

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

**AT SCHOOL
I'M NOT
ALONE**



Al Madad
Foundation



A NOTE FROM OUR MANAGING DIRECTOR

While not exactly a return to normal, 2022 did mark the beginning of the AMF team's collective exhale and a cautiously optimistic step away from the constant state of pandemic-induced jump and pivot to a less fraught position from which to approach our work. In doing so, like so many others, we were then faced with the question of what, in the light of all that we had experienced over the past 2 years, "normal" now meant- be it old, new, or somewhere in between.

For us I can honestly say the answer is using what we have learned during this time to take the best of before and shape it into what comes next. For example, we now know without a shadow of a doubt that bricks and mortar classrooms provide so much more than just a place for teaching, and that the added benefits of coming together in a physical space are essential to AMF's holistic, whole-child approach to education. These key takeaways will be central to how we move forward- one silver lining from what was definitely the very greyest of clouds.



Angie Garvich

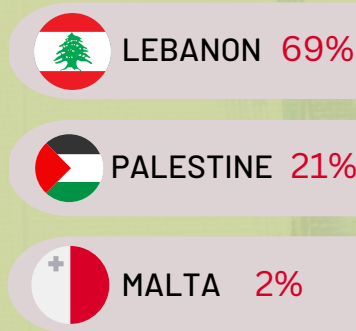
Managing Director



OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

2,503

Individual
beneficiaries



Autumn 2022
Grant Call

131 applications
.....
24 countries

£90,000
Awarded

Lebanon Schools Project



2021	6	1,272	106,000
2022	8	1,492	132,000

OUR PRESENCE

New Website

We were very excited to launch a bright, beautiful, and completely updated website in 2022. The new design offers a brighter space for photographs and clearer text layouts, and allows us the best platform from which to present our work to donors, industry peers and prospective grantees.

One area that received particular attention is our Advice for Applicants section, which provides grant seekers a variety of practical advice to guide them through the applications process, and alongside our webinars has significantly improved the quality of recent submissions. From a practical standpoint, the new site's PayPal integration makes donating online faster and much easier for our supporters.

Grantee Webinars

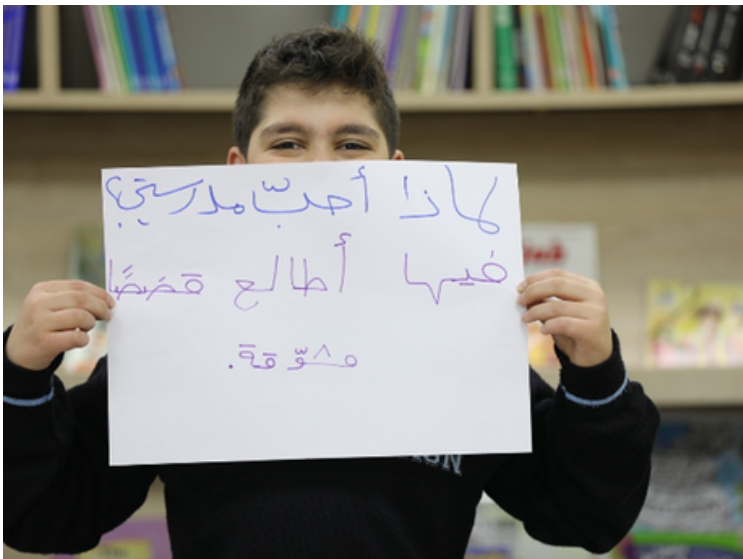
A decade of working in partnership with grantees has provided us with the experience and insight to seek out practical solutions to problems that are faced by those in this field. Today we are always looking for the innovation which might transform a programme, making it more effective, impactful or safer, for the children involved.

Since AMF standardised its grants process in 2019, our primary goal has been to attract the highest quality applications for projects which we feel target unaddressed needs. However, we have always had in mind the perspective of the applicant and recognise that a great deal of work is put into the process of applying. Having successfully condensed the applications process, in 2022 we offered our first grantseeker webinar where interested organisations were invited to hear first hand from AMF's Managing Director and ask any questions they felt were not specifically covered in our guidance. We found the opportunity to listen to and engage with prospective applicants very worthwhile, and afterwards noticed a discernible increase in the quality of submissions.

