ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019
Together...We Can Empower Youth
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
Together... We Can Empower Youth

P.O.Box: 34111, Doha, Qatar
T: +974 4499 4800 | F: +974 4499 4848 | www.silatech.org | info@silatech.org

Silatech
Young People... Enterprise... Employment...
Foreword

Silatech programmes reached more people than ever before in 2018. We would like to thank our supporters, partners, donors and volunteers. You honor Silatech with your continued trust and commitment in our efforts to offer young people a decent life. You helped us create and sustain employment and business opportunities that allowed youth to contribute to their societies through positive citizenship.

Millions of young people live in conflict affected states, unable to access education, skills development and jobs. Silatech and its local, regional and international partners have facilitated access to employment and microfinance for youth in 17 countries. These include Morocco, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, Yemen and Turkey where we assist Syrian refugees.

Silatech empowers young people economically and socially; our efforts mobilize the kind of interest in youth issues that allows them to be placed on international agendas. Our high-level event in Geneva influenced global policy makers to put youth at the forefront of their plans for social and economic development. We have also participated in several international forums that advocate the right for youth to have access to decent work.

The publication of six reports about some of the countries in which we work illustrated the challenges and opportunities on the ground but also how our innovative employment work contributes to reducing the global challenges of poverty, extremism and illegal migration.

Our commitment to creating better futures and more stable societies through decent work is stronger than ever.

Thank you for staying on this journey with us.

Silatech
During the past 10 years, Silatech along with over 300 partners connected more than 1 million young people in 17 countries with new jobs, careers and businesses.

Silatech approaches the problems facing societies in creative and innovative ways. We craft programmes that are both sustainable and transformative in that they address the root causes of instability and not just the symptoms. We provide young men and women with jobs or business opportunities to improve themselves and their communities.

They need a chance to earn a living and allow them to support their families and contribute to their societies and build better futures. This is the hope that Silatech offers.

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser Chairperson of Silatech’s Board of Trustees

About Silatech

Silatech is an international, non-profit, non-governmental social development organization that works to connect youth with job opportunities. Our strategic efforts and innovative solutions developed in partnership with local, regional and international bodies unlock access to resources that allow them to establish and develop their own enterprises. Presently, Silatech’s programmes span 17 countries and actively combat unemployment, extremism and the marginalization of young men and women, particularly in conflict-affected and fragile states. Silatech also aims to socially empower youth by encouraging them to express their opinions on social issues and become active participants in building their societies. This includes contributing to the economic development of the areas in which they live. The overall goal is to achieve peace and social stability by economically empowering youth across the world.

Our Journey

Silatech was formally launched at the UN Alliance of Civilizations Forum in January 2008 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. It was a proactive approach to empower youth in the Middle East and Africa, a region of the world suffering from high rates of unemployment. Silatech was founded in Qatar as an independent international organization focusing on humanitarian and development issues.

The name ‘Silatech’ derives from the Arabic word ‘Sila’ meaning connection. In the words of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, “It means more than that for millions of youth, it means hope for a decent job, a steady income and a better future.”

Silatech’s more than a decade long campaign has gained the support of UN agencies, governments, NGOs, companies, banks, and individuals. Throughout this period, Silatech succeeded in creating a vast network of more than 300 local, regional and international partners. These partners help Silatech design programmes aimed at empowering youth socially and economically.
As Silatech enters its eleventh year, we renew our unwavering commitment to empowering youth in a way that heralds the kind of change that improves their lives and that of future generations. Despite persistent social upheaval, political volatility and economic uncertainty in the countries where we operate, Silatech has continued to deliver. Our efforts have helped transform the life chances of more than one million young men, women and their families.

The right to work is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and we believe that employment is also a fundamental human need, capable of directing the energy and ingenuity of the world’s youth in positive and productive ways.

Our strategy provides both training and job placement for unemployed youth and facilitates access to financial and non-financial services for young entrepreneurs. Empowering young men and women does not merely create jobs and pull young people out of poverty, it also fosters peace, productivity and prosperity throughout nations and communities.

In this sense, our commitment to empowering young people aligns with Youth 2030, the United Nation’s strategy to provide job opportunities and promote their participation in peace processes.

Silatech’s youth empowerment mission also embraces several UN Sustainable Development Goals. Namely, ending poverty, promoting sustainable economic growth, employment and revitalising global partnerships for sustainable growth.

In order to achieve these goals, some Silatech programmes have relied on youth participation to help support other young people find work. Much time has been spent engaging marginalized youth in order to socially empower them.

Silatech operations are expanding across Africa and the Middle East and in order for us to reach our targets, we urge others in the international community, across both public and private sectors to join us as partners on this mission.

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

As Sabah Ismaeel Al Haidoos, CEO of Silatech, we renew our commitment to empowering youth.

Warda Mheissen – Palestine

Warda Mheissen’s hopes and dreams changed after a terrible accident. A gas cylinder exploded in her home and left her with scars all over her face and body. The 22-year-old’s life took another tragic turn after her father, the sole breadwinner of her family died in the attack on Gaza in 2014.

“The accident caused me severe agony and depression. The lack of jobs made my situation worse. The opportunity offered by Silatech was a Godsend. It helped me get my confidence back. I participated in workshops that specialised in vocational skills training and small enterprise management as part of the Wajd programme,” said Warda.

