



SCALING UP
HARM REDUCTION IN MENA

MENAHRA ANNUAL REPORT

2023

WELCOME



Dear MENAHRA Community,

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to all our stakeholders, partners, and supporters as we present the MENAHRA Annual Report for the year 2023. This report serves as a comprehensive reflection of our collective efforts, achievements, and the profound impact we've made in advancing harm reduction across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

MENAHRA stands as a leading organization advocating for the health and human rights of People Who Use Drugs (PWUD) in the MENA region. Our mission, rooted in advocacy, capacity building, and evidence-based practices, continues to guide us toward a future where every individual has the right to an optimal quality of life, free from the harms associated with drug use and punitive drug policies. The stories shared within these pages will illuminate the strides we've taken, the challenges we've overcome, and the partnerships that have fueled our progress.

At MENAHRA, we understand that meaningful change is born from collaboration and community-driven initiatives. This report not only highlights the dedication of our team and the guidance of our esteemed Board Members but also celebrates the active participation of the communities we serve. It is through the principles of human rights, community participation, empowerment, evidence-based practice, gender inclusiveness, representativeness, and a people-centered approach that we shape our strategies and interventions.

Throughout the year, MENAHRA has stood at the forefront of harm reduction, addressing key challenges and seizing opportunities to make a lasting impact. Our strategic objectives for 2022-2027 underscore our commitment to strengthening governance, promoting a conducive environment for comprehensive harm reduction programs, and generating high-quality evidence to inform policies and practices.

As we look back on 2023, we acknowledge the unwavering support of our partners, the resilience of the communities we serve, and the dedication of every individual involved in the MENAHRA network. Your commitment fuels our passion and propels us forward.

Thank you for being an integral part of MENAHRA's story. Together, let us continue scaling up harm reduction, building bridges, and creating a future where the rights and well-being of all are upheld.

Warm regards,

Elie Aaraj
MENAHRA Executive Director



SCALING UP
HARM REDUCTION IN MENA

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INTRODUCTION ABOUT MENAHRA

History

MENAHRA was established in 2007 as a joint project for networking, capacity building, and developing programs on harm reduction in the MENA region. The association was later registered in Lebanon as an International Non-Governmental Organization in 2012 under Presidential Decree number 7491. MENAHRA is a regional network on harm reduction covering 20 countries in the MENA region. It is composed of a Network Secretariat (NS) located in Beirut and several Knowledge Hubs (KHs) and CSOs. Recognizing the crucial role of civil society in delivering health services to key populations at increased risk, MENAHRA aims to strengthen the role of civil society in implementing harm reduction in the MENA region.

What is Harm Reduction?

Harm Reduction: Cost-effective approach minimizing drug's negative impact on health and society, supported by extensive research, benefiting individuals, families, and communities.

The 10 Essential Harm Reduction Interventions:

- Needle and syringe programs (NSPs)
- Opioid substitution therapy (OST) and other drug dependence treatment
- HIV voluntary testing and counseling (VCT)
- Antiretroviral therapy (ART)
- Prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- Condom programs for IDUs and their sexual partners
- Targeted information, education, and communication (IEC) for IDUs and their sexual partners
- Vaccination, diagnosis, and treatment of viral hepatitis
- Prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of tuberculosis (TB)
- Naloxone

Scaling Up Harm Reduction in MENA

Mission

MENAHRA's mission is to improve the health and human rights of PWUD through advocacy, capacity building, promoting evidence-based practices, gender inclusive programming, and empowerment of community and network members to scale up harm reduction in the MENA region.

Vision

All people who use drugs in the MENA have their rights respected, and have an optimal quality of life free of harms associated with drug use and punitive drug policy.



Mr. Ahmed Shehata *President*

With over 13 years of extensive experience, Mr. Shehata has a proven track record in coordinating and managing partners in designing, managing, and implementing results-oriented rule of law programs on legal reforms, human rights, and food security. This includes overseeing and supervising staff, external consultants, and key experts, as well as monitoring and evaluating multi-functional projects in diverse environments. Proven expertise in government and donor relations. Deep understanding of the political, socio-economic, and cultural landscape in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, with a keen awareness of its challenges and potential.

Mr. Shehata has an extensive professional network of key stakeholders in the region, including senior government officials, judges, policymakers, representatives of civil society organizations, and donors. Demonstrated success in designing and implementing multi-year programs, for a total value of approximately \$ 20 million, that have delivered sustainable results for beneficiaries and increased visibility for the Organization. Mr. Shehata has also played a pivotal role in supporting various countries in the MENA region in strengthening their regulatory frameworks through the creation and execution of essential programs that provide financial and technical assistance to local partners.



Dr. Fadi Meroueh *Vice President*

Dr. Fadi Meroueh has been honored with the prestigious Johannes Feest Prize for his remarkable contributions to improving prison health. This esteemed award acknowledges his outstanding efforts as a Hospital Practitioner and Head of the Health Unit at Villeneuve-les-Maguelone prison and his role as the president of Health Without Barriers (HWB). Dr. Meroueh's accomplishments include the successful elimination of Hepatitis C within the prison, a groundbreaking achievement in Europe and North America. Despite facing administrative obstacles, he has been unwavering in his commitment to providing equitable and comprehensive care to his patients, which includes implementing a needle exchange program. Furthermore, Dr. Meroueh ensures a smooth transition of care by dedicating regular visiting hours at the "Arc-en-Ciel" addiction center in Montpellier. His expertise is sought after by various French and European organizations, where he serves as an esteemed consultant. The Johannes Feest Prize celebrates Dr. Meroueh's exceptional dedication and impact on prison healthcare.



