

Local Needs Assessment and Response

Drawing on long standing relationships with village communities, HAF personnel made contact with various community, association and cooperative leaders and undertook field visits to understand the needs of each community immediately following the earthquake. Working directly with these individuals helped to avoid unnecessary duplication and oversupply of humanitarian aid. As outlined above, it was clear that there was a dire need for clean water, shelter, food, and other essential personal and household items (including clothing, cooking utensils and hygiene products) to alleviate the immediate physical suffering of the earthquake-affected communities. It was understood that the road to recovery began by ensuring a community's safety, comfort and health. This would then allow them to focus on rebuilding their communities and livelihoods, including reestablishing irrigation and agricultural practices.

The Water-Survival box firstly, and most importantly, provides water purification equipment, facilitating access to clean drinking water. As outlined above, the earthquake caused significant damage to existing water infrastructure, such as wells, reservoirs and channels. Communities who largely relied on local spring water for drinking, came to understand that this water may no longer be safe. The purchase of bottled water is costly, and creates additional waste. Boiling water relies on gas or timber heating. The Water-Survival boxes addressed the need for clean drinking water, reducing the risk of waterborne illnesses, whilst raising awareness of overall health and wellbeing.

Secondly, the Water-Survival box contains useful household and personal items. As outlined above, many families were left with very little following the earthquake. Items including the multi-tool, knife, pliers, rope and wire, assist in the construction of temporary shelters, mending fencing and other building projects; soap, toothbrushes, and toothpaste assists in maintaining overall hygiene; kitchen utensils and cutlery allowed families to cook, providing nourishment, purpose and maintaining cultural practices. It is noted that these communities are very resourceful. All items were particularly valued for their usefulness and direct impact on improving the living conditions of the families.

Beneficiary Feedback

The general reaction to the Water-Survival boxes was positive, with beneficiaries appreciating the immediate assistance they provided. HAF field officers observed the joy and relief these boxes brought to families, many of whom had never before seen some of the items provided. Given the hard living conditions in temporary shelters amidst fluctuating winter weather conditions, the tools and household items were of great use. HAF field officers have received calls from beneficiaries, including female beneficiaries, with stories of gratitude for the small everyday comforts the items afforded, comforts that many of us would take for granted. Items tailored to the needs of women played a crucial role in enabling them to take care of themselves and their families under challenging circumstances.

“When the earthquake occurred, we were in our homes, and then we felt the ground moving. We did not realize what was happening. We left our homes towards safety, which was not clear in the black of the night. We all sat under the gaze of the sky and the stars. We did not have any cover. We sat in this situation until the early morning, and when everyone moved to look for something to eat and drink, we did not find anything, the situation was miserable. Until relief came, after the High Atlas Foundation provided us with everything we needed, tents, Water-Survival boxes, and other materials. We thank God for this blessing and for everything that the High Atlas Foundation provided”.

- Fdila, Widrarane village, 13 February 2024.

Suggestions for improvements were minimal but largely focused on the evaluation of the contents to better meet the evolving needs of the communities, including the addition of more items for children. This includes educational materials, such as books and learning aids, to support the continued education of children who might not be able to attend school. This would help maintain a sense of routine and normalcy for the youngest members of the community.

Case Studies

Family 1:

- Location: [Widrarane](#) village.
- Composition: A family of five, including three children under the age of ten.
- Comments: The water purification kit was a turning point for them, ensuring access to clean drinking water, which they lacked post-earthquake.

Family 2:

- Location: [Widrarane](#) village.
- Composition: Two brothers in their twenties, living alone after losing their mother during the earthquake.
- Comments: The multi-tool, and other equipment, was invaluable for making minor repairs around their temporary shelters, and helping to rebuild parts of their community.

Family 3:

- Location: [Asgoun](#) village.
- Composition: Two elderly women living together.
- Comments: The sewing kit and the feminine hygiene kit were highly appreciated, allowing them to manage their personal needs with dignity and engage in sewing to pass the time and repair clothing.

Family 4:

- Location: [Talilte](#) village.
- Composition: A single mother with four children, including a baby.
- Comments: The inclusion of pots and the water carrier was especially beneficial for this family, enabling them to cook and carry water for the children.

These case studies illustrate the diverse and significant impact of the Water-Survival Boxes on the lives of the beneficiaries, each with their unique needs and circumstances. The feedback and observations from these families underscore the importance of such aid in the aftermath of a disaster, highlighting both the immediate and lasting benefits of the support provided.

Documentation

Media

Additional images and video recordings of Water-Survival box distribution and beneficiaries are available [here](#).



Distribution of Water-Survival boxes, Amizmiz village. 1 January 2024.



Demonstration of Water-Survival box content, Amizmiz village, 1 January 2024.



Distribution of Water-Survival boxes, Widrarane village. 13 February 2024.



Demonstration of Water-Survival boxes. HAF Program Assistant, El Hassane Ahmatay, with Driss and Fdila, Widrarane village. 13 February 2024.

Maps

Maps of the villages are available here: [Asgoun](#), [Taliite](#), [Widrarane](#).

A country map showing the disaster area is available here: [High Atlas Foundation: Relief and Rebuilding](#).

Conclusion

The partnership between the HAF, Rotary and Water Survival Box Limited is evidence of the power of collaboration in humanitarian aid. The distribution of Water-Survival boxes not only provided immediate relief to the earthquake-affected communities but also marked a significant step in their long-term recovery. The positive feedback and case studies highlight the importance of tailored aid in disaster response. HAF thanks Rotary and Water Survival Box Limited for their support.