



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

High Atlas Foundation

مؤسسة الأطلس الكبير

ⵜⴰⴳⴷⴰⵏⵜ ⵏ ⵏⵓⵎⵎⵓⵔ ⵏ ⵏⵓⵔⵓⵔⵉⵏ



Religious and Ethnic Minorities Activity (REMA)



Quarterly Performance Report 1

Cooperative Agreement: #72060821CA00002
Implementing Partner: High Atlas Foundation (HAF)
Reporting Period: July 1, 2021- September 30, 2021
Submitted: October 31, 2021

Yossef Ben Meir
Chief of Party
Tel: 0624596622
yossef@highatlasfoundation.org

Laila Fathi
Deputy Chief of Party
Tel: 0665608787
laila@highatlasfoundation.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. INTRODUCTION | 3 |
| 2. CONTEXT UPDATE | 4 |
| 3. PROGRAM PROGRESS & MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS | 4 |
| 3.1 Capacity Strengthening of Partners and Development of Agreements | 4 |
| 3.2 Elaboration and Submission of Startup Deliverables | 5 |
| 3.3 REMA Outreach and Exploratory Site Visits | 6 |
| 3.4 Methods Development and Testing | 8 |
| 3.5 Leveraging Partnerships, Interns, and Volunteers | 9 |
| 3.6 REMA Launch Event Planning | 11 |
| 3.7 Publications and Communications | 11 |
| 4. CHALLENGES | 12 |
| 5. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR QUARTER 2 | 13 |
| Annex 1: CSO Mapping | 14 |
| Annex 2: Publications | 18 |
| Annex 3: REMA Flickr Photo Albums | 20 |

1. INTRODUCTION

On July 1, 2021, the High Atlas Foundation (HAF) began the implementation of the three-year REMA program, whose overall goal is to explore and strengthen inter-religious and inter-ethnic solidarity and community efforts that preserve cultural heritage in Morocco and lead to employability.

The program encourages the documentation of practices, lived experiences, and testimonies shared by stakeholders. It develops an integrated and participatory approach focused on empowering communities through capacity building and experiential learning to promote multiculturalism, social cohesion, diversity, and the basis for creating shared plans of action for improving their future.

In partnership with the Foundation Memoir pour l'Avenir, Association Mimouna, Association Essaouira Mogador, Fondation Miftah Essaad, and the Coalition for Memory, HAF aims to achieve through REMA the following objectives:

Objective 1: Support community cultural dialogue and storytelling, heritage knowledge-building, and memory preservation.

Objective 2: Engage in applied learning for internalization and transmission of Moroccan multiculturalism and capacity-building in employability.

REMA targets younger generations who have not lived alongside members of diverse faith traditions. The opportunity to rebuild this narrative of Morocco's multifaceted heritage by gathering and preserving the stories of those communities is now. If the fading collective Moroccan memory of Muslims, Jews, and Christians living side by side is preserved, and REMA implements the initiatives with the people for cultural actions toward awareness and education, then new transformational social solidarity aims to lead to improved livelihoods and an inspiring global example.

The first program quarter (July 1 - September 30, 2021) coincided with REMA's start-up and preparatory activities, led by HAF in collaboration with its partners. The first quarter has been instrumental to the launch of the mapping of communities guarding a historical heritage and strategy to integrate them in REMA. It has successfully established close coordination between HAF and other REMA partners. During the start-up phase, HAF and partners focused on developing the first-year implementation plan and discussed potential adjustments to the activities and timeline. The program team successfully managed to address these challenges by adopting a reflexive approach to the coordination, conducting multiple dialogues with partners and expanding regional representation.

2. CONTEXT UPDATE

During the reporting period, the issue of preservation of Moroccan memory and religious minority heritage has become increasingly discussed, particularly since the nation earlier signed the Abraham Agreements leading to the normalization process with Israel in December 2020. The urgent need to preserve intangible histories surrounding faith traditions echoes Morocco's goal to strengthen its social cohesion among communities. While Morocco's educational curriculum ensures to address topics reflecting and promoting interfaith cooperation and solidarity, the majority of the youth have limited opportunity to interact with communities of Jewish and Christian faith. Few in number, Jewish and Christian people living in Morocco often encounter challenges integrating into society. This phenomenon creates for them an experience distant from, and even contrary to, the multidimensional identity of Morocco and, with it, the slow erasure of its pluralistic heritage.

