



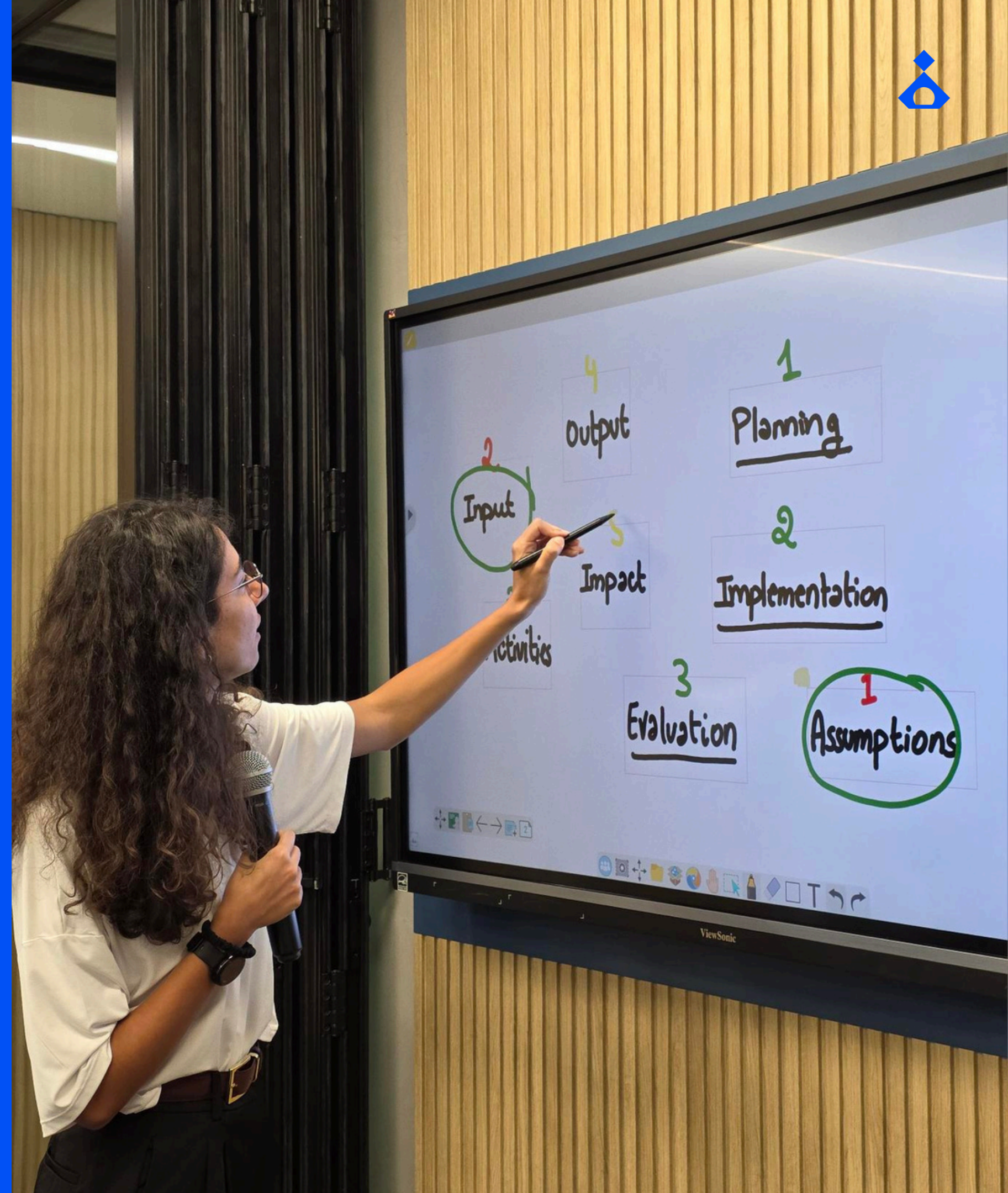
VENTURE
PHILANTHROPY

BUILDING THE IMPACT ECONOMY IN THE ARAB WORLD

2026

Mission & Model

Powering the Arab world's impact economy





The Reality We Challenge

The Arab region is the only region where poverty rates have risen over the past decade.

With a £495bn SDG financing gap projected by 2030, the need for sustainable solutions has never been more urgent.

