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مدينة أكادير  
VILLE D'AGADIR

# Voluntary Local Review Municipality of Agadir, Morocco

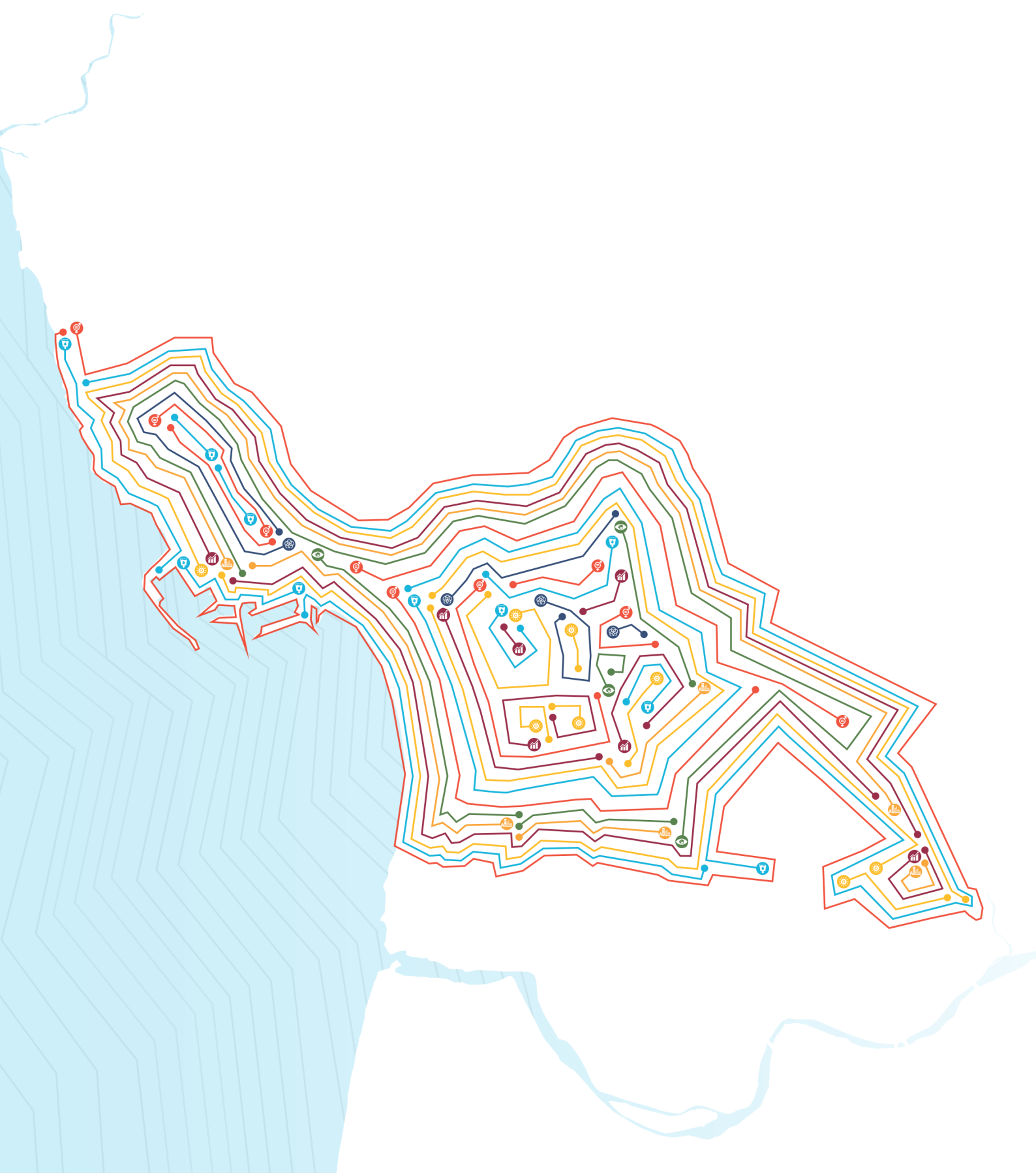


2023



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



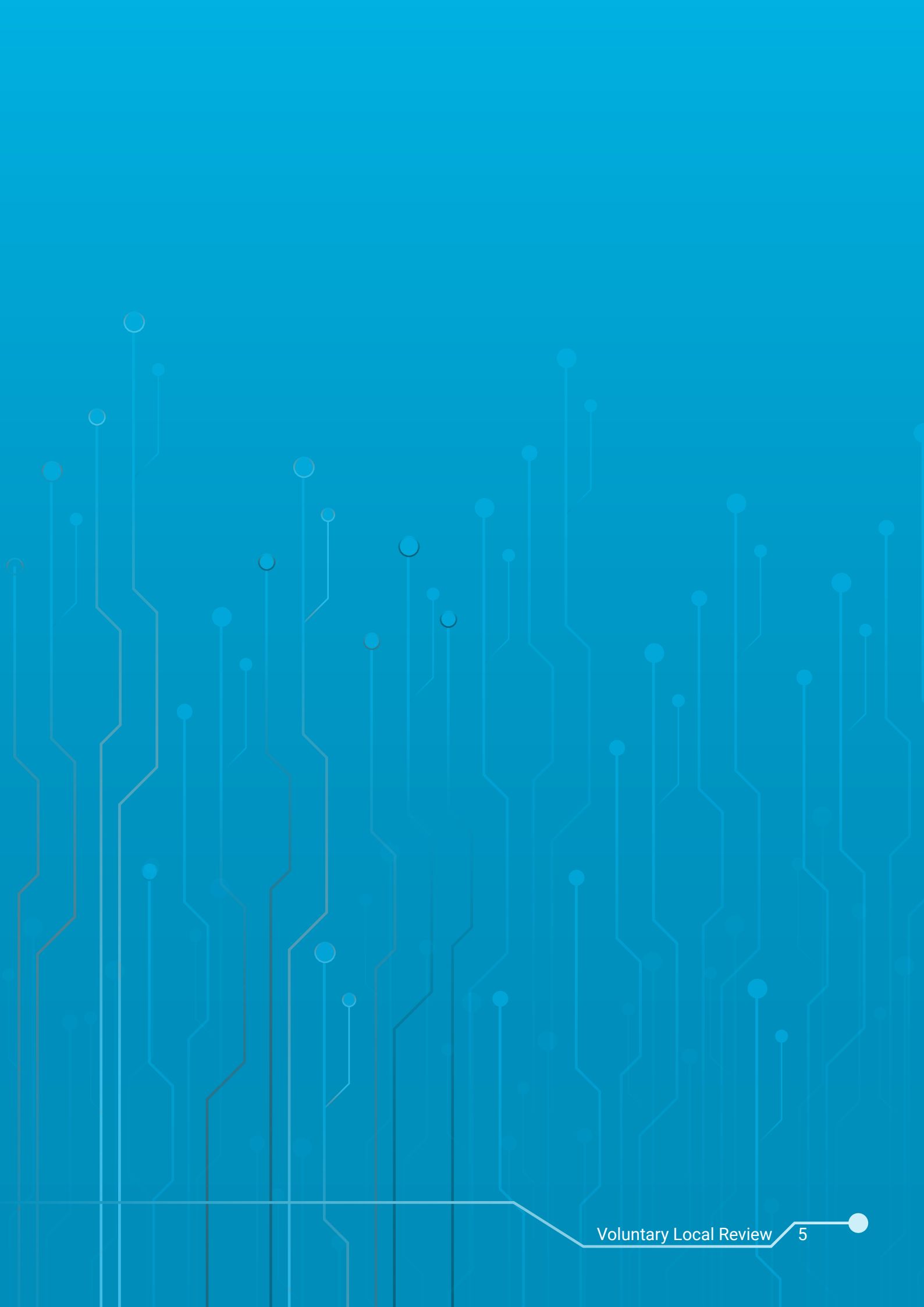


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# Table of Contents

Preface	6
Message from the municipal Council of Agadir	8
Message from UNESCWA, UN-Habitat, and UCLG-MEWA	10
Acknowledgements	14
Abbreviations and Acronyms	16
Chapter 1: Introduction	24
1.1 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the National Policy Context	25
1.2 Structure	39
Chapter 2: Methodology	42
2.1 Guiding Principles	43
2.2 Developing the VLR	45
2.2.1 Participatory Process	45
2.2.2 Data Collection and Validation	47
2.2.3 Target Overview and Drawing Lessons	48
2.3 Complementarity between VLR and VNR	49
Chapter 3: Performance of Agadir against the SDGs	52
3.1 SDG 5 Gender Equality	53
3.1.1 Context	53
3.1.2 Target Overview	55
3.1.3 Summary and Conclusions	60
3.2 SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation	62
3.2.1 Context	62
3.2.2 Target Overview	65
3.2.3 Summary and Conclusions	71
3.3 SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy	74
3.3.1 Context	74
3.3.2 Target Overview	76
3.3.3 Summary and Conclusions	82
3.4 SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	84
3.4.1 Context	84
3.4.2 Target Overview	86
3.4.3 Summary and Conclusions	95
3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	98
3.5.1 Context	98
3.5.2 Target Overview	100

3.5.3 Summary and Conclusions	113
3.6 SDG 13 Climate Action	116
3.6.1 Context	116
3.6.2 Target Overview	119
3.6.3 Summary and Conclusions	127
3.7 SDG 17 Partnership for the Goals	130
3.7.1 Context	130
3.7.2 Target Overview	132
3.7.3. Summary and Conclusions	137
Chapter 4: Impact of COVID-19 on Development	140
Chapter 5: Key Messages on Reinforcing the Transition of Agadir towards an Inclusive, Smart, Sustainable and Resilient City	146
Bibliography	150
Appendices	160
Appendix 1. The list of representatives of the municipal committee on the VLR.	161
Appendix 2. The list of municipal competencies (individual, shared, and transferred)	162
Appendix 3. Selected initiatives addressing migrant community in Agadir and beyond	165
Appendix 4. The list of stakeholders consulted during the mission to Agadir	167
Appendix 5. The list of stakeholders participating in the workshop on 29 September 2022 in Agadir.	168
Appendix 6. The list of organisations and institutions consulted during data collection	169
Appendix 7. The implementation of PAI in the Souss-Massa region	170
Appendix 8. Initiatives for improving diversity, innovation and upgrading economic infrastructure in Agadir.	171
Appendix 9. Selected initiatives on promoting equal access to the labour market in the Souss-Massa region.	174
Appendix 10. Insights into the Urban Mobility Plan 5 for the Greater Agadir	176
Appendix 11. The participatory process for PAC 2022-2027: the list of thematic sessions	178
Appendix 12. Territorial Plan for the Fight Against Global Warming (PTRC)	179
Appendix 13: Progress in implementation of selected PTRC projects.	180
Appendix 14. The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and the emergency response in Morocco in 2020	181





# PREFACE

In 2015, at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in New York, 193 countries came together in show of global partnership to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aimed at ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring that people live in peace and prosperity. At the heart of the Agenda are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that set out the blueprint for this vision.

Among the signatories was Morocco, which pledged to address sustainable development challenges and to monitor progress towards achieving SDGs using - a review mechanism for the implementation of the Agenda and a global indicator set. In this spirit, Morocco developed two Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), in 2016 and 2020, with the support of United Nations institutions and in close collaboration with public, private and third sector organisations, which it presented at the High-Level Political Forums. VNRs aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the Agenda.

The 2020 VNR revealed that the country achieved its targets on the reduction of maternal and child mortality; universal primary school enrolment; gender parity; and universal access to water, sanitation and electricity - 10 years ahead of schedule. It also showed that the government was working on the reduction of social, territorial and gender inequalities; the promotion of economic growth and decent employment, especially for women; the preservation of marine and terrestrial biodiversity; and the fight against the effects of climate change by 2030.<sup>1</sup>

The 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the Habitat III conference in 2016, both stress that local governments play a critical role in delivering SDGs by breaking down the goals into local actions and impacts (known as SDG localization). Local governments directly contribute to at least 65 per cent of the 169 SDG targets.<sup>2</sup> In Morocco, empowered by public sector decentralization reforms, they are working with regional and national governments, businesses, civil society and other actors, to mainstream SDGs across policy areas, to make them relevant to various stakeholders while enabling the delivery of sustainable and resilient urban infrastructure and services. This ultimately contributes to the achievement of all 17 SDGs while promoting post-COVID recovery.

Among the municipalities working for a sustainable future is Agadir, capital of the Souss-Massa region. The city, known for its strong contribution to the Agriculture, Tourism and Fisheries (ATP) sectors aspires to become an inclusive, smart, sustainable, and resilient city. In 2022-2023, Agadir worked closely with ESCWA, UN-Habitat and UCLG-MEWA to develop its first Voluntary Local Review (VLR), making it the first in the country – and second in the Arab region; and joining over 150 cities worldwide in developing a VLR, as it works to promote the SDG-aligned model of smart, sustainable, and inclusive city development in Morocco and beyond.

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1 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020), p. 20

2 OECD Programme on a Territorial Approach to the SDGs, OECD (2023).

# MESSAGE FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF AGADIR



First of all, we would like to thank the ESCWA, UN-Habitat and UCLG-MEWA teams for the remarkable efforts they have made in the “Inter-regional cooperation for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda” project since its launch.

We are delighted that our local authority has been chosen as the first city in North Africa and one of the first ones in the Arab region to draw up the Voluntary Local Report (VLR). This international recognition honours us and demonstrates the importance we attach to urban development issues, as a priority for achieving sustainable development in our region.

Agadir is a city in perpetual renaissance. After the tragedy of the 1960 earthquake, the city was rebuilt thanks to the will of the King and his people. Today, it is living to the rhythm of its second renaissance: thanks to the Urban Development Programme (PDU) launched in 2020 by His Majesty King Mohamed VI, it is undergoing unprecedented urban renewal.

And so, we are building on this momentum with an ambitious action plan for the period 2022-2027. Putting people at the heart of our priorities, we designed our action plan after several months of listening to our fellow citizens and consulting with our city’s driving forces.



This same inclusive approach will guide our current and future actions to transform Agadir into a smart, resilient, and sustainable metropolis that offers its residents a pleasant living environment and a memorable experience for its visitors.

This first VLR in Agadir required considerable internal mobilization to verify, at all levels and in all areas, the chosen SDGs, namely: SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 6 on water, SDG 7 on energy, SDG 8 on work, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, SDG 13 on climate change and SDG 17 on partnership. This work also focused on analysing the impact of COVID-19 and ICT on the Agadir municipality.

We would like to warmly congratulate this successful collaboration between the ESCWA, UN-Habitat, UCLG-MEWA and the territorial municipality of Agadir, the Haut Commissariat au Plan Souss-Massa, and all the stakeholders and players involved. We believe that this first report will be a useful reference for Moroccan and African cities wishing to draw up their VLR report in the future.

#### The Municipal Council of Agadir



Photo of the council. Source: the Municipality of Agadir (2023)

# MESSAGE FROM UNESCWA, UN-HABITAT, AND UCLG-MEWA



## Message: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, United Nations Human Settlement Programme and United Cities and Local Governments – Middle East and West Asia Section

The voluntary local review (VLR) of the city of Agadir marks an important milestone for Morocco as it is the first in the country and in North Africa. Such an important accomplishment towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is the result of the collaboration between the Municipality of Agadir (la Commune d'Agadir), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA).

In the Arab region, important advancements have been made over the past years in terms of reporting on the SDGs at the national level, and progress was captured through the voluntary national reviews (VNRs). To date, Morocco has prepared two VNRs, one in 2016 and the second in 2020. Also, in 2022, Morocco launched the Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima regional report on the SDGs. Achieving the SDGs is a journey that rests on an inclusive and

engaging process with stakeholders at different levels of governance and across sectors. It is a process that demands localization: cities lie at the forefront of localizing the SDGs by aligning local plans, mobilizing resources, engaging stakeholders, monitoring progress and promoting innovation. Through their actions, they can make significant contributions to achieve the SDGs and create sustainable and inclusive urban environments.

Monitoring the progress in implementing the localized SDGs through VLRs has gained momentum in the last few years. This aimed to advance policy coherence for sustainable development and to reinforce national-local policy dialogue.

In 2023, a powerful earthquake struck the High Atlas Mountain range in the vicinity of Agadir. In the face of global challenges including natural hazards, health crises, armed conflicts, and migration processes, among others, the localization of the SDGs is more important than ever.

At this moment, different cities globally have published their VLRs, and Agadir is joining a movement of over 200 cities worldwide. However, the VLR initiative is still a unique one in the scope of the Arab region, which emphasizes the leadership of Agadir in developing VLRs in North Africa and in providing the model for other cities to further demonstrate their commitment to implement and to measure progress towards the SDGs.

Agadir has witnessed exponential urban growth, benefitting from its unique position as the capital of the Souss-Massa region, the centre of economic activities and an attractive tourist destination known in Morocco and internationally for over 7 km of beaches and over 300 days of sunshine.

Agadir is committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and has developed and implemented various initiatives and partnerships that mainstream the SDGs and their values across sectors. It has showcased its determination to use modern, SDG-aligned and inclusive urban management tools such as gender-sensitive and citizen-centred budgeting, to leave no one and no place behind. Building on its mandate, the municipality also plays a crucial role in implementing national and regional policies and strategies, including the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS), the master plan for the digital transformation of cities (SDTN), the Territorial Plan to Combat Global Warming (PTRC) of the SoussMassa region.

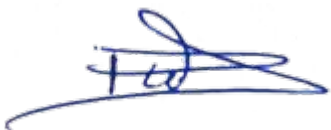
Agadir's VLR rests on evidence-based, participatory, reflective and actionable principles. It focuses on a review of the city's progress towards SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 11, SDG 13 and SDG 17. These Goals (and their respective targets) were selected by the municipality, upon consultation with United Nations agencies based on their relevance to the competencies and strategic objective of the municipality, as well as data access and availability. The VLR process informed the Municipal Action Plan 2022–2027.

While developing this VLR, special attention was paid to mainstreaming the “smartness” of the city, focusing on the role of information and communication technologies in meeting development goals; and its “inclusiveness”, especially the engagement of various groups of stakeholders in a collaborative action, to align this VLR with the Municipal Action Plan 2022–2027. Agadir has an ambition to become an inclusive, smart, sustainable and resilient city. Benefitting from its strategic geographical location and favourable climate, it is also determined to leverage its

innovation potential, natural and human resources, technologies and modern urban management solutions to reinforce resilience.

This VLR ensures both complementarity and close alignment with the 2020 VNR of Morocco, depicting the country's progress towards the SDGs. It provides a complementary perspective with the VNR by discussing the local development challenges and disparities, and development objectives vis a vis the national development challenges and ways to address them. To ensure alignment with the VNR, the VLR conclusions are developed, taking into consideration the findings and recommendations of the 2020 VNR.


Leaving no one and no place behind is a high priority on the development agenda of the city. The VLR of the city of Agadir, being the first in North Africa, is expected to inform future operational frameworks between the Municipality of Agadir, the Government of Morocco, the United Nations, the wider development community and other stakeholders, towards a smart sustainable Agadir and enhanced urban development in Morocco.



**Rola Dashti**

Under-Secretary-General

Executive Secretary  
**UNESCWA**



**Rania Hedeya**

Regional Representative

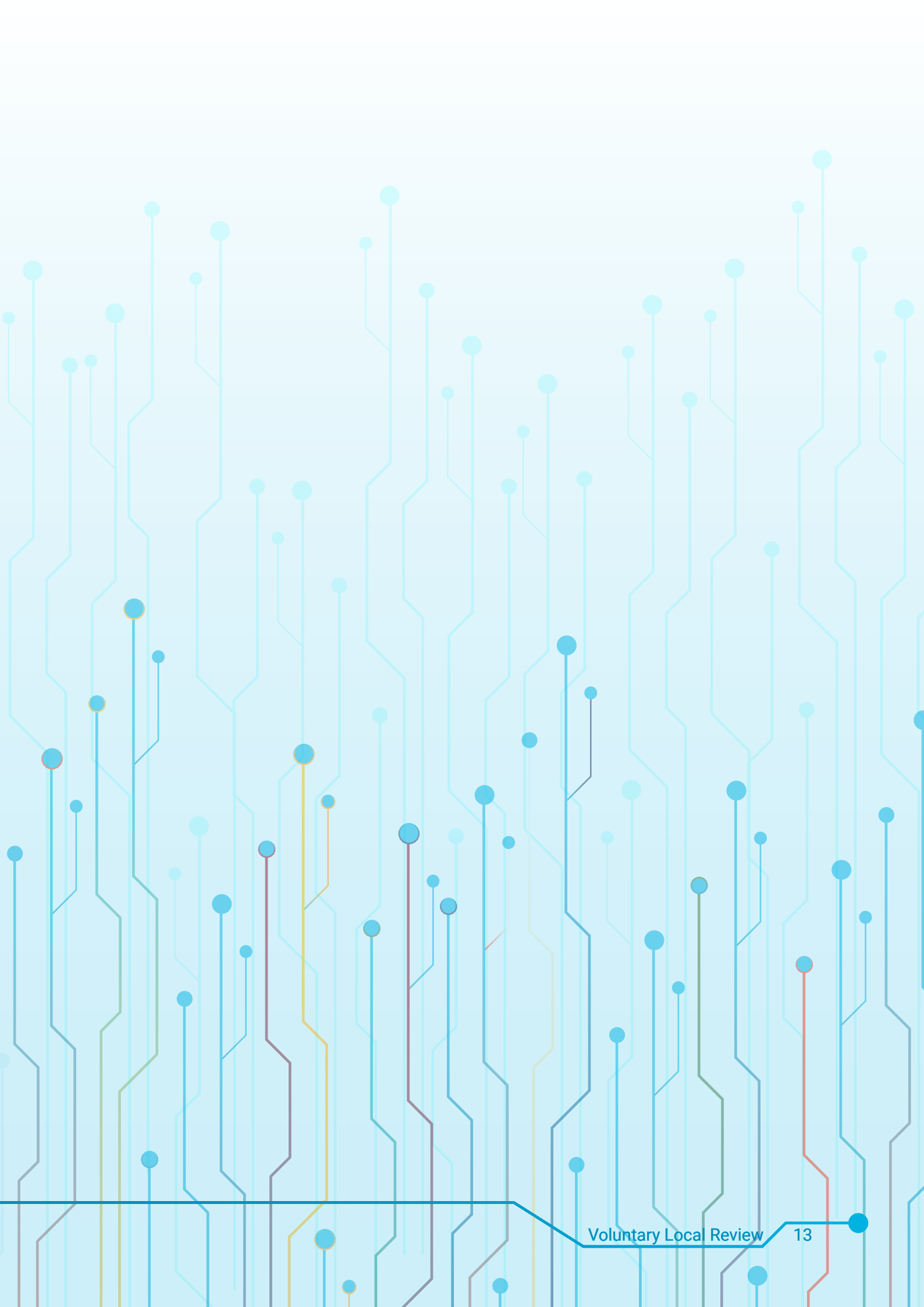
for Arab States  
**UN-Habitat**



**Mehmet Duman**

Secretary-General

**UCLG-MEWA**



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The development of this Voluntary Local Review was led by ESCWA, UN-Habitat and UCLG-MEWA, in close collaboration with the municipality of Agadir.

The preparation of this VLR was led by Ms Agata Krause, consultant, and overseen by: ESCWA Sustainable Urban Development Lead, Ms Sukaina Al-Nasrawi within the cluster on Gender Justice, Population, and Inclusive Development led by Ms Mehrinaz Al Awady; as well as the UN-Habitat Project Officer, Ms Soukaina Ait El Qadi within the UN-Habitat Morocco Office led by Mr Abdellatif Bouazza; the UN-Habitat Programme Officer, Ms Nagwa Lachine within the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States led by Mr Erfan Ali and Ms Rania Hedeya. The VLR chapters were drafted by (in order of contributions): Ms Agata Krause, Mr Adnan Hassoun, Mr Hamza Al Kakoun, Ms. Jenna Helal, Ms Nisreen Alaraj and Ms Suha Al Naharij. Ms Naima Oussi, a national consultant, supported data collection and analysis. Ms Rajae Haissous and Ms. Soumaya Ezzaza, interns, contributed to the translation of the VLR into French.

In Agadir, the effort was coordinated by an internal committee composed of representatives of different sectors and departments of the municipality and its partners. The committee was coordinated at the technical level by Ms Laila Oubaali (Head of the Environmental Protection Department) and at the political level by Mr Jamal Laziz, president of the Budget, Finance and Programme Committee, working in close collaboration with the regional directorate of the Office of the High Commissioner for Planning (HCP), especially Mr Lahoucine Al Arabi (Director of the HCP SM), Ms Hanane Houchimi, and Ms Khadija Bouzagrara. The list of organisations comprising the municipal committee on the VLR can be found in Appendix 1.

The draft of this VLR was reviewed by the municipality of Agadir (most notably HCP and the Regional Directorate of Environment), ESCWA, UN-Habitat: the Regional Office for Arab States, the Morocco Office, the UN-Habitat Headquarters (the SDG Localization and Local Governments Team under the Urban Practices Branch), UN Women (only SDG 5 section) and UCLG-MEWA.

The VLR team would like to express its gratitude to the Mayor of Agadir, H.E. Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch, and the Director General of Services, Mr Lahcen Benmouhamed, for their guidance and commitment to developing this first VLR of Agadir and the first VLR in Morocco.

# ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS



ABHSM	Agence du Bassin Hydraulique de Souss-Massa (Hydraulic Basin Agency)
AFD	Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency)
AFMADEC	Association Franco-Marocaine pour le soutien Au Développement Éducatif et Culturel (Franco-Moroccan Association for the Support of Educational and Cultural Development)
ANDA	Agence Nationale pour le Développement de l'Aquaculture (National Agency for the Development of Aquaculture)
AMEE	l'Agence Marocaine de l'Efficacité Energétique (Moroccan Agency for Energy Efficiency)
AMEV	Association Marocaine des Éco-Villes (Moroccan Association for Eco-Cities)
ATP	Agriculture, Tourisme, Industrie de la Pêche (Agriculture, Tourism and Fishery)
AUA	Agence Urbaine d'Agadir (Agadir Urban Agency)
BCE	Before the Common Era
BHNS	Le Bus à Haut Niveau de Service (Bus with High Level of Service)
BMCE	Banque Marocaine du Commerce Extérieur (Moroccan Bank of Foreign Commerce)
BMCI	Banque marocaine pour le commerce et l'industrie (Morocco Bank of Commerce and Industry)
BSG	Budgétisation Sensible au Genre (Gender Responsive Budgeting)
C40	C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group
CCISSM	la Chambre de Commerce, d'Industrie et de Services de Souss-Massa (Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services in Souss-Massa)
CCR	Commission Consultative de la Régionalisation (Regional Advisory Commissions)
CESE	Conseil Economique, Social et Environnemental (Economic, Social, and Environmental Council)
CGEM	Confédération Générale des Entreprises du Maroc (General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises)
CHU	Le Centre Hospitalier Universitaire (University Hospital)
CNESTEN	Centre National de l'Energie des Sciences et des Techniques Nucléaires (National Centre for Energy and Nuclear Science and Technology)
CI-SM	Cité d'Innovation - Souss-Massa (City of Innovation Souss-Massa)
CMC	Cité des Métiers et des Compétences (City of Trade and Skills)
CRI	Centre Régional d'Investissement (Regional Investment Centres)
CRT	Conseil Régional du Tourisme (Regional Tourism Council)
DEPOMI	Déploiement des Politiques Migratoires au niveau régional (Deployment of Migration Policies at Regional Level)
DGCL	Direction Générale des Collectivités Locales ( General Directorate of Local Authorities)
DoS	Department of Statistics

DREnv	Direction Régionale de l'Environnement (Regional Directorate of the Environment)
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EIB	European Investment Bank
EMFs	Établissements Multifonctionnels des femmes (Multifunctional Centres for Women)
FART	Fonds d'Accompagnement des Réformes du Transport (Support Fund for Transport Reform)
FCS	La Fédération du Commerce et Services (Federation of Commerce and Services)
FDE	Fonds de Développement Énergétique (Energy Development Fund)
FLCN	Fonds de Lutte contre les effets des Catastrophes Naturelles (Fund to Combat the Effects of Natural Disasters)
FTP	Fonds Technologies Propres (Clean Technology Fund)
GCAP	Green City Action Plan
GCMCE	Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse gasses
GI	Green infrastructure
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (German Agency for International Cooperation)
GUO	Global Urban Observatory
Habitat III	United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development
HCP	Haut-Commissariat au Plan (High Commission for Planning)
HLPF	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
ICESCO	Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ICRAM	Initiatives Concertées pour le Renforcement des Acquis des Marocaines (Concerted Initiatives for the Strengthening of the Achievements of Moroccan Women)
IIEECAG	Instances De L'Équité, De L'Égalité Des Chances Et De L'approche Genre (Equity, Equal Opportunity and Gender Approach Entity)
ILO	International Labour Organization
INDH	Initiative Nationale de Développement Humain (the National Human Development Initiative)
IRESEN	Recherche en Énergies Solaires et Énergies Nouvelles (Institute for Research in Solar Energy and New Energies)
KWh	kilowatt hours
LAS	League of Arab States
MASEN	L'Agence marocaine pour l'énergie durable (Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy)

MENA	Middle East and North Africa
METLE	Le Ministère du Transport et de la Logistique (Ministry of Equipment, Transportation, Logistics, and Water)
MITC	Moroccan Information Technopark Company
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MEMDD	Ministère de l'Énergie, des Mines et du Développement Durable (Ministry of Energy, Mining, and Sustainable Development)
MICEVN	Ministère de l'Industrie et du Commerce (Ministry of Industry, Trade, Green and Digital Economy)
MRE	Stratégie nationale des Marocains résidant à l'étranger (National Strategy for Moroccans Living Abroad)
MW	Megawatt
MWh	Megawatt hour
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NMD	Nouveau Modèle de Développement (New Development Model)
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OFPT	L'Office de la formation professionnelle et de la promotion du travail (Office of Vocational Training and Work Promotion)
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
ONE	Office National de l'Électricité (National Office for Electricity)
ONEE	Office National de l'Électricité et de l'Eau Potable (National Office for Electricity and Drinking Water)
ONEP	L'Office National de l'Électricité et de l'Eau potable (National Drinking Water Office)
ONHYM	L'Office National des Hydrocarbures et des Mines (National Office of Hydrocarbons and Mines)
ONMT	L'Office National Marocain du Tourisme (Moroccan National Tourist Office)
ORMVA	L'Office Régional de Mise en Valeur Agricole du Tafilalet (Regional office for Agricultural Development of Tafilalet)
ORSEC	L'Organisation de la Réponse de Sécurité Civile (Organization of the Civil Security Response)
PAC	Plan d'Action Communal (Communal Action Plan)
PAI	Plan d'Accélération Industrielle (Industrial Acceleration Plan)
PAED	Plan d'Action pour l'Énergie Durable (Action Plan for Sustainable Energy)
PANSS	Plan d'Action National de Sécurité Sanitaire (National Health Security Action Plan)
PDU	Plan des Déplacements Urbains (Urban Mobility Plan)
PDU	Programme de Développement Urbain (Urban Development Programme)
PEI	le Programme Éolien Intégré (Integrated Wind Energy Programme)
PEV	le Plan d'Équipement Vert (Green Equipment Plan)
PM10	Particulate Matter with a diameter of 10 microns or less

PMV	Plan Maroc Vert (Green Morocco Plan)
PNA	Programme National d'Assainissement (National Sanitation Programme)
PNAEPAI	Programme National d'Approvisionnement en Eau Potable et d'Irrigation (National Drinking Water Supply and Irrigation Programme)
PNAM	Programme National d'Assainissement Mutualisé (National Shared Sanitation Programme)
PNAR	Programme National d'Assainissement en milieu Rural (National Sanitation Programme in Rural Areas)
PNE	Plan National de l'Eau (National Water Plan)
PNEEI	Programme National d'Economie d'Eau d'Irrigation (National Programme for Economy of Water Irrigation)
PNI	Plan National de Protection contre les Inondations (National Flood Protection Plan)
PNPE	Plan National de Promotion de l'Emploi (National Employment Promotion Plan)
PNREUÉ	Programme National de Réutilisation des Eaux Usées Épurées (National Programme for the Reuse of Purified Wastewater)
ppb	Parts per billion
PPP	Public-private partnership
PRIM	Programme Régional des Initiatives de la Migration (Regional Migration Initiatives Programme)
PSM	Plan Solaire Marocain (Moroccan Solar Plan)
PTRC	Plan Territorial de Lutte contre le Réchauffement Climatique (Territorial Plan for the Fight against Global Warming)
PV	Photovoltaic
QIES	Quarterly Informal Economy Survey
RAMSA	Régie Autonome Multi Services d'Agadir (Multi-Services Autonomous Authority of Agadir)
REMGDU	Gestion des Déchets Urbains (Moroccan Networks of Urban Waste Management)
REMME	Réseaux Marocains de la Maîtrise de l'Energie (Moroccan Networks of Energy Management)
SDAL	Schéma Directeur d'Aménagement Lumière (Lighting Development Master Plan)
SDAU	Schéma Directeur d'Aménagement Urbain du Grand Agadir (Greater Agadir Urban Development Masterplan)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SDL	Société de développement local (Local Development Company)
SDR	La Société de développement régional du Tourisme (Regional Tourism Development Corporation)
SDTN	Les Schémas Directeur de transformation numérique des villes (National Digitization Strategy for Cities)

SEEE	Secrétariat d'Etat chargé de l'Eau et de l'Environnement (State Secretariat for Water and the Environment)
SIE	Société d'Investissement Energétique (Energy Investment Company)
SIREDD	Système d'information Régional de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable (Systems on Environment and Sustainable Development)
SIPE	La stratégie intégrée de la protection de l'enfance (Strategy for Child Protection)
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SMI	La Stratégie Maroc d'Innovation (National Innovation Strategy)
SNDD	Stratégie nationale de développement durable (National Sustainable Development Strategy)
SNDRZM	Stratégie Nationale de Développement de L'Espace Rural et des Zones de Montagne (National Strategy for the Development of Rural Spaces and Mountain Areas)
SNEE	la Stratégie Nationale de l'Efficacité Energétique (National Energy Efficiency Strategy)
SNIA	La Stratégie Nationale d'Immigration et d'Asile (National Immigration and Asylum Strategy)
SNIGES	le Système National d'Inventaire de Gaz à Effet de Serre (National Greenhouse Gas Inventory System)
SNIJ	Stratégie Nationale Intégrée de la Jeunes au Maroc (Integrated National Youth Strategy)
SNGRCN	la Stratégie Nationale de la Gestion des Risques de Catastrophes Naturelles (National Strategy for the Management of Risks of Natural Disasters)
SNMRE	la Stratégie Nationale au profit des Marocains Résidant à l'Etranger (National Strategy on Moroccans Living Abroad)
SRAT	Schéma Regional d'Aménagement du Territoire (Regional Territorial Development Plan)
TOE	ton of oil equivalent
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UCLG-MEWA	United Cities and Local Governments – Middle East and West Asia Section
UMF	Global Urban Monitoring Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDS	United Nations Development System
UN ESCWA	United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNPF	United Nations Population Fund
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

UPFI	l'initiative pour le financement de projets urbains (Urban Projects Finance Initiative)
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VLR	Voluntary Local Review
VNR	Voluntary National Review
VSF	Villes Sans Bidonvilles (Cities without Slums)
VSE	Very Small Enterprises
WECF	Women in Europe for a Common Future
WHO	World Health Organization



# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION





# 1.1 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the National Policy Context

The government of Morocco has long been committed to sustainable development. Over several decades, it has invested in improving quality of life, addressing environmental challenges, and transitioning progressively towards a green and circular economy. Building on the National Charter for Environment and Sustainable Development launched in 2011, it has reinforced regulatory frameworks for environmental monitoring and control, and is working to improve access to environmental information.<sup>3</sup> The Cities without Slums (VSB) programme, commissioned by King Mohamed VI and launched in 2004 with the objective of eliminating all slums from the country, was awarded the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour award to mark World Habitat Day in 2010.<sup>4</sup> The National Human Development Initiative (INDH), launched in 2005 and also commissioned by the king with the aim of eliminating poverty and social exclusion; enhancing medical and educational services; and supporting the development of rural areas; was named third most important social initiative in the world by the World Bank in 2015.<sup>5</sup>

That same year, Morocco became a signatory to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which set in motion changes to national policy, and to regulatory and governance contexts among others. Under Decree No. 2.19.452 of July 17, 2019 which deals with the organization of the National Commission on Sustainable Development, the government put the High Planning Commission (HCP) in charge of preparing reports on the objectives of sustainable development at the national and

regional levels. Within this context, the HCP launched the 2016 and 2020 VNRs to assess the country's progress in reaching the SDGs.

According to the 2020 VNR, the government of Morocco:

(i) will reach some targets before 2030 including those dealing with the fight against poverty, the improvement of nutrition for children under the age of 5, and universal schooling in all school cycles;

(ii) has achieved the targets relating to the reduction in maternal and infant mortality; universal primary school enrolment; gender parity in all school cycles; and universal access to water, sanitation and electricity; 10 years ahead of schedule;

(iii) is currently working towards achieving the following targets by 2030: the reduction of social, territorial and gender inequalities; the promotion of economic growth and decent employment particularly for women; the preservation of marine and terrestrial biodiversity; and the fight against the effects of climate change.<sup>6</sup>

The consequences of climate change have spared no one, and in Morocco's case, air quality degradation cost the country 9.7 billion MAD (US\$ 956 Million) in 2014, which is equivalent to 1.05 per cent of its GDP, according to a study led by the World Bank.<sup>7</sup> In 2016, the government endorsed the Paris Agreement and hosted the UNFCCC COP 22 in Marrakesh. It submitted its first National Determined Contribution (NDC) in 2016, and in 2021 submitted the enhanced

3 Environmental Performance Review of Morocco: Synopsis, UNECE (n.d.) p. 5

4 UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award, UN-Habitat (2010), Available at: <https://unhabitat.org/scroll-of-honour>

5 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020), p.30

6 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020), p.20

7 2nd Environmental Performance Review: Morocco, UNECE (2022), p.192

NDC aimed at a 45.5 per cent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2030. Of this target, 18.3 percent is unconditional, while the remaining 27.2 per cent is subject to international assistance.<sup>8</sup> The 2021 NDC is considered the most ambitious to date.

Since 2016, the government has been mainstreaming SDGs in policy across various sectors like climate, energy, water, agriculture, tourism, transport, housing, waste and buildings. The National Strategy for Sustainable Development (SNDD) launched by the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development (MEMDD), aims to consolidate all public policies on sustainable development and to align institutions with SDGs, thus creating a foundation for a green and inclusive economy by 2030.<sup>9</sup> The values espoused by the SDGs are evident throughout the 2020-2050 National Water Plan (PNE), which aims to provide strategic guidelines for water management over the next 30 years, in order to address the negative impacts of climate change and the scarcity of water resources in the country (as outlined in the SDG 6 section).<sup>10</sup>

To ensure that no one is left behind, the government undertook a range of actions to improve social inclusion and address social disparities. It has put in place a range of employment inclusion and empowerment programmes for women and youth (which are outlined in depth in the SDG 8 section) and carried out a national survey on the situation of vulnerable groups in the country.<sup>11</sup> The 2020 VNR flags recent initiatives of the Kingdom

in the field of migration policy, most notably two national strategies relating to Moroccans living abroad (la Stratégie Nationale au profit des Marocains Résidant à l'Étranger, SNMRE) and to immigration and asylum (La Stratégie Nationale d'Immigration et d'Asile, SNIA). SNIA is part of the Royal Vision for Africa and rests on humanist principles and respect for human rights. The aim is to integrate its key principles into laws and regulations, allowing migrants to access a range of services, like health, education and vocational training, under the same conditions as Moroccan citizens.<sup>12</sup>

In 2014 and 2017, Morocco took steps to regularize the situation of almost 50,000 migrants; to make regularization accessible to another nearly 50,000 migrants; to allow migrants and refugees to enter into certain regulated professions (nursing and midwifery), with the option to create cooperatives, and to ease their self-employed status.<sup>13</sup> As a part of the implementation of the national migration strategy, the government is working towards ensuring access to medical services for migrants (including migrants with regularized immigration status and refugees). By 2019, 23,758 migrants had benefitted from the scheme.<sup>14</sup> The government also established measures to address vulnerable working populations, including migrants, and is working to encourage the integration of migrant children into the Moroccan education system.

During the finalization phase of this report, Morocco endured an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.8, which struck the High Atlas

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- 8 Morocco Submits Enhanced NDC, Raising Ambition to 45.5 Percent by 2030, NDC partnership (2021) Available at: <https://ndcpartnership.org/news/morocco-submits-enhanced-ndc-raising-ambition-455-percent-2030>
- Stratégie Nationale de Développement Durable 2030, Ministère de l'Énergie, des Mines et du Développement Durable, (2017)
- 9 Evaluation de la SNDD et feuille de route de la refonte, Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Ministère de l'Énergie, des Mines et du Développement Durable, (2017) Available at: <https://www.environnement.gov.ma/fr/strategies-et-programmes/sndd?showall=1&limitstart=>
- 10 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020), p.84
- 11 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020)
- 12 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) p.22
- 13 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) pp.121-122
- 14 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) p.48

Mountains on Friday, September 8, 2023. This was the most powerful earthquake recorded in the country, stronger than the one that struck Agadir in February 1960 (5.7) or Al Hoceima in February 2004 (6.3). This natural disaster hit several of the region's provinces hard, with a dramatic toll of 2,946 dead and 5,674 injured, causing considerable damage to some historic buildings and destroying homes in isolated mountain villages in the provinces of Al Haouz, Chichaoua, Taroudant and Marrakech.

The Souss-Massa region was also struck by this devastating tragedy, with the death toll rising, particularly in the province of Taroudant. The President of the Souss-Massa Regional Council revealed at an extraordinary session of the council that the earthquake which hit the province of Taroudant affected 35 communes, causing damage in 522 douars with a death toll in excess of 900 people, in addition to material damage in certain douars scattered across the Agadir Ida-Outanane prefecture. The council of the Souss Massa Region then approved budget amendments and the reallocation of funds for the 2023 financial year, with a budget of 70 million dirhams earmarked for disaster relief measures. This contribution is part of a national mobilization of all stakeholders to deal with this natural disaster that has affected the country, notably through the emergency program for the rehousing of disaster victims and the care of populations most affected by the earthquake launched by royal instructions.<sup>15</sup>

Among the country's important development objectives is the improvement of economic resilience and the preparedness against natural disasters (e.g. floods, earthquakes) and pandemics. To ensure a healthy and balanced budget, and to strengthen investment in

high-value-added industrial sectors and private sector partnerships, as well as to attract foreign direct investments, the government introduced performance-based budgeting in the public sector administration, carried out tax reforms, and established other measures to ensure the country's macroeconomic stabilization.<sup>16</sup>

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, it launched the National Health Security Action Plan (PNASS), and then the National Plan for Monitoring and Response to COVID-19 in 2022. Its initiatives to revive the tourism sector post-COVID are also significant, given that in 2020 tourism – one of the worst-hit sectors in the country – accounted for 6.4 per cent of GDP (discussed further in the COVID-19 chapter).<sup>17</sup> The Special Fund for the Management of the Coronavirus Pandemic (Fonds spécial pour la gestion de la pandémie de coronavirus), with a capacity of 3 per cent of the GDP, also deserves mention as its objective is to protect the economy from external shocks and protect sectors that are exposed to international markets and tourism. The fund receives contributions from private and public entities, as a measure of risk reduction, and the aid is then distributed amongst vulnerable households as well as companies in a precarious situation.<sup>18</sup>

Published in May 2021, the New Development Model (NMD) proposes a new development framework that defines four main areas of transformation: (i) modernization, (ii) diversification, (iii) the promotion of research and development (R&D) and innovation, and (iv) export. The framework provides a reference for development programmes in the country, with the aim of achieving sustainable development at the economic, human, social and territorial levels by 2035.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Source : « Agence Marocaine de Presse », <https://www.mapnews.ma>

<sup>16</sup> VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020), p. 19

<sup>17</sup> Coping with COVID-19's cost: the example of Morocco, Brookings (2020). Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/research/coping-with-covid-19s-cost-the-example-of-morocco/>, Accessed: 27/01/2023

<sup>18</sup> La stratégie du Maroc face au COVID-19, Policy Centre for the New South (2020) p.2

<sup>19</sup> For more information please see: Rapport de la Commission, Commission Spéciale sur le Modèle de Développement (no date) Available at: <https://www.csmd.ma/rapport-fr>



Figure 1. Ville d'Agadir. Source : la commune d'Agadir (2023).

In parallel, Morocco has adhered to various international commitments. Since 2008, it has also undergone four cycles of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the Environmental Performance Reviews (EPR). The UPR also The UPR is a unique process which involves a periodic review of the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States. It defines areas for action in the implementation of its human rights commitments. The third UPR cycle revealed the government's improved interactions with the UN's human rights mechanisms and international human rights treaties, and its success in developing and implementing a national plan for gender equality for 2012-2016. It also highlighted initiatives addressing the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, immigration and asylum, and promotion of social protection.<sup>20</sup> The 2014 and 2022 EPRs, which explore

the alignment of national legal and policy frameworks as well as compliance assurance mechanisms with international agreements on the environment, focused on climate change, greening the economy, environmental information, monitoring and assessment, environmental democracy and education for sustainable development; and indicated areas for improvement.<sup>21</sup>

The current approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda in the country rests on the following principles: (i) promoting human rights; (ii) transitioning towards a green economy; (iii) advancing the regionalization agenda, social and territorial cohesion, improving citizen participation; and (iv) developing national and global strategic partnerships, notably with the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa and the Arab World.<sup>22</sup>

20 National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/2 Morocco, Human Rights Council (2017)

21 2nd Environmental Performance Review of Morocco, UNECE (2022)

22 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020), p.14

The 2022 VNR also states that accelerating progress towards SDGs in the future requires: (i) expansion of SDG endorsement and implementation; (ii) alignment of the SDGs with national priorities; (iii) better coordination with the public policy; (iv) adaptation of the statistical system; (v) assessment and implementation of the SDGs; and (vi) development of suitable and adaptive financing mechanisms.<sup>23</sup> It is expected that these efforts will enhance post-COVID recovery and increase the rate of economic growth (measured by GDP annual growth), which shrank from 2.9 per cent in 2019 to -7.2 per cent in 2020.<sup>24</sup> It is also expected to contribute to greater social cohesion, improve quality and access to public services, as well as environmental conditions.

