



SCALING UP
HARM REDUCTION IN MENA

MENAHRA ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Contents

<u>01 MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</u>	1
<u>02 INTRODUCTION</u>	2
<u>03 MENAHLRA BOARD MEMBERS</u>	3
<u>04 MENAHLRA TEAM</u>	7
<u>05 OUR DONORS</u>	12
<u>06 MENAHLRA STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (2027 - 2022)</u>	15
<u>07 CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND</u>	16
<u>08 COUNTRIES OF OPERATION</u>	17
<u>09 OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS - 2024</u>	18
<u>10 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW</u>	63
<u>11 COMMUNICATION AND NETWORKING</u>	64
<u>12 PUBLICATIONS</u>	71

Message from the Executive Director



I am honored to present the Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Association (MENAHRRA) Annual Report for 2024, a year marked by both progress and profound challenges. As we reflect on our journey, I extend my deepest gratitude to our stakeholders, partners, and supporters - your dedication has been essential in advancing harm reduction efforts across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

MENAHRRA remains committed to its mission to advocate for the health, rights, and dignity of People Who Use Drugs (PWUD). Through advocacy, capacity building, and evidence-based interventions, we continue to push for a future where harm reduction is not just a service but a fundamental right. The stories and achievements shared in this report reflect on our collective efforts to break barriers, challenge stigma, and drive impactful change.

2024 was not an easy year. It was a year of struggle and uncertainty, especially in Lebanon and across the region. Yet, despite these challenges, MENAHRRA and its partners stood resilient, and our commitment to community-driven solutions and human rights-based approaches has continued.

Our strategic objectives for 2022–2027 continue to guide us in strengthening governance, fostering a supportive environment for harm reduction, and generating high-quality evidence to shape policies and practices. This work would not be possible without the unwavering support of our partners, the resilience of the communities we serve, and the dedication of our team and Board Members.

As we move forward, we remain committed to scaling up harm reduction and amplifying the voices of key populations. Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we will continue to build bridges, drive change, and create a future where health, dignity, and human rights prevail.

Elie Aaraj
Executive Director,
MENAHRRA

1. INTRODUCTION

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.

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

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.

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.

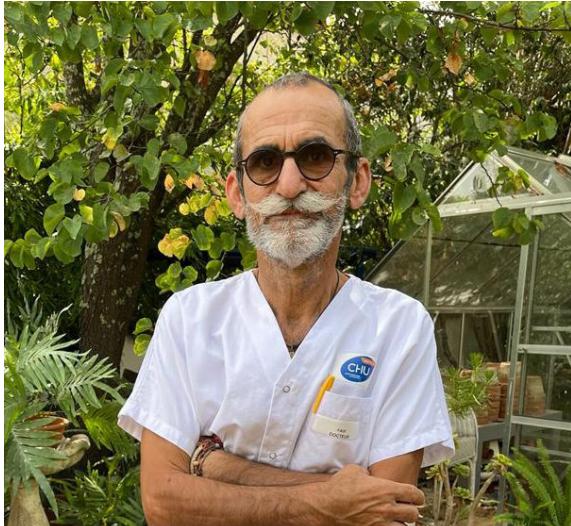
MENAHRA BOARD MEMBERS



Mr. Ahmed Shehata
Chair of the Board

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.



Mr. Fadi Meroueh Vice-Chair

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.

Dr. Fadi Meroueh has held the position of Vice President of MENARA until today. He has greatly appreciated and supported the work done by the team and its executive director alongside the president. «I ask for your confidence in my candidacy so that I can advance MENAHRA's focus on the consideration of prisons in this region, which remains somewhat forgotten and overlooked.



Faouzia Bouzzitoun: Secretary

Faouzia Bouzzitoun is a dedicated leader in social support and community development, currently serving as the Director of the Association Hasnouna de Soutien aux Usagers de Drogues in Tanger since January 2018. She plays a crucial role in strategic planning and management, coordinating the development of strategic documents, securing funding, and representing the association in institutional meetings. Additionally, Faouzia has been an accredited trainer at the Centre de Ressources et de Formation (CRF) since June 2013, where she develops training modules on gender diversity and evaluates their effectiveness.

As a pedagogical coordinator, she oversees training initiatives for harm reduction practitioners. Her previous experience includes managing programs focused on drug use risk reduction and promoting women's empowerment through community engagement. Faouzia is actively involved in various advocacy groups, contributing to efforts on women's rights and universal social coverage in Morocco, establishing herself as a leader committed to social change and community welfare.

Faouzia Bouzzitoun est une leader dévouée dans le soutien social et le développement communautaire, occupant actuellement le poste de Directrice de l'Association Hasnouna de Soutien aux Usagers de Drogues à Tanger depuis janvier 2018. Elle joue un rôle crucial dans la planification et la gestion stratégiques, coordonnant l'élaboration de documents stratégiques, sécurisant des financements et représentant l'association lors de réunions institutionnelles. De plus, Faouzia est formatrice accréditée au Centre de Ressources et de Formation (CRF) depuis juin 2013, où elle développe des modules de formation sur la diversité de genre et évalue leur efficacité. En tant que coordinatrice pédagogique, elle supervise les initiatives de formation pour les intervenants en réduction des risques. Son expérience précédente comprend la gestion de programmes axés sur la réduction des risques liés à l'usage de drogues et la promotion de l'autonomisation des femmes par le biais de l'engagement communautaire. Faouzia est également activement impliquée dans divers groupes de plaidoyer, contribuant aux efforts en faveur des droits des femmes et de la couverture sociale universelle au Maroc, s'affirmant comme une leader engagée pour le changement social et le bien-être communautaire.



Amina Agami Treasurer

Amina Agami is a dedicated professional with a strong background in public health and social development. She holds a bachelor's degree in Arabic language and literature and Islamic studies, and currently serves as the Executive Director of the «Your Health from Your Environment» Association. Amina has extensive experience managing projects related to HIV and tuberculosis, and has collaborated with various organizations, including the United Nations Development Programme and UNICEF, to promote health services and advocate for the rights of

marginalized groups. Her work includes several initiatives aimed at supporting women, children, and individuals affected by HIV, reflecting her commitment to social equity and health advocacy. Her experience in project management, effective communication, and leadership has positioned her as a key figure in promoting health rights and combating stigma in her community.



Mr. Daniel Wardeh Accountant

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. Wardeh 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.

MENAHRA TEAM



Mr. Elie Aaraj Executive Director

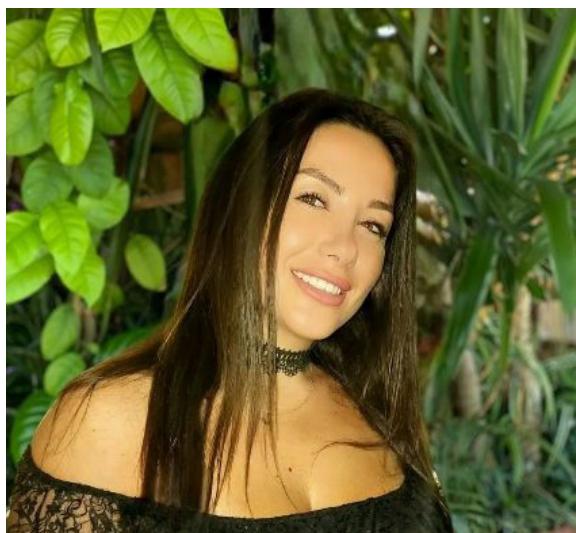
Elie Aaraj is the esteemed Executive Director of the Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Association (MENAHRA). With a profound dedication to the field of HIV/AIDS and harm reduction, Elie has been actively involved since 1987. He is the visionary founder of “Soins Infirmiers et Développement 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 MENAHRRA. 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 MENAHRRA's executive team significantly contributes to the organization's accomplishments.



**Sarah Waizani
Communication and Network Coordinator**

Sarah Waizani is a dynamic professional serving as the Communication and Networking Coordinator at MENAHRRA. With a passion for effective communication and a keen eye for branding, Sarah plays a pivotal role in enhancing MENAHRRA'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 MENAHRRA's brand integrity contribute significantly to the organization's success in promoting

harm reduction initiatives across 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.



**Amjad Malaeb
Programs 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.



Lynn Nader
Accountant

Lynn Nader, a skilled Accountant at MENAHR, 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 MENAHR'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 MENAHR's interventions.



KHODOR MELHEM
Finance Officer

Finance Officer with 3 years of experience in the non-profit sector. Skilled in financial management, budgeting, reporting, financial analysis, and providing valuable insights to drive organizational success. Proven ability to accurately prepare financial duties, conduct thorough financial analysis, and effectively communicate results to stakeholders. Passionate about using financial resources to drive social impact and committed to building relationships with key stakeholders. My role at MENAHR enriches my experience and my diverse skill set greatly contributes to MENAHR's financial team and

the advancement of harm reduction initiatives in the MENA region.

OUR DONORS





OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **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 (2027 – 2022)

- **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](#).

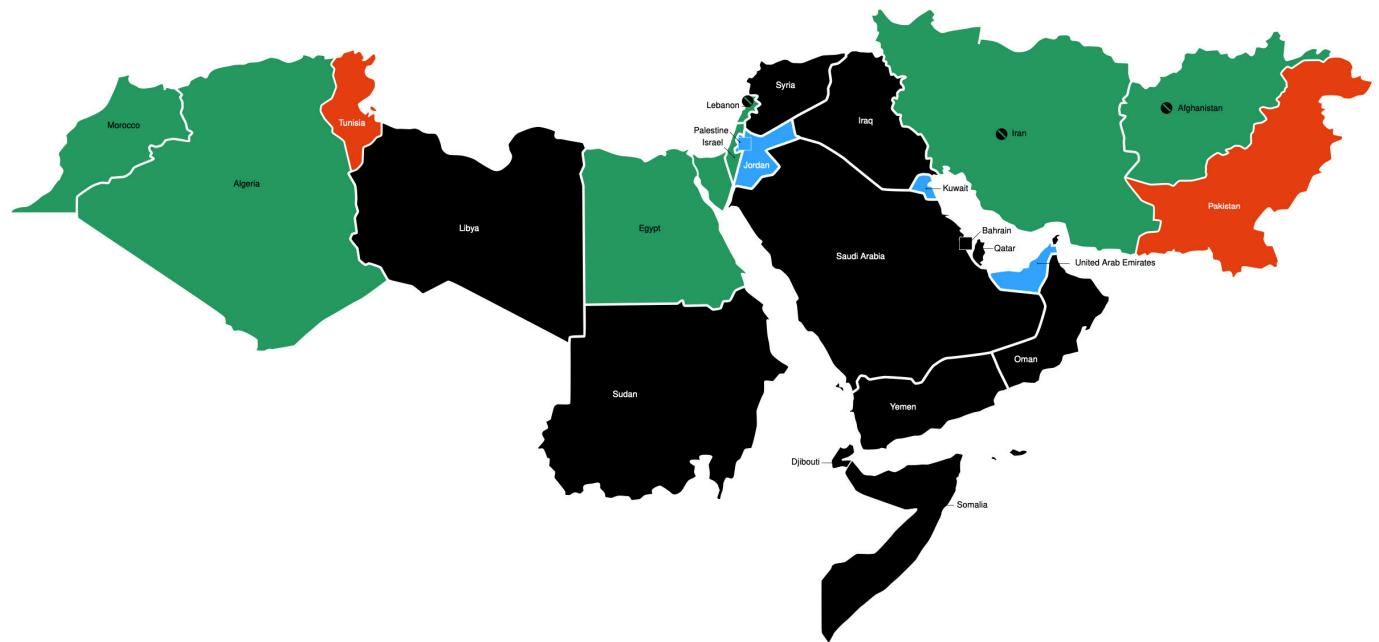
Context and Background Information

The MENA region faces severe political instability, with conflicts in Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen, and Iraq leading to displacement, weakened governance, and disrupted healthcare. This instability fuels drug production and trafficking, particularly Captagon and opioids, increasing drug use among vulnerable populations. Limited healthcare access and punitive drug laws heighten HIV risks, especially for PWID, sex workers, and MSM. Synthetic drugs like Captagon and methamphetamine are rising, alongside cannabis and opioids. With 320,000 PWID, the region sees high HIV and HCV prevalence, yet harm reduction remains insufficient.

Harm reduction efforts are limited, with only nine countries offering needle-syringe programs (NSPs) and 11 providing opioid agonist therapy (OAT). Even where these services exist, access is restricted due to stigma, discrimination, religious opposition, and legal barriers. Implementation is particularly weak in prison settings, where harm reduction services are largely absent. While some countries, like Lebanon, Iran, and Morocco, have integrated harm reduction into national HIV strategies, political instability and budgetary constraints hinder expansion. Without urgent investment and policy reforms, harm reduction services will remain inadequate, exacerbating the region's growing public health crisis.