100m

Children facing over 6 months of learning loss

25%

Youth unemployment rate

2x

Temperature increase vs. global average

50+

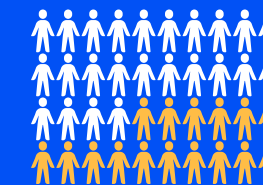
Crafts at risk of extinction

The Untapped Opportunity

Local entrepreneurs are proving that scalable solutions already exist. Strategic capital can unlock their growth and accelerate systemic change.

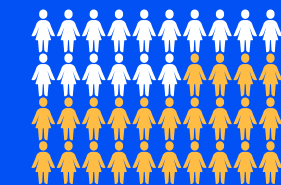
10k+

Social enterprises in the Arab region



60%

Founders under 35



35%

Founded or led by women



About **Alfanar** Venture Philanthropy

Mission

Alfanar is the Arab world’s first venture philanthropy organisation—established to fund, support, and scale high-impact social enterprises tackling the region’s most urgent challenges. We invest where it’s hardest and where it matters most, combining catalytic capital with deep, hands-on support to amplify both social impact and financial sustainability.

Vision

To build a thriving impact economy in the Arab world—where locally-led social enterprises drive inclusive growth, resilience, and long-term systemic change.

Values

Rooted Authenticity

We are firmly committed to the Arab World and believe in the amplifying power of rooted capital, expertise and ventures that align with our values and sovereignty.

Radical Disruption

We invest in the crazy, fearless, rule-breaking social entrepreneurs who challenge the status quo and seek innovative, scalable solutions to the region’s structural challenges.

Transformative Ambition

We envision creating an impact economy with social enterprises and partners delivering on an over-size purpose: leading positive, systemic social change and achieving sustainable financial impact.

Total Transparency

We follow rigorous transparency when reporting on our grantees, funds deployment and the dual focus on financial and social impact across our portfolio.



Impact To Date*

4

Countries of operation:
Egypt, Lebanon,
Jordan, Palestine

£8.6m

Funding deployed
since 2014

200+

Social enterprises
supported

465,000+

Lives directly impacted
in the region

34%

Rise in financial
sustainability,
reducing donor
dependency

33%

Rise in impact
multiplier, maximizing
the impact of each
pound invested

75%

of enterprises
create employment for
women and youth

40%

of enterprises
expanded across
borders

*Including through our sister entities Alfamar (UK) and Alfamar INC., US



The Alfanar Story

In 2004, Tariq Ben Halim founded Alfanar, the first venture philanthropy organisation in the Arab World, calling it a “risk worth taking.”

His ambition was to reshape social and economic development models in the Arab world one founder, one social enterprise, and one community at a time.

More than 20 years later, our commitment remains unwavering: invest in the Arab social entrepreneurs who are solving the most pressing challenges in their communities.

2005

Flourishing – Opening in Egypt

Opening in Cairo with 3 NGOs in STEM education, quarry workforce training & paper-making. In 2007, rebrand to Alfanar Venture Philanthropy.

2015

Focus – The Social Enterprise Model

Alfanar’s accelerator is launched with a first cohort of 30 entrepreneurs.

2020

Frenzy – Covid-19 Pandemic and the Beirut Explosion

Lebanon Emergency Relief Fund launched, raising over £750m to support 70+ social enterprises impacted by the explosion.

2024

Forward – 20 Years In, Looking Ahead

Expanded to 4 countries of operation, supported 200+ social enterprises, impacted nearly half a million lives.

2004

Foundations – A Risk Worth Taking

Arab Learning Initiative is launched in the UK as the first venture philanthropy organisation for the Arab World.

2012

Fury – Arab Uprisings

Expansion to Libya and Lebanon amidst Arab uprisings. Alfanar exits Libya in 2013 due to the precarious political and security situation.

2019

Flight – The Syrian Refugee Crisis

Opening in Jordan as 650,000 Syrians are resettling. First cohort of 50 social entrepreneurs trained.

2022

Firsts – Catalytic Funding in Palestine

First long-term grantee in Palestine, Flowless, and renewed commitment to building the impact ecosystem in Palestine.



The White Space We Address

Alfanar was created to fund and support social enterprises that are too mission-driven for commercial capital, too growth-oriented for traditional grants, and too early-stage for institutional investors.

These organisations sit in what's widely known as the “missing middle”—where innovation risks stagnation without the right kind of intervention.