The first quarter has also been marked by Morocco's municipal and regional elections, which were held on September, 8 2021. The elections notably contributed to the delay in REMA's start-up process, particularly regarding the availability of REMA partners to engage officially in the program. Nevertheless, the elections lay out the foundation of the New Development Model, thus providing REMA with a new framework for strategic orientation:

“Moroccan men and women around the world are the bearers of living heritage and a memory that is open to the future, and are committed to sowing, nurturing, and fulfilling their dreams, both for themselves and for the sake of history. They pledge that their values, their diversity, and their heritage will continue to be nurtured by their roots; that their aspirations will grow into rich foliage that breathes life into the world and contributes to the future of humanity; and that their nation will uphold its commitment to peace and shared prosperity.”¹

Morocco's New Development Model is a guide toward sustainable and shared prosperity and, as stated in the Report, is to be propelled by the nation's historically multifaceted identity. The solidarity of the diversity of people not only ought to carry forward the immense responsibility and opportunity for the growth that they seek, but it is also the defining feature for success and distinction. In a direct sense, the public rediscovering through participatory community dialogue the local and national narratives of their multidimensional Moroccan identity as it relates to religions and ethnicities can lead to their collective planning and action for broad-based development and real transformational possibilities.

3. PROGRAM PROGRESS & MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

3.1 Capacity Strengthening of REMA Partners and Development of Sub-Grantee Agreements

During the reporting period, HAF organized and conducted ten strategic planning meetings and pre-planning meetings with partners. These meetings were held with the partners to present and explain the financial and implementation procedures for the program. They were

¹ <https://www.csmd.ma/documents/Summary.pdf>

also opportunities to understand and address partners' questions and concerns, collect their feedback on project activities and the needs of target communities, and integrate their priorities into the final agreement.

Some main points of clarification that were raised and made include:

- Procurement and financial management procedures and protocols
- Issues of copyright and intellectual property regarding program-generated data
- Reporting timeline
- Staffing structure

The startup process sought to address and rectify lack of familiarity with USAID procedures among all implementors, as is expected for first-time recipients of USAID funds. It could reflect the need for international cooperation in the field of heritage preservation. HAF seeks to use and share its experience with its partners to ensure that opportunities for their capacity building and networking are maximized alongside programmatic opportunities.

3.2 Elaboration and Submission of Startup Deliverables

First Year Implementation Plan

The project team developed and submitted the implementation plan comprising key activities and including detail on the methodology and approach regarding data collection as well as the partners' scope of activities.

Mapping of Moroccan CSOs Working in the Field of Cultural Preservation

HAF's implementation approach seeks to ensure the achievement of REMA's core inclusivity values. This initiative therefore ensures that the participation of communities is open to multiple partners and that REMA will garner traction throughout Morocco and across multiple communities. This vision has thus supported the development of a CSO country-wide mapping to create a network to form productive links on issues related to historic preservation and the protection of Moroccan religious and ethnic groups. While there is a limited number of CSOs working on interculturalism in Morocco, several have developed instrumental programs for the recognition of the human rights of religious communities. The CSO mapping annexed to this report identifies some of the prospective partners for REMA and further builds important progress toward developing a national network. CSO mapping is an ongoing process that will be regularly updated throughout the three-year program.

First Year Construction Implementation Plan

According to documents supplied by FMA and its proposed activities, the program team elaborated and submitted a first-year construction implementation plan.

Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan

The program team utilized the USAID-supplied IEE to create a responsive EMMP, particularly in regard to the planning of the restoration activities to be implemented at the Toumliline monastery and adjacent gardens, in addition to the current public health situation.

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

In parallel to the implementation plan, the REMA team submitted the Monitoring and Evaluation plan ensuring that it reflected the activities presented by the sub-grantee on September 30.

Gender Analysis and Action Plan (GAAP)

A GAAP report was elaborated to describe the program's gender approach as well as potential strategy to ensure the representation of women as a group and their contribution to the preservation of Moroccan heritage. While the submission of the GAAP extended to Quarter 2, the research spanned throughout Quarter 1.

The research conducted to draft this report concluded that from the gender perspective, the critical challenge for REMA is not whether or how religion, culture, and tradition prevail over women's human rights in Morocco, but how preservation activities can ensure that women are active agents of both their religious and traditional cultures, where their human rights are fully upheld.

The GAAP will be regularly updated to monitor the strategy implemented to address the challenge of women's participation in discussions, storytelling, narration, and decision-making on issues, as well as supporting their creation of revitalized cultural meaning and practices.

3.3 REMA Outreach and Exploratory Site Visits

During the reporting period, beginning on the start date of the program, July 1, 2021, the REMA team began to conduct site visits to locations of significance that represent religious and ethnic communities in Morocco. Photo albums from site visits are linked below in Annex 3. Sites visited during the summer include:

- On July 1, the team visited the *Mellah* of Fes, including the Jewish cemetery and the Ibn Danna and Al Fassiyin synagogues. There, we met the caretaker, Fatima Zahra, who explained the history and current status of the synagogues, including that the Al Fassiyin synagogue operated, for a time, as a women's kickboxing gym before being sold back into the Moroccan Jewish community.
- On July 2, the team visited the Jewish and adjacent Christian cemeteries in Berkane, meeting, discussing, and documenting the history of the spaces and people buried there with the caretaker, Said. A [short video](#) was produced about this visit.
- On July 4, the team made a few visits. The first was with the last two remaining Moroccan Jewish women residents in Oujda, whose family was originally from Figuig. HAF Oriental President Naima Benazzi and Association Mimouna representative Abdelilah, who reside in Oujda and Nador, respectively, accompanied the team on the visit. The two women, Lea and Sara, wished to remain anonymous and to not be recorded, even via notetaking. However, their stories were very insightful and provided the team with a baseline experience for interactions with people whose stories can inform programming, narrative building, and story-sharing.

