



HAF's Project-Mission Achievements

Through the application of participatory development, HAF and [its partners](#) have achieved diverse and sustainable projects since it began operations in Morocco in 2003. HAF is dedicated to projects that local communities identify and implement, and derive sustainable socio-economic and environmental benefits. This Report describes HAF's project and partnership achievements in Morocco (including by province), and its organic agricultural-social enterprise that amplifies the greeneconomy and invests in human development.

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A Million to a Billion Trees, and HA³

On 16 January 2014, [HAF celebrated the completion of the 1 Million Tree Campaign](#), benefiting 5,000 marginalized rural families as the trees mature.. Four hundred thousand additional fruit tree and seeds will be planted during 2015.

These projects embody dozens of public and private partnerships that if taken to scale can enable thousands of communities to most efficiently and sustainably produce the billions of trees and plants needed as part of ending subsistence agriculture in Morocco that keeps most families in poverty.

HAF and communities, with the social enterprise – [High Atlas Agriculture and Artisanal \(HA³\)](#), create local initiatives that span the entire agricultural development cycle – from nurseries to market, farm to fork – of certified organic agricultural raw and value-added products.

The added value is it marketed as organic, fair-trade and environmentally and socially responsible – and it will generate a multiplied return by investing in education, health, water infrastructure, and business development particularly for women and youth. In this way, coops act as engines of local development.

Starting January 2015, we are scheduled to export to the United States 14 tons of organic certified walnuts from the Toubkal commune of Taroudant. With now our full value chain in place, we can achieve greater scale.

HA³'s reinvestment model can be replicated throughout the region as a sustainable means to address food security and development challenges. HAF has formed partnerships to begin implementing this model in Palestine, Jordan, and Burkina Faso. HA³ has received the [SEED Award for entrepreneurship and development](#). HA³ participates in the [Agora MedSpring Brokerage](#).

Since the completion of the 1 Million Campaign, HAF has [launched a 1 Billion Tree Campaign](#), with the goal of implementing this agricultural enterprise in most of Morocco's provinces in the next 10 years. This initiative now taking place in eight provinces includes:

- [Coop-building](#) with farmers and associations an training for members to support its agricultural enterprise activities and administraton
- Building tree and medicinal plant [nurseries](#) and irrigation infrastructure (terracing, basins, wells, piping)
- Training in organic methods for plant nurseries, orchards and greenhouses, and planning and management
- Securing organic, fair trade, and other certifications
- Conduct value-added processing with a zero waste commitment through [biomass for clean energy](#) (nutshells) and offsetting emissions
- Market and sale of products (currently almonds, walnut, olive, argan, pomegranate, and medicinal aromatic plants)
- Disburse net profits as dividends for family farmers (via coops)
- Invest with coops in communit- identified projects in education, health, enterprise development, and women and youth initiatives

HAF-Community Projects

To achieve sustainable and empowering human development requires broad-based participation in all project phases – from design to evaluation. HAF-community project achievements in this regard include:

- [Building 18 drinking water systems](#) in villages (reducing infant mortality among 4,000 people);
- Establishing and capacity-buiding with 16 agricultural, artisanal and educational coops, including 5 [women's](#)
- [Sami's Project](#): Building 3 schools and 1 teachers' housing; drinking water and bathrooms at 8 schools, [planting and distributing trees at 68 schools](#); and environmental education
- [Training](#) in facilitating participation 400 people—students and civil society and communal members
- Training 2,100 farmers in organic farming
- Working with 4,000 farmers to secure [organic certification](#) of their agricultural product; and
- Implemented a [preservation project](#) for the cemeteries of the 3 faiths (Essaouira), and engaged 450 youth in education about Moroccan identity.



Mohammedia Development Training Center

[People's participation](#) requires an ever-growing supply of local facilitators of inclusive community planning and project implementation. Facilitators of participatory methods create open local discussions on socio-economic and environmental challenges and assists communities in their consideration and analysis of their goals.

In 2008, with the aim to address the significant need in Morocco to train facilitators of participatory planning and project management, the HAF created, in partnership with Hassan II University's Faculty of Law, Economics, and Social Sciences in Mohammedia, the *Center for Community Consensus-Building and Sustainable Development*. [We trained 446 people this year in facilitating participatory development](#), including university students, locally elected women to municipal councils, and civil society members. In Mohammedia, through the Center's learning-by-doing design, 3 federations of civil society organizations were created in 3 municipalities – together they may more effectively achieve shared goals.

HAF is committed to benefiting from community development projects catalyzed by training thousands of people in facilitating participatory planning.

Sami's Youth Education Project

Since 2012, HAF engaged 68 rural schools with [Sami's Project](#), to improve the learning environment, health and girls' attendance. School planting projects are accompanied by environment education activities to introduce youth to climate change challenges and to promote actions, such as recycling and water conservation. In addition to the botanical gardens and shady recreational areas that are created, HAF builds infrastructure. The construction of gender-segregated toilets and school water systems in Al Haouz, Boujdour and Rhamna province helps reduce absenteeism, which is particularly high among girls who attend schools without toilets.