Mr. Daniel Wardé *Member*

Mr. Daniel Wardé is deeply engaged in human rights and has a specific focus on harm reduction matters. Recently, he has dedicated significant efforts to MENANPUD. Mr. Wardé holds a Bachelor's degree in English literature from the Lebanese University. Although he initially pursued a career in teaching, he has since gained extensive experience in the bookselling industry, where he has established a long-standing presence.

Mr. Warde is an esteemed member of the current MENAHRA board, serving as a representative in international gatherings. His dedicated involvement reflects his commitment to furthering his understanding of the humanitarian sphere through continuous learning and active engagement.



Mr. Wadih Aoun *Treasurer*

"Wadih Aoun, a Financial Director in the aviation industry, brings over 8 years of experience managing grants and working in harm reduction within the MENA Region. With a certificate in "leadership principles" from Harvard Business School and a certificate in "Strategy Execution", Mr. Wadih has honed his skills in strategic planning and implementation. He holds a master's degree in economics from Sorbonne University Paris, and a master's degree in Finance from IFAG Paris, and his qualifications are noteworthy.

Having already served for 2 years on the Board of Directors of MENAHRA, Mr. Wadih Aoun is well-acquainted with the organization's mission and values. His dedication and expertise make him an ideal candidate to continue serving as the Financial Representative on MENAHRA's



Mr. Elie Aaraj *Executive Director*

Elie Aaraj is the esteemed Executive Director of the Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Association (MENAHRA). With a profound dedication to the field of HIV/AIDS and harm reduction, Elie has been actively involved since 1987. He is the visionary founder of "Soins Infirmiers et Développement Communautaire," a local Lebanese organization originally established to provide home nursing services during the Civil War. Under Elie's leadership, the organization expanded its focus to encompass HIV/AIDS, youth issues, and addiction projects. Notably, Elie Aaraj spearheaded groundbreaking outreach programs that specifically targeted key populations at high risk of AIDS in Lebanon, setting an innovative precedent within the Arab countries. As the Executive Director of MENAHRA, Elie continues to drive transformative change and advocate for comprehensive harm reduction practices across the MENA region.



Rita Anbar *Finance Manager*

Rita Anbar, an experienced Finance Manager at MENAHRA, is responsible for supervising financial activities such as planning, budgeting, and reporting. She maintains precise accounting records, handles grants, and ensures the smooth operation of financial systems. Rita's extensive knowledge aids MENAHRA in advancing harm reduction initiatives in the MENA region. With a background encompassing 12 years in positions as a Financial Accountant and Senior Accountant, she showcases her dedication to financial management principles.



Amanda Nohra *Executive Assistant*

Amanda Nohra, an executive assistant based in Lebanon, plays a crucial role at MENAHRA. With a diverse background, she offers extensive experience in Administrative Support, Banking, HR, and Customer Service. Amanda's educational background includes a Bachelor's degree in Business Studies, equipping her with strong proficiency in MS Office, data analysis, and communication. Her effective support of MENAHRA's executive team significantly contributes to the organization's accomplishments.



Amjad Malaeb *Program Coordinator*

Amjad Malaeb, a committed Programs Coordinator at MENAHRA, brings a wealth of experience in program management to the table. He demonstrates exceptional skills in proposal writing, monitoring and evaluation, and coordination. Amjad's responsibilities encompass developing proposals, establishing work plans, and ensuring prompt execution. Additionally, he generates comprehensive reports and collaborates with partners and consultants. Driven by a deep-seated passion for public health, Amjad actively contributes to MENAHRA's mission of scaling up harm reduction and enhancing health outcomes in the MENA region.



Isabelle Salameh *Program Coordinator*

Isabelle Salameh, a dedicated Program Coordinator at MENAHRA, holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Health and Development Sciences from the University of Balamand. With a Master's degree in Public Health specializing in Health Management and Policies from the American University of Beirut, she brings extensive experience in healthcare management, program coordination, research, and leadership. Isabelle's expertise allows her to develop evidence-based strategies and oversee programs that address harm reduction in the MENA region. Through her commitment to public health, she plays a vital role in advancing MENAHRA's mission and promoting the well-being of individuals affected by drug use.



Sarah Waizani *Communication and Network Coordinator*

Sarah Waizani is a dynamic professional serving as the Communication and Networking Coordinator at MENAHRA. With a passion for effective communication and a keen eye for branding, Sarah plays a pivotal role in enhancing MENAHRA's visibility and outreach. She brings a wealth of experience in developing strategic communication plans, managing social media platforms, and fostering meaningful partnerships. Sarah's dedication to building strong networks and her commitment to maintaining MENAHRA's brand integrity contribute significantly to the organization's success in promoting harm reduction initiatives across the MENA region.



Lynn Nader Accountant

Lynn Nader, a skilled Accountant at MENAHRA, possesses extensive expertise in Audit along with a robust educational background. Proficient in MS Office and Oracle, Lynn excels in financial management, journal entries, and reconciliations. With a customer service mindset, she also demonstrates strong leadership and project management skills. Lynn's previous roles at Agility Logistics and Hangar Company further enriched her experience. Her diverse skill set greatly contributes to MENAHRA's financial management and the advancement of harm reduction initiatives in the MENA region.



Joly Anaissy Project Coordinator

Joly Anaissy is a highly skilled Humanitarian Aid specialist with a deep understanding of education, cash-based interventions, and safeguarding. He excels in various platforms and embedded systems and is adept at managing projects independently and/or collaborating effectively in teams. His academic background in Political & Administrative Sciences and extensive research experience contribute to his rich skill set. He brings a blend of analytical skills and sound decision making to his work making him a key asset for MENAHRA's interventions.