She became a popular designer after graduation, Warda’s Abayas and embroidered clothing mixed traditional Palestinian styles with a modern aesthetic and helped her make a name for herself.
Main Pillars of Work

Enterprise Development
Silatech strives to economically empower youth and support them in developing income generating enterprises by:
- Facilitating access to financial resources, guaranteeing funds and investing in the capital of start-up companies that provide youth financing.
- Using innovative financial tools, including mobile banking services to reach youth especially in rural and remote areas.
- Supporting the capacity building of national financial institutions and youth beneficiaries to enable them start and sustain income-generating enterprises.

Employment
Youth unemployment is on the rise globally and Silatech’s model for connecting youth to work relies on:
- Developing programs and mechanisms to connect job seekers with jobs.
- Providing youth with the necessary skills and experience to ensure their readiness to successfully transition into their work lives.
- Working with partners to provide youth with training and the necessary technical skills required in the job market.

Policy and Research
Silatech’s Policy and Research programmes play a key role in:
- Identifying and advocating for policy changes that improve the economic conditions of young people.
- Mobilising and disseminating knowledge to highlight innovative thinking and promote best practices in expanding economic opportunities for youth.
- Providing information that can be used to improve programme design and enhance impact.

Achievements

1,319,195 Jobs created or sustained from 2008 until the end of December 2018

Growth in Jobs

Knowledge Capacity

272 Academic Institutes
69 Research Studies
984 Certified Counselors

+300 International, Regional and Local Partners

17 Countries

1,319,195 Jobs created or sustained from 2008 until the end of December 2018

Growth in Jobs

Knowledge Capacity

272 Academic Institutes
69 Research Studies
984 Certified Counselors

+300 International, Regional and Local Partners

17 Countries
Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Silatech’s Board of Trustees and UN Sustainable Development Goals Advocate, inaugurated Silatech’s high-level event in Geneva on March 4, 2019. The event, ‘Empowering Youth, Transforming Societies’, allowed Silatech to showcase a decade of its work battling unemployment and its consequences - poverty, extremism, illegal migration and the marginalisation of youth and women.

Politicians, United Nations executives and several prominent international experts attended the high-level meeting. These included the Prime Minister of Somalia, Hassan Ali Khyre, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, the UN Secretary General Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake and Michael Moller, the Director-General of the UN Office in Geneva. They discussed the challenges facing young people, in addition to strategies that would help tackle global unemployment and ways to best unify global efforts to empower marginalised youth.

Participants expressed their belief in the need to empower youth, given the pivotal role young men and women play in the development of their societies. The participants also agreed on the importance of listening to young people and including them in decision-making processes, as well as providing them with the necessary tools and experience to empower them economically and socially.

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser announced Silatech’s commitment to provide three million job opportunities for youth globally, calling upon partners to help raise this figure to five million by the year 2022.
The Exhibition

The exhibition was made up of 10 zones, each depicting a unique aspect of Silatech’s journey since its inception. It highlighted the challenges facing youth and possible solutions to address them. The exhibition also included stories of youth whose lives, and the lives of their families, improved as a result of Silatech and its partner’s interventions.

UN and Silatech’s Joint Statement

“Together, and through our mutual efforts towards attaining the Global Goals, we can create a better world for generations to come”

Sheikha Moza bint Nasser  Jayathma Wickramanayake
Together... We Can Empower Youth

Together... We Can Empower Youth

Unemployment is a global challenge and it is not the sole responsibility of a specific state or organization. Addressing unemployment requires unified efforts at the global level to reduce its negative impacts, one of which includes societal instability. Silatech has committed to providing three million jobs by 2022. Her Highness has called on the international community to contribute to this effort by joining Silatech to raise this figure to five million jobs by 2022.

Silatech has adopted a focused strategy to meet the five million job target:

**Implementing Employment & Economic Empowerment Programmes for Youth**
- Silatech signed 35 collaboration agreements and memoranda of understanding in 2018. This was in order to implement more employment programs and extend successful initiatives to increase impact.

**Geographic Expansion to Reach More Youth**
- Silatech expanded its operations to include other parts of Africa. 140 million people across the continent are expected to be unemployed. Silatech has laid the groundwork to start working in Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali and Senegal.

**Expanding Partnerships as a Vital Tool to Deliver & Manage Programmes**
- Silatech's is to work with, and through, partners to reach as many young people as possible. Partners will include NGOs, public entities, private entities and international organizations.

**Quality Programmes**
- Silatech programmes support the establishment of small and micro-enterprises, as well as skills training and employment. Silatech also focuses on the capacity building of the local partners who implement our specialised programming.

**Social Empowerment**
- Silatech is committed to the social empowerment of youth and recognises that economic empowerment is a vital tool in the creation of successful societies. Our programmes enable young people to develop skills and build confidence in themselves and in the decisions they make, that change their lives and the lives of others.

In addition to the 1 million young people who have been already connected with jobs, we now have a commitment in place to connect another 2 million young men and women by 2022, and that’s 3 million meaningful jobs and businesses, thanks to Silatech and its partners, but we must do more. I therefore propose to set a new target and raise the bar to 5 million by 2022.

**Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser**
Chairperson of Silatech’s Board of Trustees
Economic Empowerment Programmes

Silatech believes youth play a key role in developing their societies. We support this process by providing job opportunities in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region because it has the world’s highest jobless rates. According to the World Bank, Youth unemployment is 21 percent in the Middle East and 25 percent in North Africa. Silatech’s programmes are aligned with global efforts, and have helped empower youth and reduce unemployment and poverty.

Thematic Focus:

1. **Decent Work Opportunities**

   One of Silatech’s objectives is to provide decent work opportunities in line with UN Sustainable Development Goals. Silatech achieves this by designing creative employment and training programmes that also support young people in establishing income-generating businesses.

   **Youth Opportunity Programme**

   Silatech believes investment in young people leads to better futures. We specifically crafted a financial product that offers small and micro finance to young entrepreneurs in partnership with Alamana Microfinance. This Youth Opportunity Programme aims to facilitate the creation of employment and economic opportunities for young people in Morocco.

2. **Support Youth Employment in Conflict Areas**

   Silatech has focused its efforts in 17 countries in Africa and the Middle East, a region plagued by political volatility. Silatech is keen to respond to these challenges by working with young people to empower them economically. This serves to alleviate some of the hardships that are associated with conflict and deteriorating economies.

   **Support Youth and Women Micro Enterprises Programme**

   Silatech’s Partnership with Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), has allowed it to expand its existing relationship with Kaah Islamic Microfinance Services (KIMS) by establishing a fund for loan capital to support micro-enterprise projects in Somalia.

3. **Support and Empower Women and Marginalised Groups**

   UN reports and other international organisations suggest that women and girls are the most negatively affected by poverty and conflict. Silatech has funded and created access to decent work and training to help protect this vulnerable group, and is also continuously developing programmes that empower women and change their social reality.

   **Women’s Economic Empowerment in Khartoum and Red Sea States**

   UN Women in Sudan partnered with Silatech to provide a foundation from which vulnerable women could build their futures. The Economic Empowerment Programme benefits women with disabilities, survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), women in refugee and internally displaced person (IDP) camps, to help them become vibrant economic change agents.

4. **Fight Terrorism and Extremism**

   Lack of employment opportunities are one of the main reasons young people fall into the grips of violent extremism. Silatech is trying to limit this devastating consequence of unemployment. It hopes its job creation activities, skills training and microfinancing will help usher in an era of peace and stability in the Middle East and North Africa.

   **Al Amal (Hope) Programme**

   The programme aims to rehabilitate and reintegrate youth who were involved with extremist and or terrorist organisations back into society. Local communities often ostracize these young people but the Al Amal programme provides them with the necessary support needed to develop income-generating enterprises that allow a measure of independence.
Economic Empowerment Programs

5 Fight Poverty

Silatech focuses on the most marginalised youth by giving them the loans necessary to establish income-generating enterprises. These enterprises provide access to a decent life and the ability to provide for their families. Silatech also rehabilitates young people and provides them with the necessary skills to enter the labour market.

“BODOUR” Youth Loan Program

Silatech partnered with Attawfiq Micro Finance in 2012 to implement ‘Bodour’, the first dedicated youth loan initiative in Morocco. This programme lends money to young people which allows them to start small businesses. Thus far it has created and sustained 264,232 jobs. It has been so successful that ‘Bodour II’ was launched in 2016 to further support and facilitate loans to young entrepreneurs.

6 Support Refugees, IDPs and reduction of illegal Immigration

Key drivers of youth migration include employment, education and an escape from poverty, violence and conflict. Internal and illegal international migration can create particular challenges related to exploitation and discrimination. Silatech is working to mitigate the effects of displacement through programmes that help young people find job opportunities at home.

Entrepreneurship Development and Employment Programme

The programme is implemented by Silatech and the American Refugee Committee (ARC) to provide jobs for young people in Kismayo, Somalia’s third largest city. The programme provides young returnees from displacement camps in neighboring countries with financial support. The small grants enable them to start their own businesses and contribute to the development of their communities.

Younes El Ourini – Morocco

Younes did what his father and his father’s father before him had done. He became a highly skilled copper engraver. He wanted to create new products for the tourism market that incorporated his engraving skill.

Younes joined the Bodour vocational training center and received a diploma in turning and milling and thereafter launched his own workshop in Marrakech.

His development of traditional products with a modern style was not just a hit among locals and tourists but earned him a place in a National Geographic documentary.
Social Empowerment for Youth

Silatech’s vision has always emphasized the importance of youth participation in civic activities as it plays an important role in developing potential and in building human and social capital.

Silatech’s cultivation of social empowerment is unlike the professional skills it teaches young people to enter the labour market. It is a by-product of youth employment that develops a sense of autonomy and self-confidence that encourages engagement in local, regional and international forums.

Silatech’s partnerships with the UN Democracy Fund, Tamkeen for Development and Zeituna Tamkeen support programmes that build confidence and commitment among young people to participate in the democratic process.

The Fundraising Competition

Silatech challenged 30 young men and women in Qatar to raise as much money as they could in 30 days for 30,000 refugee youth.

The aim of this campaign was not only to mobilise funding that enables Silatech to generate jobs and a decent life for youth and their families, but also to:

1. Engage young people as future leaders in making a real positive change in the lives of other youth and empowering them to transform their societies.
2. Promote youth civic engagement and responsibility, strengthen their awareness of global challenges and enhance their contribution to development.
3. Mobilise support and resources to contribute to Silatech’s mission of connecting young people to jobs and economic opportunities.