Ramadan Campaign

For Ramadan 2022, AMF collaborated with our supported schools in Beirut to create a social media campaign asking the question “What do you like most about school?”. This saw Head Teachers at each school organised photos of pupils displaying their answers, which were undeniably uplifting, and quite often incredibly moving.

They managed to so eloquently put into words the reasons why AMF believe that school is much more than a place for academic study, and why we will strive to bring education back into the classroom at every opportunity. The discipline of adhering to a daily schedule, the mental health benefits to parents and children of being around their peers, and the integration of physical, real life, safe spaces into daily life, we believe, make the experience of being in the classroom irreplaceable.



al.madad.foundation
May 2, 2022



For our #ramadan appeal for #education we asked pupils: "What do you like most about school?" Their answers are frequently uplifting and often moving - read more at <https://www.almadadfoundation.org/ramadan-2022>

May 2, 2022

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

AMF Spring 2022 Grant



This ambitious project targets 14/15 year-old Syrian and disadvantaged host-community children enrolled in secondary school to offer intensive tuition in order to aid their successful transition to higher education.

AMF were particularly interested in this project due of the proposed timing of the intervention, as in Lebanon, state-funded university places are granted to those who are able to earn them based on academic merit. Therefore it makes sense to target pupils at this critical stage to attempt to increase representation at the higher level.

We continue to be impressed by LASeR's dedication to achieving the best outcomes for young people and are eagerly monitoring their progress.



From its launch in September, this exciting project providing skills training and a job fair for unemployed Lebanese youth was inundated with quality applicants and we have been pleased to see the students doing so well. Feedback from participants has also been consistently positive, especially regarding the quality of the teaching on offer.

We are pleased that MWN have invited us to participate in the graduation ceremony in Beirut in May 2023 where we will have the opportunity to meet students and visit the job fair.

AMF Autumn 2022 Grant



The Palestinian Centre for Communication and Development Strategies (PCCDS) was chosen as the recipient of the AMF Autumn 2022 Grant for their proposal to provide hearing and vision exams, and any necessary corrective devices, to students in the West Bank. The project is set to begin in spring 2023 and will target students across 74 schools within 19 refugees camps, with 1900 audio visual exams being administered in the first year and a predicted 404 students benefiting from glasses and hearing aids.

AMF was particularly impressed with the proposal's aim to assist children with disabilities in accessing their right to an education. This project offers a relatively simple solution to facilitating a lifetime of learning.



MEASURING OUR IMPACT

GREECE

METAdrasi

In February our project with METAdrasi concluded with a final report that provided much food for thought, if not necessarily easy solutions for the challenge of how best to help unaccompanied refugee minors on their path to a better life. This project represented two aims for AMF- the first, as always, to assist refugee children in need, and the second to explore the challenges and possibilities for assisting unaccompanied minors in Greece. It was a complex and nuanced undertaking which, while ultimately achieving its aims, unfortunately left us with even more questions at the end than when we began.

The project funded the time of lawyers who provided legal support and advocacy for unaccompanied minors in Athens with the aim of reuniting them with family already living in Europe. Of the 72 children taking part, 35 were reunited with family members, 15 appeals remained ongoing and 22 had their cases rejected. The reasons given for refusals ranged from children being moved from one shelter to another by the Greek authorities, to family members initially saying that they would support an application, then subsequently withdrawing their support. Some children did not, or were not able to, commit to the process, missing meetings or 'disappearing' altogether. Additionally, some were not able to prove their claimed family relationship and some, very frustratingly, missed out due to an administrative fault on the part of the Greek authorities.

While we were disappointed that there were not more happy outcomes, the work allowed us to view first hand the possibilities as well as the limitations of work in this area and to more strategically plan any future projects we might undertake.

The Home Project

AMF's funded project with THP, 'Social Integration via technical training and Greek language support', came to an end in October. This eighteen-month intervention managed to overcome lockdowns and Covid-19 restrictions to broaden the horizons of young refugees planning to build a new life in Athens.

As with all of AMF's funded projects that took place during the pandemic, some setbacks were unavoidable, and in this instance whilst pupils undertook Greek language learning, we were unable to carry out a full academic evaluation. However, THP did a fantastic job in stretching the allocated funds to allow vocational training to continue with numbers much greater than initially planned. As a result of the project, 12 of the 50 vocational students had entered the labour market as of the autumn, and four pupils achieved college scholarships (3 in Athens and 1 in Kansas).

