About Us

Wikimedia Morocco is a Wikimedia affiliate group founded on October 6th, 2015.

The group officially recognized by the Wikimedia Foundation, gathers the Wikimedians living (or related) in Morocco. As of 1 March 2021, the user group counts 18 registered members, living both inside and outside Morocco, and participating in several projects and initiatives related to the country.

The group seeks to contribute actively to the dissemination, improvement and advancement of free knowledge and culture in Morocco.
The Wiki Loves Africa (WLA) competition is an annual photo contest in which anyone can contribute with media related to the continent, encouraging participants to submit materials that illustrate this year’s specific theme.

In 2020, Morocco officially joined the competition which was organized by Wikimedia Morocco in the country. This year, the theme was “Africa on the Move” to illustrate scenes of movement, migration and transport.

Organizes between February 15 and April 15, the first edition of Wiki Loves Africa in Morocco attracted a total of 146 participants who took part in the contest, and have sent photographs of 825 different objects.

A photo walk was organized as part of the competition in the city of Agadir and its surroundings in order to capture scenes related to transport.
Wiki Loves Monuments (or WLM) is an international photographic competition to promote historic sites and monuments around the world. Wikimedia Morocco has been the main organizer of the competition in Morocco since 2016.

WLM is usually organized in September each year. In 2020, the group organized the competition in November due to the health situation (Covid pandemic). The focus was not only on uploading new photos of monuments, but also to use existing photos from previous years in Wikipedia articles and their corresponding Wikidata items, as well as categorizing these photos in Wikimedia Commons.

Different activities were organized in parallel during the competition, to ensure that all aspects were covered including:

Before the start of the competition, several graphics were prepared to be published in social media. Different accounts were used such as Facebook (both of Wikimedia Morocco and WLM Morocco), twitter and instagram accounts.

This year was an opportunity to build upon the work made for the Wikidata database of classified Moroccan monuments in WLM 2019. The aim was to include additional information to the Wikidata items, especially the coordinates, so that the photos of the monuments can be uploaded using the WLM map.

In addition to the photography competition that aimed at uploading photos, the group organized editing activities in several Wikimedia projects such as Wikipedia, Wikidata and Commons.

In parallel with the other mentioned activities, the group worked on producing basic video tutorials to help newcomers contribute to the competition, but also to the Wikimedia projects in general. These tutorials were made in Moroccan Arabic, as they are mainly targeting a Moroccan audience.

Examples of items covered by these tutorials are: How to create an account? How to log in and out? How to edit an article? How to add pictures? How to use Cat-a-lot (batch categorization)?

The group is aiming to record other tutorials even outside of the competition, to provide a rich documentation for the newcomers, and strengthen their capacities.

This year, Wikimedia Morocco attempted to build new partnerships with different organizations as part of WLM 2020 in the country. Some of these organizations contacted were: the Moroccan Tourism ministry, the Moroccan National Tourist Office, the Tangier International Higher Institute of Tourism, as well as the Reading Network in Morocco.

Two online workshops have been organized to introduce the competition to several people, a first with members of the Reading Network, a partner NGO of Wikimedia Morocco, and a second with members of the user group themselves. The workshops resulted in the creation of many articles in different Wikipedia language editions.

Although WLM 2020 in Morocco was held during a challenging year, the final results were rather positive and encouraging. The number of uploaded pictures was 431, among which 38 (9%) were already used in Wikidata or a Wikipedia article.

This year’s edition faced many challenges, mostly related to the pandemic situation in Morocco and worldwide. The situation did not allow any offline (or on site, or physical meeting) activities that we have been able to do in the previous editions such as photowalks or edit-a-thon meetups.

One challenge that we faced during our edit-a-thons was the absence of reliable reference to write articles in different languages. Most existing references are not reliable enough, and lead to the deletion of the newly created articles. One possible solution would be to prepare (digital) libraries of reliable sources ahead of the next editions.

Another challenge that was faced in this edition was partnerships and collaborations. Similar to previous years, and although the group members tried their best in terms of outreach, it was difficult to find partners and initiate collaborations with new organizations. This was particularly striking this year, as many official organizations are not used to partner “digitally”, and require face to face meetings before initiating any formal contact.

Apart from a few positive partnerships, other contact attempts are still awaiting responses from the organizations in question.

For people interested about Wiki Loves Monuments 2020 in Morocco, a full PDF report with detailed figures and statistics can be found at this link in Wikimedia Commons.
ويكي تهوي المغول

ويكي تهوي المغول هو المنصة الرئيسية للمساهمة في مقالات ويكيبيديا المغربية. ويعبر عن الوعي والمعرفة في مجالات متعددة كالتعليم والثقافة وال לסاحة الإقتصادية والاجتماعية. ويقنّع المغول في مكافحة الفساد والتشكيك في الاتهامات وتلقي الأمور بكل حقدة شروطية.

