



2017 REVIEW

Welcome

The Foundation's 2016/17 year was a time of great sadness but also a time of hope and pride.

Two visits I made during the year symbolise this ever-changing balance.

In North Lebanon, I met with Syrian refugees who live in conditions of such destitution that I was filled with despair. Yet they reject pity and ask only to be allowed to make a decent life for themselves through their own efforts.

In Jordan, I met with Syrian refugee students whom we support to go to university. I saw how this opportunity had given them hope and how their hope filled them with determination to build a better future for themselves, their families, their communities - and for Syria.

Over the year we have supported around 10,000 Syrian children and family and community members in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey to strengthen their own resilience and ability to build a better life. That is a source of great pride.

We continue also to take great pride in the scholars we bring from the Middle East to British universities as well as those from all over the world whom we support at Oxford University's Saïd Business School. The School itself goes from strength to strength, exceeding our greatest expectations.

The year also saw two exciting innovations in our work. We entered into an historic partnership with the Rhodes Trust and Oxford University to extend the Rhodes Scholarships to Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine - in perpetuity. And we piloted Amal ("hope" in Arabic), an arts programme that brought together Muslims and non-Muslims all over the UK, opening minds and forging common ground.

This review tells you more about all these programmes. I commend it to you and end with my deepest thanks to all the Foundation's partners and staff who make our work possible.

Wafic Rida Saïd

**Chairman
Saïd Foundation**



The Saïd Foundation's Chairman, Wafic Rida Saïd, with our 2016/17 Scholars from Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine.

Image: Greg Hammond Photography

Cover: New Scholars being welcomed to the Saïd Business School in October 2017



Wafic Rida Saïd meets with some of the Foundation's Syrian refugee students studying at Jordanian universities through UNHCR's DAFI programme.

Image: © JCEE

Syria Programme

Since 2011 the Foundation has worked to help meet the desperate needs of those who have been forced by Syria's terrible plight to abandon the lives they once knew. Over 13 million Syrians are now in need of urgent assistance.

For over 20 years the Foundation's highest priority has been to support the humanitarian and developmental needs of the Syrian people. For example, for 15 years until the crisis began in 2011, our Syria Disability Programme brought much needed new skills to professionals working to help disabled children all over the country.

Since 2011, we have supported emergency relief, healthcare, child protection and, above all, education, believing that the future of Syria lies with its children and young people. Their resilience is an example to us all never to allow hope to die.

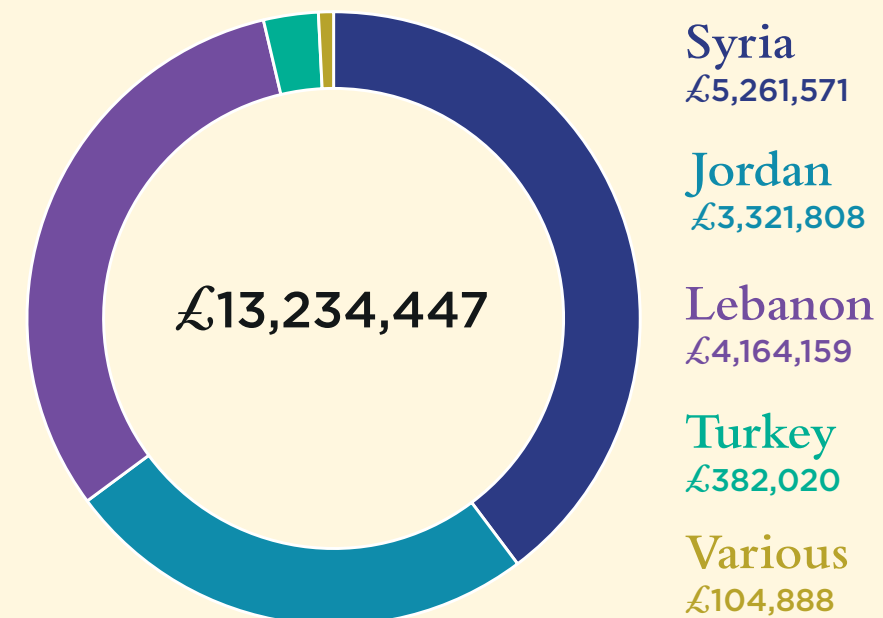
In recent years, we have provided our support in partnership with the International Rescue Committee, Save the Children and the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR. Thanks to their many decades

of experience and their reach across all the countries affected by the Syrian crisis, they are able to deliver support to large numbers of Syrian children and young people and to meet needs as they arise and change.

