

Gaza غزة Scholarship Initiative

SAFEGUARDING PALESTINIAN FUTURES

What is GSI?

The **Gaza Scholarship Initiative for Displaced Students (GSI)** is a coalition of volunteers – writers, academics, artists, professionals, and concerned individuals – supporting displaced undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students from Gaza.

Our initiative aims to save Palestinian futures by securing full scholarships and academic support for these students from Gaza who are determined to complete their higher education.



PHOTO BY ABDALLAH ABUSAMRA, GAZA, 2024

What is the issue GSI addresses?

Rebuilding Gaza's educational infrastructure will take over **10 years**.

80%

of schools in Gaza were damaged or destroyed in a campaign known as **'scholasticide.'**

60%

of educational facilities were damaged or destroyed, including **13 public libraries.**

12

colleges and universities were completely destroyed.

715K

students are without access to education, including **90,000 university students.**

(Source: UN Independent Human Rights Experts, April 18, 2024)

GSI Mission

The **Gaza Scholarship Initiative (GSI)** supports displaced Palestinian students from Gaza who must seek education abroad.

Our mission is to empower Gaza's brightest minds to contribute to rebuilding Gaza's educational sector.

By investing in these students now, we aim to create future leaders who can eliminate the need to leave Gaza for quality education.

GSI also supports academics and initiatives working to restore academic learning in Gaza, both virtually and otherwise.

“

Despite the uncertainty, I try
to cling to life by the
memories of the world I
once knew and the
fragments of a dream I still
believe in.

HODA SOBOH, STUDENT, AGE 20

“

Injustice is everywhere in red.
On the hands of a running father,
On the face of a little girl,
On the rivers between the tents.

If that is the color of the world,
Then what color is justice?

AHMAD ELKHUWAJA, STUDENT, AGE 22

GSI Objectives

01

Secure scholarships, university placements, and other forms of support for displaced Palestinian students from Gaza, covering tuition, room, board, living expenses, and other assistance where possible.

02

Secure evacuations of students in Gaza matched with scholarships at universities and colleges abroad.

03

Facilitate and secure living expenses, visas, and airfare for students in transition between evacuating Gaza and arriving at their places of study.

04

Ensure mental health support is provided to students inside and outside Gaza and provide students' access to support groups and communities near campus.

05

Enable students to return and help rebuild Gaza post-graduation.

06

Assist and collaborate with initiatives aiming to restore/rebuild Gaza's education sector.

GSI Students

As of February 2025, GSI worked with **300+ Palestinian students** from Gaza. Of these students, **133** have been supported in their academic endeavors or matched with scholarships for the 2024-2026 academic years.

60%

Undergraduates
students

30%

Masters & doctoral
students

8%

Medical
and dentistry
students

2%

Other academic
support

**From academic disciplines,
including but not limited to:**

- Medicine
- Engineering
- Accounting
- Business Administration
- English & French Literature
- Computer Science
- International Law
- Genocide Studies
- Communications/Journalism
- Sociology

GSI Achievements

GSI is engaging with a network of global universities – spanning North America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia – to secure academic support and scholarship opportunities for students to pursue undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate degrees.

As of February 2025, GSI supported:

133

students with **full scholarships** and/or other critical forms of support for continuing their higher educations

36

in 36 different Institutions

10

across 10 countries
(USA, UK, Ireland, Spain, Turkey, Palestine, Egypt, Jordan, South Africa, and Malaysia)

North America



Europe



Africa



Asia



Middle East



What Assistance Do Students Require?

Despite many universities offering full scholarships, GSI still need support for:

01

Evacuation-Emergency Expenses

Needed to evacuate **43 students**, and to keep them safe in the period between pre- or post- evacuation and the start of the academic year.

02

Student Visa Application Fees

Most scholarships do not cover visa application and processing fees required by students' destination countries.

03

Set-Up Costs

Health insurance
Registration fees
Laptops
Clothing
Textbooks, etc.

04

Partial Tuition/Room and Board

Certain placements offer only partial tuition support and/or partial or no support for students' housing and food (room and board.)