### 1.1.1 Decentralization and the Role of Local Governments in SDG Implementation

milestone in this journey with the introduction of an advanced regionalization model, in line with the new Constitution of 2011 (Art. 1 para 3), and through the publication of three new organic laws relating to “territorial actors” (including representatives of decentralized state administrations at the regional, provincial and commune/municipality levels) on 7 July 2015.<sup>27</sup> This model establishes a new territorial organization<sup>28</sup> and is based on the principles of free administration; cooperation and solidarity; and citizen participation.

Recently the roles of “territorial actors” have been strengthened in line with the new competencies set out in the 2015 Municipalities’ Organic Law 113-14, which established three types of municipal competencies: (i) own competencies; (ii) shared competencies with the national government; and (iii) transferred competencies (see Table 1 and Appendix 2 for more information).<sup>29</sup> The split of competencies creates an operating framework for the municipality, ultimately defining the scope of action in relation to various SDGs.

Since gaining independence in 1956, Morocco has been decentralizing public sector administration,<sup>25</sup> with the process undergoing various stages.<sup>26</sup> The year 2011 marked a

23 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020), pp.146-14

24 GDP Annual Percentage Growth- Morocco, The World Bank, (2022). Available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG?end=2021&locations=MA&start=2017>

25 Decentralization can be defined as a process in public administration that entails transferring administrative competencies from the state to subnational levels of governance, allowing for greater or lesser autonomy. It is usually associated with a new division of roles and responsibilities and allocation of resources across various levels of government. For more information, see Decentralization of public administration in Morocco, which has been widely studied, including for example: *Local Politics and Contemporary Transformations in the Arab World*, Bouzaine et al (2013)

26 According to Clark (2018), the first stage took place from 1960 until 1976 and was marked by the first municipal election and issuing the first and second Municipal Charters. The second stage, from 1976 to 2002, aimed to create an enabling political and economic environment for subnational governments, including the development of the third Municipal Charter. The third stage, from 2002 until 2011 saw the emergence of the fourth Municipal Charter. Please, see see Decentralization, Co-optation, and Regime Legitimation in Morocco, Janine A. Clark (2018) p. 122

27 It includes: Organic Law 111.14 relating to the regions; Organic law 112.14 on provinces and prefectures; Organic law 113.14 on the communes.

28 Assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Subnational Governments in Africa, UCLG Africa (2018, p. 84)

29 Organic law N° 113-14 concerning the communes, Ministry of the Interior (Press) (2016)

Table 1. Selected municipal competencies

Own Competencies	Shared Competencies	Transferred Competencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing urban public transportation and public lighting</li> <li>• Managing liquid and solid sanitation and wastewater treatment plants, distribution of drinking water and electricity, cleaning of public places, cleanliness of roads and public spaces</li> <li>• Managing household waste</li> <li>• Handling various other services that promote economic activities, providing green and recreational areas, and maintaining sound transportation services.</li> <li>• The municipality also proceeds, in parallel with other actors of the public or private sector, in the creation and the management of the following services: wholesale markets, slaughterhouses, slaughter and transport of meat; fish markets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing the local economy</li> <li>• Preserving and developing local heritage</li> <li>• Creating nurseries, women's centres, elderly care homes, and social centres for shelters</li> <li>• Preserving the environment and managing the coast that lies within the municipality borders</li> <li>• Creating and managing cultural and recreational establishments such as libraries, museums, theatres, art and music institutes, swimming pools, playgrounds, and preparing beaches, coastal paths, lakes, and river banks</li> <li>• Developing the local economy and promoting employment</li> <li>• Promoting and encouraging private investments, including the provision of infrastructure and equipment, contributing to the establishment of economic activity zones, and improving working conditions for businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting and restoring historical monuments and cultural heritage and preservation of natural sites</li> <li>• Creating and maintaining small and medium water installations and equipment.</li> </ul>

Source: own, based on Organic Law 113-14 (Loi Organique Relative aux Communes) 2016

According to scholars, there are both advantages and disadvantages to decentralizing the public administration sector in Morocco. Among the often cited advantages are: (i) improved accessibility, quality and efficiency of public goods and service provision; and (ii) the development of new markets (both of which can contribute to reducing territorial inequalities).<sup>30</sup> Fiscal decentralization is also considered a factor that stimulates economic growth.<sup>31</sup> On the other hand, disadvantages to decentralization include: (i) continued control of the state, where appointed bodies occupy more decisive roles than elected bodies; (ii) limited financial strength of local administration compared to the national government; (iii) limited fiscal decentralization; and (iv) limited power of local governments to mobilize financial resources.<sup>32</sup>

Morocco is distinguished for having the most advanced regionalization agenda among Arab states, with regions -as autonomous entities- playing an important role in coordinating the implementation of policies. In 2018, subnational government entities in the country had reached 1, 625, which were organized as follows: 1,538 at the first level, such as communes or municipalities; 75 at the intermediary level, such as provinces and prefectures; and 12 at the third level, which are the regions.<sup>33</sup> The government recognizes the importance of working closely with local governments to implement the 2030 Agenda. It understands their role as key partners in mainstreaming SDGs across various policy areas, alongside the role played by regional governments; the High Planning Commission

(HCP); parliament; the Economic, Social, and Environmental Council (CESE); academia; business and civil society.<sup>34</sup>

The government emphasizes that local governments guide and control the urbanization process and deliver essential infrastructure and services for all; and that in the light of post-COVID recovery and strengthening the resilience of the country's economy, it is important to review the National Urban Policy. The New Urban Policy is expected to contribute to more sustainable urbanization by redefining the relationship between cities and rural areas, ensuring decent standards of living and more.<sup>35</sup> This is particularly important due to rapid urbanization in the country, at the rate of 60.3 per cent in 2014 (see Figure 2 below).

Government efforts to mainstream SDGs across various levels of governance and to improve evidence-based policy processes and decision-making are clear. The national statistics office - the High Planning Commission (HCP), worked with its partners to establish two Regional Advisory Commissions covering the areas of Tangier, Tetouan, Al Houceima; and Casablanca, Settat. The commissions provide advice to "territorial actors" on aligning their activities with SDGs, including developing statistical databases for their respective territories. In addition to this, in 2019 the Regional Information Systems on Environment and Sustainable Development (SIREDD) was launched. SIREDD is a platform and website used to track decentralized environmental

30 Decentralization and Regional Economic Performance in Morocco, Achy and Sekkat (2014)

31 Fiscal Decentralization and Economic Growth in Morocco: A Panel Cointegration Analysis, Meriem Miri and Ayman Benatia Mohamed (2017)

32 Decentralization and Regional Economic Performance in Morocco, Achy and Sekkat (2014)

33 Gold V 2019 The Localization of the Global Agendas. How local action is transforming territories and communities. African Region, UCLG (2019), p.35

34 It is an independent constitutional institution, which was established by King Mohammed VI in 2011. Its role is to provide advisory missions to the Government and the two Houses of Parliament. EESC gives opinions on the major development goals, economic and social policies and on initiatives in relation to sustainable development and advanced regionalization. Source. Morocco Between Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals, Kingdom of Morocco High Commission for Planning (2015) p. 66.

35 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020), p. 128

36 <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS?locations=MA>

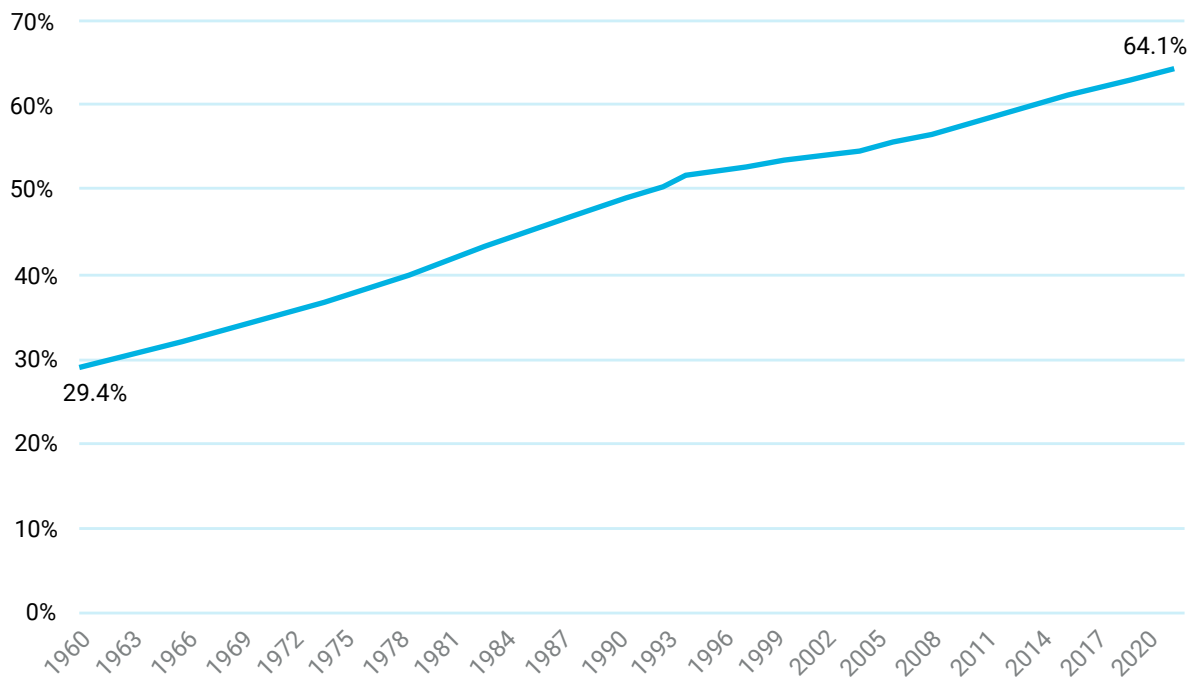


Figure 2. Urbanization trend in Morocco between 1960 and 2020 in percentage of total population.

Source: Urban population - Morocco, World Bank (2021)<sup>35</sup>

management data and is also used to monitor the achievement of SDGs at the regional level.<sup>37</sup>

In line with the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management 2021-2031 (SNGRCN), the government of Morocco developed a national action plan and launched a range of actions to support Moroccan cities in preparing and designing urban resilience strategies. These actions address the priorities of the Sendai Framework and aim to develop a vision for reinforcing the urban resilience of each city by implementing relevant diagnostic tools and developing action plans. Morocco also recently became one of the first Arab countries to pioneer digital transformation through cities.<sup>38</sup> The National Digitalization Strategy for Cities (SDTN), established in 2018, aims to promote the digital transformation of cities by: (i) implementing technologies and digital

solutions in areas such as transportation, energy, and urban planning; and (ii) promoting digital literacy and access to technology for citizens. This is discussed further throughout this VLR.

37 Source: Lancement du Système d'Informations Régional de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable (SIREDD), un outil efficace de lutte contre les changements climatiques, le 17 septembre 2019 à Lâayoune, Ministère de l'Énergie, des Mines et du Développement Durable (2019) Available at: <http://environnement.gov.ma/fr/134-actualites/2890-lancement-du-systeme-d-informations-regionale-de-l-environnement-et-du-developpement-durable-siredd-un-outil-efficace-de-lutte-contre-les-changement-climatique-le-17-septembre-2019-a-laayoune>

38 Smart sustainable cities and smart digital solutions for urban resilience in the Arab region, UNESCWA (2021)



## 1.1.2 Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Agadir

Agadir is located on the south-western Atlantic coast of Morocco, in the Souss-Massa region. As the capital of this region, it is the main urban and economic centre, in addition to being one of the main urban centres of the country.<sup>39</sup> Nearly 68 per cent of the region's urban population is concentrated in two prefectures: Agadir Ida-Ou-Outanane, and Inzegane Ait Melloul.<sup>40</sup> Agadir is also the capital city of the prefecture (province) of Agadir Ida Outanane and the Greater Agadir agglomeration made up of nine municipalities (please see Figure 3).<sup>41</sup>

Agadir- known variously as “Fonte,” “Santa Cruz,” and “the City of Rebirth,” - has a rich history reaching back to the middle ages, when it functioned as a commercial and trade centre. Agadir was almost destroyed in the 1960 earthquake, when the city centre was located on the hills of Ouffela. 12,000 - 15,000 people lost their lives and another 25,000 were injured.<sup>42</sup> The quake also led to considerable economic and infrastructure losses, forcing its relocation. The original centre is now a memorial site<sup>43</sup> (more information on the impact of the earthquake and the city's resilience can be found in the SDG 11 and SDG 13 sections).

39 Greater Agadir is the 4th largest national urban centre. For more information, please see Monographie Regionale: Souss-Massa, Direction Regionale du Souss-Massa (2020), p.74

40 Monographie Regionale: Souss-Massa, Direction Regionale du Souss-Massa (2020), p.16

41 It includes 5 municipalities (or urban communes): Agadir, Inezgane, Dcheira-Al-Jihadia, Ait Melloul and Lqliâa, and 4 rural communes: Taghazout, Aourir, Drarga, Temsia. These municipalities belong to two prefectures: Inezgane – Ait Melloul (Inezgane, Ait Melloul, Dcheira-Al-Jihadia, Lqliâa, Temsia) and Agadir Ida Outanane (Agadir, Drarga, Aourir, Taghazout).

42 Source: information provided by the municipality through correspondence on 28 March 2023.

43 Agadir Earthquake, World History Project (2022) Available at: <https://worldhistoryproject.org/1960/2/29/agadir-earthquake>



Figure 3. The Municipalities of Greater Agadir. Source: Adapted. Based on: *Étude portant sur l'élaboration du Plan de Déplacements Urbains dans le Grand Agadir, ALG (2015), p. 6*

Over the last few decades, Agadir has witnessed exponential urban growth, becoming a hub of economic activity across the ATP sectors, as well as a main transport hub in the region, and an attractive tourist destination renowned both in Morocco and around the world. Agadir offers access to a vast, 7-km long beach and over 300 days of sunshine.<sup>44</sup> It holds 90 per cent of the region's hotel capacity and is served

by Al Massira International Airport, which with a capacity of 3 million passengers per year, is the third busiest airport in the kingdom. In 2019, Agadir attracted 97 per cent of tourists visiting the region (1.202 million visitors).<sup>45</sup>

Agadir is spread over 110 km<sup>2</sup> and its population in 2014 was 421,844 inhabitants, the majority

44 Plan d'Action Communal 2017-2022, the Municipality of Agadir (n.d), p.10

45 Monographie Regionale: Souss-Massa, Direction Regionale du Souss-Massa (2020), p.48.

of which are of Berber origin.<sup>46</sup> Key statistics about Agadir are presented in Table 2.<sup>47</sup>

*Table 2. Key characteristics of Agadir*

Population	420,288 (2014) <sup>48</sup>
Number of males	211,522 <sup>49</sup> (2014)
Percentage of males	50.33% <sup>50</sup> (2014)
Number of females	208,766 <sup>51</sup> (2014)
Percentage of females	49.67% <sup>52</sup> (for 2014, own calculation)
Population density	3,820/km <sup>2</sup> <sup>53</sup> (2014, own calculation)
Number of families (households)	144,060 <sup>54</sup> (estimate for 2020)
Average size of household	4 persons <sup>55</sup> (2014)
Percentage of city's population in the scale of the country	1.2% <sup>56</sup> (for 2014, own calculation)
Population age (0-14)	105,057 <sup>57</sup> (2014)
Population age (15-64)	315,216 <sup>58</sup> (2014)
Literacy rate	19.4% <sup>59</sup> (2014)
Annual average temperature	19°C <sup>60</sup>

- 46 The Berbers are an ethnic group that have inhabited North Africa, specifically the Maghreb, since the beginning of recorded history. Until the Islamic conquests of the 8th century, it constituted the dominant ethnic group in the Saharan region. Source: World History Encyclopaedia, available at: <https://www.worldhistory.org/Berbers/>
- 47 Plan d'Action Communal 2017-2022, Municipality of Agadir (n.d) p.10
- 48 PAC 2017-2022, the Municipality of Agadir (n.d) p.13 It is also important to note that according to the municipality (SDG 11 survey response, the municipality of Agadir, 2022), the population of Agadir grew to 511,140 inhabitants in 2022.
- 49 Plan d'Action Communal 2017-2022, the Municipality of Agadir (2017) p.13
- 50 PAC of Agadir (2017-2022), the Municipality of Agadir (2017) p.13
- 51 PAC of Agadir (2017-2022), the Municipality of Agadir (2017) p.13
- 52 PAC of Agadir (2017-2022), the Municipality of Agadir (2017) p.13
- 53 Calculation based on information on the size of the municipality cited in PAC of Agadir (2017-2022), the Municipality of Agadir (2017) p.12 as 110 km<sup>2</sup>
- 54 Regional Statistical Yearbook: Souss-Massa 2020, High Commission for Planning (2020). p.8
- 55 PAC of Agadir (2017-2022), the Municipality of Agadir (2017) p.14
- 56 Calculation Own, based on General Population and Housing Census, Source: Population légale nationale, HCP (2014): 33,848,242 [https://www.hcp.ma/Population-legale-nationale\\_a3163.html](https://www.hcp.ma/Population-legale-nationale_a3163.html) Accessed on 24/05/2023
- 57 PAC of Agadir (2017-2022), the Municipality of Agadir (2017) p.13
- 58 PAC of Agadir (2017-2022), the Municipality of Agadir (2017) p.13
- 59 note: no date indicated; data for the province (urban areas), average for male and female population, source: Conditions d'habitat - Province: Agadir Ida Ou Tanane, HCP (n.d.) p.7 Available at: <https://www.hcp.ma/region-agadir/attachment/887625/>
- 60 source: Le Region de Souss-Massa: Monographie Generale, Ministry of Interior (2015) p.7; That being said, PAC 2017-2022 indicates that the temperature of Agadir in January is 14-16 degrees Celsius and 20-25 degrees in July.

Climate

Temperate <sup>61</sup>*Source: various.*

The municipality of Agadir is committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in collaboration with the national government and other partners. It developed and implemented various initiatives and partnerships that mainstream SDGs across sectors. This includes most notably the Urban Development Programme 2020-2024 with the Urban Mobility Plan 2016-2023; and the Communal Action Plan (PAC 2022-2027). The Urban Development Programme was commissioned by King Mohammed VI in February 2020 to: (i) make Agadir a top tourist destination both nationally and internationally, (ii) develop human capital, and (iii) develop the city's infrastructure.<sup>62</sup> The programme is unprecedented in scale: it comprises 94 projects with a budget of almost 6 billion MAD, equivalent to \$578 million (as discussed further in the SDG 11 section).<sup>63</sup>

PAC 2022-2027, in turn, provides a strategic direction for local planning and development along the following axes: a modern metropolis, an attractive territory, a sustainable and smart city, and an open assembly (forum). At the regional level, Agadir plays an important role in implementing the Souss-Massa 2035 vision, which sees Greater Agadir becoming a metropolis in the heart of an urban network, with a streamlined and environmentally responsible transport system, creating an exemplary model for city planning that combines urban, commercial and cultural infrastructure.<sup>64</sup> The municipality has also played a critical role in

implementing national and regional policies and strategies, including most notably the Souss-Massa region Territorial Plan for the Fight against Global Warming (PTRC) and the National Digitalization Strategy for Cities (SDTN). Thanks to the SDTN, it has made considerable progress in digitalizing public sector infrastructure and services across sectors including energy, transport and waste management, among others.

Ensuring gender equality and "leaving no-one and no place behind" are high on the political agenda of the municipality. PAC 2022-2027 supports the inclusion of vulnerable groups and individuals into city life- this includes children in street situations, homeless and elderly persons, and migrants.<sup>65</sup> It sees the establishment of detoxification centres and mental health centres, and supports the requalification of marginalized individuals and others.<sup>66</sup> At the same time, the Equity, Equal Opportunity and Gender Approach Entity (IEECAG) was created at the local level; and the municipality is using Gender Responsive Budgeting (BSG) methodology. Several initiatives that address migrant communities<sup>67</sup> have been implemented in Agadir, such as the Prim and Depomi initiatives, under the guidance and coordination of the region. They were launched based on the framework agreement with the ministry in charge of migration and the Wilaya of Souss-Massa (an administrative division between a region and a province), on the territorialisation of the two national strategies for immigration

61 PAC of Agadir (2022-2027), the Municipality of Agadir (2022) p.21

62 PDU Framework Agreement, Souss-Massa Region (2020)

63 Un an après, l'avancée du PDU d'Agadir 2020-2024, Agadir Première (2021) Available at: <http://agadirpremiere.ma/un-an-apres-lavancee-du-pdu-dagadir-2020-2024/>

64 Monographie Regionale: Souss-Massa, Direction Regionale du Souss-Massa (2020), p.74

65 Over the last decades, Agadir has experienced an influx of migrants from various African countries, especially Sub-Saharan countries such as Senegal, Ivory Coast, Burkina-Faso, or the republic of Niger.

66 PAC 2022-2027, Municipality of Agadir (2022) p. 33

67 Here migrants concern people with non-regularized immigration status, including persons coming from Sub-Saharan African countries, Moroccan migrants living abroad, refugees.

and asylum, and the national strategy for Moroccans living abroad (Marocains résidant à l'étranger, MRE) at the regional level (see Appendix 3 for more details).<sup>68</sup>

The municipality of Agadir is a recipient of multiple awards. In 2016, it received the MENA Energy Award, and in 2019, it was awarded the Islamic Green City Award of Excellence by the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO).<sup>69</sup> Agadir was selected for the celebration of the Environmentally Friendly Capitals of the Islamic World in 2020-2021, which recognizes cities in the Islamic world for their progress in developing environmental best practices, as well as efforts and commitments towards environmental preservation.<sup>70</sup> Agadir has also been awarded the Sustainable Coastline Award by the Mohammed VI Foundation for the Environment and received the Hassan II Award for Environment.<sup>71</sup>

The municipality strives for Agadir to become an inclusive, smart, sustainable and resilient city, one of a kind in Morocco, as defined in PAC 2022-2027. It aims for “an attractive, modern metropolis open to its citizens and a model of sustainable and intelligent transition,” that embraces development dynamics outlined in the city’s SWOT analysis (illustrated in Figure 4) below.<sup>72</sup>

It aims to use its competitive natural potential (e.g. strategic geographical location, climate) and strong entrepreneurial spirit to address its internal and external challenges, such as a dated urban infrastructure and climate change. It also seeks to leverage opportunities provided by large-scale urban transformation programmes and projects (high-speed railway, LGV in the 2030 horizon; Urban Development

Programme) supported by initiatives working towards climate change and green economy transformation. These initiatives are expected to improve access to natural and human resources including technologies and modern urban management solutions; to allow for the reinforcement of urban resilience and the enhancement post-COVID recovery.

The Voluntary Local Review will support these processes by leveraging new data and evidence, and by setting the stage for collaborative processes that enable the alignment of local development aspirations with the goals and values of the 2030 Agenda, meeting SDGs across sectors and addressing the city's development challenges.

68 Souss-Massa veut se hisser en modèle au niveau national, *Aujourd'hui Le Maroc* (2022), Available at: <https://aujourd'hui.ma/societe/souss-massa-veut-se-hisser-en-modele-au-niveau-national>

69 The latter award is a part of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Award for Environmental Management in the Islamic World, targeting cities with commitments to environmental and socio-economic sustainability.

70 Information provided by the municipality through correspondence on 28 March 2023

71 Information provided by the municipality through correspondence on 05 May 2023

72 PAC 2022-2027, Municipality of Agadir (2022) p. 25

**Context favourable** to change (royal and major projects).

**Natural Environment** (beach, climate, hinterland..)

Strong traditional sectors to develop: agriculture, fishing, tourism.

**Rich heritage** (cultural, natural, diaspora)

Very strong **entrepreneurial spirit**

### Strengths



### Opportunities

**Favorable dynamics/** launch of several transforming projects:

- LGV (high-speed rail), horizon 2030.
- Urban Development Programme (2020-2024).
- Development of tourist resorts in the north (Taghazout, Aghroud).
- Industrial Acceleration Plan.
- Commitment to sustainability (e.g. desalination) and renewable energy .
- Project in education and training: City of Trade and Skills (CMC), private universities, University Hospital in Agadir (CHU) / faculty of medicine, hotel school.



**Weak socio-economic performance** compared to the major cities of the kingdom.

Degraded **urban infrastructure**.

**Pronounced territorial disparities** (tourist areas, city vs. periphery).

Unattractive **living environment** (lack of green spaces, weakened health sector).

**Crisis in the tourism** sector accentuated post-COVID-19.

**Administrative framework** not adapted to Grand Agadir.

Difficulty in mobilizing **land and financing**.

**Unattractive city** for young people (talent drain).



### Weaknesses

### Threats

**Tourism: competition** with northern tourist resorts

Agriculture: drought and water stress

Fishing: progressive positioning of the South as the center of gravity of the activity.

Potential difficulties in aligning stakeholders for coordinated implementation.

Low level of attractiveness for investors (crisis, internal competition)

Difficulties in mobilizing funding

Human factor, training, and preparation for operationalization.



Figure 4. SWOT Analysis of the city of Agadir.

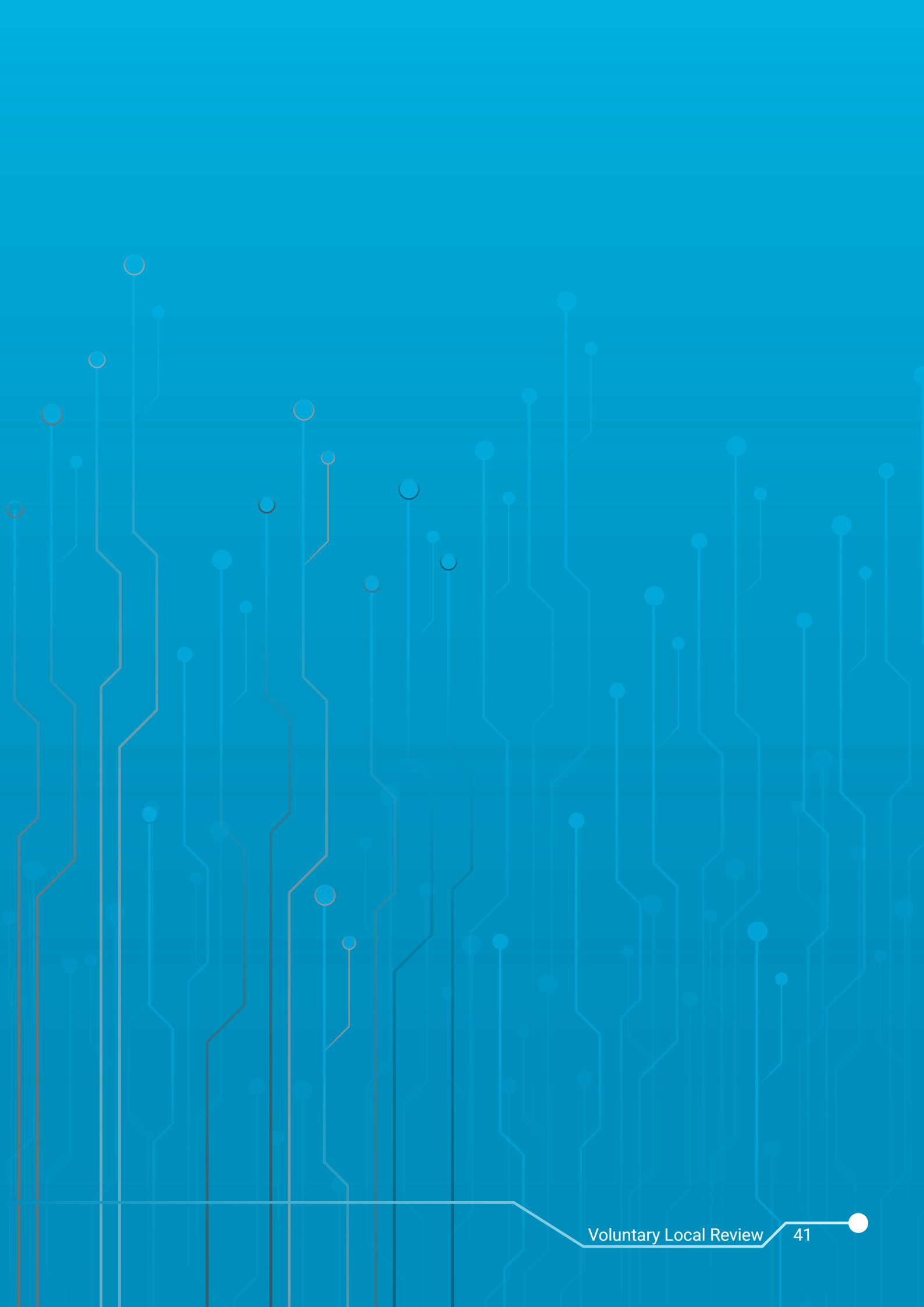
## 1.2 Structure

This VLR comprises four chapters. Chapter 1 explores the national policy context, the state of decentralization and the role of local governments in implementing the 2030 Agenda. It discusses Agadir's location, geographical, socio-economic, political, and administrative context, as well as advancements in localizing SDGs and the city's ambition to become smarter, more sustainable and inclusive, as asserted in PAC 2022-2027. Chapter 2 discusses methodology, including the key principles that guided this VLR: evidence-based, participatory, meaningful and actionable. It provides insights into the development of the document, in particular: participatory processes; data collection and validation; and review and learning lessons. It concludes with a reflection on the complementarity between the VNR and the VLR, providing relevant evidence. Chapter 3 explores Agadir's performance on SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 11, SDG 13, and SDG 17 targets, each having a dedicated section which comprises: a context, a target review, and summary and conclusions. Beyond discussing the city's performance against SDG targets, each section recalls focuses on the role of the ICT infrastructure and services; and participatory processes in accelerating progress towards meeting the development goals. Chapter 4 discusses the impact of COVID-19 on the development of Morocco. Chapter 5 presents the key messages of the VLR, with a focus on further mainstreaming the goals and values of the 2030 Agenda in Agadir in relation to municipal planning and operations. It emphasizes the importance of enhancing evidence-based policy processes and decision-making; further providing sustainable and resilient urban infrastructure; developing multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral and people-first SDG partnerships; in order to unfold the full potential of SDGs to implement the vision of Agadir as a sustainable, smart and inclusive city.



Figure 5. City of Agadir. Source: Municipality of Agadir (2022).





# CHAPTER 2: METHODOLOGY

## 2.1 Guiding Principles

This VLR was inspired by Volumes 1 and 2 of Agadir. It is evidence-based, participatory, of the Guidelines for VLRs by UN-Habitat and reflective and actionable, as outlined in Table 3. UCLG,<sup>73</sup> adapted and customized to the context

Table 3. Four characteristics of the VLR of Agadir.

Principle	Rationale	Implementation
Evidence-based	Evidence plays a critical role in evidence-based policy process and decision-making at all levels of governance. It supports the formulation, review and implementation of urban initiatives. Evidence comes in various formats, e.g. qualitative and quantitative data, which can be efficiently used for measuring and monitoring progress towards achieving SDGs, and SDG reporting through Voluntary National and Sub-National Reviews, including VLRs.	This VLR was developed based on reliable quantitative and qualitative data focusing on Agadir, Agadir Ida Outanane province, the Souss-Massa region and Morocco. Various sources of data were used such as documentary data and primary data. The primary data collection was executed through interviews and field visits. The data was validated in the process of triangulation during stakeholder consultations that took place in person and online, and the VLR review, ensuring the removal of biases. More information can be found in a follow-up section.
Participatory	A participatory approach lies at the heart of inclusive and sustainable development and constitutes an important pillar of evidence-based process and decision-making. It broadly entails inviting various groups of stakeholders, especially vulnerable groups into collaboration with variations when it comes to the purpose, execution, methodology, format of stakeholder engagement. In relation to VLRs, the participatory approach supports efficient and effective data collection and validation. It allows improving the ownership of the VLR process, its embeddedness in policy process and decision-making,	The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA) have closely collaborated with the municipality of Agadir to develop this VLR. Similarly, the municipality worked closely with a range of partners, most notably HCP, to collect data and review the VLR, as outlined in the follow-up section (the list of organizations comprising the municipal committee on the VLR can be found in Appendix 1). The VLR has provided a platform for dialogue on

73 There is no one approach to developing VLRs and a range of guidelines developed by UN agencies and other international organizations and institutions exist.

Principle	Rationale	Implementation
	and the rapport among various stakeholders.	sustainable development challenges in Agadir and ways to address them.
Reflective	Against the background of SDGs, the objective of the VLRs is to reflect on the experiences of the city's development, the city's challenges as reported by various groups of stakeholders, and to find the ways to address them. It entails deconstructing persons' narratives towards developing a common vision for a city and reinforcing the Goals and values of the 2030 Agenda amongst various groups of stakeholders; at the local level and beyond.	The VLR reconstructs the variety of perspectives towards the development of Agadir. The perspectives reflect the stakeholders' roles and values and their experiences in designing and delivering urban initiatives. As such, the VLR provides a platform for a dialogue between these groups of stakeholders on assessing the performance of Agadir against SDGs and for developing a common vision for the city.
Actionable	The objective of the VLR is to prompt action, especially to support formulation, review and implementation of urban initiatives (e.g. projects, policies, strategies, programmes, plans, or partnerships), while reinforcing policy coherence for sustainable development across levels of governance. The VLRs look at both the past and the future. They discuss the city's achievements and challenges, while identifying the potential for improvement. Hence, by being actionable, VLRs set the ground for participatory, evidence-based decision-making that accelerates progress towards achieving SDGs.	The VLR of Agadir discusses the city's performance against selected SDG targets (see the follow-up section for details), while reflecting on the city's context (geopolitical, regulatory, institutional), development goals, achievements and challenges. This VLR provides recommendations on the city's development in relation to chosen goals, preparing the ground for a more informed approach to the formulation and implementation of SDG-aligned urban initiatives (such as PAC) and implementing the city's vision to become smarter, more sustainable and inclusive.

## 2.2 Developing the VLR

This VLR focuses on a review of the city's progress towards SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 11, SDG 13 and SDG 17. These goals and their respective targets were selected by the municipality, upon consultation with the UN agencies based on the following criteria: (i) the relevance of SDGs to the competencies of the municipality; (ii) the relevance of SDGs to the strategic objectives of the municipality, such as the vision of Agadir becoming smarter, more sustainable and inclusive; and (iii) accounting on the access and availability of high-quality urban data pertaining to Agadir. While developing this VLR, special attention was paid to mainstreaming the “smartness” of the city by focusing on the role of ICTs in meeting development goals; and its “inclusiveness,” particularly regarding the engagement of various groups of stakeholders in collaborative action, allowing to align the VLR with the themes of the 2022-2027 PAC.

Developing this VLR took eight months (between June 2022 and January 2023), during which three types of processes were executed: (i) a participatory process; (ii) data collection and validation; (iii) target overview and lesson drawing. The processes are complementary and mutually supportive, as outlined in detail below.

### 2.2.1 Participatory Process

The participatory process laid the foundation for developing this VLR, and was implemented throughout the duration of the project between December 2021 to May 2023. It guided the selection of SDGs, data collection and validation, and the VLR review. The VLR participatory process involved (i) weekly consultations of the project group<sup>74</sup> with the municipal committee

on the VLR; (ii) stakeholder consultation meetings and workshops with the partners of the municipality of Agadir and other groups of stakeholders; (iii) stakeholder consultations to review the VLR, all of which is discussed in sequence below.

The weekly consultations with the municipal committee on the VLR took place between August and September 2022 and were attended by the municipality committee members (outlined in Appendix 1). The objective of these weekly consultations was to develop a common vision for the VLR and to collect data. In total, eight consultations with the municipality were held, in addition to regular communication with the municipality starting from the launch of the VLR process up until publication.

Stakeholder consultation meetings and workshops with partners of the Agadir municipality and other groups of stakeholders took place in the context of various events, including the launch of the VLR project at a dedicated event entitled “Interregional Cooperation on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda” on December 8, 2021, and an associated capacity-building workshop, “Localizing Sustainable Development Goals and Smart Cities,” held on 29 September 2022.

The launch event focused on discussing the role of New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda in evidence-based policy process and decision-making in Morocco. It also reviewed the progress made in implementing the NUA and the SDGs at the city level, with a view to enhancing regional cooperation between cities and reinforcing multi-level governance and policy coherence for sustainable development. In addition to representatives from UN agencies, the event also gathered representatives from the prefecture of Agadir Ida Outanan; the council

74

The project group comprised experts from UNESCWA and UN-Habitat.

of the Souss-Massa Region; the council of the municipality of Agadir; the Ministry of National Territory Planning, Land Planning, Housing and City Policy; the Ministry of Interior; the Higher Planning Commission; the National Institute of Urban and Territorial Planning; Agadir Urban Agency; and Ibn Zohr University.<sup>75</sup>

Additionally, a workshop, field visit (see a photo below) and meetings with the representatives of the municipality and its partners (project leads) took place between 28 and 29 September 2022 in Agadir. The objective of the meetings was to discuss the initiatives implemented in Agadir, their specific targets and Agadir's transition towards a smarter, more sustainable and

inclusive city (the list of stakeholders consulted during the mission to Agadir on 21 September 2022 - 1 October 2022 can be found in Appendix 4). This included most notably a meeting with the council of the municipality of Agadir, where the VLR project was discussed.

The capacity-building workshop held on 29 September 2022 focused on several issues including the 2030 Agenda; the NUA and interlinkages between SDGs; SDG measuring and monitoring; the alignment of SDGs with the smart, sustainable and inclusive city agenda; multi-sector partnerships; and the role of information and communication technologies in accelerating progress towards the SDGs.



Figure 6. Field visit in Agadir, 2022. Source: The Municipality of Agadir (2022)

75 Inter-regional Cooperation on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda Project Launch Meeting in Morocco, UNUNESCWA (2022), [https://www.unUNESCWA.org/sites/default/files/event/materials/Agadir\\_NUAProject\\_per cent20 per cent20KickoffMeeting\\_CN\\_EN.pdf](https://www.unUNESCWA.org/sites/default/files/event/materials/Agadir_NUAProject_per%20cent20per%20cent20KickoffMeeting_CN_EN.pdf)

The workshop also laid the groundwork for scaling-up the results of the VLR and gave the cities of Helsinki, Amman and Izmir the opportunity to share their own experiences of developing the VLRs. An important part of the event was a discussion on the municipality's efforts to prepare PAC 2022-2027, the national digitalization agenda for cities, and the Voluntary National Review of Morocco, as well as other efforts to make Agadir smarter, more sustainable and inclusive<sup>76</sup>. (The list of stakeholders present at the workshop can be found in Appendix 5.)

A number of institutions were invited to review the VLR, the draft of which was seen by: the municipality of Agadir (most notably the HCP and the Regional Directorate of Environment), UNESCWA, UN-Habitat: the Regional Office for Arab States, the Morocco Office, the UN-Habitat Headquarters (the SDG Localization and Local Governments Team under the Urban Practices Branch), UN Women (only SDG 5 section) and UCLG-MEWA

## 2.2.2 Data Collection and Validation

The collection and validation of data for this VLR was carried out in a participatory manner. The key data providers were the VLR technical team and the municipality working closely with its partners (most notably HCP, which also played a critical role in developing the Voluntary National Review of Morocco). Data collection was also supported by a national consultant—an expert on Morocco and its institutional setting—who carried out informal interviews with selected data providers (the list of stakeholders consulted can be found in Appendix 6).

Two types of data sources were mobilized for the purpose of this VLR: secondary data (mainly documentary data, but also photos and maps) and primary data. Secondary data is data that has already been produced, and in the case of Agadir, this included documents such as legal and regulatory acts, policies, policy reports, agreements, websites, and academic papers or databases on Agadir, Souss-Massa and Morocco. Documentary sources often cited in the VLR include the 2020 VNR, the Urban Development Programme, the Urban Mobility Plan, the Souss-Massa region Territorial Plan for the Fight against Global Warming (PTRC) and the National Digitalization Strategy for Cities (SDTN).

Primary data is original data produced through informal interviews with selected project stakeholders, as well as surveys. The objective of the surveys is to collect qualitative and quantitative data that examines the city's performance against selected SDGs. For the purpose of this VLR, the surveys looked into (i) policy context and the regulatory framework for urban development and organization of infrastructure and services in Agadir; (ii) initiatives implemented in Agadir in relation to specific targets across a range of sectors and the impacts of these initiatives; and (iii) challenges and opportunities to accelerate progress towards achieving selected SDGs. The qualitative data informed qualitative SDG indicators in the context of Agadir, including the challenges facing various population groups and the municipality's ambition to make Agadir a smarter, more sustainable and inclusive city. Quantitative data was particularly useful in presenting the key characteristics of Agadir and the performance of Agadir in relation to quantitative SDG indicators.

76 "Interregional cooperation on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda". Capacity Building Workshop on Localizing Sustainable Development Goals and Smart Cities? UNUNESCWA (2022), [https://www.unUNESCWA.org/sites/default/files/event/materials/CN per cent20 per cent26 per cent20Agenda\\_EN.pdf](https://www.unUNESCWA.org/sites/default/files/event/materials/CN%20per%20cent26%20per%20cent20Agenda_EN.pdf)

The qualitative and quantitative data was subject to data validation through: (i) the triangulation of data sources (e.g. comparing and contrasting data values cited across various sources); and (ii) a participatory process, in which data values were exposed to and validated by various groups of stakeholders. As such, the VLR data was presented at workshops and was reviewed by the municipality, its partners and other groups of stakeholders, as outlined in the preceding section.

The development of this VLR faced some challenges, including limited access to and limited availability of high-quality urban data on the municipality of Agadir within its administrative boundaries, produced frequently and at regular intervals, and disaggregated by various dimensions (e.g. sex, disability).<sup>77</sup> These challenges can be explained by: (i) the split of competencies for urban infrastructure and service provision across various levels of government, in line with the decentralization of public administration in Morocco as discussed in the previous section. Accordingly, the split of competencies can be considered a basis for the production of data at a dedicated level of governance; (ii) a structured nature of data collection processes in certain cases (e.g. production/collection of detailed data on housing and population often takes place through the Housing and Population Census running every 10 years); (iii) limited access and availability of financial and other resources needed to plan and run data inquiries at regular intervals, or for training of staff. Strategies adopted to address data gaps are discussed in the section 2.2.3.

### 2.2.3 Target Overview and Drawing Lessons

Data collection and validation, together with a participatory process, set the stage for the review of the city's performance against SDGs and SDG targets and for drawing lessons about the development of Agadir in the future. The process entails attributing meaning to this data based on SDG indicator definitions. In the process, it was especially important to take various issues into account: (i) the context of the city, (ii) the level at which data was produced, e.g. national, regional and local, and to reflect on the overall access and availability of data in relation to a particular SDG. Accordingly, the review of Agadir's performance against SDGs is structured in the following manner: (i) context, (ii) target review; and (iii) summary and conclusions.

