

3D Middle East and North Africa

Enterprise
Fresh start

Tailored training

Deutsche Bank supports refugees living in Lebanon with the right tools and training for business

In 2016, Deutsche Bank's Middle East Foundation partnered with global NGO Positive Planet to launch an entrepreneurship development project for Syrian refugees in Lebanon. The project aims to provide vocational training and to develop tailor-made courses in business acumen, entrepreneurial skills, financial management and marketing thus helping Syrian refugees start their own businesses and reduce their dependence on financial aid.

Since 2011, there has been a regular influx of Syrian refugees into Lebanon. With the current registered number of Syrian refugees at 1.01 million, Lebanon is considered to be the country with the most significant socio-economic burden as a consequence of the Syrian crisis.

The estimated unemployment rate for the Lebanese population is 27%, and while there is no definitive estimate of the unemployment rate for Syrian and other refugees, prevailing estimates put the figure at above 50%.

Through providing the tools for creating small businesses, Deutsche Bank is helping

Syrians and Lebanese beneficiaries improve their income-generation capacity and financial management capabilities. Beyond helping the beneficiaries prepare for their businesses and teaching them communication and conflict resolution skills, the project aims to indirectly enhance trust and cooperation between Syrian refugees and their hosting community by integrating them together in the same training programme to help and learn from each other.

Thanks to the bank's funding, this course is being rolled out to 20 beneficiaries who will receive 30 hours of training, a business start-up kit and 20 hours of practical business exposure.

Artistic building blocks for life

Deutsche Bank's Middle East Foundation's *Made for Good* entrepreneurial programme partners with organisations that contribute to the training and professional development of underprivileged members of society all around the region.

Through a project partnership with the *Al Holailah Charity for Social Services* in



Vocational training: Syrian refugees living in Lebanon learn hairdressing skills Photograph: Positive Planet

Job seekers
Estimated unemployment rate of
Syrian refugees living in Lebanon

50%



Saudi Arabia, Deutsche Bank has had a direct impact on underprivileged women in one of Saudi Arabia's poorest Eastern provinces. The *Fine Art Studio* project is designed to encourage beneficiaries to develop their full creative potential through well-designed fine arts courses.

The project strives, through the provision of fine artistic training, to create a unique environment in which women with different abilities and experiences can feel free to imagine, create, and share their artwork. The programme empowers a community of artists to collaborate and challenge each other as they unlock their creative potential.

Furthermore, the women are encouraged to sell their artwork, creating opportunities for them to develop financial independence by building capacity for individual and collective income generating activities such as exhibitions and co-selling and gallery opportunities. ■

positiveplanet.ngo/db.com/cr/refugees

Education
Pushing boundaries

In the saddle

Therapeutic riding creates chances to achieve for young people with special needs

Our partnership with the Rashid Centre for the Disabled in the United Arab Emirates provides access to a unique form of learning for students with special needs. Therapeutic riding has been proven to help the physical, cognitive and social skills of people with disabilities. Regular visits to the Rashid School equestrian programme encourages students to push their personal boundaries.

Riding is a highly physical activity that demands balance, co-ordination, discipline and judgement. These are all essential requirements for the students to be able to function independently at home, at school and in the community. As they develop and master these skills, their confidence and self-esteem grow.

The students are also shown how to look after horses, a dimension that helps them become more comfortable in dealing with other people. Step by step, with the support of the Rashid Centre, these young people learn to live life without limits. ■

rashidc.ae



Education

Choir performance

Singing for good

ChoirFest Middle East shares the region's musical traditions

The Amaan Choir from Jordan performing on stage Photograph: Choirfest ME

Everyone is born with talent. But we don't all get the same opportunities to achieve our potential. For many young people in the Middle East, barriers such as conflict, poverty, inequality and discrimination stand in the way of what they hope to achieve in life.

Through its *Born to Be* youth engagement programme, Deutsche Bank is working to change the lives and prospects of the next generation. Because every young person deserves the chance to become who they were born to be.

For three consecutive years Deutsche Bank's Middle East Foundation has supported *ChoirFest Middle East*, which uses singing and the arts to promote harmony in the Middle East. Choirs from across the region are invited to share their musical traditions with a wider audience and by doing so, build bridges between cultures. By encouraging musical collaboration, *ChoirFest* helps to break down the barriers that create distrust among people. ■

choirfestme.com
db.com/borntobe
db.com/mea/en/content/born_to_be.htm

Harmonious
 Over 3,000 choral singers have performed at *ChoirFest Middle East* over the past four years

>3,000

In the Community

Humanitarian help

Survival

Shelter and access

Since the beginning of the conflict in Syria in March 2011, more than 4 million Syrian refugees have fled to neighbouring countries. The demographic shock of displacement in combination with decreased economic activity and spillover of the conflict, have created a complex, protracted crisis.

For two years, Deutsche Bank's Middle East Foundation has partnered with the Italian NGO Civil Volunteer Group's humanitarian programme, to provide shelter and access to potable water in informal tented settlement villages in the North Beqaa on the Lebanese/Syrian border.

More than 1,180 beneficiaries have so far received emergency weatherproofing kits, water distribution systems and water tanks along with basic hygiene training. ■

gvc-italia.org**Employee Engagement**

Hands on

Contribution

Employees get involved

An additional focus of Deutsche Bank's Middle East Foundation in 2016 was to increase volunteering rates among staff across Deutsche Bank's offices in the Middle East & North Africa. 2016 was a landmark year in this regard, with volunteering rates increasing by over 15% across the region, as projects such as the Rashid Center *Hippotherapy Programme* for disabled children in the UAE, *Water for Workers* in Dubai and the donation of 'Iftar' meals for workers fasting during Ramadan in Doha, Abu Dhabi and Dubai led to a marked increase in volunteering rates.

"We are very proud of the number of staff that contributed towards the MEF's programmes last year," said Stuart Haslam, co-chairman of the Deutsche Bank Middle East Foundation. "Last year saw over 360 volunteering hours reached across the region and we're seeing a tangible positive impact on the projects we support, not to mention the positive impact these volunteering hours have on staff themselves." ■

db.com/mea/en/content/responsibility

"It was a touching experience to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Seeing the smiles on workers' faces while we handed over meals made us appreciate what we have"

Thomas Haag
 General Manager, Deutsche Bank Abu Dhabi Branch

Commitment
 Hours contributed by corporate volunteers to Deutsche Bank's Middle East Foundation projects in 2016

360