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**Mission overview:** The core mission of Al Fakhoora is to advocate and measurably improve the quality of education and lives of Palestinian students living in Gaza and the West Bank. Al Fakhoora realizes that its mission cannot be fully materialized given the Israeli blockade around Gaza and the occupation of Palestine which denies students from travelling freely to pursue education.

Al Fakhoora focuses on four specific areas of intervention to support higher education in Gaza. These areas include; our flagship scholarship and empowerment program ‘Dynamic Futures’, our reconstruction and rehabilitation of educational institutes, ‘Extreme University Makeover’, psychosocial and disability programs ‘Winners Against All Odds’, and our student initiated global advocacy campaign, ‘Fakhoora.org’. (please refer to the Al Fakhoora chart on page 16).

Al Fakhoora provides a solid communication platform to students in Gaza, Qatar and an English speaking audience, to utilize online social media tools whereby students are effectively able to advocate for their cause and their right to education on a larger scale.

**Accomplishments:** To date, Al Fakhoora has restored hope to over 300 of Gaza’s young adults by awarding each student a full scholarship while also channeling their amazing energy through its Dynamic Futures scholarship and empowerment program, which focuses on advocacy, soft skills and internships. Our commitment to the recipients of the scholarship goes beyond financial aid through a unique partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The UNDP’s economic empowerment initiatives, Deprived families Economic Empowerment Program (DEEP), restores economic independence to the families of our students by setting them up with their own businesses. Our scholarship program for international postgraduate degrees focuses on filling the education vacuum that the illegal blockade has made on Gaza’s brightest young adults.

The second phase of our reconstruction or ‘Extreme University Makeover’ program, has been put into motion this month to benefit over seven universities and colleges targeted during the war, or affected by the blockade. Thirteen psycho/social and disability projects under “Winners against All Odds” program, will be hitting the ground in Gaza to impact physically affected or traumatized youth. The program will also work to build capacity of the existing infrastructure to support those suffering from hearing disability and in need of rehabilitation. Our implementing partner in Gaza is the Qatari Red Crescent.

Our student Global Advocacy Program, ‘fakhoora.org’ is fuelled by Effusion; a UK based social media and advocacy consultancy that develops, designs and creates platforms to keep up with the fast growing global voice of ‘fakhoora.org’.

Finally the Education City’s student initiative in Qatar, has taken off to raise global awareness through dialogues, social media and other forms of connectivity.

Al Fakhoora has laid the path to a long term strategic partnership with Islamic Development Bank, IDB. The establishment of a joint trust fund had seen the bank match Al Fakhoora’s financial contribution.

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**Donations Put Into Action**

- **Scholarship Empowerment Program:** $4,637,129
- **Psycho/social:** $158,892
- **Disability:** $1,923,980
- **Reconstruction phase 1:** $1,500,000
- **Reconstruction phase 2:** $2,500,000
Al Fakhoora has partnered with innovative organizations to design courses to empower students to become distinguished leaders within their community. With the beginning of the academic year 2011/2012, our total number of students reached 300, enrolled in BA and BS programs specializing in over sixteen degrees from education to medicine. Our students are enrolled in eight different academically acclaimed universities in Gaza such as Islamic University of Gaza 28%, Al Azhar, Al Aqsa, Al Quds and University College of Applied Sciences.

Over the next ten years, Al Fakhoora will focus on providing an additional 1,000 scholarships (100 annually) to students in Gaza in order to pursue higher education both in Gaza and aboard.

International Masters Degree Scholarship Program

On May 21st, 2011 our master’s degree scholarship program was launched. The program has its own application process and selection committee and boasts its own partnerships with international universities. The program’s primary focus is on the educational vacuum that the blockade has created. The program offers scholarships in specific fields that would have a direct impact on Gaza’s infrastructure and development over the coming years.

Students awarded the postgrad degree scholarships were accepted to the following programs: MA Poverty and Development, MA ICT Education, MSc Water Resources Management and Law, MSc in Developmental Psychopathology, MA International Communications and Development. Recipients of the scholarship had scored 6.5 on their IELTS.

