

FOUNDING SUPPORT · SHATILA 1

# The gift that opened a door in Shatila

How one founding gift became the model for Alsama's work across Lebanon and Syria.



Students at Shatila 1, Alsama's flagship education centre

In 2020, the **Suliman S. Olayan Foundation** became Alsama's first donor. Their belief in the mission, before there was any track record to point to, helped us open **Shatila 1**, our first education centre inside the Shatila Refugee Camp.

Six years on, Shatila 1 has grown into Alsama's flagship centre, delivering a full-time education to **220 refugee and displaced students**. It became the blueprint for every centre that followed — proof of what is possible when students who had missed years of school are given the time, the teaching, and the support to catch up.

This year, Shatila 1's **first 17 Year 6 students** will graduate. They arrived six years ago unable to read, write, or count. They now stand at the threshold of university and work, carrying the results of a foundation's early, quiet confidence in them.

**2020**

Year Shatila 1 opened, with the Foundation's founding gift

**220**

Students now educated full-time at the centre

**17**

Year 6 students graduating this year — the centre's first cohort

*The Foundation's early support helped establish Shatila 1 and shape the model that now underpins Alsama's work across Lebanon and Syria.*