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The core mission of Al Fakhoora is to advocate and measurably improve the quality of education and the 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’.

Al Fakhoora provides a solid communication platform to students in Gaza, Qatar and English speaking audiences, 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.
Recent Accomplishments

Scholarships
To date, Al Fakhoora has restored hope to over 300 of Gaza’s young adults through its Dynamic Futures scholarship and empowerment program, which focuses on advocacy, soft skills and internships. Each student is given a grant for university study, alongside membership to our empowerment program. 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 initiative, the 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, of which ten are issued each year, focuses on filling the education vacuum that the illegal blockade has made on Gaza’s brightest young adults.

Reconstruction continues
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.

Psycho/social and disability projects continue
Meanwhile thirteen psycho/social and disability projects under the ‘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.

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

Fund matching from IBD
Finally 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.

In 2009, both organizations set up a joint trust fund for the Dynamics Future program, whereby IDB matches Al Fakhoora financial contribution.

UNAOC
We ended 2011 on two high notes, with ten of our students taking part in the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Forum in Doha. The students finally got to meet students from Penn State University as well as the Majlis Circle students based in Doha. Secondly, the Islamic Development Bank and Al Fakhoora launched the Vocational Training Program. Al Fakhoora brings on board the University College of Applied Sciences and Islamic Relief Palestine as its program implementing partners in this new initiative. The launch further solidifies the relationship between the IDB and Fakhoora.

FIG 1 //

DONATIONS PUT INTO ACTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spending In US$</th>
<th>Al Fakhoora</th>
<th>IDB</th>
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<tr>
<td>5,984,605</td>
<td>2,529,390</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,116,192</td>
<td>2,200,000</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
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<th>SCHOLARSHIP EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM</th>
<th>PSYCHO/SOCIAL &amp; DISABILITY</th>
<th>RECONSTRUCTION PHASE 1</th>
<th>RECONSTRUCTION PHASE 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6,116,192</td>
<td>2,200,000</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
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</table>
Partnerships

Al Fakhoora operates with vital and generous support from a number of partnerships, which continue to evolve and grow. Take a look at our existing projects, as well as new developments, with our loyal and dedicated partners!

As of 2012 we currently have 300 students enrolled in BA and BSc programs specializing in over sixteen degrees from education to medicine, and our students are enrolled in eight different academically acclaimed universities in Gaza.

Our strategic partnerships with key organizations such as Islamic Development Bank, UNDP, Qatar Red Crescent, and most recently, Islamic Relief and UCAS, allow us to contribute to the education sector with wider scope, through reconstruction and rehabilitation of education institutions, youth empowerment and psychosocial services.

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 abroad.

Al Fakhoora and IDB Launch Vocational Education Program

In its continued commitment to youth empowerment through education, Al Fakhoora has launched a vocational education project co-funded by the Islamic Development Bank.

Entitled ‘Youth Empowerment through Vocational Training and Income Generation Projects in Gaza Strip’, the program targets 100 marginalized young people offering them vocational training in eight different programs.

The 15-month program will be implemented by Islamic Relief Palestine and the University College of Applied Sciences in Gaza.

Al Fakhoora advocates for the right of youth to education in Gaza, and an expansion into non-conventional education is seen as a natural movement towards providing education to all youth.

FIG 2 //

154 FAMILIES EMPOWERED ECONOMIC INTERVENTION PER SECTOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>27</th>
<th>43</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
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<td>Industrial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service</td>
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%
“We recognize the significance of vocational training in empowering youth with skills required by a labor market as well as providing much needed services in Gaza,” Al Fakhoora Director, Farooq Burney said.

“Vocational education provides the know how for services that are crucial within the dynamics of any basic economy. Education is not restricted to its classical definition of theoretical and mainstream education, its breadth allows us to explore and invest in providing youth with practical skills that will flourish through guidance and training.”

The program is designed to offer 100 young Palestinians from Gaza with vocational training in sewing and embroidery, cooking and food processing, computer programming, web and multimedia design, mobile phone maintenance, autotronics, photography and video production.

