

IAPH Sustainability Awards 2026

CATEGORY: Community Building

DALIA SAILING SCHOOL

Where the Port Opens the Sea to Children



A Tanger Med sail on the waters of the Strait of Gibraltar.

Submitting Organisation	Tanger Med Port Authority
Country	Morocco
Region	Province of Fahs Anjra, Northern Morocco
Category	Community Building
Project Start Date	2022 (Ongoing)
Managed by	Dalia Water Sports Association
Contact	Tanger Med Foundation — Ftm@tangermed.ma

"In three years: village children became national champions, then African and international champions."

01 THE STORY — A PORT THAT GAVE THE SEA BACK TO ITS CHILDREN

The Strait of Gibraltar is one of the world's busiest maritime corridors. Every day, thousands of vessels pass through the waters just beyond the breakwater of Tanger Med, Africa's and Mediterranean leading container port. Yet for the children growing up in the surrounding rural villages, the sea was a backdrop, never a playground. It was visible from their homes, but it belonged to someone else.

In 2022, Tanger Med Foundation decided to change that. On a sheltered cove near the port complex, the Dalia Sailing School built: a free, structured sailing programme for children from local schools, designed to democratize a sport that was completely absent from the rural landscape.

The project was born from a conviction shared at every level of Tanger Med. The port's management had built their CSR strategy around one principle: that a thriving port must coexist with a thriving community. Marouane Hasni, a pilot at the port and a former sailing champion, carried that principle in his bones. Together, they believed that sailing, the discipline, the teamwork, the way it forces you to read the wind and trust yourself, could change a young person's trajectory.

What happened next exceeded every expectation. Within three years, children who had never touched a sailboat were standing on national and international podiums. Within four, they were African champions representing Morocco on the international stage.



The Dalia Sailing School training fleet on the beach beside Tanger Med Port Complex.

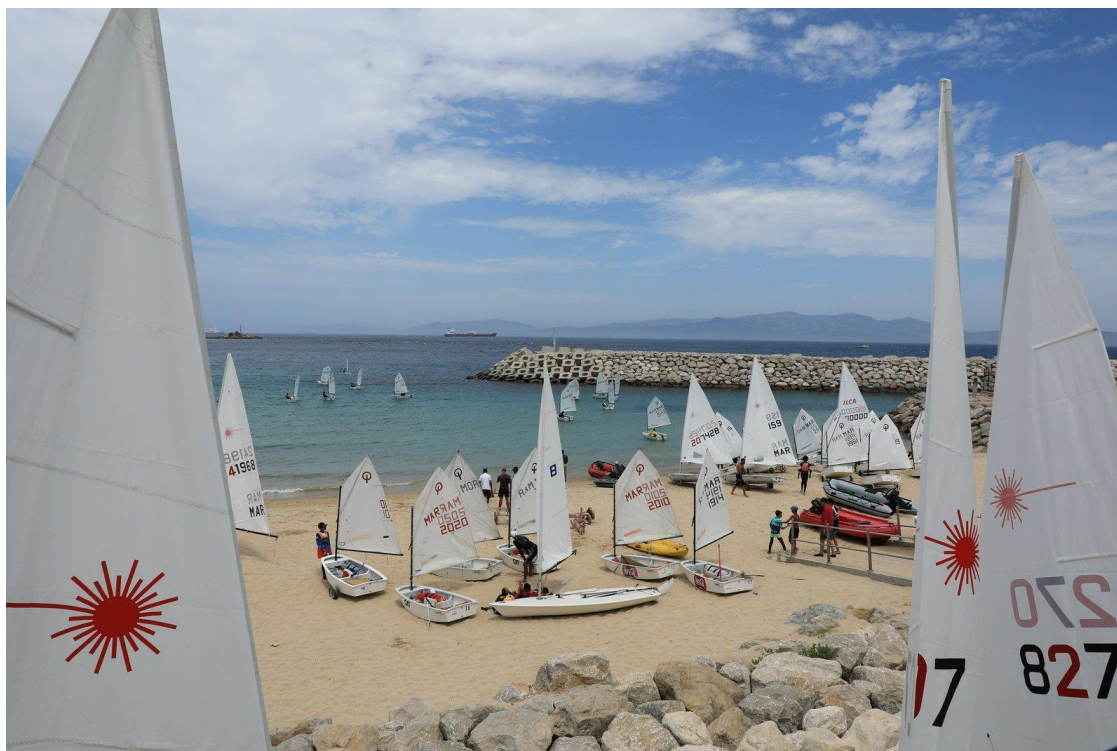
02 THE PROJECT — WHAT THE DALIA SCHOOL IS