Some of our support to our partners takes the form of matched funding for the hugely successful Hands Up for Syria Appeal which we ran in 2016 in partnership with the Asfari and Hands Up Foundations. Over £4m was raised which was then matched by the Asfari and Saïd Foundations. We are enormously grateful to the Appeal's incredibly generous donors and proud of what their funding has achieved for Syria's young people.



THE SAÏD FOUNDATION'S SYRIA PROGRAMME FUNDING FROM 2011 TO 2017 BY COUNTRY OF BENEFICIARY



One of the schools for Syrian children in Hatay Province, Turkey, built by Save the Children with support from the Foundation.

Image: Save the Children

International Rescue Committee

Through the IRC, we are supporting the Building a Better Tomorrow programme in Lebanon where the registered Syrian refugee population now numbers around 1 million, more than half of whom are children.



The programme targets Street and Working Children (SaWC) aged 5 to 18. 90% of the children supported are Syrian. The vast majority of these children work to help sustain their families by selling items such as CDs and sweets. A small minority, all under 10, beg. The average earnings of the children range from \$8 to \$12 a day depending on their location. This income is spent on rent, food and health needs. The children work on average for six days a week and for between four and 15 hours a day (around 70% of them between six and ten hours).

The programme provides basic literacy and numeracy sessions to SaWC as well as access to accelerated learning and apprenticeship programmes. It also helps to enrol children in public schools. In addition, children attend community-based psychosocial support and life skills sessions and case management is provided for especially vulnerable children. In 2017 almost 600 children benefited from this programme and over 1,300 members of the community participated in protection awareness activities.



Image: IRC

Sami is a 9 year old boy from Aleppo who worked on the street selling flowers to support his family. His dream was to attend school. Through the support of this programme, Sami took part in an accelerated learning programme, his dad was given a job opportunity and his family is receiving cash relief. Sami now goes to school every day and no longer spends any time working on the street. His dream has come true.



Image: IRC

With our Hands Up for Syria partners, we are supporting IRC's Building the Next Generation of Syrians programme in Lebanon and Syria. This expands educational opportunities for Syrian children.

In Lebanon, some 60% of Syrian refugee children are estimated not to be in school. They face multiple barriers to formal education. In response, IRC has developed a community-based early childhood development programme providing children with stable, nurturing environments and cognitive and social-emotional development appropriate for children who have witnessed war and displacement. It also focuses on critical pre-literacy and pre-numeracy skills. Thanks to Hands Up for Syria funding, 400 children aged 3 - 5 have

achieved the cognitive and social-emotional skills necessary for their future academic success and well-being.

In addition, through a summer remedial programme, 500 children were supported to gain basic second language skills (English and French). This reduces the risk that they will drop out of school due to language difficulties.

In Syria, the Hands Up For Syria grant has supported five schools in northern Syria's Idlib governorate. Approaching 3,000 children attended these schools. Sadly, the precarious situation faced by these schools due to insecure conditions seriously escalated as 2017 progressed.

Save the Children

Through Save the Children, we are supporting three projects for especially vulnerable children.

In Turkey, there are 3 million Syrian refugees, half of them under 18. All but a small proportion live outside camps and just 25% of the children outside camps attend schools. The Turkish Government is working to increase school capacity but cannot keep up with demand. We have supported the establishment of three schools in Hatay province with the capacity to reach 1,500 students every year, students who previously lacked access to education. Handover of two of the schools to the Ministry of National Education has begun and the third is nearing completion.

In Jordan, we are supporting Mobile Child Friendly Centres across the country. More than half the 685,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan are children. They face a mental health crisis caused by exposure to the violence of war and are at risk in numerous ways. The Centres can reach 600 of the most vulnerable children a year, 300 of their parents and 100 of their employers. In them, children can learn, play, receive vital support and just be children.

In North West Syria, we are supporting Save the Children to provide life-saving primary and maternal healthcare and nutrition services. With many medical facilities destroyed and families forced to flee by renewed bombing, the need for medical care is immense.