Territory	People who inject drugs ^a	HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs (%)	Hepatitis C (anti-HCV) prevalence among people who inject drugs (%)	Hepatitis B (anti-HBsAg) prevalence among people who inject drugs (%)	Harm reduction responses				
					NSP ^a	OAT ^b	Peer distribution of naloxone ^c	DCR ^d	Safe smo equi
Iran	57,207	1.41	23.08	2.77	✓ 8	✓ M	✓	✗	
	17,000	nd ^f	nd	nd	✓ 3	✓ M	nd	nd	
	5,100	3.89	3.89	nd	✗	nd	✗	✗	
	nd	nd	nd	nd	✗	nd	✗	✗	
	96,230	3.73	nd	nd	✓	✓ M	✗	✗	
	39,277	nd	nd	nd	✗	✗	✗	✗	
	138,250	8.3	36.8	3.04	✓	✓ M B	✓	✗	
	nd	nd	nd	nd	✓	✓ M B	✗	✗	
	10,488	0	nd	nd	✗	✓	✗	✗	
	12,000	0.1	30.87	1.52	✗	✓	✗	✗	
	9,000	0.05	23.59	1.07	✓ 1	✓ B	✓	✗	
	6,677	87.1	94.2	4.5	✗	✗	✗	✗	
	17,750	5.05	63.13	nd	✓ 3	✓ M	✗	✗	
	2,922	0.53	36.56	6.29	✗	✗	✗	✗	
	430,000	33.2	51.32	2.66	✓ ^g	✗	✗	✗	
	5,000	0	41.48	6.15	✗	✓ M B	✗	✗	
	1,827	nd	nd	nd	✗	✗	✗	✗	
ibia	3,400	2.46	62.61	7.7	✗	✗	✗	✗	
	392	nd	nd	nd	✗	✗	✗	✗	
	986	nd	nd	nd	✗	✗	✗	✗	
	10,000	0	3.3	0.5	✗	✗	✗	✗	
	11,000	3.54	28.32	4.3	✓	✗	✗	✗	
ab Emirates	6,247	nd	nd	nd	✗	✓	✗	✗	
	844	nd	nd	nd	✗	✗	✗	✗	

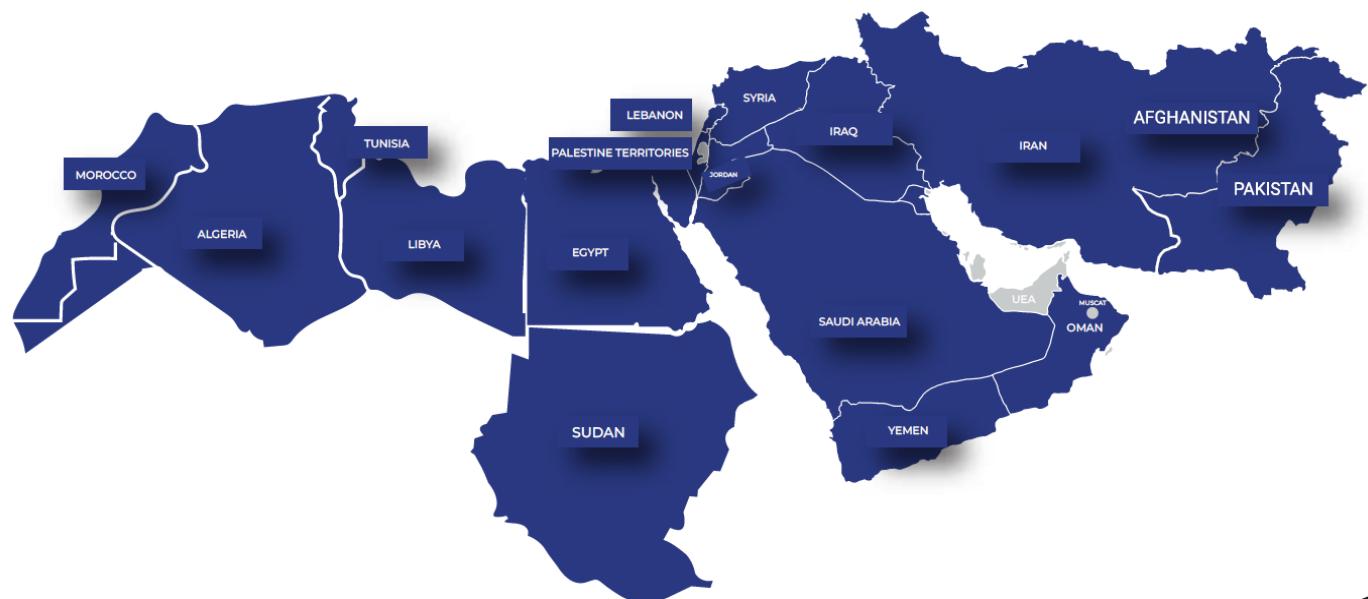
Table retrieved from: Harm Reduction International, (2024), Global State of Harm Reduction 2024, HRI, London.



- Both NSP and OAT available
- OAT only
- NSP only
- Neither available
- Not known
- Peer-distribution of naloxone

Map retrieved from: Harm Reduction International, (2024), Global State of Harm Reduction 2024, HRI, London.

COUNTRIES OF OPERATION



2024 OPERATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

Activity Title: Regional Training of Trainers on Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) for service providers.

Donor: Global Fund

Objective: Train the trainers and guide them to deliver harm reduction trainings, educate and build the capacity of service providers on harm reduction services, specifically OST, facilitate community engagement with key stakeholders in OST initiatives, and foster networking and collaboration among service providers for OST implementation.

Status: Accomplished

Description: The activity involved organizing a -5day (September 19,18,17,16 and 2024,20) training of trainers on OST principles, for service providers in 3 countries in the MENA region (Egypt, Lebanon and Morocco). Participants were initially screened for certain criteria relating to experience in provision and implementation of OST services and participation in MENAHRA's previous workshop. The workshop focused on enhancing the skills and knowledge of service providers for them to later provide harm reduction training and advocacy activities in their own contexts, on building capacities, enhancing communication and facilitation skills, and building cascade support skills in OST. The approach was interactive, engaging different ideas and experiences, and inclusive of practical activities on previously discussed topics. It was distributed over 5 days to avoid condensing a large load of information and skills in one day. The sustainability of this activity will be accomplished through the capacity building of the participants, the community involvement, and the partnerships and collaborations with key stakeholders.

Achievement: Evaluations showed a net improvement in the participants' knowledge related to the OST component and the training component. It also showed that the majority of participants had developed adequate facilitation skills and are ready to deliver training sessions (although some may require more coaching than others). High levels of engagement and cooperation were also achieved among the participants throughout the training. One of the participants became a trainer in the national training on OST in his country.



Activity Title: Regional Training of Trainers on Needle and Syringe Programs (NSP) for service providers.

Donor: Global Fund

Objective: Train the participants/ service providers, educate, and build their capacities so that they deliver trainings on harm reduction services, specifically NSP, in their own national contexts, facilitate community engagement with key stakeholders in NSP initiatives, and foster networking and collaboration among service providers for NSP implementation.

Status: Accomplished

Description: The activity involved organizing in May 2024 a -5day training of trainers on NSP principles, for service providers in harm reduction civil society organizations in 5 countries in the MENA region (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia).

Participants were initially screened for certain criteria relating to experience in provision and implementation of NSP services and participation in MENAHRA's previous workshops. The workshop focused on building skills and knowledge on participants so that they later deliver their own trainings, building capacities, developing communications and facilitation skills, and building cascade support skills in NSP, overdose response, and advocacy work. The approach was interactive, engaging different ideas and experiences, and inclusive of practical activities on previously discussed topics. It was delivered over 5 days to avoid condensing a large load of information and skills in one day.

Achievement: There was an improvement in the participants' knowledge as they underscored, in the evaluation, the significance of various topics, such as harm reduction strategies, NSP, OST, overdose, communication techniques with key populations, and more. There were high levels of engagement and participation as they expressed enthusiasm about attending and participating in the facilitation of future trainings to improve their skills. Participants also reported learning how to participate without feeling shy as well as skills and technique on how to facilitate. They learned how to organize thoughts, the importance of body language, the importance of exchanging experiences, and the various technical topics that were covered.

Activity Title: Training of Trainers workshop on Opioid Substitution therapy (OST) for Health care workers in Egypt.

Donor: Global Fund

Status: Accomplished

Objective: Build the skills and capacities of service providers in Egypt on opioid agonist therapy (OAT), and training and facilitation, to become trainers on the subject.

Description: Based on the discussions with the Ministry of Health, specifically the mental health program, MENAHRA has implemented an OST training for healthcare workers in Egypt in December 2022. Building on that, it was suggested by the ministry to continue the work by holding a training of trainers workshop for healthcare workers in Egypt in 2024. Hence, MENAHRA collaborated with the Ministry of Health in Egypt to implement the training of trainers (ToT) workshop. Attendees included 24 Healthcare workers providing OST services for people who use drugs in Egypt nominated by the Ministry of Health and who have already attended the previous training. The workshop aimed to further enhance their skills and knowledge for them to later provide harm reduction training on OST in their own contexts. The training also focused on building capacities and delivering adequate communication and facilitation skills and cascade support skills in OST. The workshop was interactive, where exchanges of ideas, knowledge, and experiences were encouraged and complemented by practical activities on the previously discussed topics. It extended over five days to maximize discussions and avoid condensing a large load of information and skills into a single day. The workshop materials focused on several aspects of harm reduction. Regarding the evaluation questions that were filled by the participants for the perceived effectiveness of the workshop, the majority strongly agreed with the evaluation questions, emphasizing their happiness and satisfaction with the training content and the facilitation. Also, the pre and post-tests assessing the knowledge of the participants showed an increased average from 14.8 (out of 20) to 17.3.

Activity Title: Training of Trainers workshop on Opioid Substitution therapy (OST) for healthcare workers in Jordan.

Donor: Global Fund

Status: Accomplished

Objective: Empowering participants to train service providers on the opioid substitution therapy program to establish or enhance such programs within their institutions and organizations.

Description: MENAHRA collaborated with the Ministry of Health and UNODC in Jordan, to implement the training of trainers (ToT) workshop. This was based on the discussion with the drug addiction program in the Ministry of Health, which suggested holding a training of trainers workshop for healthcare workers in Jordan in 2024. Attendees included 18 Healthcare workers providing OST services for people who use drugs in Jordan nominated by the Ministry of Health and who have already attended the previous training. The workshop aimed to further enhance their skills and knowledge for them to later provide harm reduction training on OST in their own contexts. The training also focused on building capacities and delivering adequate communication and facilitation skills and cascade support skills in OST. The workshop was interactive, where exchanges of ideas, knowledge, and experiences were encouraged and complemented by practical activities on the previously discussed topics. It extended over five days to maximize discussions and avoid condensing a large load of information and skills into a single day. The workshop materials focused on several aspects of harm reduction. Regarding the evaluation questions that were filled by the participants for the perceived effectiveness of the workshop, all the participants selected "Strong Agree" and "Agree" except for one participant who "disagreed" with the length of the training sessions. Also, the pre and post-tests assessing the knowledge of the participants showed an average improvement in the grades of 6.88+ points.



Activity Title: Seed funds to implement gender equity and harm reduction activities in Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, and Tunisia

Donor: Global Fund

Status: Accomplished

Objective: Supporting the continuity of targeting the gender gap in the harm reduction services in the MENA region through seed funds

Description: The activity aimed to continue and build on the previous efforts made by MENAHRA to target the gender gap in the harm reduction services in the MENA region. MENAHRA has implemented a gender equity and harm reduction training for service providers in the MENA region in 2023 to capacitate service providers on the topic. MENAHRA suggested the continuity of work on the topic in the MENA region by providing seed funds for partners to implement gender equity activities related to harm reduction that are specific for their countries and context. The implementation of these activities requires financial resources. Therefore, this activity proposed the allocation of national seed funds for civil society organizations (CSOs) or a coalition of civil society organizations in each of the four countries (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Tunisia) to implement gender equity and harm reduction activities. The seed funds were distributed to Caritas and HEA in Egypt, FOCCEC in Jordan, SIDC, Ajem, and Skoun in Lebanon, and ATIOST in Tunisia. In Egypt, Caritas did a workshop for legal professionals and jurists, aiming at engaging them in shaping the legal environment and forming a legal front to defend the rights of women WLHIV and those most at risk. Also, HEA conducted a training and awareness workshop for healthcare providers serving women who use drugs. They aimed at achieving gender equity in harm reduction programs. In Jordan, FOCCEC did four workshops targeting individuals interested in harm reduction, particularly those most affected by the gender gap in accessing harm reduction services. The workshops aimed at raising awareness about the importance of gender equity and access to harm reduction services. In Lebanon, Ajem did Gender Equity Awareness Sessions for OST Program Beneficiaries at AJEM Rabieh Center, to encourage participants to support females seeking substance use treatment, and reduce the stigma associated with female drug use. Under the title of «Women speak their rights», SIDC conducted a quantitative questionnaire that describes women's culturally sensitive and gender-specific challenging experiences and formulating key messages to be addressed to different concerned parties around their diverse needs and rights. Based on that, a social media campaign was disseminated. Skoun focused on Engaging Women's Rights CSOs to Increase Women's Access to Specialized Services. They aimed to address barriers to healthcare access for women who use drugs in Lebanon by fostering partnerships with women's rights CSOs and promoting referrals to Skoun's voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) services. In Tunisia, ATIOST targeted women who inject drugs by organizing workshops aimed at attracting women who inject drugs and granting them the right to access their centers without exclusion or discrimination.



