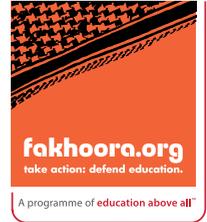


LOCAL RESULTS, GLOBAL EXPANSION

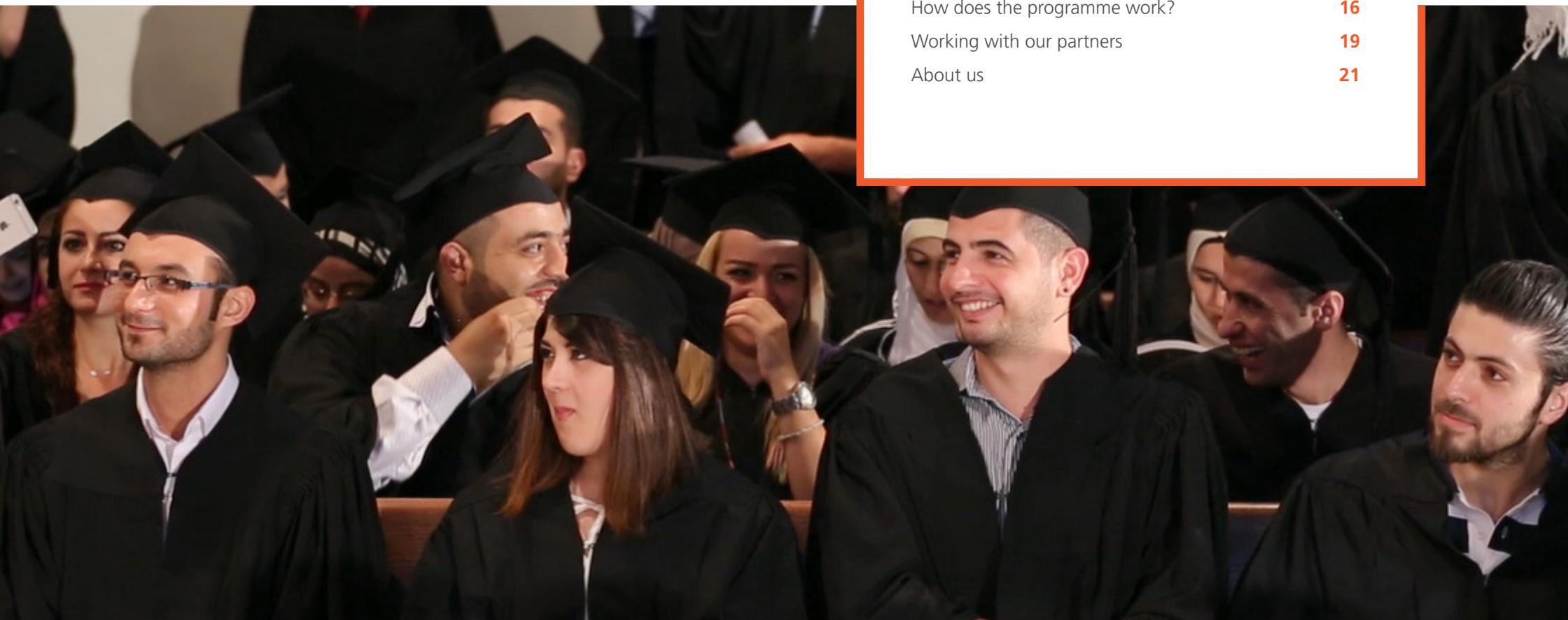


Delivering Quality Higher Education to the Most
Vulnerable and Marginalised Young People



CONTENTS

Foreword	4
About Al Fakhoora – our work so far	8
Why focus on higher education?	10
From local results to global expansion	12
How does the programme work?	16
Working with our partners	19
About us	21



FOREWORD

A message from Al Fakhoora

The last five years have seen the Middle East wracked with conflict on an unprecedented level. Millions have been forced to flee their homes, leaving behind the family and community they have built their lives around to seek refuge in neighbouring countries or Europe.

