

# Mustaqbali

*For the children  
of Gaza*



FOUNDED BY  
**THE  
ABRAAJ  
GROUP**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
 **التعاون  
Taawon**





Abdul Aziz, a participant in the program's supportive educational activities for school students

## From relief work to development

The 2008/09 aggression on Gaza left behind many orphaned children and young people. Because of this great tragedy, the Abraaj Group and Taawon launched the Mustaqbali program, which aims to provide a more promising future for these children. Mustaqbali is the first program of its kind, as it adopts a comprehensive endowment for their care by responding to the diverse needs of this marginalized group.

The Mustaqbali program embraces an integrated approach based on strong standards and foundations. It is designed to respond directly to the needs of



Malak, during the closing ceremony of the Mustaqbali summer activities that helped her develop and improve her talent

Palestinian families who have lost their main breadwinner, been forced to evacuate their homes and communities, and subjected to political repression and violence. The daily tragedy of these children is not only due to the fact that they live in one of the most densely populated regions of the world but also because they experience continuous suffering.

The Mustaqbali program follows the development of each child year on year. The program responds on a continuous basis to the children's educational, psychological, social, health and professional needs, from kindergarten up to the age of 22 years.

The program is concerned with the care of these children and young people so that they can maintain their dignity and become positive members of their families, communities and their country.



Taking part in a community initiative to beautify Gaza's seaport, one of the program's extra-curricular activities

# From relief work to development

**Vision:** To empower children and young people affected by the war, so they can live a decent life and pursue their aspirations and hopes, and contribute to the long-term development of the Gaza Strip.

**Program Goals:** To provide orphaned children with their legitimate rights to health care, education, services, recreation, and protection against ill-treatment and exploitation.

To provide young people in the program with the resources, education and skills necessary to enable them to be self-reliant and enter the labor market.



Vocational training students learning automobile maintenance and mechanics as part of the Mustaqbali program at the College of Applied Sciences in Gaza



Narmeen and Raoua, in a session of Arabic studies in Mustaqbali's educational support activities

# Mustaqbali fields of work

Three strategic interventions were identified to achieve the objectives of the program:

## Educational services

The Mustaqbali program offers opportunities at all stages of education, from kindergarten and school to university and vocational training. Opportunities include:

- Promoting children's access to education (kindergarten, school, college and university) by providing them with the necessary requirements such as fees, uniforms, books, stationery and transportation, if and when required.
- Providing extra-curricular activities for orphans, so they can learn more about their culture and advance their talents.



A group of students from the Mustaqbali program during a trip to historic areas in the Gaza Strip.



A speech therapist helps a child with her pronunciation

- Providing special training programs for the young, to help develop their abilities and enable them to enter the labor market after they graduate.

**Economic Empowerment and Professional and Career Development** through the provision of vocational training opportunities, on-the-job training, and small income-generating projects for orphans and their mothers.

#### **Health care services**

Improving physical health through medical examinations, treatment and operations, rehabilitation services for the disabled, and improving the nutritional status of the children in the program by providing them with health awareness and food, psychological and social support services.

Mustaqbali's  
achievements  
over the last  
seven years:



590

children enrolled in  
kindergarten



1560

children attended  
school



About

370

students enrolled in  
university



148

youth graduated  
from university



120

professionally trained  
academic graduates



# 138

professional graduates, academics and mothers have benefited from on-the-job training opportunities



# 83

small projects were established and have contributed to supporting the families of the orphans



# 150

Physical and psychological rehabilitation and assistance services have been provided for 150 orphaned children with various disabilities, including 10 with mental and physical disabilities who have been enrolled in special education programs to integrate them into their communities and develop their mental capabilities



More than

# 1000

children with various health problems have received healthcare services such as medical examinations, medicine and treatments, and have undergone surgical procedures for recovery



More than

# 400

families with 1,500 orphaned children and young people have been the beneficiaries of psychological support services



A group of students from the Mustaqbali program during their visit to the faculty of dentistry in Gaza on one of the program's educational trips

# Quotations

**Nour**, a Mustaqbali beneficiary, has been involved in the program for seven years, and was not aware initially that she had a talent for drawing. The program has helped her develop her skills, and last year Nour showed several of her wonderful drawings in an exhibition in Gaza City.

This year, Nour graduated with a high school diploma, and is now majoring in architecture at university. She says: “I do not have enough words to express my gratitude for the Mustaqbali program, which supported me and my siblings during our journey growing up and attending school. The program continued to support me until I got to the university stage.” She added that she has hopes of becoming an inspirational architect like Zaha Hadid.





## Mohammad, 9 years

Some things in this world, even though they are small, can have a huge impact. The Mustaqbali program gave Muhammad the education and the support that he needs to become a smarter, motivated and more brilliant person in the near future.

Mohammed's journey began with the Mustaqbali program when he was two years old. At first, the program supported him in terms of his health and provided him with fortified milk, in addition to educating his mother about different health aspects and providing her with psychological support. When he was five, he was enrolled in kindergarten and is now in the fourth grade. The program provides him with the necessary support for his particular health needs. Initially,

for example, Mohammed had some problems integrating with the other children and the teachers, but he is being given help, encouragement and motivation to play in groups. Mustaqbali also provides him with supportive learning sessions and extra circular activities.

His mother says: “Mohammed’s mental and physical health has been improving, a direct result of the support he has received through the Mustaqbali program. I am happy to watch him grow and become healthier and more confident. I hope the program will continue its support until he graduates.”

## Mustaqbali

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