



# Morocco

Morocco is undertaking its second Voluntary National Review of progress towards achieving the SDGs in 2020. With a focus this year on development accelerators and transformative action, it is a key moment to consider activities and tools which can unlock progress, for all, across the board.

Access to information – understood as the physical possibility and right for all to seek and find information, and the skills to use it – can make just such a contribution. This access can help at all levels. It supports individuals to take better decisions about how to farm, where to look for work or how to look after their own and their families' health. It gives governments the possibility to define better policies. It allows researchers to understand the world around us, establish new insights and innovate. Libraries are a key part of the infrastructure for ensuring that this is the case.

But where does Morocco stand today as concerns its libraries and access to information? This data sheet provides background based on data from the Development and Access to Information report produced by IFLA in partnership with the Technology and Social Change Group at the University of Washington, as well as IFLA's own Library Map of the World.

## KEY CONCLUSIONS

- *While data from Moroccan libraries does not yet feature in the Library Map of the World, the country has an active national library with strong plans to develop services, including access to heritage and research, around the country.*
- *Looking across the indicators in the DA2I framework, Morocco scores well compared to regional and global averages on household internet access, and on some elements of rights, such as net freedom and freedom of expression. However, gender equality remains high, and more can be done to ensure everyone enjoys a full education. Moreover, with low use of mobile internet, connectivity remains a priority. Libraries can help by offering additional options for getting online, and in particular help women and others at risk of marginalisation to find new ways to learn and earn.*

## LIBRARIES IN MOROCCO

There is not yet any data about libraries in Morocco available in the IFLA Library Map of the World. However, the country benefits from a strong National Library with an active approach to activating supporting research and heritage preservation throughout the country. There is also a good coverage of public libraries, supporting access to culture and information for citizens.

## DEVELOPMENT AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN MOROCCO

The Development and Access to Information report draws on a range of indicators highlighting where countries stand on four key pillars of access to information: connectivity, equality, skills and rights. For meaningful access to information to be a reality for all, performance needs to be strong across all of these categories.

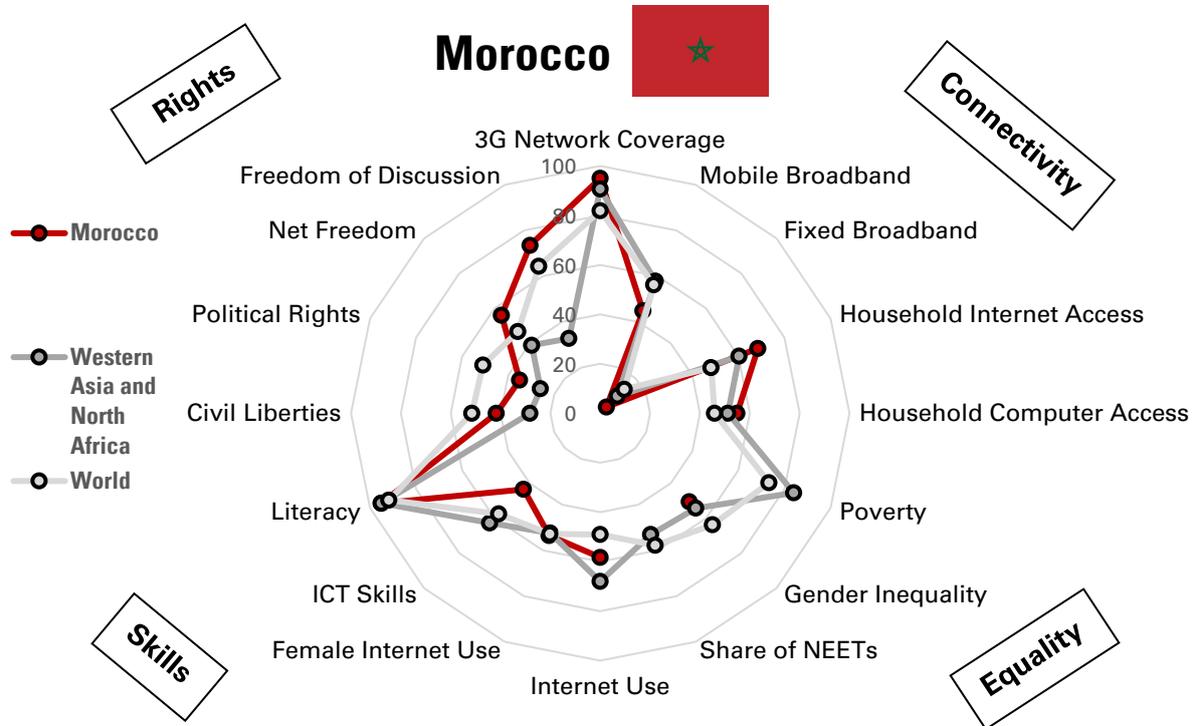
On **connectivity**, Morocco performs better on indicators of household access than on mobile access. While there is extensive coverage by 3G networks, the country has fewer mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 people than either the global or the regional average for Western Asia and North Africa. Meanwhile, household internet and computer access is above both the global and regional averages. This leaves around 58% of the population as internet users, above the global figure, but below the regional one.

