

MOROCCO

Market Assessment

The overall budget of the Ministry of Public Health for 1994 is approximately C\$500 million of which C\$98 million is devoted to capital expenditures. The growth areas are believed to be radiology, cardiology, ortho-rhino-laryngology (ORL), gastrology, fibroscopy and laboratory equipment.

Domestic production of medical equipment is quite limited. Only beds, technical equipment and some basic radiology equipment are produced locally, while 95 per cent of the medical equipment is imported. There are only four local industries. One in radiology, one in bedding and two in technical equipment. The Ministry does not import directly from foreign suppliers but rather operates by way of local distributors of medical equipment who take charge of supply.

Most of the imports are from Europe: furnishings from France and instruments from Germany, Holland and Italy. Japan supplies radiology equipment, and the United States, laboratory equipment. About three-quarters of the Health Ministry's budget is supplied by the World Bank.

No local certificates are required. However, the Ministry of Public Health has the responsibility to ensure that the equipment is already approved. ISO standards will be required shortly and the Ministry of Public Health is on the verge of creating a standardization service. Morocco also has laws on the protection of intellectual property. A patent must be obtained by anyone opening a business fund. In order to participate in tender calls, bidders must supply administrative documents such as tax collection attestations, proof of insurance, bank statements, etc. A number of multinationals are quite active in the medical equipment sectors.

Business Environment

Morocco has a university hospital in Rabat (Ibn Sina) and one in Casablanca (Ibn Rochd), and about 100 hospitals dispersed throughout its cities and towns. There are also 1,200 dispensaries and health centres in the rural zones. The total number of beds is about 27,000. Each hospital has at least 15 specialized services such as surgery, resuscitation, traumatology, oncology, nephrology, endocrinology, ophthalmology, transfusion, ORL, dermatology, psychiatry, pneumology, gastrology, gynaecology, and cardio-vascular.