Activity Title: Tour visits for Law Enforcement personnel to an international harm reduction center

Donor: Global Fund

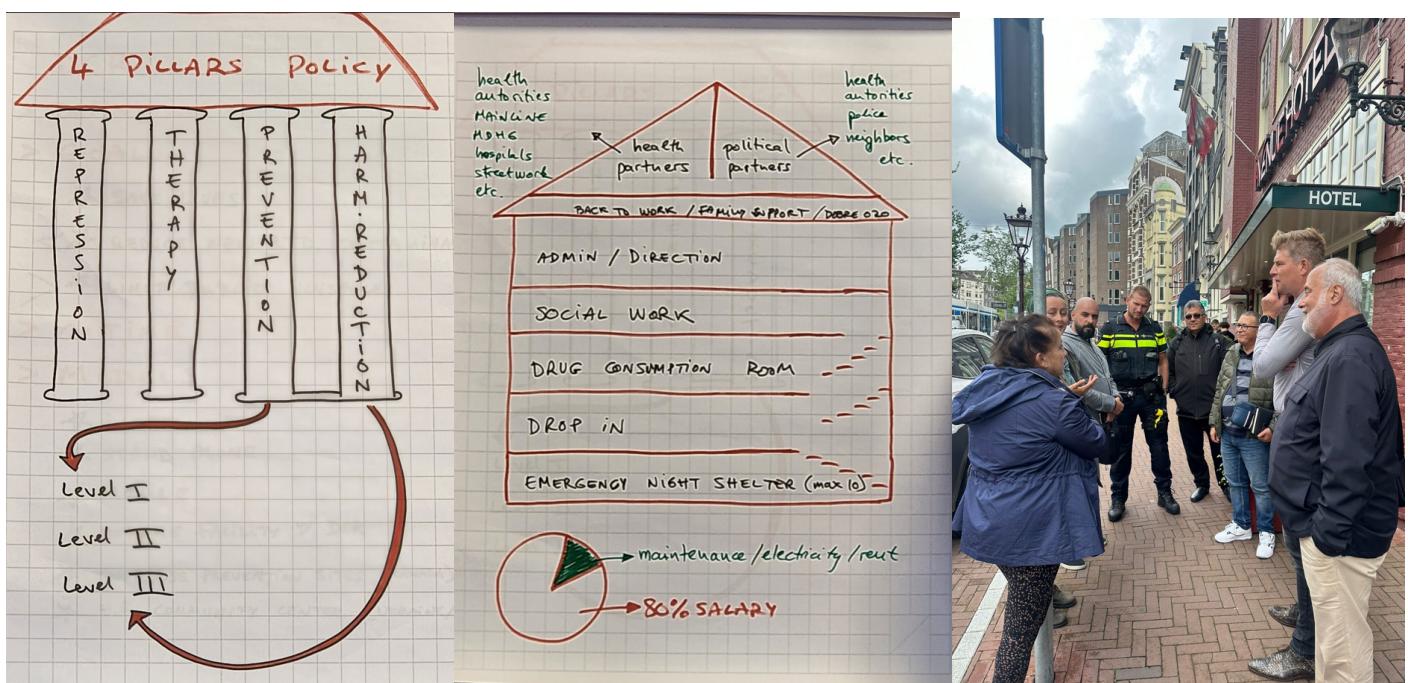
Objective: Enhance the law enforcement's understanding of harm reduction practices, learn harm reduction implementation and outcomes from the international best practices providing insight on possible application and/or adaptation in the MENA, and increase the law enforcement's advocacy and support for harm reduction policies and well-being of people who use drugs.

Status: Accomplished

Description: The activity involved organizing a -3day (September 11 ,10 and 2024 12) study tour where law enforcement personnel visited a prominent international harm reduction center in the Netherlands. The law enforcement personnel included 4 participants from the police, judges, lawyers and prosecutors in the MENA region from the MENAHRA network. The tour included meetings with and visits to the drug consumption room, drug checking service, other harm reduction services (NSP, heroin substitution, OAT, health clinic, drug treatment), and law enforcement (police (station)/ LEAP, lawyer, judge). It aimed to provide participants with first-hand insights into effective harm reduction strategies and practices. By observing and engaging with a leading center, law enforcement officers will gain a deeper understanding of harm reduction principles, enhancing their ability to support and implement similar initiatives in their own regions.

Achievement:

The participants reported in the final evaluation that they believe the tour objectives were accomplished. Their understanding and knowledge on the harm reduction principles and approaches were also improved as they reported learning the importance of "treating users humanely by the police", "acceptance coming from the will of the people", "liberty, humanism, respect of human rights", and "legalizing drug use with all necessary regulations from the relevant authorities". The field visits and the practical/applied aspects of the tour were also favored by the participants.



Activity Title: Seed funds to implement advocacy activities based on the harm reduction cost effectiveness study

Donor: Global Fund

Objective: Implement activities and advocacy initiatives based on the harm reduction cost effectiveness study in order to scale up harm reduction services in Lebanon through the allocation of seed funds for civil society organizations (CSOs) in Lebanon.

Status: Accomplished

Description: The seed funds were allocated to two CSOs whose projects were implemented:

(1) Harm Reduction Through Communities of Care Project by Skoun (September 2024 – December 2024).

Aim: The project aimed to raise awareness among PWUD, their families, and our community on the importance of OAT and Naloxone in harm reduction as well as introducing the communities to HIV and the possible interaction of ART with different substances.

Description: 3 pamphlets were prepared and distributed at Skoun centers, partnering NGOs, PHCs, and different events. One pamphlet offered essential information on buprenorphine (benefits, usage, potential risks...), a second pamphlet introduced naloxone, emphasizing its role in opioid overdose prevention, injection, and steps to be taken when overdose takes place.., and the third pamphlet offered a comprehensive overview of HIV (transmission, prevention, available treatments in Lebanon, interactions between HIV treatment and substance use, with a focus on opiate use...). Social media posts were also prepared in alignment with the 3 pamphlets and shared on social media platforms to ensure consistency of communication across platforms and to increase outreach.

(2) Capacity Building and Sustainability for Harm Reduction Strategies in Substance Abuse & HIV/ AIDS Care in Lebanon by Association Justice and Mercy (AJEM) (August and September 2024).

Aim: Equip frontline professionals with the necessary tools, knowledge, and skills to create supportive and stigma-free environments for at-risk people through the education on Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) interventions given the high rates of opioid dependence among Lebanese populations and the cost-effectiveness of OAT.

Description: The activity involved a comprehensive two-day (August 2024 ,30, and September ,6 8 ,2024 am to 2 pm) capacity-building workshop to educate a minimum of 30 healthcare providers in Lebanon on the benefits of Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) for individuals dependent on opioids such as heroin. Key workshop topics included foundational harm reduction principles, strategies to mitigate HIV/AIDS transmission, effective communication techniques, practical implementation strategies, and the cost-effectiveness of harm reduction interventions. The sessions were dynamic featuring interactive discussions, role-playing exercises, case studies, and structured learning modules.

Achievement: (1) Awareness among the general public, PWUD, and PLHIV about OAT, Naloxone, and HIV increased, fostering greater understanding and reducing stigma. Efforts have been enhanced to advocate for harm reduction interventions as cost-effective measures. This fostered a more informed and supportive community, advocating for inclusive treatment services and reducing stigma around substance use and HIV.

(2) Evaluation of the workshop showed an improvement in the knowledge and a decrease in the misunderstandings about harm reduction among healthcare providers, which indicates meeting the objectives and expectations of this workshop.



Activity Title: Sustaining advocacy efforts and endorsement of harm reduction programs for religious leaders in Egypt seed funds

Donor: Global Fund

Objective: Enhance the religious leaders' knowledge and understanding of harm reduction and relating topics, including knowledge on HIV, vulnerable populations, government's harm reduction policies, their role in advocacy, support, and stigma reduction... Increase religious leaders' advocacy on harm reduction as they hold an influential position in society.

Status: Accomplished

Description: The activity involved Friends NGO, in Egypt, organizing, with the seed fund received from MENAHRA, two -2day workshop trainings (September 18 ,19 and September 2024 26 ,25) with religious leaders in Egypt.

In each of the two workshops, 15 religious leaders and 10 youth leaders attended the -2day lectures, where the same topics were discussed in the two workshops. The lectures discussed the topics of HIV, the epidemiological situation in Egypt, populations most vulnerable to HIV, stakeholders and governments' strategies on harm reduction programs, national services on AIDS, clarification of what a harm reduction strategy is, and religious leaders' role in fighting stigma, reaching the youth and society, and advocating for harm reduction strategies. The sessions also included a moderated discussion between the participants on the definition of harm reduction, on the classification of people who use drugs (patient or criminal), and on their role towards the young adults who use drugs. The lectures or sessions were given by the director of the national AIDS program in the health ministry and by 2 religious leaders as well (a father priest and sheikh).

Achievement: Evaluation of the workshops showed improvements in the knowledge of the participants about the topics discussed (60 and %64 pretest and %100 posttests). Majority of the participants were also satisfied when evaluating the workshops and the trainers.

Activity Title: Updating MENAHRa policies and procedures and TORs based on the resource mobilization recommendations and Support MENAHRa in resource mobilization tasks

Donor: Global Fund

Status: Accomplished

Objective: Updating MENAHRa policies and procedures and TORs based on the resource mobilization recommendations and Support MENAHRa in resource mobilization tasks

Description: Building upon the work of the Frontline AIDS consultant to develop a resource mobilization action plan and M&E tool for MENAHRa, MENAHRa updated its policies, procedures, organigram, and its staff TORs to accommodate the suggested recommendations. In addition, the consultant supported MENAHRa in resource mobilization tasks, such as applying to a certain number of relevant RFPs. After the revision of all HR and administrative policies and procedures, several enhancements were made to align with best practices and organizational requirements. Additionally, new policies were introduced to fill identified gaps, such as a Safeguarding Policy. In parallel, the network's organigram, compensation structure, and team's terms of reference were revised and updated. Regarding resource mobilization tasks, Endorsement letters were meticulously prepared to support MENAHRa's application for the Hepatitis Fund. Additionally, a well-developed proposal was revised and submitted, building on the constructive feedback received by the RCF.



Activity Title: Roundtable discussions with service providers to women who use drugs and women living with HIV, in Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.

Donor: Global Fund, and in coordination with MENANPUD and MENARosa

Objective: Identify the gaps in service provision for women who use drugs and women living with HIV, develop a prioritized list of actions to be adopted by service providers, advocate for the rights of women who use drugs and women living with HIV to access quality care services, and raise awareness of service providers to deliver gender-sensitive and gender-specific services to women who use drugs and women living with HIV.

Status: Accomplished

Description: The activity involved conducting one roundtable discussion with service providers and national stakeholders in each of Morocco, Tunisia and Lebanon.

One consultant was assigned to each country, and prior to the roundtable discussion, they conducted a thorough desk review to identify the needs of women who use drugs and women living with HIV, particularly in relation to service provision. They also contacted national partners implementing Community-Led Monitoring (REACT for Lebanon and FORSS for Tunisia and Morocco) for evidence-based data on incidents or violations at health care setting and barriers to accessing services. This was also complemented by Key Informant Interviews with relevant national actors such as SIDC and Skoun in Lebanon, ALCS and Hasnouna in Morocco, ATL and ATP+ in Tunisia. Then, the round table discussions were conducted in each country with service providers to people who use drugs and living with HIV and community advocates/leaders among women who use drugs and women living with HIV in each country. The aim was to discuss service provision in each country and develop prioritized action points to be adopted and implemented at a later stage by the service providers.

Achievement: The collected data and findings were consolidated and compiled into one regional report. The report presented the findings on the available services in each of Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia, on the barriers to accessing services in terms of gender roles, economic restraints, stigma and discrimination, in healthcare settings, and community stigma, on the limited availability of specialized and supporting services, on the gender based violence, on the legal and policy barriers, all of which were able to inform relevant and contextualized recommendations. This is an important step in understanding the needs of WWUD and the needs of WLHIV and hence developing effective support and treatment programs by providing comprehensive care and psychosocial support that can improve their quality of life.



Activity Title: MENAHRAs SSRs coordination meeting for acceleration of year 3 activities

Donor: Global Fund

Status: Accomplished

Objective: Coordinate SSRs' work, accelerate the implementation of grant-funded activities, and ensure proper grant management.

