

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Lions Clubs International Foundation Grant Helping Youth After Morocco Earthquake**

(Oak Brook, Ill., October 20, 2023) – The 6.8 magnitude earthquake that struck the Marrakesh-Safi region of Morocco in September was the largest to hit the country in more than 100 years, and the deadliest in decades. Thousands of people were killed and rural villages flattened. Homes were destroyed, as well as schools, hospitals and other medical and educational facilities.

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) quickly awarded the Lions in Morocco a US\$100,000 Major Catastrophe Grant to enable them to provide support to victims. After emergency needs were met, additional assessments were completed in the region to assist Lions as they developed a plan to help youth return to school.

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the quake damaged or destroyed more than 500 schools and more than 50 boarding schools, suspending classes in approximately 40 municipalities. LCIF grant funds will be used to build prefabricated classrooms and toilet blocks in two hard-hit villages, including 12 classrooms and three restrooms in Amizmiz and three classrooms and one restroom in Mejjat.

“The devastation we’ve seen as a result of this earthquake is truly heartbreaking and impacted people of all ages,” said Lions International President Dr. Patti Hill. “We hope this grant project can bring a small bit of relief to the youth in the region, by rebuilding a place where they can gather to comfort each other as well as continue to learn.”

LCIF Major Catastrophe Grants are awarded at the discretion of the Lions International President and LCIF Chairperson when catastrophes occur with major international impact. They are intended for long-term reconstruction projects that help communities impacted by large-scale natural events.

“When disasters strike, Lions are among the first to respond to the needs of the people impacted,” LCIF Chairperson Brian Sheehan said. “Our members live and work in the region and will remain poised to help communities continue to rebuild after this tragedy. LCIF is proud to be able to support their efforts.”

**About Lions International Foundation**

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is the global foundation supporting the 1.4 million members of Lions Clubs International through grant funds that expand their compassionate works and empower their service at home and around the world. Since its founding in 1968, LCIF has awarded more than 20,000 grants totaling more than US\$1.2 billion. We improve health and well-being, strengthen communities and support those in need, locally and globally. Learn more about who we are and what we do at [lionsclubs.org/lcif](https://lionsclubs.org/lcif) or donate to LCIF at [lionsclubs.org/donate](https://lionsclubs.org/donate).

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