



AMAL ALLIANCE
EMPOWERING GLOBAL CITIZENS



2020

ANNUAL
REPORT

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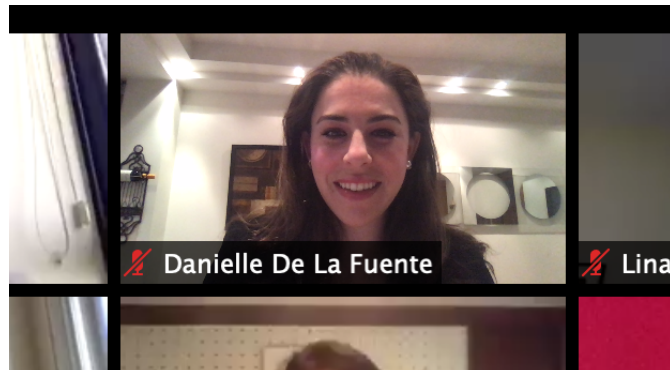
Meet the Team

NOTE FROM THE FOUNDER

2020 was marked with unprecedented challenges. Around the world, children had their lives and education disrupted by the COVID 19 pandemic. While the coronavirus presented a plethora of problems, it also provided an opportunity to reimagine how learning can take place anywhere, at any time. It has propelled individuals, organizations, governments, and education stakeholders to tap into innovative ideas and technologies, as well as the wonderful world of imagination!

At Amal Alliance, we too were among the visionaries that sought to tap into our creativity to explore and reinvent our traditional learning methods with imaginative solutions. We understood this complex issue would require an equally comprehensive response, and thus sought to work through a consortium effort, which built on the expertise of our global partners.

At the onset of the pandemic, we quickly delivered our emergency response. *We Are in This Together*, a podcast series, was distributed four languages, and reached an estimated 160,000 beneficiaries. Seeing the positive feedback and engagement, we posted our solution to OpenIDEO to share best practices with our peers and colleagues. We were delighted to reach the top 20 ideas and be invited



to apply to UNHCR's Humanitarian Education Accelerator (HEA) COVID 19 Challenge.

From top 16, to top 12, we become one of 3 finalists that would create an education in emergencies prototype. Words can't describe how thrilled we were to see that our idea resonated with organizations we deeply admire! Our team worked tirelessly to design an innovative EdTech solution for teachers and caregivers that included engaging social emotional learning (SEL) audio-based instruction, a digital workbook, and assessment instruments, delivered through a mobile app that worked offline. It was piloted in Bangladesh, and saw a dramatic 16.5% increase in SEL competencies in the children that participated in our 10-week pilot program.

As the pandemic continues, our work has become ever more critical! We stand committed to ensuring all children can process these lived experiences and have a smooth transition back to the classroom. This journey of reimagining learning may have started off to serve our kids, but has also been one of discovery for ourselves, our work, and the infinite possibilities that exist when you work from the heart.

DANIELLE DE LA FUENTE
FOUNDER & CEO

What We Do

Amal Alliance seeks to engage both the micro and macro structures that affect displaced and disenfranchised children, offering a holistic intervention for this extremely vulnerable population. Our trauma-informed programs on an individual level seek to empower displaced and disenfranchised youth, providing a safe space in which children can simply be children. We incorporate mindfulness practices and play as an informal means to address trauma and foster a sense of inner peace. In addition, we focus on social emotional learning programming to better emotional intelligence and interpersonal skills necessary to build a more cohesive, peaceful community.

Realizing that issues do not occur in a vacuum, we also engage the macro structures to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of our micro interventions. We advocate for psychosocial support, early childhood development, social emotional learning, and increased access to education in emergencies and protracted crises. We work with the United Nations, national governments, and other NGOs to create synergy between the systems to provide the support that displaced children so desperately need to grow. Engaging different system levels increases the effectiveness and ensures the sustainability of our work. A complex issue requires an equally complex response.



PILLARS OF SUPPORT



SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

To increase the ability to properly identify and process emotions thus decreasing behavioral problems and emotional distress



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

To support healthy cognitive, emotional, and physical growth during the most formative developmental years



PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

To improve overall well-being by holistically engaging the mind, body, and spirit



PEACEBUILDING

To create cohesive, more peaceful communities by recognizing the importance of human relationships

GLOBAL GOALS

In addition to supporting the needs of children, our work advances the following SDGs:



EDUCATION DISRUPTED



COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the lives of children around the world. The closure of schools and community centers, as well as quarantines, add stressors to households and can interrupt optimal child development. This is especially true for already vulnerable children, including children with disabilities and children living outside of family care, who are at increased risk of infectious disease, and of physical and emotional maltreatment, mental distress, and violence.

