



WikiNdaba

2021

**RESET + RETHINK
VISIONS OF THE FUTURE**



WIKIMEDIA
FOUNDATION



WIKIMEDIA
COMMUNITY USER GROUP
UGANDA

Regional Hubs

Where are we?

Anass Sedrati
Wikimedia Morocco User Group



Agenda



- General Introduction
- Background and general information
- Research work on regional hubs
 - Background and context
 - Research Methodology
 - Results
- Analysis and discussion
- Conclusions and future ideas

02



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General Introduction

- Regional hubs are one of the pillars of the Wikimedia 2030 strategy.
- An idea discussed between all communities and movement stakeholders.



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General Introduction

- This presentation -> A study completed between June and July 2021
- Survey of opinions of Arabic-speaking communities
- Three main themes
 1. Data collection
 2. Understand the community's perception of the concept of regional hub
 3. Analysis of the results and recommendations for the future



Background

- Interest in regional and thematic hubs concepts started already from the working group stage
- 4 out of the 9 existing groups included the idea in their recommendations

Background

- Hubs were later included in the fourth recommendation [”Ensure Equity in Decision-making”](#) as part of the 10 final recommendations.
- Initiative 25 (out of 45) is only dedicated to Wikimedia hubs.

Ensure Equity in Decision-Making

Our Movement is composed of communities, individuals, and organizations from all over the world. By sharing accountability and responsibility as well as ensuring equitable opportunities for participation in decision-making and resource allocation, we will empower and represent all Movement stakeholders and have mechanisms to ensure all decisions that affect them are legitimate.

All Movement stakeholders will have the mandate, knowledge, and resources to be present in any decision-making process that affects them, make decisions, and have meaningful input on related issues including opportunities to access resources. Movement structures will serve and support every community transparently, responding to needs specific to each context, with a sense of urgency when required.

Movement structures will be adapted and created to ensure all Wikimediaans can have their interests and experiences represented in decision-making. These structures will be rolled out at a sustainable pace. Their function and effectiveness will be continuously evaluated to allow for adequate design, iteration, and consultation.

This recommendation is structured with the following five subsections:





Background and general information

A. Governance				Strategy Initiatives Prioritized for Implementation				G. Environmental Sustainability			
22. Movement Charter								8. Support Environmental Sustainability Practices			
23. Interim Global Council											
24. Global Council				B. Improve User Experience		D. Hubs		H. Identify Topics for Impact			
B. Improve User Experience				14. Cross-wiki Tools		25. Regional and thematic hubs		36(a). Identify impact of Wikimedia projects			
9(a). Platform UX methodology				C. Skills and Leadership Development		E. Funding		36(b). Identify and track high impact topics			
9(b). Community engagement for UX				31. Global approach for local skills development		2. Funding for underrepresented communities		36(c). Misinformation			
9(c). Adaptable UX for various devices				32. Leadership development plan		F. Awareness		37. Bridge content gaps			
11. Newcomer resources				33. Skills development infrastructure		3. Increased awareness about the movement		38. Initiatives for underrepresented communities			

Background

- Global discussions about hubs (November-December 2020 / January 2021)
- A need to clarify many aspects related to the hubs
- Africa is an important region for the movement

Background

- Example: Arabic Language
- Official language in 22 countries
- There is a need and desire to coordinate at the regional level
- Involving communities in the discussions is vital.



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Background

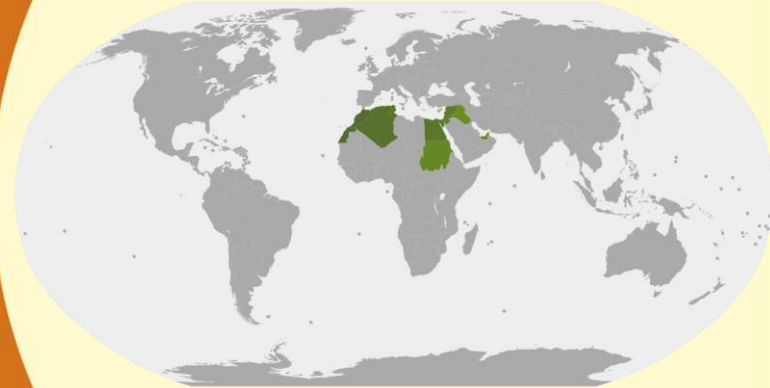
- Regional Hubs
- Emerged with Wikimedia 2030 Strategy
- Many regions initiated "spontaneous" cooperation much earlier



