

Youth for Change

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Writing for Change

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Overview

A brief explanation/summary of the project/program that was conducted (1-2 paragraphs). This is so someone can understand your project/program without having to read the entire report.

Should identify:

- What is the problem/ topic being addressed?
- Why did you choose this topic?
- What was your proposed solution?
- How successful was the project/program?

More than XX% of women in Morocco are illiterate, due to the lack of access to education. As a result many women are unable to apply for jobs and receive the same opportunities as those who are literate. Our team chose to focus on women's education as we come from families who have experienced these disadvantages first hand and feel as though no one should have to live through that scenario. As a result, we conducted a week-long program to teach a group of Moroccan women how to read and write in Arabic which proved to be quite successful.

Goals

In a few bullet points, briefly describe the goals the project/program was hoping to accomplish. These should be specific, measurable, and reasonable.

- 1. Teach Moroccan women how to write the Arabic alphabet**
- 2. Teach Moroccan women how to write their names**
- 3. Teach Moroccan women to read short passages**

Specifications

In about a page or two address the following questions in detail:

- What was the problem being addressed?
- Why did you choose this topic?
- What was your proposed solution?
 - What activities were done?
 - What was the funding used for?
- How successful was the project/program?
 - How long was the event?
 - How many participants/beneficiaries were there?
 - What went well during the program?
 - What problems or weaknesses occurred?
- What did you learn personally from this experience?
- How could Atlas for Development better prepare you for this experience if at all?

More than XX% of women in Morocco are illiterate, due to the lack of access to education. As a result many women are unable to apply for jobs and receive the same opportunities as those who are literate.

The problem we wanted to address is the lack of opportunities Moroccan women have due to being illiterate. XX% of Moroccan women have no experience with reading or writing. Whereas XX% of women have some experience reading but no experience writing. The reason we chose this topic is we come from families who have personally faced these disadvantages. Many of us are the first in our families to receive a proper education.

Our solution was to run a week-long program to teach Moroccan women the reading and writing skills they need to be successful in life. There were a total of fifty women who participated in the event who had no prior reading or writing experience. The age of the participants varied from early thirties to late sixties. The ladies were split into five groups containing ten individuals along with an instructor. The first two days consisted of writing and recognizing the letters in the Arabic alphabet. On day three each woman was taught how to properly write her name. The last two days of the program consisted of reading and comprehending brief passages we prepared before the class, along with writing copies of those passages in order to practice penmanship.

Overall the program went very well. The women were very invested in the topic and seemed to enjoy their time. By the end of the five days all fifty women were able to write their names on their own and read small passages with little assistance. The main issue that occurred was making sure we had enough instructors during the program. Ideally we would have liked to have ten instructors, resulting in smaller learning groups consisting of five people. This would have allowed the women to have more one on one assistance to help them further excel in their reading and writing skills.

What we learned personally from this experience is there is a lot more planning and organization that goes into running a program than we initially thought. You have to make sure there is a location that all of the participants can easily access and not have to travel far to get to. We had to make sure there were enough supplies for everyone in the



Figure 1: The team/instructors preparing for participants arrival

program such as pencils, pens, along with tables and chairs. Catering was required as well since the program took up most of the day, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

