



The Moroccan Red Crescent providing psychosocial support and first aid services to affected communities. MRC.

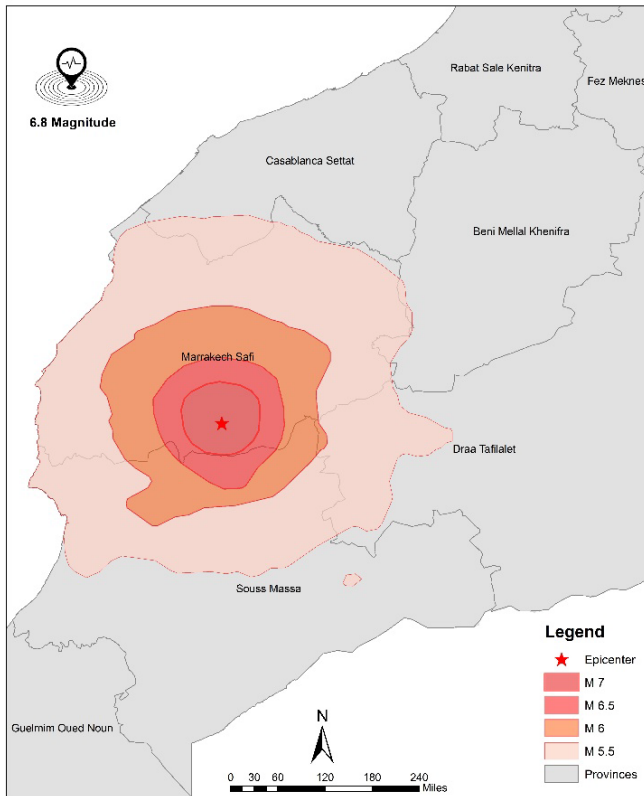
Appeal No: MDRMA010	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 75 million Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 100 million	
Glide No: EQ-2023-000166-MAR	People affected: 6.6 million people	People to be assisted: 500,000 People
DREF allocation: CHF 1 million	Appeal launched: 12/09/2023	Appeal ends: 31/12/2025

SITUATION OVERVIEW



Morocco Earthquake

September 8, 2023



Source: EC-JRC
Disclaimer: The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

An earthquake with a 6.8 magnitude shook Morocco on 8 September 2023, at 11 p.m. local time. According to the US Geological Survey (USGS), the quake originated at a depth of 18.5km below the surface. Its epicentre was

identified in the High Atlas Mountains, located 71km south-west of the city of Marrakesh, a major economic center.

The earthquake was felt as far away as Portugal and Algeria, according to the Portuguese Institute for Sea and Atmosphere and Algeria's Civil Defence agency.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) reported that a magnitude-4.9 aftershock hit 19 minutes later. The earthquake's aftershocks instilled fear among the survivors, forcing many to sleep in the streets. According to Reuters, the continued risk of landslides and the large distances involved complicated the rescue and relief efforts.

The remote villages nestled in the High Atlas Mountains, right at the earthquake's epicentre, suffered substantial losses. Due to the blocked roads and the challenging terrain, emergency services faced difficulties in reaching the wounded.

This earthquake was the deadliest in Morocco since 2004. At least 2,681 people were killed, mostly in Marrakech and the five provinces near the epicentre, while another 2,501 were injured, according to Morocco's Interior Ministry on Monday morning. According to the ministry, 1,404 of the injured were in critical condition.

TARGETING

The earthquake's impact on shelter and housing was devastating in the most affected areas, with extremely high levels of damage due to the dense residential areas of Marrakesh as well as to villages in the rural and mountainous areas of the Atlas.

Around 6.6 million people live in the affected area with roughly 380,000 living in a 50km perimeter of the epicentre, and these are likely to be the most affected individuals.

