



MENA

**Community
Protection
Network**

supported by



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

MENA Community Protection Network: Strengthening collaboration across MENA

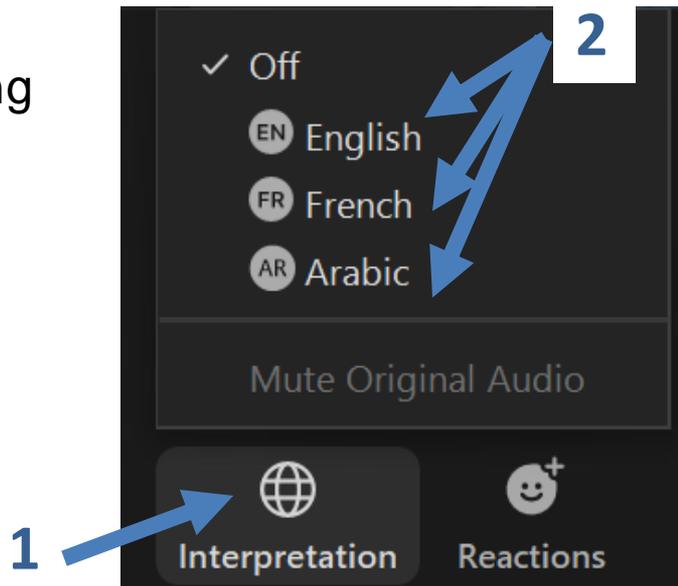
21 March 2024

12:30- 14:00 Amman Time

How to choose your language channel

1. Bring your cursor to the bottom of the Zoom meeting window. From the pop-up meeting controls menu, select **Interpretation**
2. Select your language from the language menu

To hear the interpreted language only, click **Mute Original Audio**



This meeting will be recorded in all languages

How to enable closed captioning

Zoom's live transcription currently only supports English and is generated automatically from the platform. The accuracy of the auto-transcription is not 100%.

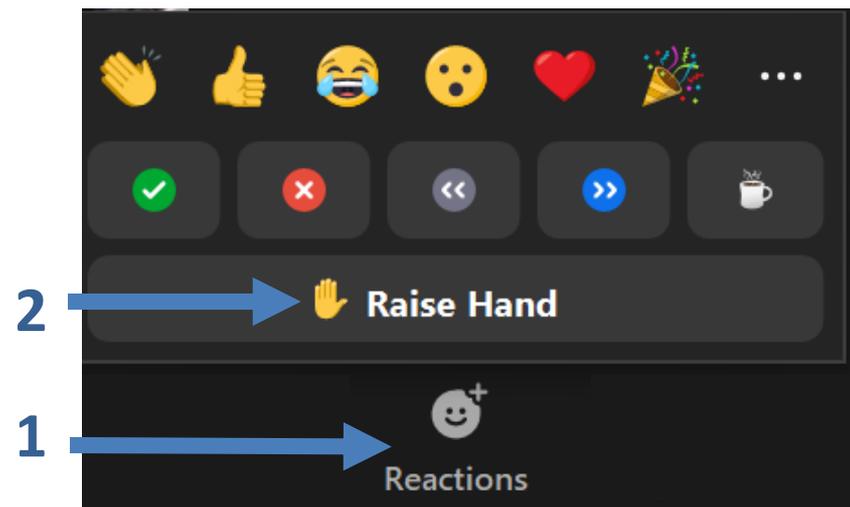
To enable this feature, bring your cursor to the bottom of the Zoom meeting window. From the pop-up meeting controls menu, select Live Transcript and enable for your viewing. It may be under the 'more' button, indicated with three dots (...)



How to ask a question

To ask a question or make a remark, raise your hand through the Zoom button. Once you are called up, you can unmute your microphone and speak in English, Arabic or French.

1. Bring your cursor to the bottom of the Zoom meeting window. From the pop-up meeting controls menu, select **Reactions**
2. Click on the **Raise Hand** button.



Participants may put questions and comments in the chat at any time during the meeting.

