Al Fakhoora Dynamic Futures Programme

UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People UNDP/PAPP is a leading development agency working together with the Palestinian people to fulfill their vision of a peaceful, sustainable, and equitable society by promoting democratic governance, human development, human security, and livelihoods. UNDP/PAPP has been entrusted with generous funding from "Education Above All" – Al Fakhoora to support underserved youth in the Gaza Strip through the provision of quality education.

Al Fakhoora Dynamic Futures Programme aims at effectively building a cadre of educated and trained leaders who are civic-minded, intellectually able, and professional to become community, business, national and global leaders of the future. The programme avails opportunities for Palestinian university-level students to actualize their professional and leadership potential by overcoming socioeconomic, political and cultural limitations and by enabling them to productively engage in society.

Started in 2009, UNDP/PAPP and its partners envisioned this comprehensive programme that links the provision of 1000 educational scholarships for post-secondary students to other supporting interventions such as; civic leadership opportunities, student services, economic empowerment opportunities, career guidance, academic advice, and different personal and professional development opportunities.

The programme consists of two phases: Phase I started in 2009 and ended on October 2018, and Phase II started in 2014 and is expected to end by 2022. Al Fakhoora Dynamic Futures Programme is multi-faceted, with four main interrelated components, all seeking the overall vision:

**Quality Education**
Providing access to quality education, through domestic scholarships and international postgraduate scholarships.

**Student Affairs**
Providing all students with access to comprehensive support services that contribute to their academic success and wellbeing through monitoring, mentoring, and psychosocial support.

**Leadership Development**
Empowering students through a comprehensive, multi-stage training programme, to become motivated civic leaders, with the ability to engage productively in the rebuilding of their societies and to provide leadership within and outside of their own communities.

**Economic Empowerment**
Providing a bridge between educational opportunities and professional success through career preparation and counselling, internships, networking, and opportunities for freelancing and economic empowerment.

The programme components are cross-cutting, and they aim at developing the capacities of not only the students but also the partners working on the implementation of the activities and interventions.

Currently, Al Fakhoora Dynamic Futures Programme plans to continue delivering leadership development opportunities for its 630 scholars who are from different backgrounds, study specialties, gender, and level of education.
During my experience with Al Fakhoora, I realized that teamwork increases the chances of success and enhances self-confidence.

One should dream and consistently pursue their dream no matter how impossible it is. As I shared this with my sisters, I gave them doses of hope and confidence in the future.
“Restoring hope and confidence, turning my dream into reality, opening up new opportunities and skilling that I’d never expected before; that is how Al Fakhoora has changed my life. The amount of activities, particularly the social, recreational and group activities were very influential to the improvement of my personality. I owe Al Fakhoora what I have become today, an outstanding student full of hope for the future.”
Joining Al Fakhooora turned me from a simple woman with ordinary ambitions to a woman that constantly pursue excellence and leaving a personal touch in my community and beyond. I can see the change in my personality, the way I address challenges and my vision for the future. Al Fakhooora is an inspirational programme, where I had the passion to share the skills that I have learnt with my family, friend and fellow colleagues at university.
Despite that life in Gaza was always in crises, but I have always been optimistic. As I have got Al Fakhoora scholarship, it was that hope that came true. Al Fakhoora helped me overcome university challenges, contributed to my psychological stability, so I continued my studies with trust and confidence. The rich courses that I have undertaken tripled that trust and confidence that I can pave my road with successes and the positive change serving my people and community.
Fakhroo taught me the importance of developing a vocation of giving back aside from one's profession, by engaging more in community and showing positive actions, not just empty words or slogans on the street, but a series of committed small actions that aim to changing lives and the course of history.
During my experience in Al-Fakhoora program, I was able to build my mental abilities in many areas, the most important of which is leadership skills and increasing my self-confidence. I started investing these skills in achieving my future goals.
As Al Fakhoora student, I have learned that success does not mean that you have always to stay among your books. You need to interact with your community, put your own mark, which has made many of my colleagues start paying attention to the importance of it.
Omar Al Tabatibi