تهدف ويكي تهوي المغول إلى تشجيع المغرين على المشاركة في مسابقة تكريم للمشجعين والمبدعين في موسوعة ويكيبيديا ومكتبات الكتب الإلكترونية. وتشمل هذه المسابقة فعاليات التدريب والتثقيف عبر الإنترنت، وذلك عبر برامج التدريب والندوات والدورات التدريبية. وتتضمن الفعاليات مشاكل الاستبانة والمجاملة والتصنيف والكتابة والبرمجة والتفاعل مع المجتمع الدولي.

ويكي تهوي المغول تزود المغرين بالمهارات اللازمة لكتابة المقالات في فئات مختلفة، مثل العلوم والتكنولوجيا والتنمية الاجتماعية. وتهدف إلى توفير فرصة للمشاريدين في فصول دراسية ومحاضرات علمية، وتجهيز المحتوى المهم والمثير للاهتمام.

ويكي تهوي المغول يعتبر منصة للتعاون الدولي، ويتيح للمشاركين في المسابقة فرصة للمشاركة في المجتمع الدولي، وتبادل الخبرات والموارد، وتطوير المهارات والكفاءات، وتوسيع المدى واسع للبحث العلمي.

ويكي تهوي المغول يتيح للمشاركين الفرصة للمشاركة في المسابقة، وتحقيق الإنجازات العلمية والاحترافية، وتطوير المهارات والتكنولوجيا. وتهدف إلى تشجيع المغرين على المشاركة في مسابقة تكريم للمشجعين والمبدعين في موسوعة ويكيبيديا ومكتبات الكتب الإلكترونية.
Reading Wikipedia in Classroom is a new pilot project initiated by the Wikimedia Foundation Education team in order to help teachers understand and leverage Wikipedia’s educational value. Through a localized set of tools and professional training opportunities, the project helps both educators and students to develop vital media and information literacy skills for the 21st century.

One hundred teachers in Morocco received 36 hours of training led by two members of Wikimedia MA UC (Brahim Faraji and Soukaina Abelhad). The high level of participation in the pilot program is particularly notable given the unique and stressful demands teachers faced amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout 12 weeks, teachers participated in live webinars and asynchronous discussions as they explored how Wikipedia works, the importance of teaching information literacy across the curriculum, and how the Wikimedia community is working to close knowledge gaps. By the end of the training, teachers’ perception of the educational value of Wikipedia evolved, and they were able to incorporate it into their lesson plans.

In the early stages of this program, the local coordinators from our UG launched a survey over the MENA region and selected the answers provided by teachers in Morocco in order to analyze them and extract insights from their answers.

After this stage, the local coordinators started to search for potential partners and shared the registration form on many social media platforms since the COVID-19 sanitary crisis made it difficult to meet people onsite. With all the networking and e-marketing work done, we received 150 registrations and accepted 100 teachers to join the training program after interviewing most of them and evaluating their motivation and perception of Wikipedia.

At the same time, the education team was working on the training materials in a collaboration with the local coordinators. The work covered the preparation of the content of the training program (3 Modules about: understanding how information is produced, how to access and evaluate content online, and how to understand biases and knowledge gaps in the information they consume). The material was divided into slides related to each session, the teacher’s guide related to each module, the questions of each activity and the technical choice of the online training. The team tested the face-book group and had a premium zoom account in order to use it for the live sessions.

The geographical diversity of the participants made the group enjoy a constructive exchange of ideas and thoughts about the usage of Wikipedia in the classroom. Several Wikimedia Morocco members participated to support this group by answering questions about Wikipedia in addition to the continuous support of the local coordinators.

The material was highly appreciated by the teachers based on their answers on the post program survey.

During the training most of the teachers changed their mind about Wikipedia and are currently using it in their classrooms (based on their responses to the post-program survey):

By the end of the training program, the project team organized a virtual graduation party for teachers who graduated and gave them certificates of accomplishments.

Teachers were very satisfied by this training program and are looking forward to the next editions. The post program survey shows that 100% of them were ready to participate in future training programs provided by the Wikimedia Foundation.

Some teachers mentioned during interviews some quotes that touched our soul as wikimedians and made us strongly believe in the importance of generalizing this program in other countries with a continuous support to the communities to be able to collaborate with teachers and government officials to build the new generation of Wikimedians.

