

# Rescue and recovery efforts for the animals affected by disasters in Morocco and Libya



The L'Arche de Noé team helps animals affected by the deadly earthquake in Morocco.

**Report prepared for  
Anicom Holdings, Inc. Japan  
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Dear Anicom,

With the unfortunate increase of disasters affecting some of the most impoverished areas around the globe, IFAW is grateful for the continued support of Anicom Holdings on behalf of our disaster response, rescue, and recovery efforts.

In the early hours of September 9, 2023, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck Morocco, destroying buildings and homes, and resulting in the loss of life of thousands of people and countless animals. Only a day later Storm Daniel (Cyclone Daniel) peaked in strength as it impacted Libya. High winds caused communications interruption and downing of electricity towers and trees. Torrential rainfall caused flash floods in several cities. Entire neighborhoods were destroyed in the port city of Derna when two dams outside the city collapsed.

Our support of animal rescue does not end at the conclusion of rescue efforts; in fact, that's when half of our work begins. Thanks to your generous donation of US\$25,138.86 we provided support to four local organizations, two in Morocco and two in Libya, to assess where aid was most needed and to successfully treat and feed animals in the days and weeks following these disasters.

On behalf of IFAW, its partners, and the animals that are safe and well-cared for, thank you. We are pleased to share the impact that Anicom has made on the lives of animals and their caretakers. Please reach out with any questions.

Best regards,  
Liz Fowler, Deputy Vice President of Development

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# Morocco



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Several weeks after the earthquake in Morocco, animals treated by L'Arche de Noé were recovering well in the clinic's care.

# Association L'Arche de Noé

In the aftermath of the earthquake, a fellow animal welfare organization with a long-standing relationship with Association L'Arche de Noé reached out to IFAW on their behalf. We learned more about L'Arche de Noé's reputable history of collaboration in supporting dog and cat rescue under the authority of their local government, and we reached out to offer financial support.

Immediately after the earthquake, the team from L'Arche de Noé quickly jumped into action to help rescue animals in Marrakesh, providing veterinary treatment and a safe place for injured animals to stay. IFAW provided an emergency grant for their rescue operations and to repair their shelter facility damage, but we could not cover all necessary restorations. The damage caused by the disaster had been severe enough to significantly endanger the safety and well-being of the animals and dedicated staff. Through Anicom's donation, IFAW was able to award a \$10,138.86 emergency grant to Association L'Arche de Noé to finish repairs to their shelter and veterinary clinic.

Thanks to Anicom's donation, L'Arche de Noé remains determined to continue the rebuilding process of its shelter to provide a safe and loving environment for its resident animals.

Portions from the funds given were also able to, cover expenses for sterilizations, vaccinations and other veterinary treatment for dogs and cats within communities recovering from the earthquake. Spaying and neutering dogs from particularly dense population areas will help control the pet population and reduce the spread of disease.

Several dogs and cats received lifesaving veterinary services, including one tumor removal, two eye surgeries (one dog, one cat), and several treatments for infections. Those animals needing additional care will continue to live at the shelter while the healthier animals will be released back to their original neighborhood.



Several weeks after the earthquake in Morocco, animals treated by L'Arche de Noé were recovering well in the clinic's care.

- ▶ 38 dogs and 50 cats were rescued, sterilized, and given care at the shelter.
- ▶ 35 bags of kibble (700 kg) were purchased; this fed the animals for approximately 15 days.
- ▶ Veterinary facility, donkey stables, dog kennels, play yards and water tower repaired.

# ERHAM Association



Group of dogs being fed.

After the earthquake EHRAM Association contacted IFAW for assistance. After careful vetting, and a recommendation from an animal welfare organization which had worked with them outside of a disaster capacity, we determined that their work in supporting roaming and abandoned domestic animals was reputable and impactful.

- ▶ 800 cats and 200 dogs living in these remote areas continue to be fed through Anicom's donation.

ERHAM Association mobilized immediately to distribute pet food for cats and dogs living in villages affected by the earthquake. As these areas began to recover, their focus turned to food distribution to those most in need, particularly temporary tented villages within the mountains experiencing harsh winters.

ERHAM is collaborating with the local government to offer sterilization clinics soon. As Morocco is home to a significant overpopulation of roaming cats and dogs, many of which become displaced and lose their caretakers following a disaster, there are high incidences of rabies. Vet care for ill or injured animals is often uncommon, and spaying and neutering will reduce unwanted litters, overall suffering, and the spread of disease leaving people to feel safer while living in close proximity to these animals.

# Libya



A stray village cat.



Cats amongst the rubble following the 6.8 magnitude earthquake.

# Alhaya Organization for Protection of Wildlife (AOPWMO) & The Libyan Wildlife Trust



A team member from Alhaya Organization for the Protection of Wildlife and Marine Organisms treats a dog impacted by flooding in Libya.

After hearing the news of the collective damage within Libya, our colleagues located in the Middle East and North Africa office reached out to their contacts to see how IFAW could be of assistance. Both AOPWMO & The Libyan Wildlife Trust came as recommendations as they are both members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and are well-respected by national government authorities.

Following the collapse of the two dams, these two local organizations were each awarded US\$5,000 in collaboration with one another to support field assessments in Derna and the surrounding mountainous areas to map, assess, and document any unmet care that was still needed. During the field assessment, responders distributed food for livestock and provided emergency veterinary treatment to stabilize injured animals.



Team members from Alhaya Organization for the Protection of Wildlife and Marine Organisms treat a cat impacted by flooding in Libya.

The results of the field assessment found that the most notable damage to the areas was the contamination of natural springs, bodies of water, and seawater with waste petroleum due to the destruction of fuel stations and storage facilities. Responders reported that thousands of livestock perished and those that survived required veterinary care and supplemental fodder; over 1,100 beehives were lost, impacting beekeepers and the surviving flora that depends on pollination; and that the Egyptian turtle habitat south of Derna had been impacted by the storm surge and pollution debris. It was also noted that the soil erosion deeply impacted orchards, fruit and vegetable farms.

Due to these timely field assessments, the two teams were able to quickly shift their focus towards the distribution of food and veterinary care to the surviving animals. While treating the animals for wounds caused by the disaster, the teams also discovered the spread of a virus among the domestic animals. Vaccinations and immune-boosting vitamins were swiftly administered to treat and prevent this virus from further spreading to other surviving animals and the surrounding population of people.





A team members from Alhaya Organization for the Protection of Wildlife and Marine Organisms treats a goat impacted by flooding in Libya.



Satellite image of coastal road after floods in Derna, Libya on September 13, 2023.



A donkey rescued from the devastating earthquake in Morocco and treated for serious injuries by the L'Arche de Noé team.



Several weeks after the earthquake in Morocco, animals treated by L'Arche de Noé are recovering well in the clinic's care.



The L'Arche de Noé team rescues a dog trapped in debris from a mountain that collapsed in the devastating earthquake in Morocco.