The UNHCR MENA Community-based Protection team



Ana Belen



Helena



Kimon



Dida

Agenda

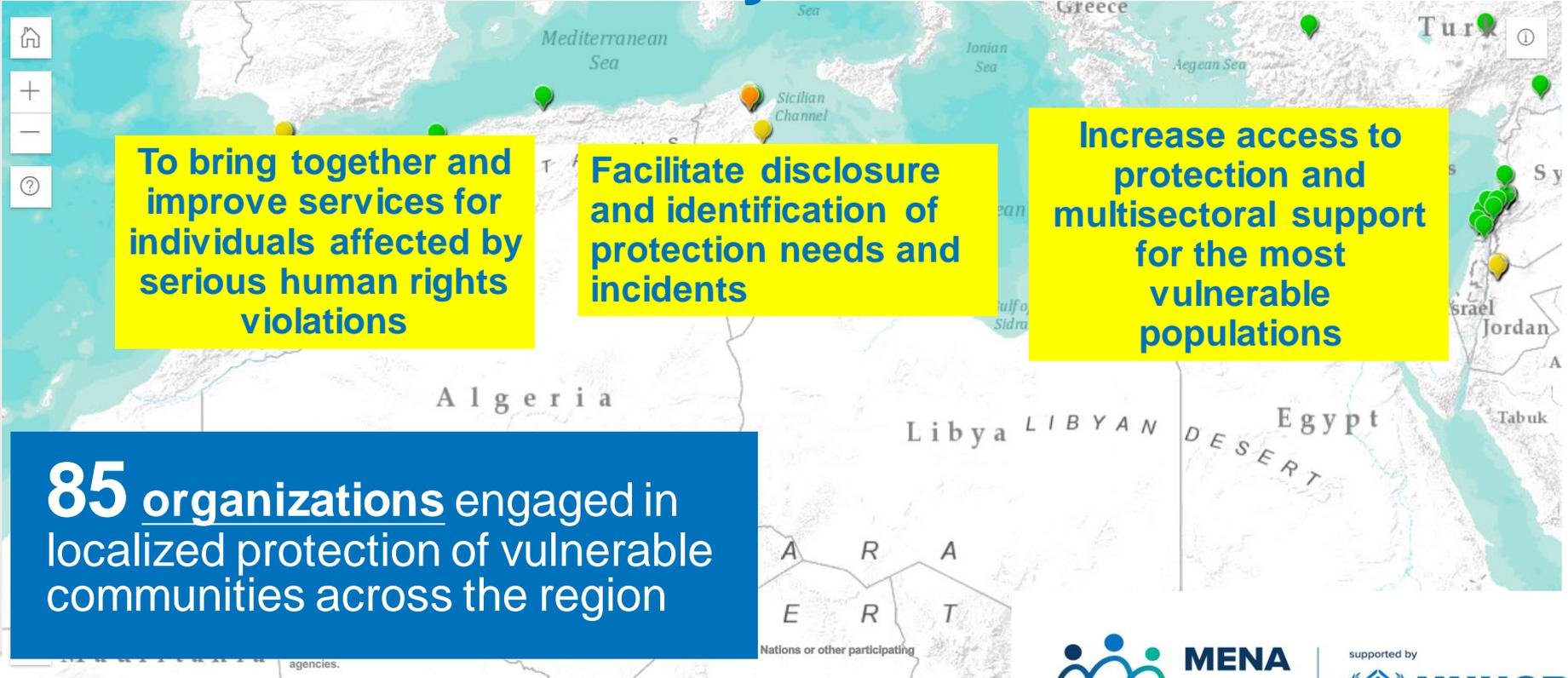
- The **MENA Community Protection Network**: Background, objectives, benefits, partnership and mapping ,achievements and challenges.
- **Insights and experiences** from the Network (Members-led session)
- **Group Work Activity**: 2024 Priorities
- Q&A /AOB



Background

- Globally: 108.4 M Forcibly displaced, UNHCR protects and/or assists 113 M
- In MENA: UNHCR serves about 16 M people - 6.5 M Syrian, Iraqi, Somali, Sudanese, Yemeni, Malian, others*
- Violence, exploitation, abuse, GBV, child labour, trafficking and smuggling and lack and limited access to information and services, poverty.
- Increasing challenges to reach most vulnerable people in hard-to-reach and remote areas.
- UNHCR/Washington University Research 'Invisible Needs' to improve outreach to vulnerable people in North Africa

The MENA Community Protection Network



To bring together and improve services for individuals affected by serious human rights violations

Facilitate disclosure and identification of protection needs and incidents

Increase access to protection and multisectoral support for the most vulnerable populations

85 organizations engaged in localized protection of vulnerable communities across the region



