



IMPETUS Morocco

Migration and Population Dynamics in the Drâa Catchment

H. Kirscht¹, C. Rademacher¹, M. Rössler¹, S. Platt¹ and O. Schulz²

¹Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology, Albertus-Magnus-Platz, Cologne

²Department of Geography, University of Bonn, Meckenheimer Allee 166, Bonn

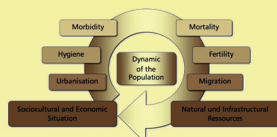
Livelihood Security, Migration and Demography

Intensified migration from marginalized, rural communes into urban centres is currently the most important demographic phenomenon in Morocco. Searching for alternative income opportunities to subsistence agriculture, people not only migrate nationally and internationally, but also intra-regionally. In the provinces of Ouarzazate and Zagora migration and the resulting urbanisation have become the most prominent strategies to ensure a livelihood security since Morocco's independence in 1956. Meanwhile, migrant's remittances are the principal source of income.

What began with young, unmarried men leaving the villages seasonally to find work, has become a strategy employed by all age groups. Consequently, in the past decades migration developed into a type of ritual, a "rite of passage", for young males entering into manhood. A new trend in the Drâa valley, beginning around the turn of the century is the migration of entire families. Living together as a family, even under a city's difficult economic conditions, seems to be preferred both to being separated and to investing in the non-profitable agriculture of the home region. Both phenomena, urbanization and labour migration, are therefore important indicators of the social changes related to water scarcity and significantly affect the region's development.

Urbanisation and Population Dynamics

The demographic dynamics of a society are determined by numerous interdependent factors. Urbanisation and migration influence the fertility and the age structures of society by modifying reproductive behaviour.



With the aide of the numeric model SPECTRUM/Demproj which uses quantitative data concerning migration, fertility, mortality, age structure, and urbanization the future development of a population was calculated.

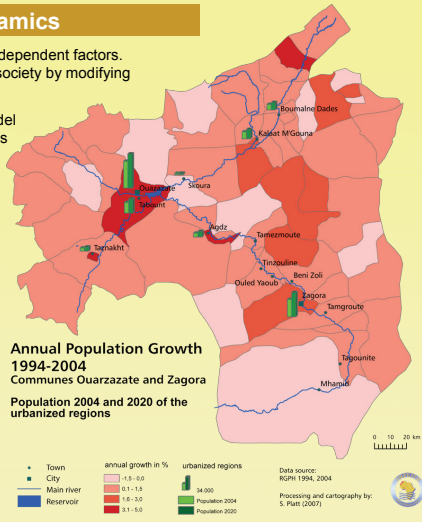
The spatial distribution of population growth is highly heterogeneous. In some areas, population growth even reaches a negative value. In addition to national and international migration, this negative population growth results from regional migration movements.

The future size of the population of the regional urban agglomerations in the catchment area of the Drâa was projected into the year 2020 on the basis of the 2004 national census data.

In 2004, the urban population ranged from 2,800 inhabitants in Skoura, to 53,500 inhabitants in Ouarzazate.

The 187,800 urban inhabitants represented 24.1 percent of the whole population in the provinces of Ouarzazate and Zagora.

The most important spot for regional economic development, is the urban agglomeration of Ouarzazate and Tabount, with an annual population growth of 3.3% between 1994 and 2004.



Moroccan Migrants

Morocco has long been a migratory country. Circular migration of farm labourers was common to diversify the income structure of households without abandoning agricultural production. What started as seasonal migration developed to be long-term or permanent labour migration. International Migration to France started during World War 1st, when mine workers and soldiers were recruited. The same development took place during and after the 2nd World War. During the Algerian war of independence (1954-1962) the number of Moroccan migrants in France rose from 20,000 to 53,000. Most of them working in mines and the steel industry.

Recruitment by European countries continued during the 1960s and 1970s. But even after the restrictive migration politics of the EU since the 80s, the number of Moroccans in Europe is increasing. The \$3.6 billion of remittances sent home by migrants in 2003 represented 6.4% of the GNP, 22% of the total value of imports, and six times the total development aid paid to Morocco (De Haas 2005).

