



EDSEED

A N N U A L R E P O R T

2018

CONNECTING DONORS, STUDENTS, AND EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS TO FUND THE FUTURE OF YOUTH IMPACTED BY
CONFLICT AROUND THE WORLD

Contents

Table of Contents

Message From the Board	03
2018 Key Successes	06
Notable Achievements	07
Sponsors	08
2018 in Review	09
Students	10
Events	11
Volunteers	13
11.Operations	14
12.Support	14
13. Media mention	14
2019 Outlook	15
14. Special Thanks	16
15. Honorable mentions	16

edSeed is a program under the Very Important Projects Fund (VIP.fund)...
a youth-focused venture philanthropy fund, established in 2015 as a USA 501c(3) non-profit organization.
We invest in programs and startups supporting youth impacted by conflict; promoting education and using innovation in the digital world to reach students in conflict zones globally.
Our goal is youth empowerment and employment.
Contributions to edSeed are tax deductible.



Message From the Board



Rama Chakaki

2018 was the first year we run a full cycle of student crowdfunding campaigns; the support of donors like Ms. Muna Al Gurg, engaged board members like Rasha and Mai enabled us to have a focused strategy and sufficient student funding to seed campaigns. Our dedicated tech volunteers like Anas and Ahmed and other volunteers who supported our students like Reem, Soumaya, Tala and Aya working side by side with a talented US-based social media agency amplified our campaigns, helping us reach donors beyond our immediate circles.

In the course of the year we ran five crowdfunding training cycles, and 13 student campaigns.

With the support of USCC Communication 30 students and their dedicated professor Gary Wexler, we told stories that resonated with US audiences.

And with the support of Columbia University Capstone students who built a holiday campaign strategy, we launched our first Holiday season campaign.

To promote edSeed among donors worldwide, I spoke at events in Dubai, Amman, Beirut, Brussels, Paris, Marseille, Milan, New Jersey, New York, Los Angeles, Washington DC, San Francisco, and Boulder hosted by our network partners, Common, UARRM, MITEF, DNA, and others.

Our work would be incomplete without collaboration with scholarship foundations who help us identify students in need of our support and oversee the distribution of funds. We are grateful for Unite Lebanon Youth Project for their collaboration and look forward to working with others in the field.



Message From the Board

Rasha Ajalyaqeen



I established the Ammar Al-Shami fund in April 2017 soon after my son's death. In their messages, Ammar's friends have repeatedly told me "their lives were better for having him in it".

I wanted an assurance that he somehow continues to be a force for good after he left us, even if it were in the lives of those he never knew.

I first thought that the fund would be a one-time event. Slowly and surely family and friends generously donated on and off line. I was lucky enough to host two events including a cook-a-thon fundraiser that brought 4,650.00\$.

Ammar's fund is need based, loosely defined in the Syrian context by a vetted Syrian student stranded by conflict pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree, determined to make the best of his/her circumstances.

The fund had three Syrian beneficiaries in 2018.

Adel Yafi, a data analytics major, reached his goal through a scholarship that covered summer tuition fees at WSU. edSeed also lobbied his school to favorably consider his application for in-State tuition (for which he qualified) when Adel launched a very successful crowd-funding campaign on our platform through which he managed to raise his fall (in-State) tuition. Next, the fund supported Rami Farhan, a Syrian student in Lebanon and the first among 12 siblings to get a college degree. Rami got a scholarship from the Lebanese International University but needed to improve his English language skills to graduate and resolve legal residency status issues in Lebanon.

Sami Ismat was the third beneficiary, who is a graduate student at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

I intend to continue to contribute to Sami's campaign in 2019.

I feel lucky to have had Rama's support and energy behind this endeavor

I wish to thank my family and friends, and Ammar's friends as well as strangers who believed in the mission of Ammar's fund and generously donated.

I am a strong believer in paying it forward. My gratitude knows no bounds.



Message From the Board

Mai Barazi



In 2018, the Barazi Fund proudly welcomed its first exceptional student Maher Fatouh. He is a wonderful young man who, despite losing his eyesight, has his mindset for the stars.

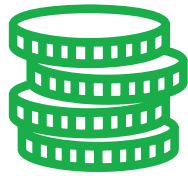
The 2019 Barazi Fund with the help of our friends and supporters, aims to invest in more students with exceptional talents and determination.

Having worked as a humanitarian expert on refugees for the past fifteen years, I have a good understanding on human rights and their capacities.

My parents Esteban and Wajih Barazi believed that education is a great way to preserve a person's pride and secure her/his fortune. Their words inspired me to establish the Barazi Fund which emulates my parent's vision while also advocating for the human right to education. The fund will give priority to students with special needs that have experienced extreme hardships.

