percent). Trust in the prime minister, Aziz Akhannouch, is at similar levels. Three-in-ten Moroccans say they have a great deal (ten percent) or quite a lot (21 percent) of trust in him. Just like with his cabinet, trust in Akhannouch is largely driven by the well-off and well-educated segments of the population.



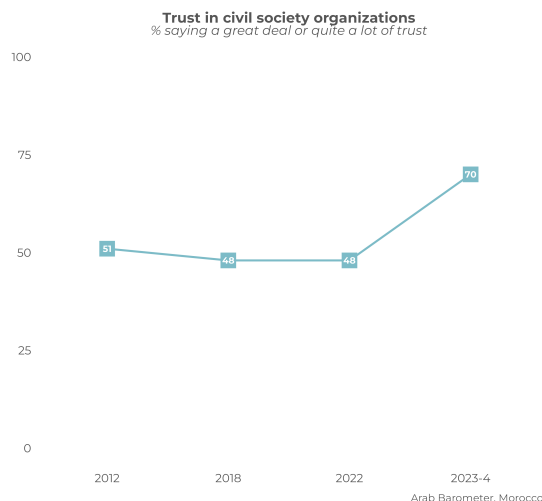
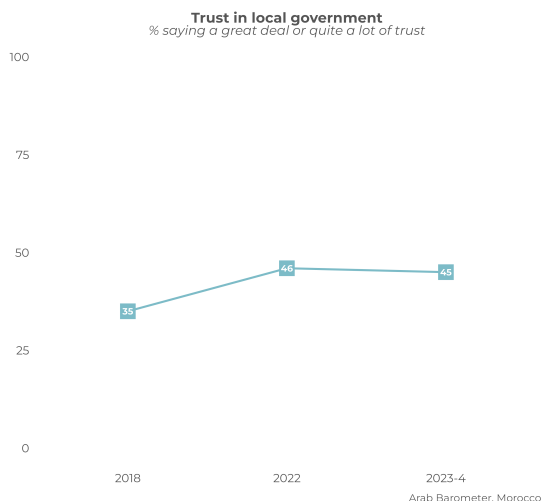
The Moroccan parliament, elected in 2021, enjoys slightly more trust than the government and prime minister it brought. More than a third (38 percent) of people say they have a great deal or quite a lot of trust in their legislature. This represents a 5-point increase from 2022 (33 percent) and a 17-point increase from 2018 (21 percent). This is also the highest level of trust in parliament ever recorded by Arab Barometer in Morocco. Similar to views on the government, those with incomes covering their expenses and the higher-educated are more likely to trust the parliament. While half of the better-off financially express trust, fewer than three-in-ten (28 percent) of those struggling to make ends meet share this view. Moreover, those with a college education or higher are 12 points more likely to say they trust the parliament than with their less-educated compatriots (47 percent vs. 35 percent).



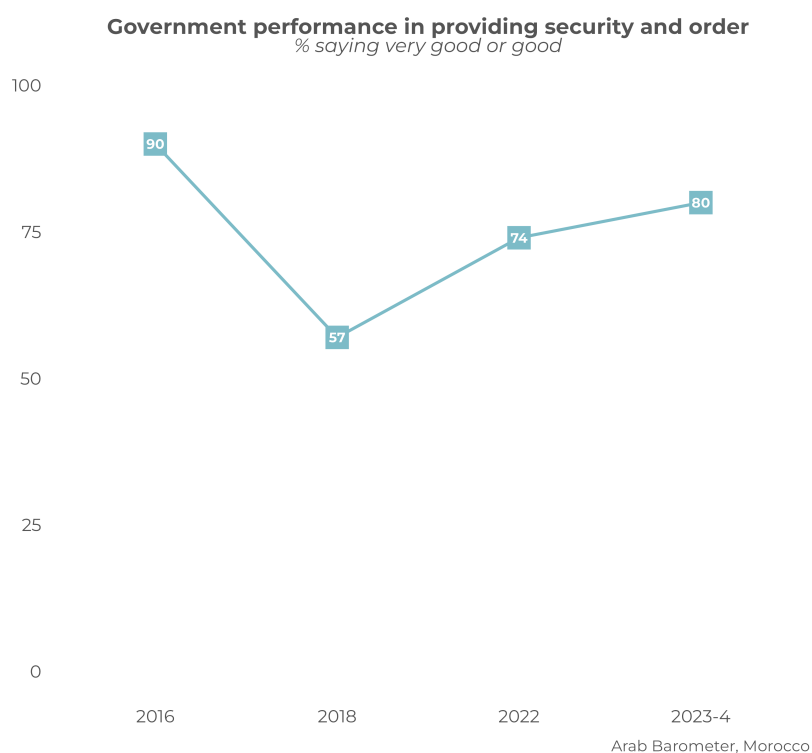
At the regional level, half (49 percent) of Moroccans say they have a great deal or quite a lot of trust in their regional government. While not much different from the level found in 2022 (45 percent), this level is 19 points higher than 2018 when only three-in-ten Moroccans said they trust their regional government. Local government enjoys similar levels of trust with 45 percent of Moroccans saying they have confidence in it.

One notable shift in this wave's findings is trust in the legal system and civil society. Three-quarters (74 percent) of Moroccans say they have a great deal or quite a lot of trust in their courts and judicial system overall. This is an 18-point increase from the 56 percent saying the same just two years ago. Additionally, seven-in-ten Moroccans say they trust civil society organizations. It is likely that the efforts led by these organizations in the wake of the September 2023 earthquake have contributed to this dramatic increase in trust in civil society of 22 points compared to 2022 when only 48 percent expressed trust.

Arab Barometer – Wave VIII Morocco Report



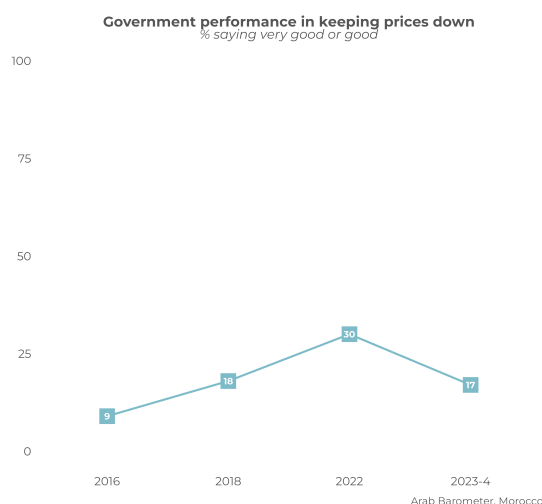
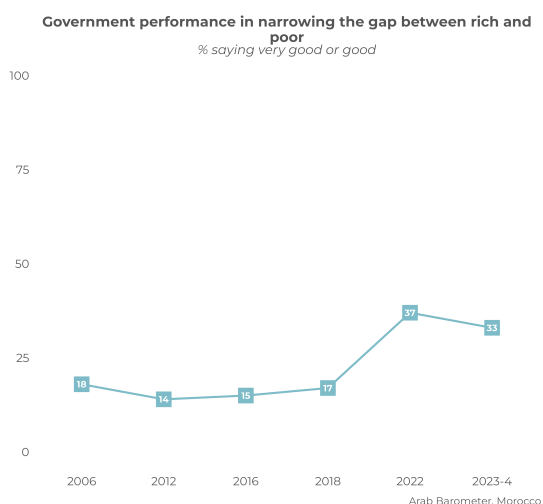
Moroccans clearly trust the security apparatus in their country. Eight-in-ten say they have a great deal or quite a lot of trust in the police, while 88 percent say the same about the armed forces. These levels represent an increase of 12 and 11 points, respectively, as compared to 2022. Thus, it is unsurprising that Moroccans are more satisfied with security provision than any other services or provisions. An overwhelming majority (80 percent) say the government is doing a very good or a good job in providing security and order. While still below the 90 percent recorded in 2016, this wave's level is a 23-point increase when compared to 2018 (57 percent).



Government Performance & Public Services

Public satisfaction with the government's provision of security in Morocco is far higher than levels found for most other areas. For example, Moroccans express dissatisfaction with the government's performance on the economic front. First, only a quarter of the population say they think the government is doing a good job in creating employment opportunities. This is the same level of satisfaction recorded by Arab Barometer in Morocco during its first wave in 2006 and it has never reached a higher level. Wealthier Moroccans are more than twice as likely to express satisfaction with the government's efforts at job creation than their poorer compatriots (36 percent vs. 16 percent). The college-educated population is also 10 points more satisfied than those with at most a secondary education (33 percent vs. 23 percent). Second, only a third are satisfied with the government's performance in bridging the wealth gap. People on either side of this gap, however, have clearly different views on the matter. While roughly half (48 percent) of Moroccans who are able to meet their basic needs say the government is doing a good job in narrowing the wealth gap, only a fifth (21 percent) of those struggling to make ends meet share this view. Third, on the question of limiting inflation, fewer than one-in-five (17 percent) say the gov-