Country	Number of Migrants 2005
France	1,025,000
Spain	397,000
Netherlands	315,000
Italy	287,000
Belgium	215,000
Germany	99,000
Scandinavian Countries	17,000
Great Britain	50,000
USA	85,000
Canada	70,000

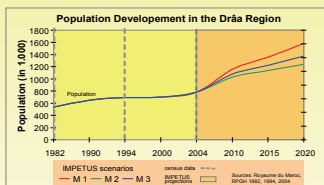
Source: De Haas, 2005

Reduced Population Growth in the Drâa Region

The region's population is only slowly growing due to:

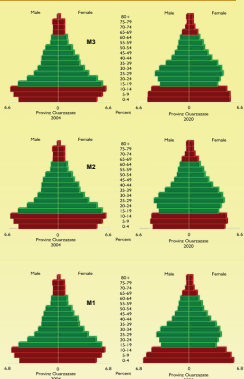
- high migration: 40-80% of the male active population in 2004, depending on location
- decreasing fertility rate: 5.45 in 1994 to 4.26 in 2004
- longer birth intervals
- higher first marriage ages
- higher life expectancy

The 2020 scenarios show rather small total population differences, as the complex demographic processes are reacting only slowly to changes.



The most significant demographic changes of the next years will affect the age structure of the population.

The 2004 population pyramid for the Province of Ouarzazate still has a broad, young basis. Until 2020 this structure will be broken up.



Development according to scenario presumptions:

- Scenario M3** → less pronounced decrease of younger population
- Scenario M2** → slow decrease of younger people
- Scenario M1** → slow decrease of younger people but increase of children

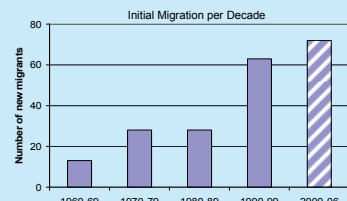
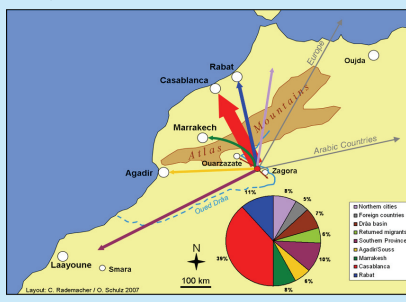
National Migration – Case Study Ouled Yaoub

Ouled Yaoub in the Drâa Valley is part of the Moroccan migration belt. The region is "exporting" predominantly male workers to other parts of the country.

International migration from Ouled Yaoub is low (5%), with some European countries, Saudi-Arabia, and Libya being the primary destinations.

The primary goal of the migrant workers is to support their families, who generally remain in the village. Survey data shows that 57% of the migrants found work in construction, 12% in the service sector, and the rest in diversified fields.

Most of these migrants were paid modestly (\$175-210 per month).



Only 3% of migrants found work as civil servants, obtaining a regular and comparatively high salary. During the 1960's, labour migration affected only a small proportion of the village's young men.

Until 2006 this practice became common as the village's socio-economic situation weakened. In the seven years since 2000, even more men have migrated than in the whole decade before (see figure above).

As circular migrants are very mobile, especially construction workers follow construction sites all over the country. The information displayed in the map (left) is highly variable, reflecting the various situations of the economic centres of the country. During the 1980's and 1990's, increasing numbers of Ouled Yaoub migrants travelled to the Southern Province to seek work.

Summary

The Drâa catchment's demographic structure is marked by:

- a low population growth rate
- a high urbanisation and migration rate
- a slowly decreasing fertility rate
- a high mortality rate
- a young population.

The demographic projections for the year 2020, using the three IMPETUS scenarios show relatively few differences in the population dynamics, even if migration is considered.

Migration is the most striking consequence of droughts. It is the most dynamic but also most unpredictable factor for the population development and the economic survival of the region, inflicting long-lasting changes on every aspect of social life and in local social hierarchy.

As a consequence, **international and governmental support programmes are urgently needed** to invest in water supply, education, the creation of jobs, health and agriculture to secure life in the Drâa Valley.