Al Fakhoora had identified and built partnerships with international universities such as the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, Kings College, University of Dundee, Durham University and City University London to facilitate the application process. Al Fakhoora ensured that each universities’ enrollment procedures, visa requirements and student accommodation arrangements were meticulously followed. Students who had received their final award letters on June 30th were enrolled in the Al Fakhoora orientation program. Once the visas were approved, the students embarked on their journey to the UK, which began with the attempt to cross the Rafah checkpoint at the Gaza/Egypt border. Al Fakhoora staff accompanied the students multiple times to cross the border. Al Fakhoora staff, student volunteers and our advocacy partners in the UK, Effusion, are staying in close contact with each student to give them the emotional support they need.

Meet Rania: Al Fakhoora International Masters Student MS in Communications, City University London

25 year old Rania from Deir Al-Balah, Central Gaza, is one of the ten lucky recipients of the Masters degree scholarship.

After graduating in 2008 with a BA in English Literature and Education from the Islamic University of Gaza, Rania, who is proficient in English, worked as a teacher and translator. She later moved on to work in the relief and development sector with Islamic Relief Worldwide.

While working with orphaned and traumatized children, she developed an understanding of the role of communication within a struggling community and acted as an advocate for the most vulnerable households around her.

In September, Rania arrived at City University in London, to pursue a Masters degree in International Communication and Development enabling her to acquire a skill set much needed in her homeland.
Al Fakhoora, UNDP /DEEP

Dynamic Futures is a unique program that works to simultaneously empower the students and their families.

To date, out of the 210 Dynamic Futures recipients, 143 students and their families have benefited from Al-Fakhoora and UNDP's DEEP collaboration. The joint economic-education empowerment initiatives creates a ripple effect of producing qualified professionals for the specialized labor market which in turn, allows for an increased earning capacity.

Meet Mona Ashour: Al Fakhoora and DEEP success story

Yasmeen is a 19 year old recipient of Al Fakhoora scholarship for a four year degree in History and Educational Methodology at Al Asqa University.

Upon finishing her high school education last year, Yasmeen was eager to go to university, but her family could not afford a college education. 18 months ago, the UNDP's DEEP program awarded Yasmeen's family a grant to establish a sheep breeding business.

As the project cycle took off, the family of nine began to generate a sustainable income. “When my family received the sheep we had a party; it was a blessing from Allah to allow us a dignified life.” Yasmeen said.

Yasmeen added that support she received from Al Fakhoora has given her new hope for the future. “ I cannot describe my happiness, the only way to show it was to work hard to achieve success.” Yasmeen has scored 75.9% in her first year at college.

Al Fakhoora and Islamic Development Bank

Al Fakhoora has successfully entered into a long-term strategic partnership with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB). The partnership arrangement includes the establishment of a trust fund agreement whereby IDB will match Al Fakhoora contribution towards all major field projects in Gaza. Furthermore, both organizations will work together towards the successful development and execution of projects in Gaza. This includes identifying potential partners on-the-ground to implement specific field projects.

The establishment of the trust fund allows Al Fakhoora to match its initial pledge of $100 million and to expand its performance capacity on the ground through a variety of local and international development agencies. The development and successful execution of the Al Fakhoora's Dynamic Futures program along with the up-coming reconstruction, disabilities and psychosocial programs are testimonial of Al Fakhoora and IDB partnership.
The Dynamic Futures program is two-dimensional. With the full academic grant for a student’s period of study, comes an empowerment program, which is acclaimed for its balance of advocacy training, soft skills development and coaching, internships and career placements. The aim of this side of the program is to create rounded individuals, with a focus on leadership.

Using online resources or face-to-face sessions, the Dynamic Futures international team pool their talents, skills and knowledge to create a varied and colourful program of lectures, activities and experiences for our students.

The advocacy element of the program incorporates classes in leadership skills, media, film, writing, online discussions with international friends, human rights and English language classes. These activities instil a sense of power for the students, knowledge of their human rights, good understanding of others and skills for clear communication and expression.

Advocacy

The ‘Advocacy’ element of the program incorporates classes in leadership skills, media, film, writing, online discussions with international friends, human rights and English language classes. These activities instil a sense of power for the students, once in possession of knowledge of their human rights, good understanding of others and skills of clear communication and expression.

