

# The MSFF 10th Anniversary Impact Report

At the Mohamed S. Farsi Foundation, we envision  
a world of equal opportunity and prosperity.



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Dedication to  
Dr. Mohamed S. Farsi



This report is dedicated to the life, work and values of Dr. Mohamed S. Farsi, after whom the foundation is named. Through his remarkable spirit he embodies the mission and the philosophy of the MSFF.

Dr. Farsi was born in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Upon completion of his undergraduate studies in Alexandria, he returned to Jeddah and in 1972 was appointed Mayor. Under his leadership, Jeddah experienced spectacular and unprecedented growth while still preserving its beautiful historic centre.

As a collector of Islamic and Western art, Dr. Farsi’s vision as a city planner was to integrate important contemporary art into public spaces. He believed these sculptures would enrich the lives of the inhabitants and reflect the ongoing cultural significance of the city, both globally and within the Kingdom. At the time when he stepped down from public office in 1986, Jeddah boasted over 400 pieces of public art, and in 2010, Dr. Farsi was appointed a Patron of the Arts for the Middle East.

Dr. Farsi, aware of his many advantages and opportunities, committed his life to giving back. He is a visionary philanthropist and role model who inspired the creation of the MSFF. It is in his spirit that we continue to strive for a world of equal opportunity and prosperity.

## Letter from Founder & Chairman, Hani Farsi

Dear All,

I am proud to chair the Mohamed S. Farsi Foundation (MSFF) as we celebrate 10 years of supporting and empowering people and communities across the world. Looking back, it's somewhat breathtaking to grasp the full impact of what we and our partners have achieved. I am delighted to commemorate this milestone with a report acknowledging their extraordinary work.

The MSFF is named after my father, Dr. Mohamed S. Farsi. I was brought up in a house where, if my father read about a train crash in the newspaper, he would immediately find the names of every family who suffered the loss of a loved one and ensure they would be properly cared for. Very few people knew of this, and I'm able to look back with admiration for his countless acts of charity and kindness. They were the most brilliant example I could have asked for.

It was in this spirit that I started the Foundation and formalised my own philanthropic journey. For years I'd been supporting causes like the arts and education – but it was time to get strategic and involve other perspectives in my decision-making. I am now fortunate to work with four exceptional Trustees – Lord David Puttnam, Josh Hanfling, Vincent Chevance and Professor Abdul Aziz Said – who challenge me in all the right ways, and push our philanthropy forward to embrace its full potential.

At the MSFF, we believe in helping give a voice to those most vulnerable and making noise for those who can't. From the UCL Lectureship in Jewish-Muslim relations, to ANERA's grassroots emergency relief for Syrian refugees in Gaza, we strive to fill the gaps left by global governments, and to fund causes others might deem too 'risky.' Because if not us – who?

I am particularly proud of our flagship initiative: the Arab Women Filmmakers Programme. Launched in 2015 at the Cannes Film Festival, this programme provides full-time graduate scholarships to women filmmakers from the Arab world to fund their Master's Degree at UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television. This project was designed to achieve greater representation for women, particularly Arab women, in the film industry, and to give a voice to their unique perspectives and experiences. Our first three scholars – Amani Alsaied, Hanadi Elyan and Farah Shaer – have proved to be exceptional, and we are thrilled to support their creative journeys.

As we look toward the next 10 years, the MSFF's work seems more important than ever in a world facing increasing levels of conflict and division. We are committed to continuing to support vulnerable communities, and particularly to supporting refugees who are exposed to unspeakable displacement and discrimination. As a Middle Eastern philanthropist, I feel a strong responsibility to support these communities on a grassroots level, while also supporting initiatives, like the Arab Women Filmmakers, that provide human, three-dimensional narratives for Arab identity in the West.

It goes without saying that the impact of the MSFF is wholly due to our grantee partners, who change and save lives every day, all across the world. We do our part, but they deliver the impact and deserve every bit of praise and gratitude on this decennial. I am extremely proud to share their remarkable work with you in this Report. As you will see, we have featured our 'flagship', as well as several other grantees, to highlight their accomplishments and illustrate the breadth of causes the MSFF has been committed to over the years.

Effective social change requires strategic philanthropy that uplifts and centres the voices of those who live on the margins and in the shadows. Equally important is to acknowledge when progress toward positive change is made, and to celebrate this with gratitude and a resounding call for further action. So, thank you to our extraordinary partners who have gotten us this far – we look forward to the next 10 years.

With esteem,



Hani Farsi  
Founder & Chair  
The Mohamed S. Farsi Foundation

“We congratulate the MSFF for its transformational vision and for its enduring commitment to use the power of education, and of story, to enlighten, engage and inspire change for a better world.”

**Teri Schwartz**  
Dean of UCLA TFT

## The MSFF at a Glance

We are proud to celebrate the remarkable impact of the Mohamed S. Farsi Foundation (MSFF) and our grantee partners.

