

Arab Barometer IX

Morocco Report

October 2026

Executive summary

Arab Barometer's Wave IX survey captures public opinion in Morocco at a moment when assessments of domestic conditions have improved in several areas even as many households continue to face substantial economic pressure. Compared with Arab Barometer's 2023-24 survey, Moroccans are more positive about the current economy, political institutions, and government performance. At the same time, optimism about the future has weakened, food insecurity remains widespread, and views of environmental action and democracy have become less favorable on several measures. The results suggest that citizens distinguish between recent improvements in state performance and the longer-term ability of institutions to provide economic security, political responsiveness, and credible solutions to regional crises.

No single national concern dominates public opinion. The economic situation is identified as the country's most important challenge by 22 percent of Moroccans, essentially unchanged from 22 percent in 2023-24. Public services follow at 18 percent, financial and administrative corruption at 15 percent, immigration at 11 percent, and foreign interference at 10 percent. Evaluations of present economic conditions have improved: 41 percent now describe the economy as good or very good, eight points above the previous survey. Yet only 37 percent expect conditions to improve during the next two to three years, 12 points below the 49 percent recorded in 2023-24.

The lived experience of hardship remains more severe than the improvement in economic ratings might imply. Fifty-six percent say that food purchased by their household often or sometimes failed to last during the previous month and that they lacked money to obtain more. This is seven percentage points below 2023-24, but remains a majority experience. One-third worried about having enough food during the previous year, 34 percent ate only a few kinds of food, 29 percent skipped a meal, and 32 percent experienced a period in which the household ran out of food.

Confidence in political institutions has risen sharply. Trust in the government has increased by 19 points since 2023-24 to 52 percent, trust in the prime minister has risen by 15 points to 45 percent, and trust in parliament has increased by 13 points to 51 percent. Regional government is trusted by 56 percent. By contrast, confidence in courts, civil society organizations, the police, and the armed forces have declined from the unusually high levels measured after the September 2023 earthquake. The armed forces remain the most trusted institution at 70 percent, followed by the police at 66 percent and the courts at 59 percent.

Evaluations of government performance have also improved substantially. Half

of Moroccans are satisfied with the government's overall performance, up from 29 percent in 2023-24. Satisfaction with education has nearly doubled to 48 percent, while satisfaction with healthcare has increased to 45 percent. Ratings of government work on creating jobs, narrowing inequality, and keeping prices down have risen to between 46 and 48 percent. The main exception is security: 61 percent rate government performance positively in maintaining security and order, down from 80 percent in the previous survey. Perceptions that corruption is prevalent have fallen from 74 percent to 60 percent, while 47 percent believe the government is working to crack down on it.

Migration intentions have fallen markedly, but remain concentrated among younger and economically vulnerable citizens. Just 16 percent of Moroccans say they have considered emigrating, compared with 35 percent in 2023-24. Youth remain more likely than older citizens to consider leaving (24 percent compared with 13 percent), and citizens unable to cover basic needs are twice as likely as those who can to do so (21 percent compared with 10 percent). Economic reasons are cited by 54 percent of potential migrants, followed by educational opportunities at 19 percent and reuniting with family at 14 percent. Canada and the United States are the leading preferred destinations. Three-in-ten potential migrants would consider leaving without the required documents, down from 53 percent in 2023-24. Economic insecurity is strongly associated with this willingness: 39 percent of potential migrants who cannot cover basic needs would consider leaving without the required documents, compared with just seven percent of those who can.

Civic engagement is limited despite relatively broad political interest. Forty-two percent say they are interested in politics, but only eight percent belong to an organization, group, or club and 12 percent volunteer during a typical month. Perceptions of freedom are mixed. Sixty-two percent say freedom of expression is guaranteed to a great or medium extent, slightly above the previous survey, and 55 percent say the same of peaceful protest, effectively unchanged. By contrast, 60 percent say freedom of the press is guaranteed, 11 points below 2023-24. Citizens who can cover basic needs are substantially more positive about political freedoms than those who cannot.

Attitudes on gender have become less traditional on several measures, but support for some institutional mechanisms advancing women's representation has declined. Forty-seven percent agree that men are better political leaders than women, ten points below 2023-24, while 44 percent say a man should have the final say in family decisions, down 17 points. Support for equal workplace opportunities remains unchanged at 64 percent. However, support for parliamentary and cabinet quotas for women has fallen to 51 percent and 52 percent, respectively. Seven-in-ten say harassment of women is widespread on the street, and 58 percent say it is widespread in the workplace.

Environmental concerns are increasingly centered on water. Fifty-four percent identify water scarcity or water pollution as Morocco's most serious environmental problem, 14 points above the combined level in 2023-24. More than half are concerned about climate-related natural disasters, and 62 percent worry that climate change could force their family to relocate. At the same time, support for several environmental policies has weakened. Sixty percent favor prioritizing alternative energy, compared with 89 percent in 2023-24, and 41 percent say the government should do more to address climate change, down from 80 percent.

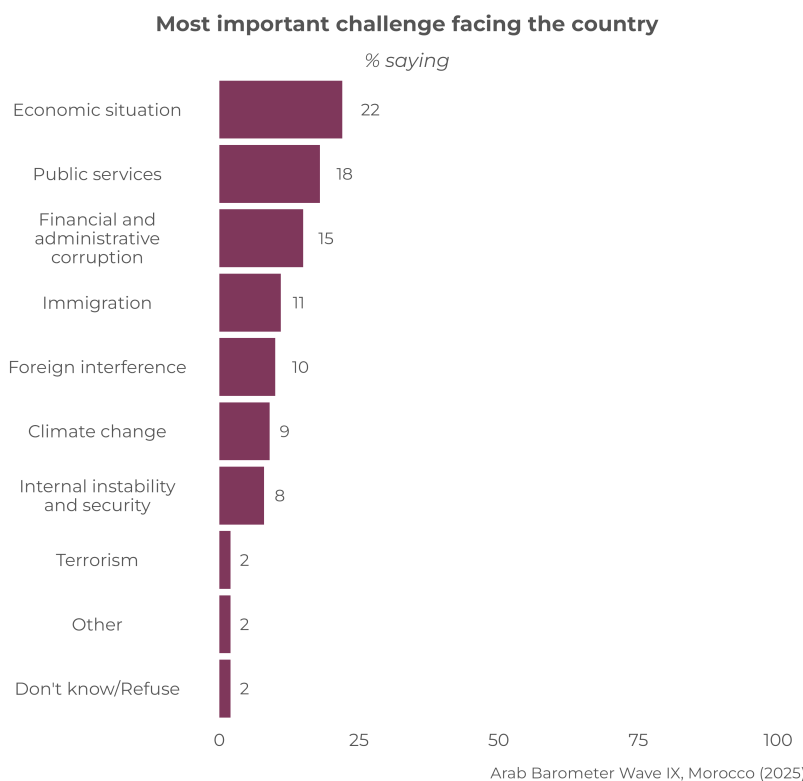
Support for democracy remains a majority position, but it is less emphatic than in the previous Arab Barometer survey two years prior. Fifty-three percent say democracy is always preferable to any other form of government, seven points below 2023-24, while 51 percent agree that democratic systems may have problems but remain better than the alternatives, a decline of 22 points. Nevertheless, 69 percent give democracy a score of six or higher on an 11-point scale measuring its suitability for Morocco. This is 11 percentage points above the 58 percent who give Morocco itself a score of six or higher on a scale measuring how democratic the country currently is.

Views of foreign countries have shifted considerably since 2023-24. Qatar, the European Union, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye receive the most favorable ratings, while Israel and Iran remain the least popular. Favorability toward the United States, China, Russia, Qatar, Türkiye, and Saudi Arabia has declined, while France has improved. Moroccans continue to view the events in Gaza in severe terms: 52 percent describe them as genocide, massacre, or mass killing. Four-in-five oppose normalization between Arab states and Israel, although support has risen modestly from 13 percent in 2023-24 to 18 percent. In a scenario in which Israel recognizes a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, 36 percent support normalization and 60 percent oppose it.

These are among the main findings of a nationally representative face-to-face survey of 1,210 Moroccan citizens from across all 12 regions of the country. The survey was fielded from August 23 to September 6, 2025 using a multistage clustered sample. The margin of error is approximately ±3 percentage points. The survey is part of Arab Barometer's ninth wave. Additional information about the surveys can be found at www.arabbarometer.org.

Economy

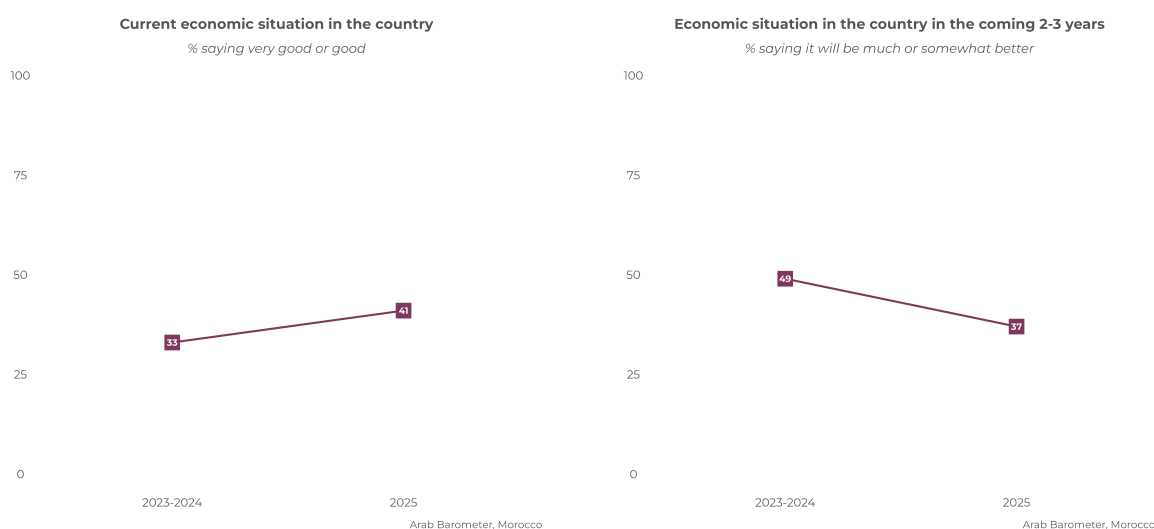
Economic concerns remain important in Morocco, but they are not the predominant concern in the country. Twenty-two percent identify the economic situation as the country's most important challenge, effectively unchanged from the 22 percent recorded in 2023-24. Public services rank second at 18 percent, followed by financial and administrative corruption at 15 percent, immigration at 11 percent, foreign interference at 10 percent, climate change at nine percent, and internal security at eight percent. Citizens unable to cover basic needs are ten percentage points more likely than those who can meet their expenses to name the economy (28 percent compared with 18 percent), and twice as likely to name corruption (19 percent compared with nine percent). Women are more likely than men to identify public services as the principal challenge (22 percent compared with 14 percent).



Evaluations of current economic conditions have improved substantially since the previous survey. Forty-one percent describe the economy as good or very good, compared with 33 percent in 2023-24. Notably, only seven percent say conditions are very good while 34 percent say they are good. On the other

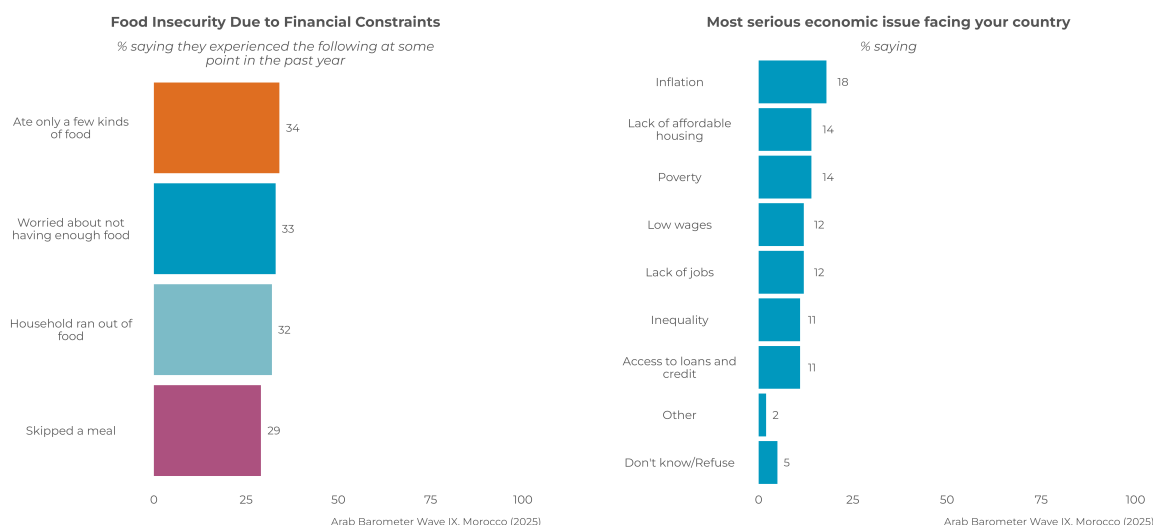
hand, 40 percent rate them as bad and 17 percent as very bad. Unsurprisingly, citizens whose income covers basic needs are twice as likely as those whose income does not do so to rate the economy positively (55 percent compared with 27 percent). Urban residents are also more positive about economic conditions than rural residents (46 percent compared with 34 percent). Unlike in the previous survey, university graduates are not the most positive group: just 37 percent rate the economy favorably compared with 43 percent of citizens with secondary degree or less.