Virtual Majlis

Al Fakhoora’s ‘Virtual Majlis’ is a video teleconference platform organized and facilitated by university students from Al Fakhoora’s Qatar-based ‘Majlis Circle’ and ‘World In Conversations’ project in Penn State University. The ‘Virtual Majlis’ is a unique platform that enables others to breakdown misconceptions and offer new ways of thinking about other cultures. It offers university students in Gaza real-face-time with university students in the US, Qatar and the UK.

Following its 8 week trial in the spring semester, Al Fakhoora students in Gaza and Penn State University students in the US, have re-launched the tele-conferencing meetings for the fall. An agreement has been signed between Penn State University and Al Fakhoora to develop the Virtual Majlis into a program that has continuity and deliverables. As per the agreement with the university, our Education City Volunteer Coordinator, Tessniem Al Hafidh, has received dialogue facilitation training to ensure the dialogue develops effectively.

The Qatar-based students taking part in this dialogue have established The Majlis Circle, which shall facilitate the conversation, as well as oversee the participation of Education City students.
Doha Film Institute Project

In collaboration with the Doha Film Institute, Al Fakhoora students have been taking an online film workshop. The workshop will produce two one minute films written, edited, produced and directed by our students. Award winning film director and head of the education division at DFI, Scandar Copti, is mentoring our students in the art of film making.

Initially, the workshop was designed to run for 12 weeks, during which the students would receive insight into the various aspects of film making. However, due to the unavailability of the equipment in Gaza, the program ran into delays. This did not deter our students, who even saw an opportunity in documenting the process and accumulating footage for a “making of” short film. The equipment finally arrived mid September and shooting is scheduled for September 25th.

The Other Side of Gaza

Through its scholarship program, Al Fakhoora has access to 200 young voices from Gaza. The Other Side of Gaza program is designed to allow students the writing space to unveil a Gaza unexposed through mainstream media; a vibrant city with universities, cafes, shops, beach and museums. The program provides students with the writing guidelines to engage English speaking audience and provide an understanding of the daily hustle and bustle in Gaza. Currently we have articles on: Al Deira Hotel, Omar Al Moukhtar Street, Saa’d Sayel Sports Hall, The Avenue Restaurant, The Great Omari Mosque

Gaza Ghost Writers

Al Fakhoora’s objective is to ensure that students are able to articulate and communicate effectively on a global platform. Gaza Ghost Writers program works behind the scenes to ensure student blogs, tweets and articles are edited and critiqued to draw in a western audience. With the help of an English writing and grammar tutor, students in Gaza construct blog entries that will be posted on the Al Fakhoora website.

Aside from improving their English language writing skills, the role of the tutor will be to help participating students better understand how to write effectively and draw in readers globally. Participating students will learn how to construct 400 word blog entries that effectively communicate clear and concise narrative of the reality of the situation in Gaza. Students will also learn how to embed photos and videos into an entry and receive guidance on themes and language tone. The program aims to have approximately ten students in Gaza write 400 word blog entries every three weeks over the course of forty weeks. Seven bloggers in Gaza have been selected to be part of the project. Gaza Ghost Writer’s staff has begun to work with students to ensure their blog profile, banner and articles are ready to launch on “fakhoora.org” state of the art blogging software from edublog.org.

Leadership Class

Building highly effective, vision driven, proactive teams is instrumental for university students who ‘live’ in Gaza. Al Fakhoora provides its students with workshops designed to sharpen leadership, thinking skills and practices; empowering them with the tools required to become effective players in their communities as they learn how to set goals and achieve them.

During the spring and summer semesters, twelve students engaged in a Leadership Skills Workshop conducted via teleconference capabilities. Internationally recognized and practiced skills were inculcated to the students. The workshops were tailor-made to accommodate the challenges faced by the students in Gaza. The course introduced students to methods of pro-activity in an environment of extraordinary circumstances. 73.7 % of the students who took part in the leadership program thought that the dialogue generated by the workshop was eye opening and insightful. 98% of the students were eager to take part in such courses again. The students found the opportunity fresh and unconventional and providing room for dynamic thinking.
Advocacy Think Tank

As stipulated by Al Fakhoora’s core mission to provide advocacy tools and skills to young people, the organization is collaborating with Al Haq Human Rights Organization, Al Najah and Birzest University, to develop a leading empowerment and advocacy program that will give each Al Fakhoora student a unique and well-founded edge in communication, advocacy and leadership skills. This October, Al Fakhoora will host a meeting for the ‘unconventional’ thinkers in advocacy, dialogue and communication strategy to develop an action plan to jump start Al Fakhoora’s Dynamic Futures Advocacy component into high gear.

