

AFE ANNUAL 2019 REPORT





A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	4
2019 IN NUMBERS	5
ACHIEVEMENTS & SUCCESS STORIES	
AFE becomes Facebook Trusted Partner	7
AFE at the United Nations hearing in New York	7
NEDWA expands its horizons!	8
Launch of QWN: Queer Women Network	10
SANADI: mapping of HIV testing providers in MENA	11
Harassment against women “We carry on!”	12
“Kol Al Alwan” celebrates diversity	13
The Out D’Or Award for Foreign Media Category	14
AFE at ILGA World Conference 2019	15
AFE develops a sub-granting mechanism	16
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH	
Human Right Watch	19
Solidarité SIDA and ITPC MENA	19
Cinema Al Fouad	20
Frontline AIDS	20
HarassTracker	21
Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR)	21
Sexual Health and And Rights Group (SHAG)	21
FHI360	22
Raseef 22	22
All Women Count (AWC)	23
OutRight Action International	24
Jafra Foundation for development	24
Alternatives Canada	25
AFE ACTIVITIES	
The Social Change Institute (SCI)	27
Security Department	28
Research Department (GSRC)	29
Heath Department (M-Coalition)	30
Advocacy and Documentation Department	32
Media Department (GAB Media Center)	34
Community Center (Tayf)	36
CAMPAIGNS AND MORE	
For the first time, a campaign on International Day for People with Disabilities	38
Treatment 4 All campaign: a short video	38
AFE at the Dignity Network Roundtable in Ottawa, Canada	39
SIBA organization sees the light	39
FINANCIAL REPORT	40
LIST OF DONORS	43

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Many countries in the Middle East and North Africa Region experienced revolutions, political movements, uprisings and protests like Sudan, Algeria, Iraq and Lebanon. This has created a new political situation in these countries. In all countries with political uprising, people who protested were not only demanding political reforms, abolition of corruption or adequate financial decision; they were also demanding the respect of human rights and the stop of violations against many communities within the society, including those who experience gender-based violence.

“*We need to constantly remind ourselves that we are equal citizens and learn how to and work with other communities towards better societies.*”

As LGBTIQ+ activists, being in “revolution mode” is not new to us. For the many past years, all LGBTIQ+ activists in all countries in the MENA have been fighting oppressive regimes and violating political systems that deny us our basic rights of existence. When political uprisings in some countries started, it was a familiar territory to us to join the revolution and demand, once again, as citizens who are equal to other fellow citizens, our basic rights.

As it has always been part of our work, and since we have been working towards a positive change in our societies for so long, it was so important for us to be once more part of the political change in our countries, to be involved in all the details of the revolution, and to prove that, by joining activism movements that are not necessarily or directly related to LGBTIQ+ rights, we are claiming our position in the society as equal citizens, and that our gender and sexual identity or orientation does not make us any different from other citizens who are claiming their civil rights.

The LGBTIQ+ community in many MENA countries became more visible during the uprisings. If this reminds us of anything, it would be that we are not isolated, and we cannot lead our fight alone. We are part of a larger society that we need to support and expect its support back. We need to constantly remind ourselves that we are equal citizens and learn how to and work with other communities towards better societies. We need to learn how to and be part of the change.

GEORGE AZZI



2019 IN NUMBERS

25.
STAFF

100.
**PARTNER
ORGANIZATIONS**

12.
COUNTRIES

48.
TRAINERS

52.
TRAININGS

532.
PARTICIPANTS

The background features a vertical gradient from teal at the top to orange at the bottom. Scattered throughout are faint, light-colored mathematical symbols including pi (π), infinity (∞), percent (%), and the number zero (0).

ACHIEVEMENTS & SUCCESS STORIES

AFE BECOMES FACEBOOK TRUSTED PARTNER

As of March 2019, AFE's Gender and Body Rights Media Center officially became a Facebook Trusted Partner. Recently, Facebook has been putting additional effort in content moderation and constant updates of their community standards, through working with trusted on the ground organizations who are familiar with their policies to help ensure content that violates these policies is removed from Facebook.



If you face any online threat, hate speech or bullying because of your sexuality – or know someone who is – on Facebook or Instagram, please contact us directly.

Since hate speech and violations against LGBTIQ+ communities violates Facebook policies, and to be able to respond to these types of threats – in addition to other online violations – in an efficient and timely manner, Facebook has created a Trusted Partner channel that provides partner organizations a channel of reporting content to Facebook that goes to an escalated queue of enforcement experts, staffed 24/7. This partnership has also allowed AFE to constantly give feedback to Facebook on any policy or community standards update that is related to the LGBTIQ+ community in the MENA.

AFE AT THE UN HEARING IN NEW YORK

Universal Health Coverage is now the newest thing since the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The world is turning towards sustainable planning and effective linkages in development. A concept of improving health and having access for everyone is Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The global agenda plans to have most countries achieve UHC by having domestic resources support health, inclusion of all populations, task shifting and improving health equity. In April 2019, a multi stakeholder hearing for the upcoming UHC meeting took place at the United Nations HQ where many organizations attended.

MPACT Global supported AFE representatives in attending the event and presenting the statement of key populations at the hearing. The statement represented the demands of LGBTI, people who use drugs, sex professionals and other marginalized communities to be included and taken into account when planning for UHC.



MOVING TOGETHER
TO BUILD A HEALTHIER WORLD

UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage, 23 September 2019, New York

AFE had an important role as it led the regional HIV networks in a joint statement and had the opportunity to participate in the global consultation of HIV organizations which took place in New York. The global committee selected AFE's Head of M-Coalition Elie Ballan to present the joint global statement at the UN hearing.

NEDWA EXPANDS ITS HORIZONS!

In September 2019, NEDWA, the largest LGBTIQ+ forum in the MENA region, exceeded all expectations. Through this year's theme "Stronger roots for Stronger Alliances", NEDWA sought to respond to the many struggles in the SOGIE movement, work on overcoming differences, reaching new allies, and building better alliances. The new NEDWA format followed international standards. Participants applied through sending abstracts to a selection committee, which ensured full participation and interaction between attendees. The abstracts included all themes that are relevant to the SOGIE movement in the MENA, such as: security, advocacy, research and health with new additions on media and art. The conference included panels and discussion groups, artists, journalists, entrepreneurs and queer celebrities. The contribution of artists was prominent this year. It started with a design competition won by Christina Atik and a special queer art exhibition organized and managed by AFE's partner Haven for Artists. It also included panels led by queer artists from the region who shared their work, the challenges they face and how they use art to overcome them.

“*Thank you. We will stay here, we love life and we will work for it.*”

Sami (Tunisia)

“*We lived this event in all its aspects of sharing, solidarity, love and respect.*”

*Amal Karouaoui
(MENA Regional Plarform)*

NEDWA2019 was bigger than any other conference organized by AFE, operating with new features, such as the NEDWA phone application that allowed users to explore sessions, schedules and announcements online.

To open the conference, AFE hosted special guest, including special messages from UN independent SOGIE expert Victor Madrigal Borlozin, journalist Ahmad Shehabeddine and, for the first time, honoring the participation of Palestine in NEDWA Ghadir El Shafei, Director of Palestinian Aswat organization. The opening also announced that NEDWA has become a biennial event with the next event planned for 2021.



