



# Immigrants In Morocco

**“Every migrant is a human being with human rights. We must reject intolerance, discrimination and policies driven by xenophobic rhetoric and the scapegoating of migrants”-**

**Former UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon**

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**Who we are?**

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## Mission

This **NGO** focuses on healthcare centred topics to ensure that the variety of immigrants who live in Morocco have access to **basic healthcare.**



## Vision

# We aim to achieve ....

### Achievable Goals

#### Who

Soumaja Boumanjal

Mariama Boumanjal

Abdelkader Boudih

Karim Zahmoul

# How do We Work

We work closely with **local NGOs, doctors, medical partners** and

**corporates to raise** the funds and  
**health issues** of immigrants  
resources needed to address the  
in Morocco.



## Background

According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), Morocco began receiving more immigrants after the Syrian civil war began in 2014. Now, almost 8,000 refugees are living in Morocco, mostly from Syria, Yemen, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, and other Sub-Saharan African countries. Additionally, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates there are almost **100,000 immigrants living in Morocco**.

Despite the country's hard efforts to provide good opportunities for those who find themselves in Morocco, the World Bank estimates unemployment to be around 10 percent, and jobs in urban areas are especially hard to find. Additionally, both immigrants and social workers say the language barrier and religious and racial discrimination can make it difficult to integrate.

For many people who have traveled hundreds or thousands of miles looking for opportunity, then, Morocco is the last step that keeps them away from the promised land they imagine in Europe. Searching for jobs and a 'better life', African migrants brave the dangerous journey to Morocco hoping to reach Spain.

Imagine you were forced to flee your home because of war and become separated from your mother, father, sisters or brothers. Alone, in a new country, you have to try and rebuild your life, without the love and support of your family, all the while worrying about their safety and health.



Immigrants In Morocco

Home

Did you know?

Since 2004, Morocco has aborted

**500,000 attempts** to cross into Europe, mainly  
via sea, and dismantled around **3,000 networks.**

Almost [50,000 of the 54,922 arrivals](#) into Spain this year have been by sea, according to the International Organization for Migration. More than [2,000 people have died in the Mediterranean](#) trying to reach the European country/

The numbers would have been far greater if Morocco had not prevented nearly

**70,000 attempts** to cross into Spain this year,  
authorities in the North African country say.

In 2013, **Morocco launched a migrant regularisation programme** through which it has granted

residency permits to more than **50,000 migrants,**  
in a move designed to change Morocco's image from that of a transit country to a host nation.

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## About

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In Morocco , we seek to ensure that all people – especially those with the fewest resources – can access the opportunities they need to ensure a healthy life.

We focus on improving people's health and wellbeing by providing them with access to basic health needs. We inspire to lead the way to

# build a healthy Africa for All.



Poor quality healthcare is devastating millions across Africa, but especially those are at risk that travel hundred miles across Africa to reach Morocco. On their long threatening journey, they are faced with massive burdens, such as hunger and trauma, but moreover they are constantly exposed to all kinds of diseases and infections.

## Amongst the greatest injustices of today's world is unequal access to basic and lifesaving healthcare.

COVID-19 has shone a devastating light on this situation through the pandemic's disproportionate impact on vulnerable communities, including people of colour, in Morocco and globally.

**That's why we have launched [Immigrants in Morocco.org](#) to ensure our recovery from COVID-19 addresses this inequality and addresses previous inequalities to basic healthcare.**

# Immigrants in Morocco.org

has come to life during this pandemic to make sure health systems are strengthened and that tests, treatments and vaccines are made available to everyone, everywhere in Morocco. We must push to ensure that protection is available to all equally, regardless of race, income and location, not just for the privileged few.



## This NGO in Morocco exists to ensure live-saving vaccinations reach everyone

working across Morocco's poorest communities to deliver protection to those most in need, in particular African refugees.

Our NGO is the best chance at making sure children, mothers and young Africans in extreme poverty stranded in Morocco continue to receive life-saving immunisation.

We will work with hospitals, doctors, partners, corporates to provide effective vaccines, drugs, and diagnostics and to develop innovative approaches to deliver health services to those who need it most. And we focus heavily on spreading access to new vaccines to prevent infectious diseases that impose the greatest burden.