OUR DONORS

GLOBAL FUND

STOP TB
PARTNERSHIP

FRONTLINE AIDS

ROBERT CARR FUND

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

➤ *HUMAN RIGHTS*

The commitment to respecting the human rights of all people is at the center of the work at MENAHRA. More specifically, the commitment to promoting and upholding the rights of PWUD and other key populations and their equality, regardless of status, sexual orientation, or other social factors, is one of MENAHRA's most important guiding principles. We believe that dignity for all is a basic right, and when attained, a decrease in stigma and discrimination, and improved quality of health and well-being for all can be achieved.

➤ *COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION*

The participation of PWUD and other KPs in the planning, implementation, evaluation and decision-making processes at MENAHRA is key to the success of its programs. The input of the PWUD community in particular is very important to the strategic directions and programs and is taken into consideration through consultative processes and collaborations with other community led networks and organizations on the both local and regional levels.

➤ *EMPOWERMENT*

The empowerment of PWUD, whether individually or through networks, to advocate for their rights and be able to plan and manage harm reduction programs, is at the center of MENAHRA's operational approach. Moreover, the empowerment of other stakeholders, such as network members and civil society organizations, is also crucial to the skills building and advocacy activities that MENAHRA conducts within the region to promote harm reduction and the rights of PWUD and other key populations.

➤ **EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE**

The quality of MENAHRA's decisions and directions are based on quality and up to date evidence and research. Moreover, MENAHRA works on regularly generating local and regional quality evidence through its research and studies in order to inform programs and approach in the region.

➤ **GENDER INCLUSIVENESS**

The mainstreaming of gender across MENAHRA's strategic objectives is central to its work, and in line with all the aforementioned guiding principles by which the network operates. Given the challenging environment for gender issues in the region, which is exacerbated by socio-cultural factors in relation to drug use, MENAHRA diligently works to advocate for gender inclusiveness by promoting gender equality through its programs; ensuring gender representation among its staff, members, and partners; and providing gender-sensitive resources, research, and services.

➤ **REPRESENTATIVE**

The cultural, language, and social diversity between countries of the MENA region is large, and therefore ensuring the representativeness of MENAHRA's work is central to its operations. Therefore, a participatory approach is applied to a majority of MENAHRA's activities in which partners, community members, and advisors are consulted for input and participation in the development and review of material, advocacy activities, research, and need for technical assistance.

➤ **PEOPLE-CENTERED**

A people-centered approach has been adopted by MENAHRA to ensure that all activities that it advocates for or implements, ensure that people are treated with dignity and respect, are empowered, and are engaged in meaningful participation.

MENAHRA STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (2022 – 2027)

Strategic Objective 1:

Strengthen The Governance Of Menahra

Strategic Objective 2:

Promote A Conducive Environment For High Quality, Equitable, Gender Inclusive, And Comprehensive Harm Reduction Programs In The Mena Region With A Focus On Key Populations.

Strategic Objective 3: Generate And Disseminate High Quality Evidence For Harm Reduction Programs And Policies.

Read more about our strategic plan [here](#).

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The ongoing humanitarian emergencies in the MENA region, conflict and economic migration, and internal/external displacement of large populations and the geographies of high-risk behaviors and key populations in the MENA region, present massive challenges for public health systems in general, and HIV and drug use prevention, treatment and care programmes in particular. The 2020 MENAHRA situation assessment reported that the MENA region has witnessed a slow but steady increase in the harm reduction response among countries of the region in general, with some positive changes in harm reduction policy visibility, provision and coverage since 2016.[1] The previous situation assessment in 2017 reported that harm reduction services were observed to have low coverage, and warranted scale up.

Six out of 20 countries in the region (Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Yemen) do not have explicit harm reduction policies within their NASP or noted PWID as an important key population in their national plans. Fourteen countries have mention of harm reduction/PWID in national policy documents: seven countries adopting harm reduction policies in their NASP include Afghanistan, Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, and Palestine; seven countries in which PWID are noted as important key populations in their national plans include Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Libya, Oman, Syria, Tunisia and Pakistan.

According to WHO EMRO, NSP coverage in the region (estimated to be around 25 syringes/PWID/year) remains below the Global 2020 and 2030 targets (200 syringes/PWID/year and 300 syringes/PWID/year respectively). Current coverage is unlikely to have an impact on HIV and HCV incidence among PWID. NSPs are available in 10 countries of the region (Afghanistan, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Iran, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, and Pakistan), with the recent addition of Algeria to the list of 9 countries reported in 2016. It has been reported that an NSP was set up in 2 regions of Algeria (Algiers and Annaba) in 2018-2019 as part of the implementation of the combined HIV prevention program with support from the Global Fund. There is also a planned scale-up to a third region (Oman) for 2020-2022. NSPs in some countries of the region (Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon) have been reduced due to changes in funding priorities and although services are still available, there has been a decrease in coverage since 2016. Although the number of countries providing NSP has increased, coverage remains insufficient. Moreover, out of seven countries for which data was available, the highest reported distribution of syringes/PWID is in Afghanistan with a reported number of 112 syringes/PWID in 2019 (UNAIDS, 2020). Therefore, current coverage is unlikely to have an impact on HIV and HCV incidence among PWID. Two countries provide naloxone through community distribution (Afghanistan and Iran). Morocco has implemented an international consultation in 2018 on overdose prevention and trained community workers on naloxone use; however, community distribution has not been initiated yet. DCR/Drug Consumption Rooms are not available in any country of the region to date.