No. of years of  
grant-making

10

100

No. of charities supported  
(2008–2018)

No. of countries where  
our partners work

15





Farah Shaer,  
MSFF UCLA Scholar

In 2015, the MSFF launched its flagship Arab Women Filmmakers initiative at the Cannes Film Festival through a partnership with the pre-eminent UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television (UCLA TFT).

# Arab Women Filmmakers

Together, we created the Hani Farsi Graduate Scholarship Fund, which provides full graduate scholarships for a UCLA TFT Master of Fine Arts in Directing to women from the Arab world. This flagship was designed to achieve greater representation of women, particularly Arab women, in the film industry, and to give a voice to their unique perspectives and experiences.

At the MSFF, we believe in the power of storytelling and its ability to bring human dimensions to polarised issues. We are proud to support the perspectives of Arab women, as they live at the intersection of multiple worlds and have important stories to tell.

The first three recipients – Amani Alsaied, Hanadi Elyan and Farah Shaer – were selected from an outstanding pool of applicants and began their M.F.A. at UCLA TFT in Fall 2015. Their studies and accomplishments have been extraordinary as they prepare to graduate in June 2019.

## Impact

The impact of this scholarship has been profound. Beyond changing the lives of the three inaugural scholars themselves, a programme like this sends a message – to the UCLA students, teachers and faculty; to the wider film community; and to other philanthropists from different corners of the world. A message that says: in order to reach a world of true inclusion and prosperity, we must actively centre and celebrate the diverse voices that will lead us there.

In just the first three years, this message has reverberated and transformed in ways we never anticipated. In the words of UCLA's TFT Dean, Teri Schwartz, "the MSFF Scholarship Fund has become an exciting example for a new kind of visionary philanthropy and model on our campus – for what one can do with a groundbreaking idea that truly moves the dial in graduate education. The MSFF Scholarship Fund's underlying vision has resonated deeply for enlightened donors from around the world. In the past two years alone, UCLA has received new full-ride scholarships that give voice to the unique perspectives of women from India and women of colour in the United States."

## Future Vision

The success of the Arab Women Filmmakers programme – and these remarkable students – has hit an extraordinary nerve, and revealed the appetite our schools and industry have for genuine diversity.

The MSFF deeply values our partnership with UCLA and plans to continue this scholarship programme, among other activities, for years to come in order to ensure that the brilliance of Arab women filmmakers is shared with the world.

**"As an Arab Muslim woman, I've had countless encounters with people from the West and the East who actively or passively give me notes on my appearance, behavior, and way of living as a woman. These encounters gave birth to Watch Me: a short, experimental drama about a young woman who is so self-conscious that she lives her life as if she is performing for an audience."**

Amani Alsaied  
MSFF UCLA Scholar, Year 2 Film Project





Hani Farsi with MSFF UCLA Scholars Farah Shaer, Amani Alsaied and Hanadi Elyana

**“The MSFF’s extraordinary vision for these full-ride scholarships underscores our shared belief that the world is a far deeper and richer place when women have the chance to tell their stories across some of the world’s most powerful delivery systems: film, television and new digital platforms.”**

Teri Schwartz  
Dean of UCLA TFT



Left: MSFF UCLA Scholar Hanadi Elyan presenting keynote remarks on behalf of the department of film, television and digital media at the 2017 student scholarship awards ceremony

Below: MSFF UCLA Scholar Amani Alsaied with Dean of UCLA TFT Teri Schwartz



Below: MSFF UCLA Scholars Amani Alsaied, Hanadi Elyan and Farah Shaer







Students enjoying their mid-morning porridge at Wakadogo School, Uganda



Wakadogo School and Health Centre Site, Uganda

With a belief that education is the most powerful and effective way to change lives, the school serves and educates 450 children, and employs 33 people from the local community.

The MSFF has supported Wakadogo's daily school meal programme since 2010. This has been incredibly important for the children at Wakadogo, as a daily school meal allows children to focus on their studies rather than their stomachs; helps increase enrolment and attendance in school; promotes graduation rates; and improves cognitive abilities. A total of **413,920 school meals** have been funded by the MSFF – and this has enabled Wakadogo to grow from a 3-classroom pre-primary school with 80 children in 2010, to a fully-fledged pre-primary and primary school today with 10 classrooms and **over 450 students**.

# Wakadogo

Wakadogo, meaning 'for the little ones' in Swahili, is a nursery and primary school on the outskirts of the town of Gulu in post-conflict northern Uganda.







The MSFF’s support has also enabled Wakadogo to purchase vital solar panels to power the Musgrave Health Centre, which is located on the same site as Wakadogo School. The Centre provides vital basic healthcare to Wakadogo’s students free of charge, and to the community at a small cost, with any profits re-invested into the school. Illnesses such as malaria, tuberculosis, Hepatitis B, fever, cough, flu, stomach ache/dysentery, wounds, typhoid, common cold, toothache, and STDs are treated at the Musgrave Health Centre.