The conference took place in Cyprus, due to local security concerns, especially after the raid of NEDWA2018 by Lebanese General Security, and its permanent decision to ban all activists who attended the conference in 2018 from entering Lebanon. The Cypriot Government offered extensive support to AFE to organize NEDWA in Cyprus as a liberal space for LGBTIQ+. The continuous commitment to gender diversity and inclusivity of trans and non-binary individuals led to an increase of 35% of their participation. NEDWA was also committed to include other marginalized groups through improving accessibility for people with disabilities and people living with HIV.



“ I am very happy and honored to have participated in NEDWA. I do not exaggerate when I say that [this conference] is one of my biggest successes. I felt the amazing effort that was put in it and the excellent team work that aims to give the LGBTIQ+ community a continuous opportunity to express their demands and freedoms, and to feel safe in an unprecedented space of freedom and serious work. ”

Simone Salem (UNAIDS Regional Office)



LAUNCH OF QWN: QUEER WOMEN NETWORK

The purpose of QWN (Queer Women Network - MENA) is to address the inclusion, health and wellbeing of all LBTQ Women who reside within the Middle East, North Africa region (MENA); through knowledge production and development of innovative programs based on uncovered gaps. QWN recognizes that “women” includes Trans, cisgender and all people who identify as women with marginalized sexualities. It prioritizes people who identify as women but includes gender non-conforming and non-binary people.

QWN is hosted by AFE and is administratively and legally supported by AFE's structure, however QWN remains independent in its governance, management and decision-making. QWN supports AFE with applying a feminist lens to its regional work, consulting on its program design and content to ensure feminist standards, as well as pursues and implements its own regional woman-focused work in its specific context.

QWN's focus areas:



SANADI: MAPPING OF HIV TESTING PROVIDERS IN MENA

AFE's M-Coalition released Sanadi, the first website designed to facilitate access to HIV testing. The site seeks to improve quality of services and to fight stigma through guiding users to friendly discrimination free services.

Sanadi is a product that was born after a year-long mapping activity of HIV testing centers in the MENA region. The mapping currently includes testing centers in 8 countries in the MENA: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen. All centers are rated based on their LGBTIQ+ and gender sensitivity, their privacy rating and their cleanliness.

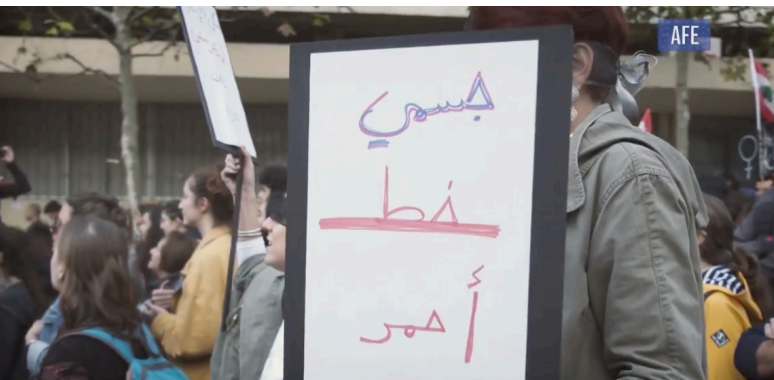


The website was launched together with an online campaign of 3 videos focusing on HIV testing, prevention and living with HIV. The Campaign introduced a superhero who represents the concept of taking care of one's health. The campaign was successfully perceived as innovative and focused on the Sanadi web portal. This campaign also focused on an important fact about HIV - the U=U - that was introduced in Arabic. The U=U campaign is a global campaign supporting the fact that People living with HIV with an undetectable HIV viral load will not transmit the virus if they are on treatment and a suppressed viral load. In 2018, the World Health Organization and UNAIDS announced the scientific basis of this fact.

Visit www.sanadi.org to find the best HIV testing center near you.

HARASSMENT AGAINST WOMEN “WE CARRY ON!”

In partnership with HIVOS WE4L program and with the support of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, AFE’s Gender and Sexuality Resource Center produced a video as part of a public awareness campaign shedding light on instances of sexual harassment and bullying that have been apparent in the recent uprising in Lebanon. The video highlighted some of the cases that have surfaced of reporters whose bodily autonomy has been violated, others whose personal numbers were leaked and who received rape threats and pornographic material, and others who have been called obscenities on live television. Since reports of similar nature have also been noted with women protesters, especially including online bullying and harassment both online and offline, the video sought to raise more general awareness about sexual harassment, bullying, and everyday violence that women are subjected to, emphasizing the need for protective policies to allow women to ascend to positions of leadership.



The video provides a personal account of two reporters, Dima Sadek and Layal Saad, who have been subject to sexual harassment, violence, and bullying, and opens up the conversation with Diana Mokalled, a feminist journalist who explains why legal protections from sexual harassment is needed, especially to drive the point home that this is an integral part of women’s empowerment for leadership. The video - “We Carry On” - aimed to echo the sentiment of the many women who watched it and reacted to it: a feeling of resilience in the face of many adversities, and a determination to reach women’s demands for social justice in Lebanon.

"KOL AL ALWAN" CELEBRATES DIVERSITY

Promoting diversity through art and music led to the creation of "Kol Al Alwan" music video, the first of its kind in the MENA region that celebrates diversity. In April 2019, this beautiful celebration of diversity, colors, love and life was born through a collaboration between AFE, Lebanese artist Manel Mallat and Lebanese producer Anthony from Adonis to raise voice to defend all humans in all their colors. This effort was led by AFE's M-Coalition with the support of GAB Media Center, in partnership with Manel and Anthony.



"Kol Al Alwan" did not only come together to celebrate, but also to fight discrimination, stigma, racism, gender-based violence, homophobia, transphobia and social stereotypes. This song aimed to be a strong artistic voice facing all human rights violations that are still happening.

The music video was directed by Faraj Aoun and included many local LGBTIQ+ talents as well as volunteers who wanted to be part of this work. The project was funded by Frontline AIDS, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and Open Society Foundations.

You can find the music video on Youtube and AFE's Facebook page.

The music is available on Anghami, Deezer, Spotify and Apple Music.



THE OUT D'OR AWARD FOR FOREIGN MEDIA CATEGORY

Through its partnership with AFE on a project related to LGBTIQ+ “Gender and sexuality issues: a new approach and open discussion,” the regional media platform Raseef 22 became the laureate of the 2019 Out d’Or award for foreign media category. The ceremony took place in Paris in June 2019.

The AFE-Raseef 22 project that won the Out D’Or award for foreign media category was competing against BBC News (UK), Broadly / VICE (USA), Folha de Sao Paolo (Brazil), Augustin (Austria) and CBC (Canada).

For more details about this project, please see page 16.



AFE AT ILGA WORLD CONFERENCE 2019

As a full member, AFE participated in the International Lesbian and gay Association (ILGA) world conference with 3 representatives from its offices in Beirut and in Morocco, alongside 594 representatives from 93 countries. The conference took place in Wellington (New Zealand) from 18 to 22 March 2019.

During the conference, the LGBTIQ+ world association celebrated its 40th anniversary in the presence of different actors who took on the fight for the rights of their respective communities. Donors, associations, collectives and networks from around the world have met in Wellington to take stock of the situation of LGBTIQ+ people across the globe.



