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# DAKIRA

The USAID Dakira program helps preserve Morocco’s multicultural history through collective community efforts.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The USAID Dakira program, implemented by the High Atlas Foundation and its partners, aims to collaboratively develop and pioneer a unique participatory approach to the educational preservation of Morocco’s multicultural history. The program encourages local communities to capture, preserve, and transmit their collective memories so that they are better equipped to take ownership of the revitalization of their own histories. This introspective, experience-sharing approach among local participants maximizes relationship building, leading to collective actions that improve livelihoods and a deepened discovery of Morocco’s multicultural identity.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The goal of Dakira is to explore and strengthen interreligious and inter-ethnic solidarity through community efforts that preserve cultural heritage in Morocco through two overarching objectives:

- Objective 1: Enhance Religious and Cultural Preservation, Learning, and Social Cohesion
- Objective 2: Support Initiatives that Promote Tolerance, Interfaith Dialogue, and Multiculturalism

The opportunity to rebuild the narrative of Morocco’s multifaceted heritage is quickly passing for those who have gathered and preserved the stories. To preserve Morocco’s cultural heritage, Dakira engages a robust network of diverse local civil society organizations (CSOs) to support program implementation. Through these partnerships, Dakira catalyzes the diversified and coordinated engagement of civil society actors, community leaders, and local stakeholders to discuss, reflect, and learn about Morocco’s religious and ethnic heritage. These partnerships enable the documentation and dissemination of practices, lived experiences, and testimonies shared by stakeholders, along with the restoration of tangible heritage.

The program develops an integrated and participatory approach focused on empowering communities through capacity building and experiential learning to promote multiculturalism, social cohesion, and diversity. This participatory approach is also the basis for creating shared plans of action for improving future livelihood opportunities within the targeted communities.

## **PROGRAM THEORY OF CHANGE**

If the memory of Muslims, Jews, and Christians living together is preserved, and if people are brought toward greater cultural understanding, then a strengthened solidarity will emerge that will improve social cohesion and serve as a model for interfaith and multicultural dialogue in Morocco and the region.

## **RESULTS ACHIEVED SO FAR**

- Enabled 175 religious and cultural heritage sites to be identified, evaluated, and mapped in various regions of Morocco with the American Society for Overseas Research
- Created over 50 educational and outreach tools for facilitators and participants of interfaith dialogue initiatives, including tour guides, students, and CSOs
- Engaged more than 150 schools and 1,500 children and youth in heritage learning activities in five regions of Morocco
- Pioneered Moroccan Jewish heritage and Hebrew language learning for over 400 tour guides, youth, and Master's-level students
- Facilitated more than 20 heritage preservation capacity-building sessions with more than 220 civil society and community members in six regions of Morocco
- Engaged over 1,000 community members in intercultural, interreligious, and intergenerational community dialogue
- Collected more than 80 individual testimonies from community members regarding their multicultural and interreligious experiences in Morocco
- Supported the digitization of the archives of the Catholic Diocese of Rabat from 1890 onwards, which represents 70,000 personal files, 80,000 pages of registry records, more than 5,000 administrative documents, and 10,000 pages of magazines and reviews
- Reached 180,000 unique views of more than 540 Dakira-generated posts on online platforms, more than 150 press appearances, and three books translated and/or published
- Organized 44 outreach events in seven regions of Morocco that promote tolerance and dialogue and connect people across faith backgrounds, age, gender, and ethnicity

### **PROJECT DURATION**

July 2021 – June 2024

### **IMPLEMENTING PARTNER**

High Atlas Foundation

### **CONTACTS**

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