

SOCIAL AND MEDIA STUDIES INSTITUTE

REPORT YOUTH AND CONFIDENCE IN MOROCCO'S FUTURE

PERSPECTIVES, CHALLENGES, AND
ASPIRATIONS

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YOUTH AND CONFIDENCE IN MOROCCO'S FUTURE: PERSPECTIVES, CHALLENGES, AND ASPIRATIONS

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PREFACE

The younger generation represents the driving force of any nation. In Morocco, their aspirations, concerns and challenges have a significant impact on the socio-economic and cultural landscape of the country. This report was developed in response to a pressing need to gain insight into the factors influencing Moroccan youth's confidence in their future and the future of their homeland. In an era of rapid global change, Moroccan society is confronted with a multitude of challenges, spanning from employment and education to social equity and governance.

In May 2023, a comprehensive survey was conducted with the objective of capturing the perceptions and lived experiences of young Moroccans. This report presents the findings of the aforementioned survey, offering valuable insights into the level of trust that young Moroccans have in their country's progress and their own prospects. By investigating key aspects such as job opportunities, education, and the impact of corruption, this report aims to present a thorough overview of the sentiments that shape Moroccan youth's outlook on life. Furthermore, this report compares these findings with

international perspectives, including data from global institutions like the World Bank and the OECD, in order to provide a nuanced understanding of Morocco's socio-economic environment.

The objective of this study is to contribute to the national discourse on the ways in which Morocco can foster an environment that is conducive to the flourishing of its youth. Furthermore, it is our intention to provide guidance to policymakers in the development of strategies that address the fundamental needs of young people, thereby fostering a society that is based on hope, trust, and equitable opportunities for all.

Younes BENNANE

Director of the report

FOREWORD

This report is the result of an earnest attempt to elucidate the perceptions of Moroccan youth regarding their future and the future of their country. The survey, conducted in May 2023, aimed to elicit the perspectives of young people from diverse geographical and socio-cultural backgrounds, thereby facilitating an in-depth examination of the factors that either reinforce or erode their confidence. In recent years, the Moroccan government has implemented a series of reforms and initiatives with the objective of stimulating economic growth, enhancing the quality of education, and addressing the issue of unemployment. Nevertheless, the efficacy of these measures can be gauged by the extent to which they engender trust and optimism among the nation's youth.

By examining pivotal themes such as employment, the efficacy of the educational system, equality of opportunity, and the pervasive influence of corruption, this report presents a comprehensive analysis. Furthermore, the study compares its findings with international data, with a particular focus on disparities and alignment with reports from the World Bank and the OECD.

The insights provided in this report are of vital importance for an understanding of how young Moroccans perceive their place in a rapidly evolving society. It is crucial to consider the perspectives of young people in order to evaluate the current situation and to inform future policies and initiatives that can facilitate the nation's transition towards a more inclusive and prosperous future.

This report is dedicated to the youth of Morocco, whose voices, captured in May 2023, resonate with a multiplicity of hopes, aspirations and concerns. It is our contention that by acknowledging and addressing the challenges faced by the younger generation in Morocco, the country can pave the way for a brighter, more equitable future.

Sanaa HAOUATA

Opinion survey coordinator

INTRODUCTION:

The present study is of great importance as it surveys Moroccan youth opinion on their level of confidence in the future. The objective of this study is to gain insight into the perspectives of young people regarding their personal and general future in Morocco. It examines the obstacles and prospects they encounter in forging their own futures and those of the nation as a whole.

The objective of the study is to gain insight into the concerns, perspectives and aspirations of young people, with a view to informing the development of policies and decisions that address their needs and concerns.

A total of 380 individuals, comprising both young men and women aged between 17 and 34, were selected for inclusion in this survey. The sample was distributed across the various regions of Morocco. The survey was designed to investigate the opinions of Moroccan youth on a range of pivotal aspects of their lives.

The survey included a number of key questions, exploring topics such as confidence in the future, the role of the government in providing job opportunities for

young people, the effectiveness of the education system in preparing young people for the labour market, equality in access to educational opportunities, and the impact of corruption on youth prospects. Furthermore, the study addressed the role of migration as a potential solution to economic and social challenges, as well as the freedom of expression and political engagement in the country.

The objective of this study is to gain a comprehensive understanding of the views of Moroccan youth and to identify the challenges they face. The findings will inform the direction of future efforts and policies, ensuring that the needs and concerns of Moroccan youth are met.

Survey Methodology:

The survey was conducted using a structured questionnaire comprising a series of specific questions. The data was subsequently analysed using a range of statistical methods in order to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the opinions held by Moroccan youth. In addition to the core questions, the survey also included a series of demographic variables, including age, gender and social status.

Research Population:

The research population was defined within the active age group of 18 to 45 years. To achieve this, statistical data from the High Commission for Planning, included in the 2023 Social Indicators Report of Morocco, was used.

**Table 1: Population by Sex, Age, and Residence Area
in 2022 (in thousands)**

Age Group (G. âge)	Urban (Urban) Female (Fém)	Urban Male (Masc)	Urban Total (Ens)	Rural Female (Fém)	Rural Male (Mas)	Rural Total (Ens)	Total Female (Fém)	Total Male (Masc)	Total (Ens)
00 - 04 years	880	918	1798	541	566	1107	1421	1484	2905
05 - 09 years	916	955	1870	633	663	1296	1549	1618	3167
10 - 14 years	901	938	1838	661	692	1353	1562	1630	3192
15 - 19 years	856	882	1738	607	645	1251	1463	1525	2989
20 - 24 years	918	911	1829	545	597	1141	1463	1508	2971
25 - 29 years	1021	950	1972	457	516	973	1479	1466	2945
30 - 34 years	1048	956	2004	424	470	894	1472	1426	2898
35 - 39 years	952	878	1830	411	427	837	1362	1305	2667
40 - 44 years	878	800	1678	393	406	799	1271	1206	2477
45 - 49 years	797	714	1511	355	372	727	1151	1086	2238
50 - 54	705	646	1351	308	316	625	1013	962	1975