“The worst thing about the war was when they went into the houses and scared people and children...It affected me so much. I became so angry...I always wanted to be alone and didn't want to see people. It was my mother who made me come to the centre. Then I started to get better...I started going out with my friends, seeing people. The stress disappeared and I was less angry. It's very, very important because it helps you develop, helps you get rid of any emotional pressure. You have fun. It is as if a burden lifts off your chest.”



Image: Save the Children

Qamar (name changed to protect identity), originally from Damascus, who now attends a Child Friendly Centre which operates from her local mosque in Jordan.



Children attending an early education class in Lebanon Image: Save the Children

In addition, with our Hands Up for Syria partners, we are supporting Save the Children to deliver three programmes bringing education to Syrian children in Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.

- Early childhood development in Lebanon focusing on literacy and maths so that children can enrol in the formal primary school system. Over 500 children have begun this programme so far.
- Education for teenagers in rural areas of Jordan, working with out-of-school children and their families to enable them to get back into education.
- Alternative Learning Centres in Syria, providing hard-to-reach children of all school ages with learning opportunities.



The UN Refugee Agency

Since its creation, the Foundation has focused strongly on higher education. As the crisis in Syria became protracted, we naturally began to think about how to support Syrians whose expectations of going to university had been blighted.



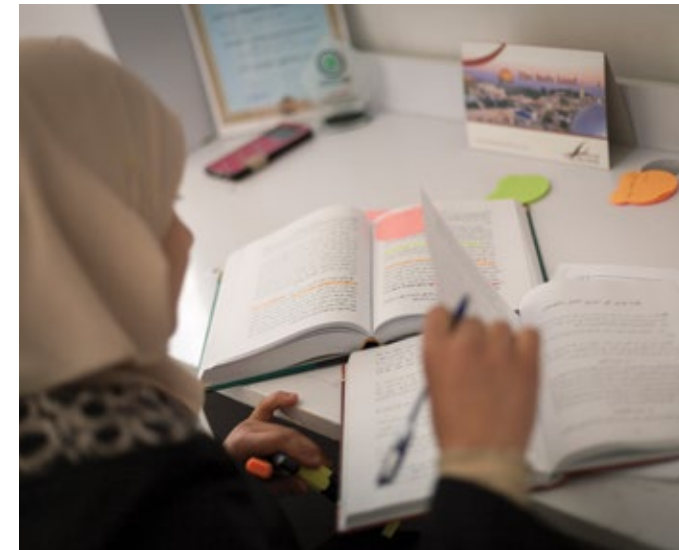
We discovered that, globally, a tiny number of refugees of university age – just 1% – go to university. Yet Syria was a country where, on the eve of the uprising, 350,000 students – 26% of university-age Syrians – were enrolled in universities (more of them women than men).

We found that the UN Refugee Agency supports refugees to study at universities in their host countries through its DAFI programme. In 2014 we provided support to DAFI to increase the number of scholarships for Syrians in Jordan and to introduce them in Lebanon. We renewed our support in 2015 and are delighted that, with our Hands Up for Syria partners, further cohorts of students have received scholarships in 2016 and 2017.

Thanks to this support, 339 Syrian students have so far received scholarships. Their ages range from 18 to 28 and about 50% of the students are women. Their studies last for around four years. In Jordan,

they study a full range of subjects. In Lebanon, the use of English or French as the language of instruction for many subjects tends to limit subjects Syrians can take. This is just one of numerous challenges Syrian refugees face to attend university but they are determined, demand is great and the assistance they receive through DAFI's local implementing partners is excellent. By the summer of 2017, 29 of our students had graduated.

These scholarships have proved to have multiple benefits. Students' growth in confidence is huge. Their presence in the universities of their host countries helps to change perceptions of Syrian refugees for the better. They give back by volunteering in their own communities. The existence of the scholarships keeps younger Syrians in school when they might previously have dropped out, believing they had no hope of a university education.



“I don't want to be looked at or labelled as a refugee but as an achiever. I also want to prove that refugees are full of skills and resources. They can contribute a lot. One day I will go back to Syria and teach there. I will contribute to educate future generations.”

Asmaa, who studies Arabic Literature at Zarqa University

© UNHCR/Antoine Tardy

“I have many friends at university, Syrian and Jordanian alike. My excellent academic results have helped me build good relationships with students and professors. My main source of motivation is the current situation in Syria. My country will need knowledge and science to be rebuilt. Weapons destroy; science and education build.”

