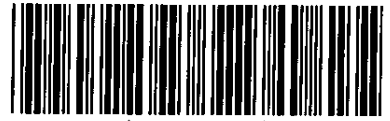


مؤسسة الأصفري

THE ASFARI FOUNDATION



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COMPANIES HOUSE

ANNUAL REPORT
& ACCOUNTS 2017

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ORGANISATIONAL DIRECTORY

Trustees

Mr Ayman Asfari (Chair)
Mrs Sawsan Asfari
Mr Adeeb Asfari
Mr John Ferguson FCA
Dr Marwan Muasher
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Chief Executive Office

Ms Marieke Bosman

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1116751

Company number

5938633

Registered office

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MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDERS

When we set up the Asfari Foundation in 2006, we knew that we wanted to give young people some of the wonderful opportunities we had been blessed with ourselves: the benefit of a good education; the ability to find work; and the opportunity to start working life, protected by a strong civil society that engages and advocates all citizens equally.

At that time, little did we know how increasingly important these aims would become to us, and to the countries we come from. Today, in Syria and neighbouring countries, a whole generation of children and young people has been deprived of even the most basic rights of human existence – safety, nutrition, clean water and education. In 2017 we again supported projects to help with some of the immediate humanitarian issues, and we are reminded that one of the most pernicious results of the war in Syria remains: nearly an entire generation has been excluded from education. Children and young people have been deprived of the chance to learn, to grow, to develop talents and to lay foundations for the future. We are very proud that the Asfari Foundation is working with impressive partners to give at least some of these young people a chance to learn, to heal and to dream of a future that will benefit their families and their society.

The Arab Spring was a great promise to the Arab world, but since that heady time in 2011, wars, repression, a sense of defeat, and local and international restrictions have obstructed the work of civil society. However, we still firmly believe that a thriving civil society is crucial to the functioning of an effective and sustainable wider society, which is why, in 2017, we supported many initiatives ranging from strengthening individual organisations, to training young activists, to tackling international restrictions. We know that civil society will not give up, and neither will we.

We are grateful for the opportunities the UK has afforded us since we settled here, nearly three decades ago. Through our foundation, we have supported many projects for disadvantaged young people in the UK, giving them access to education and training, and we wish to continue with this important work.

It has sometimes felt as if the problems in our target countries have multiplied, and that whatever we do is not enough. But when we remind ourselves of the achievements of the many partners and alumni that we have supported, our hope in a better future is restored. So we would like to say thank you to all our partners, alumni and experts, and to thank our team and to the Trustees, for all you have done in 2017. We look forward to working closely with you all again in 2018, and to continue to try to make a difference.



Ayman and Sawsan Asfari

CEO'S SUMMARY REPORT

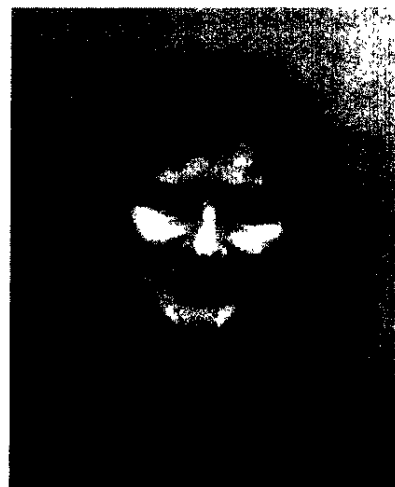
In 2017, the people the Asfari Foundation works with continued to face considerable challenges, challenges often difficult to imagine. They range from partner organisations delivering humanitarian aid while bombs fall in Syria, to young people in Lebanon trying to access oversubscribed secondary schools; organisations in Gaza dealing with an ongoing siege and just two hours of electricity a day, to civil society organisations navigating social criticism, decreasing funding and banking restrictions, to young people in the UK trying to access fewer and ever less secure jobs.

At the Foundation we feel inspired by the courage, creativity, optimism and sheer persistence of our partners and the young people they work with for a better future. We are proud of all our 47 partners, about whom you can read below. Let me highlight a few. Our team was particularly excited this year about being able to provide education to children inside Syria and to support Re:Coded, which is teaching coding skills to Syrian refugees in Turkey and connecting them with online employment opportunities with tech firms. We are excited by the upward curve of the Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship at the American University of Beirut, which is starting to make a name for itself and, in an interesting workshop in 2017, brought together Syrian civil society and donors for lively discussions. We are proud that the core funding provided together with the Said Foundation to the UK charity the Hands Up Foundation has enabled it to grow into an even more effective fundraising mechanism for much-needed projects by Syrian organisations inside Syria.

Over the years, we have supported many young people through higher education and training. Our alumni are doing invaluable things; to recognise this, in 2017 the Foundation awarded its first ever Alumni Awards to those who have used their learning to benefit their community. The winner of the first prize, Ibrahim al-Miari, is a Palestinian refugee from Lebanon who works as an Area Nursing Officer with UNRWA, supervising healthcare services for some 88,000 refugees. He was previously supported to do a master's in the UK and will use part of his prize money to help combat diabetes in the Palestinian refugee community in Lebanon.

During 2017, we conducted an evaluation of the first 10 years of the Foundation's work. We were touched by the very positive feedback we received from partners about the importance of the partnerships we created and our ways of working, and are grateful for the useful ideas on how to improve this further. A strategic review based on the evaluation has resulted in a new five-year strategy, which we will start implementing in 2018. I look forward to working with all our partners and alumni to reduce the challenges faced by the young people we work with and to strive together for a better tomorrow – for everyone.

Marieke Bosman



TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Foundation's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)' (as amended for accounting periods starting from 1 January 2016).

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

WHO WE ARE

The Asfari Foundation is a young and energetic British grant-making charity set up and funded by Sawsan and Ayman Asfari. We believe in young people. We know that, empowered by a good education and opportunities, young people can create very positive change in their communities and the world at large. Our vision is for a world in which educated, tolerant young people are actively engaged in creating productive and open societies.

When young people come together in civil society organisations, their impact multiplies. We therefore support young civil society practitioners and strengthen civil society organisations.

WHAT WE DO

We identify, develop and fund ideas that deliver change for thousands of young people from Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and the UK.

In 2017, we made grants to 52 projects of 47 partners that share our goals and values. Together, we worked on some of the key issues of our time: the crisis in Syria; youth education and employment; and the development of citizenship and civil society resilience, in our target countries.



Young tech entrepreneurs in Gaza using the SkyGeeks hub. Photo: Skygeeks.

Our work is founded on these values:

- **Passion:** We care deeply about the communities we work with, and this drives our work and approach.
- **Diversity and Inclusivity:** we ensure that the Foundation and its partners are inclusive and work with all equally and fairly.
- **Partnership:** We will listen to, share learning with, and create linkages between our partners to improve our and their work.
- **Excellence:** We strive for professionalism and excellence in our work and that of our partners.
- **Fairness:** We aim to be fair in our procedures and open about our successes and failures, and expect the same from our partners.

OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMMES

The Foundation's charitable object, as set out in its Articles of Association, is to further such charitable objectives as the Trustees in their absolute discretion see fit, but to include the following:

- **The advancement of education** in any part of the world and in particular of young people from Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and the UK, including without limitation by establishing and supporting schools, universities and other educational facilities; commissioning, supporting or promoting research and publishing in any media the results of that research; publishing any other educational materials; organising conferences; providing grants and scholarships for individuals, schools and universities to support underprivileged children to pursue education.
- **The prevention and relief of poverty** for the public benefit in any part of the world, in particular but not exclusively from Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and the UK, including without limitation by raising awareness about poverty, the provision of grants to organisations providing nutritional, medical, shelter and other relief items and services to young people in need who have been affected by man-made or natural emergencies; and/or to charities, or other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty.
- **The promotion of civic responsibility, good citizenship and community development** for the public benefit in particular but not exclusively for the benefit of young people and civil society organisations from Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and the UK.
- **The advancement of human rights** (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations), **conflict resolution or reconciliation and the promotion of equality and diversity** for the public benefit anywhere in any part of the world and in particular for young people from Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and the UK.

The Foundation delivers on its objectives through three main programmes:

The **Youth Empowerment Programme** aims to help young people gain a good education and make a successful transition to a productive, engaged adulthood. We give grants to partners who:

- Enable young people to move from education into employment and enterprise, including in the UK.
- Give Syrian and Palestinian refugee students in Turkey, Lebanon and Palestine access to vocational and higher education.
- Improve education systems in our target countries.



A fundraising event for Syria organised by Asfari partner Hands Up Foundation. Photo: Hermione McCosh.

The **Civil Society Programme** aims to encourage the development of strong and resilient civil societies that work for the common good. Our partners:

- Provide professional development opportunities for young civil society activists from Lebanon, Syria, Palestine and the UK.
- Facilitate networking between civil society organisations and individuals from our target countries.
- Encourage research on civil society, particularly by young Arab writers.
- Strengthen civil society in our target countries.


The **Relief Programme** supports young people affected by emergencies and is largely focused on the Syrian crisis. Our partners:

- Provide practical support to young people living in emergency situations inside Syria and in neighbouring countries.
- Educate young refugees in countries neighbouring Syria.
- Support Syrian civil society, strengthen and showcase its work, and help Syrian civil society activists communicate their visions for a peaceful, democratic future for the country.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

Education and employability are key to empowering young people to move into successful adulthood and to enable them to contribute to their societies. In all of the Foundation's target countries, many young people struggle to complete their education or to access work opportunities. In the Arab world, and for refugees in particular, barriers to quality education continue to pose a serious challenge. The diminishing number of Syrian refugees moving from primary to secondary education is alarming, and access to university is even more problematic for refugees. For many young people, unemployment after leaving education is also a serious risk, with prohibitive labour laws often restricting opportunities for refugees in particular. The Foundation is tackling these challenges head-on by supporting scholarships, distance learning and vocational education, as well as employability and entrepreneurship training. During 2017, the Youth Empowerment Programme made 21 project grants to 20 partner organisations working with Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian young people in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, and Palestine and Israel (supporting Palestinian citizens of Israel), as well as young people from the communities hosting refugees. We also helped disadvantaged British youth across the UK, supporting 121 young people.