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## Causes

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**Common mental health disorders, vaccine-preventable disease, skin conditions, tuberculosis, sexual and physical violence**

# Dental Care

- Many healthcare practitioners and policymakers are unaware of the importance of oral health for immigrants and asylum-seekers. Many immigrants, especially children, have not had access to dental care for many years, have never had tooth-brushing education, and have suffered fractured teeth, tooth decay and dental abscesses. In many host countries, dental care may be relatively expensive and difficult to access, even for people who are not immigrants.
- Additional concerns for immigrants include difficulty navigating the dental system, language barriers, and limited finances to access care.
- Poor oral health can negatively affect quality of life, cause pain disrupting sleep and the ability to learn at school, and work. It is also now thought to increase the risk of chronic diseases, such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease.
- While oral health for immigrants claimants has been consistently noted as an area of concern, there is little literature on the topic.

# Mental Health

- Not all wounds are visible and the poor mental health of the immigrants is another reason the madness of the situation here. But mental health support for immigrants can be near non-existent.

- The process of leaving one's home country and adapting to a different environment, culture and life situation is often stressful. Many immigrants can suffer from mental disorders, although prevalence is variable across studies and population groups. Higher prevalence of mental disorders in long-term refugees is associated with lack of social integration and specifically with unemployment.

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- The experience of migration can be complex and stressful, related to events before departure, during travel and transit, and after arrival. Consequently, immigrants can suffer from mental disorders, although prevalence is highly variable across studies and population groups. We need to address the prevalence of some disorders such as post-traumatic stress disorder and depressive and anxiety disorders. Based on best-available evidence regarding risk factors and areas for intervention, eight key priority action areas are identified for consideration by policymakers regarding the mental health of refugees and migrants. While different countries may be more or less able to adapt depending on their baseline capacity, areas and models for intervention to promote mental health and provide good mental health care to refugee and migrant groups include social integration, facilitating access to care, fostering engagement with care and treating patients with manifest disorders.

## Action: We aim to provide immigrants in Morocco with



- We are aiming to offer a professional one day mental health course. The training will be free for all participants and will focus on the mental health needs of asylum seeking and immigrant children. The course will cover the following topics



**Introduction  
to mental health**



**Risk factors to mental  
health pre, during and  
post migration**



**Trauma and adverse  
childhood experiences**



**Practical tools  
to build resilience**



**Playing games**

# Nutrition

- We know it's just fruit and veg. But for thousands of immigrants stuck in Morocco, it's also a small but important step in restoring independence and making life feel a little more normal.

- Across immigrants communities in Morocco, tasty, nutritious food is hard to come by. Eating this low-quality, unfamiliar food is demoralising. But more than this, it's a hindrance to health, especially in the development of babies and children.

- We want to make sure that immigrants have access to healthy and fresh food following a healthy diet.



## Action

# Sexual Protection and menstruation

- Migration has a complex effect on health, and women migrants face health problems that are exacerbated by their inferior social status as well as by their unique biological characteristics.

- Immigrants and refugees are a particularly disenfranchised and vulnerable population. The prevalence of Chlamydia and gonorrhoea in refugee populations has not been described, and the utility of routine screening is unknown.

- Because of the complexities of their realities related to gender, social and economic status, and pre-migration and resettlement experiences, women refugees need a multiplicity of health interventions. The identification of the major physical and psychological health issues with consideration of gender issues and pre-migration and resettlement experiences, represents a more adequate basis for the assessment and management of the health care of women refugees.

- Their social integration in new settings may be equally limited by their initial lack of education and occupational experience. The higher vulnerability of women to sexual abuse and violence also places them at risk of STDs, including HIV, and a range of post-traumatic stress disorders associated with sexual violence.

- Their reproductive health needs often go unnoticed and unprotected even in well organized refugee and migrant situations, and the insensitivity of health staff to the needs of women is often more pronounced in refugee and migrant contexts than it is in general. Health monitoring of women in all migration-related situations has to be given greater priority.

- Women in particular are constantly exposed to "Sexually transmitted infections" through rape or no committed relationships with no access to sexual protection, leaving them pregnant and having more children or at risk of sexual diseases while fleeing their home countries on the journey without any access to health protection.

