

القمة العربية لريادة
الأعمال والمشروعات
الصغيرة والمتوسطة**ARAB SMEs SUMMIT**

من الصمود للازدهار From resilience to prosperity

Marrakesh, 12-14 December 2023

مراكش، 12-14 كانون الأول/ديسمبر

United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa
Sub-Regional Office for North Africa

Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



Side Event on

Supporting Female-Led Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Earthquake-Affected Areas in Morocco

December 14th | 12.00-14.00

Context

On September 8th, a devastating magnitude 6.8 earthquake struck central Morocco, killing nearly 3,000 people, injuring many more and causing widespread devastation¹. Marrakesh, a historic and popular tourist destination, was the most impacted large city. The earthquake was felt in several other Moroccan cities, including Casablanca, Agadir, Essaouira and Rabat.

Earthquakes can have devastating effects on communities, causing significant economic and social disruptions. In such contexts, empowering female entrepreneurs can play a crucial role in the recovery and resilience-building efforts.

Supporting female-led MSMEs in earthquake-affected areas is not just about economic recovery but also about promoting gender equality and empowerment. It can lead to more inclusive and resilient communities in Morocco while fostering inclusive economic growth.

It is in this context that the Sub-Regional Office for North Africa of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA-SRO-NA) is organizing a side event on “Supporting Female-Led Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Earthquake-

¹ <https://www.ifrc.org/article/morocco-earthquake-ifrc-and-moroccan-red-crescent-response-date>

Affected Areas in Morocco”, at the Arab SMEs Summit 2023, scheduled to take place in Marrakesh from December 12 to 14, 2023.

Objective

This side event will present a great opportunity to explore initiatives aimed at supporting female-led Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in earthquake-affected areas in Morocco.

Language

The meeting language is Arabic, English and French. Interpretation available in all 3 languages (English, French and Arabic)

Contact Person

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Topics to be Covered

The side event will be an opportunity to shed light on:

- The unique challenges and vulnerabilities faced by female-led MSMEs in earthquake-affected areas in Morocco, such as damage to infrastructure, loss of inventory, and disruption of supply chains.
- The actions that can foster collaboration and exchanges among female-led MSMEs in earthquake-affected areas in Morocco, both within and across sectors, to harness synergies and mutual support, particularly during times of crisis.
- The strategies that female-led MSMEs in earthquake-affected areas in Morocco can adopt to build resilience and ensure business continuity.
- The support that the government and international organizations can provide to female-led MSMEs in earthquake-affected areas in Morocco.

Through engaging discussions and sharing of experiences, this side event will present a great opportunity to explore initiatives aimed at supporting female-led MSMEs in earthquake-affected areas in Morocco.

Agenda

December 14th | 12.00-14.00

12.00-12.30	Opening Remarks Ms. Zuzana B. Schwidrowski- Director of the ECA Office for North Africa
12.30-13.00	Opening Remarks Representative from the Government of Morocco
13.00-14.00	Discussions