Omar, who studies Civil Engineering at Jadara University

© UNHCR/Antoine Tardy



“Higher education is all about hope. It gives young people the knowledge and confidence they need to get on in life and make a contribution to society. It allows those with disadvantaged backgrounds to overcome them. It provides the skilled labour that countries need to increase prosperity. It produces research that helps societies make progress in solving the problems we all face. Higher education is a force for change and a force for good. This is why the Saïd Foundation has focused on it.”

Wafic Saïd receiving an award from DAFI students in Amman. They were represented by Odai, an Engineering student at the University of Jordan.

© JCEE

Scholarship Programme

Scholarship Programme

The Foundation believes in the power of education to transform lives, communities and societies for the better. For over 30 years we have provided scholarships and training opportunities to young people from Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine to enhance their skills, networks and cross-cultural understanding. Most of this support has taken the form of scholarships to study for postgraduate degrees at British universities.

Our scholarships go to outstanding individuals who have demonstrated their potential to be future leaders and drivers of change within our target region. Since 1984 we have supported 580 students from these countries to study in the UK, roughly half of them women. They have studied a wide range of subjects from Global Health and Water and Waste Engineering to International Law, Special Education and Filmmaking.

Typically, our Scholars excel in their studies but, in addition to the skills and knowledge they gain, they develop new ways of thinking and greater confidence and act as ambassadors, helping to build bridges across cultures. We are extremely proud of the many ways in which they apply their new learning and of their professional achievements. We stay closely in touch with our Scholars before, during and after their studies in the UK. They are now part of our growing network of over 1,000 influential Saïd alumni from the region.

Our Scholars in 2016/17

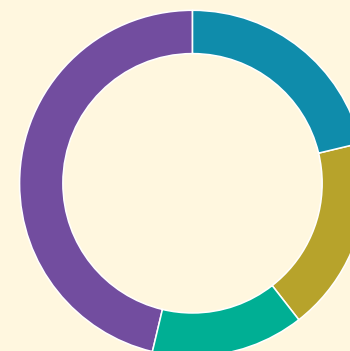
In 2016/17 the Foundation supported 28 students under its Scholarship Programme.

One of them spoke on behalf of his fellow students at the Foundation's annual dinner in 2017. Ahmad Al Rashid graduated from Aleppo University in 2012 with a BA in English Literature. He moved to the Kurdish region of Iraq in 2013 where he joined the UN to support efforts to aid Syrian refugees and Iraqi displaced people. In 2015 Ahmad arrived in the UK as a refugee and was supported by the Foundation to do his Masters in Violence, Conflict and Development at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.

After arriving in the UK, Ahmad worked with various organisations advocating for refugee rights and child refugees. He has spoken in the UK Parliament on several occasions and written

for news agencies including the Guardian and the Independent. He also featured on the BBC's award-winning documentary Exodus which followed his long and perilous journey from Syria to the UK. He has participated in many public debates and continues to raise awareness about the plight of Syrian refugees. Since completing his Masters, Ahmad has worked as a consultant for the International Organisation for Migration where he has supported the integration of Syrian refugees resettled in the UK.

NATIONALITY PROFILE OF SAÏD FOUNDATION SCHOLARS IN 2016/17



Lebanon: 6

Jordan: 5

Palestine: 4

Syria: 13



Image: Greg Hammond Photography

"I would like to thank Saïd Foundation for supporting me to continue my higher education. It has been a life changing experience and one which has opened new horizons for me. I now see myself as a confident, resilient person with a mission."



Image: Greg Hammond Photography

Alumni achievement prize

Each year the Saïd Foundation awards an Alumni Achievement Prize to a former scholar who graduated three years earlier and who is judged by our Student Committee to have contributed most to the development of the region. In 2017 the prize was awarded to Tarek Hamam.

Tarek is a Palestinian-Canadian lawyer born in Lebanon. Prior to embarking on his Master's degree studies, he worked for a prominent law firm in Canada as well as for Lawyers for Human Rights in South Africa. In 2009, he joined the Negotiations Support Unit in Palestine as legal advisor to the Chief Negotiator. There he was involved in numerous diplomatic and legal initiatives, including in relation to the United Nations and the International Criminal Court, aimed at advancing Palestinian human rights and promoting accountability.