Soft Skills

The ‘Soft Skills’ element of the program aims to upgrade the students’ professional skills and investigate supporting entrepreneurial initiatives that will become useful and central to their endeavours after the scholarship. Time is spent on language, interview preparation, resume development, job hunting and career advice.

More Than Words

Al Fakhoora’s ‘More Than Words’ program has been officially incorporated into the Penn State University sociology program to empower students with strong language and intercultural communication skills. Many of the Palestinian students would like to be proficient in the English language, and understand the necessity of communicating in a second language that facilitates dialogue initiatives.

‘More Than Words’ pairs Penn State and Education City students with students in Gaza in order to practice speaking and writing in English. Participating students “meet” and converse through Skype or other video conferencing platforms. Each pair will be expected to communicate at least twice per week on Skype for at least 60 minutes per session and several times per week via written communication. As these articles and videos develop they will be posted on the Al Fakhoora blog.

Though the program planned for 15 MTW student pairs, more than 45 Penn State students registered to be part of the program. 66% of the PSU students are female. 20% of the students identified themselves as African American, 6% Chinese American and 73% as white or Caucasian. From Gaza, 53% of the students are female and 100% of the students identified themselves as Arab.

The program is proving so popular that some partners speak for more than the required two hours per week and many speak every day. Students have used Facebook Chat, texting and Skype to contact one another. Some students have introduced their online buddies to family members and friends. Two students made already made videos for their online MTW partners to see and get a glimpse into their lives. Students have also worked on written articles together (that Gaza students have written in English). Currently, PSU students are putting together a video about their university and all their favorite places on campus to share with the Gaza students.

Quotes from MTW participants: “We discovered that we have a vast amount of similarities between us. This is somewhat shocking because of the distance between us and the totally different cultures that shaped us. I realized how much I am learning through our partners and how many of my misconceptions have been proven wrong, especially about the role of women in their culture...It amazes me how many commonalities we share but at the same time how truly different our worlds are. While learning about the differences is always fascinating, it is really finding those similarities that I think allow you to connect to each other. I wonder if she had or still has any preconceived ideas of me like I did of her and if I have proven any of them to be wrong.” PSU Student Journal, 9/18/11
Special Objectives

- Developing the educational program by supplying the participants with advanced IT knowledge and vocational skills according to the community needs.
- Rising and improving the vocational level for the students and supporting their applied abilities to enable them to work effectively in different NGOs and IT companies.
- Preparing technical and vocational academic staff that is trained to teach advanced and modern technologies effectively.
- Providing an appropriate technological environment for education and study.
- Enabling the college to complete the steps that aim to progress its academic and vocational performance.
- Modernizing and developing the devices and equipments in 10 computer labs.
- Raising capacities of Al Fakhoora students in Gaza strip through different training activities and IT facilities at UCAS.
- ‘Coaching, Internships and Career Placements’, links students up with worthwhile, relevant and valuable experience to support their interests, education and skills. This final objective of the empowerment program is to facilitate the process of finding career positions that will be right for them and beneficial to the wider society around them in their home country.

Gaza Grid

‘Dynamic Futures’ has partnered up with the UNDP to improve the technological environment and facilities in the University College of Applied Sciences. The IT infrastructure and equipment will allow students to improve their IT literacy which in turn will increase their employability. The project is a priority for Al Fakhoora because the development of the staff and the specialization has long term impact on the college’s performance and capacities. With this project in place, Al Fakhoora students will have access to a computer lab for three days per week, as well as a smart class on a weekly basis. UCAS will also hold ten training workshops in technical IT topics for Al-Fakhoora students. Seven 18 hour training courses in advanced IT topics will also be on offer. UCAS boasts a media program and the agreement will provide documentation services for Al-Fakhoora activities (20 working days with cameraman).