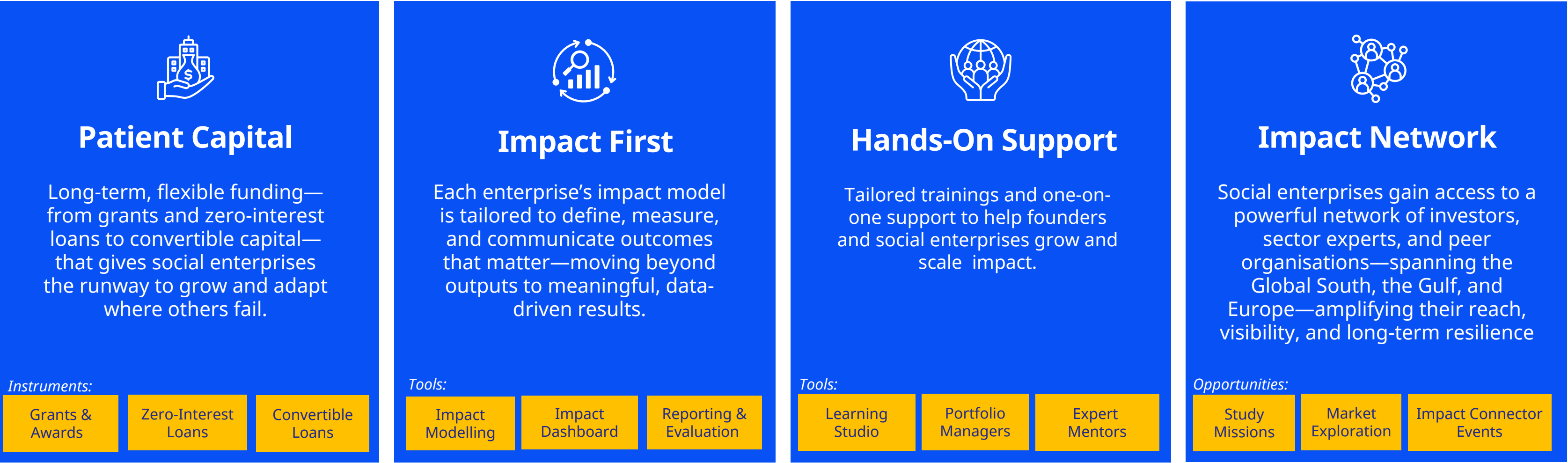
Our catalytic grantmaking helps social enterprises move along the investment continuum—with funding, capacity building, access to network and IMM support to prepare them for blended financing and investment.

	Ideation	Seed	Early	Growth	
Charities		  			
Social Enterprises	   	   	              		
Social Startups		                 			
	Grants	Catalytic Funding		Impact Investment	



Support Model

Alfanar applies the tools of private investment to social good—offering support beyond funding. We help social enterprises build viable business models that multiply every dollar of support into long-term, locally-owned impact.



← Financial Sustainability and Impact Multiplier →



Funding Themes

Alfanar's funding themes respond to the most pressing and systemic challenges in our region. Within these focus areas, we are committed to driving sustainable impact with a focus on marginalised communities—including women, youth, children, and refugees.



Learning

Education and skilling models that build critical skills at all stages to prepare learners for productive and fulfilled lives.

Digital skills

Adult upskilling

Early years

K-12 foundations



Earning

Platforms and services that bridge access to finance and employment to help underserved populations gain dignified livelihoods.

Employment platforms

Microfinance



Climate

Technologies and ventures that build scalable solutions to optimise yields, water resources and consumption waste to enhance sustainability.

Agriculture

Recycling

Water

Waste



Heritage

Creative ventures and studios that revive the region's heritage practices to create sustainable and authentic products and perspectives.

Textiles & crafts

Arts & culture

Narratives



Selection Process

Our **Portfolio Selection Framework** ensures that every social enterprise we fund is mission-aligned and equipped to deliver both measurable impact and long-term financial sustainability.

This rigorous process allows us to identify high-potential ventures capable of scaling systemic solutions in fragile and underserved communities.

It is also designed to de-risk early-stage social enterprises, while positioning them for future investment and independent growth.

IMPACT	SUSTAINABILITY	PEOPLE & GOVERNANCE
Alfanar invests in social ventures with proven impact—or disruptive potential—in addressing critical challenges, directly advancing UN SDGs 4,8,10,12. Every Alfanar venture undergoes rigorous impact mapping to ensure their model delivers scale and depth of SDG-aligned outcomes.	Alfanar invests in models built to last. Selected enterprises must demonstrate financial discipline, revenue-generation potential, and a credible path to cost recovery or scale. Alfanar supports business models that can attract follow-on capital, survive beyond grants, and adapt to evolving market realities.	Alfanar funds social founders who are mission-driven, open to support, and ready to lead through uncertainty. Governance matters too—clear roles, accountability, and transparency are key. Investing in strong leadership and effective structures ensures the capital invested supports good ideas, but also the teams that can turn them into systemic change.



