



DAKIRA

The USAID Dakira Program helps preserve Morocco's multicultural history through collective community efforts.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Despite the Kingdom of Morocco's rich history of pluralism and diversity, like all countries, it has also faced challenges. Globalization has resulted in increased migration and the influence of intolerant narratives on communities that previously enjoyed amicable and collaborative relationships among religious and ethnic groups.

The USAID Dakira Program, implemented by the High Atlas Foundation and its local partners, aims to collaboratively develop and pioneer a unique participatory approach to the educational preservation of Morocco's multicultural history. The program encourages local communities to capture, preserve, and transmit their collective memories so that they are better equipped to take ownership of the revitalization of their own histories. This introspective, experience-sharing approach among local participants maximizes relationship building, leading to collective actions that improve livelihoods and a deepened discovery of Morocco's multicultural identity.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The goal of the USAID Dakira Program is to explore and strengthen interreligious and inter-ethnic solidarity through community efforts that preserve cultural heritage in Morocco through two overarching objectives:

- Objective 1: Enhance Religious and Cultural Preservation, Learning, and Social Cohesion

- Objective 2: Support Initiatives that Promote Tolerance, Interfaith Dialogue, and Multiculturalism

The opportunity to rebuild the narrative of Morocco’s multifaceted heritage is quickly passing for those who gathered and preserved the stories. To preserve Morocco’s cultural heritage, Dakira engages a robust network of diverse local civil society organizations (CSOs) to support program implementation. Through these partnerships, Dakira catalyzes the diversified and coordinated engagement of civil society actors, community leaders, and local stakeholders to discuss, reflect, and learn about Morocco’s religious and ethnic heritage. These partnerships enable the documentation and dissemination of practices, lived experiences, and testimonies shared by stakeholders, along with the restoration of tangible heritage.

The program develops an integrated and participatory approach focused on empowering communities through capacity building and experiential learning to promote multiculturalism, social cohesion, and diversity. This participatory approach is also the basis for creating shared plans of action for improving future livelihood opportunities within the targeted communities.

PROGRAM THEORY OF CHANGE

If the memory of Muslims, Jews, and Christians living together is preserved, and if Dakira can bring people toward greater cultural understanding, then strengthened solidarity will emerge that will improve livelihoods and serve as a model for interfaith dialogue in Morocco and the region.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Locate, preserve, and digitize collective and individual histories, visions, and archives (in their various forms) from Moroccan diaspora and religious and ethnic migrant communities
- Create educational and outreach tools for facilitators and participants of interfaith dialogue initiatives, including tour guides, students, and CSOs
- Demonstrate – especially to youth – the importance of learning, understanding, and preserving their local histories, particularly as it relates to religious and ethnic minorities, multiculturalism, and interfaith harmony
- Enhance the storytelling and technical skills, a sense of purpose, and confidence of youth and CSOs, leading to their implementation of heritage projects that are valuable to communities
- Increase the reach of multimedia awareness campaigns across Morocco and to the Moroccan diaspora, prompting members of different faith groups to interact over common interests and shared identities

PROJECT DURATION

July 2021 – June 2024

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

High Atlas Foundation

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