



aljiser
FOUNDATION

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UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT:
COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT



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FORWARD

As a Zakat Foundation, our efforts follow the footsteps of the Prophet Mohammed (Peace Be Upon Him) by focusing on strategic philanthropy initiatives which have the potential of leveraging high-impact, transformative change.

We cordially invite you to go through Al Jisr Foundation's first Communication on Engagement (CoE) which will provide an overview of the Foundation's initiatives and projects in Oman and internationally as well as our achievements throughout the 2018-19 reporting period.

The report will reaffirm Al Jisr's commitment and progress towards achieving

the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) which we signed in 2018 and highlight the Foundation's contributions towards achieving the 2030 agenda and its ongoing endeavours to promote partnerships between civil society and the public and private sectors.

The report also aims to highlight for potential partners and current stakeholders Al Jisr's commitment to upholding the Foundation's core values of transparency, commitment and sustainability, dedication to meeting the targets of the ten UNGC principles and highlight the positive impact and change the Foundation has on local communities by addressing their immediate needs as well as providing a sustainable and secure future.

Sheikha Fawzia Saud Salim Bahwan Al Mukhaini Chairperson of the Board

Sheikha Amina Saud Salim Bahwan Al Mukhaini Member of the Board

Sheikha Anisa Saud Salim Bahwan Al Mukhaini Member of the Board



ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

Al Jisr Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization headquartered in Oman. The Foundation functions independently, has no political or governmental affiliations. Since its creation in 2010, the Foundation has supported many initiatives both in Oman and abroad, driven by an overriding purpose to serve the underprivileged people of society, particularly those mentioned in Qu'ran Verse 60 of Surah At-Tawbah. These verses highlight the eight categories which guide the distribution of Zakat (charity), namely the poor and needy, the debt ridden, Zakat administrators, new Muslims and friends of the Muslim community, those in bondage (slaves and captives), wayfarers and the allocation of funds in the cause of God.

Continuing the legacy of the late Sheikh Saud Salim Bahwan Al Mukhaini, founder of the Saud Bahwan Group conglomerate, the Foundation is governed by his three daughters and operates wholly on Zakat funds with the purpose of breaking the cycle of poverty and other persistent problems through strategic Health Care, Education and Social Initiatives.

The activities of the Foundation are based on the assistance of those who are entitled to Zakat, mentioned in the Holy Qur'an. Al Jisr Foundation provides opportunities for people to achieve a better life through its core programs, which are aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) adopted by Oman, but always in a manner that respects and supports Islamic culture and values.

Al Jisr Foundation aspires to become a world-class philanthropic foundation which is respected both in Oman and abroad for its significant impact and its ability to improve societies worldwide.

Al Jisr Foundation's mission is to transform communities through empowerment and ensure equitable access to opportunities in Health, Education and Social Welfare. This is done through collaboration with Government, Non-Governmental Organisations, Local Communities and driven by a team of dedicated professionals guided by Al Jisr's core values of:

Transparency - Aspiring to live the highest standards of personal honesty and integrity; acting in the best interests of those in need.

Commitment - Improving the quality of everything we do for those in need.

Sustainability - Creating positive and lasting change in the lives of communities.

These three pillars underpin a rock-solid foundation for how the Foundation operates individually and collectively to achieve their vision to be regarded as a trusted catalyst for sustainable impact and positive change in societies.

Al Jisr is overseen by three board members, or Principals, who are the Foundations main benefactors. The Foundation maintains a single-donor structure which provides both freedom and flexibility in charitable grant making. In 2019 the organisation was restructured to create a new role, Head of Foundation. This position was created to drive change, re-align the business towards living its core values and lead the Foundation to achieve its ambitious goals.

The Head of the Foundation reports directly to the Principals and is supported by a team of fourteen. The team is structured according to the Foundation's focus, long term impact, community projects and individual cases. The Principals play an active role within the organisation providing strategic direction on key initiatives and operational requirements.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

With the goal to become a professional, ethical organisation that aligns with international standards and demands, Al Jisr Foundation's management confirmed its commitment to the UN Global Compact by signing its letter to the UN Secretary General in April 2018.

Al Jisr was the first Omani Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) to sign the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) and joined more than 12,000 organisations worldwide who have committed to working towards meeting the highest standards of ethical business conduct and governance.

In 2018 Al Jisr Foundation developed its Strategy to become a more efficient and effective organisation to fulfil its goals of contributing to society through the delivery of critical healthcare and education initiatives – all implemented inline with Oman's United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, UNGC principles and in accordance with Islamic Principles and the criteria for Zakat.

The core areas of focus for the Foundation over the next three to five years will incorporate both short and long-term goals in the following areas:

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Al Jisr has identified the following SDG's that will form the strategic direction of both the organisations short and long-term goals:

- 1) Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- 2) Ending hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
- 3) Ensuring healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- 4) Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.

Short-term initiatives will focus on emergency relief, leveraging global data and networks and demonstrating the Foundation's contribution to global shared action. Long-term initiatives will centre on achieving Social, Educational and Health goals outlined in the Government of Oman's (GoO) Vision 2040 and those that contribute towards the GoO and Al Jisr achieving the SDGs.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Foundation understands that a high performing team is imperative for the implementation of the Foundation's objectives and priorities. The Foundation's recruitment strategy has focused on obtaining the right people for the right role. As part of its long-term strategy, Al Jisr aims to implement a training and development policy and programme to ensure the Foundation's representatives possess a wide range of skills, experience, perspectives and expertise that will benefit not only the organisation but the broader community. A focus on upskilling the workforce will contribute to the Foundation and the Government of Oman's SDGs and key areas outlined in the Oman Vision 2040.

COMMUNICATION

Al Jisr aims to create simple, fact-based communications that are relevant and targeted to the organisation's stakeholders, partners and wider community. In 2019, Al Jisr established its social media presence and engaged prominent public figures to deliver health and educational agendas to amplify key messages and promote the Foundation's brand. Dissemination of information, initiative updates and employment and volunteer opportunities are conveyed through the Al Jisr website. Internally, Al Jisr distributes quarterly reports on all project and operational outcomes.

STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERSHIPS

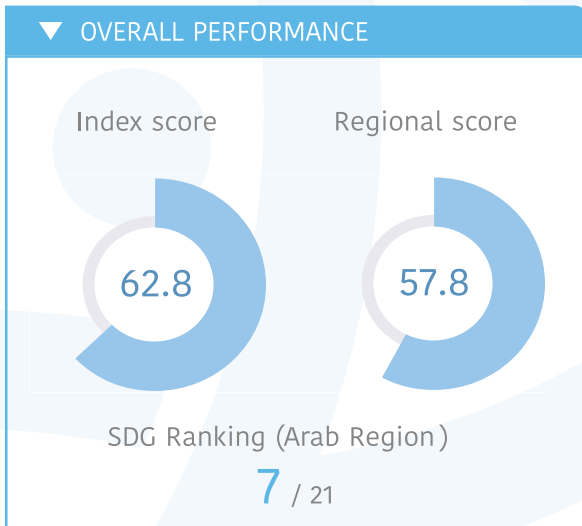
Al Jisr strategically engages in relationships with stakeholders to promote synergistic partnerships with businesses, government organizations and other not-for-profit organizations to unlock potential and create new opportunities where the Foundation can achieve maximum impact for communities and individuals.

The Foundation aims to broaden its approach to partnership engagement by collaborating with the For Profit sector, leaders in training and higher education, health and medical sectors and leveraging its current relationships with Governmental Organisations to create cooperative, meaningful long-term partnerships with the purpose of broadening its sphere of influence.

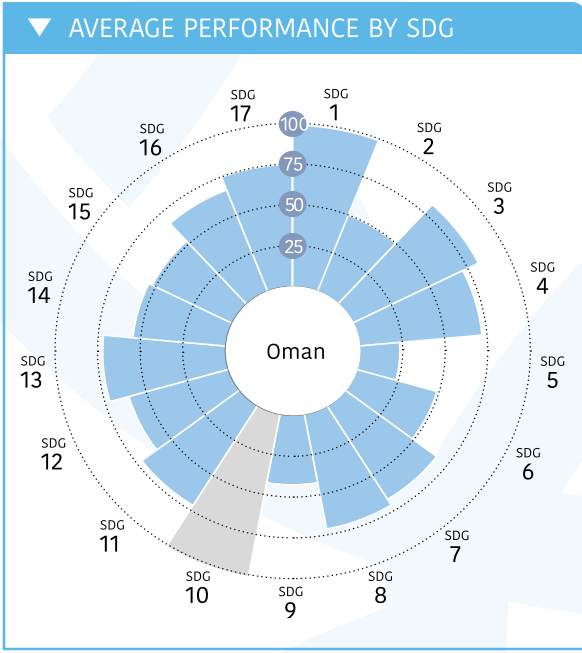
REPORTING AND MONITORING

To strengthen its reporting and monitoring framework, Al Jisr aims to strengthen its data collection approach and collaborate with companies, ministries, and other non-profit organizations. The development of clear and concrete project milestones, outcomes, and indicators will be established, and monitoring will take place to ensure that partners are on track towards achieving their targets. Exposure to various methodologies of project implementation will also be used as an opportunity to monitor soft outcomes. This approach will enable Al Jisr to build on knowledge obtained through collaboration with partners.

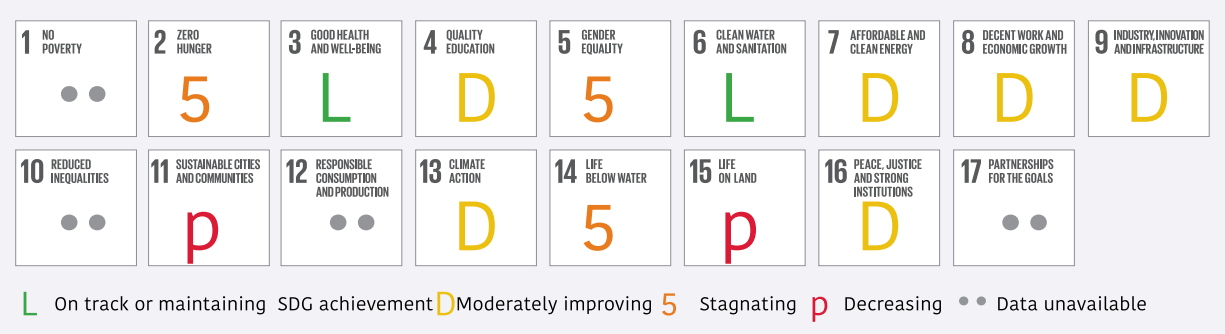
OMAN



CURRENT ASSESSMENT – SDG DASHBOARD



SDG TRENDS



Note: The full title of each SDG is available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>

OMAN

SDG1 – End Poverty

	Value	Rating	Trend
Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90/day (% population)	* NA	● ●	
Poverty headcount ratio at \$3.20/day (% population)	* NA	● ●	
Working poor at PPP\$3.10 a day (% of total employment)	0.5	● ●	↑

SDG2 – Zero Hunger

	Value	Rating	Trend
Prevalence of undernourishment (% population)	5.4	● ●	↑
Prevalence of stunting (low height-for-age) in children under 5 years of age (%)	14.1	● ●	
Prevalence of wasting in children under 5 years of age (%)	7.5	● ●	
Prevalence of obesity, BMI ≥ 30 (% adult population)	27.0	● ●	↓
Cereal yield (t/ha)	5.7	● ●	↑
Sustainable Nitrogen Management Index	1.0	● ●	
Human Trophic Level (best 2–3 worst)	2.3	● ●	→

SDG3 – Good Health and Well-Being

	Value	Rating	Trend
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	17	● ●	↑
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	5.1	● ●	↑
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000 live births)	11.3	● ●	↑
Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000 population)	6.7	● ●	↑
New HIV infections (per 1,000)	* 0.1	● ●	
Age-standardised death rate due to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory disease in populations age 30–70 years (per 100,000 population)	17.8	● ●	↑
Age-standardised death rate attributable to household air pollution and ambient air pollution (per 100,000 population)	54	● ●	
Traffic deaths rate (per 100,000 population)	25.0	● ●	↗
Life Expectancy at birth (years)	77.0	● ●	↗
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15–19)	7.9	● ●	↑
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	99.1	● ●	↑
Surviving infants who received 2 WHO-recommended vaccines (%)	99	● ●	↑
Universal Health Coverage Tracer Index (0–100)	79.3	● ●	↑
Subjective Wellbeing (average ladder score, 0–10)	6.9	● ●	
Diabetes prevalence (% of population ages 20–79)	12.6	● ●	
Age-standardized suicide rates (per 100 000 population)	3.5	● ●	↑

