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# QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT



## DAKIRA PROGRAM

Cooperative Agreement:

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Implementing Partner:

High Atlas Foundation (HAF)

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*Pictured above: An interviewee during the filming of the Sebtyine documentary. Photo: Essaouira Mogador Association*

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## ACRONYMS

AJM	Association des Amis du Judaïsme Marocain
AMELP	Activity, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan
ASOR	American Society for Overseas Research
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
HLGC	Hamilton Lugar Global Consultants
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
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 and in light of the recent turbulent situation in Palestine and Israel, our ongoing activities and program implementation have faced some challenges. Heightened tensions and worrying security developments in the region impacted the willingness and the ability of members of the Moroccan Jewish diaspora to participate in planned activities for this quarter. As such, the HAF-Dakira team has adopted a flexible approach to project planning, allowing for quick adjustments in response to these changing circumstances. This involved modifying timelines and postponing certain activities.

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 in Rabat to review the overall operations of the accounting department and the budget policy for the third year so as to ensure financial compliance.

On December 18, 2023, the USAID audit team visited the HAF team in Marrakech for a week-long financial audit. The team then immediately proceeded with the implementation of corrective actions and addressing any outstanding queries. Lessons learned during the audit process have been incorporated into HAF's internal processes and practices to enhance overall financial and operational management

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

Collecting and Sharing a Living Memory: As part of the "Collecting and Sharing Living Memory" activity, FMA has launched the translation of the book "Toumliline, Une Mémoire Marocaine". The book, based on in-depth analysis of 16 interviews with local community members, aims to encapsulate the essence of the history of the Toumliline Benedictine Monastery through the diverse testimonies of Azrou's inhabitants and participants in international gatherings.

Sub-purpose 1.2: Historical Heritage is Preserved and Restored

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

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

The book, soon to be published, is the fruit of the "Collecting and sharing a Living Memory" activity. It offers an unprecedented understanding of the Monastery by giving a voice to witnesses who interacted with the monks on a daily basis. This research, which was thoroughly carried out by a professor at the University of Meknes and her team of students, offers a lively look at the Toumliline monastery, depicting it as a lively cultural space deeply rooted in the life of its local communities. It highlights the diversity of activities which had taken place in Toumliline, from artistic workshops to medical care, and underlines the importance of the monastery as a place of life, care, education, learning and culture for the entire local population. The book brings together a variety of testimonials, reflecting the richness of the Toumliline experience and its impact on people from all walks of life.

The texts are currently being translated into Arabic and English. Additionally, a young entrepreneur from Azrou has been identified to produce portrait photos of the witnesses to be included in the book. In the upcoming quarter, publishing houses will be identified and contacted so as to publish the book for wide distribution in Arabic and English.

Collection, archiving, editing and publication of writings of the Reinventing the International Gatherings of Toumliline Symposium (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.

In addition, FMA has partnered with Revue Al Azmina El Haditha to create a special issue devoted to the publications on the Reinventing the International Gatherings of Toumliline Symposium. A partnership agreement was signed with the National Human Rights Council of Morocco (CNDH) to finance the publication of a special issue of the Revue Al Azmina El Haditha. This partnership reinforces the Council's commitment to preserving memory and promoting inter-religious dialogue.

These various partnerships will enable the Dakira budget allocated to the design and publication of the symposium writings to be allocated to the organization of an event to present the special issue of the Revue Al Azmina El Haditha, as well as to the operating costs of the activity. This strategic choice is designed to ensure wide dissemination and visibility of the writings, and to support the revival of interreligious and intercultural dialogue.

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.