The context subsection provides a brief overview of national and regional-level dynamics, governance, and the split of competencies in relation to a particular issue, featured most notably in the VNR text boxes. A target overview subsection recalls the available quantitative and qualitative data that directly or indirectly corresponds to the definition of SDG indicators. Whenever possible, a comparison is made against quantitative targets embedded in national, regional or local policy initiatives. The summary and conclusions subsection recalls key findings, including in the form of statistics highlights and indicates the potential for improvement at the local level. The review of SDG targets at the local level is complemented by a reflection on the impact of COVID-19 and sets the ground for the key messages, which are consolidated in a joint statement of the municipality, UNESCWA and UN-Habitat on the actions that can accelerate progress towards SDGs, improve post-COVID recovery,

77 Data disaggregation and the global indicator framework, UN Statistics Division (n.d) Available at: [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/meetings/sdg-inter-workshop-jan-2019/Session\\_per\\_cent202.a\\_UNSD\\_per\\_cent201AEG.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/meetings/sdg-inter-workshop-jan-2019/Session_per_cent202.a_UNSD_per_cent201AEG.pdf)



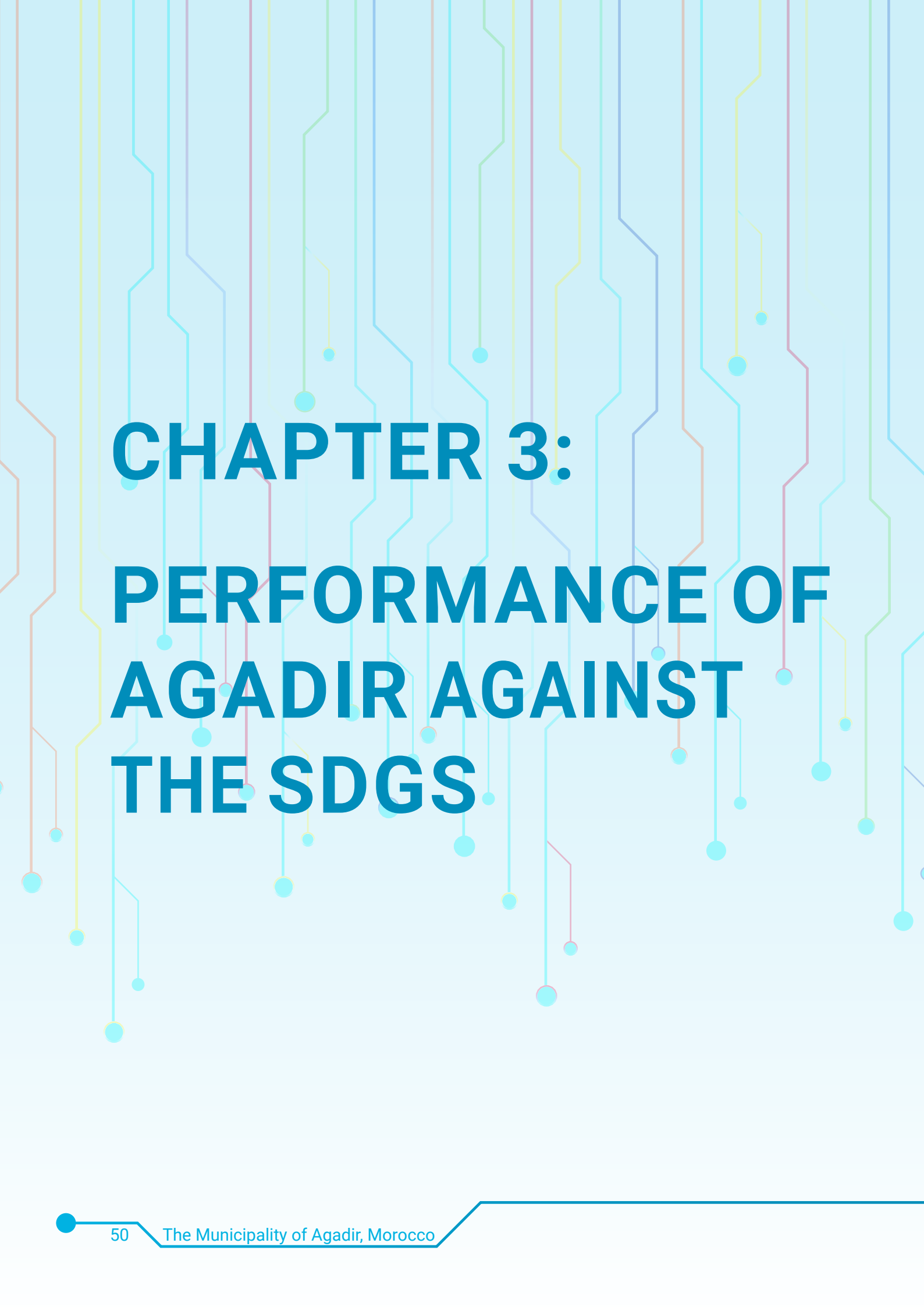
strengthen Agadir's resilience and realize its vision of a smart, sustainable and inclusive city, as asserted in PAC 2022-2027.

## 2.3 Complementarity between VLR and VNR

This VLR ensures complementarity and alignment with Morocco's 2020 VNR in that it provides a complementary perspective of the VNR by recalling evidence about the localized development challenges in Agadir, in relation to specific SDGs. The VLR/VNR complementarity and alignment are demonstrated by featuring 2020 VNR text boxes in each SDG section of the VLR. To ensure an alignment with the VNR, the VLR conclusions are developed based on the findings and recommendations of the 2020 VNR. The conclusions emphasize the importance of further mainstreaming SDGs into local policies and policy contexts (also through better collection, processing, and use of data in evidence-based policy processes and decision-making), and of reinforcing the role of Agadir in international good practices and knowledge exchanges.

The complementarity and alignment between the VNR and the VLR set the ground for a policy coherence for sustainable development in Morocco. It is expected that it will support evidence-based processes and decision-making by: (i) the formulation of urban initiatives which are based on mutually reinforcing policy objectives, and their effective implementation, and (ii) ensuring adequate allocation of resources across various levels of governance, to meet development goals. The degree to which national and local reviews acknowledge and align with each other can also be considered a measure of the effectiveness of multi-level governance systems in a country.<sup>78</sup>

78 Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews Volume 2, UN-Habitat & UCLG (2021), p. 14.



# **CHAPTER 3:**

# **PERFORMANCE OF**

# **AGADIR AGAINST**

# **THE SDGS**

## 5 GENDER EQUALITY



### 3.1 SDG 5 Gender Equality

#### *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*

##### 3.1.1 Context

Ensuring gender equality is an important development objective in Morocco, as set by the constitution. The regulatory and policy framework for gender equality includes a range of initiatives discussed at length in Morocco's 2020 VNR (as outlined in the text box below) and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).<sup>79</sup> The effective implementation of laws, regulations and policies relating to gender equality will strongly influence its attainment in Agadir, home to 208 766 women (in 2014) that make up 49,67 per cent of the population- of which 48.2 per cent were unmarried and 42.1 per cent were married, 6.4 per cent were widowed and 3.4 per cent divorced.<sup>80</sup>

At the level of Souss-Massa, women in the region are known for working in cooperative organizations across ATP sectors (such as cooperatives that produce argan oil- a culinary and beauty product in high demand in Morocco and by international cosmetics companies). In 2018, the Souss-Massa region came second in the country in terms of the number of women's cooperatives (352) and occupied the top spot when it came to the number of members (8,947 members). (More information about cooperatives can be found in the SDG 8 and SDG 17 sections.)<sup>81</sup>

79 The UPR is an international mechanism for the review of the human rights implementation in all UN member states. In Morocco, the review was developed by the Inter-ministerial Human Rights Unit, the UNDP office in Morocco, and other United Nations agencies accredited to Morocco, to help the government integrate human rights into public policies, most notably the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Two UPR reports have been submitted to date, in 2017 and 2022. The 2022 report can be found at: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G22/469/78/PDF/G2246978.pdf?OpenElement>

80 Plan d'Action Communal 2017-2022, the Municipality of Agadir (n.d), p.14

81 For more information, please see Impact des coopératives féminines sur l'autonomisation des femmes au Maroc, Analyse spatiale, Aomar Ibourk, Soukaina Raoui, 2022, pp.9-10; Moroccan Women Making Argan Oil for the Beauty Industry, Asharq Al-Awsat (2021)

**SDG 5: Insights from the 2020 Voluntary National Review of Morocco<sup>82</sup>**

The 2020 VNR outlines the national regulatory and policy framework for SDGs, including the Constitution of Morocco and the country's Family Code. Article 19 of the constitution stipulates equal rights (civil, political, economic, social, and environmental) between the sexes. The Family Code established by Morocco's parliament in 2004,<sup>83</sup> stipulates the principle of equality in relation to marriage and children, including: (i) equal eligibility to enter into a marriage contract; (ii) joint care of the family, and (iii) equal and reciprocal duties of both spouses.

It cites a range of other policy initiatives addressing gender equality such as:

- Strategy for Institutionalizing Gender Equality in the Civil Service 2016-2020
- National Strategy to Combat Violence Against Women by 2030
- National Integrated Program for the Economic Empowerment of Women by 2030
- Government Plan for Gender Equality

It also notes several measures to combat the obstacles to achieving SDG 5: advancing the fight against violence against women, fighting sexist stereotypes and prejudices, the elimination of underage marriage, the promotion of women's participation in the labour market and decision-making positions, and finally the development of a monitoring system to record data on gender equality at the national and regional levels.

The VNR notes that in 2018, the Kingdom of Morocco adopted law number 103.13, which targets violence against women. The law guarantees legal protection to victims of violence, as well as providing the necessary support mechanisms. Its implementation decree, published in May 2019, addresses the regulatory setting applying to the mechanisms dealing with women victims of violence. It also cites national plans to set up over 65 Multifunctional Centres for Women (EMFs), at regional and local levels, to support women victims of violence from the moment of reception, to listening, helping with temporary accommodation, referral to specialised workers and medico-psychosocial support. It also cites a 2020-2030 national strategy to combat violence against women.<sup>84</sup>

82 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020). pp. 69-77

83 The Moroccan Family Code "Moudawana", EuroMed Rights (2012). Available at: <https://euromedrights.org/publication/the-moroccan-family-code-moudawana/> Accessed on 17/11/2022

84 Beyond the VNR, more information can be found at: Historic Law on Violence Against Women Goes into Effect September, Morocco World News (2018) (Accessed on 18/11/2022) and Support Units for Women and Children who are Victims of Violence, UN Women (n.d.)



## 3.1.2 Target Overview

### Target 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

**Indicator 5.1.1** discusses whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex.

Data collection on SDG 5 shows that considerable efforts have been made to end all forms of discrimination against all women in Agadir. It points to the existence of legal frameworks to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex, at the national level (as cited in the text box above) and at the local level, informing indicator 5.1.1.

It shows that in May 2022, the Equity, Equal Opportunity and Gender Approach Entity (IEECAG) was created in line with stipulations in the constitution. The IEECAG aims to develop a local approach to the monitoring of municipal policies and practices in matters of gender, while ensuring citizen participation. In its advisory capacity, it can issue opinions on these matters, which would be drafted and submitted to the President of the council. It is also able to participate in the drawing up stages of the Communal Action Plan and monitor its implementation to ensure that the gender approach is taken into account.<sup>85</sup>

Following the Organic Laws number 130-13 and number 113-14<sup>86</sup>, which set the obligation for all ministerial departments to systematically take gender into account in budgeting and reporting, the municipality of Agadir implemented the Gender Responsive Budgeting (BSG), which is a method for monitoring financial efforts in relation to gender equality. In parallel, the Centre of Excellence for Gender-Responsive Budgeting (CE-BSG) comprising a team of experts responsible for monitoring and reporting on efforts made in this area, and to develop an integrated approach to gender equality, was set up in Rabat.<sup>87</sup> BSG method will be implemented across various municipal business areas and projects, including in PAC, with associated funding of approximately 20,000,000 MAD (\$ 1,876,824).<sup>88</sup>

The municipality regularly provides financial support to various associations and collaborates with them on issues relating to gender. For example in 2017, it approved the initiative to develop “listening centres” (Les Centres d’Écoute des Femmes Victimes de Violences) and accommodation for women in difficult situations to be implemented in partnership with the association BALSSAM.<sup>89</sup> It is important to note that other sections of the VLR demonstrate gender-related initiatives across various sectors, including the study of gender dimension in water provision discussed in the SDG 6 subsection; or initiatives promoting women employment and equal opportunities discussed in the SDG 8 section. The associations themselves play an important role in achieving gender equality in Agadir.

85 See the Manual of procedures for setting up, operating and monitoring the equity, equal opportunities and the gender approach in line with the communities at [https://www.collectivites-territoriales.gov.ma/sites/default/files/pnct/2020-12/Manuel\\_per\\_cent20Proc\\_per\\_centC3\\_per\\_centA9dures\\_per\\_cent20IEECAG-Fran\\_per\\_centC3\\_per\\_centA7ais.pdf](https://www.collectivites-territoriales.gov.ma/sites/default/files/pnct/2020-12/Manuel_per_cent20Proc_per_centC3_per_centA9dures_per_cent20IEECAG-Fran_per_centC3_per_centA7ais.pdf)

86 Organic law n°130-13 (article 39) relating to the finance law, emphasizes the integration of the gender dimension in the programming of the budgets of ministerial departments, as well as in the monitoring and evaluation stages. The organic law n°113-14 on municipalities (article 78) stipulates that the municipality’s action plan must include a diagnosis and must take into consideration the gender approach.

87 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020). p.75

88 Source: the municipality of Agadir (2023). Information gathered during the field visit.

89 Conventions of Commune d’Agadir, Ministry of Interior (N.D.) p.2

Last, but not least, over 89 schools in Agadir benefitted from the implementation of the INSAF programme. This programme, developed by the INSAF association, the Ministry of National Education, and the Ministry of Solidarity and run between 2017 and 2021, worked to integrate gender equality into school curricula, to combat discrimination against women (breaking stereotypes, ending harassment), and to decrease school dropout rates. It also aimed at improving job access for women and

ensuring women's empowerment in the future by encouraging women to practice jobs usually reserved for men and to take up positions of responsibility.<sup>90</sup> Such initiatives in the field of education play an important role in improving the participation of women in the labour market (discussed further in the SDG 8).



Figure 7. The VLR workshop in Agadir, September 2022. 4. Source: Source: UN-Habitat (2022)

90 Source: the municipality of Agadir (2023). Information gathered during the field visit.



**Target 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation**

This target is measured by **indicator 5.2.1**: the proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months; and **indicator 5.2.2**: the proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months.

There is little data about violence against women and girls in Agadir. However, data existing at the regional level provides some interesting insights. The 2019 HCP survey— which involved a population of 13.4 million women and girls aged 15 to 74—found that 8 in 10 women in Morocco (82.6 per cent) and 9 in 10 women in the Souss-Massa region (90.3 per cent) have experienced at least one form of violence during their lifetime.<sup>91</sup> At the same time, the National Population and Family Health report

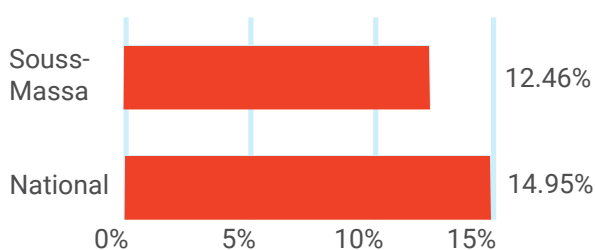


Figure 8. Percentage of Woman Victim of Physical Violence in the Last 12 Months.

(2018) indicates that 12.46 per cent of women in Souss-Massa reported experiencing physical violence between 2017 and 2018, which is 2.4 point per cent less than the national average (see Figure 8).<sup>92</sup>

To address these issues in 2016, the Kingdom of Morocco adopted law number 103.13, which targets violence against women. The law guarantees legal protection for victims of violence, and provides the necessary support mechanisms. It was put into effect in 2018.<sup>93</sup>

**Target 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation**

This target discusses, among others, the proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18 (5.3.1).

Little is known about child marriage, early marriage and forced marriage in Agadir. The National Population and Family Health Report depicting the situation at the regional level found that in 2018, 1.1 per cent of women in the Souss-Massa region were married before the age of 15 (0.6 point per cent less than the national average); and 14.7 per cent of women in region were married before the age of 18 (compared to 16.4 per cent of women at the national level). Please see Figure 9 for details.<sup>94</sup>

In 2004, the government of Morocco introduced reforms that raised the legal age of marriage from 16 to 18, however the law still allows minors to marry with the permission of a judge. In 2019, the Moroccan Court approved more than 25,000 child marriage requests<sup>95</sup>

91 Source: Rapport sur les violences faites aux femmes et aux filles. Enquête Nationale sur la Violence à l'encontre des Femmes et des Hommes 2019 HCP. p. 26

92 National Population and Family Health, Ministry of Health (2018) p.125

93 Historic Law on Violence Against Women Goes into Effect September, Morocco World News (2018) Available at: <https://www.morocccoworldnews.com/2018/09/253413/law-against-violence-women-morocco>

94 National Population and Family Health, Ministry of Health (2018) p.49

95 Moroccan Courts Approved 25,920 Child Marriage Requests in 2019, Moroccan World News (2020) Available at: <https://www.morocccoworldnews.com/2020/01/292105/2019-child-marriage-morocco-statistics>

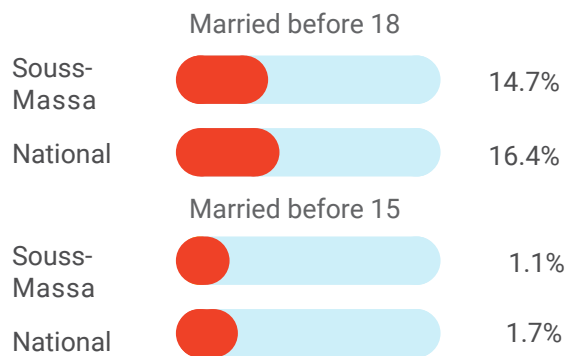


Figure 9. Percentage of Women Married Before 15 and Percentage of Women Married Before 18 in 2018.

**Target 5.5: Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life**

**This target looks at *indicator 5.5.1, the proportion of seats held by women in local governments, and indicator 5.5.2, the proportion of women in managerial positions.***

Ensuring the full participation of women, and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels, is an important development objective for the municipality of Agadir, which stated that the percentage of women representation in the council of Agadir must be at least 30 per cent.<sup>96</sup> Accordingly, in 2021 the council of Agadir consisted of 61 members, 19 of which were women, with three out of 10 vice-presidents being women.<sup>97</sup> At the same time, PAC 2022-2027 notes that approximately 18.48 per cent of the total workforce in the municipality are

women.<sup>98</sup> More information about employees in the municipality can be found in PAC 2022-2027.

At the same time, at the regional level, 30 per cent of officials representing Agadir in the Souss-Massa Regional Council in 2022 were women.<sup>99</sup> The presence of elected women at provincial and regional levels in Morocco has also been steadily increasing. At the provincial level, it increased from 2 per cent to 4 per cent between 2009 and 2015; and in regional councils, it increased almost tenfold, from 27 to 255 between 2009 and 2015, meeting the target of 37 per cent in the proportion of women represented in regional councils)<sup>100</sup>.

As of 2020, 2 out of the 12 persons in leading regional councils in Morocco were women.<sup>101</sup> Similarly, the rate of women representation in the civil service reached 40 per cent nationally in 2019, while the rate of women in jobs with decision-making power increased from 22.2 per cent in 2016 to 23.5 per cent in 2019. In parallel, women’s access to higher employment increased from 15.3 per cent to 17.2 per cent within the same time frame.<sup>102</sup>

When it comes to the proportion of women in managerial positions in Agadir, there is limited information. In 2021 at the regional level, while the unemployment rate in Souss-Massa was 11.3 per cent, the labour participation rate of women in Souss-Massa was significantly lower for women at 16 per cent, than for men at 68.3 per cent.<sup>103</sup> Limited participation of women in the labour market (discussed further in the SDG 8 chapter) may be connected to the fact that they are heads of households, or due to the high rate of illiteracy among women of

96 Source: the municipality of Agadir (2023). Information gathered during the field visit.

97 SDG 5 Survey Response, Municipality of Agadir (2022)

98 PAC 2022-2027, the Municipality of Agadir (2022), p.65

99 The Souss-Massa Regional Council comprises a total of 57 members, of whom only 17 are women, and the remaining 40 seats are occupied by men. For more information see <https://www.soussmassa.ma/en/les-elus-regionaux>

100 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020). p.73

101 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020). p.73

102 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020). p.74

103 Note sur la Situation du Marche du Travail dans la Region Souss-Massa En 2021,HCP (2022) p.10





the region at 45.7 per cent.<sup>104</sup> At the national level in 2020, only 23 per cent of women were employed, which represents a drop from 27 per cent in 2010.<sup>105</sup> In 2013, less than 1 per cent of chief executives in Morocco were women, while women representation in professional chambers stood at only 5 per cent.<sup>106</sup>

To ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life, a range of initiatives were implemented in Agadir in collaboration with international cooperation agencies and donors, to contribute to achieving SDG 5 and SDG 8 in Agadir. These include Entrelles Entrepreneurs, an initiative by the German Development Agency (GIZ), the National Agency for the Promotion of SMEs (ANPME) and Regional investment Centre of Souss-Massa, aimed at providing training and support for women entrepreneurs in the Souss-Massa region. The implementation of the initiative led to establishing the Entrelles Entrepreneurs Association in 2010. The association encourages women to create their own businesses and promotes the inclusion of women in economic activities.<sup>107</sup>

In 2018, Agadir hosted a meeting entitled "Support of Women Leadership for Good Territorial Governance Sensitive to Gender," organized by the General Directorate of Local Authorities (DGCL) of Morocco in partnership with UN Women, UCLG Africa, and the Moroccan

Chapter of the Network of Local Elected Women in Africa (REFELA). The meeting focused on advances in gender equality and gender sensitive budgeting in Morocco.<sup>108</sup>

Local and national NGOs also work closely with international institutions to ensure gender equality in Morocco. An example is the collaboration between international NGO Search for Common Ground and the Agadir-based Dar Si Hmad Foundation,<sup>109</sup> who together launched initiatives to improve gender equality, and the socio-economic empowerment of women. Participants from Dar Si Hmad initiatives were also invited to attend US First Lady Michelle Obama's initiative, 'Let Girls Learn.'<sup>110</sup>

104 No year provided. Source: Women's Access to Positions of Responsibility in the Region of Souss-Massa, IEMed (2018) p.7

105 A Big Step Forward For Women's Leadership In Morocco, World Bank (2022) Available at: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/arabvoices/big-step-forward-womens-leadership-morocco>

106 Women's Access to Positions of Responsibility in the Region of Souss-Massa, IEMed (2018) p.9

107 The Ecosystem of Female Entrepreneurship, Fakir, F.Z and Erraoui, E.(2020) p.11

108 REFELA presented at the regional meeting of Souss-Massa in Morocco, UCLG Africa (2018) Available at: <https://www.uclga.org/news/refela-presented-at-the-regional-meeting-of-souss-massa-in-morocco/> 2

109 The Dar Si Hmad foundation has also collaborated with different organizations such as UNDP, USAID, the British Council, and several other international universities on various occasions. See at: Partners & Funders, Dar Si Hmad Foundation (N.D.) Available at: <https://darsihmad.org/partners-funders/> Accessed on 04/05/2023

110 Moroccan NGOs Making A Social Impact In Women's Empowerment, Morocco Travel (2021) Available at <https://moroccotravelblog.com/2021/04/08/top-4-moroccan-ngos-making-a-social-impact-in-womens-empowerment/>

### 3.1.3 Summary and Conclusions

in SDG 11 Section). It requires an integrated approach, resting on human rights principles and incorporating sectoral actions, while leveraging access to new resources and respecting the socio-cultural context of a country.

SDG 5 discusses the efforts to end all forms of discrimination; eliminate violence and harmful practices against women and girls; support their economic activity; as well as ensure equal representation of women in political life in Agadir; and presents relevant statistical highlights (Figure 10). The review of the data pertaining to SDG 5 targets at the local level shows the existence of a relevant regulatory and policy framework at the national level (discussed further in the 2020 VNR and the 2017 UPR reports). This includes Article 19 of the Constitution which stipulates equal rights between the sexes (civil, political, economic, social, and environmental)<sup>111</sup> and the Family Code.<sup>112</sup> It also includes a number of strategies, such as the Strategy for Institutionalizing Gender Equality in the Civil Service 2016-2020,<sup>113</sup> and the National Strategy to Combat Violence Against Women by 2030,<sup>114</sup> among others.

This section also highlighted “good practices” in achieving SDG 5 in Agadir, which include the implementation of a Gender Responsive Budget by the municipality,<sup>115</sup> and the INSAF programme implemented in Agadir schools. These contribute not only to reaching SDG 5 targets, but SDG 8 and SDG 11 targets too. At the same time, it is difficult to comprehensively assess gender equality in Agadir due to the limited availability of statistical data (existing data is presented in the text box below). Achieving gender equality requires the mainstreaming of gender considerations across sectors by providing women and girls access to safe open public and green spaces, and safe and affordable transport (discussed

111 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020). p.69

112 The Moroccan Family Code “Moudawana”, EuroMed Rights (2012). Available at: <https://euromedrights.org/publication/the-moroccan-family-code-moudawana/>

113 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020), p.77

114 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020). p.77

115 SDG 5 Survey Response, Municipality of Agadir (2022) p.2

## SDG 5: Statistics highlights

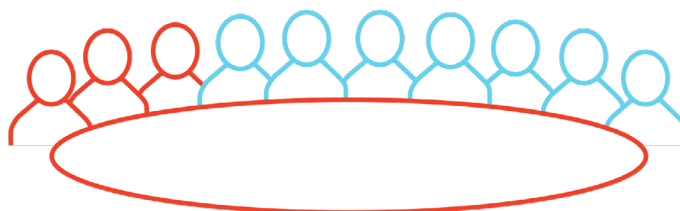
On **SDG Indicator 5.2.1** the proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months:



**9** out of 10 women in the Souss-Massa and **8** in 10 women in Morocco have experienced at least one form of violence during their lifetime, while there was an overall tendency of the violence incidence to decrease.

On **SDG Indicator 5.3.1** the proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18: 1.1% of women in the Souss Massa region were married before the age of 15; and 14.7% were married before the age of 18 in 2018 (lower than the national average).

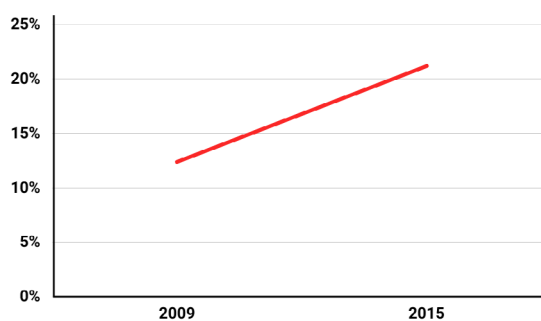
On **SDG Indicator 5.5.1** the proportion of seats held by women in local governments:



In 2021 the council of Agadir consisted of 61 members, **19** of which were women, and **3** out of 10 vice-presidents of this Council were women.



Women constitute **18.48%** of the municipal administration in Agadir (at 282 persons).



At the national level, the proportion of women represented in communal councils in Morocco increased from 12.38% to **21.18%** between 2009 and 2015.

Figure 10. SDG 5: Statistics highlights

# CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

## 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



### 3.2 SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation

*Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*

#### 3.2.1 Context

Access to water is a fundamental human right<sup>116</sup> and one of the key determinants of quality of life in Morocco. The regulatory framework for clean water and sanitation is based on Article 31 of the constitution which emphasizes “equal access by citizens to conditions enabling them to enjoy the right to access to water and a healthy environment,”<sup>117</sup> as well

as the Water Act which aims to strengthen water governance.<sup>118</sup> Morocco, due to its geographical location and to climate change, faces challenges in ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, as seen in the 2020 VNR (see text box below) and in the national report on SDG implementation in light of COVID-19, which was issued in 2021. According to the latter the demand for water in the country is 16 billion m<sup>3</sup>/year.<sup>119</sup> In 2019, drinking water supply per capita was 620 m<sup>3</sup> / inhabitant/

116 The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights recalls that ‘on 28 July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a historical resolution recognizing “the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights” (A/RES/64/292)’. More at: About Water and Sanitation, OHCHR (2022), Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/water-and-sanitation/about-water-and-sanitation#:~:text=On per cent2028 per cent20July per cent202010 per cent20C per cent20the,RES per cent2F64 per cent2F292,>

117 Morocco’s Constitution of 2011, The Kingdom of Morocco: General Secretariat of the Government (2011) p.15

118 The Water Act aims at ‘simplifying procedures, making full use of rainwater and sewage and putting in place a legal framework for the desalination of seawater. It also sought to mitigate obstacles to the effective and sustainable management of water resources, reduce the effects of climate change and establish principles of good governance, participation by stakeholders and consultation with them.’ Loi 36-15 publiée au B.O n°6494 du 25 août 2016, qui remplace la loi 10-95 publiée au B.O n°4325 du 20 septembre 1995, as in: National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/2 Morocco, Human Rights Council (2017, p.7)

119 The main components being: the agriculture sector at 87.3 per cent, the potable water supply sector at 10.5 per cent, and the industrial and tourism sector at 2.2 per cent.



year on average with a tendency to decrease.<sup>120</sup> The Souss-Massa region, which is heavily dependent on rainfall, also faces overall water scarcity. The water consumption in the region is rising at the rate of 1 per cent to 2 per cent per year.<sup>121</sup>

The framework for managing water and sanitation is set by the state which works closely with Souss-Massa region; the Hydraulic Basin Agency (ABHSM); National Office of Electricity and Drinking Water (ONEE); the Regional Directorate for the Environment and Sustainable Development; the Regional Office for Agricultural Valorisation (ORMVA); the municipalities; and the Multi-Services Autonomous Authority of Agadir (RAMSA)

to provide access to water and sanitation. The distribution of drinking water; liquid and solid disinfection; and management of wastewater treatment plants are competencies of the municipality; while the creation and maintenance of small and medium water installations and equipment is a transferred competency.<sup>122</sup>

### SDG 6: Insights from the 2020 Voluntary National Review of Morocco<sup>123</sup>

The 2020 VNR highlights water scarcity in Morocco, which has been exacerbated by climate change, and by various other factors including challenges in accessing water due to inefficient water consumption, water pollution, rising costs of mobilizing new water resources, growing infrastructural needs, among others. The VNR shows that water resources in Morocco are estimated at approximately 22 billion m<sup>3</sup>/year, including 18 billion m<sup>3</sup> of surface water and 4 billion m<sup>3</sup> of underground water. Floods and droughts contribute to reducing access to potable water and safe sanitation for various groups and cause losses in the agriculture sector. In relation to sanitation infrastructure, it reveals steady progress in the provision of basic and safely managed sanitation infrastructure in the country.

The VNR cites various initiatives to improve access to affordable potable water infrastructure and sanitation infrastructure in Morocco, and to generate water savings across sectors. These include the Water Act, the 2020-2050 National Water Plan (PNE), the Green Morocco Plan (PMV), the National Programme for the Economy of Water Irrigation (PNEEI), the National Drinking Water Supply and Irrigation Programme 2020-2027 (PNAEPI), the National Shared Sanitation Programme (PNAM), the National Sanitation Programme in Rural Areas (PNAR), the National Programme for the Reuse of Purified Wastewater (PNREUÉ) and others. The objective of PNAEPI, for example, is to: (i) improve the rate of connections to the sanitation networks; (ii) promote the re-use of treated wastewater, particularly for the irrigation of golf courses and green spaces; and (iii) implement 65 resilience projects to tackle soil degradation and droughts

120 Les Objectifs du Développement Durable au Maroc Dans le Contexte de la Covid-19, Kingdom of Morocco (2021, p.69)

121 Etude relative à la mise en place de trois schémas directeurs pour la transformation numérique des villes de Agadir, Fès et Marrakech, LIVRABLE 3 : SDTN AGADIR, IDATE (2020), p.91

122 See article 83 and 90 of the Organic law N° 113-14 concerning the communes, Ministry of the Interior (Press) (2016)

123 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020), pp. 82-86

which are affecting the agriculture sector. It is actively investing in increasing the capacity of water desalination infrastructure.<sup>124</sup>

Lastly, the VNR highlights some challenges to achieving SDG 6. These include, among others, high water consumption, the high cost of water mobilization projects, and the scarcity of water resources. The VNR also highlights the increase of water pollution sources and notes that municipalities, which are responsible for water management, neither have sufficient means nor the capacities to carry out projects and ensure the sustainability of infrastructure.



Figure 11. Côte d'Agadir. Source: Commune d'Agadir (2023)

124 The Moroccan government plans to mobilize nearly USD 246 million (€220 million) for the implementation of the PNAM. For more information, please see: Morocco: Rabat wants to mobilize €220 million for wastewater reuse by 2027, Afrik 2021, Available at: <https://www.afrik21.africa/en/morocco-rabat-wants-to-mobilize-e220-million-for-wastewater-reuse-by-2027/>



### 3.1.2 Target Overview

**Target 6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all**

*This target explores the proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services<sup>125</sup> (indicator 6.1.1).*

Data collected to inform the SDG 6.1 target sheds light on a range of characteristics of the water supply network in Agadir.<sup>126</sup> The city's water infrastructure includes a water network, a sanitation network and two treatment plants. One treatment plant is located in the south of the city and is used for water recycling used in irrigation; and a second one is located in the north of the city and disposes of treated wastewater into the sea (the wastewater undergoes primary treatment).<sup>127</sup>

According to RAMSA, in 2022 the total length of the water network was approx. 2,484 km, servicing 331,190 clients. The water network connection rate was 98,44 per cent (indirectly informing 6.1.1 target) (See Figure 12 below).<sup>128</sup> This may indicate better access to water at the

local level than on average in the country as the value of 6.1.1 indicator at the national level in 2020 was 79.79 per cent, yet with a tendency to increase between 2000 and 2020.<sup>129</sup> The existing data also reveals that drinking water for Agadir is sourced from water dams (e.g. Abdelmoumen Dam, Mokhtar Soussi Dam), underground water reservoirs,<sup>130</sup> rainwater harvesting and the desalination of seawater.<sup>131</sup> The main stakeholders involved in water provision and management in Agadir are the Hydraulic Basin Agency (ABHSM), the National Office of Electricity and Drinking Water (ONEE), and the Multi-Services Autonomous Authority of Agadir (RAMSA).<sup>132</sup>

Data collection also revealed that the municipality is currently working to improve both access to and quality of water for all (also cited in PAC 2022-2027), and to connect settlements into the municipal boundaries in 2013. It also shows that in 2017-2018, ONEE Water Branch and the Regional Directorate of the Environment carried out a study on a gender dimension in water and liquid sanitation, the cost of which was 2 million MAD (\$ 544,677). The objective of the study was to understand the integration of gender consideration in drinking water and liquid sanitation projects in Souss-Massa. The study showed progressive achievement

- 125 Safely managed drinking water services “include drinking water from an improved water source which is located on premises, available when needed and free from fecal and priority chemical contamination”, whereas “Improved drinking water sources are those that have the potential to deliver safe water by nature of their design and construction, and include: piped water, boreholes or tubewells, protected dug wells, protected springs, rainwater, and packaged or delivered water”. Source: Morocco Drinking Water, United Nations, 2020 Available at: [https://www.sdg6data.org/en/country-or-area/morocco#anchor\\_6.1.1](https://www.sdg6data.org/en/country-or-area/morocco#anchor_6.1.1) Accessed: 04/11/2022
- 126 RAMSA notes that the zone of Agadir includes: regroupant Agadir, Anza, Tikiouine et Bensergao. See: Ressources et besoins en eau, RAMSA (no date), Available at: <http://www.ramsa.ma/Accueil/EspaceTechnique/EauPotable/Ressourcesetbesoins.aspx> Accessed: 22/05/2023
- 127 SDG 6 Survey Response, the municipality of Agadir (2022)
- 128 Source: Indicateurs de performances 2022, RAMSA (2022), Available at: <http://www.ramsa.ma/Accueil/EspaceTechnique/EauPotable/Indicateursdeperformances2022.aspx> Please, also note that the website does not provide information about the meaning of “connection rate”.
- 129 Source: UN Water: Morocco, United Nations (no date) Available at: <https://www.sdg6data.org/country-or-area/morocco>
- 130 The underground water catchments (wells and boreholes) are located south, southeast and east of the city of Agadir. Geophysical data revealing the control of geological structures in the El Gouna springs in Souss river valley in Morocco, Hssaisoune et al. (2021)
- 131 Power System, RAMSA, (2022) Available at: <http://www.ramsa.ma/Accueil/EspaceTechnique/EauPotable/SystpercentC3percentA8medalimentation.aspx>
- 132 SDG 6 Survey Responses on SDG 6, the municipality of Agadir (2022)

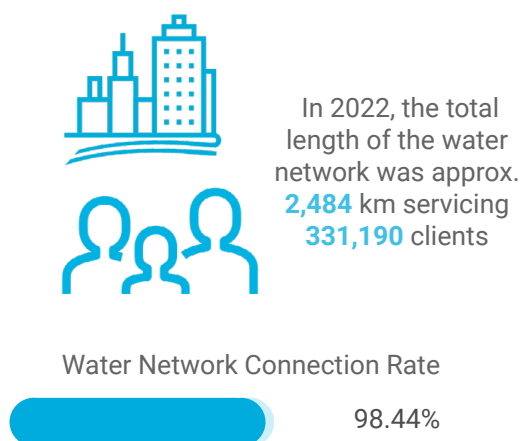


Figure 12. Access to Safe Drinking Water in Agadir in 2022

towards integrating the gender dimension into water and sanitation programmes, and that this dimension deserved to be further explored in the implementation of projects such as PTRC. The study resulted in a generic guide for gender mainstreaming in all projects planned by the PTRC.<sup>133</sup> It is also important to note that such studies play an important role in meeting SDG 6 and SDG 5 targets, but also support achieving Goal 11 - Sustainable Cities in Communities.

Lastly, also in relation to gender, the data collection also unveiled efforts to mainstream gender in water policy and legislation. For example, in 2015 the Ministry delegate in charge of water, and UN Women signed an agreement aimed at developing a strategy (2014-2016) to institutionalize the integration of the gender approach in the water sector. The agreement

followed up on a previous workshop by the ministry of water and GIZ entitled “Woman-water: integrating the gender approach of integrated management” which identified that 47 per cent of the labour force in agriculture sector are women.<sup>134</sup> The strategy (2014-2016) was carried over several stages: (i) a detailed analysis of the progress made in gender mainstreaming in the water sector, highlighting the current challenges and constraints, (ii) formulating the institutionalization of gender equality in the water sector strategy, (iii) preparation of the work plan for this strategy by identifying the means and mechanisms for its activation, as well as the preparation of a monitoring and evaluation system.<sup>135</sup>

**Target 6.2: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations**

*This target is measured by 6.2.1 indicator: the proportion of the population using (a) safely managed sanitation services<sup>136</sup> and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water.*

Limited information on the share of the population with the access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene in Agadir, has made it difficult to directly respond to target 6.2.1. At the national level, data points to an increase of the percentage of urban population

133 Plan Territorial De Lutte Contre Le Réchauffement Climatique Région Souss-Massa, Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and the Environment (2016) p. 56

134 For more information, please see: Partnership between Morocco and UN Women on the Integration of the gender approach in water management (2015) Available at: [https://lematin.ma/journal/2015/parteneriat-entre-le-maroc-et-l-onu\\_integration-de-l-approche-genre-dans-la-gestion-de-l-eau/220532.html](https://lematin.ma/journal/2015/parteneriat-entre-le-maroc-et-l-onu_integration-de-l-approche-genre-dans-la-gestion-de-l-eau/220532.html)

135 Partnership between Morocco and UN Women on the Integration of the gender approach in water management (2015) Available at: [https://lematin.ma/journal/2015/parteneriat-entre-le-maroc-et-l-onu\\_integration-de-l-approche-genre-dans-la-gestion-de-l-eau/220532.html](https://lematin.ma/journal/2015/parteneriat-entre-le-maroc-et-l-onu_integration-de-l-approche-genre-dans-la-gestion-de-l-eau/220532.html)

136 Safely managed sanitation service is “improved sanitation facility that is not shared with other households and where excreta are safely disposed of in situ or treated off site. Improved sanitation facilities include flush/pour flush to piped sewer systems, septic tanks or pit latrines; pit latrines with slabs (including ventilated pit latrines), and composting toilets.” Source: Population using safely managed sanitation services, WHO (2022) Available at: <https://www.who.int/data/gho/indicator-metadata-registry/imr-details/4820#:~:text=Definition per cent3A,situ per cent20or per cent20treated per cent20off per cent20site.>





in Morocco with the safely managed sanitation services to 41.49 per cent in 2020.<sup>137</sup>

At the same time, RAMSA provides insights into the key characteristics of the sanitation network in Agadir. In 2017, the length of the sanitation network was 2,239 km including a number of lifting stations and treatment plants. Accordingly, 240 km of the network undergoes primary treatment, 523 km undergoes a secondary treatment, and 1,476 km undergoes a third treatment (see Figure 13).<sup>138</sup> The diagnosis of the sanitation network in Agadir by RAMSA can be found in the text box.

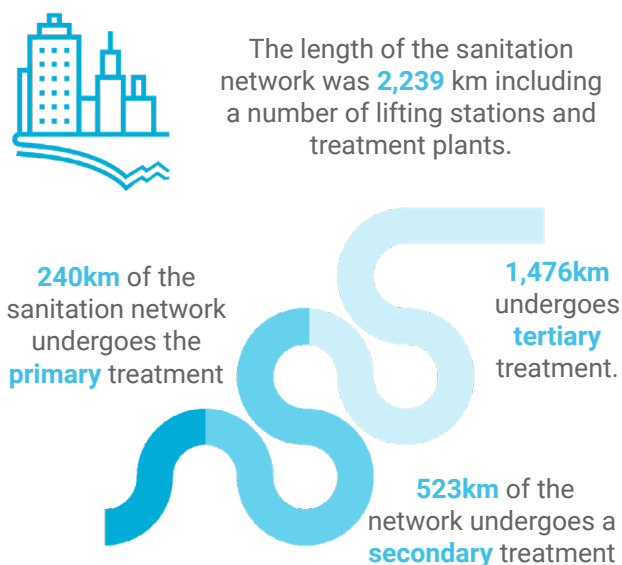


Figure 13. Sanitation Network in Agadir in 2022.

#### Insights into sanitation infrastructure in Agadir<sup>139</sup>

The diagnosis of the sanitation network of Agadir by RAMSA reveals that the network is divided into independently functioning entities. There is a single-unit sanitation network that covers Agadir with the exception of the tourist area and seaside, which are located along the beaches and the bay area of Agadir. This area is served by a separate network equipped with pumping stations raising wastewater to the main collector of the city. The study also identifies a range of shortcomings of the sanitation network, such as network silting in rainy weather (caused in particular by the carriage of solid materials (sand, rubble, pebbles etc.), insufficient and/or poor location of the stormwater drainage structures of the road, and frequent disappearance of work closure buffers. It flags that despite the collection and treatment of a large part (77 per cent) of Greater Agadir's wastewater, significant problems in this matter remain. In relation to rainwater, there is a threat of inflow of water outside the urban perimeter, which could lead to the saturation of drains and storm drains in urbanized areas. Also, the water discharges are filled with organic matter and brine (salty water) from many manufacturers in the agri-food sector, and the release of H<sub>2</sub>S (hydrogen sulphide) in the network and foul odours.

A number of initiatives to improve the sanitation network in Agadir can be noted, such as the Greater Agadir water sanitation master plan (Les études du Schéma Directeur d'Assainissement

liquide du Grand Agadir), which was approved in 1995 based on a number of studies carried out by RAMSA and updated in 2006 based on a periodic revision. These studies laid out the

137 At the same time, the access of the urban population of Morocco to at least basic sanitation services in 2020 was 96.36 per cent. For more information, please see: Population using at least basic sanitation services (per cent), WHO (2021) Available at: [https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/population-using-at-least-basic-sanitation-services-\(-\)](https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/population-using-at-least-basic-sanitation-services-(-))

138 RAMSA (2023), Indicateurs de performances. Available at: <http://www.ramsa.ma/Accueil/EspaceTechnique/Assainissement/Indicateursdeperformances.aspx>

139 Situation actuelle, RAMSA 2022 Available at: <http://www.ramsa.ma/Accueil/EspaceTechnique/Assainissement/Situationactuelle.aspx>

foundation of a system for the management of wastewater and rainwater runoff taking into account local, technical and environmental priorities. The sanitation plan outlines a set of goals and objectives to be achieved through two major work plans, an emergency tranche (1998-2007) worth 828 million MAD (\$ 82,746,214), already completed; and the second tranche (2008-2024), which a budget of 1,899 million MAD (\$189,776,644). The objectives of the second tranche are to (i) depollute the northern zone of Agadir; (ii) improve the quality of bathing waters at beaches and ensure the sustainability of the tourist sector; (iii) mobilize a consistent water resource (purified waste water) for its re-use in golf courses and green spaces in the city, for the completion of equipment and connection works for outlying districts not yet served such as the Tagadirt, Dar boubker, Tadouart and Tamait districts in Drarga, and the realization of extensions and special connections.<sup>140</sup>

According to PAC 2017-2022, the municipality carried out a study to assess water and sanitation infrastructure.<sup>141</sup>

**Target 6.4: By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity**

*This target explores the change in water-use efficiency over time (6.4.1)*

In relation to water use efficiency in Agadir, existing data indicates that network efficiency in 2022 stood at 79.85 per cent,<sup>142</sup> while water loss was at 11.26 m<sup>3</sup>/km/day. Water storage capacity was at 137,800 m<sup>3</sup> while the number of new connections realized in 2022 was 2,930; and the number of repairs was 17,783.<sup>143</sup>

Data discussed in the preceding sections also stresses the fact that due to the climate, location and natural disasters, Agadir faces potable water scarcity. It reveals that in 2021, the total consumption of water in Agadir was 5,646,382.87 m<sup>3</sup>, and it decreased every year between 2019 and 2021.<sup>144</sup> One should also expect that drinking water supply from dams in the Souss-Massa region will further decrease due to floods<sup>145</sup> and that water resources for Agadir continue depleting with the increasing demand and a stable supply between 2023 and 2027, as indicated in Table 4, which stresses the importance of achieving the 6.4 target.<sup>146</sup>

140 Bilan de la deuxième tranche 2008-2024, RAMSA (no date) Available at: <http://www.ramsa.ma/Accueil/EspaceTechnique/Assainissement/BILANDELADEUXIEMETRANCHE20082024.aspx>

141 Plan d'Action Communal 2017-2022, the Municipality of Agadir (n.d), p.56

142 Source: Indicateurs de performances 2022, RAMSA (no date): <http://www.ramsa.ma/Accueil/EspaceTechnique/EauPotable/Indicateursdeperformances2022.aspx>

143 Source: Indicateurs de performances 2022, RAMSA (no date): <http://www.ramsa.ma/Accueil/EspaceTechnique/EauPotable/Indicateursdeperformances2022.aspx>

144 SDG 6 survey response, Municipality of Agadir (2022)

145 Plan Territorial De Lutte Contre Le Réchauffement Climatique Région Souss-Massa, Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and the Environment, October 2016 (p. 8)

146 Besoins en eau actuels et futurs 2022, RAMSA (no date), Available at: <http://www.ramsa.ma/Accueil/EspaceTechnique/EauPotable/Besoinsactuelsetfutures.aspx>

Table 4: Estimated water needs in Greater Agadir 2023-2027

Horizon	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Besoins de pointe (l/s)	2,181	2,266	2,332	2,437	2,522
Resources maximales (l/s)	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Bilan (l/s)	1,319	1,234	1,168	1,063	978

Source: Besoins en eau actuels et futurs, RAMSA 2022. Available at: <http://www.ramsa.ma/Accueil/EspaceTechnique/EauPotable/Besoinsactuelsetfutures.aspx>

RAMSA cites that to increase the water supply, the National Office of Electricity and Drinking Water (ONEE) is working on a large-scale project: the My Abdellah hydraulic complex, which focuses on strengthening the supply system to reach a production capacity of 1400 l/s and to meet the water needs of Greater Agadir.<sup>147</sup> In line with the recommendations of the master plan of the drinking water network of Greater Agadir (Schéma Directeur du réseau d'eau potable du Grand Agadir), RAMSA made a number of investments to renew already existing infrastructure (e.g. to improve water flow and pressure). During 2021, RAMSA dedicated 4,900,000.00 DH (\$480,000 USD) (tax free) to renew water infrastructure.<sup>148</sup> Additionally, RAMSA reports an increase of water meters installed, which in 2021 reached 26,743.<sup>149</sup>

Agadir will also benefit from ongoing and planned investments in the desalination and the re-use of wastewater, including the redevelopment of the Chtouka desalination plant, located 40 km south of Agadir, to provide drinking water for Greater Agadir

and irrigation water for the town of Chtouka. The project set up by ONEE, the Moroccan Ministry of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests (le Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Pêche Maritime, du Développement Rural et des Eaux et Forêts du Maroc), aims to improve the production capacity of the Chtouka plant to 400,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day for drinking and agricultural water combined. It is expected to provide 275,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day of desalination water, 150,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day of drinking water (for Greater Agadir), and 125,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day of irrigation water (for Chtouka).<sup>150</sup> It received the Best Public-Private Partnership award at the international conference held by the International Desalination Association (IDA) in 2019 in Dubai.<sup>151</sup>

Last, but not least, the data collected revealed a range of efforts relating to sustainable water management. It showed that the municipality is using treated wastewater for the irrigation of green areas; developing new treated wastewater irrigation networks; monitoring and regularly maintaining the irrigation networks

147 Besoins en eau actuels et futurs 2022, RAMSA (no date), Available at: <http://www.ramsa.ma/Accueil/EspaceTechnique/EauPotable/Besoinsactuelsetfutures.aspx> Accessed on 04/05/2023

148 Source: Travaux de renouvellement du réseau d'eau potable, RAMSA (n.d.) Available at: <http://www.ramsa.ma/Accueil/EspaceTechnique/EauPotable/TravauxderenouvellementdurpercentC3percentA9seaudeaupotable.aspx> Accessed: 25/04/2023

149 According to RAMSA, in 2021 the number of renewed meters was 11,299 and the number of installed meters: 15,444, making up the sum of 26,743. Source: Indicateurs de performances 2022, RAMSA (2022), Available at: Performance indicators 2022 (ramsma.ma) Accessed 27/04/2023

150 SDG 6 survey response, the municipality of Agadir (2022)

151 Actualité. Le projet d'usine de dessalement de Chtouka remporte à Dubaï le prix du meilleur Partenariat Public-Privé, CDG capital (2019) Available at: <https://www.cdgcapital.ma/fr/actualites/le-projet-dusine-de-dessalement-de-ghtouka-remporte-dubai-le-prix-du-meilleur> Accessed 04/05/2023



Figure 14. Anza Corniche. Source : Municipality of Agadir (2023)

and pumping stations to avoid leaks; and modernizing the irrigation system by adopting drip irrigation. It also works closely with the industry to treat wastewater prior to its disposal into the main network, in order to raise awareness on water use efficiency.<sup>152</sup> The data also indicates that the municipality, in collaboration with all its partners-- Hydraulic Basin Agency (ABHSM), the Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development (MTEDD), the

Moroccan Agency for Energy Efficiency (AMEE) and the Multi-Services Autonomous Authority of Agadir (RAMSA)-- developed an action plan for sustainable water management with the support of ICTs (see the text box below). Since 2008, the initiative has been led by RAMSA and supports the realization of the National Digitization Strategy for Cities (SDTN), for the optimization of water management.