Enterprise Growth Pathway

Alfanar's **Funding Cycles** are designed to de-risk and accelerate social enterprises at every stage of their journey.

To date, **over 150 enterprises** have completed our SEED cycle while **over 50 enterprises** have been funded at scale through SUSTAIN programmes.

High-potential enterprises that complete our SEED cycle are eligible to move in to the SUSTAIN catalytic grantmaking stage, after working with Alfanar to develop a comprehensive business plan that can be presented to our Investment Committee.

SEED	SUSTAIN	SCALE
Best-in-class learning modules, advice and peer-to-peer support to build sustainable foundations and skills.	Flexible financial instruments including grants, zero-interest loans and convertibles to fund operational and capital investments.	Social franchising support for mature enterprises to expand their impact and business across our footprint and beyond.



Proving the Model Works

Impact Frameworks Unlock Clarity

80% of social enterprises we support report strengthened impact measurement capabilities—a transformative shift from their previously limited frameworks—enabling truly data-driven decisions that amplify their social mission.

Support Beyond Cheque Writing

90% of social enterprises value non-financial support. Coaching, financial planning, leadership development, impact management and governance go beyond the capital we provide.

Sustainability is the Game Changer

75% of social enterprises cite increased confidence in achieving financial sustainability as a transformative result of working with Alfanar.



“It’s very easy for NGOs to become donor-driven. With Alfanar’s support, they were careful to make sure all of our activities served our core mission and provided support so we didn’t get derailed.

Through funding, technical and mentorship support, and innovation for financial sustainability – Alfanar helped us believe we could become a viable social enterprise.”

– **Zeina Saab**, Co-Founder, SE Factory



“I like working with Alfanar because I know that all the funds being channeled are being managed diligently – in a way that ensures the maximum return on investment, which for us means the maximum number of lives impacted in the most meaningful way.”

– **Nadine Okasha**, Chief Strategy & Sustainability Officer, SODIC

Funding Themes

Solving the region's toughest challenges





Learning

In fragile and under-resourced contexts, classrooms alone are not enough. Learners need skills, confidence, and pathways that prepare them for meaningful lives. Alfanar backs education and skilling models that deliver long-term impact—from early childhood to vocational training and teacher development.

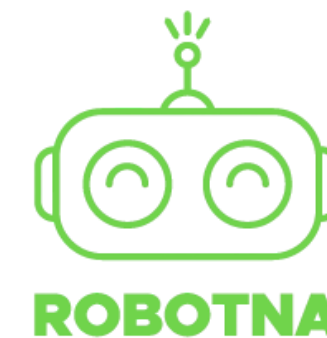
57k+

Children accessing
quality education



£2.9m

Grants Distributed



9k

Teachers trained
with relevant
pedagogical tools



1k+

Educators placed
in meaningful
jobs



This portfolio has supported thousands of learners—while increasing financial sustainability by 34% and multiplying social impact by 26%.





Earning

In a region where youth unemployment hovers above 25% and women's economic participation remains among the lowest globally, dignified work is more than a financial need—it's a pathway to agency, resilience, and social cohesion. Alfanar invests in social enterprises that create inclusive platforms, digital tools, and training-to-employment pipelines—bridging gaps in access to finance, skilling, and dignified livelihoods.