We are faced with the prospect of a 'lost generation' of young people unable to access the opportunities they need to build a future for themselves – and for their countries. The vast majority of those caught up in conflict are unable to continue their education in any form and a university degree seems completely out of reach. But without a higher education, it can seem impossible to break the cycle of poverty created by war, let alone contribute to the rebuilding of their country once peace prevails.

Al Fakhoora focuses on addressing these critical issues by providing access to quality higher education and leadership skills, a key tenet of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, which aspire to global access to lifelong learning.

Since 2009, we have worked to empower young Palestinians living in Gaza by providing education programmes to those whose opportunities to learn would otherwise have been curtailed. To date, Al Fakhoora has successfully enrolled over 870 of the most marginalised students into universities in Gaza as well as provided some with scholarships to study abroad. Over the last six years we have reconstructed, rehabilitated, equipped and maintained

over 76 educational institutes that have been targeted by war. As a response to attacks on education, our psychosocial and health programmes have reached over 49,000 individuals.

Building on our success in Gaza, we have entered into our next phase: launching the global model of the Dynamic Futures Scholarship and Empowerment programme, by expanding our reach to Palestinians in the

West Bank and East Jerusalem, as well as Syrian refugees and IDPs in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq.

The ongoing civil war in Syria has generated the biggest humanitarian crisis since the Second World War. Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed and over 10 million displaced from their homes. Some have sought refuge in the region – Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey have absorbed 4.2





OUR MISSION

To promote the right to education by unlocking a new generation of marginalised youth to become educated, professionally-skilled and inspirational leaders of the future who guide their families and communities towards cohesion and prosperity.

million Syrians – while others have risked their lives making perilous journeys across the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. Many have not made it; the world has looked on as the bodies of men, women and children have been washed up on beaches usually reserved for holiday-makers.

Amidst this unprecedented global crisis, nearly half a million 18-25 year olds have been forced to leave their homes, with many finding themselves split from their families in camps and dense urban dwellings in neighbouring countries.

Our Global Dynamic Futures Scholarship and Empowerment programme is an international, multi-stage human and monetary investment in the future, which is not only presented through scholarships for higher education, but also with the aim of fostering civic leadership within the Syrian refugee community. Civic leadership not only for the self, but for the betterment of the refugee's host community and, eventually, their home country. This is a comprehensive programme, designed to equip young people with the life skills needed to actively give back to their communities, and build hope and resiliency.

Our aim is to offer access to higher education to over 6,000 Syrian and Palestinian youths spread across the West Bank and East Jerusalem, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq.

Al Fakhoora is part of Education Above All, founded by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. This organisation aims to build a global movement that contributes to human, social and economic development through the provision of quality education. It aspires to offer education to as many children and young people as possible whose lives have been affected by poverty, conflict and disaster. Her Highness continues to be a vital support to the successful delivery of Al Fakhoora's programmes. Our achievements are built on the work and energy she has contributed to the global cause of expanding access to education.

For more information on Al Fakhoora, please visit our website at: <http://fakhoora.org>

ABOUT AL FAKHOORA

Our work so far

In 2009 Al-Fakhoora was the first of its kind to offer **access to higher education** to marginalised youth in Gaza by providing a comprehensive **scholarship and empowerment programme, reconstruction and rehabilitation** of educational institutions and **psychosocial support** programmes and **infrastructure**. The programme is delivered in collaboration with **local** and **national** partners.

The three areas of focus are:

Dynamic Futures Scholarship and Empowerment Programme

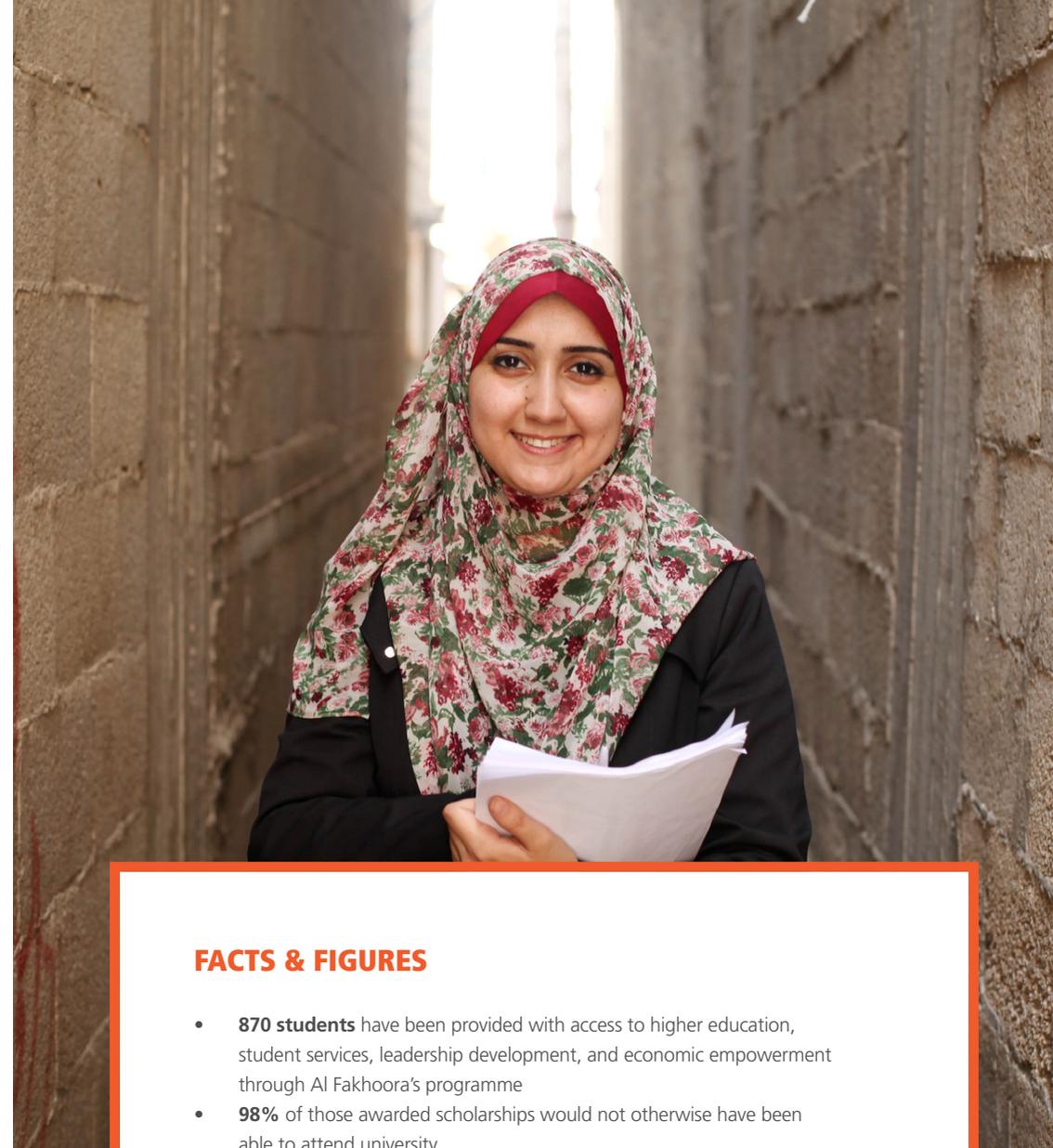
Offers an opportunity for marginalised youth in Gaza, to pursue **Vocational, Bachelor, and Masters level education**, alongside an enriching **Leadership Development Programme** and access to student services and economic empowerment, provided by Al Fakhoora and its partnership with UNDP.

Reconstruction & Rehabilitation Programmes

Following the 2014 hostilities in Gaza, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar (MOFA) signed an agreement to donate \$40 million from the Qatar Fund for Development through Al Fakhoora. Al Fakhoora teamed up with UNDP, UNICEF, and UNRWA to implement reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes in Gaza to ensure primary, secondary, and post-secondary students have access to quality educational facilities.

Psychosocial Support Programmes

Psychosocial capacity building is an important component of providing educational opportunities to youth in conflict and post-conflict regions. Schools are commonly seen as key entry points to provide services to large numbers of children, and Al Fakhoora works with its implementing partners at UNDP, UNICEF and QRC to create psychosocial rehabilitation programmes for trauma victims and their families, and to strengthen child protection systems to provide psychosocial support.



