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# QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT



## DAKIRA PROGRAM

Cooperative Agreement:  
Implementing Partner:

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High Atlas Foundation (HAF)

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*Pierre & Mohamed theatrical performance at St. Peter's Cathedral, Rabat. February 2, 2024. Photo: HAF*

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## ACRONYMS

AJM	Association des Amis du Judaïsme Marocain
AMELP	Activity, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan
BMP	Branding and Marking Plan
CLA	Collaboration, Learning, and Adaptation
CoP	Chief of Party
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DCoP	Deputy Chief of Party
EMA	Essaouira-Mogador Association
FMA	Memories for the Future Association
HAF	High Atlas Foundation
ISITT	Institut supérieur international de tourisme de Tanger
LOE	Level of Effort
MoC	Ministry of Culture
MoT	Ministry of Tourism
Non-REM	Persons who do not belong to religious or ethnic minority groups
REM	Persons who belong to religious and/or ethnic minority groups
UCA	University Cadi Ayyad
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government

# 1. ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

## 1.1 ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Despite the Kingdom of Morocco's rich history of pluralism and diversity, like all countries, it has also faced challenges. Globalization has resulted in increased migration and the influence of intolerant narratives on communities that previously enjoyed amicable and collaborative relationships among religious and ethnic groups.

The USAID Dakira Program, implemented by the High Atlas Foundation and its partners, Fondation mémoires pour l'avenir (FMA), Mimouna Association, Essaouira Mogador Association, Sefrou Association for Multidisciplinary Arts (SAMA), Fondation Miftah Essaad, and the Catholic Diocese of Morocco, aims to collaboratively develop and pioneer a unique participatory approach to the educational preservation of Morocco's multicultural history. The program encourages local communities to capture, preserve, and transmit their collective memories so that they are better equipped to take ownership of the revitalization of their own histories. This introspective, experience-sharing approach among local participants maximizes relationship building, leading to collective actions that improve livelihoods and a deepened discovery of Morocco's multicultural identity.

The goal of the USAID Dakira Program is to explore and strengthen interreligious and inter-ethnic solidarity through community efforts that preserve cultural heritage in Morocco through two overarching objectives:

1. Enhance Religious and Cultural Preservation, Learning, and Social Cohesion
2. Support Initiatives that Promote Tolerance, Interfaith Dialogue, and Multiculturalism

The opportunity to rebuild the narrative of Morocco's multifaceted heritage is quickly passing for those who gathered and preserved the stories. To preserve Morocco's cultural heritage, Dakira engages a robust network of diverse local civil society organizations (CSOs) to support program implementation. Through these partnerships, Dakira catalyzes the diversified and coordinated engagement of civil society actors, community leaders, and local stakeholders to discuss, reflect, and learn about Morocco's religious and ethnic heritage. These partnerships enable the documentation and dissemination of practices, lived experiences, and testimonies shared by stakeholders, along with the restoration of tangible heritage.

The program develops an integrated and participatory approach focused on empowering communities through capacity building and experiential learning to promote multiculturalism, social cohesion, and diversity. This participatory approach is also the basis for creating shared plans of action for improving future livelihood opportunities within the targeted communities.

### Program Theory of Change

*If the memory of Muslims, Jews, and Christians living together is preserved, and if Dakira is able to bring people toward greater cultural understanding, then strengthened solidarity will emerge that will improve livelihoods and serve as a model for interfaith dialogue in Morocco and the region.*

## 2. Context Update

During the reporting period, the HAF-Dakira team collaborated closely with the program's subpartners to address the challenges arising from the turbulent situation in the Middle East. This required adjustments to timelines and the postponement of certain activities. The HAF-Dakira team demonstrated flexibility in project planning, enabling swift adaptations to evolving circumstances.

However, it is essential to underscore that these very circumstances emphasize the crucial importance and legitimacy of the Dakira program. The pressing need to foster coexistence, understanding, and dialogue becomes even more evident in such times of turbulence. The Dakira team remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting peace, bridging divides, and working towards a future where different religious and ethnic communities can live together harmoniously.

## 2. PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION

### 2.1 IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

Purpose 1: Enhance Religious and Cultural Preservation, Learning, and Social Cohesion

Sub-purpose 1.1 : REM Heritage Preservation Facilitation Capacity Development

#### Activity 1.1.1 Workshop series Training of Trainers for DAKIRA Subrecipients and NGOs Partners

During the quarter, the team continued to convene coordination meetings with sub-grantees to ensure financial compliance. HAF CFO held two meetings with the Dakira staff at the Mimouna office and the FMA staff in Rabat to review the overall operations of the accounting department.

Our financial team has focused its support this quarter with the Essaouira Mogador team, hosting them in January for a training session. Then holding a 2 day meeting in February in Essaouira.

#### 1.1.2 Intergenerational Community Heritage Dialogues and Interviews: Mapping and Interviews

Community meeting: Youth, immigration, and cultural heritage: During the reporting period, Mimouna Association organized a community gathering in Marrakech, specifically tailored to engage the city's youth in a dialogue on youth issues, immigration, and the preservation of cultural heritage. This event was a platform to foster meaningful discussions and exchange insights on the challenges and opportunities facing young individuals in today's dynamic world. A highlight of the gathering was the opportunity for the youth to engage directly with Mr. William Akoka Perets, a young Moroccan Jewish student currently pursuing his studies in France.

Mr. Perets shared his personal experiences and perspectives on the importance of safeguarding cultural heritage as a fundamental aspect of shaping individual and collective identities. Through thought-provoking conversations and interactive sessions, participants gained valuable insights into the significance of preserving cultural heritage amidst the evolving landscape of globalization and cultural diversity.

Sub-purpose 1.2: Historical Heritage is Preserved and Restored

### 1.2.1 Preservation and digital archiving of REM Moroccan heritage.

Article on the Digitization of Catholic Archives: During the reporting period, a new article titled "Bridging Faiths, Preserving Legacies: The Role of Religious Communities Archives in the Preservation of Collective Memory and the Promotion of Diversity" was published by external sources five times in English, all by international publications. The piece delves into the collaborative efforts between HAF, the Diocese of Rabat, and the Al Mowafaqa Institute, as part of the Dakira program. The article presents some of the program's key milestones at a study day organized in January 2024, namely the digitization of the archives of the Diocese of Rabat.