In displaced communities, the impact of COVID-19 could be extreme, given the prevalence of underlying health conditions, poor nutrition, and weak health systems, and school closures. The pandemic is likely going to further affect the emotional wellbeing of children and their families who have already been affected by trauma.

It is important to protect children's emotional wellbeing as much as their physical safety. As children feel vulnerable and overwhelmed, it's important to initially focus on providing a sense of safety and security. COVID 19 has not only disrupted education entirely, but it continues to present toxic stress and anxiety to parents, teachers, and caregivers. Programs ensuring children and their caregivers are supported in these times of uncertainty, are now eminently more critical..

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE CONSORTIUM



Since the onset of COVID, the Amal Alliance team has worked tirelessly to mitigate the long term psychosocial damages to children's education, bridging the learning gap through holistic and innovative programming. Seeing that this complex issue required an equally comprehensive response, we spearheaded a COVID-19 Emergency Response Consortium, which included *Qatar Foundation International, Karanga, Salzburg Global Seminar, and Learning in Times of Crisis.*



WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

Combining our strengths and expertise, the consortium produced “We Are in This Together,” a podcast series that supports the well-being of caregivers and their children through practical activities and coping mechanisms during this difficult time. The podcasts touches on different aspects of child protection and wellbeing, specifically for the most vulnerable groups that have limited connectivity and access to materials. It is available in four languages, and was distributed primarily via WhatsApp, and across 17 global platforms, reaching 543 organizations, and an estimated 160,000 beneficiaries.

