



## ***Fellowship Opportunity for Education Program Impact Evaluation in Jordan***

### ***Terms of Reference***

#### **1. About the Queen Rania Foundation for Education and Development (QRF)**

*“What the Arab world needs today is an educational revolution; we need a fundamental change that will fulfill every parent’s ambition to provide their child with a quality education.” Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah, 2013*

From its founding in 2013 by Her Majesty Queen Rania of Jordan, the Queen Rania Foundation (QRF) has aimed to become the premier resource on educational issues, in Jordan and around the Arab world, and to act as an incubator for new ideas and initiatives. In the firm belief that education is the foundation of economic, political and social development, QRF’s mandate has focused on identifying gaps and opportunities for developing new education programs, with the aim of influencing policy and creating educational change on the ground. QRF’s focus is perhaps best exemplified through the launch of Edraak.org an online education platform that localized open source technology developed by Harvard and MIT to reach over a million learners across the Arab world with free high quality educational material in less than 3 years.

The Middle East region is now the world’s largest producer and host of forced displacement. With the number of refugees and displaced people across the Middle East reaching almost 15 million, QRF believes it is imperative now more than ever to reinvent education from the ground up. Education must suit the needs of a shifting geopolitical landscape and a more mobile population – forced or otherwise.

Jordan and the Middle East region are at a critical point. Whereas others may choose to dwell on the challenges, Her Majesty has always maintained that “Pessimism doesn’t change the reality; it prolongs the status quo... Optimism and faith coupled with pragmatism change the reality”. It is imperative upon the people of Jordan and the region to embrace the current status quo as an opportunity to disrupt existing legacy systems of education, healthcare, and infrastructure. In that light, and in response to the incoming waves of refugee children in Jordan, QRF aims to position Jordan as the ideal setting to reinvent school education through an impact focused approach to learning.

Over the next 6 years, QRF will focus on a subset of public schools that are hosting both Jordanian and Syrian refugee students, combined with learners that are out of school for a

number of factors. The Foundation will aim to reach 150,000 school-age students between 3 and 15 years of age with teacher-targeted localized innovative solutions that improve learner's socio-emotional skills, numeracy, and literacy.

To successfully disrupt the education sector, it will be critical to start at the bottom of the pyramid where resources are constrained and there is an imperative to do more with less. QRF will identify and channel funding to the most suitable innovations (technological or otherwise), localize them when necessary, and run rigorous assessments for impact. The defining aspects of QRF's approach are the focus on rigorous evaluation methods to "solve for impact" and the mixed funding approach to ensure that both public and private sector thinking can be combined to solve these critical challenges. Successful deployments will then be scaled via public-private partnerships across the Jordanian public school system. QRF will widely share the results of all of its interventions to ensure that any lessons learned are accessible to educators and learners across the globe –especially those working within developing settings and forced migration challenges.

Within its target schools, QRF will center on 5 areas for its interventions. The focus areas have been identified through a rigorous research process using internal and external experts to ensure limited resources are directed to the issues with the highest potential for impact on learning and society. **The five focus areas are: improving learning outcomes for boys, creating more structured classroom pedagogy, introducing regular formative assessment, creating strong school leadership and positive culture, and raising parental awareness and engagement in the early years of a child's life.** These focus areas will be buttressed by three crosscutting themes that have always been central to QRF's operations and interventions: a clear understanding of the transformative power of technology (and its limitations), provision of a healthy socioemotional school climate, and finally ensuring selected interventions are readily scalable on national levels.

Over the coming years, QRF will be investing in piloting innovations in education and assessing their impact on learning. All these investments will be in the five focus areas identified above and will be open to ideas from around the world with pilots running in Jordanian public schools and in coordination with the Ministry of Education. All the pilot innovations will be subject to experimental or quasi-experimental assessments that will be adapted to suit the nature of the intervention. QRF uses a four-stage piloting process that starts with "fast-pilots" as a part of a rapid-cycle evaluation scheme (4 – 6 months) from which successful interventions can then progress to larger scale, or even national level pilots (+1 year). Pilots that demonstrate efficacy will then have the opportunity to be rolled out nationally on a multi-year basis and become part of the national education system. Once successful in Jordan, companies will have QRF's seal of approval that will provide them with the credibility to create the same positive impact in other Arabic speaking countries and even other developing country settings.

## 2. QRF Impact Evaluation Fellowship Scheme

From 2017, QRF is offering exciting fellowship opportunities to exceptional individuals who have proven experience in impact evaluation of education programs.

### 2.1 Key activities of the fellowship

- The impact evaluation fellow would support, and where appropriate, lead on impact evaluation work related to QRF's programmatic focus areas (noted above), and the fellow would contribute to the design of educational interventions to ensure they are set up in a way that lends to sound impact evaluation.
- The fellow would be expected to work on primary data collection tools for the creation of baseline data as well as setting up regular access to secondary data sources. The goal of the data collection would be the development of complete, accurate, and valid counterfactual databases for the successful implementation of impact evaluation activities.
- The fellow would conduct impact evaluation research using robust experimental, quasi-experimental and econometric frameworks/methodologies, that deploy various analytical processes and methodologies leveraging techniques such as:
  - Randomized Control Trials
  - Propensity Score Matching
  - Regression discontinuity
  - Retrospective analyses using propensity scoring and matching
  - Instrumental variables
- It could be expected that the fellow also prepare results of impact evaluations for publication and internal consumption within QRF and a select partner community with the goal to eventually publish results more broadly.

### 2.2 About the post

**Qualifications and experience:** You will have a postgraduate degree from a well-known university in a relevant area. You will have strong quantitative skills and 3-10 years of experience working on impact evaluation, ideally including of education programs. You may already be working full time in an organization and wish to undertake a secondment or sabbatical, or you may be freelance and wish to take up a short post.

**Language Requirement:** Fluent English (Arabic an advantage).

**Duration and Start Date:** The minimum duration is 4 months, though preference would be given to individuals who could commit to longer. The ideal candidate would be willing to sign up to a 6 month agreement, which could be renewable. Start date is flexible.

**Remuneration**

- Travel to/from Jordan: One return airfare from/to country of origin (economy class).
- Accommodation allowance: USD 900 per month.
- Monthly remuneration: dependent on experience, and if institutional secondment/sabbatical or not.

**Additional Information:**

The post is open to any nationality, but preference is given to Jordanians, Arabs, and Arabic speakers.

**QRF would provide fellows with:**

- A dedicated counterpart from QRF's staff.
- Logistical support including: local orientation, help finding accommodation and pastoral support.
- Workspace: desk, internet, and landline.
- Access to relevant local conferences and events.

**Application Process**

**Step 1:** Submission of CV and 1 page cover note to [rpalmer@qrf.org](mailto:rpalmer@qrf.org) with 'Impact Fellow' in subject line.

**Step 2:** If your CV is shortlisted, there will be a Skype interview, followed by a short written assignment. We only contact shortlisted candidates.

**Step 3:** Reference check.

**Application Deadline:**

Ongoing