

Fondation Orient-Occident

SOS

Earthquake

Solidarity

The earthquake that struck the Marrakech region just after 11 p.m. on the 8th of September 2023 has - so far - claimed more than 2,900 lives and injured 5,600 others. Thousands of people lost their homes and are now homeless.

The day after the earthquake, the Fondation Orient-Occident set up a **"SOS Earthquake" crisis unit** to prepare its response to the disaster. A team of social workers and psychologists is working to identify the villages worst affected, the needs on the ground, the local associations involved and the interventions underway.





SOS Séisme PSY
Assistance Psychologique

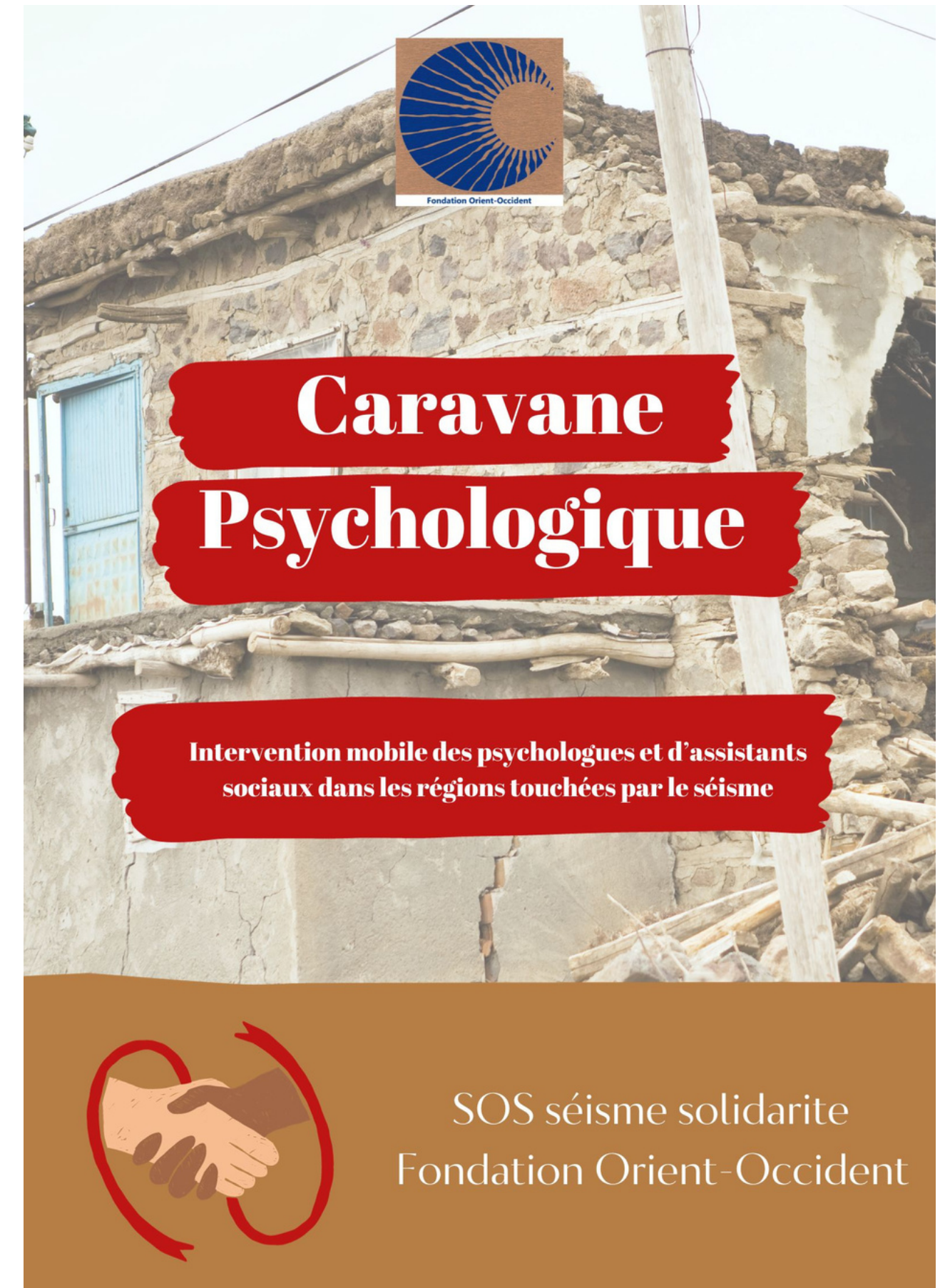
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Fondation Orient-Occident