Dr. Mohammed Al Sousi, Country Director of Islamic Relief Palestine, praised Al Fakhoora for acknowledging the need to support vocational training. Following the success of a small-scale pilot program, Al Fakhoora recognized the opportunity to further deliver on its pledge regarding vocational training. “The pilot program saw the establishment of 30 small businesses. With the launch of the Al Fakhoora program we will see 50 small businesses created. The Gaza Strip desperately needs multi-dimensional programs that can improve things for the youth on a social, economic and educational level.”

The program makes provisions for students with special needs by allocating 20% of the 100 places for students within that category. Gender equity has also been taken into consideration and 43 places are assigned to female applicants.

The initial phase of the program will run for four months at the University College of Applied Sciences. The students will enrol on their course of choice. All students will then be required to take a managerial course designed to provide them with the basics of setting up their own business.

Upon submission of a feasibility study, 50 students will be selected to take part in the second phase of the program. Islamic Relief will provide the students with grants to set up their own business, while the remaining fifty students will be guaranteed short term job placements.

**Al Fakhoora, IDB**

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’s 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.

Al Fakhoora and the Islamic Development Bank boosted relations further in December as they signed an agreement to boost vocational training in Gaza, by investing in vocational training program that will be implemented by Islamic Relief and UCAS.

The program is designed to offer vocational training to 100 students in eight different courses. All students will be also take a management course which will introduce them to methods of small business management. The program takes into account students with special needs, allocating 20% of the places to these students and 43 seats to female students. Upon completion of the first phase of the course, students will have to submit a feasibility study, which will entitle 50 of the students to grants to set up their own businesses. The remaining 50 students will be placed in short term employment through Islamic Relief Palestine.

**Al Fakhoora, UNDP/DEEP**

Dynamic Futures is a unique program that works to simultaneously empower students and their families. To date, out of the 288 Dynamic Futures recipients, the 198 students and their families have benefited from Al Fakhoora and UNDP DEEP collaboration. This joint economic-education empowerment initiative creates a ripple effect of producing qualified professionals for the specialized labor market, which in turn allows for an increased earning capacity.
Al Fakhoora Partnership Workshop

On October 23rd 2011, the Al Fakhoora Advocacy Think Tank meetings took place in Doha.

In the first part of the week the workshop focused on Al Fakhoora’s role, goals and objectives to ensure students have the basic communication tools to enable them to advocate access to education at a global level.

UNDP’s Nasser Faqih, Nawwaf Al-Atawneh, Educational Consultant Abla Amawi and Dr. Sam Richard from Penn State University met with the Al Fakhoora staff to discuss goals and objectives that would help build an advocacy program enabling student participation and establishes a framework for their basic human right to access education.

In the last of the meetings three organizations/universities from Palestine presented how they could bring value to different components that would help develop the advocacy program. Birzeit University’s ‘Continuing Education’ program, Al Haq Organization and Al Najah University representatives gave a comprehensive presentation on how to collaborate.

Al Fakhoora’s team on the ground in Gaza was delayed for a week due to restrictions on the Gaza/Egypt border. Rafeek Al Madhoun, Mahmoud Al Hendy and Ibrahim Sourani joined the second part of the workshop to discuss practical implementation of the advocacy components put forward during the workshop.

In conclusion, the Advocacy workshop determined that students should have access to education that would enable themselves to advocate at a civil level. This includes communication skills, public speaking, presentations, leadership, history and proficiency in both Arabic and English language. While these skills are being established, global advocacy programs will be running in parallel to encourage students to be able to advocate for themselves through intercultural dialogue, social media, film making and attendance of international conferences.

Cisco Donation

In a show of support for cross cultural communication and dialogue, Cisco QSTP in Qatar donated three units of ‘Tele Presence’ systems to the Virtual Majlis Program. The units will allow seamless communication and video conferencing.

The kindly donated telepresence systems have been installed in Penn State University, the UNDP office in Gaza and the Fakhoora offices in Doha. The Cisco Systems video conferencing solutions will also allow Al Fakhoora to offer better online short-term education courses (such as film-making and leadership courses) to our students in Gaza.
Meet Abdul Nasser Abo Oun
Another Al Fakhoora and DEEP success story

In 2003, Abdul Nasser lost his job as a laborer in Israel. For seven years he could barely make ends meet.

“I have four boys and five girls and life became impossible, until 2010, when the DEEP program assisted me in setting up my own business. I now own a small shop and I sell pots, pans and tableware,” says Abdul Nasser.

