

Assafou

ASSAFOU ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

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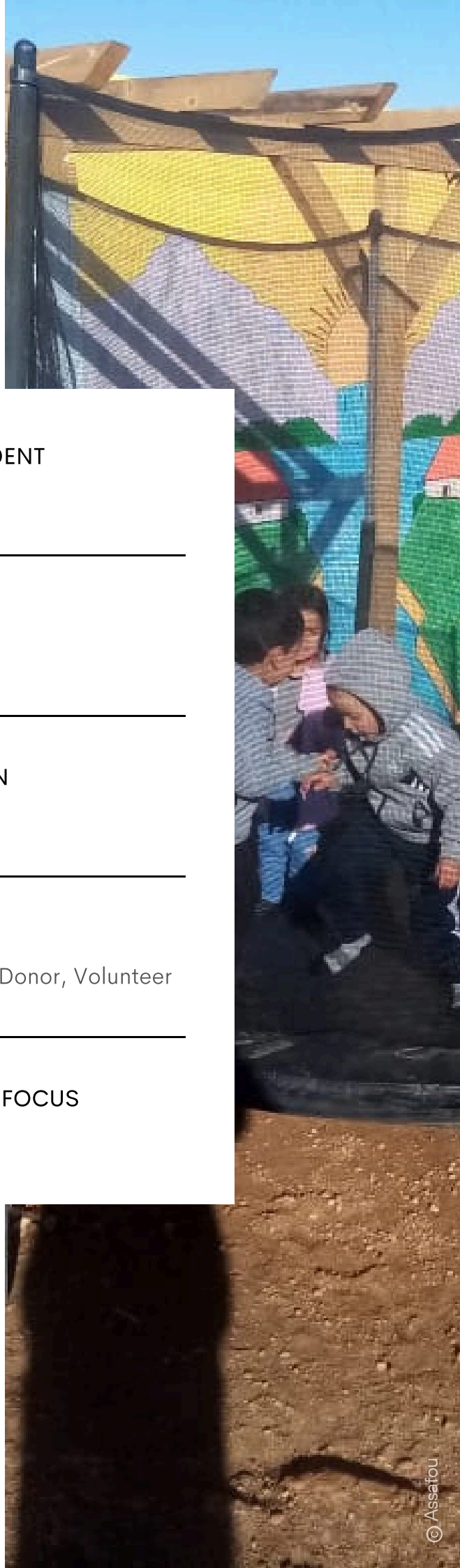
**UPGRADES
IN TIZI OUADOU**

**HIGHLIGHTS OF
RECENT ACTIVITIES**

**A PRESCHOOL IN
FOCUS: TIZI OUADOU**

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Note from the President

Since the beginning of the year, Assafou Association has been very active providing support to the children in its preschools, the women in its cooperatives, and to the people of Al-Haouz who are still rebuilding after the devastating 2023 earthquake. Through targeted activities and partnerships, we have been able to upgrade some of our preschools, provide warm clothes and school supplies to the children in our centers, support women working in our cooperatives, and supply some of the villagers with food and necessities during the month of Ramadan. During this period, Assafou also took the opportunity to look at its structure, its strategy, and its vision.

Assafou Association recently held its General Assembly at the Espace Provincial des Associations pour le Développement located at Tahanaout. The objective was to take stock of recent achievements, assess its financial situation, and discuss future direction. This was also an opportunity to review our staffing. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members who will no longer serve on our administrative board, but who I know will continue to support the association they helped create, and to welcome the new members who are committed to continuing Assafou's mission and bringing new energy and new ideas.

Indeed, a lot has happened in the past few months. Below is a quick summary of the achievements and what is upcoming.

We are very excited about the new preschool we are building at Ait Hssain. We expect it to be ready in the next couple of months. A lot of thought went into the architectural design and functionality of the center, making it a model for other preschools. Our objective, working with the local authorities, is to provide learning opportunities for every child in the region. We are confident that with your help and support, we can!

The children in our Agounsane center have joined the public school. The mobile classroom they were using was relocated to Douar Takhrit, providing early education opportunities to young children who otherwise would not have had access to quality preschool. Our sincere thanks to all involved in this operation.

In terms of new partnerships, I am happy to let you know about two key agreements that we recently signed that will help us strengthen our efforts towards the economic development of Al-Haouz region, our support to women's cooperatives, and most importantly, our support to early education. Assafou's reputation, expertise, knowledge of the region, and experience building and managing preschools make us an association of choice for organizations seeking to make a difference in early education, in particular, and in Al-Haouz region in general. We thank l'Association de Soutien au Développement Rural au Maroc (AdeR.M), based in Compiègne, France; and La Mission Locale des Jeunes de Montpellier, also based in France, for their confidence and trust. We look forward to working with them to bring sustainable economic development and support to the region in which we work and for which we all care.