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Arabic Speaking community

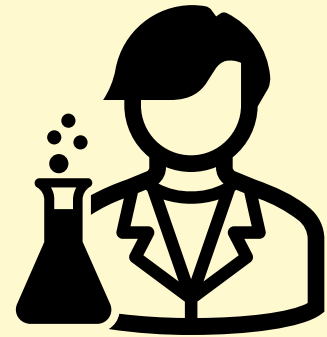
- One of the oldest communities (Arabic Wikipedia launched in 2003)
- 9 geographic user groups
- More than 2 million registered users on the Arabic Wikipedia
- Previous experiences of cooperation at the regional level (the Arabic Committee)



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Study Purpose

- Absence of earlier research and studies on the topic
- Searching for ways to implement and develop regional hubs in the Arabic speaking region



Limitations

- Scope of the study
- Arabic speaking region – Not North Africa and the Middle East
- Quantity of data and its level of representation
- Technical challenges

Research Methodology

- Survey the opinions of interested community members
- 1 on 1 (virtual) interview
- Community survey
- Quick short polls on Facebook

- Survey and discussion duration:
3 weeks

Research Methodology

- Informing and updating communities through several means
- Emails
- Village pump
- Social media

Research Methodology

02

* كيف تعرّف نشاطك على ويكيبيديا؟

- عضو مجتمع افتراضي / محرر على ويكيبيديا
- عضو مجموعة مستخدمين / منظم أحداث وفعاليات
- الإثنان معا
- آخر

* هل تعتقد أن منطقتك بحاجة لمركز إقليمي؟

- نعم
- لا

* ما الذي تعرّفه كمنطقة بالنسبة لك في إطار مركز إقليمي؟

- المنطقة المتكلمة بالعربية
- شمال إفريقيا وحده / الشرق الأوسط وحده
- شمال إفريقيا والشرق الأوسط

Study Results

- 78 participants from the region, among which ~ 30% were women.
- 25 participants answered the longer community survey
- 10 one-on-one interview meetings with a duration of one hour each
- 43 participants on Facebook during 7-day polls

Results - Survey

- What is your region?
- Arabic-speaking region / Middle East / North Africa
- Why do we need a hub?
- Improve communication / Coordination / Documentation / Support / Hiring community members / Improve content



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Results - Survey

- Who will lead the hub?
- Wikimedia Foundation / Communities / Collaboration between both
- How independent will the hub be? Who will it “report” to?



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Results – 1:1 Interviews

- Why do we need a hub?
- Decentralization / Efficiency / Support
- What is your current view towards a Wikimedia regional hub?
- Community-driven / Legally recognized / Mini Wikimedia Foundation / Structured body



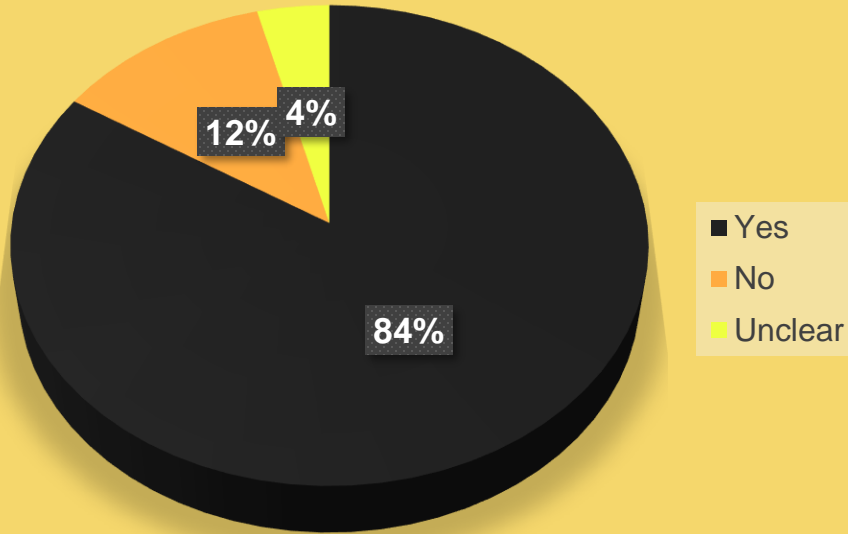
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Results – 1:1 Interviews

