About Us

Wikimedia Morocco is a Wikimedia affiliate user group founded on October 6th, 2015. Since its inception, it has constantly supported Wikimedia projects in Morocco, as well as content related to the country and its culture.

As of 31 December 2022, the user group counts 34 active members, living both inside and outside Morocco, and participating in several projects and initiatives related to the country.

We seek to actively contribute to the dissemination, improvement and advancement of free knowledge and culture in Morocco through the development of an encyclopedic content about the country, both online and offline, especially in the languages spoken in Morocco.
The following report shares the activities conducted by Wikimedia Morocco user group during the year 2022. In this year, the group managed to implement independently the second edition of Reading Wikipedia in the Classroom, with a project grant delivered by the Wikimedia Foundation. Moreover, and with the lifting of the different covid restrictions, several members were able to meet and participate in local, regional and international conferences. For some it was a new discovery to immerse in the movement, while for others, this was the occasion to re-activate their networks and connect with their peers. During 2023, the focus of the group will be in managing our first annual grant (and its related activities), as well as continuing the growth and professionalization path taken to make the UG more sustainable for the future.

### Executive Summary

The report highlights the activities conducted by the Wikimedia Morocco user group during the year 2022. The group successfully implemented the second edition of Reading Wikipedia in the Classroom, thanks to a project grant from the Wikimedia Foundation. This year saw the lifting of COVID restrictions, enabling several members to attend and participate in local, regional, and international conferences. For some, this was a new discovery to immerse in the movement, while others took this opportunity to re-activate their networks and connect with their peers. In 2023, the group's focus will be on managing their first annual grant and its related activities, as well as continuing the growth and professionalization journey to make the user group more sustainable for the future.

### Board

**Reda Benkhadra**
- **Position:** President
- **Profile:** Reda Benkhadra

**Anass Sedrati**
- **Position:** Vice-President
- **Profile:** Anass Sedrati

**Soukaina Abelhad**
- **Position:** General Secretary
- **Profile:** Soukaina Abelhad

**Rachida Roky**
- **Position:** Treasurer
- **Profile:** Rachida Roky

**Abderrahman Ait-Ali**
- **Position:** Head of Communications
- **Profile:** Abderrahman Ait-Ali

## مكتب

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The Reading Wikipedia in the Classroom program in Morocco was successfully conducted during 2021-2022, with the support of the Wikimedia Foundation. This program was implemented by the Wikimedia Morocco User Group, and 2022 was the second edition of the project, aiming to help teachers to better understand how to use Wikipedia in their classrooms.

The program was conducted with a blended approach, which included both online and in-person sessions. The program was implemented following the same methodology used in the first edition, with some modifications and changes to adapt it to the Moroccan context.

The main activities included in the program were the online training sessions and the in-person events, such as the workshop and the bootcamp. In total, 200 teachers participated in the program, of which 80 successfully graduated.

The user group also built several new partnerships, both existing and new, which will be very beneficial for upcoming programs. The program also increased the user group’s feelings of belonging and connection to the movement, as well as its sense of personal investment in Wikimedia and the free knowledge movement.

Overall, the second edition of the Reading Wikipedia in the Classroom program was a great success and a valuable experience for the Wikimedia Morocco User Group, and we look forward to implementing the third edition of this project next year.

The full report of this project and its activities can be found at this link.
Participation in International Events

The Wikimedia Morocco User Group has actively participated in global events and discussions throughout the past year, making a valuable contribution to the Wikimedia movement. Its members have been able to connect with other Wikimedians from around the world and share their knowledge and experiences. Going forward, the user group will continue to support Wikimedia projects in Morocco and promote content related to the country and its culture.

**Mini-Wikimania**

Cape Town, South Africa — 12th-14th August

In parallel with the annual Wikimania, several local events have been organized. Board member Reda Benkhadra took part in the mini-Wikimania organized in Cape Town which was an opportunity to connect and meet the local community and learn more about their activities, while virtually participating in the Wikimania sessions. The event allowed to exchange with the members of Wikimedia ZA, which is the only chapter in Africa, as well as the Foundation’s CEO Maryana Iskander who was also present.

