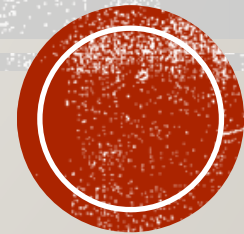


RAPID INSIGHTS ON EARTHQUAKE IN MOROCCO

IFRC
20 October 2023



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INTRODUCTION

A rapid desk review was carried out by Geneva's Strategic Planning Department and RO MENA's PMER using the IFRC Evaluation Databank and other relevant resources to focus on evaluative initiatives related to IFRC's response to the earthquake in Morocco. The idea behind this effort is the **quick capture of lessons learned** that could be vital in preparing and addressing the current emergency affecting Morocco, as well as to serve as part of any desk review for any upcoming evaluative initiatives to follow.

It is clear that this review will not include all the documents available on IFRC's response in Morocco, as well as that some of these lessons learned and/or recommendations may have already been addressed. It is hoped though that the quick capturing of these lessons learned will provide an overview that could help the operation in capitalizing on opportunities, assisting in understanding any potential barriers/challenges in such an operation, and providing useful information that will facilitate the transitioning of emergency response into annual plans under the Unified Planning Process.

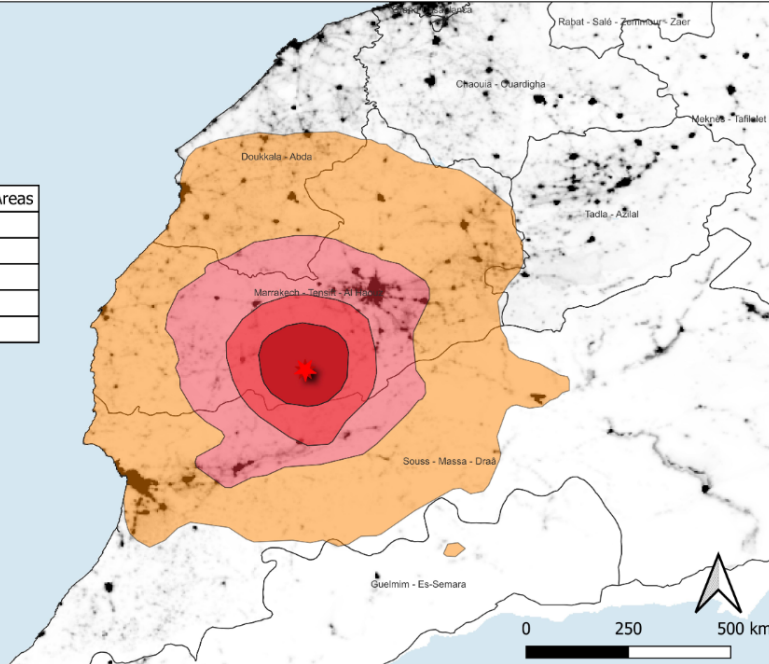
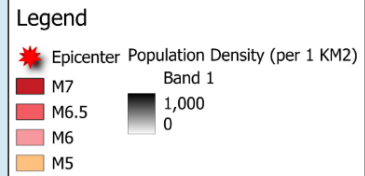




Morocco EQ - Estimated Affected Population in Affected Areas

6.8 Magnitude

MMI	Estimated Population Living in Affected Areas
M 7	215,313
M 6.5	197,604
M 6	2,965,663
M 5	3,248,210
Total	6,626,790



Data Source: GADCS, HDX, DIVA-GIS

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 of 6.8 magnitude shook Morocco on September 8, 2023, at 11 p.m. local time. The earthquake was felt as far away as Portugal and Algeria.

At least 2,901 people were killed, mostly in Marrakech and five provinces near the epicenter, and another 5,530 were injured, according to Morocco's Interior Ministry.

According to Reuters the destruction in some areas is described as "absolute," with not a single house left standing. The continued risk of landslides and the large distances involved complicated the rescue and relief efforts, with emergency services facing difficulties in reaching people in need.