#### Optimization of water management with support of ICTs in Agadir

The objective of the action plan is to better control water consumption in the territory of Greater Agadir, to improve the water management operations, as well as the quality of the services provided to customers.

152 Source: the municipality of Agadir. Information gathered during the field visit.



The plan involves installing smart water meters to monitor water consumption to increase the frequency of water quality measurement<sup>153</sup> and to improve the monitoring of the sanitation network with support of ICTs. In 2021, a new technique to measure the sanitation network's quality was introduced. It involved the use of a digital camera to detect and record malfunctions and anomalies in the network. This technique made it possible to control the structure of the collectors and the degrees of degradation of the network caused both by the age of the structure and by the aggressiveness of the effluents passing through. This effectively enabled the prioritization of investment in the restoration of the sanitary network.<sup>154</sup>

Sustainable water management initiatives have also been initiated by institutions and services concerned with sustainable water and sanitation management in Agadir, in partnership with civil society. These include actions dedicated to water and sanitation management and efficient water use, such as training in schools to raise awareness about water conservation, thus setting the stage for more sustainable water management by future generations. These initiatives allow for the achievement of not only target 6.4 but also 6.B (Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management and contribute to strengthening of the resilience of city - SDG 13). Last, but not least, Agadir benefits from the implementation of regional-level initiatives to address water scarcity. It includes most notably the regional climate strategy for Souss-Massa (PTRC), discussed further in SDG 13 section.

### 3.2.3 Summary and Conclusions

Agadir is facing water scarcity due to its geographical location and climate change, which is causing droughts and flash floods. The municipality together with its partners, most notably RAMSA, is making considerable

efforts to improve potable water supply (as outlined in relation to target 6.1) and water-use efficiency (as outlined in relation to target 6.4). This involves the redevelopment of the Chtouka desalination plant to provide potable water and water for irrigation; in addition to initiatives to retain and reuse existing water resources, and to protect and restore water-related ecosystems, also promoted in the context of PTRC. However, investments in desalination are considered complex and expensive,<sup>155</sup> and new technologies and solutions are needed to decrease its costs.

In relation to sanitation infrastructure, the data collected showed that there were strategic efforts by RAMSA to improve quality and access, especially in the context of the masterplan (Les études du Schéma Directeur d'Assainissement liquide du Grand Agadir), the second tranche of which is implemented. It also showed that there was limited information pertaining to target 6.2 (the proportion of the population using safely managed sanitation services). The study on the gender dimension in water provision by RAMSA is flagged as a good practice to mainstream gender in the water sector, paving the way to achieving several SDGs, e.g. SDG 5, SDG 6 and SDG 11. While there is limited data at the local level to inform all SDG 6 indicators, statistical highlights are included in the Figure 15.

153 Etude relative à la mise en place de trois schémas directeurs pour la transformation numérique des villes de Agadir, Fès et Marrakech LIVRABLE 1 : Diagnostic et analyse territoriale – Version provisoire, Idate, October 2018

154 Communication digitale, RAMSA (2021) Available at: <http://www.ramsa.ma/Accueil/EspaceCommunication/Communicationdigitale.aspx>

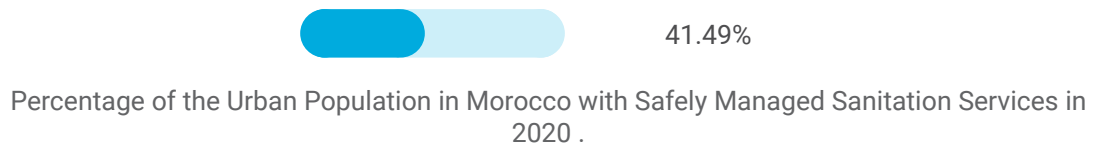
155 SDG 6 Survey Responses, the municipality of Agadir (2022)

**SDG 6: Statistics highlights**

On **SDG Indicator 6.1.1** the proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services:



On **SDG Indicator 6.2.1** the proportion of the population using safely managed sanitation services:



On **SDG Indicator 6.4.1** the change in water-use efficiency over time:

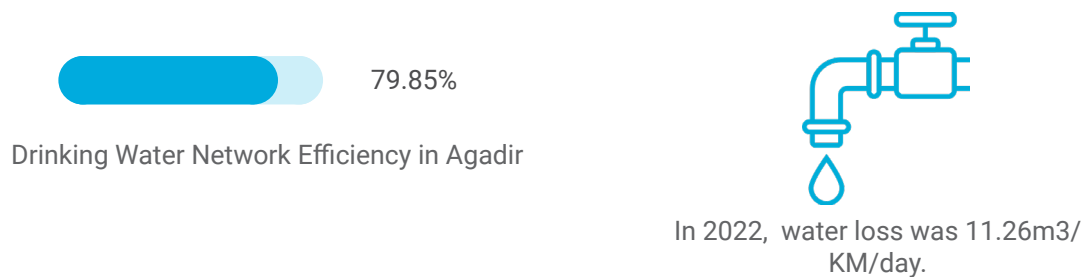


Figure 15. SDG 6: Statistics highlights



# 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

## 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



### 3.3 SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy

*Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all*

#### 3.3.1 Context

The energy sector is one of the key drivers of economic development of Morocco and the biggest contributor to GHG emissions in the country (discussed further in the SDG 13 section). Due to its demographic growth, the country has experienced an increase in demand for energy, which reached 21.25 million tons of oil equivalent (TOE) in 2018 (compared to 19.7 million tons of oil equivalent in 2016). The country's energy profile is outlined in the 2022 Environmental Performance Review of Morocco<sup>156</sup> and in the 2020 VNR (see

the text box below for details). Morocco pursues an integrated approach to energy transformation resting on a new regulatory, policy and institutional framework,<sup>157</sup> financing mechanisms and increased research and development spending.<sup>158</sup> The implementation of the National Energy Efficiency Strategy (SNEE) in Souss-Massa by 2030 is expected to deliver 25 per cent energy savings by reducing energy consumption across sectors including transport, construction and industry,<sup>159</sup> and by meeting a range of renewable energy targets, e.g. increasing solar energy production to 1,140 MW (for concentrated solar power and photovoltaic).<sup>160</sup> SNEE states that achieving these targets will enable fossil fuel saving

156 2nd Environmental Performance Review of Morocco, UNECE (2022).

157 For more information please see: Quels Sont Les Acteurs du Secteur de l'Électricité au Maroc, HEINRICH-BÖLL-STIFTUNG (2022, p. 1) and Plan Cadre Des Nations Unies D'aide au Développement, UNDAF 2017-2021

158 For more information see: Mission pour la préparation du projet proposé au financement par le Fonds Technologies Propres (FTP) Climate Investment Funds, 2010, p.2 and VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) p.91

159 Elaboration du plan territorial de lutte contre le réchauffement climatique (PTRC) de la Région Souss-Massa, Ministère de l'Énergie, des Mines et du Développement Durable, Regional Council of Souss-Massa (2017) p.83

160 The National Energy Efficiency Strategy 2030, Ministry of Energy, Mining, and Sustainable Development (2009) p.25





of 2.6 M toe/year, while contributing to the creation of 25,000 jobs.<sup>161</sup>

The governing body responsible for regulation and implementation of government policies in the energy sector is the Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development (MTEDD). The ministry oversees research, exploration, and production in the energy sector, but relies on a number of public agencies and institutions to develop and implement the government's energy policy, outlined in relation to target 7.1.<sup>162</sup> The electricity in Morocco and

in Agadir is supplied by the National Office for Electricity and Water (ONEE), Electricity branch, which was established in 2012 by the merger of the National Office for Electricity (ONE) and the National Drinking Water Office (ONEP). Its mission is to produce and transport electricity as well as to ensure its distribution (in addition to the distribution of drinking water and sanitation as discussed in SDG 6 section).<sup>163</sup> The realization and promotion of initiatives in the field of renewable energy falls under the competencies of the regions.<sup>164</sup>

### SDG 7: Insights from the 2020 Voluntary National Review

The energy sector relies heavily on fossil fuel imports, with a dependency rate of 91.7 per cent in 2018, gradually decreasing since 2016 when it stood at 93.4 per cent. Oil is the most important energy source with 52.9 per cent share of national energy consumption.<sup>165</sup> With rapid urbanisation and population growth, the demand for energy in the country has been rising. In 2018 it was estimated at 21.25 Mtoe and represented an increase of 1.55 Mtoe compared to 2016.<sup>166</sup> The main energy-consuming sectors are transport, building, industry, and agriculture and fisheries.<sup>167</sup>

The VNR cites challenges to achieving SDG 7 including climate change, which is causing water scarcity and affecting hydroelectric production. It also cites the high consumption of energy particularly within the transport and industry sectors, also associated with rapid urbanization and industrial development; the reduction of energy dependence from foreign countries; and the reduction of fossil fuels within the national energy mix. It also recalls a range of objectives set by the government of Morocco to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable energy for all. This is essential to:

- (i) reduce dependency on imports;
- (ii) improve access to electricity for households, institutions and business, and also across territories;
- (iii) diversify the energy mix through developing modern and renewable energy sources and technologies, such as wind and solar power; and
- (iv) introduce measures to improve energy efficiency across sectors.<sup>168</sup>

161 The National Energy Efficiency Strategy 2030, Ministry of Energy, Mining, and Sustainable Development (2009) p.25

162 SDG 7 survey response, Municipality of Agadir (2022)

163 SDG 7 survey response, Municipality of Agadir (2022)

164 Organic law N°111-14 relative to the regions p.33

165 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020), p.89

166 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) p. 89

167 Elaboration du plan territorial de lutte contre le réchauffement climatique (PTRC) de la Région Souss-Massa, Ministère de l'Énergie, des Mines et du Développement Durable, Regional Council of Souss-Massa (2017) p.83

168 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) p. 94

The VNR also notes that between 2015 and 2018, the country made progress with regard to targets 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3, building on the successful implementation of the National Initiative for Human Development (INDH), the National Strategy for the Development of Rural Spaces and Mountain Areas 2020-2023 (SNDERZM) and supporting initiatives like the Moroccan Solar Plan (PSM), the Integrated Wind Energy Programme (PEI) and the Green Equipment Plan (PEV). PSM and PEI, with a joint investment of 30 billion MAD (\$ 2,791,482), aim to reach a 52 per cent share of renewable energy in installed energy power and 12,896 MW of the capacity of renewable energy sources by 2030.<sup>169</sup>

### 3.2.2 Target Overview

**Target 7.1: By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services**

*This target is measured based on **indicator 7.1.1: Proportion of population with access to electricity**; and **7.1.2: Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology**.*

Although there are no detailed local statistics pertaining to the indicator 7.1.1 and 7.1.2, it can be assumed that the measure of the 7.1.1. indicator in Agadir stands at or nearly 100 per cent given that almost all the urban population of Morocco (99,3 per cent<sup>170</sup>) had electricity in 2018 (Figure 16).

Rich contextual information pertaining to target 7.1 is found in the Sustainable Energy Action Plan (PAED)<sup>171</sup> developed by the municipality in 2015, in line with its commitments under the Covenant of Mayors. PAED sheds a light on the following actions supporting sustainable energy transformation of Agadir<sup>172</sup>:

(i) Modernization of public lighting management

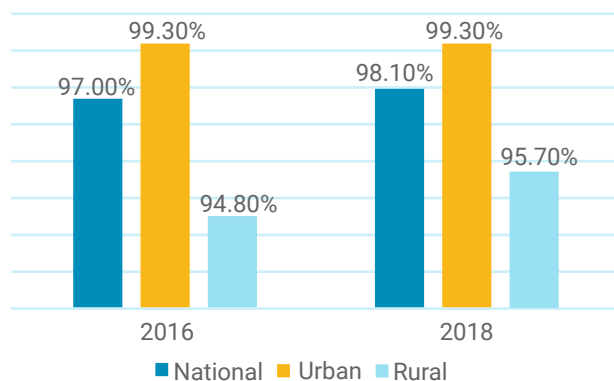


Figure 16. Evolution of Population with Access to Electricity in Morocco in 2016 and 2018 (in Percentages)

- (ii) Adoption of the ISO 50 001 standard
- (iii) Solar pumping - supply of irrigation pumping stations by photovoltaic solar generators
- (iv) LED AZUR - replacement of traditional sources (metal halide) by high-performance LED floodlights
- (v) Setting up of a training and mastery platform for public lighting and energy efficiency technologies;
- (vi) Development of a rapid bus transit system.

During the data collection, the municipality also emphasized that a communication and awareness campaign will accompany the implementation of these actions, and that it would be implemented in collaboration with

169 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) p. 94

170 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) p. 90

171 PAED is a tool supporting sustainable energy transformation of cities and territories, hence contributing to the reduction of GHG emissions. It provides a diagnosis of the contribution of various sectors to GHG emissions and proposes a course of action to increase the use of renewable energy across all sectors: housing, services, industries and transport to offset the emissions.

172 The municipality of Agadir. Information provided through correspondence on 28 March 2023.



Figure 17. The cable car infrastructure on Oufella hill". The source: UN-Habitat (2022).

the municipality's communication department.<sup>173</sup> The municipality is also planning to carry out a range of studies to improve safe access to energy for all.<sup>174</sup>

Actions cited under PAED, are also highlighted in the Urban Development Programme (PDU) and the Territorial Plan to Combat Global Warming (PTRC) which cite sustainable energy transformation initiatives in Agadir including the installation of a new, energy efficient public lighting system; the use of solar energy for shared bicycle stations; and the development and implementation of waste to energy solutions at public landfills (as outlined in the SDG 11 and SGD 13 sections). PTRC notes

that the installation of new public lighting will reduce annual energy consumption by at least 60 per cent and will allow the optimization of its management across 10 municipalities in Greater Agadir.<sup>175</sup>

Last, but not least the collected data revealed that Agadir also joined several national networks that work on energy, in order to learn lessons and induce sustainable energy transformation. These include: (i) the Moroccan Association for Eco Cities (AMEV) where it contributed to the programme on energy efficiency and sustainable development for 2020-2021; (ii) the Moroccan Network of Energy Management (REMME); (iii) the Moroccan Network of Urban

173 The municipality of Agadir. Information provided through correspondence on 28 March 2023.

174 For more information, please see: PAC 2022-2027, the Municipality of Agadir (2022), p. 95.

175 Bilan Plan de Développement Régional SM, Region Souss-Massa (2021) p.110

Waste Management (REMGADU); and (iv) the Moroccan Public Transport Network led by the General Directorate of Local Authorities (DGCL)<sup>176</sup> with the support of the GIZ-CoMun project<sup>177</sup>, with which it shared its experience of sustainable energy policy with Moroccan and Tunisian counterparts.<sup>178</sup>

**Target 7.2: By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix**

*This target is addressed through the **indicator 7.2.1, renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption***

There is no information available on the renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption in Agadir, however the 2020 VNR cites that at the national level the value of this indicator in 2018 was 3.3 per cent, while the share of renewable installed capacity in the total installed capacity<sup>179</sup> in 2018 was 34 per cent.<sup>180</sup>

At the local level, contextual data exists. It shows that renewable energy sources have the potential to play a particularly important role in energy production and consumption in Agadir in the future and that the municipality aspires to increase the use of renewable energy.<sup>181</sup> This is due to its location and climate in the Souss-Massa region, which has one of the highest sunshine rates in the country at 8

kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/day. The region sees considerable investment in renewable energy production, in line with government plans to develop solar power plants with a total capacity of 320 MW<sup>182</sup> in Souss-Massa. One example is the Noor Tata solar farm in the province of Tata, with a capacity of 120 MW under the Souss-Massa Regional Development Plan 2015-2021<sup>183</sup> and the Noor Atlas solar projects with a 200 MW energy production capacity (see Figure 18 below).<sup>184</sup> At the regional level in 2018, the regional council and the Moroccan Agency for Energy Efficiency (AMEE) created a partnership with a dedicated budget of 2 million MAD



The Souss-Massa region has the **highest sunshine rates** in the Kingdom at 8kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/day

The government plans to develop solar power plants with a total capacity of **320 MW** in the Souss-Massa Region, including the Noor Atlas solar projects with a **200 MW** energy production capacity and the Noor Tata solar farm with a capacity of **120 MW** under the Souss Massa Regional Development Plan 2015-2021

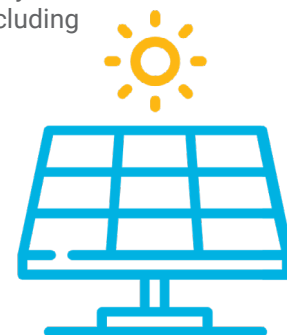


Figure 18. Renewable Energy in Agadir.

176 SDG 7 survey response, The municipality of Agadir (2022)

177 The "CoMun" is a municipal cooperation project for local and participatory governance in the Maghreb carried out by the GIZ. It encourages the networking of cities for urban and municipal development in Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria. Source: CoMun : Coopération municipale - Gouvernance locale et participative au Maghreb 2017 2

178 SDG 7 survey response, The municipality of Agadir (2022)

179 It is "the amount of energy that a power station, etc. is able to produce"; Available at: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/installed-capacity>; Accessed: 28/11/2022

180 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) pp.90-91

181 PAC 2017-2022 notes that the municipality aspired to reduce energy consumption by 12-15 per cent by the end of 2020 and to meet 42 per cent of energy needs from renewable energy sources, 14 per cent solar sources, 14 per cent wind sources and 14 per cent water sources. Plan d'Action Communal 2017-2022, the Municipality of Agadir (2017), p.23

182 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) p.94

183 Bilan Plan de Développement Régional SM, (2021)

184 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) p. 94



(\$186,557). Of that, 1.2 million MAD (\$111,934) is dedicated to activities related to wind energy projects including the realization of two units to measure wind speed in the rural communes of Ait Wafka (province of Tiznit) and Tamri (Agadir Ida Outanane) of Souss-Massa.<sup>185</sup>

Lastly, the data collected also revealed the gender dimension of renewable energy transformation.<sup>186</sup> In 2015, the city of Agadir hosted a series of training sessions, carried out over four days, benefitting over 120 women cooperatives in the renewable energy sector. The sessions worked to promote solar solutions and sustainable production methods within argan and agricultural cooperatives.<sup>187</sup> Another initiative was the Agadir Women Committed to Energy Transition which took place from 2021 to 2023 and supported 20 young women technicians in the manufacturing of solar equipment. This benefited over 15 women's agricultural and fisheries cooperatives within Agadir, through the integration of renewable energy with ancestral knowledge.<sup>188</sup>

**Target 7.3: By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency**

*Relevant indicator: 7.3.1, energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP*

Although limited quantitative data on energy intensity in Agadir is available, at the national level the energy intensity hovered around 25 per cent between 2015 and 2018.<sup>189</sup> Also, there was rich contextual information on the municipality of Agadir to improve energy efficiency.

In relation to the 7.3 target, the municipality developed an approach to implementing the National Energy Efficiency Strategy (SNEE) that recognizes the regional dimension of energy policy and the role of territorial actors (representatives of decentralized state administration at the regional, provincial and commune/municipality level), as well as consultation with public, private and other partners. The actions are structured around the following three axes: (i) improving energy efficiency; (ii) producing renewable energy based on local resources; (iii) raising awareness and behavioural change. It is expected that the execution of this approach will:

- reduce electricity consumption of the municipality of Agadir by 40 per cent,
- optimize management and improve the quality of public lighting; and improve the quality of life in the city of Agadir,
- preserve the environment through the development of green energy (energy from

185 Souss-Massa - Satisfaire les nouvelles demandes d'énergie par les renouvelables. Bilan de l'action climat des territoires, Cite Territoires Gouvernance (2019)

186 For more information about the role of women in renewable energy transformation please see: Apport Genre et Energie GIZ- Maroc Cluster Énergie (2017)

187 Sustainable development: 120 female argan cooperative leaders trained in Agadir, Aujourd'hui Le Maroc (2021). Available at: <https://aujourd'hui.ma/economie/developpement-durable-120-dirigeantes-de-cooperatives-arganieres-formees-a-agadir> Accessed: 19/05/2023

188 Women of Agadir Committed to Energy Transition, Secheresse (2021). Available at <http://www.secheresse.info/spip.php?article108812>

189 Energy intensity is understood as the ratio between primary energy and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and is measured in Toe/1Mhd of GDP. For more information, please see VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) p. 95



Figure 19. PV Hotel de ville. Source: Municipality of Agadir (2023)

renewable resources), mobilize and sensitize partners to promote environmentally-friendly behaviour based on the principles of environmental protection and energy saving,

- participate in actions for and promote the energy independence of Morocco.<sup>190</sup>

Such initiatives not only contribute to achieving SDG 7 targets but also SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities with target 11.2 on sustainable transport system, and SDG 13 on climate action, with target 13.2 on integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.

At the same time, there have been a number of other actions by the municipality to

improve energy efficiency. For example, the municipality is using luminaires equipped with dual-power ballasts that optimize energy consumption<sup>191</sup> and is planning to roll-out already existing schemes and install energy-efficient public lighting across various districts of the municipality. This paves the way for the reduction of GHG emissions and the meeting of national objectives set for 2030, namely to reach more than 50 per cent of installed electrical capacity from renewable sources by 2025 and to reduce energy consumption by 15 per cent by 2030.<sup>192</sup> That being said, the municipality reports that further investments in this matter also require support from the state.

The survey showed a range of actions by the municipality to accelerate progress towards SDG7 such as organizing an open a debate

190 SDG 7 survey response, The Municipality of Agadir (2022)

191 SDG 7 survey response, The Municipality of Agadir (2022)

192 SDG 7 survey response, The Municipality of Agadir (2022)



on energy efficiency and the development of renewable energies with the technical services of the municipality and the “territorial actors”; organizing a meeting between the national authorities, the CES-MED<sup>193</sup> team, the decision-makers and technical team at the municipality and the territorial partners; delivery of awareness raising actions about energy and climate among citizens and economic actors. The municipality also hosted an open-air exhibition on LED-based public lighting, and installed photovoltaic panels on the roof of its city hall; and many others.<sup>194</sup> It also intends to set up an integrated management system for the recovery of energy from waste.<sup>195</sup>

The municipality is also determined to increase energy efficiency through the implementation of the Lighting Development Master Plan (SDAL) by: (i) improving public lighting and using renewable and energy municipal buildings; (ii) raising awareness about energy efficiency and improving the attractiveness of the city. It is also collaborating with GIZ on a number of initiatives including:

Energy efficiency and street lighting LAB (EESLL): a platform for training and mastering street lighting and energy efficiency technologies

PointMEDIA: development and distribution of educational content related to public lighting and energy efficiency (videos and podcasts)

Open Smart Living LAB (OSLL)<sup>196</sup>

In 2019, the National Office of Electricity and Drinking Water (ONEE) launched an audit of its electricity distribution system in Agadir with a view to modernizing and optimizing its electricity network.

The Urban Development Programme (PDU) 2020-2024 and Urban Mobility Programme also cite the following actions: installation of low voltage “LED” lamps, solar energy powered traffic signs; the use of energy efficient lamps as part of maintenance work and saving 30 to 50 per cent of energy, and plates equipped with photovoltaic cells, as well as light control.<sup>197</sup> Sustainable energy development is one of the priority areas of Communal Development Plan (PDC) of Agadir realized through the Tinou process, which defines the approach to the development of a territorial strategy for sustainable energy based on the experience of the Jiha Tinou city. The city was in February 2013 one of three pilot cities to test a new approach to the energy planning process. Jiha Tinou means “my region” in Arabic and Amazigh. Launched in 2012 and spanning eight years, the Jiha Tinou energy strategy aimed to improve the capacity of local actors to contribute (at their respective levels of governance) to meeting Morocco’s energy objectives by 2020. This was done by encouraging energy management at the local level, and by strengthening the municipal and regional capacity to develop local renewable energy resources.<sup>198</sup>

193 CES-MED is a programme financed by the European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI), which is the main financial mechanism through which assistance is given to the European Neighbourhood Policy countries.

194 SDG 7 survey response, The Municipality of Agadir (2022)

195 Maroc Commune d’Agadir Plan d’action en faveur de l’énergie durable (PAED) (2015) p. 7-8

196 Information provided by the municipality through correspondence on 28 March 2023.

197 SDG 7 survey response, The Municipality of Agadir (2022)

198 Jiha Tinou - stratégie territoriale en matière de développement énergétique durable, Agence Marocaine pour l’Efficacité Énergétique, Available at: <https://www.amee.ma/fr/jiha-tinou#:~:text=Jiha per cent20Tinou per cent20>

### The role of ICTs in the sustainable energy transformation of Agadir

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) play an important role in the sustainability transformation of the energy sector of Agadir, which is also highlighted in the Sustainable Energy Action Plan (PAED),<sup>199</sup> the Urban Development Programme (PDU) 2020-2024 and the Urban Mobility Plan. ICTs provide tools to optimize energy production and consumption and to generate energy saving. The National Digitization Strategy for Cities (SDTN) concerning Agadir promotes the use of smart energy meters as a basis for the development of a renewable energy-based smart grid and smart public lighting systems.<sup>200</sup> Smart grids optimize the production and distribution of electricity according to demand, and reduce energy losses within the distribution network. They promote the integration of new infrastructures into the electrical network, offering more flexibility than traditional management methods. The installation of a smart public lighting system in Agadir is expected to contribute to reducing the city's electricity bill by around 35 million MAD annually.

### 3.3.3 Summary and Conclusions

Collection of urban data pertaining to SDG 7 targets revealed both challenges and opportunities for providing universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services in Agadir. It showed a favourable climate for investing in renewable energy sources and cited relevant initiatives including the Noor Tata and the Noor Atlas solar projects, which were enabled through a new regulatory, policy and institutional framework outlined in depth in the 2020 VNR. At the local level, there is limited quantitative data pertaining to SDG 7 indicators, while a wealth of contextual data exists. It includes insights into the initiatives of the Agadir municipality in relation to renewable and energy-efficient production and consumption (e.g. in the context of PAED or Urban Development Programme), such as the installation of energy-efficient public lighting

systems, the increase in the production of green and thermal energy, the collaboration with GIZ on a range of initiatives including the EESL Energy efficiency and street lighting LAB, OSLL Open Smart Living LAB and others.<sup>201</sup> PTRC notes that the installation of new public lighting will reduce annual energy consumption by at least 60 per cent, and will allow the optimization of its management across 10 municipalities of Greater Agadir.<sup>202</sup> It also developed an approach to implementing the National Energy Efficiency Strategy (SNEE) that recognizes the regional dimension of energy policy and the role of territorial actors (representatives of decentralized state administration at the regional; provincial and commune/municipality levels) and the consultation with public, private, and other partners. More data can be found in Figure 20 below.

The sustainable energy transformation in Agadir is subject to a range of factors, including the efficient functioning of the institutional and legislative framework for sustainable energy and successes in the implementation

199 Étude relative à la mise en place de trois schémas directeurs pour la transformation numérique des villes de 89.p (2020) SDTN Agadir, IDATE :3 Agadir, Fès et Marrakech. Livrable

200 "Smart Grid is a new electricity network, which highly integrates the advanced sensing and measurement technologies, information and communication technologies (ICTs), analytical and decision-making technologies, automatic control technologies with energy and power technologies and infrastructure of electricity grids." Available at: <https://electricala2z.com/electrical-power/smart-grid-definition-goals-objectives-nist-conceptual-model>

201 Information provided by the municipality through correspondence on 28 March 2023.

202 Bilan Plan de Développement Régional SM, (2021) p.110





of national and regional initiatives. It is also subject to energy market dynamics in the country, region and beyond; the cost of technologies; as well as access to relevant funding and financing mechanisms. Meeting the goal of an inclusive, smart, sustainable and resilient city in line with PAC 2022-2027 will also require leveraging access to various types of resources including knowledge; know-how; human, financial and other resources,

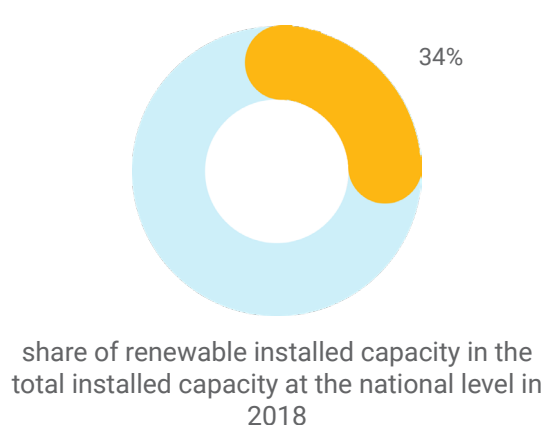
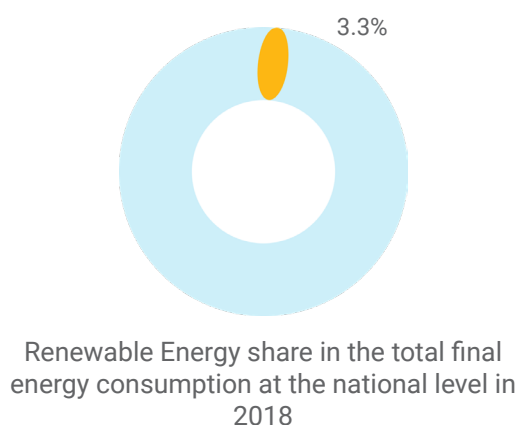
particularly the best available technologies (ICT solutions which allow the optimization of energy production and consumption); and urban data on energy (such as on the scale of energy production and consumption in the city, and in relation to renewable energy; energy consumption and energy saving across sectors) which sets the ground for efficient and effective evidence-based policy processes and decision-making.

### SDG 7: Statistics highlights

On **SDG Indicator 7.1.1**: *Proportion of population with access to electricity:*



On **SDG Indicator 7.2.1**: *Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption:*



On **SDG Indicator 7.3.1**: *Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP:*

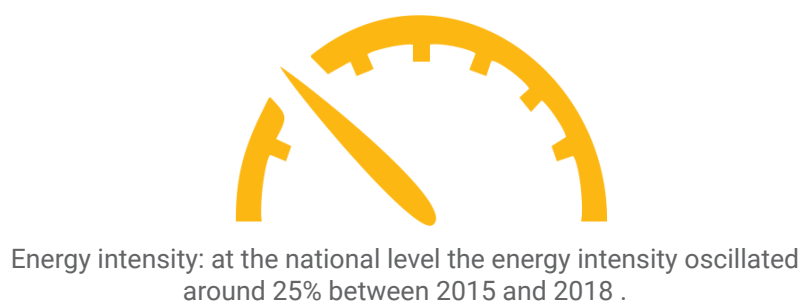


Figure 20. SDG 7: Statistics highlights



# DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



### 3.4 SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

*Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*

#### 3.4.1 Context

Over the last decade, Morocco has experienced rapid urbanization and population growth, which has increased the pace of

economic growth, generated new jobs, while also increasing pressure on labour markets.<sup>203</sup> Accordingly, decent work and economic growth are the priorities of the government of Morocco, as discussed further in the 2020 VNR (detailed insights are presented in the text box below).

#### SDG 8: Insights from 2020 VNR<sup>204</sup>

The 2020 VNR notes that the rate of economic growth in the country rose from 3.1 per cent in the 1990s to almost 4.2 per cent on average annually between 2000 and 2018; and that the GDP per capita increased from 16,003 MAD (\$1,518) in 1999 to 27,811 MAD (\$2,638) in 2018, driven by the diversification and modernization of traditional sectors, which saw the emergence of new niche activities. On the labour market, it states that in 2019, the employment rate of the active population was 41.6 per cent for the country as a whole – 36.9 per cent in urban areas and 50.3 per cent in rural areas – and that the unemployment rate for men was 7.8 per cent of the active male population, whereas it was 13.5 per cent for women.

203 Schema Regional d'Aménagement du Territoire (SRAT) de la region Souss-Massa, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) pp. 95,147

204 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) pp.96-101

The 2020 VNR cites a range of challenges facing the economy including climate change, a dependence on international contexts, relatively low salaries, the need to improve job creation and job access particularly for women and youth, and the need to address the growth of informal economy activities. In relation to infrastructure as a leverage for economic development, it mentions the challenges facing transport infrastructure (such as the conservation of road assets), the need to strengthen its resilience to climate change, and the fact that these challenges are expected to rise due to the climate change.

At the same time, the VNR points to a range of initiatives that have driven the country's economic development –such as the Industrial Acceleration Plan (PAI), the Green Morocco Plan (PMV) and the National Employment Strategy (NES) 2015-2025– to promote decent employment by improving working conditions, increasing the participation of young people and women in the labour market, strengthening equal access to employment and reducing territorial employment disparities, as per the National Employment Promotion Plan (PNPE) 2018-2021.<sup>205</sup> In relation to tourism, the VNR highlights the country's vision 2020 for tourism (La Vision 2020 du Secteur Touristique), which aims to enhance the role of tourism as a driver of economic, social and cultural development in Morocco. The vision focuses on regional promotion, sustainable development, the establishment of a culture of quality of services at all levels of tourist activity and the development of human capital. It aims to increase capacity and diversify the sector and ultimately, increase the share of tourism GDP by 2 percentage points.

Planning for economic development is the main competency of the Souss-Massa region according to Law 111-14,<sup>206</sup> which states that regional development and spatial planning are part of the own competencies of the region. Economic development includes support for businesses, the domiciliation and organization of economic activity zones in the region, the development of roads and tourist circuits in the rural areas, the promotion of regional wholesale markets, the creation of craft and craft activity zones, attracting investments and the promotion of the social economy and regional products.

The economy of the Souss-Massa region is built on the foundations of ATP, contributing to 24.3 per cent of the regional wealth in 2020.<sup>207</sup> The industrial sector has thrived since 2005, with a reported increase of turnover of 80 per cent, an added value increase of 90 per cent and the doubling of jobs.<sup>208</sup> The regional economy is dependent on climate (discussed further in the SDG 13 section), providing opportunities and challenges for the development of agriculture and tourism. In 2021, the size of the active population of Souss-Massa was 904,000.<sup>209</sup> Most of the economic activity in the Souss-Massa region is concentrated in Greater Agadir, especially the Agadir-Taroudant-Inezgane economic activity zone, which comprises more

205 PNPE measures also benefit young people in rural areas, migrants and ex-prisoners. With regard to the challenges facing migrants, the VNR also mentions a range of measures addressing the vulnerable working population, including migrants, e.g. to establish subsidised contracts for legal migrants and regions and support programmes for self-employment for these categories; to strengthen training services and programmes for migrants in particular and mobilise civil society associations to inform and orient migrants on these integration opportunities.

206 Organic law N° 113-14 concerning the communes, Ministry of Interior (Press) (2016)

207 It includes the following contributions across sectors: Agriculture (16.7 per cent), Tourism (5.4 per cent) and Fishery sectors (2.2 per cent). Information provided by the municipality through correspondence on 28 March 2023

208 The Report: Morocco Souss-Massa 2021, Oxford Business Group (2021) p.20

209 Information provided by the municipality via correspondence on 28 March 2023

than 80 per cent of bank deposits (with nearly 40 billion MAD, \$3.9 billion, in 2018). In recent decades, Agadir has become the centre of administrative, health, university, logistics and transport services and infrastructure for the whole of southern Morocco, and a home for the majority of the population in the region.<sup>210</sup>

### 3.4.2 Target Overview

#### Target 8.1: Sustainable Economic Growth

The target is measured by **indicator 8.1.1** The annual growth rate of real GDP per capita

Data collection on SDG 8 showed that the economy of Agadir is built on the foundations of ATP. At the same time, it pointed to limited statistical information to inform the 8.1.1. indicator including on the annual growth rate of real GDP per capita in Agadir, despite the existence of relevant data at the prefecture

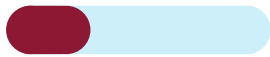


Figure 21. Source: UNESCWA (2022)

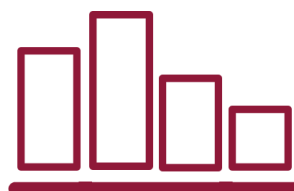
210 Schema Regional d'Aménagement du Territoire (SRAT) de la région Souss-Massa, Kingdom of Morocco (2020)

and regional levels. It showed that in 2018, the prefecture of Agadir Ida Outanane recorded the highest per capita GDP in the region at 29,454 MAD (\$2,754).<sup>211</sup> While in 2020, the GDP of the Souss-Massa region was nearly 75,492 Million MAD (7,544,296,190 USD), making it 26,045 MAD (\$2,602) per capita;<sup>212</sup> and was unequal across locations. The regional GDP accounted for 6.5 per cent of the national GDP, ranking Souss-Massa sixth among other regions of Morocco in terms of GDP value.<sup>213</sup> Since 2008 the Souss-Massa region has significantly reduced its poverty rate and ranked seventh amongst other regions in the country, at the rate of 7.2 per cent (2021).<sup>214</sup> Agadir also saw a decrease over the past decade. In 2014, the monetary poverty in Agadir was at 0.4 per cent compared to 7.5 per cent in 2004, and multi-dimensional poverty was at 1.1 per cent, compared to 2.9 per cent in 2004 (see Figure 22).<sup>215</sup>

HCP also flags that in 2020 the top contributors to the regional economy were agriculture (16.7 per cent), industry (11.5 per cent), real estate (14.2 per cent), trade (12.2 per cent), followed by fisheries (2.2 per cent) and tourism (5.4 per cent), as demonstrated in Figure 23.<sup>216</sup> When it comes to agriculture, the region boasts 451,165 hectares of cultivated farmland, 106,664 of which are equipped with drip irrigation (for more information about the access and use of water in the Souss-Massa region please see the SDG 6 section on water). In 2018, it was also the biggest producer of vegetables and citrus



In 2020, the regional GDP accounted for **6.5%** of the national GDP



The Souss-Massa Region ranks the **6th** amongst other regions of Morocco in terms of GDP value. In 2021, the poverty rate in Souss-Massa was **7.2%** ranking the region **7th** in the country.

*Figure 22. Regional Ranks in Terms of GDP and Poverty Rate.*

fruits in the country contributing to 17.3 per cent of the regional GDP and 9 per cent of the national GDP.<sup>217</sup>

The collected data also revealed a range of challenges to the economic development of Souss-Massa, including the rapid pace of urbanization and population growth affecting quality of life and social inclusion, and the increasing pressure on labour markets due to the increase of job seekers. It also cites the absence of a regional economic model that takes into account the specificities of each territory, the lack of strategies dedicated to each of the sectors of Souss-Massa, and a

211 For more information, please see Schema Regional d’Aménagement du Territoire (SRAT) de la region Souss-Massa (2021) p.39

212 Les Comptes régionaux 2020 Région Souss-Massa, HCP.

213 Les Comptes régionaux 2020 Région Souss-Massa, HCP.

214 Schema Regional d’Aménagement du Territoire (SRAT) de la region Souss-Massa, Kingdom of Morocco (2021) p.33

215 Multidimensional poverty by provinces and prefectures and by municipalities in 2014 (HCP), Available at: [https://www.hcp.ma/region-agadir/Pauvrete-multidimensionnelle-par-provinces-et-prefectures-et-par-communes-en-2014\\_a139.html](https://www.hcp.ma/region-agadir/Pauvrete-multidimensionnelle-par-provinces-et-prefectures-et-par-communes-en-2014_a139.html)

Distinction between the monetary and multi-dimensional poverty is discussed here: Monetary and Multidimensional Poverty: Correlations, Mismatches and Joint Distributions, Evans et al. (2020).

216 Les Comptes régionaux 2020 Région Souss-Massa, HCP.

217 Agriculture, Kingdom of Morocco-Souss-Massa Region (2018) Available at: <https://www.soussmassa.ma/en/agriculture>. It is also important to note that the GDP calculation reflects the size of the informal economy in the region. Information provided by the municipality through correspondence on 28/03/2023

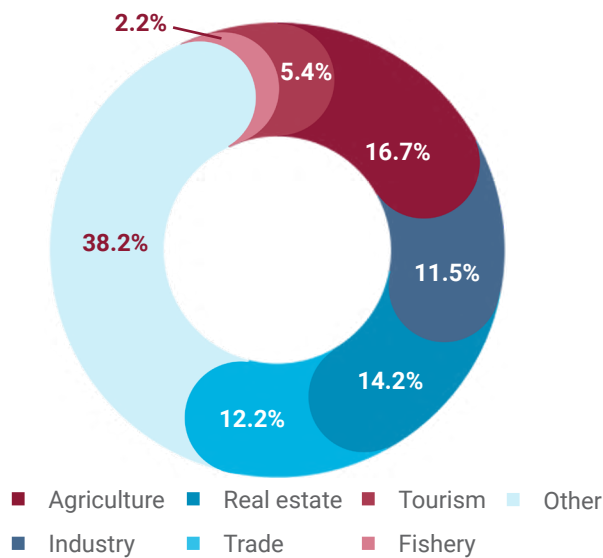


Figure 23. Top Contributors to the Regional Economy in 2020.

mismatch between workforce supply and demand, as well as the need for workforce training adapted to the modern labour market.<sup>218</sup> At the same time, the data points to a range of initiatives supporting sustainable economic growth in the region, driving the economic development of Greater Agadir and Agadir. These focus on (i) industrializing, diversifying and upgrading economic activity; (ii) promoting job creation and the growth of enterprises; (iii) ensuring equal access to the labour market; and (iv) promoting sustainable tourism; often leveraging access to ICTs<sup>219</sup>, as outlined below.

