



مؤسسة الأطلس الكبير  
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High Atlas Foundation

# HOUSE OF LIFE

*Intercultural Organic  
Fruit Tree Nursery Initiative*

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MOROCCO



"House of Life" is a traditional name for a Jewish cemetery.

The gateway to the burial site of Rabbi David-ou-Moshe, Morocco, July 2021

# Morocco

**is intrinsically a multicultural society.**

In the distinctive past of this nation, Muslims, Jews, and Christians shared life, culture, and language. Moroccan people today testify to the exceptional history of the diversity and cohabitation of the Abrahamic religions here, and the Kingdom is committed to the celebration of this vibrant mosaic.

**King Mohammed VI has championed the integration of cultural and sustainable development, expressing a vision that "consists of ensuring culture serves as a driving force for development as well as a bridge for dialogue."**

Approximately 600 venerated rabbis known as *tzadikim* are buried throughout Morocco. Many have laid in rest a millennium or more. With a number of these burial sites and surrounding cemeteries comprising unused and potentially arable portions of land, the Jewish community has the extraordinary opportunity to help meet Morocco's increased need for fruit tree agriculture, which aids in the dissolution of the intergenerational rural poverty it experiences.

# Interfaith Nurseries

**The Moroccan way:  
linking human  
development with  
cultural preservation  
and celebration.**

**The House of Life project facilitates the free loan of land adjoining Jewish burial sites in order to establish organic fruit tree and medicinal plant nurseries for the benefit of Muslim farming communities.**

Community-managed and supported by the High Atlas Foundation, the nurseries raise organic seeds into saplings. Once matured, the young trees are distributed to small scale farmers and schools around Morocco each year during the planting season.

Launched in 2012, House of Life upholds the notion that Morocco's multicultural past and present, and the preservation of it, should necessarily advance the sustainable development of the country by providing a tangible and vital pathway for the social and economic benefit of generations of Moroccans to come.



**An innovative agricultural initiative, House of Life's unique approach lies in its intercultural dimension.**



# Akrich

A first  
of its kind.

Built adjacent to the seven-hundred-year-old tomb of Rabbi Raphael Hacoheh and a Jewish cemetery, the first-established House of Life nursery is located in Akrich, a village in the Al Haouz province of Morocco, which is just south of Marrakech.

**Since 2012, nearly 300,000 saplings—almond, fig, pomegranate, and carob among them—have been transplanted with approximately 1,500 farming families.**

**Now, the nursery grows 46,000 saplings each year.**

With the support of the National Federation of Electricity, Electronics, and Renewable Energies (FENELEC) in Morocco, the nursery in Akrich is equipped with a solar water pump system.

# Imerdal

By order of the King.

In November 2020, HAF opened the second House of Life interfaith nursery near the town of Agouim on land lent in-kind by the Moroccan Jewish community in Ouarzazate.

**It was established at the direction of His Majesty King Mohammed VI with funding from the National Initiative for Human Development (INDH).**

Built on a single hectare on a mountainside terrace, it overlooks the 1,000-year-old burial place of the Moroccan Jewish *tzadik* Rabbi David-ou-Moshe.

**Within two years, 140,000 almond, walnut, cherry, fig, pomegranate, and carob saplings grown here have been transplanted with farming communities.**

# Growing House of Life



Thanks to new agreements with the Moroccan Jewish community and INDH, new interfaith nurseries are being built next to the burial sites of the *tzadikim* Rabbi Moul Almay in Sidi Rahal and Rabbi Haroon Abou Hassira in Telouet.

HAF has conducted assessments of more than a dozen other such spaces around the Kingdom to further expand the project.

With additional funding, millions of seeds can be raised and tree saplings transferred to agricultural fields and schools in all 12 regions of Morocco each year.

These trees can be monitored for carbon offsets, whose value is reinvested into community projects, further advancing the development goals of local people.

By doing so, and in training community and cooperative members to manage nurseries and related projects, the sustainable impact of House of Life is increased substantially.

## HOW CARBON CREDITS ARE EARNED IN MOROCCO

24 trees



generate one unit  
of carbon offset.

1 unit =  
1 ton

of carbon sequestered.

\$12

Cost to offset  
1 ton of carbon  
with HAF





**House of Life** is a substantial interfaith act that **advances social solidarity**.

In together caring for a **common space of meaning**, Muslim farming families and Jewish community members foster **enhanced goodwill** between them, enabling the creation of **positive development outcomes** for a **fruitful Moroccan future**.

Be our partner.

Do you want to **grow**  
**House of Life** with us?

Contact us: [partnerships@highatlasfoundation.org](mailto:partnerships@highatlasfoundation.org)

*The High Atlas Foundation is a Moroccan association and a U.S. 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2000 by former Peace Corps Volunteers committed to furthering sustainable development. HAF supports Moroccan communities to take action in implementing human development initiatives and promotes organic agriculture, water solutions, women's empowerment, youth development, education, and culture.*

*Since 2011, HAF has had Consultancy Status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council.*



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