



IOM organized a psychosocial support workshop for Moroccan and migrant parents and children at the day care of the National Assistance Community Centre in Hay Nahda, Rabat, Morocco, on 7–9 November 2018. Parents (including migrants) enrolled in life skills workshops as part of the national social assistance to vulnerable communities. Children, on the other hand, took part in creative and fun activities.

Forty (40) children of Moroccan and sub-Saharan African parents participated in psycho-educative activities in the form of drawings and games guided by a group of artists and two psychologists. Individual and group work took place throughout the three-day workshop. Through these exercises involving motor, cognitive and emotional processes, children were able to actively participate and express themselves in different themes. Male and female psychologists observed the children through the progress of their drawings, with the aim to

boost their well-being. At the end of the workshop, one psychologist remarked, “You can’t help but notice the children’s joy and cheerfulness oozing through their behaviour”.

Meanwhile, on the third day, 38 parents participated in focus group discussions around the theme of children’s well-being and interculturalism. During these sessions, parents expressed difficulties that they encountered with their children as well as their feelings on integration given the mixed attendance (i.e. migrants and Moroccans) at the centre.

Psychologists identified eight children in need of psychosocial support and additional two requiring specialized consultation for speech therapy. Parents, on the other hand, expressed their gratitude and satisfaction for having this opportunity and the diversity that allowed them to raise relevant matters related to the development of their children and their integration in Morocco.

Furthermore, educators in the day care, which hosts children between 3 and 6 years old, shared their satisfaction from their interaction during the workshop and their wish to participate in further encounters.

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