INTERNET FREE LEARNING

التعليم
فوق
الجميع | education
above
all

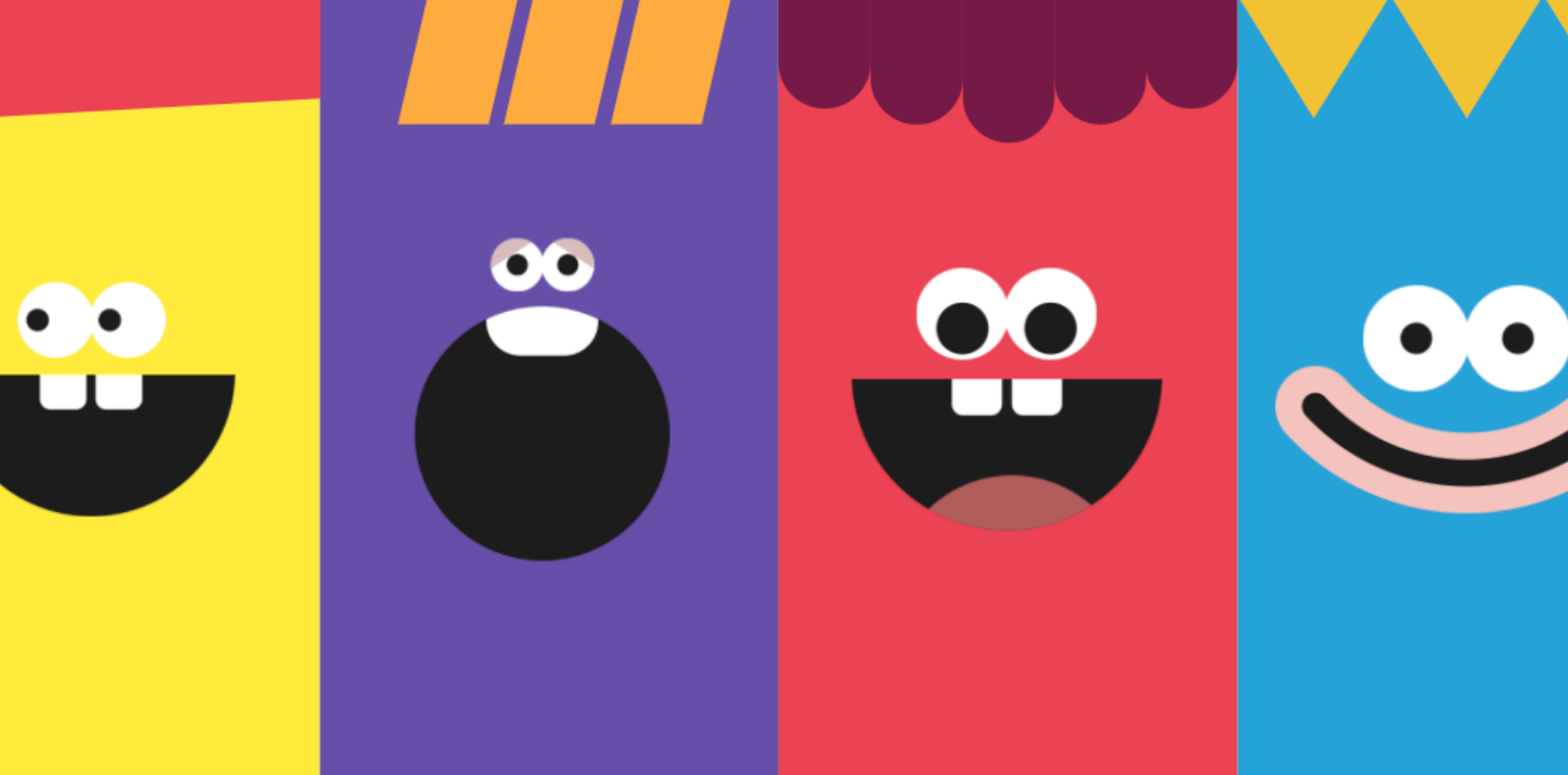
SUPERHERO ACADEMY

Through a joint effort, Amal Alliance worked with the **Innovation Directorate**, the innovation arm of **Education Above All**, to design a social emotional home based learning project.

As an early emergency response, the Innovation Development Directorate at Education Above All launched an **Internet-Free Education Resource Bank** including projects for different age groups with low resource requirements. As the world continues to grapple with the challenges of the pandemic, the unique problems posed by long-term school closures will likely be significant for students from underserved and marginalized communities. The resources are designed to address those needs of NGOs, schools, educators, parents and students in the nearly half of global households that are not digitally connected.

This collaboration resulted in *Superhero Academy* for ages 4-7, 8-10, and 11-14. It was downloaded by **110,000 users**, reaching children worldwide. Learn more by visiting: <https://resources.educationaboveall.org/resources/ages-4-7/superhero-academy-level-1>





Humanitarian Education Accelerator

COLORS OF KINDNESS

"An innovative EdTech solution for teachers and caregivers that includes engaging social emotional learning audio-based instruction and assessment instruments, delivered through a mobile app that works offline."

In early June, UNHCR teamed up with the EdTech Hub, mEducation Alliance, Global Innovation Exchange (GIE) and Education Cannot Wait (ECW) to open a specific Refugee Sub-window to the recent EdTech call – in order to respond to the learning emergency caused by COVID-19 school closures. With over 80 applicants, Amal Alliance was one of 3 finalists selected to design an education in emergencies prototype.

Amal Alliance's initiative was powered by **UstadMobile**, funded by **UNHCR's Humanitarian Education Accelerator (HEA)**, and piloted with **FRIENDSHIP**. Social and emotional learning materials, deeply rooted in human dignity thanks to our **Global Dignity** partners, sought to address the disruptors the pandemic had presented to the education of both Rohingya refugees and children in Bangladesh.



KIDS YOGA



PLAY



DANCE



ART THERAPY

137

CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN THE PILOT WITH MORE THAN 57% BEING GIRLS

16.5%

INCREASE IN SEL COMPETENCY AMONGST THE CHILDREN WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR 10-WEEK PILOT PROGRAM

0

INFECTIONS AMONG THE CHILDREN, TEACHERS, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO PARTICIPATED IN HYBRID INSTRUCTION



GLOBAL IMPACT



270,000

**CHILDREN
REACHED
WORLDWIDE**

Prior to the pandemic, we proudly served children in
Greece, Lebanon, & Turkey.

With our pivot to digital learning, our distance format allowed us to reach a more global audience with children around the world.



PLEDGES FULFILLED

Amal Alliance was a proud co-sponsor of education at the inaugural *Global Refugee Forum (GRF)* held 16–18 December 2019 in Geneva. The forum helped transform the aspirations of the Global Compact on Refugees into concrete action. One year later, we are pleased to share that our programs have not only fulfilled our 4 pledges, but have exceeded our original goal by 5 times.

