



A Discussion on Education for Elevated Livelihoods

“Philanthropy plays an important role in addressing the challenges facing the Arab region. To ensure that Arab youth have access to a high-quality education, we can leverage effective philanthropic initiatives that are strategic and based on quantifiable goals.”



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Overview

On August 25, 2022, the Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation held an event at the Dar Ben Gacem hotel in Tunisia. The discussion explored barriers facing youth in their pursuit of a high-quality education and the role of philanthropy in creating positive impact in education with key stakeholders.

Barriers to accessing education



English language barriers limit youths’ access to opportunities and affect their performance.



Higher school dropout rates in the MENA region lead to significant learning losses.



Remote learning complicates integration into classrooms and interpersonal skills development.

Education in the Arab region

8 in 10 young Arabs are concerned about the quality of education in their country ([Arab Youth Survey](#), 2022)

The Middle East has a very low English proficiency score (445), which is significantly lower than the global average (503) ([EF English Proficiency Index](#), 2021)

9.3 million children aged 15 to 17 are out of school in the MENA region ([UNICEF](#), 2019)

Strategic philanthropy

Philanthropy, which is crucial in elevating the livelihoods of Arab youth, should be:

- 1. Participatory:** meaningfully engage all stakeholders in the design-to-implementation process
- 2. Innovative:** leverage creative solutions such as technology to achieve scale and impact
- 3. Sustainable:** cater to youth’s needs to achieve long-lasting impact
- 4. Scalable:** facilitate access to high-quality opportunities for more Arab youth
- 5. Based on partnerships:** coordinate key stakeholders’ efforts to support youth