AFE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE:

WORKSHOPS AND PANELS

The conference featured many workshops and panels that focused on LGBTIQ+ issues. The interactive sessions, in which many opinions and suggestions were voiced, focused on a variety of topics such as bisexuality, LGBTIQ+ refugees, trans-identity, advocacy mechanisms around the world, decriminalization of homosexuality and others.

CHANGES IN ILGA CONSTITUTION

AFE participated in the voting sessions of the amendment of the ILGA World's Constitution. Considerable achievements were validated during these sessions. One of the most visible and welcomed advances has been the recognition of the rights of sex workers.

ELECTION OF THE NEW ILGA WORLD BOARD

The ILGA world conference is when the organization's General Assembly convenes to elect the new Board. With an aim to support the access of MENA LGBTIQ+ activists to decision-making positions, AFE is delighted about the election of a North African activist to be a member of the ILGA Board. This is an additional opportunity to make the voice of our region heard on the world stage.

INTERNATIONAL LGBTQI + FRANCOPHONE NETWORK

The first French-speaking pre-conference took place at ILGA. AFE was proud to take part in all initiatives that focused on the promotion of the French language in activism spaces, especially at ILGA conference. French being one of the official languages used by AFE, AFE is committed, in partnership with its partners, to end the discrimination against many French speakers in the world, particularly in Africa.

ILGA PAN AFRICA PANEL

A space dedicated to Africans was organized by ILGA Pan Africa and supervised by its two co-presidents. During this meeting, the African members of AFE were able to grab this opportunity to speak about the problems and challenges faced by North Africans and in particular the difficulties in obtaining visas to participate in international conferences.

SOUTH-SOUTH PARTNERSHIP

South-south partnership and solidarity are major axes of AFE's strategy. Consequently, the ILGA conference space was a fertile ground for AFE's team to initiate new exchanges with activists from the south, and to strengthen the preexistent powerful relationships with activists and organizations.

The ILGA World 2021 will take place in Los Angeles. AFE is already using all its means to participate in the conference and facilitate the participation of activists from the southern hemispheres for a stronger visibility of the MENA region in this international space.



AFE DEVELOPS A SUB-GRANTING MECHANISM

Over the past few years, the MENA region has seen much advancement in terms of the involvement and presence of movements that defend gender and bodily health and rights in localities that are defined as high risk for programming. These advancements in the movement have been accompanied by many repercussions, gender and bodily rights activists continue to be abused in many countries in the region. Less dramatic but no less dire, is the situation of those who suffer dismissal from work, restrictions on movement and travel, threats against themselves and their families, and other forms of daily harassment. Local CSOs have been actively developing programs to react to the dearth of respect of the person and freedoms.

An active civil society working for gender and body rights in the MENA region has surfaced, and with it, the need for consistent resources along with a dependent technical support network.

Reliance on international support, however, carries with it a host of problems, experience has shown that relatively few donors in the field of human rights operate on the basis of long-term strategic goals that are based on the particular needs of the region. Also, donors' priorities change from time to time, perforce causing human rights activities in the region to follow those trends rather than working based on plans arising from local needs.

The foregoing lies behind the establishment of AFE's grant-making system, a regional human rights organization managed and sustained by highly experienced individuals from the region with the requisite skills and commitment to promote gender and bodily rights in the MENA.

The grant-making process aims to support the gender and bodily rights priorities identified by those inside the region through a participatory and inclusive process.

AFE will actively encourage projects that develop new ideas or that take advantage of new opportunities, including: research, coalition building, advocacy initiatives that demand respect for gender and bodily rights, awareness raising and other developments that provide defenders with a chance to move gender and bodily rights forward in the Middle East and North Africa Region. AFE's grant making system was designed based on the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standard.

Following international best practices guidelines, the sub-granting system will be piloted in 2020 in hopes of achieving ISO certification by the end of the year 2021.

**IN
PARTNERSHIP
WITH...**

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

FACING THE MYTHS: LGBT VOICES FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

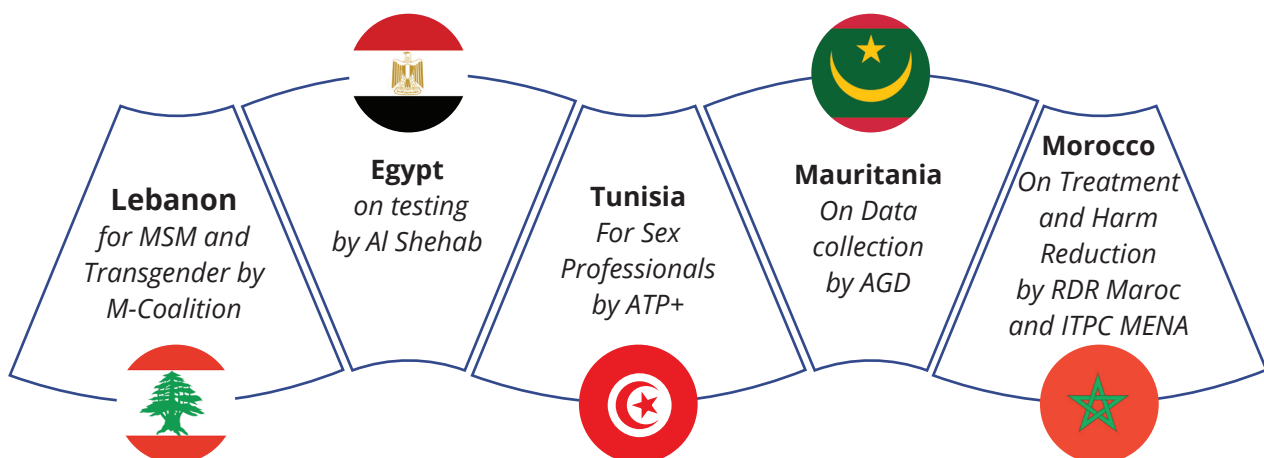
AFE took the opportunity of being part of the Cinema Al Fouad festival to launch the video that was produced in partnership with Human Rights Watch: "Facing the Myths: LGBT Voices from the Middle East and North Africa." This production looked at the myths surrounding being LGBT in the Arab world, through which LGBT activists from Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Libya, Sudan and Tunisia address those myths and talk about how the myths, and stereotypes, have affected their lives. HRW and AFE have been honored with a SIMA impact award nomination for Facing the Myths.



SOLIDARITÉ SIDA AND ITPC MENA

TRAINING OF TRAINERS FOR IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Workshops on supporting implementing partners took place under the FORSS program supported by Initiative 5% and in partnership with Solidarité SIDA and ITPC MENA along with other national partners. The series of training of trainers were organized around World Health Organization's service delivery for Key Affected Populations and in accordance to each local partner's expertise.



These trainings were implemented again nationally to local implementing partners to expand knowledge and improve quality of life.

CINEMA AL FOUAD

CINEMA AL FOUAD: LGBTQI+ FILM SCREENING

In June 2019, AFE sponsored and participated in the Cinema Al Fouad film festival showcasing short films from the MENA region and beyond that bring visibility to the LGBTQI+ community. The film festival, that took place at the French Institute in Beirut, screened five Lebanese shorts, featuring stories of stigma, injustice, exile, loss and love.



