

# From Sea to Market in Morocco: U.S. Revitalizes Fisheries through MCC

Fishing is an ancient industry in the Kingdom of Morocco. Thousands of boat owners, wholesale fish merchants and mobile fish vendors have labored for centuries to earn a living from this promising, but difficult industry. Most practice the art with great pride, but are also aware of the obstacles to growing their small businesses as they help their families climb out of poverty. With new techniques and modern, clean port facilities and markets, fishing has the potential to transform vulnerable parts of Morocco's stunning coastal villages in a way that helps the poor and protects the environment.

## Why target the fishing sector?



*The U.S. Government, through the MCC Compact with Morocco, will fund the construction of landing sites for boats, like the ones pictured above. The groundbreaking project will increase incomes for approximately 25,000 of Morocco's poor.*

The logic behind MCC's **Small-Scale Fisheries Project** is simple: you can only sell what you can process and get to the market. The problem for Morocco has not been the supply—the country's fishers currently catch hundreds of millions of dollars of fish per year. Nevertheless, for small-scale fishing, getting the fish to market is complicated. Poor landing sites, inadequate processing areas, the absence of wholesale markets, and the lack of sanitary storage for mobile fish vendors prevents fish from reaching consumers.

Work is underway to help solve this problem. The Government of Morocco has identified the 13 ports and 20 landing sites that will be rehabilitated along Morocco's coasts over the course of the next five years. Studies are being prepared to ensure that the modern fisheries are in compliance with environmental and sanitary standards. These facilities

will provide Moroccan fishers with places that are not only efficient from an economic standpoint, but that are also environmentally sustainable.

Now that the MCC compact with Morocco has entered into force, training will also commence that will teach fishers and distributors the best techniques to ensure safe, effective, and sanitary methods to process their goods and help get them to market. It is estimated that 25,000 Moroccans will benefit from this project.

## How does helping Moroccan fishers benefit the U.S.?

Through the MCC, the United States helps promising countries like Morocco in their own efforts to build their economies and give their people a chance to climb out of poverty. Rather than be forced to move to the already packed urban areas, young fishers are more likely to find employment in parts of Morocco where the economy is growing. A more prosperous Morocco fosters greater stability and helps strengthen the already vibrant and longstanding friendship that exists between the United States and Morocco.

The well-known proverb that teaching someone to fish is better than simply giving him a fish is a reality in Morocco as MCC helps Moroccan men and women better deliver fish to a willing and ready market... enabling them to increase their incomes and build a better tomorrow for future generations.

For more information regarding the U.S. government's \$698 million anti-poverty compact with Morocco, visit

[www.mcc.gov](http://www.mcc.gov).



*Fishers like this one in the Moroccan port city of Essaouira are already meeting with experts planning new fish landing sites and will begin to undergo training later this year. They will learn how to improve hygiene, sanitation, storage and handling techniques as well as how to access financial services and better manage their small businesses.*