The following Monday, the Foundation set up a **support line** with a toll-free number providing access to a discussion with one of the Foundation's psychologists. A **psychosocial activity group** of social workers and psychologists has been deployed in the disaster area to provide initial assistance. After an evaluation, we found out that, despite overall good coordination between the various organisations working in the region to help those affected by the disaster, some communities and villages had not received any help yet.

The Fondation Orient-Occident decided to focus its action on:

- **Psychosocial support** for disaster victims (Moroccans and migrants) with psychological problems living in Marrakech and Chichaoua.
- Psychosocial support for disaster victims & setting up **mobile schools and educational support** in the villages surrounding Tahannaout (Tinnelt, Azrou to start with).

As the worst-affected areas are in the region's rural areas, in the mountains, the Fondation Orient-Occident decided to develop an action within the framework of its community development programme in the villages surrounding Tahannaout, in collaboration with the Al Maqam association, located in this commune.



Methodology

The Fondation Orient-Occident wants to focus its aid on the **most vulnerable populations**, particularly the most isolated, who have not yet benefitted from another form of support.

By deploying part of its team in the field on a rotating basis, we aim to help the affected populations directly or by supporting local associations.

The Foundation wishes to draw on its previous experience in developing mobile schools by fitting out containers and setting up educational teams in the region of Khouribga to make a change in the affected villages to protect children from the risks of exploitation (through work, sexual exploitation, domestic work, etc.) and forced marriages. The Foundation will also organize **awareness-raising sessions** for families and children.





The Foundation will provide the local population with **innovative, sustainable equipment** adapted to the context: solar panels for mobile schools, waterproof djellabas to combat wind, cold and the risk of flooding, etc.

The Foundation is committed to supervising and providing logistical support and **skills enhancement** for the systems set up throughout the infrastructure rehabilitation period.

Education is the Foundation's number 1 priority. However, the SOS Earthquake Unit will be **constantly evaluating** the situation, in conjunction with the local authorities and population, to develop other areas of intervention if necessary.

Objectives

The general objective of this project is to **contribute to the rehabilitation of the affected areas through psychosocial support** for the most isolated populations and **access to education** for children in rural areas.

Specific Objective 1: Provide psychosocial support to 500 Moroccans and migrants severely affected by the earthquake.

Specific Objective 2: Promote access to education for 200 children and young people living in rural areas affected by the earthquake.





Results

Result 1: An **SOS Earthquake crisis unit** has been set up to coordinate the Foundation's response to the earthquake victims.

Result 2: **Psycho-social activity groups** are set up where the most vulnerable and isolated populations are located.

Result 3: **Mobile schools and educational support** are made available to the most vulnerable rural populations to give children access to education and reduce the risks of exploitation.

Roadmap

The main activities planned by the foundation to implement its intervention are :

- **Constant assessment of the needs of the target populations** in coordination with the authorities and community representatives and readjustment of the axes and zones of intervention
- **Awareness-raising on the toll-free number** (psychological support line) and continuation of the **psycho-social activity groups** (focus groups, awareness-raising, distribution of kits as required, guidance, art therapy, etc.) for people affected by the earthquake.





- **Mobilising partners to raise funds**, provide logistical support or complement our activities as required
- **Recruiting** the necessary staff (professionals and volunteers) to continue our work in the long term
- **Setting up mobile schools** with a teaching team to provide educational support for children in the target villages.

**Budget for 10
months :**

1.123.000 DHS

**School Year
2023/2024**