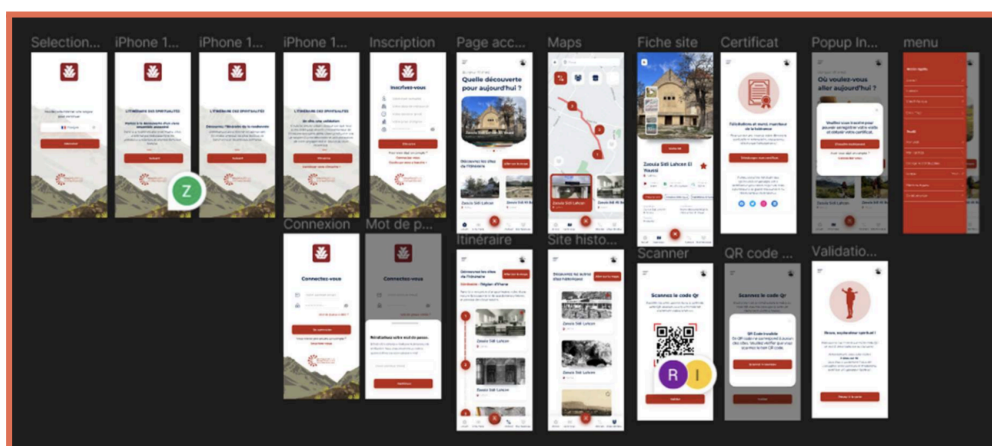
On October 11, 2023, the team met with the Diocese to finalize the branding and marking of the web page which was submitted and reviewed by USAID for approval. Additionally, the team discussed the organization of a one-day event in January 2024 to celebrate and reflect on the accomplishments achieved through the successful partnership with the Diocese of Rabat.

Restoration and Digitization of Sacred Jewish Texts: During the quarter, several coordination meetings were held with the Jewish community of Marrakech so as to launch the restoration and digitization process of the Jewish archives of Marrakech.

The digitization was delayed due to the earthquake as the team was scheduled to operate in September, the damages were extensive and they had to be mended before allowing the digitization. The genizah in the cemetery was organized with shelves, proper AC and humidity as well as a computer and scanner. The rooms were also secured as in the aftermath of the earthquake one of the surrounding walls collapsed. Besides, due to the situation in the Middle East, our point of contact had to go to Israel and will not be back until the end of January or beginning of February to finalize the digitization process.

Launch of the Design and Development of the "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. After a rigorous evaluation, LIFEMOZ was selected to design and develop the application.



*"Imane Trail" (Faith Trail) Application prototype*

The application, initially called "Guide Digital," has been renamed "Imane Trail" ("Faith Trail" in English), reflecting its aim of highlighting the spiritual heritage of the Fez-Meknes region.

The application development process has entered its second phase. Key features of the application include user authentication and registration, detailed presentation of itineraries and historic sites, a QR code scanner to validate visits, automatic generation of participation certificates, and connectivity via APIs to ensure efficient communication between the application and the backend.

The application offers an attractive interface and an intuitive user experience. It is compatible with Android and iOS operating systems, guaranteeing fast performance and accurate scanning of QR codes. Security and confidentiality of user data comply with data protection standards, and supports three languages (English, Arabic, French) with dynamic translation.

This development phase brought many of the application's key functionalities to fruition, bringing the project closer to its ultimate goal: to promote and preserve the spiritual and cultural heritage of the Fez-Meknes region through an immersive and educational digital experience.

**The Sebtiyine Documentary:** In a collaborative effort, Mimouna Association and Essaouira Mogador are joining forces to illuminate the Sebtiyine tradition through the creation of a documentary. The Sebtiyine tradition, deeply rooted in the Gnawa music genre, predates Islam, originally revolving around animistic, spiritual, and mystical concepts expressed in sub-Saharan languages like Bambara, Fulani, and Sudani.

With the advent of Islam, Gnawa songs evolved to incorporate Arabic language and themes centered around Muslim prophets. Specifically, "Sebtiyine," or "The Saturdays" in English, comprises a collection of songs that emerged from gatherings hosted by the Jewish community for revered gnawa maalems, whom they held in high regard. These songs retain elements of the original animistic and spiritual themes, eventually incorporating shared saints from Abrahamic traditions.

Given the rarity of maalems familiar with this comprehensive repertoire, Mimouna and Essaouira Mogador Dakira teams have engaged in meetings with the last maalems in Fez, Moulay Yaacoub, and Essaouira since last June to meticulously collect the memories and cultural richness embodied in the Sebtiyine tradition. The documentary, having been filmed, is set to undergo translation and will be screened later this year, providing a captivating narrative that preserves and shares this unique cultural heritage.