Al Fakhoora Internship Program

Al Fakhoora is currently developing an internship program that offers students a chance to take action defending education by following Al Fakhoora projects on-the-ground in Gaza. Students will be encouraged to observe Al Fakhoora projects in line with their respective field of study. For instance, Mustafa who is studying civil engineering at the Islamic University of Gaza, will follow a reconstruction project and update Al Fakhoora’s social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) accordingly. This will provide much needed testimonies on the impact of Al Fakhoora projects on the students and the overall community.
Phase Two

The second phase of our reconstruction program for universities and colleges, has taken off this month benefiting seven different colleges and universities: Al Azhar University, Al Quds Open University, Islamic University of Gaza, Al Aqsa University, College of Science and Technology Khan Younis, Palestine Technical College Deir Al Balah, College of Ability Development Khan Younis and University College of Applied Sciences.

We have targeted those institutions most affected by war as well as those with distinct specialties, to ensure that students are provided with as many opportunities as possible they can excel in multiple disciplines.

These completed and renovated buildings will boast full equipped scientific labs, IT technology, books and other basic infrastructure items such as furniture and relevant teaching resources.

The Islamic University of Gaza

In 2010, Al Fakhoora began reconstructing two roof floors for the Faculties of Medicine and Science, at the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG). IUG is one of two universities in Gaza boasting a School of Medicine. With casting of roof slabs completed and the wall building in progress, the completed project will provide IUG with an additional two floors. Upon handover, the two floors will be furnished, set up with the relevant IT requirements and laboratory equipment for ophthalmology and obstetrics equipment. QRC is Al Fakhoora’s implementing partner in Gaza.
Project Focus

The psycho/social projects include capacity building of the existing infrastructure, training of caregivers and accessibility to proper medical care. In addition, we are focusing on projects that are geared towards rehabilitation and integration of youth into the mainstream education system and workforce.

As part of the support system provided to the integration of disabled youth, our projects will ensure that physiotherapists, mental health workers, counselors, social workers, ophthalmologists and speech therapists receive up-to-date training and adopt cutting-edge practices. Improved methods, facilities and capabilities will benefit hospitals such as Al Ahli’s physiotherapy department, of which many children receive around 500 patients monthly; many of these hospitals are also in need of up-to-date training and resources.

The projects will enable disabled youth back into the community. Children, primarily from 8-14 years, will benefit from services such as those provided by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society. Its center has a library, sports corner and arts facility that provide psycho-social support to both non-disabled and disabled children.

This summer, three Al Fakhoora students visited Al Salam Club for the disabled. In the spirit of giving back to the community, Abdel Rahim Al Mahilawi, Hassan Mustafa and Mustafa Al Robaei interacted with the members of the club, treating them to a game of billiards and a table tennis match. The three students produced a short video about their visit and interviewed the president of the club, Mohammed Al Arabi.

Eight Al Fakhoora students visited an elderly house in Gaza, spending some time with elderly people and presenting gifts for them as a show of appreciation and love for them.

The visit highly appreciated by both teams of elderly house supervisors and the women who resides in the Houses.

### Project Status

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‘Fakhoora.org’

The Al Fakhoora global advocacy website (fakhoora.org) has been the driving platform and tool for the students to communicate and to reach out to various constituencies across the world; primarily other students in the west.

Fakhoora.org is fueled by Effusion; a UK based social media & advocacy consultancy that develops, designs and creates platforms for students demanding a global voice.

Social media tools such as Facebook, blogging, Twitter, Youtube and Flicker, are utilized to support advocacy. These social media tools are woven into the very fabric of “fakhoora.org”. Al Fakhoora’s partnership with Effusion ensures that students across the world are given the tools they need to take action to defend education, and ultimately end the illegal blockade, that has deterred the natural progress of the youth in Gaza who are striving to claim their place in the global arena.

Our virtual online programs include specific training related to developing communication skills in English language, media and IT literacy and leadership training. Given the blockade that cripples movement in and out of Gaza, ‘fakhoora.org’ has become of paramount importance to link into the students to the outside world.