FACTS & FIGURES

- **870 students** have been provided with access to higher education, student services, leadership development, and economic empowerment through Al Fakhoora's programme
- **98%** of those awarded scholarships would not otherwise have been able to attend university
- **93,360 square metres** of destroyed or dilapidated buildings have been reconstructed
- **64,013** direct and **106,495** indirect beneficiaries saw an increase in health and wellness following Al Fakhoora's intervention

WHY FOCUS ON HIGHER EDUCATION?

Historically, there has been a focus in education and international development on safeguarding access to primary education to ensure young children acquire basic learning and develop critical social skills. However, higher education cannot be neglected – it is the youth of today who will make up the next generation of leaders responsible for rebuilding their home countries. They must have access to the right educational tools and resources to do this.

Human capital flight, also referred to as ‘brain drain,’ is one of the least explored consequences of poverty, conflict, and violence. In countries torn apart by war or in communities with a sudden and significant increase in refugee population, the need for economically useful skills is greater than ever.

Who will take on jobs in hospitals, schools, or government agencies from among thousands of Syrians aged 18-25 who have fled their homes? Who will be the next generation of engineers, doctors and technicians amongst the many Palestinians living in Gaza whose access to education has been restricted?

Young refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are often unable to pursue higher education. Most simply cannot afford it, and need to work rather than study in order to supplement their family's income. However, when provided with the opportunity to continue their studies, the attainment of higher education can ultimately create a better-prepared labour force and provide young people with critical skills that open doors to more employment opportunities. The knowledge gained through higher education also enables the younger generation to rebuild their communities and countries in the aftermath of war.



WHY FOCUS ON SYRIAN REFUGEES?

- **4,24,037 million** Syrians have now fled war and persecution and become refugees in neighbouring countries, including thousands of 18-25 year olds
- **Less than 5%** now have access to higher education
- **Young female refugees** are particularly vulnerable to trafficking into prostitution, domestic labour or economically strategic marriages.
- Need to address the crisis of a **“lost generation”** which will grow worse as Syrian students are unable to complete their high school and tertiary education
- Need to contribute to **regional security, stability, and human development**

FROM LOCAL RESULTS TO GLOBAL EXPANSION

Launching the Global Dynamic Futures Scholarship and Empowerment Programme

Based on the success of the Dynamic Futures Programme in Gaza, Al Fakhoura, alongside their strategic partner SPARK, have taken the first steps towards replicating this approach and scaling it up into a multi-country global programme. With more refugees in the world today than ever before, including a marked increase in young people aged 18-25 who have been unable to continue their education, the current programme represents an ambitious vision to expand our successful model.

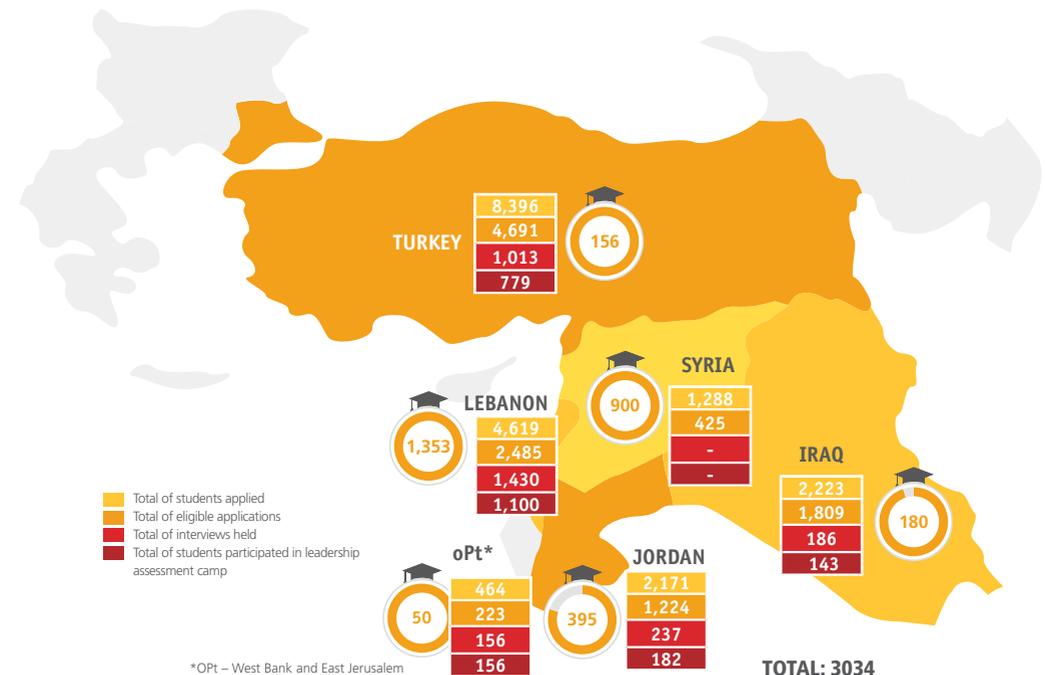
In the next five years, our work will enable many more student refugees and internally displaced persons to access quality education, with an emphasis on civic leadership, psychosocial support programmes, and economic empowerment opportunities, resulting in transformational improvements in their lives.