We are grateful to States and all stakeholders for keeping the spirit of the Forum alive in what has been an unprecedented year. Together, we stood in solidarity with people forced to flee.

CHILDREN'S WELLBEING

Exceeding our pledge by 5 times, we pledged to provide psychosocial support and social emotional learning to 50,000 children – 25,000 in early childhood development and 25,000 in primary education.



ADVOCACY

We signed Education Above All's pledge to raise awareness on these critical issues displaced children face, and did so by giving more than 30 presentations throughout the year.

OPEN RESOURCES

We upheld our shared pledge with Bibliothèques Sans Frontières, Centreity, and the Salzburg Global Seminar to produce content and tools under open access licensing.



COMMITMENT TO CAREGIVERS

Acknowledging the important role they play in children's lives, we pledged to further prioritize and support the wellbeing of caregivers and teachers.

OUR PARTNERS



Humanitarian Initiative





THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



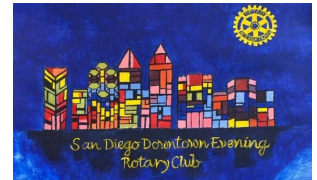
**Humanitarian
Education
Accelerator**



Google Ad Grants
AdWords for nonprofits



QATAR
FOUNDATION
INTERNATIONAL, LLC
عضو في مؤسسة قطر
Member of Qatar Foundation



MCGINNITY FAMILY FOUNDATION

OUR TRANSPARENCY

Amal Alliance remains an 100% voluntary led organization, which means all contributions went directly to the programs serving our children!

Cost per program varied, but details are available upon request.



In The Media:

KEY EXAMPLE IN OUTCOME PAPER

By Save the Children, World Bank, Al Ghurair Foundation for Education, & Education Cannot Wait

INITIATIVE FOR CHILD RIGHTS IN THE GLOBAL COMPACT

Implementing the Global Compact on Refugees for Children: Examples of Child-focused Work

HUMANITARIAN EDUCATION ACCELERATOR (HEA)

Announcement of HEA COVID-19 Challenge Finalists: Amal Alliance receives 60,000 USD to scale support to children during the pandemic

IDEO.ORG - OPEN IDEO INNOVATION PLATFORM NEWS

COVID-10 Reimagine Learning Challenge: A multiple-stage response providing practical guidance and coping mechanisms for caregivers and their children in vulnerable communities

INTER-AGENCY NETWORK FOR EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES

"We Are In This Together" published in COVID-19 resource database

SALZBURG GLOBAL SEMINAR

Announcement that Salzburg Global joins consortium led by Amal Alliance to produce podcast episodes for families and caregivers in vulnerable communities

OUR JOURNEY THROUGH REIMAGINING LEARNING

HEA Blog Series: An in depth perspective of pivoting during COVID-19.

QATAR FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL

"We Are In This Together" podcast series announcement

DIPLOMATIC COURIER

Peace education in the early years

DESIGNING WITH PURPOSE

HEA Blog Serier: The role of design in humanitarian aid.



MEET THE TEAM

Founder & Executive Director

Danielle De La Fuente

Board of Directors

Mr. Eduardo Jose Carrillo Marquez

Mrs. Bertha De La Fuente

Mr. Andre Gordilho

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Mr. Louka Parry

Mr. Marios Dakis

Volunteers & Associates

Mr. Alp Armutlu

Mrs. Deepa Buddhavarapu

Mrs. Ann Rakoff

Mrs. Jane McCall Politi

Mrs. Maria Pia Belloni

Ms. Ela Pinar

Ms. Erika Schuck

Ms. Tuli Chatterji

Mrs. Shaheen Khan

Coalitions, Networks, & Affiliations

THRIVE Coalition

Future of Jobs Committee, G-20Y Association

Global Campaign for Education USA

Consortium for Street Children

COVID 19-Response Consortium

Institute of International Education Scholar Rescue Fund

The Federation of Sustainable Development Orgs.

Karanga, Global Alliance for SEL & Life Skills

INEE Early Childhood Dev. in Emergencies Task Team

UNHCR GRF Forum Primary Task Team

Inclusive Education & Early Childhood CoP

Wellbeing Coalition

Boston University's Global Development Policy Center,

NGO CoM Subcommittee on Children

LaGuardia Humanitarian Initiative

KCIT

Humanitarian Education Accelerator (HEA)

Eversheds Sutherland Pro-Bono Legal Representation

To Empower Women Accounting



2020 Annual Report



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