Under the **Refugee Scholarships and Education** sub-programme, our higher education and scholarship partners enabled some 64 Syrian, Palestinian and Palestinian-Syrian refugees to continue their higher education. The partners who organised and managed the scholarships were: the Lebanese Association for Scientific Research in Lebanon, supporting 31 students; UNHCR's DAFI programme in Lebanon and Jordan, supporting 19 students; the Galilee Foundation in Palestine, supporting 12 students, Oxford Brookes University, supporting one student from Gaza; and the American University of Rome, supporting one student from Syria.



A young Syrian boy in his Save the Children early childhood class in Lebanon. Photo Nour Wahid/Save the Children.

In 2017, in cooperation with the Saïd Foundation and the Hands Up Foundation, we continued to support the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Save the Children and UNHCR to provide various forms of education to over 25,220 Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan. These donations are a result of the Hands Up For Syria fundraising appeal held by the three foundations in 2016. With support from the Asfari, Hands Up and Saïd foundations, in 2017 UNHCR supported 75 new students through the DAFI university scholarship programme (see above); IRC linked 2,670 young Syrians and Jordanians in Jordan with job opportunities and provided employability training; Save the Children supported 600 young children in Jordan with early childhood education and 300 parents with knowledge on how to help their young children learn; Save the Children also provided emergency education to 20,000 primary school-age children in Syria and their families, and 1,650 children will be helped to go back to school.

The Foundation supported nine partners through its **Youth Employability and Enterprise** sub-programme. In the UK, the Foundation helped at least 121 disadvantaged young people to gain key employability skills. Twenty-five young people were supported by WorkingRite in Scotland, 56 young people were supported by Tomorrow's People in Blyth, and 40 young people were supported by ThinkForward in Kent. Employability and enterprise training for over 3,550 young people in our Arab target countries was provided by Y Care International through supporting 92 young mentors and female entrepreneurs in the West Bank while at Mercy Corps' Gaza Sky Geeks project in Gaza the Asfari Foundation contributed to the support of 3,320 young people through IT and programming languages training, while offering the space for young entrepreneurs to develop ICT products and market their skills online internationally. The Arab Culture Association helped 42 young Arab artists in Haifa promote their products online and provided them with entrepreneurship skills; other partners in Lebanon worked with young Lebanese, Palestinians and Syrians: AMIDEAST's project supported 40 youth on employability and entrepreneurship with a social impact; the Child and Mother Welfare Society provided training on childcare and nursing to 26 young people; and Re:Coded in Turkey supported 30 Palestinian, Syrian and Turkish youth with IT and programming languages training to excel in the modern-day world of work.

The **Improving Education Systems** sub-programme supported a total of 289 young people, namely 31 medical students in Palestine with accommodation to ensure roadblocks do not hold up their education through al-Quds Foundation; Ad.Dar's community centre in Istanbul provided 130 Syrian refugees with language and other education, and support with exams and scholarship applications; the Unite Lebanon Youth Project supported 75 Syrian, Palestinian and Syrian-Palestinian refugees in secondary school with university preparation courses to facilitate entry into scholarships for higher education in Lebanon; and Stichting Spark supported 53 young Syrian refugees in Turkey with language training and support with university applications while linking them with scholarship opportunities in the country so they could enter higher education.

The Foundation gave out its first ever Alumni Awards, which consisted of a personal prize and a donation to a charity of the awardees' choice. Three partner organisations were given donations: the Arab British Centre was given a grant for a travelling exhibition on the Arab world; the Saraya Centre in Jerusalem was given funds to help educate young women; and the Palestinian Women's Humanitarian Organisation was given a grant to organise a diabetes screening and awareness project.

Partner profile: constructing better futures

In addition to its work in Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and the wider Arab world, the Asfari Foundation also supports employability projects for some of the UK's most disadvantaged young people. In 2017, it supported the Scottish charity WorkingRite to provide work-experience placements and training in the Midlothian region. WorkingRite unlocks the potential of young people who fall through the cracks in the system; those who are not being helped by state-funded employment training programmes for their age group.

The obstacles they face are many and often complex. These young people often have few, if any, adults in their lives to support them. Many are in regular trouble with the police. Some are homeless or leaving the state care system. Chaotic lives and families are the norm. Nearly all of them left school believing they were failures and see no way forward. These are young people who, without help, are heading for a life on the edge. WorkingRite attempts to stop that trajectory in its tracks and to provide them with the skills to cope. WorkingRite gets them into work and in doing so attempts to change their lives.

With help from the Asfari Foundation, in 2017 WorkingRite changed the lives of nearly 50 young people in north-west Glasgow. By funding one of its project coordinators to deliver its transformational work-based mentoring programme, WorkingRite was proud to report an outcome rate of 80% of the young participants achieving a real job or apprenticeship.

Take Jason. Before WorkingRite, he spent most of his time in the local gang – drinking, smoking drugs and fighting. He lived at home with his mum and had no male role models. He hated school and left as soon as he could, with no qualifications. Jason admits he was too influenced by his friends and had “lost his way”. He needed structure and routine in his life. He heard about WorkingRite through his local youth club and was immediately attracted by the prospect of practical learning, leading to a job at the end.

Jason was keen on construction work, so WorkingRite found a local scaffolder who wanted to give a local youngster a hand up. During his three-month placement, there were problems, but WorkingRite was there to support Jason. Slowly but surely, a new routine was established, and Jason's confidence grew. He started to show real interest in the business and picked up new skills fast. He noticed a clear focus in his life for the first time. Then at the end of his three months he was rewarded, through his own determination to overcome old habits, with his first full-time job.

After a life on the streets getting into trouble, Jason has become a proud scaffolder with money in his pocket, all through a simple hand-up.

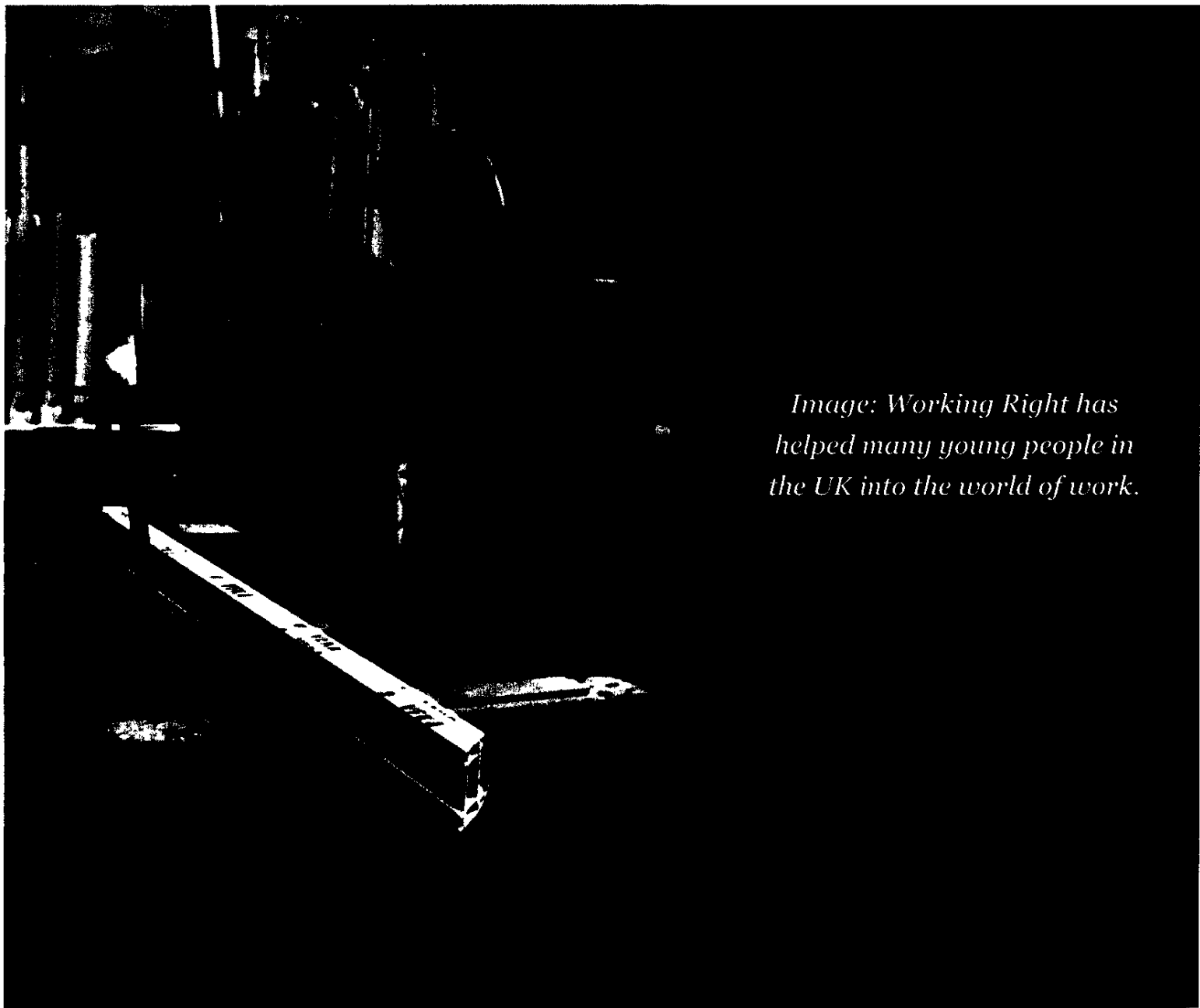


Image: Working Right has helped many young people in the UK into the world of work.