He works six days a week from 7:30am to 10:00pm.

“My children will help in the shop every now and then. Things are much better now. We make around 300 US dollars a month,” he added.

Ahmed, Abdul Nasser’s son, is now in Al Aqsa University studying for a diploma in Public Relations. “The scholarship has given us a new lease of life, there is nothing more important than education and I hope all my children can continue their studies.”
Al FAkhoora Quarterly Report

Keeping it Global

UNAOC

Over 2,500 of the world’s top figures in government, civil society, academia and media gathered in Doha for the fourth United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Forum, held from the 10th to 13th December. Ten Al Fakhoora scholarship recipients attended the Forum and took part in this youth event which brought together 400 young people from all over the world.

The Doha based, ‘Majlis Circle’ student group and students from Penn State University, (our partner in the Virtual Majlis), also attended the three-day event and the students excitedly met, face-to-face, for the first time following five months of weekly online meetings. The Virtual Majlis participants had a live dialogue session entitled, ‘Communication Works for Those Who Work at It’, which was scheduled as part of the lab sessions.

WISE Conference

On November 2nd 2011, Farooq Burney showcased Al Fakhoora’s ‘Innovative Practices’ at the WISE Summit Focus Session. Burney presented Al Fakhoora’s various initiatives to promote education in Gaza, highlighting the role of advocacy in bringing attention to the educational situation in the strip.

Burney presented Al Fakhoora’s Virtual Majlis initiative, which encourages dialogue between students in Gaza and the United States. The success of the dialogue has provided fertile ground for the launch of various other projects that aim to facilitate education in Gaza, such as the ‘More Than Words’ English language training program.
Al Fakhoora students remember the bombing of Al Fakhoora School in 2009.

On January 5th 2011, Al Fakhoora students staged a ‘sit-in’ near the Al Fakhoora School, which was the scene of an attack in 2009 in which 42 people lost their lives and many were left wounded.

Our campaign went on to take its name from the school as an outcry against targeting schools during war, and as a symbol of the importance of educational institutions remaining safe havens during aggression. An Al Fakhoora student reflects on the day:

“Standing there, it was a deep and sad feeling to remember that painful event. During the attacks, hundreds of people had taken shelter there thinking it was safe, because it was an UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) school. Many had stayed days there with little food, blankets and milk for the children.”

IUG student Esraa Yassin adds “You cannot kill our ambition and you cannot make us lose hope. The events of that day make us more persistent to continue on our educational path…that is our weapon.”

Students join the Annual Peace March

“Let us, on this International Day, reaffirm our commitment to translating solidarity into positive action. The international community must help steer the situation towards a historic peace agreement.”

– Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon

Since 1977, the General Assembly has observed the 29th November as an International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Since the blockade, this buffer zone has doubled in size, from a 150 metre stretch to 300 metres; making farmland, orchards and crops difficult to access for farmers in the region and bulldozing much of the zone.

After the march, the Al Fakhoora students presented a number of ‘thank you’ letters to the members of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) who took part in the march and continue to offer their support.

Al Fakhoora student, Hazeem El Bitar wrote:

“We appreciate the stand you have taken on our behalf and are humbled that you put yourself in harm’s way for our cause. We are here today to thank you. You have dedicated your time and your effort; this is a great show of humanity and nobility.”

The ISM is one group of many groups committed to resisting the Israeli apartheid, and daily take risks to further the cause that they believe in. Founded by a small group of Palestinian and Israeli activists in August 2001 the group use non-violent, direct-action methods and principles to further their cause.
Dynamic Futures Scholarship Program

The Dynamic Futures program currently provides a full academic grant for a student’s period of degree-level study. We continue to develop our empowerment program to ensure that our students are characterized by a unique set of skills in advocacy, leadership, communications and social media proficiency.

Al Fakhoora seeks to identify unique partnerships with innovators in these fields, which are unfolding on the ground to great effect!

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.

Once they are in possession of knowledge of their human rights, good understanding of others and the skills of clear communication and expression. These activities instil a sense of power for the students.
Dynamic Futures Scholars
Undergraduate News

Dynamic Futures continues to develop and establish a systemized methodology of application, selection and student performance appraisal. A selection panel has been formed to shortlist applicants, with the panelists representing our partners in Gaza: UNDP, Natuf and YMCA.

