

CONTEXT

- On September 8, a magnitude 6.8 earthquake struck central Morocco. The earthquake and its aftershocks resulted in the deaths of at least 2,946 people and injury to nearly 5,700 others, with Marrakech-Safi Region's Al Haouz Province and Souss-Massa Region's Taroudant Province recording the highest number of casualties, the Government of Morocco (GoM) and international media reported. The earthquake and aftershocks also displaced more than 500,000 people and damaged or destroyed nearly 60,000 houses between September 8 and 14, according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and International Medical Corps.
- Critical humanitarian needs resulting from the earthquakes included food, psychosocial support, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure and supplies, according to relief actors. Notably, shelter assistance—including blankets—was a priority need among earthquake-affected populations due to the widespread destruction of and damage to houses, as many earthquake survivors sheltered temporarily in open areas and makeshift shelters amid dangerous temperature drops at night.



ASSISTANCE

- In collaboration with the GoM, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) supported earthquake response efforts. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, BHA provided more than \$900,000 to meet emergency shelter and WASH needs among communities experiencing severe earthquake-related impacts.
- With USAID/BHA support, IFRC provided earthquake-affected communities in Marrakech-Safi with shelter support, including the distribution of cash and materials—such as local timber, plastic sheeting, and tools—for lightweight roof repairs; improvements to flood protection and drainage infrastructure; and winterization improvements, such as replacing low-quality temporary shelters and providing heaters and blankets. Moreover, IFRC conducted awareness sessions on safe and culturally appropriate building practices and distributed cash to help families hosting displaced individuals cover additional utility costs during winter. IFRC also delivered WASH support in the Marrakech-Safi region through the construction of communal and household latrines, education on the safe and effective use of WASH facilities and resources, emergency water treatment and distribution, and rehabilitation of wastewater treatment infrastructure.

- USAID/BHA partner the Moroccan Red Crescent Society also engaged in earthquake response efforts in Marrakech-Safi, evacuating people from damaged buildings and helping transport injured patients to hospitals, as well as providing dignified burial management and first aid and psychosocial support.

USAID/BHA Funding in Morocco ¹			
	Emergency ²	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2023	\$957,418	-	\$957,418

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2023.

² Includes funding for programs that integrate Early Recovery, Risk Reduction, and Resilience (ER4) activities with emergency response.