



Annual Review 2021

*Cover: Street and working children
participate in painting a mural on the
wall of a public garden in Aarsal through a
children's rights activity
Image: IRC*

*Graduation project, a Syrian wooden
craft design for a tray completed by trainee
Ahmad Haroun, at the Turquoise
Mountain Vocational Training Centre.
Image: Turquoise Mountain*



Welcome



*Wafic Saïd,
Chairman of Saïd Foundation.
Image: Greg Smolonski, Photovibe*

The year 2021 marked the 10th anniversary of the devastating civil war in Syria. When it first unfolded, we provided emergency humanitarian assistance for several years. Then, due to the unfortunately protracted nature of the war, we shifted our focus to supporting long-term educational programmes. We had to freeze ambitious projects we were developing in Syria because of the tragic circumstances there. These included a centre for excellence in teaching and learning at Damascus University, a not-for-profit hospital in Damascus, and an organisation dedicated to preserving Syria's heritage. Syria remains at the heart of the Foundation's mission, and we hope that we will be able to resume activity there in the future.

Our goal across the programmes we support is to restore hope in young people by giving them a chance to rebuild their lives and communities, and I am grateful to all our partners who have helped us make a difference in the lives of nearly 200,000 Syrian refugee children and young people.

In 2021, we bade farewell to Professor Peter Tufano, the longest-serving dean of the Saïd Business School, whose leadership of the school over the past decade has been instrumental in making it a world-class institution for business education. Under his deanship, the school brought further innovation to its work, developed new

programmes, and attracted more diverse cohorts from around the world. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Professor Tufano whose accomplishments are a testimony to his incredible dedication and hard work.

In the past year we also celebrated the start of the Osney Power Station redevelopment project after pandemic-related delays. On its completion in 2024, it will become home to the new Global Leadership Centre of the Saïd Business School and will provide an outstanding learning environment for leaders of global business, government, and civil society.

We continued providing scholarships to bright students from the Levant region and we made every effort to support them throughout the difficulties of the pandemic. They have shown great resilience in completing their studies in the UK during these challenging times.

We take great pride in the achievements of our scholars and in the impressive work they do after they complete their studies. In this year's report, you will find inspirational stories of the impact our alumni have been making in their fields and countries including a profile of our 2021 alumni achievement prize winner. Each year, we receive impressive applications to the prize reflecting the high calibre of our alumni. I am immensely proud of them; they give us hope that a bright future lies ahead for our region.

Finally, I would like to thank all our current and former Trustees for their vision and leadership and our staff for their dedication and commitment, they make all of this possible.

Wafic Rida Saïd
Chairman, Saïd Foundation

Scholarships Programme



2020/21 Said Foundation scholars at an event to celebrate the end of the academic year.

The Foundation believes that education has the power to change lives and communities for the better. Since 1984 the Foundation has offered scholarships to outstanding individuals from Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine who show the potential to drive positive change in their countries. Through their studies in the UK they gain skills which they use to contribute towards the development of the Levant region.

The Foundation supported 27 scholars for postgraduate studies in the UK in 2020/21. Study areas ranged from public health,

biomedical engineering, psycholinguistics and spatial planning to social and cultural psychology.

The coronavirus pandemic continued to impact scholars in 2020/21. It was a challenging year for students who arrived in the UK and started their studies under coronavirus restrictions, with most teaching throughout the year taking place online. The restrictions also prevented them from fully experiencing and enjoying life in the UK.

Scholarships Programme

In response, the Foundation focused on providing pastoral care and mental health support to students. Online sessions focusing on wellbeing and stress management were held for scholars by a mental health expert with extensive experience working in the Middle East, who also ran a series of regular short sessions focusing on self-care during lockdown.

An informal event was held for 2020/21 scholars in the summer when restrictions allowed. Students were able to come together in person to celebrate the end of the academic year. The event included a session in which alumni from Syria,

Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine joined virtually to give scholars advice on planning their next steps after graduation. The session was followed by a Lebanese lunch and a trip to the London Eye.

The Foundation is proud of the resilience shown by the 2020/21 scholars in completing their studies in the UK despite the many challenges they faced.