A selection manual is being developed to guide the selection process. The manual lists challenges faced in the first two years and problem solving procedures.

To ensure selectivity, the application process is being developed to include a minimum score of 75% on Tawijhi exams, an interview and an essay for the final shortlisted applicants.

Masters’ Degree Students settle into new courses at home and abroad

On May 21st 2011, our master’s degree scholarship program was launched! The program has its own application process and selection committee, and also 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 postgraduate 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 has 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 university’s 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 an attempt to cross the Rafah checkpoint at the Gaza/Egypt border.

Al Fakhoora staff accompanied the students multiple times to cross the border. Our staff, student volunteers and advocacy partners in the UK ‘Effusion’, are staying in close contact with each student to give them the emotional support they need.

New plans for capacity development

Al Fakhoora has commissioned the University College of Applied Sciences (UCAS) in Gaza to conduct a survey for needs assessment and labor market requirements. The findings of the survey will gear the design of training programs and workshops, which will benefit 200 students.

UCAS will implement a computer skills program for Al Fakhoora students, which includes conducting 8 ICDL courses, involving an introduction to computers, computer hardware and MS office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access).

The soft skills component of the Capacity Development Package will introduce Al Fakhoora students to an array of topics such as communication skills, time management skills, writing an effective C.V., presenting oneself to employers and how to build your life action plan.

1152 of training hours will be conducted to cover eight groups of students from the Al Fakhoora program.
Esraa is 20 years old and after scoring 92.4% on her Tawjihee exams, she was awarded the Al Fakhoora scholarship.

“I have always liked electronics and programming. My family’s financial situation is very difficult, but I was determined to study engineering regardless of the obstacles.”

The obstacles are not only financial. The engineering students suffer from a shortage of studying and practical materials which are prohibited from entering Gaza due to the blockade. However, Esraa remains undeterred.

She was encouraged by Al Fakhoora to explore volunteering opportunities in Gaza. She now prepares and presents a radio talk show and feels that this particular experience has been eye opening and rewarding.

“It is easy for youth to be discouraged and feel purposeless. I have a passion for human development, and volunteering has allowed me to contribute and give back. I am also at a vantage point through my academic training because studying engineering develops your thinking process and you are always approaching a challenge with the intention of solving the problem.”

Esraa would like to pursue higher studies in the field of management, but is also keen to join the professional world and hopes one day to own a center that invests in training youth in management and professional skills. She is eager to see all young Palestinians think collectively rather than individually and thinks this is achieved through encouraging volunteer work.
Advocacy

Here’s an update on the advocacy activities that our students have been enjoying, and developing skills in, recently.

Virtual Majlis this spring semester

Al Fakhoora’s ‘Virtual Majlis’ is a video teleconference platform organized and facilitated by university students in Gaza and across the world.

The ‘Virtual Majlis’ is a unique platform that enables others to breakdown misconceptions and offer new ways of thinking about each other’s cultures. It offers university students in Gaza real ‘face’ time, forging understanding, connection and collaboration with university students in the US, Qatar and the UK.

During the semester, World in Conversation (WinC) will run a pilot training course for university students in Gaza and Qatar. We will be looking for potential facilitators among the Palestinian students to invite to a virtual facilitation training class during the fall 2012 dialogues.

WinC will seek out students who clearly demonstrate potential in the ‘Socratic Method’ of questioning, and who are sincerely curious about others’ perspectives, as opposed to wanting to teach them about a particular view. We will identify approximately four Palestinian students to participate in a class that will be taught by Dr. Laurie Mulvey and will meet weekly, during the semester.

This training class will be based on the curriculum that has been developed at the World in Conversation project at Penn State University and translated for this electronic medium. An Al Fakhoora mentor will approve the appointment of these students and work with Dr. Mulvey to monitor their development. Their progress will be assessed according to the standards developed at Penn State University, keeping in mind cultural differences and other relevant factors that arise from working with Palestinian students.

There will be a total of 15 dialogues occurring each semester and all dialogues will occur on Tuesdays 10:45 am–12:15 pm (Eastern Time) / 5:45–7:15 pm (Gulf time).