Reaching out to Syrian refugees

Al Fakhoura carried out an intensive mapping exercise to understand where we would have most impact – using recognised measures like the Human Development Index score; Fragile States Index score; MDGs scorecard; and proportionate number of IDPs and refugees per country. Based on these measures, the programme was expanded to the West Bank and East Jerusalem, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq. In the future we will look to build on our success, potentially expanding into other conflict/post-conflict regions.

SELECTION FOR SUCCESS

This innovative programme begins by carefully selecting beneficiaries using a rigorous process, choosing from among the most marginalized those showing the greatest potential for leadership and civic engagement. To ensure the selection process is fair and transparent, it comprises three core phases — online application, interview (phone and/or in person), and leadership assessment camps. These leadership assessment camps use a meticulous approach and methodology, with a ratio of five evaluators to 20 students per camp. Eighty evaluators completed the compulsory training and successfully delivered 117 leadership camps in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, and Iraq.



Syria:

Includes existing students who would have been unable to continue due to financial constraints

Iraq:

Includes additional scholarship opportunities added to the programme after leadership camps took place

Jordan:

Includes TVET certificate students, who are not required to attend leadership camps

Lebanon:

Includes TVET certificate students, who are not required to attend leadership camps



“Without knowledge we can’t recover nor can we develop or build up civilized and advanced societies where ignorance does not exist . . . I felt like I was reborn.”

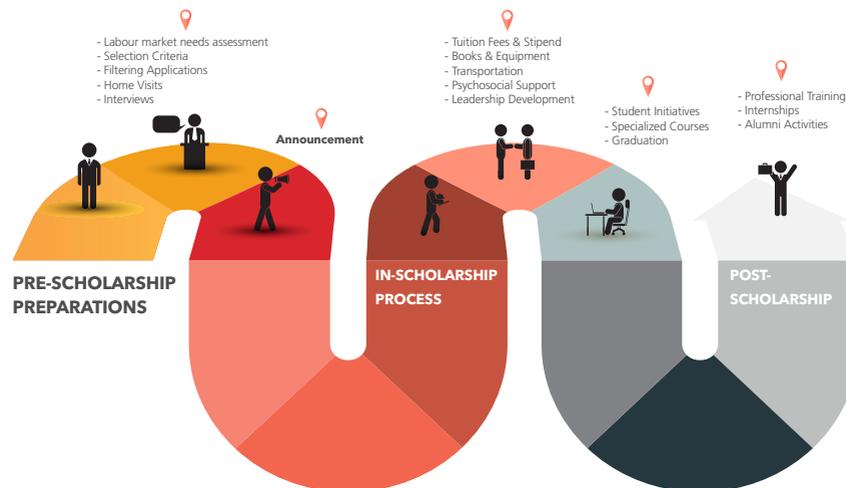
Yamen Al Fares

DYNAMIC FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME IS THE ONLY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME THAT:

- Hand picks young people from the most fragile locations based on their desire and motivation to contribute to the rebuilding of their countries of origin and host communities.
- Weaves a holistic, multifaceted student affairs, leadership development and economic empowerment package along with its scholarship.
- Is committed to unlocking a new generation of marginalised youth to become educated and gain professional skills.
- Invests in inspirational leaders of the future who can guide their families and communities toward cohesion and prosperity.
- Invests to realise professional and leadership potential by overcoming socioeconomic, political and cultural barriers, enabling more young people to become productively engaged in society.
- Measures success by tapping into the innate resilience of youth during conflict and post conflict times, providing essential tools for young people to move from crisis to a thriving future.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAMME WORK?