FRONTLINE AIDS

AFE BECOMES THE HOST OF FRONTLINE AIDS PROGRAM MANAGEMENT UNIT

In 2019, the Regional Multi Country grant for the Global Fund commenced. Under this grant AFE signed a hosting MOU with Frontline AIDS (previously the International HIV/AIDS Alliance), the principle recipient and manager of the multi country grant, whereby AFE will physically host the Program Management Unit of the grant. This MoU comes into place on the basis of confidence and capacity of AFE MENA to host Frontline AIDS and work closely to respond better to the MENA region.

As for implementation M-Coalition provided 5 national Physical and Digital Security Trainings in Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco and Jordan for partners working on the grant and focused on HIV Program Implementation, you can find out more about these trainings under the Security Program. M-Coalition also worked closely with the Gender and Bodily Rights Media Center (GAB) to launch the HIV Media Monitor. This media monitor documents media reporting on HIV, AIDS and Key Populations in the grant countries aimed at discovering how the media portrays HIV and its role in the response. In 2020, a regional media training would train media organizations in order to sensitize the media on reporting on HIV in the region and contribute to fighting stigma and discrimination against HIV and people living with HIV.



HARASSTRACKER

SAFE BARS: SEXUAL HARASSMENT

With the absence of a law protecting against sexual harassment in Lebanon and the increase in incidents occurring especially in bars, AFE's GSRC started a collaboration with HarasTracker, to conduct a baseline study with 47 bars in the Beirut district. This study sought to test bar owners and staff's knowledge, attitudes, and practices towards sexual harassment. The baseline survey is the start of a larger project to provide training to bar owners on how to deal with any cases of sexual harassment within their establishment.

INSTITUTE FOR WAR AND PEACE REPORTING (IWPR)

THE "ETIHAD" PROJECT

AFE's Security Program launched the "Etihad Project" in 2019 in partnership with the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) to support strengthening of organizations in Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan and Lebanon through in-country trainings focused on advocacy, security, campaigning and monitoring and evaluation funded by the DRL. This partnership realizes the difficult context for LGBTIQ+ individuals in the MENA region and works through AFE and its local partners to increase resilience of activists and raise the voices to counter attacks against LGBTIQ+ groups and successfully implement advocacy campaigns.

SEXUAL HEALTH AND AND RIGHTS GROUP (SHAG)

GLOBAL STUDY ON MSM ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

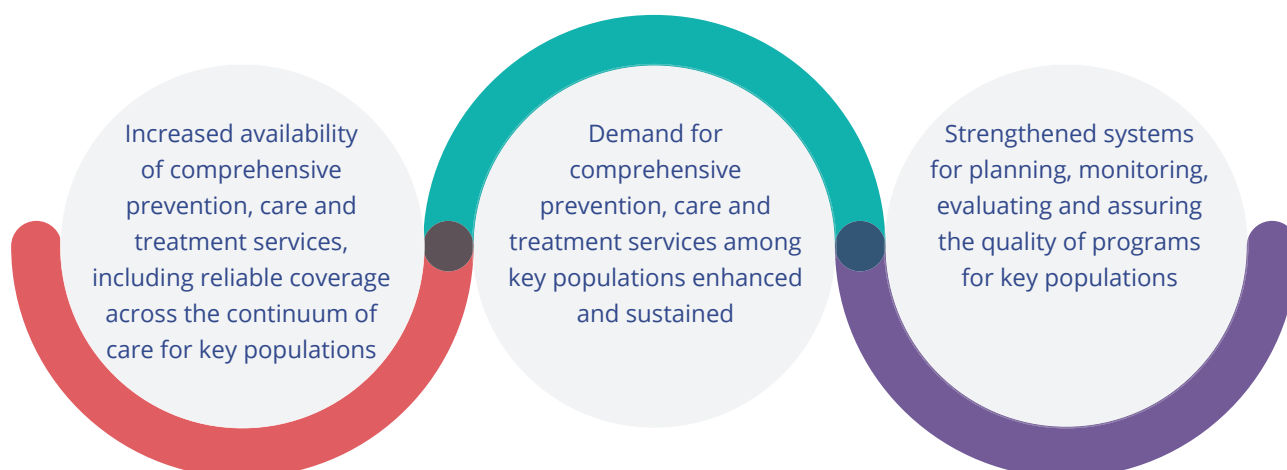
As part of the global Sexual Health And rights Group (SHAG) consortium, AFE's M-Coalition was part of a global study on MSM access to healthcare. This study implemented in many countries and regions of the world would yield its results in 2020. The synergies among regional networks is not new to the health program but has supported in resource mobilization and sharing of lessons learned.

THE LINKAGES PROJECT

AFE's Security department partnered with FHI360 on LINKAGES project to further develop a regional toolkit in Arabic on the security for organizations working on HIV response in the MENA. This partnership includes training and monitoring for target organizations.

Within the scope of this partnership, the LINKAGES project helps organizations to build an evidence-based approach to provide comprehensive HIV services that are easily accessible to key populations (KP) at scale and to sustain those services. FHI360 and its partners will provide overarching technical leadership in KP programming and respond flexibly to USAID request for support.

The project goal will be achieved through the following results:



GENDER AND SEXUALITY ISSUES: A NEW APPROACH AND OPEN DISCUSSIONS IN THE MEDIA

AFE's GAB Media Center and Raseef 22 initiated a project for Raseef 22 platform related to LGBTIQ+: "Gender and sexuality issues: a new approach and open discussion".

Within the scope of this partnership and the project that was launched in April 2019, 25 articles were published on Raseef 22 platform for a period of 6 months that focused on gender and sexuality in the MENA. These articles that were written by journalists who contributed from all over the MENA region, featured opinion pieces, testimonies from different countries, analysis of intersectionality and importance of gender awareness in the society.

This project was a big success. AFE and Raseef 22 are currently discussing the renewal of this partnership and the extension of this project to include a more extensive and diversified media content.



ALL WOMEN COUNT (AWC)

ALL WOMEN COUNT (AWC) CONSORTIUM LED BY CREA

Security threats are not always institutionalized and are often targeted or based on identity and gender. As of 2016, AFE became part of the All Women Count (AWC) consortium, a global south to south consortium led by CREA World India, alongside with other members such as Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and UHAI East Africa Sexual Health and Rights Initiative (UHAI EASHRI).

AWC supports initiatives to build resilient communities and fight back against oppressive patriarchal norms to address the roots of Gender based violence (GBV) by identifying and mapping the core drivers of violence both online and offline, interrogate the imbalance of power focusing on marginalized women and girls and trans* people.

OUTRIGHT ACTION INTERNATIONAL

WORKSHOP FOR JOURNALISTS ON GENDER AND SEXUALITY REPORTING

AFE's GAB Media Center, in partnership with OutRight Action International, organized a regional "Workshop for Journalists on Gender and sexuality reporting," that took place from 20 to 22 May 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey. This workshop that gathered 14 Journalists from Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Tunisia aimed at providing journalists the needed tools and knowledge for an increased and improved coverage of gender and sexuality topics, more specifically LGBTIQ+. This workshop, that was delivered by Arabic Media Coordinator at OutRight Action International Nazeeha Said and AFE's Head of Media Department Myra Abdallah, focused on international and regional laws related to LGBTIQ+, non-biased reporting, gender equality and diversity within the news content and the protection of human rights through non-biased coverage.



