



UNHCR Global Refugee Forum Briefing

Excellencies, Honorable Chair, UNHCR, and esteemed colleagues:

Our programs, “Colors of Kindness” and “We Are in This Together” have not only fulfilled our 3 pledges to prioritize psychosocial support and strengthen the capacity of teachers and caregivers, but have exceeded our original goal by 5 times. We are sincerely grateful to the Global Refugee Forum platform for fostering meaningful collaboration to provide inclusive educational opportunities to the most vulnerable children.

Since the onset of COVID, our team at Amal Alliance has worked tirelessly to mitigate the long term psychosocial damages to children's education, bridging the learning gap through holistic and innovative programming. Seeing that this complex issue required an equally comprehensive response, we spearheaded a COVID-19 Emergency Response Consortium, which included Qatar Foundation International, Karanga, Salzburg Global Seminar, and Learning in Times of Crisis. Combining our strengths and expertise, the consortium produced “We Are in This Together,” a podcast series that supports the well-being of caregivers and their children through practical activities and coping mechanisms during this difficult time. Available in four languages thanks to the refugee translators of NaTakallum, the podcast was distributed across our local partners and 17 global platforms, whose networks comprise over 543 organizations, reaching an estimated 160,000 beneficiaries.

Given our innovative approach, Amal Alliance was selected as a finalist for UNHCR’s Humanitarian Education Accelerator to create an education in emergencies prototype. “Colors of Kindness,” a hybrid approach to classroom instruction during and post-pandemic is designed to help children grow their social and emotional competencies, utilizing a combination of audio instruction and interactive digital materials available as Open Educational Resources on an offline Learning Management System. The pilot, which is scheduled to conclude later this month in Bangladesh, includes a cohort of Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar, as well as disadvantaged children of the host community.

In addition, through a collaborative effort with Education Above All, we contributed a home-based learning project to their Internet-Free Education Resource Bank, reaching another 110,000 children across the globe.

Although this global health crisis has been challenging, it presented us with a unique opportunity to reimagine learning, which can take place anywhere at any time. Amal Alliance

understands that re-engaging the learner post-COVID will require a coordinated, cross-sectoral approach. As our pilot moves into the scaling phase, we welcome strategic partnerships for funding and implementation support. We strongly believe that “Colors of Kindness” will complement the efforts of other actors and provide the foundational skills all children need to be resilient, reach their full potential, and flourish.

Thank you.