In 2012, Tarek was awarded a Saïd Foundation scholarship to study for a Masters degree in International Human Rights Law at the University of Oxford, where he graduated with Distinction in 2014. On completion of his studies, he began

working with UNHCR Lebanon, serving as the Head of the Training Unit in Beirut. He was responsible for the design and delivery of training and capacity-building programmes focused on improving the treatment of refugees by Lebanese police, army and border officials. Tarek was also involved in an initiative that used basketball to bring together Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian young people from Beirut's poorest neighbourhoods and refugee camps. When he accepted his award from our Chairman, Wafic Rida Saïd, he had just relocated to Sudan to work as Protection (Legal) Officer with UNHCR in Khartoum.

"If it is the case that the road for a refugee is as long as we make it, then let's not make it any longer than it needs to be. Let's walk with them, with a sense of purpose and urgency, knowing that our actions matter. And let's make that journey home a little less long and a little more hopeful."

Tarek Hamam, accepting his Alumni Achievement Prize

Our Scholarship Partners

The Foundation is deeply grateful to our 26 leading university partners in the UK who demonstrate their concern for the Foundation's target countries by giving us generous discounts on their fees. Our gratitude also goes to the British Lebanese Association and the Chevening Scholarship Programme. We have been honoured to partner with both organisations for many years in bringing students from our region to the UK.

Much more recently, we have been delighted to enter into two new scholarship partnerships.

Rhodes Scholarships

In 2016 the Saïd Foundation announced a new partnership with the Rhodes Trust and Oxford University under which two new Rhodes Scholars will be selected each year, in perpetuity, to come to Oxford from Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine, all new geographies for the Rhodes Scholarships. Widely regarded as the world's most prestigious scholarships, they were established in 1902 with over 7,000 Scholars from all over the world having been selected so far. Each of the Rhodes Scholars from the Foundation's target countries will study for two to four years at postgraduate level. The first Scholars will arrive in Oxford for the 2017/18 academic year.

"At the heart of the Saïd Foundation is its own community of scholars from these same countries. We have supported over a thousand of them and are immensely proud of their achievements. We are now honoured to enable our most talented young people to become part of the Rhodes community. We believe that this will play a small part in helping our region to heal itself and to prosper. And we look forward to continuing and growing our cooperation with Rhodes long into the future."

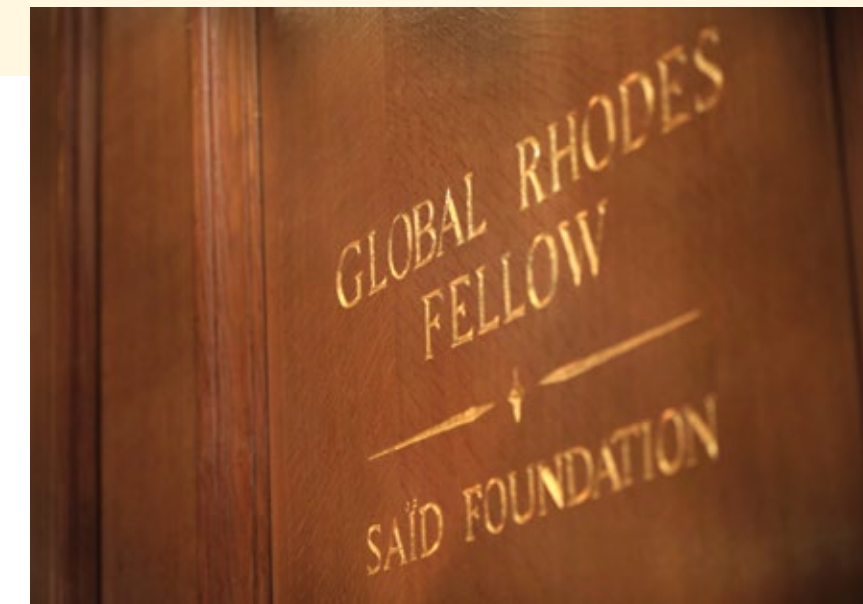
Wafic Rida Saïd
Chairman of the Saïd Foundation

INSEAD

INSEAD is one of the world's leading graduate business schools. Our new scholarship scheme enables outstanding students from Syria and Palestine to attend INSEAD's prestigious MBA programme. In 2017 our first INSEAD Scholar arrived from Palestine.