33k+

Jobs created



30k

Women
employed



2k+

Refugees placed
into meaningful
work



£3.69M

Grants Distributed

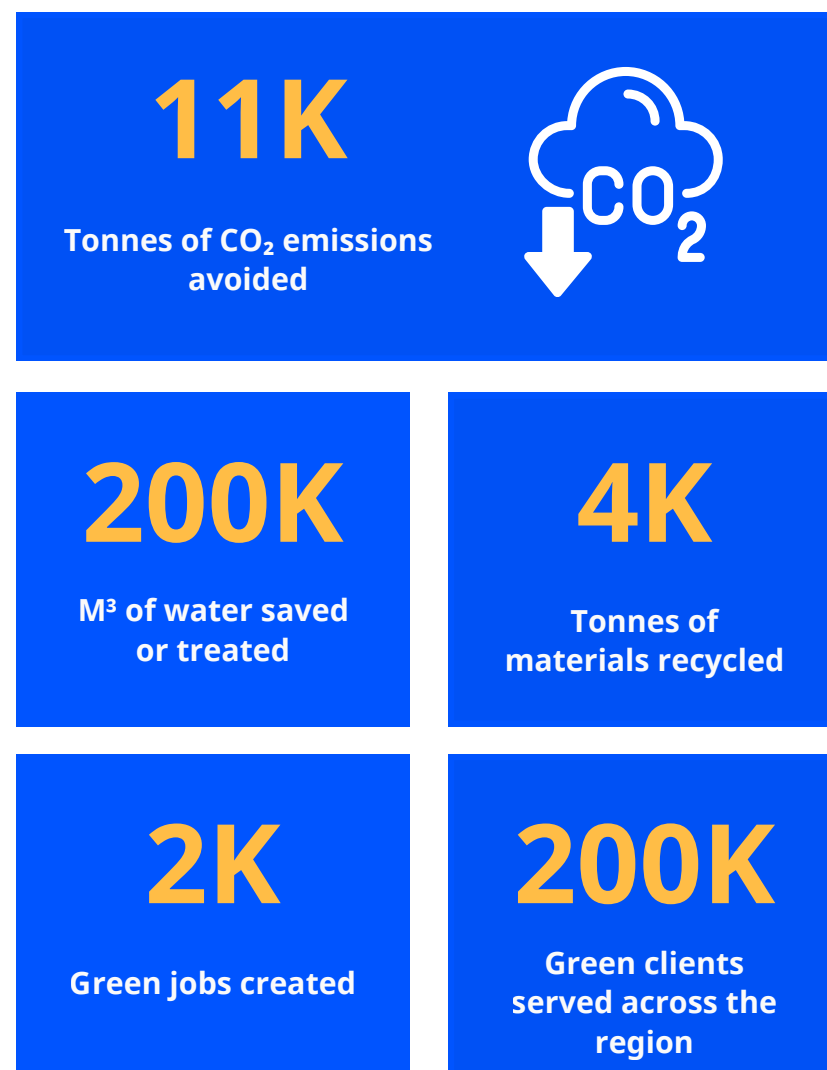
Investees achieved a 27% increase in financial sustainability and a 23% increase in impact performance—job creation can be both inclusive and investable.





Climate

The Arab region is one of the most climate-vulnerable in the world—facing rising temperatures, shrinking water reserves, and escalating environmental degradation. Yet it is also home to a rising wave of climate-smart entrepreneurs building local, sustainable solutions. Alfanar funds enterprises that are turning waste into resources, conserving water, and building circular economies, proving that sustainability can thrive even in fragile economies—and that climate action can drive both livelihoods and impact.



£779K
Grants Distributed

This portfolio has achieved extraordinary returns: a 107% increase in financial sustainability and a 94% increase in measurable social and environmental impact.





Heritage

Across the Arab region, centuries-old crafts and heritage practices are disappearing—threatened by conflict, displacement, and industrial decline. Within these traditions lies cultural memory and economic power. Alfanar invests in creative enterprises that are reviving artisanal knowledge and turning heritage into viable, dignified work—especially for women, youth, and rural communities.

1k+

Artisanal jobs
created



900

Youth / women
trained on
traditional crafts

17

Endangered
crafts preserved
and revived

53%

Average increase in
annual income for
artisan producers



£618K
Grants Distributed

This portfolio has seen a 36% increase in financial sustainability and a 12% growth in measurable impact, proving that tradition and innovation can co-exist—and thrive.



L'artisan du Liban

KUVRD

SITTI

[si'-TEE]