The Barazi Fund will become a tool that will help them open the door for a new career and a second chance.

2018 Key Successes



\$ 203 ,913

Raised



7

Partially Funded Students



11

Full Funded Students

Notable Achievements

Month	2017	2018
January	Kicked off pilot app development.	Kicked off app and web design and tech upgrade.
February	Began work with Jusoor and ULYP.	Participated in the Souk.LB Social Business Accelerator.
March	Built student training modules.	Presented in Dubai, Beirut, and Milan.
April	Joined MIT SOLVE.	Received a generous donation from Ms. Muna ALGurg.
May	Received 1 st corporate sponsorship from Novus Aviation.	Presented in New Jersey, USA at the University Alliance for Refugees and At Risk Migrants (UARRM).
June	Ran the first pilot training program.	Presentation, presented at university of Southern California.
July	The funded 1st student on the App.	Kicked off holiday campaign.
August	Joined the DUhatch accelerator at Duke University and received three months support from a team of outstanding master's of Business Administration students and mentors.	Columbia Capstone Presentation, Received the support of a master's degree communication students in creating a marketing strategy.
September	Initiated first training.	Launched peer to peer fundraising on Ammar Al Shami fund.
October	Ran first giving Tuesday campaign.	Ran second giving Tuesday campaign.
November	Ran first Giving Tuesday campaign	Presented edSeed at the Techfugees Summit in Paris, received support services in-kind from a range of technology solution providers and was featured in a TechCrunch article.
December	Launched our website in Beta enabling donors to donate online as well as through the edSeed mobile application.	Launched the Wajih and Estibar Barazi fund, and began funding the first student. Presented to Project Turquoise.

Supporters



British Embassy
Beirut



NOVUS
AVIATION
CAPITAL



Supporters

- Arageek
- Novus Aviation
- oh.guru
- VIP.fund
- SOUK.LB
- British Council

Donors



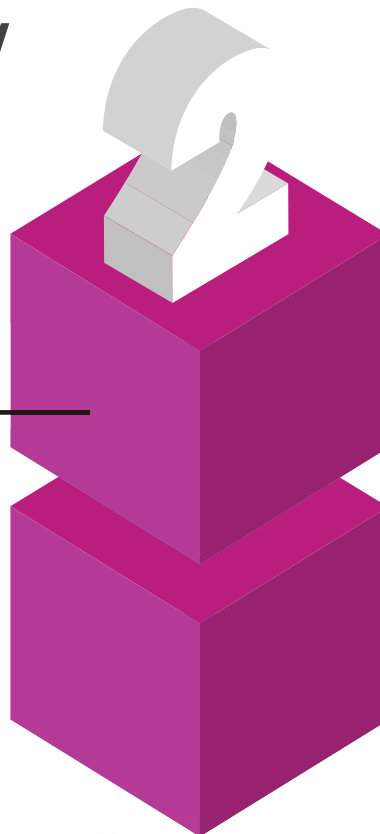
Donors

- Ammar Al-Shami Fund
- Muna Al Gurg
- Tawfik Chamaa
- Noura Alturki
- Rima Zahran
- Kamal Shehada
- Rasha shehada
- Kristin Spindler
- Estibar & Wajih Barazi Fund
- Arageek