"I am delighted that the Saïd Foundation is able to give excellent individuals from the Levant the opportunity to pursue a world-class education at INSEAD. As someone who has personally benefited from this experience, I know all about the life-changing impact it can have on an individual."

Khaled Saïd
INSEAD alumnus and Saïd Foundation trustee



The Foundation became a Global Rhodes Fellow as recognised in this engraving in Rhodes House in Oxford.

Saïd Business School

In the 1990s, Wafic Saïd worked with Oxford University to establish its Saïd Business School. Ever since, he and the Saïd Business School Foundation have continued to support the development of the School. Today, this late-comer to management education is one of the world's leading business schools

As world politics becomes more polarised and global challenges more complex, the School believes that business needs to play a bigger and more stabilising role, especially focusing on longer-term issues. Being part of one of the world's oldest, greatest and most international universities gives the School a unique perspective on some of the most significant challenges facing business and the world today and access to academics who are experts in virtually every topic. Through collaboration with the wider University, the School can produce research, teaching and impact that provide not only excellent traditional business education but also a focus on the role of purpose in business, ensuring those who learn and think at the Saïd Business School are uniquely placed to tackle world-scale problems.

The Saïd Foundation supports the Saïd Business School Foundation with an annual grant to fund initiatives that will have the greatest impact on the School's strategic development.

In recent years, this grant has focused on providing scholarships to ensure that the students who join the School's world-class business community are the brightest and best and that they are truly diverse. For example, 36% of the 2016/17 MBA class were women and 10% of the class were from Africa, both excellent outcomes in comparison to previous years and other schools. With our support, all of the School's DPhil students are now fully funded for the duration of their doctoral studies, which is usually four years. Many of them have gone on to tenure-track teaching positions at leading business schools around the world.

We have so far given scholarships to almost 200 of the School's MBA and DPhil students, are very proud of their many achievements and look forward to celebrating many more to come.



In 2017 a garden room was added to the School to provide expanded dining facilities for the growth in the School's MBA numbers. Supported by the Saïd Foundation and designed by architects, Dixon Jones, it is a fitting addition to their award-winning buildings for the School.

One of the most important functions of a business school is the careers support it gives its students. With our help, the School has recently developed its Careers Centre, transforming it into a team of 21 staff members pursuing an ambitious new three-year plan. The Careers Centre grant has supported new programmes and events such as the Oxford Saïd Finance Lab, the Consulting Development Programme and the Social Impact Careers Conference. These programmes continue to grow in size and impact, supporting student engagement and careers outcomes.

"I have been asked on many occasions why I wanted to create a business school at Oxford. Quite simply, it is because Britain has been a very important place in my life. Britain welcomed me when I could not return to my own country, and it was in London that I set up my first business venture. I am very attached to the British people – my wife and children and many of my friends are British. I therefore wanted to give something back which could be of lasting benefit to future generations."

Wafic Saïd, quoted in Bringing Business to Oxford: the Story behind the Saïd Business School

Amal

A SAÏD FOUNDATION PROJECT

In 2017, the Saïd Foundation piloted Amal, a project making grants in support of the rich diversity of Muslim cultures and arts in the UK, including storytelling, visual arts, theatre, poetry, film, music and dance.



Image: Helen Murray

[Hijabi Monologues London is] a wonderful piece of theatre, one that allows us to hear the voices – unveiled, unfiltered – of Muslim women, so little heard in mainstream discourse. The production makes you feel entirely positive about theatre as a vital medium for discovery, for community and generosity.”– Anna Winter, The Stage



The project aimed to further two interlinked objectives:

- To increase understanding of Britain’s Muslim communities among its non-Muslims;
- To foster a stronger sense of belonging among Muslim communities in the UK.

The decision to use arts and culture to further these objectives was based on the findings of an initial consultation carried out by the project as well as a growing body of evidence supporting their use in creating positive social impact. The name Amal – meaning ‘hope’ in Arabic – was chosen to emphasise the affirmative and celebratory nature of the project. The pilot year saw Amal supporting 39 projects through 12 Partnership Grants (up to £30,000) and 27 Small Grants (up to £5,000). Roughly half of Amal-supported projects took place in London and half in other cities. They were carefully chosen to

reflect diversity (gender, ethnicity, age, disability and type of organisation) and to encompass different art forms and cultural origins.