years									
55 - 59 years	628	581	1209	281	277	557	909	857	1766
60 - 64 years	539	534	1074	257	252	509	796	787	1583
65 - 69 years	386	409	794	196	197	393	581	606	1187
70 - 74 years	262	267	529	151	138	288	413	404	817
75 - 79 years	156	131	287	92	75	167	248	206	454
80 years and older	159	121	280	94	66	160	253	187	440
Total	11,99 9	11,59 2	23,59 2	640 7	6672	13,07 9	18,40 6	18,26 4	36,67 0

Source: High Commissioner for Planning, CERED
(Projections)

To determine the number of Moroccans between 18 and 45 years old, the following data was taken into account. According to the figures mentioned in the report:

- Population between 20 and 44 years: 13,958,000 people
- Population between 15 and 19 years: 2,989,000 people
- Population between 45 and 49 years: 2,238,000 people

To obtain the total population between 18 and 45 years old, we combined the overlapping age groups as follows:

Total population between 18 and 45 years = Population between 20 and 44 years + Population between 15 and 19 years - Population between 45 and 49 years.

According to the figures provided, this gives us a research population consisting of approximately 14,709,000 individuals between 18 and 45 years old.

About the Studied Sample:

The statistical sample in this survey refers to the number of individuals who participated in the study, totaling 491 young Moroccan men and women. The sample was randomly selected from the total research population of approximately 14,709,000 individuals in the age group of 18 to 45 years. The sample was distributed across all regions of Morocco to ensure a wide representation of Moroccan youth opinions.

The studied sample has a confidence level of 95% with a margin of error of approximately 0.0443.

When we say that the studied sample has a confidence level of 95%, it means that there is a 95% probability that the results obtained from the sample accurately represent the reality. In general, a 95% confidence level is a common and statistically accepted standard.

As for the margin of error, which is approximately 0.0443, this indicates the acceptable deviation or difference between the results obtained from the sample and the actual values in the total population. In other words, we can say with 95% confidence that the true value falls within the range of the estimated value ± 0.0443 .

Therefore, the results can be interpreted as approximate estimates of reality, with the understanding that there may be a slight difference between the sample-derived results and the actual situation in the total population. It is important to consider the margin of error when using and interpreting the results, and not to regard them as 100% definitive.

Sample Distribution by Gender:

Table 2 : Distribution of the Sample by Gender

Gender	Percentage (%)
--------	----------------

Male	55.9
Female	44.1

Males constituted 55.9% of the studied sample, while females made up 44.1%.

Sample Distribution by Age:

Dividing the studied sample into different age groups aims to ensure diversity and representation within the sample, as well as to obtain more accurate and generalizable results for the overall population. By distributing the sample across various age groups, it is possible to secure the representation of individuals in different stages of youth and maturity.

The sample was divided into three specific age groups (18-30 years, 30-40 years, 40-45 years) to reflect an interest in studying the impact of age on the opinions and needs of Moroccan youth. Each age group faces different challenges and requirements and may have varying preferences and opinions regarding the future and different social and economic issues.

Through this categorization, we can understand the differences and problems that youth face at various

stages of their lives, which allows for better guidance of policies and actions to meet their specific needs. We can also derive trends and understand changes that may occur across generations, offering a better understanding of societal developments.

It is important to note that this age group categorization is a strategic decision based on the study's objectives and the nature of the variables being studied. The age groups used in other studies may differ depending on the context and specific research interests.

Table 3: Distribution of the Sample by Age Group

Age Group	Percentage (%)
18 to 30 years	55.5
30 to 40 years	26.5
40 to 45 years	18.0

Sample Distribution by Geographical Affiliation:

The sample was studied across different geographical regions in Morocco to ensure greater representation and diversity in the sample and in the opinions of Moroccan youth. By distributing the sample across all geographical regions of Morocco, a comprehensive view of youth

opinions in various regions, cultures, and social backgrounds can be obtained.

Morocco has a vast geographical, cultural, and social diversity, and the needs and challenges of youth may differ from one region to another. Therefore, it is essential to study the sample according to geographical regions to ensure an adequate representation of youth perspectives and aspirations throughout the country.

Table 4: Distribution of the Sample by Geographic Region

	Geographic Region	Percentage (%)
1	Casablanca-Settat	51.8
2	Rabat-Salé-Kénitra	13.9
3	Marrakech-Safi	7.3
4	Fès-Meknès	6.1
5	Tangier-Tétouan-Al Hoceima	5.7
6	Souss-Massa	3.3
7	Drâa-Tafilalet	3.3
8	Béni Mellal-Khénifra	2.4
9	Oriental	1.1
10	Laâyoune-Sakia El Hamra	2.9
11	Dakhla Oued Eddahab	1.1

Sample Distribution by Social Status:

Studying the sample according to social status, such as marriage, singleness, divorce, and widowhood, aims to understand the impact of social status on youth opinions and experiences. Social status is a crucial factor that can influence individuals' orientations and needs. Hence, dividing the sample based on social status serves the following objectives:

1. **Understanding Changing Needs:** The needs and experiences of individuals differ based on their social status. Married youth may face different challenges and needs compared to single, divorced, or widowed youth. For example, they may have varying financial, social, or emotional needs. Dividing the sample by social status helps in understanding these differences and ensuring their representation in the study.
2. **Guiding Policies and Programs:** Studying the sample by social status can provide important details about the needs of youth in each category. This information can lead to improved policy and program designs aimed at supporting youth and meeting their specific needs. For example, married youth may

require additional support to balance family and professional life, while single youth may need support in areas such as social relationships and life skills development.

