

## Morocco Regional Management of Health Services (PROGRESS)

### FUNDING SOURCE

USAID

### COUNTRIES

Morocco

### REGIONS/PROVINCES

Souss–Massa–Draa  
and Tangier–Tetouan

### OBJECTIVES

- >> Identified, defined, and developed effective roles, responsibilities, and capacities among different levels of the Ministry of Health.
- >> Local teams developed and tested innovative models to improve accessibility, use, quality, and efficiency of services.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Health services in Morocco are at a critical development juncture, which creates difficult challenges but exciting opportunities. Most of the country's urban population has acceptable access to primary health care services, and this has made impressive improvements in health indicators for that group. Rural populations have considerably less access to health care services, which were reflected in poorer health indicators. Maternal mortality rates, for example, are 125 deaths per 100,000 births in urban areas and 307 per 100,000 births in rural areas. In addition, progressive, well-trained professionals manage Ministry of Health programs, but this capability is not available at the regional, provincial, and local levels of the health care system, creating an inequitable situation. It is more challenging to improve management and service delivery improvements for the rural population.

JSI's PROGRESS project supported the implementation of decentralized primary, reproductive, and child health services in the Souss–Massa–Draa (SMD) and Tangier–Tetouan (TT) regions. In these regions, infant mortality rates (45 per 1,000 births for SMD and 43 per 1,000 births for TT) are higher than the national average (36.6 per 1,000 births).

The project focus areas included maternal health and emergency obstetric and neonatal care, child health and integrated management of childhood illness, family planning, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV/AIDS. JSI's major technical contributions, with the subcontractor, University Research, Co., were to increase capacity to support decentralization of the health sector, improve regional planning and evaluation capabilities, provide in-service (clinical) training and quality assurance, foster partnerships, and encourage community participation.

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