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MISSION

Bridging the gap
between poverty
and opportunity by
enabling effective
initiatives in
healthcare and
education

CONTENT

- About the Al Jisr Foundation
- Our programs
- Campaigns and events
- How to get involved
- Partnership application form

INFORMATION PACKAGE



Al Jisr Foundation

ESTABLISHED

2010/1431

Bridging the gap between poverty and opportunity by enabling effective initiatives in (emergency) healthcare and education

BOARD

Ms Fawziya Saud Salim
Bahwan Al Mukhaini (Chair)
Ms Amina Saud Salim
Bahwan Al Mukhaini
Ms Anisa Saud Salim
Bahwan Al Mukhaini

The Al Jisr Foundation is a not-for-profit charitable organization based in Oman. The foundation was established in 1431/2010 to continue the legacy of the late Sheikh Saud Salim Bahwan Al Mukhaini, founder of the Saud Bahwan Group conglomerate.

Governed by his three daughters, the Al Jisr Foundation operates wholly on Zakat funds with the purpose of breaking the cycle of poverty through strategic healthcare and education initiatives.

The Al Jisr Foundation is a wholly independent organization with no political or governmental affiliations, and does not accept any external donations.

The Arabic word 'Al Jisr' literally means 'the bridge' – a universal symbol of progress, overcoming challenges, and facilitating new possibilities. Moreover, the bridge represents networking and cooperation.

Its significance to our organization speaks for itself. In close collaboration with our continuously expanding network of expert partners, the Al Jisr Foundation enables communities to make the critical transition from poverty to opportunity through (emergency) healthcare and education.



Image:
The village of Andour
in Eastern Chad stands
where 382,500 Darfur
refugees and host
communities are living in
harsh conditions.
Thanks to CERF,
supported by the
Al Jisr Foundation,
children like Khadija
now have access to safe
drinking water.
(©UNICEF)

Our Vision

*A world without poverty or hunger,
in which all people have access
to clean water and sanitation,
healthcare and education.*

Our Mission

*To bridge the gap between poverty
and opportunity by enabling
effective initiatives in (emergency)
healthcare and education.*

Our philosophy

Following in the footsteps of the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him), the Al Fisir Foundation focuses its efforts on strategic initiatives which have the potential of leveraging high-impact, transformative change.

Our philosophy derives from the old tale narrated by Anas Ibn Malik:

A man of the Ansar came to the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) and begged from him.

He (the Prophet) asked: Have you nothing in your house? He replied: Yes, a piece of cloth, a part of which we wear and a part of which we spread (on the ground), and a wooden bowl from which we drink water. He said: Bring them to me.

He then brought these articles to him and he (the Prophet) took them in his hands and asked: Who will buy these? A man said: I shall buy them for one dirham. He said twice or thrice: Who will offer more than one dirham? A man said: I shall buy them for two dirhams.

He gave these to him and took the two dirhams and, giving them to the Ansari, he said: Buy food with one of them and hand it to your family, and buy an axe and bring it to me. He then brought it to him.

The Apostle of Allah (Peace Be Upon Him) fixed a handle on it with his own hands and said: Go, gather firewood and sell it, and do not let me see you for a fortnight.

The man went away and gathered firewood and sold it. When he had earned ten dirhams, he came to him and bought a garment with some of them and food with the others.

The Apostle of Allah (Peace Be Upon Him) then said: This is better for you than that begging should come as a spot on your face on the Day of Judgment. Begging is right only for three people: one who is in grinding poverty, one who is seriously in debt, or one who is responsible for compensation and finds it difficult to pay.

Hadith 1637, Book 3, translation of Sunan Abu Dawood, Kitab Al Zakat

Realizing the full potential of Zakat

“True piety is this: to believe in God, and the Last Day, the Angels, the Book, and the Prophets, to give of one’s substance, however cherished, to kinsmen, and orphans, the needy, the traveler, beggars, and to ransom the slave, to perform the prayer, to pay the Zakat.”
[Qur’an 2:177]

THE THIRD PILAR OF ISLAM

Zakat is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. An obligatory form of giving, Zakat requires that each year, every financially stable Muslim gives a set proportion of his or her wealth to benefit the poor and the needy. In the literal sense, Zakat means blessing, purity, and goodness. It forms an essential part of Muslim character and practice.

Conditions of Zakat

- One’s zakatable wealth rises to a minimum threshold (Nisab)
- A lunar year (Hawl) passes while one’s zakatable wealth sustains the minimum threshold (Nisab)

Benefits of Zakat

- Implants the quality of giving in the Muslim
- Purifies the soul from miserliness
- Systemically combats poverty and hunger
- Strengthens relations between members of the community, which leads to stability, and thus to development in all areas

BENEFICIARIES OF ZAKAT

- Those living in absolute poverty (Al-Fuqarā’)
- Those restrained because they cannot meet their basic needs (Al-Masākīn)
- The zakat collectors themselves (Al-Āmilīna ‘Alaihā)
- Non-Muslims who are sympathetic to Islam or wish to convert to Islam (Al-Mu’allafatu Qulūbuhum)
- People whom one is attempting to free from slavery bondage. Also includes paying ransom or blood money (Fir-Riqāb).
- Those who have incurred overwhelming debts while attempting to satisfy their basic needs (Al-Ghārimīn)
- Those working in God’s way (FiSabilillāh)
- Children of the street/ Travellers (Ibnus-Sabīl)

It should be noted that the last 6 beneficiaries are limited to specialized institutions for Zakat, but that the first and second beneficiaries can be allocated Zakat on behalf of individuals.



Our programs

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HEALTHCARE

Our healthcare-centric program focuses on prevention, maternity care, education sessions, and research and innovation.

Initiatives are structured in a way that people receive education and support from as early a stage as possible, and that they receive strategically targeted support.

EDUCATION

Our education-centric program is divided into skills development, inclusive education, and research and innovation.

These categories predominantly focus on the creation of a healthy, inclusive economy by creating a well-educated workforce that possesses relevant skills and a good sense of innovation and entrepreneurship.

EMERGENCY AID

While the Al Jisr Foundation realizes that a long-term, strategic approach to healthcare and education is vital, the organization also realizes that there are people in need today who simply cannot wait.

Saving lives through healthcare and education emergency operations is therefore the foundational element of this program.

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LEGAL INFORMATION

The Al Jisr Foundation was founded in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, on 14 Dhu al-Hijjah A.H. 1431 / 14 November A.D. 2010.

The organization is registered under the Ministry of Social Development decision number 127/2010 in accordance with the provisions of NGO law nr 14/2000.

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