Amal: A Pathway to Economic Self-Sufficiency

November 2026 Featured Grant

Morocco: Employment Gaps, Exploitation

Women's workforce participation is critically low

- Greater gap in rural areas
- Lack of protections for working women
- High risk of exploitation
- Discriminatory practices
- Lack of childcare
- Entrenched patriarchal norms
- Unpaid chores and caregiving

Featured Grantee: Amal

$50,000 Project Grant: Culinary Training as a Pathway to Prosperity

Rigorous 10-month training program remove barriers to dignified employment & needed life skills for participants

- Practical culinary training & work in professional kitchens
- Theoretical & language training
- Life skills development

Featured Grantee: Amal

Every trainee also receives:

- wraparound support (housing & emergency assistance)
- living monthly stipend
- daily meals
- transport
- health insurance
- childcare support
- one-to-one life coaching

Maria’s Story

‘’When I applied for the Amal culinary training program, my only goal was to earn a diploma so that I wouldn't be exploited by employers. Previously, I worked in a villa, cleaning and cooking Moroccan cuisine from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. When I complained about the long hours, my boss would tell me that since I didn’t have a diploma, I should be grateful for the opportunity to work, rather than complain.

But after starting the Amal program, I began learning new skills, like managing a storage room, and learning the art of customer service. Being at Amal opened my eyes to new horizons and the many possibilities. I never thought I could go abroad, but now I believe I can work toward that dream. Now, I have bigger dreams to pursue.’’

Morocco

Population: 39 million

Clear and entrenched patriarchy

More than 50% of women report experiencing gender-based violence

90% of rural women rely on climate-sensitive activities

Only 35% of rural women have a bank account, few have credit or insurance

Impact and Transformation

Amal

- Founded in 2012
- Grown from small bakery to flagship center and satellite restaurants
- 35 women in each culinary training cohort
- Deeply connected to community

Direct impact: 35 women; Indirect impact: 70 women and girls

Budget

Item	Description	Cost
Living Stipend	$140 per month for 10 months for 35 students	$49,000
Daily Meals	Portion of daily meals for 10 months for 35 students	$1,000
Total	Total project cost: $140,000. Rise funding: $50,000 (38%)	**$50,000**

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