At a time when journalistic practices are being heavily disrupted due to the repercussions of the COVID-19 health crisis, CFI, in partnership with the Lebanese media outlet Daraj and Tunisian media outlet Barr al Aman, provided online meetings and resources to journalists from the Arab world in 2020, to provide them with key tools to adapt.

The Ama Baad 2 project draws on this experience to provide Arabic-speaking journalists with the resources to cover developmental issues, particularly those concerning the consequences of the pandemic, more effectively.

**AIM**

Provide Arabic-speaking journalists with the resources to better grasp the major events that set the news agenda, particularly the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to cover stories that manage to integrate developmental issues.

**FOR WHOM?**

- Arabic-speaking journalists from the CFI community, particularly young journalists and female journalists (approximately 1000 beneficiaries)
- Arabic-speaking scientists involved in the project, particularly female scientists (approximately 30 beneficiaries)
WHEN?
From September 2020 to June 2021.

HOW?

- **Moderation of the Ama Baad Facebook group** which has more than 500 members from 10 different countries and which was created when the Ama Baad 1 project was launched;

- **A forum organised** to consider the impact of COVID-19 on regional media and journalistic practices;

- **Discussions continued online**, giving Arabic-speaking journalists the opportunity to meet up with other journalists and/or scientists twice a month;

- **Arabic content production support**, with the online publication of general academic articles and graphics for the journalists’ unrestricted use;

- **Launch of a website for documentary resources** in connection with current topics related to developmental issues and more specifically the consequences of the pandemic

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- Stronger networks for journalists in Arabic-speaking countries and greater sharing of practices;

- A deeper understanding among those journalists of the events that set the news agenda and adapted journalistic practices to deliver high-quality information to the public that is relevant to their daily lives.

CFI, the French media development agency
CFI provides support to media organisations as development actors across several continents. A subsidiary of France Médias Monde and an operator of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the agency is currently working on around 30 projects that fall under three major programmes: Media and Governance, Media and Enterprise, Media and Development. The “Media and Development” programme helps media organisations to take ownership of development issues (education, health, gender) by strengthening the relationship of trust between journalists and civil society.

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Photo credit: Voyez-vous – Vinciane Lebrun