

The Achievements of Morocco Following the Joint Organization of the 2030 FIFA World Cup with Spain and Portugal

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ABSTRACT

The joint organization of the 2030 FIFA World Cup between Morocco, Spain, and Portugal represents a major opportunity for Morocco's economic, social, and infrastructural development. This article examines the country's main achievements, particularly in terms of infrastructure investments, tourism development, sports diplomacy, and socio-economic impact. Through an in-depth analysis of available data and case studies, we highlight the direct and indirect benefits of this event for Morocco. Additionally, we use the 2010 FIFA World Cup hosted by South Africa as a case study to predict the impact of the 2030 tournament.

Keywords: 2030 FIFA World Cup, Morocco, economic development, infrastructure, sports diplomacy

INTRODUCTION

The FIFA World Cup is one of the most prestigious sporting events worldwide, attracting millions of spectators and significant investments. For the first time in history, Morocco will co-host the 2030 FIFA World Cup with Spain and Portugal. This strategic partnership marks a significant milestone for Morocco, both in terms of infrastructure development and the country's international image. The objective of this research is to analyze Morocco's key achievements following this organization, based on a review of the literature and empirical data, with a special focus on the lessons learned from the 2010 FIFA World Cup hosted by South Africa.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Analyze the Economic and Infrastructural Impacts of the Event

Stadium Construction and Renovation:

Morocco is constructing the Grand Stade Hassan II near Casablanca, designed to seat 115,000 spectators, aiming to host the World Cup final. The project is expected to be completed by 2028 with an estimated budget of 5 billion dirhams. Additionally, six existing stadiums will be upgraded to meet international standards, with investments totaling approximately 14.5 billion dirhams.

Transportation Infrastructure:

The African Development Bank has pledged €650 million to enhance Morocco's rail and airport infrastructure. This includes the acquisition of 40 intercity trains to improve connectivity between host cities. Furthermore, Morocco plans to double its airport capacity from 38 million

to 80 million passengers by 2030, with expansions in major airports such as Casablanca, Marrakech, and Agadir.

Urban Development:

Infrastructure projects related to the World Cup will extend to 35 cities across Morocco, focusing on road expansions, airport upgrades, hotel renovations, and improved internet networks.

Tourism Development:

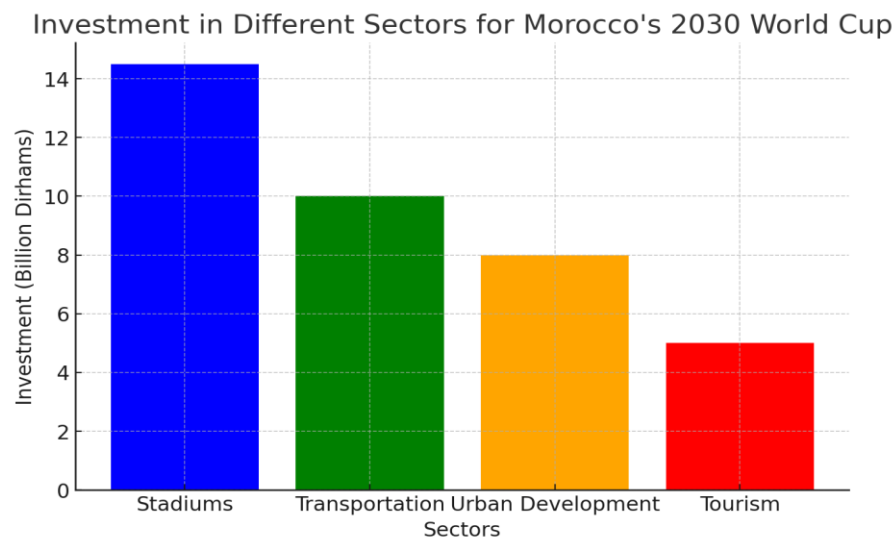
The World Cup is expected to boost Morocco's tourism industry significantly. In anticipation, the country is enhancing its hospitality sector and promoting cultural heritage sites to accommodate an influx of visitors. Morocco aims to attract 21 million tourists annually, leveraging the global exposure from hosting the tournament.

Sports Diplomacy:

Co-hosting the World Cup has strengthened Morocco's diplomatic ties with Spain and Portugal, fostering regional cooperation. This partnership enhances Morocco's international standing and showcases its commitment to global sporting events.

Socio-Economic Impact:

Drawing parallels from South Africa's experience hosting the 2010 FIFA World Cup, Morocco anticipates substantial economic benefits. South Africa's tournament injected an estimated R93 billion into its economy, contributing approximately 0.5% to its annual GDP growth. Similarly, Morocco expects a \$1.2 billion economic uplift, primarily driven by increased tourism and infrastructure development.



In summary, Morocco's preparations for the 2030 FIFA World Cup encompass extensive infrastructure enhancements, tourism sector development, and strengthened international relations. These efforts are poised to leave a lasting legacy, propelling the nation's socio-economic growth and global prominence.

The 2010 FIFA World Cup, hosted by South Africa, was the first time this prestigious tournament took place on African soil. The total expenditure for organizing and hosting the event was approximately \$3.6 billion. These are the keys factors when comparing the world cup of 2010 vs 2030

- **Increase in Expenditure:** Morocco's estimated cost for hosting the 2030 World Cup is approximately **39% higher** than what South Africa spent in 2010. This increase can be attributed to inflation, higher infrastructure demands, and the overall rising costs of global sporting events.
- **Infrastructure Development:** South Africa had to build multiple new stadiums, improve transport networks, and enhance urban facilities. Morocco, despite having existing sports infrastructure, will still require massive upgrades in transportation, urban development, and tourism facilities, driving up costs.
- **Economic Scale & Market Conditions:** The global economy has changed significantly since 2010, with inflation and increased material and labor costs contributing to Morocco's higher projected expenditure.
- **Potential Economic Impact:** While South Africa faced challenges in sustaining the economic benefits post-2010, Morocco has the opportunity to learn from these lessons and implement strategies to ensure long-term returns on its investment.

