

 MOROCCO

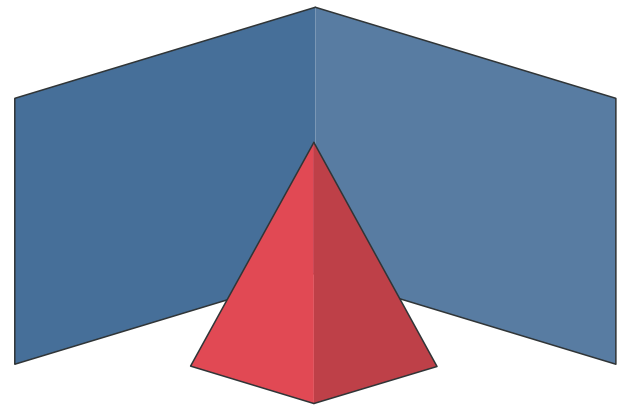
Morocco ranks 27th in Africa in the Index, falling marginally below the continental average for **criminality**.

While a number of **criminal markets** in Morocco are relatively limited in scope and influence, multiple markets exert significant negative influence, including **human smuggling**, the **cocaine trade** and the **synthetic drug trade**, all of which score 6.

Morocco is one of the most important cannabis producers in the world and a key player in the distribution of the drug across the continent and beyond. Domestic consumption levels of cannabis are high and a large number of people depend on the cannabis industry. It is clear, therefore, that the drugs markets, with the exception of **heroin**, are the primary drivers behind Morocco's **criminal markets** score.

State-embedded actors are highly influential in organised crime in Morocco, involved predominantly in corruption and the cannabis market. Similarly, **criminal networks**, in particular drug trafficking networks, have significant influence in Morocco.

With regard to **resilience** to organised crime, Morocco is one of the best-performing countries on the continent, ranking 3rd overall. While no indicators are scored as highly effective, Morocco nevertheless outperforms almost all African nations, with sufficiently effective regulatory and institutional frameworks. Morocco is particularly proficient in **international cooperation**, and the effectiveness of the **judicial system** and **law enforcement agencies**.



 4.88
CRIMINALITY SCORE

27th of 54 African countries
3rd of 6 Northern countries

 **CRIMINAL MARKETS** 4.50

 **CRIMINAL ACTORS** 5.25

 6.33
STATE RESILIENCE SCORE

3rd of 54 African countries
1st of 6 Northern countries



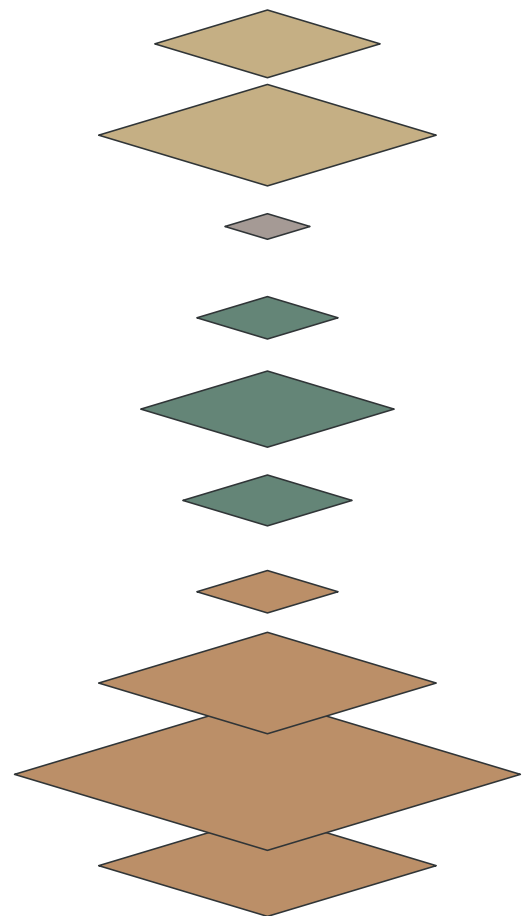
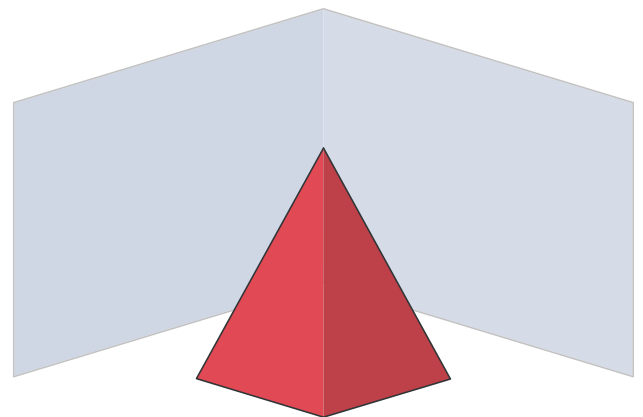
CRIMINALITY SCORE



