



AL FAKHOORA: FROM CRISIS TO THRIVING

fakhoora.org
take action: defend education.

A programme of **education above all™**

A large group of children in school uniforms are sitting in a circle in a courtyard. The children are of various ages and are looking towards the center. The background shows a building with blue railings and a tree. The scene is lit with a warm, orange glow, suggesting sunset or sunrise.

CONCEPTION

The story behind the establishment of Al Fakhoora in 2009

ESTABLISHMENT

Rebuilding the education sector in Gaza as a response to the 2014 war

EXPANSION

Mainly talk about the global expansion

LOOKING FORWARD

What's next for Al Fakhoora



CONCEPTION

Conceived in response to the 2009 incursion on Gaza, Al Fakhoora takes its name from a school in the Jabaliya refugee camp, where many families took refuge as Israeli tanks decimated the surrounding area, including the school. This attack resulted in the deaths of at least 43 people, children among them. In this school we as an organization found a symbol for our cause, protecting the right to education for the all the youth of Gaza.

With this goal in mind, Al Fakhoora launched our first projects, a diverse set of initiatives ranging from emergency medical assistance, rebuilding institutes of higher learning damaged in the war, providing psycho-social support for children and youth, establishing vocational programs for students with disabilities, and

awarding comprehensive scholarship packages for marginalized youth, enabling them to pursue undergraduate studies while also equipping them to be articulate, impassioned self-advocates. Al Fakhoora's vision became clear, ***"To promote the right to education in conflict post-conflict states by unlocking a new generation of marginalized youth to become educated, professionally skilled and inspirational leaders of the future who can guide their families and communities toward cohesion and prosperity."***

Al Fakhoora believed in the resiliency of the people of Gaza and their ability to thrive in spite of the blockade. We felt called to design and implement a plan of action that would make a tangible impact on their lives.

ESTABLISHMENT



In 2014 another devastating incursion on Gaza took place, further deteriorating an already weak infrastructure, shattering the economy and crippling social support systems. Nearly 615 educational facilities, including kindergartens, schools, and tertiary education institutions were left damaged or destroyed; more than 500 students and 33 teachers were killed, and over 2,000 students and teachers were injured. During the hostilities, schools were the main shelter for IDPs; however, there was no privacy, especially for women, the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities were not adequate, and there was not sufficient power sources to provide light and other essential amenities. In this devastating aftermath, Al Fakhoora realized they had to do more.

In an emergency context, most donors and service providers aim to recover what was demolished as it existed; the goal is to return an effected area to its original state. In contrast, Al Fakhoora sees the aftermath of crisis as an opportunity to build back better, safer, and stronger. In response to the 2014 incursion Al Fakhoora, with the generous support of its partner the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), worked to design and implement a multi-faceted program with four priority service areas: (1) reconstruction and rehabilitation, (2) Building Back Better through refurbishment and applying Child Friendly School principles, (3) psychosocial capacity building, and (4) leadership development, all with both the present reality of students and the future possibility of further conflict and IDP accommodation in mind. This holistic approach to rebuilding the education infrastructure, as well as the expansion of our existing scholarship and empowerment program, established Al Fakhoora as a comprehensive and vital support system for education in Gaza.

EXPANSION

Building on our success in Gaza, Al Fakhora realized we had the ability, and the responsibility, to promote and ensure the right to education of not just the youth of Gaza, but of refugees and IDP's in other crisis-effected regions. In 2016, Al Fakhora's programs expanded to include marginalized youth involved in the Syrian conflict. Since the Syrian civil war, millions of Syrians have fled all over the region looking for safety. 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 neighboring countries, with very few prospects besides menial labor and no means to access higher education.

Al Fakhora's Global Dynamic Futures Scholarship and Empowerment program covers six new regions and provides Palestinians in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, and Syrian IDPs and refugees in Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq with access to quality higher education, student affairs, leadership development and economic empowerment opportunities. To date, we have provided 4,018 comprehensive Bachelors, Masters and Vocational level scholarship packages to marginalized and displaced youth.



LOOKING FORWARD



#أنا_فاخورة



Lack of access to quality education is both a consequence and cause of poverty, conflict, and violence. Young refugees and IDP's are unable to pursue higher education; many 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 provide young people with critical skills that open doors to better, more sustainable employment opportunities. The knowledge gained through higher education also enables the younger generation to rebuild their communities and countries in the aftermath of war.

The UN Refugee Agency's annual Global Trends study found that 65.6 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide at the end of 2016. Al Fakhoora is looking forward, and outward, steadily increasing our circle of impact and looking for opportunities to bring our unique, holistic approach to higher education to new and emerging conflict post-conflict regions. Al Fakhoora's multi-faceted approach of quality education, student services, leadership development and economic empowerment can move marginalized refugee and IDP youth, their families and communities, from crisis to thriving.





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