



2018

The Year of Reformation

Annual Report

Muntada - The Arab Forum for Sexuality,
Education and Health (Haifa)



منتدى الجنسية

المنتدى العربي لجنسانية الفرد والأسرة

The year 2018 at a glance

In 2018 after 12 years of official operation we, at Muntada - *The Arab Forum for Sexuality, Education and Health* in Haifa decided to re-formulate internal processes, procedures and administrative hierarchy. These internal developments became necessary to update Muntada with a system that ensures higher transparency, accountability and efficiency in addition to reducing the generation gap by employing youth leaders.

During the year 2018 our community engagement and professional capacity building aimed at raising awareness of Sexual Rights and providing professional engagement tools particularly to marginalized communities. We believe that a good understanding of sexuality and sexual rights while enhancing discourse about sexuality are intrinsically linked to the causes of Gender-based violence and to the promotion of women's bodily integrity. On the backdrop of this, Muntada served more than 1446 direct participants through conducting 1436 hours of field work in cooperation with local, national and regional Organisations.

In addition to that, Muntada published two new guides for professionals; one tackling male and female sexual anatomy and another tackling the most common Sexual Questions & Answers collected by

our interactive online platform. These references were developed to bridge existing gaps concerning resources for engagement tools on Sexual Rights.

Moreover, during the year 2018 we focused on mainstreaming sexual rights through public visibility. This included: three major public events in three different key areas (Shafa'amer, Golan, Daliyat Al Karmel), participating in international days held by UN agencies and in TV programs which focused on Sexual Education in early childhood.

As for Muntada's regional work: we held three regional advanced Sexual Rights trainings - two in Tunisia & one in Egypt - for professionals all over the Arab Region. One training was conducted specifically for audio-visual professionals with the aim of producing audio-visual content challenging cultural and social gender stereotypes distorting the image of Arab women.

Furthermore, we led a first strategic planning workshop for our Egyptian graduates (those who graduated from Muntada's previous regional trainings) in cooperation with Love Matters Egypt for implementing Sexual Rights community engagements in Egypt.





Community Engagement



Muntada's community engagement program serves various target groups aiming to raise awareness on Sexual Rights in society. In 2018 we conducted 1436 workshop hours to 1446 participants. Our workshops focused on serving girls and boys at risk, vulnerable youth groups and parents, in particular mothers.

In our workshops we challenge traditional attitudes, beliefs and perceptions; introduce alternative communication skills to enhance equality and justice within personal and inter-personal relationships; challenge harmful and/or erroneous social norms; promote factual knowledge about topics related to sexuality and gender rights; empower participants to increase their self-confidence in private and public relations, for them to take the lead in a progressively evolving human rights discourse.

During the year 2018 Muntada upgraded its community engagement program (based on field needs) to include specialized Sexual Rights trainings for professionals at their institutions. The necessity of having specialised professional trainings that fit the context and needs of certain professionals evolved, next to our existing community engagement workshops. This extended approach was applied to:

- ① therapeutic institutions serving boys and girls,
- ② schools serving children with Autism,
- ③ schools serving marginalized villages,
- ④ youth protection centres,
- ⑤ kindergartens, and
- ⑥ teams working with disabled people.



Professional Capacity Building

Muntada runs a professional capacity building program for professionals from diverse backgrounds. In this program we offer four different types of courses (held at our office in Haifa):

- ① advanced training course (112-hours course)
- ② group professional supervision,
- ③ individual supervision, and
- ④ a vocational training course.

During the year 2018 we held one advanced training course in Haifa, in addition to supporting two advanced training courses in Ramallah of our sister organisation. Moreover, we conducted one vocational training course for a group of professionals (spanning over 28 hours) which focused on acquiring

group facilitation skills. Professional group supervision meetings were held once per month. Group supervision sessions tackled different topics which emerged from the needs of our target groups and facilitators. These included but were not limited to: adolescents growing up in the era of internet and internet-pornography, Sexual Identity and Homosexuality, Hymen and conceptions of virginity, Love, intimacy and relationships.



During the year 2018, we also collaborated with our sister organisation in Ramallah to produce two, first of its kind professional guidebooks serving as a reference for human rights activists and experts who wish to address Sexual Rights in a sensitive and culturally acceptable manner.