Concerning **equality**, only partial data is available for Morocco, focused on gender. On this, the country has higher rates of gender inequality than other countries in the region. There is also a significant gender digital divide, with only 53.5% of women using the internet compared to 58% of the population as a whole (implying a much higher figure for men).

On **skills**, Morocco scores well on literacy, with almost everyone having basic skills, but does less well on the skills pillar of the ICT Development index, which is based on numbers attending secondary and tertiary education, as well as mean years of schooling. On **rights**, the picture is more positive, with much better scores than the region as a whole on all aspects, although on political rights and civil liberties, Morocco underperforms compared to global averages.

Looking across the available data, it appears that key challenges for Morocco will be to get more people online, especially those who have neither a smartphone or household internet access. One possibility for doing this could be to promote public access solutions via libraries. As has been shown in other countries in the region, libraries can also serve as venues not just for accessing the internet, but

also for training, especially focused on women, who otherwise risk enjoying fewer opportunities to learn and earn. Improvements in civil and political rights could also make it easier for people to realise the full potential of the internet.



*How to read the graph: this graph displays a range of indicators used within the DA2I framework, adjusted to fit on a scale of 0-100, where 100 is the most positive outcome in terms of access to information.*

## TABLE OF DATA

See below for explanations. \* = or latest available year. To note, averages are calculated on the basis of available data.

PILLAR	INDICATOR	MOROCCO	Year	WESTERN ASIA AND NORTH AFRICA	Year	WORLD	Year
<b>CONNECTIVITY</b>	3G Network Coverage	95.00%	2016	90.67%	2016	81.92%	2016
	Mobile Broadband (Subscriptions per 100 People)	44.84	2016	57.84	2016	56.22	2016
	Fixed Broadband (Subscriptions per 100 People)	3.56	2016	9.82	2016	13.71	2016
	Household Internet Access	68.50%	2016	60.31%	2016	48.16%	2016
	Household Computer Access	54.90%	2016	51.22%	2016	45.88%	2016
<b>EQUALITY</b>	Poverty (Share of pop'n below national poverty line)			15.93%	2015*	26.69%	2015*
	Gender Inequality (0 = More equal, 1 = Less equal)	0.49	2015	0.46	2015	0.36*	2015*
	Share of NEETs			23.48%	2015*	21.12%	2015*
	Internet Use	58.27%	2016	67.97%	2016*	49%	2016*
	Female Internet Use	53.50%	2016	52.41%	2016*	52.79%	2016*
<b>SKILLS</b>	ICT Skills	4.35	2017	6.27	2017	5.76	2017
	Literacy	95.07%	2015	95.04%	2015	91.75	2015
<b>RIGHTS</b>	Civil Liberties (0 = least free, 60 = most free)	25.00	2018	16.90	2018	30.9	2018
	Political Rights (0 = least free, 40 = most free)	14.00	2018	10.37	2018	20.37	2018
	Net Freedom (0 = most free, 100 = least free)	44.00	2016	61.11	2016	53.29	2016
	Freedom of Discussion	0.73	2016	0.33	2016	0.64	2016