SDG4 – Quality Education

	Value	Rating	Trend
Net primary enrolment rate (%)	94.1	● ●	→
Literacy rate of 15–24 year olds, both sexes (%)	98.7	● ●	
Lower secondary completion rate (%)	99.7	● ●	↑
Gross enrolment ratio, pre-primary (% of preschool-age children)	57	● ●	↗
School enrollment, tertiary (% gross)	44.6	● ●	↑
Harmonized Test Scores	423.5	● ●	

SDG5 – Gender Equality

	Value	Rating	Trend
Demand for family planning satisfied by modern methods (% women married or in unions, ages 15–49)	39.6	● ●	→
Ratio of female to male mean years of schooling of population age 25 and above	113.0	● ●	↑
Ratio of female to male labour force participation rate	34.3	● ●	↓
Seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	1.2	● ●	→
Ratio of estimated gross national income per capita, female/male (2011 PPP \$)	0.2	● ●	↓
Women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 15 (%)	NA	● ●	

Proportion of women in ministerial positions (%)	6.3	● ●	↓
Mandatory paid maternity leave (days)	50	● ●	

SDG6 – Clean Water and Sanitation

	Value	Rating	Trend
Population using at least basic drinking water services (%)	90.9	● ●	↑
Population using at least basic sanitation services (%)	99.3	● ●	↑
Freshwater withdrawal as % total renewable water resources	106.2	● ●	
Imported groundwater depletion (m ³ /year/capita)	97.7	● ●	
Anthropogenic wastewater that receives treatment (%)	5.4	● ●	
Degree of implementation of integrated water resources management (%)	NA	● ●	
Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (per 100,000 population)	0.1	● ●	

SDG7 – Affordable and Clean Energy

	Value	Rating	Trend
Access to electricity (% population)	100.0	● ●	↑
Access to clean fuels & technology for cooking (% population)	95.2	● ●	↑
CO ₂ emissions from fuel combustion / electricity output (MtCO ₂ /TWh)	2.1	● ●	↑
Renewable electricity output (% of total electricity output)	0.0	● ●	→
Energy intensity level of primary energy (MJ/\$2011 PPP GDP, average of 5 years)	6.6	● ●	

SDG8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth

	Value	Rating	Trend
Adjusted Growth (%)	-4.2	● ●	
Adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider (%)	73.6	● ●	
Unemployment rate (% total labor force)	3.2	● ●	↑
Fatal work-related accidents embodied in imports (deaths per 100,000)	1.7	● ●	
Labour freedom score	57.3	● ●	↓
Unemployment, youth total (% of total labor force ages 15–24)	8.3	● ●	
Ease of starting a business score	92.9	● ●	
Product concentration index, exports	0.4	● ●	↑

SDG9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

	Value	Rating	Trend
Population using the internet (%)	80.2	● ●	↑
Mobile broadband subscriptions (per 100 inhabitants)	93.9	● ●	↑
Logistics performance index: Quality of trade and transport-related infrastructure (1=low to 5=high)	3.2	● ●	↑
Number of scientific and technical journal articles (per 1,000 population)	0.2	● ●	↓
Research and development expenditure (% GDP)	0.2	● ●	→
Carbon dioxide emissions per unit of manufacturing value added (kilogrammes of CO ₂ per constant 2010 US\$)	3.5	● ●	↓

SDG10 – Reduced Inequalities

Gini Coefficient adjusted for top income (1–100)	NA	● ●	
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SDG11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

Annual mean concentration of particulate matter < 2.5 microns in diameter (PM _{2.5}) (µg/m ³)	41.1	● ●	↓
Satisfaction with public transport (%)	72.8	● ●	

SDG12 – Responsible Consumption and Production

E-waste generated (kg/capita)	14.9	● ●	
Production-based SO ₂ emissions (kg/capita)	39.3	● ●	
Imported SO ₂ emissions (kg/capita)	2.0	● ●	
Nitrogen production footprint (kg/capita)	29.2	● ●	

Total municipal solid waste generated (kgs/year/capita)	438.0	● ●	
Value realization score (Resource Governance Index)	32	● ●	
Fossil-fuel pre-tax subsidies (consumption and production) per capita (current US\$)	222.0	● ●	
Compliance with multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste and other chemicals (%)	75.2	● ●	

SDG13 – Climate Action

Energy-related CO ₂ emissions per capita (tCO ₂ /capita)	14.2	● ●	↗
Imported CO ₂ emissions, technology-adjusted (tCO ₂ /capita)	-2.9	● ●	
People affected by climate-related disasters (per 100,000 population)	36.9	● ●	
CO ₂ emissions embodied in fossil fuel exports (kg/capita)	24,494.4	● ●	

SDG14 – Life Below Water

Mean area that is protected in marine sites important to biodiversity (%)	8.0	● ●	→
Ocean Health Index Goal-Clean Waters (0–100)	70.5	● ●	↑
Ocean Health Index Goal-Fisheries (0–100)	54.8	● ●	↓
Fish caught by trawling (%)	0.4	● ●	↑

SDG15 – Life on Land

Mean area that is protected in terrestrial sites important to biodiversity (%)	11.5	● ●	→
Red List Index of species survival (0–1)	0.9	● ●	↓
Imported biodiversity threats (threats per million population)	6.0	● ●	

SDG16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Homicides (per 100,000 population)	0.7	● ●	↑
Proportion of unsentenced detainees	NA	● ●	
Proportion of the population who feel safe walking alone at night in the city or area where they live (%)	NA	● ●	
Property Rights (1–7)	5.2	● ●	↑
Birth registrations with civil authority, children under 5 years of age (%)	NA	● ●	
Corruption Perception Index (0–100)	52	● ●	↑
Children 5–14 years old involved in child labour (%)	NA	● ●	
Freedom of Press Index (best 0–100 worst)	40.7	● ●	↓
Battle-related deaths (per 100,000 population, average of 5 years)	NA	● ●	
Prison population (per 100,000 persons)	35.0	● ●	
Imports of major conventional weapons (TIV constant 1990 US\$ million per 100,000 population, 5 year average)	10.9	● ●	
Exports of major conventional weapons (TIV constant 1990 US\$ million per 100,000 population, 5 year average)	0.2	● ●	
Status of fundamental human rights treaties	6	● ●	
Political stability and absence of violence/terrorism	0.7	● ●	↑

SDG17 – Partnerships for the Goals

Government Health and Education spending (% GDP)	7.4	● ●	
Tax Haven Score (best 0–5 worst)	* 0	● ●	
Statistical capacity score	NA	● ●	

* Imputed data point



KEY INITIATIVES

EDUCATION

To complement the Government's achievements in universalising access to education and in line with SDG 4, Oman is now focused on increasing the quality of basic and higher education¹. The Government aims to develop educational curricula to ensure that Oman's graduates are equipped with competitive qualifications that will enable them to enter the local and international labour market². As part of this strategic direction the development of stimulating educational training systems that align with International Standards, encompass the use of technological innovation and modern learning and teaching methods will help ensure that this ambitious goal becomes a reality³.