The Dalia Sailing School is an integrated, year-round education programme structured around the full development of the child: cognitive, physical, social and environmental. It operates three terms per year, with a summer term dedicated to talents trained and sponsored by Tanger Med Foundation.

Infrastructure & Equipment

Built on a 900m² plot in sheltered waters near Tanger Med Port Complex, protected from the strait's strong swells, the school is purpose-built for children learning to sail safely:

- A dedicated classroom for theory lessons, changing rooms, storage sheds and an outdoor beachfront area
- A fleet of 22 Optimist dinghies + 5 ILCAS boats + Windsurf boards — the international standard for junior sailing
- A Zodiac safety vessel, sailing suits and certified life-saving equipment
- Secured shuttle logistics so children from all villages of Fahs Anjra can reach the school easily and safely



The sheltered bay beside the port breakwater — safe waters for young sailors.

The Programme

- Theory lessons: navigation fundamentals, weather reading, maritime rules
- Environmental awareness workshops: pollutant recognition, marine ecosystem protection
- Equipment preparation and care: teaching responsibility and craftsmanship
- Outdoor learning games building teamwork, coordination and resilience
- Real-life situations at sea under the supervision of certified instructors

Institutional Anchoring — the 'Studies & Sports' Pathway

Since 2024, the school is an official host of Morocco's national "Studies & Sports" (Études et Sports) programme, created by the Ministry of National Education for students with the potential to pursue a sporting career. Under

this framework, students from surrounding Junior High Schools train at Dalia three times per week throughout the school year : a structured pathway from rural classroom to elite sport.

03 THE NUMBERS — IMPACT AT A GLANCE (2025)

797 Students trained since launch	41% Of all students are girls	189 Students enrolled in 2024, from 7 schools	1 African runner-up in 2025
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22 Optimist dinghies in the training fleet	3 Terms per year, open year- round	9 National medals at the 2025 Marche Verte Cup	4/5 Of Morocco's African- champion team trained at Dalia
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Growth tells the story of demand: from 606 cumulative students at the end of 2024 to 797 by the end of 2025 — a 31% increase in a single year. The 41% female participation rate is remarkable in a rural context and demonstrates that the school has become a genuine vehicle for gender inclusion in sport.



Young Moroccan sailors training in Optimist dinghies off Dalia Sailing School.

04 FROM VILLAGE TO PODIUM — THE COMPETITIVE ARC

No metric captures the Dalia Sailing School's transformative power better than its competitive trajectory. In four years, the school went from teaching children how to rig a sail to supplying the core of Morocco's national team.

