HIGH COMMISSION FOR PLANNING

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Gender and Childhood in Morocco

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OVERVIEW

Plan of the presentation

1. **Framework**
   Why child statistics matter, and the some HCP sources that measure them.

2. **Axis I — Time use**
   A gendered burden that starts in childhood, shaping study time and free time.

3. **Axis II — Child labour**
   Who works, where, and under what conditions across Morocco.

4. **Axis III — Violence against girls**
   Scale, forms, settings, and the cultural norms that sustain it.

5. **From evidence to policy**
   Turning the findings into concrete recommendations.

6. **Conclusion**
   Strengthening child statistics for the future.

Why gender statistics on children?

THE NUMBERS

A large, distinct population

More than a quarter of Morocco's population (26.5%) is under 15 — 9.8 million children (RGPH 2024).

Anchored in the SDGs

SDG 5.2 (violence against women and girls), 5.3 (child and early marriage), 5.4 (domestic and care work), 16.2 (violence against children), and SDG 4 (inclusive, equitable education).

THE COMMITMENTS

Constitutional foundation

The 2011 Constitution establishes the principle of gender equality (Article 19).

Legal protection

Law 103-13 (2018) criminalises violence against women and strengthens protection mechanisms.

Policy translation

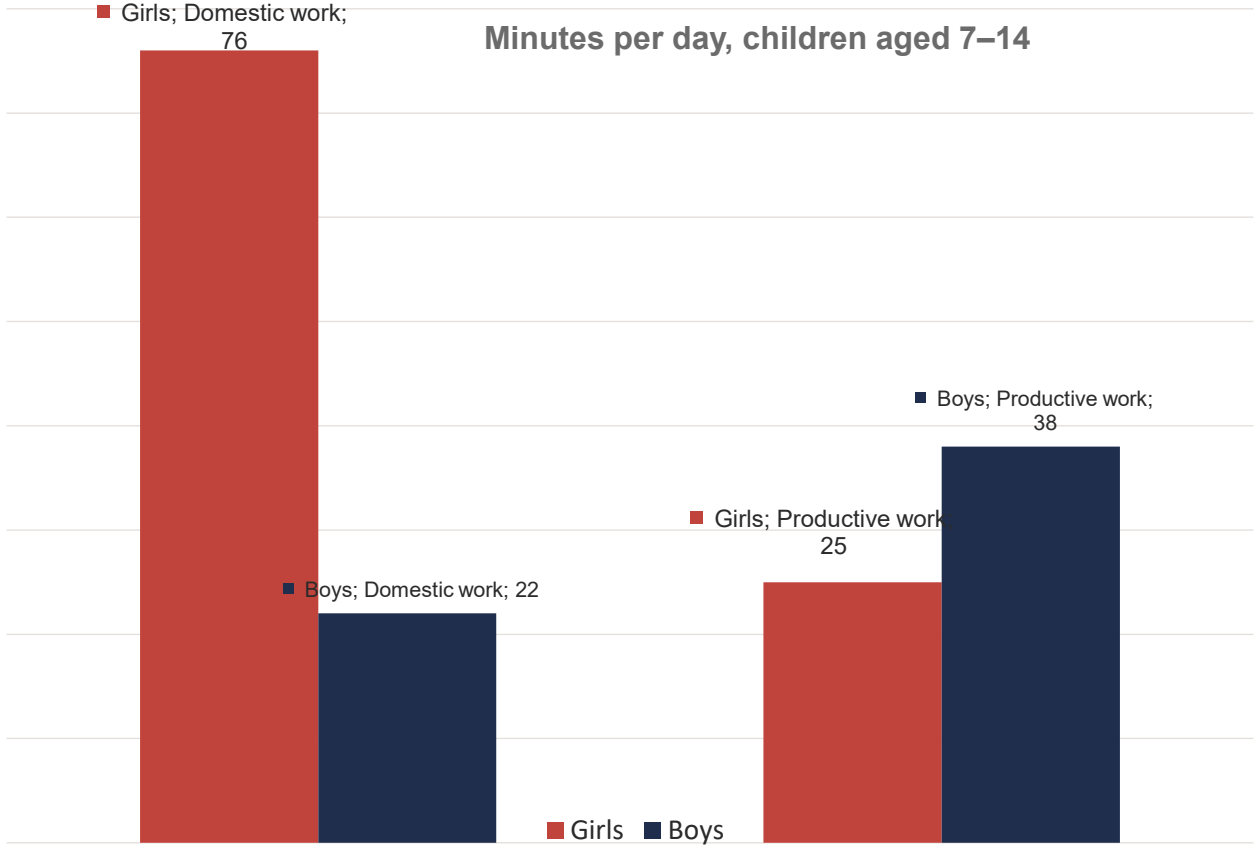
The Governmental Plan for Equality (ICRAM) translates these principles into cross-sectoral targets and monitoring indicators .