OST exists in seven out of 20 countries (Afghanistan, Iran, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and UAE). MMT in five countries (Afghanistan, Iran, Morocco, Palestine, UAE); and BMT in four countries (Iran, Kuwait, Lebanon, UAE). Iran uses opium tincture for substitution treatment. OST developments since 2016 include the scaling up of services in Lebanon through two new dispensing units (Bekaa and Mount Lebanon governorates) and two additional centers offering OST (Bekaa and Mount Lebanon governorates). Moreover, suboxone was recently introduced in an effort to limit injecting practices among beneficiaries of OST that are using buprenorphine. Morocco is also scaling up OST through the opening of three new centers to improve coverage and geographical distribution; however more efforts are needed in this area. Whereas in Iran, insurance coverage for OST was expanded to include selected private sector clinics in addition to the previously covered governmental centers, in addition to the introduction of a national registration database for OST to improve data management and quality.

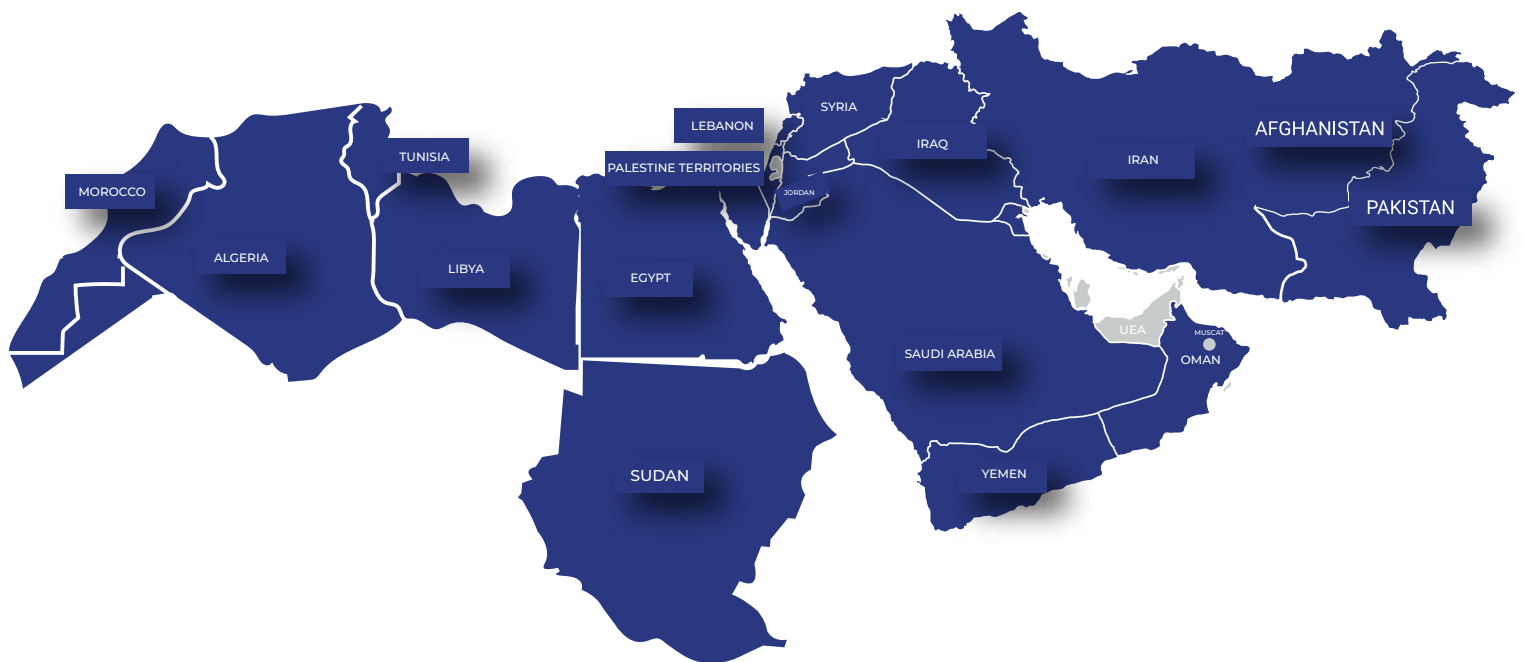
Five countries remain in the planning phase for OST: Algeria, Egypt, Oman, Pakistan, and Tunisia. Endorsement of OST in Pakistan by the Drug Regulatory Authority and Anti-Narcotic Forces and steps towards registering Methadone and Buprenorphine reached advanced stages during 2020. In Egypt, the government has requested support from WHO and UNODC to review the OST feasibility study conducted by UNODC with the support of MENAHRA in 2014, as part of the plan for elimination of HCV in Egypt.

In terms of closed settings, OST is available in prisons in Afghanistan, Iran, Lebanon, Morocco, and Palestine. In some countries for example as in Lebanon OST is only available in prisons to those who were enrolled before entering prison. NSP is not available in prisons in any country of the region. Iran used to provide NSP services in prisons; however, these programs have been halted. In Egypt, the UNODC Prison HIV project provided HIV, HBV and HCV counseling and testing services to inmates. The project also distributed needles, syringes and condoms to released inmates and their families. Therefore, although NSP is not technically available in prisons in Egypt, this step can be seen as an improvement in the provision of services for key populations. The previous MENAHRA situation assessment (2017) did not explicitly refer to condom programming in prisons, but did refer to condom programming in the community in Afghanistan, Egypt, Iran, Syria, Palestine, Morocco, Lebanon and Jordan. The 2020 MENAHRA assessment reports on progress in this setting with condom programming is reported in Iran, Egyptian and Algerian prisons.

[1] MENAHRA (2021). *Assessment of Situation and Response of Drug Use and its Harms in the Middle East and North Africa 2020*. Middle East and North African Harm Reduction Association (MENAHRA) Lebanon. Available at 2021 Assessment of Situation (menahra.org)

COUNTRIES OF OPERATION

MIDDLE EAST
AND NORTH AFRICA



2023 OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

➤ **Parliamentarian Regional Consultation on: People Who Use Drugs (PWUD)**

Service Needs and the Rights of People living with and Affected by HIV (GF). Building on the efforts and leading initiatives of MENAHRA in the Middle East and North Africa region, and in order to engage the parliamentarians in advocating for an improved HIV response and better access to services by People Who Use Drugs (PWUD), a regional consultation meeting for parliamentarians was organized by MENAHRA in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on October 3, 4 and 5 2023..