The first guide tackles male and female sexual anatomy and provides users with a set of engagement tools for implementation in the field.



The second guide covers the most common Questions & Answers about sexuality which we receive via our interactive online platform. The guide provides answers on the most common sexual topics that are addressed in the field.



It is worth mentioning that we also support professional group and individual supervision for our sister organization in Ramallah, West Bank. This is in addition to content development and administrative consultation.

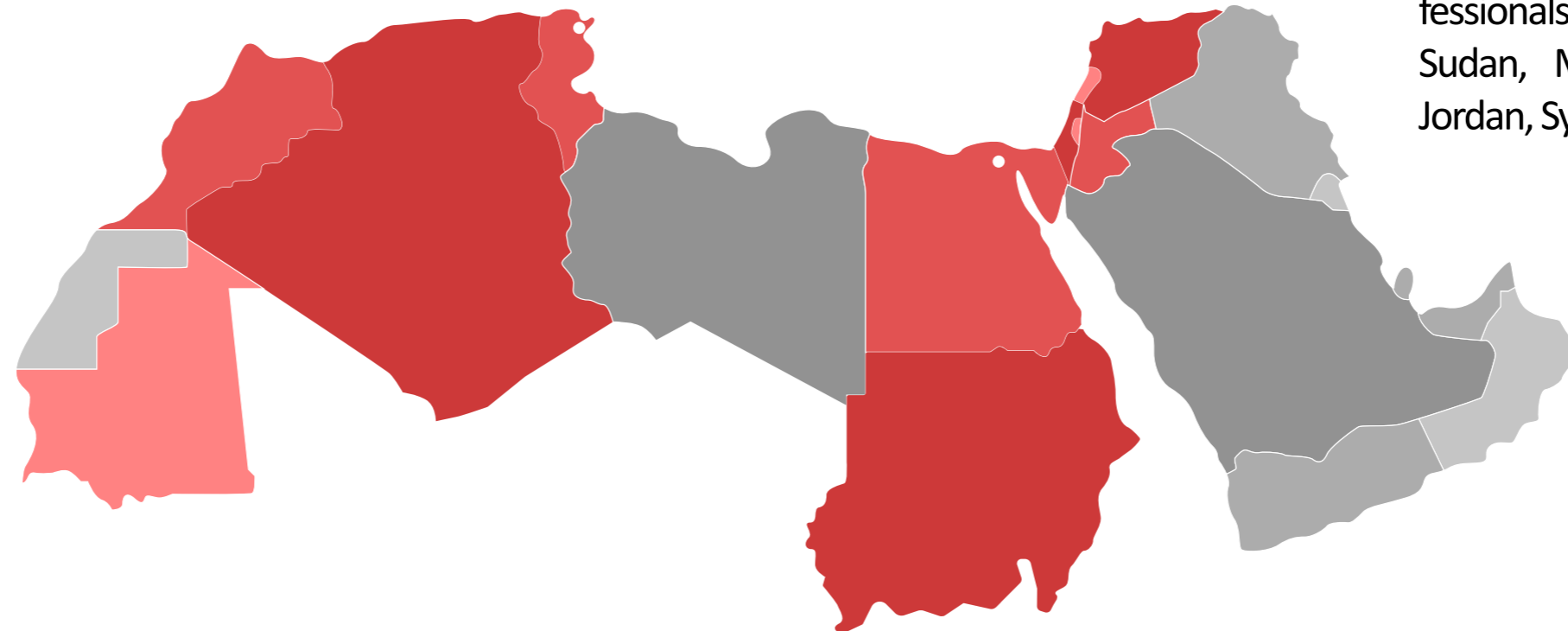




Regional Capacity Building & vocational training

This year we carried out three advanced regional trainings: two in Tunisia (in collaboration with our sister organisation Muntada Al-Jensaneya (Ramallah) and one in Egypt for groups of professionals from around the Arab Region.

One of the trainings was conducted specifically for audio-visual professionals. It was the first time that we focused our regional training to produce audio-visual content challenging cultural and social gender stereotypes which typically distort the image of Arab Women.