HAF's Intercultural Innovation

HAF has intercultural innovation at its roots. Founded in 2000 by former US Peace Corps volunteers, HAF is currently active in two areas of intercultural innovation. Firstly, we develop [organic fruit tree nurseries](#) for the benefit of farming families on land donated by the Jewish community of Morocco. In February 2014, HAF's partnership with the Marrakech Jewish Community to deliver such projects was recognized by the [Mimouna Club of Al Akhawayn University](#). Secondly, since 2012, HAF conducts awareness-raising and capacity-building activities around [cultural heritage in Essaouira](#). Activities in Essaouira began with the rehabilitation of the cemeteries of the three religions, alongside educational activities for over 450 school children and students. HAF now hopes to expand the education program and build capacities among local officials, companies and CSOs to manage the rehabilitation of disused buildings of cultural and religious heritage to become meeting spaces and centers of inter-religious, intercultural and civic dialogue and exchange.



New Partnerships

Agriculture and Training:

- An agricultural-participatory training program has now been launched with [a new partnership with the Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane](#). Students and community members will gain participatory training and meetings and the benefits of a 50,000 fruit tree nursery built on land lent by the University. HAF's training Center at the Hassan II University in **Mohammedia** is serving as a model for further HAF-University partnerships – building and partnering with three coalitions of civil organizations and realizing the projects of the student community. HAF is actively seeking development training partnerships with Moroccan universities.
- HAF's partnership with the [High Commission of Waters and Forests](#) is to support development with communities that neighbor the nation's ten national parks, especially by lending land for community nurseries. HAF built two organic nurseries with communities of the Toubkal National Park (**Al Haouz and Taroudant**), a total of about 200,000 fruit saplings. HAF implemented a community tree project (3,000 fruit saplings) with the Tazekka National Park (Taza); is working with the Ifrane National Park; and is opening projects with the Eastern High Atlas National Park (**Errachidia and Khenifra**). We are also focusing on developing threatened historic fig varieties for value-added marketing.

Education:

- With public and civil partners in the **Boujdour** province, HAF and communities built drinking water systems in seven schools as well as a hygiene education. As a result of 10 months of participatory planning, projects identified during these community meetings include the creation of a women's Cooperative, clean drinking water systems, and irrigation systems. They will be implemented in 2015 if new funding is gained. To support these projects and youth education and enterprises development, HAF signed partnership agreements with the ministries of Education and with Youth and Sports and four schools (primary, secondary, and high schools, and is developing one with the Ministry of Agriculture).
- A scholarship fund has been established for the benefit of young girls in **Taza** Province. The Bernard Mejean Scholarship for Girls' Education provides support to enable young Moroccan females to pursue high school and higher education. This scholarship fund contributes to the costs of books, school supplies and further course instruction for many driven youth. This fund supports the pilot youth initiative, which incorporates service learning, was established by Wahiba Estergard, a Taza native.

A HAF-Moroccan Vision

HAF's vision for Morocco is Morocco's vision of itself: it is the successful implementation of the *ideals* that form Morocco's own National Initiative for Human Development, Communal Charter, decentralization, binding of democracy-building with sustainable development, and frameworks for social justice and people's empowerment, especially for women and youth.

HAF's and Morocco's vision sees public-private collaboration at all levels of society to assist communities (villages and neighborhoods) in furthering their self-reliant development. It sees community members across the country coming together to identify and implement the projects they most need and want – which range depending on the opportunities they face.

To implement this across Morocco, the nation needs to catalyze participatory planning and implement the projects communities determine. It is now a matter of action, and HAF is dedicated to helping Morocco seize its special opportunity.

"The persisting economic and financial crisis, the uncertainty and the bleak prospects that characterize the global economy, the growing risks, the unacceptable unemployment rates, the magnitude of migratory flows and the devastating effects of climate change are all threats to stability in the world." - King Mohammed VI of Morocco

HAF project achievements in ten provinces in Morocco

1. Al Haouz Province:

- HAF celebrated the planting of its one-millionth tree at 18 sites in Al Haouz, planting and distributing nearly 2,000 trees with 13 rural schools and 6 community sites.
- With support from local farmers who have benefited from HAF's capacity-building and training programs, in the Asni commune of Al Haouz province, 180,000 walnut seeds and 10,000 cherry has been planted in community-managed nurseries;
- 100,000 walnut, almond, olive, and fig trees, as well as aromatic plants, has been planted in the Imegdal commune.
- In the region of Akraich, 20,000 almond, olive, fig, pomegranate, and grape seeds will be planted on land donated by the Jewish Community of Marrakech.
 - Fou new land contracts have been signed with the Jewish Community of Marrakech, lending a total of 19,000 square meters of land in the municipalities of Tidili, Tamaguerte, Ourika, and Ait Faska. On this land, 900,000 fruit seeds will be planted over 5 years to benefit 26,000 people. This [interfaith project](#), in addition to increasing household incomes, is a symbol for Moroccan collaboration among Muslim and Jewish groups for development.
- Working with the cooperatives, the Ministry of Agriculture, communes, and associations to have certified organic walnuts and almonds; and
- Training 10 agriculturalists to create a farming Cooperative that will sell organic produce as part of the HA³ enterprise.