OUTRIGHT
ACTION INTERNATIONAL
Human Rights for LGBTIQ People Everywhere

JAFRA FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

GBV TRAINING FOR WOMEN IN RURAL TOWNS

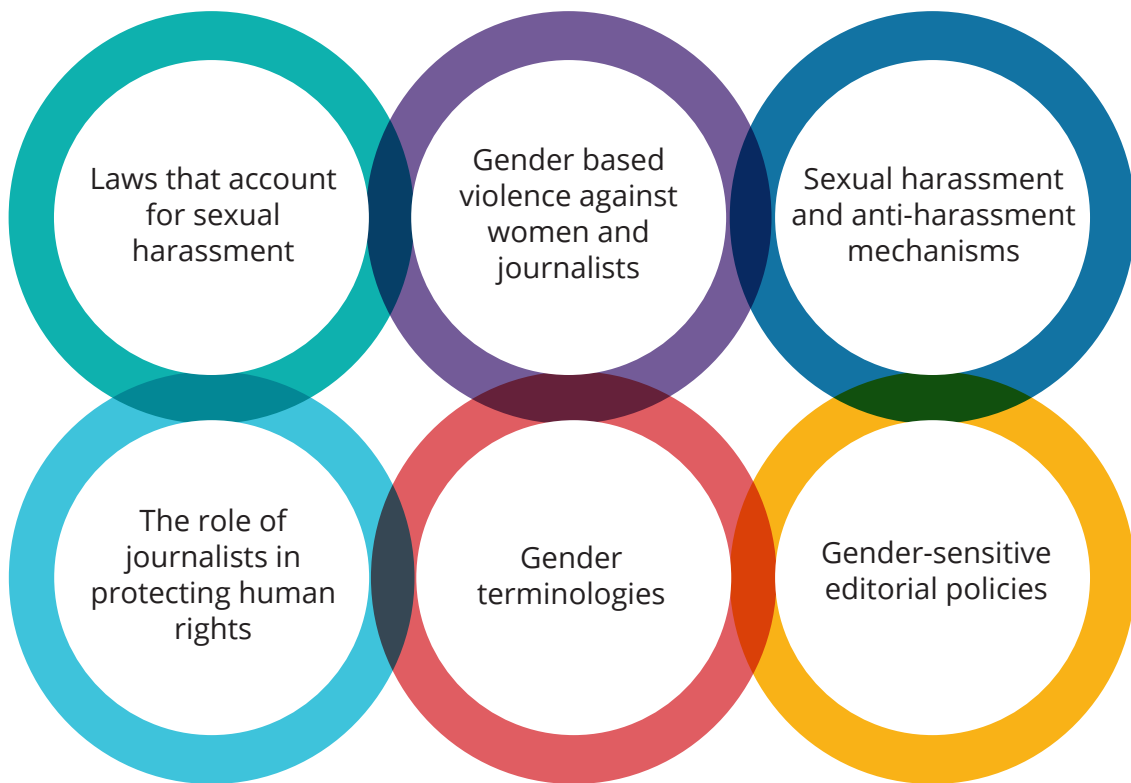
As part of the Noun al-Tadamoun women-led project initiated by Lebanese Jafra Foundation for Development, GAB Media center delivered a training on gender rights and gender-based violence attended by middle-aged women for 3 rural towns of the Lebanese Shouf area.

The training that was held in April 2019 was an opportunity for AFE to discuss gender rights and gender-based violence with non-activist women participants living in conservative rural areas, and discuss LGBTIQ+ rights in conservative communities with women who had never discussed this topic before, either because of their lack of access to this information and discussion circles, or because of the conservative background of the towns they live in and the people they live with.

As a community organization, Jafra Foundation for Development works on the support and development of marginalized groups, more specifically women in the Shouf area. This training was eye-opening to both AFE and participants on the many target groups and geographical areas that are sometimes left untapped in the work of raising awareness for LGBTIQ+ rights.

WORKSHOP FOR JOURNALISTS AND ACTIVISTS ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

As part of its year-long project “Protection and Security of Women Journalists and Human Rights Defenders in Conflicts and Post-conflict Zones”, in partnership with Alternatives Canada, AFE’s GAB Media Center organized a workshop for journalists and activists in Lebanon on Gender Based Violence, on 14 and 15 March 2019. This workshop targeted online and offline violence that many women journalists are human rights defenders are subject to, and focused on:





AFE ACTIVITIES

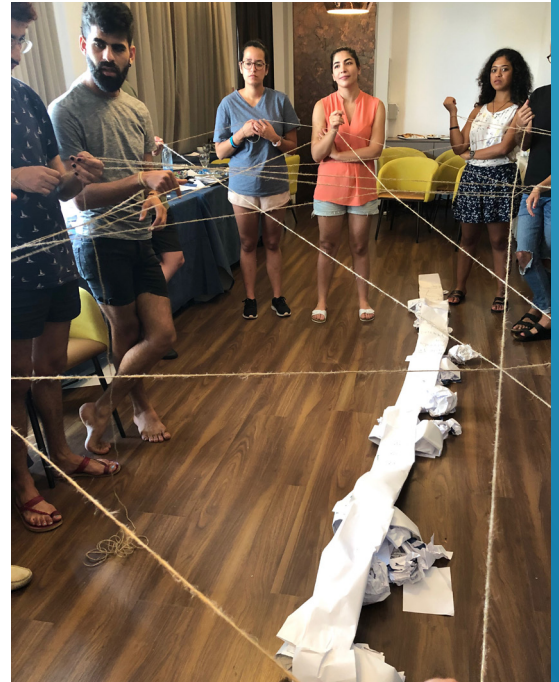
THE SOCIAL CHANGE INSTITUTE (SCI)

THEY VERY FIRST PROGRAM CREATED BY AFE IS STILL RUNNING STRONG.

The Social Change Institute/Program (SCI/SCP) builds the capacity of SOGIE activists from around the MENA region to equip them with tools to organize and improve their advocacy. In 2019, 18 new activists from 8 countries met three times to go over an ever-improving module which includes: gender, sexuality, sexual health and rights education, media, advocacy, strategic planning, security, and introduced women's health (female genital mutilation (FGM), endometriosis).

A new element of the SCI was added where activists implement small activities in their countries to match the theory provided with a practical approach. The modules took place in Turkey, Cyprus and Sri Lanka after the entry-to-Lebanon ban that was imposed on MENA activists following the events of NEDWA 2018. These new destinations allowed AFE and partners to discover new initiatives and more stories like Sobha and the situation of LGBTI in Sri Lanka.