Al Fakhoora for me is an educational and professional journey. It’s full of passion, love, excellence, challenges, and successes. The quality of leadership has been so motivating, as it related to what I am standing for today: a junior professional that is making a positive difference where I work among my colleagues who consider me as a raw model for success.
A bridge to achieve success and excel in my studies, career and future, this is what Al Fakhoora for me. Learning about values and practices of leadership has been among key skills that I have developed. My family was always excited about my trainings, they were always curious about the knowledge I am receiving and how I did share it with my sisters who also learnt a lot from and about Al Fakhoora. Al Fakhoora was my main motive to become an outstanding student and keep being the first position of my college.
Al Fakhoora made me more aware of my abilities, discovering the strength within me. The learnings that I have received made me able to face difficulties and challenges, made me influential on the people around me. Giving me an outstanding place among my colleagues. Being born an orphan, Al Fakhoora was a family that supported me with lots of new friends and colleagues. I hope that Al Fkahoora will continue and benefit students, not only with the financial support but with the skills that make us engage with the world differently.
Al Fakoora helped me acquire skills that will help me to be influential in my community. The communication skills, for example, have enabled me to be a brave public speaker. Besides, getting to know diverse people, helped me build a network where we can work together for a better future.
It’s a turning point, this is how Dynamic Futures transformed my life. It’s the course of life that shifted my perspectives from a person who prefers to stay academically focused to a very active engaging person in the community. I lived it as a journey of exploring my personal strength and it is my motive for being an outstanding community leader.
I had a dream always to become an inspirational woman. As I joined Al Fakhoora, it was more than a scholarship for me, it’s the programme the turned my passion into reality. The leadership skills that I have acquired contributed greatly to be more communication fluent, able to build networks and inspire my university colleague of how to give back to the community proactively.
Braver, more confident and exploring new skills, those are few among many practices that I have equipped with during my journey with Al Fakhoora. Interacting academically with Al Fakhoora fellow students of same interest was so positive in my learnings and provided me with a network with students from different specialties and universities. Thanks for the English language and computer skills, I feel now, more competent to compete over challenging jobs.
It’s a change of my personality, a total change of the way I look at life, how to interact with others, how to act professionally in work environment and how to leave a touch within the community through voluntary initiatives. This is some of the impact that Al Fakhoora left one me. Above all, I learnt how to manage and overcome challenge, and how to be creative in solving problems.
The community of Al Fakhoora is unique. Meeting peers from different universities, different locations of the Gaza Strip, different courses of studies was rewarding for the development of my personality. While getting engaged in the activities and different courses, I have learnt from a pool of outstanding students, where this helped me in both my university’s academic studies as well as in developing my communication skills and working in teams proactively to serve the community.
Dalia Al Harazeen

Computer Sciences

19 yo

Al Fakhoora for me is a multi-skills basket, where my skills flourished up, particularly when it comes to English language, computer skills as well as the leadership values. All these skills contributed to the development of my personality and capacity to feel more confident when pursuing my professional career. This is a unique journey with beautiful minds.
I have always been buoyant, expansive and uncontainable, but only I knew it when I became part of Fakoora family. It has awakened the inner theme of positively impacting the surrounding world and setting the service of my community as my first and foremost priority. It encouraged me to reach my fullest potential and enabled me to help future generations to attain theirs, as well.

Reminiscing about my time as Fakoora student, there is a galaxy of words that can be used to highlight the difference it has made in my pursuit of my goals. I have been empowered with advanced skills, ranging from self-awareness to leadership; elevating my wagon to reach endless skies of success. It motivated me to strive for higher goals, pursue knowledge and stamp irreplaceable marks of impact wherever I head.
My expectations of university life were all about academic studies, which was always discouraging to pursue my education, yet as I heard about Al Fakhoora, it was a dream to join. The day I was accepted was a turning point of life. I found the oasis of knowledge and practices that contributed to the development of my work, social, and leadership skills. Now I feel that I am different from my colleagues in the university with the spirit that I am highly motivated and willing to take a large role in serving my community.
While the university studies were always challenging, I had always feared from what is after university. Al Fakhoora waived these fears by developing set of market skills such communications, self-confidence and creativity that helped me during my internship. I owe Al Fakhoora the support, the encouragement, and motivation to set new horizons of work, understand the market skills better and to build a network of acquaintance within and beyond Al Fakhoora Community.
“FATMAH
ABUMSABEH