Wajd Programme for Orphans Care in Gaza

This program targets youth who lost their parents in the 2014 assault on Gaza. It provides skills training and guidance to help manage small income generating enterprises to help support their families. This programme is funded by the Qatar Fund for Development and contributions from the Bank of Palestine, the Haj Hashim Al-Shawa Fund, Silatech and Taawon.

Social Empowerment Initiatives

Social Empowerment for Youth

Silatech’s work has always gone beyond finding jobs or creating businesses. Much of our effort has a more wide-ranging impact on the countries in which we operate. We strongly believe in the importance of youth civic participation and social empowerment as a driving force for community and national development.

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser
Chairperson of Silatech's Board of Trustees
In areas of civil unrest and political instability, young people have fewer employment opportunities usually as a result of deteriorating economic conditions and lack of education or skills training. Silatech works with its partners to combat unemployment in conflict-affected areas and fragile states.

Silatech builds relationships with governments and international organisations in order to provide youth with employment opportunities that allow them to have a decent life and support their families.

Somalia has been one of Silatech’s main countries of operations since 2012. It is a country plagued by civil war, armed conflict, terrorism and political, economic and social crises. Seventy percent of Somali people are less than 30 years old of which 67 percent are unemployed, according to the 2012 Somalia Human Development report. This has triggered high levels of emigration, violence and youth exploitation.

Silatech has recently signed three agreements with the Somali government aimed at providing 75,000 jobs for young people. It has also initiated a programme in cooperation with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the American Refugee Commission (ARC) to implement a project to provide 3,000 jobs for youth in 2019. Silatech also launched two programmes to support refugees and IDPs in Syria and Somalia, in cooperation with the UNHCR.

These efforts are mirrored in Yemen where Silatech works with all actors on the ground to support youth and mitigate the impact of the economic crisis through a partnership with Al Amal Bank.

We are grateful for the services and the support you have been rendering to our people. We are cognisant of the work you are doing around the globe, and more notably in my own country Somalia. We are particularly grateful for the partnership we have built together in the last six years, which has generated jobs, improved the lives of thousands of our citizens, and more importantly inspired hope.

H.E. Mr. Hassan Ali Khayre
Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia

Shaani Mohamed – Somalia

Drought, forced Shaani and her family to abandon their home and head to the sea part city of Eyl.

Shaani joined the Fisheries Economic Empowerment programme funded by Silatech in partnership with Yustan.

“Our life was all about farming and cattle grazing. For me, it was strange, as I knew nothing about the sea or fishing. I learned a lot after the training,” said Shaani.

She learned how to clean and prepare fish, her commitment and dedication were rewarded with a job offer from Yustan where she now works and earns a salary.

She hopes one day to establish her own business.
Programmes and Outcomes in some Countries of Operations
(Figures up to end of 2018)

Regional Programmes: 24,920

- Lebanon: 34,040 (Palestine)
- Jordan: 6,576
- Syria: 14,210
- Iraq: 19,060
- Saudi Arabia: 4,653
- Yemen: 93,408
- Oman: 646
- Pakistan: 297,511
- Somalia: 38,007
- Malaysia: 34,040
- Sudan: 496,972
- Comoros: 35

Other countries:
- Algeria: 223,300
- Tunisia: 297,511
- Morocco: 93,408
- Yemen: 30
- Senegal: 223,300
- Mali: 30
- Mauritania: 30
- Ghana: 30
- Ethiopia: 30
- Bangladesh: 30
- Somalia: 30
- Malaysia: 30
Together We Can Empower Youth

Total number of jobs created by Silatech since the start of operations in Yemen, until the end of 2018
93,408

Total number of jobs created by Silatech since the start of operations in Sudan, from the end of 2018
496,972

Programme Outcomes in some Countries of Operation

Yemen

The Middle East is home to some of the most fragile states on earth. The wars that have raged over the last few years have destabilised the region and produced immense suffering, especially in Yemen. The current conflict has led to an increase in the number of dead and displaced people, pockets of famine and outbreaks of disease. It is considered the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

More than three million Yemeni youth are living in harsh conditions. The situation worsens daily because unemployment continues to rise. This leaves them vulnerable to armed recruitment.

Silatech has been working in Yemen since 2012 and despite difficulties that have forced many development organisations to leave, we continue to run our programmes on the ground. We help alleviate the suffering of the youth by providing them with jobs and supporting them to sustain and grow successful enterprises.

40% of the beneficiaries are women

Sudan

Civil unrest, and a deepening economic crisis has exacerbated the already precarious situation in Sudan. Silatech has been active in Sudan since 2015 and, with partners, has launched youth and female focused economic and social empowerment programs.

A Sample from our Programmes
Youth Entrepreneurs in Sudan
This is in partnership with the Agricultural Bank of Sudan uses Islamic microfinance principles to support youth entrepreneurs in Sudan. Silatech’s contribution provides loans and technical assistance to the beneficiaries.