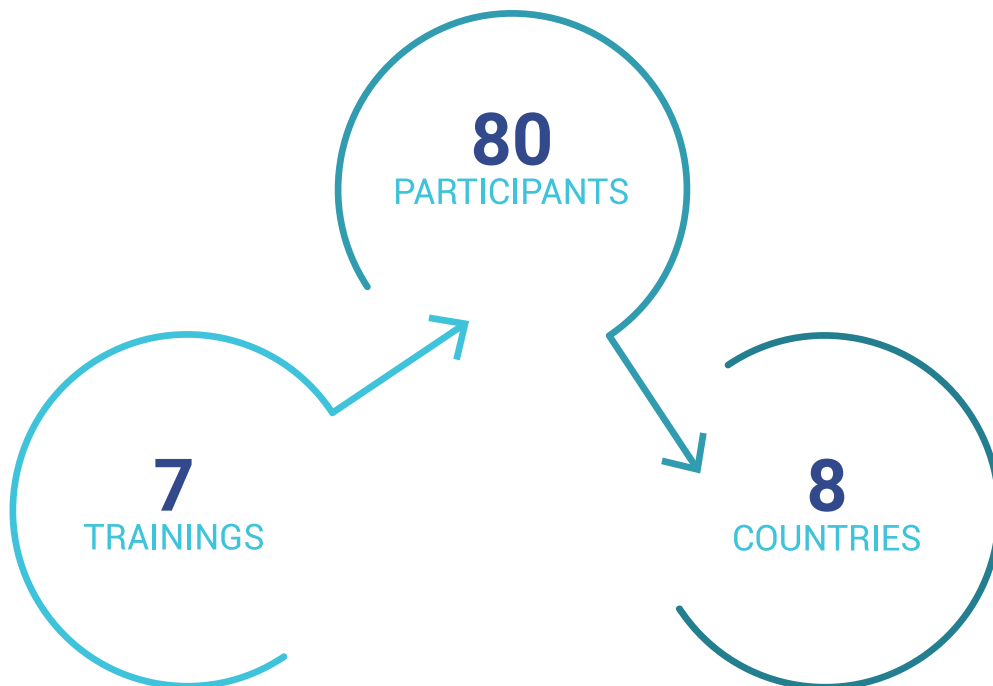
The SCI had another update in 2019, where the program introduced The Social Change 2, a new module for SCP 1 alumni. The first promotion to complete this advanced module were 10 experienced activists from six countries who examined in-depth advocacy, international mechanisms such as UPRs and UN Shadow reports, documentation of violations in international advocacy and advanced communications. After the module, a call for small grants was open for the activists to execute learnings from their programs in their daily advocacy work.



SECURITY DEPARTMENT

7 TRAININGS ON SECURITY IN 2019

Advocating for Human Rights is a challenging journey, especially when operating in sensitive and sometimes hostile environments. This is why physical and digital security and safety have always been a priority to AFE and its partners. In 2019, the security program trained over 80 people from 8 countries in MENA for a total of 7 trainings including national training for partners, regional trainings and training of trainers on security. The security department also gave a cross regional organizational training for Synergia organization who is part of the Dignity4all consortium. Some of these trainings had a new lens with focus on safety of organizations operating on HIV, health and Key Populations which took place in partnership with M-Coalition department as part of the regional Global Fund MENA grant and carried out with support from Frontline AIDS.



With increasing conflicts in the MENA region new security needs arise, and this time they are for mobile populations: refugees and migrants. The refugees' project funded by the IDRC looks at supporting mobile LGBTI individuals through support groups in Tunisia, Egypt and Lebanon. These groups outline the needs of these individuals and gives them a voice. This activity aims to create enough information to support individuals who are seeking asylum or who have been forcibly displaced.

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT (GSRC)

STUDY IN PREPARATION: THE ECONOMIC COST OF HOMOPHOBIA

AFE's GSRC launched a study to assess the economic cost of stigma and discrimination, bringing to light the important role that cultural openness and progressive laws and practices towards the LGBTQI+ community can have on a national, economic scale. A first in the MENA region, this study aims to pave the way for policy change through evidence-based advocacy. The purpose is to assess the economic activity of individuals in four countries (Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt) in addition to their healthcare costs and their decisions to emigrate. In addition, it focuses on LGBTQI+ tourism, services, and businesses with open and equal policies.

While still under preparation, this project has undertaken activities and produced outputs as follows:

A mapping of the MENA region's non-discriminatory and LGBTQI+ friendly organizations (national and multinational) establishments with an emphasis on the 4 target countries. This yielded an exhaustive sheet of over 142 entries which serve as a baseline to further understand policies of non-discriminatory and LGBTQI+ inclusive organizations and pinpoint practices that set them apart. The mapping of LGBTQI+ friendly businesses allows for the evaluation of economic profit and standing of such establishments as compared to those that are not as inclusive.

Documentation of case studies which help shed light on key events in the four countries that speak directly to the economic cost to bear against homophobia and exclusion, and its impact on individuals' lives, livelihoods, and development.

AFE's collaboration with a network of regional partners along with the trust of some LGBTQI+ communities within the chosen countries through joint partnerships with organizations in the area.

A large mixed methods survey that covered questions in the areas of education, employment, health, legal matters, economic expenditures and migration. This activity led to the successful collection of 1600+ valid surveys from both LGBTQI+ and non-LGBTQI+ groups in the four countries. The methodology adopted for data collection also allowed for insights and direct interactions with hard-to-reach groups from different economic and social backgrounds.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT (M-COALITION)

THE MERGER OF AFE AND M-COALITION

M-Coalition, regional LGBTIQ+ health network, was founded and hosted by AFE since 2014. What started as a small network grew rapidly to become a working force recognized both regionally and globally. In 2019, AFE and M-Coalition decided to merge whereby M-Coalition became the health department of AFE, while maintaining its network status and operational autonomy in line with AFE values and policies. This merger provided more opportunities, exposure and a solid structure to take on massive projects and large grants. M-Coalition, AFE and key stakeholders met for a strategic planning meeting in January and developed a 5-year strategic plan for the health program which focused on advocacy, increasing finances for the region and supporting local partners in implementation.



STUDY ON CHEMSEX

In 2019, AFE launched a new of its kind study that focused on chemsex, being defined as the use of drugs in a sexual context especially among men who have sex with men. The study that was self-funded and received up to 1000 responses was presented at the 3rd European Chemsex forum in Paris, where experts, psychologists, sexologists, health and social workers and many activists who work on improving LGBTIQ+ health and addressing problematic chemsex met over the course of three days. The study and interventions of M-Coalition stood out and were perceived as innovative. They opened up opportunities for M-Coalition to support international interventions specifically for Arabic speakers.



ASSESSMENT OF HIV AMONG SEX WORKERS

Another study was launched focusing on the assessment of HIV among sex workers specifically in Egypt, Morocco and Lebanon. HIV among sex professionals and their clients is considered the highest prevalence of HIV in the MENA region and is still underrepresented and under considered. The study, called “Halawet Roo7” (Beauty of the Soul in Arabic), was implemented through the Robert Carr Fund and a partnership with MENARosa, the network of women in all their diversities affected by HIV in MENA. The study would provide data for National AIDS programs and local organizations to better address new HIV cases and advance the response in accordance with UNAIDS 90-90-90 fast track plan.

WITHIN THE ROBERT CARR FUND

M-Coalition has been a recipient of the Robert Carr fund for a few years, and in 2019, the fund supported improvements in financial structures, development of a high standard sub granting system and development of a multi sectorial transparent and democratic governance system. In December, an open call for partnerships was launched as well as partners working on health were approached to sign an MOU with M-Coalition & AFE and improve working relations.

Within the same grant M-Coalition provided a training on Campaigning and Outreach and another on LGBTIQ+ Mental Health in Lebanon, Tunisia and Morocco. The trainings supported local organizations in improving their campaign skills to reach broader audiences as well as their internal mental health programming design to better meet the needs of the localities.