2020/21 scholars are joined virtually by Said Foundation alumni

Our Alumni

We are proud of the diversity of our alumni and their contributions to their communities and their respective professions. Our growing body of alumni, which is now almost 700 strong, boasts leading policymakers, health and development professionals, educators, international business consultants, entrepreneurs, lawyers, engineers, environmentalists, artists and architects.



Sulieman Mleahat
wins the 2021 Alumni
Achievement Prize

The Saïd Foundation Alumni Achievement Prize is an annual prize awarded to an individual who is judged by the Foundation Trustees to have contributed significantly to the development of the region and to have shown the positive impact of their studies as a Saïd Foundation scholar. The Foundation was delighted to award the prize in 2021 to Sulieman Mleahat from Palestine.

Sulieman was supported by the Saïd Foundation to study for an MSc in International Development Administration and Planning at the University of Bristol in 1993. He has contributed significantly to the development of the pre-school education sector in Palestine. In 2010, he established the country's largest Early Childhood Development programme with the US non-profit Anera. Over the past eleven years, he has secured more than \$13 million which enabled him to renovate and upgrade 215 kindergartens, training 1,000 teachers, and reaching over 30,000 children and

20,000 caregivers at the same time. He also helped establish Anera's recent campaign to build 50 new governmental kindergartens to act as centres of excellence for pre-school education in Palestine.

Sulieman also volunteers in assisting Palestinian artists and cultural institutions to grow and strengthen their capacities. He has contributed to the publication of the Palestinian artist Nabil Anani's first monograph (*Palestine, Land and People*), which took three years of work to complete and involved commissioning writers and editing Arabic and English texts as well as undertaking hundreds of hours of picture research and documentation. The book was a co-winner of the MEMO Palestine Book Awards in London 2019.

Spotlight on our Alumni



Dr Salam Al Kuntar (Syria)

“Receiving the Saïd Foundation scholarship has literally paved the way for me to have a career that I was looking to build academically and professionally. It pushed me to study hard, gave me the motivation to climb the ladder, and made me believe in my ability to make a difference.”

Salam Al Kuntar is an Assistant Professor of Archaeology at Rutgers New Brunswick’s Department of Classics and Assistant Dean of Middle Eastern Affairs at Rutgers Global in New Jersey (USA). She worked at the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) in Syria in a number of capacities from 1996–2012. Since 2012, she has been active in the field of cultural heritage preservation. Salam is a National Geographic explorer and a consulting scholar at the Penn Museum.

Salam is the co-founder and chair of SIMAT (Syrians for Heritage), a non-profit association for heritage preservation based in Berlin. Her research interests centre on the archaeology and heritage of the Middle East, exploring a wide variety of themes such as ancient economy and urbanism, forced migration, modern identity and historic narratives, conflict and iconoclasm. She has worked on heritage preservation projects in Syria, Iraq and Turkey.

Salam was supported by the Saïd Foundation to study for an MA in Archaeology at the University of Liverpool in 2002.



Leen Aghabi (Jordan)

“The Saïd Foundation realises that potential is not an end-point, but a capacity to grow and learn. By that, they identify individuals with potential in the region and help them refine their skills and knowledge, and prepare them to return to their home countries to positively contribute and inspire others.”

Leen Aghabi is a Jordanian policy practitioner with over six years of cross-disciplinary work experience in public policy, economic development and evidence-based research. She currently works with the World Bank Group in Jordan. Her portfolio of advisory projects focuses on providing private sector solutions that lay the foundation for job creation and sustainable economic growth in MENA and Africa.

Before joining the World Bank Group, Leen was a Policy Analyst at the Political Affairs Directorate of the Office of His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan. Prior to this, she

was a Research Fellow in the field of Human Security at the West Asia–North Africa (WANA) Institute, where she supported the research and implementation of WANA’s several Human Security and Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism projects.

Leen holds a Master’s degree in International Relations, with Merit, from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), which she completed as a Saïd Foundation scholar in 2015.

