



# Awards Arab World 2025

## Outstanding Contribution to Regional Development

<b>Institution Name</b>	The University of Jordan
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	Hearing Joy: A National Centre for Children's Hearing Care
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	Dr Margaret Zuriekat (assistant professor in the School of Medicine, University of Jordan and a consultant otolaryngologist and audiologist at Jordan University Hospital)
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://www.hear-the-world.com/project/jordan-university-hospital/">https://www.hear-the-world.com/project/jordan-university-hospital/</a>
<b>Submission</b>	<p>Hearing Joy: A National Centre for Children's Hearing Care launched in April 2024 in partnership with the Hear the World Foundation. It is transforming childhood hearing care in Jordan by providing early screening, diagnosis and intervention for children with hearing loss. The project, proposed and led by Dr Margaret Zuriekat, is conducted by a team of academics and clinical healthcare workers as well as expert volunteers and student volunteers from the School of Medicine and the Faculty of Rehabilitation Scientists. It has screened 2,285 children, donated 160 hearing aids, and provided free speech therapy. Hearing Joy has helped to train 663 healthcare professionals and students, ensuring capacity building and the sustainability of newborn hearing screening and hearing care programmes nationwide. The project also established the National Centre for Children's Hearing Care at Jordan University Hospital. Hearing Joy is supporting healthcare workers' upskilling, reducing health disparities, easing the financial burden on families, and improving public awareness of hearing health. This initiative is not just about healthcare – it's about ensuring that every child in Jordan has the gift of hearing.</p>



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<b>Institution Name</b>	Saint Joseph University of Beirut
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	Opération 7e jour – Saint Joseph University of Beirut
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	Professor Salim Daccache (rector, Saint Joseph University of Beirut); Joe Hatem (Opération 7e Jour coordinator); Dr Grace Abi Rizk (president of steering committee); Dr Liliane Barakat (steering committee member); Dr Wehbeh Farah (steering committee member); cell representatives: 37 doctors representing the various Saint Joseph faculties and institutions
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://www.usj.edu.lb/universite/o7.php?lang=2">https://www.usj.edu.lb/universite/o7.php?lang=2</a>
<b>Submission</b>	Opération 7e Jour is built on a strategic vision to form active citizens committed to social change and sustainable development in Lebanon. Through this initiative, which has run since 2006, Saint Joseph University of Beirut fosters civic engagement by integrating community service into academic life. To implement it, 37 cells affiliated with the university's faculties mobilise student volunteers to serve society, particularly the most disadvantaged populations, in alignment with their fields of study. These efforts involve collaboration between Saint Joseph's faculties and institutions, the Hôtel-Dieu de France hospital, and the Berytech Technology Park, creating a united front to support communities facing hardship.



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<b>Institution Name</b>	An-Najah National University
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	JUST PAL – Justice through social training, Palestine
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	Faculty of Law and World University Ranking Team
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://law.najah.edu/en/students/experiential-learning/legal-clinic/">https://law.najah.edu/en/students/experiential-learning/legal-clinic/</a>
<b>Submission</b>	<p>The Legal Clinic at An-Najah National University is a transformative initiative that combines academic research, legal practice and social justice to address justice barriers faced by marginalised Palestinians. Established after extensive field studies, the clinic trains future lawyers by providing direct legal consultations under expert supervision, focusing on labour, family and human rights issues. Students engage in legal research, contributing to applied studies and public awareness campaigns. Since its launch, the clinic has assisted almost 1,500 clients and conducted almost 250 workshops, benefiting more than 4,350 individuals. It introduced innovative programmes such as mobile legal advice units, a radio hotline and an online dispute resolution platform, which reduced court processing times by 60 per cent. The clinic’s sustainable funding model combines university support, contributions from alumni in the legal profession and competitive grants. Through interdisciplinary training, research and outreach, the clinic fosters civic empowerment, legal innovation and community development, exemplifying how universities can drive meaningful societal change.</p>



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<b>Institution Name</b>	Al Balqa Applied University
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	Empowering women through digital inclusion in Jordan's rural regions
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	Professor Ahmed Fakhry Al-Ajlouni (president of Al Balqa Applied University); Professor Haitham Al-Shibli (vice-president of development and Quality Assurance and Centers Affairs); Dr Aiman Alawin (director of the Center for Development and Quality Assurance); Dr Omar Suleiman Arabiyat (INTERNISA project manager); Samra'a Ziad Al-Okaily (BAU Center for Development and Quality Assurance)
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://internisa.org/en/">https://internisa.org/en/</a>
<b>Submission</b>	<p>As the leader of the INTERNISA project in Jordan, Al Balqa Applied UniversityBAU seeks to assist NEET women in rural communities through digital business growth opportunities and digitisation skills. It solves three primary development concerns through its educational services and digital skills training for agriculture, tourism, textiles and finance. Through BAU's INTERNISA Offline Spot, local women accessed business prospects after receiving education and individual career support from this platform. INTERNISA trained 135 female students and 30 business entrepreneurs by implementing work programmes and digital skills training to boost workplace effectiveness. This resulted in lasting partnerships between government and business entities to lock in sustainable project results. Recognising these achievements, the United Nations appointed BAU as Global Hub Chair for SDG 4 (quality education) (2025-27), citing INTERNISA as a model of inclusive digital empowerment for regional and global development.</p>



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## Outstanding Contribution to Regional Development