Morocco's statistical architecture on gender and childhood

Morocco has an integrated statistical system that makes it possible to monitor the situation of children from a gender perspective through several sources.

Survey	Scope	Key gender–childhood indicators	New
RGPH 2024	Total population — disaggregated by age/sex	School enrolment, literacy, economic activity, household structure	Sampling frame for all thematic surveys
TUS 2012 (renewal 2026-2027)	9,000 households (2012) --- adults and children aged 7–14	24-hour activity diary, gendered division of labour, care, leisure, education	TUS 2026-2027: ICATUS 2016 classification, care economy module, 14,000 households
National Employment Survey (2025)	135,000 households/year	Child labour, sectors of activity, hazardous work, family setting	*First summary published on 12 June 2026, World Day Against Child Labour*
Violence Survey Women–Girls (2019)	Women and girls aged 15-74 year	Prevalence by form and setting, risk factors, child marriage, cyberviolence	First dedicated analysis of 15–19-year-olds published in March 2025

From childhood, an already gendered use of time



×3.4

Girls spend 1 h 16 min a day on **domestic chores**, compared with 22 minutes for boys

×1.5

Boys spend 38 minutes on **paid work** (often agricultural), compared with 25 minutes for girls

The results tell us that the traditional division of roles — women inside the home, men outside — starts very early, before adolescence. And this early burden on girls reduces the time they have for study, for leisure, and for their personal development

Source: HCP, TUS 2012.

Girls: more study time, less time for oneself

+6 min

Girls aged 7-14 spend 6 more minutes a day on **study** — than boys.

- 1H Girls have one hour less **free time** per day than boys

43.6%

of children's **free time** is taken up by **television**, i.e. 3 hours a day on average

Girls spend **+15 Min** a day **watching television** than boys

50 min

of home-to-school travel per day, 84% of which is on foot

Girls study more, but they do not get more free time.

Source: HCP, TUS 2012.

Who are Morocco's working children?

103,000

children aged 7 to 17 engaged in an economic activity in 2025, i.e. **1.3%** of this age group

86.2% of working children are boys;

almost **90%** are aged 15 to 17

76.2% of working children live in rural areas

88% of working children have left school;

only **11%** are still in school

and **1%** have never attended school

Child labour in Morocco is strongly connected to school dropout, and it affects boys almost seven times more than girls, especially in rural areas.

Source: HCP, Note on the occasion of the World Day Against Child Labour, 12 June 2026 (National Employment Survey, 2025).

Children often exposed to hazardous work

69.1% of working children in rural areas work in agriculture, forestry and fishing

58.6% of working children in urban areas are wage earners;

25% apprentices and **13.5%** family helpers

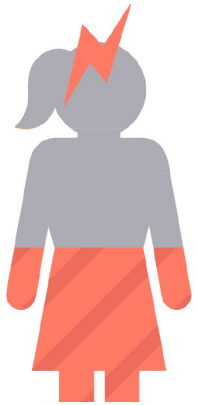
58.4% of working children perform **hazardous work**, i.e. 59,000 children (0.7% of the age group)

78.4% of children working in industry are exposed to hazardous work, versus **71.3%** in construction

Hazardous work mainly affects boys (92.2%) and adolescents aged 15-17 (85.5%), particularly in rural areas (66.6%).

Source: HCP, Note on the occasion of the World Day Against Child Labour, 12 June 2026 (National Employment Survey, 2025).

Violence Against Women Begins in Girlhood: Adolescent Girls (15-19) Are the Most Exposed



61.6 %

Psychological violence — the most common form, mostly within family and intimate settings

29.4 %

Cyberviolence — harassment, insults and threats via phones and social media

70.7 % (75% urban– 64% rural – 55,8% among women aged 20-74

young girls (15-19) experienced at least one act of violence in the year, across all forms combined /a significant gap between the two settings

Declining overall… but not for everything

Psychological, physical, and economic violence are down since 2009, but sexual violence has risen by nearly 12 points over the period — a signal that warrants close monitoring.