The publication underscores the significance of preserving historical religious records and emphasizes the role of such initiatives in bridging interfaith dialogue and understanding. (See annex 2)

Editing, printing and preparation for publication of the book "Toumliline, A Moroccan Memory":

The book "Toumliline, a Moroccan Memory" beautifully captures the spirit of the Toumliline monastery. It portrays it not just as a hub of life, culture, and community interaction but also as an integral part of its region, deeply ingrained in the lives of local people. It showcases the diverse range of activities and individuals that have brought Toumliline to life, from artistic endeavors to healthcare initiatives. Emphasizing the monastery's significance as a center for living, healing, education, and cultural enrichment for the entire local populace, the book gathers various testimonials, showcasing the profound impact Toumliline has had on people from various backgrounds.

In 2024, several publishing houses had been contacted regarding the publication of the book for widespread distribution in Arabic and English. Unfortunately, no responses were received from these publishers. Consequently, FMA will self-publish the book. By doing so, FMA retains complete control over distribution and presentation, guaranteeing direct and efficient access to the intended audience. As such, a tender was launched for the design, publishing and printing of the book, and three companies were consulted. The graphic design phase is currently in progress.

During the reporting period, the translation of the book from French into Arabic has been successfully completed. The translation was completed on schedule and approved by the FMA. Despite initial challenges with translator availability, the translation of the book from French to English was successfully completed and is currently undergoing final approval by FMA.

Collection, archiving, editing and publication of proceedings of the Reinventing the International Gatherings of Toumliline Symposiums (2018-2019 and 2021 editions):

As part of this activity, FMA has contracted an Archiving and Editing Officer to collect symposium writings, retrieve speeches, transcribe unsubmitted but recorded speeches, ensure their filing and archiving as well as their digitization.

An agreement was signed with Revue Azmina Haditha to publish these proceedings in the magazine's 22/2024 issue. This edition will include contributions from the round tables held in December 2018, December 2019, and January 2021.

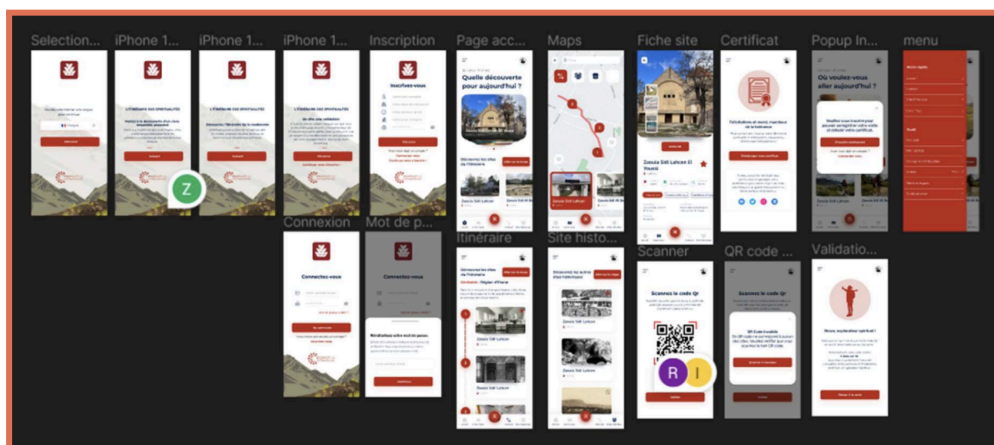
To ensure the printing of this special edition, a partnership has been established with Rabat Net Maroc, which will oversee the printing process. FMA will provide financial support through a grant from the CNDH to cover a portion of the printing expenses and will receive complimentary copies of the magazine in return.

Regarding financial arrangements, the budget was revised: the funds originally designated for printing will now be reinvested in organizing an event in collaboration with the National Human Rights Council (CNDH) to present the publication. The CNDH will also finance the graphic design and printing of two magazine issues. This strategic pivot will not only facilitate the dissemination of the colloquium proceedings but also enhance the project's value by convening key stakeholders at the launch event.

Digital Archives & Repository: The HAF-Dakira team is supporting the preservation of the archives of the Diocese of Rabat through their digitization and making them available for public access. The archives will be available online mid-May and the link will be shared with USAID.

Restoration and Digitization of Sacred Jewish Texts: Our team has supported upon the return of our point of contact from Israel in February the identification of the document to be digitized. We have installed the proper shelving and temperature control as well as computers and printers that will allow the visitors of the cemetery to look for their ancestors which record we will be digitizing.

Development of the "Imane Trail" (Faith Trail) Digital Guide Mobile Application:



FMA launched a tender to develop the "Digital Guide" mobile application as part of the USAID-funded DAKIRA project, aimed at promoting the religious and historical heritage of the Fez-Meknes region. *"Imane Trail" (Faith Trail) Application prototype*

On January 10, a meeting was held to determine the technical specifications required to produce 360-degree video captures for integration into the regional spiritual itinerary mobile application. The meeting was attended by FMA president, Dakira COP, and FMA's communication consultant, and resulted in the decision to launch a consultation to recruit a drone expert.

Between March 4 and 7, FMA worked on the creation of 360° video capsules to document and promote the region's spiritual heritage. This involved working with a drone expert to capture high-quality images of key sites, including the Toumliline Monastery.

During the reporting period, the ImaneTrail digital application made significant progress. Designed to enhance the experience of visitors to the Toumliline monastery and surrounding sites, the app is now being rolled out to the Android and Apple stores. This roll-out represents the fruit of ongoing efforts to refine the application, which includes exhaustive testing and adjustments based on initial feedback.

## 1.2.2 Creation of Educational Outreach Tools

### Educational videos as a tool for the promotion of the Moroccan Jewish Culture:

This multifaceted project is meticulously designed to unfold in three key cities—Tangier, Rabat, and Marrakech—providing a nuanced and region-specific exploration of Morocco's diverse cultural tapestry. Mimouna association is in the final stages of completing the Tangier and Rabat videos, ensuring every detail aligns with the project's intended vision. Simultaneously, the script for the Marrakech videos is currently in the drafting stage.