Computer and
Telecommunication
Engineering

22 YO

As a young woman, Al Fakhoora enable me to become an outstanding leading person in my community. Al Fakhoora flamed the torch of success in my career at an early stage where I have worked hard on my studies equipped with the advanced academic learning skills that I acquired from Al Fakhoora joint with progressing at my career with social media platforms, filled with skills I gained from the leadership training. Al Fakhoora did motivate me to encourage others to be proactive and challenge their situations.”
Throughout my involvement in Al Fakhoora’s initiatives, I felt the value of the teamwork in accomplishing great things, for teamwork divides the tasks and multiplies the success.”
As a media student, Al Fakhoora has trained me to speak confidently, use my body language properly and express my mind wisely. Now I am participating in many media community activities and contributing to the creation of valuable youth content in many media communities.
Al Fakhoora has introduced me to a world full of distinguished personalities. It is very interesting to participate in activities and training with students of engineering, literature and economics. They are gregarious friends whom I can ask for advice and assistance.
My family was unable to pay my university tuition, and I was almost compelled to abandon the idea of university study. But, kindly, Al Fakhoora has embraced me to study and develop my skills.
All that I cared about before joining this program was high grades and college marks; however, I learned that life skills are as important as studying. Thus, I am working on seizing every golden opportunity I get.
“Mohamed El-Ghoz”

Chemistry

23 YO

In fact, I am very grateful. This program has pushed me towards passing on knowledge to others and helping to find innovative solutions to roll the wheel of better change.
HASSAN HIZAZI

Business Administration

20 YO

I regard Al Fakhoora as my golden mate that fulfills my passion of learning and affecting. It provides me with youthful activities enriching my knowledge and increasing my ability to pursue my sky-high goals.
I feel secured and comfortable when I mention my friends in Al Fakhoora. We have spent great time together sharing information, ideas and special occasions of happiness and joy.
The program prepares us daily to meet our dreams and goals with hearts and minds full of knowledge and positive energy.
Being a Fakhoora student is most like holding a distinctive passport whenever I apply for trainings and work opportunities. This is mainly because this program produces creative leaders and entrepreneurs.
Al Fakhoora is the true definition of backup family where there is no fear or embarrassment of asking for help. Today I ask for help and tomorrow I do grant help.
I was frustrated and desperate in my Tawjhi exams, for my future and my goals were blurred, but look at me now. I have studied the specialization I have dreamed of with the degree of honor, and I am developing other aspects by the support of the program.
I used to be a time waster who lost control over the required tasks, but Al Fakhoora helped me to manage my time during the busy days full of trainings and university lectures, and to never lose touch with my friends and family.
I am able to adapt this sophisticated world to myself positively and enthusiastically. Al Fakhoora has planted the seeds of self-confidence and faith in my abilities, and I am gradually harvesting the fruitful outputs.
It is Al Fakhoora program that motivates me to dream high but work harder. I have my personality matured in terms of knowledge, performance and community service because of this golden program.
I have never put in mind that those wordy scribbles, on the header of my secret notebook embodying my inner thoughts of the future, are outlining their ghostly face into a touchable reality by the incredible support of Al Fakhoora program.
MOHAMMAD AL HOUR

Law

23 YO

The four years I have spent in the Fakhoora program is among the most important stages that have affected me in terms of education, community service, communication and leadership.
Dealing with a lot of people every day makes it imperative to be confident, good communicator, receptive to others and broad-chested. Gratefully, I have been able to reinforce all this through the various exercises provided by Al Fakhoora program.
With the continuous training and positive practice of discussions and dialogues, I was able to transcend my character to be more open, receptive and cultured.
What astonishes me the most is the quality of education that this program glorifies within me. It lightens the road to everything in terms of having a career and an impact on society, where I have no fear to speak my mind, discuss and debate.
I am grateful to the time that brings me closer to this program where I master the true essence of distinctiveness in every respect I take part in, because I have been privileged with astounding skills of creative and critical thinking.
Had I not been a Fakhoora student, I would have never been able to distinguish that leadership is not about a title or a designation; however, a leader is the one who influences and inspires.
I am a 23-year-old man with a capacity of a man in his 30s, for Al Fakhoora program has taken me by the hand to participate in plenty of events and demo days, enhancing my communication and presentation skills.
Every time I announce that I am a Fakhoora student, I already feel how unique my resume is. I have been awarded the chance of widening my horizon by virtually meeting various people around the world with different backgrounds and cultures.
I am no more afraid or ashamed to speak the English language fluently, for this program has granted me the opportunity to develop my English skills with distinguished real-life practice.
Only through the initiatives and community services I have conducted by the support of this program have I appreciated the quality of life. I realize that giving is the way in which I myself grow and bloom.
NABIL AL LAHAM