### Target 8.2 Diversify, innovate and upgrade for economic productivity

Relevant **indicator 8.2.1**: annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person

While no information is available about the annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person in Agadir, the value at the national level stood at 1.7 per cent.<sup>220</sup> At the same time, contextual data shows that over the last two decades, the regional economy has undergone considerable transformation which has led to the implementation of national initiatives and the reorganization of regional economic activities in line with the law number 47-18 concerning the reform of Regional Investment Centres<sup>221</sup> in Morocco. It also resulted in the creation of unified investment commissions. The implementation of the law saw the emergence of the regional Investment Centre of Souss-Massa whose mission is to contribute to the implementation of the State's policy on the development, encouragement, promotion and attraction of investment at regional level. It also strives to support business, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises and very small enterprises, including on matters of amicable settlement of disputes, providing territorial information requested by the investor, organizing promotional campaigns for the economic assets of the territory and many others.<sup>222</sup> The Regional Investment Centre (CRI) leads the economic diversification initiatives of the region, notably connected with the realization of the Industrial Acceleration Plan (PAI). According to CRI, "While the historic

218 Schema Regional d'Aménagement du Territoire (SRAT) de la région Souss-Massa, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) p.77-80

219 Schema Regional d'Aménagement du Territoire (SRAT) de la région Souss-Massa, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) p.77

220 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) p. 103

221 The centres were originally created in 2002. For more information, please see: <https://www.manageo.io/blog/le-cri-au-maroc-centre-d-investissement-regionnal>

222 More information can be found in Article 4 of the law: Dahir n° 1-19-18 du 7 jourmada II 1440 portant promulgation de la loi n° 47-18 portant réforme des centres régionaux d'investissement et création des commissions régionales unifiées d'investissement. (B.O. n° 6754 du 21 février 2019); Available at: BO\_6754\_Fr.pdf (sgg.gov.ma)



Figure 24. The city of Agadir. Source: UNESCWA 2022

economic ATP ecosystem must be supported – particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic – the region has the opportunity to position itself as an industrial powerhouse in the south (...) the PAI, in particular, is crucial to the region’s future.”<sup>223</sup> The objectives of PAI in the Souss-Massa region are presented in Appendix 7.

It is also important to note the role of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services in Sous-Massa (CCISSM) located in Agadir, the General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises (CGEM)– including members such as the Federation of Commerce and Services (FCS)– in guiding economic development in Sous-Massa

and Agadir. Created in 1962, CCISSM, is a public body responsible for representing, defending and developing the interests of all licensed companies, located in Souss-Massa, which amount to over 64,000 companies. It is run by business leaders, volunteers, elected by traders, industrialists and service providers and has three missions: representative; advisory; and providing economic support.<sup>224</sup> CGEM was created in 1947, it represents more than 90,000 direct and affiliated members (companies), 95 per cent of whom are VSMEs. It has established itself as the official representative of the private sector to public authorities, social partners and institutions.<sup>225</sup> FCS was created in 1960 and is

223 The Report: Morocco Souss-Massa 2021, Oxford Business Group (2021) p. 5

224 Presentation, Chamber of Commerce of Industry and Service of Souss-Massa Available at: <http://www.cciis-agadir.com/index.php?page=presentation>

225 Who are we? - CGEM (n.d.) Available at: <https://cgem.ma/qui-sommes-nous/#la-cgem>

the oldest Federation of the CGEM. It represents 64 professional associations and over 2,000 companies operating in the trade and services sectors. Its mission is to help develop different forms of trade and services by accompanying members in their reflections, by clarifying their specificities compared to other models, and by participating in the construction of an adapted legal and fiscal doctrine.<sup>226</sup>

The municipality of Agadir is working to improve economic growth and attractiveness in the city by taking several actions. According to PAC 2022-2027, these include supporting the creation of new economic competitiveness clusters (circular economy, digital, cosmetics, and crafts), supporting start-ups, strengthening partnerships, digitization, improving mobility and logistics within the city, and setting up new markets with an innovative management model that will help merchants and operators, and increase municipal revenues.<sup>227</sup>

At the same time, collected data also revealed that economic transformation efforts at the regional and national levels saw the emergence of the Integrated Industrial Park Agadir, the City of Innovation Souss-Massa (CI-SM), Agadir Technopark, the City of Trade and Skills (CMC), as well as the development of the "Haliopolis" or

redevelopment of the port, in Agadir (outlined in Appendix 8). The Oxford Business Group (2021) points out that the Integrated Industrial Park Agadir I, the Integrated Industrial Park Agadir II are expected to play an important role in development of the industry in the region.

The report also states that digital infrastructure will play a significant role in driving the economic development of the Souss-Massa region and Agadir. Agadir's Technopark, covering 36 hectares and created as part of the regional implementation of PAI in 2018 with a budget of 169.5 million MAD, lies at the heart of the region's digital transformation.<sup>228</sup> It also states that the General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises (Confédération Générale des Entreprises du Maroc, CGEM) encourages the digitalization of businesses in Souss-Massa and has hosted conferences on the subject since 2018. New areas of digital development have flowed, including a burgeoning e-commerce sector. In a similar vein, SDTN believes using (ICTs) will improve the attractiveness and competitiveness of the economy across sectors, by (i) raising awareness, (ii) providing training for businesses, (iii) developing smart infrastructure, across the ATP sectors and beyond, including developing the "smart port" of Agadir as outlined in text box below.<sup>229</sup>

### Developing the Smart Port of Agadir

Over the last decade, the national ports in Morocco have undergone considerable changes as a result of new modes of governance, the restructuring of the fisheries and trade sectors, and investments in infrastructure. Building on these changes, the National Ports Agency aims to boost the services located in port areas by focusing on the digitization of the access to the port and its activities, developing "Smart Ports" and port ecosystems. The port of Agadir is amongst the largest ports in the Kingdom. It plays an important role in developing the regional economy, by offering a platform for export and an outlet for ATP activities, especially agro-food activities and the fishing sector. In fact, with traffic of around 5 million tonnes per year, almost half of which is exported, the port of Agadir is the major transit point for exports in the region.

226 FCS at a glance, FCS (n.d.) Available at: <https://www.fcs.ma/fcs-en-bref>

227 PAC 2022-2027, Municipality of Agadir (2022) p. 39

228 The Report: Morocco Souss-Massa 2021, Oxford Business Group (2021) p.21

229 Étude relative à la mise en place de trois schémas directeurs pour la transformation numérique des villes de Agadir, Fès et Marrakech. Livrable 3: SDTN Agadir, IDATE (2020), p.113





The SDTN believes the “digitalization” of the port of Agadir will improve access to services located in the port, as it moves towards developing an innovative “smart port” that is capable of leveraging innovative management processes and technologies.<sup>230</sup> The expected outcomes of the initiative are improved productivity, efficiency of the port and its associated industries, as well as strengthening its eco-system comprising organizations and businesses across sectors. Developing the Smart Port of Agadir in the future is tied to the provision of infrastructure and communication networks, further efforts to improve connectivity of the port including via applications that allow people to access port services and others.<sup>231</sup>

### Target 8.3: Promote policies to support job creation and growing enterprises

*The target is measured by 8.3.1 indicator, proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex*

Data collection found no quantitative data pertaining to target 8.3.1 in Agadir, but it did find a range of qualitative data on initiatives to support job creation and growth of enterprises in Souss-Massa. In line with the split of competencies, regional authorities developed initiatives supporting SMEs in partnerships with other ministerial departments. These included a partnership agreement aimed at supporting the creation and development of SMEs and VSEs (Very Small Enterprises); a support mechanism for the development of SMEs and VSEs in the tourism sector; the City of Innovation Souss-Massa (CI-SM); the City of Trade and Skills (CMC), and Technopark Agadir, all located in Agadir, as well as other initiatives (see Appendix 8).

Job creation is a part of the PAI with a range of associated projects (outlined in the previous section), including for instance the Haliopolis Park, valued at of 6.6 billion MAD, which reported an increase of employees in the fisheries sector estimated at 3 million MAD (\$299,559).<sup>232</sup> Also, in February 2020, King Mohammed VI inaugurated a fishing dock that is expected to generate 670 jobs, and produce approximately 23,240 tonnes of oysters and 38,660 tonnes of algae annually in Imourane in the Souss-Massa region.<sup>233</sup>

230 Étude relative à la mise en place de trois schémas directeurs pour la transformation numérique des villes de 113.p ,(2020) SDTN Agadir, IDATE :3 Agadir, Fès et Marrakech. Livrable

231 Schema Regional d’Aménagement du Territoire (SRAT) de la region Souss-Massa, Kingdom of Morocco 154.p (2020)

232 The Report: Morocco Souss-Massa 2021, Oxford Business Group (2021) p.18

233 The Report: Morocco Souss-Massa 2021, Oxford Business Group (2021) p.19

**Target 8.5: Full employment and decent work with equal pay**

*The target is measured by 8.5.2, unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities*

On target 8.5.2 data collection showed that in 2014, 160,216 inhabitants of Agadir were economically active. This includes 116,191 men (73 per cent of men) and 44,025 women (28 per cent of women). The unemployment rate in the same year was 17.2 per cent on average for both genders, including 13.6 per cent for men and 26.7 per cent for women. At the same time, the illiteracy rate for women in Agadir in 2014 was 25.7 per cent and 10.1 per cent for men making up 17.1 per cent on average for the population.<sup>234</sup> Also, most employed persons work in the private sector or have freelance status.<sup>235</sup>

At the level of the province, according to the National Employment Survey in 2020, the unemployment rate in Agadir Ida Outanane was 15.4 per cent.<sup>236</sup> Meanwhile, the HCP indicates that in 2021 unemployment in the Souss-Massa was 11.3 per cent, slightly below the national unemployment rate of 12.3 per cent; with rates found to be significantly higher for women at 16,6 per cent than for men at 9,9 per cent.<sup>237</sup> Similar dynamics can be found at the regional level.<sup>238</sup> The lower activity rate of women can be attributed to women being classified as “inactive” in labour market because they occupy positions of heads of households,<sup>239</sup> and because there are higher illiteracy rates for women than for men. For more information about gender equality please see the SDG 5 section. Selected Initiatives dedicated to promoting equal access to the labour market in the Souss-Massa region are cited in Appendix 9.

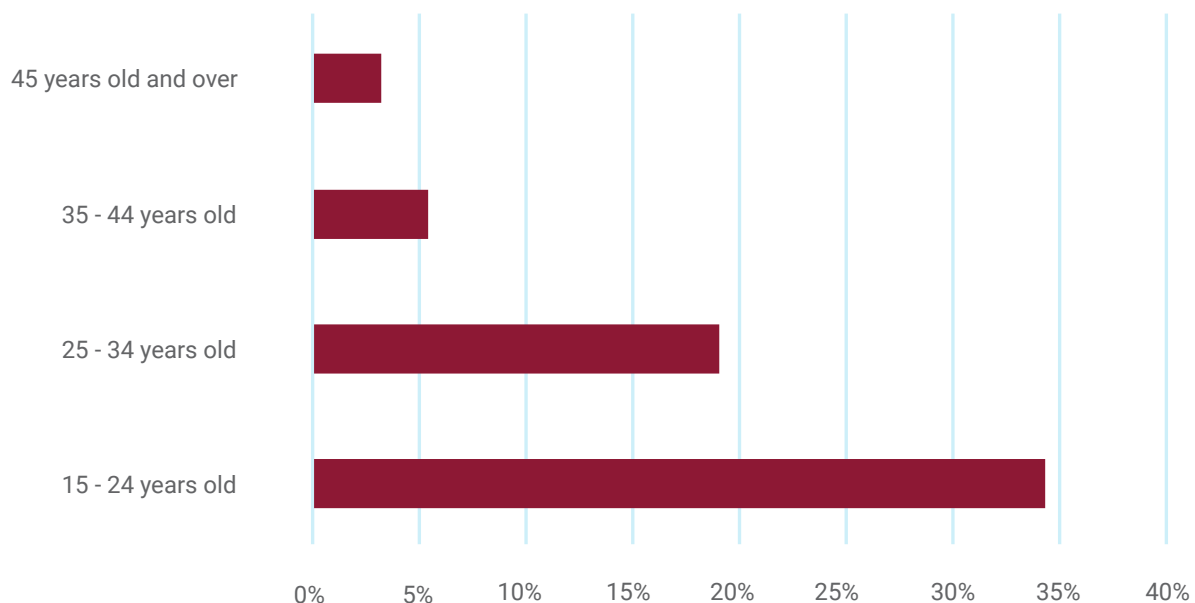


Figure 25. Unemployment Rate across Various Age Groups in the Souss Massa Region in 2021.

234 PAC of Agadir (2017-2022), the Municipality of Agadir (2017) p.15

235 PAC of Agadir (2017-2022), the Municipality of Agadir (2017) p.17

236 Monographie Regionale: Souss-Massa, Direction Regionale du Souss-Massa (2020). p.38

237 Note sur la Situation du Marche du Travail dans la Region Souss-Massa En 2021, HCP (2022) p.8

238 For more information, please see: Note sur la Situation du Marche du Travail dans la Region Souss-Massa En 2021, HCP (2022) and Région Souss-Massa Femmes et Marché du Travail: Réalités & perspectives, HCP (2022)

239 Région Souss-Massa Femmes et Marché du Travail: Réalités & perspectives, HCP (2022) p. 23



Also, in relation to indicator 8.5.2 in Souss-Massa, the HCP notes that in 2021 the unemployment rate in the region was the highest among people aged between 15-24 years old at 34 per cent, and second-highest among people aged between 25-34 at 19 per cent (Figure 25). This can be attributed to an overall mismatch between workforce supply and demand, as well as in terms of the type of qualification.<sup>240</sup> The high unemployment rate in the second group was associated with the mismatch between qualification and the needs of the labour market, the workforce supply and demand.<sup>241</sup>

It is also important to note that in 2020 the vast majority of the youth in the Souss-Massa (88 per cent) was employed in the area of the Agadir-Taroudant-Ait Melloul.<sup>242</sup>

The distribution of economic activities of households by sector in 2021 indicates that most of the workers in the Souss-Massa region were employed in: (i) trade and services (45.4 per cent); and (ii) agriculture and fisheries (30.1 per cent) (see Figure 26).

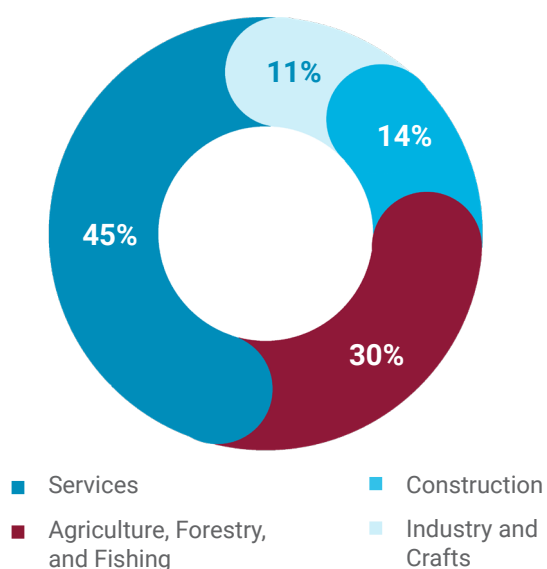


Figure 26. The Distribution of Household Economic Activities by Sector in 2021 in the Souss-Massa Region.

#### Target 8.9: Promote beneficial and sustainable tourism

Relevant target: **8.9.1: Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate**

There is no available information on the contribution of tourism to the GDP of Agadir, however contextual data reveals that Agadir is one of the key tourist destinations<sup>243</sup> in the country and that the tourism sector is one of the drivers of economic development in the city and the Souss-Massa region. Also, tourism is one of the main contributors to the regional GDP. According to PAC 2022-2027, Agadir recorded 479,000 overnight stays in September of 2019.<sup>244</sup> In 2017, the region was ranked 2nd tourist destination in Morocco in terms of overnight stays.<sup>245</sup> Existing data also indicates that the vast majority of overnight stays in Souss-Massa (99 per cent) was recorded in Agadir.<sup>246</sup> That being said, the development of tourism in the region and in Agadir was strongly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw the significant drop in tourism leading the

240 Note sur la Situation du Marche du Travail dans la Region Souss-Massa En 2021,HCP (2022) p. 10

241 Schema Regional d'Aménagement du Territoire (SRAT) de la region Souss-Massa, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) p.82

242 Schema Regional d'Aménagement du Territoire (SRAT) de la region Souss-Massa, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) p.107

243 Agadir offers a range of tourist attractions including access to the Atlantic Ocean, free and open access to public beaches, and an attractive infrastructure, including the Olympic stadium.

244 PAC 2022-2027, the Municipality of Agadir (2022), p.21

245 The region achieved a total of nearly 5.5 million tourist overnight stays, which represents 25 per cent of the total tourist overnight stays in 2017, i.e. a turnover of nearly 15 billion MAD. For more information please see: Schema Regional d'Aménagement du Territoire (SRAT) de la region Souss-Massa (2020) p. 80

246 Schema Regional d'Aménagement du Territoire (SRAT) de la region Souss-Massa, Kingdom of Morocco (2020), p.156

shutdown of several hotel units (see COVID-19 chapter for details). Tourism also continues to face challenges of quality and access to adequate infrastructure.

There have been a range of initiatives on sustainable tourism promotion in Souss-Massa. In 2019, the Ministry of Culture and the Souss-Massa region developed a regional register of the inventory of archaeological and historical cultural heritage;<sup>247</sup> the Regional Tourism Development Corporation (SDR) developed a programme for upgrading and renovating tourist and hotel units (2020-2022) at a total cost of 120,000,000 MAD;<sup>248</sup> while the Taghazout Resort Development and Promotion Company invested in the “Medina of Tawenza in Taghazout” development project, located 20 km north of Agadir.<sup>249</sup>

Several initiatives leverage access to ICTs to promote tourism in Agadir and in Souss-Massa and to improve access to infrastructure and services. These include:

- Safety First app- an innovative app created for tourists in Agadir to connect with other users of the app, ask for help and share a location with local authorities in the event of an accident or emergency – even when there is no mobile phone signal.
- Visit Agadir Souss-Massa app –developed in collaboration with the private sector and managed by the CRT, this app offers information on tourism attractions, accommodation and activities, such as surfing.

- All Agadir Souss-Massa online portal-launched in January 2020 this is an outlet for digital marketing and networking to further promote the region as a competitive and attractive economic centre.<sup>250</sup>

In 2020, the Regional Tourism Council (CRT) finalized upgrading its digital infrastructure for tourism promotion. It developed the Souss-Massa Region’s tourist information system “Tourisma”, accompanied by a new three-year communication strategy, a promotional campaign and others, which was carried out in partnership with the Moroccan National Tourist Office (ONMT).<sup>251</sup> Sustainable tourism initiatives can be found in the Urban Development Programme (discussed further in the SDG 11 section) as well as in regional economic development programmes and initiatives cited in the previous section.

247 Tourism Geography: Emerging Trends and Initiatives to Support Tourism in Morocco available at [https://www.](https://www.longdom.org/open-access/tourism-geography-emerging-trends-and-initiatives-to-support-tourism-in-morocco-14482.html)

[longdom.org/open-access/tourism-geography-emerging-trends-and-initiatives-to-support-tourism-in-morocco-14482.html](https://www.longdom.org/open-access/tourism-geography-emerging-trends-and-initiatives-to-support-tourism-in-morocco-14482.html) Accessed on: 10/05/2023

248 Partnership agreements related to the renovation and rehabilitation of hotel units, Moroccan Government (2015) p. 3

249 A town “medina of Tawenza in Taghazout” 20 km north of Agadir is being developed by the Taghazout Resort Development and Promotion Company. This project started in 2020 and will include 44 units for shops, restaurants, leisure activity providers and regional craft products. The Tawenza medina is part of the larger 615-ha Taghazout Bay project, which comprises 4.5 km of beaches, major international hotels, residential units and sport facilities, among other features. The Report: Morocco Souss-Massa (2021) p.10

250 The Report: Morocco Souss-Massa 2021, Oxford Business Group (2021) p.11

251 Tourisma, Conseil Régional du tourisme Agadir Souss-Massa Available at: <https://crtagadirsm.com/> 3



### 3.4.3 Summary and Conclusions

Qualitative and quantitative data collection revealed interesting information about the economic development of Agadir. It shows that the economy of Agadir and Souss-Massa is built on the foundations of the Agriculture, Tourism and Fishery sectors (ATP) with a gross GDP of 70 billion MAD (\$6,544,677) in 2017.<sup>252</sup> The data shows that over the last decades, Greater Agadir has become one of the main centres of administrative, health, university, logistics and transport services in southern Morocco, with the majority of services and infrastructure located in Agadir itself, including the City of Innovation in Agadir, the City of Trade and Skills, and the Technopark. Development projects implemented in Agadir - Haliopolis and the Smart Port of Agadir - are expected to contribute to the diversification, innovation and upgrading of economic productivity as well as to job creation and growth of enterprises, allowing the area to meet targets 8.2 and 8.3. The statistics highlights are discussed in Figure 27.

Agadir is also one of the main tourist destinations in Morocco, yet sustainable tourism development and other economic activities in Agadir are challenged by a range of factors, most recently the COVID-19 pandemic (discussed in Chapter 4). The city's sustainable growth in the future is tied to the efforts and successes in: (i) improving economic productivity (e.g. through product and process innovations, plant and equipment improvements, and measures to improve workforce skills and working conditions<sup>253</sup>) and equal access to the labour market for all; (ii) protecting the natural environment, especially in relation to climate (e.g. by delivering climate-proof infrastructure and services, as discussed in SDG 13 section); and (iii) the efficient use of spatial planning tools (e.g. to accommodate the growing need to localize logistics services). According to the 2020 Regional Territorial Development Plan (SRAT), the regional economy would also benefit from initiatives strengthening territorial governance, improving investment potential (also in relation to public-private partnerships as discussed in the SDG 17 section), increased job creation and labour skills development. Digitization and the use of ICTs are also cited as among the key factors driving the development of the region.<sup>254</sup>

252 Regional Accounts for 2017, HCP (2019)

253 18. Productivity, ILO (2022) Available at: <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/dw4sd/themes/productivity/lang-en/index.htm>;

254 Schema Regional d'Amenagement du Territoire (SRAT) de la region Souss-Massa, Kingdom of Morocco (2020)

## SDG 8. Statistics highlights

On **SDG Indicator 8.1.1**: the annual growth rate of real GDP per capita in 2018



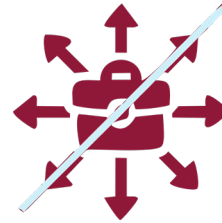
GDP per capita in the prefecture of Agadir Ida Outanane was at 29,454 DH (2,754 USD), highest amongst other prefectures in the region.

On **SDG Indicator 8.2.1**: the annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person: the rate of growth of the real GDP per person employed in Morocco in 2018 was **1.7%**

On **SDG Indicator 8.5.2**: Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities:



In 2014, 160,216 inhabitants of Agadir were economically active. This includes 116,191 men (73% of men) and 44,025 women (28% of women).



The unemployment rate in the same year was 17.2% on average for both genders, including 13.6% for men and 26.7% for women.



At the same time, the illiteracy rate for women in Agadir in 2014 was 25.7% and 10.1% making up 17.1% on average for the population.

Figure 27. SDG 8: Statistics highlights



**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES****3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**

*Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*

**3.5.1 Context**

Morocco has experienced rapid urbanization since gaining independence in 1956. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of cities increased

two-fold creating opportunities and challenges for the development of the country, as outlined in the 2020 VNR and in the text box below.<sup>255</sup> Figure 14 shows the urbanization trends in Morocco since 1950, with the percentage of urbanization continuing to increase to reach 64 per cent in 2021.<sup>256</sup>

**SDG 11: Insights from the 2020 VNR<sup>257</sup>**

The 2020 VNR notes that urban areas in Morocco have been rapidly developing since the country gained its independence. It points to an increased rate of urbanization from 29.1 per cent in 2004, to 60.3 per cent in 2014 and that the number of cities and urban centres in Morocco almost doubled between 1994 and 2014, going from 195 to 364 cities or centres. It also notes that this rapid urbanization brought about the expansion of urban areas, particularly along the coast; the emergence of metropolises; as well as economic growth and job creation.

255 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020), p.128

256 World Bank Database (2021) Available at: [https://www.google.com/url?q=https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS?locations=per cent3DMA&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1684756020294360&u sg=AOvVaw0s-irm-cF0gD\\_frK9dhZv0](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS?locations=per%203DMA&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1684756020294360&u sg=AOvVaw0s-irm-cF0gD_frK9dhZv0)

257 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) (2020), pp.128-134





At the same time, it has also contributed to increasing air pollution, excess waste production, development of non-resilient settlements and neighbourhoods vulnerable to natural disasters; and has increased pressure on urban infrastructure and services including housing, transportation, and solid waste collection and processing.

The government is determined to develop sustainable and operational urban planning based on consultation, participation and incentive, and to prepare the future of the territories by 2040 by:

- renewing the foundation of the Urban Policy to bring coherence to urban action; to rethink relations between city centres, peripheral areas and rural territories; as well as between metropolitan areas and other territories in the form of a new urban policy,
- rehabilitating the Urban Planning System by adopting innovative and forward-looking approaches and mechanisms
- repositioning actors in the new territorial organization to reflect new development dynamics

Other actions that addressed the challenges facing Moroccan cities include the development of a new generation of SDAU - Urban Development Master Plans- for metropolitan areas as a baseline for sustainable urban planning, and an increase in the number of municipalities covered with urban planning documents from 53 per cent in 2016 to 74 per cent in 2019.

While Morocco saw considerable progress in achieving SDG 11, the VNR highlights some challenges that may hinder this progress, including an inadequacy of monitoring of the Cities without Slums (VSB) initiative. In some cities, land constraints that risk hindering the treatment of slums have not yet been planned. The fast pace of uncontrolled urbanization risks limiting economic growth, yet the new urban policy is expected to address the latter challenge.

Agadir is one of the country's main urban centres, and the economic centre of the Souss-Massa region, and aspires to become a metropolis. The 1960 earthquake and subsequent floods led to considerable human, economic and infrastructure losses. The earthquake completely destroyed the old town of Agadir, which was located on the hill of Ouffela and dates back to the sixteenth century, and ravaged the city's economy (more information is available in the SDG 13 section). Reconstruction efforts saw the emergence of a new urban centre located at the bottom of the hill, by the seaside. From 1970, Agadir grew to occupy the land located between the port of Agadir, which has played a considerable role

in the city's development across centuries, the Atlas Mountains, the Souss valley and the Atlantic Ocean.

Agadir grew dynamically over the last decades. After the earthquake, it had 48,520 inhabitants.<sup>258</sup> Between 2004 and 2014, the number of inhabitants decreased from 346,106 to 421,844.<sup>259</sup> The Greater Agadir agglomeration exceeded 980,000 inhabitants in 2004 and by 2014, it had reached 1,250,000 inhabitants.<sup>260</sup> Demographic projections indicate that the population of Greater Agadir will reach 2,300,000 inhabitants by 2040, which is expected to put additional pressure on the access to essential urban infrastructure and

258 Étude relative à la mise en place de trois schémas directeurs pour la transformation numérique des villes de Agadir, Fès et Marrakech. Livrable 2IDATE (2020) p.41

259 Monographie Regionale: Souss-Massa, Direction Regionale du Souss-Massa (2020)

260 Étude relative à la mise en place de trois schémas directeurs pour la transformation numérique des villes de Agadir, Fès et Marrakech. Livrable 2IDATE (2020), p.41

services.<sup>261</sup> To ensure sustainable urbanization in line with the municipal competencies (as discussed in Appendix 2), the municipality of Agadir together with its partners, implemented a range of initiatives to improve access to housing and transport; to improve solid waste collection and processing; urban planning, public and green spaces provision and upkeep; while delivering on its objective to become more sustainable, smarter and more inclusive as outlined below.

### 3.5.2 Target Overview

**Target 11.1** By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

**Indicator 11.1.1**, proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing

There is fragmented data on the number of people living in inadequate housing in Agadir,



Figure 28. Sustainable mobility system in Agadir. Source: The Municipality of Agadir (2022)

261 Étude relative à la mise en place de trois schémas directeurs pour la transformation numérique des villes de Agadir, Fès et Marrakech. Livrable 2IDATE (2020)), p.41

hampering the measurement of indicator 11.1.1.<sup>262</sup> In 2008, Agadir was declared a city without slums, in the context of the realization of the Cities Without Slums (VSB) initiative launched by King Mohammed VI in 2004, for which he received an award.<sup>263</sup> The initiative cost 1.22 billion MAD (\$118,659,636) and benefited over 16,000 households in Agadir.<sup>264</sup> At the same time, in 2013 Agadir expanded its municipal boundaries to include surrounding

areas with informal settlements, built on the edges of the Atlas mountains. As a result, it is to be expected that the number of persons living in inadequate housing increased shortly after this expansion. Additionally, the data gathered from the municipality points out that in 2014 the housing deficit in Agadir was estimated at 2,923 units<sup>265</sup> (see Table 5).<sup>266</sup>

Table 5: Housing deficit in Agadir in 2014 (in unit of measurement)

Sketchy buildings or slums	Threatening ruins	Cohabitation	Housing deficit
2,626	42	255	2,923

Source: SDG 11 survey response, the municipality of Agadir (2022)

Construction of affordable housing in Agadir is carried out by public sector company Al Omrane,<sup>267</sup> which reports that between 2010 and 2018, 7,413 affordable housing units (housing units at a discounted rate) were built in the city; and an additional 22,000 units are currently being built (as of September 2022).<sup>268</sup> Cooperatives and associations also play an important role in improving access to decent quality affordable housing in the city. The functioning of the former is regulated by law 112.12<sup>269</sup> which allows for both land purchase and housing construction at a discounted rate. The associations play an important role in addressing homelessness. Among the challenges hampering the effective provision of affordable housing in Agadir are

land deficit, the rising costs of fuels and prices of construction materials.<sup>270</sup>

Improving access to housing in Agadir is cited as a goal in the Urban Development Programme, which undertakes the allocation of land for housing, attributing housing units and improving housing conditions. Similarly, other initiatives – such as the Convention 2014 in the field of urban planning aimed at making neighbourhoods accessible – have an impact on housing in the city. That being said, effectively addressing housing challenges requires a whole-system, area-based neighbourhood regeneration resting on the rehabilitation of public and green spaces, enhancing social and human capital (e.g. tackling unemployment),

262 The 2020 VNR cite that in 2018 the value of 11.1.1 indicator in Morocco was 3,6 per cent. Source: VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) p.135

263 Monographie regionale sur le secteur de l’habitat et de la politique de la ville (2017), p.77

264 Monographie regionale sur le secteur de l’habitat et de la politique de la ville (2017), p.77

265 No information about the meaning of “units” was provided.

266 The 2020 VNR cites that at the national level, the housing deficit decrease from 1,240,000 units in 2002 to 1 million in 2007 and 425,000 units in 2018. VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) p.128

267 Al Omrane Group Available at: [https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.alomrane.gov.ma/&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1684395175495279&usg=AOvVaw0S7UUUIE\\_Blz7W5\\_Mfa5-Z](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.alomrane.gov.ma/&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1684395175495279&usg=AOvVaw0S7UUUIE_Blz7W5_Mfa5-Z)

268 Information gathered during the field visit.

269 Organic law N° 112-14 concerning prefectures and provinces

270 Source: information gathered during the field visit.

benefitting all, especially the most vulnerable groups like women, children, migrants and disabled persons. This would all be delivered in a participatory manner.<sup>271</sup>

**Target 11.2:** By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.

*This target is measured by indicator 11.2.1. The proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities*

There is no detailed statistical information about the share of the population with convenient access to public transport in Agadir (indicator 11.2.1), however a wealth of contextual data exists about transport infrastructure. The data shows that Agadir is conveniently located at the crossroads between the south and the north of Morocco, and is well connected with Marrakesh and Casablanca via the A3 motorway and with

Taroudant and Tiznit and secondary urban centres of Souss-Massa region through two express roads.<sup>272</sup> It is also easily accessible by sea (via the Agadir port) and air (via the Agadir Al Massira international airport located 20 km far from the city– the only airport in the Souss-Massa region). These connections have benefited the city's expansion and enabled its development as a trade and logistics centre, for e.g. the agriculture and fisheries sectors. Agadir holds shared competencies with the state in relation to the upkeep of national routes, local roads and pavements (please see the list of competencies of the municipality in the Appendix 2).

At the level of the Greater Agadir, existing data indicates that there is limited access to public transport. It states that Greater Agadir has been facing a public bus deficit since 1982 (as shown in Table 6) and that the public transport network covers 11 per cent of the total area (81 km<sup>2</sup>) and serves 62 per cent of its population, leaving some areas underserved, such as Lqliâa, outlying settlements of Drarga, Taghazout, Aourir, the seaside sector of Agadir, HayMohammadi.<sup>273</sup>

Table 6: Evolution of the bus fleet against the growth of urban population in Greater Agadir<sup>274</sup>

Year	1982	1990	2004	2011	2017
Urban population	303,317	466,776*	770,559	1,035,197*	1,086,250*
Park circulating	64	110	180	125	198
Ratio: people/buses	4,739	4,243	4,281	8,282	5,486
Bus deficit	87	152	205	393	345
Park circulating optimal	151	274	385	518	543

\*personal estimate based on the results of RGPH of 1982, 1994, 2004, and 2014.

Source: RATAG, 1982, 1990, 2004; Department of State Controls and Concessioned Services, Ministry of the Interior (1990); ALSA, Activity Reports, 2011 and 2017; HCP, regional delegation of Agadir, demographic projection (2005-2014); RGPH, 1982, 1994, 2004.

271 Source: information gathered during the field visit.

272 The Report: Morocco Souss-Massa 2021, Oxford Business Group (2021), p. 24

273 Etude portant sur l'élaboration du Plan de Déplacements Urbains dans le Grand Agadir, ALG (2015), p.16.

274 L'évolution de l'offre de transport collectif en bus au Grand Agadir entre 1978 et 2017, Espace Géographique & Société Marocaine (2018) p.5



Figure 29. BHNS network in Agadir. Source: the Municipality of Agadir (2022)

When it comes to the modal split of passenger transport in Greater Agadir (Figure 30), data from 2013 indicates that out of 3 million daily trips made in Greater Agadir, 48 per cent were made using a mechanized mode of transport, and 52 per cent using soft modes of transportation (including 48 per cent of trips made on foot and 4 per cent of trips using a bicycle). The modal split share for mechanized transport, seen on Figure 16, demonstrates the prevalence of individual vehicles (31,3 per cent) and taxis (first category and second category combined at 29,9 per cent).<sup>275</sup> Limited bicycle use is attributed to the fragmentation of the cycling network, poorly maintained sidewalks, pedestrian crossings being absent or poorly

marked or poorly respected by motorists. Despite these difficulties, Greater Agadir presents favourable conditions for soft mobility with 27 kilometres of existing bicycle paths and five additional kilometres planned.<sup>276</sup>

On road safety, the data in Figure 32 indicates that most accidents in Agadir occur during the summer, when the volume of traffic is concentrated on certain axes of the coast, indicating that the protection of the most vulnerable road users, pedestrians and cyclists, is essential.<sup>277</sup>

Given that 90 per cent of people and 85 per cent of products are transported by road in Greater

275 Etude portant sur l'élaboration du Plan de Déplacements Urbains dans le Grand Agadir, ALG (2015), p.11.

276 Etude portant sur l'élaboration du Plan de Déplacements Urbains dans le Grand Agadir, ALG (2015), p.17.

277 Etude portant sur l'élaboration du Plan de Déplacements Urbains dans le Grand Agadir, ALG (2015), p.18

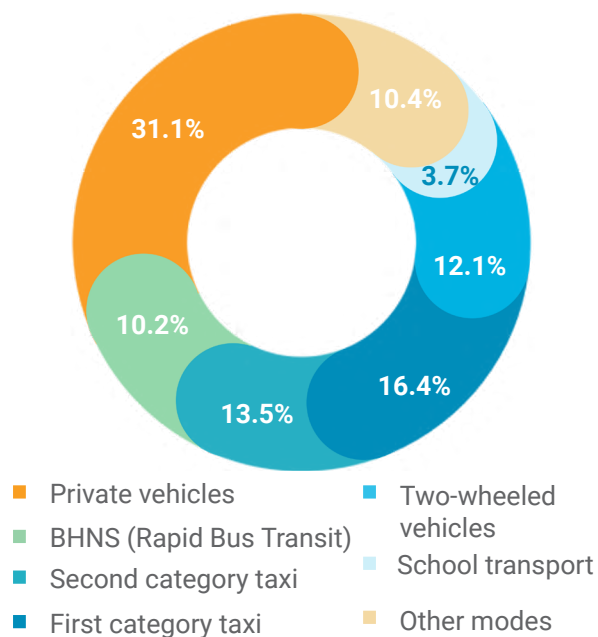


Figure 30. Transport Modal Split Share in Greater Agadir in 2013 (All Modes of Transport).

Agadir, infrastructure has been an investment priority and one of the key development objectives for the city, region and the national government.<sup>278</sup> The transport infrastructure in Agadir is currently undergoing expansion and upgrade, most notably in the context of the Urban Development Programme implemented between 2020 and 2024 with integrated Urban Mobility Plan 2017-2022,<sup>279</sup> both of which are discussed at length in the follow-up subsection. The programme sees the reinforcement of the economic and tourist attractiveness of Agadir, and the improvement in quality of life for local communities. The Urban Mobility Plan sees the development of a new institutional and operational framework for managing and implementing transport policy and various initiatives, supported by new mobility management tools; the improvement of public transport attractiveness and accessibility; and road safety among others, while taking into account environmental issues (more

information about the Urban Mobility Plan can be found in Appendix 10).

The Plan envisions the creation of a rapid bus transit system (BHNS) which is discussed further in the text box below.<sup>280</sup> BHNS is the first public transport system of its kind in the city and in Morocco.

278 In 2019 King Mohammed VI proposed the expansion of road networks. For more information please see The Report: Morocco Souss-Massa 2021, Oxford Business Group (2021), p. 24

279 Etude portant sur l'élaboration du Plan de Déplacements Urbains dans le Grand Agadir, ALG (2015), p. 7

280 Projet du Grand Agadir de création d'une ligne de Bus à Haut Niveau de Service (2015)



Figure 31. Shared bicycle scheme in Agadir. Source: UN-Habitat (2022)

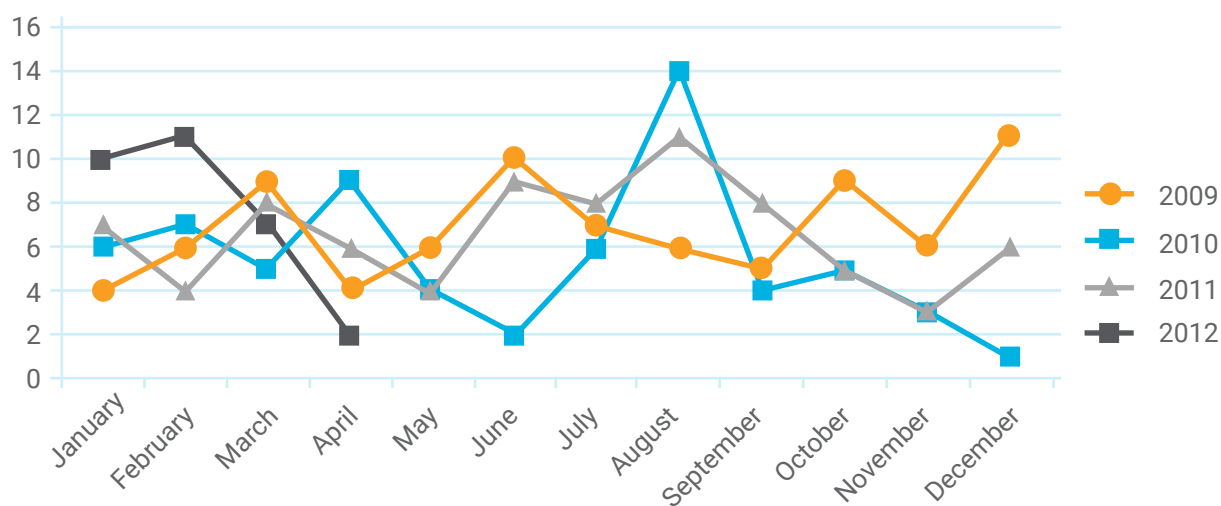


Figure 32. The number of reported road accidents in Agadir between 2009 and 2012 (in the number of accidents).

### Developing the rapid bus transit (Le Bus à Haut Niveau de Service, BHNS) in Agadir

This project aims to modernize the public transport network throughout Greater Agadir by providing access to affordable, clean and sustainable transport to the general population. It is supported by the Urban Projects Finance Initiative - UPFI<sup>281</sup> of EIB. The project includes a 15 km road on the North-South-East axis of the city, connecting the fishing port to residential districts, as well as providing easier access to the souk, city centre, and the university, and enabling the commuting of approximately 60,000 people per day in Agadir, advancing urban mobility<sup>282</sup> and management.<sup>283</sup> The project provides a public transport service which meets the requirements of reliability, regularity, frequency, and safety while reducing the number of private vehicles in the city centre. The BHNS will facilitate low floor access for people with reduced mobility.

The project also paves the way for the set-up of transport hubs, therefore revitalizing the surrounding public spaces.<sup>284</sup> The BHNS development will include additional infrastructure such as bicycle pathways (soft mobility scheme), and would also include ICT enhanced solutions for public lighting, water irrigation and mobility planning. The total cost of investment is 900 Million MAD (\$88 million), and is expected to conclude between 2023 and 2024.<sup>285</sup> The soft mobility scheme was set up in the form of a public-private partnership in 2019 and focuses on providing the public with the opportunity to rent a bicycle using a mobile application. It also benefits from solar-powered bike stations.<sup>286</sup>

According to PAC, the municipality plans to implement 3 BHNS lines over a length of 45 kms, to develop efficient transport hubs. It also foresees work into a study as part of the implementation of the first BHNS mentioned above with the aim of defining an integrated and complementary bus network. The goal for the public network is to carry approximately 290,000 passengers per day.<sup>287</sup>

The data collected also points to the collaboration between GIZ and the Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development in implementing the project “Sustainable mobility with renewable energies in Morocco – DKTI VI.” The aim of the project is to improve the conditions for developing sustainable mobility at the national level and in the city of Agadir. The project involves 4 fields of action:

- Establishing a national dialogue on the strategic, legal and financial bases for promoting sustainable mobility;
- Improving the availability of information on sustainable mobility approaches and technologies;
- Strengthening the conditions for the implementation of sustainable mobility in Greater Agadir;

281 Mission, Urban Projects Finance Initiative (N.D.) Available at: <https://upfi-med.eib.org/en/missions-en/>

282 Projet du Grand Agadir de création d’une ligne de Bus à Haut Niveau de Service (2015)

283 Projet du Grand Agadir de création d’une ligne de Bus à Haut Niveau de Service (2015)

284 Greater Agadir project to create a Bus Rapid Transit line - UPFI - Urban Projects Finance Initiative (eib.org) Available at: <https://upfi-med.eib.org/fr/projects/projet-du-grand-agadir-de-creation-dune-ligne-de-bus-a-haut-niveau-de-service>

285 Partnership agreement relating to the finance and delivery of BHNS, Agadir Municipality (2020) p.9

286 Projet du Grand Agadir de création d’une ligne de Bus à Haut Niveau de Service, UPFI

Urban Projects Finance Initiative (N.D.). Available at: <https://upfi-med.eib.org/fr/projects/-/projet-du-grand-agadir-de-creation-dune-ligne-de-bus-a-haut-niveau-de-service>

287 PAC of Agadir (2022-2027), the Municipality of Agadir (2022) p. 139



- Providing a scalable case study and awareness-raising experiments focused on Agadir.<sup>288</sup>

It is important to note that by promoting a comprehensive action, these initiatives improve the city's performance not only in relation to SDG 11.2, but also SDG 3 which calls for ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages (and a target 3.6 to halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents by 2020), SDG 13 on climate action (with SDG 13.1 and 13.2 targets).

Last but not least, the data also showed that in 2015, a study was conducted on the practices of staff mobility at the Municipality of Agadir, with the aim of managing staff travel sustainably and reducing environmental costs. The study showed that women do not use buses, nor do they use bicycles, instead they would opt to use their private cars or taxis. The study recommended promoting bus service as a mode of commuting for women, with an assumption of making the service feel safer by setting up CCTV, providing reserved areas for women within buses and other modes of transport.<sup>289</sup>

**Target 11.3** By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

*This target is measured by **indicator 11.3.2**, proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically*

In relation to target 11.3.2, the data collected provided insights into the participation of civil society in urban planning and management, as well as a wealth of contextual data. It revealed that among the most important planning documents for Agadir are the Urban Development Programme, together with the Urban Mobility Plan; the Communal Action Plan (PAC); the Greater Agadir Urban Development Masterplan (SDAU) and development plans for certain areas of Agadir. Sectoral policies and initiatives developed at various levels of governance, such as the Climate Strategy for Souss-Massa (PTRC-- detailed in the SDG 13 section), the National Digitization Strategy for Cities (SDTN) developed in the context of the national strategy Maroc Digital 2020, all combine to create a framework for the planning for the development of Agadir.

The Urban Development Programme (PDU) initiated by King Mohammed VI, and launched in 2020 sets the milestone for planning for the development of Agadir as a metropolis (see text box below).

288 Chargé.e d'administration projet DKTI VI - arbalou Available at: <https://www.arbalou.com/charge-e-dadministration-projet-dkti-vi/>

289 Study on the Practices of Staff Mobility in the Urban Commune of Agadir, UCLG Africa (2015) p.6

### Urban Development Programme 2020-2024 in Agadir

The objectives of the programme are to: (i) make Agadir a top tourist destination both nationally and internationally, (ii) develop human capital, and (iii) develop the city's infrastructure. The programme has six development components: (i) establishing a high-quality bus service, (ii) strengthening the provision and quality of infrastructure and reinforce mobility, (iii) qualifying and developing the tourist quarters of the city, (iv) protecting the environment and developing green spaces, (v) protecting the religious, cultural, and heritage, and (vi) strengthening the role of "social centres" (centres providing social services) and contributing to improving the well-being of the population.<sup>290</sup>

The programme spans from 2020 until 2024 with a budget of almost 6 billion Moroccan MAD, approx. \$ 578 million.<sup>291</sup> The PDU has 94 projects. As of January 2021, 13 of the 94 projects (with an attributed 28 per cent of the overall budget) were in progress. The governance of the programme has been entrusted to eight project owners firmly committed to carrying out their missions<sup>292</sup> (for more information about the role of partnerships in achieving development objectives, please see section on SDG 17).