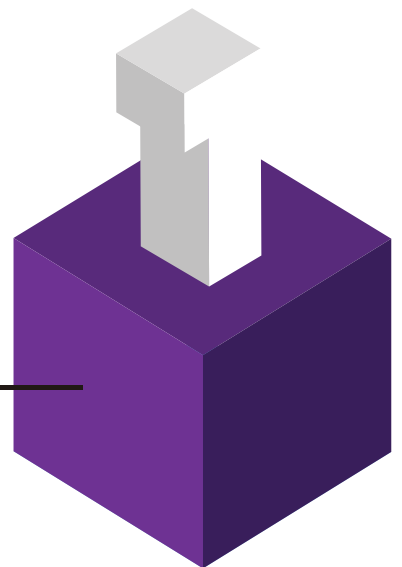


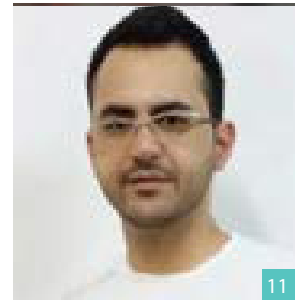
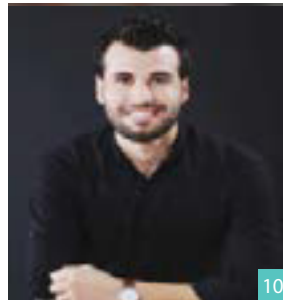
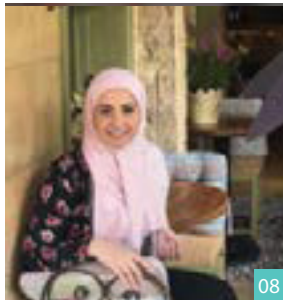
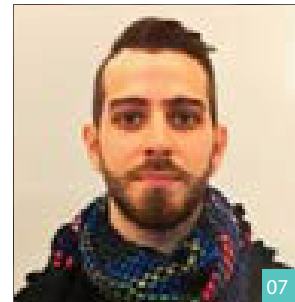
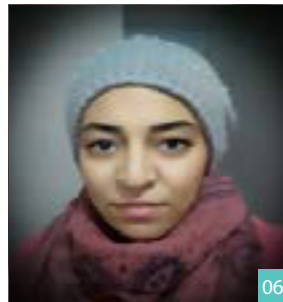
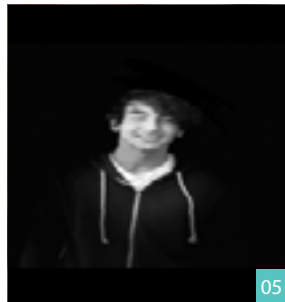
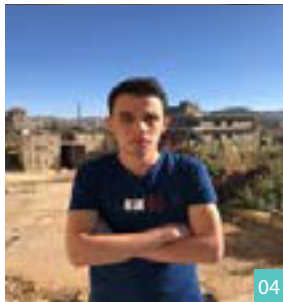
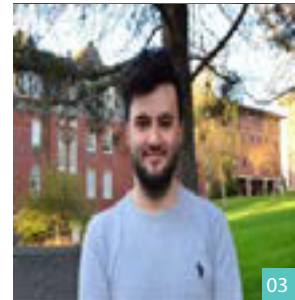
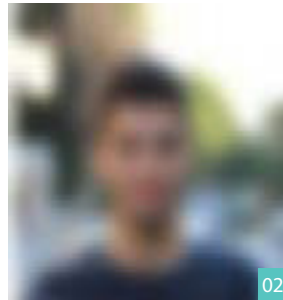
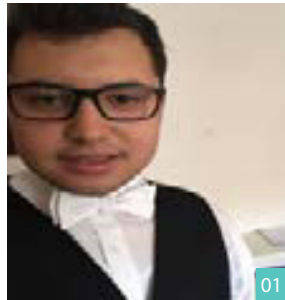
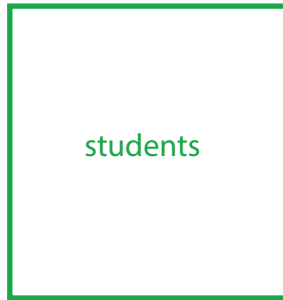
Year In Review

19 Students Received training



238 Students Applied to edSeed





01
Mahmoud Alkhatib

02
Moawiya Hajji

03
Adel Al-Yafi

04
Maher Fattouh

05
Jad Alkhattib

06
Hanan Sarhan

07
Sami Ismat

08
Samar Al-Shayeb

09
Rania Attiyeh

10
Rami Farhan

11
Nawar Al-Hamwi



Events

Twitter - Communication Education for refugees
Los Angeles - USA

edSeed presentation Syrian Women in Business
Dubai - UAE

USC - Final Presentations,
Los Angeles - USA

UARRM - University Alliance for refugees
and at risk migrants
New Jersey - USA

Women on the Front Lines
Beirut - Lebanon

EIP - European Institute for Peace pre
sentation to the European Union Envoys
to Syria

Columbia University Capstone Project Pitch
New York - USA

DNA Diaspora Network Alliance
Milan - Italy

Project Turquoise
Washington DC - USA

Common UnSummit
Boulder Colorado - USA

TechFugees
Paris - France



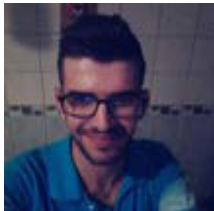
Volunteers

Nitisha Vishwanath
(Program Coordinator)



Aya Hoteit
(SOUK.LB Project Coordinator)

Ahmed AbuAmer
(Web Development)



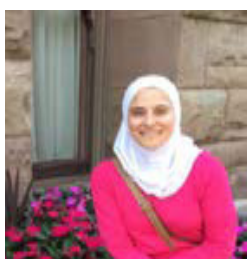
Anas Bakro
(Web Development)

Capstone Team
(Columbia University)



Soumaya Difallah
(Community Onboarding)

Tala Odeh
(Marketing & Communication)



Reem Ghazzi
(Student coordinator)



Operations

- Social Media Engagement
- Tech platform development
- Google Adwords



Support

- Columbia Capstone Students
- USC Communication Students
- Wharton Business School Accelerator



