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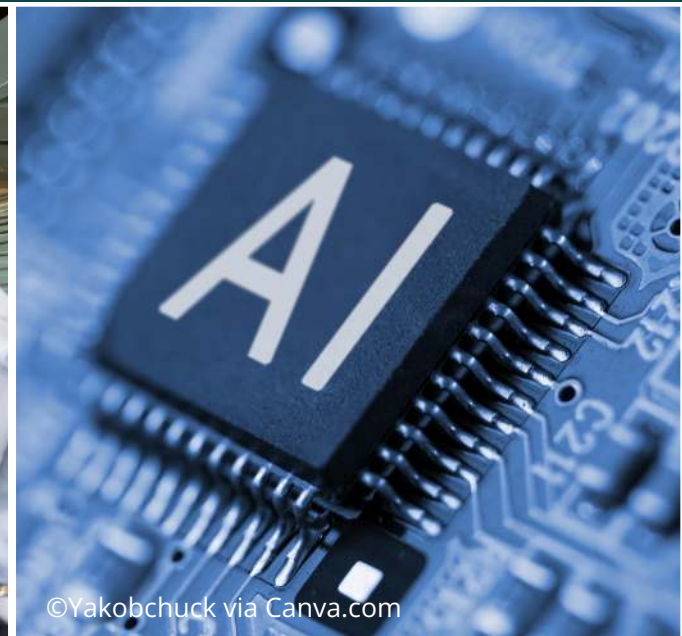
JABI Consulting

MENA Monthly Pulse

Providing policymakers, practitioners and leaders with the latest political and economic trends from the MENA region



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Vol. 8 September 2025

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Message from Our Founder & CEO

Dear Partners, Clients and Friends,

Over the past month, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region has seen developments that warrant both cautious optimism and strategic focus—notably in Syria, Lebanon, Gaza, and around evolving peace frameworks.

In Syria, momentum is building toward forming a more representative government that may include Kurdish representatives and elements of the former security establishment. Alongside this political shift, Gulf countries are signaling economic engagement: Saudi Arabia has pledged \$2.9 billion in infrastructure and real estate investments, while new tourism contracts valued at \$1.5 billion were signed in September 2025 (Reuters, 2025). These commitments, combined with the U.S. administration's signals on easing sanctions—highlighted during the Syrian president's visit to the UN—could create space for gradual stabilization and reintegration of Syria into regional economic networks, provided transparency and accountability are maintained.

At the same time, peace proposals—such as the U.S. “Trump Gaza Peace Plan”—have once again placed Palestinian statehood at the center of international debate. While widely debated globally, the discussion underscores a growing recognition of Palestinians' right to a sovereign state living side-by-side with Israel, with commitments to security, justice, and dignity for all.

Yet the most pressing priority across the region remains investment in people—particularly youth. The MENA region has one of the world's youngest populations, with 55% under the age of 30 (Modern Diplomacy, 2025). However, youth unemployment is the highest globally: 24.4% in 2023, nearly double the global average, and 31.5% of young people are not in employment, education, or training (NEET) (ILO, 2024). In Palestine, the crisis is even sharper, with youth unemployment reaching 34% among young men and nearly 75% in Gaza (PCBS, 2024). These figures highlight not only economic fragility but also risks to social cohesion and long-term stability.

Addressing this challenge requires more than temporary job creation. Sound governance is essential to provide a level playing field for youth to engage in entrepreneurship, start-ups, and private-sector growth. The World Bank has consistently emphasized that transparent regulatory frameworks, equitable access to finance, and anti-corruption measures are preconditions for attracting investment and enabling young innovators to thrive (World Bank, 2023). Without reforms that strengthen institutions and governance, youth energy risks being wasted—while with them, the region's demographic challenge can become a demographic dividend.

September's developments make clear that MENA is at a crossroads. With sound governance, wise stewardship, and a firm commitment to investing in youth, the region can turn fragile progress into lasting stability, resilience, and shared prosperity.



Hisham Jabi, Founder and CEO



Warm regards,
Hisham Jabi, Founder & CEO
jabiconsulting.com

Download our Blueprint for doing Business in the Gulf Region

Includes an exclusive “Market Readiness Assessment Tool”



Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)



US President Donald Trump returns the pen to his UAE counterpart Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, after signing the guest book at Qasr Al-Watan in Abu Dhabi, May 2025. [PHOTO CREDITS](#)

Anatomy of Two Giant Deals: The U.A.E. Got Chips. The Trump Team Got Crypto Riches.

New York Times

This summer, Steve Witkoff, President Trump's Middle East envoy, paid a visit to the coast of Sardinia, a stretch of the Mediterranean Sea crowded with super yachts.

On one of those extravagant vessels, Mr. Witkoff sat down with a member of the ultrarich ruling family of the United Arab Emirates. He was meeting Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan, a trim figure in dark glasses who controls \$1.5 trillion of the Emiratis' sovereign wealth.

It was the latest engagement in a consequential alliance.

Over the past few months, Mr. Witkoff and Sheikh Tahnoon had become both diplomatic allies and business partners, testing the limits of ethics rules while enriching the president, his family and his inner circle, according to an investigation by The New York Times.

At the heart of their relationship are two multibillion-dollar deals. One involved a crypto company founded by the Witkoff and the Trump families that benefited both financially. The other involved a sale of valuable computer chips that benefited the Emirates economically.

In May, Mr. Witkoff's son Zach announced the first of the deals at a conference in Dubai. [Read more.](#)

The Middle East's Big Bet on Artificial Intelligence and Data Security

Crowell

The states of the Persian Gulf are moving rapidly to establish themselves as global centers of investment and innovation in artificial intelligence (AI). The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the State of Qatar are making substantial outlays in technology and infrastructure as they seek to diversify their economies away from oil. As important, their governments are implementing digital regulations and AI strategies in a bid to attract foreign investment and develop technology companies that can go toe-to-toe with American and European competitors.



Technology's new origin stories are emerging from hubs in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, India and Africa.

PHOTO CREDITS

While Gulf countries face significant challenges in achieving their AI and digital development goals, they are making considerable progress, due in part to early public-private initiatives and clear and decisive policy leadership, with important implications for the development of the tech industry.