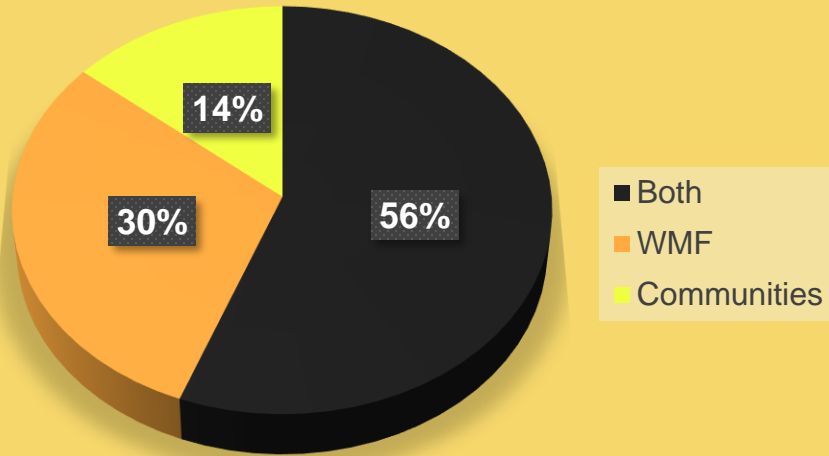
- Some roles of the hubs
- Communication / Coordination / Community Support / Expansion
- Next steps?



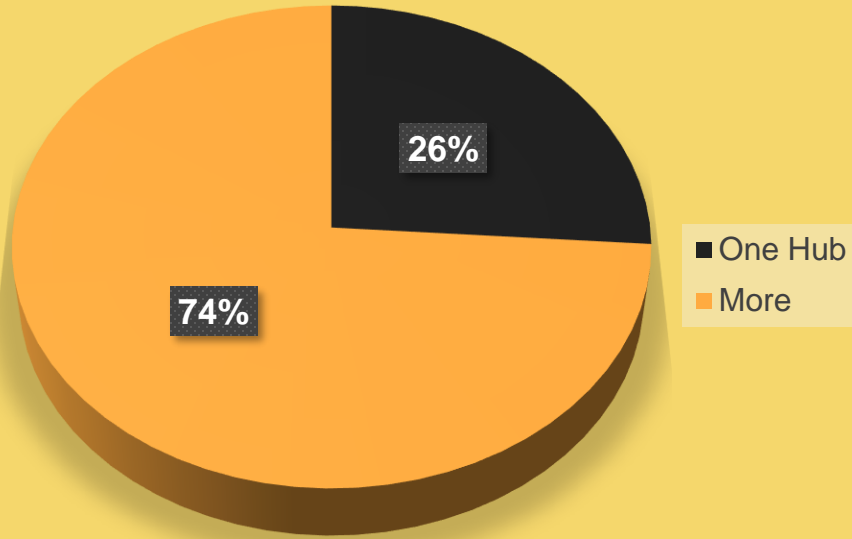
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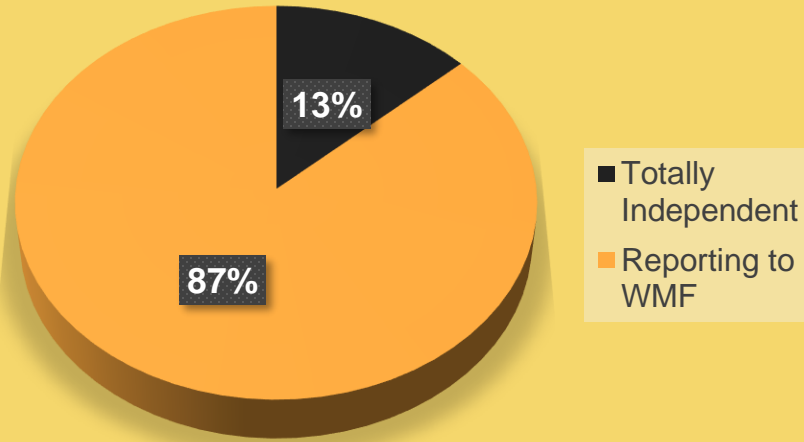
Do we
need a
Regional
Hub?



