“Sila” (connection) reflects our name and mission
Arab youth have potential capabilities that can contribute to the promotion of sustainable development in their societies.

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About Us

Silatech is an International development nonprofit non-government organization that works on connecting Arab Youth wherever they are to jobs, and enable resources for them to establish and sustain successful enterprises.

Based in Qatar, the organization supports a network of local, regional and international partners with innovative solutions from providing financial and technical contribution mobilizing financial resources to reach more youth and promote the impact of the programs. Silatech believes that Arab youth have the dynamic energy to actively contribute to the sustainable economic and social development of Arabic societies, and has sought to improve the living conditions of youth and their families, in order to protect their communities from poverty, unemployment and radicalization.

Silatech has innovative youth programs in 16 Arab countries including: Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen and the Comoros. The organization is currently working on expanding its operations to other countries and it has recently launched a training and recruitment program for young Arab refugees in Turkey.

In 2008, Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser, as a member of the High-Level Group an ambassador to the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, launched Silatech as a global initiative that seeks to create opportunities for youth to act as change leaders for a better tomorrow.

We ensure that our programs are complementary to sustainable development goals

Our Vision
An Arab world in which young people are able to work, and are engaged in the economic development of their societies.

Our Mission
Connect young people to economic opportunities and jobs through innovative enterprise development and employment initiatives.

Our Values

- **Accountability**
  We are fully accountable at every step, to everyone from donors to partners.

- **Passion**
  We are passionate about changing lives of Arab youth for the better, through innovative projects and initiatives.

- **Transparency**
  We foster relationships built on trust, we strive to be fully transparent in everything we do.

- **Respect**
  We carry out our business with the utmost respect for the norms and customs of stakeholders we work with and the societies in which we operate.

- **Empowerment**
  We help young Arabs in the most challenging environments and circumstances take control of their lives and their future.
In the Arab world, our large population of talented and bright young people is among our greatest assets.

Yet with the highest rates of youth unemployment, under employment and skills shortages in the world, our region will remain stagnated and blocked from fulfilling its potential. Silatech was conceived from the region, by the region, for the region, with a vision to unleash this potential.

Our name and our mission are all about connection—connecting needs with skills; connecting employers with job seekers; connecting young people with opportunities.

The social and economic upheavals that have rocked the Arab world in recent years have compounded my conviction that now, more than ever, it is vital to give all young people the tools to make their societies flourish. It is imperative that we provide them with chances to become active and productive members of their communities.

Only when we connect the hopes and dreams of our youth with the tools to realize them will we build the strong Arab economies of tomorrow.

Moza Bint Nasser
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees

Members of the Board of Trustees

Silatech promotes social and economic inclusion of youth through providing them with access to decent work and livelihood opportunities.
Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Abdi Sahl Dawali, a young man from Somalia, was dreaming of migrating to Europe for a better life. During his journey to Europe he passed through Ethiopia and Libya. Abdi spent more than three years in Libya trying to find a way to cross the Mediterranean to Europe but all his attempts ended in failure.

"During my stay in Libya, I saw many of my friends get killed while trying to cross the sea. These incidents convinced me to give up on my dream to reach Europe and I decided to return to Somalia," says Abdi.

Upon returning, Abdi learned about the Entrepreneurial Loans Program provided by Silatech, the American Refugee Committee (ARC) and Kaah Islamic Microfinance Services. He applied for a loan and founded a cafeteria project in the city of Hargeisa.

"Now I have a successful project that changed my life and the living conditions of my family for the better and I also hired three other young people in the project. I have hope for life and I feel that I am an active member in my community."

The loan helped me establish a successful project in my country and provide a decent living for me and my family.

Sabah Al Haidoos
CEO
Overview

Years 2016-2017 witnessed remarkable achievements for Silatech reflected in the launch of innovative programs and initiatives in collaboration with a wide network of strategic partners. These achievements saw the creation and sustainability of large-scale employment opportunities for Arab youth.

Over the past two years, the organization has worked to strengthen coordination with Arab governments as well as national, regional and international NGOs to ensure the greatest possible impact of its youth-oriented programs. Silatech’s initiatives are integral and complementary to the national programs of each country in which the organization operates, which enables Silatech, through registered partners, to provide solutions tailored to the specific needs of each country in line with local laws and regulations.

Silatech has intensified its efforts to support the Syrian refugees, especially young people, to mitigate the effects of the crisis on their future. The organization has cooperated with Qatar Red Crescent in the construction of mud houses for displaced people and the employment of youth in this project, and it has also partnered with Qatar Charity to launch two agricultural projects that generated job opportunities for young people.

