



VENTURE
PHILANTHROPY

Venture Philanthropy in the MENA Region



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

The region is dynamic, and is home to young, tech-savvy generations.

The aim is to move away from aid dependency to sustainable resilience.

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



Impact Investing Vs. Venture Philanthropy

	Impact Investing	Venture Philanthropy
Primary Objective	Measurable social/environmental impact alongside financial returns	Maximize social impact , with financial sustainability as an enabler
Financial Instrument	Commercial, concessional, or blended investment capital	Philanthropic or catalytic capital (grants, recoverable grants, patient capital)
Risk Appetite	Moderate ; seeks investible, scalable, revenue-generating models	High ; willing to fund early-stage, unproven, or high-risk models
Strategy	Primarily financial oversight with impact reporting - scale and exit	Hands-on, long-term support (governance, strategy, capacity building) - financial sustainability and impact
Focus	Strategic guidance	Hands on capacity building

Venture philanthropy de-risks and builds the pipeline; Impact investing scales what works.



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.

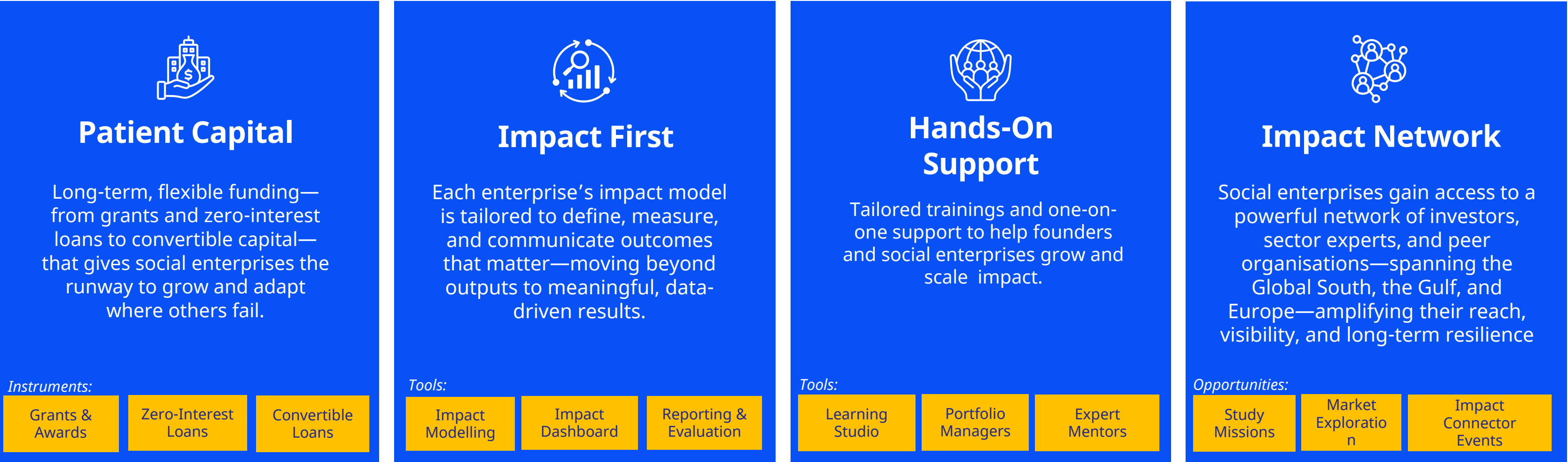
Total Transparency

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



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** —————→



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

Case Studies In the MENA Region



Case Studies from the Region



Jordan

Saudi Arabia

Egypt

Tunisia

Ecosystem Maturity

Emerging, fragmented; strong grassroots activity but limited scale

Rapidly growing, state-driven; concentrated in urban/mega projects

Large-scale and active ecosystem with uneven quality

Moderately developed but fragile, especially outside urban centers

Legal Status

No dedicated SE/GE legal status; register as NGO, company, or cooperative

No dedicated law; informal recognition through programs

No dedicated SE/GE law; operates under NGO, MSME, and environmental laws

Dedicated SE law (SSE Law 2020) defining SEs and profit reinvestment

Policy Alignment

National strategies mention entrepreneurship but lack SE/GE specificity

Strong alignment with Vision 2030, NTP, Saudi Green Initiative

Strong alignment with Egypt Vision 2030 and climate strategies

Clear policy intent via SSE Law and Green Economy Strategy

A2F

Significant financing gaps; BSOs face funding constraints

Grants, subsidies, green bonds, CSR capital, procurement access

Large public funds, green bonds, procurement quotas for MSMEs

Tax exemptions, public grants, subsidized loans

Accreditation

No Accreditation or Labelling

Informal accreditation (e.g., Monsha'at) linked to benefits

Informal recognition via government and donor programs

National labelling scheme planned (2026)

Inclusion & Reach

Limited reach to refugees and rural communities

Resource-rich but urban and large-scale focused

Strong youth/women focus; rural gaps persist

Strong inclusion intent; rural access remains weak



Best Practices to take into Consideration

Jordan

Impact Jordan
Sustainability
Reporting (ASE)
Impact Offices
across ministries

KSA

Adopt a vision-
driven strategy
Leverage
accreditation
programs

Egypt

Implement robust
financial tools,
with digital
platforms
Reserve
procurement
quotas

Tunisia

Enact pioneering
laws
Target
youth/women via
projects
Pilot labelling
schemes
Use networks

Cross-Country

Foster multi-
stakeholder
ecosystems for
capacity building
Use performance-
based KPIs
Digitize processes

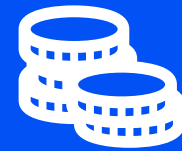
Attracting Impact Investment to the MENA Region



Attracting Impact Investment



**Build a Strong Policy
& Regulatory
Environment**



**Establish More
Blended-Finance
Mechanisms**



**Strengthen the
Impact Startup
Ecosystem**



**Improve Access to
Reliable Impact
Data**



**Create Regional
Impact Investment
Platforms**



**Deepen
Collaboration with
DFIs and Global
Climate Funds**



**Develop Human
Capital in Impact
Measurement**

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



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