Dr Bassel Akar (Lebanon)

“The Saïd Foundation supported my MA in Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment at the Institute of Education, University of London (IOE) in 2004. Studying there was the privilege of a lifetime. I continued with doctoral studies at the IOE. The opportunity to be part of the academic community in the UK prepared me to research and help improve the quality of education for all young people in Lebanon and other conflict-affected areas, especially in the region.”



Bassel Akar is Associate Professor of Education at Notre Dame University – Louaize, Lebanon (NDU) and Research Fellow at Centro de Estudos Africanos, Universidade do Porto. From 2014 to 2021, he served as the Director of the Centre for Applied Research in Education at NDU. His research and development work in education over the past 12 years has focused on lower middle-income conflict-affected countries, namely Lebanon and those in the wider Arab region, including Jordan, Yemen, Iraq, Iraqi Kurdistan and Egypt. The studies have contributed to four core knowledge fields in these fragile contexts undergoing various forms of armed conflict, systemic corruption and violations of children's rights to education: (1) education for social and human development through citizenship, history and early childhood education; (2) education for young people made vulnerable by war and crises; (3) empowering teachers as agents of sustainable change and (4) ethical and inclusive methods of inquiry for highly vulnerable populations.

Bassel has worked closely with international organisations (UNICEF, UNESCO, Caritas Austria, Save the Children,

USAID, World Bank) and local organisations to carry out regional studies in education and facilitating professional development activities for citizenship and history education teachers. He has also led research projects that examine educational programmes for Syrian refugee children in Lebanon and Jordan (formal, non-formal, early childhood).

Bassel contributed to international studies by leading the Lebanon Case Study in Resilience in the Return to Learning during COVID-19 (USAID), the Impact of School Closures under COVID-19 on Child Protection and Education Inequalities in Humanitarian Settings (Protektion & INEE), and Provision of Peace Education (Ulster University & UNESCO).

Bassel has also contributed to the third revision of the Minimum Standards of Education by the International Network for Education in Emergency (INEE), where he completed with his international research team a six-month study assessing the usage of the minimum standards over the past ten years across five main languages.



Prof Hussein Jabareen (Palestine)

“The Saïd Foundation scholarship for studying Development Studies gave me the unique opportunity to achieve my aim of making sure that the design and implementation of health education programmes meet the priority needs of Palestinian health institutions and produce tangible and sustainable development results, and how these features may be used to improve wellbeing.”

Hussein Jabareen currently works as Dean of College of Nursing and Health Sciences and Acting Dean of College of Pharmacy & Medical Sciences at Hebron University (Al-Khalil University) in Palestine.

Hussein has led the development of the Nursing School at Hebron University which has grown to have advanced training labs, regional and international cooperation, and advanced research programmes. Under his leadership, the school was able to establish a vibrant and robust Bachelor of Midwifery degree and is currently planning to create its own master's programme in Health Economics & Management, which will bring together nurses and other healthcare professionals from various disciplines working in the Palestinian healthcare system.

Hussein is a member of several health and development committees at national and international levels, and coordinates academic cooperation projects, with research interests in change management, health system administration, health informatics, community institutions improvement and social equity. Prof Jabareen has also authored several books on nursing and public health.

Hussein was supported by the Saïd Foundation to study for an MSc in Development Studies at the University of Glasgow in 2007.

Rhodes Trust partnership



*Saïd Rhodes scholars with Dr Liliane Chamas, Rhodes National Secretary for Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine.
Image: Lee Atherton*

The Saïd Rhodes scholar community from Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine is growing every year at the University of Oxford thanks to the partnership between the Foundation and the Rhodes Trust, which started in 2016.

In 2021, we welcomed two new bright students from Syria and Palestine who are now pursuing further studies in public health and technology, and we celebrated the graduation of our first Saïd Rhodes scholar, Nur Arafah from Palestine, who completed her DPhil in International Development.

There are currently 11 Saïd Rhodes scholars at Oxford who join hundreds of outstanding individuals from around the world who are committed to public good and community service.

