UNITED NATIONS
10TH GLOBAL FORUM
ON GENDER STATISTICS
1-3 OCTOBER 2025
TBILISI, GEORGIA

المندوبية السامية للتخطيط
HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AU PLAN

Gender and migration statistics in Morocco

10th United Nations Global Forum on Gender Statistics

Tbilisi, Georgia 1-3 October 2025

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Introduction

- Morocco has been historically viewed as a country of departure but increasingly also a destination and transit country for migrants;
- In 2014, Morocco adopted the National Strategy for Immigration and Asylum (SNIA), including legal reforms on asylum and migration rights;
- Morocco has a National Strategy for Moroccans of the World (SNFMDM) aiming to preserve identity, protect rights, and leverage diaspora skills for development;
- The 2011 Moroccan Constitution explicitly covers the Moroccans of he world (Articles 16-18 and Article 163);
- The National Employment Strategy (2015-2025) includes migration management for professional purposes as one of its cross-cutting

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Introduction

Internationally:

- Morocco hosted the Rabat Process in 2006: serving as a consultative and operational framework for countries of origin, transit, and destination involved in migration routes between Central, West, and Northern Africa and Europe;
- Morocco inaugurated the African Migration Observatory (AMO) in Rabat in 2020;
- Morocco has ratified several international conventions on displacement and migration: the 1951 convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and children…

why we need gender mainstreaming in migration data?

- At mid-year 2024, 48% of the of the global international migrant stock are women (UN DESA, 2024);
- Female migrant workers accounted for 38.7 percent of all migrant workers in 2022(ILO, 2024);
- 100 million migrant women send remittances annually: half of all remittance senders globally (UN Women, 2020);
- Without incorporating gender analysis and mainstreaming in migration data, the diverse experiences of certain migrant groups remain unseen and overlooked.

why we need gender mainstreaming in migration data?

- A gender-focused analysis in migration reveals the distinct opportunities, challenges, vulnerabilities, needs, and risks encountered by migrants according to their varied gender identities;
- If migration data is gender responsive, governments, civil society, multilateral organizations, and other stakeholders are better prepared to meet the needs of migrants, enhancing their access to the labor market, health, education, and justice for all.

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why we need gender mainstreaming in migration data?

Migration and gender are essential, cross-cutting themes that are relevant across all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) :

- SDG Target 17.18 emphasizes the need for high-quality, timely, and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, and migratory status.
- Other related SDG targets include:
  - Target 10.7: Facilitate safe, orderly, regular, and responsible migration with well-managed policies.
  - Targets 8.5, 8.7, 8.8: Focus on labor migration issues.
- The 2030 Agenda motto "leave no one behind“, requires gender mainstreaming and responsiveness to protect all migrants' rights and ensure no migrant is excluded.

Overview of the of existing Migration data in Morocco

The migration data ecosystem involves multiple public institutions, data producers, civil society organizations, and international agencies:

- The High Commission for Planning (HCP) is the central official statistics producer responsible for censuses, labor market surveys, household surveys including migration modules, and integration of migration statistics aligned with international standards.
- Key institutional data producers also include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Ministry of Interior (migration and border surveillance directorates), Ministry of Employment, and The Ministry of National Education, Higher Education, Executive Training and Scientific Research, among others.
- other data contributors include NGOs, university research units, migration observatories, and international organizations (World Bank, IOM, ILO…).

Gender and international migration data in Moroccan censuses

- Morocco's General Population and Housing Census (RGPH) is conducted every 10 years, and include breakdowns of migration data by sex;
- the most recent census in Morocco took place in 2024, and include migration data disaggregated by sex (among other characteristics):
    - Country of birth;
    - Country of previous residence;
    - Duration of the stay in Morocco;
    - Has the person ever lived abroad as his usual residence?
    - The raison for the immigration/ return to Morocco;
    - The year of the immigration/ return to Morocco.
- The 2024 census also contains data on emigration flow from Morocco:

Information was collected on household members who emigrated abroad during the five years preceding the census, as well as their characteristics (sex, Age, Year of the last migration, Nationality).

Gender and international migration data in Moroccan surveys

Multiple household surveys in Morocco include migration data disaggregated by sex:

- The National survey on International Migration, conducted in Morocco in 2018-2019;
- The Survey on the Impact of Covid-19 on the Socioeconomic and Psychological Situation of Refugees in 2020;
- The National Survey on Forced Migration in 2021;
- The Survey on the Socio-Economic Situation of Refugees in 2022;
- The National Employment Survey integrates specific modules on international migration, including module on immigration since 2017 and ongoing modules on emigration and return migration.