Description: During the last year of the grant, there was a great need to ensure timely implementation of activities. Thus, MENAHRAs (SR) conducted a face-to-face, two-day meeting in Lebanon for all its SSRs under the global fund, including MENANPUD, MENA Rosa, and RANAA, to coordinate the work between the four networks and to accelerate the implementation of activities. Attendees included 14 participants of programmatic and financial staff from MENANPUD, MENA Rosa, RANAA, and MENAHRAs teams. The sessions covered programmatic, financial, M&E, and communication & networking components. The program session concentrated on how we can further enhance our coordination to atone to the core of our interventions and yet pivot the priorities following our commitment under this grant. The MEAL session focused on explaining MEAL components, model phases, steps, and alignment with project requirements. The communication strategies session consisted of a training workshop titled «Scaling Up NGOs Communication Strategies and Visibility.» Lastly, The Finance session provided an in-depth overview of MENAHRAs financial management, challenges, and key procedures. It covered financial planning, budgeting, cost allocation, procurement, and reporting requirements while emphasizing compliance with Global Fund policies. The session concluded with a hands-on budgeting exercise to enhance financial planning and resource allocation. After the end of this activity, evaluation forms reflected positive input from the participants, highlighting the success of the coordination meeting as all the participants were happy and satisfied with the meeting agenda, content, organization, and objectives.



Activity Title: Assessment on community learning needs in the MENA region

Donor: Global Fund MENA Learning Hub

Status: Accomplished

Objective: Identifying the learning needs of community members in the MENA region regarding Global Fund related processes.

Description: In 2024, MENAHRA and MENA Rosa were selected by the Global Fund to host the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Learning Hub for 2026 – 2024. Accordingly, MENAHRA and MENA Rosa conducted an assessment focusing on mapping civil society and community organizations and identifying the learning needs of community members regarding engagement in Global Fund and related processes such as National Strategic Planning, funding request development, grant-making, CCM representation, etc. The assessment collected data through a combination of literature reviews, eleven key informant interviews (KIIs), and an online survey targeting Civil societies and communities working with people living with HIV (PLHIV), people affected by TB, and key populations, including female sex workers (SW), men who have sex with men (MSM), and people who use or inject drugs (PWID/PWUD), among others. The study covered 11 countries in the MENA region and included 100 survey responses. The recommendations outline a comprehensive strategy to strengthen the engagement of civil society and communities in GF processes. Key actions include increasing direct support to community organizations, investing in capacity building to engage effectively in all stages of the GF grant cycle, program planning, and implementation skills, addressing legal and political barriers, and promoting data-driven approaches to monitoring and evaluation. Implementing these changes will enable the GF to adopt more inclusive, community-led approaches to combating HIV, TB, and malaria, ensuring that key, vulnerable, and marginalized populations play a central role in decision-making processes.



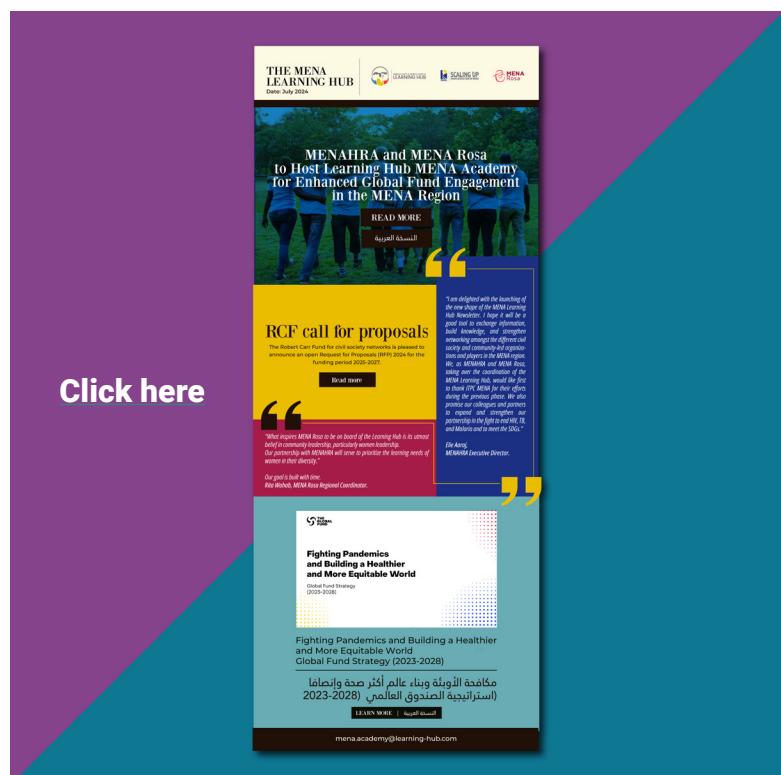
Activity Title: MENAHLRA Newsletter 1 – MENA Academy

Donor: Global Fund MENA Learning Hub

Status: Accomplished

Objective: Launching of the MENA Regional Learning Hub and RCF call for proposals and disseminating the Global Fund strategy

Description: Throughout this newsletter, MENAHLRA (Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Association) announced that alongside MENA Rosa are now hosting the «Learning Hub - MENA academy for the period of 2026-2024 which is supported by the Community Engagement Strategic Initiative of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund). The concept of Learning hubs was explained, including its definition, who it is for, its roles, and the terms of engagement with it. Hence, this newsletter aimed at introducing the launch of the MENA Regional Learning Hub, providing relevant stakeholders with necessary information and contacts for reaching out. Additionally, the newsletter included sharing an open Request for Proposals (RFP) whereby, the Robert Carr Fund invited global and regional civil society networks and consortia of networks led by, and/or serving inadequately served populations to apply for a grant to support their core funding and activity needs for a three-year period (2027-2025). Also, Global Fund Strategy (2028-2023) was disseminated, including its mission to attract, leverage and invest additional resources to end the epidemics of HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, reduce health inequities and support attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.



Activity Title: “Official launching of the MENA Learning Hub” Webinar and “MENA Community Learning Needs” Webinar.

Donor: Global Fund MENA Learning Hub

Status: Accomplished

Objective: Introducing and officially launching the MENA Learning Hub for all relevant stakeholders and sharing the key findings of the Learning Needs Assessment.

Description: MENAHRA and MENA Rosa conducted a pivotal webinar aimed at officially launching the MENA Learning Hub, an innovative platform designed to enhance capacity building and knowledge sharing among stakeholders in the MENA region. Audience included Community members in the MENA region, Community networks in the MENA region, Civil society organizations working with community members in the MENA region, CCMs members of countries in the MENA region, PRs, SRs, and SSRs of global fund grants in the MENA region. The Executive Director of MENAHRA and the Regional Coordinator of MENA Rosa, as well as the two coordinators of the Learning Hub, gave their insightful remarks in this webinar. They explained the significance of this initiative in fostering regional collaboration and improving health outcomes for key populations, with the detailed outline of the three-year work plan. Additionally, the Global Fund's Community Engagement Strategic Initiative (CE SI) team and the Global Fund MENA Team highlighted the importance of community involvement in achieving sustainable health interventions. The webinar also served as an informative session, where the role and objectives of the Learning Hub were clearly outlined to participants. The MENA learning hub conducted another webinar for all relevant stakeholders in the MENA region to discuss the key findings from the learning needs assessment conducted in the MENA region. The webinar included showcasing the results of the learning needs assessment conducted, and an open discussion was facilitated regarding the topics presented, focusing on community engagement.



Activity Title: Capacity building workshop on advocacy for people who use drugs (PWUD) and people living with HIV (PLHIV) in Egypt.

Donor: GNP and Love Alliance

Objective: Build the capacity, skills and knowledge of community members on advocacy, foster a sense of community among participants, encouraging collaboration, shared experiences, and collective action in advocating for the rights and well-being of individuals who use drugs and those living with HIV, and increase participants' understanding of existing policies related to drug use and HIV/AIDS, allowing them to advocate for evidence-based policies.

Status: Accomplished

Description: The activity involved organizing a face-to-face, two days' workshop, in Egypt, that will target PWUD and PLHIV from Egypt (May 2024 9 -8).

The workshop's target was to strengthen the participants' knowledge and skills in advocating for the needs of their peers and help them become positive agents of change among their networks. It was attended by 15 participants from the community of people who use drugs (PWUD) and people living with HIV (PLHIV), who were affiliated to different NGOs. from Egypt. The training sessions introduced the concept of advocacy, lead a discussion using a case study, identified barriers and challenges, formulated SMART goals, discussed basic of communication, formulating a message, and use of evidence-based date, discussed role of media and social media, and introduced the development of a workplan, monitoring and evaluation framework, and a financial and human resources plan. At the end of the training, an action plan was also set to be implemented by training attendees.

Achievement: Participants were very engaged and interactive during the workshop despite being their first encounter with each other. When evaluating the workshop, participants were satisfied with the workshop objectives, the training objectives, the context, the group interaction... The activity also allowed participants to identify recommendations on areas that need to be worked on in terms of hospital admission process and control over the selling of ARV especially in public hospitals.



Activity Title: Supporting the most vulnerable groups and people living with them to comply with treatment: MENAHRAs Seed Funds to implement advocacy activities for people who use drugs and people living with HIV in Egypt.

Donor: GNP

Objective: Reach the target vulnerable groups of people who use drugs and people living with HIV, convey to them information about treatment and its importance, encourage them to comply with treatment, and guide them on how to access health services.

Status: Accomplished

Description: The activity involved organizing 2 training sessions for PWUD and PLHIV in Egypt (September 30, 2024).

In each training session, 20 individuals attended. It aims to raise the participants' awareness on the importance of treatment, compliance with the treatment, ways to obtain it, and how to access various services and their locations. The training sessions discussed treatments, immune boosters, ingredients of health food, reducing stigma and misconceptions, HIV virus and stages, infection and transmission, importance of condom use, lines of treatments, follow-up tests, STIs, difference between hepatitis and HIV, PrEP and PEP, importance of psychological support to PLHIV, prevention of mother to fetus transmission, and clarifying the link between drug user and HIV infections.

Achievement: The desired objectives of the workshop were explained, and everything related to HIV and AIDS was covered in terms of methods of transmission, prevention, treatment, how to coexist positively, components of healthy food, follow-up... The interactions were good among the participants, who benefited from the information provided, the discussions, and the continuous questions during the two meetings.

Activity Title: Situation Assessment on HIV, Drug Use, and Harm Reduction in the MENA Region

Donor: RCF

Status: Accomplished

Objective: Conducting a Situation Assessment on HIV, Drug Use, and Harm Reduction in the MENA region

Description: While the number of HIV-positive individuals and individuals who inject drugs in MENA is alarming, harm reduction programs remain underutilized in MENA. The last assessment was conducted in 2021, providing a valuable baseline. However, since then, significant social, political, and public health developments have likely impacted the patterns of drug use, the HIV epidemic, and the effectiveness of harm reduction programs. Hence, these gaps necessitate conducting the Situation Assessment on HIV, Drug Use, and Harm Reduction in the MENA region to update the knowledge and fill the gaps. It is an evaluative study aimed at understanding the current state of HIV prevalence, drug use patterns, and the availability and effectiveness of harm reduction programs across the region. The assessment focused on identifying gaps in healthcare services, public awareness, and policy implementation. The results helped shape advocacy efforts and programmatic responses to better support at-risk populations in the MENA region.

Activity Title: Emergency Aid for Prisons Affected by the 2024 war in Lebanon.Donor: RCF

Status: Accomplished

Objective: Provide aid and tend to some of the necessary needs of prisoners affected by the war in Lebanon and forcibly displaced from one prison to another.

Description: The activity involved preparing and distributing mattresses and blankets to prisons across Lebanon who had an influx of prisoners due to the displacement by war. While this activity was not originally planned, it was initiated as an emergency response to the war in Lebanon that spread across the country in September 2024, forcing prisons in the south and other unsafe zones to relocate their prisoners to other prisons in Lebanon. This created the need for more mattresses and blankets.

Achievement: 100 mattresses and blankets were provided to the prison in Baabda, 80 to the Beirut Barbar prison, 70 to the Roumieh prison, 50 to the prison in Tripoli, and 50 to the prison in Zahle, thus alleviating some of the prisoners' necessary needs.



Activity Title: Support Don't Punish Social Media Campaign.

Donor: RCF

Objective: Raise awareness among the general public about the inefficiency of Lebanese laws in controlling the use of drugs and advocate for a drug policy reform, compassionate policies towards people who use drugs, instead of punitive laws that have proved ineffective.

Status: Accomplished

Description: The activity involved preparing and disseminating posts and a video through MENAHRAs social media platforms.