The Urban Development Programme includes the Urban Mobility Plan (PDU), which focuses on planning for public transportation and urban mobility, including by creating an inter-municipal unit for monitoring and controlling the public transport network, as well as a mobility observatory. The plan also works to optimize road sharing by encouraging soft modes of transportation (detailed in the previous section).<sup>293</sup> On PAC, it is important to note that it is a 6-year action plan that reflects on all the initiatives of the municipality and has a strong participatory component. PAC 2022-2027 sets the ground for the development of Agadir in the years to come, realizing its vision as a smart, sustainable and inclusive city. It

provides strategic direction for local planning and development to turn Agadir into a modern metropolis, an attractive territory, a sustainable and smart city, and open assembly (forum).<sup>294</sup>

The data also revealed a range of planning documents covering the Greater Agadir level, such as the Greater Agadir Urban Development Masterplan (SDAU) which was launched in 2013 by the Agadir Urban Agency (AUA), the Urban Planning Department of the Ministry of National Territorial Planning, Urban Planning, Housing and City Policy. It is part of the planning initiative undertaken by Morocco to create strategic reference documents for the projects and development processes planned for the year 2040.<sup>295</sup> SDAU sets the direction for

290 PDU Framework Agreement, Souss-Massa Region (2020), p.6

291 Un an après, l'avancée du PDU d'Agadir 2020-2024, AGADIRPREMIERE N°83 (2020). Available at: <https://www.google.com/url?q=http://agadirpremiere.ma/un-an-apres-lavancee-du-pdu-dagadir-2020-2024/&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1684756420346311&usg=AOvVaw1CQahjVA5AYCqhxKUFs0jg>

292 The project owners include: the SDL Agadir Souss-Massa Development, the SDL Greater Agadir for Mobility and Urban Travel, the SDR of Tourism Souss-Massa, Al Omrane Souss-Massa, the Ministry of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water, the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, the Ministry of Health . 83°AGADIRPREMIERE N ,2024-2020 More information available at: Un an après, l'avancée du PDU d'Agadir Available at: [https://www.google.com/url?q=http://agadirpremiere.ma/un-an-apres-lavancee-du-pdu- \(2020\) usg=AOvVaw1CQahjVA5AYCqhxKUFs0&1684756420346311=sa=D&source=docs&ust=1684756420346311](https://www.google.com/url?q=http://agadirpremiere.ma/un-an-apres-lavancee-du-pdu- (2020) usg=AOvVaw1CQahjVA5AYCqhxKUFs0&1684756420346311=sa=D&source=docs&ust=1684756420346311)

293 Etude portant sur l'élaboration du Plan de Déplacements Urbains dans le Grand Agadir, ALG (2015)

294 For more information please see PAC (2022-2027), The municipality of Agadir (2022)

295 Please see the following webpage, for the list of urban planning documents relevant to Agadir: Prefecture of Agadir IDA Outanane, Agence Urbaine D'Agadir (n.d.) Available at: <https://aua.ma/planificationurbaine/etat-de-la-couverture-en-documents-durbanisme-prefecture-dagadir-ida-outanane/>



the development of Agadir as a metropolis. The Plan received Spain's international architecture prize, the "Premio de Arquitectura Española Internacional 2015," for the category of urban planning and urban achievements.<sup>296</sup> The plan rests on eight assumptions: (i) Agadir becoming a metropole (ii) compact development; (iii) development of a global infrastructure framework; (iv) reinforcement of public transportation as a key territorial development component; (v) improvement of quality of life; (vi) protection of rural areas and natural heritage; (vii) development of new territorial management culture; (viii) development of initiatives respecting territorial diversity.<sup>297</sup>

The data collection also showed that participatory planning is guiding the development of Agadir in line with the Article 119 of the Organic Law of communes 113-14<sup>298</sup> which focuses on the participatory mechanisms for dialogue and consultations with citizens and associations, monitoring and evaluation of action plans, in accordance with internal regulations. Data showed that in relation to PAC, citizens were placed at the centre of decision-making in the preparation of the plan, and were involved in extensive consultations including workshops.<sup>299</sup> The consultations gave citizens and civil society organizations the chance to form their proposals. In particular, throughout the development process of the PAC 2022-2027, five participatory consultation meetings were conducted within Agadir for several days. In total, 990 people participated from 140 associations. Approximately 43 per cent of the total participants were female (overview

of thematic sessions and workshops can be found in Appendix 11).<sup>300</sup> These approaches and consultations were guided in particular by Article 139 of the constitution and in accordance with Organic Law 14,133.<sup>301</sup> The PAC also highlights the importance of supporting the sustainable development of the city through the establishment of neighbourhood committees, which are in themselves participatory groups that allow citizens and local actors to meet and discuss projects related to neighbourhood life.<sup>302</sup>

The municipality's vision to strengthen the democratic model and inclusive management through citizen-centred open governance, includes the Open Assembly as cited in PAC 2022-2027. The open assembly axis of PAC includes: (i) transparent communication: this is done by boosting the sharing of information of public utilities and mobilizing relevant actors, while promoting the territorial brand of Agadir via territorial marketing, improving external and internal communication, and strengthening the relationship with the media; (ii) balanced finances: implementing a forward-looking financial and fiscal strategy by improving financial performance through the broadening of tax revenue, boosting collection, and rationalizing spending, monetizing non-essential or non-performing assets, diversifying financing sources, and digitalization of financial monitoring, which is detailed in relation to SDG 17.1 target; (iii) responsible governance: improving municipal administration in the service of citizens by improving organizational efficiency through a jobs and skills repository, improving operational efficiency by adopting ISO

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- 296 Schéma Directeur du Grand Agadir et ses Plans D'Aménagement, Cabrera-Febles (n.d.) Available at:<http://www.cabrerafebles.com/fr/sdau-plan-director-del-grand-agadir-y-sus-planos-generales-de-ordenacion/>
- 297 Schéma Directeur d'Aménagement Urbain (SDAU) du Grand Agadir, Agence Urbaine d'Agadir (2013) Available at: <https://aua.ma/projets/schema-directeur-damenagement-urbain-sdau-du-grand-agadir/>
- 298 Organic law N° 113-14 concerning the communes, Ministry of Interior (Press) (2016)
- 299 PAC of Agadir 2017-2022, the Municipality of Agadir (2017) p.38
- 300 Information provided by the municipality through correspondence on 05 May 2023
- 301 The complete process of developing PAC is spread across 4 stages including diagnosis; definition of vision and identification of priorities and developing financing plan (takes place in parallel); monitoring, evaluation; and improvement. More information can be found in PAC of Agadir (2022-2027), the Municipality of Agadir (2022) p.14
- 302 PAC of Agadir (2022-2027), the Municipality of Agadir (2022) p.69

18091 guidelines, improving the skills of staff, and implementing better project management components.<sup>303</sup>

As Agadir works to become an inclusive, smart, sustainable and resilient city, the policy initiatives for digital transformation of the public sector play an important role in reinforcing urban planning. It concerns the National Digitization Strategy for Cities (SDTN) which emphasizes the role of ICTs and digitization in stimulating innovation and the development of smart and sustainable cities.<sup>304</sup>

**Target 11.6. By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management**

*Relevant indicators include: 11.6.1, proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities.*

The data to inform 11.6.1 target is incomplete yet it does indicate that solid waste collection and management in Agadir is run by the municipality and that the municipality collects 450 tonnes of waste per day or 0.90 kg/inhabitant/day (which is higher than the average rate of collection at the national level of 0.76 kg/inhabitant/day). Some 80 to 100 m<sup>3</sup> of waste per day are collected from “black spots” (collection points). The waste collection is carried out by 579 staff, 70 per cent of whom are casual workers.<sup>305</sup> The collected waste is then transported to the public landfill Tamelast, which has been managed at the Greater Agadir level since 2019 by the Intercommunal Cooperation Establishment (ECI).<sup>306</sup> According to PAC, the municipality will implement an intelligent management collection system to recover up to 40 per cent of the collected waste.<sup>307</sup>

303 PAC of Agadir (2022-2027), the Municipality of Agadir (2022) p. 93-111

304 Transformation numérique des territoires, Ministry de l’Aménagement du territoire National, de l’Urbanisme, de l’Habitat et de la Politique de la Ville (2018) Available at: <https://www.muat.gov.ma/?q=fr/article/transformation-num-per-centC3-per-centA9rique-des-territoires>

305 SDG 11 survey response, Municipality of Agadir (2022)

306 It coincides with the end date of the contract for the management of the public landfill of Greater Agadir with the company Tecmed which built the landfill in 2010.

307 PAC of Agadir (2022-2027), the Municipality of Agadir (2022) p.77



### The Landfills of Agadir

Agadir's previous landfill, Bikarrane, was in operation between 1978 and 2007. The landfill shut down as a result of the opening of the Tamellast controlled landfill which became operational in 2010. The closure of the Bikarrane landfill led to rehabilitation work in the area, which included cleaning, remodelling and the installation of an active degassing system. The rehabilitation also includes the installation of five control stations and horizontal pipelines, and a flare with a flow rate of 200 m<sup>3</sup> /h. Finally, the rehabilitation work integrates the site into its surrounding environment through the planting of more than 8,000 argan trees, as well as the installation of a drip irrigation system.<sup>308</sup>

The municipality identifies a range of challenges relating to solid waste collection, including limited financial means and access to human resources to perform waste management activities; and in relation to waste processing at the landfill (e.g. leachate processing). These challenges can be addressed through the professionalization and formalization of the cleaning service, while keeping the management directly under municipality (in relation to solid waste collection); and the adoption of landfill management methods that meet international standards and include the treatment of leachate and biogas, and the establishment of a waste recovery unit.<sup>309</sup>

### Information and Communication Technologies and waste collection in Agadir

ICT can play an important role in improving solid waste management as outlined in the National Digitization Strategy for Cities (SDTN). The strategy includes operational objectives focusing on smart waste management. It points out that waste collection management practices can be improved in multiple ways, such as through installing sensors on waste disposal facilities (containers). The containers force households to sort their solid waste, contributing to an improved rate of recycling in the municipality and the optimization of the solid waste collection process by measuring how full the waste containers are in a given moment. It stresses that ICT-enhanced tools can be used to optimize solid waste collection by recalculating the collection routes, and taking into account multiple variables such as travel times, available means, filling rates (the rates at which waste is collected and filled in the container of the waste truck). Last but not least, it notes that incentive applications can be used to increase the awareness of local communities about solid waste production, collection and recycling and how they affect quality of life and climate change. Data produced with support of ICT-led solutions can contribute to improved evidence-based policy processes and decision-making.<sup>310</sup>

308 Provided by the Municipality through a correspondence on 28 March 2023.

309 SDG 11 survey response, the municipality of Agadir (2022)

310 Étude relative à la mise en place de trois schémas directeurs pour la transformation numérique des villes de 75.p ,(2020) SDTN Agadir, IDATE :3 Agadir, Fès et Marrakech. Livrable

**Target 11.7** By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

*The target is measured by 11.7.1, average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities*

Data pertaining to target 11.7 is also fragmented, yet it provides some insights about the availability of open, green and public spaces in the city. It reveals that Agadir provides access to a vast seven km-long beach and a 4.5 km-long boulevard, adapted with equipment to meet the needs of persons with reduced mobility. 80 per cent of the beach is dedicated to public use, while 20 per cent is for commercial use. The management of the beach is the responsibility of the municipality which ensures its upkeep and suitability for sports and recreation. Access to the beach plays an important role in improving the quality of life of the inhabitants of Agadir and its surrounding areas; and is a major tourist attraction in Agadir and in the region.<sup>311</sup>

On the access to green spaces, according to PAC 2022-2027, green space per capita in Agadir is 3.5 m<sup>2</sup>/inhabitant.<sup>312</sup> In 2022, the city opened two sizable green spaces: Ibn Zaidoun garden and Abderrahman El Youssoufi garden. The Abderrahman El Youssoufi garden, which covers 5 ha, includes a garden that is open to the public; space for recreation and entertainment; and a nursery for city greenery (various types of plants, including trees and flowers). The garden was recently rehabilitated with funding from the municipal finance. The rehabilitation process took two years and the gardens are expected to serve the university students, and local communities. Ibn Zaidoun park, which

was created in 1965 near the city centre, covers 4.7 ha and is one of the biggest parks in Agadir. The park also recently underwent rehabilitation in the context of the PDU and with support of the municipal funding.<sup>313</sup>

The municipality of Agadir aspires to increase the size of green spaces per capita to around 8 m<sup>2</sup>/inhabitant by 2028 and is responsible for undertaking measures that ensure universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces for all, women and children, the elderly and people with disabilities.<sup>314</sup> These measures include:

- Safeguarding and surveillance of green spaces and playgrounds
- Irrigating all existing green spaces
- Using endemic species appropriate to the specificities of the region
- Adopting Zen layouts to reduce maintenance
- Introducing succulents (for example, agaves, aloes...)
- Protecting and treating plants against diseases
- Increasing the level of maintenance of existing green spaces
- Providing equal access to green spaces throughout Agadir
- Reusing of treated wastewater for irrigation of green areas.

Also, in the coming years, Agadir is planning to further develop its gardens and parks, both at the city and neighbourhood levels; to re-develop the beds of the valleys that cross the city, to rehabilitate the former landfill and transform it into an urban reforest with more than 8,000 argan trees and 4,000 other trees and shrubs.<sup>315</sup> PAC also mentions the importance of the development of green corridors as part of the strategy to reach the objective of 8 m<sup>2</sup>/

311 Information provided by the municipality through correspondence on 28/03/2023

312 PAC 2022-2027, Municipality of Agadir (2022) p. 23

313 Source: the municipality of Agadir. Information gathered during the field visit.

314 SDG 11 survey response, Municipality of Agadir (2022)

315 SDG 11 survey response, Municipality of Agadir (2022)



Figure 33. Jardin Ibn Zaidoun. Source: UNESCWA (2022)

inhabitant.<sup>316</sup> ICTs are expected to play an important role in these processes as they can be effectively used to raise awareness about the role of green and open public spaces in improving quality of life; and for sharing information about green and public spaces in the municipality with the city’s inhabitants and tourists.

### 3.5.3 Summary and Conclusions

The data collected revealed that over the last few decades Agadir has become an economic centre of the Souss-Massa region, with the potential of becoming a modern metropolis and aspirations to become smarter, more sustainable and inclusive, as put forward by the PAC 2022-2027. The city’s development was shaken by the 1960 earthquake and floods, which led to considerable human and economic losses. Collected data mostly does not correspond directly to the SDG 11 indicators (please see the textbox for statistics highlights) and suggests that the city faces an undersupply

316 PAC 2022-2027, Municipality of Agadir (2022) p. 72

of affordable housing and provides limited access to public transport. In relation to waste management, contextual data reveals that the municipality is responsible for solid waste collection and that it is treated at a new sanitary landfill, Tamellast, while the previous landfill, Bikarrane, has undergone a comprehensive rehabilitation. In relation to target 11.3.2, the data sheds a light on the participatory process in the context of PAC, while in relation to 11.7.1 it shows that Agadir provides access to open and inclusive public spaces, including most notably the Agadir beach, 80 per cent of which is accessible to the public. The city's success in providing green spaces are notable, and bring it closer to meeting the municipal objective of 8 m<sup>2</sup> of green spaces per inhabitant, and include the rehabilitation of the Ibn Zaidoun garden and Abderahman El Youssoufi garden gardens.

When it comes to major and comprehensive infrastructural investments in Agadir, the Urban Development Programme and Urban Mobility Plan have the potential to set the course for the inclusive, sustainable and smart development of the city in the decades to come, insofar as they promote access to safe and inclusive public transport, promote eco-mobility and implement ICT led solutions (such as renewable energy, smart lighting and smart irrigation alongside transit corridors and among other solutions). That being said, once concluded, the impact of these investments needs to be assessed to understand the benefits for various population groups, including the most vulnerable groups (e.g. women, children, persons with disabilities or migrants) and also across space. Solid waste management and collection practices in Agadir could also benefit from the increased rate of recycling and utilizing to the greatest extent possible of waste-to-energy solutions at the new sanitary landfill facility, Tamellast.

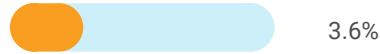
Last but not least, while the data collected presents rich qualitative data, the quantitative data is fragmented. In this context, Agadir would further benefit from producing/collecting local data on housing (for example, on the percentage

of population living in inadequate housing in Agadir, the number of homeless persons in the city, the level of housing affordability measured using the percentage of disposable income spent on housing in Agadir). It would also benefit from data on transportation (such as access to public transport measured in walking distance to bus stops, access to public transport for various population groups in Greater Agadir); as well as from data on solid waste collection and management (such as the percentage of solid waste collected and recycled in Agadir) or access to open public and green spaces for various population groups. Statistics highlights can be found in Figure 34.



### SDG 11: Statistics Highlights

On SDG **11.1.1**. *proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing*: the 2020 VNR puts this at 3,6 per cent in 2018.



On SDG **11.6.1**. *Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities*: the municipality of Agadir collects 450 tons of waste per day or 0.90kg/inhab/day (which is higher than the average rate of collection at the national level at 0.76kg/inhab/day), including 80 to 100 m3 of waste per day are collected from “black spots” (collection points).

#### Waste Collection Rate Locally and Nationally

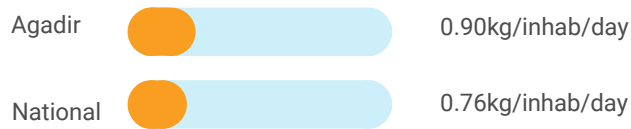


Figure 34. SDG 11: Statistics Highlights

# 13 CLIMATE ACTION



## 3.6 SDG 13 Climate Action

*Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*

### 3.6.1 Context

Morocco's climate varies considerably from north to south and is strongly influenced by the Atlantic Ocean to the west, the Mediterranean Sea to the north, and the Sahara Desert to

the south and southeast. In 2020, the mean annual temperature in Morocco was around 18°C and the mean precipitation was 301.6 mm and has been rising since the 1960s (see Figure 35).<sup>317</sup>

The 2020 VNR emphasizes that the country faces considerable challenges related to

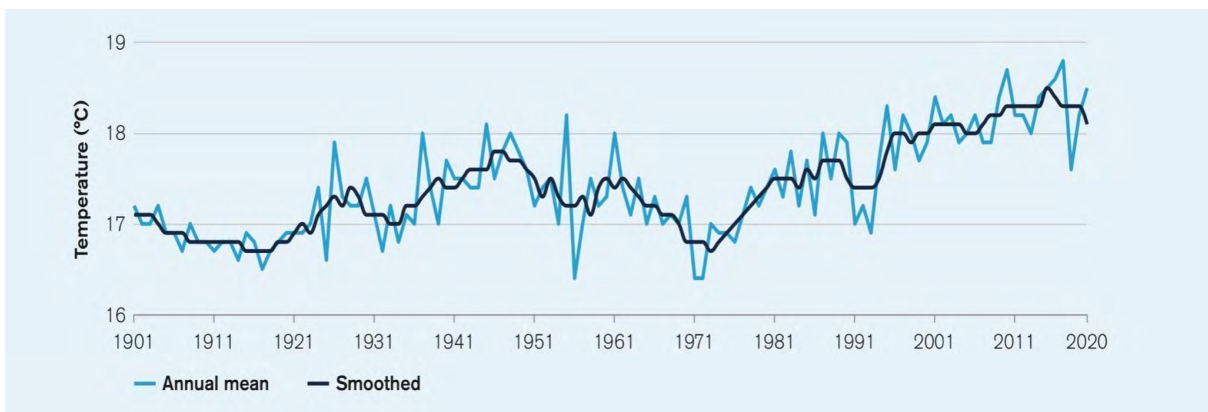


Figure 35: Morocco Annual Average Mean Temperature (1901-2020).

317 The average monthly temperature in Morocco ranged between 9.4°C (December, January) and 26°C (July, August) in 2020. The mean annual precipitation in the same year was measured at 301.6 mm, with highest rainfall occurring October to April. The country experiences extremely low precipitation from June to August. Climate Risk Country Profile: Morocco, World Bank (2021). pp.4-6



climate change and natural disasters, including flash floods and earthquakes causing human, economic and environmental losses. The challenges and national initiatives to address them are discussed in the SDG 13 VNR text box below. Notable efforts also include developing the disaster and evaluation monitoring system with an aim to assess the efficiency of the disaster monitoring programmes, and to ensure the best implementation of the national strategy for DRR in 2021<sup>318</sup> and the Fifth Arab Regional

Platform for DRR, organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Regional Office for the Arab States (ROAS), in collaboration with the League of Arab States (LAS).<sup>319</sup>

The cost of the air quality degradation in the country is high and increasing. According to the country's 2022 EPR, it increased between 2000 and 2014 to reach 9.7 billion MAD, equivalent to 1.05 per cent of the country's GDP.<sup>320</sup>

### SDG 13: Insights from the 2020 VNR<sup>321</sup>

The VNR emphasizes that the government of Morocco is committed not only to the 2030 Agenda, but to the Kyoto Protocol (2002) and the Paris Agreement (2015). It is determined to address global warming, which is particularly threatening the country due to its climate and geographical location, causing heat waves, droughts, floods, storms, human and material losses. It plans to address this through a proactive and adaptive approach resting on a strengthened institutional and legal environment and dedicated programmes across sectors. It cites that the level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the country in 2010 was 7,277.8 kiloton, an increase compared to 2016 (6,761.7 kiloton).<sup>322</sup>

To address climate change, the national government committed to: (i) the consolidation of climate change governance through the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory System (SNIGES) established through Decree No. 2-18-74 of 21 March 2019; (ii) strengthening the resilience of populations, natural resources, ecosystems, and the productive sectors most sensitive to climate change; (iii) reporting on GHG reduction through Nationally Determined Contributions; (iv) working closely with territorial actors on climate change; (v) improving sources of financing, among others. In this context, it developed the National Adaptation Plan, the National Climate Plan, the Sustainable Development Plan, the National Flood Protection Plan (PNI), and the National Strategy for Risk Management of Natural Disasters 2020-2030 meeting international standards set within the Sendai Framework for Action (2015-2030) for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), supported by a national disaster and evaluation monitoring system.

The Department of Water developed the National Flood Protection Plan (PNI)<sup>323</sup> in 2002 and updated it in 2017, proposing measures to adapt to the actual and potential risks associated with extreme events. This plan was prepared in close consultation and coordination with all the departments and partners affected by flooding.

318 Morocco Announces National Policy for Managing Natural Disasters, Morocco News (2021). Available at: <https://www.morocccoworldnews.com/2021/02/334133/morocco-announces-national-policy-for-managing-natural-disasters>

319 Fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNDRR (2021) Available at: <https://rp-arabstates.undrr.org/>

320 2nd Environmental Performance Review: Morocco, UNECE (2022), p.192

321 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020), pp.142-148

322 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) p.142

323 PNI identified around 400 locations that were prone to flood risk in Morocco. For more information, see: Loudyi, D., Hasnaoui et al. Flood Risk Management Practices in Morocco: Facts and Challenges (2021). P.52 [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-16-2904-4\\_2#citeas](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-16-2904-4_2#citeas)

Within this framework, the number of vulnerable black spots dealt with in partnership with local authorities exceeded 250.<sup>324</sup>

While Morocco has made considerable progress in achieving SDG 13, the VNR highlights some challenges that may hinder further progress. These include the need to raise awareness on environmental issues, the need to strengthen risk prevention management and the country's resilience adaptive capacity- particularly in water, agriculture, and transport infrastructure sectors- as well as the need to promote synergies between development and climate financing.



Figure 36. Jardin Ibn Zaidoun park, city of Agadir. Source UNESCWA 2022.

324 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) p.84



The climate of the Souss-Massa region, where Agadir is located, is semi-arid to arid. It is overall dry, with mild winters and hot, dry summers. The average precipitation in the region is 275 mm per year and the average temperature is 19 degrees Celsius. This climate is well-suited to agricultural activities making the Souss-Massa region the largest fruit and vegetable producer in Morocco, accounting for 9 per cent of national GDP and 17 per cent of regional GDP.<sup>325</sup>

### 3.6.2 Target Overview

**Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.**

*This target is measured by **indicator 13.1.1**, number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population; or **indicator 13.1.3**, proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies*

Data pertaining to SDG 13.1 target is fragmented. On 13.1.1, the data reveals the impact of the 1960 earthquake in Agadir and the challenges facing the city in light of floods. It shows that the earthquake was one of the most devastating of all time in Morocco with 12,000 to 15,000 people killed, more than a third of the city's population at the time, and 25,000 more were injured.<sup>326</sup> It also led to considerable economic and infrastructure losses (briefly

outlined in the SDG 11 section). In 2009, Agadir was hit by heavy rainfall, which caused flash floods that swept away homes, cut roads, and caused interruptions in the power supply. The flood claimed five lives, injured 20, and left hundreds displaced in Agadir. The municipal and provincial emergency services, and public and private services made dozens of interventions to restore power, to unclog drains and to provide necessary disaster relief assistance. The administrative services of the Agadir district were responsible to ensure prevention measures such as the temporary closing of schools.<sup>327</sup> In 2002, Agadir was identified as one of 400 locations that were prone to flood risk in Morocco in the context of the National Flood Protection Plan (PNI).<sup>328</sup>

On 13.1.3 indicator concerning local DRR strategies, the data indicates that in 1966, an obligation on prefectures/provinces to develop emergency response plans (ORSEC) was set up.<sup>329</sup> Also, in 2021, a project dedicated to earthquake mitigation, including a safety plan for Greater Agadir was set up. The project followed-up on the memo of the Ministry of Interior no. 7806 and was financed by the Fund to Combat the Effects of Natural Disasters (FLCN). The project partners were the Ministry of Interior, the Souss-Massa Regional Council, and the Municipality of Agadir.<sup>330</sup>

325 The Report: Morocco Souss-Massa 2021, Oxford Business Group (2021) p.3

326 Information provided by the municipality through correspondence on 28/03/2023

327 Morocco: Floods in Agadir, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2010). p.1

328 Loudyi, D., Hasnaoui et al. Flood Risk Management Practices in Morocco: Facts and Challenges (2021). P.52 [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-16-2904-4\\_2#citeas](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-16-2904-4_2#citeas)

329 In 1966 an obligation to develop emergency response plans (ORSEC) by each Moroccan prefecture/province was set up. ORSEC sets out a course of action in the event of a disaster including floods, also in relation to the task assignments and coordination. For more information, please see: Emergency Planning & Risk Management, Ministry of Interior: Directorate General of Civil Protection (N.D) p.6 and Loudyi, D., Hasnaoui et al. Flood Risk Management Practices in Morocco: Facts and Challenges (2021). P.54 [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-16-2904-4\\_2#citeas](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-16-2904-4_2#citeas)

330 Information provided by the municipality through correspondence on 05 May 2023.

**Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning**

*A relevant indicator includes 13.2.2, total greenhouse gas emissions per year*

Agadir is a dynamically developing urban centre with high household and industrial energy consumption, yet data about GHG emissions in the city (pertaining to target 13.2.2) is fragmented and exists across various levels of governance. According to the JRC Science for

Policy Report, developed based on Sustainable Energy Action Plan (PAED) in 2018, the GHG emissions in Agadir were 806,090 TCO<sub>2</sub>eq/year (tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per year for BEI reference years), making 1,95 TCO<sub>2</sub>eq/inhabitant.<sup>331</sup> PAED provides that the main sources of GHG in Agadir emissions were public transport (at 23 per cent), the residential building sector (at 21 per cent), the building sector for tertiary services (at 21 per cent), transport of goods (at 11 per cent), fisheries (at 6 per cent), industrial activities at 6 per cent, taxis (at 2 per cent) and others at 9 per cent<sup>332</sup> (see Figure 37).

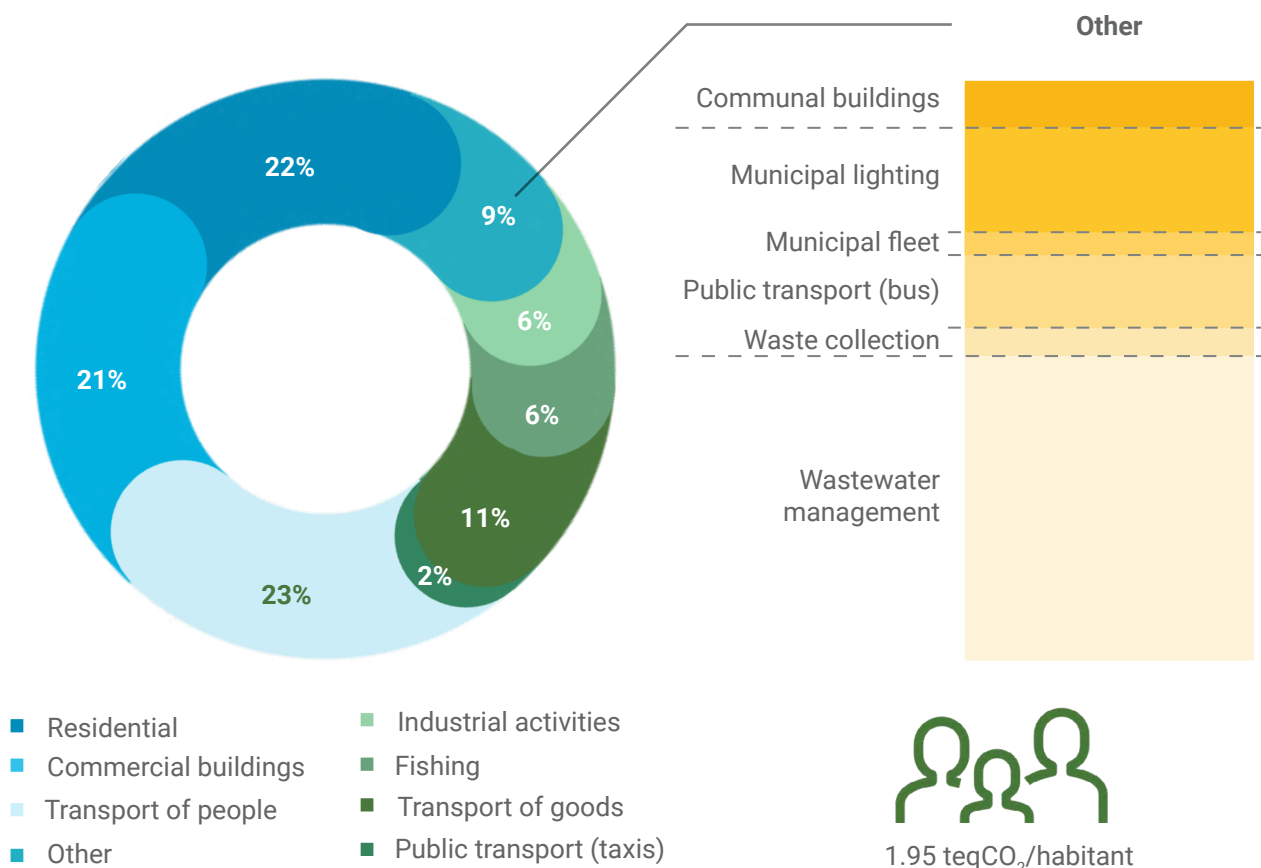


Figure 37: GHG Emissions in Agadir in 2015 in Contributors per Sector and per Capita.

331 The Covenant of Mayors: overall analysis and detailed evaluation of city Sustainable Energy Action Plans in the MENA Region, Joint Research Centre (2018). P.21

332 Maroc Commune d'Agadir Plan d'action en faveur de l'énergie durable (PAED), CES-MED (2015) p.4



According to the PTRC, in 2013 Agadir, as centre of the manufacturing industry, contributed to most of the emissions in the Souss-Massa region (327.5 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2013).<sup>333</sup> In the same year, the biggest contributors to the GHG emission in Souss-Massa were the energy sector at 44 per cent, followed by agriculture at 33 per cent, industrial users at 17 per cent, and waste at 6 per cent. Figure 38 showcases the overall GHG emissions within Souss-Massa.<sup>334</sup>

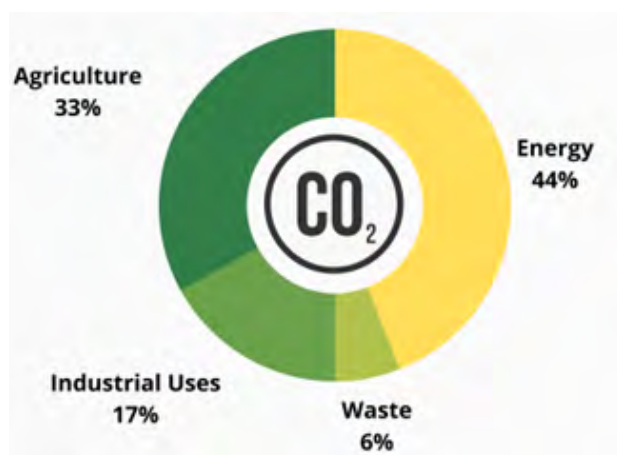


Figure 38: GHG Emissions per sector in Souss-Massa in 2013.

Source: own, based on *Climate Finance Strategy of the Territorial Plan to Fight against Global Warming (PTRC SM) Souss-Massa Region*, GIZ (2019, p.8)

Agadir in collaboration with the regional and national governments and other partners (including NGOs) has made considerable efforts to integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning. In 2014, Agadir joined the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the objective of which is to support energy transition of cities and to reinforce their climate commitments.<sup>335</sup> In 2016,<sup>336</sup> it submitted PAED.<sup>337</sup> PAED set the objective to reduce the emissions to 20.8 per cent by 2020<sup>338</sup> through dedicated actions, particularly in relation to transport and public lighting. The latter entails the modernization of public lighting with a view to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 80 TCO<sub>2</sub> per year.<sup>339</sup> Agadir reports that as of 2022, it reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from electrical consumption by 40 per cent.<sup>340</sup>

It then committed to meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement (2015) and to implement the regional climate strategy - Territorial Plan for the Fight Against Global Warming, which is also aligned with the Paris Agreement. In 2017, Agadir hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Climate Chance Summit, where the Agadir Declaration was announced.

- 333 According to the PTRC, in 2013 Agadir contributed to most of the emissions in the Souss-Massa region (at 327.5 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2013), being the centre of the manufacturing industry. Development of the territorial plan to fight against global warming (PTRC) of the Souss-Massa Region - Mitigation Pane, Azad Environment (2017), p.14
- 334 Climate Finance Strategy of the Territorial Plan to Fight against Global Warming (PTRC SM) Souss-Massa Region, GIZ (2019) p. 8
- 335 Plans and Actions, Covenant of Mayors Mediterranean (n.d.) Available at: <https://www.com-med.org/en/plans-and-actions/action-plans.html>
- 336 Plans and Actions, Covenant of Mayors Mediterranean (n.d.) Available at: <https://www.com-med.org/en/plans-and-actions/action-plans.html>
- 337 Maroc Commune d'Agadir Plan d'action en faveur de l'énergie durable (PAED), CES-MED (n.d.)
- 338 The Covenant of Mayors: overall analysis and detailed evaluation of city Sustainable Energy Action Plans in the MENA Region, Joint Research Centre (2018). P.77
- 339 The Covenant of Mayors: overall analysis and detailed evaluation of city Sustainable Energy Action Plans in the MENA Region, Joint Research Centre (2018). P.46
- 340 Meeting with the municipality, August 2022

### Agadir Climate Chance Summit and the Agadir Declaration

The summit was organized by the Souss-Massa Regional Council and the Climate Chance association. Over 5,000 people from 80 different countries participated in the summit. The declaration involved members from around a hundred structures including official representatives of the major groups recognized by the framework convention on climate (environmental NGOs, local authorities, businesses, young people, women associations, trade unions, farmers, indigenous peoples, researchers) and facilitators of thematic coalitions.<sup>341</sup> This included the Secretary General of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as the California Secretary of Environmental Protection,<sup>342</sup> and over 40 regional, national, and international organizations. Also included were participants from UCLG, C40, International Trade Union Confederation, Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), and the Coalition Régionale pour les Droits Environnementaux et le Développement Durable Souss-Massa.<sup>343</sup>

The Agadir Declaration states that national climate policy should be harmonized with all major global agendas, including the SDGs, and highlights the need for non-state actors to be able to be involved in climate negotiations between national governments. The declaration also points to the importance of access to funding for territorial actors, in particular the local and regional governments, and the representatives of civil society, to develop, monitor and implement climate initiatives.<sup>344</sup> A range of initiatives were launched at the summit, which provided an opportunity for Morocco to reinforce its commitment to combating global warming, as well as to promote the commitment of Souss-Massa to PTRC<sup>345</sup>.

The summit saw the launch of the “Adrar social gender and climate caravan” initiative by the Regional Council of Souss-Massa and the Regional Coalition of Environmental Law and the Regional Directorate of the Environment. The caravan travelled through the different provinces of Souss-Massa (Chtouka, Ait Baha, Tiznit, Agadir Idaoutanane, Inzegane Ait-Melloul, and Taroudant) and conducted interactive meetings with members of the local and regional community (elected officials, experts and student researchers) in order to create a province-specific diagnosis on the detrimental effects of climate change on rural women in

the mountainous and isolated municipalities of Souss-Massa.<sup>346</sup>

One of the most important initiatives addressing climate change in Agadir to date is the Territorial Plan for the Fight Against Global Warming (PTRC), which is a regional climate strategy, developed by the Souss-Massa region. The DREnv emphasizes that one of the key achievements of PTRC is establishment of a process to understand climate action in territorial policy, which would be able, once consolidated in an iterative way, to produce project-actions with real impact on the community.<sup>347</sup> An overview of PTRC can be found in Appendix 12.

341 Déclaration d’Agadir des acteurs non-étatiques, Climate Chance Agadir 2017 p.1

342 Press release, Climate Chance (2017). P.1

343 Agadir Declaration Of Climate Actors Stepping Up Climate Action And Goals Together, Climate Chance Agadir (2017), p.6

344 Agadir Declaration Of Climate Actors Stepping Up Climate Action And Goals Together, Climate Chance Agadir (2017), p.1

345 Sommet Mondial Des Acteurs Du Climat, Climate Chance (2017).P.8

346 Lancement de la caravane Adrar du genre social et du climat, CRI 2017. Available at: <https://agadirinvest.com/investir-a-agadir/lancement-de-la-caravane-adrar-du-genre-social-et-du-climat.html> . 3

347 Source: Information provided by DREnv in correspondence on 19 April 2023





Monitoring and evaluation of PTRC is carried out in close collaboration with the Steering Committee<sup>348</sup> and stakeholders from various institutions.<sup>349</sup>

The PTRC portfolio, which combines both components, includes 85 projects and actions.<sup>350</sup> Several of the PTRC projects have a particular relevance to Agadir (See Appendix 13). In relation to climate adaptation, these include:

- developing the banks of the Wadi Souss by implementing a roof protection dyke (2017-2020);
- investing in masonry walls, triple and double scuppers to drain excess water (2017-2020) within the Commune of Aourir, Agadir;
- canalizing and diverging the water course of Chaaba Tagouramt, and
- reprofiling the Chaaba Ntiguit water course in trapezoidal section within the centre of Tamri, Agadir (2017-2020).<sup>351</sup>

In relation to climate mitigation, the PTRC projects in Agadir-- including the generalization of dual-power ballasts on 150 W and 250 W luminaires and lamps, and the installation of 11, 000 light points in the city-- is expected to contribute to reducing CO2 emissions by 12.3 per cent per year and reducing energy consumption by 36 per cent within Agadir.<sup>352</sup> The project 'AZUR' entails replacing over 400 traditional light sources (2,000 W metal halide),

with high performance LED projectors, with a view to reducing energy consumption by more than 50 per cent, reducing maintenance and management costs, and reducing CO2 emissions from public lighting in Agadir by 7.3 per cent.<sup>353</sup> Agadir also initiated a project to refurbish and reuse old steel lamp posts, which is aimed at reducing the impact on the environment by limiting the production solid waste and associated CO2 emissions. The number of lamp posts that were re-used amounted to 300, which avoided over 30 tonnes of equivalent CO2 emissions.<sup>354</sup> Initiatives to improve energy efficiency in Agadir are discussed further in the SDG 7 section.

DREnv highlights several projects under the PTRC Financing Strategy, where Agadir is considered:<sup>355</sup>

- 1/ Sustainable and resilient development of the Oued Souss mouth ecosystem in light of climate change, implemented in Greater Agadir (Prefectures: Inezgane Aït Melloul and Agadir Ida-Outanane)
- 2/ Greater Agadir: Sustainable and low-carbon city implemented in Greater Agadir (Prefectures: Agadir Ida-Outanane and Inezgane Aït Melloul)
- 3/ Capacity building for the implementation of the NDC and the NSSD implemented in the Souss-Massa region

348 The Steering Committee consists of the Wali and President of the Souss-Massa Region, the Regional Directorate of the Environment, the president of the regional commission for the development of the environment, and executives representing the Souss-Massa Region. Source: Plan Territorial De Lutte Contre Le Réchauffement Climatique Region Souss-Massa - Adaptation Pane, Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Environment; Souss-Massa Regional Council; GIZ (2016) P.26

349 Plan Territorial De Lutte Contre Le Réchauffement Climatique Region Souss-Massa - Adaptation Pane, Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Environment; Souss-Massa Regional Council; GIZ (2016) P.40

350 Climate Finance Strategy of the Territorial Plan to Fight against Global Warming (PTRC SM) Souss-Massa Region, GIZ (2019) p.20

351 Plan Territorial De Lutte Contre Le Rechauffement Climatique Region Souss-Massa - Adaptation Pane, Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Environment; Souss-Massa Regional Council; GIZ (2016) pp.87-89.

352 Development of the territorial plan to fight against global warming (PTRC) of the Souss-Massa Region - Mitigation Pane, Azad Environment (2017) p.60

353 Development of the territorial plan to fight against global warming (PTRC) of the Souss-Massa Region - Mitigation Pane, Azad Environment (2017) p.61

354 Development of the territorial plan to fight against global warming (PTRC) of the Souss-Massa Region - Mitigation Pane, Azad Environment (2017) p.62

355 Source: information provided by DREnv through correspondence on 19 April 2023.

4/ Sustainable fisheries and coastal resilience implemented in the Coastal area of the Souss-Massa region.

In relation to the development of the Oued Souss mouth ecosystem in Agadir, the aim is to mitigate the effects of flooding and erosion on agricultural lands, as well as to reduce emissions from solid waste black spots (described in Appendix 13), and stagnant marshes located in the bed of the Oued Souss.<sup>356</sup>

Also, to support the PTRC implementation, the Monitoring, Reporting & Verification System (MRV) is being developed.<sup>357</sup> The objective of the platform is to track GHG data within the energy and agriculture sectors, and the resilience and adaptation of communities in the Souss-Massa region. The initiative was developed by the Secretary of State for Sustainable Development (SEDD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Danish Technical University, and was launched in Agadir in 2018. It is expected to play an important role in decision-making and monitoring objectives and policies in Souss-Massa.<sup>358</sup> It is the first platform

of its kind in Morocco. Last, but not least, the implementation of climate initiatives in Agadir is supported by the SIREDD platform, which is dedicated to the collection and management of data on environmental matters, as outlined below. Both initiatives demonstrate the potential for use of ICTs for climate action, and set an important milestone in the city's journey to becoming smarter and more sustainable.

#### The role of SIREDD in measuring environmental performance in the Souss-Massa region

Since 2018<sup>359</sup> the Secretariat of State in charge of Sustainable Development has been developing the Regional Information System for the Environment and Sustainable Development (SIREDD), which concerns the Souss-Massa region.<sup>360</sup> The role of the platform is to collect, analyse, manage and share environmental data, also disaggregated by location, including in relation to SDGs (See Figure 21). The platform is expected to support evidence-based policy processes and decision-making on various issues pertaining to the environment. It offers executives several analysis features, including simple analysis of an indicator, cross-analysis, and spatiotemporal analysis.<sup>361</sup>

356 Climate Finance Strategy of the Territorial Plan to Fight against Global Warming (PTRC SM) Souss-Massa Region, GIZ (2019). p.22

357 The MRV is dedicated solely to the mitigation component of PTRC. The first phase of this process is completed. The second phase is ongoing. Source: Information provided by DREnv through correspondence on 19 April 2023.

358 Driving Subnational Climate Action in Morocco: The Innovation Example of Souss-Massa's Territorial Plan, GIZ (2019). P.7

359 National Action Plan of Open Government Morocco, Open Government Morocco (2018). P.21

360 Presentation of SIREDD, SIREDD-Souss-Massa (2022)

361 Presentation of SIREDD, SIREDD-Souss-Massa (2022)



Indicateur	Description	Objectif	cible	Origine	Spatialisation	Périodicité	Confidentialité	Payant?	Fichier joint	Détails	Valeurs	Graphe
Changement de la moyenne annuelle de l'évapotranspiration	La connaissance de cet indicateur est indispensable pour apprécier la demande climatique et pour définir les besoins		13.1	Direction de la Météorologie Nationale	True	Annuelle	Non	Oui				
Changement de la moyenne annuelle de l'évapotranspiration	La connaissance de cet indicateur est indispensable pour apprécier la demande climatique et pour définir les besoins en eau des cultures.		13.1	Direction de la Météorologie Nationale	True	Annuelle	Non	Oui				
Changement de la température moyenne annuelle	Les interactions climatiques peuvent entraîner un dysfonctionnement d'écosystème du fait de l'effet combiné de changement du régime de précipitation, du changement de température et d'autres paramètres climatiques.		13.1	Direction de la Météorologie Nationale	True	Annuelle	Non	Oui				
Changement du cumul annuel des précipitations	Les interactions climatiques peuvent entraîner un dysfonctionnement d'écosystème du fait de l'effet combiné du changement du régime de précipitation, du changement de température et d'autres paramètres climatiques.		13.1	Direction Régionale de l'Agriculture	True	Annuelle	Non	Oui				
Changement du rendement de l'orge			13.1	Direction Régionale de l'Agriculture	True	Annuelle	Non	Oui				
Changement du rendement du blé			13.1	Direction Régionale de l'Agriculture	True	Annuelle	Non	Oui				

Figure 39. SIREDD Platform.

