

Morocco: Improving livelihoods and protecting watersheds through efficient irrigation



Global Environment & Technology Foundation (GETF)

Imegdale, Ait M'hamed, Ourika Valley, Morocco

Program: Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN)



Project Quick Facts

Project Name:	Improving livelihoods and protecting watersheds through efficient irrigation
Location:	Imegdale, Ait M'hamed, Ourika Valley, Morocco
Project Duration:	March 2017 - March 2020
Beneficiaries:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1,142 people measurably impacted• 753 women and youth economically empowered• 31.7 hectares of land with improved irrigation
Key Partners:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RESING• Moroccan Biodiversity and Livelihoods Association (MBLA)
Activities Summary:	This project aimed to enhance livelihoods, economic opportunities and ecosystem function through the establishment of efficient irrigation systems for community nurseries and smallholder parcels in the Moroccan High Atlas.

Project Description

In the High Atlas of Morocco, The Coca-Cola Foundation (TCCF), through its flagship program, Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN) is contributing to protecting watersheds and improving livelihoods through the establishment of efficient irrigation systems for community nurseries and smallholder parcels.

There is growing pressure on the local ecosystem resulting from overharvesting of valuable plant species, overgrazing by livestock in vulnerable ecosystems and climate change, among other factors. The effects of such chronic water mismanagement in many High Atlas communities have far-reaching impacts: they constitute an important limit on agricultural production, contribute to poverty, inequalities, and economic migration. Through the implementation of efficient irrigation projects for smallholder parcels and for community nurseries, where economically and ecologically important species are grown for sale and enrichment planting, this project addressed three core, interdependent elements in this complex feedback loop: inefficient water management, poverty, and ecological erosion.

RAIN partners constructed water basins and installed drip irrigation in communities to increase water supply to parcels; established permaculture nursery for ecological restoration and economic empowerment in addition to conducting environmental and social impact assessments to ensure maximum impact.

By supporting this project, RAIN contributed to enhancing livelihoods, increasing economic opportunities for women and youth and promoted environmental protection.

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RAIN Program Overview

Launched by TCCF (in 2010) in response to the severe health challenges faced by millions of Africans living without access to safe drinking water, RAIN aims to improve access to safe water for 6 million people in Africa by 2020. In addition, RAIN aims to create employment opportunities for women, youth and families through water project activities as well as improve children's learning environment through WASH in schools. RAIN is backed by an 11-year, \$65 million dollar commitment by TCCF and made possible through the support of more than 140 partners.

Grant period: 2010-2020 (11 years).

Program Description: RAIN supports a wide range of water-related projects in response to Africa's significant challenges in meeting the SDGs on water. Projects are designed to meet specific community needs including water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); productive use of water; and watershed protection.