Saïd Business School



Left to Right - Paul Polman, Chair of the School Board, Professor Louise Richardson, Vice-Chancellor, University of Oxford, Dr Rasha Saïd, deputy Chair of the Saïd Foundation, Professor Sue Dopson, Interim Dean, Saïd Business School.

The Saïd Business School was founded over 25 years ago in October 1996, thanks to the generous support of our Chairman, Wafic Saïd. It has evolved to be one of the leading business schools with a mission to tackle complex, world-scale challenges.

In 2018, the Saïd Foundation committed a gift of £15 million for the redevelopment of Osney Power Station as the School's new centre for executive education. After pandemic-related delays, the ground breaking ceremony took place in November 2021 to mark the start of the project to convert the Victorian building into the School's Global Leadership Centre. Completion is due in 2024.



*Western Elevation, Northern Riverside View of the Osney Power Station.
Image: John McAslan + Partners LLP*

The Saïd MBA prize is awarded annually to a student who has excelled academically, made an exceptional contribution to the classroom and contributed to the wider social and intellectual life of the School.

Zhan Yi Soh
wins the 2021 Saïd MBA prize



Zhan Yi (Zach) Soh is qualified as an advocate and solicitor in Singapore and began his career in Drew & Napier, one of Singapore's leading law firms, advising institutional clients and family-held businesses in executing corporate transactions. Subsequently, he joined Brookfield, a global alternative asset manager, where he worked with colleagues across the APAC region on transactional and asset management matters.

The MBA at the Saïd Business School has enabled Zach to better appreciate the wider strategic implications of the transactions which he worked on in his career, especially through the Oxford Saïd Finance Lab and the School's focus in tackling world-scale issues.

Having completed his MBA during unprecedented pandemic times, Zach is grateful to the School's leadership and adaptation during the year, and believes that his unique experience on the course has equipped him with greater resilience and empathy which he hopes to put to good use in his working life. He transitioned into a career in strategy consulting after his MBA.

Professor Peter Tufano, Peter Moores Dean of the Saïd Business School (2011-2021)

Professor Peter Tufano stepped down from his role as Dean of Saïd Business School on June 30, 2021, after 10 years of transformative leadership and service. Professor Tufano was driven by a strong sense of purpose, which he channelled into turning the ambition of making the School a world-class business school that tackles world-scale problems into reality and creating a force for justice in business. He made a strategic decision to encourage more African students to attend the programmes, reflecting the continent's future importance to the global economy and the School's role in developing a new generation of leaders there.

Amongst his many achievements, Professor Tufano launched the Oxford Foundry, an entrepreneurship centre which was available to all students at the University, increased student scholarships, fundraised over £100 million, exponentially improved the School's revenue and distinguished the MBA and EMBA Programmes from competitors with an impressive gender balance among the cohorts.

Under his leadership, new programmes were introduced and the School's programmes have become more competitive and diverse. One of his final notable attainments was to complete the fundraising required to commence building work on the new Executive Education 'Global Leadership Centre', which Mr Saïd has so generously supported.

This academic year, Professor Tufano has returned to Harvard, where he previously spent 22 years as Professor and Associate Dean, and continues to support the Saïd Business School and its community as the Peter Moores Professor of Finance.



*Professor Peter Tufano, Peter Moores Dean,
Saïd Business School, University of Oxford*

Measure	2011	2021
Research FT rankings	FT MBA: 51	FT MBA : 23
Faculty	64	76 (33 new hires since 2011)
Alumni numbers	9,000 OBA members	24,500 OBA members + 25,000 eLumni
MBA class size	240	320
MBA FT ranking	27	17
EMBA FT ranking	29	18
Executive Education Open FT ranking	10	2
EDI	MBA: 25% women, 2% African EMBA: 10% women, 8% African	MBA: 47% women, 13% African EMBA: 30% women, 15% African
New Programmes added		MBA 1+1, MSC Healthcare Leadership, DipSI, Dip in Coaching plus portfolio of online executive education programmes
Estates	Park End Street + Egrove buildings	Thatcher Business Centre, Beaver House, Oxford Foundry, Park End Street, Egrove +new Global Leadership Centre
Fundraising		Raised over £104.5m
Innovation		GOTO, Rules of the Game module, Teaching & Learning Initiative
Professional Services	Poor	University exemplar

One of Profesor Tufano's final notable attainments was to complete the fundraising required to commence building work on the new Executive Education 'Global Leadership Centre', which Mr Saïd has so generously supported.