<b>Institution Name</b>	The British University in Egypt
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	Convoys of compassion
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	Professor Tarek Abbas (pro vice-chancellor of the health cluster); Professor Fardos Rizk (acting dean of the Faculty of Dentistry); Professor Maha Adel (dean of the Faculty of Nursing); Dr Ahmed Ammar, lecturer in oral medicine and Convoys head); Dr Ayman Hani, lecturer in prosthodontics); Dr Fatema Makkeya (associate professor of prosthodontics); Dr Mahmoud Ankily (associate professor and acting head of oral biology); Dr Sherine Nader (associate professor of medical science); Ahmed Abd el Latif (administrator, head of Convoys); Dalia El Sayed (nurse head of Convoys); Professor Catherine Harper, Acting Provost and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education)
<b>URL</b>	
<b>Submission</b>	<p>The British University in Egypt aligns with Egypt's Vision 2030 and the government's "Haya Karima" (decent life) initiative. We prepare students for active participation within their communities through responsible and responsive service, ensuring that their discipline-specific and broader interpersonal, intuitive and communication skills equip them for a future where decency, kindness and action are vital. Community engagement is a key strategic pillar. Our faculties of dentistry and nursing send students, supervised by staff, in medical convoys across all governorates in Egypt, providing free dental, medical and pharmaceutical treatments; physical/mental health support; and women's healthcare. In the past year, they treated some 15,000 adults and about 5,000 children. A third of Egyptians live in extreme poverty in urban slums and remote villages. Our students learn to apply their knowledge in these real-world circumstances, gaining experiential and emotional maturity in dealing with humbling contexts and conditions. Being able to make a positive impact is transformational.</p>



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## Outstanding Contribution to Regional Development

<b>Institution Name</b>	Al-Quds University
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	Digital Quds – empowering marginalised communities through technology
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	Ahmed Nada
<b>URL</b>	
<b>Submission</b>	Digital Quds is a flagship initiative of Al-Quds University designed to digitally empower marginalised neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem, particularly areas such as the Old City and Shu’fat refugee camp. In partnership with the university’s business incubator, community partnership centre and career development centre, the initiative delivers community-based digital education, skills training in e-commerce, freelancing and content creation. It targets women, young people and unemployed residents, offering structured training, legal assistance and seed support for launching digital micro-businesses to more than 7,000 people annually. Digital Quds bridges the digital divide while fostering entrepreneurship and community resilience.



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## Outstanding Contribution to Regional Development

<b>Institution Name</b>	University Cadi Ayyad of Marrakech
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	SOS Face Marrakesh: advancing regional health equity through surgical care and training
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	Professor N. Mansouri; Professor Z. Aziz; Professor M. El Bouihi; Professor S. Fawzi; Professor M. S. K. Hattab; Professor Y. Bennaoui; all of them members of the maxillofacial surgery department, University Hospital Mohamed VI of Marrakesh, Cadi Ayyad University
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://www.fmpm.uca.ma/?page_id=8984">https://www.fmpm.uca.ma/?page_id=8984</a>
<b>Submission</b>	<p>SOS Face Marrakesh, led by the maxillofacial surgery department at University Hospital Mohammed VI in Marrakesh, is a decade-long initiative that has strengthened health equity across the Marrakesh-Safi region by providing free facial reconstructive surgery to more than 1,000 patients, the majority from low-income areas. Since 2009, it has led at least 20 surgical missions. The programme helps patients regain essential functions such as speech and eating, allowing them to return to work or school and easing the burden on families. It also reduces stigma and promotes social reintegration. Beyond medical outcomes, missions support local employment in logistics, nursing and outreach. The campaigns raise awareness of invalidating but treatable conditions and encourage early intervention. Backed by local institutions and independent of international aid, the programme is sustainable and tailored to regional needs. While resident training is integrated, the core impact lies in delivering surgical care where it's needed.</p>



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## Outstanding Contribution to Regional Development

<b>Institution Name</b>	Al-Ahliyya Amman University
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	Enhancing agricultural sustainability via biological treatment of olive mill wastewater for bioenergy and animal feed production
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	Dr Muard Irshied Al-Maaitah (agricultural technology and genetic engineering department, Al-Ahliyya Amman University); Dr Gassan Hodaifa (molecular biology and biochemical engineering department, Pablo de Olavide University, Spain); Dr Sebastián Sánchez (Center for Advanced Studies in Olive Groves and Olive Oils, chemical environmental and materials department, University of Jaén, Spain); Farida Obaid, (agricultural technology and genetic engineering department, Al-Ahliyya Amman University)
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://www.ammanu.edu.jo/sdo/awardsstaff/enhancing-agricultural-sustainability-via-biological-treatment-of-olive-mill-wastewater-for-bioenergy-and-animal-feed-production/">https://www.ammanu.edu.jo/sdo/awardsstaff/enhancing-agricultural-sustainability-via-biological-treatment-of-olive-mill-wastewater-for-bioenergy-and-animal-feed-production/</a>
<b>Submission</b>	<p>This initiative addresses environmental and socio-economic challenges in rural Jordan by treating olive mill effluent, which contains toxic organic compounds, low pH and high chemical oxygen demand (COD). A team from Al-Ahliyya Amman University, Pablo de Olavide University and the University of Jaén uses the aquatic fern <i>Azolla</i> grown in untreated effluent as a biofilter. At 10 pilot ponds near olive mills in Balqa, Jerash and Irbid, where wastewater was classified by source and extraction method, <i>Azolla</i> reduced COD by 70 per cent in three weeks, producing effluent safe for agricultural irrigation. Harvested biomass yielded 20 tonnes of protein-rich feed annually, cutting feed costs by up to 40 per cent, and produced 5 tonnes of biofuel per year, powering generators and lowering emissions. More than 150 smallholders joined workshops on pond operation and <i>Azolla</i> cultivation. This scalable, low-cost model aligns with SDGs 1, 6, 7 and 9 by promoting economic empowerment, clean water, renewable energy and innovation.</p>