



**ULUSLARARASI MAVİ HİLAL İNSANİ YARDIM VE KALKINMA VAKFI**  
**INTERNATIONAL BLUE CRESCENT RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION**

# **MOROCCO EARTHQUAKE**

**IBC Situation Report**

**22 September 2023**



## Devastating Earthquakes in Morocco September 2023

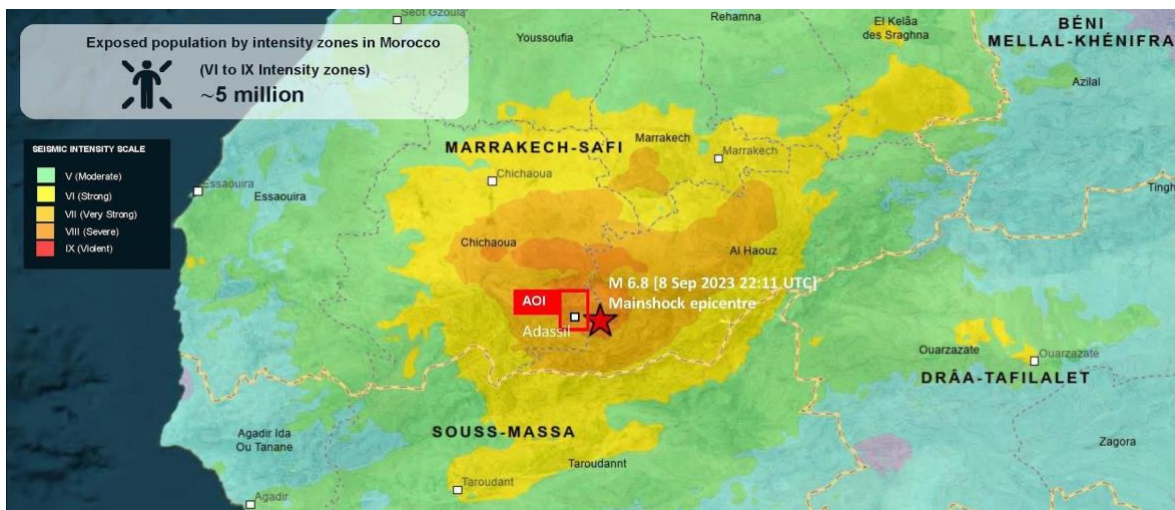
International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation (IBC)

Friday, 22 September 2023 Situation Report – updated 18:00 (GMT+3)

International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation would like to extend our sincere condolences to all affected by the earthquakes this week. IBC employees in the region are safe and accounted for, though some have lost family members and loved ones and saw their entire homes destroyed. Thank you to all mobilising and the heroic search and rescue teams. Immense and continued cooperation is needed to prevent further loss of life and suffering.

### Disaster Overview

Fourteen days have passed since a 6.8 magnitude earthquake hit central Morocco, High Atlas Mountains, southwest of Marrakesh city, the most powerful earthquake in a century to strike Morocco. According to the US Geological Survey, the earthquake's depth was 18.5 km, affecting al-Haouz, Marrakesh, Ouarzazate, Azilal, Chichaoua and Taroudant. Hundreds of aftershocks were recorded, the strongest reaching up to 5.9 magnitude.



The National authorities reported that 2,946 people lost their lives and 6,125 individuals were injured in the wake of this natural disaster.<sup>1</sup> The Government of Morocco has swiftly initiated emergency response efforts to provide relief and support to the affected communities. Additionally, the United Nations maintains active and closely coordinated communication with the Moroccan national authorities, working together to mitigate the impact of this catastrophe and provide essential aid to those in need.<sup>2</sup>

Government officials are leading in responding to the crisis and providing crucial aid and assistance to those affected by this tragic event. Due to the extensive damage caused by the earthquake, many people have been displaced from their homes and seek refuge in public facilities, often resorting to sleeping outdoors.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/death-toll-from-morocco-earthquake-tops-2-800/2989002>

<sup>2</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/morocco/morocco-earthquake-situational-brief-13th-september-2023>



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*The village of Takaterte has been devastated by the recent earthquake.*