TURKEY

INARA

In October, the International Network for Aid Relief (INARA) concluded their AMF funded intervention aiming to improve the wellbeing and mental health of war-impacted Syrian refugee children living in Gaziantep, Turkey. The project began in August 2021 and saw the establishment of a safe space for the provision of mental health and



psychosocial care and an increased level of availability overall for mental health services for Syrian refugee children.

It meant a great deal to us to see pictures of the space in use and to get a sense of the progress being made by the children. These youngest victims of the Syrian conflict had suffered heart breaking physical and emotional trauma, ranging from burns and limb loss to witnessing the destruction of their homes and the death of their loved ones, and while their path to emotional healing will be complex we are grateful to have been able to facilitate its beginning.

This project operated in a difficult area – both in terms of accessibility and in the sense that mental health provision is notoriously difficult to monitor in any standardised way. It can be hard to establish distinct improvement in mental health in a relatively short space of time, and there can also be issues around the target beneficial group participating enough in the project to properly evaluate its impact ('no-shows', family expectations and late referrals can present problems). Despite the challenges, AMF is unwavering in our belief in the importance of support for child mental health, and as we continue to grow our understanding of this area we will always seek to apply lessons learned to future interventions.

MALTA

MOAS

AMF's funding of MOAS's project supporting young refugees in Malta concluded in August. Sadly, due to extensive delays caused by Covid-19 restrictions, the aims of the intervention were not completely realised during its time with AMF, however we did see a number of families equipped with technology packs (including tablets for home schooling) and, in the end, were able to support the internal furnishing of the project's community centre, which is now scheduled to open in mid-2023. Although scaled back, the project had a positive effect on young refugees and we look forward to following the impact of this exciting community space over the coming years.

PALESTINE

Ajyal Foundation for Education

January 2022 saw the start of our project with Ajyal Foundation for Education, working to improve children's wellbeing and educational outcomes by introducing the socio-emotional learning (SEL) model to 12 schools in Al-Bureij refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

A total of 135 teachers were trained in the first four schools and preliminary work was completed on initial pupil assessments and baseline data collection on literacy and numeracy rates. The feedback from teachers has been extremely positive and those who attended training have begun the next step of the process, which is transferring their new knowledge to the other staff at their schools in preparation for the start of the new School Year.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Children across Lebanon are bearing the cumulative weight of a succession of crises, resulting in one of the worst economic collapses in recent global history. According to reports, more than half the population in Lebanon is now living below the poverty line, and with the situation showing no signs of resolution, there is a very high risk that even more families will be unable to cover their basic needs, let alone their children's school fees.

Independent schools have been the backbone of Lebanon's education system for over a century. Some 1,600 operate in the country and serve more than 500,000 students, almost half of whom are Syrian refugees. In 2019 they educated 2/3 of the Lebanon's school-age children, and unlike a sector that is often viewed as a luxury in the UK, if this private education system were to fail there would be monumental repercussions for both the pupils forced to move to state schools as well as those pushed out to make room for the influx.