46.5% of population are living below poverty line (according to the World Bank 2010)

167 Sudan is ranked 167 out of 188 countries in the 2018 Human Development Report

22% of youth are unemployed (15-24, ILO 2017)

A Sample from our Programmes
Youth Entrepreneurship and Financial Inclusion
The programme intends to create employment opportunities for young men and women, aged between 18 and 35. The partnership between Silatech, the European Union, and Al Amal Microfinance Bank will provide grants and training.

1.2 million public sector workers have received little or no salaries for more than two years

5.18 million IDPs and returnees

19.7 million do not have access to basic health services

40% of population are under 14

1.25.1819.740%
million public sector workers have received little or no salaries for more than two years

million IDPs and returnees

million do not have access to basic health services

of population are under 14

167

22%

of youth are unemployed (15-24, ILO 2017)

1.25.1819.740%
Programmes & Outcomes in some Countries of Operations

Tunisia

Silatech launched its operations in Tunisia just after the revolution in 2012 in support of young Tunisians’ desires to have their voices heard in the political and economic life of their country. Silatech built partnerships with leading microfinance organisations, investment funds and government projects and used technology, “Tunis ta3mal,” an online platform to connect youth with jobs.

A Sample from our Programmes

Youth Projects Financing Initiative

Silatech partnered with Enda Tamweel, the largest microfinance institution in Tunisia to fund entrepreneurs launching income-generating businesses. The project had widespread success because the loans, training and banking services were also available to young people in rural and remote areas through mobile banking branches.

Raja Felhi – Tunisia

Raja and her family were struggling to make ends meet. She desperately wanted to help her father, it took some time but she thought of a way.

“I was living with my family in harsh financial conditions. My father was the only breadwinner. I noticed that there was no iron-framing workshop in the surrounding area, so people had to travel 300 kilometers to the capital Tunis to get their work done. So, I decided to enter this field, and I managed to get funding from Silatech and its partner Enda to launch my project,” said Raja.

Raja attended business management training with the fund she received and started her own workshop. Her earnings have helped support her family since her father passed away. Raja also helps others support themselves and manages a team of five employees, including four women.

Total number of jobs created by Silatech since the start of operations in Tunisia, until the end of 2018

297,511

Unemployment rate

15.3%

Poverty Rate

15.2%

Extreme Poverty rate

2.9%

(Poverty Rate (Survey 2015)

(Poverty Rate (Survey 2015)

Extreme Poverty rate (Survey 2015)
Silatech and the UN Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals are a collection of 17 global goals set by the UN General Assembly in 2015 for the year 2030.

Silatech’s programmes contribute to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals, namely gender equality, promoting economic growth in societies and strengthening global partnerships in addition to ending poverty.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Women Economic Empowerment in Khartoum and Red Sea States
Country: Sudan
Partner: UN Women
- This programme aims to economically empower women with disabilities, survivors of GBV and women living in IDP camps, by facilitating their access to jobs, vocational training, rehabilitation, education and businesses finance.
Outcomes: Over 1,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries.

Goal 17: Revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development
Emploi Habilité
Country: Morocco
Partners: International Youth Foundation (IYF) and the Ministry of Tourism in Morocco
- This programme aims to provide youth in Morocco with skills, training opportunities as well as placement into jobs in the growing tourism and hospitality sector.
Outcomes: Training of 3,300 youth and placement of 2,000 young graduates in relevant tourism sector jobs.

Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all
Youth Empowerment in the Agricultural sector through Solar Energy
Country: Yemen
Partner: National Microfinance Foundation
- This programme aims to economically empower farmers by utilising solar energy and installing subsidised solar panels that will power water pumps. This will enable them to irrigate their farms year-round and create more employment opportunities.
Outcomes: 11,000 youth placed in jobs.

Goal 1: Ending poverty in all its forms
Farmers’ Skills Development through Sustainable Agriculture
Country: Somalia
Partner: Horn Progress Initiative
- This programme aims to train Somali youth on climate-smart agricultural practices and place them in employment.
Outcomes: 15,000 youth placed into jobs.

Ms. Michelle Bachelet
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I thank you, Your Highness Sheikha Moza for all the work done by your organisation, and I thank all who are here, because I understand that to be here is to commit to do much more on youth empowerment, investing in them, engaging with them, and of course empowering them. We have to work together, because the future of us depends on our success.
The United Nations launched its “Youth Strategy 2030” in 2018 to support and empower youth. The framework unifies and mobilizes the efforts of member states, private sector, and civil society to invest in youth and engage them in the development process.

In his speech, the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said:

“Empowering young people, supporting them, and making sure they can fulfill their potential are important ends in themselves. To fulfill the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for a more peaceful, sustainable and prosperous world, we need young people to lead.”

Silatech programmes aligned with the Youth Strategy 2030:

**FIRST PRIORITY: Engagement, Participation and Advocacy - Amplify youth voices for the promotion of a peaceful, just and sustainable world**

Entrepreneurship for Participation and Inclusion of Youth
Country: Tunisia
Partners: United Nations Fund for Democracy, Tamkeen for Development and Zitouna Tamkeen
- This programme aims to economically empower youth by building their confidence and strengthening their desire to participate in the democratic process.
Outcomes: Over 1,000 jobs for youth.

**THIRD PRIORITY: Economic Empowerment through Decent Work - Support access to decent work and productive employment for young people**

Fishermen Economic Empowerment Programme
Country: Somalia
Partners: Yustan Food Processing
- This programme aims to build the capacity of Somali youth and teach them proper fishery skills using the latest technological solutions.
Outcomes: Over 2,000 youth placed into jobs.