The kitchen team makes 450+ meals a day with the MSFF’s support



Musgrave Health Centre, Wakadogo

“The MSFF has been an incredible support to our students who come from a very poor community and whose parents cannot afford to give them packed meals as they come to school. Our students are very happy for this commitment and support towards their education and health.”

Odong Charles Kigundi  
Headteacher, Wakadogo School



## American University

The MSFF is a proud and long-term partner of American University, supporting three key programmes: The Mohamed Said Farsi Chair of Islamic Peace, The Mohamed S. Farsi Foundation Scholarship, and the Abdul Aziz Said Peace and Conflict Resolution Fund.

**The Mohamed Said Farsi Chair of Islamic Peace** is the first endowed university Chair in the United States to be devoted to the study of Islam and peace. The inaugural Chair was established in 1996 – five years prior to 9/11 – with Professor Emeritus Abdul Aziz Said, who founded the university-wide Center for Global Peace and inspired thousands of students and alumni during his tenure. In fall 2017, Elizabeth Thompson, one of the country's preeminent historians of the modern Middle East, became the new Chair.

**The Mohamed S. Farsi Foundation Scholarship** began in 2011 – after the Arab Spring – as a commitment to the Clinton Global Initiative; the aim was to improve understanding and cross-cultural interaction between young leaders of emerging Middle East democracies and those in the United States. With this scholarship, a total of twelve students (six scholars from Tunisia and six from Egypt) have participated in the American University School of Professional and Extended Studies' Washington Semester Program. Since 2011, MSFF support has expanded beyond the 12 scholarship recipients to give a wide range of students opportunities to interact with individuals they would not have otherwise had the chance to meet, and to foster a better global understanding.

Finally, the MSFF has created the **Abdul Aziz Said Peace and Conflict Resolution Fund**, named after Professor Said, upon his retirement. In its first year, the Fund helped support the Peace, Justice & Inclusion pilot, which created bonds between 19 AU staff, graduate, and undergraduate students and 48 Washington DC middle and high school students through a series of workshop activities promoting educational and emotional enrichment on themes of peace and nonviolence.

**“Every day I feel grateful to the MSFF for enabling the work I do. When students tell me how my course has changed their view of the Middle East, I feel new hope for peace.”**

Professor Elizabeth F. Thompson  
American University Mohamed S. Farsi Chair of Islamic Peace

**“My gaze has been widened, my knowledge has expanded, my appreciation of the international life has blossomed. I will be indebted to the MSFF Scholarship for the rest of my life.”**

Mahmoud El-Sharawy (Egypt)  
MSFF AU Scholar (2015–2017)



Professor Emeritus, Abdul Aziz Said



## Archaeology and Development Foundation

The MSFF is a proud partner of the Archaeology and Development Foundation (ADF), an organisation established to better understand the origins of the Khmer Empire and ensure that Cambodian people living around the archaeological sites are directly involved in their protection.

Excavations in Phnom Kulen



Ceremony before excavation at Prasat Damrei Krap





The MSFF was a founding supporter of ADF in 2008 when they first started their work in Phnom Kulen, Cambodia. The MSFF contributed to ADF’s archaeological research and heritage preservation, where numerous sites were de-mined, excavated and are now preserved. Furthermore, the MSFF supported local communities in the remote villages of Kulen Mountain through funding vital infrastructure, such as bridges, school facilities and buildings to enhance education and health programmes.



Top: Before, clearing vegetation on the tower of Prasat Thma Dap

Right: After, completed restoration in Phnom Kulen



Top & Right: Nutrition & Hygiene Program in Phnom Kulen Villages

Beyond this support, the MSFF gave an additional gift that enabled ADF to begin airborne light detection and ranging (or LiDAR) in the Kulen Mountain. LiDAR is an optical remote sensing technology that utilises non-visible light to map objects present on the Earth’s surface. This access to LiDAR led to ADF’s discovery of the spectacular urban network from the IXth century city of Mahendraparvata. In the words of ADF’s National Manager, Sakhoeun Sakada, this was “a groundbreaking discovery in the field of archaeological research in Cambodia.”





# American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA)

The MSFF is proud to support ANERA’s Medical In-Kind Programme, which delivers life-saving medical supplies to marginalised refugee communities in Lebanon, Gaza and the West Bank.

In Lebanon, the Syrian refugee crisis continues to overwhelm the country. More than 1.4 million Syrians have fled to Lebanon over the past six years, and one in three people is now either a Syrian or Palestinian refugee – most settling in the poorest, least resilient areas without access to Lebanese public hospitals and clinics. The situation is similar in the West Bank and Gaza, as blockades of imports by Israel and Egypt, along with increasingly harsh border restrictions, mean many families cannot afford basic necessities, including medicine.

