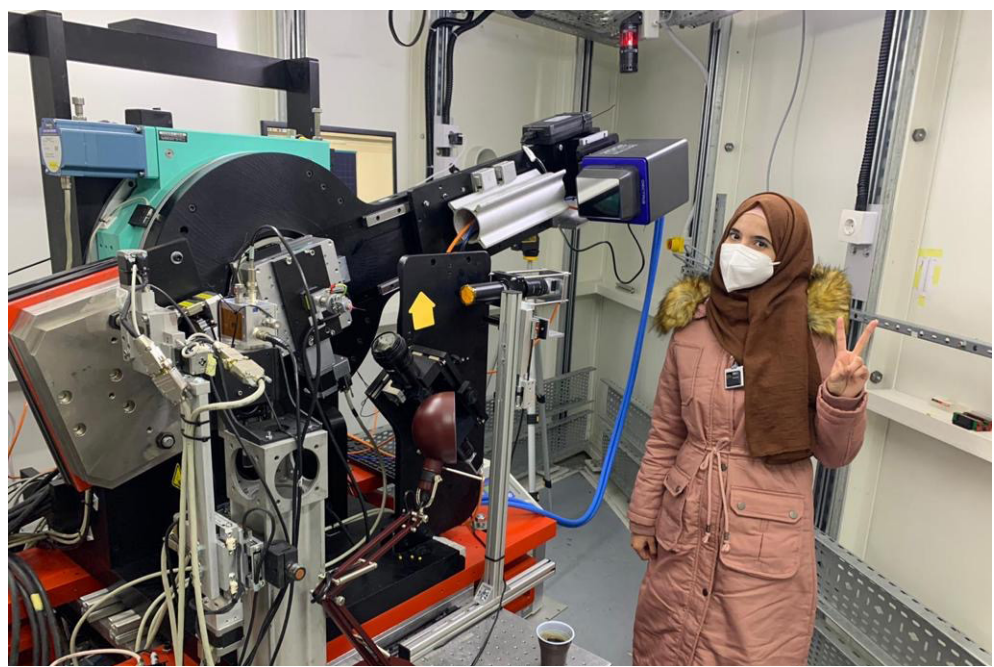


Equality Through Action: The Impact of SESAME's Support

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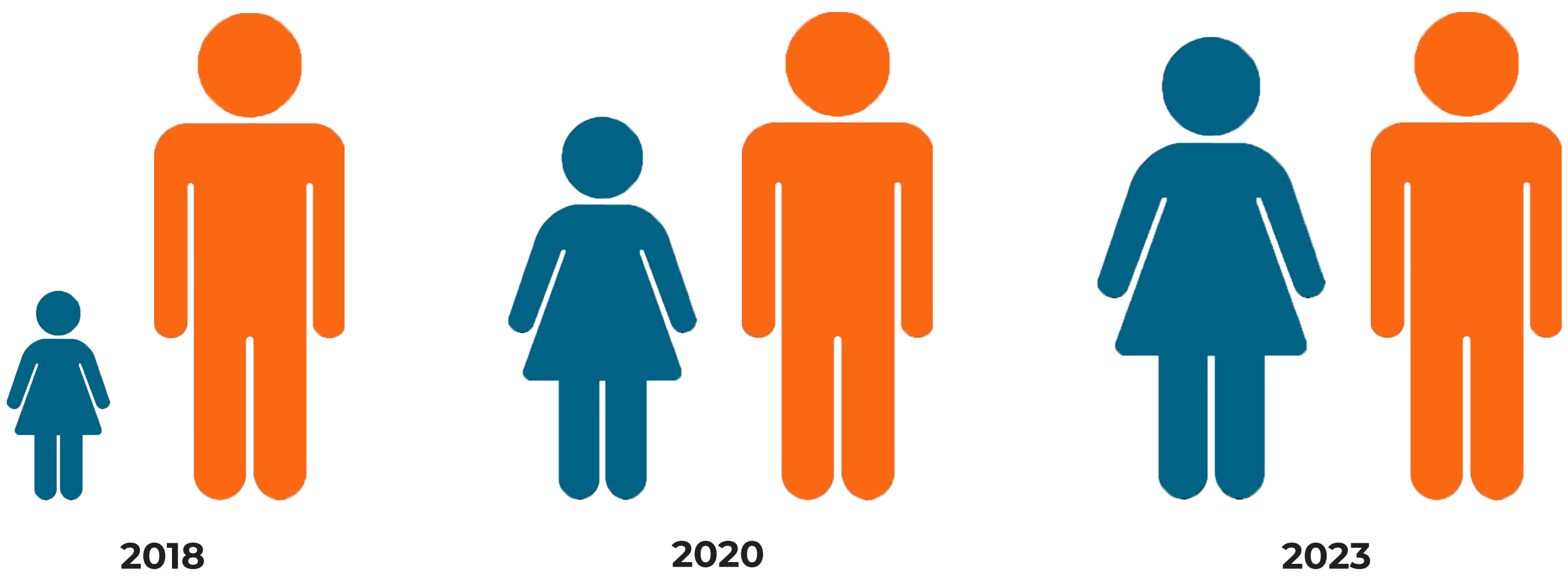


