



Empowering Arab Women in STEM

“Arab women in STEM disciplines have enormous potential; we must harness that potential and encourage others to join the field. To do this, all stakeholders—including governments, the private sector, institutions of higher education, and youth- should work together to create equitable and sustainable access to education and employment opportunities.”

Mariam M. Khalifeh,
Senior Consultant at Deloitte Middle East



Arab women are making gains in STEM education. They account for up to 57% of STEM students in Arab countries and 56% of [public university](#) STEM graduates in the UAE ([UNESCO](#)). However, Arab women still face several barriers when seeking employment or promotion in the field ([Alzaabi et al.](#)). Due to these challenges, they make up only 40% of the STEM workforce in the region ([National Geographic](#)).



Lack of awareness about STEM careers



Mismatch between university program offerings and labor market demands



Lack of female role models in STEM fields who could provide information to students



Family bias against working in mixed-gender workplaces ([UNESCO](#))

The Foundation supports Arab women pursuing a STEM education and facilitates employment by collaborating with private sector hiring partners.

82%

of our female scholarship recipients are in STEM.

78%

of our female STEM graduates are employed, interning, or pursuing graduate studies.

62%

of TechUp learners are Emirati women building foundational digital literacy skills

Alaa Marouf obtained her master’s degree from the American University of Beirut. She works for Schlumberger’s oil service division and is an advocate of Arab women in STEM. Alaa has spoken at numerous colleges in Lebanon and delivered a TED talk on “[The Artificial Intelligence Wave of Change](#)”

Youstena Arian is pursuing a master’s in health informatics at Arizona State University. Youstena has always had a strong interest in math and pharmacokinetics. She contributed to the development of a “[Deep Learning](#)”-based [diagnostic tool](#) for pediatric pneumonia while she was an intern in the UAE.

The gender gap in STEM fields

Arab women in STEM face

The Foundation’s work

STEM scholar’s success stories