No photos or videos were taken according to their stipulation for privacy. Afterward, the team visited the Jewish cemetery and local synagogue in Oujda, which remains in sporadic use, primarily by visiting heritage groups.

Later in the day, the team traveled to the small town of Ahfir on the Algerian border, where the third generation caretaker, Abderrahim, and his mother explained the history of the nursery and the livelihood situation of the family. Abderrahim also joined the team to visit the ruins of the old synagogue in Ahfir, which is adjacent to a fully active mosque. Read [more here](#) (currently undergoing USAID approval for publication).

- On July 7, the team visited the interfaith tree nursery in Imerdal, near Ouarzazate, which was launched one year ago (HAF was funded by the National Initiative for Human Development) and overlooks the burial site of Moroccan Jewish Saint David-ou-Moche. The visit provided an opportunity to engage with local community members and caretakers, of both the pilgrimage site and the nursery, as well as a local association. [An article](#) was written by the Chief of Party to document the significance of the day.²
- On July 8-9, the HAF team visited the small village of Tisfan in order to assess land for a nursery to be managed. However, a community member, Abdelhakim, shared that within the community was land upon which it is believed to be an old Jewish cemetery. The memory of this place and of the local Jewish community is largely forgotten now, but residents still celebrate a Moussem each year venerating a saint buried there, Shanoon, who, allegedly unbeknownst to much of the community, is believed to have been a Moroccan Jew. It was emphasized that community members over 85 years of age or so are the only ones left who have memory of the Jewish population there, signifying the urgent need to collect and preserve this memory. The team was then able to visit this sacred space. [See Shorthand Preview page](#) (currently undergoing USAID approval for publication).
- On July 15-16, the HAF team traveled to Fes and Sefrou to meet with existing and prospective partners. The team met with:
 - The Dean of the Faculty of Islamic Theology at University Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah in Fes to discuss enhanced student engagement and ways to connect our partnership with REMA.
 - Representatives Jess Stephens and Sara El Ouedrhiri from the Sefrou Association of Multidisciplinary Arts (SAMA) to discuss respective and shared goals between SAMA and the REMA program. SAMA uses art as a medium through which to engage local youth of the Sefrou medina in the preservation of the history and shared heritage of the medina. The option to collaborate on the REMA launch event was suggested and elaborated. HAF-REMA and SAMA team members toured the mellah and other parts of

² Ben Meir Yossef, The Significance of the New Signage at the Ouarzazate Tree Nursery in Morocco, High Atlas Foundation, August 18, 2021, The Policy Times.

the old medina of Sefrou, seeing the old Jewish school. Jewish and Christian cemeteries of Sefrou are discussed as is the local interfaith history.

- The President of the Volunteer Experts for Development, Moustafa Mouslih, to discuss potential projects and introduce him to the REMA program and concept. This meeting provided an opportunity for the President of the Volunteers Experts for Development to share some suggestions for activities in Sefrou and Azrou/Toumliline.
- *Additionally, the team visited both the Jewish Community Center and the Catholic Church in Fes in an attempt to introduce the REMA program to contacts there.*
- On September 17, the HAF-REMA team visited Essaouira. The team first met with 13 civil society organizations (CSOs) that focus on cultural projects in order to build a united group to conduct cultural preservation activities there. Through participatory exercises facilitated by Dr. Yossef Ben-Meir, the group coined itself the Coalition for Memory and decided on a project and action plan that is outlined in a [blog post](#) to be published in the second quarter. The team then visited the Jewish and the Christian cemeteries where HAF implemented a cultural interfaith project in 2012-2013³.

Due to the surge of the Delta variant of the Covid-19 virus in Morocco in late July and August, the majority of in-person activities and travel were cancelled or postponed.

3.4 Methods Development and Testing

[Methodologies to Preserve Cultural Memory in Morocco](#). At the start of the program, the HAF-REMA team, with a small group of University of Virginia student interns, began to elaborate and test exercises that are reflective of the program's participatory ethnographic approach. The methods in this manual span from activities that produce identity mapping and establishing common ground, and therefore trust, with facilitators and fellow participants, to integrating participatory ethnographic approaches to how each of us perceive one another and ourselves in the contexts of culture, religion and national identity. The manual presents methods meant to liberate and advance collective and individual understandings of core values while integrating an approach that fosters understanding and acceptance of others.

