



PATHWAYS TO COHESION AND PROSPERITY

Bridging the gap: From higher education
to meaningful employment



*Due to a realignment of programme mandate, Al Fakhoora no longer implements Economic Empowerment activities directly related to employment within its projects.



THE “ONE PERCENT”

We live in a rapidly changing world. The global economy is growing, yet unemployment rises at an unprecedented rate. Global wealth increases, while the disparity between socio-economic groups widens. The technological revolution has allowed us to transcend borders, connecting humanity like never before, yet at the same time recent conflicts have produced the largest number of refugees and IDPs since World War II, a shocking 68.5 million displaced persons worldwide.



Restoring hope and confidence, turning my dream into reality, opening up new opportunities that I'd never expected before; that is how Al Fakhoora has changed my life.”

Amna Al Telbani, Dentistry.

The youth of today look to education to prepare them for this new reality. A reality where post-secondary education is no longer an advantage, but a minimum requirement for gainful employment. A reality where employers demand versatile, highly-qualified graduates equipped with 21st century skills.

Students graduating from some of the best institutions across the globe are finding it increasingly challenging to compete in this day and age, let alone marginalized youth facing obstacles due to poverty, conflict, and forced migration.

Only one per cent of refugee youth worldwide have access to higher education.

OBSTACLES TO ACCESSING HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT



MORE JUST THAN JUST A SCHOLARSHIP

Only one per cent of refugee youth have access to higher education, but a degree is no longer enough.

There already exists a 'lost generation' of youth whose educational needs are not being addressed. The ramifications of not providing them with an opportunity to further skill and educate themselves only adds to the cycle of poverty created by conflict and forced migration.

SDG 4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

Al Fakhoora believes in the innate resilience of youth, and works to enable the most marginalized, (Palestinian youth and Syrian refugees and IDPs across the MENA region,) to reach their maximum potential, despite their surrounding circumstances. We place beneficiaries at the heart of our programming, tailoring each intervention to address the obstacles and challenges that they face within the economic, social and cultural context in which they live.

Vision: Al Fakhoora 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, inspirational leaders of the future, who guide their families communities towards cohesion and prosperity.



Dynamic Futures Higher Education and Empowerment programme

Dynamic Futures is a holistic, multi-faceted programme with four key components:



QUALITY EDUCATION:

Empowering students through scholarships for tertiary education (vocational, undergraduate, and post-graduate studies).



STUDENT SERVICES:

Ensuring students' academic success and mental and emotional well-being.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Providing students with 21st century skills, social emotional learning competencies, and opportunities to actualize their knowledge through experiential learning.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT:

Bridging the gap between higher education and meaningful employment.

By providing comprehensive support to our beneficiaries throughout their journey, from education to employment, Al Fakhoora enables and empowers youth to be engaged, productive, inspirational global citizens who can adapt and excel in their challenging environments.

BRIDGING THE GAP FROM HIGHER EDUCATION TO MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT

For over 25 years, the MENA region has had one of the highest youth unemployment rates in the world.

The Syrian refugee crisis, now in its eighth year, has further exacerbated the situation. Neighboring countries, Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan, have absorbed over 4.8 million refugees. This has had disastrous effects on their economy and labour market, and caused a ripple effect throughout the region.

There exists a dichotomy among programmes established to support marginalized and refugee youth – initiatives established to address access to higher education, and initiatives aimed at supporting this demographic through

of programmes, to ensure beneficiaries experience a seamless, fruitful transition from quality education to meaningful, gainful, formal employment.

The economic empowerment component of these programmes must look beyond traditional interventions, preparing beneficiaries to utilize their education in related, relevant work. Whether by facilitating local job placements through intensive training and internship programmes, or by breaking geographic boundaries through virtual employment, we must identify creative pathways to directly link graduates with the labour market.

Al Fakhoora addresses this issue through both micro-and macro-level interventions, investing in individuals as well as initiating responsible action from the public and private sectors. We take an outcomes based-approach when designing programmes, aligning tertiary education with innovative career pathways from the outset. By aligning education and creative employment options, we empower youth to rise above low-skilled or informal employment, stimulating local economies and promoting financial stability.