Humanitarian Programme

In 2021, the war in Syria entered its 10th year. Over 6.6 million people have fled Syria since 2011, seeking refuge in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and beyond, and 6.9 million are internally displaced within Syria. When the conflict in Syria began in 2011, the Foundation provided emergency humanitarian assistance to victims. In 2014 it shifted its focus to educational programming with international NGOs. Thanks to the generous donations from the Chairmen and friends of the Saïd Foundation and Asfari Foundation, since 2016, we have reached over 190,000 Syrians in need in Lebanon and in Jordan.



*Ghaida, 10 year old Syrian refugee, enjoying the Levantine cultural heritage classes with Turquoise Mountain.
Image: Turquoise Mountain*

After a successful pilot in 2017, the Foundation supported Turquoise Mountain Jordan from 2018 to 2021. Our partnership provided hundreds of Syrian refugees with the education, skills and platform to build meaningful careers

in the craft sector. This programme played a vital role in protecting and preserving many important aspects of Syrian cultural heritage.

Our current programme with the IRC in Lebanon focuses on protection and access to education for Syrian children and young people. In the last three years, over 27,893 children, young people and their families were reached directly with education and support services. A further 139,385 people were reached through community support activities. Despite Lebanon's multiple crises over the last two years, IRC teams were able to continue to deliver activities.

Since 2014, through its partnership with the UNCHR-administered DAFI Programme, the Foundation has enabled over 400 Syrian students to access undergraduate studies in Lebanon and in Jordan. The Foundation is currently supporting 137 Syrian DAFI scholars in Jordan and in Lebanon, from cohorts which started in 2017 (with the Asfari Foundation), 2018 and 2019. The most recent cohort supports 20 scholars in Jordan and 21 in Lebanon until 2023.

In 2021, we started supporting three new programmes: a refugee livelihoods programme in Jordan with UNHCR, the expansion of educational programmes for refugees in the UK with Breaking Barriers, and support for disadvantaged young people to explore entrepreneurship and self-employment through the Prince's Trust Enterprise Programme through the Toucan Project.

Turquoise Mountain

Turquoise Mountain was founded in 2006 by HRH The Prince of Wales to revive historic areas and traditional crafts, to provide jobs, skills and a renewed sense of pride. The Foundation is proud to have helped Turquoise Mountain launch and lay strong foundations in Jordan. Our partnership enabled cultural heritage classes to over 1,500 children and

vocational training to over 400 young adults, and supported nearly \$500,000 in craft sales across a network of 50 workshops employing hundreds of Syrians. Despite Covid-related challenges, in 2021 Turquoise Mountain reached over 1000 beneficiaries in the following areas:



*Hamza Youssef and Musab Alsaedi, both Syrian refugees, building their foundational woodworking skills at the Turquoise Mountain Vocational Training Centre.
Image: Turquoise Mountain*

Craft training

transferring heritage knowledge from one generation to another, and providing design and enterprise skills and employment opportunities to launch careers;



*Hiba, 9-year old Syrian refugee, learning Islamic geometric design at the Turquoise Mountain Children's Heritage Class.
Image: Turquoise Mountain*

Heritage education

inspiring thousands of children about their cultural heritage through activity-based learning;



*Ten supported workshops combine to furnish an exemplar diwan in Jordan, creating jobs and opportunity for Syrian refugees with Turquoise Mountain.
Image: Turquoise Mountain*

Building market connections

creating and supporting thriving craft businesses that will sustain the industries behind this cultural heritage, through commercial activity in the craft and tourism sectors.

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

In 2021, despite multiple crises and challenges, the IRC continued its work to create a safe and supportive environment for Syrian children and their families and to transform the lives of Syrian children through education, child protection and community empowerment.