- Pre- and post-resettlement experiences of forced migration can have profound effects on **women's reproductive health** as **refugee women** are more likely to experience delays in accessing health services and face disparities in reproductive **health** outcomes.

- Rape and prostitution among migrant women become key factors in transmission of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. Breast-feeding practices may be compromised by the indiscriminate distribution of milk powder and supplementary foods in refugee camps or by adoption of the more "modern" habits of urban areas.

- Women do not have access to health products, simple as menstruation products, pregnancy test and pregnancy prevention medication and tools.

# Vaccinations

In the midst of **COVID 19**, when the world comes together to realize the importance of vaccines, it is important to not oversee the access to basic vaccinations for the less fortunate in Africa in **saving lives** – it is so important.

We believe that the path out of poverty begins when the generation can access quality healthcare and when the spread of diseases can be prevented with the simple solution of

providing basic vaccinations to those who need it the most. **Vaccines are amongst the best ways to fight disease** and have prevented deadly diseases

across the globe from smallpox and polio, to Ebola and cholera. Now, they might be our best chance at fighting COVID-19 too. We need to ensure that refugees and immigrants who leave their homes and live constantly on a journey to have access to basic vaccinations, such as

Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis **vaccine** (DTaP),

Hepatitis A **vaccine** (HepA), Hepatitis B **vaccine**

(HepB), etc. This basic principle is at the very heart of our health focused NGO –

**we're fighting to make sure that when it comes to COVID-19 and other deadly diseases, those in extreme poverty are never left behind.**

# Action

“We want to increase the chance for more than 300 million young people to have a healthy life. We are talking about 300 million individual lives - not just a number.” – German Chancellor, Angela Merkel.

## 4. Contact

- Email
- Phone
- Location

## 5. Get involved

- How to get involved
- **Become a partner**
- **Become a donor**



- Want to make a meaningful difference
- Please help us raise funds to provide immigrants in Morocco with access to basic healthcare. This incredible amount raised will save so many more lives, and it will not be possible without your support of our healthcare movement.
- I hope you and others will keep on raising your voice with me to end health and disease inequality for good, including through our new campaign – to ensure tests, treatments and vaccines to fight COVID-19 are available to everyone, everywhere.

## 6. Partners

- **Core Partners**
- Bayern
- Dr. and hospital
- Unilever? P&G?
- **Supportive Partners**

## • **Become a volunteer**

- We need volunteers to dedicate some of their time to our individual initiatives

## • **Simple select**

- The events of the past four months have left many of us struggling. From the fear and uncertainty that many of us have experienced due to COVID-19, to the anger and frustration that comes with facing the legacy of anti-Black racism. It's been a really, really tough few months. And I'm so happy that so many of you are focusing on your own well-being to make it through this challenging summer. Science really does have strategies all of us can use to get through hard times. Become a donor and help the less fortunate to survive this pandemic while facing racial injustice.

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## Anisa picture

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Photo credit: Mauricio Duenas Castaneda/EPA/Shutterstock



Over 3 million people die every year from diseases we know how to prevent. Right now, we're seeing what a world without one vaccine looks like as we struggle to contain coronavirus.

**But what if you lived in a world where no vaccines were available – ever?**

This is the reality for infants like Anisa, a 3 year old Senegalese girl in Morocco, where there are thousands of children like her, mothers and young men who miss out on the basic vaccines needed to reach fundamental medical protection.

COVID-19 is putting more strain than ever on healthcare services, leaving millions more Africans at risk, especially those who leave their countries and communities and make their way on a dangerous journey through Africa to Morocco.

In the middle of this devastating pandemic one thing is clear – **where you live shouldn't decide whether you live.**

# Unite For Our Future: Demand Fair Access to Health For All

## Team



**Soumaja Boumanjal**  
Founder & CEO  
Sedici-Fashion Design



**Meriama Boumanjal**  
Entrepreneur, African  
Empowerment Program



**Karim Zahmoul**  
Founder & CEO  
EMVirya Ltd



**Abdelkader Boudih**  
OpenSource Contributor,  
Entrepreneur