3. **Analyzing Influencing Factors:** By categorizing the sample based on social status, researchers can analyze the factors influencing social status itself. The study can help in understanding the factors leading to marriage, divorce, singleness, or widowhood, and thereby assist in developing strategies and policies to enhance the social and emotional well-being of youth.

Table 5: Distribution of the Sample by Marital Status

Marital Status	Percentage (%)
Single	67.8
Married	31.4
Divorced	0.4

Singles made up 67% of the studied sample, while married individuals accounted for 31%.

Studying the Sample by Educational Level:

Studying the trust index in the sample according to educational level has several objectives and benefits, including:

1. Understanding the Relationship Between Educational Level and Trust Index:

Studying the sample based on educational level can help understand the relationship between education and individuals' level of trust. Education and knowledge may influence self-confidence and trust in institutions and society in general. Educated individuals and those with higher levels of education may have a different perspective and better analytical skills that affect their level of trust.

2. Identifying Educational Needs:

Studying the sample by educational level provides an in-depth look at the educational and training needs in Morocco. The results related to the trust index can reveal challenges and gaps in education, helping to guide educational policies, improve quality, and enhance educational potential.

3. Guiding Programs and Policies:

The findings from studying the sample by educational level can influence the direction of programs and policies related to education and training. The study can help identify priorities and guide investments in education to enhance the level of trust and comprehensive development.

4. Analyzing Influencing Factors:

By categorizing the sample according to educational level, researchers can analyze the factors influencing the trust index at each level. This may include examining factors related to education itself, such as the quality of education and access to it, as well as the social and economic factors associated with educational attainment.

Table 6: Distribution of the Sample by Educational Level

Educational Level	Percentage (%)
University	45.4
Master's Degree	29.0

Doctorate	12.6
Professional	5.5
Bachelor's	7.6

Sample by Professional Activity:

Studying the future trust index among youth based on their professional activity, whether they are employees, workers, students, craftsmen, entrepreneurs, or unemployed, can provide a comprehensive view of the relationship between their professional activity and their level of trust. By considering the various aspects of professional activity, the following benefits can be achieved:

1. Determining the Relationship Between Professional Activity and Trust:

The study can reveal the relationship between professional activity and the level of trust among youth. Sustainable employment and appropriate job roles may impact self-confidence and trust in the future, while unemployment or unsustainable work may affect their trust levels. The study can help understand the factors influencing trust based on the individual's professional activity.

2. Identifying Professional Needs and Challenges:

By categorizing the sample according to professional activity, the study can identify the professional needs and challenges faced by youth in each category. The results can help determine areas that require development, promote job opportunities, and support youth in achieving a more confident future.

3. Guiding Policies and Programs:

The findings of the study on the trust index based on professional activity can direct policies and programs related to employment, training, and professional support for youth. The study can help set priorities and guide investments in improving job opportunities and training for youth in each professional category.

Table 7: Distribution of the Sample by Activity Status

Activity Status	Percentage (%)
Employee (Salaried)	38.0
Student/Intern	43.7
Unemployed	11.4
Entrepreneur/Freelancer/Professional	6.9

Overall, studying the future trust index among youth based on professional activity helps understand the relationship between professional activity and trust level, guiding policies and programs to enhance youth opportunities and achieve a more confident future for them.

The salaried employees and workers category constituted 38% of the total sample, while students made up 43%. Entrepreneurs and self-employed individuals accounted for 7%, and the unemployed represented 11.4% of the total research sample.

SURVEY RESULTS

Do you feel confident in your future and the future of Morocco in general?

- **35.5%** of individuals do not trust their own future or the future of Morocco in general. This percentage indicates concern or a lack of confidence among these individuals regarding the future.
- **22.9%** of individuals trust their own future and the future of Morocco in general. These individuals express complete confidence in the future and feel highly optimistic.
- **41.6%** of individuals somewhat trust their own future and the future of Morocco in general. This indicates moderate confidence in the future, suggesting that they believe there are opportunities and possibilities for improvement to some extent.

These results show a wide range of responses regarding confidence in the future. This perception may be influenced by various factors such as economic, political, social, and cultural conditions, as well as personal experiences.

Do you think the government is doing a good job in providing job opportunities for young people?

- **No (51.8%):** A large number of respondents believe that the government is not doing well in providing job opportunities for young people. They may have clear concerns about the lack of jobs and limited opportunities and may think that there is a need to improve policies and efforts in this regard.
- **Somewhat (40%):** A moderate percentage of people think that the government is doing an acceptable job in providing job opportunities for young people, but they may have some reservations about the efforts being made.
- **Yes (8.2%):** This group believes that the government is doing a good job in providing job opportunities for young people. They may be satisfied with the policies and programs in place and see improvements in the available opportunities.

Do you think the education system in Morocco adequately prepares young people for the job market?

- **5.7%** of individuals believe that the education system in Morocco adequately prepares young people for the job market. This means they think the system provides the necessary skills and training for young people to excel in the job market.
- **70.2%** believe that the education system does not adequately prepare young people for the job market. They see deficiencies or challenges in the system that need improvement to enable young people to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in the job market.
- **24.1%** think that the education system in Morocco somewhat prepares young people. This suggests a moderate view, where the system provides some preparation but not fully.

Do you believe that educational opportunities in Morocco are available equally to everyone?

- **7.8%** of participants believe that educational opportunities in Morocco are equally available to everyone.
- **73.9%** of participants think that educational opportunities in Morocco are not equally available to everyone.
- **18.4%** have mixed opinions, possibly expressing doubts or reservations about the fairness of educational opportunities in Morocco.

