

Impact Report- The Gaza Student Emergency Relief Fund

Phoenix Space CIO
2025

The Gaza Student Emergency Relief Fund

Overview

The Gaza Student Emergency Relief Fund has been set up by Phoenix Space in collaboration with academics in more than **35** universities, education experts, foundations and legal teams to help bring scholarship recipients from Gaza to the UK to pursue their university studies.

Since **August 2025**, the UK Government has enabled **6** evacuations, allowing more **100** students from Gaza to come to the UK to take up funded university placements. In addition, **18 dependents have been evacuated**. To operationalise this complex effort (**Phase I**), Phoenix Space is serving as the coordination and funding partner, securing tuition fees and living expenses, and ensuring compliance with UK Visa and Immigration requirements by coordinating visa logistics, including IHS surcharges, evacuation efforts and international travel. Phoenix Space is actively supporting more than **100** evacuated students and their families.

Following the evacuation, students have been provided with additional support, **Academic Recovery and Stabilisation (Phase II)**, which includes essential post-evacuation and academic support. As many students arrive with nothing more than a single backpack, **post-evacuation support is critical. This coordinated effort includes:** a needs assessment, medical and mental health support, psychometric testing, accommodation, academic support, educational materials (including textbooks and laptops), essential WASH materials upon arrival, cash cards and multipurpose vouchers. **Phoenix Space is actively administering crucial financial and logistical aid**, ensuring the successful transition and the security of the evacuated individuals.

In addition, Phoenix Space provides targeted financial and logistical support to specific sub-groups within the cohort: **28** students are receiving full or partial scholarship assistance for tuition and living costs from Phoenix Space, while **40** students benefited from direct coverage of visa and IHS fees. Several dependents are also supported with housing and essential needs. **Together, these interventions remove critical academic, financial, and logistical barriers, enabling all students to begin and continue their studies safely.**

Our Impact at a Glance

100

students plus **18**
dependents supported
with evacuation logistics

28

beneficiaries received
financial aid for full or partial
scholarships

40

beneficiaries received
financial and administrative
support from Phoenix Space
with visa, IHS and passport
renewal applications

100

beneficiaries received post
evacuation financial
support for essentials from
Phoenix Space

35

universities
participated in the
evacuation scheme



The Gaza Emergency Relief Fund Students Arriving in the UK

The Gaza Student Emergency Relief Fund

What We Do

Step 1: University Acceptance (Phase I)



Students get accepted to selected Universities and relevant stakeholders reach out to Phoenix Space.

Step 2: Scholarship Financial Support (Phase I)



Phoenix Space coordinates with students and universities to mobilise funds and secure tuition fees and living expenses in order for students to come to the UK and the US to take up their university offers.

Step 3: Logistical Evacuation Assistance (Phase I)



PS and partners assist in coordinating visas, IHS surcharges, evacuation efforts and international travel.

Continued Support After Enrolment:

Phase II:

Post Evacuation Support, Needs Assessment and Diagnosis: Phoenix Space conducts individualised and detailed needs assessments in partnership with each student and their host university.

- The assessment accurately diagnoses all essential deficits in material needs, academic resources, and welfare access.
- This informs and triggers the subsequent coordination and funding activities, ensuring resources are deployed precisely where support is absent.

Structured Referral and System Navigation (Coordination): Based on the evidence, Phoenix Space initiates and manages the mobilisation of university and partner resources. In this function, we facilitate access and expedite activation.

- **Welfare Access Coordination:** We liaise with university welfare teams to secure and confirm foundational arrangements, including accommodation, bedding, kitchen facilities, and logistical mobilisation (airport reception upon arrival). Before arrival, Phoenix Space coordinates students' initial access to welfare teams.
- **Psychosocial and Medical Expediting:** We make students aware of the University's well-being services, specialist psychological support, and essential medical services.
- **Academic Resource Coordination:** We liaise with universities to arrange and secure essential resources such as laptops (rental or loan), textbooks, and study tools.

Direct Provision and Gap-Funding: This function is Phoenix Space's core, unique value proposition, ensuring no student is left unsupported due to institutional limitations.

- **Direct Provision:** Phoenix Space, in coordination with partners, provides immediate cash-based assistance (cash cards and essential multi-purpose vouchers) for food, local transport, and WASH essentials upon arrival.
- **Fill Gaps in Funding:** Crucially, Phoenix Space coordinates or funds remaining gaps in support on a case-by-case basis that universities, local organisations and corporates are unable to cover, guaranteeing the timely and consistent implementation of the stabilisation plan.

English Academic Support: This tailored academic English pathway strengthens the core literacy required for university success. It supports participation in lectures, research, assessments, and independent study while enabling students to integrate into academic communities, build peer networks, and engage confidently in university life.