In 2021, we supported 12,414 Syrian refugees directly and 52,535 indirectly. Key achievements included 146 street working children stopping work for at least three months and engaging in education services; 290 street connected and working children receiving much-needed psychosocial support; 135 students in North Bekaa- Arsal taking part in vocational training course; and 3,388 household members receiving Emergency Cash Assistance.



*Two participants in the vocational training course learn how to fix mechanical objects.
Image: IRC*



*Children participate in COVID-19 Awareness Sessions, holding up the Emergency Hotline information that was shared in the session.
Image: IRC*

As poverty levels rocketed, Syrians increasingly struggled to afford basic food, medication and rental costs. As a result, more children returned to the streets to work, there were more instances of early marriage and cases of domestic violence increased.

The programme's outreach, case management, child protection services and cash assistance were very much needed. The IRC continues to work closely with and train local partners LebRelief and Jousour Al Nour.

Hands Up Foundation

Together with the Asfari Foundation, in 2020 and 2021 we supported the Hands Up Foundation to contribute to the funding of an education project implemented by SAWA for Development and Aid in Lebanon. This project came in response to the vast needs of Syrian refugee children in the Bekaa Valley who either have had no former schooling or have been out of school for several years, most having lived in camps all their lives.

Despite numerous actors and UN agencies working in parallel to the Lebanese Ministry for Education and Higher Education, an enormous gap still exists in the education sector. This project provided a holistic approach to learning, targeting children between 6 to 13 years. It provided them with access to formal education and vocational training, in addition to psychological support to them and their families.



*SAWA provide children with a chance for a better future and with the basic literacy and numeracy skills required for formal education.
Image: Sawa for Development and Aid*



*SAWA was able to re-open classes to the children at Bar Elias camp on the 11th of October 2021.
Image: Sawa for Development and Aid*

The project provided funding for an educational centre in Bar Elias (Central Bekaa), which has capacity for around 280 Syrian refugee children. A team of teachers, psychosocial support facilitators, and administrative and technical staff oversee the activities in the centre. These include Arabic, mathematics, English and science; psychological support sessions; vocational training, and child protection and safeguarding training for the education team.

In the face of multiple crises in Lebanon, the centre struggled to stay open in 2021 but finally reopened in October 2021. Overall, our support enabled access to education for almost 280 children aged between 6 to 13 years (57% of which were girls), full salaries of 19 teachers at the school for two consecutive academic years, and books and stationery for two academic years.



Student volunteering in the community is a vital part of the DAFI programme. A DAFI scholar paints the walls of a centre for the elderly in Lebanon.
Image: UNHCR



Dania Al Assad graduated top of her class in English Language & Literature at Isra'a University. Her studies at Damascus University were interrupted by the war which "killed our dreams and our livelihoods forcing us to flee to Jordan" in 2012. She earned a DAFI scholarship to continue her studies and is now working as an English language teacher for refugee school students. Dania's dream is to get a master's scholarship opportunity and after that a PhD.

"When you choose hope, everything is possible"

DAFI alumni, Dania graduated from Isra'a University in Jordan with a top degree in English Language & Literature. She now works as an English language teacher for refugee school students.
Image: UNHCR

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) Undergraduate scholarships

The DAFI scholarship programme and the Foundation share the same ethos of community service and commitment to helping others. Both Saïd and DAFI scholars are selected not only because of their academic excellence and potential, but also for their passion for making a positive impact on their home or host community.

In Jordan, refugees struggle to access university due to the high tuition fees at public universities and the lack of scholarship opportunities. The Programme is highly competitive and in 2021, the success rate for applicants was 2% in Jordan and 6% in Lebanon. Many graduates seek postgraduate scholarships as finding employment in both countries remains difficult.

Remote learning during the pandemic proved challenging for some students who lacked equipment or who had poor internet connections. Local implementing partners provided additional support in such cases.

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) Vocational Training

In summer 2021, the Foundation started supporting a UNHCR vocational training project which is implemented by local partner Jordan River Foundation (JRF) in five Jordanian governorates. It provides accredited vocational and micro-business training for Syrian urban refugees and vulnerable Jordanians.