MSM PROGRAMMING

The MSM Programming within Global Fund Opportunities supported by MPact Global was a sharing experience that took place in Istanbul, Turkey. The meeting, planned by M-Coalition, focused on Global Fund modules and the use of the MSM Implementation Toolkit within these proposals.

The workshop hosted partners from Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Lebanon, UNAIDS and the Regional Platforms for MENA and West Africa.

BUILDING BRIDGES AND SHARING EXPERIENCES

M-Coalition had the chance this year to visit other organizations working on similar thematic with broader experience and worked on bringing these experiences back and adapting them for the MENA region. Visits included Transgender Organizations, Harm Reduction and Sex Professionals Service delivery centers in the Netherlands, France and the US. These visits are crucial for the organization to be on the lookout for new service delivery modules, improve communication with communities and find the most innovative advocacy and implementation programming to share with the region.

ADVOCACY AND DOCUMENTATION DEPARTMENT

The main objective of the Advocacy and Documentation Program, also dubbed as AFE Sub-Regional Office in North Africa, is to contribute to structural transformation and balance in development by setting up projects in favor of SOGIE rights and fostering an environment conducive to the creation of activities for LGBTQI initiatives in Africa. The AFE North Africa office offers its services to AFE partner associations and collectives in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Sudan and Tunisia.

In 2019, the program supported organizations in proposal writing and program design such as:

G4E grant allocated to Lekaat Collective in Morocco

"Association Rêve de Vivre positive (ARV +)" through Cultural Action Service of the French Embassy in Algeria

and Trans Homo Dz association as part of a partnership with AFE supported by the European Union

The Advocacy program also supported networking with donors and embassies by linking collectives and organizations to embassies and international institutions as is the case in Morocco and Algeria.

In 2019, AFE was able to make an agreement with the Canadian Embassy in Morocco to provide workspaces for activists connect activists and embassies like the European delegation, Norway or the United States.

The program also supports advocacy actions at regional and international level such as preparation, submission and dissemination of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) reports, a unique mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council where member states of the United Nations are periodically reviewed.

The program supported Egyptian partners to undergo the UPR exercise including UPR training, writing and submission.

As a result of AFE's advocacy efforts and the work on the protection of LGBTIQ+ individuals in the region, the Belgian Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRA), a standard state institution in Europe, contacted AFE to discuss its vision and approach on the protection of LGBTIQ+ asylum seekers from the MENA region.

Following these exchanges, AFE became a benchmark organization and a source of trust by the CGRA institution and therefore by the Belgian state.

The African Commission on Human Rights is the department of the African Union responsible for implementing the African Charter on Human Rights and is the only African body capable of dealing with cases of human rights' violations in the continent. African states base their homophobic and transphobic arguments on the fact that LGBTIQ+ rights are a Western concept and can only represent the lifestyle of Western citizens.

Through its advocacy program, AFE has become the only SOGIE organization representing North Africa in the African Commission on Human Rights session, which contributed to the selection of its director to become one of only 3 people to address the African commissioner in charge of the protection of human rights defenders

AFE has become a visible and active actor on SOGIE issues in the African continent in favor of North Africans and is therefore committed to fully assume its role and to secure additional resources to maintain its participation in this regional space. In 2019, AFE produced many advocacy resources that focused mainly on mapping and documentation of advocacy opportunities, a toolkit around advocacy and a mapping of services in the MENA region.

MEDIA DEPARTMENT (GAB MEDIA CENTER)

MEDIA TRAINING FOR ACTIVISTS

In partnership with HIVOS, AFE's GAB conducted a series of two "Media training for activists" workshops in February and March 2019 in Lebanon. These workshops aimed to increase the capacity of gender rights activists to interact with the media and raise awareness on gender rights issues. Participants were trained on how the media works and how to better communicate with the media.



Participants also gained technical skills to be able to create a zero-budget campaign, such as:

Mobile journalism

The 5 Shots and how to use them

Basic Rules of Shooting

Mobile Video Editing

Storytelling and the 4 Cs

How to tell a story via a storyboard

At the end of both workshops, participants created a campaign for their organizations using the skills they gained. Consequently, 2 campaigns were produced: One that was produced by Marsa Sexual Health Clinic "Marsa4All" and one by a trans* AFE volunteer.

WORKSHOP FOR JOURNALISTS ON GENDER AND SEXUALITY REPORTING WITH FES

In September 2019, with the support of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), GAB Media Center conducted its "Workshop for Journalists on Gender and sexuality reporting." The workshop featured a series of training and discussion sessions that aimed at identifying and addressing the challenges of journalists, particularly those who report on gender, sexuality and LGBT issues in the MENA region.

The workshop was delivered by a list of local journalists, chief editors and experts who work with AFE on improving the reporting on LGBTIQ+ and people living with HIV. Trainers were: local reporter Yumna Fawaz, lawyer and activist Layal Sakr and chief editor at Daraj Diana Mokalled alongside with Head of AFE's M-Coalition Elie Ballan and Head of GAB Media Center Myra Abdallah.

COMMUNITY CENTER (TAYF)

A FAREWELL TO A 3-YEAR JOURNEY WITH TAYF COMMUNITY CENTER

Tayf had an exciting journey in 2019. This community center has become a hub for people of our community to be informed, empowered and to find a community space in the heart of Beirut.

In March 2019, Tayf celebrated the 2nd anniversary, and welcomed more than 25 new people at the center who were trained on HIV prevention messages and attended our "Below the Belt" session. Later that year Tayf moved to a new location where the volunteers launched exciting events such as our annual Iftar dinner and even hosted a special Panel for IDAHOT with community leaders and had a fun discussion about being LGBT now versus 15 years ago. Tayf also hosted educational events which most of our community deals with such as consent, activism, SOGIE and of course personal health and wellbeing.

On December 20th, Tayf had its last event, a Farewell and Christmas dinner ending a 3-year journey for the community center with a big gathering of volunteers and friends. In 2020, Tayf will begin to be more focused on service delivery referral and hosting seasonal events around prevention, living with HIV and community engagement.

Tayf was part of a national research in Lebanon among young MSM to study the impact of community empowering spaces on community behaviors. The end of the community center comes with the end of the research that accompanied it.

tayf طيف



**CAMPAIGNS
AND MORE**

FOR THE FIRST TIME, A CAMPAIGN ON INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

For the first time, AFE released a video on December 3rd for the International Day for People with Disabilities. The video featured activist Sami Ben Younes who spoke about the importance of inclusion and consideration for people with disabilities especially in queer spaces and equality in opportunities. AFE has been working closely with Sami and other activists in the region to ensure inclusion of people with disabilities and on making LGBTI spaces as well as productions and material more adapt and friendly to people with disabilities.



TREATMENT 4 ALL CAMPAIGN: A SHORT VIDEO

AFE's M-Coalition produced a short video and social media posts around Treatment 4 All campaign which started by Solidarité SIDA and that advocates with international donors to increase and include funding for HIV treatments within their mandates.