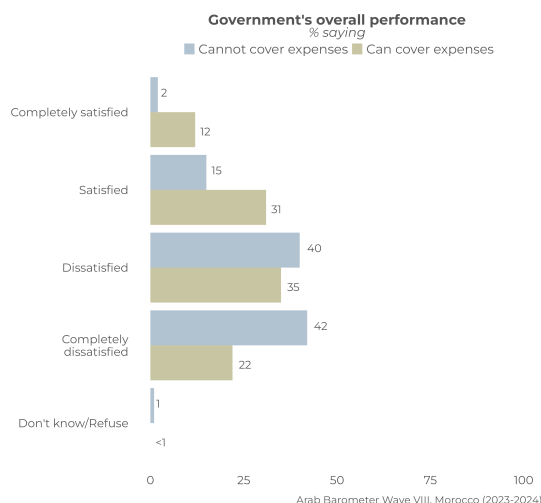
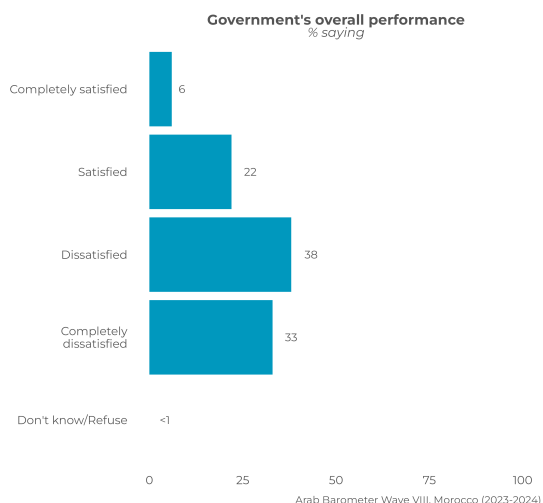
ernment is doing a good job. This is a 13-point decrease compared to 2022 when three-in-ten said the same and it is similar to the level in 2018 (18 percent). Those who are better-off financially are almost three times more likely to express satisfaction than their less fortunate counterparts (26 percent vs. nine percent).



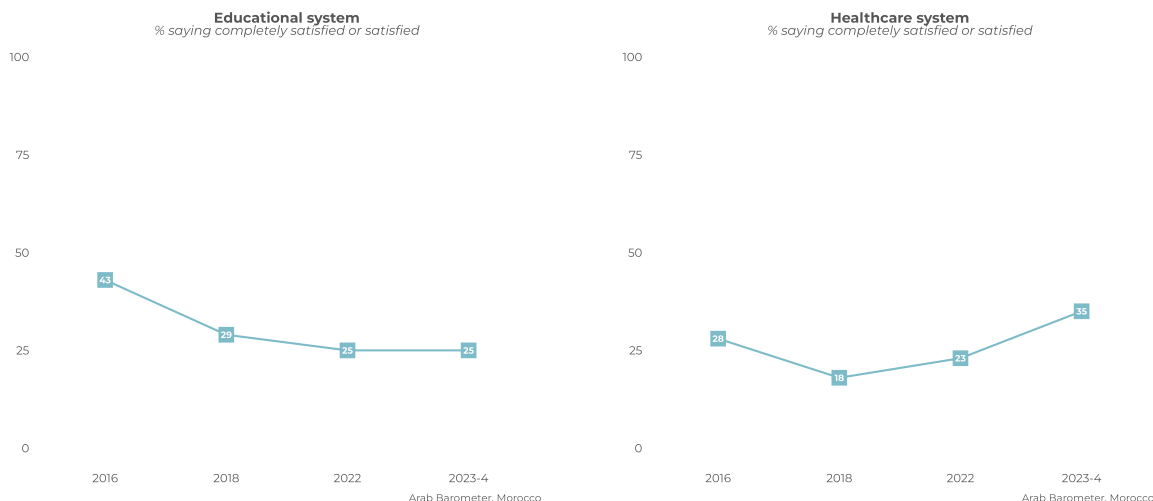
When it comes to the government's overall performance, only three-in-ten (29 percent) say they are completely satisfied or satisfied with it. This level is similar to the level recorded in Arab Barometer's fifth wave in 2018 and 10 points less than the seventh wave's 39 percent in 2022. Unsurprisingly, a large gap of 26 percentage points exists between the wealthier and poorer segments of the population when it comes to satisfaction with the government's overall performance (43 percent vs. 17 percent).

Arab Barometer – Wave VIII

Morocco Report

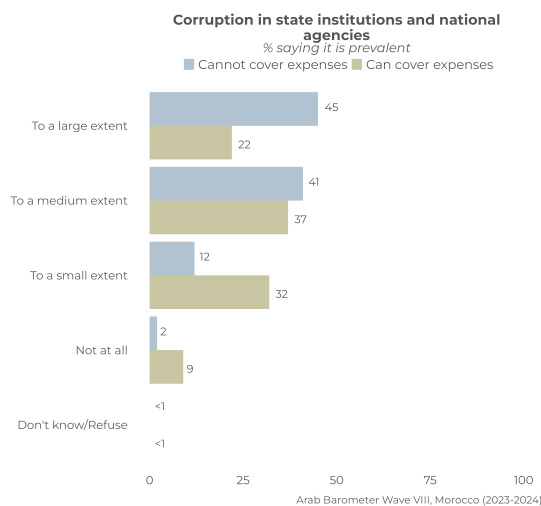
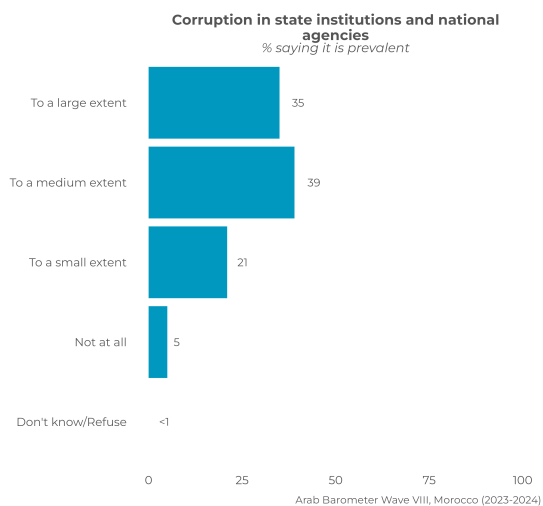


Levels of satisfaction with public services vary greatly in Morocco. Only a quarter of Moroccans say they are satisfied or completely satisfied with their educational system. Though unchanged from 2022, satisfaction with education has decreased from 43 percent in 2016 and has not improved in the time since. At the same time, roughly a third (35 percent) express satisfaction with the health-care system, a percentage that has almost doubled since 2018 (18 percent). While 44 percent of better-off Moroccans say they are satisfied with healthcare services, only a quarter (26 percent) of their less fortunate compatriots say the same. Moroccans are overwhelmingly more satisfied with other services including quality of streets (63 percent), trash collection (65 percent), electricity (84 percent), water (70 percent), internet (70 percent), and civil defense (82 percent).

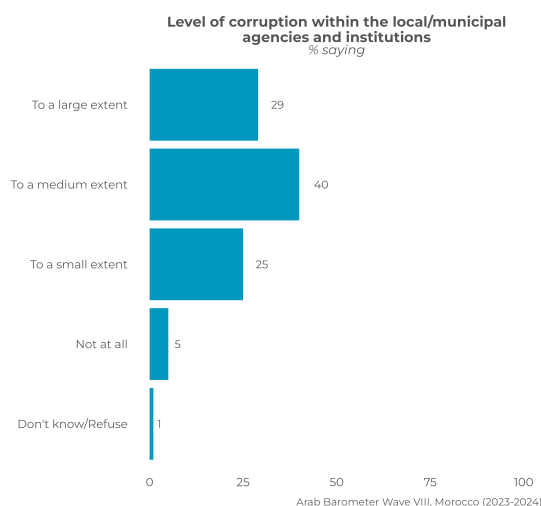
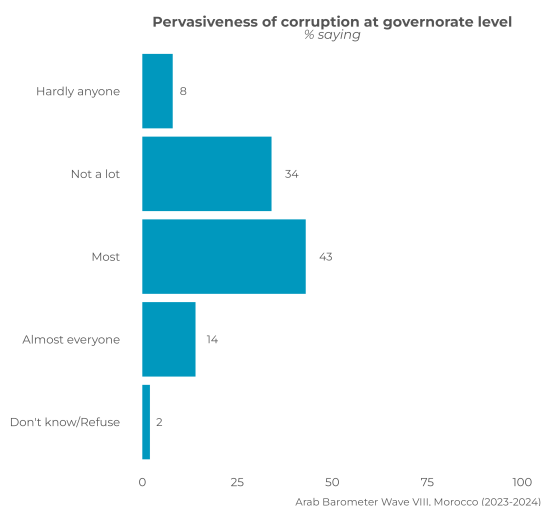


Corruption

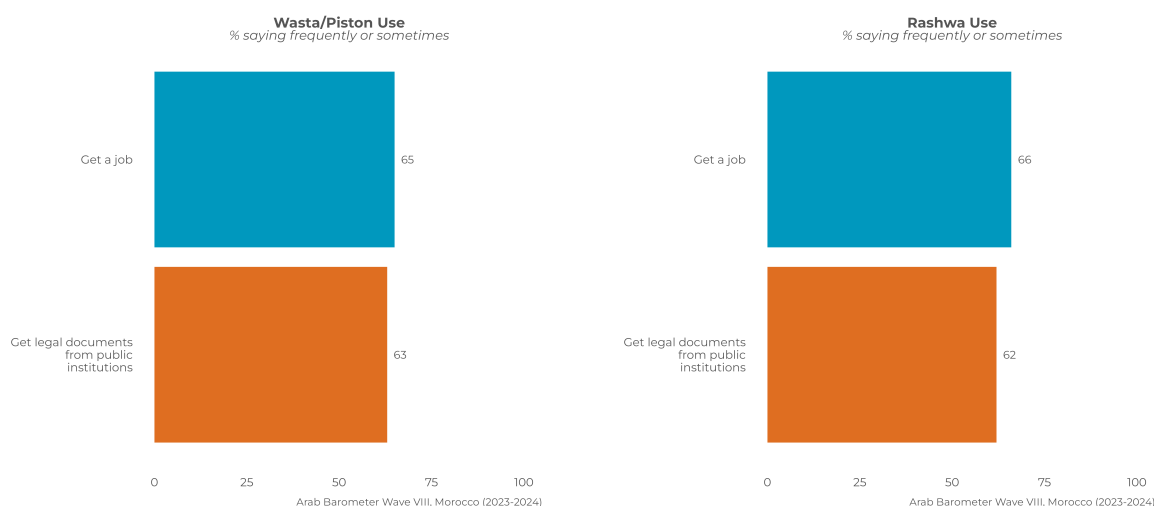
Corruption continues to be a problem that concerns the vast majority of citizens living across the region; Morocco is no exception. Three-quarters (74 percent) of Moroccans say that corruption is prevalent in state institutions to a large or a medium extent. This level has been roughly stable since Arab Barometer's fourth wave in 2016. It is, however, largely driven by Moroccans with a lower socioeconomic status. While 86 percent of those struggling to make ends meet believe that corruption is prevalent in state agencies, only six-in-ten (59 percent) of the better-off share this view. Similarly, those with lower educational attainment are 11 points more likely to believe in the prevalence of corruption than the college-educated segments of Moroccan society (77 percent vs. 66 percent).