Despite relatively positive ratings of the current economy, expectations for the future are somewhat less optimistic. Thirty-seven percent believe the economy will be much or somewhat better during the next two to three years, down 12 percentage points from 49 percent in 2023-24. One-third expect little change, while 27 percent expect conditions to become worse. Household economic circumstances again shape views. About half (47 percent) of citizens who can cover basic needs expect improvement compared with 28 percent of those who cannot.



Although ratings of the economy have improved recently, personal economic insecurity remains widespread. Fifty-six percent say that during the previous 30 days the food they bought often or sometimes ran out before they had enough money to obtain more. This is seven percentage points below the 63 percent recorded in the 2023-24 survey, but still represents a majority. Rural residents are nine points more likely than urban residents to report running out of food (62 percent compared with 53 percent).

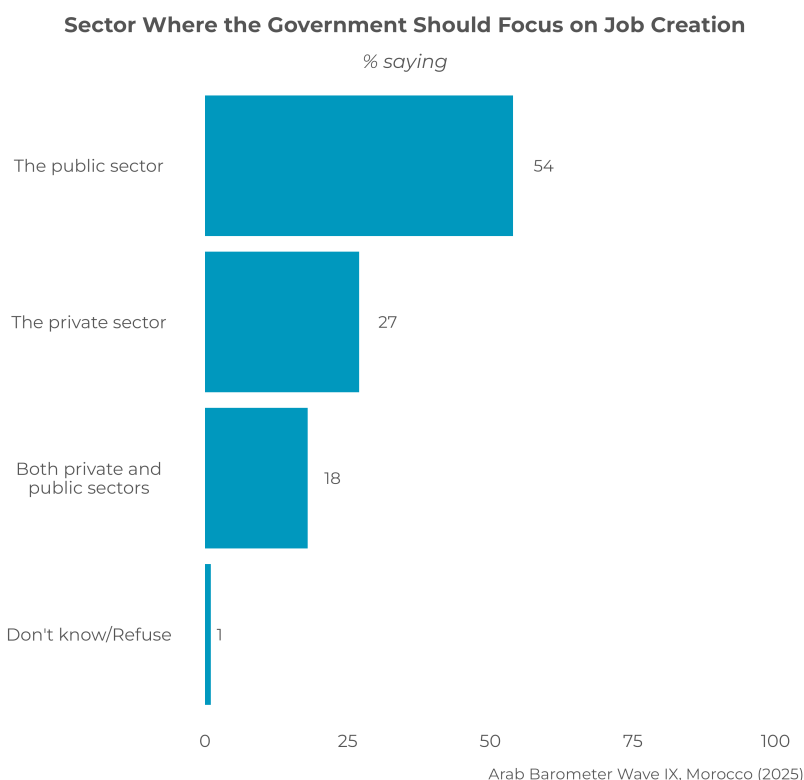
Other indicators confirm the continuing depth of hardship. One-third of Moroccans worried during the previous year that they would not have enough food to eat. Thirty-four percent ate only a few kinds of food because of insufficient resources, 29 percent skipped a meal, and 32 percent say their household actually ran out of food. These experiences are concentrated among citizens who cannot afford basic needs. Youth are ten percentage points more likely than older citizens to have worried about having enough food (40 percent compared with 30 percent).



Moroccans do not identify a single economic problem or proposed solution to improve economic conditions. Inflation ranks first as the country's most serious economic problem, but is selected by only 18 percent. Poverty and lack of affordable housing follow at 14 percent each, while lack of jobs and low wages are each cited by 12 percent. Inequality is named and access to credit are named by 11 percent, respectively. Asked what the government should do first to improve economic conditions, 22 percent choose lowering the cost of living, 14 percent raising wages, 13 percent creating jobs, 13 percent supporting small businesses, 12 percent reforming education, and 11 percent encouraging foreign investment. The results indicate that economic pressure is diffuse rather than centered on unemployment alone.

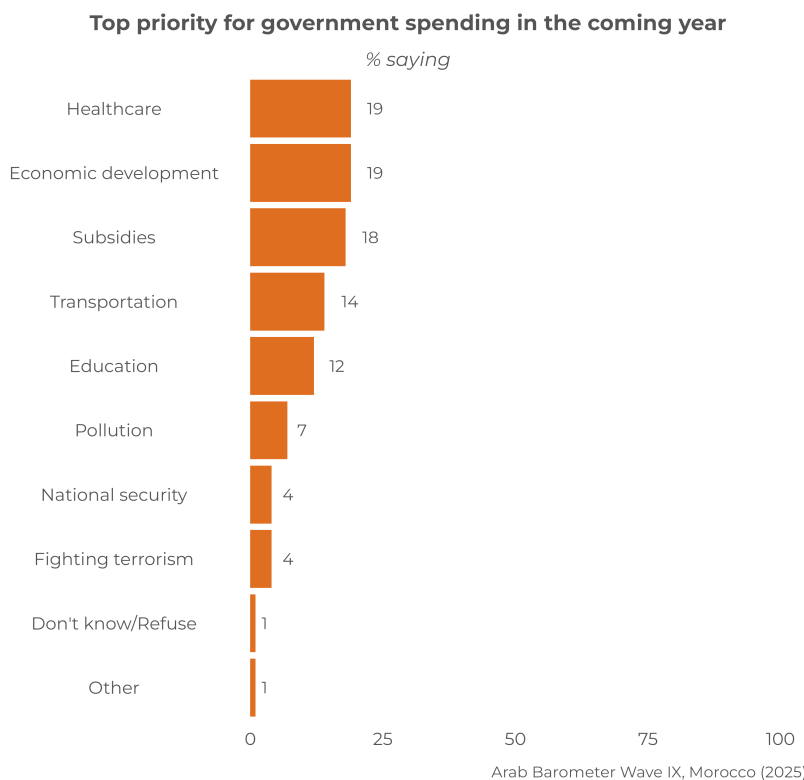
The public sector remains attractive to Moroccans with 45 percent preferring it over jobs in the private sector, although this level is far less overwhelming than in Jordan (77 percent) and some other countries surveyed in Wave IX. Fifty-four percent of Moroccans say the government should focus job creation in the public sector, 27 percent prefer the private sector, and 18 percent say both.

When asked what sector theyd prefer to work in, 45 percent describe a public-sector position as the preferable job to have, compared with 32 percent who choose private employment. The key reasons appear to be that public sector jobs are more often seen as providing greater stability (42 percent), paying better salaries (41 percent), being harder to obtain (38 percent), but they are also more likely to require *wasta* (piston) (39 percent) relative to the private sector. These findings show that state employment retains symbolic and practical appeal, even though substantial percentages do prefer private-sector work.



Government spending priorities have become more varied since 2023-24. Healthcare and economic development now rank first at 19 percent each, which is effectively tied with subsidies at 18 percent, followed by roads and transportation at 14 percent, and education at 12 percent. In the previous survey, economic developed ranked first at 27 percent followed by subsidies at 23 percent, education at 16 percent and healthcare at 14 percent. Citizens unable to cover basic needs remain more likely to prioritize subsidies than those who can meet their expenses (23 percent compared with 12 percent). Better-off citizens, by contrast, are more likely to select healthcare (24 percent compared with 16

percent). The change suggests less concentration on immediate price relief, but not a clear consensus on a replacement priority.



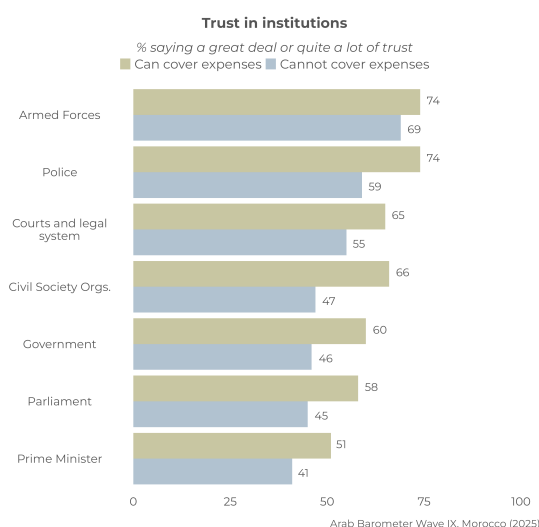
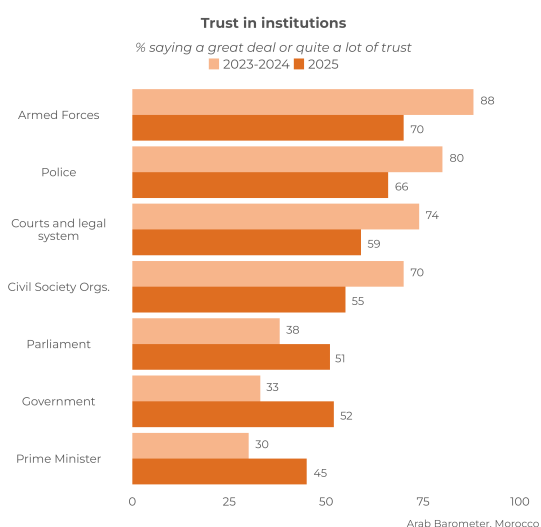
Trust in state institutions

Trust in Morocco's political institutions has risen sharply since 2023-24. Just over half of Moroccans (52 percent) say they have a great deal or quite a lot of trust in the government, a 19-point increase from 33 percent. Trust in the prime minister has increased by 15 points to 45 percent, while confidence in parliament has risen by 13 points to 51 percent. Regional government is trusted by 56 percent, seven points more than in the previous survey. The increase is broad enough that representative and executive institutions now receive majority or near-majority confidence.

The trend is different for institutions that received especially high ratings in 2023, which was conducted shortly after the September 2023 earthquake. Trust in the courts and legal system has fallen from 74 percent to 59 percent, and confidence in civil society organizations has declined from 70 percent to

55 percent. Security institutions remain the most trusted, but their ratings have decreased to some extent in the last two years: trust in the police stands at 66 percent, compared with 80 percent in 2023-24, and trust in the armed forces is 70 percent, down from 88 percent. Religious leaders enjoy the confidence of 52 percent.