Partner profile: business women in it together

Since 2013, Y Care International has been supporting young marginalised women in Palestine to develop their employability skills and create small businesses. As part of this work, it developed a pilot mentoring programme in the West Bank. Young female business-management graduates, whom Y Care calls “youth business coaches”, provide technical training and mentoring to new female business owners. In 2017, the Asfari Foundation partnered with Y Care to expand the initial success of this pilot project to offer tailored support from the coaches to 80 young businesswomen just starting out. The project will help them link to markets, professionalise their products to adhere to stringent national quality standards and develop marketing strategies; ultimately increasing the profitability of their businesses.



Here is a story from one current youth business coach participating in the project:

My name is Sabah, and I am 24 years old. I was born in Aqber Jaber refugee camp. I have lived here my whole life. I studied business administration at Al-Quds Open University and graduated in 2015. But I wanted the chance to apply my theory to a real-life setting. At university we learnt a lot of the theory of business, but rarely had the opportunity to apply our learning in reality.

I now work as a youth business coach for the YWCA of Palestine. This means I provide advice and support as a mentor to other young women from my village who are setting up small businesses, as well as to local community-based organisations that need business support. At the moment, I am generally asked for advice about accounting and how to keep their papers in order. Young people also ask me how to update and improve their CVs.

My involvement in the project has given me a range of skills, and I now feel like a young leader. It has helped me come out of myself, and I really want to continue working as a business mentor. Through this project I have developed as a person and I am a lot more confident and capable. I used to be very shy and stayed at home. I didn't like speaking in public and had never done so. Recently, I even made a speech during a village festival, which was the first time that I had spoken in front of lots of people, including the district governor. I am very proud of myself now and I hope to use these skills in the future.”

Partner profile: quality training for better healthcare

The Child & Mother Welfare Society (CMWS) is a Lebanese charity based in Beirut. Established in 1944 to meet the needs of disadvantaged communities of Lebanon, it focuses on providing health, social welfare, education and vocational training. CMWS offers accelerated vocational training programmes in the nurse aide and child care professions, which are accredited by the Lebanese Ministry of Labour. Courses consist of intensive theoretical education and practical training in the workplace, and enable the (mostly female) students to find employment immediately upon (and sometimes before) completion of the one-year training course. Lebanese nationals as well as Syrian and Palestinian refugees are accepted on to CMWS courses, providing participants with comprehensive and practical skills for which there is high demand. Between 2013 and 2018, the Asfari Foundation supported a total of 77 young people from underprivileged Lebanese backgrounds as well as Palestinian and Syrian refugees in Lebanon to attend the training.

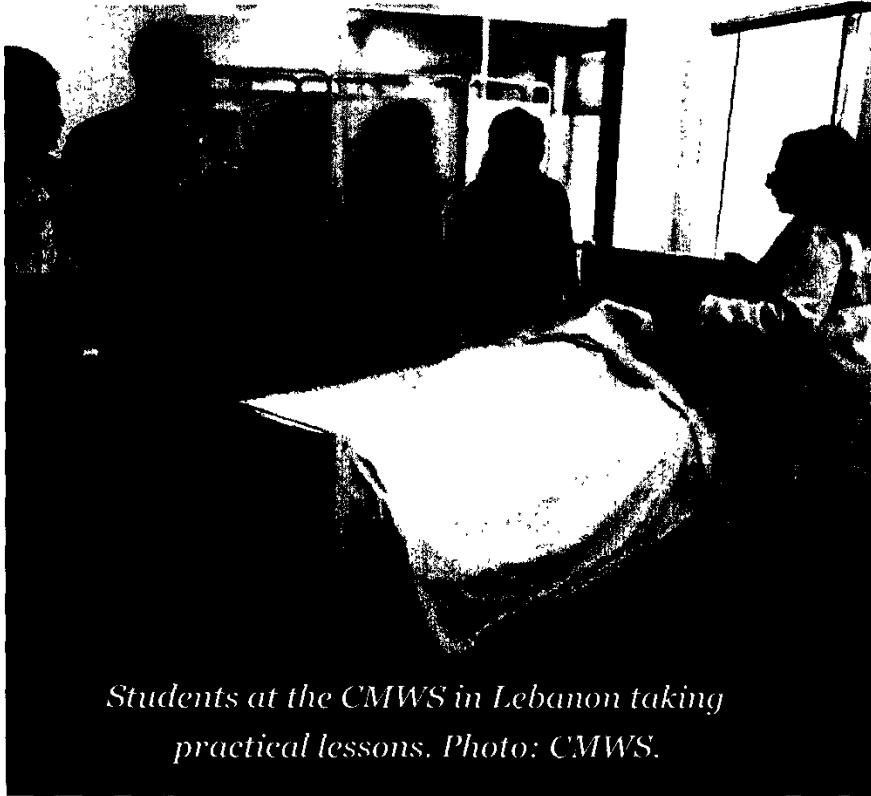
One of CMWS's recent graduates is Dina Mneimneh.

Dina from Lebanon is 22 years old. She graduated from high school with the Lebanese Baccalaureate II. Dina comes from a family of six people. Her father, a taxi driver, is the breadwinner of the family. The family live in a densely populated area of Beirut called Altareek Aljadeda. Dina dreamt of studying for a degree in nursing but her father could not afford to pay for her education and that of her siblings at the same time.

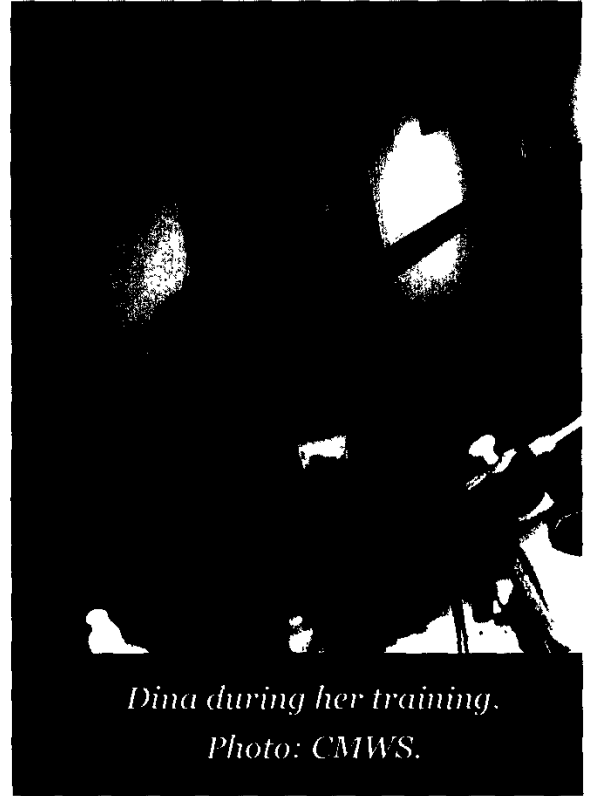
In 2015, Dina applied for the Nurse Aide Programme at the CMWS, which she heard about from her relatives. She was offered an Asfari Foundation scholarship after successfully sitting the entrance exams. Throughout the academic year, she worked very hard and was able to work an entire shift without help during her practical training at Al Makassed General Hospital. Dina's biggest challenge while at the Nurse Aide Centre was fully understanding all the medical theory but she was given extra lessons by the nurse aide teachers to overcome this. During the practical training at the hospital, she also found it difficult not to get emotionally involved with the patients, some of whom were very ill with cancer, but she learned to approach them empathetically yet professionally.

Dina graduated in July 2016 with very good marks. Soon after, she was offered employment by the Oncology Department at Al Makassed General Hospital. After 18 months of work, Dina enrolled at the Lebanese Red Cross University and is now working while continuing her education as a registered nurse. Dina is looking forward to becoming a registered

nurse in Lebanon in order to serve her community better. She is grateful for the training she received from CMWS, which enabled her to find meaningful employment and fulfil her dream of becoming a registered nurse.



Students at the CMWS in Lebanon taking practical lessons. Photo: CMWS.



Dina during her training. Photo: CMWS.

CIVIL SOCIETY PROGRAMME

Transitioning into a more peaceful, productive and democratic future in the Arab region will require years of determined effort, normally through the efforts of committed and skilled young leaders, in addition to vibrant and resilient civil society organisations that bring citizens together and advocate for and represent their communities. The Asfari Foundation is determined to support this transitional process through its Civil Society Programme.

In 2017, the Foundation supported 21 civil society projects of 17 partner organisations. Through its **Bursaries and Fellowships sub-programme**, 12 young leaders from the Levant acquired high level new skills and experience, enabling them to initiate positive change within their communities and organisations. Five completed a course in non-profit management at Columbia Business School, one a fellowship at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, three a summer course at

the Refugee Studies Centre at the University of Oxford, and three pursued fellowships at Chatham House. The Foundation also set up a new project with Common Purpose to develop a programme of leadership training for 35 community leaders from Lebanon, Palestine and Syria in Lebanon, to take place in 2018.

Under its **Research, Writing and Reporting sub-programme**, the Foundation supported six initiatives enabling young reporters and researchers from the Arab region to produce more than 150 articles, reports or blogposts, engaging citizens of the Levant and international audiences to find solutions to the challenges faced by their societies and supported and developed some 200 young writers, researchers and journalists. This included the Atlantic Council's SyriaSource blog which works with 34 young Syrian writers; a second phase of research on key challenges facing the Arab world by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; the mentoring of 16 emerging young Syrian journalists by Al-Jumhuriya; the building of a core group of 15 media trainers by Radio Rozana Association; the Marie Colvin Journalists' Network, an online community for 100 female Arab journalists by the Circle of Women; and an initiative to develop the research skills of 15 young Palestinian citizens of Israel by the Sanad Association.

