



Movement Statement on the Morocco earthquake

Background

An earthquake with a 6.8 magnitude shook Morocco on 8 September 2023, at 11 p.m. local time¹. This earthquake was the deadliest in Morocco since 2004. At least 2946 people were killed, mostly in Marrakech and the five provinces near the epicenter, while another 5674 were injured, according to Morocco's Ministry of Home Affairs on Monday morning. According to the ministry, 1,404 of the injured were in critical condition. Its epicenter was identified in the High Atlas Mountains, located 71 km south-west of the city of Marrakesh, a major economic center². The earthquake's aftershocks instilled fear among the survivors, forcing many to sleep in the streets. The remote villages nestled in the High Atlas Mountains, right at the earthquake's epicenter, suffered substantial losses. Due to blocked roads and the challenging terrain, emergency services faced difficulties in reaching the wounded. In some areas, the lack of safe water and sanitation facilities may lead to an increase in water borne diseases. The coming period will see low nightly temperatures which may add to the difficulties that affected people are experiencing.

Our Response

We, the international Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, express solidarity with the people of Morocco, are extremely concerned by the devastating impact of this earthquake. Working through the local actor, the **Moroccan Red Crescent** (MRCS), its tireless staff and volunteers that were on the ground immediately following the earthquake, we have reached more than 52,000 people through lifesaving interventions such as first aid services, safe water, food, and non-food items, and psychosocial support to affected people. This was made possible through the immediate release of one million Swiss francs from the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC DREF) to support the MRCS in their actions to provide immediate locally sourced relief to affected people.

The nationwide presence of the MRCS volunteers and staff will continue to enable the MRCS and the Movement to reach vulnerable people not accessible by other actors, making this a truly localized response.

Scaling up the Response

In the face of this crisis, a massive, coordinated scale-up of our action is urgent and critical. Centered around the needs of the affected population, the Movement partners continue to support the MRCS, in an array of activities, including an integrated assessment on community needs and losses that will serve as input for a robust recovery to achieve greater impact.

Aiming to reach over 500'000 people over two years, MRCS (through a domestic appeal), IFRC (emergency appeal of CHF 100M) and ICRC have committed to join the collective efforts in mobilising resources to reinforce MRCSs capacities to respond to the needs. The operations will reach the most vulnerable people in the areas of shelter, health, WASH, food, and non-food items, psychosocial

¹ According to the US Geological Survey (USGS), the quake originated at a depth of 18.5 km below the surface

² The earthquake was felt in several other Mediterranean countries. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) reported that a 4.9 magnitude aftershock hit 19 minutes later.

support, Restoring Family Links, management of the dead and strengthening the MRCS's capacities to respond on the longer term.

The operations will complement the authorities and other actors' relief and early recovery efforts, in coordination with authorities through the national disaster management authority. The initial recovery phase and recovery activities will also be supported, including the strengthening of disrupted livelihoods among the affected populations.

Coordinated, principled local action

Committed to working in a coordinated and complementary way, the senior representatives of the three Movement components present in country, MRCS, IFRC and ICRC; have held their strategic coordination meeting (aka the Mini summit). The meeting served to organize the Movement's collective response, helped to ascertain the role of each Movement component based on respective mandate and added value aiming to increase our collective Movement impact. As per the Seville 2.0 agreement, Moroccan Red Crescent is the Convener of the Movement's response, with IFRC taking the Co-Convening role, and the ICRC and National Societies committed to complement each other's activities. The Movement's interventions are principled, purely humanitarian and coordinated with those of local authorities.

Our Commitment

We will make all efforts to significantly scale up the humanitarian impact through and with the MRCS to continue saving lives and responding to the humanitarian needs of people affected by the earthquake in all affected areas. We will continue to coordinate our responses, within the Movement, to ensure the assessed needs of people affected by the earthquake are matched with our respective human, material, and financial resources, to address gaps, avoid duplication and maximize our collective impact. We will do this in a complementary way with the national systems, aligning and complementing where possible the relief and reconstruction plans.

Representing the Movement in Morocco, we express our solidarity with Morocco and its people and convey our commitment to extend full support to them through the MRCS.

We thank all National Societies and partners for their support.

MRCS

Abdel Salam Makroumy

Chief Administrator



IFRC

Sami Fakhouri

Head of Delegation



ICRC

Rania Machlab

Head of Delegation