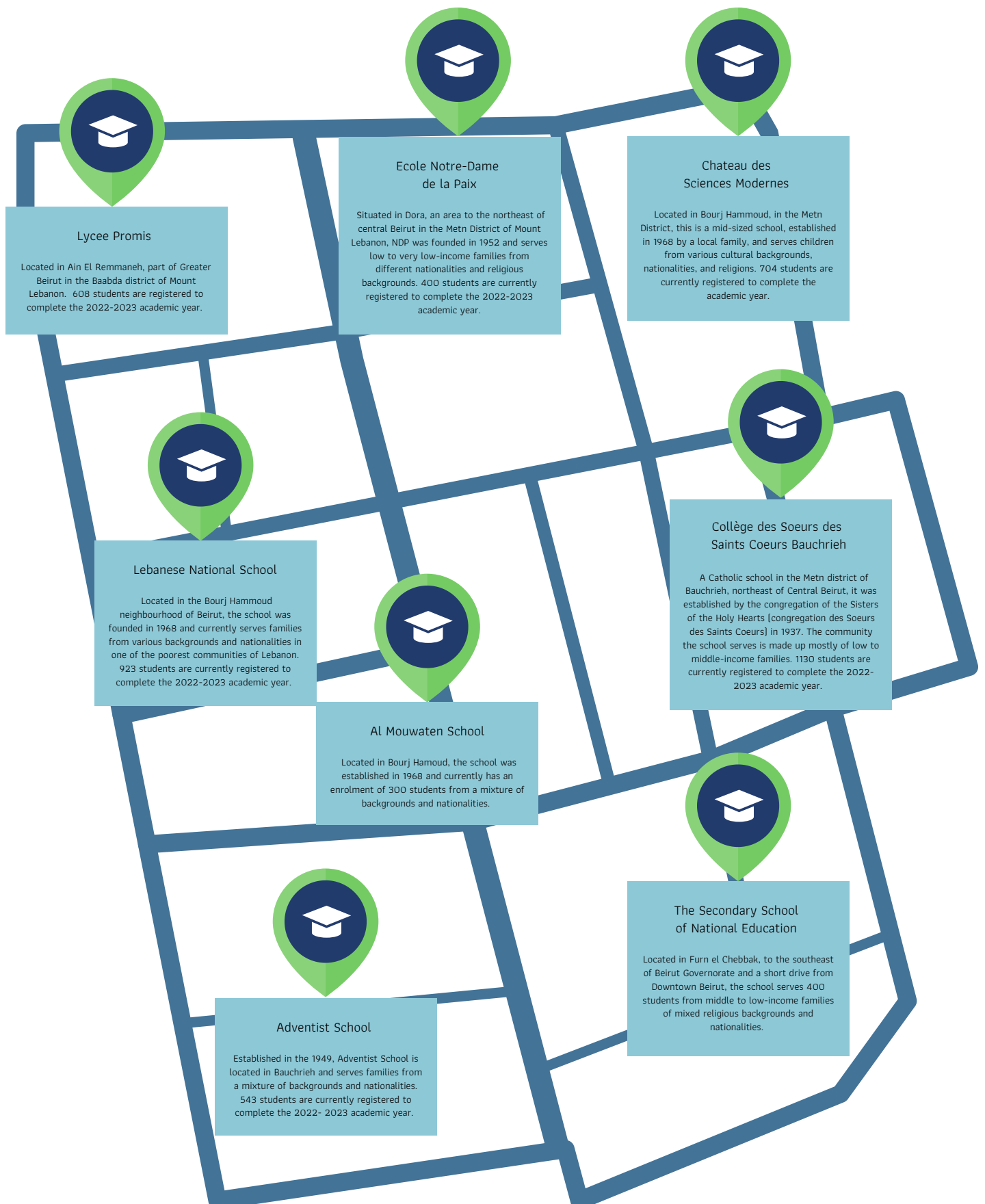
Compounding the problem is the fact that state schools lack the space or funding to absorb any forced drop-outs, especially as constant strikes and closures had deemed them practically non-functional. AMF recognised that without help, not only would a world-leading education system be lost forever, but children's lives would be irrevocably impacted.

Al Madad Foundation's Emergency Support for Lebanese Schools project allows children to remain in a safe and