## 1.2.2 Creation of Educational Outreach Tools

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

Mimouna is actively crafting cultural videos spotlighting Moroccan Jewish history and culture, with the aim of promoting tourism and fostering understanding. Currently focusing on coexistence in Tangier, the videos will include the rich interreligious history of Rabat and Marrakech soon.

The videos strategically showcase the existence of post-colonial churches, underscoring Morocco's pluralistic architectural heritage. Moreover, they delve into the authenticity of Sufi Islam in Morocco, emphasizing the profound cultural and spiritual dimensions of this ancient Islamic tradition. Importantly, the animated videos also shed light on the enduring presence of Jews in Morocco, showcasing their contributions to the cultural mosaic.

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.

Educational videos as a tool for the promotion of the Moroccan Jewish Culture		
Title	City	Status
An Introduction to Tangier's Diversity	Tangier	Done
Mosques and Zaouiyas in Tangier	Tangier	Done
Memories of Jews in Tangier	Tangier	Done
Christian churches in Tangier	Tangier	In progress
Other minorities in Tangier	Tangier	In progress
Mosques and Zaouiyas in Rabat	Rabat	In progress

Churches in Rabat	Rabat	In progress
Jews in Rabat	Rabat	In progress
Zaouiyas and Mosques in Marrakech	Marrakech	Done
Jews in Marrakech	Marrakech	Done
Total	10	

### 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 construction plan was submitted for approval.

#### Mapping of REM Sites and Data Collection

This quarter, the HAF-Dakira team began the process of filling the GIS database template shared by the USAID with the accumulated data from the activities and their related sites since the start of the 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 administrations so as to obtain the necessary authorizations in the Azrou-Ifrane prefecture region. This included consultations with the technical department of the Tigrigra commune. In addition, mediation efforts were deployed to facilitate the administrative procedure for invitations to tender for the Toumliline site development work planned as part of the activity.
- ★ In addition, preparatory and coordination meetings were undertaken by the consultant, including the establishment of a pilot approach for other communes along the memorial route. These actions also included the supervision of clearing and cleaning work in the courtyard, cloister and some of the Monastery's premises, in preparation for activities planned as part of the rehabilitation of the Toumliline gardens project.

#### Organization of work sessions as part of the development of the Itinerary of Spiritualities (Information management and preparation for the installation of signage):

As part of the development of the Itinerary of Spiritualities, FMA is preparing for the installation of signage. This stage is of particular importance, as it helps to highlight the historical and religious sites identified in the Middle Atlas region. Coordination, information management and planning of  
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signage installation are essential if visitors are to fully appreciate these emblematic sites and understand their context.

- ★ Preliminary coordination meeting: On October 15, 2023, a coordination meeting was held in Rabat to plan the activity "Restoring the Memory of a Regional Spiritual Ecosystem". The meeting brought together representatives of the Memories for the Future Foundation and consultant Mr. Ahmed Serghini. Its main objective was to coordinate initial efforts for the spiritual itinerary project.
- ★ Review and approval of the historical and religious sites fact sheets: As part of the preparation phase of the spiritual itinerary project, a meeting was held on November 01, 2023 to ensure the accuracy and relevance of the information documented in the historical sheets for the identified sites. During this working session, discussions were held to establish a clear understanding of the historical and religious context of each site concerned. The team worked closely together to examine the sheets in detail, making adjustments and improvements where necessary. Validation of the cards helped to ensure the quality of the information provided to future visitors to the historic sites, and users of the ImaneTrail application.
- ★ Submission of the authorization request to the Ifrane Prefecture to install the signage totems: On November 02, 2023, a milestone was reached in the context of activity 4, with the submission of the authorization request to the Ifrane prefecture. This administrative step aims to obtain the necessary authorizations for the installation of the signage totems in the historical and religious sites identified in the Ifrane prefecture, and to ensure that the project activities take place in compliance with local and national regulations. The cultural and touristic importance of the sites that will be enriched by these totems, will help preserve and enhance the regional spiritual ecosystem.
- ★ Visits to historical and religious sites identified as part of the spiritual itinerary project: As part of Activity 4 of the DAKIRA program, a visit to historical and religious sites was carried out on December 5 - 7, 2023. The visit aimed to assess the historical and religious sites identified in various localities, including Ifrane, Zaouia d'Ifrane, Imouzzar Kandar, Sefrou, Lekbab and Midelt. The assessment aimed to determine the restoration and clean-up needs of these sites, as well as to identify the necessary authorizations from the relevant authorities to ensure compliance with local and national regulations prior to the installation of signage in front of each historic site.
- ★ Identification of natural sites: To facilitate identification of the natural sites to be included in the Spirituality Route, the latter has been divided into six distinct sections:
  1. Azrou - Ifrane
  2. Ifrane -Zaouia Sidi Abdessalam
  3. Zaouia Sidi Abdessalam – Imouzzar Kandar
  4. Imouzzar Kandar – Kandar Sidi Khiar
  5. Kandar Sidi Khiar - Sefrou
  6. Sefrou -Zaouia Sidi Lahcen El Youssi