The Ministry of Education has reported that 530 and 55 boarding schools have suffered damage, with Chichaoua and Taroudant provinces being the most brutal hit. Efforts are underway to clear roadblocks on local and national highway systems, slowly allowing roads to reopen and enabling access to remote mountain villages.<sup>3</sup> On 18 September, students returned to schools in quake-hit areas. Tents were set up in Marrakech city to accommodate around 6,000 students.<sup>4</sup>

The President of the USA, Joseph Biden, called King Mohammed VI of Morocco to offer his condolences for the loss of life in the devastating earthquake on September 18th. They reviewed U.S. assistance to support Morocco's efforts in the disaster response, including \$1 million allocated to relief activities. They discussed the United States' readiness to assist in recovering affected regions. The two leaders agreed to remain in close contact<sup>5</sup>.

The royal palace has said that Morocco plans to spend at least 120 billion dirhams (\$11.7bn) in a post-earthquake reconstruction plan over the next five years. The plan would target 4.2 million people in the worst-hit provinces of Al Haouz, Chichaoua, Taroudant, Marrakesh, Ouarzazate, and Azizlal, the royal palace said on Wednesday, following a meeting of King Mohammed VI with the government and army officials.<sup>6</sup> Last week, the palace said that 50,000 houses were known to have been damaged and that authorities would provide shelter and 30,000 dirhams (\$3,000) to affected households. It also pledged to offer reconstruction aid of 140,000 dirhams for collapsed homes and 80,000 for damaged ones.<sup>7</sup>

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) will provide Morocco with a \$1.3 billion loan following the earthquake. The Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said the loan, which will be used “in the face of climate-related risks.” will still need to be approved by the IMF board during its

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/morocco/morocco-earthquake-flash-update-3-11-september-2023>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/search-operations-for-survivors-continue-in-quake-hit-morocco/2995622>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/09/18/readout-of-president-bidens-call-with-king-mohammed-vi-of-morocco/#:~:text=They%20reviewed%20U.S.%20assistance%20to,to%20remain%20in%20close%20contact.>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/9/20/morocco-to-spend-11-7bn-on-post-earthquake-reconstruction-plan>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.diplomatie.ma/en/statement-royal-office-15>





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annual meetings in the Moroccan city of Marrakech on Oct. 9-15. Georgieva said the IMF and the World Bank staff are closely working with the Moroccan authorities to assess Marrakech's capacity to host the 2023 IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings.<sup>8</sup>

### IBC in the Field

**International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation (IBC)** has been on the ground since Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> September and released an [IBC Flash Appeal Responding to the Morocco Earthquake](#) 11 days ago. Since then, many people have been on the streets and require basic needs, especially winter items and some shelter to guard against the cold air, especially in the region's rural areas, which were utterly destroyed.

IBC, with its extensive experience in implementing humanitarian and development programs, particularly in emergency response, has effectively coordinated its efforts with donors, partners, authorities, and local organisations. The collaborative approach enables IBC to efficiently address the urgent needs of the people in **Ijoukak, Tinzart, and Taroudant**. The organization has provided crucial emergency assistance, such as hot soup, hot meals, emergency supplies, and essential hygiene items. In recent days, IBC, with the generous support of partners like **IDRF Canada, Action Medeor and Islamic Help UK**, has been diligently working to distribute food kits, cooking ovens, tents, and blankets to hundreds of survivors affected by the earthquake.



*Food and NFI distribution, Ahl Tifnout,*

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Seminars/Campaigns/2023/Marrakech2023>



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On 13 September, the first place where IBC started its emergency response was a small village called Tajgalt in Ijoukak. With IDRF and Islamic Help UK's support, IBC reached 200 beneficiaries.

On 14 September, after 3 hours of driving and 2 hours of walking in the mountains, IBC and its donor IDRF were the first to reach a small village called Ijoukak, which was severely affected by the earthquake. IBC, with IDRF, was able to provide support to 150 individuals affected by the quake by distributing food packages, including sugar, rice, oil, tea, salt, flour, cookies for kids, etc.



