Migration Partnership Facility

LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

WAFIRA - Women As Financially Independent Rural Actors

Project completed

About the Project

WAFIRA – Women As Financially Independent Rural Actors was an initiative designed to maximise the positive impact of circular migration and mobility between Morocco and Spain. Implemented between October 2021 and April 2025, the project focused on the socio-economic reintegration of 250 Moroccan seasonal workers participating in the circular migration scheme known as GECCO. By providing targeted training, technical guidance, and financial support, WAFIRA enabled participating women to establish 209 income-generating activities (IGAs) upon their return to their communities of origin. The initiative also served as a pilot for strengthening cooperation between Moroccan and Spanish institutions in managing and scaling circular migration opportunities. In 2025, a second phase of the project, known as WAFIRA II, was launched with the aim of stepping up efforts to support 3,000 seasonal workers who will travel to France and Spain to work in agriculture.

Partners

This MPF project was implemented by the Secretary of State for Migration (SEM) of the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration of Spain in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Spanish Agri-Food Cooperatives-Andalusia (Spain) and Agence Nationale de Promotion de l'Emploi et des Compétences – ANAPEC (Morocco).

Countries

Time frame

October 2021 – April 2025 (42.5 months)

Budget

EUR 3,214,581.36 (95% from AMIF)



WAFIRA participants in Huelva, Spain.

Activities

Pre-departure

Ahead of their seasonal employment in Spain, awareness-raising events were organised in rural communities of Morocco to identify and engage women who had previously participated in circular migration schemes.

600 rural women were informed about the project's services. Of these, 250 were selected to participate in WAFIRA's training cycle. The selected participants received business and entrepreneurship coaching (based on ILO methodology), soft skills training, financial education, and other relevant support.

Mobility

Once in Spain, participants received comprehensive training in business, financial literacy, soft skills, and entrepreneurship/self-employment. In parallel with these sessions, they were encouraged to apply and refine their knowledge by progressively developing their income-generating activity (IGA) ideas, which were formalised in the form of business plans, leading to the formation and registration of individual businesses.

In addition to the technical and entrepreneurship training, participants also took part in a range of social and recreational activities aimed at supporting their integration during their stay in Spain. This phase of the project was implemented in collaboration with Spanish Agri-Food Cooperatives – Andalusia.

Strengthening Moroccan Institutions to Provide Follow-up Business and Training Support

WAFIRA contributed to strengthening the institutional capacity of Moroccan partners - particularly ANAPEC and the Ministry of Economic Inclusion, Small Enterprise, Employment and Skills (MIEPEEC) -to deliver tailored reintegration services for returning female circular migrants.

Re-integration and Income Generation Support Phase

Upon their return to Morocco, participants received continued support through coaching and mentoring provided by ILO-certified trainers and national partners, including ANAPEC. They engaged in group training sessions and one-on-one follow-ups to finalise their business plans and access financial assistance.

As a result, 209 women successfully launched their income-generating activities (IGAs), creating sustainable livelihoods in sectors such as agriculture, food processing, textiles, and livestock.



WAFIRA participants upon their return to Morocco.



WAFIRA participant in Huelva, Spain.

Online resources by WAFIRA

- Project website
- ILO website
- YouTube channel and presentation video
- WAFIRA External Evaluations
- Coaching and Learning Path Guide

Implemented by

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA · MINISTERIO DE INCLUSIÓN, SEGURIDAD SOCIAL Y MIGRACIONES · SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE MIGRACIONES

International Labour Organization

anapec

cooperativas agro-alimentarias Andalucía

The Migration Partnership Facility

MPF Migration Partnership Facility

This project was awarded and contracted in the framework of the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF), an EU-funded initiative implemented by ICMPD in support of the external dimension of the EU migration policy. Through its grants, the MPF facilitates the execution of projects to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on migration and mobility between Member States and partner countries outside the EU.

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