In Rabat, the videos delve into the intricate history of the city's Islamic heritage, exploring iconic landmarks such as the Hassan Tower and the magnificent Mohammed Mausoleum. The videos offer glimpses into the vibrant Jewish and Christian heritage of Rabat, highlighting significant sites such as the Mellah and the historic synagogues scattered across the city.

Similarly, in Marrakech, the capsules uncover hidden gems that speak to the city's rich tapestry of religious diversity. From the iconic Koutoubia Mosque to the ancient Jewish quarter of the Mellah and the ornate churches dotting the cityscape, each frame encapsulates the essence of Marrakech's cultural mosaic. Through these captivating videos, the program endeavors to not only celebrate the cultural heritage of Rabat and Marrakech but also to inspire a deeper appreciation for the interwoven threads of history and tradition that define these iconic Moroccan cities.

Back to Roots Series: The "Back to Roots" project aims to shed light on the experiences of people who are reestablishing their ties to their ancestry and setting out on missions to protect and celebrate it. The project intends to explore the rich tapestry of history and tradition woven into the fabric of communities throughout Tetouan, Sefrou, Rabat-Salé, Errachidia, and the Al-Haouz region through the lens of Jewish Moroccan culture. Every episode of the series is a historical window that illuminates the great importance of ancestors' legacies, community ties, and family relationships. By documenting and sharing these narratives, the "Back to Roots" series not only celebrates the diversity and resilience of Moroccan Jewish heritage but also fosters a deeper understanding and appreciation of the cultural mosaic that enriches the nation's collective identity.

## 1.2.3 Preservation of REM Physical Heritage

Restoring the Synagogue of Gourrama: In partnership with the Association of Friends of Moroccan Judaism (AJM) and with the support of the Council of Jewish Communities of Morocco, the HAF-Dakira team is working on the restoration of the synagogue of Gourrama. This project includes the restoration of the historical building, the establishment of a small museum space retracing the history of the synagogue as well as that of the Jewish community of Gourrama through bequests from Jewish families currently living abroad, including testimonies, ancient objects, photographs and various documents. Additionally, a documentary project tracing the restoration process and the history of the Jewish community in Gourrama is also planned in collaboration with Sami Shalom Chétrit, filmmaker and native of Gourrama. During the reporting period, the updated construction plan was submitted for approval after meetings with the local and international environmental teams

of USAID and several meetings with the architect and the engineering team at the local level. The construction is ready to start as soon as the USAID team approves the CIP.

Emergency restoration intervention at Toumliline: From March 22-24, a rapid intervention was carried out to address urgent damage to the entrance to the Monastery cloister, caused by adverse weather conditions. The work included recruiting a local craftsman and restoring the wooden structures, with a focus on using sustainable materials that respect the site's cultural heritage.

These missions ensured that preservation activities were carried out in accordance with the quality and safety standards required by the DAKIRA program.

Restoring the Memory of a Regional Spiritual Ecosystem: As part of the "Restoring the Memory of a Regional Spiritual Ecosystem" activity, FMA's consultant carried out various mediation missions during the quarter. The consultant has coordinated with local authorities in the Province of Ifrane to obtain the necessary authorizations for the installation of signages. In addition, the consultant met with representatives of civil society in the commune of Zaouia Sidi Abdeslam, who welcomed the installation of an informational signage near the mausoleum of Sidi Abdeslam.

Filming of video capsules documenting restoration work at the Toumliline monastery for the documentary project "Mekbouline, les hôtes de Toumliline":

During the reporting period, video capsules documenting the rehabilitation work on the Toumliline monastery were recorded. These videos aim to capture the various phases of the restoration project and will be integrated into the documentary project "Mekboulin, les hôtes de Toumliline".

This documentary aims to showcase the monastery's conservation efforts and illustrate how this historic site continues to enrich the region's cultural and spiritual community. The videos will play an essential role in documenting and disseminating the ongoing transformations at the monastery.

Dakira collectors: As part of the DAKIRA initiative, Mimouna Association is working with a group of young people from various regions of Morocco to create engaging and interactive digital maps of places with historical and cultural significance to ensure that Moroccan heritage is preserved for future generations. To preserve, safeguard, and promote intangible cultural heritage, the crew is using cameras and recorders to take photos and movies of the historical and religious Jewish places in various Mellahs of Morocco.

To collect all of the remnants of the area's once-vibrant Jewish population, the DAKIRA team went to Tetouan.

## Purpose 2: Support Initiatives that Promote Tolerance, Interfaith Dialogue, and Multiculturalism

Sub-purpose 2.1: Community development planning actions are inclusive of REM.

### 2.1.1 Capacity Building Workshop Trainings for CSOs, Tourism, ISITT Students, Tour Guides

Master's Degree in Jewish Moroccan Tourism: During the week spanning from January 29th to February 2nd, students engaged in the culmination of their academic endeavors as they undertook the final exams for the fall session of 2023/2024. These assessments covered a broad spectrum of

subjects vital to their professional development and academic growth. Among the exams administered were those in leadership, where students demonstrated their aptitude in guiding and inspiring others toward collective goals.

Additionally, examinations in communication assessed their ability to convey ideas effectively and engage in meaningful dialogue, crucial skills for fostering collaboration and understanding in diverse contexts. In the realm of digital marketing, students showcased their proficiency in leveraging digital platforms and strategies to promote tourism initiatives and engage with modern audiences. Furthermore, assessments in the Hebrew language assessed their fluency and comprehension, essential for effectively communicating with Hebrew-speaking tourists and accessing Jewish cultural resources. English exams evaluated their language skills, facilitating communication with an international clientele and enhancing their global employability. Finally, examinations in Moroccan Jewish jurisprudence delved into the legal and ethical frameworks governing Jewish life and heritage in Morocco, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the cultural and legal landscape. Overall, this rigorous week of examinations underscored the students' dedication to their studies and prepared them for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in their professional journeys.