59.4 %

Domestic context (partener + family)

≈ 693,000 girls — the setting most affected by violence

25.3 %

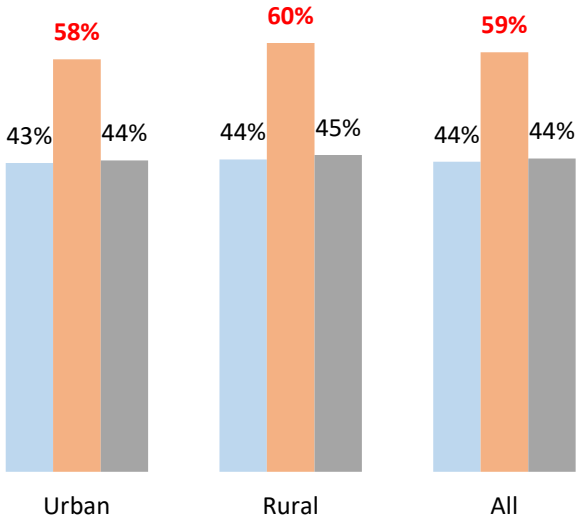
Education and training settings

22.8 % urban, 34.9 % rural

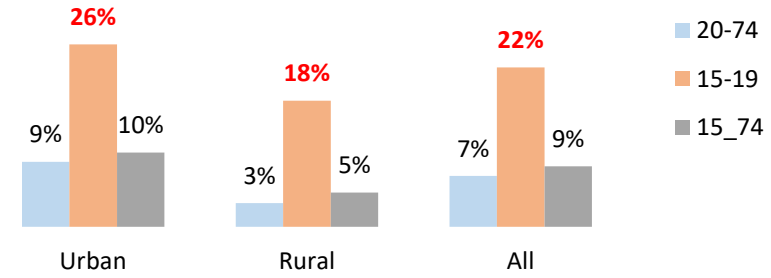
Also: sexual violence 23.3 % · physical violence 17.1 % · economic violence 9.1 %

Source: HCP–UN Women, Violence Against Children in Morocco, March 2025.

Violence Against Girls: Adolescence, the Critical Window



I5.2.1: Proportion of girls and women aged 15 to 74 who were subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by their intimate partners in the previous 12 months.



I5.2.2: Proportion of women and girls aged 15 to 74 subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence.

- Nearly 6 in 10 adolescent girls (59%) experienced intimate partner violence in the past 12 months — 15 points above adult women. Early unions expose girls to violence at an age when they are still children.

- 22% of adolescent girls (15-19) experienced non-partner sexual violence in the past 12 months — three times the adult rate. The youngest are the primary targets of this violence.

63.2 %

Early marriage
of married or divorced girls were married before age 18

Determinants of violence: from root causes to levers for action

1 · ROOT CAUSES

Cultural norms legitimize violence

Private matter — 40% of girls see conjugal violence as strictly private, which silences reporting

Strength norms — 37.7% of girls still believe that 'a man must be strong and firm'

Intergenerational cycle — mothers exert stricter control over daughters than sons

These norms make violence acceptable and keep it invisible…

2 · RISK FACTORS

…they translate into measurable exposure

Early marriage (before 18) — risk of spousal violence multiplied by 3

Exposure to parental violence — overall risk multiplied by 3.4

Household vulnerability — low education of the household head and larger households (5+ people)

…but the same data also reveals what protects girls:

3 · PROTECTIVE FACTORS

…autonomy reverses the mechanism

Having an income — overall risk reduced by 51.9%

Having a job — risk reduced by 14.2% for working girls

Access to education — even a minimal education level reduces the risk

Each protective factor is a policy lever.

Recommendations — act on the levers: strengthen girls' economic empowerment (income and jobs cut the risk); keep girls in school and prevent early marriage; develop accessible support structures to break the 'private matter' silence; and promote a culture of respect, offline and online, to interrupt the intergenerational cycle.

CONCLUSION

Making every child count: three commitments

In line with the 1st Africa Gender & Child Statistics Forum (AGCSF26, Yaoundé, July 2026) — 'Statistics that Matter' — and the Africa Gender Index 2027.

1. **Measure the invisible —** girls' domestic work — ×3.4 more than boys at ages 7-14 — still escapes the official child-labour indicator (ILO, SDG 8.7.1); Morocco has measured it since the 2012 TUS (SDG 5.4.1), and the 2026-2027 care economy module will update and deepen this measurement.

2. **Measure better, more often —** finer disaggregation (sex, age, area, disability), harmonized standards (ICATUS 2016, ICLS-ILO), diversified sources — administrative, judicial, citizen-generated — and strict ethical protocols when children speak (SDG 8.7.1, 16.2).

3. **Measure with Africa —** align the national survey programme — TUS 2026-2027, renewal of the violence survey — with the AGCSF26 recommendations, and feed the Africa Gender Index 2027: comparability and joint advocacy.

From childhood, gender inequality is measurable — and what we can measure, we can change.

Thank you for your attention