



علم لأجل قطر  
TEACH FOR QATAR

First cohort, 2014

223 alumni\*

99 teachers\*\*  
currently in  
classrooms for  
their initial 2-year  
commitment



34,000

STUDENTS IMPACTED BY TEACH FOR QATAR



63%  
of alumni working  
in education

# Teach For Qatar

## Reigniting student motivation

Founded by Her Excellency Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al-Thani in 2014, Teach For Qatar has established itself as a key partner in the education system of this small Gulf state of 2.9 million people, having placed more than 300 teachers in more than 90 primary and preparatory schools across all eight of the country's municipalities, reaching more than 34,000 students so far, and generating a growing force of leaders committed to strengthening the country's public school system.

One challenge the Qatari education system faces is a low level of student motivation and engagement. Internal and external studies revealed that 50% of students in government schools feel bored “most of the time” at school, and another 41% say that they do not put their maximum effort into studying. A count of four indicators<sup>1</sup> reveals that 36% of students in government schools exhibit chronic motivation problems.

Teach For Qatar Fellows see addressing these issues as part of their core motivation to join the program. 2021 Fellow Kawthar AlSadat shares: “I joined Teach For Qatar to be a role model to my students. I aspire to help my students in discovering their potential and building their character to allow them to be active members in their community. I want my students

to be confident students with a sense of responsibility towards themselves, their community, and their country Qatar.”

Kawthar focused much of her work on turning around the negative self-perceptions she found in her students, improving their responses to survey questions about their ability to learn and improve—indicators of growth mindset—by 30 percentage points over the course of a year.

Teach For Qatar's focus on building commitment to the country's future development is the reason why the organization has worked so hard to recruit Qatari nationals. In a country that relies heavily on non-Qatari expat employees—who make up 95% of the workforce nationally, and 85% in the education system—the organization is working to change the perception of teaching, which is not generally considered a top career choice in Qatar. Salman Yousef, a former television presenter who decided to join the fellowship, reflects: “I never imagined,



# “I want my students to be confident students with a sense of responsibility towards themselves, their community, and their country Qatar.”

– Kawthar AlSadat, Teach For Qatar fellow

even for a moment, that I would be in this place one day. It is the profession that I have always heard is the most difficult of them all. Here I am now in this field learning before I teach the next generation...I have a great responsibility.”

Ten years in, Teach For Qatar no longer has to prove the value of the teachers and leaders it is developing. Its teachers and alumni are both highly sought after by the Ministry of Education, Qatar Foundation, and other educational actors. The Minister of Education has asked Teach For Qatar for its help in recruiting and training other teachers into the system. The principal of a girls’ primary school shares: “Teach For

Qatar is a pioneering idea to advance the educational process, especially since the focus is on student-centered teaching skills.”

During the two years that engineering graduate Mohammed Al Janahi spent as an elementary Mathematics teacher at Al Ahnaf Bin Qais Elementary School for Boys, he used his passion for Arabic poetry to help his students understand mathematical concepts. He created his own YouTube channel<sup>2</sup> to deliver his lessons, which has attracted more than 150,000 subscribers and racked up more than 12 million views.

Beyond their fellowship, Teach For Qatar’s alumni are working to shift the conversation and build commitment and belief in prioritizing education. Two-thirds of Teach For Qatar’s 223 alumni continue to work in the education sector, with 80% of those continuing to teach in government schools across the country, including several who have moved into middle-leadership “coordinator” roles within their schools, with responsibility for other teachers within their departments and the delivery of the curriculum.

Alumna Ghadeer AlYafei continued her journey in teaching beyond the fellowship and was later promoted to be a Department Coordinator within her school. She was selected by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to participate in 2022 as a main speaker in the Edaat Forum Initiative, which focuses on providing a platform for educators to discuss educational dilemmas within Qatar and collectively provide innovative solutions that can be implemented by the Ministry.



Alumni are also impacting students outside the formal education structure. Nada Bahzad's passions for education and serving others led her to join Qatar Reads as a Senior Programme Development Officer. Qatar Reads is an initiative under the auspices of Qatar National Library, to promote reading and cultivate a reading culture within Qatar. She is also an entrepreneur and the founder of an online startup called MASAR, which aims to empower youth by offering them online services that aid in career and personal development. Mehdi Khammassi established "NARA", an ed-tech startup that delivers personalized educational content using AR/VR technology through an innovative and interactive approach, before going on to work as a mentor and coach with leading start-up incubators and accelerators in the MENA region. And several alumni hold training or leadership positions with Qatar Foundation, the country's largest non-profit organization, which promotes education, research, and community development in Qatar.

Teach For Qatar has started taking measures to share its learnings more broadly to strengthen the education system's own approach to recruiting and developing teachers, developing an online learning platform, Diwan AlTaaleem, to provide teachers with the necessary guidance and resources in Arabic to design and deliver effective lesson plans with content cataloged into subject-specific lesson plan development, teaching pedagogy, and leadership.



More recently, Teach For Qatar has engaged stakeholders from across the community—policymakers, school staff, parents, Fellows, and alumni—to explore the question of what “excellence in education” means to the Qatari community. Building on the learning from this exercise, and building on its strong organizational foundations, stakeholder support, and its growing force of committed teachers and alumni, Teach For Qatar is looking ahead and considering how to grow its impact in the decade ahead, and in particular how to further foster the collective impact of their alumni, support students to elevate their voices, and deepen their work with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. ●●●

- 1 being bored in school, not putting maximum effort into studying, being absent from school, and being late for school
- 2 [youtube.com/@wadehtv](https://youtube.com/@wadehtv)