[Integrating Empowerment with Memory Preservation](#). Using the Imagine Empowerment methodology to preserve the heritage and stories of religious and ethnic communities in Morocco can be one of the most effective ways to surmount our differences and appreciate our commonalities. Imagine workshops have been implemented by HAF facilitators 42 times with 977 participants, including 256 youth, in 15 municipalities of Morocco since 2016. These workshops provide an opportunity and space for participants to discover their fears, limiting beliefs, and core values, including their relationship to spirituality and religion, both their own and others. Imagine exercises are designed to inspire participants to pursue an approach to life characterized by improved health, wellbeing, satisfaction, and happiness.

³ Fatima Zahra Laaribi, Preserving the memory of the "Argan city:" Morocco's civil society at the crossroads of cultures, High Atlas Foundation Blog. [October 22, 2021](#).

The Imagine Empowerment Workshop calls on participants to engage with seven critical areas of their lives: emotions, relationships, sexuality, body, money, work, and spirituality. According to Gail Straub, its creator, these seven life areas are directly relevant to the World Development Report's focus on five areas of agency:⁴

- Women's access to and control over resources;
- Freedom of movement;
- Freedom from the risk of violence;
- Decision-making over family formation; and
- Having a voice in society and influencing policy.

A key aspect of the workshop is storytelling, which is a centuries-old Moroccan tradition (i.e., *hikayat*) more typically associated with men than women. The everyday reality is that women are integral to the oral transmission of Moroccan culture. Women's knowledge has been instrumental in the making and preservation of Morocco's history and present, having been referred to as the backbone of orality in Amazigh and Moroccan culture.⁵

For many Moroccan people, a special and important memory from childhood is that of mothers gathering children together and narrating stories that transmit key morals, values, principles, and knowledge that characterize the Moroccan culture and identity. For Moroccan women, in addition managing the household, raising children to play a significant role in the keeping alive of traditions, customs, and religious stories is essential, and for Muslims it is integral to Islam and the Holy Quran.

Through storytelling, women express their innermost selves and take ownership of how narratives are told. Storytelling requires courage, self-confidence, self-control, and techniques of narration. Thus, REMA intends to integrate empowerment and storytelling methods to further embolden women, the gatekeepers of tradition, in the preservation and dissemination of their own heritage and experiences.

Testing Methods. On September 28, the HAF-REMA team tested one of the identity methodologies from the Manual of Methodologies at the HAF office in Marrakech. The *Core Community Values* activity focuses on determining and prioritizing values that we have grown up with and cherish, and outcomes include understanding better the cultural differences and similarities between Moroccan identities. The activity was conducted with women and focused on the priorities held closest to each individual on spectrums of culture, religion, family, health, and more.

3.5 Leveraging Partnerships, Interns, and Volunteers

University of Virginia - HAF Course-Internship Program. During the months of July and September, the HAF-REMA team engaged with two distinct groups of student interns who simultaneously studied in a course titled *Participatory Development in Practice*, taught by HAF President and REMA Chief of Party Dr. Yossef Ben-Meir, and assist(ed) the

⁴ Straub, G. (2019) *The Missing Piece in the Empowerment Equation, A Strategy for Delivering Personal Agency to Women in the Developing World*. Empowerment Institute.

⁵ Sadiqi, F. (2014). *Berber Women's Oral Knowledge*. Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University.

programmatic and operational needs of the HAF organization. A number of these student interns have contributed to REMA-related research and writing, including the development of participatory ethnographic REMA methods, and all of them have engaged in class discussions surrounding the Moroccan multicultural identity, interfaith partnerships, the “right to be remembered,” and the intersection of cultural heritage preservation and sustainable development. A number of blogs and articles have been published by and with them and are included in the table under section 3.6 (Publications).

University of Michigan Global Scholars Program. Over the course of July and August, the HAF-REMA team developed and finalized an internship proposal and partnership agreement with the UMich GSP Program. For this third iteration of the academic year partnership, a “Collaborative Group” of GSP interns will focus on REMA-related research topics as well as programmatic and operational support for REMA where feasible and appropriate. Contact with the collaborative internship group was initiated in September with an orientation to the work of HAF and the REMA program. The group’s first assignment is to conduct a literature review on interfaith relations and tolerance in Morocco.

University of Michigan Research and Discovery Scholars Program (MRADS). In September, the HAF-REMA team engaged MRADS, whose mission is to recruit, support and retain students from diverse backgrounds and academic fields, and introduce them to interdisciplinary research and discovery. The program engages students in building a community based on a mutual respect and affirmation of diversity and enhances students’ experience by providing them with both academic and professional resources for their academic and personal growth. The team met with potential interns for the opportunity to devote a semester of full-time service in Morocco to REMA objectives.

Northeastern University Culture and Communications Co-op. In July and August, the HAF-REMA team engaged the career center at Northeastern University to develop a “co-op” experience whereby Northeastern students will apply for the opportunity to devote a semester of full-time service in Morocco to REMA objectives.