This Emergency Appeal is targeting basic assistance provisions and early recovery programming to the hardest hit population of 500,000 most vulnerable people. Targeting will be based on exposure to the earthquake, pre-existing vulnerabilities, and low coping capacities. The scope of the interventions may vary due to the geographic locations, impact, and damages as well as support from other humanitarian actors.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

Through this Emergency Appeal, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) aims to support the Moroccan Red Crescent (MRC) in the response to the Morocco Earthquake. The strategy of the IFRC response is to contribute support to 500,000 people and will focus on the following areas:

Integrated assistance

- Providing essential assistance through the distribution of in-kind relief items, such as food, essential household items, and shelter support to those in need, including displaced individuals (IDPs) and host communities.
- Establishing and scaling up multi-purposed cash programming to meet the medium and long-term needs of the affected populations.
- Enhancing community resilience and coping mechanisms by offering cash assistance, and when required, essential in-kind resources like seeds, tools, and materials. These interventions are guided by active community engagement and consultation.
- Engaging with communities/local first responders to strengthen their preparedness in the response.
- Conducting risk reduction activities (early warning and early action, disaster risk reduction).
- Assisting in the initial recovery phase and recovery activities, including the strengthening of disrupted livelihoods among the affected population. These efforts are informed by assessments of food security and employment prospects conducted throughout both the response and recovery stages while adhering to pertinent environmental considerations.



Health & Care including Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- Offering healthcare services that address the urgent needs of the affected communities: emergency medical services (EMS), risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), as well as various other health-related services available at both mobile and stationary health facilities operated by the MRC.
- Offering mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to the affected communities as the distress resulting from the earthquakes, compounded by the loss of loved ones, and the challenging displacement circumstances, have significantly impacted the population, leading to symptoms such as stress, anxiety, and sleep disorders, among others.
- Providing comprehensive WASH services, which involve targeted efforts to ensure access to clean and safe water sources, the provision of sanitation facilities, and the restoration of infrastructure, where necessary. This also includes hygiene promotion services: distribution of essential hygiene-related materials, with special consideration given to culturally appropriate feminine hygiene products for women and girls.

Protection and Prevention

- Conducting protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI)-informed multi-sector needs assessments to ensure safe and equitable access to basic services by considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors, such as disability and impairment.
- Strengthening the provision of restoring family links (RFL) services, and community-based care and protection activities for unaccompanied and separated children, and other persons with special needs.



- Actively engaging affected communities throughout the operation to ensure the integration of community engagement and accountability (CEA) early in the response.
- Insurance coverage and a solidarity mechanism for the volunteers as well as other protective measures, such as protective clothing and equipment to ensure access and safety.

Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:



Coordination and partnerships

- Comprehensive Federation-wide strategy for the response: reporting, administration, and technical services.
- Reinforce collaboration and alliances within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and with pertinent external stakeholders, which encompass the private sector, foundations, governments, international financial institutions, and UN agencies.



Shelter Cluster coordination

- The IFRC provides a coordination platform to enhance shelter sector coordination capacity.
- The IFRC supports the delivery of shelter and settlement assistance, complementing the government of Morocco's efforts. Ensure effective inter-sector coordination and cooperation with Moroccan government authorities to inform and achieve a harmonized response in the shelter sector.



IFRC Secretariat services

- The IFRC will support the National Society in terms of coordination of international support and communications, humanitarian diplomacy, monitoring, reporting, financial, administrative, and HR management, logistics, and procurement, as well as technical expertise in the thematic sectors of the operation.

National Society Strengthening

- Develop plans for the growth and transformation of the National Society across all thematic areas and support service pillars, including preparedness and response capabilities. Ensure the implementation of the Preparedness for Effective Response plan of action of the MRC.
- Strengthen hazard, context, and risk analysis to better anticipate disaster risks through enhanced information management, data analysis, and risk management capacities and to establish an early action mechanism for the MRC.
- Establish and capacitate MRC on an adequate monitoring and reporting system, enabling the NS to make evidence-based decisions and operate a proper reporting mechanism.
- Provide ongoing support to the operational capacity of the MRC, including human resources, logistics, warehousing, supply chain, office resources, and ICT capabilities.
- Strengthen the approach to managing volunteers in emergencies, including rapid onboarding, and ensuring proper care for volunteers and staff.