*Food Parcels distributions, Takaterte / Ahl Tifnout*

On 17 September, in Takaterte / Ahl Tifnout, IBC reached out to 300 beneficiaries with Islamic Help UK and Penny Appeal and distributed emergency kits, food packages and blankets. On 21 September, IBC with Good Neighbours reached out to 1,200 individuals and distributed emergency materials, including food and hygiene kits in Ayt Tadraret, Taroudant—the need for tents and winterisation clothing increases as the season changes, IBC field staff reported.

IBC being in the field since 12<sup>th</sup> of September, reached out to more than 1,850 individuals in Taroudant/ Goundafa and Ayt Tadraret, in Ijoukak/Tajgalt, Azgour/ Thirte and Takaterte / Ahl Tifnout, distributing food packages, first aid kits, blankets, cooking tools (stoves and pots), baby foods and diapers, gas cylinders and clothes and hygiene kits for women. Additionally, IBC procured 300 tents, 1,000 blankets, 1,000 mattresses, 1,000 hygiene kits with the help of Action Medeor, and 500 food packages with IDRF's support to be distributed in the affected zones.

IBC's work will continue to provide food, water, and shelter as the need grows. IBC also develops a three-month plan to address the needs of the survivors. IBC is mobilizing flows of vitally critical medical supplies, food, hygiene kits, and essential equipment to fulfill the needs of the earthquake survivors. Personnel on the ground continue to operate crucial, lifesaving operations while plans to expand and intensify activities are finalised.





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On September 19, 2023, in Marrakesh City, a distribution activity took place, serving a total of 1,000 beneficiaries, including 300 men, 400 women, and 400 children. The items distributed included ready-to-eat meals, generously provided by Islamic Help UK, and other essential items such as tents, winter clothes, hygiene packs, and floor bedding. These urgent needs were addressed in various villages. Looking ahead to the upcoming week, on Sunday, September 24, the plan is to conduct a Non-Food Item (NFI) distribution, which will include items like mattresses, blankets, pillows, and hygiene kits, along with small food packs. In terms of partnerships and future plans, a meeting was held with Zaimah, another donor, with the intention of expanding collaborative efforts in both Morocco and Libya. They have expressed interest in having us conduct assessments for their upcoming winter campaign, and as IBC, we are planning to oversee one of their deployment volunteering experiences in Morocco.

*IBC would like to thank its generous partners, donors, and their networks so far, who have allowed us to respond urgently to this devastation that has shaken the region to its core:*

- International Development and Relief Foundation
- Action Medeor
- Islamic Help UK
- Together Rising
- Episcopal Relief and Development
- Corus International
- King Baudouin Foundation US
- Global Giving
- Good Neighbours

### **Urgent Needs in General:**

**Tens of thousands of tents, shelter**

**Heaters** for the tents, fuel

Essential first aid kits

Hygiene and Sanitary Kits (for children and adults); **Diapers**

**Medicine and Medical Equipment**

**Blankets & Winter Clothing**

**Power banks**

Wheat for Bread Production

Drinkable water, **canned food**

Bedding

Lightings

**Baby care kits**



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Fourteen days after the devastating earthquake, the needs in the region grew overwhelmingly. Medical and general evacuations continue; shelter/tents, thermal clothing, heat, water, power supply, and medical aid are still *urgently needed*. The damage done to roads and infrastructure has made many areas simply unliveable. As personnel on the ground are tasked with recovering the deceased and evaluating structural damage, the relief efforts to meet the needs of the hundreds of displaced residents must be scaled up immediately, especially for the most vulnerable: women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. IBC will keep all partners and potential donors apprised of the current situation daily.

We ask our partners and international civil society members to help us in these tragic days so that together, we may overcome the suffering of our people.

**Donate** to help earthquake victims via IBC at GlobalGiving: <http://goto.gg/61253>

### **In-Kind Donations**

IBC has started coordinating bulk or large in-kind items from international companies, individuals, and partner NGOs- depending on the quantity, type and needs in the field/specific location and transportation access.

For in-kind donations and more details , please contact [partnerships@ibc.org.tr](mailto:partnerships@ibc.org.tr).

For urgent information and to help, you can reach:

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