

Malaka Shwaikh

Refugee Entrepreneurial Fund صندوق ريادة اللاجئين

This project is supported through the University of St Andrews impact fund. It aims to support start-up health-related projects of Syrian and/or Palestinian refugees in ‘the Middle East’ with **finance and tailored mentorship** to contribute to a more sustainable economy. More information about the project is available here: <https://cpcs.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/research/refugee-entrepreneurial-fund/>.

Project winners

- **Shatha al-Azza’s** hydroponic rooftop garden is a community-based solution to problems at the intersection of mental and physical health, food security, education, clean water, and nature connection.
- **Saleh el-Sadi’s** ‘Blue Filter’ is an environmentally friendly filtration system, its genius being outdone only by its simplicity. The filter removes harmful pollutants from water making it suitable for irrigation, and can be used up to 15 times without failing.
- **Hadi al-Thib Hadi** is a young Syrian talent with a determination to destigmatise discussions around mental health in young people in the ‘Middle East’.
- **Tebfact** is a leading telemedicine project in Gaza. It provides online affordable medical consultations to patients.

Runners-Up

- **Our Hearts with You (OHWY)** is a team of Syrian doctors operating since 2019. The free healthcare services they have been providing include medical and pharmacy consultations, psychotherapy and counselling, surgical operations, and dental services.
- **MedX** is a fairly-new team of Arabic-speaking medical students in Turkey. They support all Arabic speakers in Turkey (including refugees in the first place), with health awareness sessions, and integrate them in the Turkish medical system.

More details on the project winners and the work that is being funded is available here: <https://cpcs.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/research/refugee-entrepreneurial-fund/about-the-winners/>

For more details about the project, please contact Dr Malaka Shwaikh at mmbs1@st-andrews.ac.uk.

About Malaka Shwaikh

Dr Malaka Shwaikh is a Palestinian scholar, based at the University of St Andrews of Scotland. She is currently an associate lecturer in peace and conflict studies, and her research covers decolonial, intersectional, and critical understanding of peace, focusing mostly on the Levant and North African contexts.