

تحت الرعاية السامية لصاحب الجلالة الملك محمد السادس نصره الله  
UNDER THE HIGH PATRONAGE OF HIS MAJESTY KING MOHAMMED VI MAY GOD ASSIST HIM



المملكة المغربية  
وزارة الشباب  
والثقافة والتواصل  
Royaume du Maroc  
Ministère de la Jeunesse de la Culture et de la Communication



وزارة الصحة والتمهيد الاجتماعية  
Ministère de la Santé et de l'Éducation Sociale



وزارة الاقتصاد والمالية  
Ministère de l'Économie et des Finances



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المملكة المغربية  
وزارة التضامن والتنمية  
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Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale  
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# المؤتمر الدولي INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

## اقتصاد الرعاية والحماية الاجتماعية CARE ECONOMY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

26 - 25  
JUNE يونيو

2024

الرباط، المملكة المغربية  
Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco



# International conference

on

**«Care economy within the framework of social protection:  
A pillar of women's empowerment, job creation  
opportunities, well-being and family resilience»**



**June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**at the University of Mohammed VI Polytechnic**  
**Rabat, Morocco**

Nowadays, the world is paying a great attention to issues of paid and unpaid family care, especially childcare, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Such interest has emerged due to socio-demographic changes characterized by rapid growth rate of elderly, in addition to the growing participation of women into the labor market and changes in family living patterns, as well as an increasing number of individuals living in isolation.

Among these transformations, we highlight:

- **Structural transformation of the family;** as societies moved from the extended family to the nuclear family;
- **Global demographic growth and its various forms,** which are constantly changing, with numbers and data that differ from one society to another;
- **The development of production means and mechanisms,** which made modern technology - such as digitalization a pillar during the transitional phase, often at the expense of strong family ties;
- **The number of elderly people and people in isolation** continues to increase exponentially.
- **An increase in the number of families headed by women,** as well as an increase in the percentage of people who lack independence.

All of these transformations test the principle of family solidarity issues, and negatively affect family resilience and relations between the sexes, and their manifestations are reflected in the rights of individuals, especially people in vulnerable, economic and social situations, and people with disabilities.

To keep pace with these transformations, a number of countries have implemented important institutional, constitutional, economic, social and political reforms.

As in the case of many other countries, Morocco has witnessed, under the wise leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God assist him, several reforms that mainly concerned:

- The Kingdom's Constitution, which pays great attention to strengthening family ties as a means to strengthen social ties;
- The development model that placed the Moroccan person in a pivotal position within development processes;
- Advanced regionalization workshops in all their dimensions, which provide significant opportunities for human development at the regional and local levels;
- The Family Code, which incorporates all family members into the development process of our country, within a framework that preserves the family in its Moroccan sense;
- Strengthening the social state, which provides social protection for all its citizens;

- New and innovative governance mechanisms aimed at ensuring citizens' participation in building all aspects of the national economy.

Despite all these important developments and new structural projects, the economies of most countries still face the challenge of creating high-quality job opportunities for new generations, especially for vulnerable groups, such as youth and women. These groups face similar challenges, particularly related to stereotypes and the constraints of balancing family and professional life, in a context characterized by their low rates of economic activity.

### **1. The care economy, a generator of decent job opportunities, and a driver of the human dimension of an inclusive and sustainable economy.**

Care economy encompasses paid and unpaid work associated with providing targeted care services for various age groups, especially elderly people, children, people with disabilities, those living in isolation, and other individuals who lack independence, in particular vulnerable groups. Its aim is to meet their needs related to physical health conditions, as well as psychological and social well-being.

Generally speaking, it is noted that major development strategies often fail to give the role of the care economy the attention it deserves as a productive and structural economic resource. Additionally, many changing factors in the world, particularly in the Arab region, necessitates the adoption of the care economy. It contributes to strengthening family and social ties, and provides a new and fertile field for innovative and renewed opportunities for decent work. Moreover, it serves as a means of supporting various local and universal rights, such as equal opportunities, and the right to access comprehensive social services.

Given the importance of its economic, professional and social impacts, the care economy has multiple and dynamic dimensions, because it contributes to enhancing resilience to crises of various degrees, especially violent ones, helps achieve balance and stability between women's family and professional responsibilities, and provides higher quality care for the target groups.

Investing in the care economy is one of the major foundations for improving quality of life and public health. By enhancing and improving services in the health and care sectors, it enables the strengthening of the local economy through the creation of new job opportunities that contribute to economic development, as it was stated by International Labor Organization<sup>1</sup> :

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<sup>1</sup> De Henau, J. "Costs and Benefits of Investing in Transformative Care Policy Packages: A Macrosimulation Study in 82 Countries", ILO Working Paper, No. 55, 2022.

- Investing in comprehensive health services for child care and long-term care will enable to create 299 million jobs by 2035;
- Investing in care will enable the increase of women employment from 78% to 84% as fixed and organized job positions.

Moreover, investing in the care economy is a key input into building healthy and sustainable communities, contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially:

- **Goal 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages;
- **Goal 4:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
- **Goal 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
- **Goal 8:** Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.