ANERA has a long history of partnering with international charitable organisations to deliver donations of medical supplies to hospitals and clinics serving the most vulnerable communities in these regions. This includes partnering agreements with several pharmaceutical donors that have the most in-demand medicines available, but require ANERA to cover the cost of handling fees. To support ANERA in this lifesaving work, the MSFF’s two-year Strategic Partnership currently enables the shipment, customs clearance, warehousing and distribution of donated medical supplies to hospitals and clinics serving the poor who are otherwise unable to pay – helping to fund the delivery of approximately £26 million of essential medical supplies to 225,000 refugees.

“In Gaza, medical care has become a luxury - and the MSFF’s grant enables ANERA to supply clinics and hospitals serving the poorest residents, who otherwise simply wouldn’t receive the medicines they need.”

Mostafa Al Ghosain  
ANERA In-kind Manager



Ibrahim is a 52-year-old Palestinian refugee. He has been undergoing dialysis for ten years. He lives in Beddawi camp in the north of Lebanon. Up until recently, he had to travel down the whole length of the country to get treatment. Now there is a dialysis centre in his area, and with support from the MSFF, ANERA has donated in-kind medical relief to it.  
Photograph by Amr Kodash

A pharmacist at the Halhoul Clinic in the West Bank stocks the new medicines they just received from ANERA with support from the MSFF.  
Photograph by Nada Dajani



A doctor at the Palestinian Medical Relief Society in Gaza checks his patient’s blood pressure and prescribes him a medicine to help lower it. With support from the MSFF, ANERA supplies the clinic with medicines like this to help impoverished families.



**“The MSFF’s support was vital in helping us bring female filmmakers to the 2017 London Film Festival – because of the MSFF’s support, filmmakers from Palestine, Iran and China were able to promote their films in-person and contribute directly to the critical debates surrounding them.”**

**Tricia Tuttle**  
BFI Interim Artistic Director

## The British Film Institute

Since 2017, the MSFF has been the key supporter of the British Film Institute’s (BFI) Woman with a Movie Camera project, which aims to improve the representation of women on-screen, behind the cameras and in audiences, and contribute to the important transformations taking place in the wider film industry.

The MSFF’s support specifically enables the BFI to showcase films directed and produced by women, as well as to convene industry guests to discuss their work. From profiling the work of black female filmmakers to representations of female friendship, amplifying marginalised female voices is crucial and the MSFF has supported this across wide-reaching BFI-wide seasons. Through this partnership, in 2017 the BFI invited over 30 international guests, showcased more than 50 films and 40 short films, partnered with 10 female-led community organisations and brought thousands of attendees to support female filmmaking – a movement that is strengthening and challenging the British film industry.



The BFI's Woman With a Movie Camera screening  
Photography by Anna Bogutskaya



# SolarAid

SolarAid is on a mission to eradicate the kerosene lamp from Africa. The MSFF has supported SolarAid's work to provide access to affordable solar lights in remote, rural communities across the continent.



Photograph by Corrie Wingate



Photograph by Patrick Bentley



Photograph by Patrick Bentley

Most notably, the MSFF supported SolarAid's game-changing pilot of the original SM100 solar light; recognising that the existing \$10 solar lights were not accessible for many families, SolarAid created and distributed this new \$5 solar model in late 2016. Its affordability means that millions of families in Africa can now afford to make the switch from toxic, dangerous and expensive kerosene to clean, safe and affordable solar lights for the very first time.

**"Candles used to cause frequent fires in this area. Now there are not so many because of your solar lights."**

Felix Mandia  
Teacher at Mapanza Primary School, Zambia





The MSFF's support has directly enabled SolarAid to reach 152,250 people through solar light – and has leveraged further support through matched funding to reach a total of 305,500 people. Because of this: £10.2 million that would have been spent on kerosene has been saved by families to spend on food, education and improving livelihoods; 70.4 million extra study hours have been created for children; 74,280 tonnes of CO2 emissions have been averted; and 149,400 people are now experiencing better health across Africa.

Photographs by Patrick Bentley



Reached **305,500** people

Created **70.4 million**  
extra study hours

Enabled **149,400** people to  
experience better health





## Amnesty International



Amnesty International

The MSFF is proud to be a long-standing partner of Amnesty International, and has supported the organisation in various capacities over many years – from hosting events to providing matched funding for critical appeals.

In 2016, the MSFF provided matched funding to support Amnesty International UK's appeal to help **end female genital mutilation (FGM) and child early forced marriage (EFM)** in Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone. The success of the match then allowed Amnesty to expand its work to a third country: Senegal, reaching twice as many girls and women. From this appeal, Amnesty is now working with 69 communities in the three countries to deliver interventions against FGM and EFM – using human rights education to empower communities, and change behaviour leading to a long-term reduction in these harmful practices. With the MSFF's support, by 2020 Amnesty aims to avert 14,814 cases of FGM and 15,156 cases of EFM across the three countries.

