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100 DAYS AFTER MOROCCO EARTHQUAKE

Overview

On September 8, 2023, at 22:11 UTC, a significant earthquake measuring 6.8 in magnitude struck Morocco at a depth of 18.5 km. The epicenter was located in the High Atlas Mountains, approximately 71km (44 miles) southwest of Marrakech. In response to this event, Good Neighbors promptly deployed the Global Emergency Response Team. We initiated a comprehensive needs assessment and conducted an initial distribution of food items to address immediate requirements. Also, we have established Child-Friendly Spaces (CFSs) and implemented a Psycho-Social Support (PSS) Programs. These efforts aim to provide crucial psycho-social and emotional support for children, complemented by the distribution of essential items to meet the most pressing needs in the affected area.

2.8M Affected People	19,095 Destroyed Houses
500,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	5,674 Injuries
60,000 Damaged Buildings	2,960 Deaths

Our Emergency Response Approach

Prioritizing Urgent Needs

We conduct a thorough and rapid needs assessment to understand the specific challenges faced by each village. We identify areas with the most pressing needs, focusing particularly on those experiencing severe conditions, to direct immediate attention and resources where they are most impactful.

Creating Stability for Children and Promoting Psycho-emotional Well-being

In affected areas, a stable and nurturing environment is offered for children to experience a sense of normalcy and emotional support. The CFSs act as refuges where children can engage in play and activities to promote their psychological well-being despite challenging circumstances. Additionally, the PSS Programs are integrated into villages to address the mental well-being of residents, with a focus on the difficult conditions they face. The PSS Programs are implemented to enhance emotional resilience among children, providing a safe and supportive environment for coping with stress, expressing emotions, building resilience, and improving mental health.

Strengthening local partners

We strengthen partnerships with local organizations and community leaders to ensure a more effective and culturally sensitive response. Also, we have engaged with local partners to gain insights into community dynamics, needs, and potential solutions.

Priority-Based Distribution

Based on the initial assessment and insights from the local partners, we prioritize distributing food and non-food items, including hygiene and winter items. By distributing hygiene and winter items in the distribution, it indicates a commitment to providing comprehensive support. Hygiene items address health and sanitation needs, while winter items contribute to the protection and well-being of individuals in adverse weather conditions, demonstrating a holistic approach to community assistance.

Our Response

1 | ESTABLISHMENT OF 3 CHILD-FRIENDLY SPACES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

In the villages of Douzrou, El-Bour, and Amskin where Good Neighbors have been active, positive changes are evident. Children in these areas benefit from a secure and enjoyable space provided by CFSs from Monday to Friday. Even during inclement weather, these children find refuge and warmth indoors.

Within the CFSs, trained local volunteers offer PSS Programs to children for them to express their thoughts and emotions. This program significantly contributes to the emotional resilience of the children in the villages. Through targeted activities and education, children develop the capacity to cope with stress, adversity, and trauma, fostering emotional strength that extends beyond the immediate crisis.

Integrating paid volunteers into the PSS Programs within the CFSs as part of a livelihood program adds another layer of community engagement and sustainability. Also, volunteers gain valuable skills, enhancing personal and professional development.

3 CFSs established in Douzrou, El-Bour, and Amskin

3,290 Children participated in PSS Programs

64 GN-PSS Training of Trainers (Psychology major)
GN conducted Training of Trainers for professional implementation of the program to provide reliable training to facilitators of CFSs from the project areas.

9 Volunteers in 3 CFSs
In each village, volunteers of CFSs are mobilized to provide PSS program.



DOUZROU

There are 25 boys and 15 girls that come every weekday with 3 women volunteers. A total of 2,000 children were accommodated in the CFS.

EL-BOUR

There were 26 girls and 14 boys that come every weekday with 1 men and 2 women volunteers. A total of 730 children were accommodated in the CFS.

AMSKIN

The facility accommodates 40 children everyday with 3 women volunteers. A total of 560 children were accommodated in the CFS.

2 | DISTRIBUTION OF ITEMS

The residents in these regions have been provided comprehensive support to address urgent needs. A food distribution initiative ensures access to nourishing means, aiming to alleviate hunger and malnutrition. Additionally, essential hygiene kits and warm clothing address health, sanitation, and cold weather challenges. This multifaceted approach underscores our commitment to their overall well-being and aims to ensure that individuals are equipped to face the specific challenges brought about by the earthquake aftermath, fostering a sense of comfort and protection within the community.

Food Items Distribution

1,230 people **240** households

Hygiene and Winter Items Distribution

2,400 people **480** households

Our Location





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Impact Story

Like so many other children in Morocco, *Nour Houda*, 10 years old lost 8 of her family members from the earthquake.

Since after the earthquake, tents has served as their shelter in the cold weather conditions and this disaster have caused negative impact to her emotional well-being.

Through the CFS established in her village, it helped her cope up on the emotional distress caused by the devastating earthquake.

“The activities I did in the CFS helped me a lot to overcome all this pain. I enjoy them a lot and they helped me forget the bad memories from the earthquake.” - Nour Houda, 10.



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The minute we started applying the [PSS] program in all of the regions, happiness came up. The children were more active, more personalizing, the fact that they are in a safe environment.

- Hayat, Project Manager

Good Neighbors has implemented a series of child-centered psychosocial support programs, developed in collaboration with psychological experts, in various disaster situations around the world for over 10 years. These programs address the emotional and psychological needs of children affected by disasters. In Morocco, Good Neighbors has partnered with international mental health and psychological specialist groups, local psychologists, academia and practitioners to ensure enhanced protection of affected children.

Way Forward

We are actively working to distribute the winter and hygiene items to the three remaining villages based on the needs assessment, addressing immediate needs during the harsh winter.

Additionally, recognizing the crucial importance of child protection, we are not only establishing CFSs but also expanding our efforts within the Child Protection Sector. As part of this expansion, we are operating PSS Programs. We continue to provide emotional support, resilience-building, and a safe space for children to cope with the challenges they may face in this adverse condition.