Furthermore, Silatech has partnered with the Sudanese Commission for Refugees (COR) to financially empower Syrian refugees in Sudan. Silatech has also expanded the scope of its operations outside the Arab world to establish a center for the rehabilitation and employment of Syrian refugees in Turkey in cooperation with Rizk Institute for Professional Development.

On the sidelines of the historic visit of Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser, (founder and chairman of Silatech’s board of trustees), to the Tunisian and Sudanese Republics, Silatech has signed a number of strategic agreements with the support of the two governments to secure more than 2 million job opportunities for young people in both republics by 2021.

Over and above, the organization has strengthened its presence in Tunisia by officially registering the Silatech branch in the Presidency of the Tunisian Government.

As part of its efforts to activate the youth agenda at an international level, Silatech joined the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (WANGO), an international organization that aims to unite non-governmental organizations around the world to promote global peace and prosperity, so as to provide Silatech with the opportunity to exchange experiences with leaders of institutions serving young people.

Silatech has appointed a number of young Arab figures who have a wide impact at a regional and global levels as international ambassadors for its mandate. The organization continues to put more strategic partnerships into operation and launch innovative programs that support the strategic development of each country in coordination with its international partner organizations and in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.
Our Operations

We work closely with all programs in the organization to provide supporting information for program design, improving the results and carrying out impact assessments. Silatech is working on the preparation of applied research and collaborates with policy makers to enrich the process of effective policy formulation to improve the entrepreneurial climate and generate employment opportunities and to achieve the economic integration of young people.

Silatech collaborates with governmental, educational and private sector partners to develop effective employment and training mechanisms and programs. It also provides young people with access to career guidance, training and jobs through innovative technological platforms, builds the capacity of local institutions, and direct connection between employers and young jobseekers.

We are working on the economic empowerment of Arab youth and seek to help them develop income-generating projects by facilitating access to financial resources. We also provide technical support and various innovative financing instruments to help MFI’s and other financial institutions in designing and marketing youth-oriented loans and implementing training programs for credit and lending officers, in addition to applying best practices for the benefit of both young people and financial institutions.

Over 50 Research papers on policies and programs that support Arab youth
Over 30 International conferences and workshops on youth issues

Countries of Operation

+16

Funding 146,000 youth projects
Training 42,000 young men and women in entrepreneurship
Building the capacity of +30 financial institutions
Designing and launching 29 existing financial products for youth

Enterprise Development

65,000 young people received training to enter the labor market
Over 57,000 professional consultations
250 vocational centers in the Arab world
900 Professional Counselors Certified by Tamheed

Employment

+500 Thousand Job Opportunities

Policy & Research

+16 Countries of Operation

16

Over 50 Research papers on policies and programs that support Arab youth
Over 30 International conferences and workshops on youth issues

ANNUAL REPORT 2016 | 2017

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ANNUAL REPORT 2016 | 2017
Niazi Mahsoub
Wahbi is a Sudanese young man who has benefited from Silatech’s entrepreneurship programs in Sudan. By receiving a loan from the Agricultural Bank of Sudan which is supported by Silatech, Niazi managed to expand his small pastry business into a factory with 12 workshops and two showrooms.

"The loan supported by Silatech enabled me to transform my small project into a factory consisting of 12 workshops & participate in the employment of young people in my area," says Niazi.

Narwi Platform
Narwi, which was established by Silatech in 2014, is the first innovative Islamic Crowd-funding Waqf platform in the world (based on the ‘waqf’ or endowment model). The platform raises funds to help providing young entrepreneurs with the necessary financing to start and grow their income-generating activities. The platform aims to tackle unemployment and poverty, and to promote economic empowerment of Arab youth. In 2016, Silatech partnered with the World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists (WCMP) with the goal of further developing the Narwi Platform and achieving its independence and sustainability.

Shari’a-compliant Funding: USD 12 million, i.e. 33% of the total funds collected through the platform.

Strategic Objectives Performance Indicators: Focusing on supporting refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), in addition to combating terrorism and extremism.

Targeted Beneficiaries: Initial focus on the Middle East and North Africa (5-8 countries) and expand into South Asia (3-5 countries).

Donors: Primary focus on the western market and expansion in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia microfinance in the world.