Last but not least, the data collected also revealed the gender dimension of climate change. It noted that climate change has disrupted ecosystems and affected shellfish harvesting carried out by around 10,000 women fishers along the Moroccan coast. The accounts of the women in Tiguert in the Souss-Massa region indicate the vulnerability of their livelihoods, which is dependent on harvesting and amounts to an income of 200 and 300 MAD (\$21 and \$31) per month. It shows that women carrying out the work are aged between 45 and 60 years old. Harvesting seafood is a difficult and arduous job, given the length of the working day and the risks to which fisherwomen are exposed. At the same time, the accounts indicate that women fishers have adopted sustainable practices into their daily

work to protect the environment, supported by UN Women, who provided them with ecological and sanitary equipment designed for harvesting to help ensure the return of young shellfish to their habitat in order to reduce their loss caused by indiscriminate fishing. They also provided neoprene fishing suits, reinforced at the knees and elbows to protect them from minor injuries and help maintain their body temperature.<sup>362</sup>

362 In Morocco, women fishers adopt new practices resistant to climate change (2022) Available at: <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/fr/magazine/mars-2022/au-maroc-les-femmes-pour-centC3-per-centAAcheuses-adoptent-de-nouvelles-pratiques-r-per-centC3-per-centA9sistantes-aux>

**Target 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning**

**Indicator 13.3.1** extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment

On indicator 13.3.1, collected data reveals a range of initiatives to improve awareness, education and human and institutional capacities to address climate change. These were developed by Agadir and/or its partners including national and regional governments, education institutions, international organizations (e.g. USAID), and civil society organizations (NGOs). Schools in Agadir benefited from the implementation of a national programme 'Reading for Success,' which was developed in 2015 and introduces changes to school curricula in Morocco. Its objective is to strengthen literacy and to improve climate awareness among school children in Morocco. The programme has been realized in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ministry of Education in Morocco. USAID assisted in creating a new school curriculum for Grades 1 to 6. The programme uses

compelling topics that help students reconsider their relationship with the environment (water, forests, wildlife) and their energy use. For example, it introduces lessons on waste management, and environmental degradation.<sup>363</sup>

Agadir also benefits from the climate initiatives realized by the King Mohammed VI Foundation for the Protection of the Environment, which was launched by King Mohammed VI in 2001 and is chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasnaa.<sup>364</sup> The foundation organizes training activities dedicated to sustainable beach management, including improving environmental awareness, safety, and signage. One of these training sessions was conducted in Agadir in 2017.<sup>365</sup> The foundation also established the 'Eco-Schools' programme, awarding green flags to schools improving students' engagement in environmental actions and practices, following a seven-step pathway.<sup>366</sup> As of July 2022, six primary schools in Agadir have been awarded green flags.<sup>367</sup> The King Mohammed VI Foundation also participated in the United Nations Oceans Conference in July 2022, to showcase its accomplishments in areas of coastal preservation, and environmental education.<sup>368</sup> An important role in improving the environmental awareness in Agadir is through the organization of quarterly beach clean-up days, as well as conducting environmental awareness-raising and recycling workshops for children.<sup>369</sup> PTRC proposes the integration of climate change into education programmes

- 363 New Curriculum Strengthens Literacy Alongside Climate Awareness In Morocco, Creative (2022) Available at <https://www.creativeassociatesinternational.com/stories/new-curriculum-strengthens-literacy-alongside-climate-awareness-in-morocco/>
- 364 About the Foundation, Mohammed VI Foundation (n.d.) Available at: <https://fm6e.org/en/lafondation/>
- 365 Training of Local Officials Responsible for Beach Management, Fondation Mohammed VI Pour La Protection De l'Environnement (2017) Available at: <https://fm6e.org/en/news/18-mai-2017-la-fondation-mohammed-vi-pour-la-protection-de-lenvironnement-organise-en-partenariat-avec-la-direction-generale-des-collectivites-locales-une-formation-pour-les-responsables-techniques-2/>
- 366 74 Green Flags in Morocco, Fondation Mohammed VI Pour La Protection De l'Environnement (2022) Available at: <https://fm6e.org/en/news/74-green-flag-eco-schools-in-morocco/>
- 367 Source: the municipality of Agadir. Information gathered during the field visit.
- 368 Ocean Decade Second Foundations Dialogue, Oceans Decade (2022) Available at: <https://oceandecade.org/news/m6f-and-unesco-ioc-convene-second-foundations-dialogue-to-mobilise-philanthropic-community/>
- 369 Morocco Clean Cities Agadir 2019, Climate Chance (2019) Available at: <https://www.climate-chance.org/en/best-practices/morocco-clean-cities-agadir-2019/>



and strengthening the existing climate change education programmes and training<sup>370</sup>.

### 3.6.3 Summary and Conclusions

In recent decades Agadir has faced natural disasters that had a significant impact on the city's development, including the 1960 earthquake and the 2009 flood. Currently, the city faces climate challenges and is working with a variety of partners to reduce GHG from the energy, transport and buildings sectors (as outlined in sections on SDG 7 and SDG 11).

Data informing the SDG 13 target reveals that Agadir is committed to addressing climate change, with support of the Souss-Massa region; the national government, and other stakeholders including most notably local and national NGOs. The Territorial Plan to Combat Global Warming (PTRC) proposes a range of initiatives on climate mitigation and adaptation benefitting Agadir. The platform for monitoring environmental performance (SIREDD) sets the milestone for improving production, collection and management of environmental data. Existing quantitative data pertaining to SDG 13 targets is discussed in the text box below. Statistics highlights are presented in Figure 41.



Figure 40. The Argan trees on Agadir landfill. Source: UN-Habitat (2022).

370 Plan Territorial De Lutte Contre Le Réchauffement Climatique Region Souss-Massa - Adaptation Pane, Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Environment; Souss-Massa Regional Council; GIZ (2016) p.71

To strengthen climate action in Agadir and enhance the city's development, it is essential to ensure the resilience of urban infrastructure projects supporting its transformation into a modern metropolis. To this end, the following actions could be taken: (i) taking stock of the city's initiatives addressing climate change, their objectives and impacts; (ii) further mainstreaming climate action into sectoral initiatives; (iii) mapping the roles of various groups of stakeholders in developing and implementing local climate initiatives; (iv)

exploring the potential for scaling-up the initiatives that have proven to successfully contribute to reduction of GHG emissions; and (v) developing and implementing awareness-raising campaigns that directly or indirectly address climate change (e.g. campaigns promoting waste segregation and recycling; or promoting eco-mobility), together with partners and civil society organizations.

### SDG 13: Statistics highlights

On **SDG Indicator 13.1.1** number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population:



As a result of the Earthquake in 1960, **12,000 to 15,000** people killed, **more than a third** of the city's population at the time, and 25,000 people injured.

On **SDG Indicator 13.2.2**. Total greenhouse gas emissions per year:



In 2018, the GHG emissions in Agadir were **806,090 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq/year** (tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per year for BEI reference years), making **1,95 teqCO<sub>2</sub>/inhabitant**. The main sources of GHG in Agadir emissions were: public transport (at 23%), residential building sector (at 21%), building sector for tertiary services (at 21%), transport of goods (at 11%), fisheries (at 6%), industrial activities at 6%, taxis (at 2%) and others at 9%.

Figure 41. SDG 13: Statistics Highlights



**17 PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS****3.7 SDG 17 Partnership for the Goals*****Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development*****3.7.1 Context**

The government of Morocco recognizes that partnerships play an important role in sustainable development, as cited in the 2020 VNR and in the constitution.<sup>371</sup> The 2020 VNR

discusses a wide range of issues pertaining to partnership development, including domestic resource mobilization, international collaboration and foreign aid (see text box below for details).

**SDG 17: Insights from the 2020 VNR<sup>372</sup>**

The 2020 VNR discusses the country's financial situation, the efforts to mobilize financial resources for development and to ensure financial stability of the country and a healthy budget. It also recalls various partnerships established between the government of Morocco and public, private and third sector institutions and organizations within the country and across the borders. It notes that between 2015-2018, the share of public resources in the gross domestic product (GDP) increased from 21 per cent to 22 per cent, while the contribution of taxes to the national budget fluctuated between 2014-2019 to settle at 71.9 per cent in 2019.<sup>373</sup> It flags the reforms of the regulatory and institutional framework to enhance the development of public-private partnerships, such as:

371 Morocco's Constitution of 2011, The Kingdom of Morocco: General Secretariat of the Government (2011)

372 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) p.170-183

373 Detailed analysis of the country's financial situation can also be found at the SDG platform managed by the Higher Commission for Planning at MetaData 17.1.2, IMF Statistics Department (2017)





(i) setting up the PPP Division within the Ministry of Economy and Finance to assist the different public sector institutions with development and implementation of PPP projects<sup>374</sup>; (ii) establishing the PPP committee led by the head of the Government; or (iii) amending the PPP law (Law No. 86-12 and Decree of application of this law No. 2-15-45) from 2015 due to its complexity and limitations and to enable participation of the municipalities in 2020.<sup>375</sup>

The VNR also points to the role of Morocco as a testing ground for innovative solutions across sectors delivered through collaboration between the national government, public, private and third sector organizations and civil society. It cites that the national government is working closely with international cooperation institutions and agencies including United Nations institutions and agencies, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The support provided by the United Nations Development System (UNDS) focuses on the government's priorities, especially environment and sustainability, health, agriculture, democratic governance and women's empowerment, and is coordinated through 19 UN agencies comprising a country team<sup>376</sup> and working under the framework agreement.<sup>377</sup> The government collaborated with UNDP and with 10 UN agencies in Morocco to monitor and track progress towards the SDGs and to develop the country's 2nd VNR.<sup>378</sup>

The VNR highlights the activities of GIZ in Morocco with a focus mainly on improving energy efficiency and water management, with a view to enhancing climate change mitigation and adaptation. It also highlights the launch of a South-South Cooperation Action on Migration (2019-2021) between Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal, with the support of the European Union. The action is aimed at facilitating and promoting the sharing of experiences and the transfer of practices in the field of migration between institutional, administrative and non-governmental stakeholders in the four countries.<sup>379</sup> Lastly, it notes that 38 agreements with 18 African countries in the agriculture sector were signed to realize the Green Plan of Morocco (PMV).

In relation to challenges, the VNR highlights the need for the development of financing for SDG implementation, the promotion of international cooperation in scientific research, and the boosting of capacity of the national statistical system to support the SDG indicators. The VNR also highlights the importance of the coherence of public policies at the national level and the territorial level.

At the local level, the Organic Law 113-14 sets and resource mobilization. It stipulates that the out the framework for partnership development municipalities in Morocco can: (i) enter into

374 Introduction memorandum to the draft law amending and supplementing Law No. 86-12 related to partnership

contracts between the public and private sectors, Ministry of Economy and Finance (N.D.).

375 A presentation on the legal framework for PPP in morocco, Ministry of Finance and Investment (2022)

376 Morocco, UNSDG Data Portal (n.d.) Available at: <https://uninfo.org/location/23/unct-overview>

377 Cross-cutting issues relating to public policy, migration, human rights, and disabilities have also been tackled through the programmes implemented jointly with the government and various UN entities. In addition, many capacity building programmes had been designed and provided to national stakeholders in the public and private sector. For more information please see Morocco, UNSDG (n.d.).

378 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) p.16

379 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020) p.178

cooperation agreements with local, national, and international organizations (the latter requires the approval of other authorities); (ii) establish local development companies to provide the services on behalf of the municipality; and (iii) generate revenues from properties or shareholdings, fines, fees in accordance with services provided, and taxes that are allocated from the government to the communes.<sup>380</sup> Accordingly, the sections below outline the efforts by the municipality of Agadir, as well as other public, private and third sector institutions and organizations, to develop partnerships and to improve their financial situation, making the city smarter, more sustainable and inclusive.

### 3.7.2 Target Overview

**Target 17.1: Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection**

*Measured by indicator: 17.1.1, total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source.*

On indicator 17.1.1 (Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP), limited data is available. The existing data shows that while the total GDP in Agadir in 2022 is not known, the budget of the municipality in the same year was over 550 million MAD (\$ 50 million) and it was 8.5 per cent higher than in 2021. Almost 75 per cent of this budget (408 million MAD of the 550 million MAD) was allocated for operating expenses, resulting in the balance of 142 million MAD (\$13 million). In 2022 this balance

was 33 per cent higher compared to 2021 and was planned to be invested in the realization of urban infrastructure and services projects, including the development of proximity grounds (such as the sports fields in the districts and the playgrounds for children), youth centres, and reception centres for children in street situations.<sup>381</sup> Detailed investment priorities for 2022-2027 are identified in PAC 2022-2027. They include the development of more than 85 new sports facilities, making Agadir a 'city of sports' (with a dedicated budget of 317 million MAD (\$31.6 million)<sup>382</sup> or investing in socio-economic growth in Agadir, with an overall budget of 116 million MAD (\$11.5 million) which, allowing to reinforce social cohesion, improve economic attractiveness, and promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities;<sup>383</sup>

The revenues of Agadir have been steadily increasing over the last 5 years except for the year 2020, when Morocco was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic as discussed at length in the follow-up chapter. Recently, in 2022, the municipality set up an annual citizen budget of approximately 15 million MAD (\$1.4 million) to implement development projects in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The budget was set up in a participatory manner, in consultation with inhabitants of the neighbourhoods. The development projects were identified through the circulation of surveys to the concerned locals.<sup>384</sup>

The municipality makes considerable efforts to mobilize financial resources to meet local development objectives, including through digitizing municipal administration practices and investing in innovative sources of finance. PAC 2022-2027 foresees the digitization of tax collection and deployment of platforms for

380 Legal Framework of Open Government, OECD Library (N.D.) Available at: <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/f607e3ee-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/f607e3ee-en> Accessed on 22/05/2023

381 List of operating expenses for the year 2022, Agadir Municipality (2022)

382 PAC of Agadir (2022-2027), the Municipality of Agadir (2022) p.41

383 PAC of Agadir (2022-2027), the Municipality of Agadir (2022) p.30

384 Développement : La Commune urbaine d'Agadir met en place un budget citoyen, LA VIEeco (2022). Available at: <https://www.lavieeco.com/affaires/developpement-la-commune-urbaine-dagadir-met-en-place-un-budget-citoyen/> Accessed on 28/11/2022.



budget programming and others.<sup>385</sup> In October 2022, the municipality issued its first municipal bond, the first in Morocco, thanks to law 2.22.33 of January 2022, amending the Decree 2-17-296 of 9 June 2022, which establishes the rules of borrowing for the municipalities. It stipulates the terms of financing from credit institutions, issuing bonds and carrying out securitization<sup>386</sup> activities.<sup>387</sup> The bond has a value of 1 billion MAD (\$93.37 million).<sup>388</sup>

One of the first subscribers to the bond so far has been the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), which plans to invest up to 400 million MAD (\$36.7 million). EBRD also granted the municipality of Agadir 1 million euros in the form of technical assistance. Of those, 650,000 euros will be dedicated to strengthening the technical, operational and financial capacity of the municipality, while the remaining 350,000 euros will go to identifying smart green city initiatives within the framework



Figure 42. The city market in Agadir. Source: UN-Habitat (2022).

385 PAC of Agadir (2022-2027), the Municipality of Agadir (2022) p.102

386 "Securitization is the process in which certain types of assets are pooled so that they can be repackaged into interest-bearing securities. The interest and principal payments from the assets are passed through to the purchasers of the securities." Source: <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2008/09/pdf/basics.pdf>

387 Agadir: A bond loan to finance the Urban Development Program, LA VIE éco (2022). Available at: <https://www.lavieeco.com/affaires/agadir-un-emprunt-obligataire-pour-financer-le-programme-de-developpement-urbain/> Accessed on 09/12/2022

388 Agadir First Moroccan Commune to Issue Bond, the North Africa Post (2022). Available at <https://northafricapost.com/62016-agadir-first-moroccan-commune-to-issue-bond.html> Accessed on 28/11/2022

of Green Cities Programme. The programme requires Agadir to develop a Green City Action Plan (GCAP) identifying key environmental challenges for the municipality and ways to address them.<sup>389</sup>

The existing data also unveils other efforts to mobilize financial resources by the municipality, such as the signing of a loan agreement in December 2021 between the Local Development Company Agadir - Mobility and the French Development Agency to the value of 344.8 million MAD (\$34 million). The loan will finance the ongoing realization of the BHNS under PDU, discussed in the SDG 11 chapter.<sup>390</sup>

To improve financial performance, the municipality plans to reduce non-essential expenses, boost tax collection by cleaning up outstanding debts, and expand tax revenue by revising tax rates.<sup>391</sup> In the future, Agadir may benefit from financing from the World Bank. In 2020, the World Bank carried out an appraisal of a 2.6 billion MAD (\$250 Million) loan to finance the Generation Green 2030 Programme in Morocco. This five-year programme aims to increase economic inclusion of youth, marketing efficiency and environmental sustainability in the agri-food industry in various locations, including Agadir. In 2019, the bank assessed a loan to finance capacity building to improve the performance of municipalities in Morocco in the amount of 3.1 billion MAD (\$300 million).<sup>392</sup>

**Target 17.16: Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries**

*Relevant indicator includes 17.16.1 number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals*

Interesting qualitative data informing SDG 17.16.1 exists, including a wealth of information about Agadir municipality projects carried out in collaboration with various stakeholders, which can be found in PAC 2017-2022 and across the sections of the VLRs. It is important to note that Agadir is a testing ground for innovative technical assistance projects carried out in collaboration with international cooperation institutions and agencies, such as the UN or GIZ. For example, the data shows that thanks to the partnership between the municipality of Agadir, UNESCWA, UN-Habitat and UCLG-MEWA, the first VLR of Agadir is being developed. This VLR is the first in Morocco, the second in the Arab region, and one of the first in Africa. Data also points out that the municipality worked closely with USAID and the Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education, and Scientific Research, to strengthen the environmental literacy of school children within the framework of the project 'Reading for Success' implemented between

389 Programme villes vertes : Agadir bénéficie de 1 million € d'assistance technique de la BERD, LES ECO (2022). Available at: <https://leseco.ma/business/programme-villes-vertes-agadir-beneficie-de-1-million-e-d-assistance-technique-de-la-berd.html>

390 Agadir: l'AFD accorde un prêt de 33 millions d'euros pour le financement partiel du BHNS, Finances News (2021). Available at: <https://fnh.ma/article/actualites-marocaines/agadir-l-afd-accorde-un-pret-de-33-millions-d-euros-pour-le-financement-partiel-du-bhns>

391 PAC of Agadir (2022-2027), the Municipality of Agadir (2022) p.102

392 Program Appraisal Document on a Proposed Loan, World Bank (2019). p.1



2017-2022<sup>393</sup> (as discussed in the SDG 13 section). Thanks to the partnership between the Souss-Massa region and GIZ, Agadir is realizing projects dedicated to: (i) reducing the consumption of fossil fuels in buildings, industry and public lighting implemented (in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy, Mining and Sustainable Development (MEMDD)),<sup>394</sup> (ii) improving water management with dedicated training for employees of the State Secretariat for Water and the Environment (SEEE), in collaboration with the Ministry of Equipment, Transportation, Logistics, and Water (METLE).<sup>395</sup>

Agadir is active in international and national arenas, promoting partnerships based on SDGs. In September 2017, it hosted the 2nd Climate Chance Summit, where the Agadir Declaration was launched (as described in the SDG 13 section).<sup>396</sup> The declaration calls for a collaboration between different stakeholders, including state and non-state actors, to address climate change in line with global commitments under the Paris Agreement. Agadir is also a member of the Global Covenant of Mayors since 2014 and other international networks (e.g. in the energy sector, as outlined in SDG 7 section).<sup>397</sup> The municipality also collaborated with the city of Nantes in France on transport and mobility (developing rapid bus transit, BHNS, as outlined in the SDG 11 section), cultural and social affairs, and on fighting violence and discrimination against women. It signed a five-year cooperation agreement with the city. The cooperation allowed young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Agadir

to undertake internships in France, exchanging expertise in the transport and mobility sector.<sup>398</sup> As such, meeting Goal 17 by the municipality of Agadir, set the ground for progress towards achieving other SDG targets, especially target 8.5 which stipulates “Full employment and decent work with equal pay” and target 11.2.1. on safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport. The municipality is also encouraging the extension of this partnership to incorporate the nine municipalities of Greater Agadir and the 24 municipalities of the metropolitan area of Nantes.<sup>399</sup>

**Target 17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships**

*Relevant target 17.17.1, amount in United States dollars committed to public-private partnerships for infrastructure*

While there is no data to directly inform the SDG 17.17.1 target, existing data sheds light on responsible governance and the partnerships between the municipality of Agadir, and public and private organizations, including civil society. PAC 2022-2027 emphasizes the importance of responsible governance and collaboration with various groups of stakeholders, especially public sector organizations, international cooperation agencies and donors, and civil society “to better organize municipal administration and

393 Reading For Success - National Program for Reading, USAID (N.D.). Available at <https://www.usaid.gov/morocco/fact-sheets/reading-success-national-program-reading> Accessed on 28/11/2022

394 Promoting Energy Efficiency in Morocco, GIZ (N.D.). Available at: <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/105043.html> Accessed on 12/12/2022

395 Integrated Water Resources Management, GIZ (N.D.). Available at <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/20206.html> Accessed on 28/11/2022

396 Press release, Climate Chance (2017). P.1

397 Agadir, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (N.D.). Available at <https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/cities/middle-east-and-north-africa/morocco/agadir/> Accessed on 28/11/2022

398 Source: the municipality of Agadir. Information gathered during the field visit.

399 Coopération Nantes-Agadir, Consulat Général De France à Agadir (2016). Available at <https://ma.consulfrance.org/Cooperation-Nantes-Agadir-Signature-d-une-convention-de-partenariat-relative-a> Accessed on 28/11/2022

its collaborators in the service of citizens.”<sup>400</sup> It shows that the Agadir municipality is utilizing the jobs and competencies repository (JCR) to identify skills needed for jobs. Additionally, the municipality plans to implement training for effective project management, ensuring proper implementation of the city council action plan whilst taking into account stakeholder engagement.<sup>401</sup>

The data also shows that it is operating within a complex regulatory and institutional framework (as discussed in the Introduction of this document). The municipality has long promoted partnership development and is working closely with a range of partners, including other municipalities of the Greater Agadir, the prefecture of Agadir, the regional Council of Souss-Massa, several ministries, the University of Ibn Zohr university, the Souss-Massa Innovation City, service providers (e.g. RAMSA), and business associations (e.g. CCISM, CGEM) to improve the development of the city.

To implement the Urban Development Programme, the municipality entered into the partnership with the Ministries of: Interior, Islamic Affairs, National Education, Health, Land Management, Tourism, Town and Country Planning, Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water, Industry Trade, and Green Economy, Culture and Youth; the Souss-Massa Region; the Province of Agadir Ida Outanane, the municipality of Agadir, and the Wilaya of Agadir (an administrative division between a region and a province).<sup>402</sup> Thanks to the partnership between the Ministries of Economy, Industry,

Education, Interior, the Souss-Massa Regional Council and the University of Ibn Zohr, the Souss-Massa Innovation City was established. The SM-CI brings in innovative technological infrastructure, encourages entrepreneurship and start-up development in Agadir and in Souss-Massa.<sup>403</sup>

The municipality works closely with utility and service providers (both public and private) to deliver public infrastructure and services (see the SDG 6 and SDG 11 sections), and with neighbouring municipalities to implement inter-municipal projects on transport and mobility (e.g. under the Urban Development Programme), and water and sanitation (e.g. a project dedicated to developing the sanitation infrastructure and reusing treated wastewater and drinking water in Greater Agadir).<sup>404</sup> To make the city smarter, more sustainable and inclusive, it collaborates with civil society and non-governmental organizations. Details of the execution of the participatory approach for development of PAC 2022-2027 are outlined in the SDG 11 section and in the Appendix.

In 2017 the municipality allocated 296,000 MAD (\$28,000 USD) to the Green Marathon society for organizing the fourth annual green marathon in Agadir.<sup>405</sup> It also established the youth club in the Mohammadi district under the National Initiative for Human Development providing the financial contribution of over 500,000 MAD (46,000 USD).<sup>406</sup> In 2019 it dedicated 150,000 MAD (\$14,000) to the Abwab society for development of facilities for elderly persons.<sup>407</sup> PAC 2022-2027 also points out that the municipality is working closely with citizens

400 PAC of Agadir (2022-2027), the Municipality of Agadir (2022) pp.107-111

401 PAC of Agadir (2022-2027), the Municipality of Agadir (2022) pp.107-111

402 Framework agreement for the implementation of the Urban Development program 2020-2024

403 HM the King Inaugurates Souss-Massa Innovation City, Concrete Expression of Regional Version of Industrial Acceleration Plan, Kingdom of Morocco (2020). Available at <https://www.maroc.ma/en/royal-activities/hm-king-inaugurates-souss-massa-innovation-city-concrete-expression-regional> Accessed on 28/11/2022

404 Partnership agreements to finance and implement the initial program for liquid disinfection projects and the reuse of treated wastewater and potable water in Greater Agadir, Ministry of Interior, Regional Council of Souss-Massa, Commune of Agadir (2021), p.1

405 Agreements and Contracts 2, Agadir Municipality (N.D.), p.29

406 Agreements and Contracts 2, Agadir Municipality (N.D.), p.8

407 Agreements and Contracts 2, Agadir Municipality (N.D.), p.3



and associations through “contractualization”, which aims to give ownership in managing and maintaining sports facilities to the citizens.<sup>408</sup>

The municipality is also known for supporting the Franco-Moroccan Association for the Support of Educational and Cultural Development (AFMADEC), to develop the Franco-Moroccan centre for orientation and training in Agadir (2016-2019); the Oum Al Banin association to develop the Centre for Listening and Accommodation for Women in difficult situations; (iii) the Migration and Development Association established in 2021 to improve a reception and orientation office for immigrants.<sup>409</sup> Between 2017 and 2018, the municipality’s contributions to civil society institutions increased from 2,000,000 MAD (\$187,000) to 2,950,000 MAD (\$276,000), while the municipality’s contributions to the leisure sector increased from 7,300,000 MAD (\$682,000) in 2017, to 7,400,000 MAD (\$692,000)<sup>410</sup>.

### 3.7.3. Summary and Conclusions

SDG 17 discusses the municipality’s financial situation, efforts to mobilize financial resources and to develop new partnerships, and shows that developing partnerships allows for the leveraging of new resources, be it human, financial or material (technologies), as well as knowledge and expertise. It contributes to achieving not only SDG 17 but also other SDGs, such as SDG 7, SDG 11 and SDG 13, as discussed in the corresponding sections. While quantitative data pertaining to the targets is limited (see Figure 43 below), the qualitative data provides interesting contextual information. It shows that in 2022, the municipality launched its first municipal bond with EBRD as the single biggest contributor to date and set up a citizen

budget of approximately 15 million MAD (\$1.4 million) to implement development projects in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

This section also points out that the partnerships between the municipality of Agadir and other institutions have improved the efficiency and quality of public services (e.g. transport, energy, water, waste, as discussed in the corresponding sections); and enable the delivery of transformative, large-scale urban development interventions, such as the Urban Development Programme 2020-2024, which has the potential to accelerate socio-economic progress of the city, while addressing its key environmental challenges. The data shows that that municipality is active on the international arena and that In September 2017, it hosted the 2nd Climate Chance Summit, where the Agadir Declaration was launched. Other examples of its international partnership efforts include the collaboration with UN-Habitat, UNESCWA and UCLG-MEWA on developing this VLR; city-to-city collaborations with the city of Nantes; and the participation of Agadir in international networks for cities (e.g. the Covenant of Mayors).

Last but not least, this section notes that in the post-COVID-19 era which has seen depleting public sector resources, new solutions are needed to offset public sector spending on urban infrastructure and services in Agadir, and in Morocco in general. It requires for example the deployment of sustainable and innovative financing solutions to improve sources of revenue and to ensure a healthy budget (such as the municipal bond schemes or participatory and gender-responsive budget). It also requires developing, testing and scaling-up innovative approaches to partnership-building, supported by an enabling regulatory environment. In relation to the latter, there is particular potential in implementing the citizen-centred approaches to PPPs, such as the People-first Public Private Partnerships (PfPPPs) that allow for “improving

408 PAC of Agadir (2022-2027), the Municipality of Agadir (2022) p.48

409 Agreements and Contracts 1, Agadir Municipality (N.D.). p. 2

410 Subsidies and Financial Grants, Agadir Municipality (2018.). p.8

the quality of life of the communities, particularly those that are fighting poverty, by creating local and sustainable jobs, those that fight hunger and promote well-being, promote gender equality, access to water, energy, transport, and education for all, and that promote social cohesion, justice and disavow all forms of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, creed and culture.”<sup>411</sup>

### SDG 17: Statistics highlights

On indicator 17.1.1 *Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP:*



In 2022, the budget of the municipality was over 550 million MAD (50 million USD)



which is 8.5% higher than in 2021

the vast majority of 2022's budget was spent mainly on covering the operating expenses and the realization of large-scale transformation projects.

Figure 43. SDG 17: Statistics Highlights

411 UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence - What are People-first PPPs? (uneceppp-icoe.org) Available at <https://www.uneceppp-icoe.org/people-first-ppps/what-are-people-first-ppps/>





# **CHAPTER 4: IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON DEVELOPMENT**

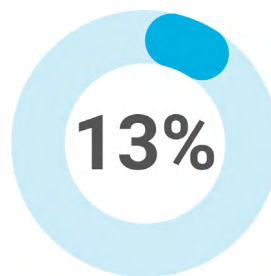
Morocco has been facing a range of challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The country has been one of MENA's most impacted countries in terms of contamination and deaths, with a total of 219,084 cases of COVID-19 recorded between March 2, 2020 and October 31, 2020 (the timeline of the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Morocco and the highlights of the emergency response of the country's government in 2020 can be found in Appendix 14).<sup>412</sup>

The spread of COVID-19 has had a negative impact on the country's economy. The report "Coping with COVID-19's cost, the example of Morocco" prepared in 2020 by Brookings (NGO) points out that due to the pandemic, the country's trade deficit rose by 23.8 per cent in the first quarter of 2020, while export decreased by 19.7 per cent between January and April 2020. In 2020, unemployment reached its highest levels since 2001, with 13 per cent of the population being out of work. The highest unemployment rate was in urban areas (15.6 per cent), while rural areas suffered a two-fold increase (See Figure 44 below).<sup>413</sup> By the end of 2020, Morocco's economy contracted by 6.6 per cent. Among the most impacted trade sectors were automotive, aeronautics, textiles (due to the disruptions in supply chains) and tourism, which experienced up to USD \$14 billion in losses between 2020 and 2022.<sup>414</sup> The COVID-19 pandemic strongly affected access to urban infrastructure and services, including administrative services, education, social services and healthcare services, particularly for cancer patients and patients in palliative care in Morocco. There is evidence that the COVID-19 increased the risk of violence against



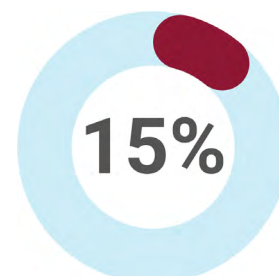
the country's trade deficit rose by **23.8%** in the first quarter of 2020, while export decreased by **19.7%** between January and April 2020.

In 2020, the unemployment reached the **highest levels** since 2001



**13%** of the Moroccan population were unemployed (2020).

Urban areas suffered from the highest unemployment rates at **15.6%** (2020).



Rural areas suffered a two-fold increase.

Figure 44. Impact of COVID-19.

women— including married, divorced and widowed women—as well as girls.<sup>415</sup>

There is limited documentary data about the spread of COVID-19 in Agadir and its impact on the development of the city. In relation to

412 Morocco's National Response to COVID-19, National Library of Medicine, (2021) Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8451960/>

413 For people aged 24 to 35, the unemployment rate also reached a record-high at 22.6 per cent in 2020. Employment in the informal sector decreased by 5 million. More information about the impact of COVID-19 on the country's economy can be found at: Coping with COVID-19's cost, the example of Morocco, Brookings (2020)

414 Coping with COVID-19's cost, the example of Morocco, Brookings (2020). Available at <https://www.brookings.edu/research/coping-with-covid-19s-cost-the-example-of-morocco/>

415 The objectives of sustainable development in morocco in the context of COVID-19, Kingdom of Morocco National Report, 2021 p.61

emergency response, the Souss-Massa region provided financial support to the population and launched a range of economic revival activities in Agadir, in collaboration with the delegation of health, and the municipality, Wilaya, the National Service AID (“l’Entraide Nationale”) and decentralized state actors. These activities included among others the production of COVID-19 awareness materials for hotels in Agadir and in the region; the training of 30 hotel managers on the use of digital tools for hospitality management and promotion, and capacity management post-COVID 19. Their estimated value was 10 million MAD (981,000 USD).<sup>416</sup> The region also allocated a budget

for the acquisition of medical equipment, the purchase of basic food, cleaning and disinfection products for vulnerable groups, the cost of which reached 40.6 million MAD (3.9 Million USD). Accordingly, it distributed basic food to 55,000 vulnerable families and acquired medical equipment for hospitals in the region and in Agadir.<sup>417</sup>

The collected data also shows that the government of Morocco made considerable efforts to control the outbreak of COVID-19, to protect the lives of the citizens and to support economic activity. It closed the country’s borders, established mandatory confinement, developed a National Health Security Action



Figure 45. Corniche Anza Source. Commune d’Agadir (2022).

416 SDG 13 and COVID-19 Survey response, the municipality of Agadir (2022)

417 SDG 13 and COVID-19 Survey response, the municipality of Agadir (2022)

Plan<sup>418</sup> (PANSS) and a National Monitoring and Response Plan (Plan national de veille et de riposte à l'infection par le Coronavirus 2019-nCoV).<sup>419</sup> It then created the COVID-19 fund which amounted to USD 3 billion in August 2020, with USD 2.4 billion dedicated to supporting economic activity and the remaining part dedicated to upgrading medical equipment.<sup>420</sup> The fund focused on three priority areas: Health, Economy and Social Order.<sup>421</sup>

The government also put in place a set of financial support programmes for individuals and businesses including tax suspensions, loans and grants to SMEs, as well as emergency allowances for vulnerable families. It includes for instance (i) a benefit scheme for employees of both formal and informal sectors according to which formal sector<sup>422</sup> employees would receive USD 220 per month in support, and the informal sector between USD 90 to USD 134 per month in certain locations;<sup>423</sup> or (ii) tax reliefs, loans and guarantee programs for small businesses including the Damane Oxygene guarantee programme, which, as of May 2020,

allocated 9,000 loans (equivalent of 370 million USD) to businesses.<sup>424</sup>

A range of organizations and countries have supported the COVID-19 emergency response in Morocco. In 2020, the EU disbursed 169 million euros of its the COVID-19 support package towards COVID-19 mitigation measures across various sectors of the economy, especially in the healthcare sector.<sup>425</sup> The government of Morocco worked with World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF), and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to improve access to healthcare for vulnerable groups (especially cancer patients).<sup>426</sup> In 2020, the African Development Bank (AfDB) provided 264 million euros in financing to the COVID-19 Response Support Programme (PARC-19) which addressed health, social and economic crises caused by COVID,<sup>427</sup> while the World Bank provided \$400 million in financing for the social assistance projects.<sup>428</sup> In the similar vein, the US government invested \$20 million to support the COVID-19 response in Morocco.

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- 418 Plan d'Action National de Sécurité Sanitaire (PANSS) 2018-2022. Ministry of Health. 2018. Available at: [https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/document-library/document/NAPHS\\_for\\_All\\_Framework\\_FRENCH\\_final.pdf](https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/document-library/document/NAPHS_for_All_Framework_FRENCH_final.pdf)
- 419 (Plan national de veille et de riposte à l'infection par le Coronavirus 2019-nCoV), Ministry of Health (2020). Available at [https://www.sante.gov.ma/Documents/2020/coronavirus/Plan per cent20national per cent20de per cent20veille per cent20et per cent20de per cent20riposte per cent20 per centC3 per centA0 per cent20I per cent27infection per cent20par per cent20le per cent20Coronavirus per cent202019-nCoV.pdf](https://www.sante.gov.ma/Documents/2020/coronavirus/Plan%20national%20de%20veille%20et%20de%20riposte%20per%20C3%20A0%20par%20infection%20par%20le%20Coronavirus%202019-nCoV.pdf)
- 420 Morocco's National Response to COVID-19, National Library of Medicine, (2021) Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8451960/>
- 421 For more information please check: La stratégie du Maroc face au COVID-19, Policy Centre for the New South (2020)
- 422 Formal sector term refers to all activities carried out in accordance with the legal, fiscal and labour market provisions in force.
- 423 Coping with COVID-19's cost, the example of Morocco, Brookings (2020) Available at <https://www.brookings.edu/research/coping-with-covid-19s-cost-the-example-of-morocco/>
- 424 Damane Oxygène : une machine pas encore bien huilée, Le Brief (2020). Available at <https://www.lebrief.ma/5807-damane-oxygene-la-machine-pas-encore-bien-huilee/> Accessed on 19/01/2023
- 425 EU disburses €169 million of its COVID-19 support package for Morocco, European Commission, (2020) Available at [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/nl/ip\\_20\\_2524](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/nl/ip_20_2524)
- 426 Ensuring the continuity of essential health services for vulnerable populations during the COVID-19, WHO, (2022) Available at <https://www.emro.who.int/fr/mor/morocco-news/assurer-la-continuite-des-services-de-sante-essentiels-pour-les-populations-vulnerables-durant-la-pandemie-de-la-covid-19.html> Accessed on 19/01/2023
- 427 Morocco COVID-19 response support programme (PARC-19), AfDB, (2022) Available at <https://projectsportal.afdb.org/dataportal/VProject/show/P-MA-K00-021>
- 428 Morocco COVID-19 social protection emergency response project, the World Bank (2023). Available at <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P172809?lang=ar> Accessed on 19/01/2023

In 2020, it donated two field hospitals- a five-bed intensive care unit worth of \$960,000, and a mobile emergency room worth of \$700,000). This came following the donation of a 30-bed field hospital worth \$1.5 million, part of a bigger grant of \$20 million.<sup>429</sup>

While between 2020 and 2021 the national government's efforts concentrated on emergency response, selected initiatives were launched to improve the country's medium and long-term resilience. In October 2020, the king of Morocco announced a roadmap to revive the country's economy across various sectors, especially tourism, transport, hospitality, and enhancing social support.<sup>430</sup> In January 2022, the National Plan for Monitoring and Response to COVID-19 was developed to improve the country's preparedness and response to pandemics and natural disasters. The plan was drawn up on the basis of the 2018-2022 National Health Security Plan. Currently, the government of Morocco is rebuilding its economy and investing in social protection and services to induce macroeconomic recovery and to support households and businesses.<sup>431</sup>

Further post-COVID recovery of the country requires mobilization of vast resources, including knowledge, know-how, financial resources and technologies, as well as investment in innovation development and scaling. Both state and non-state actors will play an important role in the recovery, particularly civil society, and small and medium businesses working together to reinforce the city's resilience to economic shocks and turmoil, pandemics and natural disasters (also discussed in the SDG 13 section). There is also much potential in restructuring the healthcare system (e.g. by developing new models of governance

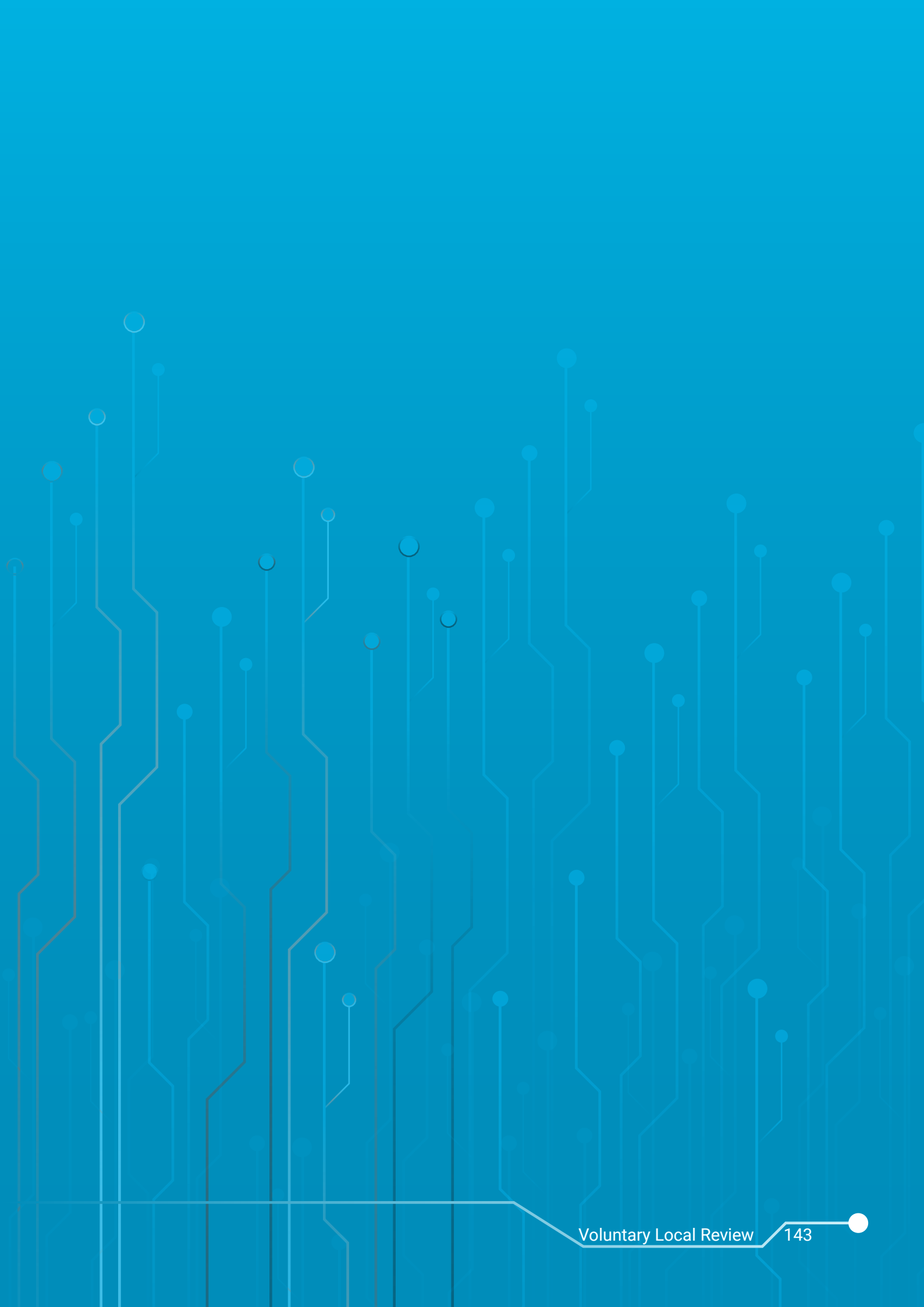
and services) while leveraging access to technologies, especially digital technologies, as they have proven to improve access to and quality of services across sectors.<sup>432</sup>

429 Latest on the regions COVID-19 recovery, MEED (2022), Available at <https://www.meed.com/latest-news-on-the-pandemics-economic-impact>

430 Coping with COVID-19's cost, the example of Morocco, Brookings (2020). Available at <https://www.brookings.edu/research/coping-with-covid-19s-cost-the-example-of-morocco/>

431 Coping with COVID-19's cost, the example of Morocco, Brookings (2020). Available at <https://www.brookings.edu/research/coping-with-covid-19s-cost-the-example-of-morocco/>

432 Morocco's National Response to COVID-19, JMIR Public Health Survey (2021). Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8451960/>



# CHAPTER 5:

## KEY MESSAGES ON REINFORCING THE TRANSITION OF AGADIR TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE, SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CITY



The municipality of Agadir is committed to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda and the Paris Agreement, in accordance with the competences attributed to it by the constitution and based on decentralization reform. The five pillars of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development— people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership— have long guided policies and practices of the municipality, as it invested in improving quality of life and delivering modern urban infrastructure and services for all.

The municipality is known for its close relationship with civil society and its support for cooperative organizations. Efforts to deliver resilient, inclusive and smart infrastructure through large-scale, cross-sectoral and transformative urban development interventions are particularly important given the municipality’s geographical location and its climate. These are achieved together with the region of Souss-Massa, other public sector institutions and organizations, businesses and civil society. The projects implemented under the Urban Development Programme, the Urban Travel Plan and the regional climate strategy of Souss-Massa, play a critical role in improving the city’s resilience and inducing post-COVID recovery, and are in line with Morocco’s “New Development Model” (NMD).

The municipality has a vision for Agadir becoming among the first Moroccan cities to pioneer an inclusive, smart, sustainable and resilient city transformation. Demonstrating its commitment to inclusive development and a capacity to implement innovation, the municipality put into action a number of modern approaches to urban management including gender-sensitive and citizen-budgeting methods. Recently, it has become the first municipality in Morocco to develop a municipal bond, setting the standard for other cities in Morocco and internationally. The development of Agadir benefitted from investment in economic infrastructure in the Agriculture, Tourism and Fishery (ATP) sectors

and beyond, including the “Souss-Massa City Innovation Centre” in Agadir, setting the stage for cutting-edge research and the scaling-up of marketable solutions. It also paved the way for the development of the “smart port” of Agadir, and other large-scale programmes to upgrade urban infrastructure and services.