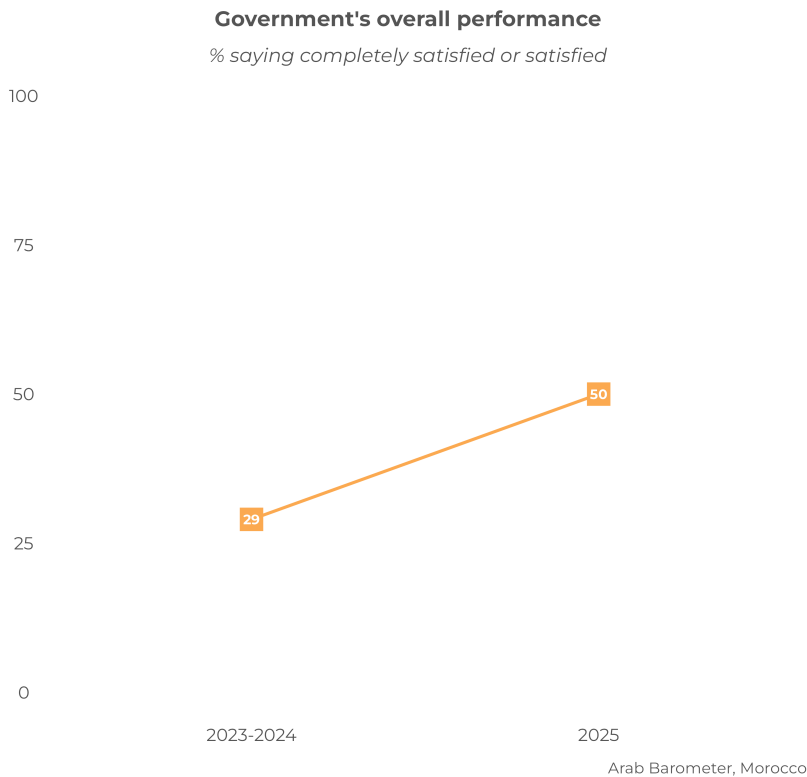
Household economic circumstances remain closely associated with institutional trust. Citizens able to cover basic needs are 14 percentage points more likely than those who cannot to trust the government (60 percent compared with 46 percent), 13 points more likely to trust parliament (58 percent compared with 45 percent), and 19 points more likely to trust civil society organizations (66 percent compared with 47 percent). The gap is 15 points for the police and ten points for the courts. Confidence in the armed forces is less economically differentiated, at 74 percent among better-off citizens and 69 percent among those facing difficulty.



Age and gender also shape confidence in selected institutions. Citizens aged 18-29 are nine percentage points less likely than those aged 30 or older to trust the government (45 percent compared with 54 percent), and five points less likely to trust the prime minister. Women are nine points more likely than men to trust parliament (55 percent compared with 46 percent) and 12 points more likely to trust regional government (62 percent compared with 50 percent). Overall, the results suggest that changes in levels of trust are not universal and vary, to some extent, across demographic categories.

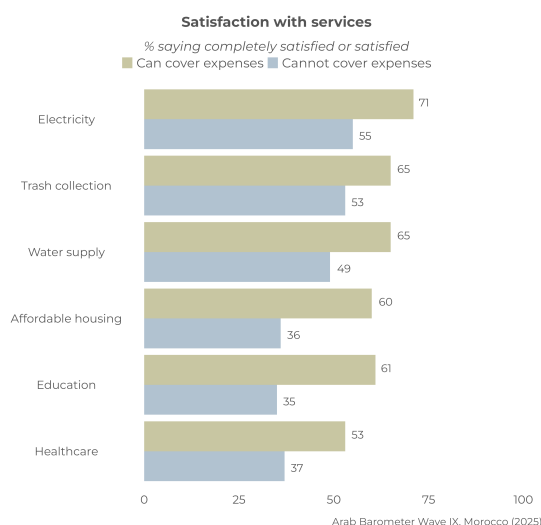
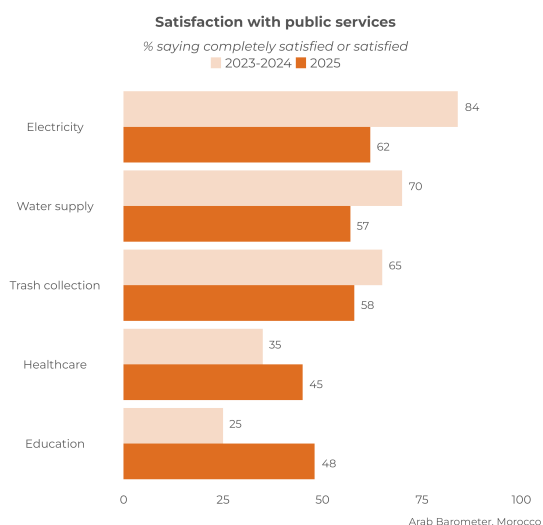
Government performance

The rise in trust in political institutions is mirrored by a substantial improvement in assessments of government performance. Half of Moroccans are satisfied or completely satisfied with the government’s overall performance, a 21-point increase from 29 percent in 2023-24. Men are 10 percentage points more likely than women to express satisfaction (55 percent compared with 45 percent) and citizens who can cover basic needs are 14 points more satisfied than those who cannot (57 percent compared with 43 percent).

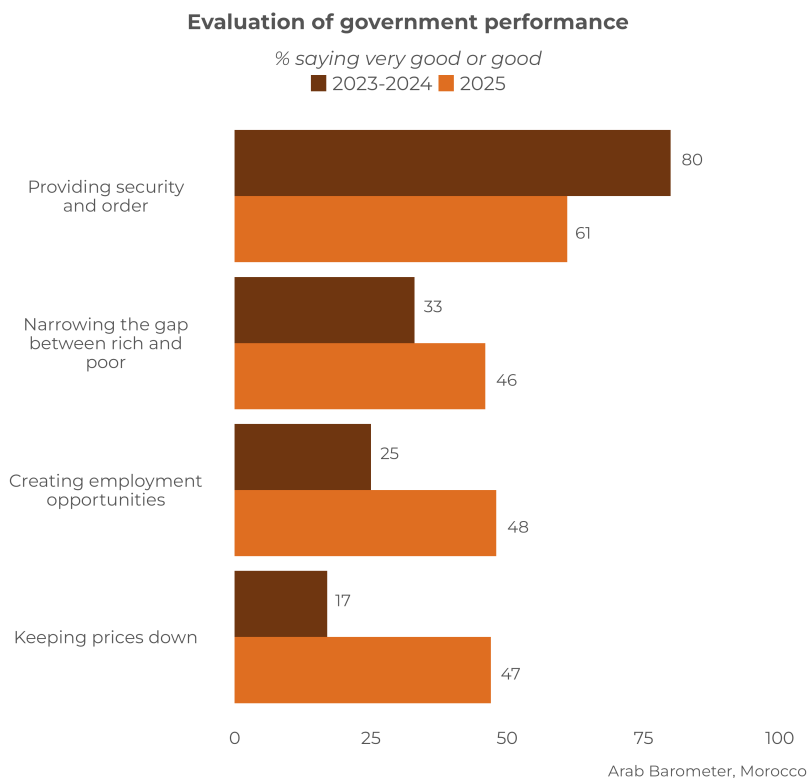


Evaluations of education and healthcare have improved. Forty-eight percent are satisfied with the educational system, nearly double the 25 percent recorded in 2023-24. Satisfaction with healthcare has risen by ten points to 45 percent. Other services are viewed favorably by a majority but have declined in the past two years. For example, 58 percent are satisfied with trash collection, compared with 65 percent previously; 62 percent are satisfied with electricity, down from 84 percent; and 57 percent are satisfied with water supply, down from 70 percent. The availability of affordable housing is rated favorably by 48 percent.

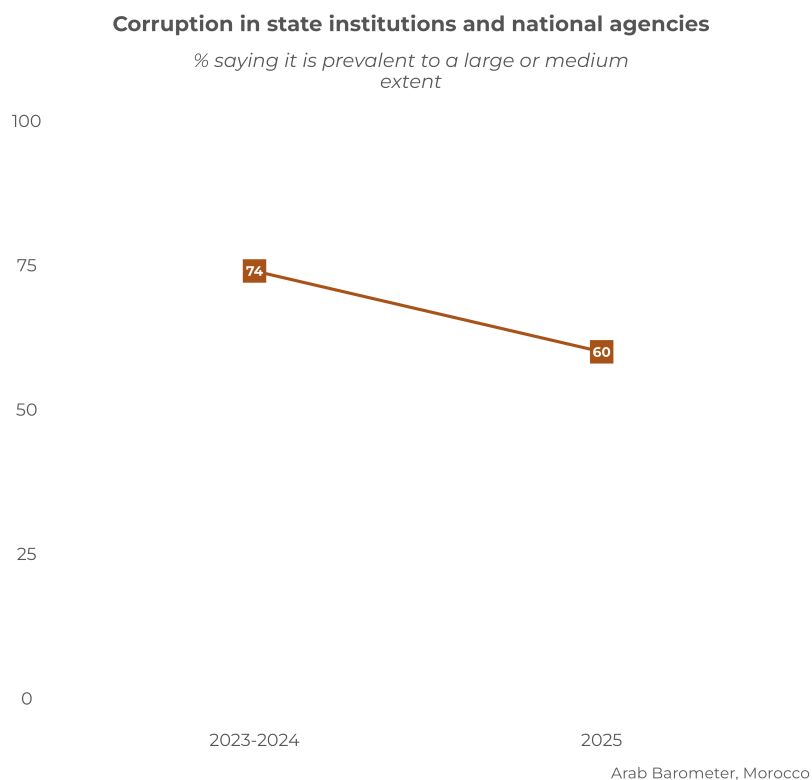
Service evaluations reveal large economic and geographic inequalities. Citizens who can cover basic needs are 26 percentage points more likely than those who cannot to be satisfied with education (61 percent compared with 35 percent) and 24 points more likely to be satisfied with affordable housing (60 percent compared with 36 percent). The corresponding gaps are 16 points for health-care, 16 points for electricity, and 16 points for water. Urban residents are 23 points more likely than rural residents to be satisfied with electricity (71 percent compared with 48 percent) and 17 points more likely to be satisfied with water supply (63 percent compared with 46 percent).



Ratings of government performance on core economic issues have improved from low levels. Forty-eight percent say the government is doing a good or very good job creating employment opportunities, 23 points above 2023-24. To some extent, this may be the result of significant foreign investments made by China in recent years. Additionally, 46 percent approve of its work to narrow the gap between rich and poor, up 13 points from two years prior, and 47 percent rate its efforts to keep prices down positively, a 30-point increase. By contrast, the positive rating for maintaining security and order has fallen from 80 percent to 61 percent. Better-off citizens are more positive on every measure. The income gap is 23 points for job creation, 19 points for inequality, 18 points for security, and 11 points for keeping prices down. Youth are also substantially more critical than older citizens of the government's work on inequality and inflation.



Corruption remains a major concern, although perceptions have improved. Six-in-ten Moroccans believe corruption exists in state institutions to a large or medium extent, 14 percentage points below the 74 percent found in 2023-24. Nearly half (47 percent) believe the government is working to crack down on corruption, effectively unchanged from 47 percent. Citizens unable to cover basic needs are 17 points more likely than those who can to perceive widespread corruption (69 percent compared with 52 percent), while better-off citizens are 21 points more likely to say the government is combating it (59 percent compared with 38 percent). Government responsiveness has also improved: 43 percent say the government is very or largely responsive to what people want, up from 30 percent. These improvements are notable, but they remain strongly conditioned by household economic security.



Migration

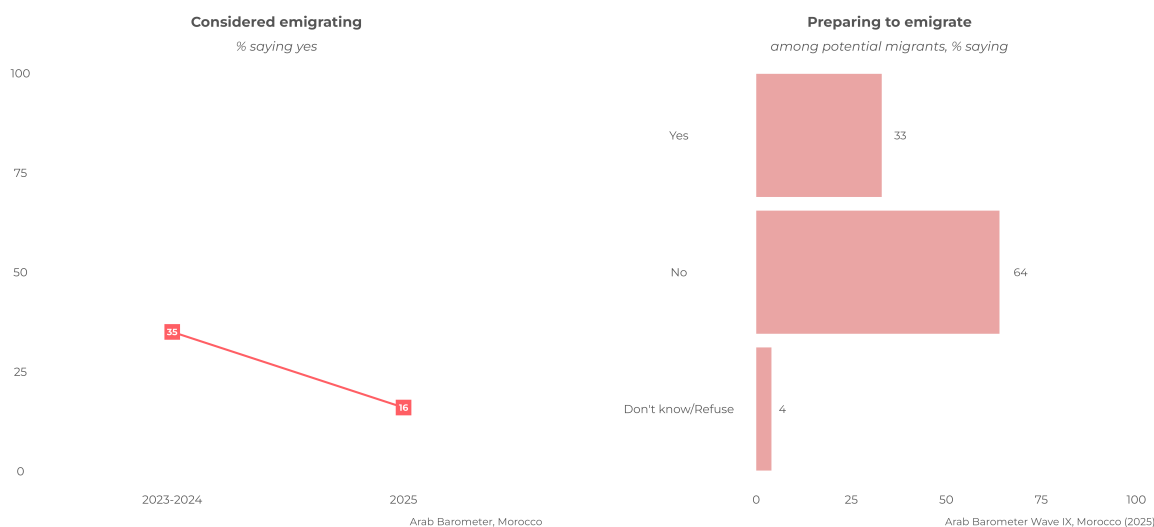
The share of Moroccans considering emigration has fallen sharply. Only 16 percent say they have thought about leaving the country, compared with 35 percent in 2023-24. The decline is visible across demographic groups, but intentions remain concentrated among youth and economically vulnerable citizens. One-quarter of those aged 18-29 have considered emigrating, compared with 13 percent of citizens aged 30 or older. Citizens unable to cover basic needs are twice as likely as those who can meet their expenses to consider leaving (21 percent compared with ten percent). University graduates are nine points more likely compared with those with secondary education or less to consider emigration. Unlike in the previous surveys of Morocco, men and women report nearly identical levels on this measure.