Our preparation partners:

Awards:

Our launching partners:
Enterprise Development

Bedaya - Enda
Partner: Enda Tamweel
State: Republic of Tunisia
In partnership with Enda Tamweel, Silatech works on supporting and financing young entrepreneurs in Tunisia to help them launch and grow their income-generating activities through providing youth loans via an innovative mechanism. In addition, Silatech is supporting the expansion of financial services to reach young people in rural and remote areas through setting up mobile branches. Silatech also works with Enda Tamweel to support a social center that aims at training young people and developing their businesses.

creating over 928,000 Job Opportunities by 2021
Financial Inclusion of youth in rural and remote areas through Enda’s mobile branches

Al-Amal – Hope
Partner: The Sudanese Government Supreme Commission for Combating Extremism and Fighting the Ideologies of Terrorist Groups
State: The Republic of the Sudan
Silatech supports the efforts of the Sudanese government to address the phenomenon of terrorism through a program aiming to reintegrate and rehabilitate a number of young Sudanese who had formerly fallen into the trap of extremism and terrorism. The innovative program provides training for 400 young people from the target group and provides them with the funding needed to launch small, productive businesses. The project was launched under the supervision of the Supreme Commission for Countering Extremism and Combating the Ideologies of Terrorist Groups.

creating over +180,000 Job Opportunities by 2021
Providing Innovative Financing mechanisms and expanding access to financial services for the vulnerable segment of youth

Al-‘Aysh al-Karim” - Decent Living
Partner: Qatari Red Crescent
State: Syria
The “Decent Living Program” provides internally displaced Syrian youth with professional training and employment opportunities in alternative mud houses projects that target displaced families inside Syria. The project also funds the establishment of small projects for displaced youth, such as workshops, and provides the workers with light equipment that may be of help in future projects.

Operating and funding 1,690 internally displaced Syrian beneficiaries and developing their workshops for future projects
The program focuses on enhancing the stability of the displaced communities by actualizing the potential of their youth through engaging them in productive and income-generating activities

Bodour
Partner: Attawfiq Micro-Finance Foundation
State: Kingdom of Morocco
Building on the success of the first initiative between Silatech and Attawfiq Micro-Finance, Bodour Program was launched to promote employment and expand economic opportunities in Morocco to help young entrepreneurs start and expand their businesses. The program also includes training of loan officers in 120 branches of Attawfiq Micro-Finance Foundation, providing marketing support for loan products and connecting youth-owned enterprises with the organizations that offer services to them.

creating over +180,000 Job Opportunities by 2021
Providing Innovative Financing mechanisms and expanding access to financial services for the vulnerable segment of youth

We share the same ambition and objective as Silatech with respect to the social and economic development of youth. Building on the success of the first phase of our partnership program “Bodour”, expanding the scope of our partnership is highly important due to their extensive experiences in youth work. We need to integrate their experiences into our own in order to provide financing and support mechanisms for delivering a comprehensive, innovative range of financial products tailored to support and fund youth business
Mr. Mohamed Alloush, Managing Director of Attawfiq Micro-Finance Foundation
The Bedaya Center for Entrepreneurship and Career Guidance

Silatech programs, including employment and entrepreneurship programs, operate closely with the Bedaya Center to deliver programs and services for youth inside the state of Qatar. The Bedaya Center for Entrepreneurship and Professional Development is a joint initiative between Silatech and Qatar Development Bank that provides a wide range of services for youth in Qatar including career guidance, self-evaluation and skill development in the fields of employment and entrepreneurship. The center also provides volunteering opportunities, practical training and communication activities in addition to a program for lecturers.

**Students**
- **323** Students benefiting from the work environment simulation program
- **251** Projects supported by Bedaya Center from concept phase to implementation
- **12,988 Students** from 9 Universities & 38 Schools provided with professional development programs
- **5,075 Students** undergoing Tamheed Assessment conducted by 20 speakers & trainers
- **3,589 Youth** attending workshops and training programs
- **8** internationally accredited Qatari graduate Life Coaches

Our goal is to help young people discover their path in life and achieve their dreams.
Circumstances forced me to leave school and seek refuge in Istanbul without having any certificates or experience.

I am continuing to attend Turkish Language courses to mingle with the Turkish society and to be integrated into the labor market.

A 20-year-old young woman from Aleppo forced by the circumstances to leave school and move to Istanbul along with her family, but she does not have any certificates or experience qualifying her to apply for a job with a good salary, especially that she cannot not speak Turkish. Rizk department, under the sponsorship of Silatech, has enrolled her in several training courses to develop her skills, in addition to employing her in an embroidery factory where she designs drawings to be embroidered with modern machines.

“Rizk department has enrolled me in a three-month intensive computer and training course and has also offered me a job in the same field. I am also continuing to attend Turkish language courses to mingle with the Turkish society and to be integrated into the labor market,” said Laila, Laila Abdel Ghan, A Syrian refugee in Turkey.
Supporting the Employment of Syrian Refugees

Partner: Syrian Forum
State: The Republic of Turkey

Silatech has partnered with Rizk for Professional Development, one of the organizations under the Syrian Forum, to launch the Rizk Center for the training and employment of Syrian refugees in Istanbul to connect Syrian refugees with job opportunities that suit their qualifications and skills.