Currently, the students are immersed in a multifaceted academic journey as they embark on their research endeavors while simultaneously undertaking internships to support their thesis writing process. This pivotal phase of their education marks a significant milestone in their academic and professional development, allowing them to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios and contribute meaningfully to the field of Jewish heritage tourism.

Field training for ISITT Masters program students to exploring the Jewish heritage of the imperial cities: As part of the Dakira program, Mimouna association conducted a field training for the ISITT master students to offer a comprehensive exploration of Morocco's rich cultural heritage, particularly



focusing on the imperial cities of Fez, Meknes, Rabat, and Marrakech. Last June, students embarked on an immersive journey through Fez and Meknes, uncovering the layers of history embedded within these ancient cities. Continuing their exploration, the students ventured to Rabat, the capital of Morocco, where they delved into the vibrant heritage of the Mellah, the historic Jewish

quarter. The group had the unique opportunity to visit the synagogues of Rabat, immersing themselves in the spiritual and cultural significance of these sacred spaces. Additionally, they engaged with members of the Jewish Moroccan community. The journey then took them to Marrakech, where they explored the revered Jewish cemetery, tracing the footsteps of history among the tombstones. Within the Mellah, they visited the historic Al Azama synagogue and meticulously mapped the once-vibrant network of synagogues that adorned the neighborhood. Moreover, the students were honored to visit Beth El, the synagogue of Gueliz, and engage with the head of the Jewish Moroccan community of Marrakech.

These encounters provided invaluable insights into the vibrant Jewish life of Marrakech. Through this immersive field training, students not only deepened their understanding of Morocco's diverse

cultural landscape but also forged lasting connections with local communities, enriching their journey of cultural discovery.

### 2.1.2 Creation and enhancement activities dedicated to youth on multiculturalism, interfaith harmony, and overall social cohesion

Lions of the Mellah: In partnership with Kulna association, the DAKIRA program is supporting the implementation of a cultural program that will engage youth from the Mellah to share Morocco's multicultural and interreligious history. Games, trainings and competitions will be organized for the neighborhood. Volunteers in charge of facilitating the activity arrived in Morocco just a few days before the earthquake that shook Morocco. The Mellah of Marrakech, where the activities were planned, was heavily impacted by the quake and due to safety conditions the program's implementation will be postponed. The program was postponed as well this quarter due to the situation in the Middle East as authorities advised it would not be wise to start activities of this sort in the Mellah due to the heightened tensions.

Moroccan Jewish Choir Lessons at Dar Souiri: Essaouira Mogador Association's program is designed to celebrate and preserve the musical heritage of Morocco. Participants delve into the fascinating history of Moroccan Jewish music, tracing its roots and evolution through the ages. The sessions explore the unique blend of Arab, Berber, and Sephardic influences that have shaped this distinctive musical tradition. Participants are also introduced to the nuances of traditional melodies, rhythms, and vocal techniques.

During the reporting period, 12 sessions were organized with the participation of 64 attendees (36 females, 28 males), fostering a sense of community and collaboration. This immersive approach encourages a deeper understanding of the music and its cultural significance.

On February 4, the program concluded with a special culminating event, where participants came together to perform a selection of traditional Moroccan Jewish pieces. The event was open to the public, creating a bridge between the participants and the local community.

Sub-purpose. 2.2: Community awareness about REM is increased

### 2.2.1 Multilingual multimedia and outreach campaigns to promote shared Moroccan, Jewish, Christian, and intercultural stories of Morocco

The "Toumliline, Une Convergence Spirituelle" press kit: As part of FMA's strategic initiatives, a press kit is in draft to contextualize and promote all the actions carried out as part of the Dakira project. The document is designed to initiate an informed dialogue with the global community, highlighting the cultural and historical relevance of the Toumliline monastery as a symbol of diversity and togetherness.

The press kit outlines FMA's goals, chronicling the monastery's journey not only as a historical landmark but also as a catalyst for cross-cultural and interfaith dialogue. It highlights the pivotal moments of the "Reinventing Toumliline" initiative, showcasing the strategic partnerships and significant progress made in revitalizing and enriching the site, alongside its integration into the ecotourism program of Ifrane National Park.

### 2.2.2 Outreach & Awareness Events

### Catholic Archives Event (January 2024):

On January 23, 2024, in partnership with the Diocese of Rabat and the Al Mowafaqa Institute, the HAF-Dakira team organized a study day entitled "The Role of Religious Communities Archives in the Preservation of Collective Memory and the Promotion of Diversity." Held at the Al Mowafaqa Institute, the study day was an opportunity to present some of the Dakira program's key milestones, namely the digitization of the archives of the Diocese of Rabat. The digitization project included 95 380 individual



baptismal records drawn up from 1950 to 1990 have been digitized; 427 registries from 1920 to the present, attesting to over 200,000 baptismal certificates and 100,000 marriage certificates; Catholic magazines, namely the magazine entitled "Ensemble" which has maintained a continuous uninterrupted stream of publications since its creation in 1947. These magazines and archives can be accessed on the official website of the diocese. The archives housed within the Diocese of Rabat not only chronicle the narrative of the Christian community in Morocco over the past two centuries but also encapsulate the broader history of the nation. Their digitization through the Dakira program ensures an even longer-term preservation and greater accessibility.

The event provided a platform for knowledge exchange and joint reflection, bringing together 44 scholars, historians, religious leaders, and community members of different backgrounds to reflect on the role of archives digitization on past, current and future generations in promoting diversity, thus contributing to a greater understanding of our common history.



Through panel discussions, presentations, and interactive sessions, participants delved into the multifaceted role of religious archives that not only serve as a testament to the beliefs and practices of various religious traditions but also offer valuable insights into the social, cultural, and political contexts in which they emerged.

Pierre et Mohamed: In celebration of the International Day of Human Fraternity, the HAF-Dakira team joined forces with the Diocese of Tangier - Delegation for Ecumenism,

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Interreligious Dialogue and Faith and Culture Dialogue- to host a theatrical production in Rabat and Tangier.