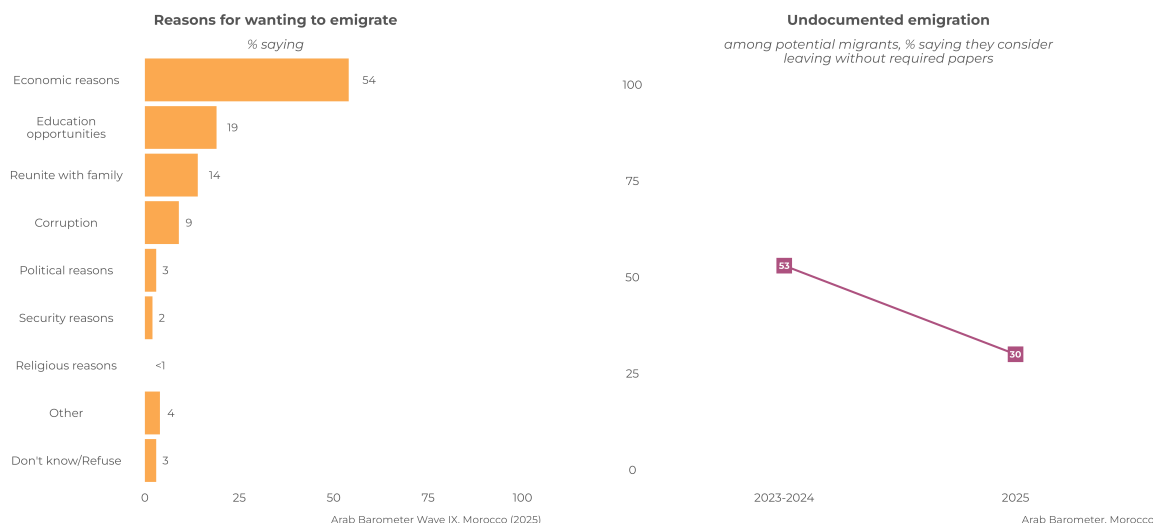
Among potential migrants, one-third (33 percent) say they are actively preparing to leave. Economic motives remain the most common reason, cited by 54 percent. Educational opportunities follow at 19 percent, family reunification at 14 percent, corruption at nine percent, political reasons at three percent, and security reasons at two percent. The pattern resembles 2023-24 in the order-

ing of motivations, although the smaller pool of potential migrants means that emigration is now a more selective aspiration.

Preferred destinations continue to span North America, Europe, and the Gulf. Canada is named by 23 percent of potential migrants and the United States by 22 percent. Spain and Italy follow at 15 percent each, France at 13 percent, Saudi Arabia at 12 percent, Germany at ten percent, and the United Arab Emirates at ten percent. The distribution suggests that linguistic and geographic proximity remain important, but there is not a single country that is the overwhelming preference for potential migrants.

Three-in-ten potential migrants say they would consider leaving Morocco without the required documents, a 23-point decline from 53 percent in 2023-24. Men are 14 percentage points more likely than women to contemplate undocumented migration (37 percent compared with 23 percent), and youth are 11 points more likely than older citizens (36 percent compared with 25 percent). The economic divide is particularly large: 39 percent of potential migrants whose household income does not cover basic needs would consider leaving without papers, compared with only seven percent of those who can meet their expenses. University graduates are nine points less likely than those with a secondary degree or less to consider doing so.



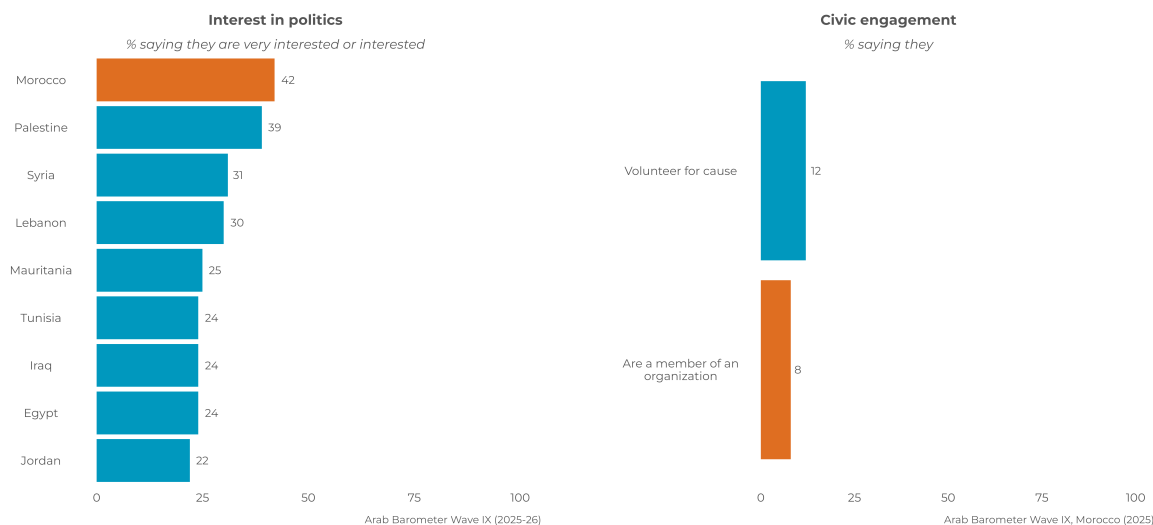


Civic engagement

Political interest is relatively broad in Morocco, but it does not translate into extensive organizational participation. Forty-two percent say they are interested or very interested in politics, which is the highest among all countries surveyed in Arab Barometer Wave IX. Interest in politics is similar among men and women and across age groups, but differs by household circumstances: 51 percent of citizens who can cover basic needs are interested in politics, compared with 36 percent of those who cannot.

Formal civic engagement remains limited. Eight percent say they belong to an organization, group, or club, and 12 percent volunteer their time during a typical month. Membership is more common among citizens aged 30 or older than among youth (ten percent compared with five percent). Volunteering varies little by gender, age, or household income, although urban residents are four percentage points more likely than rural residents to volunteer (13 percent compared with nine percent). The results suggest that political engagement is substantially more widespread than participation through organized civil society.

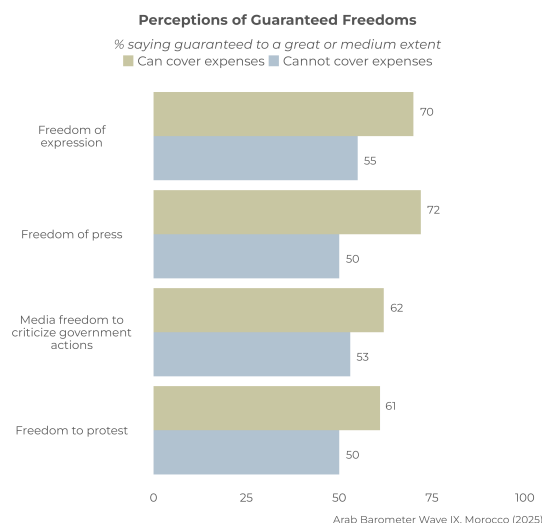
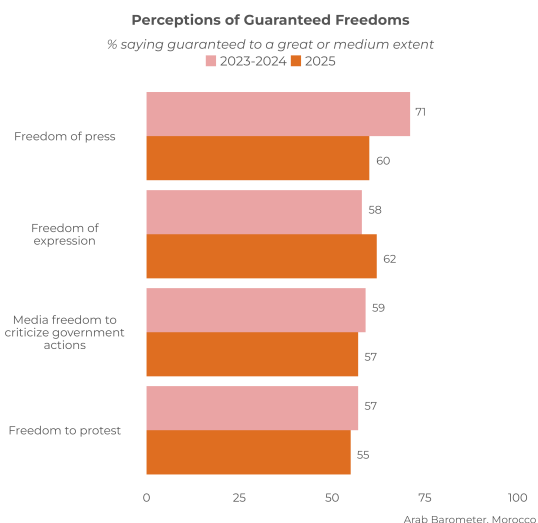
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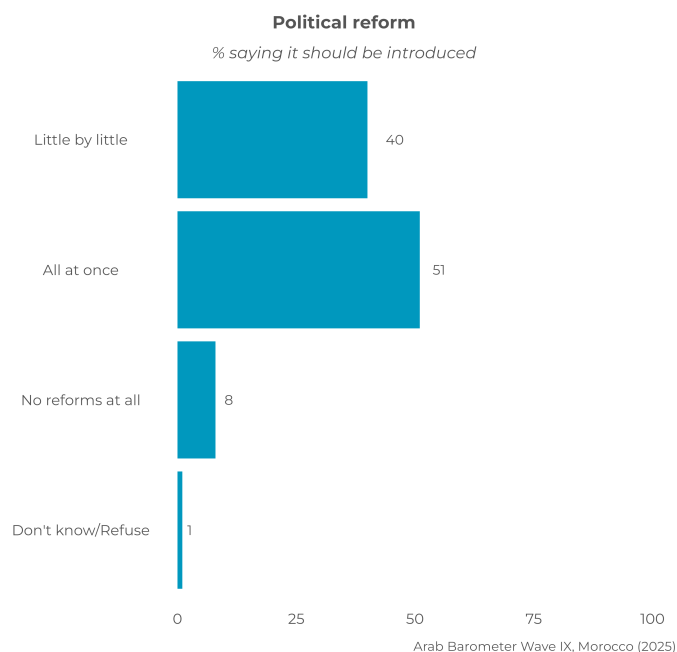
Perceptions of political freedoms are mixed. Sixty-two percent say freedom of expression is guaranteed to a great or medium extent, four points above the 58 percent recorded in 2023-24. Fifty-five percent say the freedom to participate in peaceful protests is guaranteed, effectively unchanged from 57 percent. Fifty-seven percent believe the media are free to criticize government actions. On the broader measure of freedom of the press, 60 percent say it is guaranteed, 11 points below the 71 percent recorded in the previous survey.

As with trust and public services, economic security shapes views of political rights. Citizens who can cover basic needs are 15 percentage points more likely than those who cannot to say freedom of expression is guaranteed (70 percent compared with 55 percent), and 11 points more likely to say the same about peaceful protest (61 percent compared with 50 percent).

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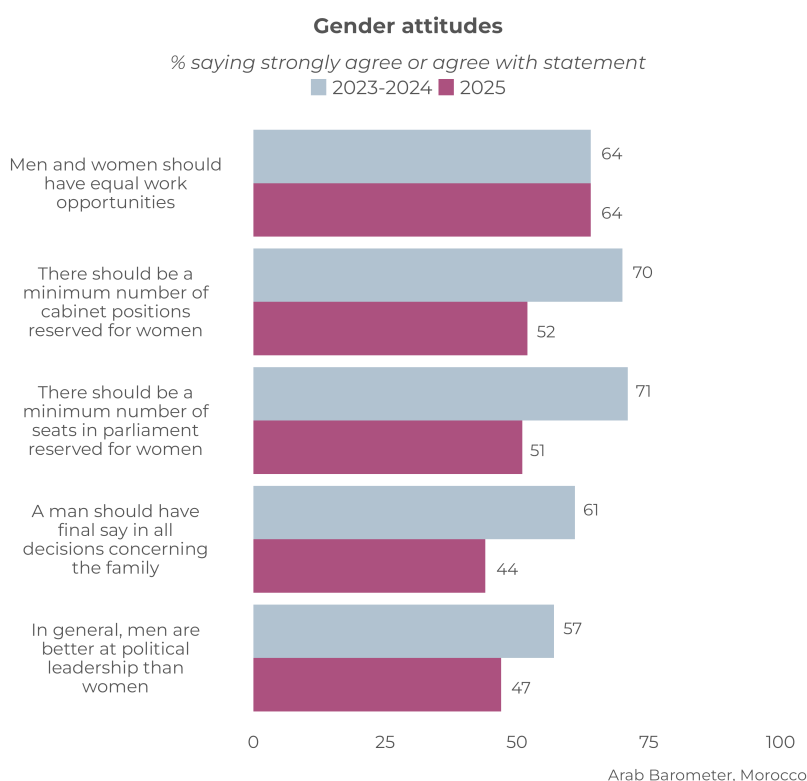


Demands for reform follow a similar pattern. A majority (51 percent) want political reforms introduced all at once, which is similar to the 55 percent recorded in 2023-24. Meanwhile, 40 percent prefer gradual reform and eight percent say no reforms are needed. Citizens whose income is insufficient to meet their basic needs are 15 points more likely than better-off citizens to demand immediate reform (57 percent compared with 42 percent).