انفلاش
INAASH

Venture Philanthropy In Action

Solutions that scale,
impact that delivers





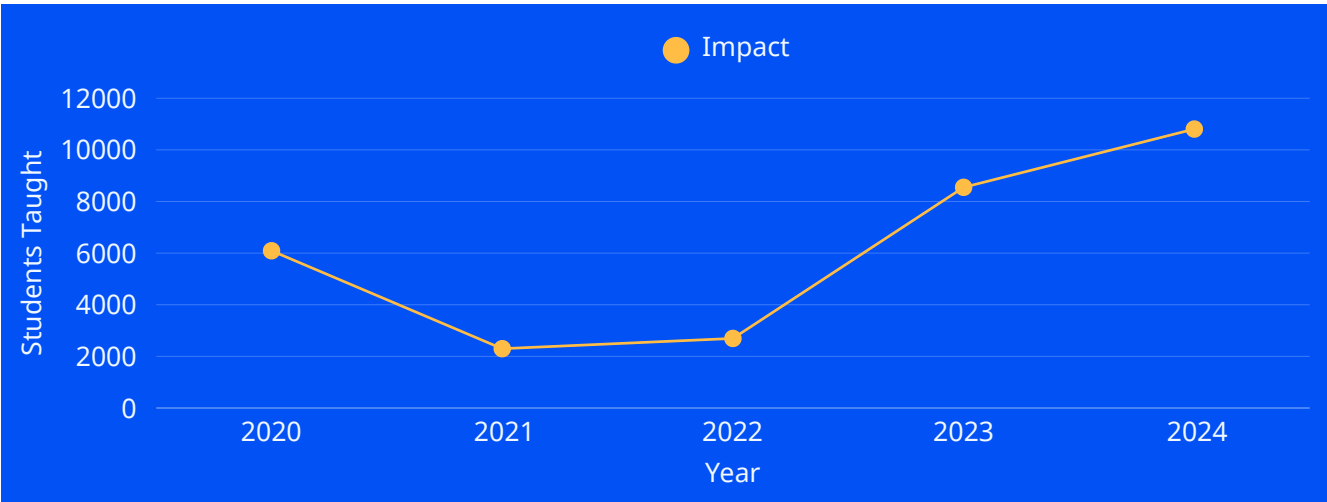
EdTech that Multiplies Impact

Learning | Lebanon & Palestine

Since 2020, Alfanar’s catalytic funding and hands-on support has enabled **Lebanese Alternative Learning** (LAL) to provide free, offline digital education to over 22,000 learners through its award-winning Tabshoura platform. Results show a 15% improvement in student performance and 80% stronger classroom outcomes.

Beyond funding, Alfanar helped LAL strengthen its business model, scale its revenue-generating ConsultEd Solutions, and refine its theory of change. With official approval from Lebanon’s Ministry of Education to integrate Tabshoura into the national curriculum, LAL is expanding to new markets.

With support from Drosos, we are now working with LAL, Alnayzak and Kamkalima to bring EdTech solutions to Palestine—broadening access to quality education for children whose schooling has been disrupted. This collaboration demonstrates how venture philanthropy unlocks not only funding, but also innovation and partnerships that multiply impact where it is needed most.



*Financial sustainability more than doubled from 2020
*MoU signed with Ministry of Education in 2022, with impact continuing to grow at 26% YoY in 2024



Building Futures through STEM

Learning & Earning | Jordan

Robotna participated in Alfanar's SEED cycle in 2019 and by 2024, secured a place in our SUSTAIN portfolio—reflecting its potential to transform education and economic opportunity for underserved youth.

Alfanar's flexible funding and strategic support have strengthened Robotna's impact measurement, reporting, network access, scalability and credibility.

With our support, Robotna developed its long-term business plan that will guide it for the coming three years in its goal of providing equitable access to quality STEM education and opportunities to marginalised youth.

We are also working to strengthen the Robotna+ programme, which provides graduates with intensive training and places them into jobs.



"Alfanar's investment represents a transformative milestone for Robotna, fuelling our next phase of growth and innovation, and setting the stage for unprecedented expansion and impact."