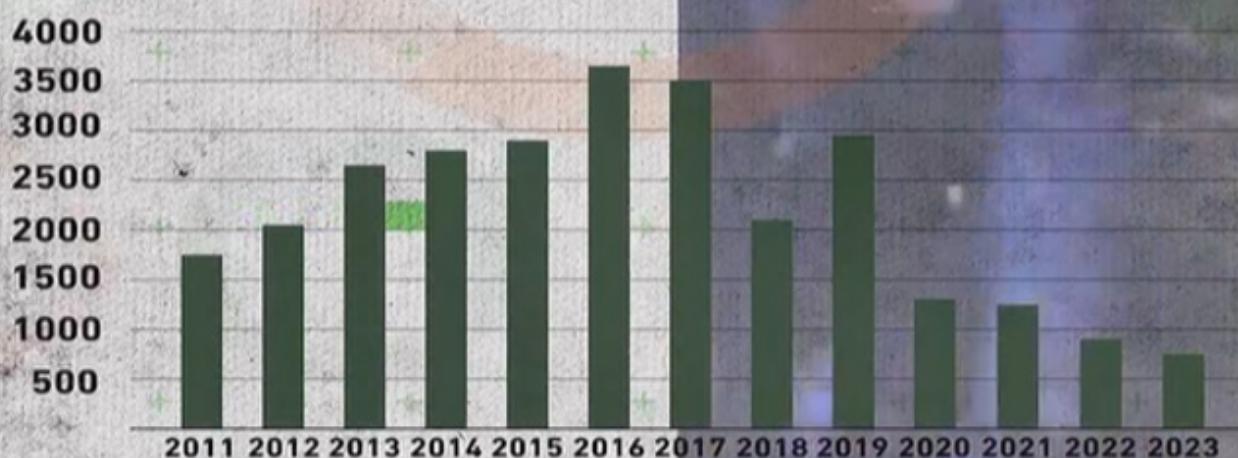
The posts were in English and Arabic calling people to join the cause of advocating for compassionate policies toward people who use drugs. The shared video presented the opposing view – arresting people who use drugs would limit the number of people who do – and rebutted this argument showing statistic from Lebanon on the infectivity of the drug laws and statistics from Portugal on the effectiveness of their decriminalizing drug laws. The video calls for the prioritization of revisiting the punitive drug laws which have failed. The video was shared in collaboration with SIDC, Skoun, and the Legal Agenda.

Achievement: The Support Don't Punish posts and video were shared on different social media platforms: Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn... raising awareness on the importance of supporting rather punishing, of the stigma and harm associated to it, of focusing on health, of the criminalization impact, of the supportive approach, of harm reduction, and of the right to health.

Support Don't Punish posts shared on social media.



اعداد الموقوفين بتهم استخدام المخدرات



Statistics shared in the Support Don't Punish Video

Activity Title: Say Yes to Know Social Media Video on World's AIDS Day 2024.

Donor: RCF

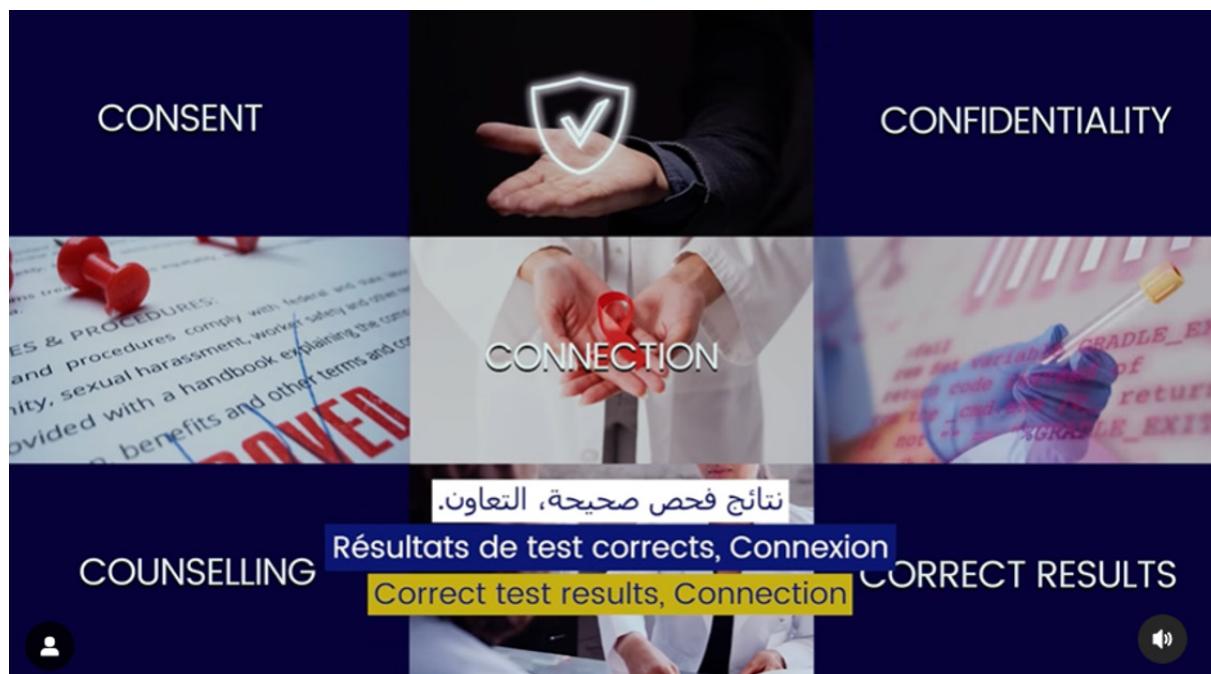
Objective: Raise awareness among the general public on the importance of testing for HIV, on the existing solutions that could help face some of the barriers or challenges faced by people living with HIV or suspecting HIV infection, and on the 5 Cs of HIV testing: Consent, Confidentiality, Connection, Counselling, and Correct Results.

Status: Accomplished

Description: The activity involved preparing and disseminating a video through MENAHRAs social media platforms.

The video acknowledged the challenges accompanied with testing for HIV (chaos, struggles of displacement, society judging, rejection from people, access to affordable services, and access to affordable mental health care). It then presented the available solutions (self-testing ensuring privacy, mobile testing, and support from NGOs and clinics) and emphasized on the 5 Cs of HIV testing: Consent, Confidentiality, Connection, Counselling, and Correct Results. The video was shared in English and Arabic with subtitles in English, Arabic, and French.

Achievement: The video was shared through the different social median platforms: Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn... raising awareness on the importance of HIV testing, on the available services, on the right to health, and reducing the stigma.



Activity Title: Syringe collection from Burj Al Barajneh, Burj Hammoud, and Sin El Fil.

Donor: EUDA

Status: Accomplished

Objective: Understand the drug trends in Lebanon and compare them with the different regions' trends

Description: The outreach workers consider these three sites (Dora, Burj Al Barajneh, and Sin El Fil) as the best sites for syringe collection as they already have built a trust-based relation with people who inject drugs in these areas. Also, these three sites are notably prevalent in terms of drug consumption. Hence, the outreach workers provided clean needles and syringes to the people who inject drugs, after 24-12 hours, they went back to collect the used needles and syringes. Each used needle was labeled with a code after it was collected from the person who injects drugs. The numbers of syringes collected were 50 from Burj Al Barajneh, 50 from Burj Hammoud, and 30 from Sin El Fil.

Activity Title: Community, Rights and Gender Assessment (CRG) on Tuberculosis (TB) in Lebanon
Donor: Stop TB Partnership (Round 11)

Status: Accomplished

Objective: Empower and foster meaningful engagement of TB-affected communities, CSOs and CBOs to participate fully in all aspects of the disease.

Description: Under MENAHRAs leadership and with support from the Stop TB Partnership, a CRG assessment was conducted in Lebanon to identify structural inequities, gender disparities, and human rights barriers affecting access to TB services. Using a participatory approach, the assessment engaged key stakeholders, including refugees, prisoners, undocumented migrant workers, PLHIV, PWUDs, and individuals facing extreme poverty.

Following the Stop TB Partnership's framework, the study examined key human rights principles, including availability, accessibility, non-discrimination, gender equity, and accountability. A mixed-methods approach combined desk reviews with qualitative research, including key informant interviews and focus group discussions. The findings highlighted critical gaps in TB services and provided insights to enhance Lebanon's TB response, particularly for vulnerable and marginalized populations.

Achivement: The CRG Assessment on TB in Lebanon successfully identified key structural, gender, and human rights barriers to TB care, providing actionable recommendations to enhance accessibility and equity in the national TB response. This participatory effort strengthened the engagement of TB-affected communities and civil society in shaping inclusive health policies.

Read the CRG Assessment here:

<https://www.menahra.org/wp-content/uploads/08/2024/CRG-assessment-Final.pdf>



Activity Title: Regional Information Campaign on TB

Donor: Stop TB Partnership (Round 11)

Status: Accomplished

Objective: Increase awareness of the general population on the barriers of treatment that PWUDs and people affected by TB in the MENA region face through regional information campaign, on the World Tuberculosis Day.

Description: This campaign highlighted the challenges PWUDs and TB patients encounter, including stigma, lack of knowledge, and delays in seeking care, which contribute to poor treatment outcomes. Through targeted messaging, the campaign engaged affected communities and healthcare providers, fostering greater understanding and promoting action to improve TB prevention, diagnosis, and treatment access.

Link to the video: <https://www.facebook.com/menahra2007/videos/446114797847683>





Activity Title: National Seed Fund for CSO in Egypt to implement milestones identified in the developed roadmaps during Round 10

Donor: Stop TB Partnership (Round 11)

Status: Accomplished

Objective: Strengthen the capacities of CSOs in coordination with the National TB Program in adopting and implementing milestones from developed roadmaps

Description: Building on Round 10 efforts, this activity allocated a national seed fund to support one CSO in Egypt in addressing priority milestones for TB response. Guided by the regional consultation meeting from Round 11, the initiative focused on capacity building, TB/HIV integration, and improving patient support.

- **Activity 1:** Organize refresher training for the health staff of the existing 166 TBMUs which are already operational within the NTP network.
- **Activity 2:** Workshop to Revise the existing information system to capture contact investigation data that allow: i) the monitoring of the implementation of TB contact investigation activities and ii) the evaluation of their outcomes.
- **Activity 3:** Develop a training manual for community treatment supporters and Community based organizations/CBO (e.g.NGO) involved in the implementation of this approach.
- **Activity 4:** Organize training of treatment supporters and CBO in implementing Districts.
- **Activity 5:** Ensure a social and nutritional support to TB patients during intensive phase including TB-HIV co-infected patients during the entire treatment duration.

- **Activity 6:** Organize a joint review meeting (once in a semester at central level) with members of the National Committee for Collaborative TB/HIV activities to discuss the progress made in the implementation of planned TB/HIV activities (the committee will also meet on ad hoc basis whenever necessary).
- **Activity 7:** Update, print and disseminate guidelines on TB/HIV integration management.
- **Activity 8:** Update R&R tools to capture key data used in program M&E system for TB/HIV integrated activities (in TB registers, HIV patient medical file, TB treatment forms, laboratory registers).
- **Activity 9:** Provide nutritional support to all TB/HIV coinfected patients for entire TB treatment duration.



Activity Title: Community, Rights and Gender Assessment on TB in Algeria

Donor: Stop TB Partnership (Round 12)

Objective: Generate strategic information to guide TB programming and policy development at a national level, and develop a costed action plan that aligns with national TB response goals, ensuring community inclusiveness, human rights, and gender responsiveness, leading to improved national TB outcomes.

Status: On Hold due to the war in Lebanon

Description: The CRG Assessment is a participatory process that empowers TB-affected communities and CSOs to promote a human rights-based, gender-transformative TB response. It addresses key social determinants of health, including legal and policy barriers, stigma, and socioeconomic factors, to strengthen community systems and improve TB service accessibility. Led by CSOs and sanctioned by the National TB Program (NTP), the assessment engages multiple stakeholders, including legal and technical experts, to ensure a comprehensive approach. Supported by the Stop TB Partnership, WHO, and the Global Fund, this initiative aligns with global TB elimination efforts by operationalizing commitments to community-driven, rights-based, and gender-responsive TB strategies.

Activity Title: Research Project on Tuberculosis Prevalence and Services Accessibility Among PWUD in Lebanon

Donor: Stop TB Partnership (Round 12)

Objective: Understand the prevalence of TB among PWUD in Lebanon, explore the availability, accessibility and knowledge of TB-related services, and identify barriers to healthcare access, to inform targeted national interventions and strategies.

Status: On Hold due to the war in Lebanon

Description: The activity involves undertaking a research project in with the National Tuberculosis Program (NTP), and engaging with active Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The research aims to fill existing knowledge gaps and improve TB services for PWUD in Lebanon.

General Objective: This research project will contribute to elaborate recommendations for the National TB Program to ensure that Key Populations, particularly PWUD, have access to TB care services.

Specific Objectives:

- This research aims to explore the prevalence of TB infection and its predictors among PWUD in Lebanon.
- Study findings will identify potential facilitators and barriers affecting PWUD's accessibility to Health services in general and TB care services in particular in Lebanon.

In 2024, ethical approval was obtained, the data collection team was trained, materials were printed, and testing equipment was procured. However, due to the war in Lebanon, the project has been placed on hold until further notice.



Activity Title: Translation of International TB resources to Arabic

Donor: Stop TB Partnership (Round 12)

Objective: STP resources translation into Arabic language and dissemination to support and guide initiatives in the MENA region

Status: Accomplished

Description: This activity focused on translating essential international TB resources to Arabic, ensuring accessibility for stakeholders and decision-makers in the region. The following three priority documents were translated:

- **The new KVP Prioritisation Tool**
- **The Legal Scorecard**
- **The Right to Breathe**

Achievement: Important tools and resources are made available for Arab speaking countries.