The aim of this division is to optimize the search for natural sites in collaboration with the Regional Directorate of the National Agency for Water and Forests in the Middle Atlas. A working meeting will be scheduled with the National Agency for Water and Forests. The aim of this meeting is to visit the natural sites recommended by the aforementioned agency, in order to carry out an on-site assessment. This assessment will enable a better understanding of the characteristics of each natural site and its specific needs. It will also facilitate the coordination needed to integrate these sites into the spiritual itinerary.

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

As part of the "Toumliline, Une Convergence Spirituelle" activity, FMA launched the filming of video capsules documenting the restoration work underway at the Toumliline Monastery. This work is carried out in close coordination with Izza Ebery Genini. A number of face-to-face and remote work sessions were held, notably concerning the specificities of the technical equipment to be used. Three filming sessions were held to document the progress of the work to be integrated into the documentary project "Mekbouline, les hôtes de Toumliline" (English: *Mekbouline, the Guests of Toumliline*) directed by filmmaker Izza Ebery Genini.

The video capsules will help reinforce the visual dimension of the documentary project.

## 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

Hebrew Classes for Tour Guides, Hotel Staff, and Students: Since October 2021, Mimouna Association has actively run a program aimed at preparing 177 tour guides for the anticipated influx of Israeli tourists following the introduction of direct flights between Israel and Morocco. These guides are learning Hebrew and gaining insights into Morocco's Jewish heritage. Additionally, to enhance communication for Hebrew-speaking tourists, Mimouna Association has initiated Hebrew classes for hotel managers, receptionists, and room service providers. The program has garnered interest from 147 young individuals across six cities, keen on learning the language and associated culture while preparing for their upcoming tour guide test. In 2023, Mimouna Association was determined to broaden its impact by launching Hebrew courses targeting both professionals and youth in various cities. The launch of new Hebrew courses faced delays attributed to the war in the Middle East. The unavailability of teachers, disrupted flights, and heightened tension in the region created logistical challenges, temporarily hindering the implementation of these language programs.

Master's Degree in Jewish Moroccan Tourism: In October 2023, the cohort of 21 master's students embarked on a comprehensive curriculum encompassing history, geography, an introduction to Moroccan Jewish heritage, fundamentals of Moroccan Jewish tourism, and intensive Hebrew language classes. Given the current geopolitical context, the students, anticipating future engagements with Israeli groups, raised questions about the ongoing war. To enhance their understanding of the region's geopolitics, the program offered insightful responses tailored to their roles as future tour guides. The semester commenced with an enlightening session by Raphael El Maleh, who delved into the intricate history of rabbinical courts in Morocco, setting a robust foundation for their academic journey. As the students progress into the third semester of their program, they are to engage in crucial methodology classes that will kickstart the conceptualization of their theses. The focus of their research and subsequent thesis writing will be dedicated to the exploration of the Jewish heritage in the cities of Taza, Chefchaouen, and Agadir.

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## 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:

Nestled in the heart of Morocco's cultural capital, Essaouira, this unique 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.