➤ **Gender Equity and harm reduction training for CSOs in the MENA region (GF).**

MENAHRA implemented a capacity-building workshop on gender equity for harm reduction CSOs in the MENA region on March 21, 22 and 23, 2023. The goal was to support CSOs working on harm reduction to be able to mainstream gender in their programs. This workshop aimed also to ensure that these CSOs are working towards developing and implementing programs that falls under the gender responsive and transformative continuum.

➤ **Review, update and activate MENAHRA donors' website (GF).**

During 2023 and in continuation to Frontline AIDS work on providing support to CSOs in the MENA region in resource mobilization, MENAHRA updated, and reactivated its donors website to include possible donors that CSOs in the MENA region working on harm reduction can access easily.

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➤ **Operational research on NSP and OST regional training workshops (GF).**

The aim of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of regional training conducted on OST and NSP by MENAHRA in 2022 in order to help inform a future Training of Trainers (ToT). It included an explicit focus on identifying the gaps in the training workshops implemented; identifying what has been successful and implemented in the five countries (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia) by the training participants on their return, and what should be done in a different manner.

➤ **Spot-check to the Regional Arab Network Against AIDS (RANAA) (GF).**

Under the global fund MENA grant, MENAHRA has a number of sub-sub-recipients. RANAA are an SSR under MENAHRA. MENAHRA decided to perform this spot check visit to make sure that RANAA are ready for all the workload of year two, they have all the proper processes and procedures, they are following the donors guidelines programmatic and financial.

➤ **Needle and Syringe training for service providers in Egypt (GF).**

In order to scale up harm reduction services in the region, MENAHRA collaborated with the ministry of Health in Egypt, to implement a training workshop for service providers. MENAHRA conducted a face-to-face training on “Needles and Syringes Program” for service providers in Egypt at the Pyramisa Suites Cairo Hotel, from December 20 to 22, 2023..

➤ **Decriminalization e-course translation and adaptation (GF).**

MENAHRA in collaboration with the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) have worked on translation and adaptation of decriminalization e-course modules to Arabic so people can reach it from the Arab community.

➤ **Seed funds to implement national sustainability and transition activities (GF).**

The activity aims to continue and build on the previous efforts made by the primary recipient (PR) of the global fund grant, Frontline AIDS (FLA). The PR have developed national sustainability and transition plans STP for each of the five focus countries (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia). These plans include specific activities to be implemented by national partners, sub-recipients SRs and sub-sub-recipients SSRs. The implementation of these activities requires financial resources. Therefore, this activity allocated seed funds for one civil society organization (CSO) or coalition of civil society organizations in each of the 5 countries (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia) to implement the activities of the highest priority identified in the set plans.

➤ **LGBTQI+ Workstream (GF):**

MENAHRA has recruited a consultant to lead a needs assessment focusing on LGBTQI+ individuals and PWUDs in five countries in the MENA region (Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Lebanon, and Tunisia). In 2023, Lebanon & Jordan were identified as priority countries and the research phase in both these countries was finalized by December 2023. Following that, validation meetings occurred in Beirut & Amman where the findings of the assessment were shared and validated by the participants. By the end of each event, a series of suggestions & recommendations for priority activities were identified by the participants. As of January 2024, collaboration & networking meetings with the relevant stakeholders are planned to discuss the potential opportunities aiming to implement initiatives in favor of addressing the needs of the targeted population. In December 2023, and after finalizing the validation meetings for Lebanon & Jordan, the literature review for the remaining three countries was initiated and concluded in the same month. The implementation of this activity will continue during 2024.

➤ **Say Yes to Know campaign (RCF).**

On the World AIDS Day, MENAHRA prepared shared, and posted a video on MENAHRA social media platforms to highlight the availability and importance of self-testing that aligns with the movement “Say Yes to Know”. The Aim is to increase testing, knowledge & awareness in the MENA among KPs and the General Public.

➤ **TB situation assessment among Key populations in Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, and Morocco and Development of National Roadmaps (STP).**

The report investigated the challenges and opportunities in delivering tuberculosis (TB) services to key populations (KPs) in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa, specifically Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, and Morocco. These countries have adopted national strategies to control and address TB based on the World Health Organization's (WHO) global strategy guidelines. However, KPs access to TB-related services is hindered by various challenges. The report aims to explore these challenges and identify the necessary steps to improve access to TB services for KPs, as well as to explore collaboration between TB centers and other key sectors. The study was based on three main components: a desk review, key informant interviews (KIIs), and focus group discussions (FGDs). The report highlights the need for a collaborative effort from different sectors to ensure effective TB control, particularly among KPs. Increasing awareness, promoting access to high-quality TB services, and providing adequate resources and follow-up after treatment are necessary to improve KPs access to TB-related services. This activity was initiated in 2022 and the findings were validated, translated and disseminated in early 2023.