Activity Title: Implement One Impact in Lebanon

Donor: Stop TB Partnership (Round 12)

Objective: Adaptation, and rollout of OneImpact in Lebanon to pilot community-led monitoring in the MENA region

Status: On Hold

Description: One Impact is a mobile app-driven community-led monitoring initiative that empowers people affected by TB to access health services, assert their rights, and reduce stigma. This innovative approach promotes a human rights-based, people-centered TB response by encouraging individuals to report challenges and access support through nearby clinics, peers, and health workers.

One Impact strengthens the responsiveness of TB programs and enhances accountability, especially concerning gender-related and human rights barriers faced by key and vulnerable populations. Despite the initiative being on hold, its implementation aims to generate critical data to address barriers at individual and programmatic levels, contributing to the broader goal of ending TB.



Activity Title: Regional information campaign on the barriers to treatment that PWUDs and TB patients face

Donor: Stop TB Partnership (Round 12)

Objective: Increase awareness of the general population on the barriers of treatment that PWUDs and people affected by TB in the MENA region face through regional information campaign (CFCS Theory of Change: Advocacy, awareness & activism)

Status: Accomplished

Description: Tuberculosis (TB) remains a major public health challenge, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. PWUDs face disproportionately high rates of TB co-infection and significant barriers to prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, including stigma in healthcare settings, lack of knowledge, and delays in seeking care.

This campaign aimed to highlight these challenges and promote solutions by educating affected communities and healthcare providers.



Activity Title: Emergency Response in Lebanon

Donor: Stop TB Partnership (Round 12)

Objective: To support the NTP in encouraging TB awareness, education, screening and providing support for basic needs for displaced populations

Status: Accomplished

To encourage TB screening for displaced populations through the provision of basic supplies to people undergoing TB screening through NTP outreach programmes, MENAHRA has provided: 1,200 Food Packages, 1,000 Hygiene Packages and 1,000 Blankets.



Activity Title: Global State of Harm Reduction Report, 2024

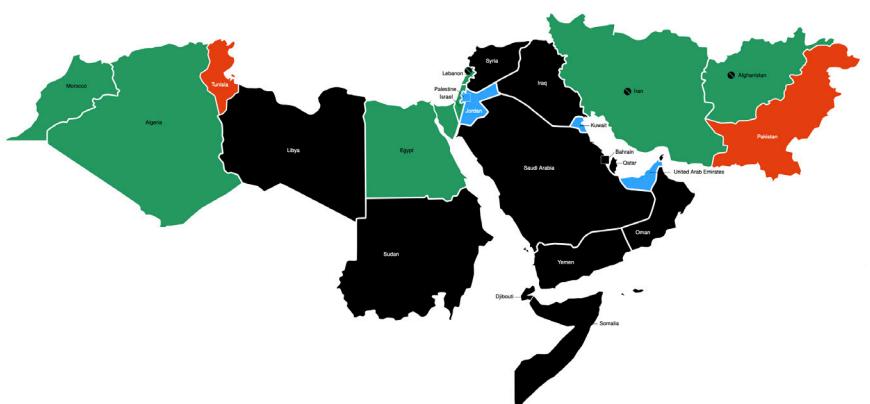
Donor: Harm Reduction International

Status: Accomplished

Description: The Global State of Harm Reduction is the only report that provides an independent analysis of harm reduction in the world. Now in its ninth edition, the Global State of Harm Reduction 2024 is the most comprehensive global mapping of harm reduction responses to drug use, HIV and viral hepatitis.

The Global State of Harm Reduction has always been produced through a collaborative effort between community and civil society representatives and researchers. The report includes nine regional chapters authored by experts from each region. This year's report differs slightly from previous editions as we emphasise key regional issues and populations that continue to be neglected by harm reduction services. Each regional chapter presents data on the availability of harm reduction services and addresses two key issues that require special attention. The report also includes three new thematic chapters focused on harm reduction for Indigenous people, people in prison and youth. We also continue to include data to map the implementation of viral hepatitis services for people who use drugs.

To access the report: https://hri.global/wp-content/uploads/10/2024/GSR24_full-document_12.12.24_B.pdf



Country/territory	People who inject drugs ^a	HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs (%)	Hepatitis C (anti-HCV) prevalence among people who inject drugs (%)	Hepatitis B (anti-HBsAg) prevalence among people who inject drugs (%)	Harm reduction responses				
					NSP ^a	OAT ^b	Peer distribution of naloxone ^c	DCR ^d	Safer smoking equipment ^e
Afghanistan	57,207	1.41	23.08	2.77	✓ 8	✓ M	✓	✗	✗
Algeria	17,000	nd ^f	nd	nd	✓ 3	✓ M	nd	nd	✗
Bahrain	5,100	3.89	3.89	nd	✗	nd	✗	✗	✗
Djibouti	nd	nd	nd	nd	✗	nd	✗	✗	✗
Egypt	96,230	3.73	nd	nd	✓	✓ M	✗	✗	✗
Iraq	39,277	nd	nd	nd	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Iran	138,250	8.3	36.8	3.04	✓	✓ M B	✓	✗	✗
Israel	nd	nd	nd	nd	✓	✓ M B	✗	✗	✗
Jordan	10,488	0	nd	nd	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Kuwait	12,000	0.1	30.87	1.52	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Lebanon	9,000	0.05	23.59	1.07	✓ 1	✓ B	✓	✗	✗
Libya	6,677	87.1	94.2	4.5	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Morocco	17,750	5.05	63.13	nd	✓ 3	✓ M	✗	✗	✗
Oman	2,922	0.53	36.56	6.29	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Pakistan	430,000	33.2	51.32	2.66	✓ ^g	✗	✗	✗	✗
Palestine	5,000	0	41.48	6.15	✗	✓ M B	✗	✗	✗
Qatar	1,827	nd	nd	nd	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Saudi Arabia	3,400	2.46	62.61	7.7	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Somalia	392	nd	nd	nd	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Sudan	986	nd	nd	nd	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Syria	10,000	0	3.3	0.5	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Tunisia	11,000	3.54	28.32	4.3	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
United Arab Emirates	6,247	nd	nd	nd	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Yemen	844	nd	nd	nd	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

**Activity Title: Three-year multi-faceted research implementation project:
Innovate, Involve, Inspire: Preventing Hepatitis C through community-led Harm Reduction (Hep C III Project) in three countries including Egypt**

Donor: UNITAID

Objective: To research, demonstrate, and deploy new and underused technical products in low- and middle-income countries for harm reduction purposes, utilizing a participative development process and creating living technical intervention toolkits to share and apply project learnings.

Status: Ongoing

Description: The project is funded by UNITAID to research the effectiveness of the integration of hepatitis C testing and treatment within harm reduction programs and trial the use of two products to prevent Hepatitis infection: low dead space syringes and new, long-acting formulations of buprenorphine, a medicine used in opioid agonist therapy and its impact on Hepatitis C among people who inject drugs. The consortiums involved in this research, namely, Frontline AIDS, Médecins du Monde and PATH are planning 4 research arms in 10 low- and middle-income countries: 1. Low dead space syringes and needles (LDSS/N), 2. Long-acting depot buprenorphine (LADB), and 3. HCV models of care. MENAHRA is leading the implementation of this research in Egypt, focusing on LDSS/N, LADB and the HCV models of care.

The Inception phase was initiated during 2023, Caritas acting as the implementing partner for LDSS, in strong collaboration and coordination with the Ministry of Health and other local partners (Freedom and Friends). The main expected outcome is to influence WHO guidelines on the use of innovative technologies in the treatment of HCV in Low Income Countries and LMICs. This project intends to accelerate the introduction and adoption of new and underused HCV prevention, diagnostics, and treatment options in Egypt. The results are also expected to facilitate better conditions and strengthen partnerships needed to support the scale-up of effective innovations. In 2024, a scoping mission was conducted in Egypt, involving meetings with key stakeholders, focus group discussions with community members, and engagements with implementing partners and clinical research organizations, along with site visits. Furthermore, the principal investigator and co-investigator(s) were identified. Sites were equipped, and procurement processes were planned and initiated. Protocols were adapted and are currently being finalized and submitted for approval. Tablets for the data collection were procured. For the LDSS component, safer injection training was conducted for outreach workers. The data management training is planned for January 2025. For the Models of Care the agreement was submitted for the Ministry of Solidarity for approval before initiation of implementations



Activity Title: Chemsex Assessment in Lebanon**Donor: Global Fund****Status: Accomplished**

Objective: By exploring trends, patterns, and health implications within this context, the research aims to inform the development of holistic, culturally sensitive, and effective public health interventions.

Description: An assessment on CHEMSEX usage and trends among PWUDs inclusive to the LGBTQ+ community in Lebanon was done. The comprehensive report aimed to outline the patterns & trends of chemsex, health implications of individuals that use chemsex, and the synergy between chemsex and high-risk sexual activities. Also, the report proposed public health recommendations and suggested relevant support services.

The study employed mixed methods approach through online surveys that received 140 responses and qualitative interviews both targeting LGBTQ+ and sex workers members aged +18 who engage in chemsex activities. Also, CSO consultations were held with nine representatives from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to gain their expertise regarding this topic.

Achievements: This was the first study done on chemsex in Lebanon.

Activity Title: TOT on Anti Stigma and Discrimination in Lebanon**Donor: Global Fund****Status: Accomplished**

Objective: Building and strengthening the capacities of healthcare providers regarding peer training to deliver quality services to the key populations and people living with HIV in a stigma-free and discrimination-free environment, contributing to these groups' access to preventive, care, and treatment health services.

Description: The Society for inclusion and development in communities and care for all (SIDC), within the framework of the Global Fund Nadoum Grant, through MENAHRA fund and partnership, developed a framework for a toolkit and to conduct a training of trainers (TOT) to address stigma and discrimination in healthcare settings. The TOT took place in-person in Padova hotel in Beirut, Lebanon from the 11 until the 13 and on the 17 and 19 of December, 2024. It consisted of four training modules: HIV and the Key populations and People Living with HIV, Stigma and Discrimination, Behavior Change as a Key to Reducing Stigma and Discrimination in Healthcare Settings, and Training skills. Participants included 34 healthcare workers representing the public sector, the private sector, the civil society including the syndicates as well as academia. Participants selected had at least two years of experience in facilitation, prior experience working with most at-risk groups, people living with HIV, or marginalized groups, capable of committing to implementing the program in their institutions or organizations within the next six months or year and hold a leadership position (if possible). The pre and post-tests showed an average improvement of 4.6 grades measuring the knowledge of participants.

Activity Title: Sensitization training toolkit in Jordan

Donor: Global Fund

Status: Accomplished

Objective: The development of a comprehensive and inclusive toolkit focusing on sensitization and inclusivity for people who use drugs and ensure that its application pulsates effectively targeting PWUDs and community members

Description: MENAHRA has collaborated with Forearms for Change - FOCCEC for this activity. Attendees included: representatives from Forearms Center, representatives from JANNA Network, representatives from Qudrat Association, and representative from youth volunteers. The activity focused on the development of a comprehensive and inclusive toolkit focusing on sensitization and inclusivity for people who use drugs generally and specifically to ensure that its application pulsates effectively targeting PWUDs and community members. The second objective in this activity was to deliver training sessions to community key agents (peer support workers, community leaders) and service providers (health personnel, faith leaders, law enforcement officers) on the effective use of the developed toolkit. Such training activates the key agents and service providers enhancing their capacity to disseminate accurate information, support all PWUDS and specifically community members, and contribute to a more informed community.

Activity Title: TOT on Anti Stigma and Discrimination in Lebanon**Donor: Global Fund****Status: Accomplished**

Objective: Building and strengthening the capacities of healthcare providers regarding peer training to deliver quality services to the key populations and people living with HIV in a stigma-free and discrimination-free environment, contributing to these groups' access to preventive, care, and treatment health services.

Description: The Society for inclusion and development in communities and care for all (SIDC), within the framework of the Global Fund Nadoum Grant, through MENAHRA fund and partnership, developed a framework for a toolkit and to conduct a training of trainers (TOT) to address stigma and discrimination in healthcare settings. The TOT took place in-person in Padova hotel in Beirut, Lebanon from the 11 until the 13 and on the 17 and 19 of December, 2024. It consisted of four training modules: HIV and the Key populations and People Living with HIV, Stigma and Discrimination, Behavior Change as a Key to Reducing Stigma and Discrimination in Healthcare Settings, and Training skills. Participants included 34 healthcare workers representing the public sector, the private sector, the civil society including the syndicates as well as academia. Participants selected had at least two years of experience in facilitation, prior experience working with most at-risk groups, people living with HIV, or marginalized groups, capable of committing to implementing the program in their institutions or organizations within the next six months or year and hold a leadership position (if possible). The pre and post-tests showed an average improvement of 4.6 grades measuring the knowledge of participants.

Activity Title: Harm Reduction Strategies Workshop to service providers and people who use drugs (PWUD) in Jordan.**Donor: Global Fund**

Objective: Discuss and explain harm reduction strategies in order to equip service providers with the knowledge and skills to better support PWUD and to increase awareness among PWUD about the harm reduction practices to minimize risks associated with drug use.

Status: Accomplished

Description: The activity involved organizing a one-day training workshop at Forearms Center (December 2024 ,23).

