



Annual Report

2022



African Middle Eastern Leadership Project (AMEL)
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Mission

To mobilize, empower, and unite young leaders and activists from the Middle East and Africa (MEA) to build resilient, inclusive societies that are free from discrimination, persecution, and violent coercion, and to advocate for policies in support of these goals.

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Vision

AMEL trains and empowers young civic activists from the MEA region, and connects them with one another, as well as with peers, leaders, and audiences in the Global North, in order to advance dignity and rights for all.

AMEL LEADERSHIP

TEAM



Mohamed Abubakr



Megan Hallahan

LEADERSHIP

BOARD



Justin Hefter



Jenna Gebel Chaiken



Richard Weir



Dodie McCracken

OFFICERS



Saul Gorman

TREASURER

ADVISORY BOARD



Nicholas Opiyo



Ann Pence



Mark Kirk



Dennis Ross



Steven Feldstein



Larry Diamond

AMEL INSTITUTE – REGIONAL

2022 Milestones

Nearly 200 young leaders from 35+ countries across Africa and the Middle East participated in the 2022 AMEL Institute regional training program, which significantly boosted knowledge and skills, according to an independent evaluation.

In the Summer of 2022, a total of 182 young civic leaders from 35+ countries across the Middle East and Africa (MEA) took part in the intensive 6-module AMEL Institute online training program. Trainees were:

- selected based on their civic activism, experience and commitment;
- evenly split, approximately, between young men and women, with some participants identifying as nonbinary;
- 27 years of age, on average.



Of the 216 who completed enrollment, 182 actively participated, watching video lectures, participating in webforum and Zoom discussion, and completing quizzes and assignments on the topics of:

- Human Rights & Gender Equity
- Safety & Self-care/Mental Health
- Holocaust & Genocide History & Prevention
- Democratic Development
- Non-violent Movements, Conflict & Peace
- Communication Tools/Techniques

By early September 2022, when the training program concluded, 130 had fulfilled the requirements to earn a certificate. An independent evaluation by Metris found significant knowledge, skill and capacity increases among trainees (some of the highlights are included on pages 7-8).

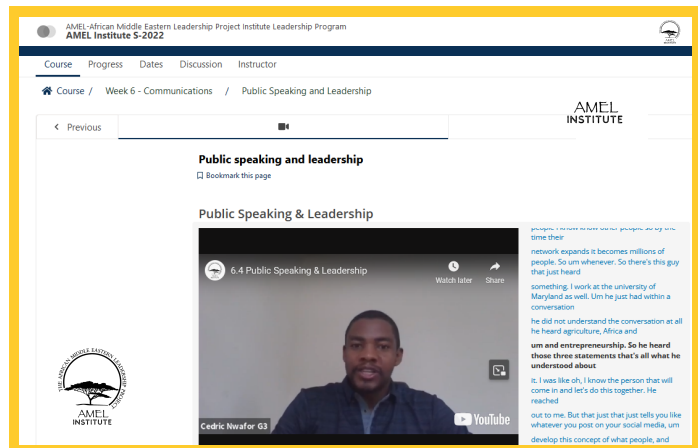
Trainees* were from:

Algeria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Chad
Dem.Rep. of Congo
Egypt
The Gambia
Ghana
Iraq
Ivory Coast
Kenya
Lebanon
Libya
Mauritania
Morocco
Niger
Nigeria
Republic of Congo
Rwanda
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Africa
Sudan
Tanzania
Togo
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Yemen
Zimbabwe

**Trainees who earned certificates*

PLATFORM & LANGUAGES

The 2022 cohort was the first to use AMEL's newly developed training website, created using Open edX technology. The site improves accessibility of the content, which now includes translations of all course content (instructions, lectures, quizzes, and assignments) in 3 languages: English, Arabic and French.