This training session helped me discover Wikipedia’s article structure, and made it easy for me and my students to search for information.

I had a false idea about Wikipedia, I thought that it wasn’t a reliable source of information but after attending this training I understood that most information is supported using reliable resources and that there is a well organized community behind Wikipedia.

I never knew that I could create an account and start contributing in Wikipedia, but thanks to this training session I was able to create one and start by simple contributions.

Honestly, before attending this training session I always thought that Wikipedia was not a reliable source of information. But after learning so many things in this program especially after working on the final assignment, I’m currently using it in my classroom activities with my students and I encourage them to use it as a source of information.

I discovered that my region has weak coverage in Wikipedia, so I decided to do research and collect resources & information to write an article about it. Wikipedia is a great platform to preserve our heritage and culture.

I discovered how articles in Wikipedia cover most of the information related to any topic, and that I can actually help edit and create my own articles and share my knowledge. I never knew that the hyperlink can redirect to other articles which can help learn more about the topic I am searching for.

Anyone can contribute by sharing information through Wikipedia. We can use it to fill the information gap.

I was inspired by Wikipedia’s core content policies. I taught them to my students so they can verify any kind of online information, and also adopt critical thinking toward information.

Normally I ask my students to write small articles about specific topics based on their research and now I’m teaching them how to enrich Wikipedia’s articles using the fruit of their research work. It’s amazing to see their work published on platforms such as Wikipedia.

I never knew that there was a community and rules that organize contributions in Wikipedia, I’m excited to be part of this community and contribute to share free knowledge.
كان المعلمين راضين بما حققته هذه التجربة. ويأتي ذلك من مشاركة المعلمين الذين تزامنت مع مواعيد التدريب، حيث دخلوا في النظام كمتدربين واجادوا أن المحتوى المقدّم مفهومًا بشكل جيد. 

كانت هناك مشاركة كبيرة في النظام كمتدربين، حيث دخلوا في النظام كمتدربين واجادوا أن المحتوى المقدّم مفهومًا بشكل جيد. 

كتبت الامرأة مقالاً حول الموضوع الذي أبحث عنه في ويكيبيديا، وتم ذلك بإسناده إلى مصادر موثوقة. 

الإجابة على موضوعات غير مألوفة في الموضوعات السابقة، وتعزيز الوعي الشعبي بإنترنت وويكيبيديا. 

용어 설명 (어휘 설명)
Participation in International Events

Wikimedia Morocco members attended the following conferences:

International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement
Marrakesh, Morocco — 6th-10th January

In preparation of the ‘Reading Wikipedia in Classroom’, Reda Benkhadra represented the WMF Education Team at the ICSEI conference, during which he presented the project and networked with the various educational actors present and other experts in the field.

Celtic Knot Conference
Online — 9th-10th July

For the second participation of the user group in the conference related to minority languages, Anass Sedrati presented "digitally" a session entitled “Developing Wikis in local languages - From Offline to Online”, relating the experience of Moroccan Arabic Wikipedia, and the collaboration made at the group level to support it.

Video of the participation (on YouTube)
Activities & Events

Strategy Salon in Rabat

As part of Wikimedia movement’s 2030 strategy development process, meetings have been held to discuss these matters, known as strategy salons. Thanks to funding from the Core Team, a second salon was organized in Morocco, more precisely in the capital Rabat on February 8, and saw the participation of nine Wikimedians living in Morocco, as well as Anass Sedrati, the former WMF strategy liaison for Arabic speaking communities. This meeting was an occasion to discuss the 13 initial draft recommendations that were open for community conversations. All recommendations were discussed one by one, and detailed feedback and input was provided for each of them by the participants.

A full report of the event can be found at this link.

Participation in the Casablanca Book Fair

At the invitation of Dar America, Wikimedia Morocco was present at the Casablanca International Book Fair in February 2020. The members of the group Soukaina Abelhad, Ian Borim and Amine Tifratine led a presentation session of the Wikimedia projects and addressed the audience’s questions.
Activities & Events

Presentation at Chouaib Doukkali University
At the invitation of professors of the University of El Jadida, Ian Borim presented the Wikimedia projects and activities of the group to the students present.

WikiClubs
Two new clubs dedicated to Wikimedia projects have been created, the first led by Ian Borim in Casablanca within the American Language Center, and the second by Brahim Faraja in Oujda at the American Space.

Online Activities

Wiki Loves Folklore
For the first edition of the Wiki Loves Folklore photo competition, Housain Tork won the second place internationally with a photo of the Fantasia (Tbourida).