The attendees included service providers from various organizations and healthcare facilities as well as individuals representing the PWUD community. The workshop discussed the different harm reduction strategies (needle and syringe programs, opioid substitution therapy (OST), safe consumption practices, and overdose prevention and management. The workshop also addressed the role that service providers play in fostering a communicative, supportive, and trustful environment with PWUD. It was also accompanied with an open discussion of sharing personal experiences and brainstorming possible solutions.

Achievement: The understanding of harm reduction strategies among participants was improved, the capacity of service providers to deliver harm reduction services effectively was enhanced, the relationship between service providers and the PWUD community was strengthened, and the key challenges and opportunities for future interventions in harm reduction were identified.

Activity Title: Capacitating Workshops for feminist organizations operating in Morocco.

Donor: Global Fund

Objective: Increase the awareness of the feminist organizations and their understanding of intersectional feminism and its importance in their work, promote their inclusivity, empathy, and cultural sensitivity towards the diverse gender identities, and strengthen their capacities on how to effectively tackle the different forms of intersectional discrimination and oppression that the marginalized communities face.

Status: Accomplished

Description: The activity involved organizing a series of workshops/ training programs tailored specifically for feminist organizations operating in Morocco in November 2024.

This was planned with MENAHRA's network of implementing Partners (LIQAAT, AKaliyet, & MENANPUD). Several resources, including a curriculum, training modules, case studies, and educational materials were prepared. The topics discussed included advocacy strategy and steps, SMART goals, root cause analysis, SWOT analysis, stakeholder mapping, power analysis of stakeholders... This activity acted as an opportunity to foster collaboration and solidarity among feminist organizations, civil society actors, and marginalized communities in advancing gender equality and social justice in Morocco.

Achievement: Enhanced awareness, empathy, and inclusivity among participants towards diverse gender identities and intersecting oppressions, strengthened collaboration and networking among feminist organizations, civil society actors, and marginalized communities, identified lessons learned and recommendations for future interventions.

Activity Title: Capacity-building Interventions to empower sex workers' movements in Morocco.

Donor: Global Fund

Objective: Strengthen the organizational capacity of sex workers' movements in Morocco, promote their leadership skills and empowerment, develop their advocacy efforts, and foster a peer support, networking, and solidarity among sex workers' organizations to promote collective action and mutual empowerment.

Status: Accomplished

Description: The activity involved organizing a series workshops, mentoring sessions, and networking events among KPs in Morocco in November 2024.

This was planned with MENAHRA's network of implementing Partners (LIQAAT, AKaliyet, & MENANPUD). The target population was feminist organizations, LGBTQI+ individuals, sex workers, PWUDs, and PLHIV.

The training targeted the organizational capacity through administration and strategic planning. It targeted the leadership skills and empowerment by promoting self-confidence, assertiveness, and decision-making. The advocacy efforts were developed by improving the legal literacy and awareness among sex workers regarding their rights, protections, and avenues for redress. The aim was to enhance the autonomy, effectiveness, and resilience of sex workers' movements in advocating for their rights and well-being.

Achievement: Enhanced capacities and capabilities among sex workers' movements/organizations, increased their awareness and understanding of legal rights, protections, and avenues for redress, and strengthened networks, alliances, and solidarity among the sex workers' organizations and allies.

Activity Title: Skoun Emergency Appeal: Urgent Support to Skoun Amidst Escalations in Lebanon

Donor: RCF

Status: Accomplished

Objective: Supporting the sustainability of Skoun interventions for affected people amid the humanitarian crises in Lebanon

Description: During the war on Lebanon, A rapid needs assessment conducted among 250 monthly active service users at Skoun highlights the dire circumstances faced by their beneficiaries, with %36 having evacuated, %84 of whom rely on opioid agonist therapy (OAT). These displacements have critically hindered access to essential treatments and support systems, increasing reliance on negative coping mechanisms, including escalated substance use among displaced populations. However, the humanitarian crisis shifted funding into basic needs which jeopardized Skoun's ability to sustain crucial interventions, particularly for key populations who are witnessing a surge in mental health issues and substance reliance as necessary support structures falter. Hence, MENAHRA supported the urgent need of Skoun to continue its operations during these challenging times.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 2024, MENAHRA successfully optimized its financial management, ensuring efficient spending across all donor-funded programs. The organization overcame previous banking challenges by transitioning to a new bank, facilitating smooth external and internal transactions. As a result, MENAHRA was able to effectively utilize nearly all allocated budgets across all grants from donors.

Under the Global Fund's NADOUUM project, MENAHRA achieved a strong burn rate of %97, demonstrating excellent financial execution. Among its SSRs, MENANPUD had a burn rate of %78, reflecting some adjustments in planned activities, while MENAROSA maintained a high burn rate of %94, closely aligning with its projected budget. RANAA also performed efficiently, with a burn rate of %86, ensuring effective utilization of allocated funds. The LGBTQI+ workstream showed solid financial performance, achieving a burn rate of %86.

The Learning HUB project under the Global Fund remains on track, with no delays in implementation.

Other key donors, including the Robert Carr Fund (%98.5 burn rate), Stop TB Partnership (%100 burn rate), and UNITAID (%99 burn rate), reported high spending efficiency, highlighting MENAHRA's commitment to maximizing resources.

The GNP+ grant implementation is progressing as planned, ensuring that all financial commitments are met without execution delays.

The above figures emphasize MENAHRA's dedication to financial transparency and effective resource utilization, reinforcing its commitment to harm reduction efforts across the region.

COMMUNICATIONS AND NETWORKING

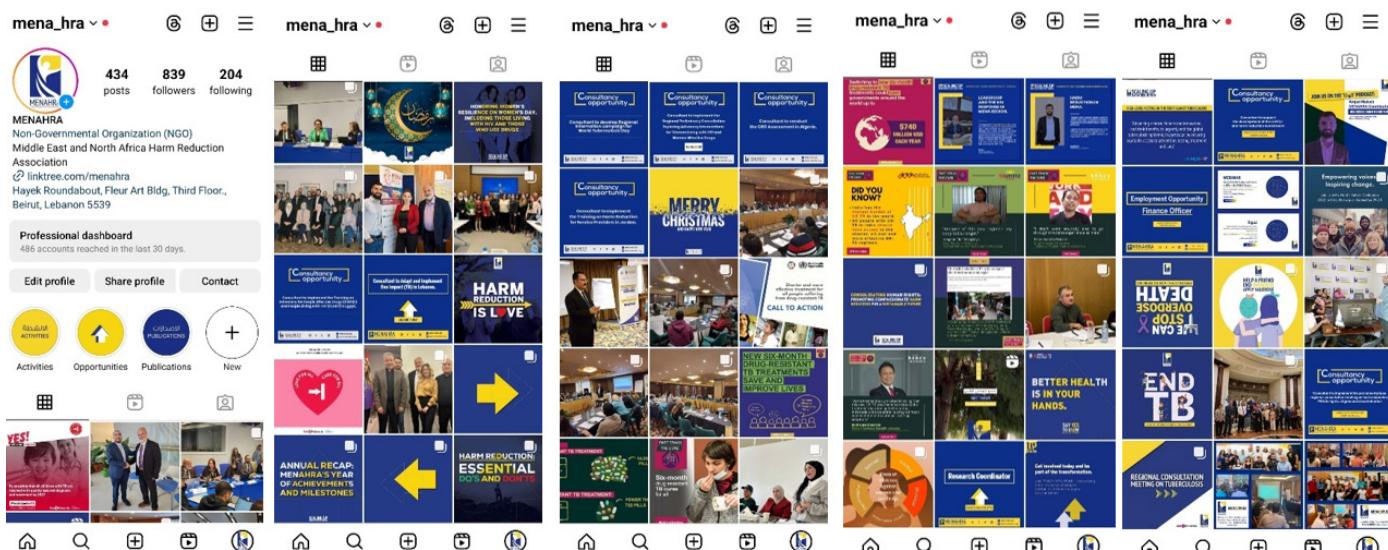
Overview

In 2024, the MENAHRa Communications and Networking Department made important progress in increasing visibility, improving data management, and setting up a new email system. This report outlines our achievements and the enhancements in our communication channels, including website analytics and social media engagement, compared to last year.

Key Achievements in 2024

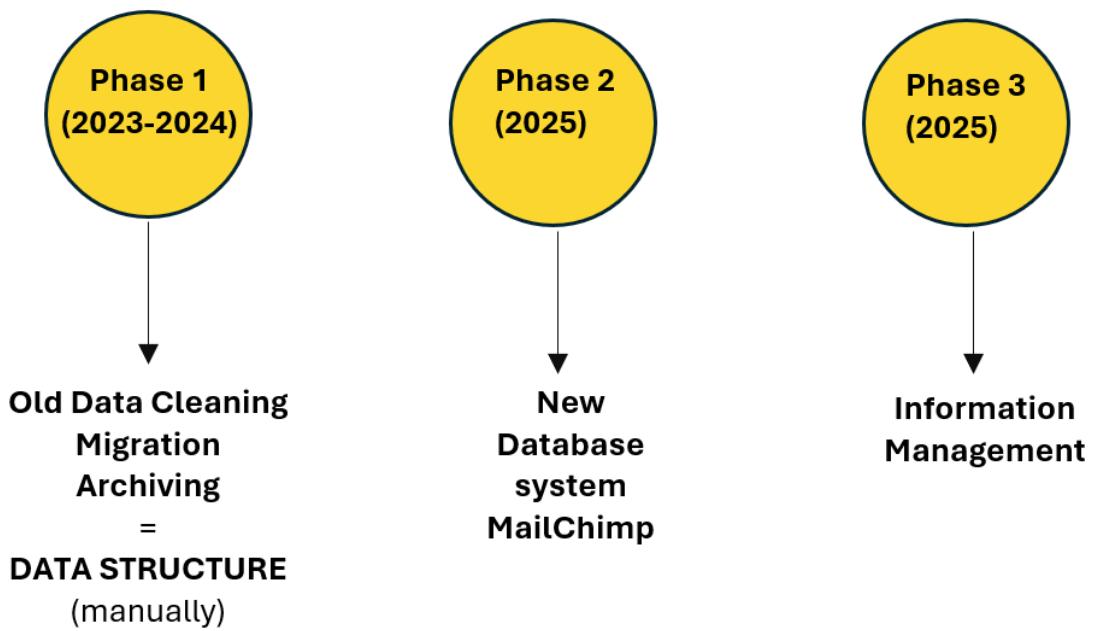
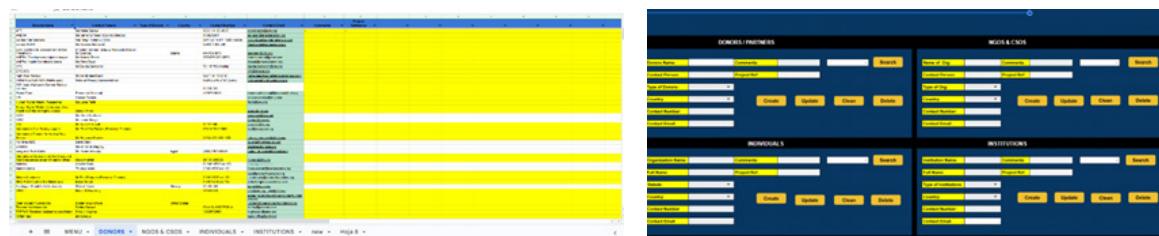
Increased Visibility and Brand Consistency:

MENAHRa has built a strong presence on platforms like LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. This allows us to engage with different communities and create meaningful interactions. By sharing valuable content and regular updates, we connect with our audience and promote our initiatives. Our aim is to foster an active online community where stakeholders can collaborate, share experiences, and stay informed about important developments. This engagement helps increase our visibility and strengthen our relationships with community members and partners.



Improving Data Management:

We have started Phase 1 of our data structure management initiative to establish a robust system. This will lead us to launch a new Mailchimp system in 2025.



New Email System:

The transition to a new mailing system has improved internal and external communications, fostering better engagement with stakeholders.

Enhanced Internal and External Communication:

We focused on refining both internal and external communication strategies to better connect with our audience and stakeholders.

Support for Drug Decriminalization Course:

MENAHRA has supported the Arabic version of the course on Drug Decriminalization, developed by the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), Mainline Foundation, and Frontline AIDS.