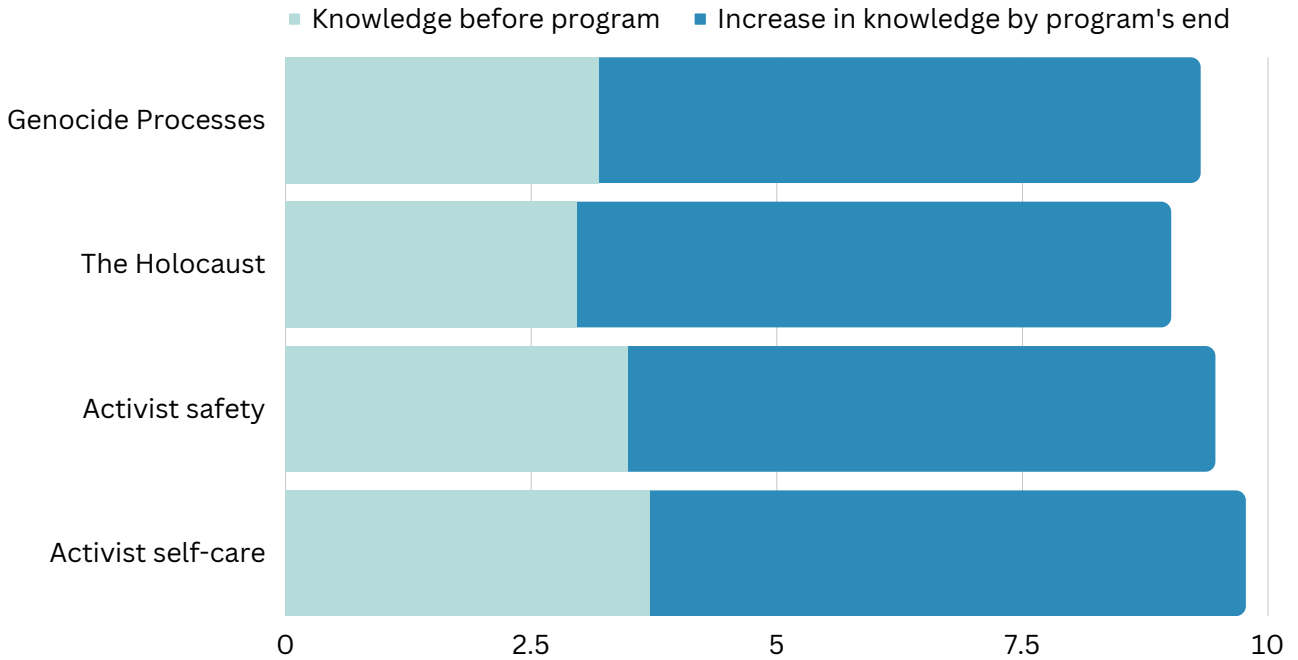
MENTORS & ALUMNI

The experience of the 2022 cohort was also improved thanks to mentoring by AMEL Alumni and other inspiring young leaders from across the region, who served as interns and volunteers. AMEL's Intern & Volunteer program (AIV) builds skills and experience among young changemakers while simultaneously boosting AMEL's programming and community engagement. In total, 22 participated in the AIV program in 2022.

Throughout the year, we also continually engaged the full AMEL Alumni network (young leaders from 35+ countries across Africa, the Middle East and the Global North), a community that grew from 500 to more than 650 during 2022. Engagement included ongoing opportunity sharing, periodic online sessions, and the aforementioned AIV program.

AMEL INSTITUTE IMPACT – AT A GLANCE

Knowledge Increases*



Capacity Increases*



*data from the independent evaluation conducted by Metris

AMEL INSTITUTE TESTIMONIALS

“
I got a lot of information I didn't know previously, like how the Holocaust happened, genocide and how to avoid causing it in my community and country...managing my communications and safety tools to use, how to create awareness for my activities...more about democracy too.
”

— Trainee from Nigeria

“
Honestly it's the best human rights program I've ever participated in. I loved the pace of the modules and the content was very interesting and makes you attached to the topics. I also loved the weekly interaction - it almost feels like we're a family now and we can have each other's backs.
”

— Trainee from Lebanon

AMEL INSTITUTE – SUDAN

2022 Milestones

Boosted democracy awareness and knowledge of thousands all across Sudan and expanded the AMEL Team to include Omar Alawad as Sudan Project Manager.

AMEL Institute’s Sudan Democracy Action Project (SDAP) – launched in 2020 with the support of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) – focuses on building democracy knowledge and capacity among Sudanese youth through innovative means, including online training.