Media Mentions

- TechCrunch
- UARRM Newsletter
- Medium Article

2019 Outlook



Launch one more dedicated fund

Improve web user experience and application functionality to scale and speed up student onboarding



USA Events



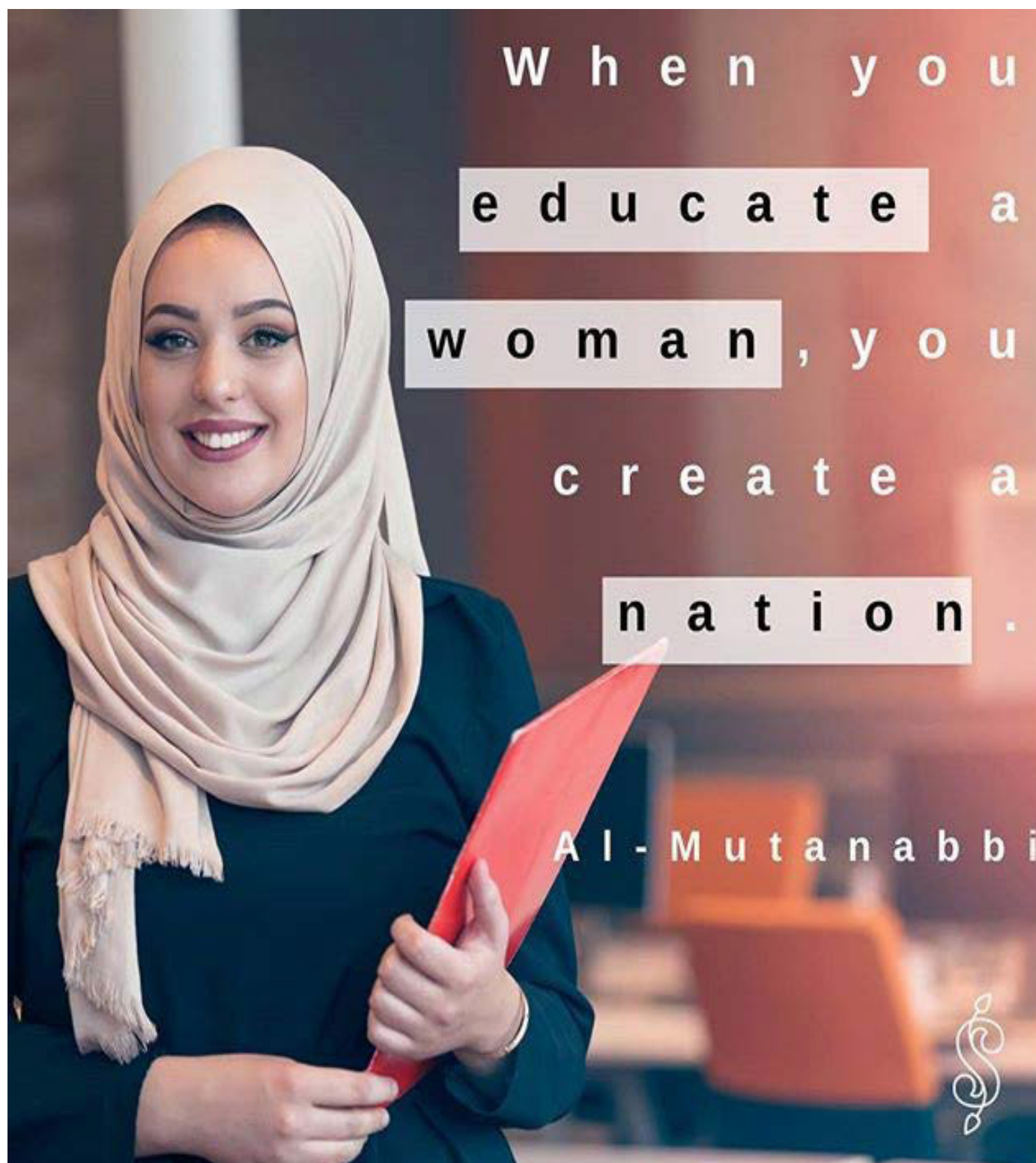


Special Thanks

To our dedicated volunteers from all around the world who work with passion and professionalism to run edSeed

Honorable mentions

In 2018 the Ammar Al Shami fund was established. The fund keeps Ammar's legacy alive by spreading his enthusiasm for learning and nature to less fortunate youth in conflict zones edSeed extends great thanks and appreciation for Rasha Ajalyakeen, Salma, Amin and Ammar's friends and family for their generous donations and ongoing support





FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED, PLEASE CONTACT US ON:

grow@edSeed.me | www.edSeed.me

edseed.me | [/educationSeed/](https://educationSeed/) | [@edseedme](https://www.instagram.com/edseedme)