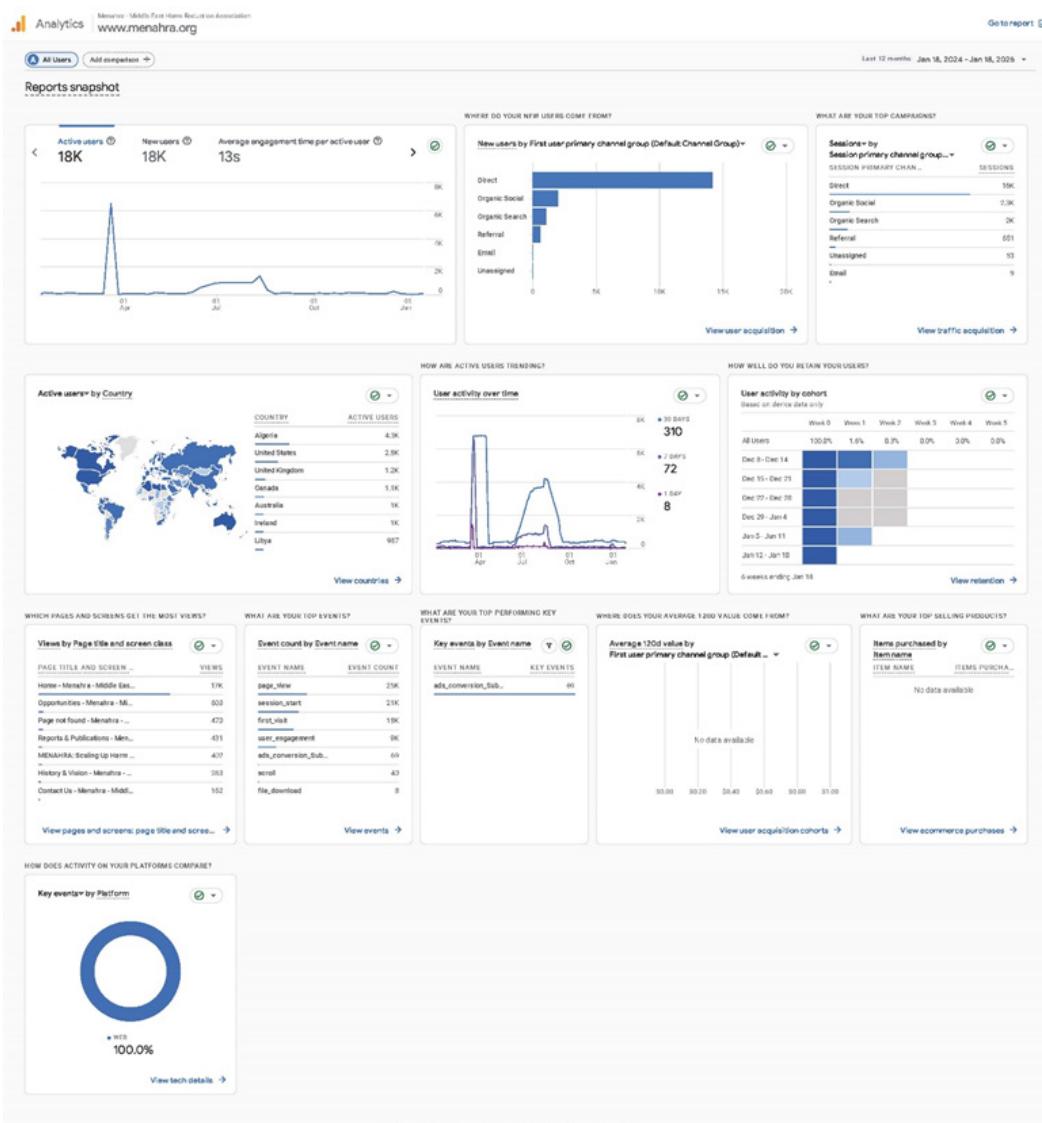
Website Analytics Overview

In 2024, MENAHRAs website analytics demonstrate significant growth and increased engagement across various metrics. With 18,000 active users, our effective outreach strategies have successfully attracted a growing interest in our services. This is mirrored by the 18,000 new users, which highlights the success of our strategic efforts in bringing fresh visitors to our platform. Additionally, 16,000 direct users indicate that more individuals are actively seeking out our website, enhancing our brand recognition in the process.

Our social media engagement has proven fruitful, with 2,300 users coming from organic social channels, underscoring the effectiveness of our content creation strategies. Furthermore, 2,000 users originating from organic search suggest that our search engine optimization (SEO) efforts have improved, making our website more discoverable to potential visitors.

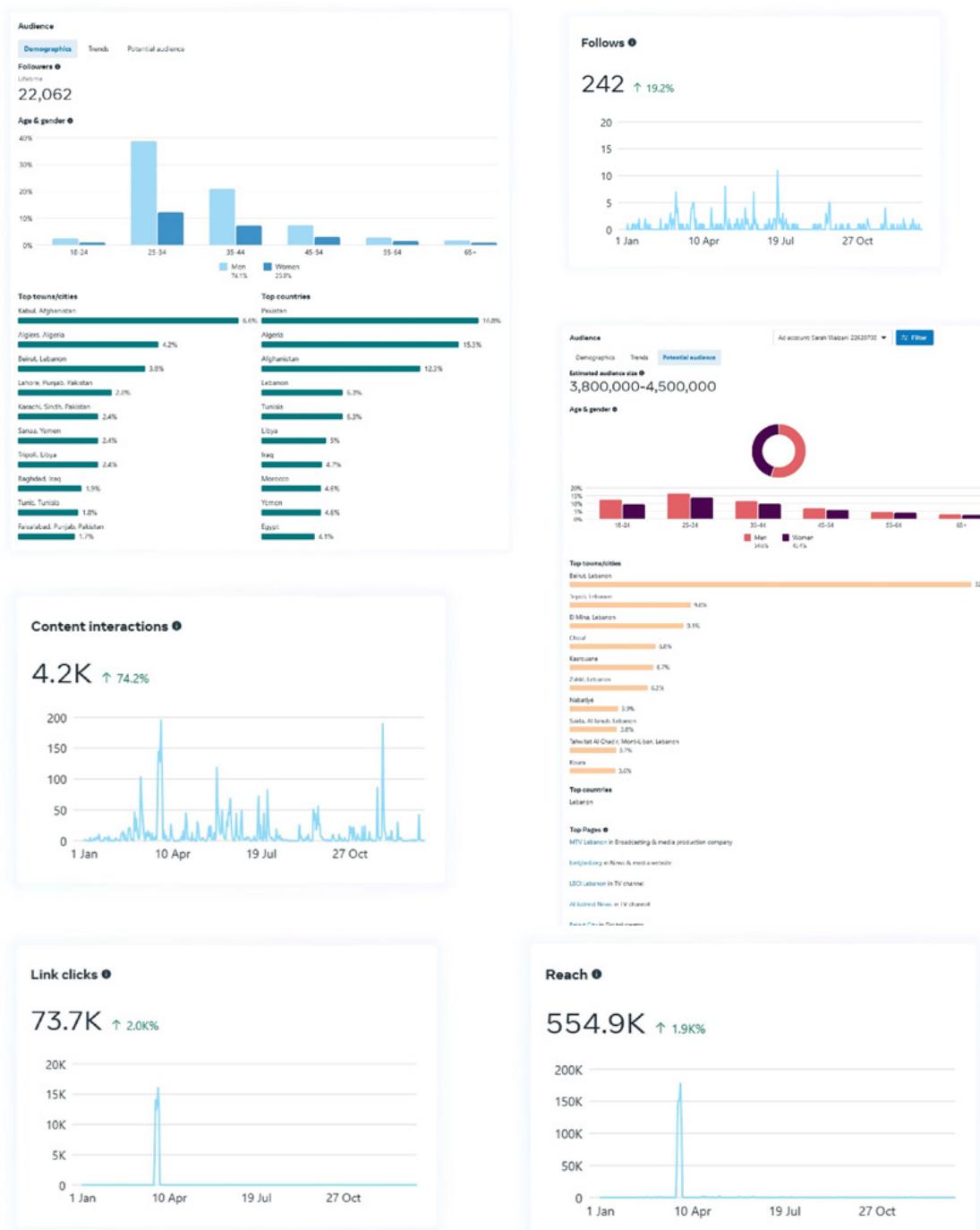
We are also seeing positive results from our partnerships, as evidenced by 651 users finding us through referral traffic.

Overall, these analytics reflect MENAHRAs growing online presence and engagement, paving the way for future enhancements in our digital strategies.



Social Media Analytics Overview

In 2024, MENAHRAs social media presence has shown significant growth across multiple platforms. On Facebook, we recorded 24,700 views and a reach of 554,900, reflecting heightened awareness of our content and campaigns. Engagements have risen, with 4,200 content interactions and 73,700 link clicks, underscoring the effectiveness of our posts in driving traffic to our website. Our follower count increased to 22,100, indicating a growing community trust in MENAHRAs social media presence.



On Instagram, our strategy focused on visual storytelling, resulting in 52,900 views and a reach of 18,100. With 1,023 followers, we see a clear interest in our visual content, as evidenced by 882 content interactions and 322 link clicks. The rise in visits to 2,100 demonstrates that Instagram effectively drives traffic to our website, enhancing our overall engagement.

On LinkedIn, we have effectively cultivated a professional audience, reaching 1,574 followers and generating 37,358 impressions. This growth reflects a rising interest in MENAHRA and our initiatives, enabling us to engage meaningfully with stakeholders throughout the region. Notably, our expanded consultancy opportunities have significantly bolstered our research efforts and enhanced our credibility, opening new avenues for collaboration across the Middle East and North Africa. This increased visibility on LinkedIn has positioned MENAHRA as a key player in the field, fostering valuable connections and partnerships.

Lastly, on Twitter, our follower count reached 1,550, showing a growing interest in our updates and discussions. Our tweets are resonating well with our audience.

MENAHRA Achievements 2024 Overview

In 2024, MENAHRA accomplished several key initiatives that enhanced our capabilities and outreach:

New Microphone Tools: We introduced advanced microphone tools that improved our training sessions and storytelling, allowing us to deliver clearer audio in presentations, storytelling and workshops through videos and audio records.

MENA Learning Hub: In partnership with MENAROSA, MENAHRA created the MENA Learning Hub, complete with branding, a newsletter, and active social media channels to promote Global Fund learning resources.



Social Media Strategy: We implemented a new social media strategy and maintained branding consistency to increase our visibility, engagement, and follower count across all platforms. This approach helps us connect more effectively with our audience.

Improved Multimedia Approaches: We adopted new visuals and multimedia techniques that led to more video views and interactions, enhancing our storytelling capabilities.

Training for NGOs: Our communication department offered training sessions during SSRs coordination meetings to help NGOs boost their visibility. This training provided participants with effective communication strategies.



Partnerships: We collaborated with new partners, like «Talking Drugs,» who contacted us through social media to write an article about our events in Egypt. This partnership expanded our outreach and showcased our initiatives to a wider audience.

<https://www.talkingdrugs.org/-1year-in-egypts-opioid-agonist-treatment-programme-keeps-growing/>

Home > Articles > 1 Year In, Egypt's Opioid Agonist Treatment Programme Keeps Growing

1 Year In, Egypt's Opioid Agonist Treatment Programme Keeps Growing

Sarah Walzani and Mahmoud ElHabiby - Posted on November 10, 2024



In 2023, Egypt celebrated one year of initiating Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT, also known as Substitution Therapy) services for the first time in the country. The Middle East Harm Reduction Association (MENAHR) shared in this celebration by organising the first Training of Trainers (TOT) for OAT providers to build on these successes, as well as the second ever training session for OAT service providers in the country.

Enhanced Storytelling: We introduced a new phone for creating social media content, allowing our team to share dynamic and engaging stories in real time.

These achievements highlight MENAHRAs commitment to innovation and community engagement, setting the stage for future success.

Conclusion: The MENAHR Communications and Networking Department has made remarkable progress in 2024, with significant improvements in visibility, data management, and communication strategies. We look forward to building on these achievements in the coming year and continuing to enhance our impact across the region.

2024 Publications and Newsletters

Workstream MENA Country Reports

Lebanon Tuberculosis Community Rights and Gender (CRG) Assessment Report

Introducing the Drug Decriminalization [e]Course (In Arabic)

Training of Trainers on Opioid Substitution Therapy for Service Providers in Jordan

Spotlight on Tuberculosis Efforts in MENA

TOT Workshop on OST for Service Providers

Support Don't Punish - Repressive Drug Policies Have Failed, Reforming Them is a Priority

Needle Syringe Programs Training of Trainers

Three-Year Multi-Faceted Research Implementation Project: Innovate, Involve, Inspire: Preventing Hepatitis C through Community-Led Harm Reduction (Hep C III Project) in Three Countries Including Egypt

Gender Equity Awareness Sessions for OAT Program Beneficiaries at AJEM Rabieh Center

Advocacy Training Workshop Empowers Civil Society in Egypt to Support PLHIV and PWUD

A Collaborative Push: MENAHRRA and Partners Accelerate Progress in Year 3 of Global Fund Grant

World Tuberculosis Day: Yes We Can End TB!

67th Commission on Narcotic Drugs: Addressing Humanitarian Crisis Challenges for People Who Use Drugs - MENAHRRA Highlights Importance of Harm Reduction and Human Rights at CND Side Event

Informative Insights and Collaborative Strategies: Addressing the Intersecting Needs of PWUDs in Validation Meetings Across Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia

Advancing Substance Use Treatment: Successful Harm Reduction and Opiate Substitution Workshop in Amman, Jordan

Regional Preliminary Consultation Exploring Advocacy Interventions for Women

Harm Reduction Capacity Building Workshop for Frontline Healthcare Personnel

MENAHRA ANNUAL REPORT 2024



SCALING UP
HARM REDUCTION IN MENA