This summer, three students had a dream to start a student-led initiative to create a platform between university students in Qatar, USA, UK and Gaza to foster understanding and raise global awareness through dialogue, social media and other forms of connectivity. They called themselves Al Fakhoora; The Majlis Circle (TMC). They work directly with Al Fakhoora to empower university students in Gaza who should have the freedom to pursue a quality education as stipulated by the UN Declaration of Human Rights.
This summer three students had a dream to start a student led initiative to create a platform between university students in Qatar, USA, UK and Gaza to foster understanding and raise global awareness through dialogue, social media and other forms of connectivity. They called themselves Al Fakhoora; The Majlis Circle (TMC). They work directly with Al Fakhoora to empower university students in Gaza who should have the freedom to pursue a quality education as we get to experience in our everyday life.

First event: Ya Hala

TMC showcased their new initiative on September 3rd at Education City’s annual student induction event, Ya Hala. The students devised a full campaign to rally up support for their cause. The group had designed a volunteer application form and gave out supporting t-shirts and badges. Through a social media campaign on Facebook and Twitter, the students encouraged new freshman students to become more active in defending the right to education. Their booth was busy during the entire event. New students wanted to learn more about Al Fakhoora and how they could help and/or volunteer. TMC also held an online competition to boost traffic to their page on facebook. Fifty students filled out volunteer applications. Follow-up email letters and interviews have been going on since the event.

TMC Goals

Since the Ya Hala event TMC has been working hard developing a strategy and action plan to make the Virtual Majlis an EC event. TMC has just welcomed on board a Public Relations and Merchandising intern and an Events Coordinator/intern, to start developing and marketing the Virtual Majlis. Other aspirations include TMC’s involvement in the Qatar WISE convention and the UN Alliance of Civilizations Forum in December.
Partnerships Forged

Educational institutions
Thanks to partnerships with educational institutions in the region, we are able to offer grants for study, use of facilities for the empowerment strand of our Dynamic Futures program and the opportunity to build valuable relationships with like-minded organisations. We are pleased to think that our connections encompass a variety of colleges and universities in order that we are able to offer a thorough range of facilities, experiences and support to the young people of Gaza and the West Bank.

Al Aqsa University: Al-Aqsa University consists of seven faculties including the Faculty of Arts, Sciences, Education, Media, Fine Arts, Physical Education, Administration and Financial Studies and is the sole academic institution in the vicinity that is able to offer bachelor degrees in the fields of media studies, fine arts and physical education.

Al Azhar University: Al Azhar aims to offer human resources in scientific research and sustainable development, with a constant focus on the use of modern technologies and techniques, combined with the originality of Palestinian, Arabic and Muslim heritage.

An-Najah University: An-Najah specializes in scientific subject teaching, preparing young people with the skills and attitudes to tackle an international job market and realize their potential in a scientific industry, as well as support the Palestinian community in sustainable economic and technical and human development.

Al Quds Open University: With a focus on the philosophy, principles and methods of open education, Al Quds maintains a freedom of thought and expression while avoiding ideological or political conflicts. The university offers MA and BA qualifications, delivering teaching using a mixture of printed, visual, audio, computerized and electronic resources.

Birzeit University: Supervised by a board of trustees, Birzeit University endeavors to excel in higher education, scientific research and service to the community. The university operates in an atmosphere of liberalism, alongside an emphasis on Arab-Islamic heritage.

University College of Applied Sciences (UCAS): This college focuses on applied sciences with a dream of equipping Palestine and the rest of the region, with highly qualified and skillful professionals to build a modernized state.

Islamic University of Gaza: This university offers a wealth of qualifications in all kinds of subjects and disciplines; drawing researchers and teachers from all areas and always offering well-planned programs.

Human Rights
We also work with a range of human rights’ groups and development groups which lend us the expertise and support that allow our work to continue in the most effective and lasting ways that it can.

Al Haq Human Rights Organisation: Based in Ramallah, West Bank, Al Haq play a vital role in protecting and promoting human rights and the rule of law in the occupied territories.

Empowerment program partners
We have a number of international friends that offer their time, expertise and support to our Empowerment program, within ‘Dynamic Futures’, in various way.