As the lessons progress, participants will have the chance to showcase their newfound skills in intimate performances that take place in the serene ambiance of Dar Souiri, providing a platform for participants to share the beauty of Moroccan Jewish music with a wider audience. The program concludes with a special culminating event, where participants will come together to perform a selection of traditional Moroccan Jewish pieces. This celebratory gathering will be open to the public, creating a bridge between the participants and the local community.

### Organization of the "Living together" awareness-raising workshop and photo exhibition:

As part of the "Restoring the Memory of a Regional Spiritual Ecosystem" activity, FMA organized a photo exhibition and arts workshop to promote "Living Together" for the benefit of the region's young people.

A photo exhibition was held at the Toumliline Benedictine Monastery, highlighting the site's rich history. The exhibition enabled participants, particularly young people, to discover and appreciate the region's cultural heritage.

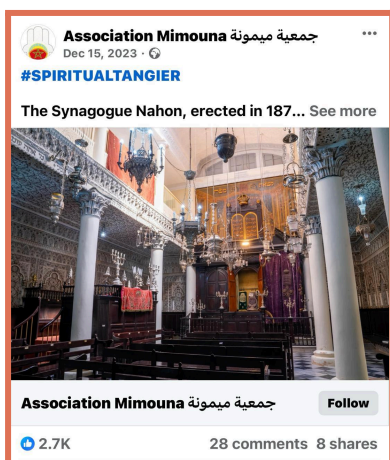
Additionally, a painting workshop was led by artist Mr. Abdellah BELABBAS, aimed at encouraging young people's artistic creativity. The theme of the workshop was "Living Together", and participants were inspired by the story of Toumliline. These actions were carried out in close collaboration with the Lycée Tarik Ibn Ziad Parents' Association, strengthening community ties and encouraging young people's active involvement in 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

Spiritual Tangier Exhibition (online campaign): During the reporting period, Mimouna association launched an online campaign aimed at promoting the photos and videos from the Spiritual Tangier exhibition on social media. The campaign has proven to be a powerful tool in extending the reach and impact of this cultural event. The videos and the photos resonated with a broad audience and reached an impressive 1,85M people across Morocco, Spain, Israel, the US and Canada.

This concerted effort in virtual promotion serves a dual purpose: not only does it amplify the exhibition's visibility on a national scale, but it also transcends geographical boundaries, bringing the essence of Spiritual Tangier to individuals who, for various reasons, couldn't physically attend the exhibition in Tangier. By leveraging the expansive reach of social media, the promotion of this cultural showcase has effectively transformed it into a digital experience, ensuring that the spiritual and artistic narratives it encapsulates can touch the hearts and minds of a diverse and widespread audience.



Implementation of the communication plan for the "Toumliline, A Spiritual Convergence" activity:

During the reporting period, FMA implemented the communication plan previously drawn up for the "Toumliline, A Spiritual Convergence" activity with the aim of raising awareness and promoting Toumliline as a place of spiritual convergence.



Various communication themes were addressed throughout this period, highlighting the history, cultural significance and activities of the Toumliline Monastery. The aim was to

raise public awareness of the richness of this place as an intercultural and spiritual meeting place, and to publicize the actions carried out, those in progress and future initiatives as part of the Dakira program.

Several communication channels were used to spread the messages, including FMA's social media platforms, such as Instagram and Facebook. Social media posts included highlights of the Toumliline symposium, Toumliline's architecture and the reinventing of the Toumliline international gatherings. These themes have been carefully selected to reflect the diversity and depth of the experience offered by the Monastery, while also demonstrating the mobilization of young people and members of the Moroccan Muslim and Jewish civil society for the preservation of this heritage.

## 2.2.2 Outreach & Awareness Events

Spiritual Tangier Exhibition: On October 16th, the Mimouna-Dakira team organized the "Spiritual Tangier" exhibition in Tangier. The event showcased the rich spiritual diversity of the city. Through the lenses of talented young photographers from Tangier, the exhibition featured the historical and architectural facets of the city's seven churches, the last four synagogues, and several mosques and Zaouiyas in the old city.