The Culture and Communications Co-op will be devoted to the following activities:

- Research (through literature reviews, interviews, and participatory group dialogues), write about, and create digital content reflecting:
 - traditions and practices shared among Morocco's religious and ethnic groups
 - intercultural, interreligious and interethnic experiences in Morocco
 - personal cultural experiences that are illuminating of the past and present
 - potential strategic partnerships that enable the expansion and sustainability of generation and preservation of cultural knowledge
 - traditional and progressive approaches and methodologies to achieve the preservation of cultural knowledge and experiences
- Contribute collaboratively to the development of project proposals, plans, and communications that advance the goal of the USAID-HAF Religious and Ethnic Minorities Activity (REMA)

Individual Interns

- Remote University of Pennsylvania intern Joel Bazer has assisted in conducting research on building interfaith communities and building communities remotely.

- Remote American University intern Anastasia Papadimitriou has assisted in the development of monitoring and evaluation tools for the REMA program, including the baseline assessment.

Technology Partnership for Digital Storytelling. The HAF-REMA team has engaged New York-based RedBarn Technology to discuss and pursue a partnership to revitalize the HAF website, including the development and launch of a digital repository and platform for REMA stories, mapping, and archives.

3.6 REMA Launch Event Planning

Between July and September 2021, the HAF-REMA team considered various locations and concepts for the official REMA launch event. Three locations were considered for the kick-off event, including the *Mellah* and old Jewish school of Sefrou. Bayt Dakira in Essaouira, and the synagogue in Oujda. Field visits were made by HAF-REMA team members to all three locations over the course of the summer. Prospective REMA partner, the Sefrou Association of Multidisciplinary Arts (SAMA) was engaged in the possibility of planning a community-based event with the youth from the Sefrou *Mellah*. With the unexpected wave of the Covid-19 Delta variant in late July and August, the team instead considered the possibility of a virtual launch event, for which filming from communities across Morocco could be coordinated in advance.

Ultimately, a decision was made to host the event at Bayt Dakira in Essaouira with the support of REMA partner Association Essaouira Mogador and H.E. André Azozulay. During the month of September, the HAF-REMA team worked to organize a successful event, coordinating with event and program stakeholders, creating program materials and press releases, and interfacing regularly with colleagues at USAID and the U.S. Embassy.

3.7 Publications and Communications

During the reporting period, five blog posts were published on the HAF website, and several others were drafted and elaborated. Of the five, four were externally published 39 times as articles on 30 different Arabic, French, and English language platforms that represent over 25 countries. A complete and detailed list of internal and external publications from Quarter 1 is listed in Annex 2 below.

The HAF-REMA team has been working to develop and expand its communication strategy and has proposed to USAID to use a dynamic and engaging approach combining text and multimedia to provide an immersive experience to the reader in programs such as [Shorthand](#). A [REMA playlist](#) (currently unlisted until approved) can be found on HAF's YouTube Channel.⁶ Photos from the REMA program can be found [on Flickr](#). Links to each individual album can be found in Annex 3.

⁶ High Atlas Foundation, YouTube channel

4. CHALLENGES

1. Consolidating the timeline of activities among partners to ensure capitalization of resources used throughout the program
2. Gathering and consolidating geospatial data for mapping and GIS in the form of geographic files for activities throughout the country and among all partners and activities
3. Engage partners in a cohesive dynamic

Mitigation Plan

REMA partners were selected based on their notable levels of capacity experience in the field of preserving and disseminating religious and ethnic community heritage in Morocco. As part of the consolidation of timeline and coordination of the activities, HAF will need to support each partner in the implementation of their activities. This will require a clear and attainable output for each of their activities in relation to various aspects of programming and operations (communications, advocacy and community engagement, monitoring and evaluation, finance and operations, and other technical assistance). To succeed and overcome the foreseen challenges for the second quarter of the REMA program, HAF will support its partners by formalizing the processes and methods for creating a network of CSOs working toward REMA objectives in Morocco. Despite unclear current social and political conditions largely due to the pandemic, the HAF-REMA team is working to mitigate and address these challenges as it seeks to ensure effective coordination by providing additional technical support to subgrantees and partners.

5. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR QUARTER 2

| Activities for October 1 - December 31, 2021 | |
|--|--|
| REMA Internal Workshop | |
| USAID Orientation | |
| Sub-recipients Workshop | |
| Mimouna | Hebrew Heritage Master's Degree |
| Miftah Essaad | Community Mapping - Errachidia Region |
| | Community Dialogue (in partnership with HAF) |
| | Development of School Curriculum |
| FMA | Community Mapping - Fes Region (in partnership with HAF) |
| | Book Translation |
| Essaouira Mogador | Community Mapping - Essaouira Province |
| | Community Dialogue (in partnership with HAF) |

Annex 1: CSO Mapping

1. Fondation Mémoires pour l’Avenir (FMA)

Organization type: Non-governmental organization / non-profit association / CSO

FMA’s objectives include the preservation and enhancement of the cultural diversity of the Moroccan heritage, supporting projects that increase the acceptance of cultural and religious diversity. FMA collects memories and archives of Morocco, repatriating them if necessary, and entrusts them to appropriate partner institutions (i.e., Morocco’s National Archives). Within the REMA program, FMA will be primarily responsible for implementing programming surrounding the Toumliline Monastery, including local and national stakeholder mobilization (i.e., the Meknes authorities, local CSOs, the Ministry of Culture, Archives du Maroc) and Christian Heritage programming in Tangier, including story collection from present-day sub-Saharan Christians living there. In Azrou, FMA will work directly with the local association Les Cèdres de l’Atlas, which itself maintains strong connections with and knowledge of Toumliline, the greater Azrou community and particularly its youth, Al Akhawayn University of Ifrane, the Ministry of Culture, and the Prefectoral Council of Meknes, who has property in the Toumliline space. In Tangier, primary local partners include Catholic and Presbyterian churches.

2. Association Mimouna

Organization type: Non-governmental organization / non-profit association / CSO

Association Mimouna is a cultural non-profit association that was created in 2007 by young Muslim students dedicated to promoting and preserving the Jewish-Moroccan heritage. As of July 2020, Mimouna has organized over 140 events and activities across Morocco and abroad. Since 2008, it has organized four editions of “Moroccan Jewish Days,” on the Al Akhawayn University campus, which aims at informing and educating students about Moroccan Judaism. Under the REMA program, Association Mimouna will be primarily responsible for programming in the Fes and Marrakech *mellahs* and Jewish Heritage programming in Tangier. Mimouna will train youth in oral history collection, digitization, and mapping with *mellah* neighborhood inhabitants and community partners in Tangier and Azrou (and Ifrane, as applicable). Mimouna will also facilitate connections between youth and diaspora communities.

3. Association Essaouira Mogador (EMA)

Organization type: Non-governmental organization / non-profit association / CSO

Essaouira Mogador Association (EMA) dedicates itself to the essence of the historical foundation of Essaouira as a cultural crossroads, where its diversity builds originality and dynamism. EMA has contributed to the restoration of various spaces in Essaouira for use in cultural and socio-educational purposes as well as the creation of learning institutions and festivals including the Gnaoua and World Music Festival, which attracts more than 500,000 visitors each year. EMA created the Convivial University of Essaouira, which serves as a

space for dialogue, exchange, and decision making for the development of Essaouira. EMA has a prominent presence in Essaouira and multi-level relationships for rapid and effective implementation of educational and community dialogue across Morocco and particularly in Essaouira. Under REMA program, EMA will implement programs with approximately 65 public schools in the province, building educator and student capacities to operate school clubs and bring youth into direct contact with Essaouira's Jewish and Christian heritage sites.

4. Miftaa Essaad, Fondation Miftah Essad pour le capital immatériel du Maroc

Organization type: Non-governmental organization / non-profit association / CSO

The Miftah Essaad Foundation for the Intangible Capital of Morocco works for the recognition, safeguarding and promotion of Moroccan cultural heritage, particularly intangible aspects of cultural heritage. Their core values support the preservation of Morocco's particularity in the various sectors ranging from culinary practices, local products, oasis restoration and environmentally friendly community practices. They currently lead an advocacy campaign for the safeguarding and international recognition of *Khettaras*; irrigation structures that have existed for over a thousand years in Morocco that do not require any mechanical energy to operate and do not emit any greenhouse gases. Within REMA, they will raise awareness surrounding the social solidarity among the diverse groups of the nation that were involved in the daily management of these vital water systems, and revitalize those relationships again toward the restoration of *Khettaras* in locations such as Errachidia.

5. The Morocco Alternatives Forum (FMAS) *Forum des Alternatives Maroc*

Organization type: Non-governmental organization

FMAS was created in 2003 to advance human rights. Its purpose is to help build a democratic social movement and an engaged citizenry. It promotes cultural, economic, political, social, and civic rights of groups and individuals, without racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious, or sexual distinction. FMAS seeks to rehabilitate the "collective victim," groups or society as a whole, affected to varying degrees by violations of human rights, social exclusion, deprivation of citizenship, and poverty. FMAS's approach includes a built-in synergy with all movements and actors concerned about democracy and social justice without partisanship.

6. Chifae Association

Organization type: Non-profit association / CSO

The CHIFAE Association for Development and Training is a grass-roots association founded in 1998 to contribute to the development of the Tangier neighborhood Bir Chifa in Beni-Makada and others by initiating structuring projects. Currently, the association is managing five centers with 35 employees working with hundreds of beneficiaries, including in the area of preventing violent extremism and encouraging solidarity.