Entitled "Pierre et Mohamed," the play, written by Dominican writer Adrien Candiard in Egypt, was inspired from the enduring friendship between Monseigneur Pierre de Claverie and Mohamed Bouchikhi who both fell victim to a fatal car bombing. Their bond transcended religious divides, one being Christian and the other Muslim.

Beyond being a mere performance, the event served as a vibrant celebration of unity amidst diversity, bringing together a wide audience from Muslim, Jewish, and Christian backgrounds.

In Rabat, the event unfolded within St. Peter's Cathedral on February 2, drawing an audience of approximately two hundred attendees. Similarly, on February 3, at the Espace Artistique et Culturel Riad Sultan in Tangier, the production garnered an audience of around eighty individuals. Notably, the gathering comprised Muslim, Jewish, and Hindu participants, alongside Anglican, Evangelical, and Catholic Christians.

The gathering itself became a microcosm of interfaith cooperation and fraternity. As Muslims, Jews, and Christians converged in one space, the event became a living testament to the possibility of peaceful coexistence and collaboration. Ultimately, the event transcended its role as a theatrical production to become a symbol of hope and inspiration for interfaith dialogue and cooperation. It underscored the importance of recognizing and celebrating our shared humanity, while also embracing the richness of our religious and cultural diversity as a source of strength and enrichment for society as a whole.

**Spiritual Marrakech Exhibition:** Following the success of the Spiritual Tangier Exhibition, Mimouna association launched a new initiative to highlight the spiritual legacy of Marrakech with the Spiritual Marrakech Exhibition. This collaborative effort, organized as part of the Dakira program in partnership with la Fondation Mémoires Pour L'avenir and the Moroccan Jewish community of Marrakech, celebrates the rich diversity of the ochre city. Held at Al Azama Synagogue, a revered site drawing hundreds of global visitors daily, the exhibition offered an immersive journey into Marrakech's religious, cultural, and architectural heritage, spotlighting its Catholic and Evangelical churches as enduring symbols of the city's Christian presence. Moreover, the exhibit highlighted Marrakech's synagogues, both active and historical, such as the Joseph Bitton Synagogue, closed since the 1950s, revealing the intricate Jewish heritage woven into the city's tapestry. The exhibition also featured historic Islamic sites, including the iconic Koutoubia Mosque, Mosque of Ben Saleh, and Zaouia of Ben Abbas Sebt. The exhibition attracted over 180 visitors, offering a comprehensive exploration of Marrakech's spiritual and cultural essence.

**Celebrating Unity through Music:** Essaouira Mogador Association's choir lessons program concludes with a special culminating event, where participants come together to perform a selection of traditional Moroccan Jewish pieces. This celebratory gathering, open to the public, creates a bridge between the participants and the local community.

On February 4, music enthusiasts gathered at Dar Souiri for the first of two unforgettable concerts celebrating Moroccan music. Approximately 300 attendees embarked on a cultural journey through the diverse musical heritage of Morocco. The concert was a vibrant celebration of unity, blending Hebrew, Arabic, and Andalusian influences into a mesmerizing tapestry of melodies and rhythms. The concert on February 4 was a testament to the power of music as a universal language, bridging differences and fostering appreciation for cultural diversity.

On April 4, during the holy month of Ramadan, Dar Souiri once again came alive with the spirit of Moroccan music. The concert was a continuation of the celebration of Moroccan musical heritage, with artists weaving together diverse influences to create a captivating musical experience. The stage was a vibrant tableau of melodies, rhythms, and traditions, reflecting the rich tapestry of Morocco's cultural heritage.

Theatrical Performance at Dar Souiri: On February 10, Dar Souiri illuminated with the spirit of unity as approximately 290 attendees, including children, youth, and families, gathered to witness a stirring theatrical performance. Against the backdrop of the historic venue, the production unfolded, weaving a tale of communal bonds and shared values.

The audience was captivated by the heartfelt narrative, which transcended political and religious divides to focus solely on the universal principles of living together harmoniously. Through poignant storytelling and emotive performances, the production fostered a sense of connection and empathy among attendees, underscoring the importance of mutual respect and understanding in fostering a vibrant community.

Against the backdrop of Essaouira's rich cultural tapestry, the theatrical piece served as a beacon of hope and inspiration, highlighting the transformative power of art and storytelling in promoting social cohesion and togetherness.

#### External Networking Opportunities and Events

## **2.2 IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES**

As reported in the previous quarter, the situation and escalated tensions in the Middle East led to postponement of certain activities and modification of implementation approaches. Since then, the HAF-DAKIRA team has been working closely with respective partners to mitigate the impact of the situation and ensure the smooth implementation of the activities. However, it highly impacts the timely delivery of the programme and will induce a proposed no-cost extension to be submitted to USAID.

FMA's Activity 4 of the DAKIRA-USAID project, focused on implementing the spirituality itinerary, encountered certain challenges. Obtaining required authorizations from local authorities for cleanup, site rehabilitation, and signage totems faced delays, hindering planned progress. These administrative hurdles affected project advancement despite notable initial strides. The project, ambitious in scope, demands investments beyond current financial capabilities. Initially planned to cover 300 km, budget constraints have necessitated reassessment, with the project now focused on a reduced area of 100 km.

## **2.3 AMELP UPDATES**

No updates or changes here.

## **2.4 COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS**

*High Atlas Foundation/DAKIRA*

During the reporting period, the team continued to strengthen existing collaborations and forge new partnerships, which include the following:

- Association du Judaïsme Marocain (AJM): HAF-Dakira will collaborate with AJM on the rehabilitation of the synagogue of Gourama in the Draa-Tafilalet region pending the approval of the construction plan by USAID. This synagogue is significant as it is still a very important pilgrimage location for the Jewish Moroccan diaspora.
- Council of the Jewish Communities in Morocco: The collaboration will focus on rehabilitating the synagogue in Gourama. Other areas of collaboration include the renovation of a Synagogue in El-Jadida.
- Jewish Community of Tangiers: HAF-Dakira will collaborate with the Jewish Community of Tangiers in identifying endangered sites as well as organizing a research center together with l'AJM.
- Kulna: HAF-Dakira will collaborate with Kulna, a Moroccan Israeli NGO that is based in Marrakech and dedicated to the safeguarding of Jewish Moroccan Heritage and the promotion of Moroccan Cultural identity, especially within the Jewish Moroccan Diaspora. HAF-Dakira will collaborate with them especially on the Museum space of Al Azama to gather artifacts from the Jewish Community of Marrakech that is now established in Israel.
- Ministry of Justice: HAF-Dakira is partnering with the Moroccan Ministry of Justice to digitize the archives of the Jewish Community of Marrakech.
- The Regional Council of Tourism of Marrakech and Tafilalet: HAF-Dakira is partnering with the local authorities of the Tafilalet region to support the socio-economic impact from the renovation of the Synagogue of Gourama. This partnership will ensure the sustainability of the renovation in terms of maintenance, but also employment and tourism.