Though the event was scaled down due to the prevailing circumstances in the Middle East, it succeeded in highlighting the unique cultural and religious heritage that contributes to the vibrant culture of Tangier. The exhibition underscored the program's commitment to promoting unity and understanding through the lens of shared history and architecture.

The successful organization of the "Spiritual Tangier" exhibition was facilitated through strategic partnerships with key entities, including Fondation Mémoires pour l'Avenir (FMA), the Diocese of Tangier, the Evangelical Church of Tangier, and the Jewish Moroccan community in Tangier. Together, these diverse partnerships contributed unique perspectives, enriching the exhibition with a comprehensive exploration of Tangier's spiritual heritage. The event, hosted at Riad Sultan in Tangier, served as a focal point for cultural exchange, attracting a significant number of attendees eager to witness the diverse history and architectural beauty on display. Open to the public, the exhibition at Riad Sultan became a communal space where individuals from different backgrounds came together to celebrate the shared spiritual and cultural legacy of Tangier.

### External Networking Opportunities and Events

- ★ The General Assembly of the Ifrane Provincial Tourism Council: During the reporting period, FMA participated in the General Assembly of the Ifrane Provincial Tourism Council, during which the spiritual itinerary activity implemented as part of the USAID-funded Dakira program was presented, as well as other related activities, in particular the developments carried out on the site of the former monastery. The event provided an opportunity to discuss the project's positive economic impact on the region, and to raise awareness among local stakeholders in the tourism sector of the importance of promoting a multi-faceted historical focus to welcome visitors in search of heritage, history and nature.

## 2.2 IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

The main challenges during the quarter were related to the situation and escalated tensions in the Middle East. This situation led to postponement of certain activities and modification of implementation approaches. As the situation is lasting and there is no perspective yet in easing the tensions, the HAF-DAKIRA team is coordinating 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.

## 2.3 AMELP UPDATES

No updates or changes here.

## 2.4 COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

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 Tafilalt: 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

No significant changes to report.

## 4. LESSONS LEARNED

The situation and escalated tensions in Palestine and Israel have undoubtedly posed challenges for activities and program implementation as several activities and events that were originally scheduled for this quarter have had to be postponed. Lessons learned while navigating such circumstances include the need to understand the broader geopolitical context so as to design interventions that are mindful of the broader geopolitical landscape. Such interventions necessitated rapid adjustments to timelines and the nature of planned activities. The HAF-Dakira team worked closely with subgrantees to develop mitigation strategies and adjust activities timeline, ensuring they can adapt their strategies and activities in response to changing circumstances.

However, as the situation is lasting, the HAF-Dakira team will have to adjust the timeline accordingly and submit a no-cost extension request to preserve the integrity of the delivery of the programme.

## 5. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER

### Reconnecting with the Jewish Moroccan Diaspora in South America:

The Moroccan Diaspora in Latin America Conference emerges as a pivotal gathering, providing a vital platform for meaningful conversations and exchanges surrounding the multifaceted connections between Morocco and the diverse nations of Latin America. This conference catalyzes fostering a deeper understanding of the experiences, contributions, and challenges faced by the Moroccan diaspora in the Latin American context. Scholars, community leaders, and individuals from both regions converge to share insights, explore shared histories, and seek avenues for collaboration. Through a diverse array of discussions and presentations, the conference aims to shed light on the cultural, social, and economic dimensions of the Moroccan diaspora experience in Latin America, fostering connections that bridge continents and enrich the global narrative on migration and cultural exchange.

The event, which was due to be held in October 2023, was postponed to February due to the turbulent situation in Palestine and Israel, prioritizing safety and ensuring a conducive environment for meaningful discussions and connections.

### Cooking Food Workshop:

Mimouna Association will organize a food workshop in Rabat, bringing together a group of women of the Mellah of Rabat to delve into the artistry of traditional Jewish Moroccan cookies. This collaborative effort not only celebrates the rich culture of Moroccan culinary heritage but also fosters a meaningful exchange of skills and traditions. Through the hands-on experience of crafting these delectable treats, the women will not only master the intricacies of the recipes but also share stories, fostering a sense of community and preserving the cultural legacy that transcends religious boundaries. The workshop promises to be a melting pot of flavors, history, and camaraderie, symbolizing the unity that arises when communities come together to appreciate and learn from one

another's unique traditions. As these women immerse themselves in the intricacies of crafting these time-honored delicacies, they not only absorb the essence of a cherished cultural heritage but also gain valuable skills that could potentially empower them economically. The knowledge acquired in this workshop might pave the way for these women to venture into the realm of entrepreneurship, crafting and selling these delightful treats.