[Read more.](#)

Decentralized Innovation: How India, UAE and Saudi Arabia Are Shaping Tech's Future

Observer

Since the 1960s, the story of technology has followed a familiar pattern. Innovation emerged in Silicon Valley garages, Boston laboratories or European cafés and gradually spread worldwide. Today, that pattern is changing. The future of tech is being equally developed in Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Bengaluru and Jakarta. Innovation is decentralizing, and not only in terms of infrastructure and investment but also through culture, religion and sovereignty. This new center of gravity is changing whose values will define the tools that the world will use tomorrow.

The Gulf's ambitious tech push

The United Arab Emirates has quickly become one of the most assertive new players. In May, during President Trump's visit, Abu Dhabi announced the release of Stargate UAE, a 10-square-mile A.I. campus spearheaded by G42. Once fully operational, it will be one of the largest A.I.-centered campuses in the world, with a planned five-gigawatt capacity and an initial 200-megawatt phase set for 2026.

Stargate will accommodate hundreds of thousands of advanced chips and is strategically located within a two-thousand-mile range of nearly half the global population. [Read more.](#)

DOO raises \$1.7mln round led by Merak Capital to redefine customer experience in the GCC

ZAWYA

DOO, the AI-powered customer experience platform transforming how enterprises engage with their customers, announced the close of its \$1.7M funding round led by Merak Capital, with participation from Plus VC and other strategic regional investors.

Built by a team of seasoned technologists and entrepreneurs, DOO combines advanced natural language processing with regional linguistic expertise to deliver seamless AI-driven support tailored to Arabic dialects and cultural nuances. This localized approach has been key to its rapid adoption by enterprises in the GCC, where customer expectations are increasingly defined by speed, personalization, and accessibility across digital channels.

With its headquarters now based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, DOO is strategically positioned at the heart of the region's AI and digital innovation movement. [Read more.](#)

Saudi space ambitions fueled by young, tech-savvy workforce

Arab News - Japan

Saudi Arabia's space exploration ambitions are being driven by a generation of tech-savvy young nationals.

A group of dynamic professionals from the PIF-owned Neo Space Group have spoken about their aspirations to advance national objectives through space technology, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

Abdullah Duwaihi Al-Anazi, a Space Communications Department engineer at the Satellite Operations Center, said that space capabilities directly correlated with technological sovereignty while creating substantial economic and scientific opportunities. [Read more.](#)

Qatar invests in US quantum computing startup

Arabian Gulf Business Insight

US quantum computing startup PsiQuantum has secured \$1 billion in funding from investors including the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) sovereign wealth fund.

The fundraising was led by affiliates of BlackRock, along with Temasek and Baillie Gifford, valuing the company at \$7 billion.

Other new investors include Capital, Ribbit Capital, Nvidia Ventures (Nvidia's venture capital arm), Adage Capital Management, Type One Ventures, Counterpoint Global (Morgan Stanley), 1789 Capital, and S Ventures (SentinelOne). [Read more.](#)

UAE chief AI officers get peek into future tech during US tour

The National

The UAE's 50 chief artificial intelligence officers are gaining exposure to some of the latest technologies, including those yet to come to market, during their 10-day US tour where they are visiting some of the world's largest technology companies.

The programme, which began on September 14, has taken the group from California's Bay Area to Seattle, where they will spend the next two days meeting executives at Amazon and Microsoft. The delegation has already visited Meta, Google, OpenAI, Palantir and Nvidia and IBM.

"We wanted to make sure that chief AI officers are not just waiting for products to come to the market and then figuring out how to use them," Dr Abdelrahman Al Mahmoud, director at the AI, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications Office and organiser of the delegation, told The National. [Read more.](#)

Saudi Arabia's transformative journey in empowering women in Technical and Vocational Training (TVET)

World Bank Group

A decade ago, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) was viewed as a second-tier educational path for Saudi women, constrained by societal perceptions and limited range of occupations deemed appropriate for women. In 2016, when Saudi Arabia launched its Vision 2030, the proportion of women enrolled in TVET was



Saudi women taking part in vocational training.

[PHOTO CREDITS](#)

amongst the lowest globally, for young women aged 15 to 24 with scope limited to office management, fashion, and cosmetology. By 2019, 17,959 Saudi women were enrolled in TVET across 29 colleges with 14 available majors.

Today, the landscape of TVET in Saudi Arabia has been completely transformed and aligned with private sector employers' demands, following the successful implementation of Vision 2030. Saudi women are entering industries such as aircraft maintenance, cybersecurity, and renewable energy, with TVET playing a central role in building skills needed for this new era. Legislative, policy, and labor market reforms have reshaped opportunities for women and removed barriers that once constrained their entry into the workforce. [Read more.](#)

US H-1B visa fee gives expats new reason to move to UAE

Gulf News

The United States' decision to dramatically increase H-1B visa sponsorship fees could trigger a massive talent migration to the Gulf, particularly the UAE, according to leading recruitment consultants and education experts.

The new policy, which raises the annual fee for sponsoring H-1B visa holders to \$100,000, is expected to reshape global employment patterns and potentially strengthen the UAE's position as a technology hub.

"Both companies and talent will migrate here," predicts Mahesh Shahdadpuri, Founder & CEO - TASC Group of Companies. "What does this region have to offer? One of the best infrastructures in the world, zero tax, great lifestyle – and the region is one of the fastest growing, investing billions into AI." [Read more.](#)



H-1B visa stamp on a passport.

[PHOTO CREDITS](#)

General Assembly Bahrain signs MoU with Mazad to advance workforce development and innovation

ZAWYA

General Assembly Bahrain (GA), a leading provider of transformative tech and digital skills training, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mazad B.S.C. within efforts to advance talent development, workforce upskilling and digital innovation across the Kingdom of Bahrain.

This partnership reflects both organizations' commitment to Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030 - fostering a knowledge-based economy driven by human capital, innovation and private sector growth. General Assembly's programs are delivered in strategic partnership with Bahrain's Labour Fund (Tamkeen) to ensure accessibility and alignment with Bahrain's labor market needs. The newly signed agreement establishes a framework for ongoing collaboration that supports the development of Bahraini professionals in high-demand fields and strengthens the bridge between academic learning and industry application.