---

Poverty leads to social exclusion and disenfranchisement. Currently, 64 million youth are unemployed. 70 million of the employed still live in extreme poverty. If young people are surviving on the margins, how can we expect them to fully participate in society? Our understanding of poverty is vital in creating social empowerment and we are not doing enough yet to empower youth.

Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake
United Nations Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth

* Please note that the results listed are till the end of December 2018
In war torn countries and conflict zones, there is little or no opportunity as a result of the collapse of infrastructure and economy. This leads to a lack of employment opportunities for young people who are often poor and desperate for work. This may drive them to violent extremism and possibly lead them to join armed groups.

Silatech’s programmatic work is designed to combat extremism and terrorism by empowering young people by giving them alternatives that offer access to a decent life with decent work in fragile states and conflict-affected areas.

Silatech tries to mitigate some of the negative consequences of instability and insecurity through the employment of young people. When they have a source of income it offers them hope for the future and can break the cycle of despair, which increases the chances of youth contributing positively to the development of their societies.

Syria’s eight-year civil war has displaced more than seven million people. Silatech has built partnerships to help alleviate some of the suffering by providing displaced youth and refugees with employment opportunities inside Syria and in Turkey.

**ISRAR Programme**
This programme operates based on collaboration between the Assistance Coordination Unit, a non-profit, non-political Syrian organisation and the Qatar Fund for Development. The programme aims at employing and rehabilitating refugee youth and has four training centres in four cities - Gaziantep, Mersin, Hatay and Kilis. It also functions as part of ‘Qatar’s Quest’ initiative which provides education and training to some 400,000 Syrian refugees in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey.

**Supporting youth entrepreneurs in Palestinian Refugee camps in Lebanon**
In partnership with Palestine for Development Foundation and two lending institutions in Lebanon, the project provides youth startup loans and capacity-building programmes to Palestinian youth living in refugee camps in Lebanon to help them launch new enterprises or sustain existing ones.

We have to help refugees to make money through work. There’s a lot of resistance, because in the case of refugees, they often live in the situation of high unemployment, so we have to ensure that the local community also benefits. We are appealing to politicians to overcome that for the good of everybody.

---

**Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser**  
Chairperson of Silatech’s Board of Trustees

**Mr. Filippo Grandi**  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Together ... We Can Empower Youth

Women’s Empowerment

Women’s economic empowerment is central to realizing women’s rights and gender equality. This includes but is not limited to women’s ability to participate equally in existing markets; their access to and control over productive resources and access to decent work.

The United Nations estimates that the gender gap in the global labour force is 26 percent and that women are substantially less likely than men to participate in the labour market. Once they are in the workforce, women are also less likely to find jobs than men and they spend 2.5 times longer than men on domestic work.

UN Women statistics also indicate that on an average, women earn 77 percent of what a man earns. Seventy five percent of women working in developing countries are employed in unregulated and unsecure jobs which can exacerbate social protection issues especially in conflict zones.

Women and girls are more vulnerable to increased levels of GBV and sexual exploitation in fragile contexts. Lack of security can also forcibly displace women and stop any job placement or advancement that leaves them marginalised and impoverished.

Women’s economic empowerment is central to realizing women’s rights and gender equality. This includes but is not limited to women’s ability to participate equally in existing markets; their access to and control over productive resources and access to decent work.

The United Nations estimates that the gender gap in the global labour force is 26 percent and that women are substantially less likely than men to participate in the labour market. Once they are in the workforce, women are also less likely to find jobs than men and they spend 2.5 times longer than men on domestic work.

UN Women statistics also indicate that on an average, women earn 77 percent of what a man earns. Seventy five percent of women working in developing countries are employed in unregulated and unsecure jobs which can exacerbate social protection issues especially in conflict zones.

Women and girls are more vulnerable to increased levels of GBV and sexual exploitation in fragile contexts. Lack of security can also forcibly displace women and stop any job placement or advancement that leaves them marginalised and impoverished.

Women Food Production Capacity Building Programme

Silatech in collaboration with the Palestine Food Industries Union, launched the second phase of the Women Empowerment programme. This phase is to create more jobs in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the manufacturing and food packaging industry. In its first phase, this programme succeeded in providing 1,000 permanent and temporary work opportunities for young women.

Silatech believes that gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care and decent work, it believes, will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large.

Gender equality is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states in Article 1, that human rights are universal regardless of gender. Goal 5 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, prioritises gender equality and empowerment to all women and girls in all economic, political and social fields.

Silatech has implemented programmes with and through its partners to promote women’s access to decent work through vocational training and project financing which focused on both women in rural and conflict-affected areas.

Key Women Empowerment Programmes

Women Food Production Capacity Building Programme

Silatech in collaboration with the Palestine Food Industries Union, launched the second phase of the Women Empowerment programme. This phase is to create more jobs in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the manufacturing and food packaging industry. In its first phase, this programme succeeded in providing 1,000 permanent and temporary work opportunities for young women.