**Who
should
start a
regional
hub?**



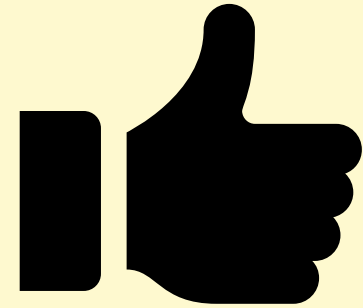
**How many
hubs
should be
in the
region?**



**How
independent
should a hub
be?**

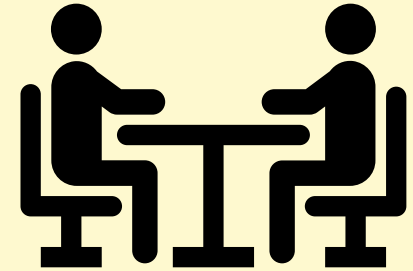
Mostly Agreed

- The region needs regional hub(s)
- The scope of the hub(s) shall be the Arabic speaking region
- Affcom should clarify the status of regional hubs as soon as possible
- It should be communities that should have the last word in decisions related to regional hubs
- Both online and offline communities should benefit from the hubs



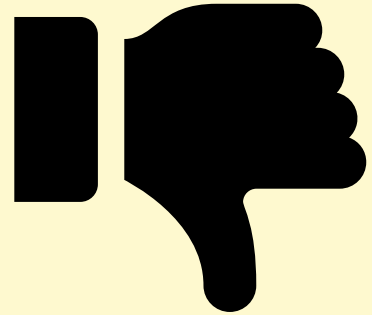
Needing Discussion

- Roles and responsibilities of the regional hub
- The general structure of the hub
- The hub governance
- The hubs relationship with stakeholders inside and outside the movement



Mostly Disagreed

- The geographical scope covered by a regional center
- What is a region and who decides on it?
- Concrete next steps to start the implementation work
- Hub headquarters (if any)



Challenges – Recommendations

<i>Challenge</i>	<i>Suggested Responsible</i>
Overall responsibility over the process	Strategy Team – Global Council – Interested Communities
Determine the geographical area	Strategy Team – Interested Communities
First implementation steps	Strategy Team – Interested Communities
Regional Hubs Governance	Global Council – Movement Charter Drafting Committee – Interested Communities
Legal Questions	Wikimedia BoT – WMF Legal Team
Status of hubs in the movement	Affiliations Committee
Internal conflicts in the community	Affiliations Committee – Movement Charter Drafting Committee – Strategy Team – Interested Communities
Regional Hub Location	Strategy Team – Interested Communities

Conclusion and future work

- Hubs implementation is widely supported in the region
- Wikimedians have many opinions and ideas on the area
- Some converge, other diverge
- This research work highlighted several challenges and obstacles that must be solved
- It included also suggestions for ways forward
- It is important to conduct similar studies in other regions and contexts of the movement
- It is important for the community to interact and follow-up the implementation process.



Further Readings

- [Link to the final report of the research work.](#)
- Summaries of the global community discussions related to hubs: [November 2020](#) – [December 2020](#), and [January 2021](#).
- [Survey Link](#) (in Arabic)
- [Wikimedia 2030 Strategy Implementation page](#)

THANK YOU.