This analysis indicates a significant proportion of people questioning the equal availability of educational opportunities in Morocco. There is a need to focus on improving access to quality education for all and avoiding the creation of educational divisions (public vs. private). Legal regulations should not specify certain institutions for obtaining certain qualifications, as this can create inequities.

Do you believe that the open educational opportunities in Morocco are sufficient for achieving success?

- **29.4%** of individuals think that the open educational opportunities in Morocco are somewhat sufficient for achieving success.
- **12.2%** believe that these opportunities are sufficient for success.
- **58.4%** believe that the open educational opportunities in Morocco are insufficient for success.

According to these results, more than half of the respondents (58.4%) indicate that open educational opportunities in Morocco are not enough to achieve success.

Do you think there are enough opportunities for success and prosperity in Morocco?

- **35.1%** of respondents answered "somewhat" when asked if there are enough opportunities for success and prosperity in Morocco.
- **22.9%** answered "yes" to the availability of sufficient opportunities.

- **42.0%** responded "no."

These results show varying opinions about the availability of opportunities for success and prosperity in Morocco.

Do you think migration is the only solution to improve the economic and social situation of young people in Morocco?

- **30%** of young people think that migration is the only solution to improve their situation.
- **70%** believe they can achieve their goals without the need to migrate.

Do you think Morocco provides enough opportunities for migrant youth wishing to return and work in the country?

- **9.4%** of youth believe that Morocco provides enough opportunities for returning migrant youth.
- **32.2%** believe that it does not provide any opportunities.
- **58.4%** believe that Morocco provides some opportunities, but they are not sufficient.

Do you think corruption affects youth opportunities in employment and education?

- **90%** of young people believe that corruption significantly affects their chances in employment and education.
- **7.8%** believe that the impact of corruption is weak.
- **1.2%** think that corruption does not affect youth opportunities.

Do you think the state is serious about combating corruption in the country?

- **45.5%** of young people think the state is somewhat fighting corruption but not enough.
- **3.7%** believe that the state is working seriously and adequately to combat corruption.
- **50.5%** think that the state is not serious about combating corruption.

Do you think social and economic conditions in Morocco are improving in general?

- **6.1%** of young people believe that social and economic conditions are generally improving.

- 43.5% believe they are not improving at all.
- 50.4% think they are somewhat improving.

Do you think the state is working to provide job opportunities for youth in rural and remote areas?

- 2.4% of youth believe the state provides sufficient job opportunities in rural areas.
- 31.6% think the state is working on this but not sufficiently.
- 65.7% believe that the state is not working to provide any job opportunities in rural areas.

Do you think Moroccan youth have sufficient freedom to express their opinions and participate in public life?

- 15.5% of youth believe they have sufficient freedom to express their opinions and participate in public life.
- 39.6% believe they have some freedom.
- 44.9% believe they do not have enough freedom.

Do you think there is enough room for social and political change in Morocco?

- **29.0%** of youth believe there is enough room for change.
- **38.8%** think there is some room for change, but with limitations.
- **32.2%** believe there is not enough room for change.

RESULTS ANALYSIS:

1. Confidence in the Future: A Feeling of Disenchantment and Duality

The finding that **35.5%** of young Moroccans do not have confidence in their own future or that of Morocco, compared to only **22.9%** who declare themselves optimistic, indicates a deep fracture in the sentiment of trust among the youth. The predominant concern is also reflected in the significant proportion (**41.6%**) who exhibit moderate confidence, revealing a duality between hope and skepticism.

Several factors may explain this mistrust. On one hand, the Moroccan economy, though growing, suffers from structural problems such as high unemployment, especially among young graduates, and the predominance of the informal sector. These factors create an atmosphere of uncertainty regarding future prospects. On the other hand, the perception of ineffective governance, social inequalities, and corruption further fuel the pessimism of young people, who see few concrete signs of improvement in their immediate environment.

This lack of confidence can be linked to a sense of disillusionment with a government perceived as distant and ineffective in meeting the aspirations of the youth. Young Moroccans often feel that their future is subject to contingencies beyond their control, pushing them toward a resigned attitude, or even toward considering radical solutions such as migration.

2. Employment Challenges: Public Policies Detached from Labor Market Realities

Employment is one of the main sources of concern, as the study reveals: **51.8%** of young people believe the State is not doing enough to create job opportunities. Even among those who acknowledge some efforts (**40%** "somewhat"), there is a persistent feeling that these initiatives are insufficient and often poorly targeted.

This perception can be explained by several structural factors. First, the Moroccan labor market is characterized by a limited supply of quality jobs, particularly in the formal sectors. The country's economy remains dominated by traditional sectors such as agriculture, tourism, and commerce, while innovative sectors (technology, advanced industries) struggle to develop. Furthermore, economic growth has not always been

accompanied by sufficient job creation, leading to a mismatch between the needs of the labor market and the profiles of young graduates.

Public employment policies must be reevaluated. It is crucial to diversify the economy by developing high-potential job-creating sectors such as information technology, renewable energy, and the green economy. Additionally, entrepreneurship should be encouraged, particularly through training and funding programs for young project developers. This would not only reduce unemployment but also foster innovation and the economic competitiveness of the country.

3. The Educational System: A Source of Frustration and Mismatch

The Moroccan educational system is perceived as largely inadequate, with **70.2%** of respondents believing it does not effectively prepare young people for the labor market. This finding highlights a disconnect between the academic world and the professional world. Education programs are often theoretical, and technical or vocational training is insufficient. Additionally, the lack of training in practical and transversal skills (such as critical thinking, problem-solving, or teamwork) prevents

young people from acquiring the tools necessary to adapt to the labor market's demands.