It also supports beneficiaries with employer networking opportunities, seed funding, mentoring, and coaching. In addition, the project promotes opportunities around new technology-enabled work that significantly contributes to a growing freelance economy in Jordan.

In addition to soft skills training, beneficiaries are enrolled in various programmes depending on their background and potential. Training courses include cyber security, programming, graphic design, photo and video editing, computer skills, customer service, dairy food processing, solar energy, and hydroponic agriculture.

These training topic areas were identified through an intensive market assessment research conducted by JRF, which collected data through the use of surveys, interviews, and focus groups with potential participants and employers.

Beneficiaries express how difficult life is with high prices for basic goods and very high unemployment. They say the Covid-19 pandemic further reduced work opportunities, lowered salaries and affected their mental health.

Batool Ayman Al-Hamadah is a 19-year-old Syrian living in Amman. She completed her secondary school studies and had previously worked as a translator of online articles. Batool had been seeking employment for a long time when she heard about the project.

She took part in information sessions, a training programme for life and employability skills, and core capacity training to help her develop life skills to improve her independence, confidence and communication skills.

She was matched with a job opportunity with Jerash Garments and Fashion manufacturing company and now works as a Production Worker.



Batool is from Syria and she lives in Amman. As part of the livelihoods activities, she participated in information sessions and livelihoods, life skills and employability training. After this, she was job matched in a fashion manufacturing company and she gladly accepted a position.

Image: UNHCR



*Breaking Barriers helps people of refugee background acquire the knowledge, confidence and experience to get stable, fulfilling employment.
Image: Breaking Barriers*

Breaking Barriers

In 2021, we were delighted to support the London-based charity Breaking Barriers in expanding their educational programmes to Manchester and Birmingham.

Breaking Barriers helps refugees in the UK acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to get stable employment, which is key to successful integration into their new communities.

The barriers faced by people from refugee backgrounds include insufficient English language and IT skills and lack of awareness of workplace and hiring culture in the UK.

In recent years, Breaking Barriers has supported hundreds of Syrian refugees in London through employment and education programmes and expanded in 2021 to Manchester and Birmingham where there is a large number of newly resettled Syrian refugees and a significant need for support toward greater refugee employment.

The Toucan Project

The Toucan Project is a pilot project supported by the Foundation since March 2021. The Toucan Project is closely aligned with the Foundation's vision, mission, guiding principles and values.

Its objectives are to enable disadvantaged students in the UK and overseas to realise their full potential through educational, vocational training and internship opportunities. The Toucan Project works through a partnership model whereby students are funded jointly by The Toucan Project and the partner.

The Toucan Project's first grant supports the Prince's Trust to deliver their Enterprise programme to help a number of young people explore entrepreneurship and self-employment.

This programme supports disadvantaged young people who are unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week to start a business. Since its creation in 1983, the Enterprise programme has helped over 90,000 young entrepreneurs to launch their own businesses.

The Enterprise programme is being delivered both virtually and in person at youth centres by a team of passionate youth workers who teach an immersive course where young people learn the essentials of starting a business including basics in marketing and tax, as well as having the opportunity to hear an inspirational talk from an established entrepreneur.



They receive business mentoring, access to ongoing workshops, expert feedback on the viability of their business plan, and access to low-interest start-up loans and test grants to support the sustainability of their business.

*Rianna Patterson,
a young person supported by The
Prince's Trust.
Image: The Prince's Trust*

Amal Programme

Amal Programme Impact in Numbers 2017-2021

The Foundation founded its Amal Programme in 2017, taking an arts approach to increasing understanding of Britain's Muslim communities among others and their sense of belonging in the UK.

Since then, Amal has grown into a respected brand in the arts sector as the only initiative using a multiple-arts approach focusing specifically on Muslims.

