OPENING STATEMENT

More than 5 months after the 6.8-magnitude earthquake that struck Morocco, WeWorld, with the support of CEFA as implementing partner and national and international partners as ChildFund Alliance, ChildFund Korea and Educo, continues to intervene in the affected areas to respond to the needs of the population.

This document is meant to share the response that has been put in place to counteract the negative effects on those affected by the earthquake, particularly the most vulnerable children and the elderly.
SITUATION OVERVIEW

The consequences of the 6.8-magnitude earthquake that struck the Atlas Mountains, mainly the Marrakech-Safi region and the Souss-Massa region are still relevant for the affected populations, mainly for the displaced ones. The financial aid promised by the Moroccan government to respond to the needs has officially started to be distributed. However, numerous controversies arose over the criteria for assessing the damage and allocating the funds. Protests through marches and sit-ins took place in the provinces of El Haouz and Marrakech. The NGOs active in the affected areas have organised themselves into a coordination divided by intervention themes, which go on fortnightly, and which makes it possible to maintain a uniformity of intervention in the areas affected by the earthquake, especially regarding WASH, PSS, Protection and Health. These sectors of intervention, together with shelter emergency, remain a priority for the areas that already presented challenges in terms of access to basic services.

RESPONSE

Multi-sectorial
Shelter and NFI distribution
Psycho-Social support
Education and Early Childhood

LOCATION
Provinces of Chichaoua, Al Haouz and Taroudant - Morocco
WEWORLD IN MOROCCO

After contacting residents and operators on the ground, as CEFA implementing partner, WeWorld decided to intervene in the provinces of Chichaoua, Al Haouz and Taroudant in coordination with local authorities and other international and Moroccan associations. The Organization activated days after the Earthquake a contingency plan, which included the dispatch of three WeWorld and CEFA teams, consisting of five workers and a psychologist, to identify needs and distribute essential goods. The teams focused on the two most affected regions: the province of Taroudant in the Souss-Massa region and the provinces of Al-Haouz and Chichaoua in the Marrakech-Safi region. It is in these areas where the immediate and the mid-term responses have and are being carried out.

WEWORLD’S EMERGENCY RESPONSE

RESULT OF THE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

From October 2023 to January 2024, the immediate response carried out by WeWorld consisted of providing prompt relief support to the displaced and affected population and reached a total of 6,096 people, divided as follows:

- **NFI and Shelter**
  The 4,058 inhabitants of the 24 douars where CEFA intervened benefited directly from the distributions of:
  - 1171 Family hygiene kits, containing soap bars, laundry soap bars, shampoos, toothbrushes, toothpastes, nail cutters, towels, combs, razors, plastic buckets, jerry cans and sanitary pads;
  - 409 winterized tents, along with a winterization kit for the ground and a tool kit for reparations;
  - 1394 blankets and mattresses;
  - 263 torches and solar lamps;
  - 7 communal kitchen kits to 121 families for a total of 438 individuals (no longer needed after repeated need assessments).
• **Psycho-Social Support**
  1,633 people benefited from three types of activities:
  
  o 71 Discussion groups (32 for women, 33 for children and 6 for men) run by two field psychologists, one man and one woman who could speak both the local languages (Moroccan Arabic and Tamazight/Berber). Children’s discussion groups were based on activities such as drawing or games.
  o 47 Individual and 14 family counselling sessions;
  o A referral system for individual or families requiring additional services: So far, a total of 7 referrals have been made, and 14 are in the process of being completed.

The deviation from the first response plan indicators is the result of the fact that the PSS activities started only in December 2023, due to tent priorities and difficulties in finding local psychologists willing to undertake long field missions. The activity will however continue throughout 2024, covered by the mid-term and long-term responses.

• **Education and early childhood**
  405 children – for a total of 1822 indirect beneficiaries within their family members -.
  broken down as follows:
  o 292 beneficiaries of the games distributed in the classrooms
113 beneficiaries of the recreational activities on the sidelines of the Psycho-Social Support interventions

The play-recreational activities started only in January 2024, once a link had been established with the inhabitants of the douars in the intervention areas and they will continue throughout 2024, covered by the mid-term and long-term responses. Moreover, high-school-age youth in the earthquake-affected areas have been placed in boarding schools in large urban centres to ensure that they can carry out the school year regularly, which is why it is impossible to carry out activities with this category of beneficiaries.

The following mid-term and long-term response will be carried out throughout 2024 by CEFA autonomously, for which the funds have already been secured.

Earthquake Response in Morocco as of February 2024