



## Case Study

# Arab Foundations Forum



## Global Philanthropy Data Charter Case Study

### The Arab Foundations Forum (AFF)

#### **Overview:**

The Arab Foundations Forum (AFF) is a not-for-profit membership-based association of philanthropic foundations in the Arab region.

Our vision is for an effective and strategic philanthropic sector in the Arab region that engages with all aspects of society towards growing social responsibility and investment, while advancing public good.

The Arab Foundations Forum serves as a hub for networking, knowledge sharing and capacity building for its members and partners. We aim to foster dialogue and collaboration opportunities amongst our network in order to bolster the capacity and efficacy of strategic philanthropy in the Arab region.

#### **The Case Study:**

The Arab region has been challenged by the absence in data collection in the philanthropic sector. The reasons include issues of transparency, lack of accountability and interest in data collection and analysis. However, the need for comprehensive data on the philanthropic sector has become pressing in recent years in order increase the efficiency and effectiveness of development projects as well as the visibility of the philanthropic sector's impact.

The Arab Foundations Forum (AFF) is the membership association for philanthropy support organizations in the Arab region. As a champion of the Global Philanthropy Data Charter, AFF is launching a data initiative to Map Philanthropic work in the Arab region; while implementing the values and principles of the Data Charter. AFF will canvas and contribute a much needed data map of the philanthropic sector across the Arab region; namely by providing the "who, what, when, where, why, and how?" of the sector by collecting, aggregating, and analyzing informative data on the sector and making that data available to our network in order to facilitate better means of communication, collaboration, and cooperation among our network.

The first step was building a partnership with The Foundation Center, WINGS and the The John D. Gerhart Center For Philanthropy, Civic Engagement and Responsible Business, to

design the initial questionnaire that will be disseminated at an early stage to the network of the Arab Foundations Forum and after testing and analyzing the first set of questionnaire results it will be circulated beyond the membership to include the whole sector in the region.

The map of philanthropic foundations will be accessible and open for all parties that can benefit from the information and finding of the data initiative. AFF's data initiative will encourage all the contributing organizations to share their data and information that can benefit the sector at large.

At the initial stage AFF will focus on collecting quantitative data, in hopes that the data initiative can be developed to include knowledge and resources such as reports, lessons learnt ...etc. The will further help the sector and its representatives in strategic planning, funding and advocate for policy change. The data initiative will also partner with research organization such as: The Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research and The Information and Research Center-King Hussein Foundation and SAANED for Philanthropy Advisory Services Arabia, to help with their academic and research knowledge in order to maintain and manage the data collection and vetting process. AFF will also be responsible for safeguarding the information provided especially in Arab countries where privacy and security are major concerns.