Education must undergo deep reform to become more relevant and employment-oriented. This includes integrating practical training modules, strengthening links between higher education institutions and businesses, and promoting apprenticeships and vocational training. Moreover, modernizing curricula, including 21st-century skills like digital literacy, is essential to enable young people to enter emerging sectors.

4. Inequality of Opportunities: A Factor of Exclusion and Despair

The inequality in access to educational and professional opportunities is another major concern. With **73.9%** of young people believing that educational opportunities are not equally accessible, the study highlights the regional, social, and economic disparities characterizing Moroccan society. Young people from rural or disadvantaged backgrounds have limited access to quality educational institutions and training programs, restricting their professional prospects and reinforcing a sense of injustice.

To address this situation, educational policies must aim to reduce inequalities by ensuring an equitable distribution of resources and educational infrastructure across the country. Establishing scholarships, access to support programs, and creating vocational training centers in rural areas are essential actions to guarantee equal opportunities.

5. Migration: An Escape Route or a Symbol of Powerlessness?

The view of migration as a solution for **30%** of young people reflects a disenchantment with local conditions. Migration is seen as a way to access economic and social opportunities that the current Moroccan context cannot provide. However, the remaining **70%** who believe in the possibility of succeeding in Morocco express a desire for improvement in their country.

It is therefore crucial to create conditions conducive to the development of young people in Morocco. This involves creating quality jobs, promoting local entrepreneurship, and establishing a socio-economic environment favorable to success. Migration should not be seen as the only way out but rather as an option

among others in an environment where young people feel capable of realizing their potential.

6. Corruption: The Main Obstacle to Trust and Equity

Corruption appears as a major obstacle, with **90%** of young people believing it affects their chances of obtaining jobs or educational opportunities. The perception of a system where meritocracy is replaced by clientelism and favoritism fuels despair and a sense of powerlessness among young people.

To restore trust, it is imperative to strengthen mechanisms for transparency, accountability, and justice. The fight against corruption requires structural reforms, including the establishment of independent oversight institutions, transparent recruitment processes, and strictly enforced anti-corruption laws. Raising citizen awareness, especially among the youth, about the importance of integrity and civic responsibility is also essential to create a culture of ethics and transparency.

7. Civic Engagement and Social Participation: A Lack of Freedom and Representation

The fact that **44.9%** of young people feel they do not have enough freedom to express their opinions and participate in public life is worrying. This reflects a perception of a restricted public space and a lack of mechanisms allowing young people to express themselves and actively participate in decision-making processes.

To promote active civic participation, it is necessary to establish platforms for expression and dialogue between young people, public institutions, and civil society. The development of youth organizations and movements, access to information, and civic education are essential means to stimulate civic engagement and social participation.

Conclusion: Toward a New Roadmap for Moroccan Youth

The results of this study paint a worrying picture of the mindset of young Moroccans. They reveal deep structural problems that undermine their confidence in the future: unemployment, inequalities, corruption, inadequacy of

the educational system, and a sense of exclusion. To reverse this trend, a comprehensive and coordinated response is needed.

The actions must revolve around several key areas:

1. **Strengthening the Economy and Employment:** Diversifying the economy, developing innovative sectors, and promoting entrepreneurship are essential to creating quality jobs.
2. **Educational Reform:** Education must be adapted to the labor market's needs by emphasizing vocational training, practical skills, and equitable access to quality education.
3. **Equal Opportunities:** Inclusive policies must be implemented to ensure equal access to opportunities, regardless of social or geographical background.
4. **Fight Against Corruption:** Transparency, accountability, and strict laws are essential to establish a climate of trust and equity.
5. **Civic Participation:** Encouraging youth participation in public life and providing them with spaces for expression contributes to strengthening their sense of belonging and their engagement in the country's development.

By adopting an inclusive and action-oriented approach, Morocco can create an environment where young people feel valued, heard, and capable of actively contributing to a promising future.

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BETWEEN THE STUDY'S FINDINGS AND THE DATA AVAILABLE ON THE WORLD BANK'S WEBSITE FOR MOROCCO

To provide a comparative analysis between the study's findings and the data available on the World Bank's website for Morocco, we need to focus on specific indicators such as GDP growth, employment, education, and social development metrics. This analysis will explore how these national statistics align or contrast with the perceptions of Moroccan youth as revealed in the survey.

1. Economic Growth and Employment: A Disparity Between Perceptions and Economic Indicators

In the survey, **51.8%** of participants expressed that the government is not doing enough to create job opportunities for young people, while **42%** of respondents believe there are insufficient opportunities

for success and prosperity in Morocco. This indicates a prevailing sentiment among the youth that economic growth is not translating into improved job prospects or personal prosperity.

World Bank Data Analysis:

- According to the World Bank's data, Morocco's GDP growth rate has been relatively stable, with an average annual growth of around **3-4%** in recent years. Despite this positive economic trend, the official **unemployment rate** remains high, particularly among youth. In 2022, the overall unemployment rate was approximately **12.6%**, but for youth aged 15-24, it was significantly higher at around **29.2%**.
- Furthermore, the **labor force participation rate** in Morocco is relatively low, especially for women. The youth employment rate suggests that while the economy is growing, the benefits of this growth are not equally distributed, nor are they effectively creating enough job opportunities to meet the demands of the youth population.

Comparison:

The survey's perception that the government is not

creating sufficient job opportunities aligns with the World Bank's employment data. Despite Morocco's steady GDP growth, high unemployment rates, particularly among the youth, reflect a disconnect between economic growth and job creation. This mismatch explains why young people may feel that economic success is out of reach, despite national economic indicators showing growth.

2. Education and Skill Development: Quality versus Accessibility

In the survey, **70.2%** of respondents indicated that the Moroccan education system does not adequately prepare young people for the job market, pointing to a gap between education and the demands of the labor market.