CISCO: CISCO generously work with us to provide the technology that we need to communicate with groups in Gaza, and also to facilitate the Vital Majlis sessions that we run within the Empowerment program within Dynamic Futures.

Doha Film Institute: The DFI co-operate with Al Fakhoora in various capacities. We were thrilled to have them judge the recent film competition, and they also offer an online film class within the empowerment program.

World in Conversation: This online communication organization aims to create a dialogue about social and cultural issues that expand perspectives and invite greater understanding between groups.

Dr Amal Al Maliki: Based in Qatar, Dr Al-Maliki teaches writing composition, postcolonial literature, translation and world English at Carnegie Mellon University. Her interests in the negotiation of western and Muslim cultures, the media representation of Arab women and postcolonial literature will continue to remain valuable resources for our work.

Penn State University: This multi-campus university provides teaching, research and service to a diverse western collegiate. We continue to foster good relationships with members of the student body, particularly within our Virtual Majlis program.
Partnerships Forged

Financial support
We are endlessly grateful to a number of kind donors and benefactors, some of whom prefer to remain anonymous, who support the work of Al Fakhoora.

Islamic Development Bank: We work with the IBD and continue to appreciate their dedication to the economic development and social progress of member countries and Muslim communities.

Practical support
Partners with a more practical function ‘on the ground’ in Gaza are crucial in providing that all-important ‘hands-on’ support, service or research during the occupation and within the blockade.

YMCA Gaza: As the oldest and largest youth charity in the world, YMCA are an established and trustworthy organization that we rely on for safety, shelter and support for the young people of Gaza.

Qatar Red Crescent and Palestinian Red Crescent: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world’s largest humanitarian organization; providing assistance without discrimination at all times. We are working closely with this organisation both in Qatar and Palestine, to monitor the development of Palestinian universities in our Reconstruction project ‘Extreme University Makeover’.

Healthcare Providers
We have links with a number of hospitals in Gaza, and with the majority of citizens in Gaza living in refugee camps; hospital care is absolutely crucial, as well as sought after. These institutions also cooperate with Al Fakhoora in our Disability and Psychosocial program ‘Winners against all Odds’.

Al Ahli Hospital Gaza: Established for well over 100 years, this hospital became an Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, in 1982 and continues to provide medical and surgical care to the Gaza Strip.

Al Amal Hospital Gaza: This similarly busy establishment aims to serve the area with high-quality healthcare despite the difficulties surrounding the occupation and the pressure of a crisis on resources and staff.

Al Faluna Society Palestine: Al Faluna is an organization that provides support, treatment and practical aids for victims of hearing loss and impairment in the region. The bombings in Palestine have affected huge swathes of residents and Al Faluna is a crucial component of the healthcare provide in Gaza.

The Palestinian Physiotherapy Association (PPTA): The Palestinian Physical Therapy Association (PPTA) is a national non-profit organization representing all physical therapists assistance in the Palestinian territories.

Gaza Community Mental Health: The GCMH is a knowledge-based institution that strives to empower vulnerable children, women and torture survivors by developing local resources and health services. The GCMH also aims to combat the stigma attached to mental illness.

Medical and Wellbeing Organisations
Aside from healthcare providers operating in the region, we rely on the work, advice, guidance and partnership that advisory organizations lend to our work.

Palestinian Medical Relief Society: This is a grassroots community-based Palestinian health organization that seeks to aid the fractured and damaged health service in Gaza and the West Bank by educating and empowering Palestinian people using national health programs. This non-profit and voluntary organization is one of the largest health Non-Governmental Organisations in Palestine.

Islamic Relief Worldwide: Founded and Based in the UK, IRW is an NGO with consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council and is a member of the Islamic Council for Relief. Islamic Relief works to help and empower the poor, regardless of religion, ethnicity or gender, with programmes focused on extending emergency relief, contributing to sustainable development and investing in child welfare.

Islamic Relief Palestine: IRPAL is an affiliate of Islamic Relief Worldwide and have responded to emergencies, supported the poor, and invested in sustainable development since 1998. They are dedicated to eradicating poverty and alleviating suffering in Palestine and respecting the humanity and dignity of Palestinians. They provide relief, development and child welfare services.