Through its **Networking and Convening sub-programme**, the Foundation supported six projects enabling over two hundred and fifty civil society groups and hundreds of practitioners to collaborate on leading change within their communities. The Asfari Forum at Chatham House gathered 200 practitioners and academics to attend a high-level panel discussing Islam and democracy. The Foundation also funded the new Asfari Centre at Chatham House, a multi-purpose training room for fellows and young researchers. Following a successful pilot year in 2016, the Foundation continued to support Global Dialogue's Syria Working Group, which brings together 30 philanthropic organisations interested in work related to the country. We supported Global Dialogue's "Fundamentals Initiative for Civil Society (FICS)" to create positive change in the face of increasing restrictions on civil society locally and internationally, involving some 25 organisations. In a similar vein, we funded the Charity and Security Network to enable tens of civil society organisations worldwide to challenge the increasing restrictions imposed on civil society space worldwide, particularly for humanitarian work in conflict zones such as Syria. The Foundation also supported the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace to organise a US conference on Syria, which brought together 120 people to discuss practical solutions for the country's future. We also organised a meeting for donors and Syrian civil society organisations at the Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship at the American University of Beirut.

As part of its **Strengthening Civil Society Organisations sub-programme**, the Foundation supported eight initiatives that help civil society organisations become and remain resilient, and

through these initiatives indirectly supported over a hundred other organisations and hundreds of civil society activists. The Foundation continued to fund the Asfari Institute for Citizenship and Civil Society at the American University of Beirut for its work on research, convening and education (over 90 organisations). It provided core funding to support the organisational growth of the Hands Up Foundation, which raises funds for four Syrian organisations implementing health and education projects in Syria and neighbouring countries. In Palestine, the Foundation funded Medical Aid for Palestinians to help 600 disabled people in the Gaza Strip organise and speak out. It also supported the Jerusalem Legal Aid Centre to raise awareness among 150 of the city's Palestinian residents of their economic and legal rights. Syrian organisation POINT was supported to conduct capacity assessment and training of 25 humanitarian Syrian civil society organisations in Idlib province, to help them do their work better. With Foundation support, Syrian organisation Badael was able to improve the HR, financial and technical capacity of its own team to enable it to provide training, consultancy sessions and coaching to 56 different Syrian civil society organisations and 900 individuals in Syria. The Foundation also provided core funding to help develop Citizens for Syria's capacity-building department and curriculum, and supported Women Now to develop its communications and advocacy work and launch an international campaign focused on Syrian women.



*Lebanese Asfari Chatham House Fellow Jessica Obeid speaking at the International Conference of Women in Tech in Haiti.
Photo: Woman in Tech*

Partner profile: refugee law for practitioners

The Asfari Foundation provides young Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian professionals actively working with refugees with bursaries to attend an intensive two-week International Summer School in Forced Migration at Oxford University's Refugee Studies Centre. So far, two Syrians, three Palestinians and seven Lebanese practitioners have been equipped with a thorough insight into international refugee law, allowing them to contribute towards more positive futures for refugees in the Arab region. Stephanie El-Rayess from Lebanon was one of the 2017 recipients:

I work as assistant protection officer in UNHCR's Tyre office in Southern Lebanon, which serves close to 120,000 refugees, predominantly from Syria. I support the Protection

Sector and act as a focal point for legal aid, resettlement and refugee status determination processing at the field office. I am reminded on a daily basis of the concrete impact of wars on people's lives and the challenges of operating in a highly complex political and security context.

I was greatly motivated to apply for the Asfari bursary to the summer school. I was seeking the opportunity to reflect critically and share my experiences, learn from diverse views of academics and field experts, deepen my understanding of law and best practices, network, and possibly propose new initiatives. Not only did the summer school meet my expectations, it was overall one of the best experiences of my life. I am grateful to the Asfari Foundation for giving me the opportunity to participate.

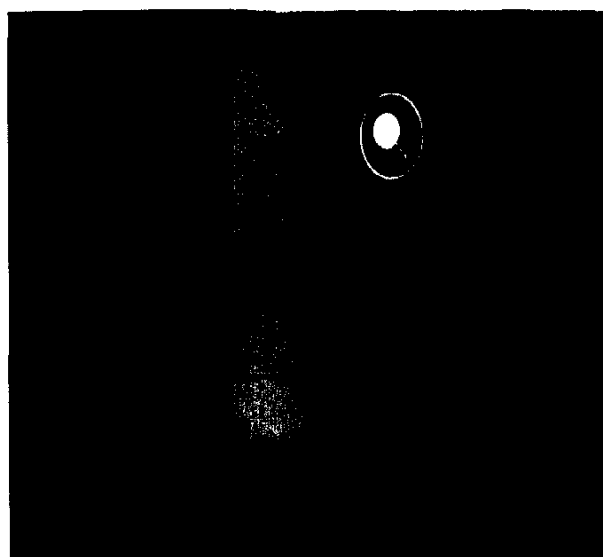
The course material and tutors challenged me to rethink and deconstruct concepts and narratives related to forced displacement, including the label of "refugee". It was easy to get over language and cultural differences to have long and open conversations on a wide range of topics with a group of truly amazing participants who were humble, approachable, friendly, mindful and supportive. Whether during lectures, coffee breaks, social events and "unofficial" daily outings, every second was an opportunity to reflect, discuss and learn.

I believe that this course will have a direct impact on my current role within UNHCR and throughout my career by improving the quality of my interventions and advocacy for refugees. I also believe this course will help me as a young professional who wishes to work towards Lebanon's development by contributing to the formulation of informed policy decisions. I plan to share the lessons I learned by training colleagues and local authorities.



Participants of the programme in discussion. Photo: Refugee Studies Centre

Partner profile: upskilling young Syrian writers



ENGLISH
AL-JUMHURIYA

Anton Makhamedov
13 August 2018

Syria's society of the spectacle

Ugur Ümit Üngör
16 August 2018

The lion's den: A brief animal history of the Syrian conflict

Yassin al-Haj Saleh

The world at the fascist moment



The Young Writers Fellowship at Al-Jumhuriya Collective entered its second year in 2017; this is online training by Jumhuriya for aspiring young Syrian journalists into in-depth reporting. Sixteen fellows were accepted this year, rather than the planned eight; half were women and half were men, half resided inside Syria (across different regions) and half were in Turkey. Much like 2016, the fellowship has produced numerous examples of remarkable talent coupled with hard work.

Distinct in the 2017 group was the theme of return and regain: regaining of lost opportunity, of normalcy and of one's sense of purpose and ambition. Several of the fellows this year had seen their lives and studies traumatically interrupted during the last few years. Some fled Syria without completing their university studies; others had been imprisoned for years and were struggling to resume their prior plans. As a result, the fellows did not perceive their acceptance in the Young Writers Fellowship as just another "training" or professional "capacity-building" workshop, but rather as a year-long opportunity to resume their studies, make up for lost time, and focus again on what most considered to be their calling.

Orwa Khalife, for example, had to leave Syria without completing his BA in political science, due to being an activist in the town of Harasta in 2011 and 2012. In Lebanon and then in Turkey, he needed a job in order to finish his studies. He threw himself into the job market, first as a reporter, then as a researcher, but his work remained unpublished. The Young Writers Fellowship allowed Orwa to return to some of the key reading he was meant to complete in university; it represented a chance to work towards his final goal, moving from ephemeral reporting to the world of in-depth writing, historical research and critical social analysis. From the beginning of the e-learning phase, he stood

out as one of the brightest and most industrious fellows. He submitted his assignments on time, and his response papers were always well written and original. He always showed up to the weekly virtual classroom we set up and had multiple questions prepared for the lecturers and trainers. Orwa did not wait till the individual projects phase, but pitched an article to Al-Jumhuriya while still finishing his online readings. His piece was excellent and was accepted for publication; from that point onwards, Orwa hasn't stopped. He finished his fellowship, has been published regularly at Al-Jumhuriya and elsewhere, and produced a six-episode podcast on the life, struggle, and disappearance of Syrian human rights activist Razan Zeitouneh for Al-Jumhuriya at the end of 2017.

In December 2017, when Al-Jumhuriya succeeded in fundraising for two new positions on its full-time staff, namely a junior writer/analyst focused on politics and diplomacy, and a junior writer focused on the Syrian diaspora and culture, Al-Jumhuriya offered Orwa the first position. From April 2018, he will join the Al-Jumhuriya team on a full-time basis.