The dialogues for the first semester will run on the following dates:

17 | 24 | 31 January
07 | 14 | 21 | 28 February
06 | 13 | 20 | 27 March
03 | 10 | 17 | 24 April

There will be an introductory meeting on 10 January 2012.

During the semester there will be two 5-week sessions and in each session there will be four PSU and four Palestinian participants. While the Virtual Majlis is open to all university students in Education City, CMU’s Dr. Maliki’s class will be attending the Virtual Majlis as part of the course requirements.

Both Qatar and Gaza will allow an audience of up to 25 university students to observe each Virtual Majlis. All sessions will be recorded in the fall semester, but we intend to experiment with live streaming during the spring semester.
More Than Words

Many Palestinian students would like to be proficient in English, especially as the ability to communicate in a second language is closely correlated with our dialogue initiatives. We have therefore established the “More Than Words” program to support students’ language skills.

The program will pair Penn State and Education City students with students in Gaza in order to practice speaking and writing English. Participating students will ‘meet’ and converse through Skype or other video conferencing platforms, and share written work and videos via email and as Google Docs. These writings and videos will be developed so they can be posted on the Al Fakhoora blog.

This program will return on 15 January. Each pair will be expected to communicate at least twice weekly on Skype for at least 60 minutes per session and several times each week via written communication. We will re-assess this interchange at the end of the semester to determine the success of the interactions and learning value of the experience.

Gaza Ghost Writers

Al Fakhoora’s objective is to ensure that students are able to articulate and communicate effectively on a global platform. The 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.

Ten participating students will learn how to construct 400 word blog entries that effectively communicate a clear and concise narrative of the reality of the situation in Gaza. Entries will then be submitted every three weeks over a 40-week period. Students will also learn how to embed photos and videos into an entry and receive guidance on themes and language tone.

The 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.
Edublogs

The Al Fakhoora Campaign has allocated 50 blogs at Edublogs, (www.edublogs.org) which is a highly popular education blogging service, accessed by students from all over the world.

As these 50 blogs will be managed by Al Fakhoora scholars in Gaza, Penn State University will be working with the scholars to ‘edit’ their input as part of the mentoring process to advance their English writing. They will also help in the design of these blogs by adding ‘western perspective’ to student areas of interest.

Two Penn State University staff will be involved in this program; one native English speaking American (the primary administrator) and a native Arabic speaker who can translate Arabic into English when necessary.

Student March

The Israeli military imposes a ‘300 meter buffer zone’, which is declared off limits to Palestinians. Palestinian farmers are cut off from their orchards, crops and grazing land. Farmers now struggle to access land in some areas up to two kilometers from the buffer zone.

On November 29th 2011, Al Fakhoora scholars in Gaza marked the UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people by taking part in a march near the borders of the town of Beit Hanoun, north of the Gaza Strip.

The students then hosted an event in honor of the supporters of the International Solidarity Movement and presented them with letters of appreciation for their courage and advocacy efforts.

Al Fakhoora students thank UNESCO

On November 4th 2011, at the front of the UN building in Gaza, Al Fakhoora students gathered to thank UNESCO for supporting the decision of full membership for Palestine.

Students met the Gaza UNESCO representative Mr. Mohammed Al-Arouqi and handed him a ‘Thank You’ letter from Al-Fakhoora scholars.

Mr. Al-Arouq thanked the students for their support, saying:

“This is important support from Al-Fakhoora scholars in Gaza, and its relevant to the UNESCO mandate and support for Education.”
‘Fakhoora.org’
With the blockade crippling movement into and out of Gaza, ‘fakhoora.org’ is of vital importance to link blockaded students to the outside world.

Fakhoora.org is fuelled by Effusion: a UK-based social media and advocacy consultancy that develops, designs and creates platforms for students demanding a global voice. This partnership ensures that students across the world are given the tools to take action to defend education, and ultimately end the illegal blockade that has deterred the natural progress of the youth in Gaza that strive to claim their place in the global arena.

Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr, are used regularly to support and allow advocacy in the communication of ideas and thoughts, and the promotion of new and ongoing projects as well as to support various campaigns.

Regular news updates keep the content on the website fresh and relevant to returning site visitors, while clear descriptions of our various projects communicate our ethos, work and goals succinctly.