For each scholarship, Al Fakhoora provides tuition fees and living expenses, depending on the student's needs.



EACH STUDENT WILL RECEIVE:



Quality Education:

- Tuition Fees & Stipend
- Books & Equipment
- Transportation



Civic Leadership*:

- Leadership courses
- Student Initiatives



Students Affairs:

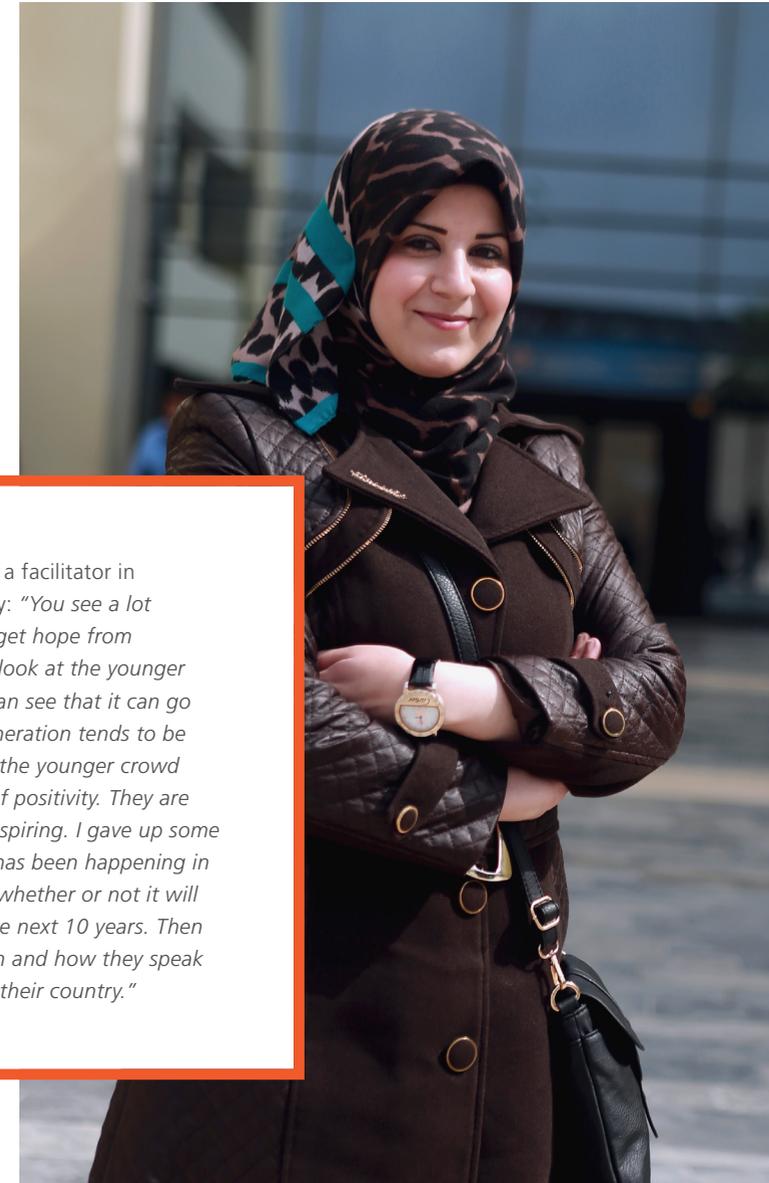
- Specialized Courses
- Psychosocial Support



Economic Empowerment*:

- Professional Training
- Internships

* Tailored to the duration of study.