Most recently, the MSFF provided matched funding to support Amnesty UK's **'I Welcome' campaign for refugees**, enabling Amnesty to reach an audience of 417,000 and double their fundraising income. The 'I Welcome' campaign called for a better international response to the global refugee crisis by governments sharing responsibility for hosting and assisting refugees. It also encouraged local communities to work together to create a more welcoming environment for people fleeing conflict and persecution.

**“As the lead supporter of our match funding appeal for ‘I Welcome,’ the MSFF enabled us to raise awareness of the conditions and treatment of refugees, and the solutions to help address the worst global refugee crisis of our time.”**

Tom Davies  
Priority Campaign Manager, Amnesty International UK

## University College London



Dr. Seth Anziska, Mohamed S. Farsi-Polonsky  
Lecturer in Jewish-Muslim Relations

The MSFF is immensely honoured to have launched the Mohamed S. Farsi Polonsky Lectureship in Jewish-Muslim Relations at University College London (UCL).

Dr. Seth Anziska has held the lectureship position at UCL since September 2015. Based in the Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies, but with remit across the University, the Mohamed S. Farsi-Polonsky Lectureship formally institutionalises this vital field of study through teaching and ground-breaking research, as well as public engagement across Europe, the US and the Middle East. Since taking up the post, Dr. Anziska has designed and taught a new year-long module for BA and MA students, entitled “Jewish-Muslim Relations in Historical Perspective.” With over thirty students to date, the course explores the history of inter-communal relations between Jews and Muslims, beginning with the birth of Islam through the 19th and 20th century Middle East. Most recently, Dr. Anziska has developed courses on Israeli and Palestinian Culture, Society and Politics, which examine the contemporary resonance of Jewish-Muslim Relations today.

**“The support of the MSFF has opened up an entirely new area of study and research on the relationship between Jews and Muslims, helping students and the wider public grapple with a topic of crucial importance.”**

Dr. Seth Anziska  
Mohamed S. Farsi-Polonsky Lecturer in Jewish-Muslim Relations





## Jorvan Community Outreach

Jorvan Community Outreach's mission is to support, empower and provide opportunities to young people who live in dispiriting and unhealthy conditions in Cape Town South African townships – and the MSFF has been a steadfast supporter since 2010.

When MSFF Trustees went on a site visit to the organisation in 2010, they were extremely moved by its mission and grassroots impact, and immediately committed to fully funding Jorvan's initiative, Rosie's Community Kitchen – a food kitchen for young people founded on the belief that you can't teach a hungry child.

With the MSFF's support, Rosie's Kitchen was able to feed 180 children three meals every single day for four years. The impact of this grew so strong that in 2015, Rosie's Kitchen received ongoing funding from several high-end tourism companies who now fully fund the operation.

**"My name is Celine and I have been with the Jorvan Community Outreach for 5 years. The outreach programme really benefits me in the way that there is a continuous support base system that provides a safe space, a healthy environment, daily meals, bus fare when needed and toiletries when needed. The MSFF programme will really be able to help us as students as we will be able to have our stationery, books, travel allowances and our daily meals."**

Celine

Jorvan Dare to Stand Out Participant

The MSFF then transitioned to funding Jorvan's education programme, Dare to Stand Out, and has done so for the last four years. Dare to Stand Out provides holistic financial and emotional support to disadvantaged students (ages 6 – 21) from single-mother homes who are at risk of not completing school or university due to dire home situations. Jorvan Outreach runs a Student Centre, where students are invited to live and study, and the MSFF covers all associated costs.

To date, with the MSFF's support, Jorvan has increased participants in the programme from 10 to 30 (70% are girls); 6 participants have now graduated from University as a result (one of them had been with the programme since the age of 15); and 100% of participants pass each school year, with most receiving merit and honours awards.





charity: water is working to change that. With the support of the MSFF, they are funding BioSand Filters, which kill 99% of bacteria in dirty water. It is a simple, low-cost solution that uses a biological process to purify water. Through the MSFF's Strategic Partnership, charity: water is bringing clean water to approximately 9,000 people in Cambodia – and to a further 4,000 people across Africa and Asia. We are honoured to support their extraordinary efforts as they bring health, hope and opportunity to vulnerable communities across these regions.

**“charity: water is extremely grateful for the MSFF’s support and belief that everyone should have access to clean water.”**

Christoph Gorder  
charity: water Chief Global Water Officer

# charity: water

In rural Cambodia, safe water is hard to find. Families are often limited to ponds and rivers polluted by human waste or groundwater that is red with high concentrations of iron, which can lead to diarrhea and disease.



“The biggest challenge is the dirty water. I’m constantly concerned about my family getting sick.”  
Sun Sin, a 30-year-old wife and mother of two.