World Bank Data Analysis:

- The World Bank data on Morocco shows that the **literacy rate** among youth (ages 15-24) is relatively high, exceeding **90%**. Moreover, **school enrollment rates** in primary and secondary education have also shown improvement over the years.

- However, when looking at **tertiary education enrollment**, the figures are comparatively lower, with only about **37%** of the relevant age group enrolled in higher education in recent years. Additionally, the **quality of education** and its alignment with market needs remain significant challenges. According to World Bank reports, there is a skills mismatch in Morocco, where graduates often lack the practical skills required by employers.

Comparison:

While Morocco has made significant strides in improving access to education, the survey's findings highlight concerns about the quality and relevance of this education. The relatively low enrollment in tertiary education and the skills gap, as noted by the World Bank, support the survey's assertion that the education system does not sufficiently prepare youth for the job market. Thus, while educational access has increased, the quality and employability outcomes remain areas needing significant improvement.

3. Perception of Government Efforts: A Gap in Trust and Effectiveness

The survey results showed that **50.5%** of respondents believe the government is not serious about combating corruption, and **90%** of young people think that corruption negatively impacts their job and educational opportunities.

World Bank Data Analysis:

- The World Bank's **Governance Indicators** reveal mixed results for Morocco. While the country has shown progress in certain governance aspects, such as **regulatory quality** and **government effectiveness**, indicators like **control of corruption** and **rule of law** indicate ongoing challenges. These governance challenges can undermine public trust in institutions and impact economic opportunities.
- According to the **Doing Business** reports, Morocco has made improvements in the ease of doing business, ranking relatively high among African countries. However, challenges such as bureaucratic inefficiencies, regulatory complexities, and limited transparency in public services still pose significant barriers.

Comparison:

The survey's perception of government inaction and corruption aligns with the World Bank's governance data, which points to ongoing issues with transparency, accountability, and public service effectiveness. Despite improvements in some regulatory aspects, the persistent challenges in governance explain why a significant portion of Moroccan youth remains skeptical of government efforts, particularly regarding economic opportunities and fairness.

4. Migration as a Solution: Economic Hardship and Youth Aspirations

The survey revealed that **30%** of young Moroccans view migration as the only way to improve their economic and social situation.

World Bank Data Analysis:

- World Bank data indicates that **remittances** from Moroccans living abroad have been a significant part of the country's economy, accounting for around **7%** of GDP in 2022. This high dependency on remittances reflects the reality of a

significant number of Moroccans seeking better economic opportunities abroad.

- The data on **youth unemployment** and **limited job creation** further explain why migration is perceived as a viable solution for economic improvement among Moroccan youth. Additionally, the **low wages** in many domestic sectors contribute to the desire to migrate in search of better living standards.

Comparison:

The strong preference for migration among Moroccan youth, as revealed by the survey, corresponds with the World Bank data on remittances and economic indicators. The economic hardship faced domestically, combined with limited quality job opportunities, drives youth to seek prosperity abroad. This phenomenon indicates systemic issues in the Moroccan economy that need to be addressed to retain talent and offer viable local opportunities.

5. Economic Outlook and Social Conditions

The survey findings show that **50.4%** of respondents believe that the social and economic conditions in

Morocco are only somewhat improving, while **43.5%** believe they are not improving at all.

World Bank Data Analysis:

- Morocco has made substantial progress in **poverty reduction**, with the poverty rate declining over the past decades. However, **income inequality** and **regional disparities** in economic development remain significant concerns.
- The World Bank's data on **GDP per capita** and **income inequality (Gini index)** reflect a disparity in economic well-being across different segments of the population. These disparities contribute to the perception among youth that, despite some economic improvements, these changes are not felt equally across society.

Comparison:

The survey's findings of pessimism toward economic and social improvements align with the World Bank's data on income inequality and regional disparities. Although there has been progress in poverty reduction, the lack of equitable economic growth and persistent inequalities

shape the perception among young Moroccans that improvements are insufficient or unevenly distributed.

Conclusion

The comparative analysis between the survey results and the World Bank's data highlights several key points:

- **Economic Disparities:** Despite GDP growth, high youth unemployment, underemployment, and regional disparities contribute to a lack of confidence in economic opportunities.
- **Education and Skills Mismatch:** While educational access has improved, the quality and relevance of education to the job market remain a concern, aligning with the World Bank's observations.
- **Governance and Corruption:** The survey's concern over corruption and government inefficacy is supported by the World Bank's governance indicators, which show room for improvement in public sector transparency and accountability.
- **Migration:** The reliance on remittances and the youth's desire to migrate underscore systemic economic challenges within Morocco.

This analysis points to the need for targeted policy interventions focusing on job creation, education reform, reducing inequalities, and improving governance to enhance youth confidence in Morocco's future.

ANALYSIS BETWEEN THE STUDY AND THE DATA IN THE OECD

The analysis between the study and the data in the OECD document "Études économiques de l'OCDE : Maroc 2024" reveals a number of similarities and differences in the assessment of Morocco's economic and social challenges.

Employment and Economy

Study Results: The study shows significant concern among Moroccan youth about job opportunities, with a majority believing the government is not providing enough job opportunities for young people, particularly in rural and remote areas. It also highlights the impact of informal employment and the high unemployment rates, especially among the youth.

OECD Report Findings: The OECD document acknowledges the Moroccan labor market's struggles,

particularly with informality, which remains widespread, resulting in low-quality jobs and limited skills development. It notes that structural reforms, such as expanding social security and reducing labor market rigidities, are essential for creating quality jobs. The OECD emphasizes the need for public and private investment to stimulate economic growth and diversify job opportunities.