Civil Engineering
23 YO

Speechless I stand before such a golden program which takes the responsibility for economically empowering me to match the labor market’s needs.
When I speak, argue or dialogue, all ears listen and follow my tone. It is not surprising because I am Fakhoora student who has been taught to be civic-minded, intellectually able and professionally skilled.
This program has taught me that being blind does mean that I have lost sight, but never vision. Through the encouragement of Al Fakhoora’s family, I have participated in many initiatives, events and demo days; thus, I do believe that eyes are useless when the mind is blind.
Al Fakhoora has not only built up my leading personality, but it has also surprised me with a series of exercises to strengthen my stability and psychological well-being. They took great care of me in a way that no one had ever done before.
Before joining Al Fakhoora, I was usually caught hidden in my comfort zone. However, Al Fakhoora family became my inspiration, since it gave me the support, experience and training I needed to improve my own knowledge and identify myself without fear or hesitation.”
My invaluable experience within Al Fakhoora taught me that if I want to go fast, I have to go alone. On the other hand, if I’m willing to go far, it is better to go with others. So I loved the bunch of friends I had in this great family.
For me, Al Fakhoora has directed my thoughts towards a peculiar tendency, in which I do not necessarily avoid problematic issues, but rather encounter them because, in a decisive set, confidence is the difference.
How should I reply and what to say were the questions bothering me when someone addressed me in a conversation. I was worried about the idea that all ears were listening to me, but now I initiate the talk. I do not miss an opportunity to talk to friends or strangers.
Whenever I had to make a crucial decision in my life, I would run away and abdicate responsibility. This is not the case anymore because I am currently well-trained to judge the values resulting from my decisions.
I’m taking the IELTS exam next month without having to worry about enhancing my skills or paying a lot of expenses. Al Fakhoora has already provided me with the necessary English practice skills.
In fact, Al Fakhoura has provoked a sense of challenge within me, and I would accept to fail because it taught me that failure is never a dead-end street, and the courage to get up and continue that counts at the end of the day.
I feel privileged to be labeled as Fakhoora student wherever I go, for this program has exceeded the financial coverage to provide us with a comprehensive support services contributing to our academic success and well-being.
I have frequently heard how graduates are suffering in enriching their CV, and I myself became concerned about it, as well. Yet all my concerns dissipated when I enrolled Al Fakhoora program because it helped me easily make a rich resume.
Where do you see yourself in the future? A question I had not thoroughly answered till Al Fakhoora granted me trainings with rich experiences lightened my way to my goals. Now I am courageous enough to pursue the light.
I never cared about what was going on out of my room’s walls. However, I have been driven out by the extracurricular activities implemented by Al Fakhroora, and I am grateful to be taught that I never improve there inside my room.
It is crystal clear how this program has turned my son into a real man, whom I can count on. He is cultured, passionate, ambitious and positive.
When my daughter speaks, my eyes shine with pride and happiness. She has effective techniques of dialoging, persuading and talking because of the training she had at Al Fakhoora.
Nothing in this life is more satisfying than seeing my son knowledgeable, active and inspired. He does not miss a chance to develop his skills and fly high, and this is all through the tremendous support of Al Fakhoora.
“SAWSAN

Athar
Ahmad’s
Mother

50 YO

Al Fakhoora has granted me the best daughter with a friendship bond. I enjoy talking with Athar, for her wise perspectives and opinions enhanced by the trainings are often a great refuge when I myself need to take a decision."
The greatest feelings Al Fakhoora has ever given me are honor and pride in my son. He has become so courageous, proactive and trustworthy that I am now unconcerned about anything else.
LAILA

Eman Ahmad's Mother

38 YO

Eman used to be easily deceived, and it reflected her inner peace of mind leaving her locked in her zone. However, Al Fakhoora has pulled her smoothly to the outer world until she is now, of course, a leader.
Khadija excels in everything she takes part in, and recently her scientific research has won a prize of excellence all over universities in Gaza. All respects are due to Al Fakhoora and its crew.
The moment Haneen became a Fakhoora student, her smiles have lightened her life. And when she smiles, all my worries disappear. Thanks for Al Fakhoora for being the reason behind our happiness.
I used always to be worried about my son being excessively withdrawn and ashamed, but thanks are due to this program's community services, events and activities that turned him into a sociable individual.
I am glad that such an outstanding program is available for Palestinian students, for I have not seen an integrated program that cares for students academically and psychologically in such a professional manner. All respect to its crew!
Mona