JUN 2024	<p>Host: Dalia International Sailing Regatta Organised with the Royal Moroccan Sailing Federation in conjunction with the Paris 2024 Olympics. Nine Moroccan clubs plus teams from Spain, France, Italy and the UAE. Eight races held.</p>
JUL 2024	<p>Double gold at M'diq International Nautical Week First place in the Optimist category for both boys and girls among 40 participants. Four Dalia athletes qualified for the national team.</p>
AUG 2024	<p>Morocco's colours in Benghazi, Libya Two Dalia School athletes represented Morocco in the Optimist category at the Benghazi International Sailing Championship.</p>
NOV 2024	<p>Moroccan National Champions — Optimist Dalia's team won the 2024 Moroccan Championship at Mohammedia Yacht Club and competed at the 34th Al Massira Cup with nine students.</p>
JUN 2025	<p>Slovenian open Optimist championship 2025 The selection of three athletes from among five to represent Morocco at the World Championship in Slovenia.</p>
JUL 2025	<p>AFRICAN CHAMPIONS — a historic team victory At the 2025 Optimist African Championship in Dar es-Salaam, Tanzania, Morocco won the team title — with four of the five national team sailors trained at Dalia School. Wiame Edouaoui became African vice-champion in the women's category.</p>
JUL 2025	<p>Host: 4th Dalia Opti Cup and an inclusive first International regatta gathering athletes of 14 nationalities across 26 races. The 2025 edition welcomed special-needs children from the Al Awael Association for supervised sea outings.</p>
NOV 2025	<p>Nine national medals at the Marche Verte Cup Two Dalia teams competed at M'diq (35th edition) and Mohammedia, returning with nine national medals across categories.</p>
FEB 2026	<p>14th Arab Sailing Championship, Soma Bay, Egypt Three Dalia sailors: Yassine, Souhaib and Samy, selected for Morocco's official delegation. Yassine finished 4th overall in the Optimist class out of 38 competitors.</p>
JUN 2026	<p>The Optimist World Championship — in Tangier The world's best young sailors come to Tanger: Three Dalia athletes qualified for the national team.</p>



Regatta day in the Strait.



The fleet racing off the Dalia coastline.

05 THE FACES OF DALIA SAILING SCHOOL — THREE STORIES



Wiame Edouaoui — the vice-champion of Africa

Wiame grew up in Fahs Anjra, a province where, before 2022, no girl had access to organized water sports. She joined the Dalia School, trained relentlessly, and in July 2025 stood on the continental podium as African vice-champion in the women's Optimist category. She is the living proof of what the school's 41% female enrollment means in practice: not a statistic, but a generation of girls discovering that the sea and excellence belong to them too.

"I dream of becoming the first Moroccan to carry my country onto the Olympic stage in the ILCA class, guided by the winds of ambition and the unwavering support of the Dalia Sailing School, as I turn this vision into reality."

— Wiame Edouaoui

Yassine, Souhaib and Samy — the national delegation

In February 2026, three boys from the Dalia Sailing School wore Morocco's colours at the 14th Arab Sailing Championship in Egypt, selected by the Royal Moroccan Sailing Federation. Yassine placed 4th overall out of 38 international competitors, within reach of a podium, with the World Championship in his home city still ahead.



Marouane Hasni — from port pilot to national delegation head

The story of the school's founding mentor mirrors the project itself. A pilot at Tanger Med Port and former sailing champion, Marouane shared his passion with the first cohorts of children in 2022. Four years later, he led Morocco's official delegation to the Arab and African Championship, guiding onto the international stage the very children he first taught to read the wind. When a port lends its people, not only its investment, community building becomes personal.



06 THE PARTNERSHIPS — ARCHITECTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Tanger Med Foundation	Project initiator and funder; infrastructure, equipment, logistics, and talent sponsorship
Dalia Water Sports Association	Day-to-day management of the school; certified instructors; programme delivery
Ministry of National Education (Provincial Directorate, Fahs Anjra)	Formal partnership ensuring systematic enrolment from area schools; host of the national Studies & Sports programme

Royal Moroccan Sailing Federation (FRMV)	Sanctioning of international regattas hosted by Dalia; selection of Dalia athletes for national teams
Tanger Med Port Authority	Strategy, Vision and Human capital
Civil Society	To broaden the field of sailing and raise awareness of marine environments

Six institutional partners, each with a structural role. The Ministry guarantees systematic reach into schools; the Federation connects the school to the national and international competitive pathway; the Association ensures professional management; the Foundation secures resources; the Port provides strategy and its people; and civil society opens the external ecosystem.

07 BEYOND THE SCHOOL — THE DALIA ECOSYSTEM

The Dalia Sailing School is the flagship of a broader, decade-long commitment by Tanger Med Foundation to the Dalia coastline and its communities — a model where sport, environment and social inclusion reinforce each other.