Comparison: Both sources agree on the challenges faced by the Moroccan labor market, such as high youth unemployment, informality, and the need for government intervention to improve job prospects. The study reflects the perceptions of Moroccan youth, while the OECD report provides a more structural analysis of the labor market issues and offers policy recommendations for sustainable job creation.

Education

Study Results: The study indicates that a significant majority of participants believe that the Moroccan education system does not adequately prepare young people for the job market. It also highlights concerns about inequality in educational opportunities.

OECD Report Findings: The OECD report also points out the relatively low educational outcomes in Morocco, particularly in basic literacy and numeracy skills. It suggests that vocational training and higher education reforms are needed to align with labor market requirements. Moreover, it emphasizes the importance of improving education quality and ensuring equal access to educational opportunities to enhance workforce skills.

Comparison: There is a strong alignment between the study and the OECD report regarding the issues in the Moroccan education system. Both sources highlight the mismatch between educational outcomes and job market needs, as well as the existing inequalities in educational access. The OECD report, however, delves deeper into specific policy recommendations, such as expanding vocational training and reforming the education system to better prepare young Moroccans for the labor market.

Corruption

Study Results: The study indicates that a vast majority of Moroccan youth believe that corruption significantly affects their employment and educational opportunities, with only a small percentage believing the government is serious about combating corruption.

OECD Report Findings: The OECD report recognizes the issue of corruption in Morocco as a barrier to economic development. It suggests that improving governance, enhancing transparency, and implementing anti-corruption measures are crucial steps to foster an equitable and competitive economy.

Comparison: Both the study and the OECD report acknowledge corruption as a critical issue affecting the Moroccan economy. The study provides a subjective perspective from the youth, highlighting their lack of confidence in the government's anti-corruption efforts. The OECD report, in contrast, provides a more analytical view, outlining specific reforms and strategies needed to combat corruption and its negative impact on economic growth.

Economic Growth and Structural Reforms

Study Results: The study reflects a sense of pessimism among Moroccan youth regarding the country's economic and social conditions, with concerns about the adequacy of job opportunities, access to quality education, and the fairness of opportunities for success.

OECD Report Findings: The OECD report emphasizes the need for Morocco to accelerate its economic reforms to achieve sustainable growth. It outlines key areas for reform, including diversifying the economy, strengthening public governance, improving the business climate, and enhancing social inclusion. The report highlights the progress Morocco has made in some areas but underscores the need for continued efforts to address structural challenges.

Comparison: While the study captures the sentiments and experiences of Moroccan youth, the OECD report offers a broader economic analysis, identifying specific policy areas that require reform. Both the study and the OECD report agree on the necessity of economic and social reforms to create a more equitable and prosperous society. The OECD document provides detailed policy recommendations that align with the concerns expressed in the study, such as improving education, enhancing job opportunities, and combating corruption.

Overall, the comparison between the study and the OECD report indicates a consensus on the challenges faced by Morocco in employment, education, and governance. However, the OECD report provides a more comprehensive and policy-oriented analysis, while the

study focuses on the perceptions and experiences of Moroccan youth.

A COMPARATIVE TABLE HIGHLIGHTING THE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE STUDY OF YOUNG MOROCCANS' PERCEPTIONS AND THE OECD REPORT “OECD ECONOMIC STUDIES: MOROCCO 2024”:

Theme	Study of Moroccan Youth	OECD Report 2024	Common Points	Differences
Employment and Economy	- 51.8% of youth believe the government does not provide enough job opportunities. - Concern about youth unemployment, particularly in rural areas.	- Highlights structural issues in the labor market (unemployment, informality). - Recommends reforms to reduce labor market rigidities and promote public and private investment.	- Both sources acknowledge the issue of youth unemployment. - Importance of reforms to create quality jobs.	- The study reflects the perception of youth, while the OECD provides a structural analysis and public policy recommendations.
Education	- 70.2% of respondents think the Moroccan education system does	- Emphasizes the need to improve education quality and basic skills.	- Agreement on the mismatch between the education system and	- The study emphasizes equality of opportunities and the personal

	<p>not adequately prepare young people for the job market.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns about equality in educational opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommends expanding vocational training and reforming higher education. 	<p>labor market needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Importance of education system reform. 	<p>experience of youth, while the OECD suggests targeted solutions such as vocational training.</p>
Corruption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 90% of youth believe that corruption affects their chances of employment and education. - Low confidence in the government's commitment to fighting corruption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifies corruption as a barrier to economic development. - Recommends improving governance, enhancing transparency, and strengthening anti-corruption measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognition of corruption as a major obstacle to economic development and equal opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The study expresses the perceptions and pessimism of youth, while the OECD adopts an analytical approach with recommendations for reform.
Economic Growth and Reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth are pessimistic about the improvement of economic and social conditions. - Demand more measures for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stresses the need to accelerate economic reforms for sustainable growth. - Focuses on economic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Both sources agree on the need for economic reforms to improve social and economic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The study focuses on youth perceptions, while the OECD provides a macroeconomic analysis and

	equitable opportunities.	diversification, governance, and improving the business climate.	conditions.	structural policy recommendations.
Recommendations and Solutions	<p>- Emphasizes immediate needs such as improving the education system and job opportunities.</p> <p>- Calls for more efforts to fight inequality and corruption.</p>	<p>- Provides detailed reforms for the labor market, education system, and anti-corruption measures.</p> <p>- Stresses the need for more effective governance and a diversified economy.</p>	<p>- Convergence on the importance of educational reforms, combating corruption, and improving job opportunities.</p>	<p>- The study presents youth expectations, while the OECD offers specific public policy recommendations to address structural issues.</p>

Summary of the Comparative Table:

- **Common Points:** The study of Moroccan youth and the OECD report agree on the main challenges facing the Moroccan economy, including youth unemployment, the inadequacy

of the education system, and the need for reforms to combat corruption and promote employment. Both sources recognize the importance of a strategy for economic diversification and improving educational opportunities.