Our center in Tizi Ouadou will be the "Preschool in Focus." Tizi Ouadou is an isolated village that suffered substantial damage during the earthquake, with over 75 homes destroyed. In this newsletter, we will introduce you to the center, its students and teacher, and the beautiful area in which it is located. A lot of progress has been made in rebuilding the village, but more work is needed.

Finally, I am very pleased to report that Assafou has a new website. It has the latest information on our activities and will allow us to share updates in a timely manner. Thank you to all those who donated their time and expertise to make it happen. Explore the updates at Assafou.org and don't forget to follow us on Instagram at @Association_Assafou!

Thank you again for all your support and referrals. If you or someone you know is interested in contributing to our efforts or volunteering time and/or skill, we can be reached at contact.assafou@gmail.com. Your contribution, no matter how small, can make a big difference!

With gratitude,

Abdelkrim Ouachikh

PRESIDENT, ASSAFOU ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

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ASSAFOU:

Highlights of Recent Activities

► Upgrades in Tizi Ouadou:

The children of Tizi Ouadou are enjoying the new playground. The classroom has also been recently repainted providing for a safe and pleasant learning environment. We expect to complete the work on the soccer field in the next couple of weeks. Thank you to all the donors, volunteers and partners for their collaboration and support of our preschool and the children of Tizi Ouadou.



► A preschool for the children of Tarikht:

In December 2024, we relocated the mobile classroom we had installed in Agounsane post-earthquake to the village of Tarikht, an isolated douar in Al Haouz region. In a very short period of time, 23 children registered and started attending class. Assafou ensured that the classroom was well equipped and that the students and the teacher had the necessary supplies for a successful learning program. Our team also delivered warm clothes to the students and initiated conversations with the women of Tarikht who expressed interest in establishing a cooperative.





► Ait Hssain Preschool:

Our center in Ait Hssain is almost ready. Our technical team, engineers, and Assafou members are working closely with the builder to ensure construction is of the highest quality and that it meets government requirements. The preschool will be ready for next school year. Over 20 children from three different douars are expected to attend the preschool. We look forward to sharing the latest photos – be the first to know by following us on Instagram at @Association_Assafou!

► Partnership for rural development:

Assafou members attended a two-day seminar in February 2025 with members of the Association de Soutien au Développement Rural au Maroc (AdeR.M). The objective of the seminar was to learn about each other's areas of work and interest, determine areas of cooperation, and identify future projects. AdeR.M has expressed a special interest in women's cooperatives (especially in exploring commercial opportunities for their products), solidarity tourism, and rural development in general. We have identified a few areas of cooperation and look forward to working together and making a difference for the people of the region. Our sincere thanks to the Centre de Formation et de Qualification dans les Métiers de L'Artisanat de Marrakech for hosting us for two days.





► Partnership for school reconstruction:

Assafou signed an agreement with l'Association Locale des Jeunes de Montpellier Méditerranée in March 2025. The objective of the convention is the reconstruction of Makhafamane school in Lalla Takerkoust. The work involves the reconstruction of two classes and the renovation of a third. This project also includes the renovation of bathrooms, building a fence around the school, and cleaning the surrounding areas. Assafou is responsible for the coordination with local authorities, the overall supervision of the work, and all the logistics related to the project. We are very excited about this partnership which is well-aligned with our goals and priorities.

► Food distribution & humanitarian aid:

At the request of some international associations and private donors, Team Assafou visited several villages in Al-Haouz and held meetings with regional and local authorities with the objective of identifying villages that could benefit from the establishment of a preschool. We have identified a few villages in need, and we are in the process of discussing options with various donors and associations interested in funding our projects.



ASSAFOU:

Our future plans:



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► Ait Hssain:

In the next few months, we will focus on equipping the preschool and, in collaboration with the local authorities, identifying a qualified teacher. The Commune of Tidili Mesfioua has offered to cover the teacher's salary during a transitional period; meanwhile, we are exploring other funding options, including government foundations that fund teachers' salaries and ensure their training. We are pleased to report that five of our qualified teachers are already covered by La Fondation Marocaine du Prescolaire and two by La Fondation Zakoura. Our objective is to have all the teachers covered by these two foundations. In that context, Assafou's president recently met with Mr. Mohamed Zerrouki, Al Haouz's Director of National Education, Preschool and Sports to discuss opportunities for further collaboration.



Continue to work with AdeR.M ◀

to advance our common agenda which involves providing support to the women's cooperatives that we manage and exploring opportunities for future projects, including in areas of early education and solidarity tourism.