➤ **Regional Consultation Meeting (STP).**

As a regional network on harm reduction covering 20 countries in the MENA region, the Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Association (MENAHRRA) wants to seize the opportunity of the UNHLM 2023, to voice the needs, challenges, and asks of the region's countries or at least those most affected with TB. Since the main goal of MENAHRRA is to prolong and improve the quality of life of PWID through harm reduction approach and given that TB affects this community, MENAHRRA convened a regional consultation gathering the key stakeholders on TB. The regional consultation took place from the 7th until the 9th of August 2023 at the Hilton Metropolitan Hotel, Beirut - Lebanon. The consultation meeting was attended by representatives invited based on the priority countries in the MENA region highlighted in the MAP of the Stop TB Partnership website. The consultation meeting was attended by 23 participants from Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Pakistan, and Yemen. Initially, Iraq and Sudan were invited, however, could not attend. The attendees represented National Tuberculosis programs (9) and directors of chest centers (2), National AIDS programs (3), International Office on Migration (2), CSOs (4), and involved in TB responses and PWUD (3). The consultation aimed to advocate for the inclusion of harm reduction and TB services for KPs in national response plans via strengthening partnerships and collaboration among the various TB key stakeholders in the region and engaging them to reflect on the current situation, achievements, challenges, opportunities, and plans as well as advocacy efforts.

➤ **Participation in the UNHLM2023 (STP).**

Mr. Elie Aaraj, MENAHRA Executive Director, represented MENAHRA at the UNHLM 2023 meeting. In terms of preparation, MENAHRA actively participated in the UNHLM preparatory meetings on TB, in addition to the Regional Consultation Meeting that aimed at gathering different stakeholders from MENA region priority countries to engage and network together and discuss the UNHLM processes and procedures. Those preparatory initiatives engaged the stakeholders and supported them in preparing them to advocate for the key asks and requests. Furthermore, MENAHRA took part in the process of reviewing the “policy brief drafts”, commented on the drafts, and shared them with its network. During the UNHLM meeting, Mr. Elie Aaraj represented MENAHRA, the MENA Region and reflected on the outcomes of the Regional Consultation Meeting. During the UNHLM2023 in New York, Mr. Aaraj work focused on “Advocacy”. He took part of the meetings with the “Global Fund Advocates Network”. Furthermore, Mr. Aaraj met with the delegations from the MENA region and key TB stakeholders.

➤ **Community, Rights and Gender Assessment on TB (STP).**

Ending tuberculosis (TB) requires a people-centered, gender-transformative response that addresses the underlying determinants of health, fosters enabling legal and policy environments, prioritizes and empowers people affected by TB and key and vulnerable populations, and engages civil society and community-based organizations. National TB Programs, global decision-makers, and their partners must confront socioeconomic factors such as gender, occupation, nutrition, language, legal status, cultural norms, and access to information and education to strengthen community systems, reduce and eliminate TB stigma, protect and promote human rights, and foster a gender-transformative disease response. The TB Community, Rights and Gender Assessment (CRG Assessment) is designed to achieve these ends. TB-affected communities, CSOs, and their partners have taken bold steps to promote and operationalize a human rights-based TB response. The TB CRG Assessment is a multi-stakeholder, participatory process led by CSOs and CBOs, sanctioned by NTPs, and supported by STP, lawyers, and other technical experts. MENAHRA initiated the CRG assessment in 2023 and it is planned to be finalized and disseminated by 2024.

COMMUNICATIONS AND NETWORKING 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2023, MENAHRA made significant advancements in its communication and networking strategy. This included implementing a new branding initiative, resulting in a refreshed and modernized image.

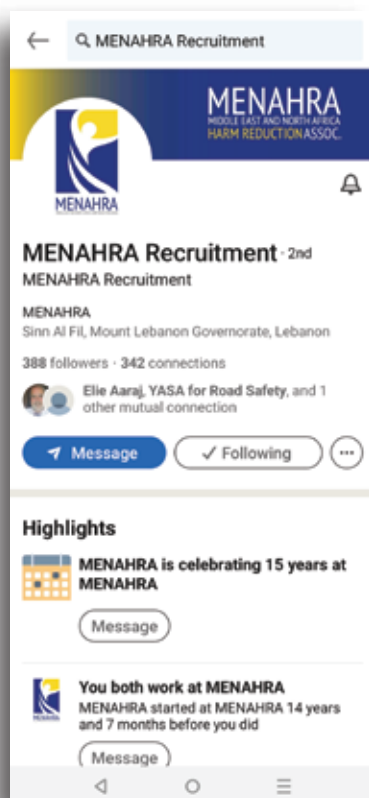
Additionally, MENAHRA launched a visually appealing and mobile-friendly website with a responsive design for a seamless user experience. MENAHRA also achieved increased visibility and engagement on social media platforms. Furthermore, MENAHRA successfully introduced a new newsletter strategy, featuring an attractive design that shares updates and news. These achievements highlight MENAHRA's commitment to enhancing communication and networking efforts, ensuring a better stronger, and impactful presence. As MENAHRA moves forward into 2024, it aims to implement new strategies to build upon these accomplishments and further strengthen its impact in the MENA Region.



