



Distribution of food baskets © IOM Morocco, 2020

SITUATION OVERVIEW

In March 2nd 2020, the first case of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has been registered in Morocco. Since then, the country has recorded 219,084 confirmed cases including 181,275 recoveries and 3,695 deaths as of October 31,2020, according to the official results of the epidemiological surveillance of COVID-19 published on the website www.covidmaroc.ma. While all regions of Morocco has been affected, Grand Casablanca registered the highest number of cases. The state of health emergency, declared on March 20, 2020, has been extended several times and remains in force. However, relief measures have been adopted in order to allow a swift national economic recovery. The shops, cafes, restaurants, schools have reopened, and special flights have resumed while respecting the preventive measures (physical distancing, regular hand washing, respiratory hygiene, etc.) as well as the mandatory mask wearing to limit the spread of the virus.

The pandemic management has also evolved towards a pronounced decentralization approach. Decisions (closing and opening times, travel restrictions and other measures) are taken at the local level according to the epidemiological situation in each locality. Despite the observed recovery of economic activity, many vulnerable populations in Morocco, including migrants, continue to face challenges in many aspects of daily life.

The United Nations system supports the efforts of the Government of Morocco and the civil society actors to address the health, social and economic consequences of the pandemic. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is also contributing to the national response in line with the [global strategic preparedness and response plan to combat COVID-19](#).

IOM MOROCCO RESPONSE TO COVID-19

IOM supports the Government of Morocco's response through an inclusive approach that includes the populations in vulnerable situation. Its interventions are focused on the following pillars: Coordination and partnerships; Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCCE); Surveillance; Case management and continuity of essential services; Infection prevention and control and Protection.

The protection is a key pillar in the fight against COVID-19. Therefore, IOM Morocco is focusing its efforts on social determinants namely, emergency shelter, food, distribution of hygiene kits including masks, psychosocial support and awareness raising. Accordingly, IOM Morocco closely coordinates its interventions with national and local authorities as well as its civil society partners for an efficient response in the different regions of Morocco. Through its inclusive approach, IOM responds not only to the needs of migrants but also to the expectations of Moroccans in need.

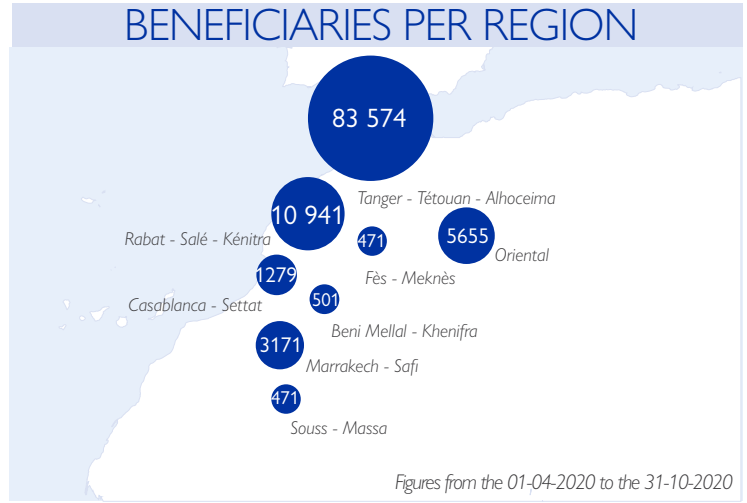
The IOM Morocco COVID-19 response is financially supported by:



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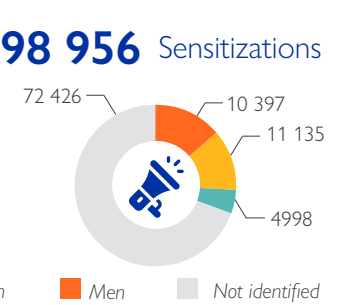
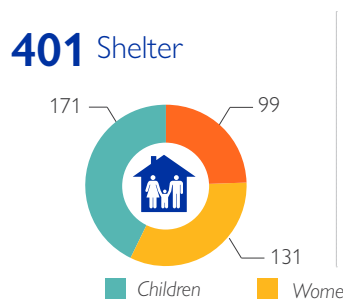
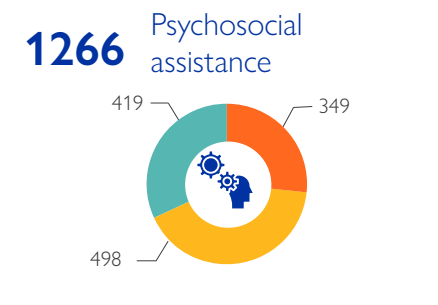
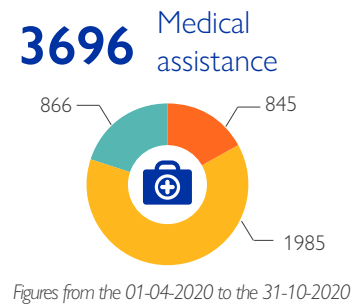
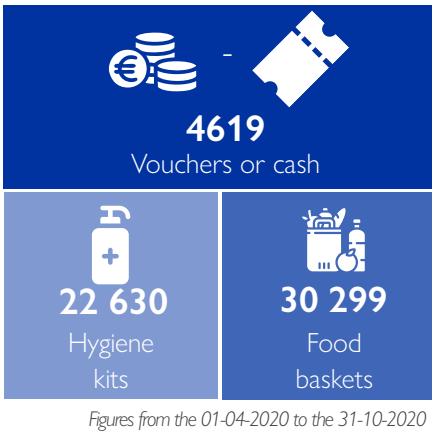
ASSISTED INDIVIDUALS

from 01 April to 31 October 2020



57 548 Basic direct assistance

IOM Morocco coordinates its actions with national and local authorities and relies on its teams on the ground and civil society partners to ensure direct and effective assistance in the regions hosting migrants while prioritizing an inclusive approach that also meets the expectations of Moroccans in need (78% of beneficiaries being nationals). IOM distributes food baskets, hygiene kits, vouchers, blankets, clothing, prepaid telephone cards and cash. Hygiene kits include, among other items, soap as well as hydro-alcoholic gels and masks. These distributions are made in compliance with Covid 19 protection measures and respected by the civil society partners, IOM staff and beneficiaries.



IOM continues to offer medical assistance to the most vulnerable, 3696 individuals were assisted through support for medical consultations and examinations, the purchase of essential medicines for pathologies other than COVID-19 and referral support to public health structures.

Psychosocial support is provided to the most vulnerable to relieve the stress caused by confinement, uncertainty and social distancing. Social workers and psychologists from IOM Morocco's partner associations maintain regular contact with the beneficiaries, giving them advice on stress management and procedures in obtaining social and medical assistance, if needed. Communication tools are also shared with beneficiaries to guide and advise them.

Beneficiaries have benefited from either emergency housing or assistance to pay the rent, to prevent them from losing their homes. IOM also supported 20 "Entraide Nationale" centers through in-kind donation of mattresses, blankets and pillows, in order to increase their reception capacity for populations in need.

Beneficiaries were sensitized on COVID-19 prevention measures in compliance with confinement and other measures put in place by national authorities. Health awareness sessions are done through the telephone, instant messaging applications and the distribution of flyers and leaflets.

* These figures are preliminary estimates and may be subjected to changes

The COVID-19 response led by IOM Morocco is implemented in partnership with:

