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### **Former US Peace Corps Volunteers Launch Rural Development Foundation in Morocco**

RABAT, Mar.18 - A group of former US Peace Corps volunteers and staff who served in Morocco have recently launched "The High Atlas Foundation" (HAF), a non-profit Ngo aiming to promote development initiatives in the Kingdom's rural areas.

"As former US Peace Corps volunteers, we have noticed during our stay in Morocco, the Kingdom's huge potential," the Chairman of the Foundation's board of directors, Jason Benmeir told MAP.

The High Atlas Foundation aims to accompany Morocco's efforts in achieving sustainable development, through projects targeting rural communities, Benmeir added.

The Foundation's projects consist of implementing more efficient irrigation systems, launching an annual fruit trees planting campaign and creating women's cooperatives, among others, said Benmeir.

The former US Peace Corps volunteer further said that these projects are based on a partnership approach between private and public sectors.

The High Atlas Foundation's board of directors comprises Morocco's ambassador to Washington, Aziz Mekouar, Ellen Paquette, former Director of Peace Corps in Europe, Mediterranean and Morocco and Edward Gabriel, former US ambassador in Morocco.

HAF founders use their professional relationship, friendships and knowledge gained during their years of Peace Corps service to achieve projects in local Moroccan communities.