Additionally, seven-in-ten (69 percent) say corruption is prevalent at the local level, while four-in-ten (42 percent) say it is prevalent at the regional level. People with lower incomes are 29 points more likely to hold this view for the local level (82 percent vs. 53 percent) and 25 points for the regional level (56 percent vs. 31 percent). Fewer than half (47 percent) of Moroccans are convinced that the government is working to crack down on corruption. Though virtually unchanged from the level recorded in the previous wave, this level is 11 points higher than the 36 percent seen during the fifth wave in 2018. Moroccans who are well-off are 28 points more likely to say the government is cracking down than their less-fortunate compatriots (63 percent vs. 35 percent).



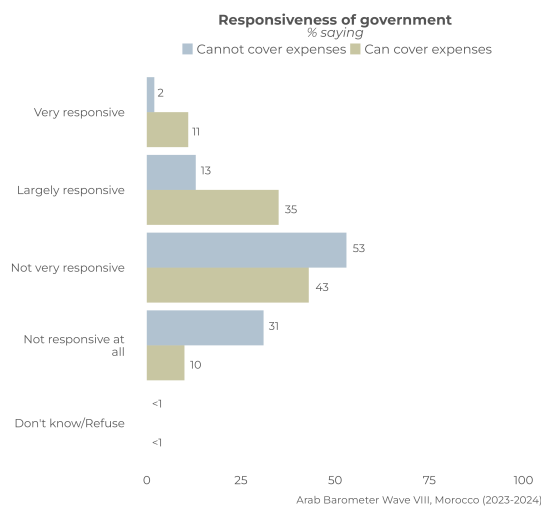
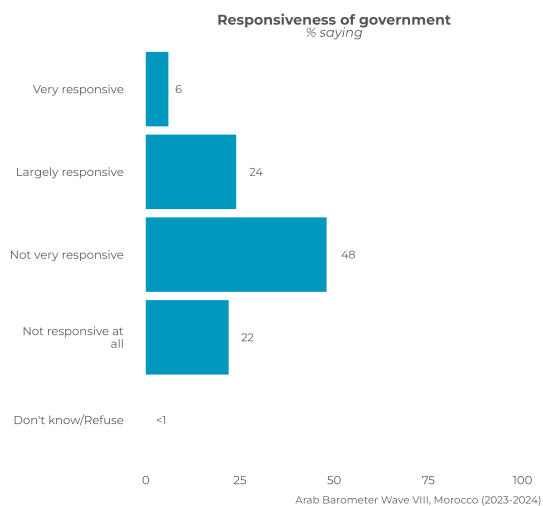
With the prevalence of corruption at all levels, it is no surprise that Moroccans, similar to their counterparts in other countries across the region, find themselves forced to use *wasta* or *rashwa* at times. Two-thirds say they use *wasta* (65 percent) or *rashwa* (66 percent) to get a job, while slightly fewer say they either use *wasta* (63 percent) or *rashwa* (62 percent) to get legal documents from public institutions.



Political Engagement & Civil Rights

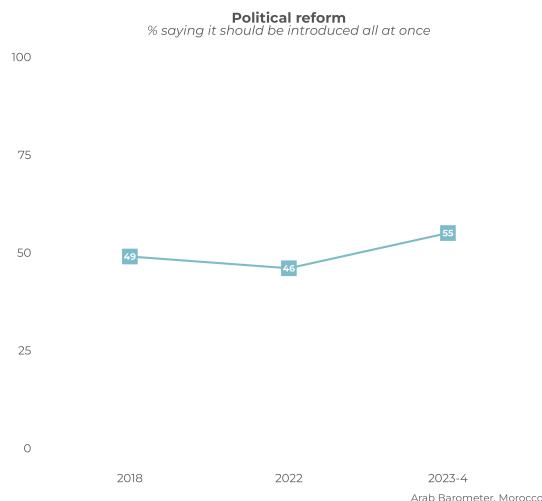
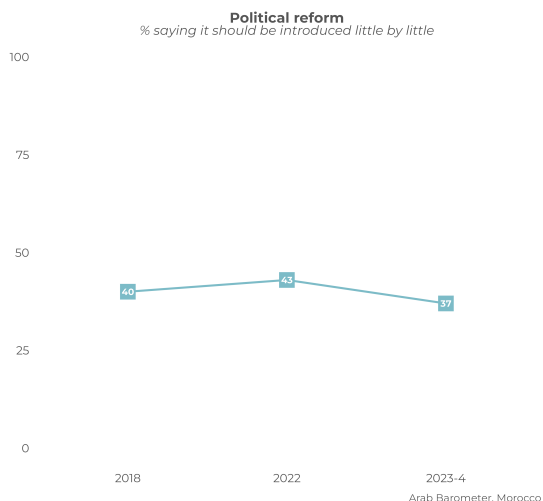
Only three-in-ten Moroccans say their government is very or largely responsive to what they want. While unchanged from 2022, this percentage is primarily driven by those with higher socioeconomic status. Wealthier Moroccans are three times more likely to see the government as responsive compared to their poorer compatriots (47 percent vs. 15 percent). Similarly, four-in-ten college-educated people rate the government as responsive while only a quarter (26 percent) of those with at most a secondary degree share this view.

Arab Barometer – Wave VIII Morocco Report

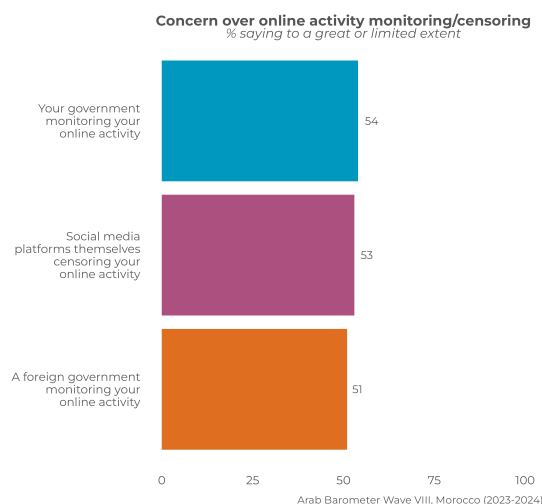
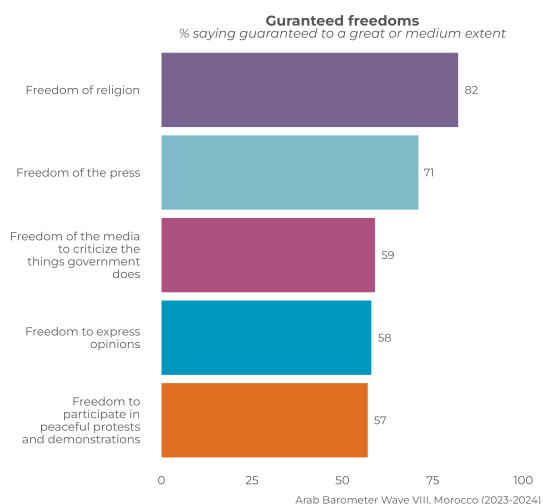


With the clear differences between wealthier and poorer segments of Moroccan population on so many issues, it is no surprise that demands for reforms follow suit. While 55 percent say they want reforms to be introduced all at once, 37 percent say they want them introduced incrementally and an additional six percent see no need for reforms altogether. Here, too, socioeconomic status is the primary driver of views. On the one hand, roughly half (48 percent) of wealthier Moroccans want incremental reforms compared to only a quarter (27 percent) of those struggling to make ends. On the other hand, two-thirds (66 percent) of the latter group wants immediate reforms while only four-in-ten (42 percent) of the former say the same. In comparison to 2022, calls for immediate reforms have increased by nine points (55 percent in Wave 8 vs. 46 percent in Wave 7) while calls for incremental reforms have decreased by six points (37 percent in Wave 8 vs. 43 percent in Wave 7).