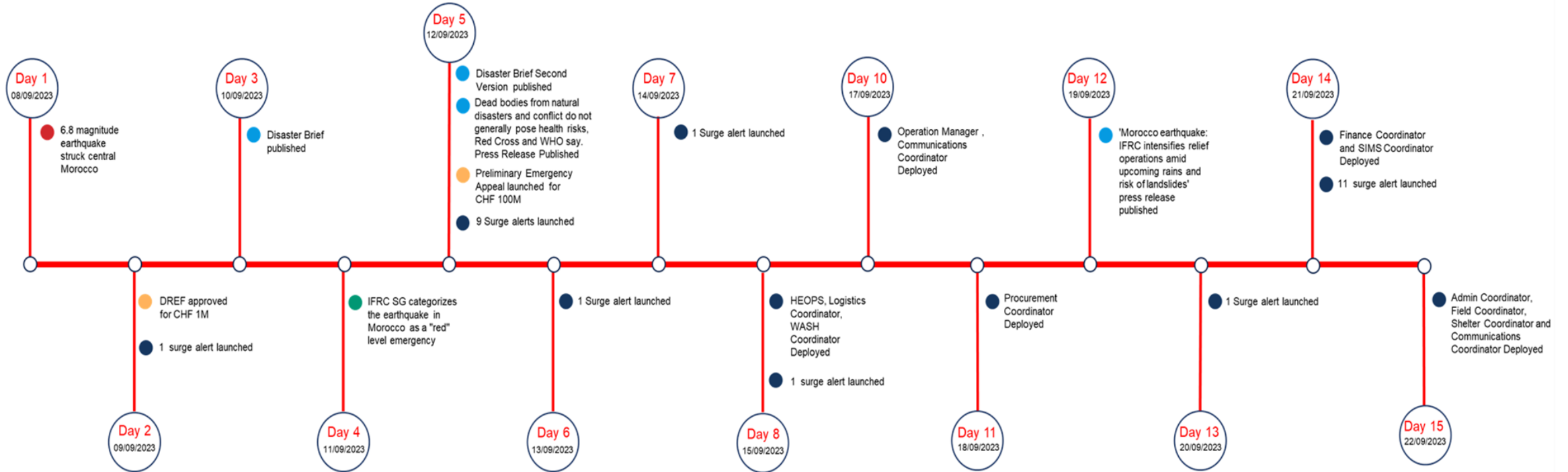
While earthquakes of this size in the region are uncommon (since 1900 there have been only nine magnitude 5 events), this earthquake was the deadliest in Morocco since 2004.

The Moroccan Red Crescent (MRCs) teams are coordinating closely with the local authorities on the ground to assess the situation and provide support to the affected people. A DREF allocation of CHF 1 million was approved and released to support the response of the National Society on the ground. Main priorities are shelter and non-food items; basic emergency services connected to search and rescue, maternal healthcare and replenishment of blood stocks; access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities; and access to sufficient quantity of quality foods in the coming months.



Timeline of IFRC EQ Response Support

MOROCCO EARTHQUAKE APPEAL



*Extracted from 2023 IFRC Disaster Brief. For latest updates on Morocco go to: <https://go.ifrc.org/countries/119#operations>





Created by royal decree in 1957, the MRC is a voluntary relief association and auxiliary to the civil and military authorities. It was recognized by the ICRC in 1958 and admitted as full member of the IFRC. MRC assures assistance to populations in the events 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.



8,565 VOLUNTEERS
443 STAFF



102 LOCAL UNITS



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 operation by providing in-kind and available funding for an immediate response..



ICRC

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.