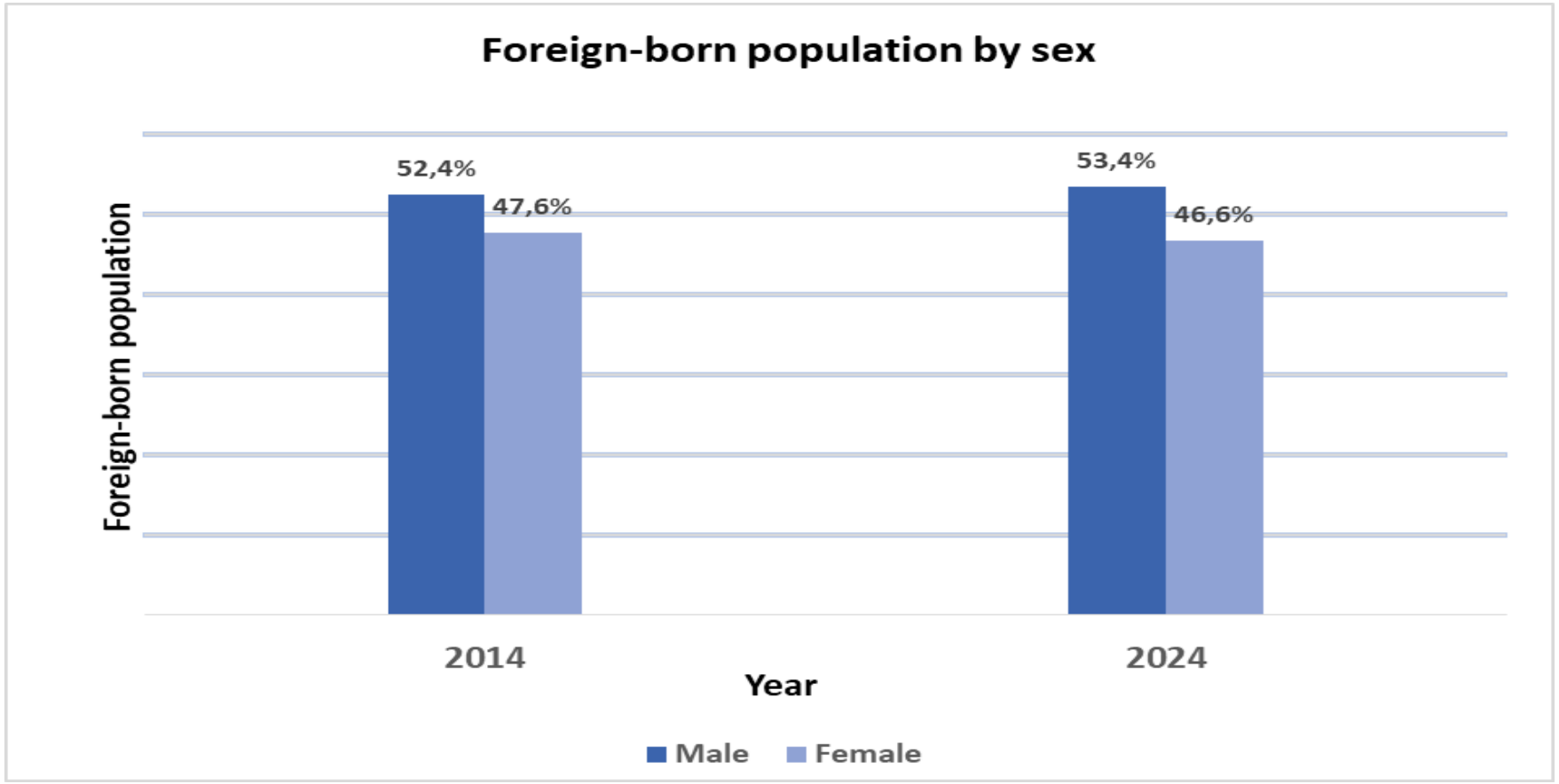
Highlights from the 2024 Population and Housing Census (2024 PHC) related to gender and migration

- The foreign-born stock in Morocco increased from 186,559 in 2014 to 253,392 in 2024;
- In 2014, female foreign-born individuals made up 47.6% (about 88,850) of the foreign-born population, while in 2024, this percentage slightly decreased to 46.6% (approximately 118,170);
- In 2024, the total international migrant stock reached 604,812, with female migrants constituting 38.6% (around 233,448) of the global stock of international migrants;

Notes:

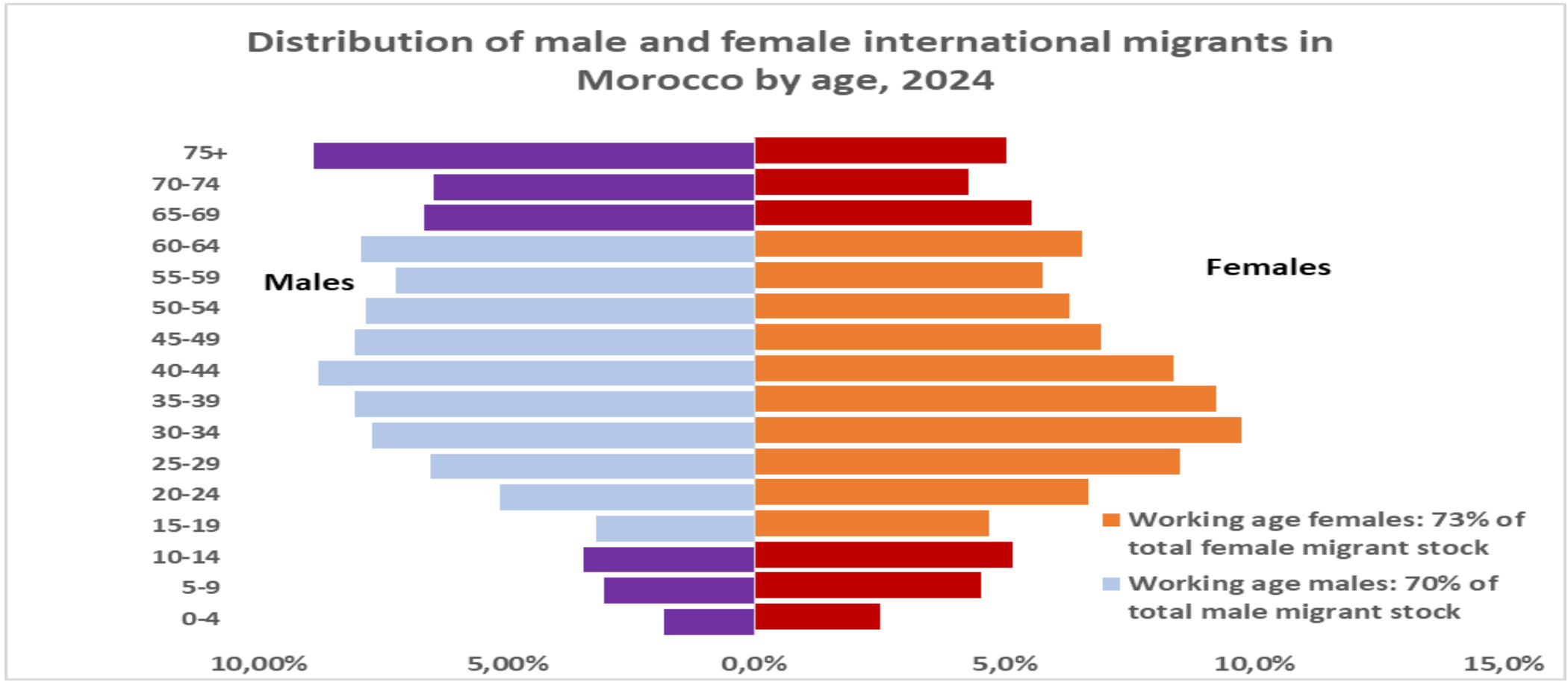
- The data contained in this presentation is based solely on populations living in ordinary households;
- An international migrant is a person who has declared in the census that they have ever lived abroad as their usual residence.
- The data source is the 2014 and the 2024 PHC

Highlights from the 2024 Population and Housing Census related to gender and migration



Data source: The 2014 and the 2024 Population and Housing censuses

Highlights from the 2024 Population and Housing Census related to gender and migration



Data source: The 2024 Population and Housing census

Highlights from the 2024 Population and Housing Census related to gender and migration

International Migrants by sex and Country of citizenship in 2024

Country of citizenship	Males	Females
Morocco	**81.2%**	**76.6%**
Sub-Saharan Africa	**12.6%**	**14.8%**
Europe	3.4%	5.3%
Other countries	2.8%	3.3%
Total	100%	100%

Data source: The 2024 Population and Housing census

Highlights from the 2024 Population and Housing Census related to gender and migration

Distribution of male and female migrants by their year of immigration or return to Morocco

year of the immigration/ return to Morocco	Males	Females
2019 and earlier	67%	59%
2020	4%	5%
2021	4%	5%
2022	7%	8%
2023	9%	11%
2024	10%	12%
Total	100%	100%

Data source: The 2024 Population and Housing census

Highlights from the 2024 Population and Housing Census related to gender and migration

International migrants: the main reasons for migration (immigration or return to Morocco)

- The main reason for male migrants is employment, accounting for about 34.4% of male migrants, followed by reasons related to family (31.3%) and study (13.6%).
- For female migrants, reasons related to family are the leading cause, representing approximately 53.6% of female migrants, followed by employment (19.7%) and study (11.4%).

Data source: The 2024 Population and Housing census

Limitations and challenges

- Challenges remain in institutional coordination, data harmonization with global standards, and filling statistical gaps especially for irregular migration and labor market integration;
- Irregular migrants may be undercounted in the census because they tend to avoid participating in census interviews;
- The number of emigrants who have left abroad in the past five years may be underestimated in the census, as it cannot account for households that have completely relocated;
- Gender bias may arise in survey data when collecting information on certain topics (such as attitudes, perceptions, intentions to migrate, decision-making power in the household, domestic violence…) from proxy respondents;
- Memory related issues may arise because multiple reference periods are involved, which could impact the quality of the information collected;
- One limitation of household surveys is the difficulty in addressing gender issues concerning hard to reach vulnerable groups. Among these groups are women victims of trafficking, for whom data collection poses a significant challenge, as female migrants may not report human trafficking as their reason for migration.