7. Association of Friends of Moroccan Judaism (AJM)

Organization type: Non-profit association / CSO

Association des Amis du Judaïsme Marocain works for the preservation of heritage and the implementation of cultural and educational actions concerning the Moroccan-Judeo

experience. Within REMA, they will gather memories in rural mountain places (in the Eastern High Atlas and the High Atlas) about Moroccan Christian and Jewish experiences.

8. Sefrou Association for Multidisciplinary Arts (SAMA)

Organization type: Non-profit association

SAMA is a non-profit organization based in Sefrou devoted to bridging Morocco's contemporary and traditional identities, along with local and global communities, through both grassroots and professional approaches. SAMA is founded autonomously by a group of multidisciplinary members dedicated to cultural and artistic movements in Morocco by engaging local, national, and international communities.

9. Mahir Center

Organization type: Branch of Mohammed VI Polytechnic University

The MAHIR Center aims to ensure the training of committed people to actively contribute to the sustainable development of Morocco, in particular by supporting young Moroccans so that they drive a positive change. Public, private, or associative initiatives undertaken to achieve national objectives in this area are often faced with a lack of human resources capable of effectively implementing projects. Mahir encourages the development of essential qualities such as cultural openness and creativity, a sense of communication and collaboration, a spirit of initiative, and the ability to create impact. An integral part of the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University in Benguerir, MAHIR is the convergence of initiatives in human development, promoting research, reflection, and the production of knowledge.

10. Moroccan-Israel Friendship Association (MIFA)

Organization type: Non-profit association

Moroccan-Israel Friendship Association was established in February 2021 with its headquarters in Tamslouht, Morocco, and Georgia, USA. Their interfaith membership: received the first delegation of businessmen to discuss projects related to agriculture and investment in Morocco; are establishing a cultural exchange program including a film on this subject; created cultural clubs at schools launched by Morocco's Minister of Education as well as theater activities at schools in Essaouira and Fes; and are establishing institutions for learning Hebrew and Darija.

11. Ghmate Friends Association

Organization type: Non-profit association / CSO

Ghmate Friends Association was founded in 2019 by the former governor of Al Haouz Province, Bouchaib Moutawakil, where their headquarters are located in L'Espace Associatif. Their fields of intervention focus on culture, education, and agriculture. Currently, they are working on a project to establish a Museum for the preservation of antiquities in Ghmate.

12. Ait Ourir Memory Association

Organization type: Non-profit association / CSO

Ait Ourir Memory Association works in 16 communes with projects mainly focused on documenting historical sites and culture-related advocacy. They are interested in pursuing multi-cultural projects at this time.

13. Observatoire Maghrébin des libertés, *Maghreb Observatory of Freedoms*

Organization type: Non-profit association

This association was established under Swedish law and founded in 2019 to further regional advocacy of individual freedoms in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. The association has created a series of videos, partially published on the Al Huriya platform, aimed at bringing together the different faith communities and the defenders of the rights of the LGBTQI+ community with the general public. Members of religious communities, university professors, artists, and public officials come together with the aim to further education and also work on surveys and reports to provide statistical data that can be used for advocacy. The observatory makes its network of collaborators available to activists for the defense of human rights, joint advocacy actions, and information needs. In 2020, they held virtual workshops with young Moroccans of non-Muslim faiths to make them aware of their rights and laws in force related to the penal code.

14. The Coalition for Memory

Organization type: Coalition of 13 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

This group of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) came together following a HAF-REMA team visit to Essaouira in September 2021 and a participatory discussion facilitated by Dr. Yossef Ben-Meir. Each of the CSOs individually focus on cultural projects for preservation activities, and now, collectively, the Coalition for Memory seeks to advance the values of coexistence by reviving the Essaouira's memory and activating the role of youth through awareness. The CSOs developed a singular cultural project that embodies their collective vision, entitled "The Caravan for Essaouira Memory."

Annex 2: Publications

| Title | Author(s) | Date Published | Language | Externally Published* |
|---|--|--------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| The Importance of Plants in Religious Art | Ellen Hernandez | July 14, 2021 | English | Yes |
| Sustainable Development through Mother Tongue and Multilingualism | Yossef Ben-Meir and Ellen Hernandez | August 11, 2021 | English | Yes |
| The Significance of the New Signage at the Ouarzazate Tree Nursery in Morocco | Yossef Ben-Meir | August 18, 2021 | English | Yes |
| Creating and Codifying the Right to Be Remembered | Yossef Ben-Meir, Emily Oksen, and Kristin O'Donoghue | September 27, 2021 | English | Yes |
| Building our Communities through Personal Identity | Jennan Al-Hamdouni | September 28, 2021 | English | No |

All REMA-related publications can currently be found on [HAF's website here](#).