- **Differences:** The study mainly reflects the perceptions, experiences, and expectations of Moroccan youth, while the OECD report provides an in-depth analysis of the structural challenges of the Moroccan economy and offers specific recommendations for public policies.

SUMMARY

This report provides an in-depth analysis of the perceptions, challenges, and aspirations of Moroccan youth as of May 2023. Through a detailed survey conducted across various regions of Morocco, the study aims to understand the factors influencing the youth's confidence in their future and the future of their country. The findings shed light on critical themes such as employment, education, social inequality, corruption, and economic conditions, offering policymakers and stakeholders a comprehensive overview of the current state of youth confidence in Morocco.

Key Findings:

1. **Confidence in the Future:** The survey reveals a varied spectrum of confidence among Moroccan youth. Approximately 35.5% express a lack of trust in their own future and the future of Morocco, indicating concerns shaped by economic, social, and political conditions. Conversely, 22.9% of respondents feel optimistic, demonstrating trust in their ability to navigate challenges and seize opportunities. The remaining

41.6% have a moderate level of trust, acknowledging existing opportunities but also recognizing the hurdles that need to be overcome.

2. Employment and Economic Opportunities:

Employment remains a significant concern for Moroccan youth, with 51.8% indicating that the government is not adequately providing job opportunities. This sentiment is particularly strong in rural and remote areas, where 65.7% believe there are no sufficient efforts to create jobs. Many youths attribute their pessimism to the lack of sustainable employment options and the informal nature of many available jobs. The report emphasizes the need for diversifying the economy, developing innovative sectors, and promoting entrepreneurship to create quality jobs, which aligns with international recommendations, including those from the OECD and World Bank.

3. Education System: A staggering 70.2% of respondents believe that the current Moroccan education system fails to adequately prepare young people for the job market. Concerns revolve around both the quality of education and the lack of alignment with market demands. Moreover, 73.9% of participants feel that educational opportunities are not equally

accessible to everyone, pointing to disparities based on social, economic, and geographical factors. This finding suggests an urgent need to reform educational policies, expand vocational training, and ensure that education systems are inclusive and equitable.

4. **Corruption and Governance:** Corruption is identified as a pervasive issue affecting youth confidence in Morocco. According to the survey, a significant 90% of young people believe that corruption severely impacts their chances of finding employment and accessing educational opportunities. Additionally, 50.5% express skepticism about the state's seriousness in combating corruption, highlighting a critical need for greater transparency, accountability, and legal reform.
5. **Social and Economic Conditions:** Moroccan youth have mixed perceptions of the country's social and economic trajectory. While 50.4% believe conditions are somewhat improving, 43.5% feel that there is little to no improvement. Only 6.1% are confident that the economic and social conditions are progressing positively. The results emphasize a need for more inclusive and comprehensive economic policies that can

address regional disparities and foster an environment conducive to youth prosperity.

6. **Youth Migration:** The survey indicates that 30% of youth view migration as the sole solution to improve their economic and social situations. This underscores the urgency for domestic reforms to create favorable conditions that can retain the country's talent and prevent brain drain. The perception that Morocco does not provide sufficient opportunities for returning migrants (32.2% of respondents) further stresses the need for better integration strategies for both local and returning youth.

Comparative Analysis with International Data: The report's findings align with international data from organizations like the OECD and World Bank, which highlight the structural challenges in Morocco's labor market, education system, and governance. Both national and international perspectives agree on the importance of economic diversification, educational reform, and combating corruption. However, while global reports focus on policy recommendations and structural adjustments, this study captures the lived experiences and personal perceptions of Moroccan youth, providing a

human-centered narrative on the country's socio-economic dynamics.

Recommendations:

1. **Economic and Employment Reforms:** To address youth unemployment, the report advocates for economic diversification, the development of innovative sectors, and the promotion of entrepreneurship. These efforts should be complemented by policies that ensure equality in job opportunities and bridge the gap between urban and rural regions.
2. **Educational Equity:** Enhancing the education system is crucial. The report suggests improving access to quality education and vocational training to meet market needs. A focus on inclusivity is essential, ensuring that all youth, regardless of background, have equal educational opportunities.
3. **Anti-Corruption Measures:** Given the profound impact of corruption on youth confidence, strengthening legal frameworks and transparency in governance is imperative. Establishing independent anti-corruption bodies and

encouraging civic participation can create a more trustworthy environment for the youth.

4. **Regional Development:** The state must prioritize job creation in rural and remote areas, addressing the geographical inequalities that hinder economic development. Investments in infrastructure, agriculture, and small businesses can stimulate growth and provide opportunities for young people outside urban centers.
5. **Youth Participation:** The findings reveal a strong desire for social and political change among Moroccan youth. The state should therefore facilitate platforms for youth participation in policy-making, ensuring their voices are heard and reflected in national strategies.

Conclusion:

This report presents an in-depth analysis of the Moroccan youth's perspectives on their future and that of their country. The survey conducted in May 2023 highlights pressing concerns related to employment, education, corruption, and social conditions. By offering a nuanced understanding of these challenges and comparing them with international standards, the report underscores the

need for targeted reforms. Addressing these issues will not only strengthen youth confidence but also contribute to building a more inclusive and prosperous Morocco for generations to come.

In conclusion, the journey towards empowering Moroccan youth is multifaceted, requiring collaborative efforts from government, civil society, and the private sector. This report serves as a call to action for all stakeholders to invest in the nation's most valuable resource – its youth – to realize a future characterized by hope, opportunity, and equitable growth.

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