



## MOROCCO INCLUSIVE EDUCATION TEACHER TRAINING ACTIVITY

Deaf and hard of hearing youth in Morocco receive a formal education, but most do not have access to inclusive education, reducing their long-term socio-economic well-being.

There are over one million deaf and hard-of-hearing people in Morocco. There are no precise statistics regarding school enrollment rates for deaf and hard-of-hearing (DHH) children, though it is believed that the number in grades K-12 is approximately 4,000. Academic achievement is limited for these students, with most discontinuing their education beyond sixth grade. Those who do continue are often required to attend a mainstream secondary school without access to teachers with the capacity to provide deaf education or Moroccan Sign Language (MSL), which is not recognized as an official language of education. Only one education institution, the Lalla Asmaa Foundation in Rabat, provides secondary education catered to DHH youth in Morocco.

### USAID RESPONSE

USAID signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Lalla Asmaa Foundation, and Mohammed V University, establishing a framework for collaboration to promote deaf education in Morocco using MSL and Modern Standard Arabic. This MOU also lays the groundwork for the formal legal recognition of MSL as a language of instruction in Morocco. The four-year Morocco Inclusive Education Teacher Training Activity, facilitated through the MOU, will strengthen deaf education in primary schools by providing MSL and specialized deaf education training to teachers.

USAID's support through the Morocco Inclusive Education Teacher Training Activity is expected to:

- Deliver **MSL COURSES TO PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS** and train trainers of teachers on how to provide the courses.

- Prepare an **IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM ON DEAF EDUCATION** for current primary school-level teachers.
- Foster collaboration with Mohammed V University on a **DEAF EDUCATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAM** for future teachers interested in specializing in deaf education.
- Build the capacity of the deaf community to **PROMOTE DEAF EDUCATION AND AWARENESS** around issues faced by people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

## **FACTS AND FIGURES**

### **IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:**

- DevTech Systems, Inc.
- University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Center on Deafness

### **HOST COUNTRY PARTNERS:**

- Ministry of National Education, Preschool and Sports
- Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation
- Ministry of Solidarity, Social Integration and the Family
- Lalla Asmaa Foundation
- Mohammed V University
- Moroccan National Federation of the Deaf

**LOCATION:** Rabat, Morocco

**BUDGET:** \$2.79 million

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