The High Atlas Foundation (HAF) was founded in 2000 by former Peace Corps Volunteers who served in Morocco as a way to utilize the relationships and knowledge gained during their service for the continued benefit of the Moroccan people. HAF is a U.S. non profit organization and a Moroccan civil association.
Using a participatory approach, HAF works to establish development projects in different parts of Morocco that local communities design and manage, and that are in partnership with government and non-government agencies.
Which are our main goals?

- Community-initiated and managed projects
- Empowerment of marginalized rural and urban communities, women and youth
- Sustainable economic growth
- Capacity-building with cooperatives and civil groups
- Organic agriculture development - from farm-to-fork - that reinvests in people’s projects
Sami‘s Project

- Environmental education with students and teachers
- Tree and nursery planting activities in schools and with families
- Development of school infrastructure: building classrooms, bathrooms, water systems and dormitories
What do the students learn?

- Eco-friendly actions
- Preservation of the natural environment
- Recycling
- Protecting our planet
Women’s Empowerment

- Empower women in personal, community and social spheres
- Build agency through self-discovery workshops integrated with Moudawana
- Establish women’s cooperatives, based on tree and plant cultivation, food processing and artisanal crafting
Nursery Program

- Plant nurseries of organic fruit trees and medicinal aromatic plants
- Secure land for nurseries from Waters and Forests, public schools, universities and civil groups
- Generate income for farming families
- Overcome subsistence agriculture and poverty
How does the organic enterprise work?

Traditional farming
- Grow barley and corn: this is a root of rural poverty
- Grow nurseries on land lent by public and private groups
- Install irrigation systems

HAF
- Grow valuable crops
- Certify organic
- Process product
- Promote sales
- Monitor carbon
- Reinvest in Coops
- Generate income and fund new development
- Monitor trees for carbon credits

Organic farming
What did we achieve so far?

- Projects in 16 provinces
- Planted 2.2 million fruit trees (plus 1.3 million trees in 2017-18)
- Certified organic 300 hectares of walnuts and almonds trees
- 48,000 trees for carbon credits
- 25 clean drinking water systems (6 in progress in Moroccan Sahara)
- Capacity-building with 6 universities
- Built bathrooms in 11 schools
- 3,000+ participated in workshops
Thank you for your attention!