

# Summary

## Study of the Assessment of Sub-Saharan Migrant Women's Access to Reproductive Health Rights in Algeria: Case of Oran and Bechar 2022.



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The study deals with Sub-Saharan migrant women's access to reproductive health rights in Oran and Bechar. It sets out to assess the state of sub-Saharan migrant women's reproductive health in Algeria, through a description of their health and an exploration of the social rationales that come into play and influence access to reproductive healthcare. This could reinforce civil society actors' ability to act and encourage healthcare professionals to provide care without stigma or discrimination against migrant people.

This study draws on a dual -approach survey : qualitative (focus groups ) and quantitative (electronic questionnaires ). The quantitative survey reached five hundred migrant women of different ages and marital status (219 participants in Oran and 281 in Béchar ). The qualitative survey was made up of nine focus groups, of between five to eight women , split between the two cities.

The results of the study show that migrant women are usually young and predominantly accompanied by a family member or a friend, which is characteristic of migration from Sub-Saharan Africa. The main countries of origin were Cameroon, Mali, Nigeria, Niger and Congo. Almost all of the migrant women have an irregular administrative status. Usually, they migrate in search of a better life, following the deterioration of living conditions in their home country (poverty , war, violence).

Difficult living conditions have a negative impact on migrant women's mental health ( stress, anxiety, nervousness, loss of self-confidence, depressive state, etc.).

Migrant women's access to reproductive healthcare does not represent a major obstacle . Prenatal care is apprehended in terms of the social and relational dynamic between migrant women and healthcare providers . The majority of women nonetheless prefer to give birth in the public health sector . Only 16,6% of the surveyed women have faced some obstacles in their access to adequate healthcare , with a significant difference between the two cities ( $p < 0,05$ ).

Women's migration can disrupt their maternity and reproductive life. Migrant women's testimonies have shown that money is a major obstacle to healthcare access (49,4%), followed by perceived discrimination (20,48%).

A minority of migrant women report facing negative reactions when seeking healthcare. Some migrant women highlighted other obstacles, similar to those encountered by Algerians themselves: long waiting times, lack of availability, medication costs, transport and service.

Most Migrant women interviewed in the study consider the use of contraception to be a forbidden practice, which prevents the arrival of a child. Children are highly valued in many Sub-Saharan African countries as they are a source of social and economic security. The condom is the most used form of contraception, but it is used not as a contraceptive but rather as a method of prevention against sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/ Aids.

The study found that breastfeeding is perceived as a means of emotional attachment, which allows migrant women to feel strong emotions and overcome daily difficulties. They reject abortion, despite difficult living conditions. They consider pregnancy to be a 'gift from God' that must be preserved.

Regarding migrant women's life projects, Algeria is not simply viewed as a transit country towards Europe but is itself considered an immigration country. A significant number of migrant women no longer wish to continue their journey to Europe and wish instead to settle permanently in Algeria.