Gender issues

Gender attitudes in Morocco combine declining support for some traditional norms with weaker support for institutional measures intended to increase women's political representation. The picture is particularly complicated in the political sphere. Forty-seven percent agree that men are better political leaders than women, ten percentage points below the 57 percent recorded in 2023-24. Surprisingly, men and women are equally likely to agree with the statement. The perception that men are better political leaders is more common in rural areas than urban areas (56 percent compared with 42 percent) and among citizens unable to cover basic needs than among those who can (50 percent compared with 42 percent). It is possible that these changes resulted from the discussion of the moudawana or Morocco's family code, which largely took place between the current and previous surveys. It is possible that bringing up issues of equal rights and roles for women helped change this perception.



Yet, when looking to other measures, it appears that the effects may be more complex. Support for reserving a minimum number of parliamentary seats for women has fallen from 71 percent to 51 percent, and support for cabinet quotas has declined from 70 percent to 52 percent. This seemingly contradictory

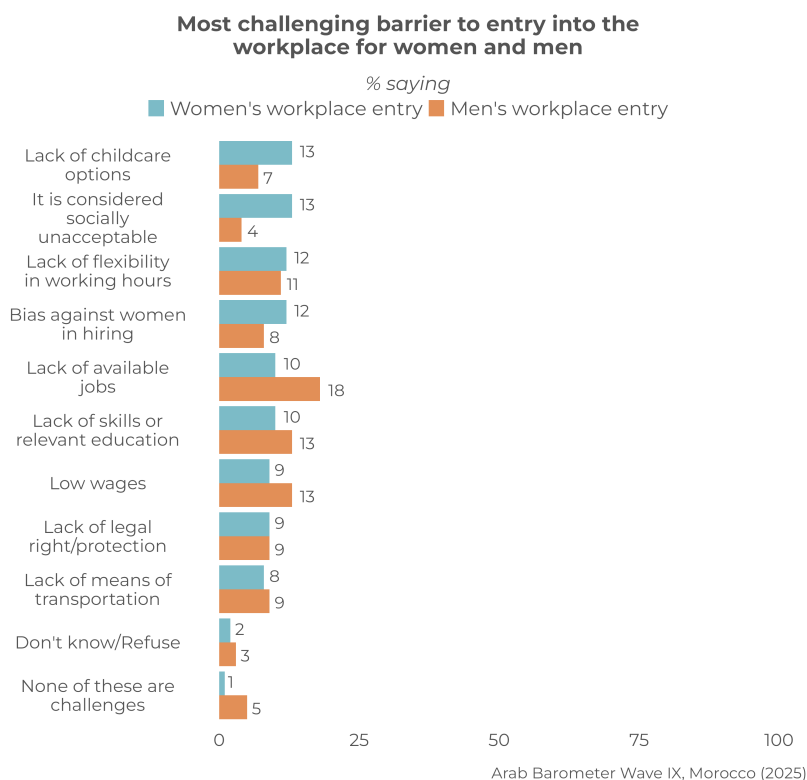
result may center on the conservative backlash against the moudawana reform and may stem from a belief that women should not enjoy special rights or privileges in the political process over men in this way.

Still, turning from the public sphere to women's roles in the private sphere, this same debate may have had some positive effects on women's equality. Support for male authority within the household has weakened. Forty-four percent agree that a man should have the final say in all family decisions, down 17 points from 61 percent in 2023-24. Rural residents are six points more likely than urban residents to support male final authority (48 percent compared with 42 percent).

Support for equal employment opportunities for women remains stable. Sixty-four percent agree that men and women should have equal opportunities at work, the same level as in 2023-24. Support is higher in urban areas than rural areas (67 percent compared with 57 percent).

Nevertheless, the female labor force participation rate in Morocco is comparatively low at about 19.7 percent in 2025 according to the World Bank. Moroccans do not identify a single leading barrier to women's employment. Social unacceptability and lack of childcare are each named by 13 percent, followed by inflexible working hours and bias against women in hiring at 12 percent each. Ten percent cite a lack of relevant skills or education, ten percent a scarcity of jobs, nine percent low wages, nine percent insufficient legal protection, and eight percent transportation. Women are more likely than men to identify childcare and the overall scarcity of jobs, while men are more likely to cite inflexible hours and social unacceptability. The variety of responses underscores that women's labor-force participation is perceived as constrained by economic, caregiving, legal, and social factors simultaneously.

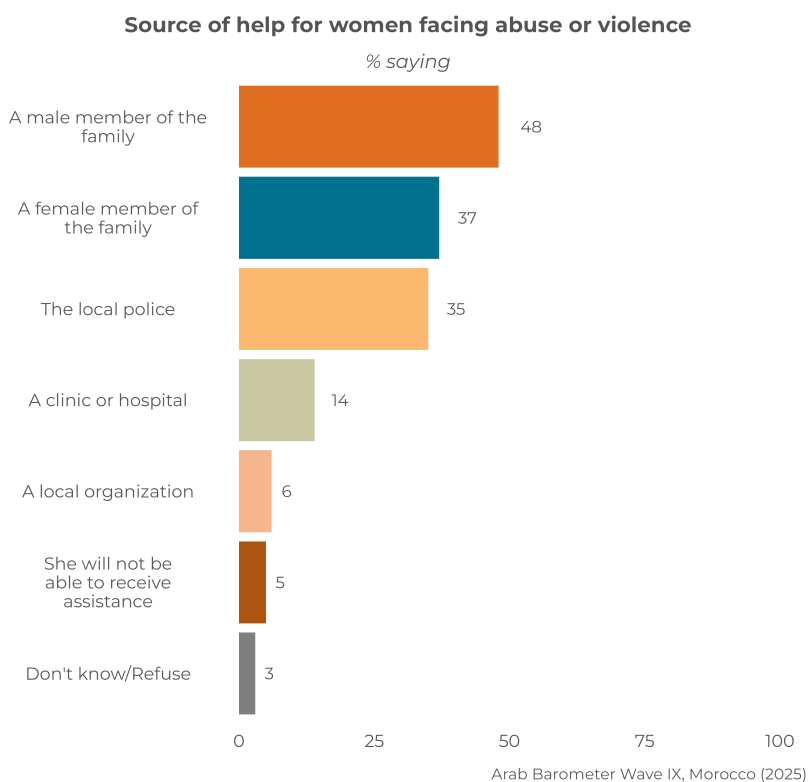
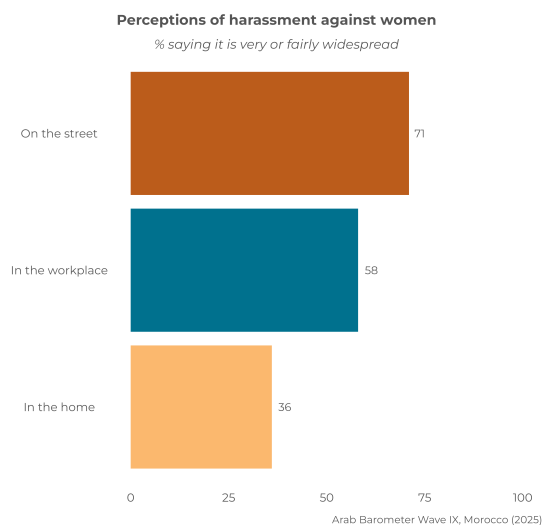
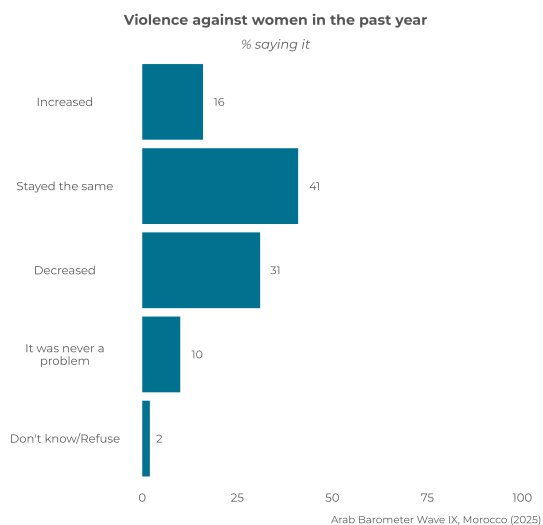
The barriers facing men's employment are viewed somewhat differently. Lack of available jobs ranks first at 18 percent, followed by low wages at 13 percent, lack of relevant skills or education at 13 percent, and inflexible working hours at 11 percent. Together, jobs and wages account for one-third of responses, compared with only one-fifth when the question is asked about women. The comparison indicates that men's employment is more often framed as a labor-market problem, while women's employment is more often linked to a wider set of social and institutional constraints.



Harassment of women remains widely recognized although perceived levels are lower than in the past. Seven-in-ten Moroccans (71 percent) say harassment by strangers on the street is very or fairly widespread, which is eight points below that in 2023-24. Fifty-eight percent say harassment is widespread in the workplace, seven points below the previous survey, and 36 percent say it is widespread in the home. University graduates are 11 percentage points more likely than citizens with a secondary education or less to recognize street harassment (79 percent compared with 68 percent). Sixteen percent of Moroccans say violence against women in the community increased during the previous year, compared with 13 percent in 2023-24; 41 percent say it stayed the same and 31 percent say it decreased.

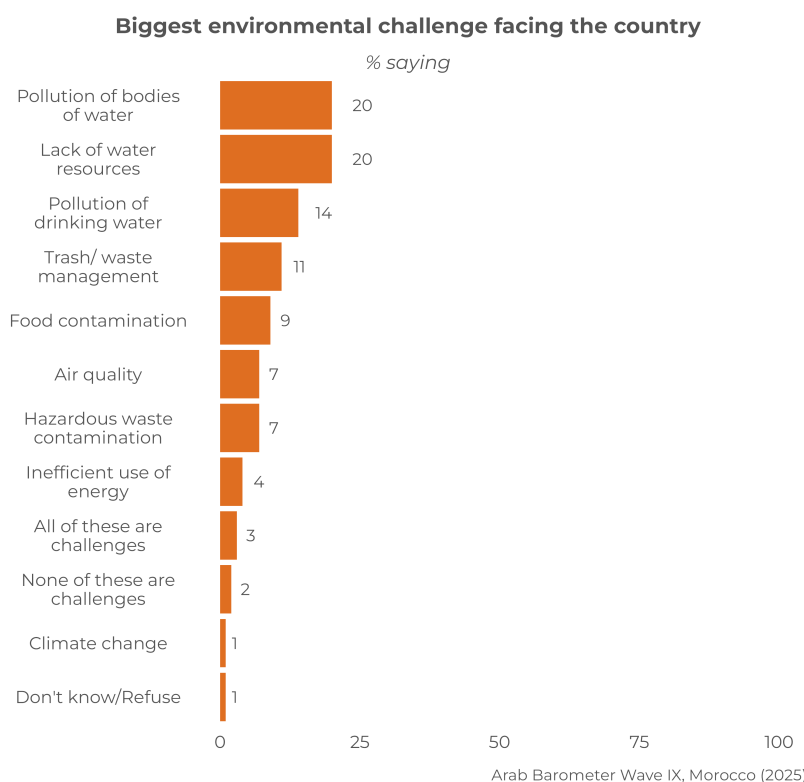
Family members and police are the most commonly identified sources of help for women experiencing abuse or violence. Forty-eight percent said a woman experiencing abuse could turn to a male family member for assistance, while 38 percent cited a female family member and 35 percent local police. Fewer identified a clinic or hospital (14 percent) or a local organization (6 percent), while 5 percent said a woman would not be able to receive assistance.