Arab Barometer – Wave VIII Morocco Report



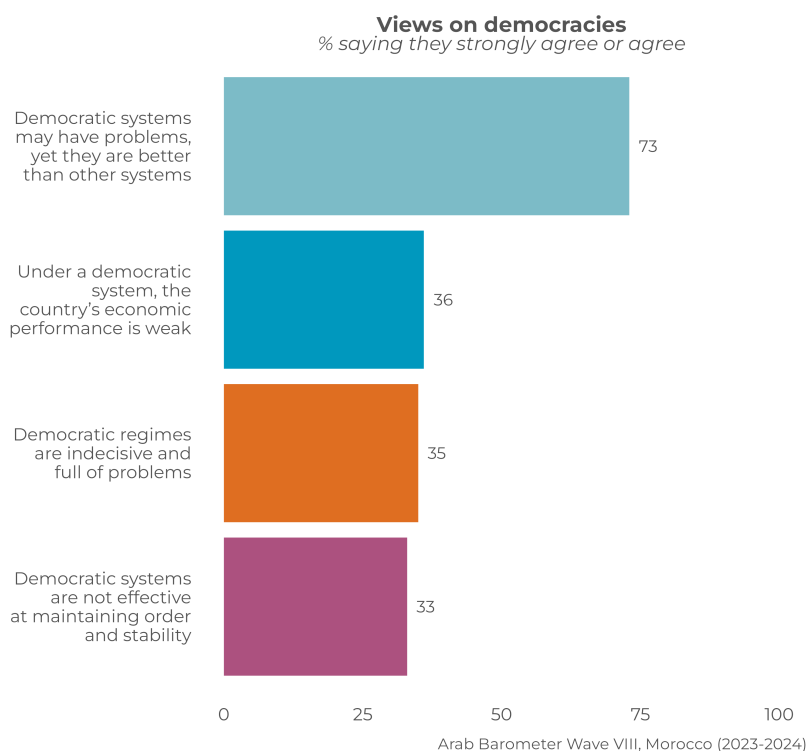
Meanwhile, the majority of Moroccans (58 percent) say that the freedom to express their opinions is guaranteed to a great or a medium extent. This is similar to the level recorded in 2022 (60 percent) and ten points higher than 2018 (48 percent). Seven-in-ten (71 percent) say freedom of the press is guaranteed, which comprises an increase of 12 points compared to 2022 (59 percent). More than half (57 percent) also believe that their freedom to protest and demonstrate is guaranteed to a great or a medium extent, also representing a 12-point rise compared to 2022 (45 percent). On the virtual side, Moroccans are concerned about the limitations to freedom of expression, especially the monitoring and censorship, by their government (54 percent), foreign governments (51 percent), and social media platforms (53 percent).



Positive outlook towards civil rights and freedoms in Morocco is a reflection of socioeconomic status by and large. For example, three-quarters (74 percent) of wealthier Moroccans say freedom to express opinions is guaranteed while fewer than half (44 percent) of their less-fortunate compatriots say the same. For the freedom to participate in protests, levels are quite similar (72 percent for the wealthy, 45 percent for the poor). Additionally, the income-based gap in views on freedom of the press is 22 percentage points, with higher-income people more likely to believe it is guaranteed to a great or a medium extent.

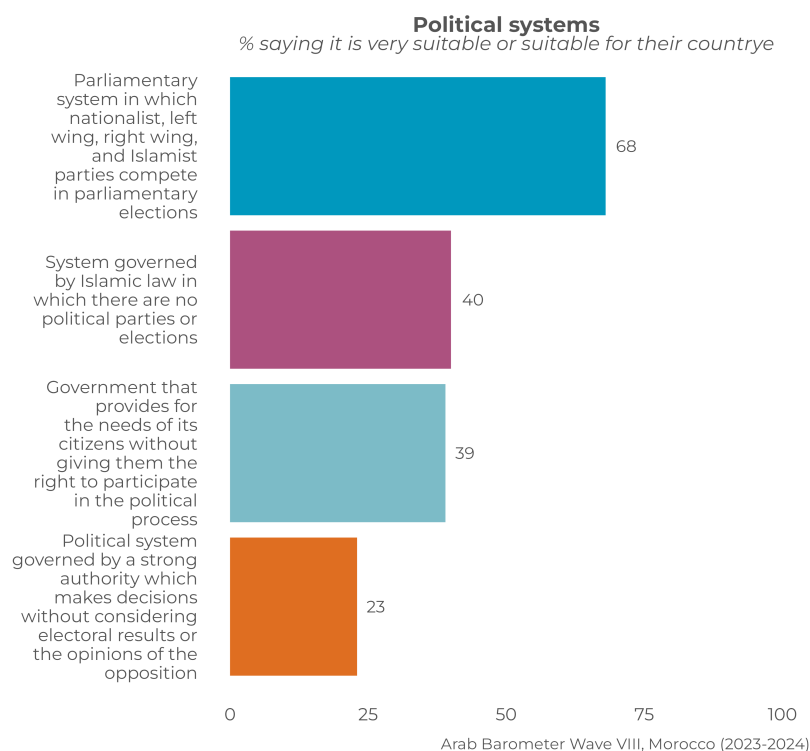
Democracy

Although the last few years have witnessed a decline in positive views of democracy in Morocco, Arab Barometer's Wave VIII findings suggest a shift towards a return to support for democracy in the country. Roughly a third (36 percent) say that the economic performance of a country is weak under a democratic system. This represents a seven-point decrease compared to just two years ago when 43 percent of Moroccans expressed this view. Similar percentages say that democratic regimes are indecisive and full of problems (35 percent) and are ineffective at maintaining stability (33 percent); though changes are smaller when compared to the previous wave. Despite that, three-quarters (73 percent) say that even with its shortcomings, democracy remains better than other systems. This level is 19 points higher than the 54 percent recorded in Wave VII.

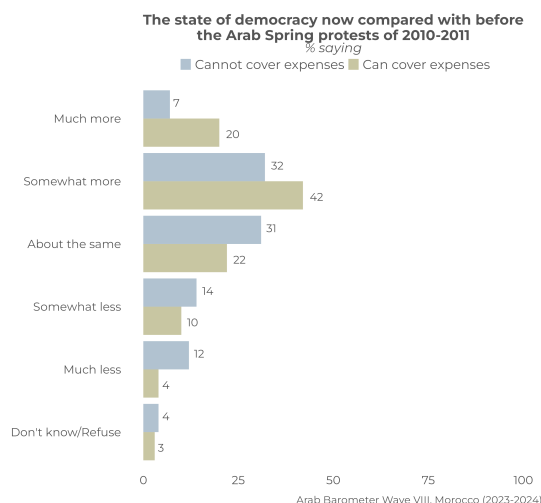
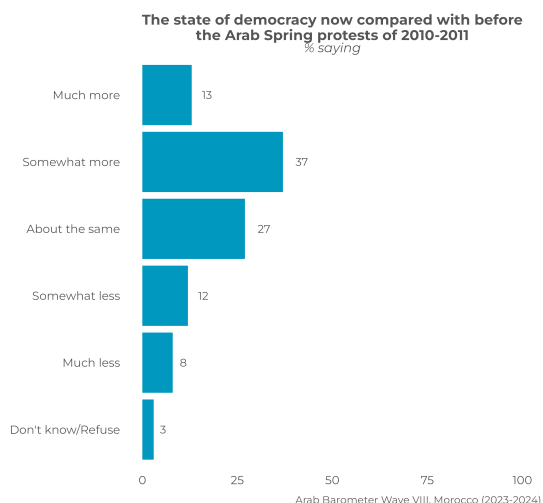


Further reassuring support for democracy in Morocco, six-in-ten say that it is always preferable to any other kind of government. Fewer than half (44 percent) said the same in 2022. Only a quarter say that the kind of government does not matter to them, while 13 percent say that a non-democratic government might be preferable under some circumstances.

Additionally, two-thirds (68 percent) of Moroccans think that a multi-party parliamentary system is suitable or very suitable for the country. Four-in-ten support a system governed by Islamic law with no parties or elections and a similar percentage (39 percent) supports a system in which a strong government provides basic needs for its people without allowing them to participate politically. Meanwhile, only a minority (23 percent) supports a strong authority governing without elections or opposition. Notably, Moroccans generally agree on these positions in spite of their different socioeconomic backgrounds.



Half of the population (49 percent) say that Morocco has become more democratic now as compared to the pre-Arab Spring period. Those with higher socioeconomic status are more positive in their views. For instance, 62 percent of wealthier Moroccans hold the view that Morocco is now more democratic compared to only four-in-ten (39 percent) of their poorer compatriots. A similar gap of 20 points exists between those with college degrees and those with lower educational attainment (64 percent vs. 44 percent).

