

Building resilience: Caritas Maroc's emergency support to 16 families in Barda village

Barda is a small village in the southeast of Marrakech, where 16 families were affected by an earthquake. These families were relocated by the authorities to a designated area and provided with tents for shelter, despite facing winds that occasionally reach speeds of up to 80 km/h. Living conditions were harsh, with cold temperatures and sometimes water unavailability exacerbating their suffering.



Mohamed M. is among those who were affected; his house, like others in the area lying beneath the mountains, remains a constant source of anxiety. Since the earthquake, residents have lived in fear of rockslides from the mountains damaging their homes. The threat persists to this day, with the constant worry that heavy rains or snowfall could trigger another catastrophic event.

The families left the camp and returned to their houses due to the harsh weather conditions in the tents and the distance of the camps from the village. Among the 16 affected families, only 3 received governmental aid to rebuild or repair their houses. With very low income, the other affected families have received no support and continue to live in their damaged houses.

“Despite our efforts to repair our houses, there is still a danger coming from the surrounding mountains.. people only use plaster to do some repairs, but this is not a solution we can rely on” says *Mohamed T.* in an interview with Caritas Maroc. He adds “In these mountains, there are cracked rocks. If it rains, they could fall directly onto our houses from above”.



As part of our emergency response, Caritas M distributed 5 tents to families whose shelters were destroyed by wind in the camp. Additionally, we provided mattresses, lamps, blankets, and plastic carpets to help alleviate the harsh winter conditions. Hygiene kits were also distributed to meet essential needs within the tents.

“.. we received immense support, especially from Caritas. They provided mattresses and covers. In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, we were sleeping outdoors, and these items proved invaluable. They also supplied us with food, and the mattresses they provided were of great assistance; we continue to use them to this day..” says *Mohamed T.*

Currently, for Phase II of the Emergency Appeal, we are focused on restoring livelihoods, improving water quality affected by village pollution, and assisting families who did not receive government aid with house repairs.

