

Morocco's Education System: A 2024 International Comparative Analysis

This 2024 report examines Morocco’s education system performance against regional and international peers using nine key indicators from 2015 to 2024. The analysis spans 10 countries across MENA, Sub-Saharan Africa, and developed regions to provide a data-driven overview of Morocco’s educational strengths and challenges.

Key Achievements in Primary Education

Morocco stands out as a leader in primary education completion with a remarkable rate of 104.7% in 2023, ranking first among eight countries studied. This figure, which exceeds 100% due to over-age enrollments, highlights nearly universal primary education completion. Morocco also performs strongly in primary net enrollment at 99.1% (rank 3/8), reflecting broad access and participation in early education. Such results are supported by sustained investment, as Morocco invests 6.0% of its GDP in education, ranking third in financing commitment among peers.

Secondary Education: Significant Challenges

Despite primary education successes, Morocco faces critical challenges beyond the primary level. Secondary net enrollment is relatively low at 64.5% (rank 6/7), indicating many young people do not transition smoothly into secondary education. Correspondingly, lower secondary completion stands at 74.2% (rank 8/9), revealing further attrition in early secondary grades. Upper secondary completion is notably weak at 38.5%, with Morocco being the only country reporting data, underscoring a critical bottleneck in the system.

Economic and Inequality Context

Morocco’s economic environment features constraints with a GDP per capita of \$3,993, ranking seventh out of ten countries analyzed. This economic context relates closely to education outcomes and funding capacities. Moreover, Morocco exhibits high income inequality, with a GINI index of 40.5, the second highest among comparison countries, potentially impacting equitable access and completion rates. Approximately 34.4% of Morocco’s population lives in rural areas, a moderate level suggesting challenges in geographically dispersed education delivery.

Summary of Morocco's Rankings and Status

Indicator	Value	Rank	Status
Primary Completion Rate	104.7%	1st	Excellent
Primary Net Enrollment	99.1%	3rd	Strong
Education Spending (% GDP)	6.0%	3rd	Strong investment
Rural Population (%)	34.4%	4th	Moderate
Secondary Net Enrollment	64.5%	6th	Below average
GDP per Capita (USD)	3,993	7th	Economic constraint

Lower Secondary Completion	74.2%	8th	Major challenge
Upper Secondary Completion	38.5%	Only Morocco	Critical weakness
GINI Index (Income Inequality)	40.5	2nd	High inequality

Recommendations for Morocco's Education Improvement

1. Enhancing Upper Secondary Completion: Raise completion from 38.5% to 60% by 2026 via curriculum reform, teacher training, and dropout prevention.
2. Improving Lower Secondary Completion: Target 85% completion by expanding infrastructure and improving quality.
3. Increasing Secondary Enrollment: Aim for 75% enrollment through infrastructure investment and policy reforms.
4. Sustaining Primary Education Excellence: Maintain top-tier completion and enrollment rates.
5. Addressing Income Inequality: Develop policies to mitigate socioeconomic disparities affecting education access.

Conclusion

Morocco's primary education achievements demonstrate commendable progress and high investment priority. However, secondary education presents persistent challenges with low enrollment and completion rates, compounded by income inequality and economic constraints. Strategic interventions in secondary education quality, access, and completion are essential for Morocco to fully realize its educational potential and support sustainable national development.

Report prepared by: Hafida Belayd

Date: Sep 2025

Contact: hafidabelaidagnaoui@gmail.com

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/hafida-belayd>

(Data Sources: World Bank, Morocco National Education Statistics, UNESCO.

Comparative countries include Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, South Africa, Kenya, Ghana, France, the United Kingdom, and Canada.)