CRIMINAL ACTORS	5.25
MAFIA STYLE GROUPS	1.0
CRIMINAL NETWORKS	6.5
STATE-EMBEDDED ACTORS	7.5
FOREIGN ACTORS	6.0



CRIMINAL MARKETS	4.50
HUMAN TRAFFICKING	4.0
HUMAN SMUGGLING	6.0
ARMS TRAFFICKING	1.5
FLORA CRIMES	2.5
FAUNA CRIMES	4.5
NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES CRIMES	3.0
HEROIN TRADE	2.5
COCAINE TRADE	6.0
CANNABIS TRADE	9.0
SYNTHETIC DRUGS TRADE	6.0



Criminal Markets

Morocco ranks 32nd in Africa for **criminal markets**, a below-average score. The country's score is driven significantly by the prevalence of drugs markets, most obviously the **cannabis trade**, which scores 9. Morocco is one of the biggest producers of cannabis in the world, with production concentrated in the Rif region.

Domestic cannabis cultivation and production provide a significant contribution to the Moroccan economy. It

is estimated that nearly one million people live off the cannabis industry, which generates revenue equal to around 10% of the Moroccan economy.

Domestic use of cannabis is extremely high, given the entrenched nature of the drug market in Moroccan society, and security forces' lax or selective enforcement of prohibition measures. Morocco is a significant source country for



cannabis resin, both regionally and globally, being distributed throughout North Africa, Europe and beyond.

While no other drug market in Morocco comes close to being as pervasive as the cannabis market, the **cocaine** and **synthetic drugs** markets are becoming increasingly problematic. Both score 6 in the Index.

Morocco is an important trans-shipment country for South American cocaine entering European markets, primarily through Spain. Large volumes of cocaine transit through Morocco by sea and air. Cocaine passes through Morocco into Sahelian trafficking networks, arriving at other North African transit points en route to European, Middle Eastern and Asian markets. There is a limited domestic market for cocaine, mainly among middle- and upper-class users.

With regards to synthetic drugs, ecstasy is widely available in Morocco. Consumption of karkoubi – a cocktail of synthetic drugs, solvents and benzodiazepines – is widespread.

In addition to the drugs markets, **human smuggling** is active in Morocco, scoring 6 in the Index. Morocco is mainly a transit and origin country for migrant smuggling. Significant flows of people, both foreigners from sub-Saharan countries and Moroccans, leave from Morocco for Europe. In 2018, the Moroccan route – dubbed the Western Mediterranean route – was the most important entry point into Europe.

The high levels of irregular migration have contributed to local insecurity, with migrants being recruited into informal and criminal economies. High levels of Moroccan outmigration have led to diaspora communities abroad that are often poorly integrated into host societies and work in shadow economies in Europe.

Criminal Actors

In Morocco, **criminal networks**, **state-embedded actors** and **foreign actors** all exert significant influence in organised crime. **State-embedded actors**, which score 7, are considered the criminal actor type with the greatest influence in organised criminal activity in the country. This is largely due to high levels of corruption and the collusion of law enforcement officers in drug trafficking, which facilitates trafficking networks.

A culture of nepotism, patronage and wasta – the use of connections – is a significant deterrent for investors in the country. But it is crucial for the prosperity of the illegal trade in goods and drug trafficking.

Drug trafficking networks are believed to have ties with the kingdom's highest political and administrative circles. Revenues from drug trafficking and human smuggling feed corruption at all state levels, making the networks hard to dismantle.