The work that you do, that is empowering, and enhancing the lives of young people is more important now than ever before. I wanted to say thank you on behalf of the young people in 17 countries around the world who couldn’t be here. Because of your work and support, somewhere in the world right now, there’s a young man who feels a little less afraid. Because of your vision, some place in the world right now, there’s a young woman who feels empowered.

Mr. Chris Gardner
Businessman and Motivational Speaker
Our Partners

Governmental Semi-Governmental Development Organisations


Financial Institutions

QNB, ENDA, Baobab, Kiva, Attaliq, Jaida, Al Fattan Marine Services, National Bank of Egypt, Intersuisse Reinsurance, The World Bank, International Monetary Fund, National Bank of Egypt

Educational Institutions

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge University, Georgetown University

International Memberships


Non-Governmental Organisations

Amnesty International, Qatar Red Crescent, The Pragmatic Corporation, IFAD, J-PAL, OECD, Mary's Meals, Care

Private Sector Organisations

Microsoft, Booz Allen Hamilton, Katara Hospitality, Bayt, J.P. Morgan, Boeing
How Narwi Works

1. Connecting with Field Partners

2. Endowment Funders Select Young Entrepreneurs to Support

3. Funders Send Their Endowments via Wire-Transfer and Narwi Website

4. Field Partners Disburse Loans

5. Borrowers Repay Their Loans

6. Narwi Replenishes each Micro-Endowment

Narwi is operational in 3 countries:
- Morocco
- Tunisia
- Somalia

Narwi partners with organisations to find borrowers and administers loans to launch beneficiary projects. Most of these partners are microfinance institutions but Narwi also works with NGOs, schools, and social enterprises.

Narwi members can start a micro endowment to finance a youth entrepreneur with as little as $25.

Funders donate and present their interest free endowment funds through the Narwi website to finance youth enterprises. These endowments help field partners expand programs to include more marginalised youth.

Field partners distribute loans to borrowers and select and produce success and beneficiary stories. Silatech’s volunteers review all the information with support of communication team, translate it and post to the Narwi website.

Field partners collect repayments from borrowers. Whereby almost 80 percent of the field partners are non-profit organisations.

Once borrowers pay back their loans, each micro-endowment is replenished, and funders can continue to support more entrepreneurs and make a positive impact. The platform offers online access to career guidance, entrepreneurship training, soft-skills training, e-learning as well as jobs and internship opportunities.
Ta3mal is an e-platform that helps connect youth with jobs. It was launched by Silatech and Microsoft in 2012. The platform provides a range of services, including access to career guidance and the development of vocational skills. In addition to a regional version of the portal, the innovative services of the platform are available in eight countries. Ta3mal has around 500,000 registered users and is offered in Arabic, French and English. It contains more than 1,000 e-learning programmes to develop users’ skills and support entrepreneurship.

Silatech partnered with Mindmill to launch Tamheed in 2011. The programme provides online psychometric assessments and career guidance, as well as training and capacity building for career advisors. Employers can use the results of psychometric assessments to select candidates and match their skills to the right jobs and internships. Tamheed services are available in 272 academic institutions, across 12 countries in three languages, Arabic, English and French.
Six reports were produced under the ‘Country Situation Analysis’ series. Each report highlighted the development challenges and priorities for the countries on which they were based.

The six countries covered were: Morocco, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen.

The reports addressed the socioeconomic situation and challenges the countries are facing.

The reports explored, human development indicators, education and skills, poverty, the economy, the labour market and youth employment, the business environment and micro and small enterprises. The impact of conflict was also tackled in the three reports on Palestine, Somalia and Yemen.

The objectives of these reports are to:

- Provide concise and relevant information to assist Silatech on the development of its country strategy and on programming and project design.
- Offer knowledge base upon which Silatech’s partners and other development organisations may develop their intervention policies and plans.
- Deliver useful sources of information on the themes covered to researchers and to the general public.

Outside the countries of focus and in line with Silatech’s desire for geographical expansion, three reports were prepared on Algeria, Nigeria and Iraq. Each of them focused on the general economic and labour market conditions and the status of youth and micro enterprises in order to identify the possibilities of expanding Silatech’s programmes.

Two theme-focused studies entitled ‘Policies to Support Entrepreneurship in Morocco’ and ‘The Determinants of Youth Professional Employment in the Tunisian Urban Labour Market’ were also conducted in collaborative research projects with researchers.
International Presence

Geneva – Panel Discussion: How We Build a Global Ecosystem Conducive to Youth Empowerment

Silatech organised a panel discussion during the high-level event in Geneva. The panellists were HH Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Silatech’s Board of Trustees, Filippo Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Jayathma Wickramanayake, the UN Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth, Karim Sy, Founder and Chief Catalyst of Jokkolabs Global and Chaker Khazaal, Silatech’s Ambassador.

Topics of Discussion:

- Challenges facing youth empowerment and the obstacles that hinder stakeholders’ efforts in this regard.
- Exploring and discussing the best practices and approaches on youth employment, and benefits from local and international expertise.
- Discussing ways to unify stakeholders’ efforts towards youth empowerment especially those living in fragile and conflict-ridden areas.

Quotes from the Panelists

I believe that education without employment can lead to frustration and marginalisation. It is important to start with education and provide these knowledge skills, but the education alone cannot solve the problems of poverty, or eradicate extremism, brings an end to frustration or stop the immigration, so education has to be followed with meaningful employment. We try to address the challenges facing our work in an innovative way like the lack of collateral security in some areas. We also try to reach out to youth in rural areas with the innovative way of mobile banking.