AFE AT THE DIGNITY NETWORK ROUNDTABLE IN OTTAWA, CANADA

In May 2019, AFE's executive director Georges Azzi attended the Dignity Network Roundtable in Ottawa, Canada on behalf of the organization, alongside nearly 55 other attendees from CSOs across Canada working on human rights for LGBTI people globally, international partners, international donors and staff from various parts of the Canadian government, including the LGBTQ2 Secretariat, Women & Gender Equality and other Ministries with an interest in international LGBTI human rights and inclusive development. AFE's ED also had several meetings organized with Canadian politicians and ministers aiming to work in partnership to improve the situation of LGBTIQ+ communities in the MENA.

SIBA ORGANIZATION SEES THE LIGHT

In December of 2019, SIBA organization was announced. SIBA ("youth" in Arabic), is the first youth-led and youth-focused regional network promoting and fighting for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.

The 3-day meeting gave birth to this dynamic network with great promises for the region specifically adding a key lens to HIV programming. The network selected AFE to be its fiscal and administrative host. SIBA will be implementing activities with the Global Fund, in coordination with M-Coalition and AFE.



The organization was established after a meeting in Sharm El Sheikh in August for youth from over 9 MENA countries with UNAIDS, WHO, UNDP and AFE.



Global Auditing Enterprise

ARAB FOUNDATION for Freedoms & Equality

Balance Sheet
As At 31 December 2019

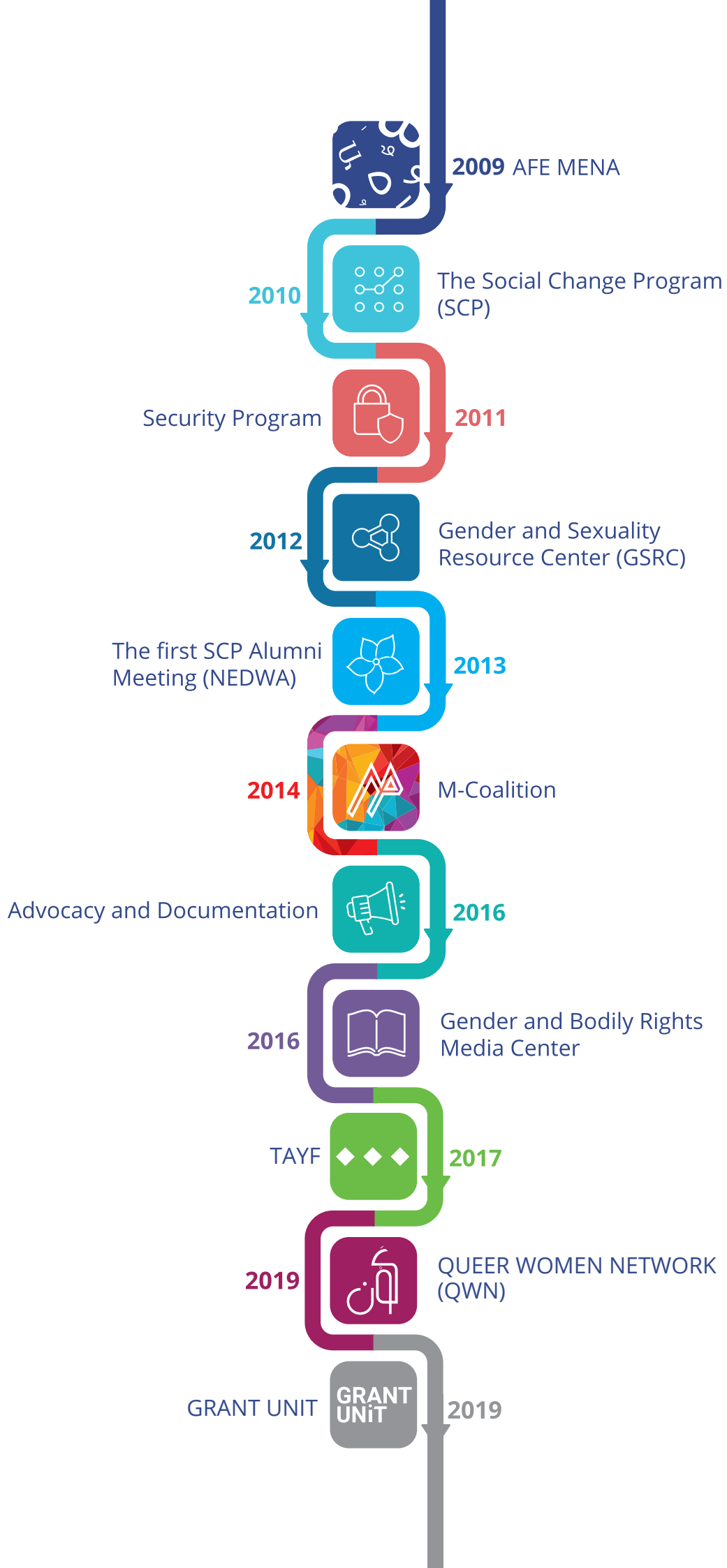
<u>ASSETS</u>	List #	USD
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Cash and Banks	1	701,202
<u>Other Assets</u>		
Deposits Refund		106
<u>Fixed Assets</u>		
Office Equipment		4,138
Computer Equipment		22,511
Furnitures & Fixtures		11,495
Total Fixed Assets		38,144
Less: Accumulated Depreciations		(28,761)
Net Fixed Assets		9,383
TOTAL ASSETS		710,691
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Due To Bank		6,972
Taxes & Duties		2,371
Total Current Liabilities		9,343
<u>Equity</u>		
Reported Net Flow		698,447
Net Excess To Be Utilised		2,901
Total Equity		701,348
TOTAL EQUITY & LIABILITIES		710,691



Global Auditing Enterprise

ARAB FOUNDATION for Freedoms & Equality
Income statement
As At 31 December 2019

<u>DESIGNATION</u>	<u>List #</u>	<u>USD</u>
Donations	2	2,071,352
<u>Operating Charges</u>		
Cost of Project		1,361,323
General Operating Expenses	3	663,749
Taxes & Other Payments		3,257
Fixed Assets Depreciation		2,902
Total Operating Charges		2,031,231
<u>Non Operating Charges</u>		
Bank Interests		3,689
Negative Exchange Difference		33,531
Total Non Operating Charges		37,220
NET EXCESS TO BE UTILISED		2,901



LIST OF DONORS

The African Women's Development Fund
Dutch Ministry
Freedom House
Dutch Embassy
COC Netherlands
DRL
Europea Union
EWB
Tides
FHI-360
IDRC
IRCC
PSOP
FES
OSI
Alternatives Canada
OutRight Action International
Global Fund (Frontline AIDS)
Robert Carr Fund
Mpact (SHAG Consortium)
CRG of the Global Fund
Initiative 5%
Solidarite SIDA (FORSS Consortium)
UNAIDS
Positive Action for MSM and Transgender
Rand
HIVOS
IWPR



ARAB FOUNDATION
 المؤسسة العربية
 for freedoms & equality
 للحريات والمساواة



REGIONAL
 ADVOCACY
 المبادرة الإقليمية



SAFETY
 FIRST
 السلامة أولاً



GENDER & SEXUALITY
 RESOURCE CENTER
 مركز الموارد
 الجندرية والجنسانية



SOCIAL CHANGE
 INSTITUTE
 معهد التغيير
 الاجتماعي



GENDER & BODY
 RIGHTS MEDIA CENTER
 المركز الإعلامي للجندر
 والحقوق الجسدية