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Continued Support After Enrolment:

Phase III Looking to the Future:

Phoenix Space is currently designing and in discussions with key stakeholders to implement the following initiatives to ensure that our beneficiaries are supported in the next chapter of their lives, facilitating digital upskilling and employment readiness programmes to enhance their future livelihoods and support their transition from education to employment.

Digital Upskilling: This pathway equips participants with 21st-century competencies, tailored to market demands. Students gain access to premium STEM learning platforms and continued learning tracks aligned with global labour market demand. Training includes high-growth fields such as AI and data analytics, incentivising excellence, supporting continuous professional development, and strengthening alignment with the global digital economy.

Academic 1:1 Mentoring: Students receive structured one-to-one and small-group academic mentoring to stabilise academic trajectories, strengthen retention, and rebuild academic confidence and identity following significant disruption. Mentors are matched to students based on degree discipline and individual needs. Phoenix Space coordinates this support via university academics and university societies.

Professional English Communication for Business: This pathway prepares students for professional environments across sectors, focusing on: Workplace Fluency: Strengthening performance in workplace dialogue, including negotiations, presentations, interviews, and formal professional interaction. Written Proficiency: Building high-level written skills for professional reporting, formal emails, proposals, and industry documentation.

Work Experience & Employer Engagement: This component bridges academic achievement and professional readiness. Phoenix Space coordinates legal guidance and system navigation via our partner network. We facilitate tailored internships and work placements aligned with each student's field of study and career aspirations, alongside delivering employability seminars, job fairs, networking events, structured career mentorship workshops, CV and interview best practices, recruitment trends, and in-demand skills, both generally and in the specific industries students aim to enter. The entire pathway is strategically tailored through rigorous 1:1 mentorship, guidance, and career needs assessment. Each student is paired with an engagement officer, ensuring every intervention- from placement to training- is aligned with the student's individualised goals as well as ensuring they are not taking on this journey in isolation.

Through direct engagement with employers, agencies, and mentors, the programme strengthens workplace exposure, professional competencies, and long-term labour market access. By linking educational achievement with pathways to employment enhancement and labour market/academic participation, this initiative directly contributes to sustainable livelihoods and long-term socio-economic inclusion for Palestinian students in the UK.

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I was living in Gaza, where everything was stolen from our hands. What pained me the most, was the fear that my future might also be taken away, as my education had been disrupted. I am truly fortunate to have found Phoenix Space's scholarship opportunity that allows me to continue my studies, thrive, and pursue the education I have long aspired to.

Farah, Electronics and Electrical Engineering Student, University of Edinburgh.

Dana

"After achieving the second-highest rank among 88,000 students in Palestine's high school exams and beginning my journey in medical school, the war tore everything apart. Overnight, the world I had built with years of effort and hope collapsed, and the dreams I once held so close seemed to drift out of reach.

But even in the silence that followed, I refused to surrender. I searched endlessly for a way forward, writing, applying, hoping-until I found Phoenix Space. It wasn't chance that brought us together; it was persistence, faith, and the belief that light always finds those who keep moving toward it.

Phoenix Space didn't just fund my studies- it revived the parts of me that the war had silenced. It reminded me that even from ashes, new beginnings can bloom. Through this opportunity, I've found not only a path back to education, but also a deeper sense of purpose: to grow, to heal, and one day to help rebuild the home that raised me."



**Dana, Biomedical Engineering BEng,
Kings College London**

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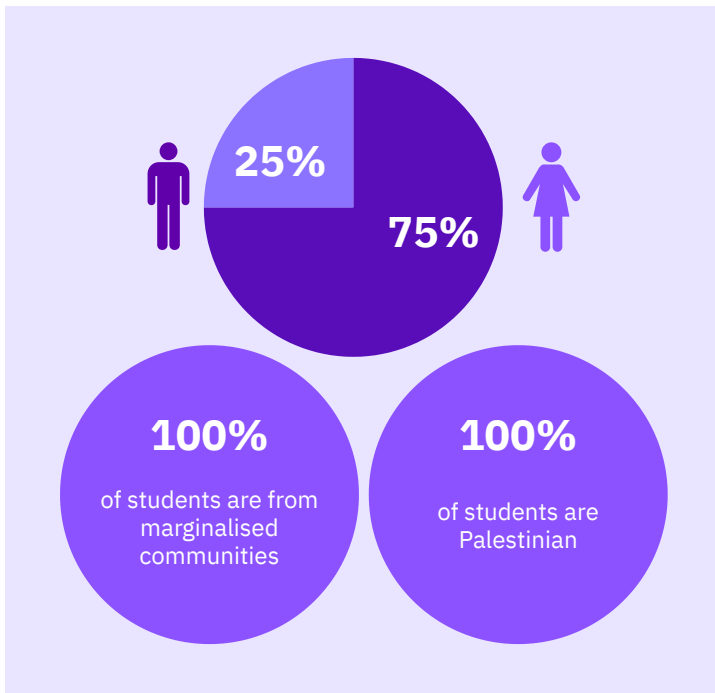
Our Students' Journey From Gaza- Through Their Eyes



