

“IN THIS NEW HOUSE, WE FEEL SAFE”

In the commune of Aghbar, Caritas Morocco in consultation with the local authorities, financed the construction of 12 houses. These identical homes measure 40m². Their layout includes two bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, a toilet, and a rooftop terrace.



Caritas Morocco visited the beneficiaries, some of whom have already received the keys and are starting to settle into their new homes.



Lahcen Aït Boyzli, a young father from the village of Ouidraren, is one of the beneficiaries. He tells us that for the population of Aghbar commune and, more generally, for those in the Al Haouz province, life has improved. There has been a small positive change since the earthquake of September 2023 for those who received state subsidies or were supported by NGOs and associations like Caritas Morocco. *“Our housing situation, with the new homes under construction, has improved compared to the traditional earthen houses we had before the earthquake.”*

In the village of Lemkayate, **Mohamed Akhtar**, father of five children, is setting up the interior of his new home.

“The most important thing is that we were able to leave the tents and now settle into our new house. In the tents, we suffered greatly from the cold, the rain, and the heat — an even harder situation for very young children. Today, in this new house, we feel safe. May God reward you.”

When we point out that his family has seven members while the house only has two bedrooms, he takes it in stride: *“It’s better than nothing.”*



Najat’s husband left her the day after the earthquake, leaving her alone with four children to care for. She personally received no subsidy. The local association registered her on the list of beneficiaries eligible for help from Caritas Morocco. She recently left the tent to move into a new house financed by Caritas Morocco. However she points out that there are still families living in tents who have received neither state aid nor support from associations or NGOs:

“They have no means to relocate, no subsidy, no work, and yet they are good people. It would be good if associations could continue helping other families. Then we would all be on equal footing. It’s unfair, but what can we do?”



Her mother, **Khadija**, received the state subsidy and now has a new house. But she says: *“It pains me to see families who have received no help. They are still in tents, exposed to the weather, and they are part of our community.”*

Within her own family, Khadija has children still living in tents and a daughter who was able to benefit from a house. When it rained heavily, she temporarily sheltered her sons and their families. *“It is real suffering to see these differences among my children. Can associations still make an effort to finance more houses? They are our brothers, our children.”*

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