“While my university studies were always challenging, I had always feared what would come after university. Al Fakhoora waived these fears by helping me develop a set of marketable skills, such as communications, self-confidence and creativity, which helped me during my internship. I owe Al Fakhoora for the support and motivation to set new horizons for work.”– **Abeer Almajdlawi, Physiotherapy.**

“Economic Empowerment.” The missing piece is the scaffolding that must exist within and between these two types

FROM CONFLICT TO COHESION

Investing in individuals, rebuilding communities

“For true global citizenship to be achieved, we must first work towards civic engagement.”

Al Fakhoora believes that in an ever-changing world, all students must be provided with the skills, knowledge, and experience to become civic-minded individuals who act in the broader interest of their communities. Our civic engagement program impacts youth, who in turn inspire their peers, families and communities. It provides students not only with 21st century skills and SEL spheres, but also with the characteristic traits needed to foster a “pay it forward” attitude. Al Fakhoora provides marginalized and refugee youth with the foundation needed to become inspirational global citizens who can adapt and excel in their challenging environments.

Our civic engagement program is founded on a methodology of nurturing students from selection through to graduation, and assisting them in their transition into meaningful employment. The civic engagement program is staggered over four years, designed around a comprehensive, student-centered curriculum that focuses on participants taking part in a journey of experiential learning through both theory and practice. From the onset of the program, students understand that they are not simply recipients of aid, but rather that they are change makers who initiate and implement social enterprises for the benefit of their communities. Students are provided with basic, intermediate and advanced 21st century skills and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) spheres over four levels: The Fundamental Skills and Qualities of Civic Engagement, The Art of Dialogue and Facilitation, Activating Civic Engagement: Shaping Communities, and Sustainability in Practice.

At each stage students put into practice the skills and SEL spheres they have learnt, by identifying obstacles within their communities, and designing and implementing sustainable solutions to help alleviate them.



“Al Fakhoora taught me the importance of developing a vocation of giving back aside from one’s profession, by engaging more in community and showing positive actions, not just empty words or slogans on the street, but a series of committed small actions that aim to changing lives and the course of history.” –

Farah Abed, Dentistry





CHANGING MINDSETS

The MENA region currently hosts the largest number of displaced persons across the globe, home to 16.8 million refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), including 5.4 million Palestinian refugees; this number represents nearly 25% of all displaced persons worldwide. The average refugee will stay in their host community for 17 years. We cannot become part of the vicious cycle of dependence on aid, which keeps them trapped in poverty.

Given the sheer magnitude of this crisis, we need to change mindsets: we need to stop viewing refugees as individuals defined only by conflict, and we need to help refugees transcend their victim mentality. We are all impacted by this situation; from governments to the private sector, from home to host communities, from small businesses to national economies. For the benefit of all involved we must equip refugees with transferrable skills, allowing them to maximize their full potential, to prosper now and in the future, regardless of whether they decide to stay in their host communities, relocate, or repatriate.

