

Copy of original given to Bob Harris by mission  
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(75022)

REPORT ATTACHMENTS TO  
TOAID A-3

MISSION FINAL DISASTER SUMMARY REPORT

(U 1560/1)

1. Statistics and Description

Country: Morocco

Estimated Dollar Property Damage: Not available

Date of Disaster: April 1975

Location: Provinces of Oujda, Figuig, Taza, Ksar-es-Souk  
and Ouarzazate (see map attached)

Population of Disaster Area (see table attached)

Number of People Affected: some 12,000

Number killed: 10                      Number Injured: not available

Number Homeless: 10,075              Number evacuated: not available

Number of Buildings Destroyed (public and privately owned): 301

Number of Buildings Damaged: -GOM's report mentions "several  
hundred" but final figure is not  
available

Other Destruction; Cattle Losses (see table under narrative  
description below)

Narrative Description on the Disaster:

Heavy rains, which started on April 21 and continued, intermit-  
tently, until May 5, 1975, caused serious floods in the provinces of  
Oujda, Figuig, Ksar-es-Souk, Taza, and Ouarzazate. Approximately  
10,075 people were rendered homeless while several hundred persons,  
who had to be removed to safer places, needed food and other assis-  
tance. Cattle, trees and parts of crops were carried away. Damage  
included one bridge and approximately ten kilometers of road and  
railroad track washed away. The following provisional figures of  
victims and damage, based on preliminary reports, were communicated  
by the Government of Morocco to the office of the UNDP Resident  
Representative in Morocco:

	Number of Persons Affected		Dwellings		Cattle Losses
	Dead	Other Victims	Destroyed	Damaged	
OUJDA	2	2,500	147	70	"Several hundred"
FIGUIG	2	1,300	-	10 (Ksour) (Compounds)	-
TAZA	1	2,875	118		31 oxen, 2714 sheep, 92 goats, 7 horses/ mules/donkeys
KSAR ES SOUK	-	1,800	10	3 (Ksour)	-
OUARZAZATE	1	1,600	26	"several Douars" (Villages)	1,361 sheep, 6 goats, 19 horses/mules/ donkeys

Out of a total of the 10,075 surviving victims, 4055 were children. Six peasants were killed and a few (number unknown) injured. The Governor of Ksar-es-Souk, a senior provincial official, and two army officers were also killed in a helicopter accident while flying over the flooded area to ascertain the extent of the disaster. Six persons were injured as a result of the same accident.

Statistics, supplied to the CRS field inspector who visited Oujda soon after the floods started, show a rainfall of 153 mm between April 20 and April 25 while Figures for the whole year were: 112 mm in 1973 and only 64 mm in 1974. Although damage in some areas within the five provinces mentioned above was important, the disaster was fortunately not a major catastrophe.

## 2. Relief Operations - In-Country

Local authorities in each of the provinces affected acted promptly in organizing and directing rescue operations. They were assisted by the Army, the Moroccan Red Crescent and the Entraide Nationale. The Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform visited the flooded areas. The "National Commission for Civil Protection" met in Rabat to survey the situation and coordinate relief. Food, medicines,

tents and blankets were made available as a first emergency assistance. Arrangements were also made for the repair of damaged roads and the re-establishment of railroad communications, telephone and telegraph. Steps were taken to assist farmers and cattle-breeders who suffered loss. According to the local press, the following attended the meeting of the "National Commission for Civil Protection":

- The Minister of the Interior (President)
- The Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior
- The Secretary-Generals of the Ministry of the Interior and of the Ministry of Public Works
- The Governor responsible for Civil Defense at the Ministry of the Interior
- Representatives of: the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform; the Secretariat of State for Entraide Nationale and Handicrafts; the Royal Armed Forces; the Auxiliary Forces; the Royal Gendarmerie; and the Moroccan Red Crescent.

### 3. Relief Operations - U.S. Government

No special relief assistance was requested from the U.S. Government (or any other Government, as far as is known to the Mission) except for an allocation of P.L. 480 Title II commodities as described in Section 4 below.

### 4. Relief Operations - U.S. Voluntary Agencies

a. No assistance was provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies from their own resources.

b. Catholic Relief Services - USCC/Morocco released at once, with USAID's approval, a quantity of P.L. 480 Title II foodstuffs from on-hand stocks. This consisted of 78,000 lbs. Bread Flour and 6,006 lbs Vegoil, valued at \$8,007.

It should be noted that these commodities have been earmarked for projects to be carried out, within the normal Food-for-Work self-help program, in the flood-stricken areas. This was done by "shifting", on a priority basis, FFW commodities for such projects.

### 5. Appraisal of U.S. Government and Voluntary Agency Assistance

a. P.L 480 Title II food assistance was prompt and timely. It was highly appreciated by the provincial authorities.

- b. Relief supplies sent were not in excess of requirements.
- c. No U.S. personnel were involved.
- d. Information on any voluntary workers is not available.

e. Transportation of the P.L. 480 Title II commodities within the country is the responsibility of the Government of Morocco. Slight delays in transportation occurred, because some roads were temporarily impassable. Otherwise, there were it is reported, no major logistical problems.

f. The Moroccan authorities were able to handle the relief operations on their own.

g. Some photographs of the disaster area in the province Oujda are enclosed. These pictures have been supplied by CRS-USCC/Morocco.

h. Both Entraide Nationale and Provincial Governors expressed appreciation to the Morocco Program Director, CRS-USCC, for timely assistance with food.

i. Recommendation for improvement of U.S. operations in disaster relief - None.

j. Transportation and communications have been restored. Local authorities are engaged in the repair of other damaged.

6. Assistance by Other Countries and International Organizations

a. No assistance was sought from other countries but see "c", and "d" below.

b. & c. According to press reports, the Tunisian Red Crescent has provided 500 blankets through the Moroccan Red Crescent and the Swiss Red Cross has announced the despatch of 100 tents and 1000 blankets. A gift from the Dutch Red Cross of 3000 blankets valued at DH 37,500 has also been mentioned. More assistance from the Red Cross and other Societies affiliated to LICROSS is expected. The UNDP Resident Representative in Morocco has been informed for tents and blankets from Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Sun Societies which were required by the Moroccan Red Crescent to replenish its depleted stocks. This appeal was conveyed to Morocco to LICROSS, Geneva.

d. Appraisal of disaster assistance offered and provided by other countries and International Organizations: Not applicable.

Attachments: 1) Map and Population Statistics  
2) Photographs