► School reconstruction in Lalla Takerkoust:

Work has already started, and a total of 28 volunteers have already been on the ground. Assafou will work closely with the association's representatives, the local and regional authorities, and the technical team to ensure that the project is completed timely and efficiently.



► Repair/reconstruction of Assafou preschools

heavily damaged by the earthquake (Mriwat and Maghira) with the objective of transforming them into centers for afterschool programs. In the next few months, we will focus on raising new funds (for repair, equipment, and supplies) and building new partnerships to assist with this project.



► Update/renew existing partnership agreements

with local associations in villages in which we operate, with institutional partners and with governmental agencies. The objective is to involve all those concerned in our projects and ensure the sustainability and continued success of our centers and preschools.





We couldn't have done it without you

In every newsletter, we take the opportunity to thank the people/organizations that have helped us make an impact through their donations or through their work. Again, thank you to all of you who have continuously supported us. Your contribution, no matter how small, makes a big difference in someone's life. We appreciate your support and, even more, your trust. We couldn't have done it with you.



► Special recognition to the following:

- Khadir Alaoui and his team for developing Assafou's new website (Assafou.org) free of charge. We very much appreciate this contribution which will allow us to better document our work and to reach a wider audience.
- Fondation Alliance for their continuous support and for funding the transfer of the portable classroom to Tarikht.
- Karim Sebti and his team at Phileas for mobilizing quickly to ensure that transfer of the portable classroom from Agounssane to Tarikht was done quickly and efficiently, despite the very short notice.
- Commune Territoriale de Tidili Mesfioua, Tarikht local authorities and association for arranging a space for the mobile classroom, for facilitating local administrative matters, and for assisting with the identification and funding of a local teacher during the transition.
- Commune territoriale de Lalla Takerkoust for its support regarding the Makhafamane school reconstruction project.
- Abdelaziz Rghioui and his team at the Centre de Formation et de Qualification dans les Métiers d'Artisanat, Marrakech for hosting the Assafou/AdeR.M seminar in February 2025.
- Mr. Mohamed Zerrouki, Directeur Provincial de l'Education nationale, du Prescolaire, et des Sports in Al Haouz for his time and for his interest in the work of Assafou Association.
- La Clinique Internationale de Marrakech and its staff for their efforts and continuous support.

We have a heavy agenda in the coming months, but we are determined to advance our work and committed to delivering on our program. With your continuous help and support, we are confident we can succeed.

If you or someone you know is interested in contributing to our ongoing campaign, you can contact us at **contact.assafou@gmail.com**.

/// A PRESCHOOL IN FOCUS:

Tizi Ouadou



The beautiful village of Tizi Ouadou is located about 70 km from Marrakech. There are 90 households in Tizi Ouadou, and the population is estimated at around 400.

Tizi Ouadou suffered major damage during the September 2023 earthquake. Several lives were lost and many homes were destroyed. It was the first village we visited after the earthquake, bringing food and supplies within days.

Tizi Ouadou Preschool was built in 2014 by Assafou Association in partnership with the following local and international contributors:

- Childreach International
- Travellink



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Mr. Youssef Belati has been the teacher since 2018 and is actively involved in the development of the douar, working with the local association to better the lives of the villagers and their families.

- 116 children have attended the school since its opening; 53 were girls.
- 15 students were enrolled for the 2024/2025 school year; 8 are girls.

TIZI OUADOU PRESCHOOL

Congratulations to Leila Lourik, the first student to reach the baccalaureate level. We are very proud of her and her achievements. We are also proud of Youssef Barakat, Slimane El Kabli, Mostapha Wahmane, and Jamila El Fakir who are currently attending a technical high school in Marrakech. All are graduates of our preschool center in Tizi Ouadou!

Assafou is responsible for the overall maintenance of the preschool. In this capacity, it provides school supplies and uniforms, arranges for volunteers to help with renovations, repairs, etc., and ensures the well-being of the children.

In the past few months, Assafou was able to provide assistance in a few medical emergencies, arranging for treatment and covering medical fees thanks to donations from generous donors.

Recently our center at Tizi Ouadou underwent a major upgrade. A playground was built, the classroom was repaired and repainted, and a fence constructed around the school. We are very grateful to the local and international volunteers and associations who contributed to this work.



/// TIZI OUADOU PRESCHOOL

Work on the soccer field, which was requested by the children of Tizi Ouadou, was temporarily delayed as priority was given to rebuilding homes. However, in recent days, progress has been made; the field has been prepared, and the fence and goals are scheduled to be installed in the coming weeks.





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