In addition to that, by the end of the year we carried out our first official gathering in Egypt for 57 of our Egyptian graduates from various professional backgrounds. Of these, 25 attended a two-day intensive workshop held in cooperation with our partner Love Matters Egypt. The main outcome of the event was an action plan for the year 2019 that contains 52 activities on Sexual Rights awareness to be implemented in the Governorates of Cairo, Alexandria, Suez and Upper Egypt targeting groups of women, youth, children, media university students, parents and transgender. Additionally, a minimum of three lectures are planned to be held reaching 1000 students in Coptic Churches and another 500 students at the October 6 University in Cairo.

By the end of 2018 we can proudly declare that in the last years we have conducted eight regional advanced trainings with a minimum of 120 professionals from all over Egypt, Mauritania, Sudan, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and Palestine.



Visibility in the Public Sphere

In 2018, Muntada went a long way to hold public events with the aim of shifting public discourse on Sexual Rights. During the year we held three major events in diverse locations (Shafa' mer, Golan, and Daleih Al Karmel) with approximately 480 participants. Events were broadcasted online through live streams which allowed viewers from around the Arab Region to view and comment on the broadcast. Local media covered our events as well.

The events themselves served as launching platform for our children-parents' guide titled "Where did I come from?", and discussed acceptable and non-acceptable sexual behaviour of children, opened a space for interactive discussions of parents with local experts, in addition to musical performances related to the subject. It is worth highlighting that this is the first time that Muntada conducted such public events in Golan (occupied part of Syria) and Daliyat Al Carmel which is a Druze town considered to be a conservative community. Despite this fact, we succeeded not only in being able to hold the event but also lending legitimacy to it by having the Director of the Social Services Office holding the opening speech in which he stressed the importance of Sexual Education in our communities.

In another context Muntada's founder Ms. Safa' Tamish was invited to share her personal story as a women leader in an international event held by UN agencies. Hundreds of key people attended the event in addition to those who watched the online livestream. The event was an opportunity for Ms. Tamish to share Muntada's story and vision with international actors.

Moreover, due to the increasing importance of media visibility on both organizational as well as community levels, Muntada invested in training its own cadre of facilitators on media appearance. As a product of these trainings a short film was produced that gathered Muntada's facilitators and discussed how Muntada changed their lives professionally and personally. Check out the short film here:

www.facebook.com/jensaneya/videos/1237896979697644/



Finally, Muntada's cadre participated in several TV programs which focused on Sexual Education in early childhood in addition to contributing to a regional newsletter by Ikhtar Group in Egypt. The newsletter tackled the "Dialectical Body Dignity" which discussed Muntada's experience as a distinct regional model.



Advocacy & Networking

Muntada continues to network with local, regional and international NGOs, Human Rights organizations, Associations and Coalitions to advocate for Sexual Rights in the framework of Human Rights including The Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR), The Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID, The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 13-25 Decision Committee, Personal Status Committee and the Coalition Against Killing of Women.

During the year 2018 three meetings were held by the Personal Status Committee, one of them was attended by Knesset Member Ayda Touma to discuss engagements on policy levels. Moreover, during the year 2018 Muntada was invited to participate in a regional meeting for The Regional Coalition for Human Rights Defenders in Middle East and North Africa; the aim of the meeting was to create a local network capable of creating an alternative discourse to strengthen local and international advocacy and protection processes in addition to ensuring the continuity of the work of women defenders in the area.

Our Website & Social Media

Muntada's website continues to be an interactive hub for local, regional and international visitors. During the year we worked on several promotional and public activities through our various online platforms, which included three main activities:

- ① website promotion through improved SEO words with focus on those relevant to our interactive "I have a Question" corner (main topics being asked: female masturbation, sexual relationships, problems of sexual performance, virginity issues, pregnancy, contraceptive methods and sexual anatomy)
- ② promotion of content through facebook which reached 8235 followers by the end of year. Those activities are part of our strategy to increase our publicity and electronic outreach through online platforms. This fact assisted by receiving more than 1,800,000 website page views from around the Arab Region. And
- ③ creating an Instagram account and establishing a community around it.





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Our Supporters

Our supporters are our partners, together we change and create impact in the lives of people. Thanks to all our donors - in particular to The Open Society Foundation, Diakonia/NAD, Mediterranean Women Fund and Oxfam Novib for their generous support and dedication to the cause.