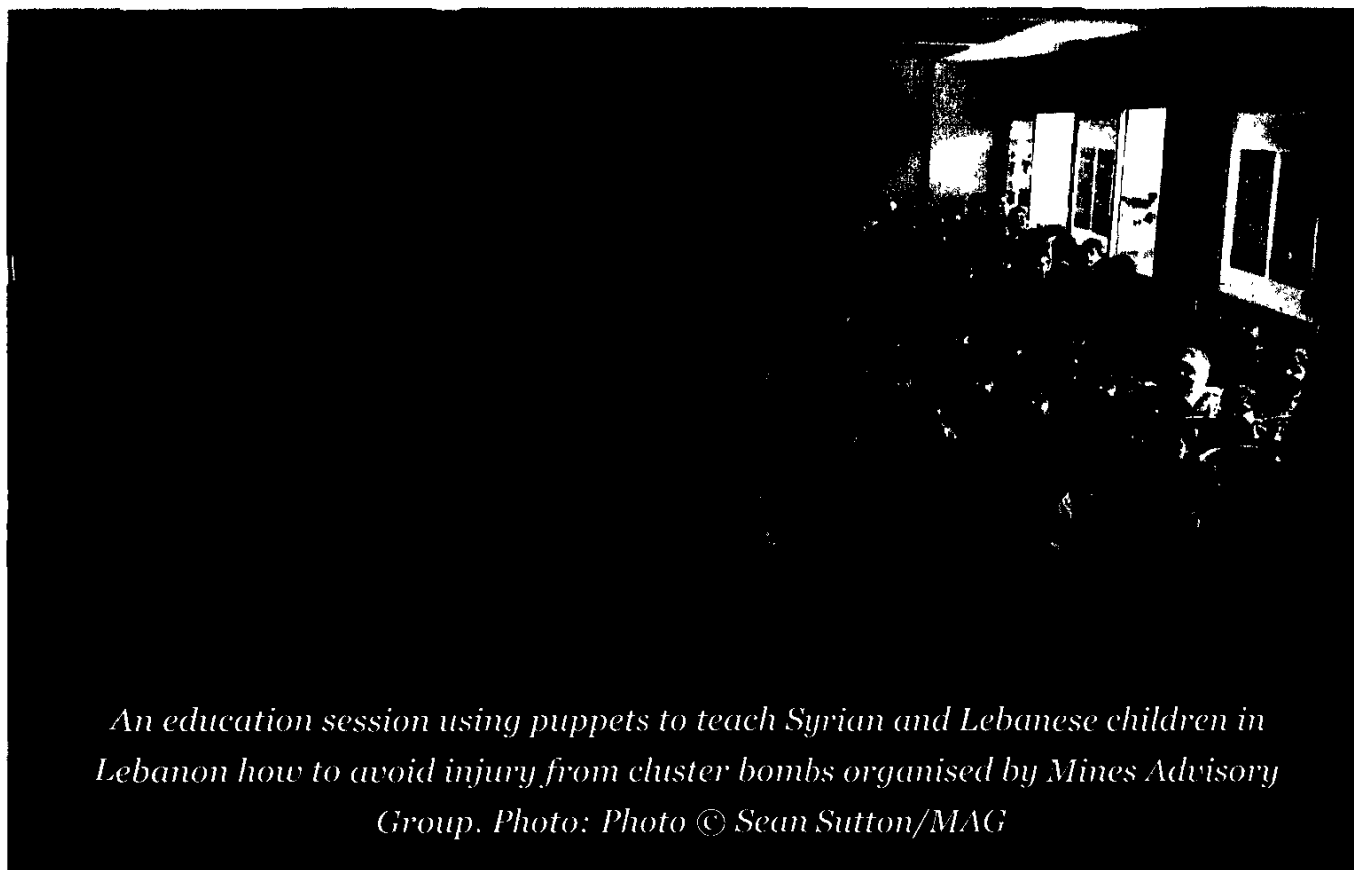
A training session for young Syrian writers at Jumhuriya. Photo: Jumhuriya.

RELIEF PROGRAMME

The Foundation actively supports young people affected by the crisis in Syria and the difficult situation in Palestine through its Youth Empowerment and Civil Society Programmes, as shown above. The Foundation also occasionally supports additional emergency relief projects supporting Syrians and Palestinians affected by conflict.

In 2017, the Foundation funded core cost and capacity development to the organisations Help Refugees and CanDo to strengthen their fundraising work for Syrian refugees and for healthcare projects inside Syria. We also gave a small grant to landmine clearance and risk-awareness education activities by the Mines Advisory Group in the Beqaa Valley in Lebanon, helping over 900 Syrians and Lebanese host communities in this area. The Foundation is providing a two-year grant to the Lancet Commission's Special Edition on Syria, coordinated by the American University of Beirut. This international project will study and raise awareness of the health situation in the Syrian conflict, and to draw out lessons learned for health care in conflict in general.

In Gaza, the Foundation supported a mental health project for secondary school children through the Welfare Association and educational activities about the "Jerusalem Lives" exhibition, the Palestinian Museum's inaugural exhibition.



An education session using puppets to teach Syrian and Lebanese children in Lebanon how to avoid injury from cluster bombs organised by Mines Advisory Group. Photo: Photo © Sean Sutton/MAG

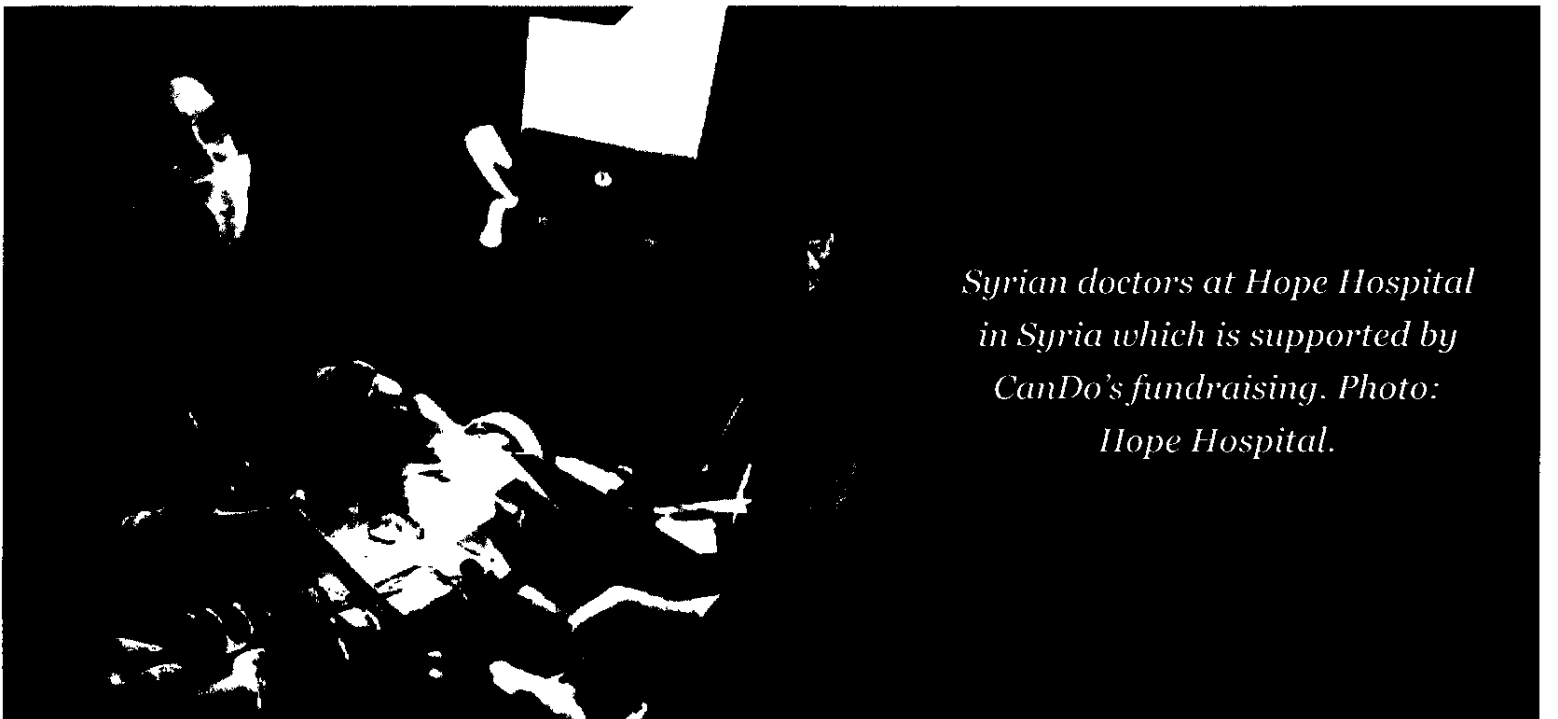
PLANS

In 2018, the Foundation plans to finalise and start implementing its new strategy. This was developed through intensive discussions within the team and with Trustees, and was rooted in the programme evaluation conducted in 2017, in which many partners and alumni made useful suggestions on how the Foundation might improve its work. The strategy work will include adapting all our systems, including our grant application forms, our website, and our monitoring and evaluation.

We plan to set up a grants-management database to help keep track of our funding more easily and more effectively, particularly in terms of monitoring and evaluation. We will start asking third parties to conduct some vetting and field monitoring of certain partnerships so that our own documentation is complemented by that of external agencies, proving we have conducted even more thorough due diligence and monitoring.

The Foundation will also improve some of its office systems to ensure better and safer communication, further develop its new accounting system, and prepare for the incoming General Data Protection Regulations in May 2018. We also plan to complement, systemise and finalise our various policy documents.

Details on how the Youth Empowerment and Civil Society Programmes will change as a result of the new strategy will become clearer in the first part of 2018. The Foundation will certainly continue to work closely with partner organisations that are effecting change in youth education, employment and enterprise, and in the development of resilient and vibrant civil society organisations.