**Wikimedia Summit**

Berlin, Germany — 9th-11th September

Two members of the user group took part at the Wikimedia summit 2022 in Berlin. Due to visa challenges, the user group representative, Rachid Ourkia could not participate in person, and joined therefore online. He participated in the different discussions during the 3 days of the event. Anass Sedrati, group member, also participated in the summit as a member of the Movement Charter Drafting Committee, where together with his colleagues, they presented the MCDC and the progress done at the charter level.
WikiConvention FR
Paris, France — 19th-20th November

4 group members were scheduled to participate at the Wiki Convention Frenchphone in Paris, but due to personal and visa reasons, only Mounir Affifi was physically present at the conference. He held a presentation about managing and maintaining a small Wikipedia (in Moroccan Arabic). Mounir networked also with several French-speaking community members and affiliates, which will open the doors for potential partnerships for the user group.

WikiArabia
Dubai, UAE — 28th-30th October

Having returned back to an in-person format, after 2 years of covid related challenges, the latest edition of WikiArabia witnessed a strong participation from the user group with 7 members being present in Dubai. The conference was the first international Wikimedian experience for Mounir Affifi, Lhoussine Bentayfaste, Zakaria Baou and Rachida Rocky, who took the opportunity to learn and meet Wikimedians from the region. The latter even took part in a panel about Wikipedia in Education. This area, which is a central one for the user group, saw also a presentation from Rachid Oukria and Brahim Faraji, who together with Nicole Saad, senior manager of the education team at the WMF, hosted a Wikimedia in Education panel. Anass also represented the group at the affiliates representatives panel.

Anass Sedrati had three presentations at the conference, a first about MCDC and its importance for the Arabic community, a second about the Wikimedia hub in the region, and a third related to roles and responsibilities in the Wikimedia movement.

WikiIndaba
Kigali, Rwanda — 4th-6th November

Anass Sedrati, member of the group, participated at WikiIndaba 2022, in Kigali, Rwanda, where he held a presentation about the movement charter, and shared the advancement of the MCDC work with colleagues from the African continent.
Moroccan painters project

During 2022, Wikimedia Morocco user group started an online edit-a-thon about Moroccan painters. On a bi-monthly basis, interested members, together with art experts and professors, sat and discussed specific painters, before writing together articles. Thanks to these efforts, the team managed to produce a dozen of articles in Arabic, French, and Moroccan Darija. At the invitation of the Fine Arts School in Casablanca, members of the group presented the project to the teachers and students of the School in March 2022.

Edit-a-thons series with the Writing Club of the University of Meknes

During the period between February and July 2022, Zahira Gormat and Mounir Neddi organized weekly edit-a-thons to initiate members of the Writing club of the University of Meknes, so that they could familiarize themselves with the Arabic Wikipedia, and be able to become editors in the future.
Activities & Events

Organization of the common Arabic contest Wiki for Human Rights

Wikimedia Morocco participated in organizing the Arabic speaking contest of the Wiki for Human Rights 2022 edition. This competition was commonly organized by groups and Wikimedians from Morocco, Algeria, Egypt and the Levant, making it a successful collaboration across the region. 67 people participated, and wrote a total of 517 new articles in Arabic. Out of the total participants, 16 were newcomers (with less than 500 edits before the contest).

Publication of a Research Paper in the Wiki Workshop

In 2022, user group members Anass Sedrati and Reda Benkhadra published a research paper entitled “Are democratic User Groups more inclusive?”. The work intended to analyze and understand the concept of democracy, most specifically in digital online communities, such as Wikimedia volunteer user groups, and investigate its relationship with inclusivity.

The paper was presented at the Wiki Workshop 2022, and published as part of the proceedings of the Web Conference by the Association for the Computing Machinery.

The full paper in PDF format can be read here.
Application for an Annual Grant

Wikimedia Morocco User Group applied for an Annual Grant in 2023 with the aim of sustaining and diversifying their activities to better serve the community. Through their activities in recent years, the User Group has gained valuable experience in managing projects and funds, working with volunteers, and identifying the most impactful activities to implement. For 2023, the group is proposing to continue the Education Program, undertake a Documentation Project, organize a Wiki-Camp/Conference, engage in Communication activities, and host Writing and Photography Contests as well as Edit-a-thons. These activities are expected to further strengthen the User Group’s impact and visibility, while also filling content gaps related to Morocco. With the help of the Annual Grant, Wikimedia Morocco User Group is confident that they will be able to continue making a positive and sustainable contribution to the Wikimedia movement.