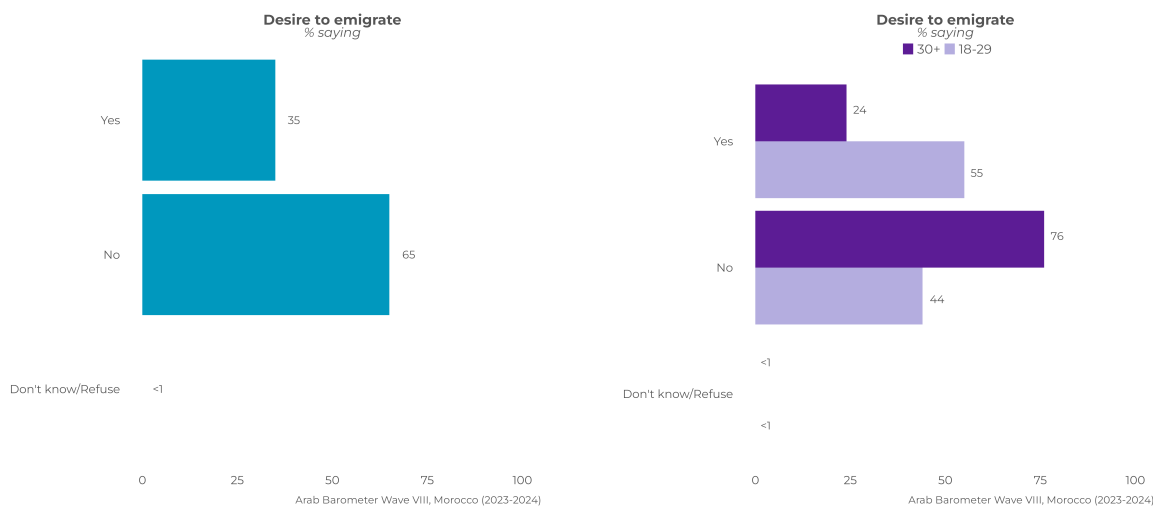


Migration

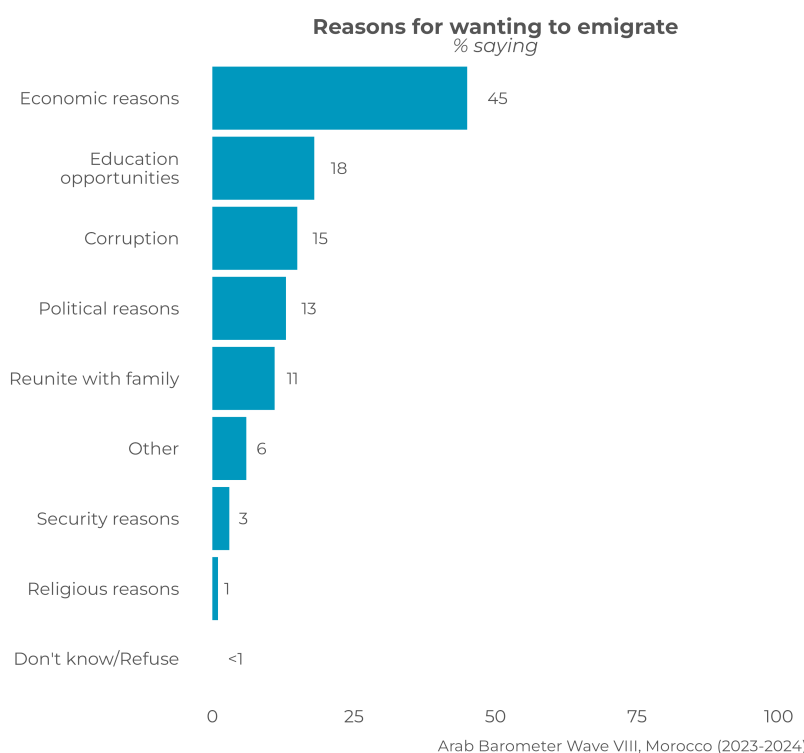
Today, roughly a third of Moroccans (35 percent) have considered leaving their country. This level remains unchanged compared to the previous wave (34 percent). It is, however, largely driven by youth. More than half (55 percent) of Moroccans ages 18-29 say they have thought about emigrating, while only a quarter (24 percent) of their older counterparts say the same. Men are also more likely to have done so than women by a margin of 20 points (45 percent vs. 25 percent). Four-in-ten of those who cannot cover their expenses have considered emigrating compared to only 29 percent of those who are better-off while the college-educated population are more likely to say they have thought about leaving their homeland than the less-educated by a margin of nine points.

Arab Barometer – Wave VIII

Morocco Report



The plurality in Morocco cite economic factors as the main reason for emigrating (45 percent). Fewer than a fifth cite educational opportunities (18 percent), corruption (15 percent), or political reasons (13 percent) while one-in-ten (11 percent) want to emigrate to reunite with family. Moroccans with lower socioeconomic status are more likely to cite economic reasons (56 percent vs. 28 percent by income, 50 percent vs. 34 percent by education). The college-educated are almost three times more likely than those with at most a secondary education to say educational opportunities are their reason for considering emigrating (33 percent vs. 12 percent). Similarly, youth are 1.4 times more likely than the older generations to say the same (24 percent vs. ten percent). For those thinking about leaving Morocco, the West is clearly the preferred destination. The preferred countries include the United States (26 percent), France and Canada (23 percent each), Italy and Spain (22 percent each), and Germany (19 percent) among others.



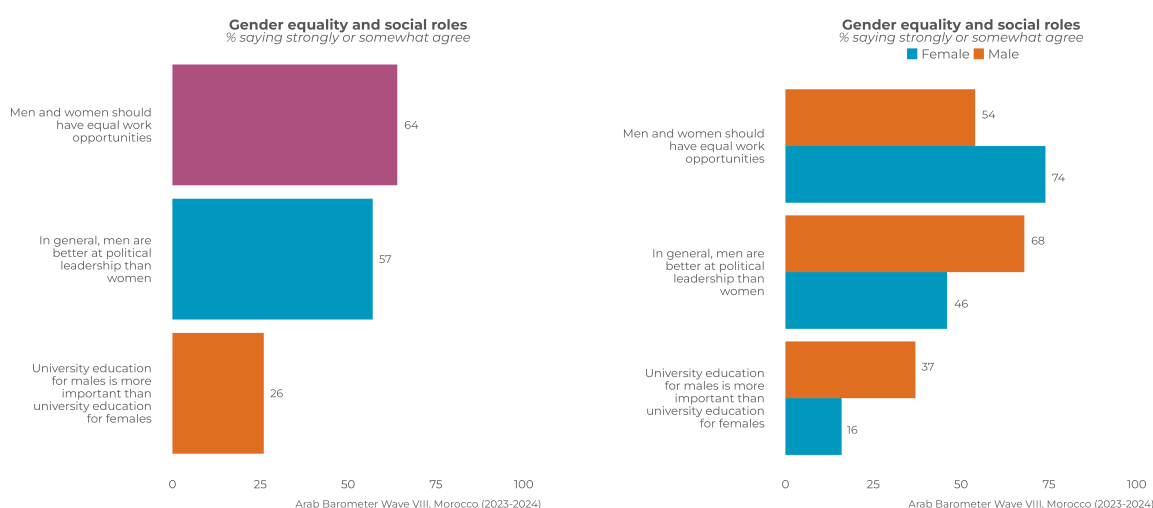
More than half (53 percent) of potential migrants in Morocco say they would leave the country even if they lacked the required documents to do so. This is especially true for the poorer (64 percent vs. 34 percent), men (62 percent vs. 36 percent), and the less-educated (58 percent vs. 40 percent).

Gender

Support for women's rights has slightly declined overall in Morocco over the past few years. Today, more than half of Moroccans (57 percent) say they agree with the statement that "in general, men are better at political leadership than women." This represents an eight-point increase from 2022 (49 percent) and 22-point increase from 2018 (35 percent). The level of support for this statement during this wave matches the record of 2016 when 56 percent of Moroccans said the same, which is the highest level ever recorded in the country. Unsurprisingly, Moroccan men are far more likely to agree with the statement than women. While two-thirds (68 percent) of men say they agree with it, fewer than half (46 percent) of women say the same. Moreover, seven-in-ten Moroccans support instituting a quota for women in the parliament (71 percent) and

the cabinet (70 percent). Similarly, roughly three-quarters of Moroccans (73 percent) believe that having women in leadership positions advances women's rights. Women are more supportive of this view than men by a margin of 23 points (84 percent vs. 61 percent).

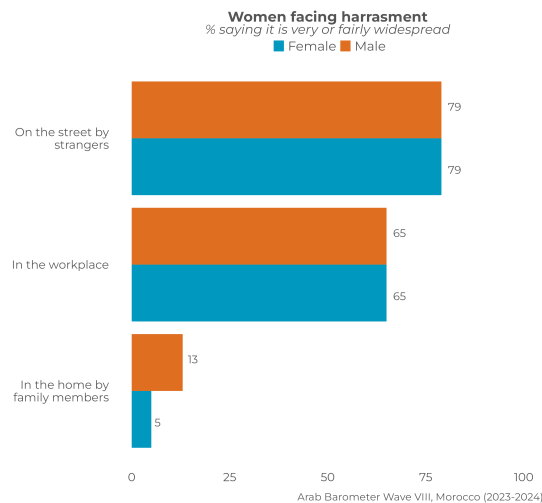
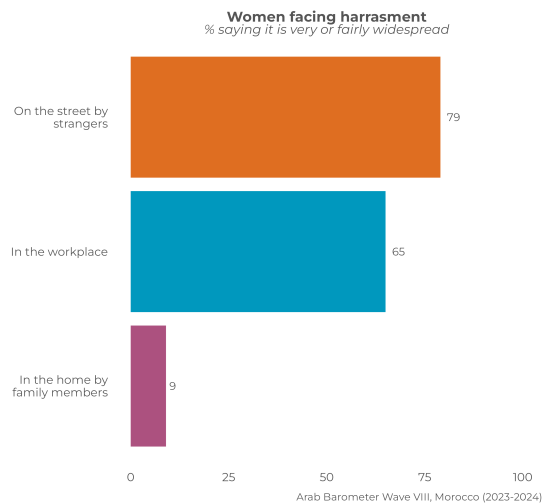
When it comes to education, only a quarter (26 percent) say that university education for males is more important than it is for females, which is unchanged from the previous wave (24 percent). Similarly, men are more than twice more likely to hold this view than women (37 percent vs. 16 percent). Additionally, those struggling to make ends meet are ten-points more likely to say they agree than their better-off counterparts (31 percent vs. 21 percent).



