

# OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE: MOROCCO

Occupational exposure is a major public health concern in Morocco, a rapidly developing North African country with large agricultural, construction, mining, and manufacturing sectors. Workers are exposed to dust, pesticides, chemicals, noise, and heat, often with limited safety measures and weak enforcement of occupational health legislation. Morocco records high occupational exposure, which underlines the need for better prevention, surveillance, and monitoring of exposure to protect worker health and promote safer practices.

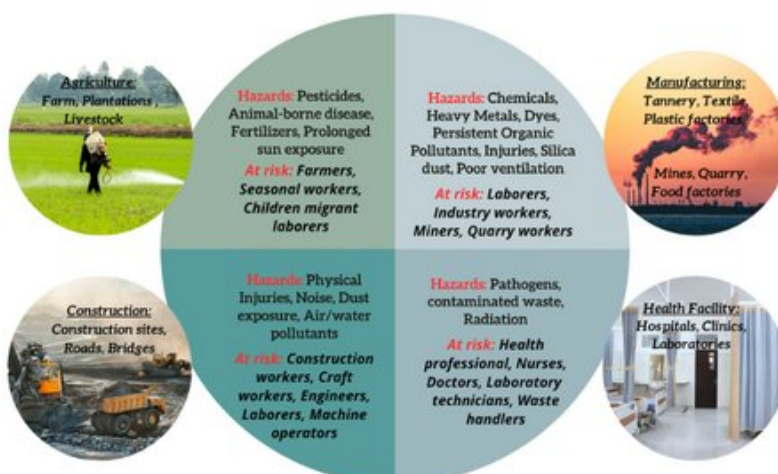
## Burden in Morocco

- High levels of dust and chemical exposure in mines, quarries, construction, and textile factories.
- Frequent pesticide exposure and poisoning among agricultural workers across Morocco.
- Young, seasonal, and informal workers are especially vulnerable due to low awareness and training

## Major Challenges

- Limited enforcement of labor and occupational safety laws.
- Large informal workforce without contracts or occupational health services.
- Poor access to and use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Insufficient training on workplace hazards for workers and employers.
- Weak systems to record accidents, occupational diseases, and exposures.

## Major sources of occupational exposure in Morocco





## Route of exposure

- Inhalation: Breathing in fumes, pesticides, dust and chemical vapors
- Ingestion: contaminated water and food
- Skin Contact: Direct chemical absorption



## Protective measure

- Enforce Moroccan labor and occupational safety regulations in all sectors.
- Train workers on hazards, safe practices, and proper PPE use
- Promote safe pesticide handling and safer alternatives and improve engineering controls
- Strengthen national data systems for accidents, diseases, and exposures.

## In case of acute exposure

- Move to fresh air if inhaled
- Remove contaminated clothing
- Rinse affected areas with clean water
- Seek Medical help if symptoms persists!

## Helplines & facilities

- Emergency medical services: 150 (ambulance) or 112 (general emergency).
- Moroccan Anti-Poison and Pharmacovigilance Center (CAPM) – 0801 00 01 80.

## Exposure related health effects

- Respiratory illness (byssinosis, silicosis, asthma) and cardiovascular illnesses
- Skin conditions, allergies
- Gastrointestinal issues
- Long-term risks: Chronic diseases, cancer
- Hospital acquired infections

## Behavioral & socio-economic exposure

- Tobacco, alcohol, unhealthy diet, and stress increase the impact of workplace hazards.
- Poverty, job insecurity, and informal work make it harder to refuse unsafe tasks or seek care.



Developed by BIONET project in collaboration with partner universities



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