## The Old Vic

The MSFF is proud to have supported The Old Vic through a multi-year Strategic Partnership, which has enabled the organisation to achieve its ambitious goal of creating London's largest community company – comprising 200 talented performers, singers and backstage volunteers from all 32 London boroughs – and to deliver a series of extraordinary community plays.

Formerly known as Old Vic New Voices, this inclusive, high-quality arts engagement project connected thousands of people across the city. It was open to anyone aged 16+, providing Londoners with a creative outlet; a chance to work with people from different backgrounds; and a forum to voice their concerns about universal issues, including the housing crisis, ageing population and environmental impact.

Over the MSFF's grant period, 12,581 people engaged with The Old Vic Community Company. For some participants it fulfilled an ambition of developing theatre skills, pursuing a hobby or taking the next step in their careers. For many it offered a chance to meet new people, try something a bit different or rebuild self-esteem after a personal setback. The Company reported increased confidence (80%), improved wellbeing and happiness (91%), and expanded social networks (83%) as key outcomes of taking part.



**“We are enormously grateful to the MSFF for their support of the Old Vic Community Company. It gave us time to consider issues of significance to society together and to make great theatre. But it also developed the individual skills of participants in a magical way that vastly increased self- worth, self-confidence and wellbeing. It was a phenomenal experience for all of us and we couldn’t be more grateful.”**

Hannah Fosker  
Old Vic Head of Education and Community



## Save the Children

The MSFF has been a steadfast supporter of Save the Children's work with children affected by the Syrian conflict, which is now entering its eighth year.

The MSFF has directly supported more than 7,600 refugee children at the Za'atari and Azraq refugee camps in Jordan, and leveraged funding through matched appeals to reach more than 4.5 million of the most vulnerable people across the Syrian region, including 2.9 million children.

Hani Farsi visited the Za'atari and Azraq refugee camps in person, and was profoundly moved by the extraordinary spirit of the people who lived there, as well as the Save the Children team. Since then, the MSFF has been committed to supporting the camp: and has given 902 children access to quality early childhood care in kindergarten; 175 vulnerable households unconditional cash assistance to meet their basic needs; and 765 children support through the camps' Multi Activity Centres.



Tala, 5 years old, attends one of Save the Children's kindergartens in Za'atari Refugee Camp



**"Throughout seven years of the crisis in Syria, I've met with countless families who've lost everything, whose only possessions are the clothes they are wearing. Without the solidarity and support of foundations like the MSFF, they would not have been able to put bread on their tables ... the MSFF donation to Save the Children has already helped thousands of children across Syria to get on their feet, give them hope and allow them to dream about a better tomorrow."**

Ahmad from Save the Children, who has been working on the ground in Syria and Jordan.



Action Against Hunger	United Kingdom
Adorers of the Blood of Christ	United States
Afghan Connection	Afghanistan
Amade	Monaco
American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA)	United States
American University	United States
amfAR	United States
Amnesty International	United Kingdom
Arab British Centre	United Kingdom
Archaeology and Development Foundation	Cambodia
Atorkor Development Foundation	Ghana
Ayrshire Hospice	United Kingdom
Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy	United Kingdom
British Film Institute	United Kingdom
Bulgari-Cellars Society	United Kingdom
Cancer Research UK	United Kingdom
Carter Center	United States
Centre for Social Justice	United Kingdom
charity: water	Cambodia
Cherie Blair Foundation	United Kingdom
Chickenshed	United Kingdom
Child Bereavement UK	United Kingdom
Clare Hinton	United Kingdom
Clinton Global Initiative	United States
Come Let's Dance	United States
Connecticut Shooting	United States
Crossway Foundation	United Kingdom
Dar Al Fikr School	Saudi Arabia
Deaf Parenting UK	United Kingdom
Denver Foundation	United States
Denver Shootings	United States
Denville Hall	United Kingdom
Dry Land Play	United Kingdom
Films Without Borders	United Kingdom
Fire Fighters Fund	United Kingdom
Fisk University	United States
Fondation Flavien	Monaco
Foundation for FutureLondon	United Kingdom
Fundación Cultural Media	Spain
Global Livingston Institute	United States
Global Smile Foundation	United States

\*Note: This number represents only where these organisations are headquartered – the MSFF is proud to support their work in countless countries and geographies across the world.