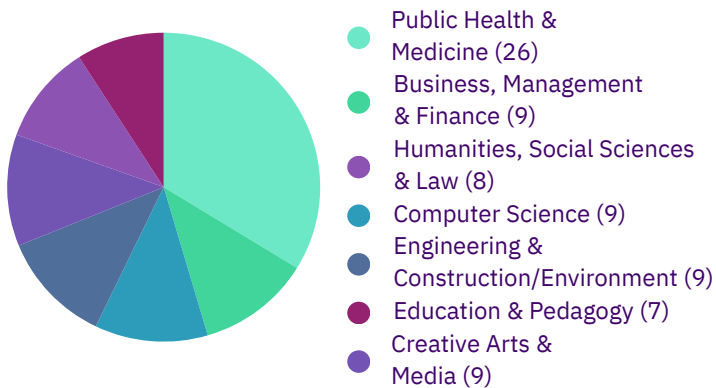
Asmma and Suad, Imperial College London

The Gaza Student Emergency Relief Fund

Students Demographic



Fields of Study for Students



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As a Gazan, I never imagined I would one day study at one of the top universities in the world — the leading institution for Public Health globally. Life in Gaza has always been a struggle, whether in terms of daily living, education, or even basic connectivity. But the moment I connected with Phoenix Space, everything began to change. They supported me in securing my offer, provided the necessary funding, and even guided me through the visa application process. They were with me step by step — all the way until I arrived in the UK and began my studies. Even now, their support continues, both financially and emotionally, in different and meaningful ways. Without their incredible help, I wouldn't be here today, pursuing my dream.

Soad, Public Health, Imperial College London

University In Which Students' Are Attending



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Our Partners

The Gaza Student Emergency Relief Fund has been delivered in collaboration with a diverse and committed network of partners, including: Palestinian Mission to the UK, Bseisu Foundation, Islamic Relief UK, UK Islamic Mission, Palestinian Mission UK, Zeytoon, Gaza Education Gateway, University of Sanctuary Initiative, Gaza40, Scholarships for Ghazza Initiative, Education Beyond Borders, READ, Reallyenglish, National Zakat Foundation, Aziz Foundation, Co-op, MSF and Norton Rose, Prospero World and many others whose contributions have been instrumental to the success of these initiatives.

Phoenix Space has also established formal partnerships with many leading UK universities, including but not limited to UCL, the University College London, King's College London, the University of Edinburgh, and Imperial College London. These partnerships ensure streamlined Gift Aid arrangements, tuition coverage, and full UKVI compliance.

During the UK Gaza evacuation effort, while UK universities provided individual support to admitted students, Phoenix Space acted as the sole organisation in the UK centralising the support for More than **100** evacuated Gazans students, acting as the indispensable focal point to ensure students have all facets of foundational support. Phoenix Space's unique value lies in the ability to mobilise rapidly, work holistically across academic, legal, financial, and psychosocial domains, and bridge all stakeholders - universities, corporates, legal partners, and NGOs - into a single, coherent support system. This coordination ensures timely, consistent interventions and prevents any student from falling through critical gaps, positioning Phoenix Space as the organisation best equipped to deliver successful outcomes in this complex context.

From everyone at Phoenix Space extend our deepest gratitude to all of our partners, supporters, and collaborators who believe in this mission and have made these initiatives possible. Together, we are not only protecting access to education, we are restoring dignity, stability, and the possibility of a future once thought out of reach.



UK Islamic Mission are proud to sponsor these young Palestinian students, for us they are an inspiration. We wish them well in achieving their dreams and pray they become successful and ambassadors after the difficult period of education they have gone through.

Maqsood Anwar, Head of Relief (UKIM Trustee)



Islamic Relief is pleased to support this project for young Palestinian students. This is the first step for these students as they rebuild their futures. After more than two years of disruption to their education, this is an exciting opportunity that these scholars will now be embarking on. We pray that their futures are prosperous and safe.

Zia Salik, UK Director, Islamic Relief UK



At Phoenix Space, we have supported young people affected by crises for many years, and the resilience, ambition, and drive of youth facing crises continue to amaze and inspire us. Over the past two years, the students arriving safely today have endured unimaginable hardships in Gaza, yet education remains a lifeline and a beacon of hope. We are immensely proud to partner with UKIM, IRUK and many others to ensure their safe evacuation and the continuity of their studies. Education must not become another loss they endure, and thanks to the generosity and support of UKIM and IRUK, it does not have to be.

Alevtina Nepomnyashchikh, CEO of Phoenix Space



Phoenix Space's support has created opportunities for six postgraduate Master's students from areas of conflict to pursue a world class education at UCL. This support will not only change lives but will also help shape the world we live in. We are proud to work with the Phoenix Space team and look forward to what the future holds for our partnership.

Ian Wilson, Executive Director of Development, UCL

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