05

Stipends/Other Costs

Monthly living and other expenses that are not covered by universities and scholarships.

06

Operational Costs

Three staff members and volunteer stipends, and other basic operational expenses

Urgent Funding Needs



Evacuation, Pre-and Post-Evacuation Costs:

To facilitate evacuation and care for **37 displaced students** in Gaza pre- and post-evacuation

(\$105,000)



Tuition/Room & Board:

For students with partial scholarships

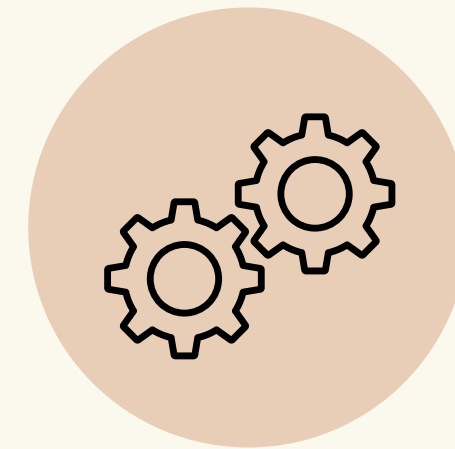
(\$300,000)



Monthly Stipends:

For **18 students** not covered by scholarship support

(\$21,000/academic year)



Set-Up Fees:

For upcoming set-up fees for **students** with scholarships awaiting evacuation from Gaza

(\$65,000)



Operational Costs:

Staff, volunteer stipends, other operational costs

(\$135,000)



Costs of airfare for students is covered by the miles and/or cash pledged by one generous donor.

“

Despite the ongoing Israeli wars against Palestine, the construction of imposing walls and barriers, and the rise of extremist governments, people have still managed to come together in their love of Gaza.

