

FAST FACTS

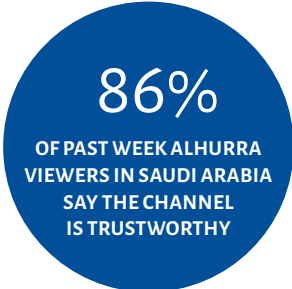
HEADQUARTERS
Springfield, VA

ANNUAL BUDGET
\$100 million
(FY24)

LANGUAGE
Arabic

AUDIENCE
34.1 million (FY24)

The Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN) is a 24/7 Arabic-language media organization that is comprised of Alhurra, a television network, and multiple digital properties (Alhurra.com, RadioSawa.com, Irfaasawtak.com, ElSaha.com and MaghrebVoices.com). MBN’s networks provide an undistorted line of engagement with the people of the Middle East and North Africa.



MISSION

MBN’s mission is to expand the spectrum of ideas, opinions, and perspectives available in the media of the Middle East and North Africa; provide objective, accurate, and relevant news and information; and accurately represent America, Americans, and American policies. Through its multimedia broadcasts, MBN seeks to inform, engage, and connect with the regions’ people in support of universal freedoms.

PROGRAMMING

MBN serves a niche in a cluttered media marketplace, by focusing on stories not found on other outlets in the region. It creates the space for new topics and perspectives and provides a voice to independent, reformist thinkers. MBN’s programming encourages open debates to engage audiences on issues that are considered sensitive in the region (e.g. political Islam, freedom of religion, and women’s rights).

“The channel is unique in its topics, ideas, and presentation. That is the secret of its success... It is the people’s channel.”

–18-year-old Egyptian participant from in-depth interviews

MBN uses a multiplatform approach to deliver its distinctive content to audiences across the region. By incorporating television, digital, and radio, audiences can access MBN’s news and programming in a way that is native to them.

Alhurra Television and Sawa radio provide 24 hours of news and information per day that is tailored to their audiences. The networks host respected experts and analysts to provide context and a variety of perspectives that bring together a broad spectrum of opinions. Alhurra also has an award-winning investigative unit uncovering untold stories and taboo issues in the region and beyond.

MBN plays a unique role among USAGM networks. It is as a hybrid of other USAGM entities by being a source of local, regional, and global news, with emphasis on covering U.S. policy and American culture of interest to the region. It provides unfiltered access to American politics and people by having correspondents at the White House, State Department, Congress, and Pentagon. MBN also has a team of correspondents based across the U.S. that highlight stories about America and the American people.

IMPACT

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) 2024 World Press Freedom Index showed that the Middle East and North Africa region maintained last place in the region rankings; with Syria (179th), Saudi Arabia (166th) and Egypt (170th) acquiring some of the lowest of the 180 countries ranked. MBN’s media outlets serve as a source for accurate and objective news and analysis. MBN’s impact is evident every day, through the numerous Arabic-language media outlets that quote Alhurra’s reporting, showing that the networks are a trusted source of news by other media organizations and in the region. Citations of MBN’s reporting in the Arabic press augments the number of people who have access to impartial news and liberal voices.

MBN provides perspectives not found on other media outlets. When Hamas launched a surprise attack on October 7, 2023, Alhurra’s team in Gaza went above and beyond to bring news from the front lines of Gaza. Their reporting was unwavering despite personal sacrifices and a challenging security situation. Beyond the news of the Israeli attacks on Hamas, these courageous journalists also told of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The network also provided viewers a firsthand look at the suffering in Afrin and the concerns of religious minorities. “Alhurra Investigates” unveiled the corruption of Iraqi religious leaders, both Sunni and Shia — charges that were widely suspected, but until Alhurra’s reporting were untouchable in the local media. The report highlighted the importance of transparency and accountability of all people, no matter what their position.