In the workplace, roughly two-thirds (64 percent) say that men and women should have equal work opportunities. This is an 11-point decline when compared to the last time Arab Barometer asked this question in 2006 (75 percent). Moroccans, however, do not agree on the main barriers to women's entry into the workforce. The most commonly cited barriers are lack of available jobs (17 percent), low wages (14 percent), bias against women (13 percent), and lack of childcare options (12 percent).

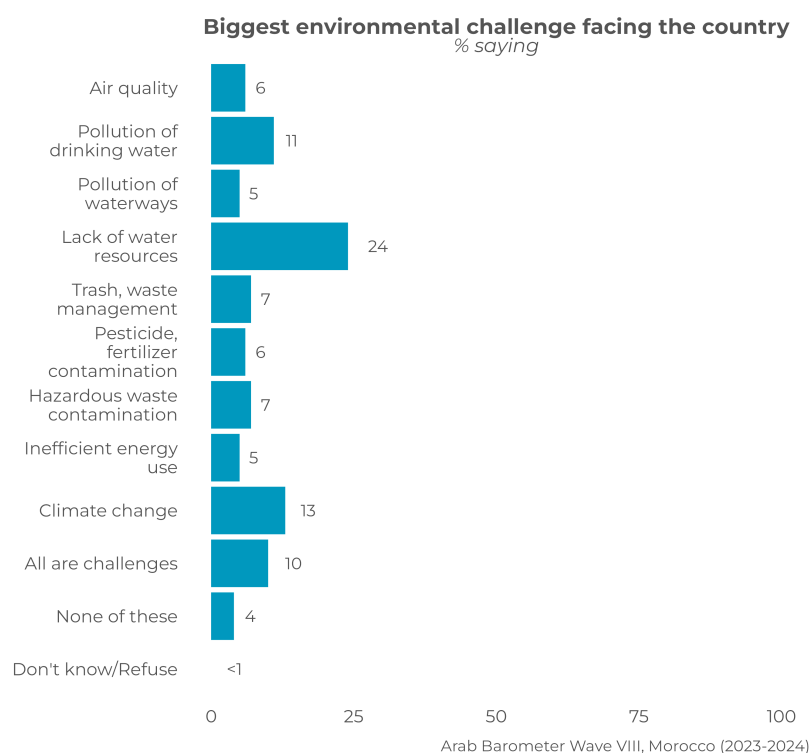
Socially, the overwhelming majority of Moroccans (79 percent) say they support a woman's right to reject a marriage chosen by her family without her consent. Still, six-in-ten (61 percent) say that men should have the final word when it comes to family matters. In terms of violence against women, a small minority (13 percent) say it has increased in the past year, while a third (32 percent) say it remained the same and four-in-ten say it has decreased. The majority of Moroccans acknowledge that harassment is widespread. Eight-in-ten (79 percent)

say it is widespread in the streets by strangers, and two-thirds (65 percent) say the same about harassment in the workplace.

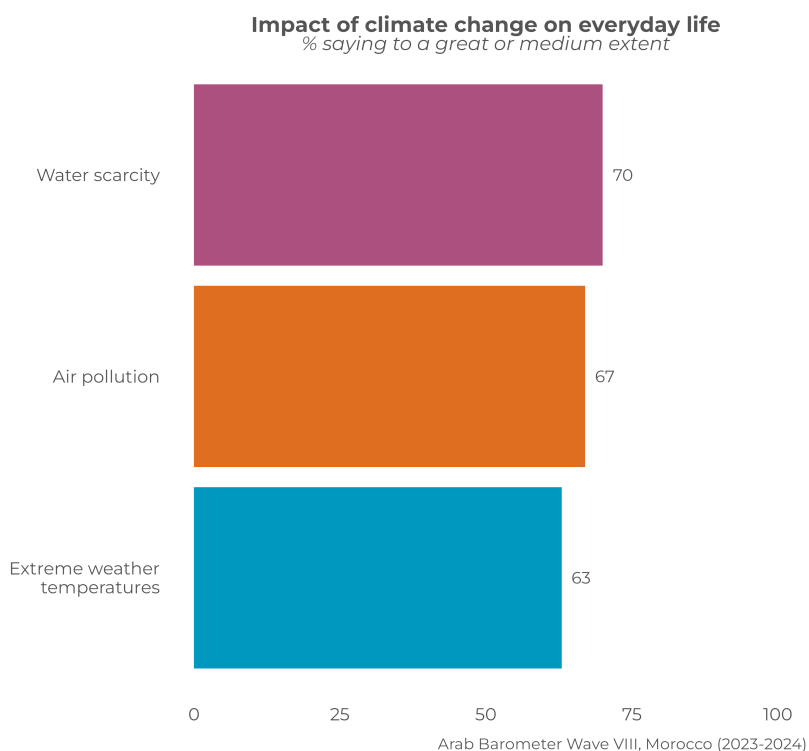


Environment

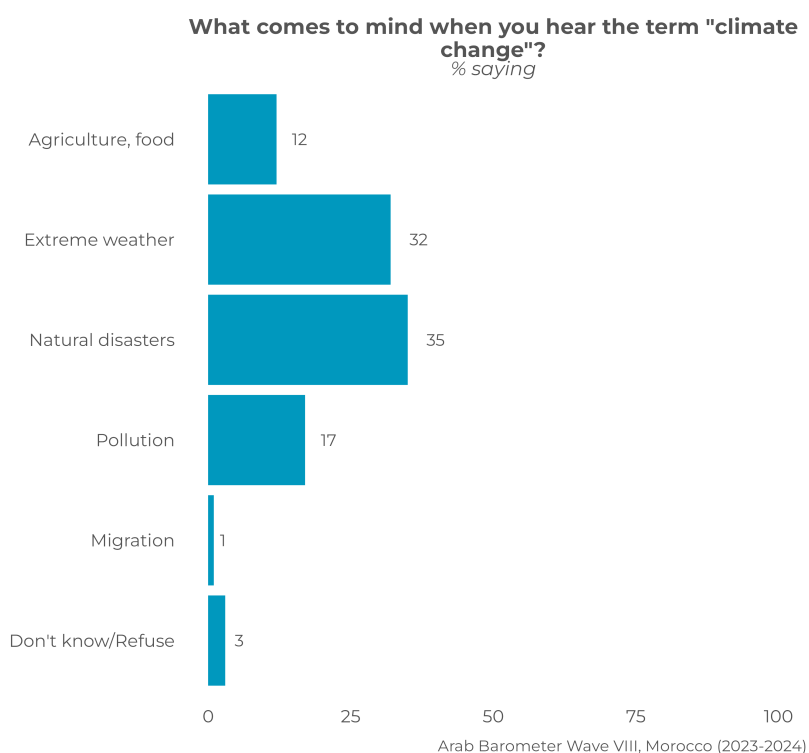
Morocco is facing a number of environmental challenges today, the biggest of which according to Moroccans relates to water. Roughly four-in-ten say that either lack of water resources (24 percent), pollution of drinking water (11 percent), or pollution of water bodies (five percent) is the biggest environmental challenge facing the country. The percentage of those citing climate change as the greatest challenge has doubled since the previous wave (13 percent vs. six percent).



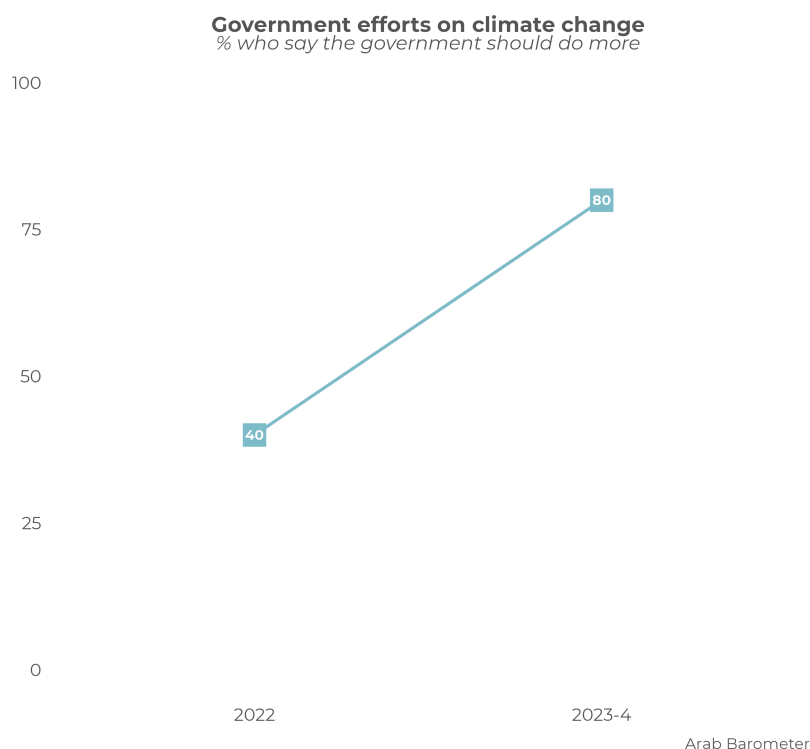
It is no surprise that Moroccans are concerned about these environmental challenges. Today, seven-in-ten say they recognize that water scarcity impacts their lives to a great or a medium extent. Simultaneously, two-thirds (67 percent) say the same about air pollution and 63 percent about extreme weather temperatures. To combat these issues, Moroccans are supportive of government measures that aim to reduce or minimize their impacts. The overwhelming majority (89 percent), for instance, favor a focus on alternative energy development by the government. Two-thirds of Moroccans also support phasing out the production (68 percent) or use (67 percent) of fossil fuels as well as setting a deadline for phasing out the use of polluting cars (66 percent).