## 2. Challenges and opportunities of the care economy

Going beyond the potential impact of the above-mentioned transformations requires addressing socio-economic challenges. This includes developing sustainable policies and programs to promote equality within the family, improving the quality of people's living conditions, and implementing interventions aimed at strengthening family connectivity, social and intergenerational solidarity, maternity support and the provision of alternative care services.

These challenges aim to enable individuals to live in dignity, and to promote the effective participation of women, by freeing up their time for learning, training and productive pursuits. Additionally, they aim to create new opportunities in the field of care and accelerate the achievement of sustainable development goals.

Investing in the care economy is indeed a proactive process to address potential negative impacts for social and economic transformations towards inclusive and sustainable social development.

## 3. The care economy as a lever for the social protection system in Morocco

At the national level, the Kingdom of Morocco has undergone significant changes under the wise leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God assist him, to establish the foundations of a social state based on a supportive community, where everyone enjoys security, freedom, and the necessities a decent life, within a framework of balance between rights and duties.

This process has led to the initiation of structured workshops to disseminate social protection, following the High Royal directives on the necessity of universalizing social coverage to include all Moroccans, especially those in vulnerable situations:

- His Majesty affirmed in His speech to Parliament on October 9, 2020 ***“As you know, I have always sought to make sure economic progress goes hand in hand with social development and with improved living conditions for the citizens. For this reason, I have called for social welfare coverage for all Moroccans”.***
- His Majesty specified in His Throne Speech day address to the nation on July 29, 2020, by stating that ***“The projects and initiatives launched and the reforms introduced aim to accomplish one goal, which is to promote development and achieve social justice and inter-regional cohesion. One of the foremost objectives, in this respect, is the provision of social protection for all Moroccans. This will remain my chief concern until all segments of society are properly covered.”***

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Morocco of 2011 enshrines social protection as a basic human right. In its 31st, 32nd and 34th chapters, it provides for ensuring legal and social protection, economic development of the family through the development of public policies that concern individuals in difficult situations, in particular Women, children, elderly persons and persons with disabilities, and for mobilizing all available capabilities, to facilitate the means for male and female citizens to equally benefit from the right to treatment and care.

In this regard, the new development model emphasizes the importance of the social protection system that promotes inclusion and resilience and embodies solidarity among people to accelerate the establishment of an expanded and effective social protection based on a social security that establishes social solidarity and provides basic protection that concerns all citizens.

The Moroccan state’s commitment to strengthening the foundations of a social state is a commitment to establishing an incubating state for everyone, where no one is left behind. This requires careful attention to indicators targeting the most vulnerable individuals and families, as well as methodologies and specifications for implementing the requirements of the framework law 9.21 for the social protection system, as well as the rest of the structured programs which were launched by the Moroccan government. These initiatives will positively impact families and help them gain resilience and strength to withstand the challenges and profound transformations it faces at all levels.

In this context, the Ministry of Solidarity, Social Integration and Family, organizes this conference in partnership with the Ministry of the Economy and Finances, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Economic inclusion, Small business, Employment and Skills, the Ministry of Youth, Culture and Communication, and with the participation of different partners and stakeholders involved at national and international level. The conferences will be an opportunity for reflection, to mobilize collective intelligence, aiming to build an integrated system of the care economy, to through the exchange of experiences and knowledge.

This conference will also contribute to shedding light on and clarifying ideas that enrich policies and public debate by addressing a set of questions such as:

- How can economic activities falling within the care economy be identified, and what is their actual contribution to creating job opportunities? What methodologies can be used to quantitatively evaluate the services and job opportunities created by investing in the care economy?
- How can economics and care encourage the economic empowerment of women, promote the harmony between family and professional life, and involve men in managing family affairs?
- What is the legal framework for care professions, whether paid or unpaid, and what roles do social workers play?
- How can the necessary human resources be provided, in terms of training and organization of professions, to create jobs in the field of the care economy?
- Is there an integrated public policy to promote the care economy and achieve family well-being?
- How can social protection programs be leveraged to expand care services and professions to include groups in difficult situations?
- How can the care economy align with social protection programs to enhance the resilience of families and achieve actual gender equality?
- How can the private sector be involved in developing the care economy, and what are the prospects for investment in this field?
- What are the ways to stimulate investment and finance projects in the field of the care economy, and what are the possible scenarios for optimal investment in this field?
- What are the necessary mechanisms to build a roadmap in which all actors participate to advance the care economy?
- What roles do of all actors play in developing the care economy to make it productive and inclusive?
- What is the role of innovation and new technologies in the care economy?

## CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The conference seeks to emphasize that investment in the care economy is an investment that primarily supports the economic empowerment of women, by creating innovative and renewable new generation job opportunities. This investment aims to reduce the cost of social protection programs, within a framework that enhances the sustainability of their well-being and their resilience to crises, especially those that are unexpected.

