

CHANGE, IMPACT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

HOW THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT
BANK GROUP IS IMPROVING
PEOPLE'S LIVES



EDUCATION

EMPOWERING MUSLIM
YOUTH IN THE UK



2020

INTRODUCTION

"The Prince's Trust has helped me more than they'll ever know. Six months ago, I had zero confidence, but now I'm ready for whatever the future holds!" The project has changed the lives of thousands of young people across the UK, who have been supported to overcome homelessness, disability, growing up in the care system, abuse and leaving prison. It has provided intensive support: building confidence and skills for young people to stabilize their circumstances and move forward with their lives, going on to succeed in education and secure employment – and even starting their own businesses.

THE CHALLENGE

The creation of this project was inspired by a 2005 paper by the National Youth Agency, a charity based in Leicester, which said that organizations had failed to "address the realities facing young Muslims, including their experience of education, racism and crime." It added that mosques, community groups and youth organizations often failed to make provision to successfully engage Muslim young people. This inspired The Prince's Trust to review its own work and the wider landscape for young Muslims. It found some startling facts. Nearly a third of young Muslims were leaving school without qualifications – more than double the low achievement rate that was seen across the UK's population. A disproportionate amount of the prison population was Muslim (10%) and two-thirds of them were 18–30 years old. And Muslims had the highest rate of unemployment in the UK: 13% for men and 18% for women (three times the rates for Christian British men and women).



THE PROJECT

The IsDB and The Prince's Trust project sought to empower thousands of young people living in Muslim communities in the United Kingdom, thus extending the reach of IsDB's support beyond its Member Countries, to the benefit of younger people in the wider Muslim world.

In the first five-year phase of the project, which reached into 10 regions of the UK, activities included running 711 training courses. Education programmes supported by the project took a youth-work approach into schools and colleges, helping pupils who were at risk of failure in, or exclusion from, mainstream education. Hands-on projects in employability, entrepreneurship and active citizenship were undertaken to create a motivational environment for struggling students. Inspirational community leaders mentored young people who were thinking about their career options, helping them to believe they could achieve something positive.

The project brought together young people and major UK business employers – empowering young Muslims, who would ordinarily not get the chance to learn about these careers, to participate in employability programs. These programs gave hands-on work experience and support through a corporate partner network spanning numerous sectors, from retail to construction. By participating in them, young people not only developed their vocational skills and gained work experience, but also often ultimately secured jobs at the partner companies. This created a stable foundation for participants' futures, giving them abilities to help themselves and their families for the long term.

During phase one, the project supported over 1,000 young British Muslims with limited or no qualifications; and 1,515 in phase two.

RESULTS

Over half of the young people given support were considered to be underachieving educationally when they entered the project, and 85% were unemployed, but the project had a huge influence in changing this over the decade it ran. For example, results of the first five-year phase showed that 80% of the young people supported had already moved into work, training or education after completing the program (28% of these into employment, 70% into education or training, and 9% into training).

The project was very effective in equipping young Muslims in Britain with the skills and personal development needed to succeed in the workplace. Eight out of every ten of them said that they felt they had improved in at least one skill and 80% also said they got an improvement in overall personal development.

AFTER COMPLETING THE PROGRAM

80%

OF PARTICIPANTS FELT THEY HAD IMPROVED IN AT LEAST ONE SKILL AND

8 OUT OF 10

ALSO SAID THEY HAD SEEN AN IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR OVERALL PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT





LESSONS LEARNED

As a development organization, IsDB understood the need to adapt as the project evolved. The project in turn inspired The Prince's Trust to take a more localized, community-focused approach. The Bank has gained a lot of similar learning and success from its many other projects, many of which have also revealed the need for great engagement on the ground for the work supported. Achieving this has meant getting as close as possible to what beneficiaries truly need and want, delivering maximum impact for them. Among the many success factors that directly meant the most to beneficiaries in this project were:

- The strength of the staff team and the programs at The Prince's Trust, which offered flexibility to young people whatever their background and goal.
- An ability to rely on the generosity of volunteers – their support, which they enjoyed giving, meant young Muslims could get ongoing help after the program. This continuing engagement also gave the young beneficiaries the option to become 'young ambassadors' or volunteers themselves, continuing the empowering cycle.

OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE
SUPPORTED BY THE PROGRAM

OVER 80%

MOVED INTO WORK, TRAINING
OR EDUCATION AFTERWARD

ISDB MEMBERSHIP COVERS

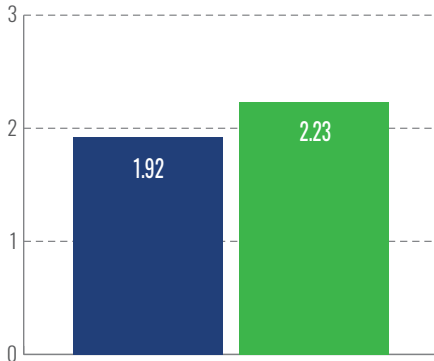
57

COUNTRIES SPREAD
OVER 4 CONTINENTS



TOTAL PROJECT COST

US\$4.15M



CONTRIBUTIONS

● ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK

US\$1.92M

● THE PRINCE'S TRUST

US\$2.23M

DISCLAIMER THE MAP IS FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

"Without the support from The Prince's Trust I would not have been able to provide such a stable and secure future for my family."

Young Muslim person living in Britain who has benefited from the IsDB support through The Prince's Trust.

"I got to meet a lot of interesting people with The Prince's Trust. It broke down my perceptions of different roles and made me feel more connected to our world."

Young participant.



EDUCATION WAS A KEY COMPONENT OF THE PROJECT

OVER

2,500

YOUNG BRITISH MUSLIMS WERE REACHED BY THE PROGRAM OVER 10 YEARS – HELPING THEM GET EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT



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