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser
Chairperson of Silatech’s Board of Trustees

Today, we can easily talk about refugees in conjunction with investments, with private sector, and entrepreneurship. In the past, the whole discourse was purely humanitarian, which was great and necessary, but really, we are making a shift in this regard. It’s great that we showcase Silatech’s achievements because it is a pioneering enterprise.

Mr. Filippo Grandi
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

How do you deal with a doubling population every 20 years in Africa. We need innovation, we need to do things totally in a different way. Technology is bringing us capacity to do things together, so we can think about new solutions and think differently for agriculture, energy and education and invent new ways.

Mr. Karim Sy
Founder and Chief Catalyst of Jokkolabs Global

I don’t think we are doing enough in terms of supporting and empowering young girls and women. Majority of young women and girls are still working in the informal sector and they don’t get paid enough. There are structural and social barriers that prevent young girls and women from getting equal rights and participate in the society comparing to their male counterparts.

Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake
UN Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth

Young people need bridges and not walls. As a former refugee, I learned that we must cling on to hope, and with the darkness in the world, the only way for a refugee is hope. With organisations like Silatech, we must believe that tomorrow will be better than today and yesterday.

Mr. Chaker Khazaal
Silatech’s Ambassador

I believe that education without employment can lead to frustration and marginalisation. It is important to start with education and provide these knowledge skills, but the education alone cannot solve the problems of poverty, or eradicate extremism, brings an end to frustration or stop the immigration, so education has to be followed with meaningful employment. We try to address the challenges facing our work in an innovative way like the lack of collateral security in some areas. We also try to reach out to youth in rural areas with the innovative way of mobile banking.

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser
Chairperson of Silatech’s Board of Trustees

Today, we can easily talk about refugees in conjunction with investments, with private sector, and entrepreneurship. In the past, the whole discourse was purely humanitarian, which was great and necessary, but really, we are making a shift in this regard. It’s great that we showcase Silatech’s achievements because it is a pioneering enterprise.

Mr. Filippo Grandi
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

How do you deal with a doubling population every 20 years in Africa. We need innovation, we need to do things totally in a different way. Technology is bringing us capacity to do things together, so we can think about new solutions and think differently for agriculture, energy and education and invent new ways.

Mr. Karim Sy
Founder and Chief Catalyst of Jokkolabs Global

I don’t think we are doing enough in terms of supporting and empowering young girls and women. Majority of young women and girls are still working in the informal sector and they don’t get paid enough. There are structural and social barriers that prevent young girls and women from getting equal rights and participate in the society comparing to their male counterparts.

Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake
UN Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth

Young people need bridges and not walls. As a former refugee, I learned that we must cling on to hope, and with the darkness in the world, the only way for a refugee is hope. With organisations like Silatech, we must believe that tomorrow will be better than today and yesterday.

Mr. Chaker Khazaal
Silatech’s Ambassador
Silatech in conjunction with its partners, the United Nations Democracy Fund and Zitouna Tamkeen, hosted a discussion on how Youth Economic Empowerment can be used to Strengthen threatened Democracies. Silatech showcased its experience in empowering young people and illustrated how engaging this crucial demographic conferred social stability, economic development and deterred young people from activities like trafficking, terrorism and money laundering.

Silatech participated in a high-level panel to discuss its pioneering an innovative model of addressing youth unemployment and violent extremism. The panel was organized by Qatar’s Permanent Mission to the UN and the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF).

Silatech participated in the eighth Global Donors Forum that was held for three days in London under the theme, “Building Resilient Ecosystems-Philanthropy’s Response to Inequality and Social Tensions”. The Forum was attended by prominent representatives of governments, financial institutions, academics, philanthropists, non-profit organisations among others.

Silatech has been built on the financial support of His Highness the Father Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani and the founder of Silatech Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser the founder of Silatech. Over the last ten years the State of Qatar has bequeathed Silatech $78.6 million (USD) to administer the organisation and fund its projects in the MENA region, along with a $108 million seed fund from the founders.

Despite this level of philanthropy, Silatech has managed to triple the amount of money it raised through contributions from external sources and international partners. Grants totaling $36.4 million at the end of 2018 were awarded to Silatech to help fund its programmatic work.

The organisation’s cofinancing efforts raised $659 million and has succeeded in financing its target in accordance with the 3:1 formula and reached a ratio of 24:1 in 2018. This financial model encourages regional and global partners to fund Silatech programmes and expand economic opportunities for youth and provide them with jobs.

Morocco
$1.5 Million USD

Tunisia
$2.5 Million USD

Funds for Small and Medium Enterprises
$4 Million USD

Worth of Investment in Morocco and Tunisia

Co-Financing
(Till December 2018)

Grants from Partners

Operational and Seed Fund by Government of Qatar

Seed Fund

+$659 Million USD

+$36.4 Million USD

+$78.6 Million USD

+$108 Million USD

Till End of December 2018
Together... We Can Empower Youth

Millions of young people are unemployed and live in the shadow of despair. Silatech strives to change this reality and create more prosperous futures and stable societies.

Contact Us for partnership opportunities and to donate: info@silatech.org

www.silatech.org/donate