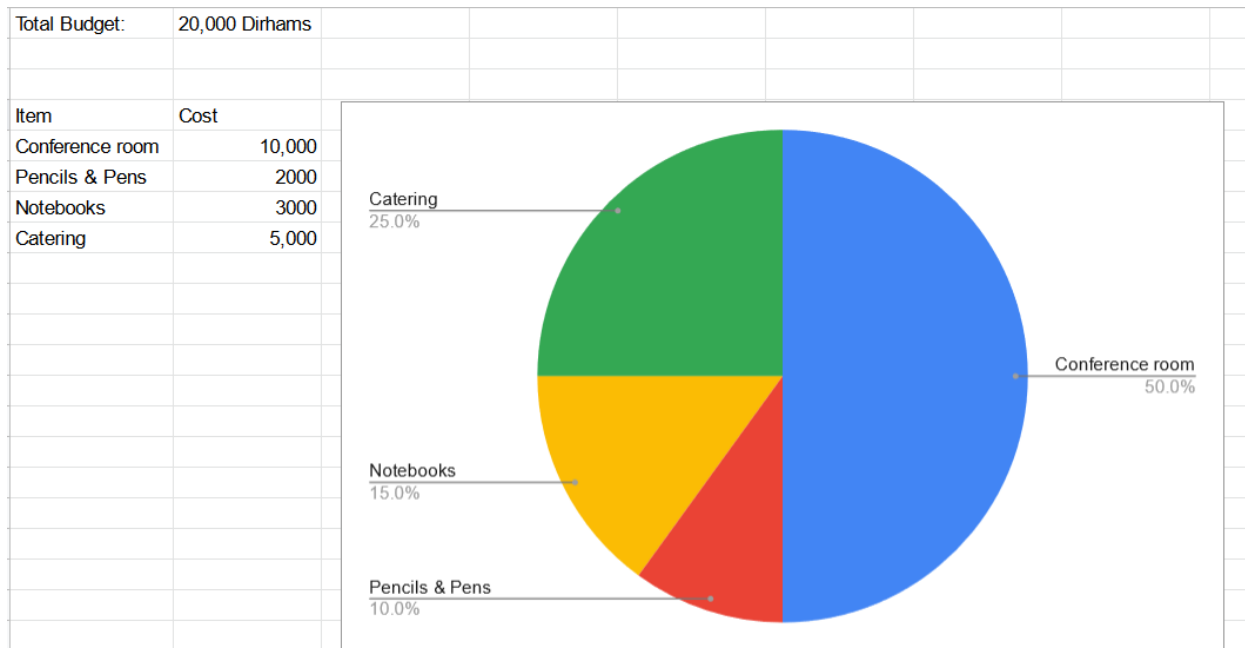


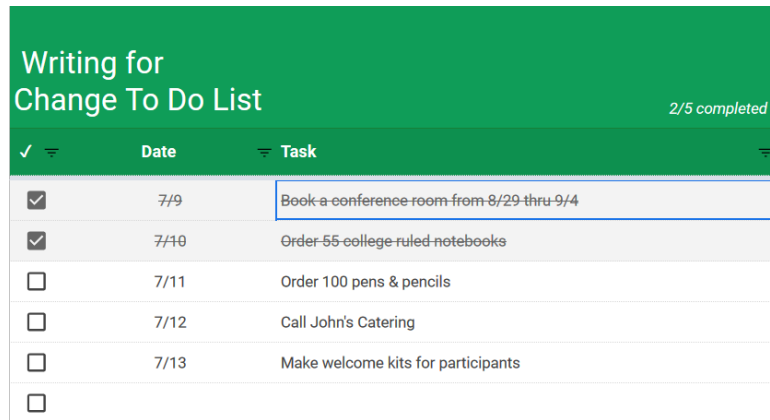
Figure 2: How we kept track of our expenses

The only thing we wish we had been more prepared on for this experience is working with a budget. We were not sure what we should prioritize in terms of cost. For example, should we spend most of the funds on notebooks and pencils or to rent a room to host the event. Many of us have not had much experience working with financial information before running this program. However some tips and tricks on how best to keep track of receipts would be beneficial for later experiences. The only other thing Atlas for Development could help us with is ways to outreach to the community that is not through social media as the demographic we are working with does not commonly use social media platforms.

Key Takeaways

Briefly explain in three bullet points the main things you learned/gained from this experience.

1. Organization is key. It can make running a program and keeping track of information much less stressful than it needs to be.



✓	Date	Task
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7/9	Book a conference room from 8/29 thru 9/4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7/10	Order 55 college ruled notebooks
<input type="checkbox"/>	7/11	Order 100 pens & pencils
<input type="checkbox"/>	7/12	Call John's Catering
<input type="checkbox"/>	7/13	Make welcome kits for participants
<input type="checkbox"/>		

Figure 3: Our to-do list to stay organized

2. Do not be afraid to ask for help. Many individuals are willing to give you advice and help you with tasks. All you have to do is ask.
3. We gained confidence in the idea that we can use our efforts to make a difference in the world.