- **Blue Flag beach:** Dalia Beach is among the 28 sites awarded the Blue Flag label in Morocco in 2025 by the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection, crowning actions undertaken since 2015 under the national Clean Beaches programme.
- **Marine conservation in practice:** 13 tons of plastic waste were collected on Dalia Beach in 2025, of which 80% was recycled. Joint seabed clean-up operations with the Dalia Diving Center involve Group employees, their children and local volunteers, including a podcast on marine pollution recorded at the sailing school itself.
- **Inclusive infrastructure:** the beach now features an interactive marine museum, a library of titles in Arabic, French and English, and full accessibility for people with disabilities — adapted parking, ramps, sanitary facilities, amphibious chairs and a dedicated assistance service.
- **Educational synergies:** students of LYMED (the Mediterranean High School, another Foundation initiative) receive kayak initiation at the Dalia School, and Dalia athletes lead ocean-protection workshops for children at the Forum de la Mer in El Jadida.



Young sailors and their instructors on the beach.

"Environmental education is not an add-on at Dalia School: children learn to protect the sea in the same place, and at the same time, as they learn to sail it."

08 ALIGNMENT WITH THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG 3 Health & Well-being	SDG 4 Quality Education	SDG 5 Gender Equality	SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities	SDG 14 Life Below Water	SDG 17 Partnerships
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SDG 3 — Health & Well-being. Year-round structured physical activity, in a safe, professionally supervised environment for children of a rural province.

SDG 4 — Quality Education. Formal integration with the national education system through the Ministry partnership and the Studies & Sports programme — sailing treated as a full educational discipline, with 797 students trained since launch.

SDG 5 — Gender Equality. 41% of all students are girls, in a rural context where organized sport for girls was previously absent. Wiame Edouaoui's African vice-championship is the emblem of this transformation.

SDG 10 — Reduced Inequalities. Children from underserved rural communities access elite-level coaching and international competition; inclusive sessions extend the programme to children with special needs.

SDG 14 — Life Below Water. Environmental workshops embedded in the curriculum; Blue Flag certified beach; 13 tons of plastic collected in 2025 with 80% recycled; seabed clean-ups with the diving community.

SDG 17 — Partnerships. A multiple-partner institutional architecture spanning a foundation, a sports association, a ministry, a national federation, a port authority and civil society.

09 A BLUEPRINT FOR PORTS WORLDWIDE

The Dalia Sailing School model requires five ingredients that almost every coastal port can assemble: sheltered water, basic infrastructure, certified instructors, a partnership with local education authorities, and a human champion from within the port's own ranks.

A 900m² facility and a fleet of 27 boats — yet the returns compound: education, health, gender inclusion, environmental stewardship, community pride, and even national sporting glory.

Dalia Sailing School demonstrates that high-impact initiatives are first and foremost driven by vision, strong local roots, and human commitment — transforming local resources into lasting opportunities for future generations.



Dalia's young sailors set off to represent Morocco.



The Morocco team jersey.

10 WHY THIS PROJECT BELONGS IN THE COMMUNITY BUILDING CATEGORY

The IAPH Sustainability Awards celebrate projects that go beyond operational excellence to demonstrate that ports are agents of social transformation. The Dalia Sailing School does exactly this and it does so with a distinctiveness that no other project can replicate.

- **It transfers the port's core identity:** the sea, seamanship, navigation to the children who live in its shadow. This is not solely charity; it is a transfer of knowledge and culture.
- **It targets and measurably reaches the underserved:** 797 rural children trained, 41% of them girls, with free access, free transport and free equipment.
- **It produces documented, exceptional outcomes:** national champions in 2024, African team champions in 2025, an African vice-champion, national delegation selections in 2026 — all from a province where the sport did not exist four years ago.
- **It is institutionally anchored for the long term:** through the Ministry of Education, the Royal Moroccan Sailing Federation and the national Studies & Sports programme.
- **It is inclusive by design:** gender-balanced recruitment, sessions for children with special needs, and fully accessible beach infrastructure.

- It is embodied by an enthusiastic person **Marouane Hasni**: port pilot, founding mentor, and now national delegation head, proof that the bond between port and community is human before it is financial.