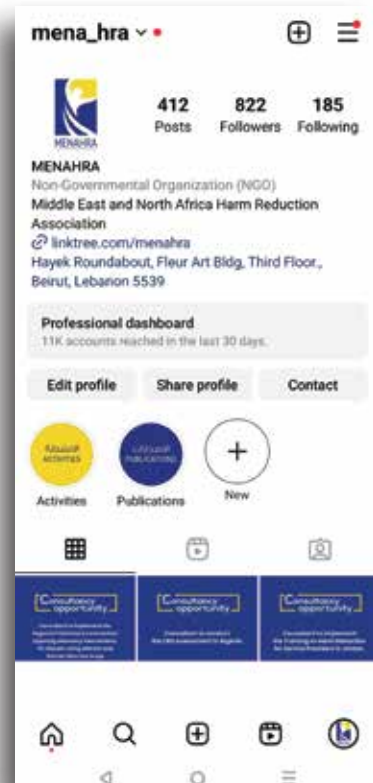
SCALING UP
HARM REDUCTION IN MENA



www.menahra.org



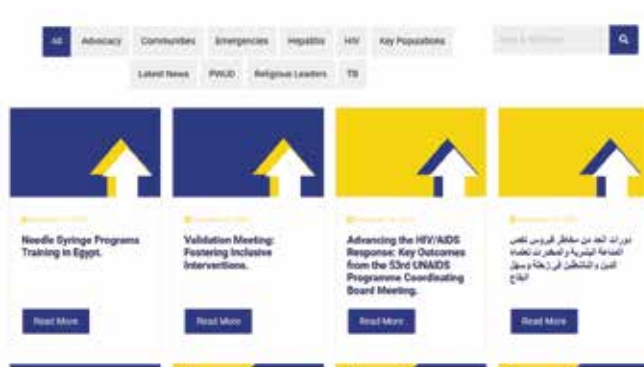
LinkedIn: MENAHRA



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Facebook: Middle East & North Africa Harm Reduction Association (MENAHRA)

OUR PUBLICATIONS

Regional Consultation Meeting on TB

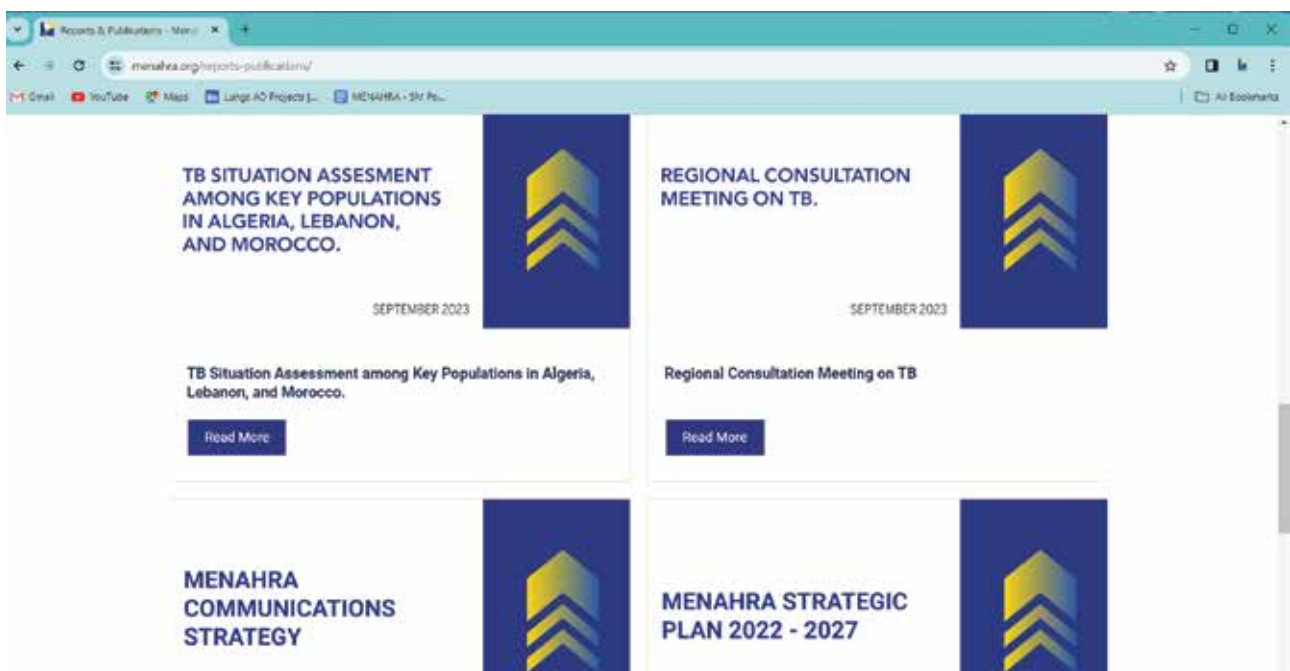
TB Situation Assessment among Key Populations in Algeria, Lebanon, and Morocco

Emergency Preparedness Plans for HIV and Harm Reduction Service Providers.

Mental health Status and Needs of KPs in the MENA Region.

Harm Reduction International: 54th Session Of The Human Rights Council: Drug Policy Highlights

Laboratory and point-of-care diagnostic testing for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.



OUR NEWS

- Addressing The Challenges Of HIV And Covid-19 In The Mena Region: The Efforts Of Mena Rosa And Menahra.
- Harm Reduction Consortium Annual Meeting: Reflecting On Successes And Planning For The Future.
- Global Fund's Support: Menahra's Harm Reduction With Religious Leaders.
- Empowering Women Living With Hiv (Wlhiv) To Become Agents Of Change.
- Menahra And Ranaa Collaborate To Strengthen Hiv/Aids Response In The Mena Region.
- World Tb Day 2023: Fighting Tb In The Mena Region.
- Nadoum Grant Supports Mena Region In Strengthening Hiv Services For Key Populations.
- Urgent Call To Address Drug Problems And Achieve Universal Health Coverage In The Mena Region.
- Tb Situation Assessment Among Key Populations In Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, And Morocco.
- Mena Key Populations Mental Health Assessment.
- Rome Consensus 2.0 Summit: Advancing Humanitarian Drug Policy Reform.
- Empowering Communities: Menahra's Campaign For Overdose International Day 2023.
- International Youth Day: Uniting To End Tuberculosis.
- Mena Regional Tb Consultation: Priorities & Action Plan.
- Empowering Communities: Menahra's Campaign For Overdose International Day 2023.
- Hiv Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis: A Gateway To Combatting Hepatitis B Virus.
- Regional Training On Hiv Treatment, Differentiated Service Delivery Models, And Integrated Approaches.
- UN General Assembly Formally Adopts Resolution On Political Declaration On Tuberculosis.
- Strengthening Hiv Response And Advocacy: "People Who Use Drugs (Pwud) Service Needs And The Rights Of People Living With And Affected By Hiv"
- Global Efforts Strengthened At The Un High-Level Meeting On Tuberculosis.
- Aths Biarritz 2023: Mise À L'échelle Dans La Réduction Des Risques, Les Addictions, L'hépatite Et Les Soins Du Vih.
- "Say Yes To Know" Take Control Of Your Health With Hiv Self-Testing!
- Advocacy For Change: Kadirat's Campaign To Reform Drug Policy In Tunisia.
- Advancing The Hiv/Aids Response: Key Outcomes From The 53rd Unaid Programme Coordinating Board Meeting.
- Validation Meeting: Fostering Inclusive Interventions.
- Needle Syringe Programs Training In Egypt.