## EXPLANATION OF INDICATORS

**3G Network Coverage:** this provides a measure of whether one part of the basic infrastructure for connectivity exists, although in itself is not enough to guarantee access (users need a device and a relevant subscription to be able to get online). Source: ITU

**Mobile Broadband (Mobile Broadband Subscriptions per 100 people):** this provides an idea of how many people can use mobile internet, opening up many – if not all – of the possibilities that internet access brings. One person may have more than one subscription. Source: ITU

**Fixed Broadband (Fixed Broadband Subscriptions per 100 people):** this provides an idea of how widespread home or business internet access is. Fixed access is often associated with the possibility to connect computers to make more advanced uses of the internet. Source: ITU

**Household Internet Access (Share of Households with Internet Access):** access to the internet at home allows for access to information at any time without having to go outside, but may be controlled by some members of the family. Source: ITU

**Household Computer Access (Share of Households with a Computer):** this focuses on access to computers. This is crucial for people to be able to carry out more advanced activities on the internet that might be impossible on a phone, such as writing resumes or analysing data. Source: ITU

**Poverty:** this indicator measures the number of people living below the national poverty line, which varies from country to country. It is a measure of economic inequality in a country. The indicator is inversed in the chart (i.e. the share of people not under the poverty line). Source: World Bank

**Gender Inequality:** this is calculated using the Gender Inequality Index. This index uses a basket of indicators in different areas of social development including: reproductive health, proportion of women in parliament, relative shares of men and women with at least some secondary education, and labour market participation in order to provide a broad idea of the extent of gender inequality in a country. The indicator runs from 0 (most equal) to 1 (least equal) and is inversed and adapted in the chart above. Source: UNDP

**Share of NEETS (People aged 15-24 Not in Education, Employment or Training):** this measures the share of young people cut off from education or the job market. Being 'NEET' can bring long-term scarring effects, and so reducing numbers is a key priority. The indicator is inversed and adapted in the chart (i.e. the share of young people who are not NEET). Source: ILO.



**Internet Use (Share of People Using the Internet):** looking beyond household access data (which will be affected by the structure of households in general), this gives a figure for the number of people using the internet. Source: ITU

**Female Internet Use:** this measure, in conjunction with the share of the overall population using the internet, allows us to understand to what extent there is a gender digital divide. Source: ITU

**ICT Skills:** there are relatively few global metrics of ICT skills, with those that exist only focusing on certain regions. The Skills Sub-Index of the ICT Development Index created by the ITU aims to work in this direction using levels of secondary and tertiary education enrolment, plus mean years of schooling, as proxies. Source: ITU

**Literacy:** this measures literacy among 15-24 year olds – i.e. people who have finished formal education. While there are online resources available for people with low literacy, being able to read, type, and understand information remains a fundamental skill. Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

**Civil Liberties:** this provides an indication of the degree to which citizens of a country enjoy fundamental civic rights, including freedom of expression and association, as well as the strength of the rule of law, based on expert judgements. Scores run from 0 (least free) to 60 (most free) and have been adapted to fit the graphic above. Source: Freedom House.

**Political Rights:** this provides a measure of the rights people have to participate in the political process, including fair and free elections, political pluralism, and the functioning of government in general. Scores run from 0 (least free) to 40 (most free) and have been adapted to fit the graphic above. Source: Freedom House.

**Net Freedom:** this metric assesses the level of restrictions on rights online by both public and private actors. It draws on assessments of obstacles to access (legal, economic and practical), limits on content, and violations of rights. Scores run from 100 (least free) to 0 (most free) and so are inverted in the graphic above. Source: Freedom House.

**Freedom of Discussion:** this indicator looks at whether people are able to hold private discussions without fear of repercussions either from the authorities or society in general due to cultural restrictions or norms. Scores run from 0 (least free) to 1 (most free), and so are adapted to fit into the graphic above. Source: V-Dem dataset codebook.