Among the conference's objectives in particular, we mention:

- Highlighting the approaches, concepts and methodologies adopted in the field of care economy;
- Presenting and sharing international good practices in the field of the care economy;
- Exploring ways to legally consolidate various social care professions;
- Monitoring and diagnosing public policies, legislation and laws that support the institutionalization of the care economy, as an effective driver of development and a lever for strengthening social protection policies and achieving gender equality;
- Educating actors, especially institutional ones, about the importance of the care economy and providing the conditions for its institutionalization;
- Drawing the features of a unified vision for investment in the care economy, while defining strategic directions, especially related to financing mechanisms, stimulating investment, providing qualified human resources, and standardizing services.



## ORGANIZERS

The International Conference on the Care Economy will be held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, at the University Mohammed VI polytechnic, on June 25th and 26th.2024

- Ministry of Solidarity, Social Integration and Family - Kingdom of Morocco;
- Ministry of Health and Social Protection - Kingdom of Morocco;
- Ministry of Economic Inclusion, Small Enterprises, Employment and Skills - Kingdom of Morocco;
- Ministry of Youth, Culture and Communication;
- Ministry of economy and finance;
- General Secretariat of the League of Arab States - Social Affairs Sector - Department of Development and Social Policies (Technical Secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs)
- University Mohammed VI polytechnic (UM6P)



## PARTNERS

### National partners

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation, and Moroccan Expatriates
- Chérifien Phosphates Office (OCP Group)
- The Regional Council of Rabat-Salé-Kénitra
- Prefectural Council of Rabat

### International partners

- United Nations Regional Coordination Office (UN RCO)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Bank
- GIZ

### Technological Partner

- Aba Technology

500 participants are expected to participate in the conference, including in particular:

## **Sectors and institutions from the Kingdom of Morocco:**

- Ministries
- Constitutional councils
- International organizations
- Representatives of parliamentary institutions
- Universities
- Research institutes
- Civil society
- Non-governmental organizations
- Private sector
- Professional associations
- Think tanks
- Media institutions

## **The Moroccan Parliament and other actors:**

- International partners and diplomatic bodies;
- Representatives of the parliamentary institution;
- Representatives of regional councils;
- Universities and research centers;
- The most representative union centers;
- Civil society associations working in the field of the care economy: Association of Women Entrepreneurs in Morocco AFEM, the we4she initiative...;
- Media institutions.

## Day 1: June 25, 2024

- 8:30 am**      **Receiving and registering participants**
- 9:30 am**      **Opening session**

- Speech by H.E. Minister of Solidarity, Social Integration and Family;
- Speech by H.E. Minister of Health and Social Protection;
- Speech by H.E. Minister of Economic Inclusion, Small business, Employment and skills;
- Speech by H.E. Ministry of Youth, Culture and Communication;
- Speech of H.E Minister Delegate in charge of the Budget
- Speech by Ms Assistant Secretary General, Head of Social Affairs Sector at the League of Arab States.
- Speech by H.E Minister of Social Solidarity of the Arab Republic of Egypt and President of the forty-third session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs;
- Speech by the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Morocco;
- Speech of the President of University Mohammed VI polytechnic.
- Keynote Speaker: Minister of Economy and Finance of the Kingdom of Morocco
- Keynote Speaker: Maternity Protection & Work-Family Specialist, International Labour Organization

### **A Ministerial Roundtable discussion chaired by Ms. Aawatif Hayar, Minister of Solidarity, Social Integration and Family**

- Speeches of the participating ministers from the Arab, African, European and asian countries;
- Interventions by the regional directors of United Nations partnered agencies and banks;
- Presentations by Regional Directors of UN Agencies and Development Banks

### **First plenary session: The care economy, Concepts approaches, and trends**

- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- University Mohammed VI polytechnic (UM6P)

## **Plenary Session 2: Normative and policy framework, towards an integrated vision of the care economy - comparative experiences**

- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
- World Bank Middle East and North Africa (BM MENA)
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) - Regional Office
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Experiences from Egypt and Chili
- Ministry of Solidarity, social Integration and Family

## **Plenary session 3: Professionalization of care economy professions - training, organization, and human resources management**

- Pomona college California USA
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- World Health Organization/Association for the Fight Against AIDS (WHO/OPALS)
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- National Institute of Social Action (INAS)
- Ministry of Health and Social Protection
- Ministry of economic inclusion small business employment and skills

## Day 2: June 26, 2024

The second day's sessions will begin with a general intervention that emphasizes the role of the care economy in social protection

### Plenary session 4: The care economy and its role in valuing domestic work, empowering women, and enhancing the resilience of families

- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- World Bank (BM)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)
- High Commission for Planning (HCP)

### Plenary Session 5: Innovative and sustainable financing for an inclusive and equitable care economy

- Experience from Brazil
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
- University Mohammed VI polytechnic (UM6P)
- World Bank (BM)
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- Islamic Bank
- CDG JAIDA
- National Federation of Moroccan Associations (FNAM)
- It could be a company name or abbreviation specific to a context.
- Group of Moroccan Banks (GPBM)
- African Development Bank

## Closing session

- Presentation of recommendations
- Closing speech of H.E. Minister of Solidarity, Social Integration and Family
- Message of loyalty and sincerity addressed to His Majesty King Mohammed VI.

**A tourist visit program with three different options  
to be shared on the day of the congress.**