



Morocco Rapid Gender Analysis

The State of Women, Morocco, and COVID

The first case of COVID-19 was detected in Morocco on March 2, 2020. From the week of March 9, the situation started to deteriorate through the chain of government decisions. A state of health emergency was declared on March 20, only essential services for the continuity of the Moroccan economy remained active throughout the country. The emergency state was implemented until May 20. The spread of COVID-19 imposed great challenges for Moroccans, especially women, due to significant social and regional disparities.

This rapid gender analysis (RGA) seeks to provide insights into the governmental measures and explore the implications of COVID-19 in the present situation of women. This analysis is based on a qualitative survey carried out in the field with various beneficiaries of CARE International Morocco's projects. The secondary data in this report is provided by Moroccan national institutions

Key Findings

- **COVID relief efforts specifically exclude women.** The government has created a COVID-19 fund to respond to the crisis, but these funds overlook women. The male head of the family must register for economic relief unless it is a female-headed household. This policy reinforces the unequal power dynamics within families and the supremacy of men over women.
- **Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is increasing.** 57% of women in Morocco already faced gender-based violence, and 73% of women feel that GBV is increasing. Women do not know how to access GBV services during COVID-19, and many women face a language barrier when trying to access services. Hospitals, the police, and the judiciary are only reacting to COVID-19 related emergencies and are not responding to GBV cases.
- **Women's access to public and health services is decreasing.** Citizens are required to get official authorization, which is given in priority to male heads of households, before they leave the house and public transport is suspended, further limiting women's mobility and ability to get medical attention,

especially those who suffer from chronic illnesses. With women in rural areas twice as likely to die in childbirth as their urban counterparts, this lack of access is life-threatening.

- **Quarantine measures reinforce existing gender inequalities.** Working remotely from home requires women to devote more time to domestic tasks and may lead to a rise in GBV and women's mental health risk. Morocco ranks 123 out of 153 on the Global Gender Report of 2020, and women spend up to 6 hours a day on household chores, compared to 48 minutes for men. Quarantine measures reinforced existing norms where women take on the unpaid care burden. Employed women have to choose between doing their jobs and caring for their children.
- **Women are losing income.** Market closures, lower market demand for goods, and the inability to access raw materials for home and cooperative based industries have already prevented many women from earning an income. Government regulations prevent women-owned cooperatives from registering as businesses, so they do not benefit from business protections. This is especially challenging for businesses that have just started, as women cannot repay their startup loans.
- **Women, especially poor and illiterate women, are having trouble accessing information.** In Morocco, the illiteracy rate is 22.1% for men and 41.9% for female. The disparity between urban and rural areas worsens the situations stated above. 61% of Moroccans live in urban areas and 39% in rural areas.
- **Women's leading roles in the education sector leave them without safety nets.** The COVID-19 related lockdowns caused the suspension of schooling. The majority of female educators in private sector are outside the social security system, hence they do not enjoy the employment security and benefits supported by government.
- **The government is responding quickly across a range of areas and can reinforce attention to gender equality.** In addition to additional cash transfers to the unemployed, the government has launched new processes to provide online agriculture extension and online marketing platforms for small businesses. Women have lower access to these platforms.

Recommendations

- **Pay attention to data about women.** All responders should gather information based on sex, age, and disability.
- **Ensure women receive aid directly.** The government should reconsider the requirement that aid only go to male heads of household. They should reinforce women's access to these resources and especially to digital technology will improve the impact of these response. The government can also ensure women's cooperatives can register as businesses to benefit from these measures.
- **Fill in gaps.** Keeping in mind the gaps in the current response, CARE Morocco needs to implement aid actions that distributed to women equally and to monitor governmental measures to identify possible gaps between men and women.
- **Promote tools that improve information accessibility.** Support educators with tools such as online pedagogical technologies and internet connection.
- **Establish a national platform of associations and non-governmental organizations.** Provide aid to the most vulnerable communities with a focus on justice and equal opportunities.

This brief summarizes the Morocco RGA that is published on June 02, 2020. The full RGA report can be accessed [here](#). The report is also available in [French](#).