Main activities

1. Mapping of safe services

2. Outreach, disclosure and safe referrals

3. Capacity development & good practices

4. Identification of information needs & joint messages

5. Analyzing protection trends through information systems

6. Other support activities identified by network members

The Portal

About
the
Network



the move, and those in hard-to-reach areas. The Network aims at increasing outreach at any particular location, or through activities such as awareness-raising in a manner that underscores the age, gender and diversity (AGD) policy, human rights and community-based approaches fostering an environment free of discrimination and persecution, and one that promotes inclusion and specialized protection. The Network map below--currently hosted by UNHCR in beta form--allows for quick and secure identification of participating organizations' services and target populations (e.g. by gender, age, displacement status, and vulnerabilities) as a means to promote safe disclosure and referrals among partners, including community-based organizations, civil society organizations, faith-based organizations, NGOs, national institutions, and UN agencies.



[Open in new window](#)

The Map



MENA Community Protection Network

Learning



Training Materials



Lesson 1. Disclosing and Identifying international protection needs in the Middle East and North Africa

[Download](#) [View](#) | 21.48 MB |
Download Count: 123

Introduction to Disclosing and Identifying international protection needs in the MENA region.

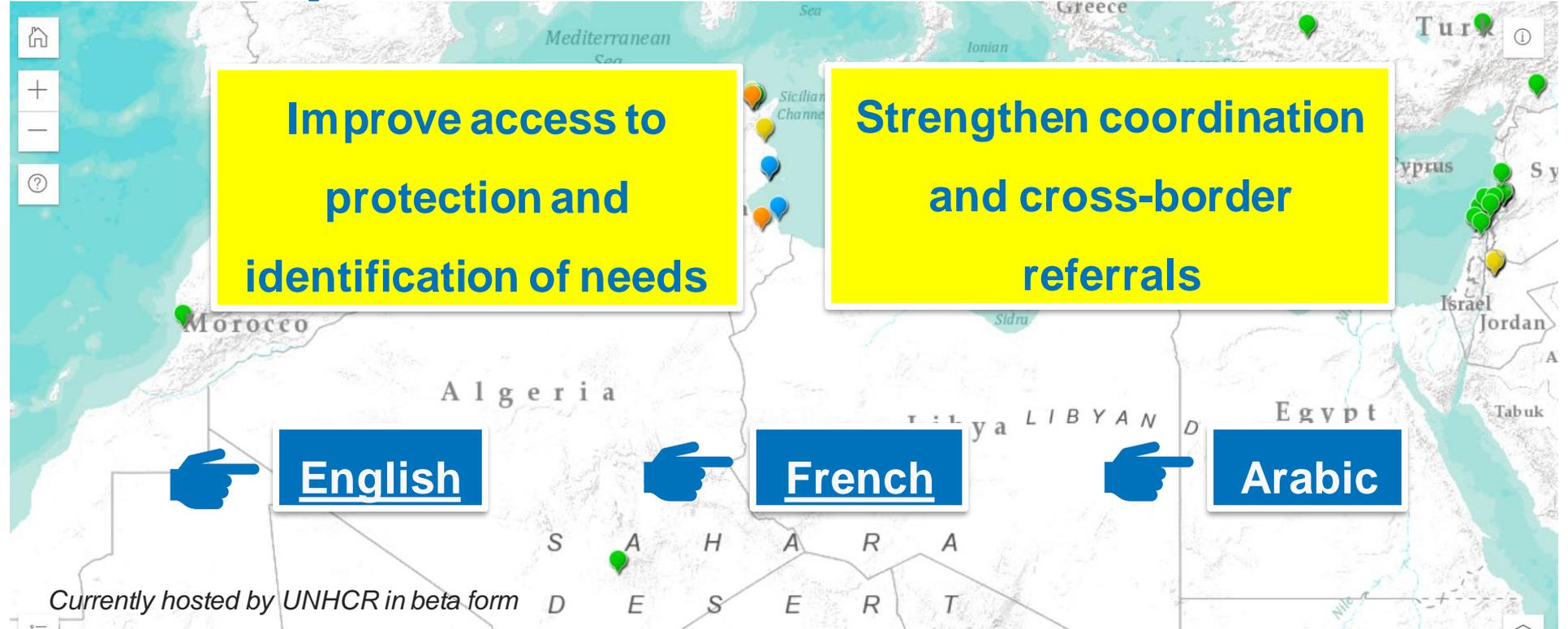
Publish date: 12 April 2023

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[Working Group: MENA Community Protection Network \(unhcr.org\)](https://www.unhcr.org)



The Map



Improve access to protection and identification of needs

Strengthen coordination and cross-border referrals

English

French

Arabic

Currently hosted by UNHCR in beta form

Quarterly update and members verification



Benefits of engagement in the Network

- Promote the exchange of **good practices**, build **trust**, and facilitate **referrals**;
- Establish and maintain **cross-border referral pathways** in accordance with the principles of confidentiality and the respect for the wishes and needs of the affected populations; **cross-border awareness-raising campaigns** and communication with communities;
- **Capacity development and horizontal learning**, sharing policy guidelines, coordination and protection tools, and lessons learned.