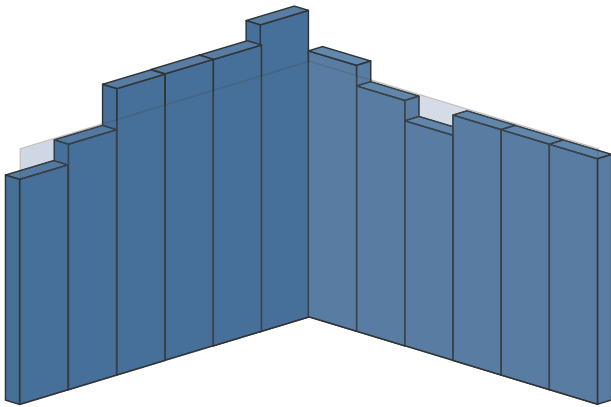
Criminal networks in Morocco, which score 6.5, play a large role in drug trafficking. The networks are highly flexible. They can diversify their smuggling activities to adapt to differing conditions – especially at the borders with North African neighbours and despite enhanced police management – and use the same routes as for contraband and counterfeit goods.

Morocco has extensive desert and the sea borders. It is easy for criminal networks with in-depth knowledge of smuggling routes to enter Morocco from the south. The country's proximity to southern Europe makes it an attractive hub for human smuggling and human trafficking networks.

Little information is available on the role of **foreign criminal actors** in organised crime in Morocco, but their influence – predominantly in the drugs markets – is widely acknowledged, and they score 6 in the Index. Criminal networks in Morocco have significant links to foreign actors, collaborating in transnational drug trafficking and human smuggling.



RESILIENCE SCORE



POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE	5.5
GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY	6.0
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	7.0
NATIONAL POLICIES AND LAWS	7.0
JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND DETENTION	7.0
LAW ENFORCEMENT	7.5
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY	6.5
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING	6.0
ECONOMIC REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT	5.5
VICTIM AND WITNESS SUPPORT	6.0
PREVENTION	6.0
NON-STATE ACTORS	6.0

Morocco performs slightly better than the continental average for **criminality**, but its **resilience** score is the third-highest in Africa. The majority of **resilience** indicators are characterised by regulatory and institutional frameworks that are sufficiently effective to address organised crime in the country.

The areas in which the country stands out are with regards to international and domestic legislative frameworks and criminal justice. Morocco has engaged in effective international cooperation efforts with partner and neighbouring countries, particularly with regards to intelligence sharing and regular joint operations to intercept drug shipments. On irregular migration, Morocco is engaged in strategic and operational cooperation with Spain in particular and Europe more generally. This is reflected in the country's score of 7 for **international cooperation**.

Morocco has a strong anti-organised crime **legislative framework**, scoring 7. The country performs well on indicators for **judicial system and detention** and **law enforcement**, scoring 7 and 7.5, respectively. The independence of the judicial system has been reinforced since 2017 and magistrates have good access to training. However, the system continues to suffer from a lack of modernisation, both with regards to equipment and processes, and there is scope for improvement.

Morocco has established elite investigative units, such as the Central Office of Judicial Investigations (BCI), to tackle organised crime among other issues. These elite units are

well equipped and resourced. However, law enforcement capacities in rural areas, in particular, are limited.

The lowest-scoring **resilience** indicator in Morocco is on the **economic regulatory environment**, which scores 5.5. This is because of the culture of patronage, nepotism, corruption and *wasta* that hinders legitimate businesses in the country. There is a sizeable informal economy in the country, due in part to the complex administrative and bureaucratic measures businesses face. The inclusion of more marginalised communities, chiefly those in rural areas, is a challenge.

Whereas the majority of African nations fall short with regards to social protection measures, Morocco performs well. It scores 6 for **victim and witness support**, **prevention** and **non-state actors**, exceeding continental averages for these indicators by significant margins.

Legal aid is widespread in the country and training and capacity-building for victim support, with a focus on victims of human trafficking, is being rolled out. Drug addiction is increasingly recognised as a medical condition and Morocco is one of the very few countries in the region that allows opioid substitution treatment through methadone. Nevertheless, there is room for improvement, such as by increasing the number of treatment and rehabilitation centres; and addressing social taboos surrounding victims of domestic and sexual violence. Civil society in Morocco is capable and well organised, but investigative journalism is rare.