Two exclusive food workshops tailored for women's enrichment will take place, one in Rabat and another in Tangier, providing unique culinary experiences and opportunities for skill development.

#### The Jewish Moroccan memory in Taroudant:

The forthcoming documentary by Mimouna Association focusing on the Taroudant Jewish heritage and the Jewish sites in the area signifies a laudable endeavor to capture and illuminate the historical and cultural dimensions of this community. By turning the lens toward the Jewish heritage in Taroudant, the documentary aims to unravel the unique stories, traditions, and historical significance associated with the Jewish sites in the region. This cinematic project not only showcases a commitment to preserving the cultural richness of Morocco but also underscores the importance of highlighting the diverse tapestry of communities that have contributed to the nation's history. Through this visual exploration, the Mimouna Association is poised to offer audiences a deeper insight into the Taroudant Jewish heritage, fostering greater awareness and appreciation for the cultural mosaic that defines Morocco.

#### Basketball Tournament:

The Charles Netter Tournament in Marrakech will not only celebrate the spirit of sportsmanship but also represents a significant stride towards gender inclusivity and community empowerment. This unique tournament directs its focus toward the women of the Mellahs, a community not traditionally associated with sports, particularly basketball. By bringing together women who may not have had extensive exposure to sports, the tournament aims to create a space for unity, empowerment, and skill development through the game of basketball. The spotlight on Charles Netter serves as a poignant reminder of his enduring legacy and values, emphasizing the transformative power of sports to break barriers and foster a sense of community. The tournament is poised to be a catalyst for change, encouraging participation and highlighting the potential for positive transformation through sports within the Mellah communities.

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

- Catholic Archives Event (January 2024): In partnership with the Diocese of Rabat and Al Mowafaqa Institute, the HAF-Dakira team will organize a one-day event on the role of the archives of religious communities in preserving memory and building diversity. The event aims to celebrate and reflect on the successful partnership with the Christian community in Rabat which entailed the digitization of the Catholic archives.
- 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.
- 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.

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: Dakira Activities Photos (Attached)
- 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, Q1	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	2	Financial training for Mimouna
1.1.2 Intergeneration	- 225 community ethnographic dialogue	Moroccan people, Moroccan	1.1.2 # testimonies collected	Quarterly	-	-

<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>-</p>	<p>-</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At least 2 REM groups have their archives digitized</li> <li>- 2 books translated</li> </ul>				2	<p>Christian Community (Diocese of Rabat)</p> <p>Jewish Community of Marrakech (Genizah)</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 programing, 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	10  1 Documentary	<p>10 Educational videos on Moroccan Jewish Heritage (5 done, 5 in progress)</p> <p>The Sebtiyine documentary</p>
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, Q1	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>-</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' 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>1</p>	<p>Moroccan Jewish Music Choir Activities</p> <p>"Living together" awareness-raising workshop and photo exhibition</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	1	Spiritual Tangier Exhibition online campaign
	At least 5 social media campaigns that reach across platforms (i.e., Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Twitter)				1,85M viewers	1,85M viewers across Morocco, Spain, Israel, the US and Canada
	At least 100 radio, TV, and newspaper appearances					Implementation of the communication plan for the "Toumliline, A Spiritual Convergence" activity

2.2.2 Outreach & Awareness Events	<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>	2.2.2.1 # of initiatives that promote tolerance and dialogue between religious and ethnic groups	Quarterly	-	-
			2.2.2.2 # of initiatives that ensure that the voices of REM groups are represented in their communities		1	-Spiritual Tangier Exhibition
			2.2.2.3# of public, civil, and cooperative support and partnerships that help maintain sustainability		-	-