This collaboration extends beyond conventional talent placement as it lays the foundation for a transformative collaboration between education and industry. By leveraging GA Bahrain's global expertise in workforce development and Mazad's leadership in digital innovation, this initiative pioneers a forward-looking model that empowers Bahrainis with not just employment opportunities but with long-term career adaptability. [Read more.](#)

Business Potential in the Middle East



Dubai's Digital Strategy aims to digitalise all aspects of life in Dubai, establishing a reliable and robust digital system that enhances the digital economy and empowers a digitally- driven society. [PHOTO CREDITS](#)

Report: Investments in People can Help Future-Proof the Middle East & North Africa for Global Megatrends

World Bank Group

The World Bank today released its new report on human development in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), outlining a reform agenda to renew human development policies, strengthen institutional resilience, and close financing gaps so countries can safeguard and improve human capital amid three powerful megatrends: demographic change, climate change, and technological transformation. The report stresses that while people's human capital is the region's greatest asset and its primary source of income growth, these transitions will put new strains on people, livelihoods, and public finances unless decisive reforms are pursued.

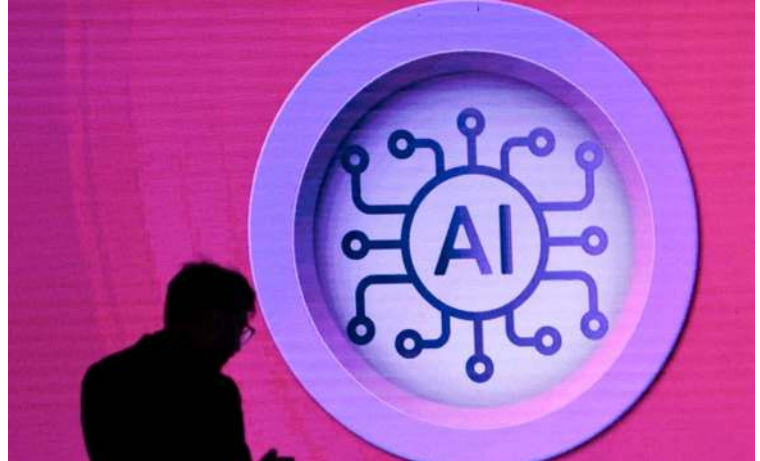
"Building human capital is the surest path to resilient growth and shared prosperity," said Ousmane Dione, Regional Vice President for the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan, World Bank. "This report sets out practical, future-fit policy choices to protect people and unlock more and better jobs—especially for women and youth—and it underscores that progress hinges on robust institutional reforms and sustainable financing to deliver results at scale."

Across the region, the report entitled [Embracing and Shaping Change: Human Development for a Middle East and North Africa in Transition](#), documents mounting pressures on human development outcomes, which are already lagging. [Read more.](#)

The Promise and Risks of Artificial Intelligence

Carnegie Endowment

The past few years have witnessed growing interest in Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies by several governments in the Middle East and North Africa. Enthusiasm about AI's economic potential is especially high, with a recent study estimating that AI could potentially contribute \$320 billion to the economies of the region by 2030.



[PHOTO CREDITS](#)

However, such forecasts remain speculative and highly uncertain. Should AI technologies impact economic development as projected, the benefit is likely to be unevenly distributed. Countries such as the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia, which are currently investing heavily in such technologies, are poised to outpace others in the region. The countries lagging behind are likely to be those grappling with debt and socioeconomic crises, and those vulnerable to shifting regional labor market dynamics in the region.

Should AI become an important driver of economic growth and development in the future, regional inequality is likely to worsen, deepening existing regional imbalances and accelerating the geopolitical reconfiguration of the Middle East and North Africa in favor of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. The latter, in particular the UAE and Saudi Arabia, have taken the lead in investing in AI technologies and cultivating the relevant infrastructure and ecosystems. These efforts are integral to their economic diversification strategies, which aim to reduce their dependence on oil and gas and vary their revenue streams. Beyond diversification, these countries' goal is to emerge as global AI centers that influence norms, control data, and wield technological soft power. [Read more.](#)

Startup wrap – Early stage funding maintains growth momentum in MENA

Arab News

Startups across the Middle East and North Africa region witnessed multiple funding rounds in the past week, as companies across a wide range of industries continue to expand their operations.

The sustained momentum in early stage funding reflects continued investor interest in the region amid global economic headwinds.

A report released by Wamda revealed that startup funding in the MENA region witnessed a 74 percent year-on-year increase in August, with \$337.5 million secured across 47 deals.

Saudi Arabia led the region for the second consecutive month, attracting \$166 million across 19 deals, while the UAE followed with \$154 million raised by 11 startups. [Read more.](#)

Lebanon: Harnessing Political Momentum



Tom Barrack speaks at a press conference during which his comments angered gathered journalists at the Baabda Presidential Palace on August 26, 2025.

[*PHOTO CREDITS*](#)

Will a US-backed economic zone incentivise Lebanon to disarm Hezbollah?

Al-Jazeera

The United States has floated a proposal for an economic zone in southern Lebanon in what analysts tell Al Jazeera is a far-fetched and poorly thought-out plan to incentivise the Lebanese government to push on with disarming Hezbollah.

The US envoy to the Middle East, Thomas Barrack, floated the economic zone during a visit to Lebanon on Tuesday but provided few details other than hints at financing. “We, all of us – the Gulf, the US, the Lebanese – are all going to act together to create an economic forum that is going to produce a livelihood,” Barrack told journalists.

Experts said the idea could be based on similar zones in Jordan and Egypt, two countries with peace deals with Israel that Lebanon would be hard-pressed to replicate after last year’s Israeli war on Lebanon.