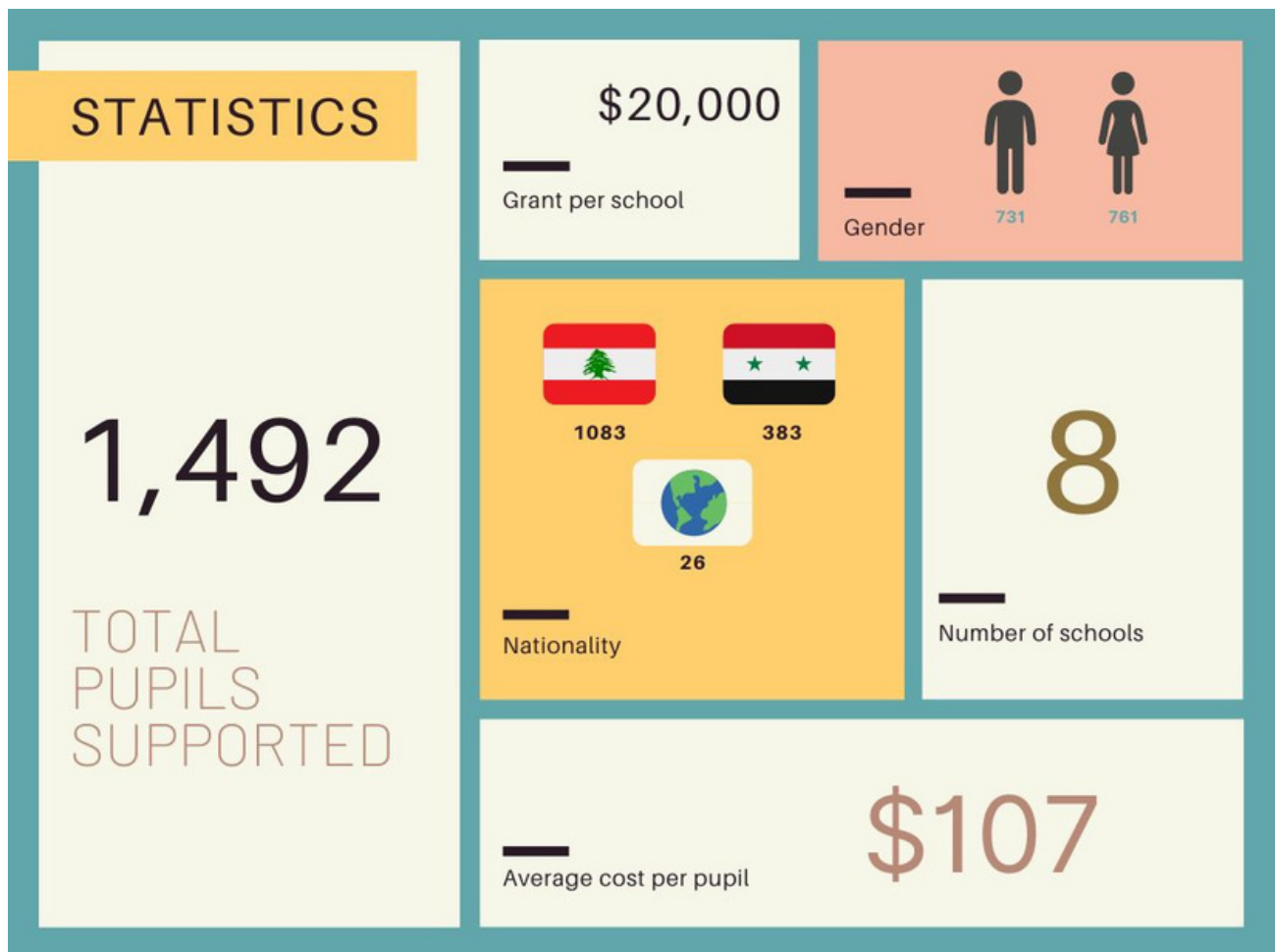
familiar space and facilitates uninterrupted access to education while aiding a critical component of the country's education sector.

The 8 AMF supported schools are located in the Beirut suburbs in areas inhabited mostly by poor-to-middle income families who are now struggling to cover their day to day needs. These communities have been historically underserved as they are usually deemed ineligible for assistance because they do not fall within what most aid organisations consider the most vulnerable, and most familiar, regions of Lebanon.

While the fees, by international standards at least, are extremely low (roughly \$100 per year, per child), most families must even at the best of times make sacrifices to afford them. This project has allowed us to build positive and lasting relationships with the dedicated educators and community leaders within the staff of these schools, and to gain valuable insights that will allow us to even better shape our future work.



STATISTICS



“

I could not have received a warmer welcome from each of the Headteachers. I saw well-organised classrooms and clean, well-loved corridors. Whilst buildings were not always new, or as fit-for-purpose as they could have been, it was clear that teachers and administrators had achieved a great deal with the resources available to them.

In the classrooms themselves, teachers remained as professional as ever and pupils were happy, engaged and eager to learn. In the context of electricity shortages, astronomical food and petrol prices, political chaos and people's livelihoods threatened on a huge scale, the achievement of these schools is quite staggering.

”

-Director of Programmes, Grace Ghaleb, following a visit in May 2022

AL MADAD FOUNDATION

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