*Syrian doctors at Hope Hospital
in Syria which is supported by
CanDo's fundraising. Photo:
Hope Hospital.*

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income

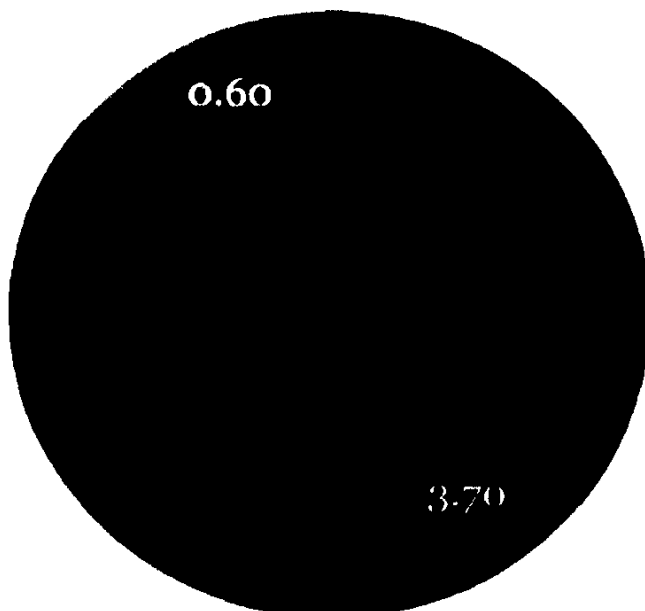
Total income for 2017 amounted to £4.3m (million) (2016: £5.1m). Donations from the Asfari family constitute the principal source of income for the Foundation. Over the years the family has made substantial gifts to the charity.

The Foundation also receives income from its investments, comprising rental income from an investment property, returns from financial holdings in shares and funds, and interest income.

Expenditure

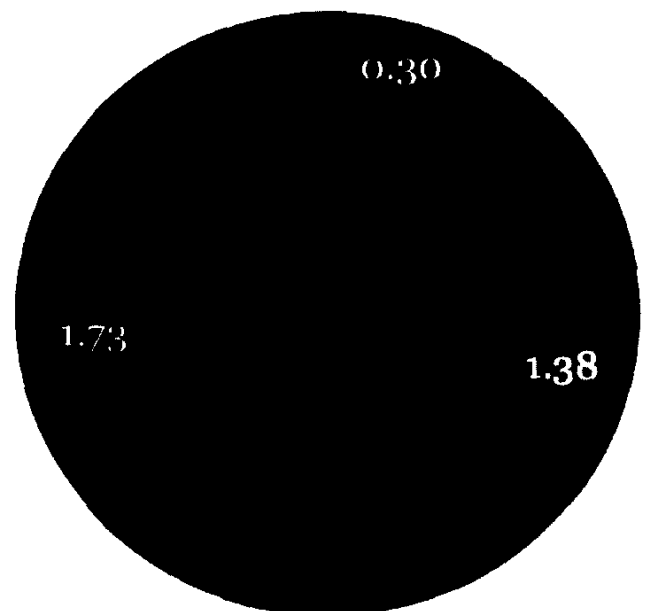
Total expenditure on charitable activities for 2017 was £4m (2016: £4m). Of this total, some £3.4m (2016: £3.5m) was spent on grants awarded across the Foundation's programmes. Support costs to run the organisation amounted to £0.6m (2016: £0.5m).

Income 2017 £m



- Asfari Family Donations
- Income from Investment

Grants 2017 £m



- Relief
- Civil Society
- Youth Employment

Funds position

At year end 2017, the funds of the Foundation are entirely unrestricted and amount to £14m (2016: £13.5m). During 2017 some £0.5m (2016: £1.8m) was added, arising from a combination net gains on investments.

Reserves policy

The Trustees of the Foundation have established a reserves policy that stipulates that it should maintain liquidity to fund at least six months of costs. The Foundation utilises its income as much as possible within the financial year, but holds some funds within investments to cover future commitments. At the end of 2017, the Foundation's free reserves were £14m (2016: £13.5m), £7.9m (2016: £7.6m) of which are held in investment property and £4.8m in listed investments (2016: £4.9m).

Investment policy and performance

To mitigate financial risk, the Trustees have an investment policy that will continue to be developed to match the strategic goals for the organisation. The Foundation has an Investment Committee that reviews and monitors investments and provides investment support to the Board. It meets twice a year.

The Asfari Foundation has three investments, in both property and shares. The Foundation owns two floors in Ames House in St James's, London, which are rented to Chatham House, allowing the Foundation to receive rental income. The Foundation also has direct shareholdings in listed companies, from which it receives a dividend.

In the short term, the Foundation's investment objective is growth. Longer term (>10yrs), the objective is to provide income to support the Foundation's programme expenditure. In the short term the portfolio is heavily weighted towards UK property and is all held in sterling. The fund will be diversified over time as further investments are made by the Foundation.

Risk management

A full risk register is managed by the Foundation and, for each risk, specific mitigations are put in place. The risk register is regularly reviewed by the CEO and the team to ensure risks are appropriately managed. The register is reviewed by the Trustees on an annual basis. In 2017, the Foundation set up an Audit and Risk Committee that will monitor risks going forward and will advise the Board. It will meet two to three times a year.

The following risks to the Foundation were identified by Trustees and staff, and the following controls are in place for active risk management.

<p>Strategic impact Impact is affected by ambition or insufficient governance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular review of programme alignment with objectives and needs. • Continuous updates to and training of a diverse and experienced Board. • Regular evaluations and updates of strategy.
<p>Safeguarding assets Reliance on limited income streams and insufficiently productive investments limit the Foundation's plans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close relationship with the Foundation's donor. • Development of a productive and low-risk investment portfolio that is regularly reviewed. • Use of expert advice. • Further diversification of portfolio.
<p>Capability Work is affected by staff capacity, recruitment and retention, loss of knowledge or infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient recruitment, good staff benefits, and regular training and reviews. • Technical and policy manuals which are updated regularly. • Use of expert consultants.
<p>Compliance and banking Growing international scrutiny around particular countries complicate compliance with financial and charity regulations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close monitoring of changes to charitable regulations. • Framework of internal controls which are reviewed regularly. • Foundation and third-party vetting and monitoring of partners. • Legal advice where necessary.
<p>Reputation The Foundation is brought into disrepute.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careful management of charitable activities. • Careful vetting of all partnerships. • Regular positive media exposure and a strong and regularly updated website. • Experienced and reputable Board. • Keeping a close check on media.
<p>Safeguarding Failure to protect staff from the risk of death, serious injury or other threats while visiting partners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance risk planning for travel. • Advice sought where necessary. • No travel to very insecure areas. • Strong travel policy and procedures. • Good insurance cover. • Clear contracts for consultants setting out responsibilities on safety and insurance. • Safeguarding policies and safeguarding checks in vetting procedures for partners.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Asfari Foundation is a company limited by guarantee (company number 5938633) and a registered charity (charity number 1116751). It was set up in September 2006 by the Asfari family and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Foundation's Articles of Association provides for a minimum of three Trustees, who are also directors for the purpose of company law. Trustees are chosen for their mix of skills and abilities to ensure that the overall governance is sound and meets its legal and moral obligations.

The Trustees are:

Mr Ayman Asfari

Mrs Sawsan Asfari

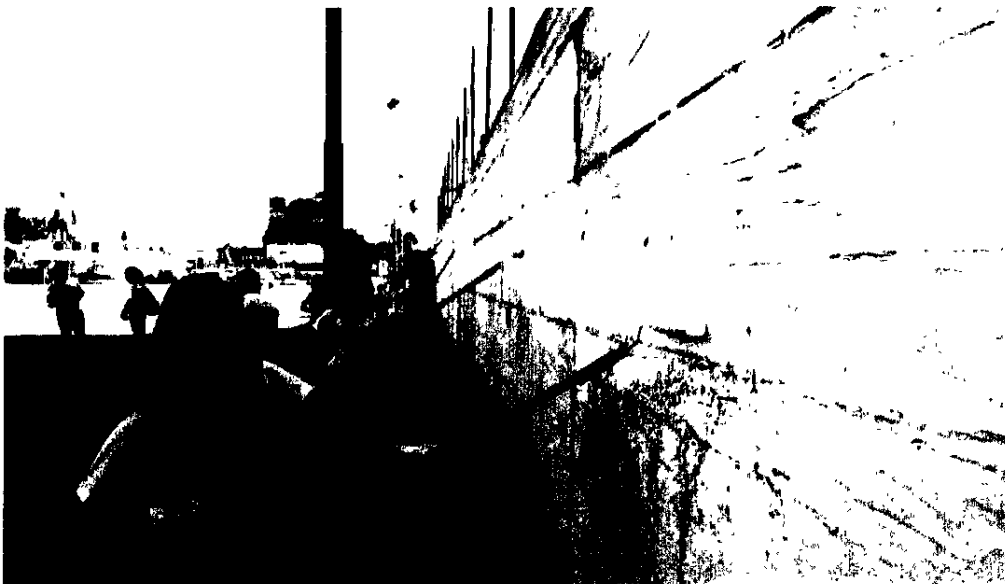
Mr Adeeb Asfari

Mr John Ferguson

Dr Marwan Muasher

Ms Rasha ElMasry joined the Board in 2017. None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. The Trustees guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The Board of Trustees met three times in 2017 to agree the broad strategy and areas of activity for the Foundation, including consideration of grant-making, investment, reserves, and risk management policies and performance. Some decisions were made by email communication between meetings. These decisions are ratified at subsequent board meetings.



*Young Palestinian
volunteers
supported by the
Galilee Foundation
repainting public
buildings in Lyd,
Israel. Photo: Arab
Culture Association.*

The Board of Trustees is empowered under the Articles of Association to delegate authority to sub-committees. During the year there were three sub-committees. The Investment Committee was set up previously, and reviews and monitors investments and provides investment support to the Board. The Audit and Risk Committee was set up in 2017 and checks and advises the Board on the annual audit and monitors, and advises on risks. In 2017 the Foundation also set up a Projects Committee, which advises the Board on projects to support, tracks project progress and decides on minor project questions. The mandates for the three committees are set by the Board, which they report to and which ratifies the decisions reached where appropriate.

The Trustees delegate the day-to-day running of the charity to the Foundation's CEO, who manages its delivery of programmes together with a team of six staff members in London. The team is supported by technical consultants and advisors in the UK and the Arab region who have extensive relevant experience.