After the war, fought primarily against Hezbollah, a regional and domestic push to disarm the Lebanese group has grown, and the relatively new Lebanese government, which took office in January and is under US and Israeli pressure, has declared the intention to disarm the group. [*Read more.*](#)

Anatomy of a Stalemate: Lebanon's Path to an IMF Recovery

Observer Research Foundation

The Lebanese economic downfall has been ranked by the World Bank as the third most severe economic collapse worldwide since the 1850s. This is a direct consequence of the catastrophic sovereign default and the banking sector collapse of 2019. The subsequent hyperinflation of the Lebanese Lira and the imposition of informal capital controls by Lebanon's Central Bank effectively destroyed public trust in the national currency and the formal financial systems. In the resultant vacuum, a pervasive dollarisation of its cash economy had taken hold, not as a matter of policy, but out of necessity. This has led to a dualistic economic structure that is resilient, but limited, where the informal cash economy operates exclusively in US dollars, masking the paralysis of the formal state. A narrow segment of the population with access to external dollar inflows sustains the consumer market, operating in parallel to a defunct national economic infrastructure where public services are largely absent and the formal banking system is non-functional for the majority of citizens. The only conventional path to stabilisation is a multi-billion-dollar programme from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that remains stalled, despite reaching a staff-level agreement in April 2022. This is due to the failure of the Lebanese authorities to deliver the reforms demanded by the IMF to provide the funding. [Read more.](#)

Lebanon's Young Women Redefine Leadership in Universities

UN Sustainable Development Group

In Lebanon, amid overlapping economic and political crises, a new generation of young women is rising to the challenge, turning adversity into agency. University campuses are emerging as critical avenues where young women claim their rights and step into leadership roles and shape the country's future socio-political landscapes.

Supported by the United Nations team in Lebanon, and under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, UN agencies have been supporting women to leverage their leadership, advance gender equality and drive sustainable development. In 2024, more than 13,000 people gained new skills to access the labour market; 60 per cent of them were women. At the same time, over 2,600 enterprises and cooperatives improved their business practices, with women leading the majority.

Women in Lebanon hold less than 7% of parliamentary seats and youth voices are often marginalized. [Read more.](#)



Reem Herzallah, a student from Beirut Arab University, participating in one of UN Women-UNDP workshops as part of the Women's Participation in Leadership project.

[PHOTO CREDITS](#)

Can Lebanon Be a Hub for Syria's Reconstruction?

Arab Center Washington DC

Nearly a year after the end of Syria's civil war and the fall of the Assad dictatorship, the country has embarked on a long and complex reconstruction process. The destruction is staggering: entire neighborhoods lie in ruddle and basic infrastructure (roads, power grids, and water systems) has collapsed, and public institutions are dysfunctional. Millions of Syrians remain displaced inside and outside the country, schools and hospitals are incapacitated, and what remains of the economy is crippled by unemployment, inflation, and the lingering impact of sanctions (even as many have lately been eased). Ongoing sectarian violence and a deepening humanitarian disaster, with more than 14.5 million Syrians facing food insecurity, compound the crisis. As the international community re-engages in Syria, reconstruction will require many hundreds of billions of dollars in aid and investment as well as assistance to restore governance, security, and stability.



PHOTO CREDITS

Lebanon is uniquely positioned to play a role in Syria's recovery. At first glance, this statement may sound surprising, as Lebanon itself is still suffering from its own severe economic crisis and from the damage of repeated Israeli military attacks. Yet Lebanon, with its geographic proximity and close ties to Syria, as well as its competitive advantages in finance and other services, offers a natural platform for Syria's reconstruction. Playing this role would help not only Syria but also Lebanon's own economic revival. [Read more.](#)

Starlink Secures Green Light to Deliver Internet Across Lebanon

TechAfrica News

The Lebanese Council of Ministers has approved a license for Starlink Lebanon to provide internet distribution services across the entire country. The decision marks a major step toward strengthening Lebanon's digital infrastructure and expanding access to high-speed connectivity.

Starlink, the satellite internet service operated by Elon Musk's SpaceX, is known for delivering reliable broadband in remote and underserved areas where traditional infrastructure is limited. By authorizing Starlink Lebanon, the government aims to enhance nationwide connectivity, improve service quality, and support digital transformation efforts.

Industry experts suggest that this move could significantly reduce the country's long-standing internet challenges, including frequent outages and slow connections, while fostering opportunities in education, business, and innovation. [Read more.](#)

Syria: Harnessing Political Momentum



People do shopping at Al-Hamidiyeh Souq in the capital Damascus, Syria. [PHOTO CREDITS](#)

As investments raise hope, how can Syria navigate economic revival?

Anadolu Agency

After more than a decade of war and international isolation, Syria's economy is entering a new and uncertain phase.

Entire sectors were left in ruins by years of conflict, and the country's infrastructure, currency and workforce remain severely depleted. Now, with Bashar al-Assad gone and sanctions easing, regional allies and foreign investors are showing renewed interest.

Dozens of investment memoranda worth billions have been signed in energy, ports and manufacturing – raising hopes of recovery but also questions over whether these projects could deliver broad-based growth or deepen existing inequalities.

The scale of devastation makes the stakes enormous. The Baath regime's 61-year grip on power left behind weak infrastructure, stalled development and entrenched corruption. In 2011, the civil war plunged the economy into freefall – GDP collapsed by more than 40% and the Syrian pound lost over 99% of its value against the US dollar during 14 years of conflict. [Read more.](#)

Expanding Syria's multilateral development bank engagement

Atlantic Council

Estimates of Syria's post-civil war cost of rebuilding range from \$250 billion to \$400 billion. This sum is beyond what Syria's internal resources can generate and will require mobilization of significant outside public and private investment. Syria must articulate a realistic but ambitious national strategy for economic reconstruction and development, and it must align donor and investor projects with that strategy. To help finance reconstruction and development, Syria's transitional government should expand its partnerships with international financial institutions (IFIs) and multilateral development banks (MDBs), as these institutions can play a key role in mobilizing global capital. The presence of MDBs alone will not be determinative of the success of Syria's development strategy; other factors such as internal political stability and external economic relations are more important. However, MDB operations in Syria can be a development force multiplier, increasing investment and expanding the technical capacity of both the public and private sectors. [Read more.](#)

Syria's quest to build its own Silicon Valley

Rest of World

On the other end of the line was an official from the Ministry of Communications, summoning the 26-year-old Hourani and his co-founder, Bashar Saaduddin Al Jbawi, to its offices to discuss their startup: an education app called Quizat.

The communications ministry, located in a traditional Damascene marble building next to the Parliament, was viewed by many Syrians as an extension of the feared Mukhabarat, the country's sprawling intelligence apparatus. Hourani stayed at the office, waiting nervously as Al Jbawi attended the meeting, where the ministry official, with a polite smile, grilled him about their business. [Read more.](#)

Syria joins Türkiye's Teknofest for first time, showcasing drones and agri-tech

Türkiye Today

For the first time, Syria is participating in Türkiye's Teknofest aerospace and technology festival, with officials and entrepreneurs presenting it as an opportunity to reintroduce Syrian innovation to regional and global markets.