Moroccan Wikipedia Day
For the third year in a row, the Moroccan Wikipedia Day was organized on the Arabic version and ended with the creation of 29 new articles and the improvement of two articles to be tagged with quality content; This edition saw the participation of members of the Wikimedia Levant UG.

Activities & Events

Arabic

عرض تقديمي بجامعة شعيا الدكالي

Presentation at Chouaib Doukkali University
At the invitation of professors of the University of El Jadida, Ian Borim presented the Wikimedia projects and activities of the group to the students present.

نوادي الويكي

WikiClubs
Two new clubs dedicated to Wikimedia projects have been created, the first led by Ian Borim in Casablanca within the American Language Center, and the second by Brahim Faraja in Oujda at the American Space.

أنشطة عبر الإنترنت

Online Activities

Wiki Loves Folklore
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يوم ويكيبيديا المغربي

Moroccan Wikipedia Day
For the third year in a row, the Moroccan Wikipedia Day was organized on the Arabic version and ended with the creation of 29 new articles and the improvement of two articles to be tagged with quality content; This edition saw the participation of members of the Wikimedia Levant UG.
Originally, and similar to previous years (2018-2019), WikiGap was intended to be held in-person at the Swedish Residence in Rabat. However, and even before deciding on the event date, the news of different restrictions coming with the pandemic obliged the group to change the plans.

After a careful consideration, the setup was radically changed for this year, and instead of having a physical one-day edit-a-thon and presentation, the event was switched instead to an online edit-a-thon held for a full month (March 2020).

Even though this setup was new and challenging, many people did participate in the event, and 31 new articles were created in several languages, about different Moroccan women. More details and figures about the virtual 2020 WikiGap in Morocco, can be found at this link.

Launching of Wikipedia in Moroccan Arabic (Darija)

After almost a year of organized work by Moroccan volunteers on the Incubator, the Wikipedia in Moroccan Arabic was approved by the Wikimedia language committee, and officially created on July 20, 2020. In line with its diversity commitments, Wikimedia Morocco User Group supported the Moroccan Arabic version since its beginnings in the Incubator, and provided resources in terms of volunteers to improve that wiki in different aspects, ranging from editing to project management and governance, including also editing efforts and capacity building for newcomers, the same way these resources are offered to all other languages spoken in Morocco.

Currently, the User group is supporting the launching of the Wiktionary version in Moroccan Arabic and also Wikipedia in Tachelhit, which is one of the Berber languages in the Incubator, witnessing a swift development pace lately, and hoping to have its full Wikipedia soon in 2021.
Participation in the branding discussion

Wikimedia Morocco User group participated in the [Wikimedia 2030 branding project discussions](https://wikimedia.org). In this respect, the group had a meeting with Samir Elsharbaty (Brand Associate at WMF) to clarify the picture and make sure that all parts are on the same page.

Following that meeting, the group was registered in the [Brand Network](https://brandnetwork.wikimedia.org), which is a network of community members from around the world interested in guiding the development of an evolved brand system for the Wikimedia movement. The group was thereafter implicated in the discussion, providing feedback about the process.

Wikimedia MA User group was one of the affiliates that signed the [Community open letter on renaming](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Community_open_letter_on_renaming), requesting an immediate pause to renaming activities by the Wikimedia Foundation, due to process shortcomings of the 2030 Movement Brand Project.

In September 24, 2020, The [Board of Trustees of the Wikimedia Foundation](https://wikimedia.org) decided to pause [Brand Development Work](https://wikimedia.org), until at least March 1, 2021.

Participation in Wikimedia 2030 Design Group

Anass Sedrati, a member of Wikimedia Morocco User group, [was voted by the Arabic speaking Wikimedia community](https://wikimedia.org) to represent them in the [Wikimedia 2030 transition design group](https://wikimedia.org). During July to August 2020, the Design Group of about twenty volunteers held several working sessions and put together an Outline of the Transition events. The WMF Support Team has been using the Outline as a basis to facilitate the Transition events, which took place later between November 2020 and February 2021.

Work on Bylaws

Working constantly to improve, Wikimedia Morocco User Group initiated in 2020 a discussion about its bylaws, in order to bring more organization and clarity to its structure.

The current bylaws (emerging from these discussions) can be found in [Meta](https://meta.wikimedia.org) (in Arabic), and are continuously changing as this is an ongoing work aiming to improve and refine the governance and structure of the group.
Participation and collaboration with the Arabic Committee

The first discussion related to the need of having a coordinating entity for the Arabic speaking Wikimedians was mentioned during the Arabic Wikimedians Meeting at Wikimedia Summit on March 29th, 2019 in Berlin. Following that meeting and others (Wikimania, WikiArabia), the idea started to concretize, and discussions emerged both between affiliates and online communities.