During 2022, we worked to monitor and promote the SDAP online course, which features lectures by Sudanese experts and practitioners on topics such as human rights, the rule of law, combatting impunity,

democratic development, and women, peace, and security. Throughout the year, the course was promoted to our database of 2,300 youth across Sudan, as well as AMEL's various social media channels and relevant activist networks. With the course in a self-paced format, hundreds of young Sudanese enrolled in the course during the year and completed components of it, or the entirety of the course in accordance with their own availability. Throughout 2022, lessons from the online course were also spread through other methods, including YouTube and downloadable files, in order to expand our impact to those facing connectivity issues.



During the year, SDA also focused on the development of a second online course to delve further into democracy issues in the context of Sudan. The recordings of the video lectures for the new course was nearly completed by the end of 2022 and 8 lessons were live-streamed on the SDA Facebook page, reaching over 300,000 people all over Sudan to further spread democracy awareness and knowledge across the country.

AMEL ISSUES AND ALLYSHIP

2022 Milestones

Over 600 actions carried out to provide issue education, updates, and briefings to officials, diplomats, policymakers, and staffers at the highest international levels.

Issue Education in Global Halls of Power

An important facet of AMEL's work in 2022 was to elevate within global power centers the needs, updates and insights emanating from human rights and democracy movements across the Middle East and Africa (MEA). Throughout the year, AMEL carried out a myriad of actions to update and educate global policymakers and influencers on MEA human rights and democracy issues and the generational shifts that are increasingly shaping the region. AMEL President

Mohamed Abubakr participated in the US-Africa Summit and other international fora throughout the year, regularly engaging with the international community, including American, European and Middle Eastern policymakers and influencers. Key issue education topics included regional tensions, public opinion trends and regional security. AMEL was also active in international efforts to salvage the democratic transition in Sudan in the aftermath of the October 2021 coup.



Throughout it all, AMEL endeavored to bridge the gap between the frontlines of movements for human rights and democracy in the MEA region and global halls of power. Working at the critical intersection between activists and decision-makers, AMEL helped fill critical information gaps and to build awareness and understanding in order to bolster relations around shared values. All and all, more than 600 actions were carried out during the year, with a particular focus on elevating the efforts of the burgeoning young generation of MEA to advance freedom, equality, human rights, justice, peace and democracy.

AMEL Incubator: Promoting Allyship

In 2022, AMEL continued serving as an incubator for the Inter-Jewish Muslim Alliance (IJMA) and the Middle East and North Africa Advocates for Gender Equality (MENA-AGE). This included providing a legal and financial framework, as well as sharing know-how and best practices in building such initiatives and preparing for spin-offs into independent organizations.

IJMA activities in 2022 focused on letter writing campaigns and webinars to build understanding and allyship among Jewish and Muslim communities in the United States. Meanwhile MENA-AGE spun off into an independent entity in 2022. Additional AMEL Allyship activities during the year included providing assistance for individuals whose identity or activism put them at risk. With high demand in this area, we began exploring the creation of new mechanisms and partnerships to better meet the ever-increasing needs.



PRIORITIES FOR 2023

Programmatic

- Expand the reach and impact of the AMEL Institute regional training program for activists all across Africa and the Middle East;
- Further build democracy knowledge and skills among Sudanese young leaders;
- Build and strengthen relations and allyship among diverse communities, AMEL Alumni and activists across the region;
- Provide issue education at the highest international levels and develop a research program to bolster the impact.

Organizational

- Scale proven models and test new initiatives to expand impact;
- Grow team and organization;
- Prepare for expanded growth in 2024 and beyond!



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS:

- Kirsh Foundation
- Covington & Burling LLP
- The National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
- Grossman Young & Hammond
- The Libitzky Family Fund
- Goodman Family Supporting Foundation, a supporting foundation of the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund
- Steve and Janice Hefter Family Foundation
- Sklar Family Fund
- Bimah Foundation
- Network for Good
- Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund
- Schwab Charitable
- African Leadership Academy
- Chapter Four Uganda
- Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Center
- Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum



**Plus thousands of activists, advocates & allies
all across Africa, the Middle East and the globe!**



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