How to become member

- ❑ Fill application form [MENA Community Protection Network Application Form](#) by **1 April**
- ❑ Meet the fundamental requirements and code of conduct:
 - Work with forcibly displaced, stateless persons
 - Conduct outreach, or provide protection or multisectoral services
 - Respect human rights, community-based and age, gender, and diversity approaches



ReboToolbox Choose Language English

Community Protection Network in MENA

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this survey. Your organization's information will be displayed on a beta version of an online map of service providers and organizations supporting refugees and migrants in North Africa. You can consult an example of a similar map that was created for the Americas region. Since the UNHCR plans to eventually make this map openly accessible on an online platform, please only provide information that your organization is comfortable sharing on the internet. If your organization operates in multiple countries or multiple sites in the same country, please complete this survey form for each site. If you offer the same services at each site, you may complete only "Part 1" for each additional site after submitting for the first site.

New organizations will be added to the map by UNHCR on a quarterly basis. The next update will be in June 2022.

Part 1: Basic organizational information

1.1 Organization name

1.2 Organization type
Please select the type from the following 9 labels. Please
Click here to upload file. (10MB)

1.3 Country of operation

- Western Sahara
- Mauritania
- Morocco
- Tunisia
- Algeria
- Lebanon
- Turkey
- Syria
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Kuwait
- UAE
- Yemen
- Other

1.4 Organization address

latitude (x,y)

longitude (x,y)

address

accuracy

search for place or address



1.5 Would you like your exact address to appear on the map, or only the city where you operate?

Member-led Panel



Gashbun Organization

- Presenter Name: Hikmat Issa Rasheed
- Country: Iraq
- Non- governmental Organization - Protection and psychosocial Counseling
- Established in 2015
- Focus on: Refugees, IDPs and host community
- Member since in 2023

Arab Women's Organization (AWO)

- Presenter Name: Dania Al Mousa
- Country: Jordan
- National women-led NGO - advocating for legal reforms & promoting gender equality
- Founded in 1970
- Focus on: Vulnerable Jordanian & Syrian refugee women & girls
- Member since in 2023

Social Researcher Foundation for Development

- Presenter Name: Mohammed Idris
- Country: Yemen
- Community-Based Organization
- Established in 2017
- Focus on: Host Community, Refugees, Migrants, IDPs and diverse groups
- Member since 2023

Gashbun Organization

What is localized protection/safe identification and disclosure in your country and what challenges have you faced in providing protection to specific needs groups?

Focus on women and child protection, sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in Kurdistan (Iraq) through prevention and response:

- **Prevention:** Awareness raising campaigns using different communication channels, awareness group sessions for community members and community local committees (women/students/refugees/IDPs committees, community leaders' capacity, etc), capacity building trainings for service providers (governmental and non- governmental sectors).
 - **Response:** case management, comprehensive approach to support women and children at risk and survivors of different types of violence. Assessing survivors' needs, providing moral, financial and emotional support, connecting beneficiaries with the appropriate services such as counseling, legal or medical care, as well as ensuring their safety.
- Challenges:** Services not available for referrals, societal norms (stigma, LGBTIQ+ etc.), lack of protection capacity for referral actors, legal challenges and child exploitation, limited support to NGOs from government and donors.

Arab Women's Organization (AWO)

How does participation in the Community Protection Network contribute to overcome these challenges?

- **Resource Sharing and Capacity Building:** to access a wider pool of resources and participate in capacity-building initiatives. This support has been instrumental in enhancing our programs, particularly in GBV response initiatives.
- **Knowledge Exchange and Best Practices:** to share and learn best practices in GBV prevention and response, safe identification and disclosure, and economic empowerment strategies. This exchange enriches our programs and adapts them more effectively to our community's needs.
- **Innovative Approaches to Engagement:** to adopt innovative strategies for engaging not only women and girls but also men and boys in gender equality and GBV prevention efforts. This inclusive approach promotes community-wide support for change.
- **Responsive to Evolving Needs:** to stay at the forefront of emerging challenges and adapt strategies accordingly. The network's collective insight and support have been crucial in navigating crises, ensuring continuity and adaptability of protection services.