Tamheed for Career Guidance

Silatech has developed “Tamheed”, a psychometric assessment tool normed to the Arab world. “Tamheed” helps young people identify their profession and personal preferences and make informed career decisions. Silatech trains career center staff on how to benefit from the assessment and offer professional advisory services to young job seekers.

The program focuses on preserving the Right of the Syrian Youth affected to find work & make a decent living for themselves & their families in stable conditions.

Tamheed helps young people to choose the academic specialization and career path that is most suitable for them.

More than 65,000 Youth received guidance sessions from qualified advisors across more than 250 Professional Guidance Centers in the Arab world and through online advisory services.

Trained over 950 Professional Advisors and 15 Certified Trainers to ensure the continuity of the program.

Creation of 4,650 Job Opportunities

More than 2,036 Youth signed up to the program and 708 Youth received access to Job Opportunities

more than 15,000 young people have received consultancy services and training

Tamheed™
Making Informed Career Choices

More than
65,000
Youth
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from qualified advisors
across more than
250
Professional
Guidance
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in the Arab world and
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Trained over
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Tamheed helps young people to choose the academic specialization and career path that is most suitable for them.
Supporting the Career Guidance and Employment Center
Partner: A’Sharqiyah University
State: The Sultanate of Oman
Silatech provides technical support to A’Sharqiyah University in establishing a career guidance and employment center that will allow youth to smoothly transition from their education into labor market. It provides young people with the skills and expertise that will facilitate their integration into the working environment.

Employment
2,000 Youth receiving career guidance sessions, &
600 Graduates will be connected with job opportunities during 2016-2017

Building the capacity of independent secondary school career advisors
Partner: Ministry of Education and Higher Education
State: The State of Qatar
This program builds the capacity of school career advisors by training them on the use of the psychometric assessment tool, “Tamheed”.

Supporting the Smart Tunisia Program
Partner: Smart Tunisia, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and Digital Economy
State: The Republic of Tunisia
Silatech has provided technical support to the “Smart Tunisia” program, launched by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and the Tunisian Digital Economy with the support of the Ministry of Vocational Training and Employment. This program connects Tunisian youth with employment opportunities available on the Tunisia Ta3mal Employment Portal and aims to capitalize on, and retain, local Tunisian expertise.

Creating 50,000 Jobs by 2020
The program is characterized by Attracting major international companies to move or expand their activities in Tunisia, thus creating jobs for Tunisian youth and reducing the emigration of competent Tunisian individuals abroad

Impact
Raising students’ self-awareness of their academic and professional choices and helping them build professional development plans that matching their needs

The program is characterized with the fact that it will benefit the local economy in the near future by raising labor productivity together with reducing drop-out rates and career change

We offer youth access to career guidance, training and jobs, through innovative technology platforms
Career Guidance and Employment Center

Partner: J. P. Morgan, Glowerk
State: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

In collaboration with J. P. Morgan and Glowerk, Silatech has established a career center to support the employment of women in Saudi Arabia. The center provides women with career guidance, training and employment services to harness their potential and benefit Saudi society as a whole.

Directly connecting

380
Saudi Women
with employment opportunities and providing

877
Saudi Women with Vocational Training & Guidance Services

Developing the capacities of young women in the field of manufacturing and packaging food products

Partner: Palestinian Food Industries Union - PFIU
State: The state of Palestine

This program builds the capacities of young women in Gaza, Jenin and the West bank by providing them with skills in the manufacturing and packaging of food products. These skills will provide young women with job opportunities and allow them to compete in local and international markets.

We design programs to empower women economically and involve them in the achievement of stability and development.
Research Program

Silatech conducts research and applied studies aimed at increasing the effectiveness of Silatech’s programs and activities as well as the programs and activities of its partner institutions, in addition to supporting the policies relating to the empowerment and economic integration of Arab youth.

The research program is structured around three main areas:

**Preparation & Formulation of Public Policies**
Silatech conducts researches to formulate and develop public policies in targeted countries, with a major focus on improving the business environment, supporting entrepreneurship and creating and facilitating access to jobs.

**Assessment of Program Impact**
Silatech conducts research and studies to assess the impact of its programs and the programs of its partner institutions to identify best practices, solutions and experiences implemented and to benefit from them in redesigning the programs, improving performance and implementation levels and upgrading them.