With the recent earthquake of September 2023, it is very understandable that Moroccans are linking climate change with natural disasters. When asked what comes to mind when hearing the term “climate change”, a third (35 percent) say natural disasters and another third (32 percent) say extreme weather. No more than a fifth (17 percent) think of pollution when asked about climate change. Two-thirds of Moroccans say they are concerned to a great or a medium extent about the impact of climate change on their physical health (69 percent), mental health (66 percent), or personal safety (67 percent). Fewer than half (45 percent) say they are concerned about the impact of climate change on their jobs or livelihoods.

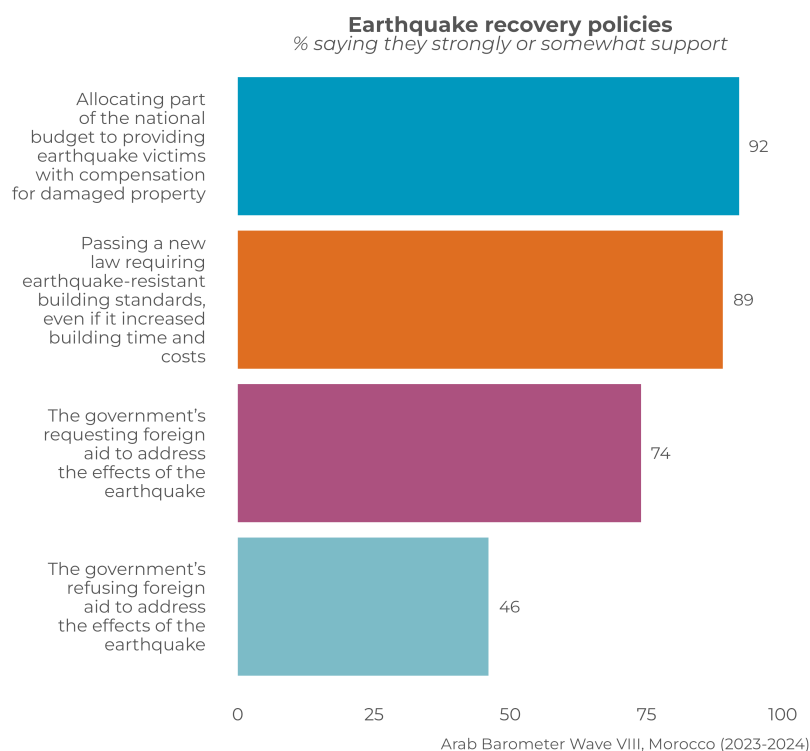


Given these levels of concern, coupled with the devastating effects of the earthquake, it is only to be expected that Moroccans want their government to do more in combating climate change. Today, eight-in-ten say the government should be doing more on that front. This level is double the 40 percent recorded in the previous wave. Percentages of those saying the government should do the same (eight percent) or less (12 percent) are only shrinking.



While wanting the government to do more, Moroccans are generally satisfied with the government's handling of the earthquake. Overall, 43 percent say the government's management of the crisis has met expectations and three-in-ten (31 percent) say it has exceeded expectations. Only a quarter rate the government poorly in this regard. Wealthier Moroccans are more positive in their ratings than their compatriots who are struggling to make ends meet (39 percent vs. 25 percent saying government management exceeded expectations). Additionally, six-in-ten (61 percent) expect government services to improve in the areas affected by the earthquake. Here, too, exists a gap of 21 points between the rich and the poor, with wealthier Moroccans being more optimistic (72 percent vs. 51 percent).

Additionally, seven-in-ten say the government's efforts in helping the victims are very (38 percent) or somewhat (32 percent) effective. In that regard, the overwhelming majority of Moroccans say they strongly (69 percent) or somewhat (23 percent) support allocating a portion of the national budget to help the earthquake victims. Similar percentages strongly (63 percent) or somewhat (27 percent) support requiring earthquake-resistant building standards through a law. Furthermore, three-quarters of Moroccans say they strongly (42 percent) or somewhat (32 percent) support the government requesting foreign aid to address the impacts of the earthquake.

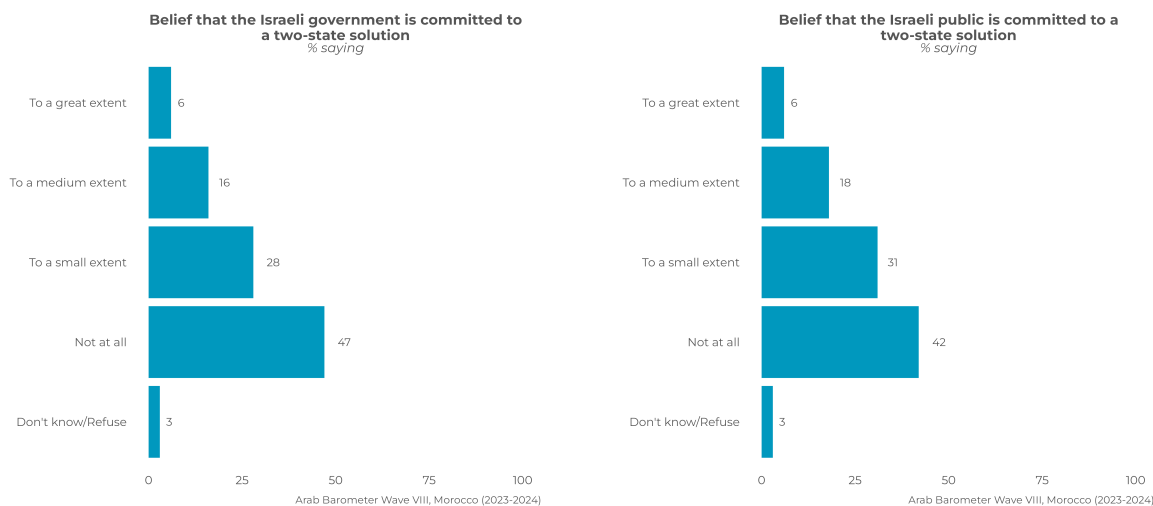


International Relations

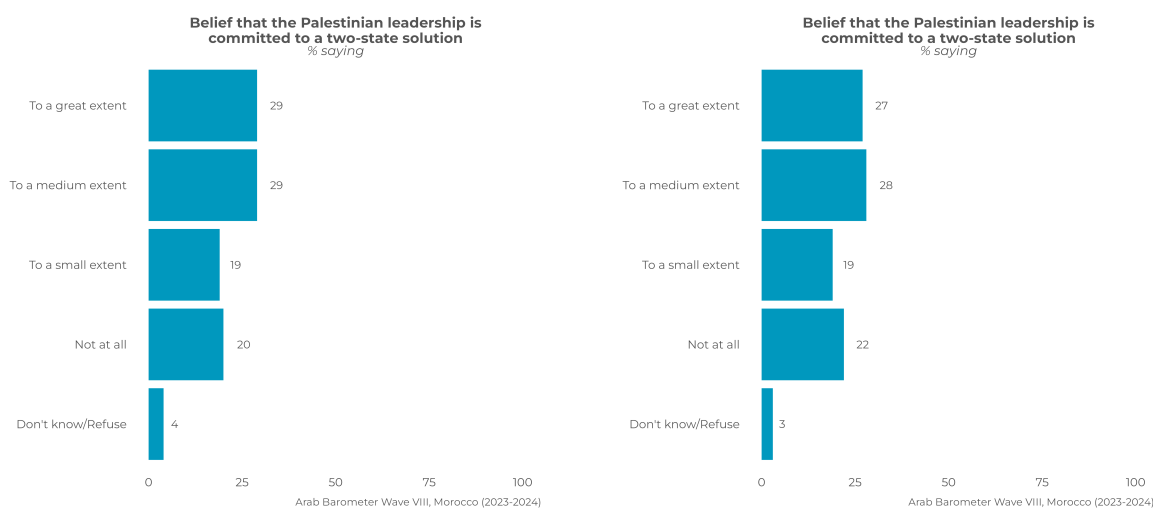
The recent outbreak of conflict in Gaza started at a time when Morocco was still grappling with the aftermath of the earthquake. When asked to define these events, Moroccans most commonly describe them as a massacre (26 percent), a war (24 percent), a genocide (14 percent), or a mass killing (14 percent). Fewer than a quarter (22 percent) believe that the Israeli government is committed to a two-state solution to the conflict. Roughly half of Moroccans (47 percent) say the Israeli government is not at all committed to the two-state solution. Moroccans are also unconvinced of the Israeli public's commitment to the same solution as only a quarter (24 percent) say the people of Israel are committed to a great or a medium extent. Moroccan men are ten points more likely to believe in the Israelis' commitment than women (29 percent vs. 19 percent).