51
Partners

63
Projects

1,311
Events

1,324
Artists

9,508
Participants

85,596
Audiences

1,368,732
Online Connections



Re-Fuel, a Tamasha Theatre project with four London secondary schools, developed plays that were performed to public audiences with great success at Rich Mix and Theatre Royal Stratford East. Image: Bettina Adela

Over four years Amal created a community of over 50 partner organisations, hundreds of artists, an esteemed group of advisers who have generously provided guidance on arts-related matters, and many other friends and supporters. In those years, Amal:

- Supported the creation of new high-quality artistic content by Muslim artists and participants
- Incentivised arts organisations to increase their platforming of Muslim artists and create more opportunities for them within the arts sector
- Enabled thousands of experiences of “encounter” among Muslim and non-Muslim artists, audiences and participants
- Boosted an appetite for Muslim-created content, signalling a desire to move beyond negative media stereotypes
- Provided more role models for young Muslims
- Stimulated increased targeted funding for Muslim artistic activity and engagement

Amal Programme

In August 2020, Amal became an independent charity, established with the Saïd Foundation's support, under the leadership of former Saïd Foundation CEO and Trustee, Catherine Roe. The charity succeeded in raising matching funding during the Covid pandemic, making it a going concern in May 2021. Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Paul Hamlyn Foundation joined the Saïd Foundation as Amal's founding donors.

Amal's long-term aims are to build a community of practice in the arts and cultural sector which fully includes Muslims as audiences, participants, artists, workers and leaders and to shift the narrative around Muslims to one that encompasses a multitude of stories reflecting their diversity, celebrating their

experiences and enabling us all to enjoy and respect our differences and our common ground.

From May until the end of 2021 Amal focused on the preparatory work required to build Amal's organisational capabilities and to launch the Amal Connects programme. Amal Connects, which is based on learning from Amal's previous work and consultation with Amal's stakeholders, will grow opportunities for Muslim communities to fully express their creative potential and to share and celebrate this creativity with others. It follows a co-creation, place-based, partnership model which is being piloted in Birmingham and Bradford in 2022 before being expanded to further hubs in the years to come.

*The Rose and the Bulbul (nightingale) was a new production presented by Kadam Asian Dance and Music. The performances were hosted in the gardens of Lauderdale House and Geffrye Museum.
Image: Melissa Lane*



About Us

Vision

Our vision is of a world where people from all backgrounds can realise their full potential.

Mission

Our mission is to bring positive and lasting change to the lives of children, young people and the wider community through carefully selected investments in themes and geographies with which the Saïd family and the Saïd Foundation have developed strong links and expertise.

The Foundation's guiding principles are:

1. A conviction that education is a powerful tool to change lives for the better and that higher education in particular plays a valuable role in creating enlightened and effective leadership which benefits the broader community.
2. An approach that is non-sectarian and non-political.
3. Recognition of the need to build capacity and capability across the region we work in.
4. An understanding of the importance of bridge building, communication and respect across cultures.
5. A desire to enhance and learn from our thematic and regional experience and to benefit from synergy between programmes.
6. The potential to promote philanthropy and to maximise the impact of specific projects through partnerships with organisations that share our objectives.

Saïd Foundation Trustees



Mr Wafic Saïd
Chairman



Mrs Rosemary Saïd



Dr Rasha Saïd
Deputy Chair



Mr Khaled Saïd



Reverend
Jonathan Aitken



Mrs Sirine Idilby



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Mrs Nadine
Zakaria

In 2020/21 the Foundation’s charitable expenditure was £3.75 million.

£ millions	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	5 year average	
Saïd Business School	1.2	16.1	1.3	1.35	1.50	4.3	58%
Humanitarian Programme	2.4	3.2	1.5	0.95	0.46	1.7	23%
Scholarships Programme	0.7	1.0	0.8	1.05	1.10	0.9	12%
Amal Programme	0.6	0.1	0.5	0.45	0.66	0.5	6%
The Toucan Project	-	-	-	-	0.03	0.0	0%
Total	4.9	20.4	4.1	3.80	3.75	7.4	100%

£ millions	2020/21	
Saïd Business School	1.50	40%
Humanitarian Programme	0.46	12%
Scholarships Programme	1.10	30%
Amal Programme	0.66	18%
The Toucan Project	0.03	1%
Total	3.75	100%

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London
EC4N 7HR

Registered Charity No:1125521
Registered Company No: 06621764

www.saidfoundation.org

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