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News release

Moroccans express welcoming attitudes toward immigrants, Afrobarometer survey shows

A majority of Moroccans express welcoming attitudes toward immigrants, saying they strengthen the country's cultural diversity and help fill job vacancies, according to the latest Afrobarometer survey.

Most citizens say they would not mind having immigrants as neighbours, and a majority disagree with the idea that immigrants increase crime or insecurity.

By a 3-to-1 margin, citizens say the government should not limit the cross-border movement of people and goods.

But in reality, most citizens say they find it difficult to move across international borders to work or trade in other countries in the region. While the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) has been working to allow free movement of goods, persons, and services within the sub-region, Morocco is yet to allow free entry from other AMU member states.

Key findings

- More than two-thirds (68%) of Moroccans “agree” or “strongly agree” that immigrants strengthen the country's cultural diversity. More than half (52%) of citizens say immigrants help fill vacant jobs (52%), and only about one-third (35%) see immigrants as increasing levels of crime and insecurity (Figure 1).
- More than eight in 10 citizens express tolerant attitudes toward immigrants and foreign workers, saying they would like (22%) or would not mind (59%) having them as neighbours (Figure 2). Most also express tolerance for people of different ethnicities (91%) and different religion (81%), but fewer than two in 10 (18%) are tolerant toward people in same-sex relationships.
- Almost three-fourths (73%) of Moroccans say North Africans should be able to move freely across international borders in order to trade or work in other countries (Figure 3).
- But in practice, the same proportion (74%) say it is difficult for people to cross borders in the region (Figure 4).

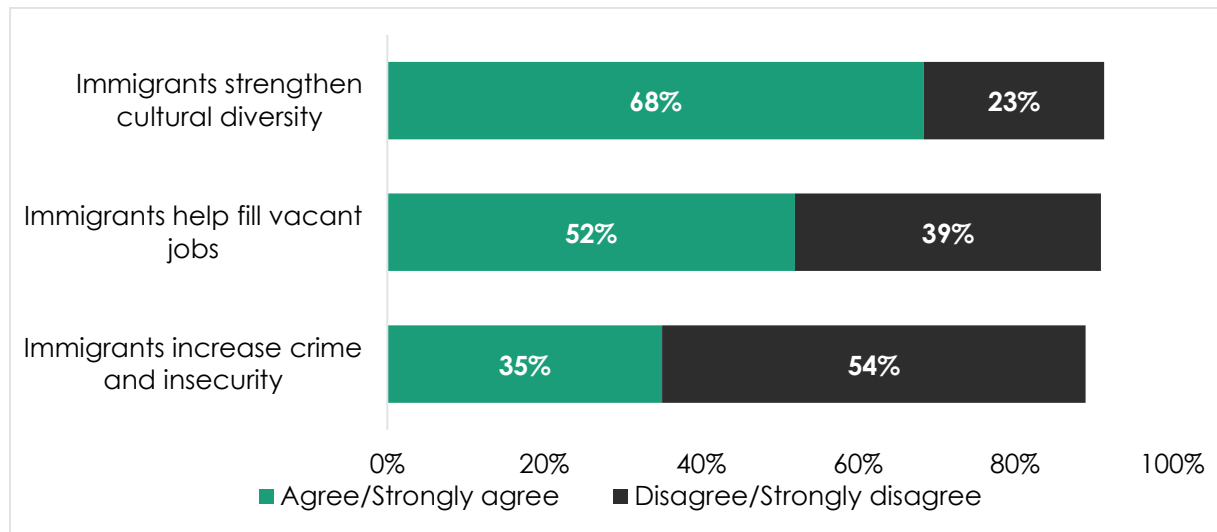
Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on Africans' experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight rounds of surveys have been completed in up to 39 countries since 1999. Round 8 surveys in 2019/2021 cover 34 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Morocco, led by Global for Survey and Consulting (GSC), interviewed 1,200 adult Moroccans in February 2021. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous Afrobarometer surveys were conducted in Morocco in 2013, 2015, and 2018.