Oman's progress in the International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS 2016), indicated that 59 per cent of students at the end of primary school were achieving the minimum level of proficiency in reading. The rate for boys was much lower (50 per cent) than girls (68 per cent)⁴. Literacy rates in younger groups did not show any gender gap, however the gender parity index increased in favor of girls as children progressed from grades 1 to 12⁵. As the country moves towards Omanisation of its economy the Government recognizes the importance of investing in quality education and the support and engagement of societal partners to achieve its vision.

UNIVERSAL KIDS

English is the most widely spoken international language globally, and the second most spoken language in Oman. Following multiple literature reviews analysing the current level of English proficiency in school age and tertiary level students, it was found that English language proficiency was below international standards, inadequately preparing students for employment following university graduation. In 2019 Al Jisr in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE), launched Universal Kids, a pilot program designed with the intent to build children's English literacy knowledge using an online learning tool, Reading Eggs. Al Jisr provided free access to students, teachers and administrators with the aim of providing students with the skills to progress in their educational endeavors and subsequently increase their employability in the Private sector in the future. The pilot was rolled out over a three-month period to 1000 children in grade three across five public schools in Oman.

Following an evaluation from Phase 1 of the Universal Kids initiative thorough analysis was undertaken to determine the sustainability of the program long term. Challenges for each school were identified with recommendations made to determine if the Reading Eggs program could be successfully institutionalized at the national level. Positive feedback was received from students and teachers, however, due to technical complications and the rigidity of the program. MoE and Al Jisr reevaluated the feasibility of the initiative for the Oman context. A decision was made to transfer the licenses to an external programme that promotes literacy. Achievements made during the pilot study contribute to Al Jisr's progress towards SDG4, SDG5 and SDG17.



STEMINDS

According to the GoO Voluntary National Review (VNR) Research and Development (R&D) expenditure is still very modest, along with the capacity to invest in research. R&D currently accounts for only 0.24% of the Country's Gross Domestic Product. The Government has identified that investment in infrastructure and innovation are crucial drivers of economic growth and development. With over half the world's population now living in cities, mass transport and renewable energy are becoming increasingly important, as are the growth of new industries, information and communication technologies⁶. As part of the Country's 2040 vision the Government has placed priority on economic diversification with a focus on technology, knowledge and innovation⁷. Achieving this goal will depend heavily on developing local capabilities in innovation and creativity and assist in working towards SDG⁹.

With permission from MoE, Al Jisr conducted an independent study on students and faculty to determine if the current education system effectively prepares students with the knowledge, skills and abilities to provide a foundation for lifelong learning. Al Jisr found that the current framework required an innovative approach that aims to foster student's areas of interest in early learning settings. The fostering of specific fields occurred at a stage that Al Jisr deemed too late and what The Foundation believes to be a contributing factor to the gap in skills and employability of students following graduation. These assumptions are further supported by studies conducted throughout the GCC where CEO's identified a large gap between skills and job readiness following graduation⁹.

Today's youth are tomorrow's future. How well equipped with education, skills and professional experience ultimately determines their success. Al Jisr, in collaboration with MoE and their chosen facilitating partner, YouThinkers, aim to instill a culture of research and innovation among the Omani youth in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). The Foundation endeavors to achieve this by building upon the existing skill set that youths have obtained through the current institutional structure by engaging them in a series of workshops, educational trips and motivational talks under the initiative, "STEMinds".

By leveraging Al Jisr's relationship with the MoE and strategically aligning The Foundation with a partner of local young entrepreneurs, achievements in this area will contribute towards SDG4, SDG9, SDG11, SDG17, SDG5 and aligns with the Governments 2040 Vision of promoting national entrepreneurship¹⁰. The project will be rolled out in three phases across two schools with participation from 120 students, both Male and Female. The first Phase of the STEMinds project was launched on 11th November, 2019 under the auspices of State Council Member, H.E. Sheikh Ali bin Nasser Al Mahrouqi. To evaluate the success of the first Phase, the facilitating partner, YouThinkers will conduct 360 degree follow-up evaluation and interviews to ensure that participating students are achieving all indicators within the designated time frame. This evaluation will take place at the end of the first school semester.



HEALTH

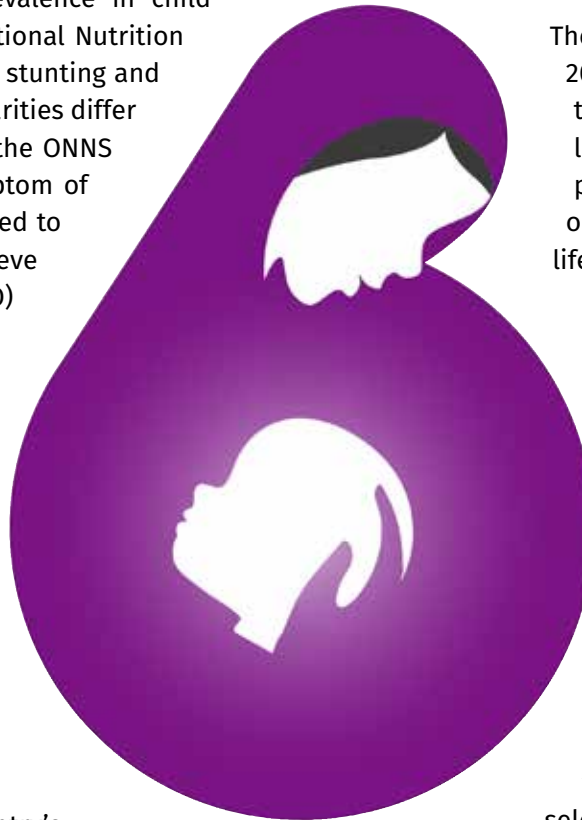
National Nutrition Campaign

Oman, as classified by the World Bank is a high-income country¹¹. The Country has achieved universal health coverage and continues to make progress in achieving SDG3 and its indicators. Despite being classified as a high-income country Oman has a ‘medium’ prevalence in child stunting and wasting¹². Data generated by the Oman National Nutrition Survey 2017, (ONNS) indicated that both the incidence of stunting and wasting have increased between 2009-2017 and that disparities differ greatly between regions. Findings further generated by the ONNS also show a high prevalence of low birthweight, a symptom of poor maternal nutrition¹³. These findings indicate the need to address the Country’s nutritional status in order to achieve SDG2 and its indicators. The Government of Oman (GoO) is committed to making health care improvements a priority. As part of the strategic direction outlined in the Oman Vision 2040 the Government aims to create a healthy society free of health risks and hazards with a focus on increasing community awareness to ensure that health is the responsibility of all¹⁴.