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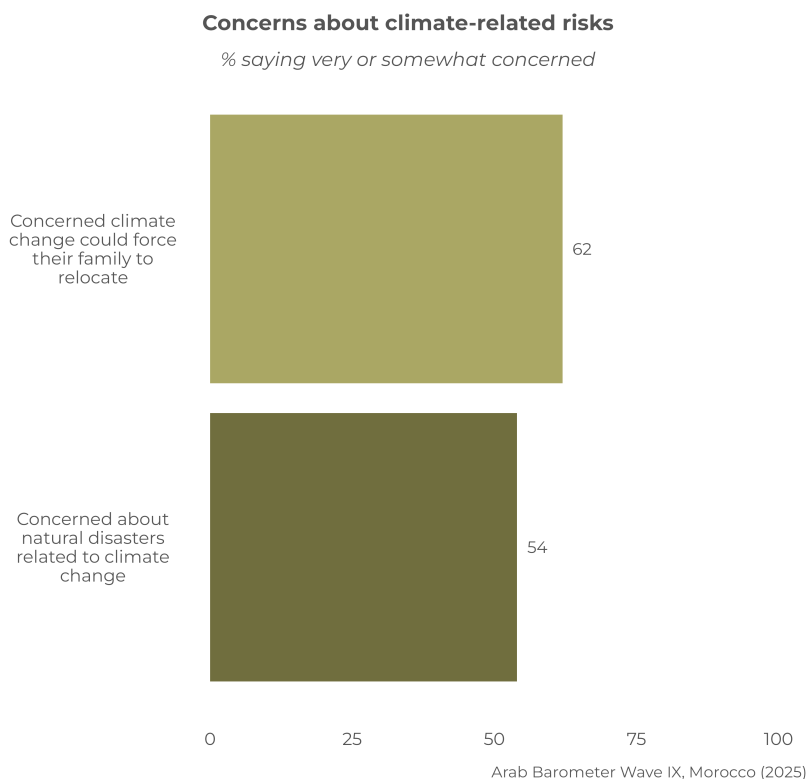
Environment

Amid the ongoing drought, water has been a central concern in Morocco and that remains unchanged. Twenty percent identify a lack of water resources as the country's most serious environmental problem, 20 percent point to pollution of seas, beaches, rivers, and lakes, and 14 percent cite pollution of drinking water. Together, water-related problems are selected by 54 percent of Moroccans, 14 percentage points above the combined 40 percent recorded in 2023-24. Trash and waste management follows at 11 percent, and contamination from pesticides and food at nine percent. Only one percent select climate change itself as the single most serious problem, down from 13 percent, although many of the leading concerns are closely connected to climatic and environmental stress.



Moroccans generally describe themselves as informed about climate-related challenges. Two-thirds (66 percent) say they are informed to a great or medium extent. University graduates are 12 percentage points more likely than citizens a secondary degree or less to say they are informed (74 percent compared with 62 percent). More than half (54 percent) are concerned about natural disasters

related to climate change, and 62 percent worry that climate change could force their family to relocate from their homes. Concern about relocation is higher among rural residents than urban residents (66 percent compared with 60 percent) and among citizens unable to cover basic needs than among those who can (67 percent compared with 58 percent).

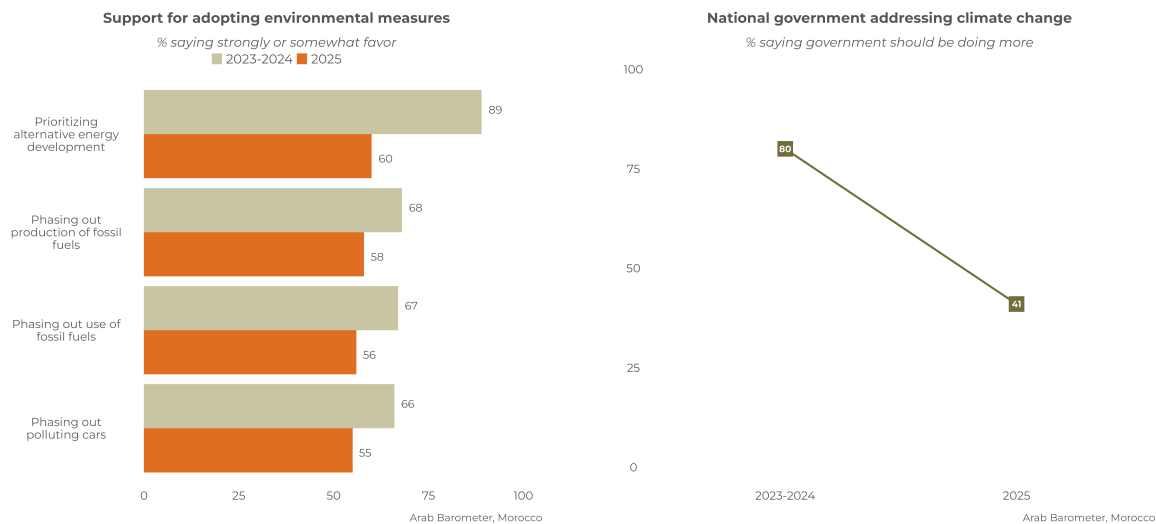


Majorities continue to support national environmental policies, but at lower levels than in 2023-24. Sixty percent favor prioritizing the development of alternative energy, compared with 89 percent in the previous survey. Fifty-six percent favor phasing out the use of fossil fuels, down from 67 percent, and 58 percent favor phasing out fossil-fuel production, down from 68 percent. Fifty-five percent support setting a common date to phase out highly polluting cars, compared with 66 percent previously. University graduates are generally more supportive of these policies than citizens with a lower level of education.

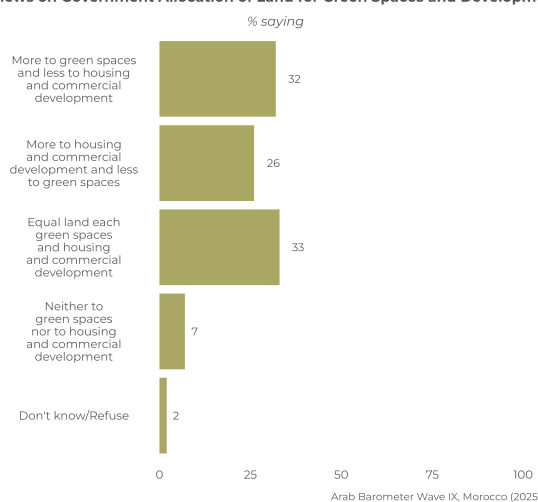
Public demand for additional government action has receded even more sharply. Forty-one percent say the national government should do more to address climate change, compared with 80 percent in 2023-24. Thirty-five percent now say it should do less, while 19 percent prefer the current level of action. In part,

this change may be due to greater distance from the 2023 earthquake. Even if this event was not caused by climate change, the strongly link between climate change and natural disasters may have influenced opinions in the prior survey. Youth are ten percentage points more likely than older citizens to call for more government action (48 percent compared with 38 percent), but differences by income and urban-rural residence are minimal. The decline suggests that environmental concern does not automatically translate into support for a larger government role.

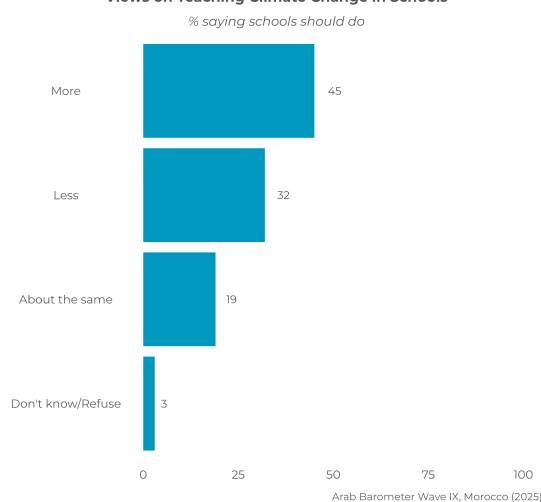
Preferences on education and land use are similarly divided. Forty-five percent say schools should do more to teach students about environmental issues, 32 percent say they should do less, and 19 percent prefer the current approach. When asked how land should be allocated between green spaces and housing or commercial development, one-third favor an equal division and another third favor more land for green spaces. Twenty-six percent prefer giving more land to housing and commercial development. Moroccans therefore continue to recognize environmental risks but also balance them against competing development and policy priorities.



Views on Government Allocation of Land for Green Spaces and Development



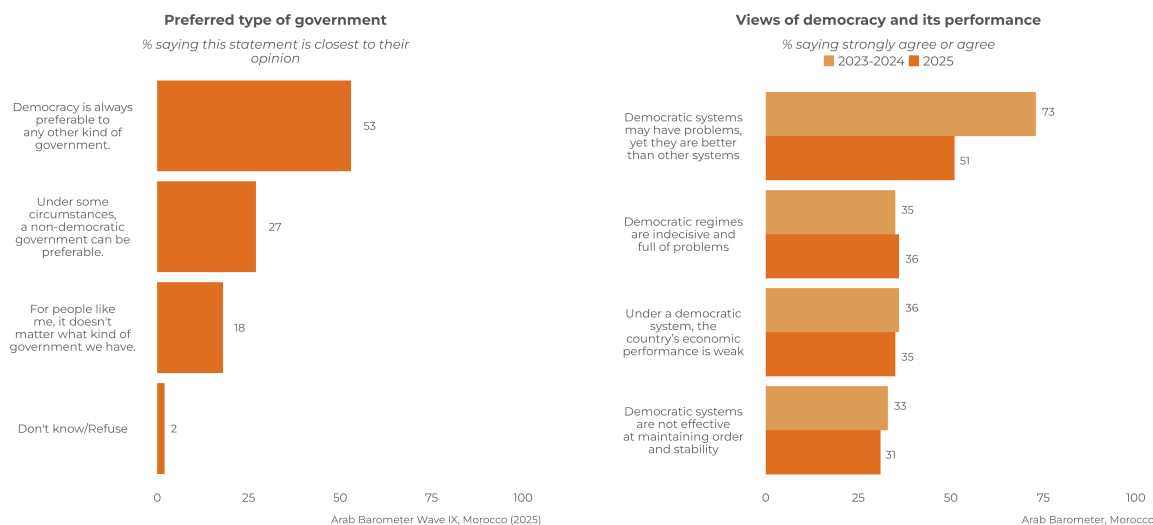
Views on Teaching Climate Change in Schools



Democracy

A majority support democracy in Morocco, but this level has declined since 2023-24. Fifty-three percent say democracy is always preferable to any other form of government, seven percentage points below the 60 percent recorded in the previous survey. Twenty-seven percent say a non-democratic government can sometimes be preferable, more than double the previous 13 percent, while 18 percent say the type of government does not matter for people like them. Citizens unable to cover basic needs are 10 points more likely than those who can do so to say democracy is always preferable (59 percent compared with 49 percent).

A second measure shows a larger decline in comparative support. Fifty-one percent agree that democratic systems may have problems but remain better than other systems, compared with 73 percent in 2023-24. Women are 14 percentage points more likely than men to agree (58 percent compared with 44 percent). Despite this drop, there is not a corresponding increase in concerns about potential flaws of democratic governance. Just 35 percent say economic performance is weak under democracy, which is virtually unchanged from the previous survey; 36 percent say democratic regimes are indecisive and full of problems, also unchanged; and 31 percent say they are ineffective at maintaining order and stability, which is effectively unchanged since 2023-24.



