



Message from the Chairman

Investing in high-quality education and opportunities is critical for progress in all societies, and this is especially true in the Arab region. The region has a lot of potential for growth, but it faces many challenges, like the **highest** youth unemployment rate globally. Almost **half** of the region's young people are worried about finding jobs, and **80%** are concerned about their education's quality. These statistics showcase the importance of supporting Arab youth, who have consistently shown their desire to pave the way for a better future.

At the Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation, we believe that education is a major force for progress in all societies. We're driven to make a positive lasting impact to support young people and the region's sustainable development. A good education has long-lasting effects; it empowers young individuals to overcome obstacles and create meaningful change in their communities. This reflects the vision that my father, Abdulla Al Ghurair, set when he established the Foundation.

Given the new set of challenges facing our youth in a rapidly changing world, we've evolved our strategy to develop innovative programs for large-scale positive impact. Accordingly, in 2020, we shifted our focus from providing individual scholarships to supporting system-level changes that would foster innovative solutions to help more young Arabs to have elevated livelihoods. We also integrated knowledge production and thought leadership into our strategy to support key stakeholders in making informed decisions. We continued to firmly root our work in accountability, transparency, and a commitment to enrich the future for the region's youth.

In line with national and regional strategies, and our commitment to making a practical difference, we collaborated with partners from various sectors to ramp up our offerings of effective

skill-building opportunities. Our programs have benefited over 26,000 young people, bringing the total number to approximately 80,000 beneficiaries. We believe that by equipping underserved youth with the necessary tools to unlock a better future, we can collaborate with key partners to bring about a transformative change.

We invested in resources that build the capacity of educators and education institutions, while also mobilizing resources to scale high-impact learning solutions. Our focus remains on providing high-quality opportunities that enable youth to acquire both technical and transferable skills, paving the way for a brighter future. In line with the vision of the UAE, we support system-wide changes that promote sustainable development that lead to the best possible outcomes for everyone.

We're committed to continuing our work because we believe that youth, when given proper guidance, knowledge, and opportunity, have the capacity to drive remarkable progress in the region and beyond. Our focus remains on the youth of the Arab region, who have shown remarkable resilience in the face of adversity. We believe that when important stakeholders and enablers come together to invest in education, we can elevate the livelihoods of youth and their communities.

We are grateful for the support and partnership of all those who share our vision and worked to leverage the success of this past year to build more programs that target the needs of our youth. We believe that by working together, we can create a brighter future for the region's youth and pave the way for a more prosperous and sustainable future.

H.E. Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair
Chairman, Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation