



**Supporting Universities' Students in the
Gaza Strip under ISNAD Program to support
University Education in the Gaza Strip "Gaza
Deserves"**



Completion Report

Submitted to:

British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES)

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SUMMARY:

The ISNAD Program is a flagship higher education initiative led by Taawon (Welfare Association) to safeguard access to university education in the Gaza Strip amid unprecedented destruction and economic collapse. Positioned as a lifeline for higher education, ISNAD ensures that students can continue their studies and online education despite the devastating impact of the 2023 aggression.

The program responds to two critical challenges affecting Gaza's higher education sector:

- The inability of students to pay the tuition fees of higher education due to loss of income and prolonged economic hardship.
- The disruption of university buildings, operations, and learning environments was caused by widespread damage to campuses and infrastructure.

Through a pooled funding model and in close coordination with partner universities, ISNAD enables continuity of learning, supports graduation pathways, and helps preserve Gaza's future human capital.

With the generous support from the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES), this project supported **68** university students at the Islamic University in Gaza (IUG) by covering one semester of tuition fees, **totaling USD 35,467.05**.

As a result, students were able to continue their education, progress toward graduation, and access opportunities for employment and further study.

Project Overview

	Planned	Achieved
Objective	The general objective of this project is to support the continuity of higher education through tuition-fee support for 66 students.	Yes, the tuition fees for 68 students were paid on their behalf.
Number of scholarships	66	68 ¹
Number of students supported	66	68
Targeted area(s)	Gaza Strip	Gaza Strip
Implementing Partners	The Islamic University in Gaza (IUG)	
Status	Completed	
Budget	USD 35,467.05 (Thirty-Five Thousand, Four Hundred and Sixty-Seven US Dollars and Five cents)	

¹ The project team nominated 66 names of students that meet the project requirements. A surplus amount emerged, that was utilized in increasing the number of beneficiary students by two more students. This was made to benefit more students.

ExpenditureUSD 35,796.59² (Thirty-Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Ninety-Six US Dollar and Fifty-Nine cents)**IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES:**

1. Student nominations submitted by the academic partner "IUG".
2. Review and verification of beneficiary lists by Taawon.
3. Validation of final lists through the ISNAD Steering Committee (SC)
4. Direct disbursement of funds to the partner university
5. Final verification of student enrollment status prior payment
6. Settlement of tuition fees on behalf of students.
7. Supporting documents were obtained and revised.
5. Collection of student testimonials and impact stories.

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES:

The project directly supported **68** students enrolled at the Islamic University in Gaza (IUG) who were unable to pay their tuition fees.

Female students represented approximately **62%** of all beneficiaries supported by this project, while male students accounted for the remaining **38%** (see figure below). As a result of the tuition support provided, 38 students were able to graduate and access their academic certificates, while 30 students were enabled to continue their studies by covering their current semester fees.

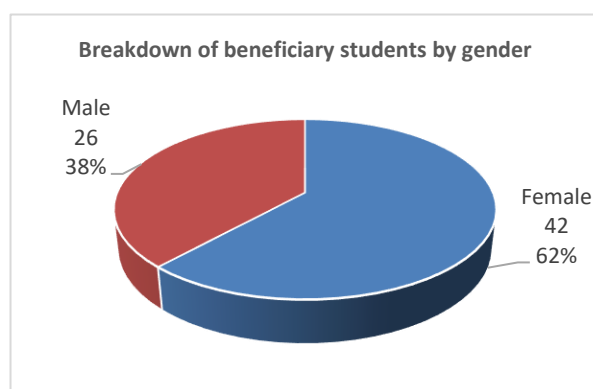


Figure 1: Breakdown of Student Beneficiaries by Gender

Table 1: Details of the beneficiary students

Status of students post scholarship	No of Students
Graduate	38
Coverage of semester's fees	30
Total	<u>68</u>

Table 2: Specialization of the beneficiary students

Specialization	No of Students
Business Management	2
History and archeology	1

² The difference is contributed by Taawon.

Mobile computing and smart device applications	4
Islamic Law/Sharee'a	1
Press and Media/Public Relations and Advertising	2
Physical therapy	2
Medical Laboratory Sciences	1
Financial and banking sciences	1
Chemistry	1
English language/literature	6
English translation	2
Arabic language/literature	2
Accounting	5
Basic Education	8
Electrical Engineering	2
Architecture Engineering	3
Software Development	2
Multimedia technology and web development	15
Nursing	2
Computing	6
Total	<u>68</u>

Impact:

This project had a profound impact on different levels:

1- On Students (Primary Impact)

The project enabled **68 students** to sustain their academic journey despite extreme financial hardship.

- **38 students graduated**, gaining access to their academic certificates and the labor market.
- **30 students continued their studies**, preventing disruption to their education.

In the context of prolonged aggression and near-total income loss, this support was decisive in preventing permanent dropout and loss of years of academic investment.

2- On Families

- a. **Psychological impact:** Families regained a sense of stability and hope as their children continued or completed their education.
 - b. **Economic Relief & Financial Impact:** The intervention removed a financial burden that families were unable to meet under current conditions.
- 3- **On the University:** The project contributed to sustaining the Islamic University in Gaza functionality by supporting tuition revenue streams, enabling continuity of academic delivery, and contributing to the retention of academic staff through providing them with salaries to enable them to live, through the income earned from this project.
- 4- **On the wider community:** the community in Gaza suffers from a lack of human resources in all aspects that would give them the needed services, especially in such dire conditions. Graduated students would assist in rebuilding Gaza by enabling university students to graduate and obtain their academic certificates.

Stories/Testimonials:

From Struggle to Graduation- Ala' Abdulhadi

Living in Gaza means facing daily challenges, limited resources, and very few opportunities. Throughout my university journey, I struggled to continue due to financial hardship and the ongoing instability around us. There was a point when I felt my dream of graduating was slipping away.

Receiving the scholarship changed everything. It was not only financial support but also a reminder that someone believed in me. Covering my tuition fees allowed me to focus on my studies without the constant fear of debt or dropping out.

Because of this support, I was able to complete my studies and graduate.

Today, I hold my degree with pride and deep gratitude. This support was not just a scholarship—it was an investment in my future. I am committed to working hard, giving back to my community, and making the most of this opportunity.



Pursuing Opportunity Against the Odds: The Story of Sujood

My name is Sujood Sameer Ata Al-Khor, a 24-year-old graduate of English Language and Translation from the Islamic University of Gaza. Our home was partially destroyed during the war, and since then, we have been living in unstable conditions.

Since graduating in January 2025, I have been working hard to find employment to support myself and my family. I have completed training courses, developed my skills, volunteered in translation, and contributed written stories to highlight the realities of life in Gaza.

With opportunities becoming increasingly limited, I am now preparing to take the TOEFL exam to improve my chances. While I secured partial support, I still need assistance to cover the remaining costs.

Recently, I was invited for a job interview, something that felt like a real moment of hope.

Despite everything, I remain determined to move forward, continue learning, and build a better future.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

#	Item Description	Budget US\$	Actual Expenditure – US\$	Difference – US\$	Notes
1	Project Activities				
A.1	Tuition fees Scholarships	33,146.78	33,454.76	-307.98	
	Sub-total	33,146.78	33,454.76	-307.98	
2	Admin Costs - Taawon	2,320.27	2,341.83	-21.56	
	Total	35,467.05	35,796.59	-329.54	The difference is contributed by Taawon.