h. Club Foundation	United Kingdom
Hazara – Marefat	Afghanistan
Hope International	United States
Hoping Foundation	United Kingdom
Integrate Hands	United Kingdom
International School of Jeddah	Saudi Arabia
Jorvan Community Outreach	South Africa
Journey Beyond	United States
Kids Company	United Kingdom
King Edward VII Hospital	United Kingdom
Legacy List	United Kingdom
Lest We Forget	United Kingdom
Link Ethiopia	United Kingdom
London Film School International	United Kingdom
Lucy Mitchell	United Kingdom
Maggie’s Centres	United Kingdom
Maisha Foundation	Uganda
Marie Curie	United Kingdom
Médecins Sans Frontières	United Kingdom
Media Development Africa	Kenya
Meningitis Trust	United Kingdom
Metro State	United States
National Film and Television School	United Kingdom
National Jewish Health	United States
National Portrait Gallery	United Kingdom
National Theatre	United Kingdom
Old Vic	United Kingdom
Olive Branch	United Kingdom
One Drop Foundation	Canada
Outbound Monaco	Monaco
Outsiders Film	United States
Peace and Sport	Monaco
Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation	Monaco
Prince’s Trust	United Kingdom
Project Shelter	Netherlands
Protimos Foundation	United Kingdom
RAF Benevolent Fund	United Kingdom
Redline Arts	United States
Riders for Health	United Kingdom
Sangre De Cristo	United States
Save The Children	United Kingdom
Send a Cow	United Kingdom
Shubbak Festival	United Kingdom
Soho Theatre	United Kingdom
SolarAid	United Kingdom
South Kent School	United States
Steve Sinnott Foundation	Haiti
Tomorrows Youth Organisation	United States
UCLA	United States
Union College	United States
University College London	United Kingdom
University of Connecticut	United States
University of Westminster	United Kingdom
Vatsalya	India
Wakadogo	Uganda
Water For People	United States
WE Day	United Kingdom
World Cup	South Africa
Zenith Foundation	United Kingdom



**“Effective social change requires strategic philanthropy that uplifts and centres the voices of those who live on the margins and in the shadows. Equally important is to acknowledge when progress toward positive change is made, and to celebrate this with gratitude and a resounding call for further action.”**

#### **Hani Farsi**

Founder and Chairman of the MSFF

The MSFF is fortunate to work with four exceptional Trustees who bring our philanthropy forward into its full potential.

#### **Hani Farsi**

Founder and Chairman

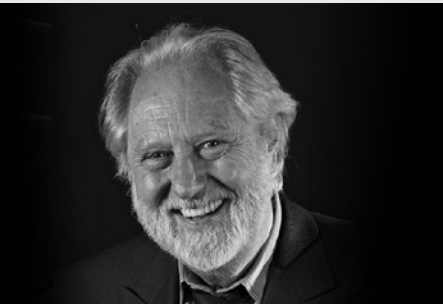
Hani Farsi was born in Saudi Arabia and moved to the United States when he was 15 to attend South Kent School in Connecticut. After graduating he went on to study for his Bachelor and Master's degree in International Studies at The American University in Washington DC. Hani moved to London in 1993 where he started the office of the Farsi family, organising the investments and holdings of the family and acting as a platform to explore further opportunities. During the mid 1990s he created a hospitality company that grew to include various well-known London restaurants including Cecconi's and the internationally known Soho House chain of members' clubs.

The Arts have always been a passion of Hani Farsi's, which has led to his involvement in the areas of theatre and motion pictures. Between 1993 and 2000, he dedicated himself to the Donmar Warehouse Theatre Company in London by becoming a member of its Board of Trustees, under the direction of Sam Mendes. During Hani's time at the Donmar Warehouse, Sam Mendes created such noted productions as *The Blue Room* starring Nicole Kidman.

In 2007 he established Corniche Group, which is active in IT, media and film, energy and mineral resources. In the summer of 2008, Corniche took a significant stake in Le Pacte, a French distribution company. Hani is Executive Producer on Elia Suleiman's *The Time That Remains*, which was in the Official Selection at The Cannes Film Festival in 2009 and was very well received.







**Lord David Puttnam**  
Trustee

David Terence Puttnam, Baron Puttnam, CBE, is a British film producer and educator. David set up his own production company, Enigma Productions, in 1976 and he also founded and chairs Atticus Education which delivers audio-visual seminars to students all over the world. David was awarded a CBE in 1982, a knighthood in 1995, and was appointed to the House of Lords in 1997. In France he was made a Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters in 1985, becoming an Officer in 1992, and a Commander in 2006. He is the recipient of over 50 honorary degrees, diplomas and fellowships from the UK and overseas. As a member of the House of Lords he pursues an active role in a variety of areas, including as Chairman of two Joint Parliamentary Committees, Trade Envoy to Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia and Chairman of two Hansard Society Commission Reports.

He is the President of the Film Distributors’ Association, Chair of Nord Anglia International School Dublin, Life President of the National Film & Television School, Chair of Film London Executive Task Force, a UNICEF Ambassador (previously, President), a WWF Ambassador, Adjunct Professor of Film Studies and Digital Humanities at University College Cork and Adjunct Professor at the School of Media & Communications, RMIT University Australia (from 2nd April 2018).