Noor Fanoun's Mother

50YO

My daughter has become independent with strong leading personality. Thanks go to Al Fakhoora Scholarship whose support is beyond the academic life.
Naem has become an active leader, since he takes part in every activity, event, training and virtual session implemented by Al Fakhoora.
Al Fakoora has successfully invested in my daughter’s progress. She now focuses on her personal growth, self-awareness and career development. I cannot be more proud.
“Amal

Nadia Rajab’s Mother,

41 YO

Nadia is the eldest of her ten brothers. Al Fakhoora has helped her to take more responsibility as she has become mature and conscious. Now she is a great role model to her brothers.”
I am grateful to every hand contributed to making my daughter’s life filled with passion, creativity and motivation. In other words, I am grateful to Al Fakhoora program.
In the post-graduate employment program at Al-Fakhoora, my son worked in Qatar Charity for 4 months where he proved himself to be a hard worker. Consequently, the Qatar Charity Administration extended his contract for an additional month.
“FATMA

Qamar Taleb’s Mother

60 yo

Al Fakhoora has been a turning point in my daughter’s life. She has become determined to learn anything new and employ it professionally in her career life.”
Kefaya is the tenth among her brothers. Due to the financial situation, none of her brothers studied at university. However, thanks to Al-Fakhoora program, Kifaya was able to study nursing with a degree of excellence.
At Al Fakoora, Eman no longer worries about her father’s work, her university tuition, her future studies, her self-confidence and self-improvement.
“It is an honor to get to train such ambitious students whose souls have sparkled with creativity and determination in every subject and community service.”

SAMAH AL SAFADI
Bridge to Success Trainer
Dr. Alaa Alhasheem

Islamic University,
Students Affairs Unit

Member of Dynamic Futures Technical Committee

Al Fakhoora was once non-defining, yet it imposed itself brilliantly in terms of its diverse trainings and programs in every aspect till it is now the glitter of hope to many students.
As a member of the follow up Committee for Al Fakhoora Student Affairs, I highly pay tribute to each reliable hand that contributed to graduating such capable leaders who, despite the harsh circumstances, are sticking to their ambitions.
Dr. Khaled Abo Shab
Dean of Students Affairs
Al Azhar University

“...This program is the most powerful one to be implemented in universities, for it has opened the doors for many students to pursue their education at times they were about to give up.”
I hope this program will keep fostering the quality of education and community involvement in Palestine because it grants us the ability to fight the war on ignorance and poverty.
Ahmad AlShqaqi

Al Fakoora has paved the way for its students to the labor market through career preparation, internships, networking, and opportunities for entrepreneurship and economic empowerment projects.
To enable students to bridge the gap between studies and professional life and equip them with internationally recognized, employable skills are the noble objectives of Al Fakhoora program.
I have seen something special shining from Al Fakhoora students’ eyes. They made a difference in translating our passion of teaching into their passion of learning.
I could relate the distinction defining these students, for I truly touched how this program helped them to actualize their potential by overcoming socioeconomic, political and cultural limitations and enabling them to become productive members in the society.”
This is the approach to embracing students our society demands the most to present a new generation of educated, professionally skilled, and inspirational leaders who guide their families and communities toward cohesion and prosperity.
I respectfully thank such a great program because its achievements is manifest in the impressive outputs represented in the leaders of the coming future.
MAREE BASHIR

Leadership Development Trainer

I am quite sure that this whole program, with its staff and students, is Palestine’s leading engine of innovation and entrepreneurship. It is more than great how this program was conducted primarily to build community leadership, an advantage Palestine is in desperate need of gaining.
I strongly believe that the true investment of all kinds is the one we bring about in our youth. This is what distinguishes this program from any other.
It is more than great how this program was conducted primarily to build community leadership, an advantage Palestine is in desperate need of gaining.
Put it in simple words, this program, along with its students, is more like a productive family I am glad to be part of.
It is a must to give special credit to Al Fakhoora crew who has intensified its efforts to enable the students to bridge to the other bank of the river with profound success. I myself learnt a lot from Al Fakhoora students. They have persistence which is never likely to be burdened with any obstacle.
I count on one of these minds to be the key agent of change in Palestine, and yes here we are witnessing them as the owners of a better future.
Al Fakhoora Dynamic Futures Programme - funded by Al Fakhoora, a Programme of Education Above All Foundation and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme / Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People in partnership with Palestinian Civil Society Organizations