In a joint effort with the MoH and the World Health Organization (WHO), Al Jisr Foundation will launch the National Nutrition Campaign. The Communication Campaign will be delivered over a three-year period with the aim of improving the nutritional status of children, adolescents and adults in Oman.

The campaign aims to target several aspects of The Country’s dietary habits, including, increasing the rates of Exclusive Breast Feeding (EBF) and promoting a reduction in the consumption of

sugar, salt, and fat across all demographics to help combat the rise in Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD). The campaign aims to promote positive health outcomes with the use of proven theories and models of behavior change and will assist towards The Foundation achieving SDG3, SDG2, SDG17 and its indicators.



The first campaign, to be launched in the first quarter of 2020 will focus on EBF and aims to encourage EBF within the first hour of life, up until at least six months of age, in line with WHO guidelines¹⁵. Al Jisr, in conjunction with its partners will focus on promoting and educating mothers on the benefits of EBF for the first six months of the child’s life. Health professionals across multiple disciplines and community leaders will be trained to facilitate, encourage and make accommodations for women who breastfeed. Communication materials that endeavor to reduce stigma and promote EBF friendly facilities will target husbands and families along with the wider community. The initiative aims to provide ongoing support to EBF mothers and families and ensure long term sustainable changes in behavior using a model that can be implemented at the National level. A robust monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed to evaluate changes in social behaviors throughout the initiative lifecycle. During the first quarter of 2020 a national KAP survey will take place that will assess current knowledge, attitudes and practices of a selected cohort of individuals. A follow up survey at the end of the 3-year campaign will take place to evaluate the behavioral change as a result of the national nutrition campaign.

HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOLS

The Health Promoting Schools initiative is an internationally recognized framework developed by the WHO to create a healthy school environment and improve student learning¹⁶. Implemented in Oman since 2004, this approach supports improvements in students' educational outcomes and promotes resilience by addressing school health in a planned, integrated and holistic way. The effectiveness and sustainability of this approach relies on a partnership between health, education, parents, students and community stakeholders working together to achieve the goals of a health promoting school.

In promoting public-private partnerships, Al Jisr, under the guidance of MoH and MoE are working towards strengthening institutional capacity to universalize the initiative and ensure that key deliverables, outcomes and achievements are simple, achievable and consistent. To achieve this, Al Jisr has assisted in upgrading the training material and manuals for teachers and trainers with the goal that the programme will be implemented throughout all schools in Oman.

Al Jisr has developed a child focused activity book addressing the five core themes of the Health Promoting Schools initiative to engage students, promote creativity and encourage the implementation of ideas in student's schools and communities¹⁷. The activity book has been designed to ensure maximum engagement of children and young people to facilitate and instill the Health Promoting values at a young age.

A robust monitoring and assessment framework has

been implemented and each participating school trained on the requisite assessment outcomes. In collaboration with the private sector, the Al Jisr Foundation will reward schools with outstanding achievements by funding school development projects. Al Jisr's progress in implementing the Healthy School Initiatives helps towards achieving SDG2, SDG3, SDG4, SDG5 SDG6, SDG16, SDG17 and their indicators.

Non-Communicable Disease

Oman has seen an increase in the prevalence of hospital admissions related to NCD's¹⁸. A sharp increase in Cardiovascular related admissions between 2010-2016, an increasing population and a lack of medical expertise have placed

a significant strain on the National Health System¹⁹. The MoH reported that diseases of the Circulatory System were the highest cause of death during 2013-2016²⁰. Regional hospitals throughout the world often have limited access to resources to treat patients which can result in long waitlists in regional facilities, an influx of patient care in the capital city or patients having to receive treatment abroad. These implications have a negative impact not only on the health system but on the individual patients and families. Upgrading the health system is a key strategic focus of the Oman Vision 2040 and Oman's Health Vision 2050. Equitable healthcare systems that cover all governates and

include more medical specialties and technologies that will help to overcome geographical barriers to deliver world class healthcare to the citizens and residents of Oman are at the forefront of the health agenda²¹.



المدارس المعززة للصحة Health Promoting Schools

SAVING HEARTS PROJECT

In strategically collaborating with partners to achieve both the sustainable development goals and prioritizing the direction of the Oman Vision 2040, Al Jisr partnered with Oman Medical Specialty Board (OMSB) to award carefully selected candidates Fellowships in the field of cardiovascular disease and medicine.

In recognition of the lack of expertise in the field, Al Jisr aims to contribute to raising Oman’s medical service to an internationally recognized standard, increase health security for the Country’s citizens and alleviate the growing number of patients required to seek medical treatment abroad. The Foundation will achieve this by sending Omani doctors aboard. Commencing in 2019, three Omani doctors, one female and two males were sent aboard under the guidance and monitoring of OMSB for further specialization and professional development. Al Jisr aims to assess how the acquisition of skills and knowledge acquired by the three doctors can be applied to developing the skills of the support and technical staff in Oman.

A robust monitoring and evaluation programme has been implemented to ensure the sustainability of results and ensure the success of The Foundation’s investment. Al Jisr Foundation will conduct quarterly phone calls with each candidate to stay abreast of any updates and ensure the candidates ongoing commitment to their studies. OMSB will complement Al Jisr’s monitoring programme with six monthly candidate assessment reviews and feedback from the candidates practicing hospital. Achievements in upskilling through the Fellowship initiative will contribute towards Al Jisr’s achievements in SDG3, SDG4, SDG5, SDG10 and SDG17 and its indicators.

Medical Equipment Project

As part of Al Jisr’s progress towards SDG3 and its indicators an initiative was proposed to provide medical equipment to three hospitals that would improve the quality of medical services, reduce the pressure on central hospitals and decrease the wait time for patients needing medical treatment. The initiative commenced in 2019 (Table 1.) and will be rolled out over a three-year period.

TABLE 1

HOSPITAL	EQUIPMENT NAME	DEPARTMENT
Nizwa Hospital	Echo Color Doppler Machine	Pediatric ward
	Ultrasound Machine	Adult ICU
	Endoscopy tower with scoops	Endoscopy Unit
Ibra Hospital	Autoclave	CSSD
	ECG Machine - 8 units	Various Dept.
	Patient Monitor - 10 units	Various Dept.
	Syringe Pump - 5 units	Various Dept.
	Corneal Topography Machine	Ophthalmology Dept.
Rustaq Hospital	Ultrasound Machine P8	Gynecology Department
	Ultrasound Machine Logic	Gynecology Department
	Ultrasound Machine Logic	Medical Department
	Delivery Bed - 4 units	Gynecology Department
	Fumigation Machine	All Department
	ENT Endoscope System	Endoscopy Unit
	Jaundice Meter	Pediatric ICU

A robust monitoring and assessment process will be implemented to evaluate the long-term sustainability and scale to which this project can be expanded to include physiotherapy, special needs and rehabilitation centers which will help towards The Foundation achieving SDG10 and SDG17.



SOCIAL INITIATIVES

People with Disabilities

The National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) reports that there are approximately 62,500 people in Oman living with a disability, a figure that is widely assumed to be underreported²². Despite the Country’s progress towards recognizing the rights of people with disabilities, the Government of Oman (GoO) has received recommendations from the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to work towards achieving SDG10, SDG8 and its indicators. Three key areas of improvement have been identified²³:

1. Promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the private and public sectors, including through affirmative action, adopt laws and policies on reasonable accommodation, including through the amendment of the Labor Act, ensure implementation of the law requiring private enterprises with more than 50 employees to reserve at least 2 per cent of positions for persons with disabilities, and provide data on persons with disabilities currently employed in the open labor market, disaggregated by age, gender, type of impairment and geographical location;
2. Adopt a strategy for the employment of persons with disabilities in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially women with disabilities, in the open labor market and adopt measures for the elimination of intersectional discrimination;
3. Adopt measures to make the physical environment of workplaces accessible and adapted to persons with disabilities, including reasonable accommodation, especially to persons with disabilities with motor impairments, and provide training for employers at every level on respect for the concept of reasonable accommodation;



SAWI INITIATIVE

Empowering People with Disabilities Socially and Economically

The SAWI project was initiated to meet the targets outlined in Oman's Vision 2040, to create an aware and cohesive society that is socially and economically enabled, especially women, children, youth, people with disabilities and the most vulnerable segments²⁴. To support the empowerment of people with disabilities and address the three areas of improvement outlined by the UN, Al Jisr, in conjunction with the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) have developed the SAWI initiative.

The SAWI initiative aims to empower people with disabilities through the development of a logo and associated branding and protective workshops that will provide livelihood opportunities and contribute towards Al Jisr and the GoO achieving SDG10, SDG8 and its indicators.

People with disabilities face several obstacles when entering the labor market. Opportunities for meaningful and rewarding employment have become increasingly difficult as people with disabilities experience prejudice and exclusion, threatening their employment prospects and job security. To eliminate stigma and promote inclusion and participation of people with disabilities in the wider community Al Jisr and the MoSD launched a national logo design competition. The objective was to create a logo that could be used to brand products and services that will provide economic independence, advocate for the purchase of products made by People with Disabilities, upskilling, employment and inclusion of People with Disabilities in the labor market and entrepreneurial endeavors.

Employment in the open labor market poses many challenges for people with disabilities on the extreme end of the disability spectrum. To support the inclusion of those with mild intellectual disabilities a proposal was drafted outlining an initiative to establish protective workshops that will provide

education, training and occupational therapy. The workshop will also provide an opportunity for people with disabilities to generate an income, develop social skills and increase their self-esteem. The initiative will be rolled out over a three-year period and will serve as a pilot study to maximize the capabilities and skills of people with disabilities outlined in Oman Vision 2040's. The initiative will contribute towards the GoO achievements in SDG10 and SDG8 with a long-term goal of implementation at the National level.

Al Jisr Foundation will provide ongoing advocacy to support and encourage private sector businesses with more than 50 staff to hire persons with disabilities as stipulated under Royal Decree No. 63/2008 Promulgating the Disabled Care and Rehabilitation Law Article (9)²⁵. This ruling is currently not being adhered to within the private sector and requires ongoing monitoring to ensure nationwide awareness and enforcement. To support the inclusion of those with disabilities and become a leader and advocate for inclusive employment, Al Jisr recruited one male and one female intern to join the organization for a three-month period. An assessment of the workplace was undertaken to ensure that the environment was suitably accommodating for the interns' specific needs and conducive to their success. Job descriptions were developed to suit the interns' ability and all staff participated in orientation sessions to induct them on working with people with disabilities.

To ensure the successful implementation of the SAWI initiative the Al Jisr Foundation will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the MoSD and lead the initiative through the planning and pre-implementation phases. A robust monitoring and evaluation framework will be established and agreed upon in collaboration with the SAWI initiative steering committee. Al Jisr will nominate a representative to sit on the steering committee to provide input into the monitoring and evaluation framework and enable the Foundation to further advocate for the inclusion of people with disabilities.

ADDRESSING **THE PRINCIPLES**

Principle 1 Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and Principle 2 make sure they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

Respect for human rights is a fundamental principle of Al Jisr and the communities in which they operate. Internally and with their partners and affiliates, The Foundation is committed to ensuring the ongoing protection of Human Rights and that people are treated with dignity and respect. The Foundation's support of Human Right extends beyond its employees and the expectations it has of its Partners, Stakeholders and Suppliers. Al Jisr is committed to the protection and advocating for Human Rights within the local community and abroad.

Al Jisr has developed a Human Rights policy guided by the international human rights principles related to forced labour as encompassed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the United Nations Global Compact and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. This policy is applicable to all employees as well as other organizations in which Al Jisr has a controlling ownership, interest or management responsibility. This includes subsidiaries, joint ventures, affiliated companies and distributors. If Al Jisr does not have a controlling ownership interest or management responsibility in the subsidiary, joint venture, affiliated company or distributor, Al Jisr will take reasonable steps to ensure that the entity complies with this policy and all relevant laws domestically and abroad.

Al Jisr will also take appropriate steps to ensure suppliers and partners that are located in high-risk locations and/or that may be more exposed to human rights risk due to the nature of the industry in which they operate adopt relevant measures to mitigate such risks through its due diligence process embedded in the organisations supply chain management process. All Suppliers are obligated to sign the Supplier Code of Conduct. During the 2018/2019 reporting period Al Jisr can proudly confirm that this document has accompanied 100% of its contracts/

MoU's and that any organisation unwilling to comply with the standards were not engaged further. Standing orders and contracts that did not include the code of conduct were reviewed and 100% received the Supplier Code of Conduct.