Arab Barometer – Wave VIII

Morocco Report

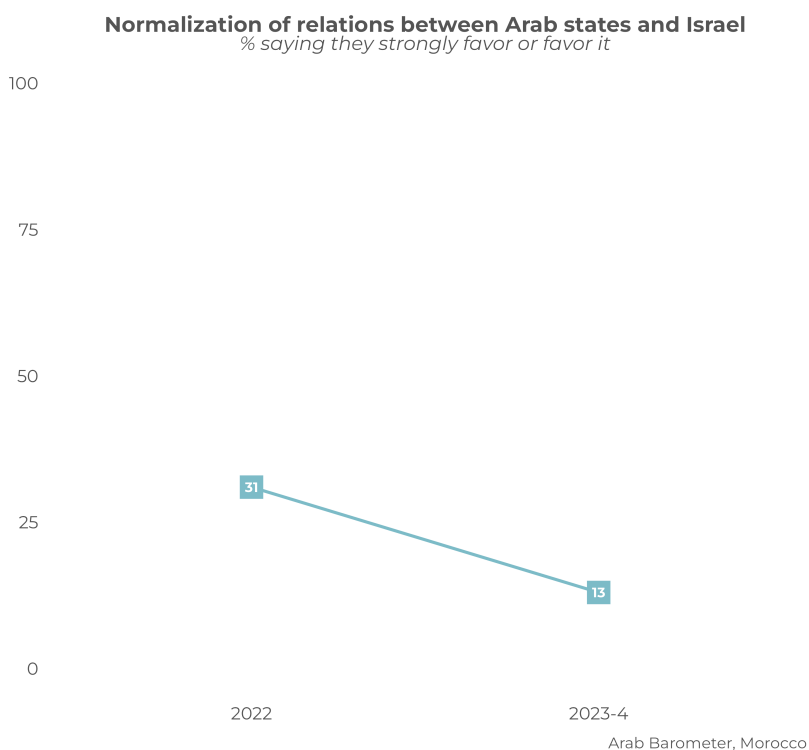


By contrast, the majority of Moroccans think that both the Palestinian leadership and public are committed to the two-state solution. Six-in-ten (58 percent) say the leadership is committed to a great or a medium extent while 56 percent say the same about the Palestinian public. Older and male Moroccans are far more convinced of the commitment of the Palestinian leadership than their counterparts. While two-thirds (66 percent) of Moroccan men say the Palestinian people are committed, fewer than half (46 percent) of women share the view.



Moroccans see Arab and Muslim-majority countries as the actors most committed to defending the rights of Palestinians. Morocco itself leads the list (42 percent), followed by Turkey (35 percent), Qatar (31 percent), and Egypt (30 percent). For the actors most committed to defending Israel, the United States comes first by a wide margin as six-in-ten rank it first. The European Union (35 percent) and the United Nations (21 percent) follow.

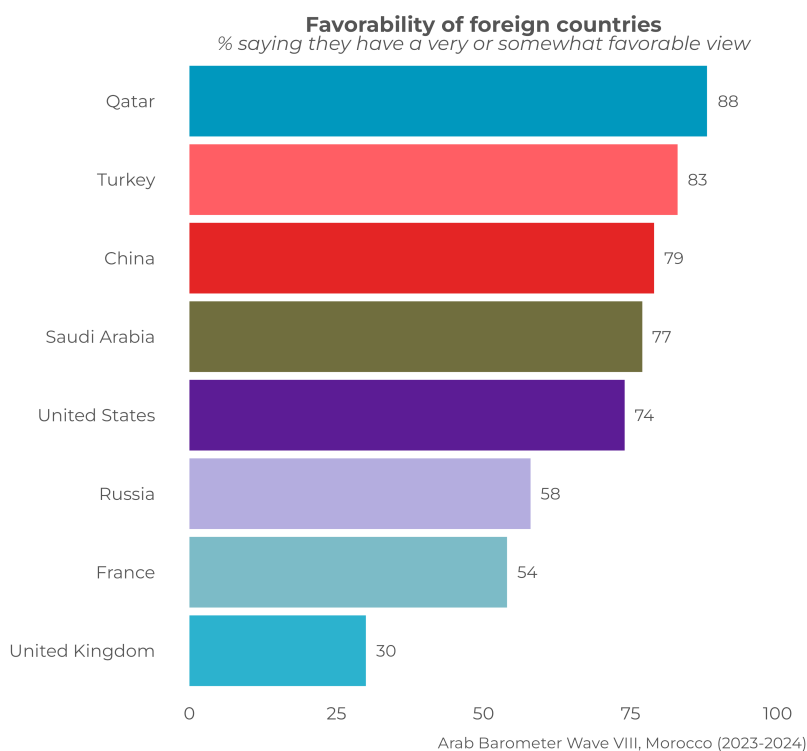
The recent events in Gaza have brought the normalization efforts to a halt, which is in line with the views of Moroccans. Only a small minority of Moroccans say they favor or strongly favor the normalization of relations between Arab states and Israel. By comparison, in 2022, three-in-ten Moroccans said they favor normalization (31 percent).



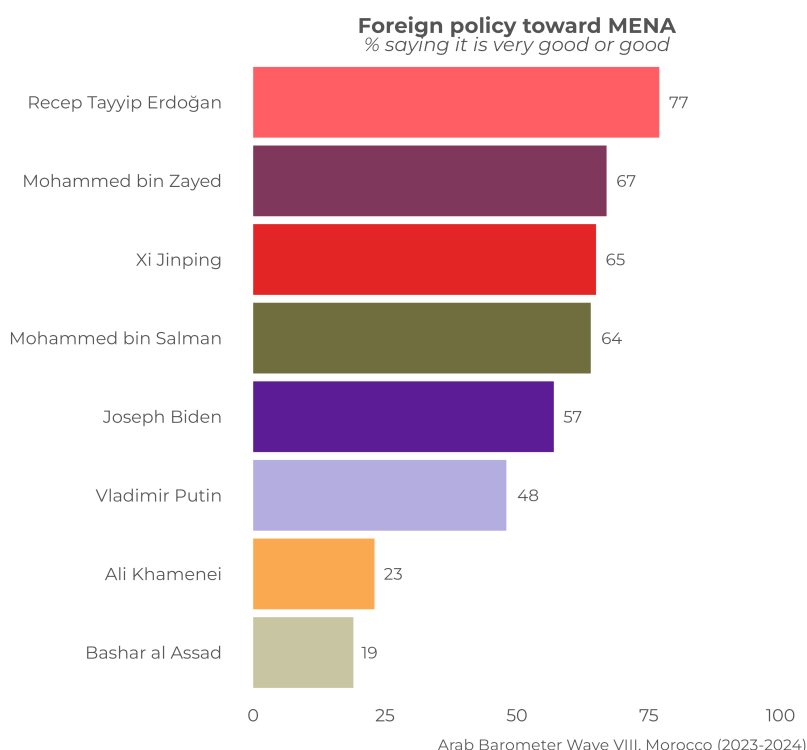
The foreign policies of countries worldwide toward the war in Gaza have clearly affected their image in Morocco. While the United States may seem like an exception to this rule, it has lost significant ground to its global competitors. Today, three-quarters of Moroccans say they have a favorable view of the U.S., which represents a five-point increase since 2022. Moroccans are very likely to view the U.S. through national lenses as relations between the two countries have

strengthened in recent years with the U.S. recognizing Morocco's sovereignty over the Western Sahara. Notably, at the time of the survey, a U.S. diplomat was visiting Algeria and Morocco to reassert the U.S. commitment to Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara, which almost certainly had an effect on Moroccan views of the U.S.

Compared to its rivals, however, favorability of the U.S. has not changed. Both China and Russia are faring much better in the current survey compared with the one in 2022. Today, eight-in-ten (79 percent) Moroccans say they have a very or somewhat favorable view of China, a 15-point increase compared to 2022 (64 percent). Similarly, Russia's favorability has increased by 20 points (58 percent in 2024 vs. 38 percent in 2022). In contrast, the image of other Western countries, which have been supportive of Israel, have suffered. Today, only three-in-ten Moroccans express a favorable opinion on the United Kingdom. Just two years ago, two-thirds (68 percent) held this view, which is a massive drop of 38 points. Favorability of France dropped by ten points in the same period (54 percent in 2024 vs. 64 percent in 2022). Views of Turkey and Saudi Arabia remain overwhelmingly positive, increasing by a margin of seven points for each country in the last two years.



Views of foreign leaders follow a similar pattern. More than half (57 percent) of Moroccans say the policies of U.S. President Joe Biden toward the region are very good or good, representing an increase of 11 points compared to 2022 (46 percent). This positive view of Biden is likely driven by his administration's firm reaffirmation of Morocco sovereignty over the Western Sahara and the support the U.S. pledged to Morocco after the earthquake. The recent events in Gaza are likely to improve the images of other leaders. Roughly half (48 percent) of Moroccans rate the policies of Russian President Vladimir Putin positively. In the previous wave, only a quarter (26 percent) said the same. For Chinese Premier Xi Jinping, two-thirds (65 percent) say his policies are good or very good, compared to only four-in-ten (39 percent) saying the same in 2022.



Views of regional leaders remain positive, only changing slightly compared to the previous waves. Three-quarters (77 percent) of Moroccans have a positive view of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, which represents an increase of six points in the last two years. Ratings of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (64 percent) and Emirati President Mohammed bin Zayed (67 percent) also remain positive, increasing by a margin of seven points as compared to 2022.



About Arab Barometer

Arab Barometer is the leading and most influential research network on public opinion in the Middle East and North Africa. We are nonprofit and nonpartisan, hosted at Princeton University and the University of Michigan.

Founded in 2006, we are the longest-standing research network that conducts rigorous and nationally representative public opinion surveys in the Arab world. We disseminate the findings through analyses and reports to deepen public conversations and facilitate data-driven solutions to the pressing problems facing ordinary citizens across MENA.

Our public opinion surveys give ordinary citizens a stronger voice, and our analysis, highlighting key demographic differences and changing trends, help comprehend MENA citizens' shifting views, attitudes, and behaviors.



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