| Title | Author | Publication Link | Date Published | Language |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------|----------|
| The Importance of Plants in Religious Art | Ellen Hernandez | San Diego Jewish World | July 11, 2021 | English |
| Sustainable development through mother tongue and multilingualism | Yossef Ben-Meir and Ellen Hernandez | Helsinki Times | August 11, 2021 | English |
| | | Jerusalem Post | August 9, 2021 | English |
| | | The Sangai Express | | |
| | | In Depth News | August 6, 2021 | English |
| | | The Cable | August 5, 2021 | English |
| | | The Maravi Post | August 5, 2021 | English |
| | | India CSR | August 5, 2021 | English |
| | | Business Ghana | August 5, 2021 | English |
| | | Qwenu | August 6, 2021 | English |
| | | Albawaba | August 8, 2021 | English |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--------------------|---------|
| The Real Meaning of the Installed Signage at the Ouarzazate Nursery of Morocco | Yossef Ben-Meir | San Diego Jewish World | September 2, 2021 | English |
| | | The World News | August 19, 2021 | English |
| | | Media for Freedom | August 20, 2021 | English |
| | | In Depth News | August 19, 2021 | English |
| | | Maravi Post | August 19, 2021 | English |
| | | The Policy Times | August 19, 2021 | English |
| | | Africa Global Village | August 19, 2021 | English |
| | | Qwenu | August 28, 2021 | English |
| | | Cawalisse | August 25, 2021 | Arabic |
| | | Sudanese Online | August 25, 2021 | Arabic |
| Creating and Codifying the Right to Be Remembered | Yossef Ben-Meir, Emily Oksen, and Kristin O'Donoghue | Albawaba | September 20, 2021 | English |
| | | Mirage News | September 20, 2021 | English |
| | | Global Research | September 20, 2021 | English |
| | | Alternate News Network | September 20, 2021 | English |
| | | Maravi Post | September 20, 2021 | English |
| | | Scoop Independent News | September 21, 2021 | English |
| | | Daily Croc | | English |
| | | Apokalyps Nu! | September 20, 2021 | English |
| | | In Depth News | September 21, 2021 | English |
| | | World News | September 22, 2021 | English |
| | | Thescotfree | | English |
| | | Rising Kashmir | September 23, 2021 | English |
| | | Africa Global Village (Central Africa) | September 20, 2021 | English |
| | | Qwenu | September 26, 2021 | English |
| | | SotAliraq | September 21, 2021 | Arabic |
| | | Albayader | September 20, 2021 | Arabic |
| Wn.com | September 22, 2021 | Arabic | | |
| Alyoum | September 21, 2021 | Arabic | | |

Annex 3: REMA Flickr Photo Albums

All REMA-related photo albums can be found [here](#).

| Activity | Date | Province |
|--|----------------|------------|
| Visit to the Mellah of Fes | July 1, 2021 | Fes |
| Visit to Berkane's Jewish and Christian Cemeteries | July 2, 2021 | Berkane |
| Visit to Oujda's Jewish Cemetery and Synagogue | July 4, 2021 | Oujda |
| Visit of Ahfir's Jewish Cemetery and Synagogue Ruins | July 4, 2021 | Berkane |
| Visit to Imerdal Interfaith Fruit Tree Nursery | July 7, 2021 | Ouarzazate |
| Visit to Forgotten Jewish Cemetery in Tisfan | July 9, 2021 | Taroudant |
| Visit to Sefrou Mellah and Medina with SAMA | July 15, 2021 | Sefrou |
| CSO Meeting and Cemeteries Visit in Essaouira | Sept. 17, 2021 | Essaouira |



USAID Religious and Ethnic Minorities Activity (REMA)

The USAID Religious and Ethnic Minorities Activity (REMA) in Morocco, implemented by the High Atlas Foundation and its partners, aims to collaboratively develop and pioneer a unique participatory approach to the educational preservation of Morocco's multicultural history.

The program engages local communities to capture, preserve, and transmit their collective memories in order for them to take ownership in the revitalization of their own histories. This introspective and sharing experience among local participants maximizes the building of relationships, leading to collective actions that promote livelihoods and a deepened discovery of the Moroccan multicultural identity.

The goal of REMA is to explore and strengthen inter-religious and inter-ethnic solidarity through community efforts that preserve cultural heritage in Morocco through two overarching objectives:

Objective 1: Support community dialogue and storytelling, heritage knowledge-building, and memory preservation

Objective 2: Engage in applied learning to internalize and transmit Moroccan multiculturalism that leads to employment



REMA Visit to Essaouira |...
34 photos



Sefrou's Mellah and Old Medina
32 photos



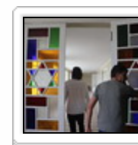
The Forgotten Jewish...
40 photos



Imerdal Nursery:...
139 photos



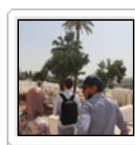
Ahfir's Old Jewish...
49 photos



Oujda's Jewish...
36 photos



Berkane's Jewish and...
42 photos



Fes Mellah: Cemetery and...
21 photos



Launch Event of the USAID...
68 photos