## 3. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

### 3.1 KEY PERSONNEL CHANGES

During the reporting period, a member of the HAF-Dakira field team, who was covering activities in the Marrakech-Safi and Fes-Meknes regions, departed in February 2024.

## 4. LESSONS LEARNED

The main lesson learned for this quarter was the importance of flexibility and the ability to quickly adapt to external geopolitical changes that are outside of our control both in length and impact. By diversifying partnerships and increasing local involvement, we were able to maintain momentum and ensure sustainability despite uncertainties in the international landscape. This approach allowed us to not only mitigate risks and redirect our activities but in fine also enriches the project by integrating a wider range of perspectives and expertise.

## 5. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER

HAF's planned activities for next quarter are the following:

- Heritage Hunt: Developed by the HAF-Dakira team, the activity will take the participants on a journey into the city's pluralistic past, while providing insights into key attributes of some of the city's historic landmarks. The activity was finalized during the reporting period and poised for its pilot phase.
- Heritage and Creative Writing Workshop: Participants will get to explore historic sites in Marrakech in an engaging way through a heritage hunt activity prior to undergoing the creative writing training. Once familiarized with the sites, participants will engage in a collaborative discussion about creative writing techniques and their effects on readers. By the end of the workshop, they will draft and contribute original pieces of writing that reflect the city's long history of interfaith harmony through merging historical facts about selected heritage sites, oral testimonies and lived experiences. During the reporting period, the team has successfully identified a potential candidate who will facilitate the creative writing workshop. With a proven track record as a journalist and storyteller, his experience aligns well with the objectives of the workshop, promising an enriching experience for participants. In order to streamline the participant selection process, an application form has been developed. This form will be launched in the next quarter, allowing interested UCA students to apply for participation in the workshop. Additionally, a meeting is scheduled for next quarter with University Cadi Ayyad University to explore a potential partnership for the creative writing workshop.

Mimouna's planned activities for next quarter:

- ★ **Moroccan Diaspora in Latin America Conference**: After facing two postponements, the Latin America conference is set to take place in Essaouira in June 2024. This conference represents a significant opportunity to delve into the intricate connections between the Moroccan Jewish community in Latin America and their homeland. Bringing together scholars, religious figures, and community leaders, the event will serve as a platform to explore the historical ties, current challenges, and prospects of these communities. By facilitating open dialogue and exchange of ideas, the conference aims to deepen understanding and foster collaboration among participants. Through panels, discussions, and presentations, attendees will have the chance to gain insights into the diverse experiences and contributions of the Moroccan Jewish diaspora in Latin America, as well as reflect on ways to strengthen bonds and support the ongoing cultural exchange between the two regions.
- ★ **Spiritual Rabat exhibition**: Mimouna Association, in partnership with la Fondation Mémoires Pour l'Avenir, plans on organizing an exhibition in Rabat, the capital city of Morocco, to showcase the rich spiritual diversity that characterizes this historical metropolis. The Spiritual Rabat Exhibition will serve as a poignant tribute to the harmonious coexistence of different religious communities within the city. Through a meticulously curated display, the exhibition will shine a spotlight on the significant religious landmarks that adorn the Rabat skyline, encompassing synagogues, churches, and mosques alike. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore the architectural splendor and cultural significance of these sacred

sites, each of which holds a unique place in the collective heritage of Rabat. From the historic synagogues nestled within the heart of the city's Mellah to the majestic mosques that resonate with centuries of spiritual devotion, the exhibition will offer a comprehensive insight into the spiritual and cultural heritage of Rabat. Additionally, the inclusion of the Russian church representing the Eastern Christian Orthodox church will underscore the city's multifaceted religious landscape and highlight the spirit of tolerance and inclusivity that defines Rabat.

- ★ **Spiritual Essaouira Exhibition:** Mimouna Association, in partnership with la Fondation Mémoires Pour l'Avenir and Essaouira Mogador, envisions the organization of an exhibition in Essaouira, affectionately known as the "Jewel of the Atlantic," to celebrate the city's rich spiritual and cultural diversity. The Spiritual Essaouira Exhibition will serve as a symbol of the longstanding tradition of religious tolerance and coexistence that has defined this enchanting coastal town for centuries. Through a comprehensive showcase, the exhibition will spotlight the myriad of sacred sites that dot the Essaouira landscape, including synagogues, churches, and mosques.
- ★ **Salon du livre 2024:** Following its successful participation in the 28th edition of the Salon du Livre, Mimouna Association will take part in the upcoming 29th edition to be held in Rabat from May 9th to May 19th. This event is an invaluable platform to promote and preserve the rich Jewish Moroccan heritage. As part of its exhibition, Mimouna Association will unveil a diverse collection of books meticulously curated to highlight the multifaceted aspects of the Jewish Moroccan experience. These books, available in Arabic, French, Hebrew, and English, will offer visitors a comprehensive insight into the cultural, historical, and spiritual significance of the Mellah, the historic Jewish quarter. With the theme of this year's Salon du Livre centered around the Mellah, Mimouna Association aims to shed light on the vibrant tapestry of stories, traditions, and legacies that define these unique neighborhoods across Morocco. Through engaging narratives, photographs, and scholarly works, the participation in this event aims to underscore the importance of preserving the rich heritage of the Mellah and amplifying the voices of its inhabitants.
- ★ **MIMOUNA 5784: Celebrating Moroccan Jewish Heritage at the University of Mohamed VI**  
This upcoming event symbolizes the ongoing commitment to fostering cultural understanding and celebrating Moroccan Jewish heritage within the academic setting. By engaging with the students of UM6P Benguerir, Mimouna Association aims to create a vibrant and inclusive celebration that strengthens the sense of unity and appreciation for diversity among the university community. Through various activities and traditions associated with Mimouna, this event will serve as a platform for promoting interfaith dialogue, mutual respect, and the preservation of cultural heritage.
- ★ **Back to Roots:** By documenting personal accounts and anecdotes from individuals with connections to the Mellah, this activity seeks to capture the essence of this vibrant community and its rich history. These videos serve as invaluable resources for future generations, providing insight into the lived experiences, traditions, and customs that have shaped the identity of the Mellah over time.
- ★ **Animated Videos:** Building on the success of previous animated projects, Mimouna association will continue to develop visually captivating content that showcases the diverse heritage of the country. These animated videos serve as powerful tools for education and engagement, bringing to life the stories, traditions, and history of Moroccan communities. By employing animation as a medium, the project aims to reach a wider audience and spark interest in Morocco's cultural heritage among people of all ages and backgrounds.