Grant-making policies

The Asfari Foundation accepts applications from partner organisations and also identifies potential partners itself. Every partner is subject to a vetting procedure that establishes whether the organisation is experienced, viable and reputable, shares the Foundation's goals and values, and whether the proposed project meets the Foundation's objectives and helps its target communities effectively. The Foundation only supports partners who work with others regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity, or (dis)ability.

Once the vetting process has been completed and a project agreed, a contract is drafted that sets out the responsibilities of the Foundation and of the partner organisation. When this is signed, the grant is made. During the project period, the partner submits regular narrative and financial reports, and staff also visit the project (where possible) and keep in touch with partner staff. Partnerships tend to be between one and three years in duration subject to satisfactory progress. Results are measured both in terms of outputs (eg students supported), but also through outcomes such as changes in the lives of target groups and communities. The Foundation regularly reviews and evaluates its programmes and operational work, and in 2017 conducted a programme evaluation covering all its work between 2006 and 2016.

For all partnerships involving scholarships, fellowships and bursaries, the Foundation has careful procedures to ensure that these opportunities are advertised openly and broadly. The applicants are carefully and fairly selected on the basis of need and their future contribution to their community or country. Selection procedures include a formal application and panel interviews. For the larger and international bursaries and fellowships, agreements are signed with successful candidates

setting out what the Foundation expects from them, and they are required to report back at regular intervals. The Foundation keeps in close touch with the scholars through visits, emails and phone calls, and will continue to do so after scholars graduate. While good progress during the scholarship is considered positive, the Foundation views the future success and community contribution of the scholars as the true outcome of the scholarships, fellowships and bursaries.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. Both the nature of the Foundation's programmes, with their focus on helping disadvantaged young people through education and into employment, its work on strengthening civil society (which then in turn helps others), and the relief work it provides to people facing emergencies clearly serve public benefit. Moreover, its stringent selection criteria and process for scholarship students (open recruitment of partners and students, based on merit, need and promise) and its vetting process for partner organisations, focusing on a strong track record and a project aiming at effective delivery to those most in need, further ensures public benefit.

Audit information

There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware. The Trustees have taken all steps they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Auditors

HW Fisher & Company were appointed auditors to the company and, in accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006, a resolution proposing that they be re-appointed will be put to the members.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees



Mr Ayman Asfari

Chairman

Dated:25/09/2018.....

2017 ACCOUNTS

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees, who are also the directors of The Asfari Foundation for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASFARI FOUNDATION

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of The Asfari Foundation (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2017 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2017 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts is

not appropriate; or

- the Trustees have not disclosed in the accounts any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the accounts are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act

2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the accounts in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes *our opinion*. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Andrew Rich (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of H W Fisher & Company

Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor

Acre House
11-15 William Road
London
United Kingdom
NW1 3ER

26/9/18

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Notes	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>			
Donations and legacies	3	3,663,632	4,439,550
Investment income	4	609,502	637,153
Other income	5	-	3,400
Total income and endowments		<u>4,273,134</u>	<u>5,080,103</u>
<u>Expenditure on:</u>			
Charitable activities	6	4,048,929	4,015,408
Total resources expended		<u>4,048,929</u>	<u>4,015,408</u>
Net incoming resource		224,205	1,064,695
Net gains on investments	11	273,783	782,698
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net movement in funds and net income for the reporting period		497,988	1,847,393
Fund balances at 1 January 2017		13,516,042	11,668,649
Fund balances at 31 December 2017		<u>14,014,030</u>	<u>13,516,042</u>

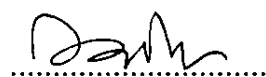
The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

		2017	2016
	Notes	£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	4,116	3,804
Investment properties	13	7,937,563	7,623,600
Investments	14	4,849,336	4,889,516
		<u>12,791,015</u>	<u>12,516,920</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	16	859,188	833,276
Cash at bank and in hand		1,402,580	810,663
		<u>2,261,768</u>	<u>1,643,939</u>
Creditors:			
amounts falling due within one year	17	(1,038,753)	(644,817)
Net current assets		1,223,015	999,122
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>14,014,030</u>	<u>13,516,042</u>
Income funds			
Unrestricted funds		14,014,030	13,516,042
		<u>14,014,030</u>	<u>13,516,042</u>

The accounts were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 25/09/2018
and are signed on its behalf by:


.....

Mr Ayman Asfari (Chair) **Trustee**

Company Registration No. 5938633

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Notes	2017 £	2016 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash absorbed by operations	21	(14,811)	(292,574)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(2,774)	(1,298)
Investment income		609,502	637,153
Net cash generated from investing activities		<u>606,728</u>	<u>635,855</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		591,917	343,281
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		810,663	467,382
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		<u>1,402,580</u>	<u>810,663</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

1. Accounting policies

Company information

The Asfari Foundation is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Acre House, 11-15 William Road, London, NW1 3ER.

1.1. Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Articles of Association, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102"), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016. The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these accounts are rounded to the nearest pound.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2. Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3. Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

1.4. Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Property income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for services provided, net of discounts, VAT and other sales related taxes.

1.5. Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period to which they relate.

Direct charitable expenditure comprises all the expenditure relating to the activities carried out to achieve the charitable objectives.

Support costs represent costs that cannot be directly attributed to the charitable activities.

Governance costs include the costs of compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and have been allocated to the charitable activities in the same proportions as support costs.

Staff costs and depreciation have been allocated in full to support costs.

1.6. Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Office Equipment 20% Straight Line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

Investment property, which is property held to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation, is initially measured at cost and subsequently measured using the fair value model and stated at its fair value as the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.8. Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.9. Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.10. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.11. Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the accounts, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.12. Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13. Foreign exchange

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All differences are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.14. Investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at cost with any subsequent change in value being recognised as a gain or loss on investments during the year.

2. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods. The main judgement relates to the valuation of the investment property.

3. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Donations and gifts	2,977,580	-	2,977,580	3,908,057
Gift Aid	686,052	-	686,052	531,493
	<u>3,663,632</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,663,632</u>	<u>4,439,550</u>
For the year ended 31 December 2016	<u>4,403,587</u>	<u>35,963</u>	<u>4,439,550</u>	<u>4,439,550</u>

All donations received in 2017 were donated by the Asfari family. Gift Aid in 2017 was based on these donations.

4. Investment income

	2017 £	2016 £
Rental income	307,516	306,302
Income from other investments	-	2,255
Fund investment income	-	15,214
Listed investment income	301,966	313,378
Interest receivable	20	4
	<u>609,502</u>	<u>637,153</u>

The listed investment income relates to REIT dividend and Shell shares dividend income. Rental income relates to rent received on the Ames House property from Chatham House.

5. Other income

	2017 £	2016 £
Other income	-	3,400
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,400</u>

6. Charitable activities

	2017	2016
	£	£
Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	3,406,465	3,502,588
Support costs (see note 8)	629,254	499,820
Governance costs (see note 8)	13,210	13,000
	<u>4,048,929</u>	<u>4,015,408</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	<u>4,048,929</u>	

For the year ended 31 December 2016

Unrestricted funds	3,980,731
Restricted funds	<u>34,677</u>
	<u>4,015,408</u>

7. Grants payable

	2017	2016
	£	£
Youth Empowerment	1,379,147	1,478,643
Civil Society	1,730,721	1,692,947
Relief	296,597	330,998
	<u>3,406,465</u>	<u>3,502,588</u>

After reviewing The Relief Programme budget for 2017, many of the grants were reallocated to either the Youth Empowerment or Civil Society Programmes based on the main type of activity the project included. Please see the Appendix on pages 54 to 56 for a detailed analysis of grants payable.

8. Support costs

	Support costs	Governance	2017	2016	Basis of
	£	£	£	£	Allocation
Staff costs	309,914	-	309,914	265,856	Support
Depreciation	2,462	-	2,462	1,936	Support
Office costs	167,262	-	167,263	122,937	Support
Other prof services	149,616	-	149,616	109,091	Support
Audit fees	-	13,210	13,210	13,000	Governance
	<u>629,254</u>	<u>13,210</u>	<u>642,465</u>	<u>512,820</u>	
Analysed between					
Charitable activities	<u>629,254</u>	<u>13,210</u>	<u>642,465</u>	<u>512,820</u>	

Total fees for services paid to the auditors over the year were £28,680 and include the following:

Statutory audit	£ 13,175
Accountancy services	£ 11,840
Other (VAT services and training)	£ 3,665

9. Trustees

The Trustees do not receive any salary or other benefit except for the reimbursement of actual expenditure incurred in attending Board meetings or field visits. None of the Trustees have been paid any remuneration and other benefits by the charity or by related parties. All six Trustees directly incurred expenses related to travel, training and field visits for Foundation purposes a total amount of £29,287 (£2016: £5,096) was born by the Foundation.

10. Employees

Number of employees

The Foundation aims to pay salaries that appropriately recognise and reward the qualifications, experience and responsibilities of its CEO and other employees, while also keeping salaries at a reasonable level compared to similar organisations in the sector. When posts are created, salary research is done with partners in the sector, through specialist agencies and tools. Salaries are adjusted with increased responsibility or a change of position, and occasionally increased in line with inflation.

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2017	2016
	Number	Number
Managerial, administrative and programme technical	7	7

Employment costs

	2017	2016
	£	£
Wages and salaries	272,554	229,292
Social security costs	27,136	27,167
Pension costs	10,224	9,397
	<u>309,914</u>	<u>265,856</u>

The key management personnel within the Foundation is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), the Head of Programmes and the Finance and Administration Manager. The CEO was the only member of staff whose total employee benefits was £60,000 or more and remunerated within the pay band £80,000 to £89,999 (2016: £70,000 to £79,999), in addition to pension contributions of £3,716 and employer national insurance contributions of £10,215. All staff are entitled to several benefits. A key benefit is the Foundation's pension scheme, which matches staff contributions of up to 5% of qualifying earnings. Remuneration paid to key management personnel in 2017 totalled £172,393 (2016: £121,273). This remuneration relates to gross salary paid, employer national insurance contributions and employer pension contributions.

