



# Morocco

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## Country Snapshot

<b>Total population:</b>	31.6 million
<b>Life expectancy at birth:</b>	71 years
<b>Adult literacy rate:</b>	56%
<b>Access to improved water source:</b>	83%
<b>GDP per capita (PPP)*:</b>	US\$4,638
<b>Infant mortality rate:</b>	32 per 1,000 live births
<b>Maternal mortality rate:</b>	240 per 100,000 live births
<b>HIV prevalence:</b>	0.1%

Sources: UNICEF State of the World's Children Report 2010, \*UNDP Human Development Report 2010

**Program Overview** CARE began work in Morocco in 2007 as part of the National Initiative for Human Development launched in 2005 by King Mohammed VI. The initiative's objective is to reduce inequity in Morocco through action in three areas: increased access to basic services, such as health, education, culture, public services, and transport; promotion of income-generating activities; and socio-economic development assistance for the most vulnerable. CARE will build the capacity of local partners and contribute to the political development of the country through this initiative, which is implemented through partnerships between the state and local and international organizations. Since its creation, CARE Morocco has implemented seven different projects, benefitting more than 3,500 schoolchildren, 5,000 families, and 25 local associations. Special attention is paid to youth and disadvantaged rural and peri-urban groups as severe inequity between urban and rural populations remains a problem. CARE focuses its activities south of Casablanca and Marrakesh and in the eastern region.

### Urban Social Development

In Morocco, increasing urbanization is concentrating more and more of the population around the major cities. As this relocation has not been effectively managed, these regions often lack basic public services and the poverty rate is high. Awareness of this issue has been raised, but support is still needed for the growing network of community-based organizations, and the practice of participatory community development must be reinforced to encourage the involvement of civil society, the commercial sector, communes, and local administration.

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CARE works to identify and support initiatives of local associations or individuals, assist the development of priority social development projects by communes and other local actors, and ultimately help implement these projects. This process includes capacity building for partners throughout, so as to ensure sustainability of the projects.

From 2008-2010, three projects were carried out in the areas surrounding Casablanca and Rabat, benefitting nearly 1,000 families. Training and support for income-generating activities was provided and children received scholastic assistance and preschool care.

### Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Many rural and peri-urban populations still lack access to sanitation and potable water. This seriously impacts the quality of life and health in the area, particularly for students attending rural schools. CARE works to support rural communes and associations to make their voices heard by authorities and relevant agencies in order to create solutions for household access to potable water. CARE also works to promote good hygiene practices, and equip rural and peri-urban schools with water, toilets, and sinks.

During the past two years, CARE implemented three projects in the eastern region of the country and the areas surrounding Casablanca and Marrakesh. The projects provided 2,100 rural families with access to water and educated 2,700 schoolchildren on good hygienic practices.

### Agriculture and Rural Development

The rural zones are the poorest in the country, but Morocco has significant potential in agriculture and rural tourism. The government has recently begun significant development work under the Plan Maroc Vert, which indicates both the work that is needed but also the potential which exists to invest in value-creation projects in rural communities.

CARE supports smallholder farmers in the Doukkala region south of El Jadida to facilitate their organization and training for a local irrigation project. CARE is also involved in the conversion to a localized irrigation system and adaptation of local cultural practices. Water-access projects initiated in the eastern region (Aïn Sfa) will also progressively permit initiation of irrigation and integrated rural development projects. One project has already begun, benefitting nearly 100 smallholder farmers in the Doukkala plain.

### Major Donors and Partners

L'Agence de l'Oriental, the Coca-Cola Africa Foundation, La Commune rurale de Ouled Saleh, The Fondation Abbé Pierre, the Air France Foundation, the Societe Generale Corporate Foundation for Solidarity, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, L'Initiative Nationale pour le Développement Humain, the Syndicat des Eaux d'Ile de France, the Syndicat Intercommunal d'Assainissement de Valenciennes, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and several local partners.

Last updated January 2011

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