MENAHRA NEWSLETTERS:

8 newsletters were disseminated during 2023.

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SCALING UP
HARM REDUCTION IN MENA

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

January, 2024 | Newsletter, Issue #161

NEEDLE SYRINGE PROGRAMS TRAINING IN EGYPT.

The Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Association (MENAHRA), with the support of the National AIDS Program of Egypt, and funded by the global fund to fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis organized a national training for service providers in Egypt on managing Needle/Syringe Programs (NSPs).

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تقرير ورش عمل وحواشات من أجل مساعدة متعاطي المخدرات

١- نظمت جمعية فادرات بالشراكة مع الإدارة القومية للشؤون الدينية، بمقرين دورة تدريبية يوم ٥ ديسمبر ٢٠٢٣ بمدينة مفرين للحد من انتشار المخدرات بين الشباب والشابات حضرا أمة ووعاظ وواعظات من مدينة بن عروس ومدينة مفرين ومدينة مراك ومدينة المرقابية بمررت فيها الدكتور منيرة السويحي ورشة عمل حول...

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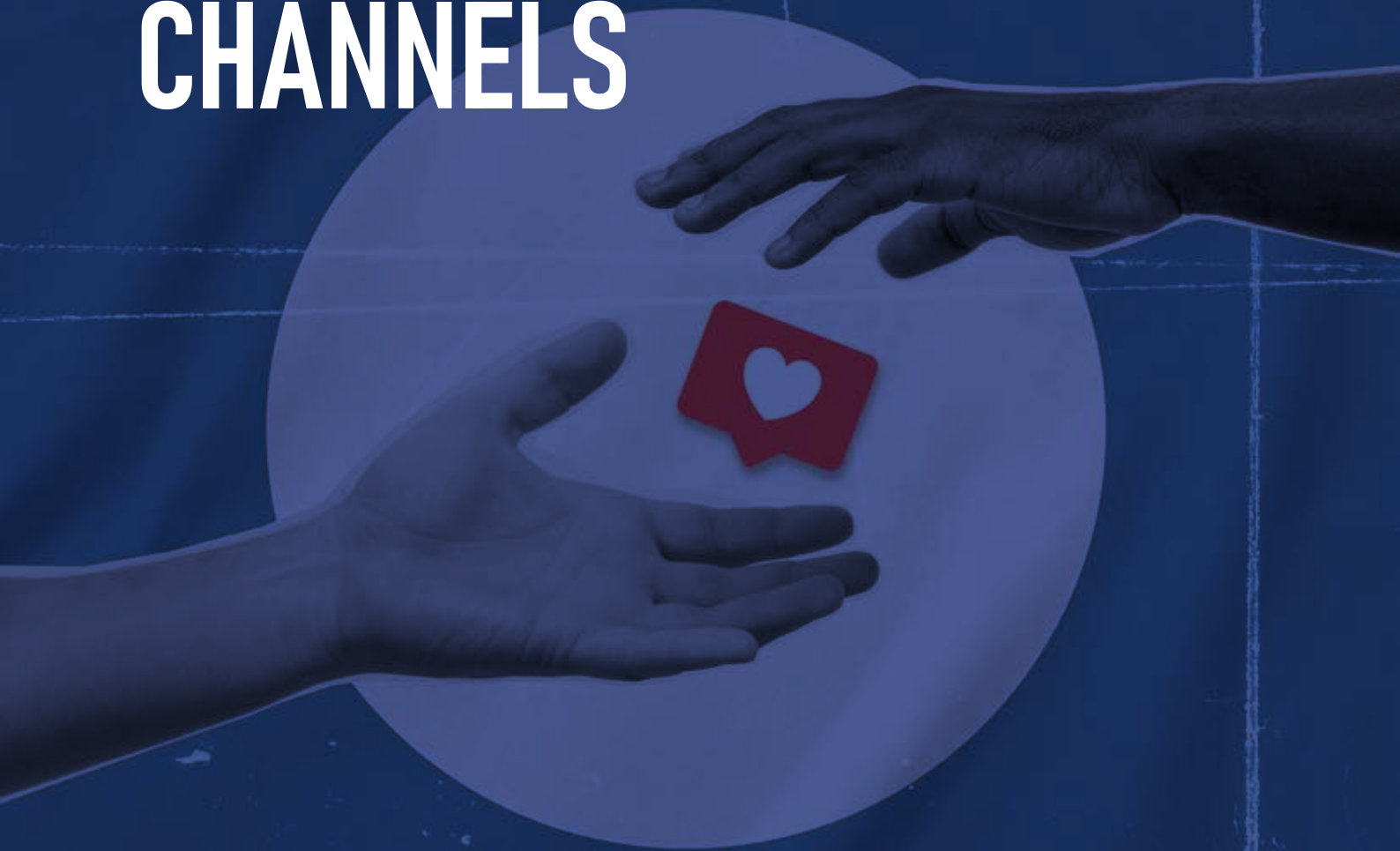
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