Al Jisr is committed to ensuring that its employees work in an environment that is safe and free of hazards and risks that may compromise an employee's health and/or safety. Al Jisr has developed health and safety policies and processes that instills a culture conducive to a safe and productive working environment. Health and Safety policies and processes outline employee expectations and rights in the workplace and while travelling domestically and abroad. Employees are familiarised with the process on incident and accident reporting and a preventative approach encouraged organisation wide.

The Foundation promotes the importance of employee safety through its engagement with Suppliers, Partners and Stakeholders. Suppliers, Contractors and Stakeholders agree to comply with all Health and Safety guidelines in accordance with Omani law as stipulated in all contracts.

The health and wellbeing of Al Jisr's employees is important. Understanding that a healthy workforce reduces, stress, absenteeism and increases productivity, Al Jisr actively promotes initiatives that support a health focused culture. Several initiatives have been implemented, including flexible working hours, and organisation wide programs to encourage non-sedentary behaviours and promote a healthy work life balance.

Al Jisr is committed to complying with data privacy and protection regulations. Al Jisr ensures that personal data is held and processed according to relevant regulations. Data privacy affects all areas of Al Jisr business, including, employees and job applicants, customer data, supplier data, distributor and business partner data and shareholders. All Al Jisr personnel, including temporary employees, interns, volunteers, contractors and business partners handling personal data on our behalf, are required to follow the data protection requirements contained in Al Jisr's policies and procedures which they sign during the onboarding process.

Al Jisr Foundation strives to ensure that those most in need are provided with the support required to have equitable access to health, nutrition, education and shelter. Through its individual charitable initiatives, Al Jisr provides funding for those suffering from financial hardship. Financial assistance to provide houses with utilities, rental assistance and assistance for construction projects for delapidated properties to provide safe, clean housing as well as education grants, food vouchers and assistance in remedying civil and commercial legal cases for those who would be economically and socially disadvantaged as a result of incarceration for a significant period.

Al Jisr Foundation has invested in a number of international projects that help support long-term sustainability of local communities. In conjunction with the Al-Barkaat Education Society Aligarh in India. Al Jisr provided financial assistance to construct a Community College for Women and a Hostel for Male students on a University Campus. The institution runs several educational institutions, including schools, Institutes of Management Studies, Institutes of Islamic Research and Training, College of Graduate Studies, Play and Learn Centres and Afternoon Schools. Al-Barkaat Education Society Aligarh provides financial assistance and awards scholarships to deserving students and aims to explore and open avenues in job-oriented training to generate self-employment for women and those who experience financial adversity. Al Jisr's contribution to the project has the potential to increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational, with the goal of increasing their potential for employment and entrepreneurship which will contribute to the local community's long-term sustainable development.

To increase the quality, accessibility and capacity of a local school in the Republic of Uganda, Al Jisr signed a memorandum of understanding with Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid (HIJRA), a non-governmental humanitarian organisation to finance an expansion project that will see the development of staff rooms, a library, washroom facilities, classroom blocks, kitchen and a football field and basketball court. These additional facilities will provide greater access to education for local communities, provide space for more teachers improving the quality of education and foster a child's right to play.

Principle 3 Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

Principle 4 the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

Principle 5 the effective abolition of child labour; and

Principle 6 the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Al Jisr Foundation is committed to supporting the global effort to end any form of child labour and forced labour. The organization does not engage with any organization or individual complicit to any form of child or forced labour. All employees, volunteers, and partners associated with the Foundation in any capacity are required to adhere to the policy by signing the Supplier Code of Conduct or the Al Jisr Code of Conduct prior to undertaking any work with Al Jisr. The Al Jisr Human Resources department is responsible for managing this and has ensured 100% of personnel have signed the policy. Random audits are conducted from time to time to ensure compliance organization wide.

Al Jisr is committed to the international effort to eliminate all forms of Child Labour and Forced Labour. No employee will undergo corporal punishment or coercion of any type and will never be forced to work against his/her will. Working conditions are outlined in employee contracts in accordance with Omani Labour Laws stating the terms and conditions of service, the voluntary nature of employment, the freedom to leave (including the appropriate procedures) and any penalties that may be associated with a departure or cessation of work. No candidate is discriminated against based on gender, age or religious affiliation or other, as outlined in The Foundation's policy.

The Foundation will not at any time employ individuals under the minimum age for employment, either in Oman or elsewhere and ensure that all agreements entered contain the Supplier Code of Conduct. If the Foundation suspects forced, or child labour breaches appropriate action will be taken against those involved in accordance with national law. Al Jisr Foundation conveys

during its onboarding process that employees, partners and associates have a responsibility to report any concerns regarding a breach of the child or forced labour policy through the relevant reporting lines.

The Foundation is committed to the promotion of inclusivity. Al Jisr understands the benefit from having a workforce rich with diverse cultures, ideas, experiences, and capabilities. Each individual employee deserves to be treated with dignity and respect in their employment. The right person for each job is employed and a fair equitable approach, without bias or discrimination is utilised in all aspects of the employment relationship. Al Jisr ensures that all employees are equitably provided with opportunities to develop, advance, and effectively utilize their skills and competencies. Employees and managers are accountable for their behaviour, their actions towards their colleagues and public and private stakeholders, to uphold the commitments set out in the organisation's policy.

Al Jisr's commitment to inclusivity extends further than the working sphere and into the broader community. To promote the inclusion of People with Disabilities, Al Jisr has facilitated several initiatives including the purchase of mobility equipment for people with disabilities to give greater access to the local community. In 2019, Al Jisr provided funding to support an exhibition that showcased products and innovation by people with disabilities. This event also provided a platform for people with disabilities to connect with the wider community and an opportunity to showcase their skills and abilities in an effort to reduce the stigma and discrimination those with disabilities tend to face.

In the spirit of creating a climate of tolerance and equal access to opportunities, Al Jisr hosted its first social event in 2019, a Ramadan Iftar for children and families from the Oman Down Syndrome Association and Early Intervention Association for Children with Disabilities. Al Jisr plans to include these activities in their annual program.

Principle 7 Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

Principle 8 undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental

responsibility; and

Principle 9 encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Al Jisr Foundation is committed to the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct with a goal to build sustainable societies and to bridge the gap between poverty and prosperity. Al Jisr aims to ensure that all operations have minimal impact on the environment ensuring sustainability remains a core element in every project they engage in.