YOUNIS ALHALLAQ, STUDENT, AGE 25

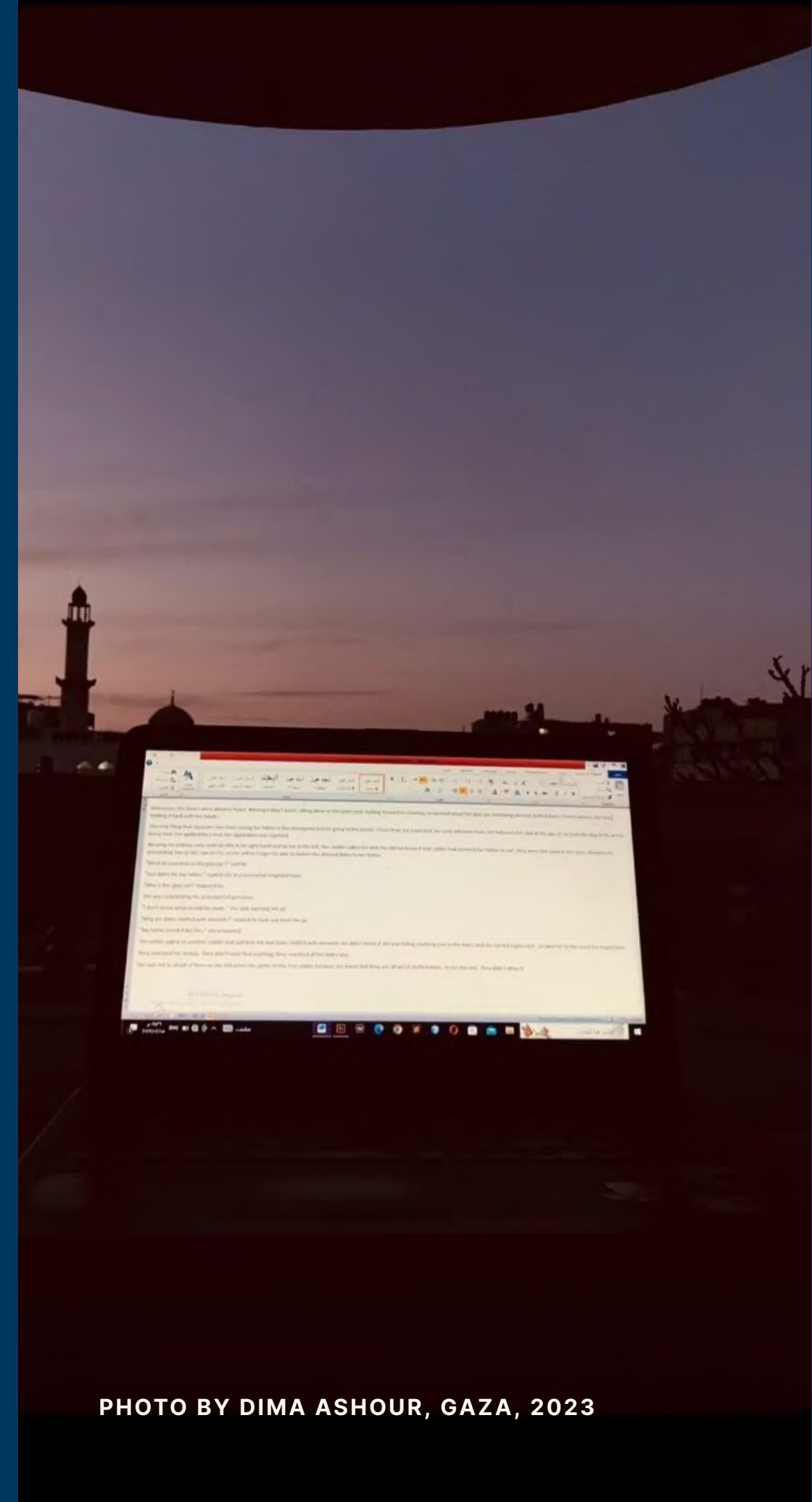


PHOTO BY DIMA ASHOUR, GAZA, 2023

GSI's Current Financial Summary

In 2024, GSI raised:

\$3.5M+

Institutional Support/ Scholarships

\$400,000 +

Funds for Ancillary Study Expenses

+

Covering critical needs such as room, board, health insurance, set-up fees, evacuation and visa fees, and airfare

GSI needs to raise:

\$626,000

to cover pending expenses for the current cohort of displaced students until their expected graduation

“

“What I am absolutely sure of is
that I will go back to Gaza.
There is no forward without
Gaza... Gaza is our phoenix. It
always rises from its own ashes.”

DANAH BESAISO, STUDENT, AGE 22



PHOTO BY RAHAF ABUZARIFA, GAZA, 2022

How You Can Help?

Your support is essential to providing these promising students with the comprehensive resources they need to succeed. We are counting on your generosity to help cover these critical expenses and support their journey to academic and professional excellence.

By contributing to this effort, you are not just funding education; you are rebuilding lives, providing hope, and empowering a generation that will return to Gaza to drive its future development.

Please consider making a donation today to make a tangible difference in the lives of these deserving students.



Where Can You Make a Tax-Deductible Donation?

Elnajjar Joudah Foundation

(EJF EIN No. 88-4421562)

Center for Arab American Philanthropy

(CAAP EIN No. 23-7444497)



PHOTO BY RAHAF ABUZARIFA, ONTARIO, CANADA, 2024

Thank You & Disclaimer

We deeply appreciate your support and ask you to share this initiative within trusted circles.

Please remember, due to the sensitive nature of this initiative and to ensure the safety of students, we ask those who assist or communicate with GSI not to post about GSI or the students supported by GSI on social media or any other public platforms.

To contribute or learn more about how you can help, please contact:

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PHOTO FROM ABDALLAH ABUSAMRA, GAZA, 2023

A man with dark hair, a beard, and glasses is smiling broadly and giving a thumbs-up gesture. He is wearing a grey t-shirt and a blue jacket. He is surrounded by a group of children, mostly girls, who are also smiling and looking towards the camera. They are inside a large tent with yellow walls and a red lower section. There are windows in the background showing an outdoor area with blue and red structures.

"We will not cease to try to live and thrive even in the darkest moments. Inshallah we will make it out of this war, to a future that we deserve."

ABDULLAH HASANEEN, STUDENT, AGE 24