2. [Azilal Province](#):

- In Ait M'hamed Commune, 25,000 walnut and almond trees have been planted, and aromatic and medicinal plants will be planted in the spring – on land lent by the municipality.
- HAF is building an olive tree and aromatic and medicinal plant nursery in Ouaouizerth commune for the benefit of women's associations.; and
- HAF celebrated the planting of its one-millionth tree at 3 rural schools in Azilal.



3. Beni Mellal Province:

- After participatory community planning and training, HAF and partners are working to build a women's and youth artisanal coop in the Zaouite Cheikh commune; and
- In the Ait Oum El Bekht commune, HAF and the community is building a clean drinking water system to serve 70 homes.



4. Boujdour Province:

- HAF [created a local chapter and completed a participatory training and assessment](#) in Boujdour, and seeks support for projects in clean drinking water, education, and women's and youth businesses;
- HAF and communities with public, partnership and corporate partnership installed water and bathrooms in seven schools and implements a hygiene education program.
- New partnerships have been created with: the delegations of Youth and Sports, and Education, the Ministry of Agriculture (these partnerships enable school tree planting and infrastructure projects, and environmental education; business development among youth and single mothers);
- HAF celebrated the planting of its one-millionth tree at 5 sites in Boujdour, planting 800 trees at 4 schools and a community center, with whom HAF also signed partnership agreements; and
- HAF is facilitating community planning meetings with single mothers to identify issues and address their priority which is business creation; women considered potential projects, e.g. sewing, carpet making, and baking, and decided fish packaging.



5. Essaouira Province:

- HAF has created a cooperative of farmers and local farming associations which will sell organic produce as part of the HA³ enterprise, and has identified land on which to build an almond, argan, pomegranate, and medicinal plant nursery;
- HAF conducted a preservation project for the cemeteries of the three faiths, building knowledge about the city's history, and engaging 450 youth in awareness-raising of Morocco's identity of unity and diversity; and
- HAF celebrated the planting of its one-millionth tree at 2 rural schools in Essaouira; the Governor of Essaouira attended planting activities.



6. Ifrane Province: A community tree nursery and student engagement project has been developed with [Al Akhawayn University](#), and with developing partnerships with the Ifrane National Park.



7. Mohammedia Province: At HAF's Center for Community Consensus-Building and Sustainable Development at the Faculty of Law, Economics, and Social Science at Hassan II University, we:

- Trained 160 students and civil society members in facilitation of participatory planning;
- [Created three federations of associations](#) in two communes;
- Implemented university projects (a journal, on-line card





- d) catalogue, and others) identified by students, and a Green University initiative with the Faculty; and
- e) Celebrated the planting of its one-millionth tree at a planting event attended by Matthew Lussenhop Deputy Chief of Mission of the US Embassy in Morocco.

8. Rhamna Province:

- a) The HAF built 2 village clean drinking water systems, planted 12,000 olive trees with pressure drip systems and rural schools, planted 70,000 cactus on land ownership borders, and built 3 schools and teacher's housing and 4 school toilets – all in the Ait Taleb commune;
- b) 17 locally elected women to communal councils benefitted from a training program in participatory planning and project management; and
- c) HAF celebrated the planting of its one-millionth tree at 8 rural schools in Rhamna, planting and distributing over fruit 2,000 trees.



9. Taroudant Province:

- a) 40,000 almond and walnut trees will be planted in community-managed nurseries.
- b) The HAF is working with villages of the Toubkal commune to certify this year 200 tons of organic walnuts and almonds, have planted hundreds of thousands of seeds in community nurseries, is building 2 women's cooperatives, built already 12 village clean water systems, and completed a participatory training with community and civil association members whose priority projects are incorporated in the Communal Development Plan; and
- c) HAF celebrated the planting of its one-millionth tree at 7 sites in Taroudant, planting and distributing nearly 400 fruit trees with 6 rural schools and 1 community site.



10. Taza Province:

The HAF is managing a scholarship fund for high schools graduates to attend University, enabled by tutoring and mentorship programs. HAF is also providing support to a local orphanage, and partners with the Tazekka National Park to promote human and agricultural development.



[Here](#) is a link to HAF's major donors and projects since its founding in 2000.