PAST MAJOR EARTHQUAKES:

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

Analysis and Planning

Response and Recovery Planning: Ensure that cross-cutting issues such as gender, security and the environment are incorporated at all stages of the response.-ALNAP

Anticipate issues related to the lack of documentation and complex land tenure. -ALNAP

Ensure that there is integration and complementarity of activities in emergency operations with ongoing programmes.-Rapid Insights on Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria

In an operation of a big scale and complexity, a gradual scale down strategy is needed, in parallel to the institutional strengthening with the National Society. This will allow the National Society to adapt its operation gradually over the years. -Rapid Insights on Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria

Coordination

Coordination with Local Community-level Responders: Engage broadly and rapidly with local and national actors-even the most affected communities and authorities have some level of capacity after an earthquake-ALNAP

Coordination with Movement: In a dynamic and complex operating environment, IFRC and its partners need to be flexible to position themselves as "One RCRC Movement."-Rapid Insights on Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria

Cooperation with Private Sector: Acknowledge and do not undermine the work of private sector entities to ensure business continuity following an earthquake. -ALNAP

Operational Capacity

Activation of Regional and International Support: Lack of sufficient human resources to support the present and potential scale of crisis, as well as the Zone with the support it requires.-Rapid Insights on Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria

Early Action Mechanisms: Mobilise sufficient and appropriate surge capacities-ALNAP

Emergency Needs Assessment and Planning: Conduct thorough assessments which recognise and identify the distinct ways earthquakes affect different populations. Take into consideration specific challenges in urban areas. -ALNAP

Conduct assessments in ways that avoid exacerbating tensions between host communities and IDPs. -ALNAP



PAST MAJOR EARTHQUAKES:

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?- CONTINUED

Operational Capacity-continued

NS Specific Areas of Intervention: Account for quickly evolving health needs in post-earthquake contexts. Be aware that epidemics can happen.-ALNAP

Prioritise the repair of existing structures, support owner -riven reconstruction, preserve architectural heritage and use relocation and resettlement only as a last resort.-ALNAP

Be cautious with setting up transitional shelters, which may hinder longer-term reconstruction.-ALNAP

Address long-term as well as immediate education needs.-ALNAP

Important to have strong community engagement, as well as communication activities with various stakeholders and communities from the start of the operation about the National Society, its mandate , principles and values. This will continue to ensure the National Society's uninterrupted access to the remote and highly vulnerable areas. -Rapid Insights on Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria

Multi-purpose cash grants for relief operations is a welcomed modality both in the National Society's Post Distribution Monitoring Unit and with the affected population. - Rapid Insights on Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria

Prices and availability of medical consumables can change in an evolving environment. Sustainability of health services (plan and tendering for national and international procurement of medicines; medical equipment; materials; and PPE for staff and volunteers if still relevant) should be considered in advance. -Rapid Insights on Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria

Operations Support

Communication in Emergencies: Do not let infrastructure and access challenges get in the way of communication, especially with isolated communities.-ALNAP

Logistics, Procurement and Supply Chain: Locate spaces to store debris and, if appropriate, use short-term conditional assistance to clear it.-ALNAP

Operations, Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning: Recognise the value of MEAL and push through obstacles-ALNAP

Resource Mobilization: National Societies have interventions to meet unmet and complex needs in hard-to-reach areas. Flexible funding will allow IFRC to support the National Society's needs in its interventions, especially in areas where other agencies have limited access. -Rapid Insights on Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria







MOROCCO EARTHQUAKE

Analysis and Planning

Preparedness Plans and Budgets: MRCS will ensure that the future operational plans and budgets adequately include the costs related to travel and distribution of food and non-food items.

MRCS should have a local emergency fund that can be mobilized in these emergencies.

Coordination

Coordination with Authorities: Coordination with authorities helpful to address enormous needs and insufficient pre-positioned stock.

Operational Capacity

Early Action Mechanisms: Involve early warning/early action (EW/EA) approaches in the affected areas to enable the community to resist to this type of crisis in the future.

MRCS keen to develop a forecast based financing mechanism which will allow for early action based early warning system.

Emergency Needs Assessment and Planning: Ensure that future operational plans and budgets adequately include costs related to travel and distribution of food and non-food items.

