

# 2025 VOLUNTEER WITH CARITAS MOROCCO

Having received so much in my life, I had decided to give a year where it would be useful when my retirement arrived. I chose to be sent by the DCC (Catholic Delegation for Cooperation), which offered me a mission in Morocco as Communications Officer with Caritas Morocco. It was a joy to join the Moroccan team of Caritas Morocco—professional and so welcoming.

Going on a volunteer mission to another country meant, for me, a desire for encounter and sharing, to move forward with those who, through their different experiences and cultures, would open me to other realities capable of reshaping me. It was an opportunity to step back from my daily life and allow myself to be surprised.

Many discoveries and wonderful surprises!



## THE WELCOME AND KINDNESS OF THE MOROCCAN PEOPLE

First of all, within Caritas Morocco, with a warm team attentive to our well-being. I thank them for their availability and patience when I needed additional information to communicate their actions in the villages of the High Atlas. With them, I discovered the women's cooperatives created by young and older women supported by Caritas Morocco—an economic model that allows these women to earn a living and develop their gifts and talents. These are places of sisterhood that bear witness to the role women play in the development of society. Their joy in training and moving toward greater autonomy is also an example of courage.



Then there was a very warm welcome from the teams of Caritas Diocesan of Tangier, Caritas Diocesan of Rabat, and Caritas of the Apostolic Prefecture of Laayoune, who guided us on certain areas of intervention. All are deeply committed to supporting the various teams working in the reception and accompaniment of the most vulnerable people. I was able to accompany them in their missions and meet courageous and resilient women and children in the face of adversity.



### **THE SIMPLICITY OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE HIGH ATLAS VILLAGES**

In the provinces of Al Haouz and Ouarzazate, the inhabitants experienced the terrible earthquake of September 2023. After responding to the emergency, Caritas Morocco, Caritas Marrakech, and other NGOs, together with local associations, helped them identify their needs in order to rebuild their villages and rebuild their lives. We arrived 16 months after this catastrophe, and reconstruction work was underway.



With the team, we went to meet the villagers, who welcomed us with kindness. They had very little, but they had a strong sense of hospitality.

I keep in my heart Fatima, a woman in her fifties who welcomed me like a sister and stayed by my side all day. We did not speak the same language, and yet we recognized each other in a shared humanity. The women had prepared a tagine that we shared while sitting on the ground around a small table. We tasted dates, prunes, and potatoes. It is in these villages—where material poverty is lived and visible—that I felt the bonds drawing us closer together. A feminine complicity where compassion, mutual support, and sharing are lived out. The desire to move forward together. I joyfully savored these precious moments, which led me to reflect more deeply on my true needs.



## INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

Living as a Christian in a Muslim country has been rich in exchanges, especially during the month of Ramadan and the month that followed. Prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and our traditions were topics of conversation with my colleagues. We simply wished to learn from one another how each nourished their faith and put it into practice. It was an opportunity to reflect on my own personal practice and a good way to dismantle prejudices and move forward together peacefully despite our convictions.



My parish in Marrakech was also a place of encounter, exchange, reflection, and prayer with the Franciscan brothers and with Sub-Saharan students. As a member of the parish choir, I learned with them to sing with the whole body.

Experiencing life as a Christian minority in this Muslim country is stimulating and compelled me to deepen my Christian roots. I remain moved when, around 3 p.m., I pass men in the street returning from the mosque with their prayer mats under their arms, heading back to their daily affairs. This daily bond with God brings us closer together. And as the Archbishop of Rabat, Cardinal Cristóbal, told us: “We are 30,000 Christians in Morocco. We journey toward the Kingdom with all of humanity.”

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