– Jaser Alharasees, Robotna CEO



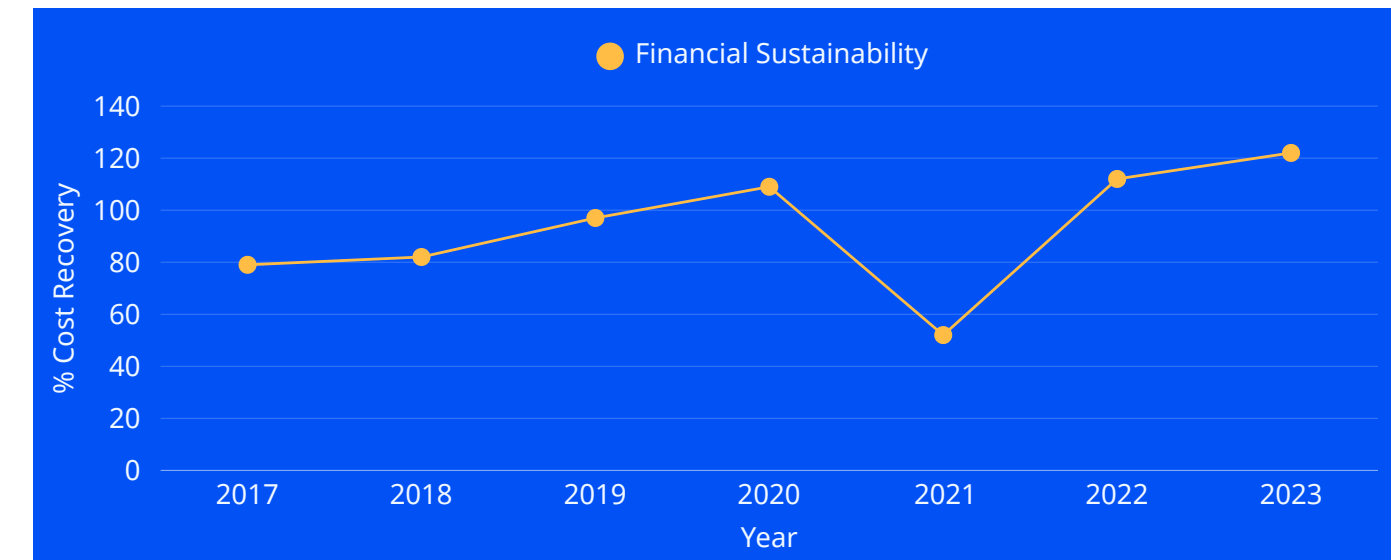
Heritage as Economic Opportunity

Heritage | Lebanon

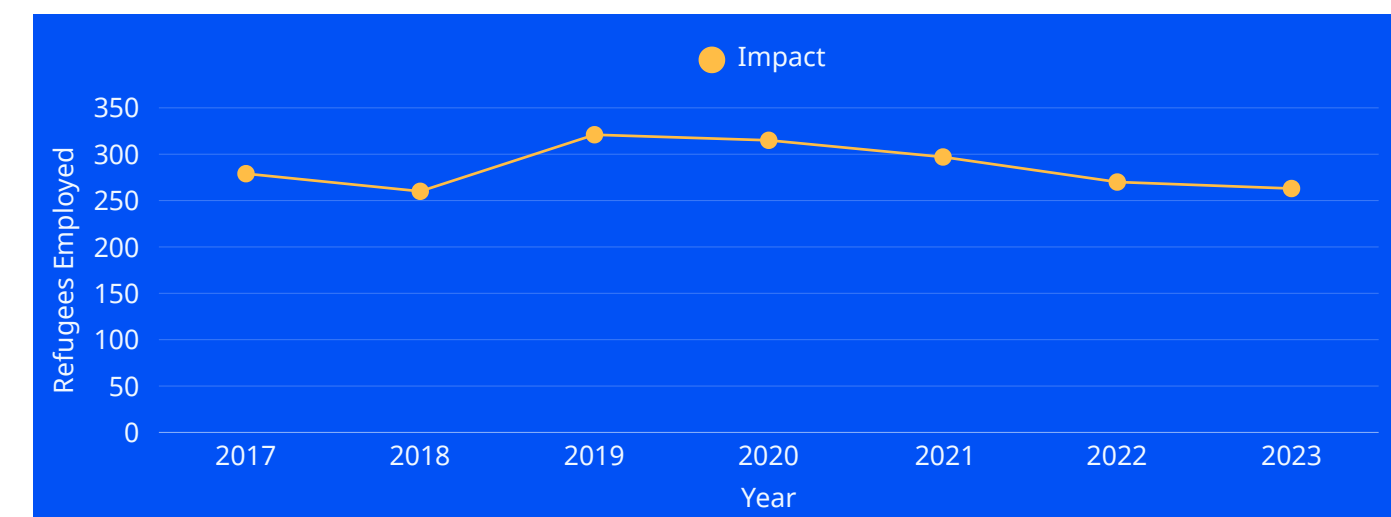
From 2015 to 2023, Alfanar's catalytic funding and hands-on support enabled **Inaash Association** to preserve Palestinian heritage while creating livelihoods for refugee women in Lebanon. To date, Inaash has engaged more than 8,000 women artisans whose hand-embroidered abayas, shawls, jackets, and home décor have reached local and international markets, including showcases at the British Museum and the Smithsonian.

Alfanar provided catalytic funding and strategic support to help Inaash scale its operations and enhance its sustainability. While in our portfolio, Inaash expanded its reach, doubling the number of refugee camps it operated in and increased its impact by 70%, engaging 477 female artisans.

Alfanar's support facilitated leadership transitions, the establishment of online sales channels, and the development of international shipping capabilities. As a result, Inaash achieved financial break-even, ensuring the continuity of its mission to empower refugee women through cultural heritage.