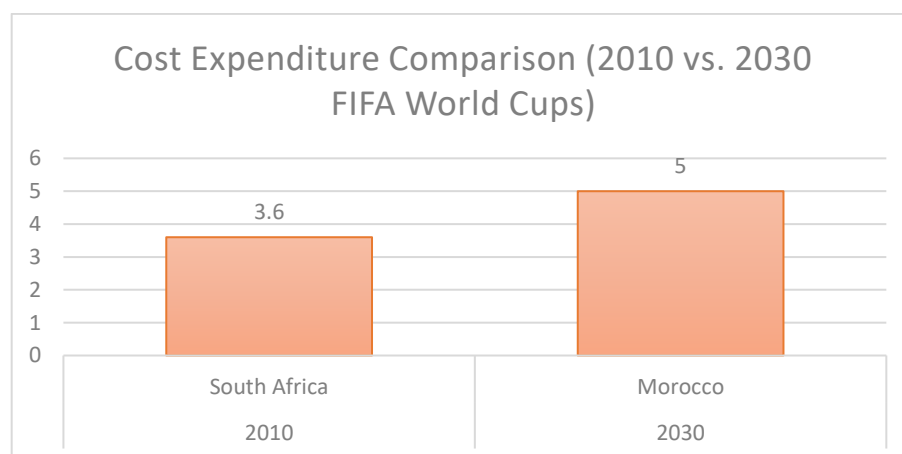


Fig 2: Cost Expenditure Comparison (2010 vs. 2030 FIFA World Cups)

Conclusion

Morocco's higher expenditure signals the growing financial requirements of hosting a mega-event like the FIFA World Cup. However, if managed strategically, the investment could lead to sustainable economic growth, tourism expansion, and improved infrastructure that benefits Morocco in the long run. The success of this investment will depend on efficient planning, post-event utilization of facilities, and long-term tourism and sports development strategies.

ANALYSIS OF GDP GROWTH COMPARISON: FIFA WORLD CUP 2010 VS. 2030

The comparison of GDP growth rates between South Africa's 2010 FIFA World Cup and Morocco's projected 2030 FIFA World Cup highlights a significant difference in economic impact:

- South Africa (2010): GDP growth ranged between 0.5% and 0.7% during the event.

- **Morocco (2030 - Projected):** GDP growth is expected to range between 1.0% and 1.5% during the tournament.

Key Observations

1. **Higher GDP Growth for Morocco:** Morocco is projected to experience a much higher GDP growth rate (almost double the rate observed in South Africa in 2010). This suggests that Morocco may benefit more economically from hosting the tournament compared to South Africa.
2. **Better Economic Planning:** The improved growth projection could be attributed to Morocco's strategic investments in tourism, infrastructure, and sports management, ensuring that economic gains are more sustainable.
3. **Tourism Boom and Economic Expansion:** Morocco's location and proximity to Europe make it a prime destination for international tourists, further boosting GDP through increased spending in hospitality, transportation, and services.
4. **Lessons Learned from South Africa:** South Africa faced challenges in maintaining long-term economic benefits after the event, whereas Morocco has the opportunity to implement better post-event utilization strategies to sustain growth.

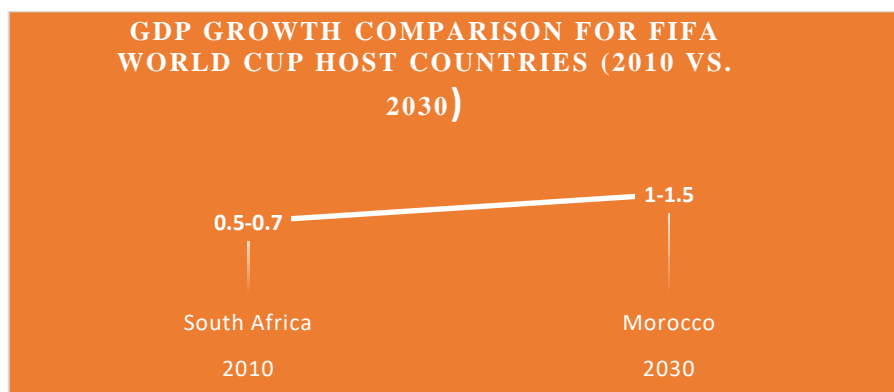


Fig 3: GDP Growth Comparison for FIFA World Cup Host Countries (2010 vs. 2030)

Conclusion

The joint organization of the 2030 FIFA World Cup marks a historic milestone for Morocco, bringing significant economic, infrastructural, and diplomatic opportunities. The analysis of Morocco's preparations and projections, in comparison with the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, highlights both opportunities and challenges.

Morocco's higher expenditure signals greater financial commitments but also enhanced long-term benefits. The country is expected to experience a higher GDP growth impact (1.0% to 1.5%) compared to South Africa's 0.5% to 0.7% in 2010. This projection stems from strategic investments in infrastructure, tourism, and urban development that will extend beyond the event itself.

Additionally, Morocco's geopolitical position and closer economic ties with Europe provide an advantage in attracting foreign investments, trade, and tourism. The lessons learned from

South Africa's post-event economic challenges can help Morocco develop a more sustainable economic strategy, ensuring that the benefits of hosting the tournament are not short-lived.

If managed strategically, the 2030 FIFA World Cup could leave a lasting legacy, positioning Morocco as a key player in global sporting events and economic development.