Social Researcher Foundation for Development (SRFD)

How does participation in the Community Protection Network contribute to overcome these challenges?

- Through this network, SRFD has been able to apply for a small grant. As a result, we have been able to serve 207 registered and recognized individuals with disabilities within our community. The network in Yemen such as the clusters has played a crucial role in connecting these individuals with service providers in the area, who were previously unknown to them. Additionally, through our efforts, we have successfully raised awareness among 738 individuals from various communities, empowering them to become advocates for and supporters of people with disabilities.

Achievements and challenges

Achievements

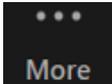
- **Inclusive learning**: workshops and online learning events with over **300 participants** from Community-based and grassroots organizations
- **18 New members in 2023. 85 members** in 11 countries in MENA.
- **14 Grants to** community and grassroots organizations in 8 countries
- **Network website**: mapping, protection and learning tools in En, Fr, Ar.

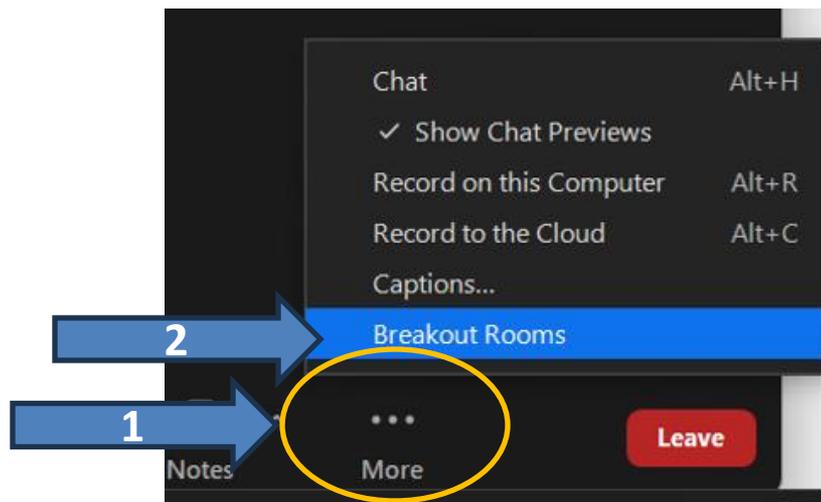
Remaining Challenges

- **Access** (physical and digital) to hard-to-reach or isolated locations and safety or **security concerns** impacting information sharing.
- **Diverse needs & capacities***
- **Conflicting priorities**
- **Reduced resources** & decrease of support to communities.

How to join a breakout room

To join the breakout rooms during the interactive exercise, you can do so by following the steps:

1. Bring your cursor to the bottom of the Zoom meeting window. From the pop-up meeting controls menu, select  **More**
2. Click on the **Breakout Rooms** button.
3. Join the room in your preferred Language
 1. English
 2. Arabic
 3. French



Group activity – Breakout Rooms

Instructions: Please select one of the groups according to your language preferences

- Group 1 Kimon: English language
- Group 2 Helena: French language
- Group 3 Dida: Arabic language



Next Steps



Continue

outreach to communities and grassroots organizations



Disseminate

the map among communities and grassroots organizations



Improve

accessibility through enhanced digital approaches



Consider

enhancing Community Protection Network at country level



Prioritize

capacity development



Identify

Information needs and joint messaging



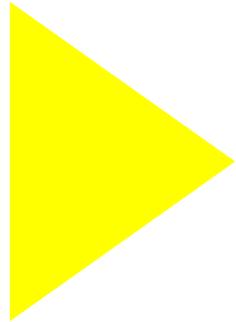
Increase

Access to Protection and services across borders



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Next Meeting of the MENA Community Protection Network – June



AOB Questions?



Thank you!

UNHCR MENA Protection Service - Community based Protection Team :

Ana Belen Anguita Arjona

Senior Community-Based Protection Officer, UNHCR MENA Regional Protection Service anguita@unhcr.org

Helena Pes

Communications Consultant pes@unhcr.org

Kimon IOANNIDES

Strengthening Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) in MENA Consultant ioannidk@unhcr.org

Dida Al- Hamzi

Community-Based Protection Assistant (RUNV), alhamzi@unhcr.org