The 2022-2027 PAC provides the strategic direction for local planning and development. This Voluntary Local Review by focusing on SDGs, not only asserts this vision but also supports its realization. Moreover, it highlights a need to reinforce the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the mainstreaming of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Agadir by:

- harnessing smart and digital solutions to deliver resilient urban infrastructure and services;
- enhancing the production and use of evidence in local policy process and decision-making;
- ensuring inclusiveness in policy and planning.

The following actions support harnessing smart digital solutions for delivering accessible, resilient, and high-quality urban infrastructure and services for all:

- deploying an inclusive and evidence-based approach to the design, organization and delivery of accessible, resilient and high-quality urban infrastructure and services,
- deploying and scaling-up ICT-enhanced circular city solutions, that allow reducing resource consumption and waste generation, improve the efficiency and quality of services across the transport, energy, water, waste, and public building sectors,
- assessing municipal investments in urban infrastructure and services with regard to their impact on the environment (especially climate, the use of natural resources, natural resource preservation) including across scales, and socio-economic development

to delineate and scale-up relevant good practices,

- evaluating local innovative financing practices (e.g. a municipal bond) to leverage resources to deliver resilient, accessible and high-quality urban infrastructure towards scaling-up relevant good practices across various sectors,
  - exploring the opportunity to move away from state and public sector-centred models of organization and financing of public infrastructure and services towards new models, leveraging new types of partnerships, legislative innovation and innovative sources of finance (including green, sustainability and social bonds and loans, the blended finance), to further improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of public infrastructure and services.
  - Enhancing the production and use of evidence for local policy process and decision-making can be achieved by:
  - investing in the regular production, collection and use of high-quality urban data, confined within administrative and/or functional boundaries of a municipality, disaggregated by various dimensions (e.g. sex, disability) and concerning various sectors such as water, energy, transport, waste, and others, including through deploying modern tools for dynamic data visualisation and scenario analysis (such as digital twin city models identified in the PAC 2022-2027)
  - using localized SDG indicators and indicator sets such as the Urban Monitoring Framework or the Key Performance Indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities, for measuring and monitoring the achievement of local development goals and SDGs,
  - evaluating and scaling-up the use of modern resource management tools e.g. gender-sensitive, citizen budgeting, allowing to connect data with action, investing in modern ICT tools to support definition and dissemination of data inquiries; real-time data production, visualization and sharing, dynamic data analysis,
  - developing and promoting partnerships between the municipality and other organizations producing urban data (such as service providers or academia) to develop and strengthen urban data eco-systems,
  - aligning the standards for urban data production with relevant national and international guidelines, standards and methodologies.
- Ensuring inclusiveness in policy and planning entails:
- evaluating the role of various groups of stakeholders in evidence-based policy processes and decision-making in line with national requirements and standards,
  - exploring the meaning and role of “vulnerable groups” (e.g. children and adolescents, women and girls, persons with disabilities, elderly and migrant communities) in local, regional and national policy contexts, and vis a vis international standards, in order to ensure an inclusive approach to evidence-based policy process and decision-making,
  - exploring the potential of ICTs and other solutions to improve access and quality of participatory processes for all and to reach out and encourage the participation of vulnerable groups,
  - evaluating the impact of local policy initiatives and investments on addressing the challenges facing vulnerable groups
  - evaluating and scaling-up various approaches to participatory planning, such as gender budgeting methodology, citizen budget, Public-Private Partnerships (PfPPPs), across sectors, with a view to reinforcing citizen-led “co-creation” at the local level, and to promote an inclusive design, also across borders,
  - improving access to information for all, setting the ground for greater public sector accountability, transparency, and development of partnerships with other

public sector institutions and organizations, businesses and civil society, also across borders.

The following guidelines can be instrumental in supporting the city's transformation towards an inclusive, smart, sustainable and resilient future, while reinforcing the implementation of the NUA, the 2030 Agenda and mainstreaming the SDGs:

- Connecting cities and communities with the Sustainable Development Goals
- Implementing SDG 11 by connecting sustainability policies and urban-planning practices through ICTs
- Management of infrastructure assets for sustainable development

#### A Guide to Circular Cities

For reinforcing evidence-based policy and decision-making processes in Agadir:

- Guidelines on evidence-based policies and decision-making for sustainable housing and urban development
- Digital solutions for integrated city management and use cases
- Practical Guidebook on Data Disaggregation for the Sustainable Development Goals

To support the unlocking of a new generation of partnerships for sustainable development in Agadir:

- SDG Partnership Guidebook. United Nations and The Partnering Initiative (2022)
- Guiding Principles on People-First Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) (2018)
- Enhancing innovation and participation in smart sustainable cities

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# APPENDICES

*Appendix 1. The list of representatives of the municipal committee on the VLR.*

*Table 7: The list of representatives of the municipal committee on the VLR.*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Position</b>
Mr Lahcen BENMOHAMED	The Municipality of Agadir	General Director of Municipal Services
Ms Laila OUBAALI	The Municipality of Agadir	Head of the environmental protection department
Mr Jamal LAZIZ	The Municipality of Agadir	Member of the council, Chairman of the Finance Committee
Ms Imane ACHEMLAL	The Municipality of Agadir	Head of the studies and works division
Mr Rachid AMSGUINE	The Municipality of Agadir	Head of Legal Affairs Division
Mr Amine GOUH MID	The Municipality of Agadir	Head of Legal Affairs Division
M. Lahoucine AL ARABI	HCP Souss Massa	Regional Director
Mme. Hanane Houchimi	HCP Souss Massa	Head of the studies and the planning department
Mme. Khadija BOUZAGGRARA	HCP Souss Massa	State engineer
Mme Khadija Sami	Regional Directorate of Environment and Sustainable Development	Regional Director

Appendix 2. The list of municipal competencies (individual, shared, and transferred)

Table 8. Municipal competencies (individual, shared, and transferred)

Service area	Individual competency	Shared competency	Transferred competency
Housing	<p>The municipality creates and manages the public services and facilities needed to provide local services in the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Drinking water and electricity distribution (article 83)</li> <li>2. Water liquid and solid disinfection and wastewater treatment plants (article 83)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creation of women's homes/centres (article 87)</li> <li>1. Creation of charitable homes and homes for the elderly (article 87)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creation and maintenance of small and medium water installations and equipment (article 90)</li> </ol>
Transport	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. (Managing) traffic, signalling of public roads, and parking of vehicles (article 83)</li> <li>2. (Creating and managing) urban public transport (article 83)</li> <li>3. Transporting the sick and wounded (article 83)</li> <li>4. (Managing) passenger transport bus stations/ road stations for transporting passengers (article 83)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintenance of the national roads crossing the centre of the commune and its urban perimeter (article 87)</li> </ol>	
Waste	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cleaning public roads and public squares and collecting household waste, transporting waste to landfills, and waste treatment (article 83)</li> </ol>		



Service area	Individual competency	Shared competency	Transferred competency
Urban Planning	<p>1. Public Lighting (article 83)</p> <p>2. Creating and maintaining cemeteries (article 83)</p> <p>3.(Creating and managing) rest areas</p> <p>4. Creating and maintaining natural parks within the territorial jurisdiction of the commune (article 83)</p> <p>5. Creating and managing camping and summer centres (article 83)</p> <p>6. Implementation of the requirements of the layout design and the village development plan regarding the opening of new areas for reconstruction according to the terms and conditions determined by law (article 85)</p> <p>6. Execution of the provisions of the development plan and the rural development plan concerning the opening of new urbanization zones in accordance with the methods and conditions fixed by legislative means (article 85)</p>	<p>1. Creation of nurseries and kindergartens (article 87)</p> <p>2. Construction and maintenance of municipal roads and tracks (article 87)</p> <p>3. Creation of youth centres (article 87)</p> <p>4. Creation of sports complexes, stadiums, sports grounds, indoor halls, and sports institutes (article 87)</p> <p>5. Creation of swimming pools and playgrounds for bicycle, horse, and camel racing (article 87)</p> <p>6. Maintenance of basic education schools (article 87)</p> <p>7. Maintenance of health clinics located in the territorial jurisdiction of the Community</p>	

Service area	Individual competency	Shared competency	Transferred competency
Culture	1. (Managing) craft fairs and promotion of local products/exhibitions of handicrafts and the valorisation of local products (article 83)	<p>1. The preservation of the specificities of the local cultural heritage and its development (article 87)</p> <p>2. The creation of cultural complexes (article 87)</p> <p>3. The creation of communal libraries (article 87)</p> <p>4. The creation of museums, theatres, and conservatories of art and music (article 87)</p> <p>5. The upgrading and tourist enhancement of medinas, tourist sites, and historical monuments/ rehabilitation and tourism appraisal of ancient cities and tourist attractions and historical sites (article 87)</p>	1. Protection and restoration of historical monuments and cultural heritage and preservation of natural sites (article 90)

Source: Organic law N° 113-14 concerning the communes, Ministry of the Interior (Press) (2016)

### Appendix 3. Selected initiatives addressing migrant community in Agadir and beyond

#### Selected initiatives addressing migrant communities in Agadir and beyond

In 2022 Agadir hosted the National Meeting on the territorialisation of migration policies at the level of the Souss-Massa Region, at which various initiatives launched by the Souss-Massa region were presented and the territorial dimension of national migration policies was recognized.<sup>433</sup> In addition, the Migration Policy Support Programme of the Kingdom of Morocco (Programme d'appui aux politiques migratoires du Royaume du Maroc) funded by the European Union undertook the upgrading of two training centres for migrants (Entraide Nationale), in Agadir and Khemisset, to full-board accommodation for 400 migrants (per year) in Morocco who benefit from a voluntary return.<sup>434</sup> This initiative, also expected to benefit at least 30 per cent of women migrants, was allocated approximately €1 million funding the beneficiary of which was Entraide Nationale.<sup>435</sup>

Agadir benefits from the implementation of the DEPOMI and PRIM projects. The Deployment of migration policies at the regional level (Déploiement des Politiques Migratoires au niveau régional, DEPOMI) project is funded by the European Union's Emergency Trust Fund for Stability, and the Fight against the Root Causes of Irregular Migration and Displacement in Africa (ETF), is implemented by the Belgian Development Agency (Enabel) in collaboration with local partners, such as Wilaya, and the Souss-Massa region municipality.<sup>436</sup> The project aims to better integrate the migration dimension into public policies and strategies at national and local levels in Morocco. It targets three regions of Morocco, including the Souss-Massa, where the country is piloting advanced regionalization and is articulated along five main axes:

1. The ministry in charge of migration coordinates and capitalizes on interventions in cooperation with the regions,
2. Migration governance and strategic planning are implemented at the regional level
3. Promotion of the progressive integration of migrants at the economic and social level
4. Facilitation of the mobilization of Moroccans living abroad (MREs) to contribute to the territorial development of regions
5. Promotion of mobility at the level of each region.<sup>437</sup>

433 Souss-Massa veut se hisser en modèle au niveau national, *Aujourd'hui Le Maroc* (2022), available at: <https://aujourd'hui.ma/societe/souss-massa-veut-se-hisser-en-modele-au-niveau-national>

434 ANNEXE 1 À la décision d'exécution de la Commission relative au programme d'action annuel 2016 – partie 3 en faveur du Maroc, European Union (2016), p.33

435 ANNEXE 1 À la décision d'exécution de la Commission relative au programme d'action annuel 2016 – partie 3 en faveur du Maroc, European Union (2016), p.44

436 Souss-Massa veut se hisser en modèle au niveau national, *Aujourd'hui Le Maroc* (2022), available at: <https://aujourd'hui.ma/societe/souss-massa-veut-se-hisser-en-modele-au-niveau-national>

437 Déploiement des politiques migratoires au niveau régional, Enabel (n.d.) Available at: <https://open.enabel.be/fr/MAR/2360/p/dploiement-des-politiques-migratoires-au-niveau-rjional.html>

## Selected initiatives addressing migrant communities in Agadir and beyond

The Regional Migration Initiatives Programme (Programme Régional des Initiatives de la Migration, PRIM) aims to support the regionalization of Moroccan migration policy in the Souss-Massa and oriental (eastern) regions of the country. It is financed by the French Development Agency (AFD) and implemented by Expertise France for a period of 4 years (2020-2024). The programme is structured around three axes:

1) Funding regional «migration and development» projects, with an aim to set up a permanent funding mechanism in each of the two regions to finance economic, solidarity or social projects in the field of migration, putting the regions' migration and development action plans into practice.

2) Social and administrative support for MRE and immigrants, to improve access to services for MREs and regularised migrants

3) Improving gender equality in access to services with a view to improve access for MRE women and migrant women to existing services by taking better account of their specific needs and involving social organisations that work with the authorities.<sup>438</sup>

It is also important to note that at the regional level, the Souss-Massa region has taken part in the national initiative to establish two national migration strategies on its territory and participated in the study on the strategic vision in the field of migration in Souss-Massa, in partnership with the Ibn Zohr University, which also includes a design for the creation of a regional centre for orientation and accompaniment of migrants.<sup>439</sup> Also, in 2021 the council of Souss-Massa adopted the Migration strategy in the Souss-Massa region<sup>440</sup> and in 2022, the Souss-Massa Migration Committee (CMSM) was established to strengthen the protection and resilience of migrants and host populations in Morocco.<sup>441</sup>

438 PRIM – Programme régional des initiatives de la migration au Maroc, Expertise France Group AFD (n.d.) Available at: <https://expertisefrance.fr/fiche-projet?id=815977>

439 For more information, see: Souss-Massa veut se hisser en modèle au niveau national, Aujourd'hui Le Maroc (2022), available at: <https://aujourd'hui.ma/societe/souss-massa-veut-se-hisser-en-modele-au-niveau-national>

440 Agadir: La stratégie des migrants dans la Région Souss-Massa, Leadership Royal (2021) available at: <https://leadershiproyal.africa/agadir-la-strategie-des-migrants-dans-la-region-souss-massa/>

441 Le Souss-Massa doté d'un Comité de migration, Aujourd'hui Le Maroc (2022) available at: <https://aujourd'hui.ma/societe/le-souss-massa-dote-dun-comite-de-migration>

Appendix 4. The list of stakeholders consulted during the mission to Agadir

Table 9: The list of stakeholders consulted during the mission to Agadir

Organisation	Timeline
Equity, equality and gender approach	22 September 2022
Regional Directorate of Environment	22 September 2022
Prefecture Agadir Ida Outanane	23 September 2022
Wilaya of the Souss-Massa region	23 September 2022
Regional Academy of Education	23 September 2022
City of Innovation	23 September 2022
University Ibn Zohr	23 September 2022
Souss-Massa Region	26 September 2022
SDL mobility Agadir - BHNS Project	27 September 2022
Dania Land Company	27 September 2022
Société de Développement Régionale du Tourisme (SDR)	27 September 2022
Regional directorate of the Ministry of Urban Planning, Housing and City Policy	30 September 2022
CGEM- Confédération Générale des Entreprises du Maroc (General Confederation of Moroccan Businesses)	30 September 2022

Source: own

*Appendix 5. The list of stakeholders participating in the workshop on 29 September 2022 in Agadir.*

*Table 10: The list of stakeholders participating in the workshop on 29 September 2022 in Agadir.*

Souss-Massa Region
Agadir Urban Agency
Ibn Zohr University
Instance equity, equal opportunities and gender approach
ONEE-Electricity Branch
Regional Directorate of Water and Forests and the Fight against Desertification
Regional Directorate of Housing and Urban Policy
Autonomous Multi-Services Agency of Agadir (RAMSA)
Regional Directorate of the Environment
General Confederation of Moroccan Companies Souss-Massa
High Commission for Planning
Elected officials and civil servants of the Urban Commune of Agadir

*Source: own*

*Appendix 6. The list of organisations and institutions consulted during data collection*

**Table 11: The list of organisations and institutions consulted by the VLR technical team during data collection**

Organisation	Timeline
Regional Council Souss-Massa	July and October 2022
Regional Academy of Education and Training	September 2022
Regional Implementation Agency for Souss-Massa Projects	July 2022
Al Omrane Holding	September 2022
Regional Direction of the Environment	July 2022
Innovation City	September 2022
Regional Delegation of Health	July 2022
ONE Agadir	August 2022
Ibn Zohr University	September 2022
General Confederation of Moroccan Companies of Souss-Massa (CGEM)	September 2022
Regional Directorate of National Land Management, Urban Planning, Housing and City Policy	July 2022
German International Cooperation	June 2022
Belgian cooperation (Enabel)	August 2022
RAMSA	August 2022
Civil Society organisations	July and August 2022

Source: own

## Appendix 7. The implementation of PAI in the Souss-Massa region

### The implementation of PAI in the Souss-Massa region

The PAI was launched in 2014 by the Ministry of Industry, Trade, Green and Digital and Digital Economy (MICEVN) building on the nationwide Emergence Plan launched in 2005, with an aim to set a new pace for the development of the industrial sector and to strengthen its position as a major lever for growth and job creation in Morocco.<sup>442</sup> The Souss-Massa region was the first in Morocco to benefit from PAI. The objectives of PAI in the region include the diversification of economic activities by creating offshoot sectors, such as offshoring, car manufacturing, leather construction materials, and recycling. These objectives align with the ambition of the government of Souss-Massa to diversify its economy built on the ATP success to develop for instance new international export lines, and establish itself as an entry point into Africa.<sup>443</sup> The first phase of the PAI ran from 2014 to 2020, with the aim of increasing the share of industries in the national GDP from 14 per cent to 23 per cent by 2020.<sup>444</sup> The second phase will run from 2021 to 2023.<sup>445</sup>

The implementation of PAI in the region involved creating Integrated Industrial Park Agadir, the Souss-Massa City of Innovation in Agadir.<sup>446</sup> Under the PAI, a number of industrial projects were approved under the Unified Regional Investment Committee in 2020. These projects are expected to create approximately 24,000 new jobs in the region. At the national level, the Regional Investment Centre Souss-Massa set up a digital platform to support international and local investors looking to buy industrial real estate in the country. The centre has also implemented a new digital business-to-business platform for local companies, regional players and international observers, to increase transparency, attract greater investment.<sup>447</sup> The implementation of PAI in the Souss-Massa has led to the development of 250 industrial projects with a potential to leverage investment of 9.9 billion MAD (925,161,039 USD) and create nearly 33,000 direct jobs.<sup>448</sup>

442 VNR 2020 Morocco Report, Kingdom of Morocco (2020). p. 113

443 For instance, in early 2021, the building materials company LafargeHolcim announced plans to open a new \$330 million, 1.6 million-tonne-per-year cement facility in July 2021, the first of its kind in West Africa. For more information, please see The Report: Morocco Souss-Massa 2021, Oxford Business Group (2021) p.22

444 The Report: Morocco Souss-Massa 2021, Oxford Business Group (2021) p.20

445 The Report: Morocco Souss-Massa 2021, Oxford Business Group (2021) p.20

446 The Report: Morocco Souss-Massa 2021, Oxford Business Group (2021), pp.21-23.

447 The Report: Morocco Souss-Massa 2021, Oxford Business Group (2021) p. 21

448 Plan d'Accelération Industrielle, Ministère de l'industrie du commerce (2019) available at: <https://www.mcinet.gov.ma/fr/content/pai-examen-de-l-per-centC3-per-centA9tat-d-per-centE2-per-cent80-per-cent99avancement-du-projet-industriel-du-souss-massa-0>



*Appendix 8. Initiatives for improving diversity, innovation and upgrading economic infrastructure in Agadir.*

*Table 12: Initiatives for improving diversity, innovation and upgrading economic infrastructure in Agadir.*

Project	Highlights
Partnership agreement between the Ministry of Tourism, Handicrafts and Social and Solidarity Economy, Souss-Massa regional Council, Moroccan Society of Tourism Engineering aiming to support the creation and development of SMEs and VSEs	It supports the creation and development of SMEs and VSEs (Very Small Enterprises) through interest-free loans covering up to 70 per cent of the cost of physical investments; and otherwise (e.g. by providing support for entrepreneurs). It runs from 2018-2023 with the objective to create 200 jobs in the region per year. <sup>449</sup>
Support mechanism for the development of SMEs and VSEs in the tourism sector	It was established in 2021 at a total cost of 100,000,000 MAD (9,308,000 USD) to contribute to the creation of 150 companies (VSE-SMEs) and 600 jobs. It is managed by the Regional Tourism Development Corporation (SDR), also leading the redevelopment project of the Kasbah of Agadir Oufella within the framework of the Urban Development Programme. <sup>450</sup>
City of Innovation Souss-Massa (CI-SM)	The City of Innovation Souss-Massa (CI-SM) was developed as a part of the implementation of the national programme 'Cities of Innovation' and the Industrial Acceleration Plan (PAI). The 'Cities of Innovation' is a main component of the National Innovation Strategy (SMI), set up by the Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Ministry of Industry, Investment, Trade, and Digital Economy. The objective of CI-SM located in Agadir is to provide infrastructure that allows developing innovative products and services, to strengthen economic development of the region, especially through the diversification of economic activities and job creation, and to support young leaders undertaking innovative projects. CI-SM plays the role of an incubator for research and development centres and companies. <sup>451</sup> It was inaugurated in early 2020 by King Mohammed VI <sup>452</sup> .

449 Souss-Massa Initiative program, Kingdom of Morocco (2021) p.4

450 Souss-Massa Initiative program, Kingdom of Morocco (2021) p.6

451 Souss-Massa Initiative program, Kingdom of Morocco (2021)

452 The Report: Morocco Souss-Massa 2021, Oxford Business Group (2021), p.23

Project	Highlights
City of Trade and Skills (CMC)	The City of Trade and Skills (CMC) located in Agadir was initiated by the Souss-Massa region in partnership with several partners, including the Office of Vocational Training and Work Promotion (OFPPT). The objective of the CMC is to improve skills and competencies of individuals to support their inclusion in the labour market, improve labour mobility, ultimately contributing to the economic development of the region. CMC will provide 88 training courses of which 60 per cent are new and are designed to accommodate 3,000 trainees each year, with a trainees' house with a capacity of 400 beds and covers and will guarantee a diversified training offer in strategic sectors such as industry, agriculture, fishing, crafts, construction, but also in innovative professions in digital and offshoring industries. <sup>453</sup>
Technopark	Built on an area of 10,000 m <sup>2</sup> in the Tilila district of Agadir, it is a new entrepreneurial hub with a value of MAD 55 million (\$5,438,566) <sup>454</sup> . It was developed by Moroccan Information Technopark Company (MITC) in partnership with the Ministry of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy, the Regional Council of Souss-Massa and the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services. The Technopark is dedicated to business creation and innovation, especially in the field of new information and communication technologies, hence will play an important role in a digital transformation of the region. <sup>455</sup> It is the first of its kind in the south of Morocco. <sup>456</sup> It especially supports small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups in the ICT sector. It will welcome up to 80 companies.
Redevelopment of the port of Agadir	This project focuses on improving its infrastructure, activities, and access to the port of Agadir and aims to be completed by 2030. The project is split into two phases. The first phase focuses on upgrading the infrastructure to optimize fishing activities and extend activities to the shipyard. The phase involves developing a multimodal ferry terminal and the preparation of a study on the feasibility of port extension. The project has an approved financing of 4,788 million MAD (\$447,656,000). <sup>457</sup>

453 Cite des metiers et des Competences Souss – Massa : Agadir, OFPPT (n.d)

454 The Report: Morocco Souss-Massa 2021, Oxford Business Group (2021), p.23

455 Souss-Massa Initiative program, Kingdom of Morocco (2021)

456 The Report: Morocco Souss-Massa 2021, Oxford Business Group (2021)

457 Bilan Plan de Développement Régional SM, 2021 p. 140

Project	Highlights
Haliopolis	<p>Being a component of the government’s plan to meet international standards in fishing and marine products, this project was launched in 2010 with a budget of 26,867,500 MAD (\$2.5 million). It aims to improve the productivity and sustainability of the fishing industry, while creating 5,000 jobs. It involves establishing a training station for fish and shellfish production in the southern province of Sidilfni, 160 km from Agadir<sup>458</sup>. With a 150-hectare commercial area, it is Morocco’s first business park for production of seafood. It comprises 86 units specifically devoted to recovering sea products, including 38 units for freezing and 29 units for canning<sup>459</sup>.</p>

458 The Report: Morocco Souss-Massa, Oxford Business Group (2021) 2021 p.18

459 The Report: Morocco Souss-Massa 2021, Oxford Business Group (2021) p.18

*Appendix 9. Selected initiatives on promoting equal access to the labour market in the Souss-Massa region.*

*Table 13: Selected initiatives on promoting equal access to the labour market in the Souss-Massa region.*

Name/Year	Executing Agency	Highlights
Training workshops dedicated to women entrepreneurs in the Souss-Massa region, 2018 <sup>460</sup>	The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD); Souss-Massa Regional Investment Centre	This initiative aims to provide financing and advisory services to support at least 200 women entrepreneurs and companies based outside Morocco's major economic centres. It provides credit opportunities of a total of €35 million for investments in projects boosting business competitiveness to be delivered by local partner banks, the Moroccan Bank of Foreign Commerce (BMCE), Bank of Africa and Moroccan Bank of Commerce and Industry (BMCI).
Souss Launchpad, 2021 <sup>461</sup>	Enactus Morocco; UNOPS  -Supported by:  The European Union through the Moucharaka Mouwatina programme	This initiative aims to offer young people (age between 18 and 25) a platform for training and development, including free training programmes and seminars, the opportunity to network and to be supervised by professionals and experts from different sectors. It aims to support 800 young people and to develop 40 social enterprise projects.

460 Women in Business: EBRD and IRC train women entrepreneurs in Souss-Massa, Today Morocco (aujourd'hui.ma) (2021) Available at: <https://aujourd'hui.ma/economie/women-in-business-la-berd-et-le-cri-forment-les-femmes-entrepreneurs-de-souss-massa;> 2

461 5 months: Record time to strengthen youth and women's entrepreneurship in the Souss-Massa region, Enactus Morocco (enactus-morocco.org) (2021), available at: [https://www.enactus-morocco.org/5-mois-un-temps-record-pour-renforcer-l'entrepreneuriat-des-jeunes-et-des-femmes-dans-la-region-de-souss-massa/;](https://www.enactus-morocco.org/5-mois-un-temps-record-pour-renforcer-l'entrepreneuriat-des-jeunes-et-des-femmes-dans-la-region-de-souss-massa/)

Name/Year	Executing Agency	Highlights
National Agency for the Development of Agriculture Plan (2022) <sup>462</sup>	Implemented within the framework of partnership between the Souss-Massa Regional Council and the National Agency for the Development of Aquaculture (ANDA)	The programme aims to create 319 direct jobs. It is divided into two components: (i) supporting aquaculture projects; and (ii) supporting the investments in the modernization of the shellfish products sector.
Completion and implementation of a rehabilitation and economic empowerment programme for women entrepreneurs and people with disabilities in the Souss-Massa region <sup>463</sup>	Ministry of Solidarity, Social Development, Equality and Family and Souss-Massa Regional Council; Prefectures and regions of the Souss-Massa region (Regional Commissions for Human Development); Ibn Zohr University; Social Development Agency National Cooperation Foundation.	A 10 Million MAD (980,000 USD) partnership agreement <sup>464</sup> with an aim to support the participation of women and disabled persons in the labour market and to support their entrepreneurship in the Souss-Massa region. <sup>465</sup> The value of funding provided by the Ministry was 6 million MAD (\$593,300 USD); and the Souss-Massa Regional Council was 4 million MAD (\$395,500).

462 Morocco's Souss-Massa Region to Launch 24 Agriculture Projects, Morocco World News (2020). Available at: <https://www.morocoworldnews.com/2020/11/324993/moroccos-souss-massa-region-to-launch-24-aquaculture-projects>

463 Completion and implementation of a rehabilitation and economic empowerment program for women entrepreneurs and people with disabilities in the Souss-Massa region, Ministry of Solidarity, Social Inclusion and Family (2022)

464 Site D'Informations Generales de la region de Souss-Massa, 2020. Available at: <https://www.mapagadir.ma/fr/souss-massa10-mdh-pour-lautonomisation-des-femmes/> Accessed on 08/11/22

465 Completion and implementation of a rehabilitation and economic empowerment program for women entrepreneurs and people with disabilities in the Souss-Massa region

*Appendix 10. Insights into the Urban Mobility Plan 5 for the Greater Agadir*

*Table 14. Insights into the Urban Mobility Plan for the Greater Agadir*

**Insights into the Urban Mobility Plan for the Greater Agadir**

The Urban Mobility Plan<sup>466</sup> has 5 strategic objectives:

- Setting up an institutional framework for managing and implementing transport policy through a holistic approach, across different territories and in collaboration with various actors, including
  - The management of an intermunicipal unit for monitoring and controlling the public transport network and urban travel
  - Creation of a mobility observatory
- Integrating the mobility management tools into the planning processes for the territory of Greater Agadir, including
  - Introduction of a “mobility dimension” in urban projects, including by developing the impact studies on the mobility and mobility alternatives
  - Studies to improve connectivity and accessibility of the rural areas (communes)
- Making public transport more attractive and more accessible through
  - Increase in the territorial coverage of public bus system
  - Development of taxi ranks and bus stations
  - A clear, readable and up-to-date information system for bus services
- Optimizing the opportunities for road sharing by encouraging soft modes of transportation in particular, including
  - Reserved lanes for buses
  - A signalling for pedestrian crossings
  - A cycling network
- Defining spaces for dialogue and interlinkages between modes of transport
  - Development of exchange hubs
  - Development of mixed transport to serve various settlements
  - Evaluation of the development of school transport in the municipalities

466 Etude portant sur l'élaboration du Plan de Déplacements Urbains dans le Grand Agadir, ALG (2015), p. 7

The Urban Mobility Plan cites a range of challenges in relation to transport and mobility in Greater Agadir, including: (i) a high volume of traffic, contributing to congestion and decreasing the quality of life<sup>467</sup>; (ii) conflict of land use in selected areas of Agadir; (iii) connectivity problems between municipalities and neighbourhoods; or (iv) inappropriate use of streets and pavements for illegal parking, the occupation of traffic lanes or sidewalks by street vendors, and malfunctioning of certain intersections. It emphasizes the importance of improving road safety with measures such as redeveloping dangerous intersections, removing selected crossing intersections, and developing incentives supporting soft mobility modes; and to reduce the impact of transport on air quality. In relation to air quality, the plan points out that the transport sector accounts for 25 per cent of emissions and will have to achieve a sustained rate of emission reduction to decrease the adverse environmental effects. It cites several actions aiming to reduce air pollution such as: (i) encouraging the use of less-polluting modes of transportation (public transport, cycling, walking, etc.) and discouraging car use; (ii) introducing regulatory speed radars to reduce unit emissions; (iii) accelerating the renewal of the vehicle fleet (in particular heavy goods vehicles and the public transport fleet) towards less emitting vehicles, as well as banning these vehicles in densely urbanized areas.<sup>468</sup> Traffic congestion in the city can be further tackled through a coordinated approach including: upgrading transport infrastructure, putting new transport regulations in place, effectively using urban planning and land-use planning measures to direct traffic outside the boundaries of the city (whenever possible), promoting eco-mobility and healthy lifestyle, and many others.

467 Urban Mobility Plan points to the findings of the Household Travel Survey (EMD) of 2010, updated in 2013, which include that there were 264,000 trips made per day in Agadir centre made using mechanized modes of transportation (mechanical transport means any contrivance for moving a person over land that has moving parts and provides a mechanical advantage to the user); 45,000 trips for the commercial area of Inezgane, and then 40,000 for each of the poles of the centre of the agglomeration which are Inezgane, Aït Melloul and Dcheira-Al-Jihadia

468 Etude portant sur l'élaboration du Plan de Déplacements Urbains dans le Grand Agadir, ALG (2015), p.15

*Appendix 11. The participatory process for PAC 2022-2027: the list of thematic sessions*

*Table 15. The participatory process for PAC 2022-2027: the list of thematic sessions*

Place	Theme	Date
Town Hall meeting room	Professional chambers	26 July 2022
Woman and child area - Lagouira	Persons with special needs	03 August 2022
Town Hall meeting room	The Amazigh language	17 August 2022
	Culture, art and creativity	18 August 2022
	Sport and youth	19 August 2022
	The environment	20 August 2022
	The press and communication	22 August 2022
	The neighbouring municipalities	25 August 2022
	Travel and transport	26 August 2022
	The bazaars	30 August 2022
	Academic institutions	06 September 2022
	Urbanism	07 September 2022
	Partner associations in the social field	16 September 2022



## Appendix 12. Territorial Plan for the Fight Against Global Warming (PTRC)

The PTRC has 3 components:

1. PTRC: Adaptation (Plan Territorial de lutte contre le Réchauffement Climatique - Volet Adaptation):
  - Initiated by the Souss-Massa Regional Council in 2006 and developed in partnership between the State Secretariat for Sustainable Development, the Souss-Massa Region and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) in 2016<sup>469</sup>
  - launched at COP 22 in 2016<sup>470</sup>
  - Its objective is to 'integrate in a coherent and complementary manner, at the level of the various sectoral policies, the commitments made by Morocco in terms of mitigating emissions, this through the National Low-Carbon Development Strategy launched by Morocco, as part of the implementation of our country's commitment to the Paris Agreement which calls on countries to develop low-carbon strategies by 2030. ".<sup>471</sup>
  - It specifically focuses on reducing GHG emissions in the Souss-Massa region and improving the resilience of the population and economy impacted by climate change.<sup>472</sup>
2. PTRC: Mitigation (Plan Territorial de Lutte contre le Réchauffement Climatique de la région Souss-Massa - Volet Atténuation)
  - Developed in 2017
  - Its objective is to mitigate the negative impact of climate change on the economy, society and the environment by introducing measures to reduce energy costs, increase energy efficiency within Souss-Massa as part of the Kingdom's energy efficiency strategy,<sup>473</sup> and to enhance the protection of the climate and natural resources, through a range of mitigation projects<sup>474</sup> partnership
3. Financing strategy (Stratégie de Financement Climatique) developed in 2017.
  - The strategy proposes a pathway for financing PTRC actions and provides guidelines on establishing a regional funding platform for climate action<sup>475</sup>

469 Climate Finance Strategy of the Territorial Plan to Fight against Global Warming (PTRC SM) Souss-Massa Region, GIZ (2019) p.14

470 Driving Subnational Climate Action in Morocco : L'exemple d'innovation du Plan territorial de Souss-Massa, GIZ (2019). P.7

471 Development of the territorial plan to fight against global warming (PTRC) of the Souss-Massa Region - Mitigation Pane, Azad Environment (2017) p.10

472 Climate Finance Strategy of the Territorial Plan to Fight against Global Warming (PTRC SM) Souss-Massa Region, GIZ (2019) p.14

473 Development of the territorial plan to fight against global warming (PTRC) of the Souss-Massa Region - Mitigation Pane, Azad Environment (2017) p.29

474 Development of the territorial plan to fight against global warming (PTRC) of the Souss-Massa Region - Mitigation Pane, Azad Environment (2017) p.10

475 Climate Finance Strategy of the Territorial Plan to Fight against Global Warming (PTRC SM) Souss-Massa Region, GIZ (2019) p.15

- It rests on a proactive and strategic approach to the financing of the PTRC and entails adopting a governance of the financing of the climate action allowing to accelerate the constructive interactions between the technical and financial partners (TFP) and the project leaders, as put forward by the “Climate Finance Task Force for the Souss-Massa region”.<sup>476</sup>

*Appendix 13: Progress in implementation of selected PTRC projects.*

*Table 16: Progress in implementation of selected PTRC projects - Adaptation.*

Project	Highlights	Status as of May 2021
Implementation of Liquid Sanitation Projects <sup>477</sup>	It aims to improve the quality of life and the preservation of groundwater and the environment.	In progress
Implementation of Flood Control Projects <sup>478</sup>	24 Projects on flood control to be implemented in different areas including Agadir.	In progress
Establishment of a Weather Assessment and Alert Monitoring System <sup>479</sup>	It entails acquiring, installing and commissioning 46 different stations across the region to strengthen the climatological network and the alert system in the Souss-Massa region.	In progress
Development of Banks of the Wadi Souss <sup>480</sup>	It aims at implementing roof protection dyke in 2017-2020.	N/A
Excess Water Drainage <sup>481</sup>	It aims to invest in and apply masonry walls, triple and double scuppers to drain excess water within the Commune of Auorir within Agadir	N/A

476 Source: information provided by DREnv in correspondence on 19 April 2023.

477 Report on the Achievements of the Regional Council of Souss-Massa 2015-2021, (2021) P.109

478 Report on the Achievements of the Regional Council of Souss-Massa 2015-2021, (2021) P.107

479 Report on the Achievements of the Regional Council of Souss-Massa 2015-2021, (2021) P.108

480 Plan Territorial De Lutte Contre Le Rechauffement Climatique Region Souss-Massa - Adaptation Pane, Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Environment; Souss-Massa Regional Council; GIZ (2016) p.89

481 Plan Territorial De Lutte Contre Le Rechauffement Climatique Region Souss-Massa - Adaptation Pane, Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Environment; Souss-Massa Regional Council; GIZ (2016) p.88

Canalization, Diversion, and Reprofilng <sup>482</sup>	Canalization and diversion of Chaaba Tagouramt water course, and reprofiling of the Chaaba Ntigit water course in trapezoidal section within the centre of Tamri, Agadir (2017/2020).	N/A
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Source: own, based on *Report on the Achievements of the Regional Council of Souss-Massa 2015-2021, (2021)*. PTRC - Adaptation Pane, Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Environment; Souss-Massa Regional Council; GIZ (2016) pp. 87-90.

Table 18: Progress in implementation of selected PTRC projects - Mitigation.

Project	Highlights	Status as of May 2021
Urban Solar Lighting Programme <sup>483</sup>	It aims at upgrading, maintenance and operation of public lighting installations to reduce annual energy consumption by 60 per cent and reduce GHG emissions by 7,634.18 t CO <sub>2</sub> /year.	Initiated
Implementation of a Regional MRV System <sup>484</sup>	It entails the analysis of the needs for the establishment of a pilot MRV (Measurement, Reporting, and Verification); developing institutional and legal framework for the regional MRV and a platform and a quality assurance system for data collection; establishing a road map and piloting the regional MRV system in the energy sector and agriculture.	In progress
Strengthening of the Monitoring Network of Air Quality <sup>485</sup>	It aims to improve the monitoring of air quality system, and to collect data assisting decision-making, to identify potential sites to house fixed stations, to establish a permanent regional monitoring and surveillance committee of air quality.	In progress
Recovery of Agricultural Plastic Waste <sup>486</sup>	It aims to introduce improvements in the sector concerned with the recovery of the plastic waste in agriculture, including strengthening the capacities of the actors in the sectors.	Initiated

482 Plan Territorial De Lutte Contre Le Rechauffement Climatique Region Souss-Massa - Adaptation Pane, Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Environment; Souss-Massa Regional Council; GIZ (2016) p.88

483 [Report on the Achievements of the Regional Council of Souss-Massa 2015-2021, \(2021\)](#) P.110

484 [Report on the Achievements of the Regional Council of Souss-Massa 2015-2021, \(2021\)](#) P.111

485 [Report on the Achievements of the Regional Council of Souss-Massa 2015-2021, \(2021\)](#), p.112

486 [Report on the Achievements of the Regional Council of Souss-Massa 2015-2021, \(2021\)](#), p.113

Development of the Oued Souss Mouth Ecosystem <sup>487</sup>	It aims to mitigate the effects of flooding and erosion on agricultural lands, as well as reducing emissions in the bed of the Oued Souss from solid waste black spots through rehabilitating and cleaning up the natural environment and agricultural land.	N/A
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*Source: own, based on Report on the Achievements of the Regional Council of Souss-Massa 2015-2021, (2021) and Climate Finance Strategy of the Territorial Plan to Fight against Global Warming (PTRC SM) Souss-Massa Region, GIZ (2019). p.22*

487 Climate Finance Strategy of the Territorial Plan to Fight against Global Warming (PTRC SM) Souss-Massa Region, GIZ (2019). p.22

Appendix 14. The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and the emergency response in Morocco in 2020

Table 17. The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and the emergency response in Morocco in 2020

March 2, 2020 <sup>488</sup>	First case of COVID-19 was detected.
March 3, 2020 <sup>489</sup>	All international flights were suspended, public establishments were closed, and the COVID-19 fund was created. <sup>490</sup>
March 18, 2020	The Ministry of Interior (MOI) declared a state of emergency and mandatory confinement.
March 21, 2020	Public transportation was limited, domestic flights were suspended, social gatherings were banned, the state of emergency was extended, and the military was mobilized to strengthen medical infrastructure.
March 28, 2020	Taxes were postponed for some companies and benefits for informal workers were launched.
April 20, 2020	The largest field hospital in Africa for COVID-19 cases was developed in Casablanca, lockdowns were eased yet the state of health emergency was extended.
June 18, 2020	Domestic flights resumed, and lockdown measures were relaxed for 90 per cent of the population.
July 15, 2020	Morocco opened its borders for foreign nationals and citizens.
September 2, 2020	Morocco received European Union (EU) funding to fight the COVID-19 outbreak.
November 5, 2020	The state of health emergency was extended for the 8 <sup>th</sup> time, while mass vaccinations were introduced.

Source: own based on *Coping with COVID-19's cost, the example of Morocco*, Brookings (2020)

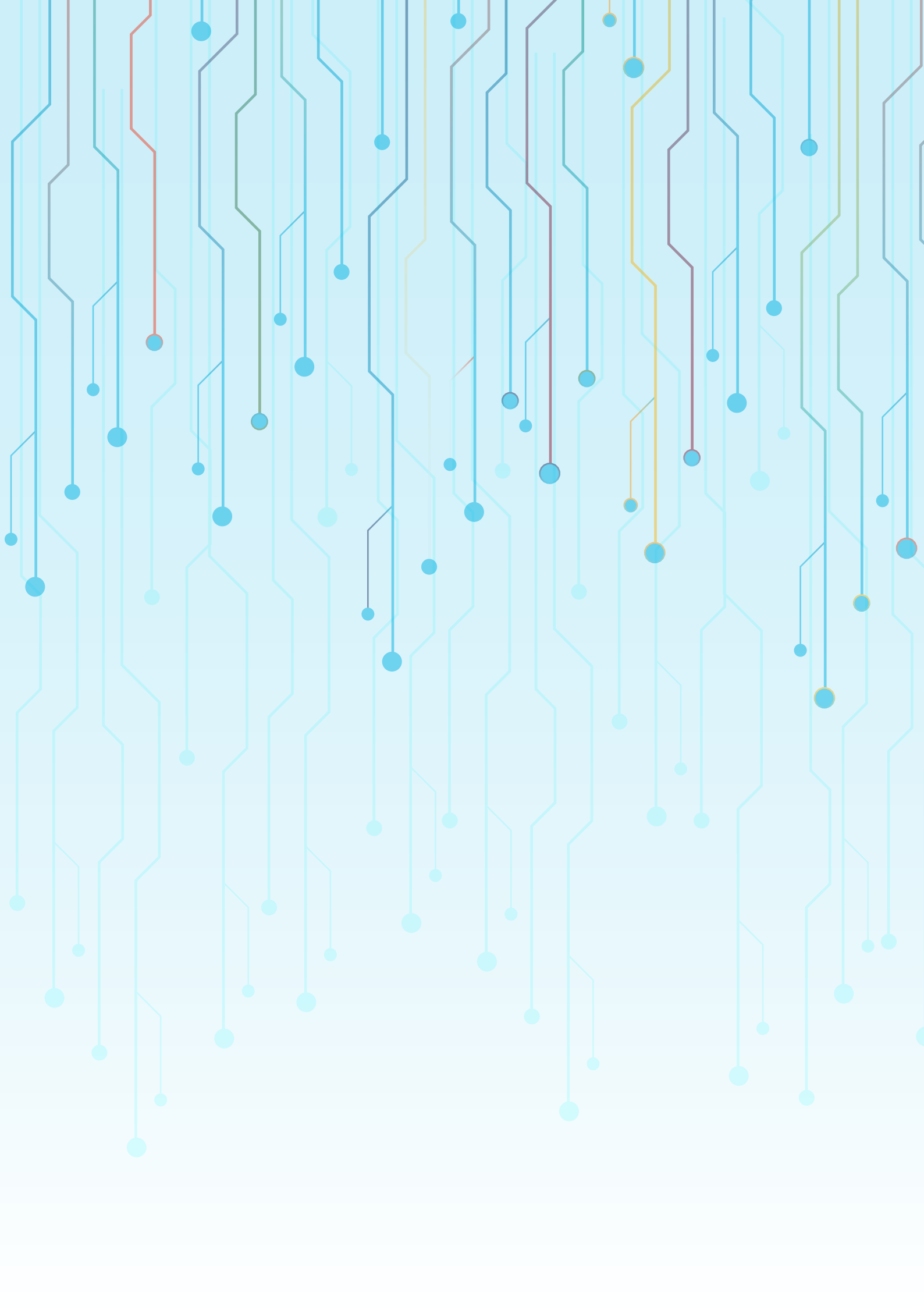
488 [Morocco's National Response to COVID-19](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8451960/), (2021). Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8451960/> Accessed on 19/01/2023

489 [Coping with COVID-19's cost, the example of Morocco](https://www.brookings.edu/research/coping-with-covid-19s-cost-the-example-of-morocco/), Brookings (2020). Available at <https://www.brookings.edu/research/coping-with-covid-19s-cost-the-example-of-morocco/> Accessed on 19/01/2023

490 The first COVID-19 associated death was announced on March 12, 2022, and the first case of local transmission was recorded on March 12, 2022. [Morocco's National Response to COVID-19](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8451960/), National Library of Medicine (2021). Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8451960/> Accessed on 19/01/2023



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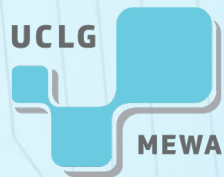




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