The 13th edition of Teknofest opened Wednesday at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport, organized by the Turkish Technology Team Foundation (T3) under the patronage of the Industry and Technology Ministry. Anadolu is serving as the festival's global communications partner.

Wassim al-Omar, secretary to Syria's deputy economy and industry minister, said Damascus views the event as more than a trade show. [Read more.](#)

Gaza in Crisis and an Unstable Palestinian Authority



Palestinians walk as smoke rises from the evacuated Al-Ghifari Tower, after it was hit by Israeli air strikes, in Gaza City, September 15, 2025.

[PHOTO CREDITS](#)

Israel's 'financial stranglehold' on Palestinian land must end: UN experts

Al-Jazeera

United Nations experts have warned of catastrophic economic damage as a result of Israel's relentless attacks on Gaza and its "wider financial stranglehold" across occupied Palestinian territory.

"Economic life in Gaza has been decimated by sheer physical destruction, blockade and siege, and repeated forced displacement," the experts, including a special rapporteur and three UN-backed independent experts, said in a statement.

They said that in the starved and besieged enclave, most commercial, agricultural and industrial assets have been damaged or destroyed, while unemployment has surged to over 80 percent, gross domestic product (GDP) has dramatically shrunk, and trade has stalled.

"Poverty is endemic. Famine has been declared," wrote the experts, in reference to the UN-backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report last month that officially declared famine in parts of Gaza. They pointed out that there is a liquidity crisis in Gaza as most banks and ATMs have been destroyed, Israel has blocked the inflow of new currency, and wages are piling in comparison to stratospheric inflation caused by a total siege. [Read more.](#)

EBRD and The National Bank promote green and trade financing in the Palestinian economy

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is supporting the Palestinian economy with a US\$ 7 million financing package consisting of two facilities for The National Bank (TNB).

Under the European Union (EU)-funded Green Economy Financing Facility (GEFF) Framework, up to US\$ 5 million will be on-lent to private sub-borrowers – micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and residential sub-borrowers – in the West Bank for investments in small-scale renewable energy, water-, energy- and resource-efficiency projects, including circular-economy projects, and to support relevant green technology supply chains. [Read more.](#)

The Quest for Palestinian Statehood: What to Know

Council on Foreign Relations

The Palestinian territories have been in a state of political limbo for decades, and Palestinians’ desire for independence and international recognition remains deeply contentious. Since Israel declared its independence in 1948, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank have been at the center of recurring conflict with Israel over competing claims about borders and Palestinian sovereignty.

As the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip continues, several countries—including Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, and the United Kingdom (UK)—have recognized Palestinian statehood ahead of and during the annual UN General Assembly (UNGA). Here’s what this could mean for the region and how it could affect international order and diplomacy in the ongoing war.

In his announcement to formally recognize a Palestinian state—although a largely symbolic move—Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said this decision by his country, Canada, and the UK is “part of a coordinated international effort to build new momentum for a two-state solution.”

Here’s what it could mean for the region and how it could affect international order and diplomacy in the ongoing war.

[Read more.](#)



A boy holds a Palestinian flag on top of a mound of rubble in the central Gaza Strip. [PHOTO CREDITS](#)

Israel's Mounting Pressure



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks to members of a bipartisan delegation of American legislators at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem on Sept. 15, 2025. [PHOTO CREDITS](#)

Boycotts, Downgrades, and Protests Test Israel's Economy as War Nears 2 Years

The MediaLine

The Israeli military intensified operations in Gaza City on Tuesday, pushing tanks toward the urban center as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned that Israel faces “a kind of isolation,” a risk now reverberating through markets and foreign relations.

At a conference in Jerusalem on Monday, Netanyahu said Israel would need to prepare for efforts to shun the country internationally, raising alarms in a nation already grappling with fallout across multiple fronts.

“There’s no choice; in the coming years, at least, we will have to deal with these attempts to isolate us,” the leader said at a conference in Jerusalem.

Netanyahu was referring mainly to the economy, saying Israel would need to adopt “autarkic characteristics” by becoming more self-sufficient and less reliant on foreign trade. He later tried to downplay the remarks, which drew criticism at home. Opposition figures cast the comments as fresh evidence of what they call Netanyahu’s failed handling of the Gaza war, while unnamed coalition ministers were quoted in the media calling the remarks “harmful.” [Read more.](#)

How Israel could retaliate against the growing push for recognition of a Palestinian state

PBS News

France and Saudi Arabia hope to use this year's gathering of world leaders at the United Nations General Assembly and the increasingly horrific war in the Gaza Strip to inject new urgency into the quest for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Those efforts include a new road map for eventual Palestinian statehood in territories Israel seized in the 1967 Mideast war, and moves by several Western countries to join a global majority in recognizing such a state before it has been established.

Britain, Canada and Australia formally recognized a Palestinian state on Sunday, joining nearly 150 countries that have already done so, and France is expected to follow suit at this week's General Assembly. [Read more.](#)

Are Arab nations going to impose real costs on Israel?

Atlantic Council

For nearly two years since the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack, the biggest question facing the Middle East has been: What combination of circumstances, pressures, or concessions can help the region break free from its spiral of violence? This week's emergency Arab-Islamic summit, called in response to Israel's unprecedented attack on Hamas leaders in Doha, promised possible answers.

As regional powers gathered in Doha on September 15, there were hopes, if not expectations, that they would coalesce around a tougher line against Israel—and a formula for securing a cease-fire in Gaza. The summit proved to be a missed opportunity, as the participating nations did not call for specific military or economic action, but the gathering did plant a seed for what could come. [Read more.](#)

How Israel's War Economy Defied Economic Predictions

Jacobin

When Hamas launched its attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, and Israel went to war, economists worldwide braced for a familiar pattern. History teaches us that wars devastate economies in predictable ways: people stop buying cars and furniture, businesses shut down, unemployment soars, and governments take over the economy by spending massively on weapons and military equipment.

Israel seemed destined for this classic wartime economic transformation. Defense spending has shot up by more than 50 percent since October 2023. [Read more.](#)

Jordan's Uncertain Future



Organized by the Federation of Saudi Chambers and the Jordan Chamber of Commerce, the Saudi-Jordanian Business opened on Sept. 3 with the aim of developing a joint economic vision and unlocking new trade and investment opportunities.
PHOTO CREDITS

Saudi-Jordanian forum targets stronger private sector ties

Arab News

Private sector cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Jordan is set to strengthen as more than 250 business leaders and officials convened in Amman for a business forum.

Organized by the Federation of Saudi Chambers and the Jordan Chamber of Commerce, the Saudi-Jordanian Business opened on Sept. 3 with the aim of developing a joint economic vision and unlocking new trade and investment opportunities, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

The Saudi delegation, led by Federation Chairman Hassan Al-Huwaizi, included prominent business figures, investors, and officials from the ministries of economy and planning, industry and mineral resources, investment, and the General Authority for Foreign Trade.

This comes as trade between the two countries continues to grow, with Jordanian exports to Saudi Arabia reaching 612 million Jordanian dinars (\$863 million) in the first half of 2025, up from 513 million dinars a year earlier. Imports from the Kingdom also rose to 1.4 billion dinars, compared with 1.3 billion dinars in the same period of 2024. [Read more.](#)

A New Path for Women Entrepreneurs in Madaba’s Cultural Economy

Cities Alliance

In the ancient city of Madaba, Jordan, women have long contributed to the local economy through home-based crafts, traditional cuisine, and the creation of informal businesses. Yet, many face persistent barriers, ranging from societal expectations and mobility constraints to limited training and market access. A new initiative aims to change that.



In Jordan’s mosaic-rich city of Madaba, a new women’s business incubator offers a meaningful example of how cultural traditions can fuel inclusive local economies.

[*PHOTO CREDITS*](#)

The HERitage Women’s Business Incubator, supported by Cities Alliance and the French Embassy in Jordan, seeks to unlock the economic potential of women by turning the city’s cultural heritage into livelihood opportunities. Designed with cultural sensitivity and inclusion at its core, the programme provides women with the tools, training, and support to grow their ideas into thriving businesses, while staying rooted in Madaba’s rich traditions. Often referred to as the “City of Mosaics,” Madaba is home to several UNESCO World Heritage sites, which attract hundreds of thousands of tourists annually, offering a strong economic foundation for culture-based enterprises.

[Read more.](#)

Jordan is building scalable startups—without chasing unicorns

Atlantic Council

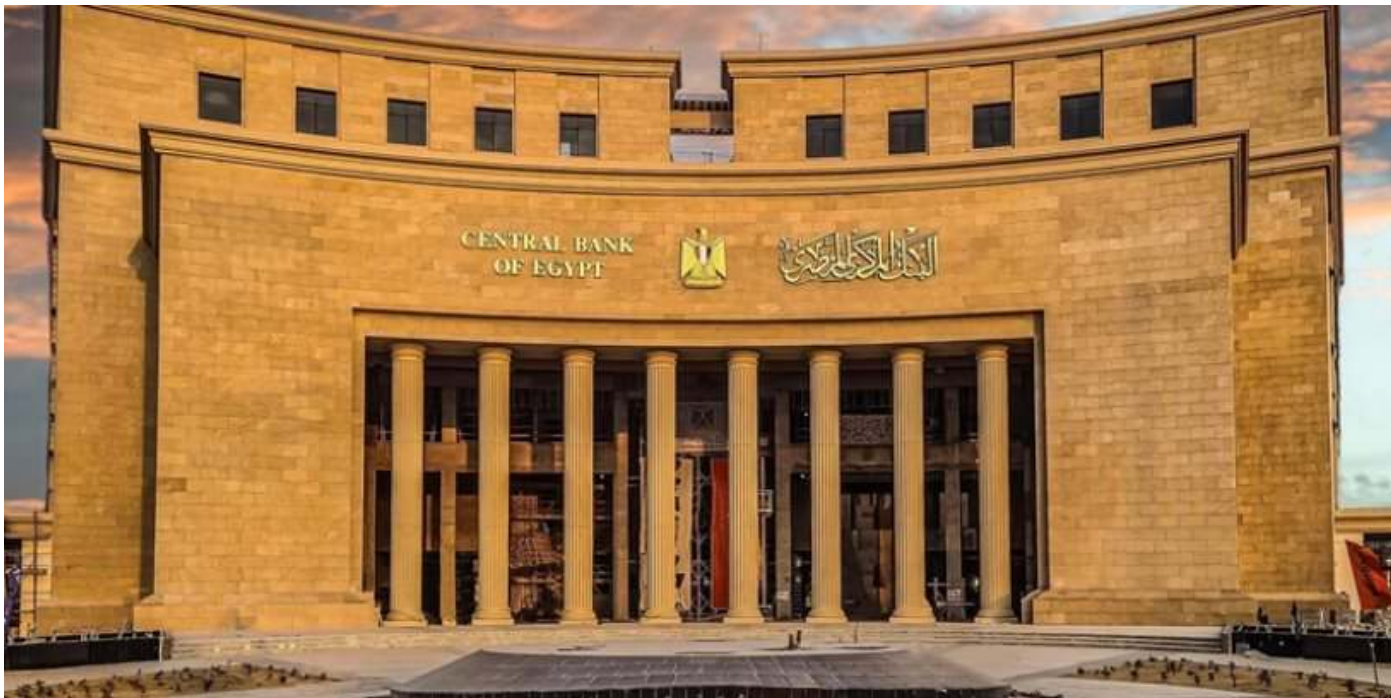
As global venture capital firms tighten their belts and fast-growth startups begin to fade, a more sustainable entrepreneurship model is emerging. It’s one based on local alignment, resourcefulness, and above all, resilience.

In the Middle East, Jordan presents a nuanced case study of this emerging model. While the ecosystem has faced stagnation in recent years, with traditional manufacturing industries struggling and established accelerators slowing their activities, a core group of resilient companies demonstrates what sustainable entrepreneurship could look like when properly focused.

“If you understand the Jordanian market well, it offers many opportunities. Don’t expect it to be like the United States or Egypt. Recognize its strengths, like strong universities and investor-friendly tech programs,” said Hala Siraj, co-founder of FENA Holdings, on my podcast, The Straight Up Start Up.