We produced an eye-catching and evocative piece of print work with Effusion, which we distribute at events, and we are in the process of planning and designing further web and print work to support our campaign.

We also understand that we must maintain an eye-catching brand identity, with modern functionality online to ensure our work is given the attention that it needs in a global sphere, and effusion’s consultancy is vital in delivering this and keeping our site visitors loyal.

FIG 4 //
FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE ACTIVITY FROM SEPT – DEC 2011

Facebook
Blockade
Website
September
October
November
December
Reconstruction

An update on the extensive building works taking place in Gaza’s schools and colleges.

**FIG 5 //**

**RECONSTRUCTION TIMELINES**

**PHASE I**
2010–2011
- Reconstruction Assessment
- Islamic University of Gaza

**PHASE II**
2011–2012
- Al Azhar I & II
- Al Quds I & II
- Islamic University of Gaza I & II
- Khan Younis I & II
- UCAS I

**PHASE III**
2012–2013
- UCAS technical workshop
- Al-Quds Establishing electronic library
- Al Aqsa: establishing a central library
- Al Azhar University: build conference hall

**PHASE IV**
2013–2014
- Palestine Technical College
- Al Quds: establishing labs
- UCAS: It facilities
- Khan Younis : Lecture Hall

**Phase II**

Spanning seven different colleges, the universities benefiting from this reconstruction program include Al Azhar University, Al Quds Open University, The Islamic University of Gaza, Al Aqsa University, College of Science and Technology in Khan Younis, Palestine Technical College in Deir Al Balah, College of Ability Development in Khan Younis and University College of Applied Sciences.

We have targeted these institutions most affected by the wars on Gaza, and have also incorporated institutions with various specialisms to enable excellence in multiple disciplines.

These projects involve the reconstruction of buildings and the delivery of educational materials such as scientific lab equipment, IT technology, books and other basic infrastructure items such as furniture and relevant teaching resources.
The Islamic University of Gaza

In 2010, Al Fakhoora, along with our implementing partner Qatar Red Crescent, began reconstructing two roof floors for the Faculties of Medicine and Science, at the Islamic University of Gaza.

IUG is one of two universities in Gaza boasting a School of Medicine. With the casting of roof slabs completed and the wall construction developing fast, the completed project will provide IUG with an additional two floors. Upon completion, the two floors will be furnished, set up with the relevant IT requirements and laboratory equipment for ophthalmology and obstetrics equipment.

FIG 6 //

PROJECT STATUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phase I</th>
<th>Phase II</th>
<th>Phase III</th>
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Winners Against All Odds
An update on infrastructure and expertise development in our projects which tackle learning difficulties

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.

Improved methods, facilities and capabilities will benefit hospitals such as Al Ahli’s physiotherapy department who receive around 500 patients monthly; many of which are children.

Furthermore, our projects will empower rehab departments, diabetes centers and day clinics to promote preventative practices and improved patient care. 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 provides psycho-social support to both non-disabled and disabled children.

Hearing and Vision Impairment
Hearing impairment is yet another effect of the attacks on Gaza, which in the past has had to rely on external aid and oversees transfers for post-operative infrastructure and therapy.

We have initial plans to limit the amount of outside help that children in Gaza need, by providing better training for existing doctors, as well as provide information and educational materials to the communities of Gaza and the West Bank.

By screening school children, we hope that detection of injury and congenital hearing and vision defects are discovered early, and tackled, before the child experiences difficulties in learning and socialising without suitable support.

There are also plans for two rehabilitation centres for post-cochlear implant operations in which patients and their parents can visit and gain the support and ongoing care that is crucial for this sensitive and life-changing procedure.
Two trained CBOs (Community-Based Organisations) will be equipped with the human and technical resources to provide appropriate rehabilitation following eye and ear operations.

Our plans also include routine tests of newborns for immediate detection of congenital hearing and vision defects.

Primary care-based screening services for conditions including glaucoma, cataract and diabetic retinopathy will be incorporated into healthcare in the region too.

Furthermore, an excellent ophthalmic surgeon is to be brought to Gaza on secondment to carry out anterior and posterior chamber surgery, which is a complex procedure to preserve sight.

