

CARITAS MOROCCO: INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE RESPONSES TO POST- EARTHQUAKE NEEDS

September 8, 2023 will remain a date etched in the memory of Moroccans in general, and of the inhabitants of the affected areas in particular. Since the earthquake, this devastating event, numerous social actors—local, national, and international—have mobilized within the framework of the emergency appeal to assist the affected communities, particularly in the areas of shelter, food, hygiene, access to drinking water, education, and livelihoods.

During the first stage of the response, also referred to as the first phase, which lasted six months, tents, food kits, hygiene kits, as well as services related to the WASH sector (water, hygiene, and sanitation) were provided to several villages in the provinces of Al Haouz and Ouarzazate. In addition, migrants residing in Marrakech also benefited from assistance in terms of shelter, hygiene, and food.



During the **second phase**, which lasted fifteen months, Caritas Morocco structured its intervention by sectors in order to respond in an integrated manner to the diversity of needs. The main sectors of intervention included: support to migrants in Marrakech **in partnership with Caritas Marrakech**; permanent shelter; access to drinking water; the organization of hygiene awareness workshops targeting girls and women; sports and theatre activities for children; as well as the restoration and creation of livelihoods for women. These interventions were implemented in the provinces of Al Haouz, Ouarzazate, and Taroudant.



The **third phase**, which began on July 1, 2025 and will continue until June 2026, **builds on the work carried out during the previous phase**. Focusing on the provinces of Al Haouz and Ouarzazate, the Caritas Morocco team is continuing the construction of housing for families who did not benefit from government assistance for the reconstruction of their homes. Within this phase, **the objective is to provide this support to 25 families** living in villages located around the earthquake's epicenter in the province of Al Haouz.



Our second sector of intervention is **WASH (water, hygiene, and sanitation)**. With regard to drinking water, we are focusing our efforts on meeting needs through different approaches. Some villages require the drilling of wells, their equipping with solar panels and pumps, as well as the construction of reservoirs for water storage.

Other villages need the installation of polyethylene pipelines to convey water from the nearest source. **The objective of this phase is to assist 1,680 families** in the two provinces.



Among the **WASH initiatives** launched during the second phase is the **construction of a community hammam** (traditional steam bath) in the village of Tiniskt in the province of Al Haouz. It has been observed that this hammam is also used by neighboring villages, demonstrating its importance and its impact at the community level. For this reason, we are replicating this initiative in five villages during the third phase. It is important to emphasize that in Morocco, hammams are not only places dedicated to personal hygiene, but also spaces for socialization, cultural transmission, and community cohesion.

With regard to support for migrants, and **in collaboration with Caritas Marrakech**, we continue the distribution of meals three times a week, as well as the provision of hygiene kits and food packages. This action aims to benefit 120 migrants per month.

Finally, the last component concerns livelihoods. In this context, **we aim to support 200 families who are members of cooperatives or associations**. The approach adopted is based on the implementation of technical training workshops and organizational strengthening for these structures. The novelty of this phase lies in the integration of psychosocial support and development sessions for members of cooperatives and associations. In addition, the project provides for the construction of workspaces for two cooperatives in the province of Al Haouz and two others in the province of Ouarzazate, as well as the distribution of equipment and work materials necessary for the launch or relaunch of income-generating activities.



In conclusion, Caritas Morocco's intervention following the earthquake of September 8, 2023 illustrates a sustained and progressive commitment to the affected communities. By moving from immediate emergency response to a recovery and development approach, the different phases of the project have made it possible to respond in an integrated manner to essential needs while strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable populations. Through its actions in the areas of shelter, WASH, support to migrants, and livelihoods, **Caritas Morocco continues to accompany affected communities toward a dignified, inclusive, and sustainable reconstruction, based on solidarity, community participation, and respect for local realities**.

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