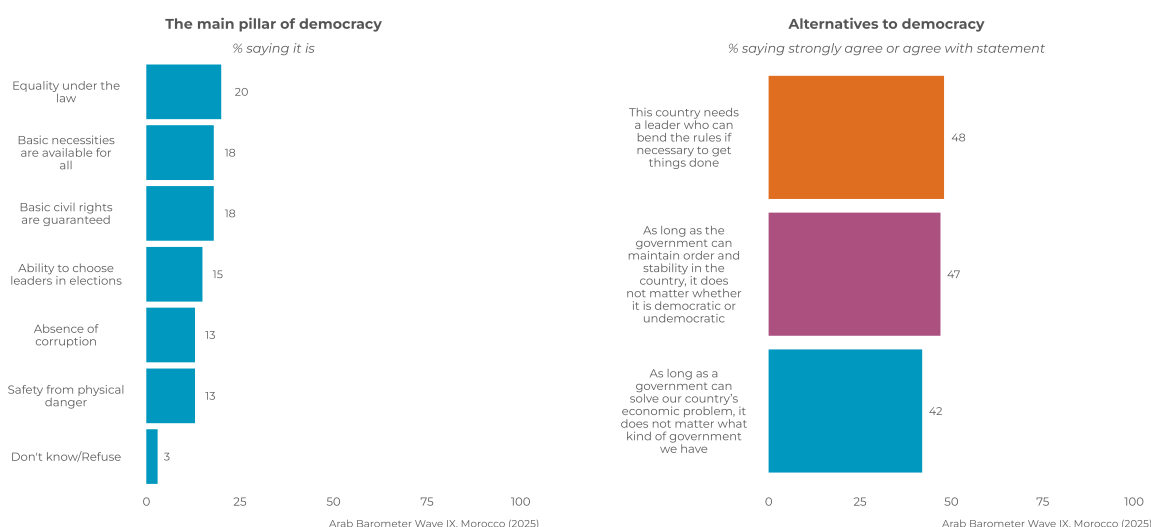
Moroccans nevertheless see democracy as suitable for their country. Sixty-nine percent give a score of six or higher on an 11-point scale measuring how suitable democracy is for Morocco. This is 11 percentage points above the 58 percent who rate Morocco itself at six or higher on a scale measuring how democratic the country currently is. Women are five points more likely than men to rate democracy as suitable and 80 percent of citizens who can cover basic needs rate democracy as suitable, compared with 59 percent of those who cannot.

The same socioeconomic divide appears in ratings of the extent to which Morocco is democratic. Nearly three-quarters (73 percent) of citizens who can meet their expenses give Morocco a democratic rating of six or higher, compared with 44 percent of those who cannot. University graduates are also give a substantially more positive rating than citizens with a secondary education or less (68 percent compared with 53 percent). These results indicate that citizens' experience of economic security is closely connected to whether they view the existing political system as democratic and whether they believe democratic governance can work well in Morocco.

Notably, Moroccans define democracy through a broad and relatively even set of principles beyond free and fair elections. Equality under the law is selected most often as its main pillar, at 20 percent. The provision of basic necessities and the guarantee of civil rights follow at 18 percent each, while 15 percent choose the ability to select leaders through elections. Thirteen percent emphasize safety from physical danger and 13 percent the absence of corruption. No single definition dominates, showing that democracy is understood as a combination of legal equality, material dignity, rights, security, accountability, and

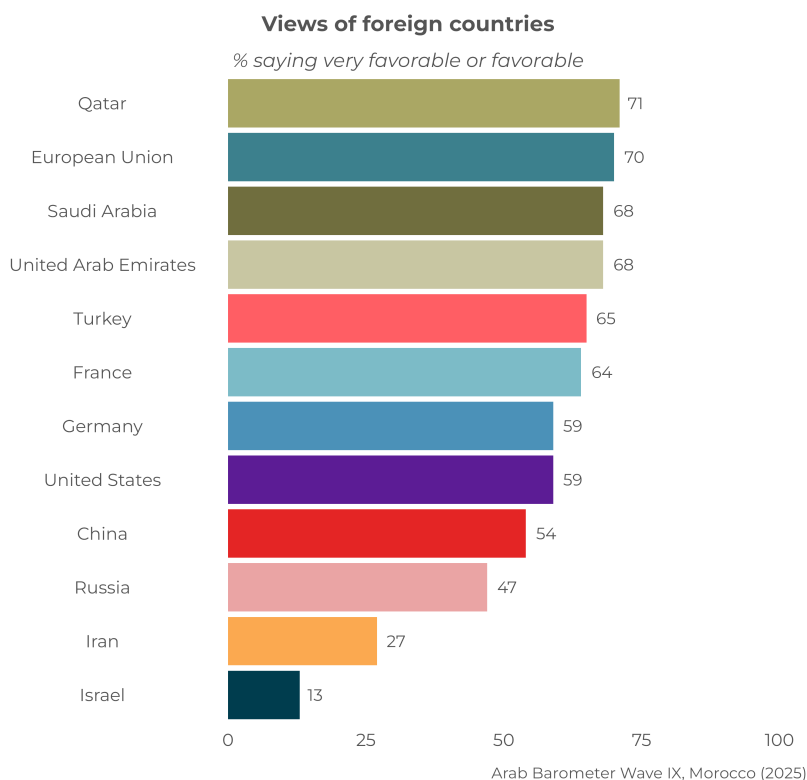
electoral choice.

These results imply that support for democracy is likely linked, at least partially, to its performance. Additional findings underscore this reality. Forty-two percent agree that the form of government does not matter as long as it can solve Morocco's economic problems, 47 percent say the same if it can maintain order and stability, and 48 percent support a leader who bends the rules to get things done. Citizens unable to cover basic needs are more likely than better-off citizens to prioritize economic performance over democratic forms of government (47 percent compared with 38 percent). Rural residents are more likely than urban residents to accept a government that maintains order regardless of its type (53 percent compared with 43 percent) and to support a rule-bending leader (54 percent compared with 44 percent).



International relations

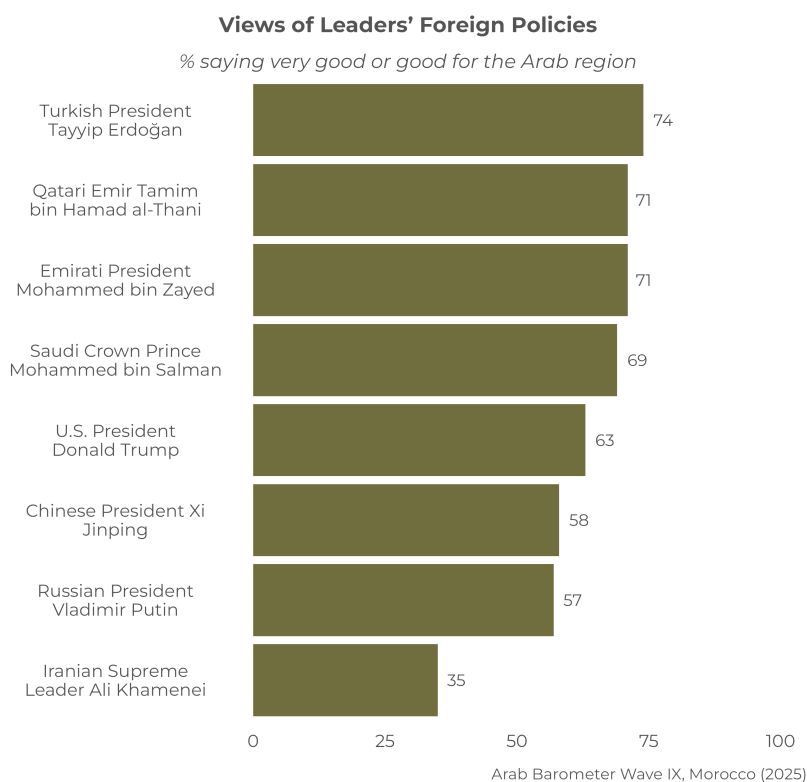
Moroccans express generally favorable views toward a wide range of foreign partners, but the hierarchy has changed since 2023-24. Qatar receives the most positive rating, with 71 percent expressing a very or somewhat favorable view. The European Union is effectively tied at 70 percent, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia at 68 percent each, Türkiye at 65 percent, and France at 64 percent. The United States and Germany are each viewed favorably by 59 percent, China by 54 percent, and Russia by 47 percent. Iran receives a positive rating from 27 percent, while only 13 percent view Israel favorably.



The comparison with 2023-24 shows broad declines for many countries that were rated especially highly during the early months of the Gaza war. Favorability toward Qatar has fallen from 88 percent to 71 percent, Türkiye from 83 percent to 65 percent, China from 79 percent to 54 percent, Saudi Arabia from 77 percent to 68 percent, the United States from 74 percent to 59 percent, and Russia from 58 percent to 47 percent. France is the main exception, rising from 54 percent to 64 percent. Most likely, this increase is linked with France officially recognizing the state of Palestine between the two surveys.

Views of regional and global leaders remain more positive than country ratings in several cases. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's policies toward the region are rated positively by 74 percent, followed by Emirati President Mohammed bin Zayed and Qatari Emir Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani at 71 percent each. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman receives a 69 percent positive rating, U.S. President Donald Trump 63 percent, Chinese President Xi Jinping 58 percent, Russian President Vladimir Putin 57 percent, and (former) Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei 35 percent. Compared with 2023-24, ratings have increased for Mohammed bin Zayed, Mohammed bin Salman, Putin, and Khamenei, while those of Erdoğan and Xi have declined modestly. Trump's rating is six points above the rating received by Joe Biden in the previous survey, although the comparison involves different officeholders and contexts. In

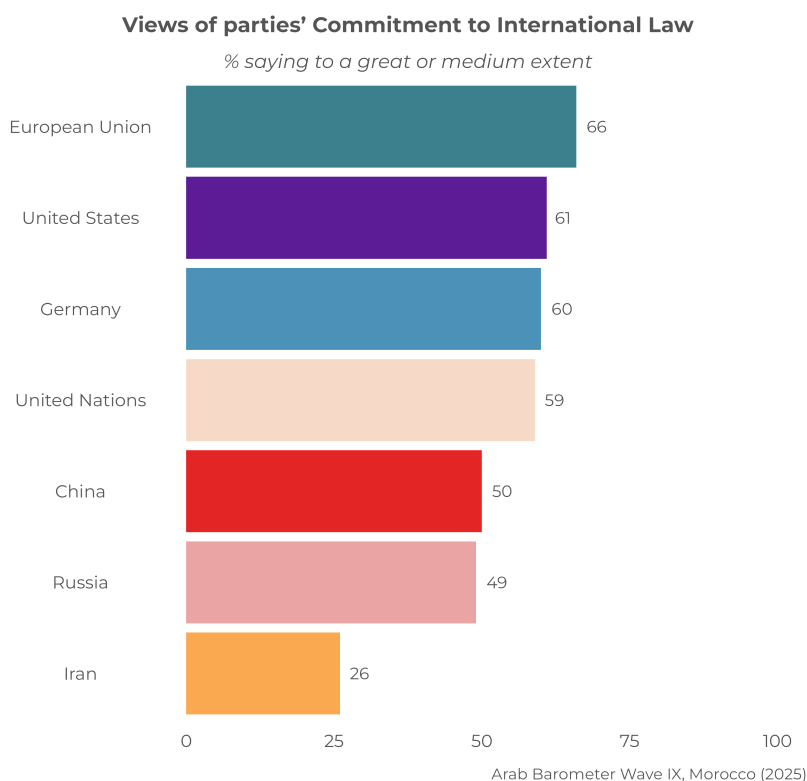
part, these results signal greater attention to foreign affairs as much of the difference is due to a lower percentage of respondents replying don't know about the foreign policies of these leaders.



Perceptions of adherence to international law are comparatively positive toward Western institutions. Two-thirds (66 percent) say the European Union is committed to international law to a great or medium extent. The United States comes in at 61 percent, followed by Germany at 60 percent, the United Nations at 59 percent, China at 50 percent, Russia at 49 percent, and Iran at 26 percent. These results distinguish Morocco from most other MENA publics surveyed where perceptions of the Gaza war have produced far lower ratings of Western actors and their commitment to international law.