Charts

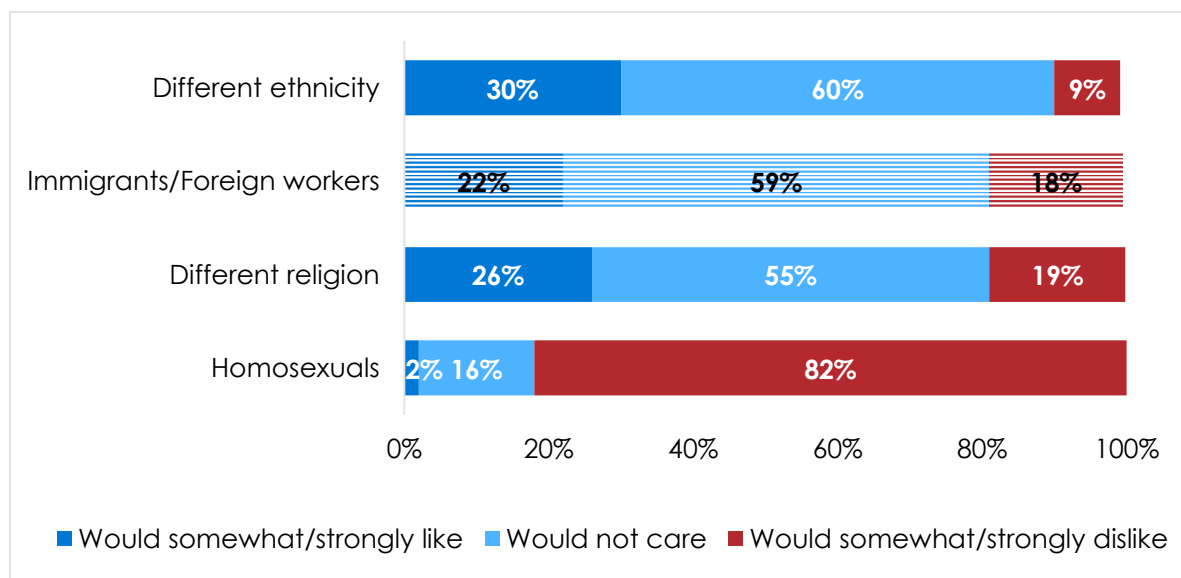
Figure 1: Views of immigrants | Morocco | 2021



Respondents were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree, or haven't you heard enough to say?

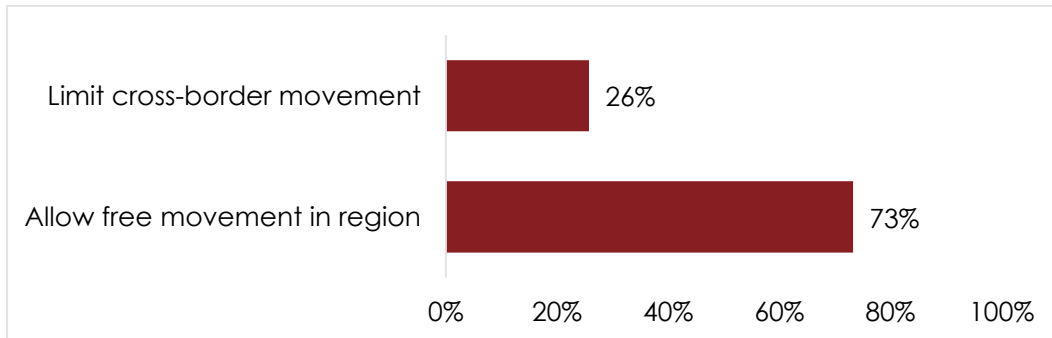
- Foreign migrants help to fill up job vacancies in both public and private sectors in Morocco.
- The presence of immigrants is strengthening and improving cultural diversity in Morocco.
- The increasing numbers of foreign immigrants in the country has increased levels of crime and insecurity.

Figure 2: Social tolerance | Morocco | 2021



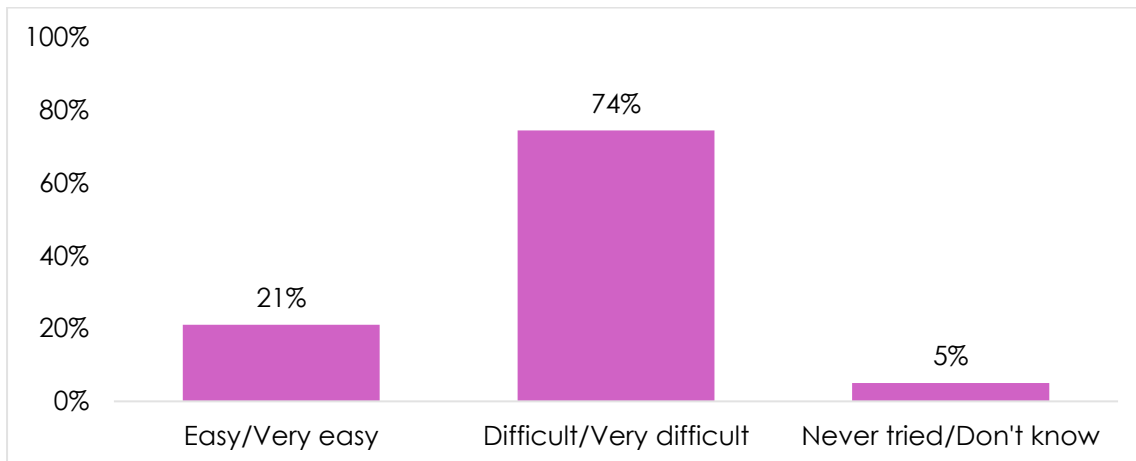
Respondents were asked: For each of the following types of people, please tell me whether you would like having people from this group as neighbours, dislike it, or not care?

Figure 3: Support for free movement across North African borders | Morocco | 2021



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: People living in North Africa should be able to move freely across international borders in order to trade or work in other countries.
 Statement 2: In order to protect their own citizens, governments should limit the cross-border movement of people and goods.
 (% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement)

Figure 4: Ease or difficulty of crossing international borders in North Africa | Morocco | 2021



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, how easy or difficult is it for people in North Africa to cross international borders in order to work or trade in other countries, or haven't you heard enough to say?

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