David spent thirty years as an independent producer of award-winning films, including ten Oscars, 25 Baftas and the Palme D’Or at Cannes. He was Vice President and Chair of Trustees at BAFTA, and was awarded a BAFTA Fellowship. He is currently overseeing pre-production of ‘Arctic 30’ – Ben Stewart’s account of the Arctic 30 incident, Don’t Trust, Don’t Fear, Don’t Beg.

He founded the National Teaching Awards, and was Chancellor of the Open University, following ten years as Chancellor of The University of Sunderland. He was also Deputy Chairman of Channel 4 Television and The Sage Gateshead (2007–2012), founding Chair of NESTA, and Chair of both the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television and the National Film and Television School. He has served as a trustee of the Tate Gallery, the Science Museum, the Thomson Foundation and a great number of other organisations.



**Josh Hanfling**  
Trustee

Joshua Hanfling is the co-founder of Sewald Hanfling Public Affairs based in Denver, Colorado. He launched the firm in 2012 to provide lobbying, public affairs and business expertise services. Hanfling also currently serves as the Honorary Consul General to the Kingdom of Morocco for Colorado.

Hanfling founded his first business, a wood recycling company, while in college and has been building companies ever since. He has been involved in many other companies in Colorado, Washington DC and London. Hanfling was the founding CEO and is a current trustee of The Mohammed S. Farsi Foundation. Prior to that, he was CEO of Qube Visual, a Denver based sign and graphics company, which he founded in 2001. In 2008, he stepped out of his role as CEO to run for political office. The company was sold in 2012.

Hanfling has been actively supporting philanthropy, non-profits, political organizations and candidates throughout his career. He serves on the boards of the Friends of the Denver Fire Department, Imagination Library Denver, AMP the Cause, Democrats for Education Reform and is the board chair of The Denver Health Foundation.

Hanfling was named one of Denver’s 25 most powerful people by 5280 Magazine, elected to the 40 under 40 by the Denver Business Journal, named one of Colorado’s “Hottest Politicos” by Face the State, voted one of Denver’s ‘Movers & Shakers” by the Colorado Statesman, and one of Colorado’s top philanthropists by Colorado Company Magazine.

Hanfling spent 2012 living and working in London to focus on the global work of the foundation while working with a private equity firm based there. Hanfling grew up in Washington, DC and has a BS in management with a major in Entrepreneurial Studies from Babson College.



**Professor Abdul Aziz Said**  
Trustee

Abdul Aziz Said is Professor Emeritus of International Relations at the School of International Service at American University. He founded the University’s Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies Program as well as the Center for Global Peace. Professor Said was the first occupant of the university’s Mohamad Said Farsi Chair of Islamic Peace.

He is the author and editor of 25 books and over 100 papers on international relations and peace and conflict resolution. Professor Said has lectured in more than 50 countries and has served as a consultant to several government ministries. He has been the recipient of numerous awards related to his academic and peace work, including the Distinguished Scholar of Peace Studies Award from the International Studies Association, the Living Legend Award from the Jewish Fraternity Phi Epsilon Pi, the El-Hibri Peace Education Prize, and the Mahatma Gandhi Foundation’s Fellowship of Peace Award. During his career, Professor Said has served on the boards of 30 non-profit organizations dedicated to non-violent conflict resolution, human rights, and international development.

Professor Said has also served as an advisor to UNESCO and the United Nations Development Program. His U.S. government service has included advising the U.S. Departments of State (including serving as a senior consultant to the Undersecretary of Public Diplomacy) and Defense as well as the United States Information Agency. Professor Said was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to serve on the White House Committee on the Islamic World and appointed by President George Bush to serve on the Iraq Democracy Project.



**Vincent Chevance**  
Trustee

Vincent Chevance was born in Paris. He studied law at ASSAS and attended the Sorbonne for postgraduate studies. He then moved to New York, where he studied law at Fordham University and became a member of the New York Bar. Chevance worked in derivatives law and structuring while at Paribas in New York City. In 1999, he moved to London to start the European commodity derivatives team for BNP Paribas and in 2003, he was asked to co-head the Global Commodity Derivatives team for ABN Amro. He joined Corniche as Managing Director in 2007. He also founded The Archeology and Development Foundation in 2007. Since 2013, Vincent has been focusing on a luxury real estate project and private equity transactions.



# Thank you

On behalf of the MSFF Trustees, we say thank you to every single one of our grantee partners, and their staff and volunteers, for their profound work and impact. We are humbled to support what you do, and appreciate all you have taught us. You have made this Foundation everything we are, and for that we owe you immense gratitude.

We also want to thank our MSFF Trustees and their families, as well as the Corniche team and those many other individuals who have so generously given their time, energy and connections to our work over the years.

As you can tell from this report, we are immensely proud of our grantee partners. If you are interested in learning more about them, and supporting them yourself, the MSFF would be very happy to make an introduction.

You can contact us through our website [themsff.org](https://themsff.org) or send us an email [info@themsff.org](mailto:info@themsff.org)

Thank you. And onwards.



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