Essaouira Mogador's planned activities for next quarter:

- "Tech for Tolerance:" It is essential to leverage technology for positive social change and to create a community, like the "Club of Tolerance," to support and amplify these efforts. The Tech for Tolerance project aims to provide access to information, breaking down barriers, and fostering dialogue. The project will encourage students to create digital content and initiatives that promote tolerance, inclusivity, and respect.

The aim of this project is to provide computer equipment to more than 200 tolerance clubs, benefiting more than 9,000 students. By developing computer skills, we aim to empower students to promote and advocate for the values of living together harmoniously. This project will enable students to access modern technology, enhance their digital literacy, and utilize computer resources for promoting tolerance, inclusivity, and respect within their communities. By providing access to information, breaking down barriers, and fostering dialogue, technology can help bridge the gap between different cultures and communities.

- Moroccan Jewish Musical School:

This project aims to establish a vibrant musical school and studio dedicated to Moroccan Jewish traditions. Aimed at youth, the program seeks to preserve and propagate the rich musical heritage through comprehensive education and hands-on studio experiences. By nurturing a new generation of musicians, this initiative aspires to create a harmonious fusion of tradition and innovation in Moroccan Jewish music.

- Essaouira Heritage Voyage: Exploring Jewish Roots and Cultural Marvels:

Students will embark on a captivating journey through Essaouira, where they will uncover not only the city's diverse cultural tapestry but also delve into the rich Jewish heritage woven into its streets. From the ancient Medina to the Skala de la Ville, the exploration will include visits to Jewish heritage sites, offering a glimpse into the architectural, artistic, and daily life elements of this significant community. Engaging workshops and interactions with locals will highlight the authenticity and warmth of Essaouira's Jewish heritage. Concluding with a reflective session, this project invites students to appreciate and preserve the unique Jewish contributions that enrich the cultural mosaic of Essaouira

Media Campaigns: The HAF-Dakira team plans to solidify the program's communication strategy to increase its visibility, as the program moves into its third year. Media campaigns showcasing Morocco's interfaith and interethnic heritage will target both youth and general audiences through various media channels.

Outreach and Awareness Events: A variety of on and offline events will provide the opportunity to celebrate special milestones and honor local target communities, share the outcomes of the Dakira program, and create an environment for productive and reflective discourse that encourages increased understanding and cooperation.

## 7. ANNEXES

- Annex 1: Performance Monitoring Progress (Below)
- Annex 2: Communications, Publications and Press Coverage
- Annex 3: Financial Report (Attached)

## Annex 1: Performance Monitoring Progress

Program Hypothesis						
If the memory of Muslims, Jews, and Christians living together is preserved, and if people are brought toward greater cultural understanding, then a strengthened solidarity will emerge that will improve social cohesion and serve as a model for interfaith and multicultural dialogue in Morocco and the region.						
<i>Overall Goal: To explore and strengthen inter-religious and inter-ethnic solidarity through community efforts that preserve cultural heritage in Morocco</i>						
<i>Purpose 1: Enhance Religious and Cultural Preservation, Learning, and Social Cohesion</i>						
Sub-purpose 1.1 : REM Heritage Preservation Facilitation Capacity Development						
Output	Activity	Outcomes	Indicator(s)	Evaluation Timing	FY24, Q2	Notes
1.1.1 Workshop series Training of Trainers for DAKIRA subrecipients and NGOS partners	- 10 trainings (programmatic and financial) are provided to subrecipient organizations and civil society organizations participating to DAKIRA	Organizations are better equipped to implement the program more sustainably.	1.1.1 # of trainings and capacity building activities conducted	Quarterly	4	2 (Mimouna & FMA) 2 (EMA)
1.1.2 Intergeneration	- 225 community ethnographic dialogue	Moroccan people, Moroccan	1.1.2 # testimonies collected	Quarterly	1	Community meeting: Youth, immigration, and cultural heritage