*Financial sustainability dipped in 2021 due to the Beirut Port Explosion and subsequent economic collapse, but returned to over +100% cost recovery the following year with our support





Scaling Water-Tech Across Borders

Climate | Palestine

Flowless joined Alfano's SUSTAIN portfolio in 2023 to accelerate its journey to a globally scalable water-tech solution. Our support builds on BuildPalestine's foundational work in developing Palestinian social enterprises, demonstrating how strategic ecosystem coordination creates pipeline opportunities.

By facilitating critical connections with agriculture cooperatives, refining impact measurement systems, and strengthening operations, we have helped Flowless save 237,000 m³ of water in Year 1 (enough to supply 1,487 households annually and generate £142K+ in client savings through reduced water/energy costs. Flowless has also secured new partnerships to optimise utility data systems, including GoSoft in Kenya and Alshyoukh Municipality in Palestine.

This transition from local pilot to cross-border solution exemplifies Alfano's approach to identifying high-potential ventures and equipping them for systemic impact.



"I used to pay KES50 per day for water but now I am able to save this and use it to buy food for my family instead because I can drink water from the water point"

– Community member in Nairobi, Kenya



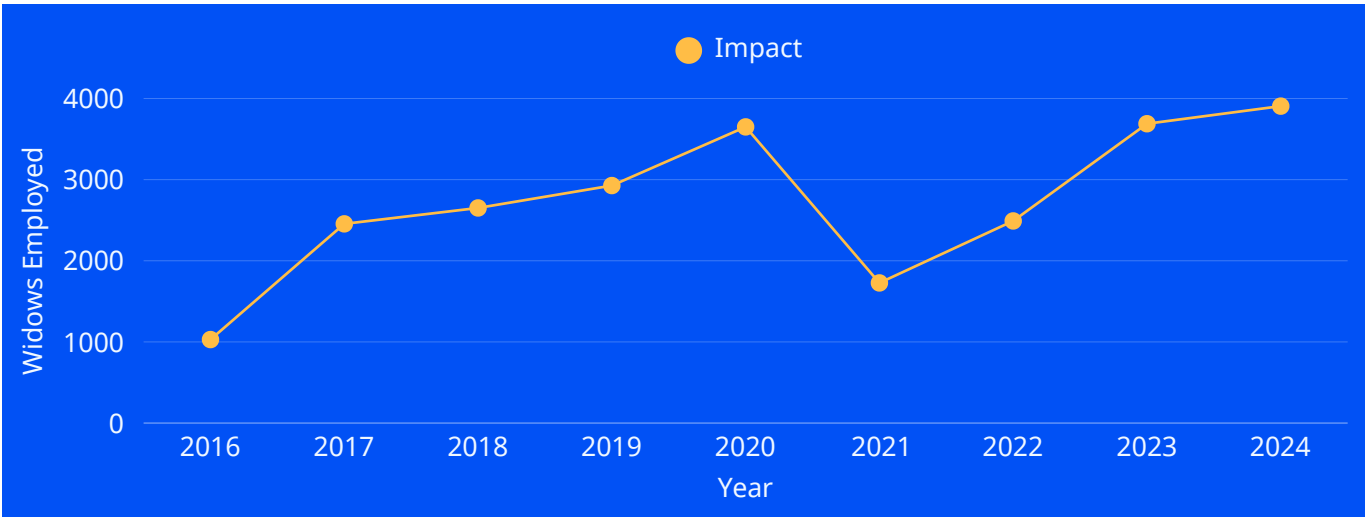
Income-Generation for Widows

Earning | Egypt

In 2012, Alfamar partnered with **Future Eve Foundation** to launch the Amal Project for Women's Empowerment, designed to equip widows with vocational and financial literacy training, microloans, and project support to establish and grow their own businesses. The programme also introduced widows' saving and loans associations (WISALAs), enabling women to access capital, build credit, and provide for their families.

Alfamar's support began with a pilot in three villages in Minya, reaching 250 widows. Beyond grant funding, we provided training for Future Eve's staff on monitoring and evaluation and brought in a financial consultant to strengthen the project's design.

From these early steps, the Amal Project has grown to reach over 23,000 widows across 108 villages. Today, Alfamar continues working with Future Eve to scale this proven model into new geographies.



Support

Back bold solutions that
disrupt systems, transform
lives, and scale impact



Together, we can power the Arab World's impact economy.



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