**Program Design**
Silatech research supports the development and design of programs that address the challenges of employment and look to economically empower young people.

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**We are working to provide supportive information for program design, improvement of results and impact assessments**

The Silatech Policy and Research Department conducts research and applied studies to assist in policy making and the adaptation of Silatech programming. The department works on collecting information to improve the effectiveness, impact and sustainability of Silatech’s programs as well as to facilitate the development of successful initiatives and identify and advocate for policy changes that empower Arab youth and support their capabilities and competences.
“Taqeem” Initiative

“Silatech” has supported the “Taqeem” initiative from 2011 until 2016. The initiative was managed by the “International Labour Organization (ILO)” in partnership with a number of international organizations including the “World Bank”, aiming at supporting the capabilities of organizations, institutions and agencies which work in youth-related fields in the Middle East with regard to monitoring and evaluating their programs, projects and initiatives through the provision of technical assistance and small-sized grants. The initiative has also worked on identifying the evidence and learning lessons from the impact assessments on the most effective programs and approaches that may be implemented in the area of youth employment.

The “Taqeem” initiative has provided technical support to more than 20 organizations working on supporting young people in connection with developing monitoring and evaluation platforms.

The initiative has also organized 12 workshops and forums to share lessons learned and build the capability of several institutions and individuals in the field of monitoring and evaluation.

Moreover, it has contributed to conducting seven impact assessments, continuing to conduct policy studies in several Arab countries, including Egypt and Morocco, as well as participating in multiple events and activities with policy makers in relation to youth in the Arab world.

The initiative has also issued a report on evidences concerning successful youth programs, in addition to a draft report on future research priorities.

Provision of technical assistance and small-sized grants

Policy Program

The policy program uses the evidences, findings and conclusions of “Silatech’s research” and other institutions to formulate policies related to empowering and supporting young people, building their capabilities, facilitating their access to the labor market, identifying and expanding successful programs and initiatives across the Arab region.

The policy program activities revolve around three main areas:

Linkage with policies

The policies program uses evidences, findings and conclusions to ensure effective and productive communication with decision and policy makers and to inform them of the recommendations, proposals and initiatives addressing the challenges and economic constraints faced by Arab youth.

Innovation in expanding successful programs

In order to achieve wider impact and benefit from successful programs, the policy program aims to identify successful programs, initiatives and projects related to empowering Arab youth and works on expanding their scope and benefiting from their experience and success factors for the preparation and design of similar programs.

Policy Design

Special emphasis is placed on working with governments in the Arab region to design nation-wide initiatives and policy programs with a view to achieving the economic empowerment of Arab youth and supporting entrepreneurship.

Harvesting success factors to support initiatives and programs
Entrepreneurship Policy Observatory

Silatech plays a leading role in the Arab region with respect to supporting and empowering young entrepreneurs to establish and develop their own projects and businesses and overcome the difficulties and obstacles they encounter, in addition to providing advice, guidance and recommending the best policy changes to the governmental partners in their pursuit to support the Arab youth.

In this context, Silatech has adopted a project for the establishment of a business entrepreneurship observatory in the Sultanate of Oman in cooperation with the General Organization for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (Riyada). It will be responsible for promoting the sector of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and enhancing its role in the national economy through providing a full range of technical, training and advisory services.

The Entrepreneurship Observatory aims at providing information to decision and policy makers on the progress of Oman’s entrepreneurs and the nature of difficulties encountered during the establishment or expansion of their businesses.

In addition, the work of the observatory includes field research that consists of interviews with a group of Omani entrepreneurs, including the winners of Entrepreneurship Award in 2015/2016.

Additionally, a joint workshop has been organized on the outcomes of the study and how to institutionalize this type of research and monitoring, including the support provided for “Riyada”, especially in the area of policies and procedures which support entrepreneurs.

Providing Information to decision and policy makers on the progress of entrepreneurs in the Sultanate of Oman

Policy Research Initiative for Arab Youth

The initiative seeks to support Arab youth in the establishment and creation of non-profit research centers and organizations that conducts various researches in support of development policies of all types and those related to employment, unemployment, youth empowerment and entrepreneurship support in the Arab World.

In cooperation with the International Development Research Center of Canada (IDRC), the institution has supported the establishment of research centers, one in Lebanon (Center for Solutions) and another in Tunisia (Middle East Center for Youth Policy Studies Project).

Moreover, the "Bayanant Box” platform has been launched on social networking sites, such as Instagram and Facebook, in January 2017, which tackles development topics that are of interest to young people.

In addition to that, about 28 articles have been published in Arabic and English.

Supporting Arab youth in the establishment and creation of non-profit research centers and organizations