<p>al Community Heritage Dialogues and Interviews: mapping, interview</p>	<p>workshops held over 3 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 500 individual follow up testimony</li> <li>- 2,250 participants of ethnographic dialogue</li> </ul>	<p>diaspora, and migrant communities are empowered and able to share individual and collective histories and visions</p>				
<p>Sub-purpose 1.2: Historical Heritage is Preserved and Restored</p>						
<p>1.2.1 Preservation and digital archiving of REM Moroccan heritage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 90 non-peer-reviewed articles produced, translated, and sent for publishing</li> <li>- 50 written pieces published on external website and accessible to the public</li> <li>- 6 peer-reviewed essays published</li> <li>- At least 2 REM community archives preserved</li> <li>- 1 online repository created</li> </ul>	<p>Research on REM historical heritage is supported and promoted to national and international audience</p>	<p>1.2.1.1 # types of documents preserved</p> <p>1.2.1.2 # number of archives digitized</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Bridging Faiths, Preserving Legacies: The Role of Religious Communities Archives in the Preservation of Collective Memory and the Promotion of Diversity</p> <p>Christian Community Archives (Diocese of Rabat)</p> <p>Jewish Community of Marrakech (Genizah)</p> <p>Development of the "Imane Trail" (Faith Trail)</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At least 2 REM groups have their archives digitized</li> <li>- 2 books translated</li> </ul>				1	<p>Digital Guide Mobile Application</p> <p><i>Toumliline, A Moroccan Memory</i> translated into French and Arabic</p>
1.2.2 Creation of Educational Outreach Tools	<p>-180 CSO and staff-created capsules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2+ curricula incorporated adaptive and improved methods for community and youth programming, entailing:</li> <li>- 50 teachers/ educators trained</li> </ul>	<p>Educational tools and methods are available for trained educators to facilitate activities</p>	<p>1.2.2.1: Number of students and youth benefiting from the educational tools</p> <p>1.2.2.2 # Educational modules created</p>	Quarterly	-	-
1.2.3 Preservation of REM physical heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At least 1 REM physical site preserved</li> <li>-At least 25 testimonies collected, filmed, and stored.</li> <li>- 1 community space created</li> <li>-1 Documentary on Toumliline produced: filming, editing, and production.</li> </ul>	<p>Interfaith tolerance through community dialogue is promoted</p> <p>Communities in the region benefit from the restoration</p> <p>Sites symbolic of REM and interfaith collaboration</p>	<p>1.2.3.1 # types of testimonies collected</p> <p>1.2.3.2 # REM tangible heritage sites preserved</p> <p>1.2.3.3 # heritage sites mapped</p>	Quarterly	-	-

		are indicated for learning among younger community members as well as visitors and are incorporated into local programs and tours				
Purpose 2: Support Initiatives that Promote Tolerance, Interfaith Dialogue, and Multiculturalism						
Sub-purpose 2.1: Community development planning actions are inclusive of REM.						
Output	Activities	Outcomes	Indicators	Evaluation Timing	FY24, Q2	Notes

<p>2.1.1 Capacity Building Workshop Trainings for CSOs, tourism, ISITT students, tour guides</p>	<p>- 8 collaborative social entrepreneurship heritage projects developed - 120 masters students trained in minority faith heritage - 90 tour guides certified in minority faith heritage in 2 at least 2 different regions</p>	<p>2.1.1 CSOs are trained and able to operate projects on REM heritage  2.1.2 Tour guides CSO and student are more knowledgeable about minority faith heritage</p>	<p>2.1.1.1 # of students and CSOs that develop collective historical preservation project  2.1.1.2 # of REM certified tour guides and students that have an enhanced knowledge</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>Field training for ISITT Masters program students to explore the Jewish heritage of the imperial cities</p>
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<p>2.1.2 Creation and enhancement activities dedicated to youth on multiculturalism, interfaith harmony, and overall social cohesion.</p>	<p>5 youth club clubs created</p> <p>50 schoolteachers' and administrators' and community activists capacity built in curricula and facilitation</p> <p>1000 students of all ages, gender and culture participate in clubs</p> <p>20 local field trips to REM cultural sites</p>	<p>School-aged youth are actively engaged in learning and understand the importance of the preservation of their local histories, particularly as it relates to REM, multiculturalism, and interfaith harmony.</p>	<p>2.1.2.1 # of initiatives that ensure that the voices of REM groups are represented in their communities</p>		<p>1</p>	<p>Moroccan Jewish Music Choir Activities</p>
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Sub-purpose. 2.2: Community awareness about REM is increased						
2.2.1 Multilingual multimedia and outreach campaigns to promote shared Moroccan, Jewish, Christian, and intercultural stories of Morocco	10 videos capsules highlighting one specific REM representation in Morocco	At least 500,000 unique users access audiovisual educational programming that is made widely available and accessible for all people, including people living in remote and rural areas of Morocco, those who are unable to read or write, especially women	2.2.1.1 # of online viewers of the multimedia campaign	Quarterly	-	-
	At least 5 social media campaigns that reach across platforms (i.e., Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Twitter)				-	-
	At least 100 radio, TV, and newspaper appearances				1	The "Toumliline, A Spiritual Convergence" press kit

<p>2.2.2 Outreach &amp; Awareness Events</p>	<p>5 Community milestones events</p> <p>At least 3 artistic residencies where Moroccans of # REM create and explore identity and artistic expression</p> <p>3 annual conferences</p>	<p>2.3.1 At 3 regions REM heritage is celebrated</p> <p>2.3.2 Local communities are actively engaged in the learning and preservation of their local histories, particularly as it relates to REM, multiculturalism, and interfaith harmony.</p> <p>2.3.3 Members of different faith groups interact and collaborate over common interests</p>	<p>2.2.2.1 # of initiatives that promote tolerance and dialogue between religious and ethnic groups</p> <p>2.2.2.2 # of initiatives that ensure that the voices of REM groups are represented in their communities</p> <p>2.2.2.3# of public, civil, and cooperative support and partnerships that help maintain sustainability</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Catholic Archives Event (January 2024)</p> <p>Pierre et Mohamed Theatrical Performance</p> <p>Spiritual Marrakech Exhibition:</p> <p>Celebrating Unity through Music:</p> <p>Theatrical Performance at Dar Souiri:</p>
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## Annex 2: Communications, Publications and Press Coverage

<b>Table 1: Dakira-Related Articles Externally Published</b>				
<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Publication</b>	<b>Date Published</b>	<b>Language</b>
Bridging Faiths, Preserving Legacies: The Role of Religious Communities Archives in the Preservation of Collective Memory and the Promotion of Diversity	Soukaina Kherdioui	<a href="http://indepthnews.net">indepthnews.net</a>	February 16, 2024	English
		<a href="http://africaqlobalvillage.com">africaqlobalvillage.com</a>	February 17, 2024	
		<a href="http://maravipost.com">maravipost.com</a>	February 17, 2024	
		<a href="http://businessghana.com">businessghana.com</a>	February 19, 2024	
		<a href="http://nigeriansketch.com">nigeriansketch.com</a>	February 26, 2024	