Information Management: Importance of strengthening internal coordination and ensuring preparatory meetings between Headquarters and its branches in such emergencies.

Operations Support

Communication in Emergencies: Multiple sources of news to local authorities.

Leaflets in simple language and pictures shared with affected population during food distribution, to ensure that they can adapt behaviours if a cold wave occurred.

Analysis and Planning

Preparedness Plans and Budgets: The mission of the IFRC delegation in Tunisia (specifically the Head of CCST and the Accountant) to the operation was of great help in setting out the procedures for purchasing emergency items and introducing a procedure for document validation and anticipating any errors that might occur during the operation. Ongoing support from IFRC helped in the implementation of the action plan strategy.

Operational Capacity

Emergency Needs Assessment and Planning: Distance from branches necessitate travel days which need to be adequately budgeted in operational plan.

Ensure that funds are available in the operational plan for a post-distribution survey for the affected population.

Operations Support

Communication in Emergencies: Multiple sources of news to local authorities is a risk.

Finance and Admin. Policy and Emergency Procedures: Delays in signing an agreement between the IFRC and MRCS resulted in delays of the reception of the operating advance which negatively impacted the emergency response.

There was a lack of communication and adequate information about the process such as purchase and forms.

Logistics, Procurement and Supply Chain: Restocking mattresses and blankets activity took a long time because of issues related to identifying factories and suppliers that could provide the required amount of stock and to the appropriate standard.

Staff and Volunteer Management: Travel and food expense of coordinators in the field needs to be adequately budgeted in the EPOA.

Volunteers would benefit from knowledge on the SPHERE standards.

There was a lack of training in disaster preparedness and response for volunteers and staff members in branches.





Operations Support

Logistics, Procurement and Supply Chain: When there are enormous needs, prepositioned stock in vulnerable areas vital. Coordination with Governor-led crisis cell useful to allocate target areas and set standards for aid. Spare stock important to replace lost or damaged stock during shipment and discharge and in preparation for upcoming winter.

Difficulty in access to affected areas and absence of locally qualified stores.

During the collection of quotes some prices fluctuated from one province to another depending on the quality and distance of supply to shopping centers (e.g. Casablanca). Before proceeding with the purchase orders, it was necessary to ensure the same quality for all the branches. This required more time, which hampered the response.

MRCS follow up on the possibility of having agreements with preapproved food providers including factories and suppliers in order to ensure a quicker turn around for distribution and replenishment.

Affected population not satisfied with 2 blankets and a mattress-deemed insufficient for a family of 5.

MOROCCO EARTHQUAKE (CONTINUED)



RESOURCES

- ✓ **Albania: Final Evaluation of the 2019 Albania Earthquake Emergency Appeal (January to February 2021)**
- ✓ [ALNAP 16 lessons to inform response to earthquakes](#)
- ✓ [ALNAP Lessons Paper: Responding to earthquakes](#)
- ✓ [Earthquake Response Operation-Integrated Recovery Programme Report, Nepal Red Cross.](#)
- ✓ [Final Evaluation of the 2019 Albania Earthquake Emergency Appeal](#)
- ✓ [Lessons Learned and Best Practices: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Shelter Programme in Haiti 2010-2012](#)
- ✓ **Operational Learnings from DREF-Morocco**
- ✓ [Rapid Insights on Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria, 1 March 2003.](#)
- ✓ [Real Time Evaluation of the Response to the Typhoons Ketsana and Parma in the Philippines and the West Sumatra Earthquake in Indonesia in 2009, January 2010.](#)
- ✓ [Strong in emergency; progressing in recovery: A Real Time Evaluation of the IFRC Ecuador Earthquake Response Operation 16 April to 16 July 2016](#)
- ✓ **Updates on the situation of Morocco and Libya**
- ✓ **2023 IFRC Disaster Brief on the Morocco Earthquake, 13 September 2023**



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