The plan to have an entity gathering Arabic Speaking Wikimedians was then shared publicly on January 4th, 2020, with different interested stakeholders. The idea behind that group would be to provide a platform for collaboration and joint work between Arabic Wikimedians and affiliates, and most specifically for tasks that cannot be done by local user groups alone, or in Arabic speaking areas where there are no affiliates.

Wikimedia Morocco User group was part of the stakeholders involved in this effort, and participated in shaping and defining the bylaws of this gathering. Anass Sedrati represented the group in the different discussions related to this initiative, and participated in several meetings with other user group representatives.

Currently, the Arabic Wikimedians initiative is discussing its status, as the Affcom does not recommend it to be a user group, and are awaiting the work on the regional and linguistic hubs to foresee a potential role for this gathering in these new structures emerging from the Wikimedia 2030 Strategy.

Collaboration with WikiFranca

After the Wikiconvention 2019 held in Brussels, Wikimedia Morocco user group joined officially the WikiFranca initiative, a partnership between francophone Wikimedia affiliates, aiming to encourage activities in the French Wikimedia projects such as Wikipedia and its sister projects.

Since joining the initiative, Wikimedia Morocco user group has participated in several strategic discussions and meetings with the French speaking community, both online and offline. A summary of these discussions related to the different recommendations can be found at this link (in French).

Current representatives of Wikimedia Morocco user group within WikiFranca are Soukaina Abelhad and Brahim Faraji.

Wikimedia 2030 Arabic speaking Strategy Prioritization Event

In October 17, 2020, the Arabic Wikimedians, in collaboration with Wikimedia Morocco and Wikimedia Levant organized a virtual event to discuss priorities for the implementation of Wikimedia 2030 strategy for the Arabic speaking Wikimedians. The priorities were collected through a survey that followed the Arabic-language prioritization discussion. 18 participants from different countries took part at the event.

The full event report is available on Meta, including the event slides as well as a complete video recording of the presentation and the following discussions.
Media Coverage

During 2020, Wikimedia Morocco user group’s work was showcased in different media channels, and shared with a wider audience in Morocco. Some of the media coverage of the group and its members includes:

In February 2020, Reda Benkhadra was invited by the program "Pouvoirs d’Afrique" at MedRadio to present the Wiki Loves Africa contest.

In April 2020, Anass Sedrati was invited to a live with Ridouane Erramdani at MedRadio, where he presented his work as well as the Wikimedia movement, especially aspects related to Strategy. The show was watched more than 140,000 times.

In May 2020, Anass was invited to the Moroccan podcast "Tajriba" (Experience), where he presented the User group, its work, and the different projects they are working on. This was an occasion to advocate free knowledge between the younger audience listening to the podcast; later that month he took part in a live session with Al Fihriya Academy, in order to explain the way of work of Wikipedia and free collaborative knowledge, as well as to encourage more people to volunteer in the movement, and answer hanging questions about these areas.

In September 2020, Brahim Faraji was invited by the Oujda Regional Radio to present the project Reading Wikipedia in Classroom, in his capacity of local coordinator.

The press articles referring to the group's activities were as follows:

French:

« Wiki Loves Africa célèbre L’Afrique en mouvement! », leseco.ma, February 17, 2020
« Le concours "Wiki Loves Africa" du 15 février au 31 mars au Maroc », medias24.com, February 17, 2020
« Le Maroc participe à Wiki Loves Africa 2020 », aujourd'hui.ma, February 17, 2020
« Ouarzazate finit l’année 2020 sur une note très optimiste », journalaswat.com, December 30, 2020
« Ouarzazate -Prix:WLM Maroc attribue le prix prix de la photographie au beau visuel du Ksar Ait Ben Had-dou », marocnews.fr, December 31, 2020

Arabic:

« مشاركة مقالة ونداء في المجلة العالمية. مسابقة تصوير عالمية تفتح باب المشاركة أمام المغاربة », alminassa24.ma, February 18, 2020
« وزراء تختتم عام 2020 بملحمة مغامرة للطاقة », laracheinfo.com, December 30, 2020
Given its status as a user group, Wikimedia Morocco has financed its projects thanks to the structures set up within the movement.

Thus the group received a total of 590 € from the micro-financing committee of Wikimedia France for the organization of the Strategy Salon.

Also received a total of 780 USD from the Rapid Grants of the Wikimedia Foundation for the organization of the Wiki Loves Africa photo contest.

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