The United States supports the Moroccan Government’s response to the COVID-19 outbreak in Morocco through health interventions, economic relief, and social assistance programs.

The United States, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), has invested more than $10.8 million in Morocco’s COVID-19 response. This assistance supports the Government of Morocco to enhance laboratory systems, improve COVID-19 case detection and surveillance, support technical experts for response and preparedness, increase communication and awareness about the risks of COVID-19, and provide critical food relief and psychosocial services to vulnerable households in Morocco.

USAID is also supporting Moroccan civil society organizations to provide support to victims of gender-based violence and to support special needs of persons with disabilities impacted by the outbreak.

This assistance builds upon long-term U.S. investments in Morocco adding up to more than $2.6 billion in total assistance over the last 20 years, including $64.5 million in health assistance. Through USAID, the United States Government is providing life-saving support by coordinating with the Government of Morocco and other stakeholders to identify priority areas for investment.

OUR WORK

USAID’s response to COVID-19 in Morocco is multisectoral, with investments in public health, economic and food security, social assistance to vulnerable populations through civil society organizations, and support to the education sector.
HEALTH

COVID-19 Pandemic Health Response, implemented by the World Health Organization ($670,000): Working hand in hand with the Ministry of Health, the WHO procured handheld devices for epidemiologists to host COVID-19 surveillance data; purchased COVID-19 lab diagnostic testing kits and laboratory equipment for the Ministry of Health and national laboratories; and strengthened the capacity of the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) through the provision of video conferencing equipment.

COVID-19 Pandemic Health Response, implemented by UNICEF ($3,700,000): With USAID investment, UNICEF disseminates COVID-19 information to the general population, creates prevention and control interventions for vulnerable populations (maternal, child, and newborn health services), and procures water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) equipment and supplies for child protection centers, schools, and early childhood development centers.

Moroccan Red Crescent COVID-19 Response, implemented by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) ($1,000,000): Implemented via the Moroccan Red Crescent National Society and the German Red Cross, this activity enhances risk communication and COVID-19 preparedness in urban and rural areas of Morocco by reaching a targeted 180,000 beneficiaries across five MRC branches in two focus regions (Oriental and Drâa-Tafilalet). The activity is recruiting an additional 180 MRC volunteers to train in epidemic preparedness. Lastly, infrared thermometers, radios, and 15,000 masks were provided to all 50 MRC branches across Morocco.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Favorable Opportunities to Reinforce Self-Advancement for Today’s Youth Activity (FORSATY), implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) ($1,200,000): Funds assist the Government of Morocco’s effort in supporting vulnerable groups under confinement to ensure they are food secure (distributing 20,000 food baskets), provided with social services for mental well-being, and successfully reintegrated into society after confinement. Funds also supported the community-oriented policing component to provide technical assistance to police officers during COVID-19 for community outreach and engagement during the country’s state of emergency, including communications campaigns. This activity raises greater awareness of COVID-19 and builds trust between authorities and communities during the lockdown.

Cooperative Financing Program, implemented by GiveDirectly, Inc. ($3,000,000): As a response to the economic challenges posed by the pandemic, USAID provided $3 million to GiveDirectly, which matched this funding with an additional $3 million, to provide working capital to 500 vulnerable cooperatives in the Beni Mellal-Khenifra and Marrakech-Safi regions. This funding is reaching 250 cooperatives per region with a grant of $10,000 per cooperative. This project is alleviating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis and will target hard-hit sectors of the economy, including tourism, handicrafts, services, and agriculture. The program is also increasing investment and job creation for marginalized populations, including women, youth, and persons with disabilities.

Combating Gender-Based Violence during COVID-19 in Marrakech-Safi, implemented by the Ennakhil Association ($321,036): USAID investments are supporting established gender-based violence (GBV) response services for women and children facing increased levels and severity of gender-based violence due to COVID-19 confinement. The program is expanding access to virtual listening center platforms, training victims of gender-based violence for jobs in the catering industry, and advocating for the inclusion of victims’ needs in local public policies and development plans.

Strengthening Morocco’s Gender-Based Violence Response during COVID-19, implemented by the American Bar Association - Rule of Law Initiative (ABA-ROLI)
($206,964): USAID investments complement Ennakhil Association’s activity by raising public awareness of domestic violence and COVID-19, supporting a national domestic violence assistance online platform, and building Moroccan civil society organizations’ capacity to provide remote and online support services for GBV victims. These efforts help to ensure GBV victims have improved access to information on legal rights and support services during the pandemic.

Humanitarian and Advocacy Initiative for People with Disabilities Affected by COVID-19, implemented by the White Dove Association ($312,000): USAID investments are supporting the access of persons with disabilities (PWD) and their families to information related to national policies for managing the COVID-19 pandemic. The program also offers opportunities for continued education and distance learning for PWD and/or students with special needs to ensure the continuation of their education during the pandemic. Lastly, the program provides skills development for micro-entrepreneurship or self-employment, and builds capacity in crisis management and monitoring the situation of PWD during crises.

EDUCATION

Reading for Success - National Program for Reading, implemented by Creative Associates International ($361,000): USAID investments support the Ministry of Education to provide access to basic education services through distance education to deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) children (grades 1-12) who would not have access to educational materials under COVID-19 lockdown and school closures. USAID supports sign language interpretation services to make distance lessons that are currently offered to the general student population also accessible for DHH students. Activities include the development of content that is disability-inclusive, gender-sensitive, and relevant to the Moroccan context for all newly developed distance education materials and media. This activity will result in filling the education gap caused by COVID-19 for DHH youth in Morocco.

For more information on COVID-19 from the U.S. Embassy in Morocco, please visit: https://ma.usembassy.gov/25161/

For more information about USAID’s response to COVID-19, please visit: https://www.usaid.gov/coronavirus-covid-19

For more information about novel coronavirus disease COVID-19 from the CDC, please visit: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

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