- Reinforce PGI and safeguarding practices through the Code of Conduct, safeguarding policies, staff and volunteer orientation, and community sensitization. These efforts adhere to the minimum standards of PGI.
- The MRC has strengthened its procedures for the safety and security management of staff and volunteers, particularly for the response.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of this Emergency Appeal launch. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy to be released in the upcoming days. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation-wide approach, which includes the response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN COUNTRY

Moroccan Red Crescent

Core areas of operation	
Number of staff:	443
Number of volunteers:	8,565
Number of branches	102

Created by royal decree in 1957, the MRC is a voluntary relief association and auxiliary to the civil and military authorities, with 8,565 volunteers across the country. As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the MRC supports state organs while maintaining its neutrality and independence by conforming to the principles and values of the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The MRC was recognized by the ICRC in 1958 and admitted as a full member of the International Federation of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. By virtue of its mandate defined in the decree of creation, the MRC assures assistance to populations in the event of disasters, armed conflicts, and in exceptional situations through programmes that reinforce capacities, teach first aid, raise awareness, disaster preparedness, and risk reduction, in addition to promoting international humanitarian law (IHL) and humanitarian principles. Thanks to its multiple interventions, the MRC is today a key player in humanitarian and social fields.

The MRC has central organs (General Assembly, Central Committee, Governing Board, and General Secretariat) and is supported by provincial and/or prefectural and local organizations:

- 71 provincial and prefectural wilayas committees
- 25 local committees

The Central Administration is in charge of the daily management of the activities of the National Society and follows up on the decisions taken by the Central Committee and the Board of Directors. The Central Administration coordinates the activities of provincial and local committees.

IFRC Membership coordination

The IFRC has established a number of membership coordination mechanisms at multiple levels, facilitating the sharing of timely information about the earthquake response operations in Morocco through informative meetings and briefings about the situation. The IFRC is also coordinating the identification of urgent, and priority needs in support of and in close alignment with the MRC's response plan. Participating National Societies are supporting the emergency response operations of the MRC by providing in-kind and available funding for an immediate response. Many National Societies from the Middle East and North Africa and other regions have launched emergency fundraising campaigns and offered support in the form of human resources, in-kind assistance, and emergency response units, in addition to financial and technical support.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

The ICRC, via its Tunisian office, expressed its readiness to support the MRC with whatever they might need for their response. The IFRC will continue to coordinate with all Movement Partners to ensure close alignment in support of the MRC.

External coordination

The Moroccan government is leading the overall coordination and management of humanitarian assistance for the disaster both locally and internationally. The MRC maintains close relations with the different government departments, relevant ministries, security authorities, and other relevant agencies as and when required, while the IFRC is very well connected with UN agencies and other key stakeholders. The state seconds a range of staff to the MRC from various ministries.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

At the Morocco Red Crescent Society:

- **Director General;** Abdel Salam Makroumy, MRC's Director General, email: secretariat@mrcs.org.ma
- **Operational coordination:** Mohammad Bendali, Head of DM, email: Bendalimed2@gmail.com

At the IFRC:

- **IFRC Regional Office for Health, Disasters, Climate & Crises (HDCC) Unit:** Dr Hosam Faysal, Regional Head of Health, Disasters, Climate & Crises (HDCC) Unit - MENA, email: hosam.faysal@ifrc.org, phone: +961 71 802 916
- **IFRC Regional Office for Operations Coordinator:** Nader Bin Shamlan, Operations Coordination-MENA, email: Nader.Binshamlan@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Country Delegation (or Country Cluster Delegation):** Sami Fakhouri, Acting Head of IFRC Country Cluster Delegation, email: sami.fakhouri@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva:** Rika Ueno Harada, Senior Officer Operations Coordination, email: rika.harada@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilisation and Pledges support:

- **IFRC Regional Office for MENA** Francesco Volpe, Regional Head, Strategic Engagement and Partnerships, email: francesco.volpe@ifrc.org

For In-Kind donations and Mobilisation table support:

- Goran Boljanovic, Regional Manager, email: Goran.BOLJANOVIC@ifrc.org
- **Global Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain Management Unit, MENA Regional Office**
- Nikola Jovanovic, Global Coordinator Supply Chain in Emergencies, email: nikola.JOVANOVIC@ifrc.org
- **Global Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain Management Unit, Geneva**

Reference



Click here for: [Appeal Database](#)

- Link to IFRC Emergency landing page