When asked to compare American and Chinese policies directly, Moroccans give China a modest advantage on every issue. China leads the United States by seven percentage points on protecting freedoms and rights (36 percent compared with 29 percent) and on tackling climate change (34 percent compared with 27 percent). The two countries are effectively tied on economic development at 32 percent for China and 31 percent for the U.S. China's advantage is

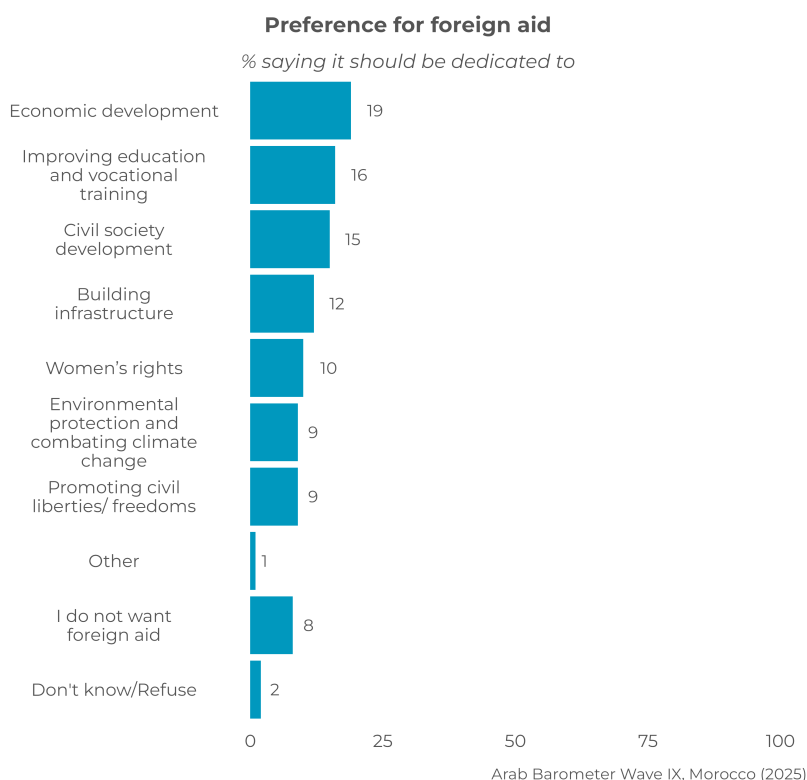
larger on maintaining regional security (36 percent compared with 23 percent) and addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (33 percent compared with 20 percent). Substantial minorities describe the two countries' policies as equally good or equally bad, so the results indicate a comparative Chinese advantage rather than unqualified support.



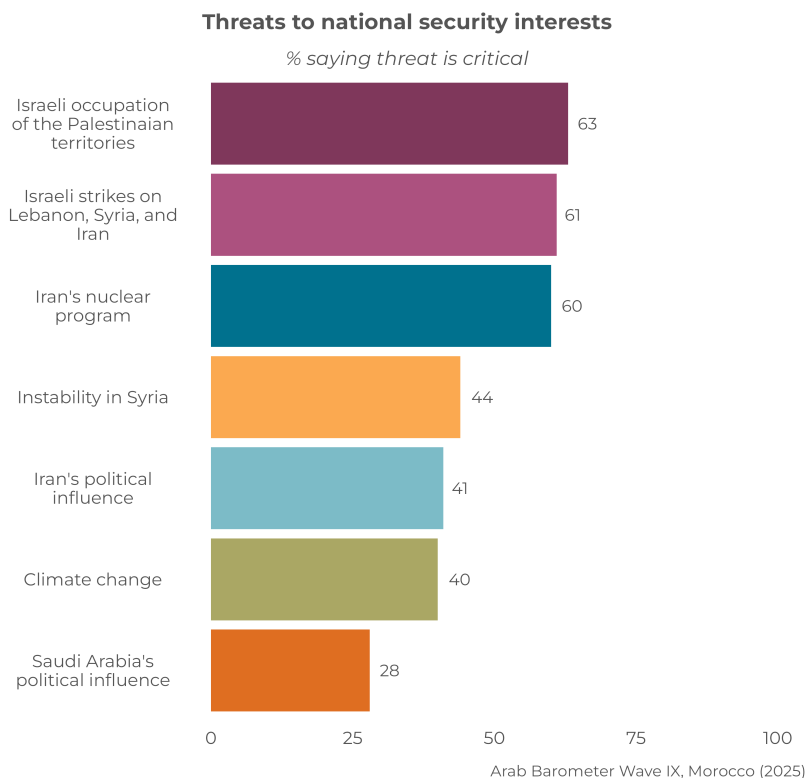
Assessments of foreign influence on the MENA region are also diverse. Saudi Arabia is most often viewed as having a mostly positive influence, at 51 percent, followed by Qatar at 47 percent, the United Arab Emirates at 46 percent, Türkiye at 45 percent, the United States at 44 percent, and the European Union at 43 percent. Egypt is rated positively by 40 percent and China by 38 percent. Iran and Israel stand apart, with only 10 percent and eight percent, respectively, describing their influence as positive. No actor receives an overwhelming rating, reflecting a public that differentiates among partnerships and policy areas.

Moroccans prioritize practical and institutional goals when asked where foreign aid should be directed. Economic development ranks first at 19 percent, followed by improving education at 16 percent, civil society development at 15 percent and infrastructure at 12 percent. Ten percent select women's rights,

while nine percent each prioritize environmental protection and civil liberties. Only eight percent say they do not want foreign aid. The distribution suggests that citizens see external assistance as potentially useful, but do not agree on a single area where it should be dedicated.



Regional security concerns remain intense. Nearly two-thirds describe the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories (63 percent) and Israeli strikes on Lebanon, Syria, and Iran (61 percent) as critical threats to national security. A similar share (60 percent) view Iran's nuclear program as a critical threat. Instability in Syria is considered critical by 44 percent, Iran's political influence by 41 percent, and climate change by 40 percent. Saudi Arabia's political influence is less often seen as critical at just 28 percent. The hierarchy reflects the continuing centrality of armed conflict and nuclear risk, while also showing substantial concern about political influence and climate pressures.



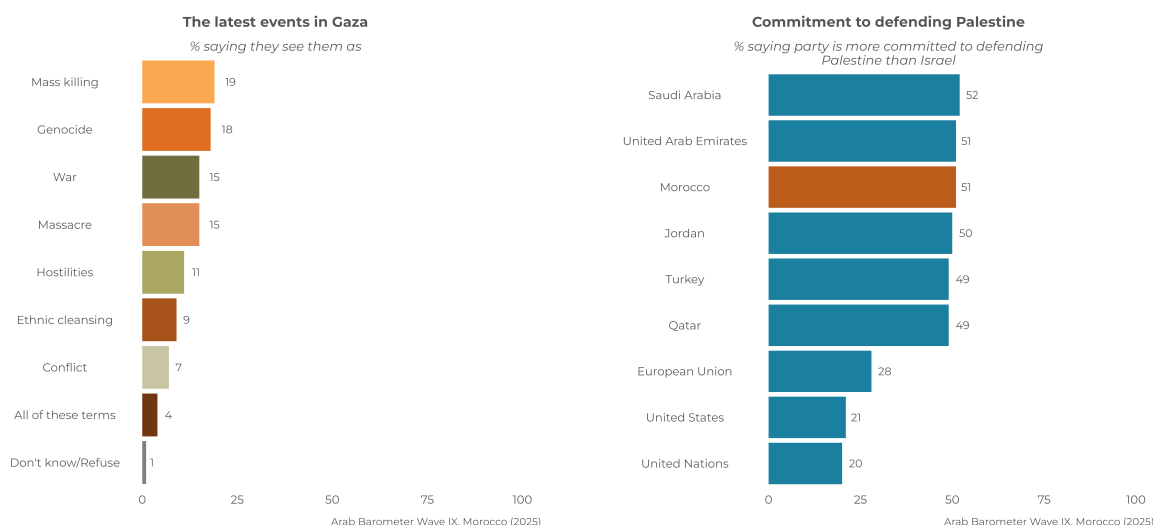
Younger Moroccans are more open than older citizens toward several Western and global actors. Citizens aged 18-29 are seven percentage points more favorable toward France than those aged 30 or older (69 percent compared with 62 percent), eight points more favorable toward the United States, eight points more favorable toward China, and ten points more favorable toward Russia. Men are more favorable than women toward the United States (64 percent compared with 53 percent), Saudi Arabia (73 percent compared with 63 percent), France (67 percent compared with 60 percent), and Germany (63 percent compared with 54 percent). Favorability toward Israel remains low across all demographic groups.

Overall, Morocco's international outlook is characterized by broad favorability toward multiple countries. Gulf states and Türkiye remain popular, the European Union and France have strong positions, and the United States retains a more favorable image than it does in many Arab publics. China continues to outperform the United States in direct policy comparisons despite a large decline in its overall favorability. Iran and Israel remain isolated at the bottom of the ranking.

Views on the Gaza war

The war in Gaza continues to shape Moroccan public opinion. Asked which single term best describes the events, 19 percent choose mass killing, 18 percent genocide, 15 percent massacre, and 15 percent war. Eleven percent select hostilities, nine percent ethnic cleansing, and seven percent conflict. Taken together, 52 percent use the terms genocide, massacre, or mass killing, the same combined level as in 2023-24. The distribution has shifted within that total, however, with fewer selecting massacre or war and more choosing genocide or mass killing.

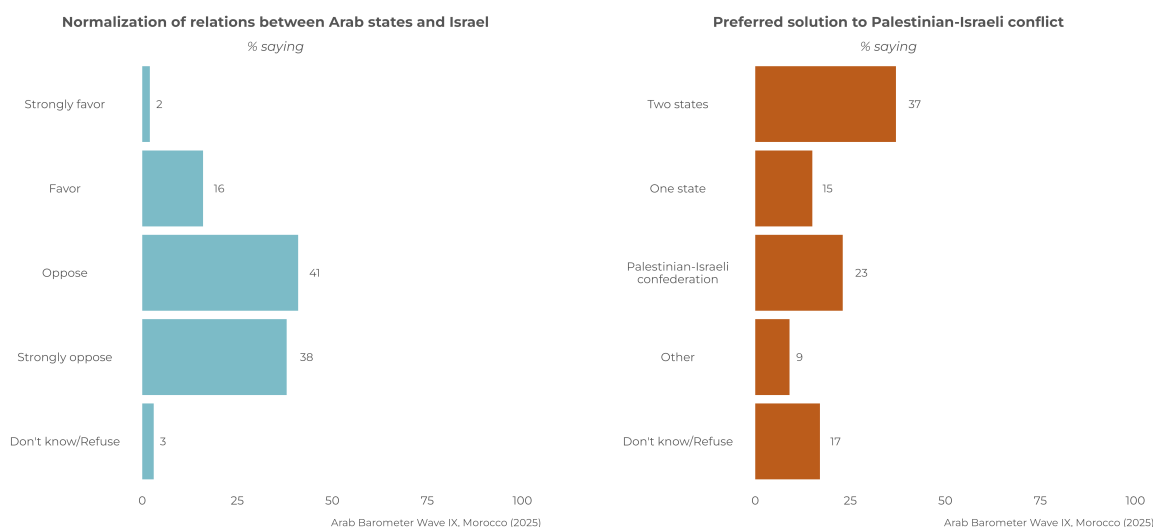
Moroccans generally see regional actors as more committed to Palestine than Israel. Fifty-one percent say Morocco is more committed to defending Palestine, while 14 percent say it is more committed to Israel and 23 percent say it is equally committed to both. Similar shares describe Saudi Arabia (52 percent), the United Arab Emirates (51 percent), Türkiye (49 percent), Qatar (49 percent), and Jordan (50 percent) as more committed to Palestine. By contrast, 42 percent say the United States is more committed to defending Israel and 21 percent say it is more committed to Palestine. The European Union and United Nations are also more often viewed as leaning toward Israel than Palestine.



Opposition to normalization remains widespread, although it has softened since the previous survey. Eighteen percent favor or strongly favor normalization between Arab states and Israel, up from 13 percent in 2023-24, while 79 percent oppose it. Support rises when normalization is explicitly linked to recognition of an independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem

as its capital. Under that condition, 36 percent support normalization and 60 percent oppose it. Among opponents, 87 percent say there are no other conditions under which they would support normalization.

A two-state outcome remains the most commonly preferred political solution. Thirty-seven percent favor two states based on the 1967 borders, 23 percent prefer a Palestinian-Israeli confederation, 15 percent prefer one state for Jews and Arabs, and nine percent select another solution. Moroccans are divided over the Arab plan to rebuild Gaza. Fifty-four percent support it, including 18 percent who strongly support it, while 42 percent oppose it.





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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