Jordan’s entrepreneurial ecosystem exists in a state of contradiction. With startups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) contributing an estimated 50 percent of private-sector gross domestic product (GDP) and creating 60 percent of new jobs, the potential is undeniable. [Read more.](#)

Egypt and Regional Instability



The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) announced that remittances from Egyptians working abroad reached an unprecedented record of approximately \$32.6 billion during the period from March 2024 to February 2025. [PHOTO CREDITS](#)

Arab Diaspora Business Communities in Egypt

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Egypt has been working steadily to improve its business environment. Yet, despite significant progress in recent years, its formal business sector remains heavily dependent on personal connections and impeded by bureaucratic hurdles. Moreover, a disproportionately large share of enterprises operates informally.

The essays in this compendium examine the experiences of various Arab diaspora business communities established in Egypt, revealing how these entrepreneurs navigate, and often mirror, the same systemic challenges facing Egyptian businesses. Like their local counterparts, Syrian, Sudanese, Yemeni, and Libyan diaspora businesses rely heavily on social capital to access credit and permits and must navigate bureaucratic obstacles through personal connections. However, diaspora businesses face an additional layer of vulnerability: their dependence on residence permits and entry visas creates major uncertainties about their legal status that Egyptian businesses do not confront. This precarious position severely limits the ability to travel freely, engage in long-term planning, and pursue business expansion or diversification strategies.

Legal uncertainty particularly disadvantages smaller diaspora businesses. [Read more.](#)

Egypt and Bahrain sign agreement to establish joint Youth Council

Egypt Today

Egypt and Bahrain have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish the Bahraini-Egyptian Youth Council, marking a new chapter in youth cooperation between the two nations.

In a ceremony held in Cairo on Thursday, the Egyptian Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Bahraini Ministry of Youth Affairs formalized the agreement, which aims to create a joint platform to enhance youth collaboration, exchange experiences, and promote the values of youth diplomacy.



Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly and Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Bahrain, witness the signing of MoUs and agreements on various fields of cooperation, Sept. 3, 2025. PHOTO CREDITS

“The signing of this MoU to establish the Bahraini-Egyptian Youth Council reflects the deep-rooted and historic relations between Egypt and Bahrain,” Minister of Youth and Sports Ashraf Sobhi said in a speech.

He added that the agreement opens new avenues for youth cooperation and empowers young people to play their leading role in shaping the future. [Read more.](#)

Egypt Unveils National Narrative for Economic Development to Empower Private Sector

WAYA

Dr. Rania Al-Mashat, Minister of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation, introduced a framework titled “The National Narrative for Economic Development: Policies Supporting Growth and Employment.”

The ‘National Narrative’ was unveiled on 7 September 2025, in an event attended by Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly and key cabinet ministers. Furthermore, it aligns with Egypt’s Vision 2030, which aims to drive growth, create jobs, and expand private sector participation.

The economic development plan targets an annual growth rate of 7% by 2030 and an increase in the investment rate to 25-30% of the GDP. It also aims to significantly increase the private sector’s role in the economy. Additionally, it seeks to shift the state’s role from managing state institutions to managing state capital. The narrative focuses on three key pillars: strengthening the national economy, enhancing competitiveness and business environment, as well as advancing a green transition. [Read more.](#)

Yemen's Potential



A meeting of the Yemeni Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) focused on discussing national developments, including economic and institutional performance, comprehensive reforms, and efforts to ensure essential services. [PHOTO CREDITS](#)

Fueling Instability: Hydrocarbons, Protests, and the Limits of Yemen's Internationally Recognized Government

Arab Center Washington DC

In late July 2025, large-scale protests against electricity outages, economic deterioration, and general mismanagement by Yemen's Internationally Recognized Government (IRG) erupted in Mukalla, Yemen's fifth-largest city and capital of the eastern Hadramawt governorate. Although outside attention on Yemen typically focuses on the actions of the Houthi movement, rather than on other internal dynamics, such demonstrations are not uncommon. As often happens in IRG-held areas, fuel deliveries from Yemen's hydrocarbon-rich interior to power stations in Mukalla were disrupted (in this case because suppliers restricted diesel deliveries due to unpaid debts from the local government), resulting in extended power blackouts. Angry protesters blocked traffic, including fuel trucks, on major roads around Mukalla until the IRG addressed their demands for improved governance.

While the protests died down by mid-August without any gains amid a mix of repression and improved economic conditions, the unrest is the latest example of how various actors in IRG-held areas disrupt hydrocarbon flows in order to gain leverage against the authorities, and of the IRG's structural weakness in its ongoing civil war against Yemen's Houthi movement. [Read more.](#)

Telemedicine in Yemen: Health Care Amid War

The Borgen Project

Yemen is one of the world's vulnerable countries, with a GDP per capita of just \$433. Decades of conflict, including a civil war that has killed more than 300,000 since 2014, have left millions of Yemenis without necessities. Health care in particular is lacking all over Yemen. The country has a mere 0.3 physicians per capita, below the global average.

Rates of vaccination against communicable diseases hover between 40% and 50%, compared to more than 90% in Western countries. Only 50% of the country's medical facilities are functional. It comes as no surprise, then, that 80% of Yemenis face "significant challenges" in accessing health care.



PHOTO CREDITS

The problem is even more dire in rural areas. The scarcity of health care in Yemen has fueled major outbreaks of preventable diseases such as cholera, diphtheria and polio. These outbreaks have caused thousands of deaths and cost the Yemeni economy millions of dollars. [Read more.](#)

Saudi Grant Throws Yemen a Lifeline as Salaries Stall and Services Strain

The MediaLine

Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) on Saturday welcomed a 1.38 billion Saudi riyal (about \$368 million) aid package from Saudi Arabia to stabilize the economy and keep essential services running in government-held areas. The funds—channeled through the Saudi Program for the Development and Reconstruction of Yemen (SPDRY)—will support the state budget, petroleum subsidies, and public services, with a portion earmarked for operating the Prince Mohammed bin Salman Hospital in Aden, officials said.

