



## *Migration and development in Morocco: A myth!*

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Moroccan migration policies have been designed around a triple-win assumption, notably that migration produces remittances for the migrant's household and for the country while also catering to labour shortages at destination. In the absence of an endogenous, proactive economic and social policy, the government constructed a narrative around migration and development that saw the diaspora as a crucial actor in promoting the nation's socio-economic development. The narrative also supported the country's diaspora policy and politics, which reinforced a national identity and were ostensibly aimed at protecting the rights of Moroccans living abroad. This migration and development narrative has remained dominant for over 60 years even though the reality on the ground is quite different from what it postulates. Morocco remains seen as a developing country with a low level of per capita income (about \$3,000 USD/year/person in 2022), and the country is losing, through both legal and irregular pathways, significant human capital. Morocco could actually be cited as a counter-example to the dominant migration and development narrative, as a closer look into its case demonstrates that this migration and development paradigm is both untruthful and unsustainable.