The Foundation expects all its employees to take an active role in its policies to promote environmental stewardship and maintain sustainable operations and practices. All staff complete training in this respect. Al Jisr aims to maintain impeccable standards to preserve natural resources and prevent pollution.

Within the office the organisation has implemented several initiatives including, sensors to ensure that lights are automatically turned off when offices are empty, as well as the installation of light-saving bulbs. The adoption of this has seen a reduction in overall utility bills. The use of 100% recyclable copier paper and double-sided printing has reduced the amount of paper wasted by 50% as the organisation moves towards being a paperless office. To eliminate single use plastics Al Jisr has adopted reusable crockery and cutlery in the kitchens. Recycle bins are provided in offices and non-confidential paper is used for composting after shredding. The energy efficiency of the IT equipment, servers and infrastructure has been updated to A+ energy-efficiency models and all outdated PC's and electronics donated or disposed of responsibly.

Outside of the corporate environment Al Jisr Foundation is committed to ensuring that the environmental impact of its events, projects and initiatives is reduced to the absolute minimum. This is done through engaging with partners who have rigid environmental policies or commit to adhering to Al Jisr's Supplier Code of Conduct, which outlines environmental expectations and undergoing a supplier self-assessment which is assessed in accordance with Al Jisr's supply

chain management framework.

Al Jisr always prioritises fair-trade produce and condemns the use of individually packaged items. The promotion of carpooling and conference and video calls are always preferential to reduce the Foundation's carbon footprint.

Al Jisr Foundation provided funding for the construction of a renal dialysis unit to improve access to health in rural areas. A Green Building competition was held to ensure the designs sustainability and environmental suitability. The design was submitted for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Level Certification and is currently awaiting approval.

Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

The Foundation is committed to ending corruption in all forms and became a signatory of the Anti-Corruption Call to Action in 2018. Al Jisr has since introduced reforms focusing on improving financial management and strengthening its internal auditing processes. Al Jisr aims to operate ethically, with integrity, and within the law at all times. No form of bribery or corruption in any of the Foundation's business dealings and relationships will be tolerated, including by a third party acting on its behalf. All employees during the onboarding process are familiarised with the anti-corruption policy and are required to sign and commit to the policy.

All suppliers, contractors and third parties are required to submit and sign the Foundation's Anti-Corruption Compliance and Due Diligence questionnaire and provide, at tender, their policies reflecting their commitment or commitment towards ending corruption. During the 2018/2019 reporting period Al Jisr provided 100% of suppliers with the Anti-Corruption Compliance and Due Diligence questionnaire and have 100% compliance. Standing orders and agreements were amended to include the document with 100% returned and committed to ending corruption.

All employees are required to read and sign the Company's policy pertaining to conflicts of interest. As per the Foundation guidelines, all employees are

to avoid any conflict between their personal interest and the interest of the Foundation in dealing with suppliers, consumers and all other organizations doing or seeking to do business with the Foundation or any subsidiaries/ associates. All employees are required to disclose and report on any possible or perceived conflict in accordance with the Foundation's policy.

A culture of transparency is promoted within the Foundation. The adoption of the transparency principles reflect Al Jisr's expectation that these principles are upheld everywhere the organisation operates:

- Operate to the highest standards of ethics and integrity
- Ensure best practice governance and dedication to the anti-corruption program
- Remain accountable to stakeholders through transparency and public reporting
- Ensure that human resources policies and procedures support the anti-corruption program
- Implement detailed policies and procedures to counter key corruption risks
- To ensure the third parties dealing with Al Jisr Foundation meet these anti-corruption standards
- Use communication and training to embed the anti-corruption program
- Provide secure and accessible advice and whistle-blowing channels
- Monitor, assess and continuously improve the implementation of the anti-corruption program
- Design and update the above policies based on the assessment of various connected factors.

Projects are audited at random to ensure compliance across all operations domestically and internationally. A whistle blowing policy has been implemented outlining the process for escalating issues that may be deemed to conflict with the Foundation's Anti-Corruption policy.

CLOSING REMARKS

Al Jisr Foundation strives to help those most in need. Remaining abreast of health, economic and social factors that influence the Foundation's overall goals and direction will remain a key area of focus nationally and internationally. Continuous improvement will remain at the forefront of the Foundation's agenda to ensure the adaptation of an endowment model that suits the Foundations unique style and is implemented in accordance with the Foundation's overarching vision, values and mission. Religious guidance is sought for specific projects to ensure that at all times Zakat funds are allocated and distributed in accordance with Quran and Sunna and the Foundation stays true to its purpose. The Foundation will adopt a growth mind set in its approach to learning and embrace future challenges as an opportunity to develop and learn. Experiences from other associations and countries will be embraced to utilize potential which would have otherwise remained untapped thus expanding the Foundation's pool of knowledge and expertise.

The 2018-2019 reporting period highlighted several key achievements for Al Jisr Foundation. Of significant note was the funding of medical equipment for hospitals across the Governates to ease the burden on the public health system, the approval to build a new renal dialysis unit at the Sur Regional Hospital to

improve the quality of patient care and the launch of the SAWI initiative. Al Jisr Foundation is proud of its pilot project that advocates for inclusion of People with Disabilities in the workplace and endeavours to continue to advocate and be a leader for inclusion locally and abroad.

2018-2019 provided the Foundation with an opportunity to strengthen and expand its public and private partnerships and broaden community awareness and outreach both nationally and internationally giving the Foundation an opportunity to reach more people in need.

Lessons learnt throughout this period will be applied to strengthening communication and information sharing with stakeholders and leveraging partnerships for data collection to further strengthen the Foundation's monitoring and evaluation processes. A focus on reforming processes for grant proposals and beneficiary applications for smoother and quicker response and transactions will also form part of Al Jisr's operational continuous improvement plan. Training and development will focus on complementing individual strengths and refine gaps in knowledge to ensure the Foundation operate as a high performing team and provides maximum benefit to the communities in which they engage.



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About This Report

This report serves as Al Jisr Foundation's first Communication on Engagement to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), which we signed in April 2018. It documents our progress against the 10 principles of the UNGC and our journey since our establishment.

About Al Jisr Foundation

Al Jisr Foundation is a Zakat fund, non-profit organization that focuses on sustainable projects in health, education, and social welfare sectors. Established on the 14th Dhu al-Hijjah 1431H/November 14th, 2010, Muscat-Sultanate of Oman, under the Ministry of Social Development rule number 127/2010, in accordance with the provisions of the NGO Law No. 14/2000. It's homepage is www.aljisrfoundation.org

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