PLC chief Rashad Al-Alimi praised Riyadh's move as a lifeline for a cash-strapped government that has struggled to pay tens of thousands of civil servants in southern cities. "The grant reflects Riyadh's 'strong commitment to the Yemeni people and their aspirations for stability, peace, and development,'" Al-Alimi said, adding that the package dovetails with ongoing reforms. Yemen's Prime Minister Salem bin Buraik said the injection should reinforce the economy and protect recent policy gains. Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry said SPDRY would administer the grant to steady critical sectors. [Read more.](#)

International Downfall of Foreign Aid



A flag outside the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) headquarters in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 3. The agency was shut down on July 1; remaining programs have been transferred to the State Department. [PHOTO CREDITS](#)

USAID's 'final mission' has just ended. Now what?

Devex

Today, the few staff left at the U.S. Agency for International Development have been officially severed from the agency. It marks the end of what Jeremy Lewin, USAID's deputy administrator, previously called USAID's "[final mission](#)" — a wind-down period that lasted from March 28 until Sept. 2. The year of upheaval has left those who worked at USAID — along with the programs and organizations it supported — navigating uncertainty, scrambling to find their next steps as the agency that once defined U.S. foreign aid fades into history.

Things fall apart

"The need for your position no longer exists."

That was the blunt message received by thousands of [USAID](#) staffers earlier this year, just weeks after U.S. President Donald Trump's administration began dismantling the agency. Staff were given one of two end dates — July 1 or Sept. 2 — and told that their roles would soon become a thing of the past.

Over the last five months, a steadily shrinking staff worked to shift some of USAID's programs to the [State Department](#) and shutter everything that remained. [Read more.](#)

US Funding of International Organizations Has Collapsed

Center for Global Development

The US Administration has made no secret of its intention to considerably reduce America's engagement with international organizations. It has already announced withdrawal from the [World Health Organization](#) and the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and has declared it will no longer fund the UN Relief and Works Agency or the UN Human Rights Council. A 180-day review of participation in international organizations, originally [due in early August](#), is to suggest more organizations to leave. What the White House and State Department are signaling through obligations, the latest 'pocket' rescissions package and their proposed FY26 budget, is that the proposed disengagement from international organizations will be unprecedented in scale.

The State Department's Contributions to International Organizations (CIO) account covers US membership dues to a large number of UN bodies, affiliated organizations and other treaty organizations, including the United Nations itself, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Trade Organization and NATO. [Read more.](#)

Rubio hands off USAID closeout to OMB Director Vought

Politico

Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced Friday he was handing off the reins of USAID to Office of Management and Budget Director Russ Vought to "oversee the closeout" of the embattled agency.

"I joked with @realDonaldTrump that I had four jobs. He told me to give one to my friend Russ Vought. So I did," Rubio [wrote in a post to Truth Social](#).

"Since January, we've saved the taxpayers tens of billions of dollars. And with a small set of core programs moved over to the State Department, USAID is officially in close out mode," Rubio wrote. "Russ is now at the helm to oversee the closeout of an agency that long ago went off the rails. Congrats, Russ."

A senior White House official confirmed that Vought had taken on the role of acting administrator of USAID. While Friday's move will offload one of the jobs from Rubio's collection — roles that also include acting national security adviser — it also lands Vought another responsibility to add to his own growing pile. [Read more.](#)



Russ Vought already serves as the president's budget chief and helms the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in his capacity as acting director.

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Core Competencies

Jabi Consulting, based in Washington, DC, specializes in helping private and government contractors compete, expand and succeed in emerging markets. We provide strategic advisory, market intelligence, and partnership facilitation to drive growth and impact in defense, infrastructure, and public and private sectors. We collaborate with USG contractors across various industries, with a strong focus on public administration and business consulting. We bring strategic insights, technical expertise, and hands-on experience to drive impactful and sustainable solutions in complex operating environments.

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- Public Sector Advisory & Implementation
- Digital Transformation & Innovation
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- Project Management & Implementation
- Technology Integration Strategy

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Efficient Project Costing – Delivers accurate cost estimates and streamlined proposal preparation for competitive and successful bids.

Rapid On-the-Ground Support – Conducts quick reconnaissance trips, providing real-time insights for operational readiness.

Company Information

Registered in 2022 in Virginia
UEI: GLVNQ7783YC8
CAGE Code: 9NJF9

PCS Codes: R406, R410, R429,
R431, R499, R607, R699, R707,
R799, D399, D302, D303, D305,
D306, D307, D308, D310, D318,
D322, D324

Business Size: Small and
Minority-owned

NAICS Codes: 928120,
541611, 541612, 541512,
541519, 541618, 561110,
561311, 561312, 561320,
561499, 611430

SAM Registration: Active

Commonwealth of Virginia
Designation: Micro Business



**We Grew our
Client Portfolios
by \$130 Million
in 2024.**

Past Performance

- **2025, IDG** – Worked with IDG leadership to draft a concept note on a Palestinian economic governance plan for the Gaza Day After.
- **2024, Palladium** – Led the development of a global youth workforce strategy and a growth strategy in the Middle East. Spearheaded a corporate strategy, positioning the firm for the Gaza Day After, including a monthly bulletin analyzing political and economic consequences and donor responses.
- **2024, IBI/URC** – Drafted a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) growth strategy for the MENA region, including a \$43M Trade, Investment, and Blended Finance proposal.
- **2023, Panagora** – Led the capture and proposal development of a \$26M USAID MEL activity in the Middle East.
- **2022, USAID Middle East** – Contributed to USAID-funded regional research, leading two research questions to examine transitions in secondary education across 10 Middle Eastern countries.
- **2022, Creative Associates** – Led the design and proposal development for a \$25M TVET program in the Middle East.
- **2022, The World Bank** – Designed a model to engage 173 municipalities in the Middle East, focusing on livelihoods for local communities in partnership with MS.
- **2022, UNOPS** – Jabi Consulting played a pivotal role in launching a green economy initiative and establishing a Regional Green Community of Practice (GCoP). Facilitated stakeholder engagement, consultations, and strategic meetings to build consensus on a green finance framework.
- **2022, ILO** – Worked closely with the ILO team to design comprehensive TVET strategies for Lebanon, Yemen, and Syria, with a focus on integrating technology.
- **2022, Chemonics** – Led the design of an \$87M USAID economic growth proposal in the Middle East, which was successfully awarded to Chemonics.
- **2022, IBTCI** – Led the design and drafting of the management strategy for a third-party monitoring (TPM) proposal in the Middle East.
- **2021, The World Bank** – Designed a framework and drafted nine case studies on the impact of technology on youth entrepreneurship in the Middle East.