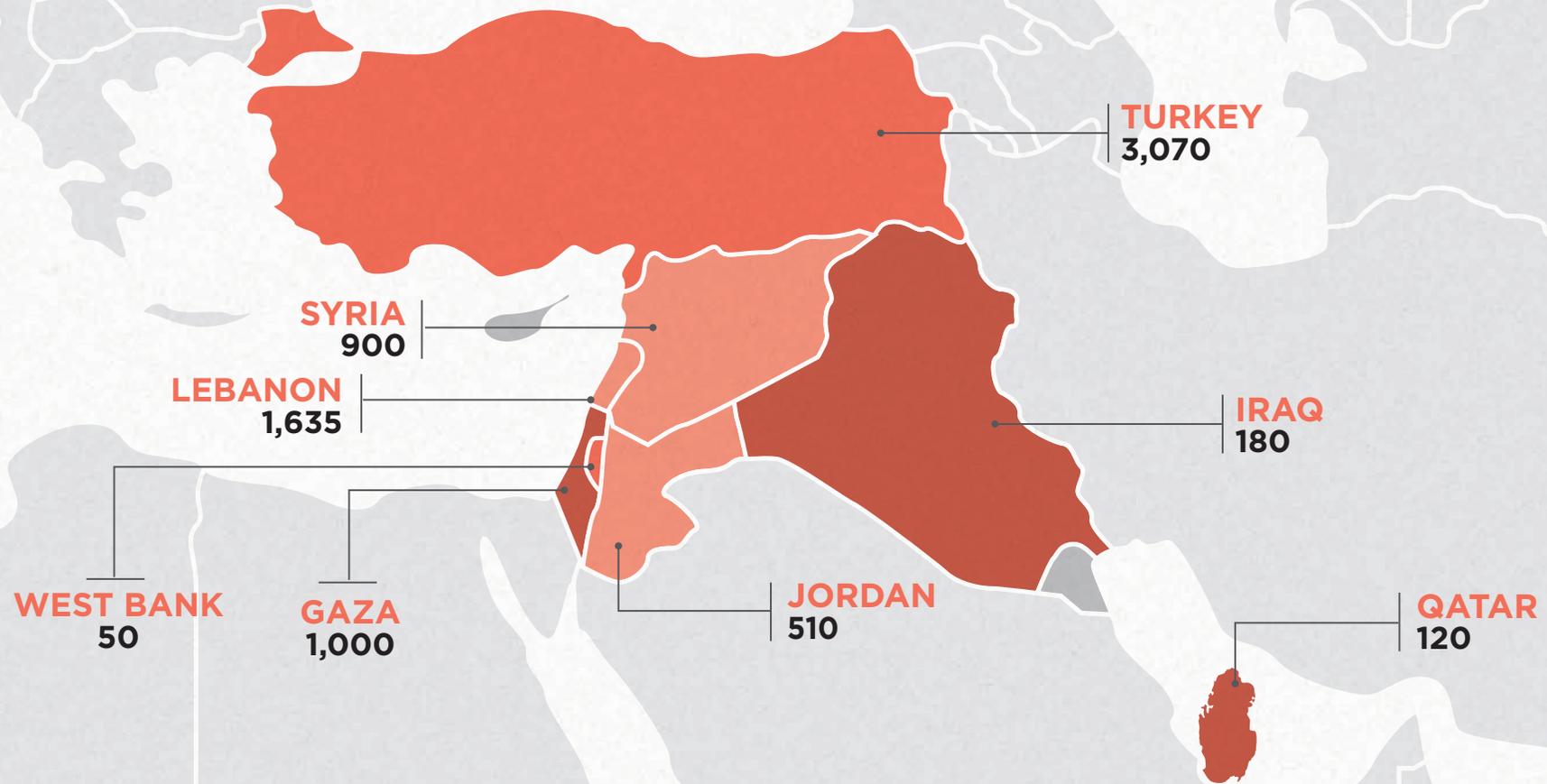
AI Fakhoora is looking at innovative ways to invest in refugee youth and successfully align higher education with meaningful employment. By supporting students through comprehensive student services, nurturing civic mindedness through our civic engagement curriculum, and providing creative pathways to economic empowerment, we prepare youth to compete in the global economy. Simultaneously, by identifying strategies to align students' education with "virtual" employment opportunities, working with companies to provide productive internships, and attracting corporations to establish specialized outsourcing departments in the MENA region, we prepare the labour market to capitalize on the value of our educated, highly-skilled graduates.

Using this holistic approach, AI Fakhoora is changing mindsets, mobilizing partners from all sectors, to invest in youth and create pathways to cohesion and prosperity.



Being a Fakhoora student is most like holding a distinctive passport whenever I apply for trainings and work opportunities. This is mainly because this program produces creative leaders and entrepreneurs.”-
Badr Al Zaharna, English Teaching.

OUR REACH



**7,465 Scholarships across
Turkey and the MENA Region**