Reem Jarhum, a facilitator in Gaziantep, Turkey: "You see a lot of pain, but you get hope from them, when you look at the younger generation you can see that it can go on. The older generation tends to be cynical, but with the younger crowd there is a sense of positivity. They are impressive and inspiring. I gave up some hope with what has been happening in the Middle East, whether or not it will get better in the next 10 years. Then you see the youth and how they speak about rebuilding their country."

Mohammed Masri, a facilitator in Bikra: *“There were tears in our eyes when one applicant entered in a wheelchair and had burns on his legs and arms and he had challenged his own family to apply for the scholarship. At first they said ‘Why? You can’t. You won’t even physically be able to do it.’ But he insisted. His father told us he was very stubborn and wanted it badly. When he came, he tried very hard. He was a resident of my own village, that’s why I was very proud. Even being injured, he wanted to do something instead of waiting forever.”*



WORKING WITH OUR PARTNERS

SPARK

Al Fakhoora is working with SPARK to deliver the Global Dynamic Futures Scholarship and Empowerment programme. We will build on SPARK’s previous work in the region, ranging from providing scholarships to 250 Syrian refugees in Turkey to organising short-cycle courses on leadership and entrepreneurship. SPARK learned valuable lessons during the initial implementation of educational programmes in the region. Four of the most important are:

1. **Provide for Arabic language instruction** to ensure cost-efficiency, as well as inclusiveness of the more vulnerable members of the Syrian refugee community, and to focus on the rebuilding of Syria in the future.
2. **Focus on local contextualised solutions**, building on already available local institutional partner programmes and existing potential rather than starting new, often competing, stand-alone activities.
3. **Strong focus on cost-efficiency** to allow for future expansion and to ensure future sustainability.
4. **Provide more than scholarships alone**; supporting students with additional measures in the field of civic leadership and entrepreneurship.

SPARK is an international development organisation that focusses on youth between 18 and 35, equipping them with knowledge, tools and motivation through the development of higher education and entrepreneurship and thereby allowing young, ambitious people to lead their post-conflict societies into prosperity.

QATAR FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT

Al Fakhoora has also previously received a generous donation from Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) to support our work in Gaza and looks forward to their continued support on the global expansion of the Dynamic Futures Programme.

QFFD is a public development institution committed to improving the livelihood of communities around the world on behalf of the State of Qatar.

Implementing Partners

Jordan: Government, UNHCR, UNDP, UNESCO, EU, SPARK, Luminous Group, Jerash University, Al-AlBait University

Turkey: Government, UNHCR, UNDP, UNRWA, SPARK, Syrian students (S.O.U.S.), Gaziantep University

Lebanon: Government, UNHCR, UNDP, SPARK, United for Lebanon, LASer, Lebanese University, Lebanese American University, Saint Joseph University

West Bank & East Jerusalem: Government, UNDP, UNRWA, Beir Zeit University

Funding Partners

SPARK, EU, Turkish Prime Minister's Office, Islamic Development Bank, QRC, LASer, and Lebanese American University

What can you do to help?

Al Fakhoora is currently looking for partners to help us support and invest in youth living in conflict/post-conflict zones.

for students to succeed with the support of student affairs, leadership development and economic empowerment.

We are looking for partners who are committed to our funding model, which is student-centred. The budget is results-driven, targeting key outcomes as each recipient moves through their respective stages: pre-scholarship, in-scholarship, and post-scholarship. This holistic, multifaceted programme gives unsurpassed opportunity

ABOUT US

Education Above All

Education Above All (EAA) is a global initiative founded in 2012 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser of Qatar with an aim to build a global movement that contributes to human, social and economic development through quality education and other welfare programmes and initiatives. With a particular focus on areas affected by poverty, conflict and disaster, the needs of children, youth and women will be championed and they will be empowered to become active members of their communities. By meeting the demand for education, we will equip them to support sustainable development, and to nurture environments of peace, security, justice and prosperity.

Al Fakhoora

Al Fakhoora is a programme of Education Above All Foundation that works to promote the right to education in conflict and post-conflict states, by unlocking a new generation of marginalised youth to become educated, professionally skilled and inspirational leaders of the future who can guide their families and communities toward cohesion and prosperity.



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