SESAME (Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East), inaugurated on May 16, 2017, in Allan, Jordan, stands as a beacon of scientific innovation and cooperation in the Middle East. It is the region's first international centre of excellence for various scientific disciplines. Drawing inspiration from the collaborative model of CERN and under the guidance of UNESCO, SESAME is distinctive not only in its scientific pursuits but also in its commitment to sustainability. Notably, since February 2019, it has become the first large accelerator complex globally to operate entirely on renewable energy. SESAME's sustainability ethos extends beyond environmental stewardship, emphasizing equitable access, societal impact, and long-term viability. It provides scientists from the region and worldwide - many of which have limited access to high-quality research facilities - the opportunity to conduct cutting-edge research. To date, scientists from 42 countries have submitted a total of 899 proposals.



18th SESAME Users' Meeting, May 4-5, 2023

The **SESAME Travel Award Program** aims to support the development of a robust scientific community in the Middle East, particularly around the SESAME synchrotron facility. Established to facilitate international collaboration and training, the program provides financial aid for scientists from SESAME member countries to attend training sessions and conferences. It addresses a critical need by covering travel expenses, which many institutions do not fully fund. The program's ultimate goal is to ensure that a cadre of scientists from the region are well-prepared to use the SESAME facility when it becomes fully operational. The participants in the SESAME Travel Award Program are primarily scientists from the member of SESAME, which include Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Pakistan, Palestine, and Türkiye. Additionally, non-member scientists can also be considered for the awards at the discretion of the SESAME Scientific Director. The program focuses on two key groups of participants: women scientists and early-career scientists. The can cover the attendance to SESAME "Users' Meetings" and the transnational access for the use of the SESAME synchrotron facility.



The changing proportion between men and women in accessing the SESAME Travel Award Program over the years.

APS March Meetings 2023 and 2024

The American Physical Society's March meeting is a key event that gathers thousands of scientists and students. Since 2023 Satellite hosts are organizing local, in-person events in their communities under the auspices of the March Meeting. From March 20 to 22, 2023, a varied spectrum of topics was joined by seventy-five young scientists from nine universities and research centers from all corners of Jordan and by SESAME staff. SESAME was also invited to design its own session: "Open SESAME: Waves of Success and Recognition Connecting Women Scientists," led by SESAME's IR beamline principal scientist, Dr. Gihan Kamel, the session highlighted some experiences and challenges facing women scientists in different regions of the world, to raise the awareness as well as guide young women scientists by promoting them and pushing them forward in the direction of an advanced scientific career. Eight inspiring speakers from various countries shared their experiences, emphasizing the role of science in transcending borders and skepticism. The success of this event led to its continuation at the APS March Meeting 2024, under the theme "SESAME: A Piece of Peace for Women Scientists in the Middle East,". Together with Gihan Kamel, the session emphasised the efforts and challenges of eight women scientists, from Belgium, Egypt, Italy, Iran, Malta, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, and the United Arab Emirates, who have been invited to reveal their experience of using SESAME and to expose the pivotal role that SESAME plays in advancing the capabilities of its scientists, leading to a distinctively transformative impact regardless of gender in the Middle East region and beyond.

