

HIVOS IN THE MENA REGION



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR SOCIAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

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Hivos is an international organization driven by the conviction that a sustainable, just, and inclusive world is possible. Active in the MENA region since 2004, Hivos forges partnerships with individuals, groups and organizations that share our vision of advancing human rights and democracy and creating inclusive societies. We advocate for the rights and aspirations of often-overlooked groups, including women and girls, unemployed youth, marginalized communities, refugees, and internally displaced persons. Together we focus on tackling the climate crisis, dismantling institutionalized gender inequality, promoting human rights, and advocating for robust accountability mechanisms.

Climate Justice and a just transition

The climate crisis not only threatens the environment, but also deepens existing social and economic inequalities, thus putting youth and women on the frontlines of the crisis. The region already has a very high level of youth unemployment, and its extreme vulnerability to climate change only further hinders economic development. Hivos works with those most impacted by the climate crisis and puts their innovative ideas to use, because they have huge untapped potential to be powerful agents for climate action and economic development.

Our recent green entrepreneurship programs have created thousands of jobs for young people in North Africa. And a new program, [Sharaka](#), is raising public awareness around climate change by connecting civil society organizations with media actors. In Tunisia, our [Voices for Just Climate Action](#) program brings together activists and organizations to build a strong regional movement advocating for sustainable and inclusive climate solutions.

Championing gender equality

Inequality and discrimination, coupled with political repression, have a terrible impact on girls and women in particular. That is why we support them in building resilient movements, and together we advocate for policies, laws and public services that advance equality for all.

Our current [We Lead](#) program empowers young women and girls to take the lead in advocating for their sexual and reproductive health and rights. It creates safe spaces for them to collaborate and supports them in formulating their demands and carrying out advocacy.

Our previous programs focused on advancing women's participation in political and social spheres. In Lebanon and Jordan, we successfully increased women's political participation and leadership roles through targeted training and support networks.

Promoting transparency & accountability

We're witnessing a steady loss of civic rights and freedoms, the rapid spread of disinformation, divisive rhetoric, and the exclusion of marginalized groups, which undermine democratic participation. Hivos is committed to enhancing freedom of expression and fostering an informed public discourse—essential tools for safeguarding civic rights. Through the [Qudurat](#) program, we empower media actors and independent media organizations to counter digital and legal threats, combat disinformation, and provide reliable, inclusive, and fact-based information. These efforts help the public engage meaningfully in defending freedom of expression in Tunisia.

PROGRAMS

SharaKa

Raising climate awareness and fostering grassroots movements for climate justice across the MENA region

Qudurat

Building resilience in Independent Media to strengthen Freedom of Expression

Connect, Defend, Act!

Supporting civil society in promoting democratic governance and human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory, Colombia, Indonesia and Malawi

SPACE (Support and Protection to Activists' and Civil Society efforts)

Protecting the rights of Freedom of Assembly and Expression and supporting the work of Civil Society Organizations, Media Actors and Human Rights Defenders.

We Lead

Supporting young women and girls in protecting their sexual health and advocating for their rights

AfriFOODlinks

Paving the way for innovative urban food systems in Africa by fostering action and knowledge exchange between Africa and Europe

Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA)

Empowering local civil society and underrepresented groups to lead innovative climate solutions, ensuring their central role in addressing the societal and ethical dimensions of the climate crisis

The Challenge Fund for a Just Transition (CFJT)

Supporting green Small and Growing Businesses (SGBs) in North Africa, contributing to climate change mitigation and providing sustainable, decent jobs in the region's green transition

Examples of impact

We Lead: Through the We Lead program, Hivos has established a network of 32 organizations across Jordan and Lebanon, creating a resilient Community of Action (COAs). These organizations, strengthened by subgrants, are inclusive of or led by young women in both countries. Together, they lead local efforts dedicated to advocating for and defending sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). This collaborative network empowers local civil society organizations to work effectively in advancing SRHR, ensuring diverse and youth-led voices are at the forefront of this critical movement.

GreenWorks: The GreenWorks Alliance (2020–2024) was led by Hivos and included over 15 members, amongst which incubators, accelerators, think tanks, vocational training institutes, and angel investment networks in Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia and the Netherlands.

- Young people trained: 10,200
- Young people employed: 7,800
- Enterprises supported in Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia: 370
- Leverage in funding for social enterprises: >10M euro

The [Freedom of Expression and Information in Tunisia](#) project strengthened the skills and legal knowledge of 156 journalists, fostered community partnerships, and established lasting fact-checking practices, including the Tunifact unit, which conducted 1,395 fact checks and 84 in-depth analyses between 2021 and 2023 to combat fake news in Tunisia. With our new program [Qudurat](#) we continue to work with journalists in the region.

Countries of intervention



Hivos' work spans several countries across the MENA region, including Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, and Palestine (oPt). Each intervention is tailored to the unique challenges and opportunities present in these regions.

About Hivos

Hivos has three strategic focus areas, [Climate Justice](#), [Gender Equality Diversity and Inclusion \(GEDI\)](#) and [Civic Rights in a Digital Age \(CRDA\)](#). We support a vibrant global community of courageous and innovative organizations and allies who work to realize their solutions for more just and equal societies. With over 500 partners, we strive to bring about transformational social changes that benefit all, but especially the most underrepresented groups in society. Our partnerships and networks span Indigenous and youth organizations, frontrunners in environmental justice, women's and human rights defenders, artists, journalists and independent media, and transparency advocates. This expertise is complemented by that of our large network of civil society partners.

We are keen to collaborate, co-create and scale up impactful programs with our implementation and development partners. Please contact us at mena@hivos.org.