Through our work, we hope to raise awareness amongst children and parents about hearing; how to care for your hearing, how to spot poor hearing in your children and how to care for your hearing following an operation.

We want to advocate on behalf of the hearing impaired and recognise their needs within the occupied society. Learning, employment and personal fulfillment are hard enough for entirely able people living in the occupation, and we want to give and demonstrate our support to those struggling without treatment and recognition.

By distributing more information, we hope that our resources, and teaching, are then used to best and lasting effect.

In incorporating those early checks into primary health care, we hope to implement care to lessen or combat sight and hearing defects.

Additional resources, expertise and education will contribute significantly to reducing operation waiting times and increasing ophthalmic surgical capacity.
Psychosocial Services

The trauma of bombings, occupation, injury, death and loss creates untold pain and struggle for the people of occupied Gaza.

It is absolutely crucial that we work to provide, improve and maintain the best mental health care and support that we can.

We are hoping to provide psychosocial support for able and disabled 4-18 year olds through play and activity. We will facilitate everything that’s needed for systematic recreational and educational activities, which will take place at our partner HQ, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS).

We will also provide 32 psychosocial workers distributed across the Gaza Strip with the tools and training required to act accordingly in emergency situations.

For children with physical disability, we have a program with up to 500 places to make regular use of the recreational and educational facilities and activities at PRCS.

Using Gaza and the West Bank’s internal and external experts on psychosocial services, we hope to expand the capacity of the staff currently working in the mental health services in the region.

With the changes we have in mind, we’re hoping to see great benefits, better quality of life and positive experiences for the 10,000 children currently residing in south Gaza. Instilling the skills of play, friendship, imagination and movement through provision of safe facilities will add huge value to many lives in Gaza.

We hope to see levels of violence lowered in schools and the psychosocial conditions and resilience of the 500 children improved.

In building capacity of existing staff, along with 40 newly graduated doctors and nurses, we hope to bring more rounded and thorough care to the occupied region. These skilled individuals will help to integrate mental health into primary healthcare and establish our plans of a more effective referral system for mental health cases.

Physical Disability Services

Following the various attacks on, and occupation of Gaza and the West Bank, around 13% of children in the region have been left with a permanent disability, making physiotherapy and post-operative care as much a concern as mental health care for the population.

Thankfully Al Fakhoora and partners have plans to boost, upgrade and add to the infrastructure and level of care currently available; giving patients a better quality experience of care, as well as better chances of recovery.

We are pleased to announce our plans for two new teaching centres solely for teaching physiotherapy; one being a development of the existing infrastructure of a leading Non-Governmental Organisation’s base and the second, an entirely new building!

Of course, our health plans for the region must encompass congenital and pathological illness, as well as the result of injury. For this reason, our training program for special physiotherapy services includes postoperative neurosurgery and cardiac surgery cases, in addition to some cases of amputation. For this, eight selected physiotherapy lecturers and trainers will be sent to Egypt for training on new techniques and specialities.

Another concern that requires attention is of diabetic-related complications. So, we plan to set up a new dedicated centre at Al Wafaa Hospital!

Finally, a new rehabilitation department is planned to launch at Al Amal Hospital.

Providing more space across the region increases the accessibility of care to patients, while upgrading skills for medical professionals has an untold benefit upon medical care.

With better post-operative care for neuro and cardiac surgery patients, we hope to see cases improve and hospitalisation time decrease.

Providing better care for diabetes-related complications will mean fewer related amputations, which in turn reduces the strain on physiotherapy services.

Adding the facility at Al Amal hospital will ensure a more equal distribution of rehabilitation services for the south Gaza population.
**New Partnerships**

**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 so that we can 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.

**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 skilful 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 human Rights’ 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 ways.

CISCO
Generously work with us to provide the technology that we need to communicate with groups in Gaza, and also to facilitate the Virtual Majlis sessions.

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.

Financial Support
We are endlessly grateful to a number of kind donors and benefactors, some of whom prefer to remain anonymous, that 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’.

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.
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 aid for victims of hearing loss and impairment in the region. The bombings in Palestine have affected huge swaths 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 working 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 Organisation

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 of 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, alleviating suffering in Palestine and respecting the humanity and dignity of Palestinians. They provide relief, development and child welfare services.