In seeking engagement with mainstream audiences (through established cultural institutions and popular festivals) as well as harder to reach audiences (through grassroots and community-based organisations), project activities were hosted in a variety of locations including arts venues, museums, theatres, schools, places of worship, at festivals and in the community. Examples include Europe’s largest arts venue, Southbank Centre; London’s Jewish cultural centre, JW3; Cheltenham Literature Festival and the Greenbelt festival of faith, arts and justice; theatres including The Bush and Wilton’s Music Hall; schools in Tower Hamlets, Camden and Walthamstow; and faith and inter-faith organisations such as Grassroots Luton and Nisa-Nashim.

AMAL ACTIVITIES TOOK PLACE IN:

Aberdeen, Birmingham, Bradford, Brighton, Cheltenham, Coventry, Doncaster, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Harpenden, Haslingden, Hay-on-Wye, High Wycombe, Kettering, Letchworth, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Luton, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Milton Keynes, Oxford, Peterborough, Petworth, Slough, Southampton, Warwick and Wolverhampton



Zena Kazeem, poet, at the Greenbelt Festival. The Festival's Artistic Director, Paul Northup, described the Amal space at Greenbelt as "One of the most beautiful things ever to have happened in the 44 years of Greenbelt's journey to date."



Image: Simon Wisbey

"Particularly the older generations in Newham find it difficult to interact with people of differing faiths and this project allowed them to meet other people across all ages and learn about them, their culture and their faith. The noise in the room was the clearest indication that people were engaging with one another, as well as the laughter"

Stratford Circus Arts Centre Amal project report.



ANALYSIS OF DATA FROM 34 OF THE PROJECTS PRODUCED THE FOLLOWING SNAPSHOT OF THE REACH OF THE PILOT.

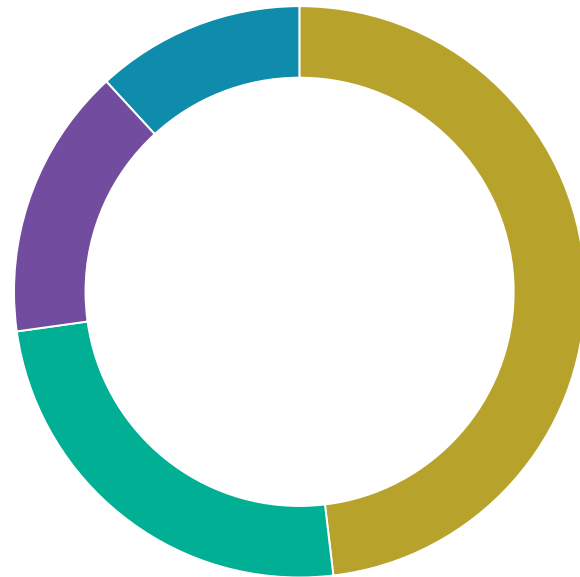


Even in the short period of the pilot, our comprehensive evaluation process enabled us to gather significant evidence around impact. Overall, our key finding was that creating moments of convergence for Muslims and non-Muslims to encounter each other through the arts helps to open minds and forge common ground. The more participatory and sustained such "encounters" are, the deeper their impact. We also found that, when engaging with young people, using contemporary art idioms and platforms (as opposed to traditional ones) is more effective and provides opportunities for them to express themselves, raising their

aspirations and building confidence and a sense of belonging. In addition, increasing representation on stages and screens provides role models for young Muslims to aspire to, while also countering negative perceptions of Muslims in wider society. Yet the networks and incentives needed for Muslims to progress in the creative sectors are currently barely supported by either the British Muslim community or public funders and new content featuring Muslims often reinforces prejudice by portraying stereotypes. There is much need for work of this kind.

Charitable spending

IN 2016/17, THE FOUNDATION'S CHARITABLE SPENDING WAS £4.9 MILLION, SPLIT ACROSS FIVE PROGRAMMES.



Syria Programme: 48%

Saïd Business School: 25%

Scholarship Programme: 15%

Amal: 12%

CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAMME

	2016/17 £MILLIONS
Syria Programme	2.3
Saïd Business School	1.2
Scholarship Programme	0.7
Amal	0.6
	4.9



Some of our 2016/17 Scholars celebrating the end of their studies at Windsor Castle.

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www.saidfoundation.org/donate

Alternatively, if you wish to donate using another method please contact us by writing to

admin@saidfoundation.org