



Morocco

Women fishers

Moroccan photographer Laid Liazid takes young villagers to sea to document the skills of their elders, women fishers who have defied tradition to pursue the profession of their dreams.

COUNTRY

Marocco

LOCALISATION

Belyounech

DATES OF THE PROJECT

September 2021 – December 2021

ARTISTS INVOLVED

Laid Liazid

PARTICIPANTS

Women from the Moujat Belyounech cooperative, young villagers

FUNDING

Metis Fonds 10,500 €

PARTNERS

Coopérative Moujat Belyounech pour les femmes, Office national des pêches

SECTOR AND SDG'S



A 100% FEMALE FISHING COOPERATIVE

The closure of the border between Morocco and the Spanish enclave of Ceuta has severely impacted the economic activities of northern Morocco. In the village of Belyounech, women lost the jobs they held in Ceuta. In this fishing village, as in most of Morocco – and globally – there is hardly a feminine form of the term “fisher.” Fishing-related activities are mostly reserved for men. Women assist men by mending nets and maintaining boats, but rarely take part in fishing itself.

However, in 2018, sixteen women from the village decided to form the country’s first all-female fishing cooperative. The cooperative is open to all women in the region, allowing anyone interested to learn maritime professions, including that of a fisher. In northern Morocco, artisanal fishing is no longer a male-only trade.

WOMEN CASTING THE NETS

Moroccan photographer Laid Liazid aimed to highlight the courage, determination, and skills of the women fishers of Belyounech.

He first organized workshops to teach twenty young people from Belyounech the basics of photojournalism. Then, accompanied by three apprentice photographers, he joined the women at sea. While teaching these young people photographic techniques and documentary storytelling, he photographed the women fishers to showcase their skills and expertise.

An exhibition of the photographs was held at the fishing port, celebrating the bravery of women who have defied stereotypes and traditional barriers to pursue their dream profession. It also provided the residents of Belyounech and port authorities with an opportunity to recognize the importance of the women’s work and their contribution to artisanal fishing.

THEY SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE

“We’re talking about independent women who want to empower other women. They say it themselves: their home is not the land, it’s the sea.”

LAID LIAZID, PHOTOGRAPHER

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MOROCCO: THE LARGEST FISH PRODUCER IN AFRICA

16

WOMEN FISHERS INVOLVED

20

YOUNG PEOPLE TRAINED IN PHOTOGRAPHY