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2017	2016
	Number	Number
£70,000 - £79,999	-	1
£80,000 - £89,999	1	-

11. Net gains on investments

	2017	2016
	£	£
Revaluation of investments	(40,180)	620,920
Revaluation of investment properties	313,963	161,778
	<u>273,783</u>	<u>782,698</u>

12. Tangible fixed assets

Cost	Office Equipment
	£
At 1 January 2017	10,327
Additions	<u>2,774</u>
At 31 December 2017	<u>13,101</u>
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 January 2017	6,523
Depreciation charged in the year	<u>2,462</u>
At 31 December 2017	<u>8,985</u>
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2017	<u>4,116</u>
At 31 December 2016	<u>3,804</u>

13. Investment property

	2017
Fair value	£
At 1 January 2017	7,623,600
Net gains or losses through fair value adjustments	<u>313,963</u>
At 31 December 2017	<u>7,937,563</u>

Revaluation of the property is based upon a RPI uplift in the year of 11 index points, representing a 4.12% uplift (2016: 6.5 index points, representing a 2.17% uplift). The Trustees believe this represents a true and fair view as it reflects the option of a third party to purchase the property at cost plus RPI at a future date.

14. Fixed asset investments

	2017	2016
	£	£
Listed investments	<u>4,849,336</u>	<u>4,889,516</u>

The listed investments consist of £1,703,272 in Royal Dutch Shell B shares and £3,146,064 in Regional REIT Limited shares.

Movements in fixed asset investments

Listed Investments

	£
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2017	4,889,516
Valuation changes	<u>(40,180)</u>
At 31 December 2017	<u>4,849,336</u>
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2017	<u>4,849,336</u>
At 31 December 2016	<u>4,889,516</u>

15. Financial instruments

	2017	2016
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	756,456	547,038
Equity instruments measured at cost less impairment	<u>4,849,336</u>	<u>4,889,516</u>
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	<u>1,029,728</u>	<u>638,335</u>

16. Debtors

	2017	2016
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Gift aid receivable	683,888	531,279
Other debtors	18,549	15,759
Prepayments and accrued income	156,751	286,238
	<u>859,188</u>	<u>833,276</u>

17. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2017	2016
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	9,025	6,482
Grants payable	£874,948	550,175
Trade creditors	£32,037	14,600
Other creditors	24,630	3,196
Accruals and deferred income	98,113	70,364
	<u>1,038,753</u>	<u>644,817</u>

Grants payable relates to grants committed in furtherance of the charity's objectives that are expected to be made within six months.

18. Analysis of net assets

	Unrestricted Funds £
Fund balances at 31 December 2017 are represented by:	
Tangible assets	4,116
Investment properties	7,937,563
Investments	4,849,336
Current assets/(liabilities)	1,223,015
	<u>14,014,030</u>

19. Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non- cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2017 £	2016 £
Within one year	39,500	39,500
Between two and five years	158,000	158,000
In over five years	78,245	117,745
	<u>275,745</u>	<u>315,245</u>

The operating lease relates to the rental of the Foundation's office over a period of 10 years. The total lease payments recognised as an expense in the year totalled £39,500.

20. Related party transactions

Ayman Asfari sits on the panel of senior advisors of Chatham House with grants being made by the Asfari Foundation to Chatham House totalling £173,700 (2016: £340,000). Chatham House are tenants in the Foundation's investment property, Ames House. Rental income of £306,000 from Chatham House was due in the year (2016: £306,000).

Furthermore, Ayman Asfari provided a gift in kind to the value of £8,019 (2016: £nil) for the Asfari Foundation's use of a personal asset.

Marwan Muasher is the Vice President for Studies of Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (Carnegie). In June 2015, Carnegie was awarded a grant by the Asfari Foundation of \$1m over 3 years, with \$330,000 being paid in 2017 (2016: \$330,000). Ayman Asfari was invited to join the Board of Trustees of Carnegie on 19 August 2015 and currently serves on the Board.

Ayman Asfari and Marwan Muasher both serve on the Board of Trustees for the American University of Beirut to which the Asfari Foundation donated £405,000 in 2017 (2016: £405,000).

Mrs Sawsan Asfari is a Trustee of the Welfare Association and the Galilee Foundation, to which the Foundation donated £37,700 and £51,000 respectively in 2017 (2016: £nil and £24,000 respectively).

All grants paid by the Asfari Foundation are independently agreed by the Trustees collectively at a Foundation Board meeting, with Trustees with conflicts of interest declaring these in advance and not participating in related decision making.

21. Cash generated from operations

	2017	2016
	£	£
Surplus for the year	497,988	1,847,393
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(609,502)	(637,153)
Fair value (gains) and losses on investment properties	(313,963)	(161,778)
Fair value gains and (losses) on investments	40,180	(620,920)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	2,462	1,936
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) in debtors	(25,912)	(586,225)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	393,936	(135,827)
Cash absorbed by operations	<u>(14,811)</u>	<u>(292,574)</u>

APPENDIX: PARTNER LIST

	2017	2016
	£	£
Youth Empowerment		
Ad Dar Center	20,000	20,000
Al Madad Foundation	-	14,600
Alexandria Trust	-	30,000
Alfanar	-	24,600
Al-Quds Foundation for Medical Schools in Palestine	16,000	-
Alumni Awards and Costs	11,442	400
Saraya Centre (Alumni Award Donation)	2,000	
Arab British Centre (Alumni Award Donation)	3,000	
The Palestinian Women's Humanitarian Org. (Alumni Award Donation)	5,000	
American University of Beirut	-	(13,601)
American University of Rome	43,705	-
AMIDEAST	37,376	-
Arab Culture Association	10,000	10,000
Child and Mother Welfare Association	49,261	22,726
Edinburgh University	-	351
Education for Employment	-	29,985
Ideals	-	5,000
International Rescue Committee	210,873	250,000
Jusoor	-	35,871
LASeR	60,000	109,000
Medical Aid for Palestinians	-	12,074
Mercy Corps Europe (Gaza Sky Geeks)	40,000	40,000
MyBnk	-	34,874
Oxford Brookes University	12,500	-
Re:Coded	40,000	-
Save the Children	274,250	250,000
Seenaryo	-	6,000
Sonbola	-	30,000
Spark! Hounslow		25,000
Stichting SPARK	74,117	75,000
Street League	-	23,281
Teens & Toddlers	-	40,000
The Galilee Foundation	51,000	24,000

	2017	2016
	£	£
ThinkForward	38,009	-
Tomorrow's People	-	30,000
UK Youth	-	20,000
UNHCR	259,000	300,727
Unite Lebanon Youth Project	45,472	-
University of East Anglia	-	4,755
Volunteer it Yourself	-	24,000
WorkingtRite	36,142	-
Y Care International	40,000	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,379,147	1,478,643
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Civil Society

Atlantic Council of the United States	113,852	121,282
Baladna	-	30,000
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace	311,105	263,656
Chatham House Asfari Centre and Asfari Forum	221,012	200,000
Chatham House Fellowships	173,700	140,000
Columbia Business School	30,454	6,618
Columbia CEO Workshop	-	40,917
Common Purpose	83,290	-
Dawlaty	-	34,989
Global Dialogue: Funders Initiative for Civil Society	40,000	-
Global Dialogue: Syria Working Group	30,000	30,000
Hands Up Foundation	25,000	37,500
Jerusalem Legal Aid Centre	30,000	-
Jumhuriya	29,862	32,000
Lebanese Center for Active Citizenship	-	27,892
Medical Aid for Palestinians	25,111	-
NEO Philanthropy Charity and Security Network	28,626	-
Physicians for Human Rights	-	16,667
Radio Rozana	30,000	-
Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford University	13,216	14,596
Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, Oxford University	25,000	-
Sanad Association	23,000	-
St Andrews University	-	35,000

	2017	2016
	£	£
Syrian Centre for Reconciliation, Dialogue and Peace	-	30,000
Syrian League for Citizenship	3,860	32,300
Syrian Violations Documentation Centre	-	20,067
The Asfari Institute for Civil Society & Citizenship at AUB	469,469	404,875
The Circle of Women	24,164	19,000
The Middle East Institute	-	37,911
The Syria Campaign	-	117,677
	<u>1,730,721</u>	<u>1,692,947</u>
Relief		
AUB Medical Centre		80,000
AUB Lancet Commission	46,154	
Badael Foundation	29,093	-
Can Do	37,633	-
Citizens for Syria	28,992	-
Coin Street (Arthur Laidlaw Exhibition)	-	6,000
Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation	-	30,000
Help Refugees	20,000	-
Icahn Medical School	-	37,619
International Rescue Committee	-	100,000
Making Light	-	10,000
Migrant Offshore Aid Station	-	36,000
Mines Advisory Group	10,000	-
Point	30,000	-
SAWA for Development and Aid	-	31,379
Welfare Association	57,727	-
Women Now	36,998	-
	<u>296,597</u>	<u>330,998</u>
Total grants payable	<u>3,406,465</u>	<u>3,502,588</u>

مؤسسة الأصفري

THE ASFARI FOUNDATION



*Empowering young citizens to create
positive change*

Front cover image: young Syrian refugees and their peers at Ad.Dar, Turkey. Photo: Ad.Dar.

Back cover image: Syrian and Palestinian refugees preparing for university in Lebanon through UIYP. Photo: UIYP.