During 2022, several user group members spent a considerable amount of time preparing the grant application. Preparation activities included: Writing the grant by answering Fluxx questions, arranging brainstorming and follow-up meetings, answering feedback, and updating the required parts.
In 2022, Wikimedia Morocco User Group successfully secured two strategic partnerships that will help to further its mission of creating, curating, and sharing free and open knowledge in Morocco. The first partner is the Reading Network in Morocco (RNM), with whom the user group has been collaborating since 2020. Through this partnership, the user group has organized several training sessions and edit-a-thons, both online and offline. The RNM has also served as the fiscal sponsor for the 2022 education program grant. Additionally, several of its members have become Wikimedians and user group members.

The second partner is the Regional Delegation of Education in El Hajeb Region. This agreement enables the user group to use public venues and facilities in the Hajeb region for in-person training, edit-a-thons, and education programs for the region’s teachers. Additionally, the user group will have access to the region’s teachers for activities, and will organize a contest for teachers who wrote the best course scenario and a writing contest for the best Wikipedia article about the region.

Overall, these partnerships will help to further the mission of Wikimedia Morocco User Group in creating, curating, and sharing free and open knowledge in Morocco. This year has been a successful one, as the User Group has managed to secure two important partnerships, both of which will be beneficial to the Wikimedia movement in Morocco.
The Wikimedia Morocco User Group has made significant efforts to promote their activities and make them known to the Moroccan community and the Wikimedia movement. A particular focus has been on their Reading Wikipedia in the Classroom 2022 program. To achieve this, the User Group created a Facebook page, an Instagram page, a website, and a dedicated email address. Social media ads were used to target teachers, and a press release was distributed to explain the program and encourage participation. This resulted in widespread coverage from the national press.

When the program ended, the User Group launched a series of Diff blog articles written by professors/teachers who took part in the program, as well as one of the organizers, to share their experiences and give the community a chance to learn from the Moroccan experience in implementing the Reading Wikipedia in the Classroom program.

The group created a YouTube playlist where video interviews with teachers were uploaded to be seen by all.

Overall, the Wikimedia Morocco User Group has been successful in raising awareness and appreciation of their activities, particularly the Reading Wikipedia in the Classroom program.
Media Coverage

Arabic:
« إطلاق النسخة الثانية من المشروع التعليمي "قراءة ويكيبيديا في القسم" »، industries.ma, February 7, 2022
« ويكيبيديا المغرب تطلق النسخة الثانية من مشروع "قراءة ويكيبيديا في القسم" »، alminassa24.ma, February 8, 2022
« مثير ندوي: مشروع "قراءة ويكيبيديا في القسم" يجمع الناشئة المغربية من مخاطر البحث عبر الإنترنت »، alitihad.info, February 10, 2022
« ويكيبيديا المغرب تنجح في أول نسخة حضورية لمشروع "قراءة ويكيبيديا في القسم" »، alminassa24.ma, February 13, 2022
« ويكيبيديا المغرب تنجح في أول نسخة حضورية لمشروع "قراءة ويكيبيديا في القسم" »، alminassa24.ma, October 12, 2022
« النسخة الثانية من تدريب قراءة ويكيبيديا في القسم تحقق نجاحا بالمغرب »، media7.ma, October 21, 2022
« أعرف بلادي على ويكيبيديا ».. شبكة القراءة تشجع "الكتابة الهادفة" بالمغرب »，hespress.com, November 12, 2022
« أتطوع وأعرف بلادي على ويكيبيديا" »，alousboue.ma, November 21, 2022
« ومناسبة اليوم العالمي للاحتفال باللغة العربية .. رسالة رفي "رسالة 24": الإنترنت لا يشكل تهديدا للغة العربية »，rissala24.info, December 19, 2022

Financial Report

In 2022, Wikimedia Morocco User group was granted an amount of 35,615 USD to implement the second edition of “Reading Wikipedia in the Classroom” project in the country. An amount equivalent to 1,700 USD remained, and was later used for related follow-up and learning activities.
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