ORPHANS CARE
FEDERATION

المؤتمـــــر العلمـــــي
لرعايــــــة الأيتـــــام

SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE
FOR ORPHANS CARE

Conference Report

Previous Experiences and Development Prospects

International Conference for Orphans Care and Empowering their Families

4-5 November 2020 / Online

Facts and Figures

31
Arbitrated research papers

1453
Number of attendees

11
Number of partners

13
Scientific Committee members

43
Researchers

78
Participating countries

Diversity

Diversity was an important advantage of the conference's attendance, the diversity of disciplines, the diversity of its affiliated organisations, the diversity of ages, the diversity of gender, and the diversity of cultural backgrounds and geographical areas. The professions of the participants included executive directors of humanitarian organisations and organisations working with orphans, heads of departments and directors, psychologists, psychiatrists, accountants, human resources, financial and public relations officials, researchers, teachers, university professors, administrators, coordinators, media officers, supervisors, and others.

800 humanitarian organisations (charities)

Most of the attendees were representatives of the humanitarian and civil society sectors, with more than 800 humanitarian organisations (charities), as well as universities, research centres, institutes, and academies, with a significant presence of staff from government institutions, such as ministries responsible for social affairs, education labour and development in general. A limited number of representatives from the private sector participated.

78 Countries

The number of attendees has been balanced from both genders, and the participating age groups were varied. On the other hand, participants came from six continents (Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, South America, and Oceania); the attendees represented more than 78 countries.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We would like to thank the Board of Trustees of the Orphans Care Federation, Scientific Committee, the Federation's working group, volunteers, organising committee of the conference, scientific paper researchers, and participants who provided discussions, research, and expertise to enrich a constructive and effective dialogue to develop the orphans care sector.

We also thank our partners who contributed to make this conference possible, and we thank them for their time and efforts.

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The Objectives of the
Scientific Conference

> Over the course of two days, 4th and 5th of November 2020, across the virtual world, the Orphans Care Federation organised the first scientific conference titled "**Previous Experiences and Development Prospects**" to discuss various experiences in care and to think about ways to improve the lives of orphans and their families.

> The conference sought to contribute to a long-term process of change in the behaviour and culture of individuals, communities, organisations, and entities, both donors and implementers in dealing with orphans issues, by making this meeting sustainable, attracting stakeholders involved in the affairs of orphans to discuss common issues, and stimulating specialised and diverse interventions on a large scale, in preparation for the development of strategic objectives capable of promoting the orphan sector as a whole, and reaching a global declaration of unified principles for the care of orphans.

> **The conference aims to encourage organisations, stakeholders, and researchers to take an interest in examining the challenges of providing the best care for orphans and their families through:**

1. Providing a necessary platform for the discussion and exchange of views between the scientific, academic sectors and humanitarian organisations in the field of care for orphans and their families;
2. Opening the way for humanitarian organisations to present their perspectives derived from reality and putting forward new problems that increase the chances of dealing with scientific methods in accordance with academic standards;
3. Providing evidence-based solutions to orphans' care problems and developing skills and knowledge for caregivers and those who work with orphans' sectors;
4. The use of scientific papers and the dissemination of the benefits of the project proposal, law reform, and policy-making;
5. Providing an environment that is suitable for networking and sharing experiences between scientific bodies, humanitarian organisations, and media organisations interested in the care of orphans and their families;
6. Providing appropriate and effective incentives for the release of critical and creative ideas by individual researchers and other institutions related to orphaned children;
7. Sharing experiences between communities around the world.
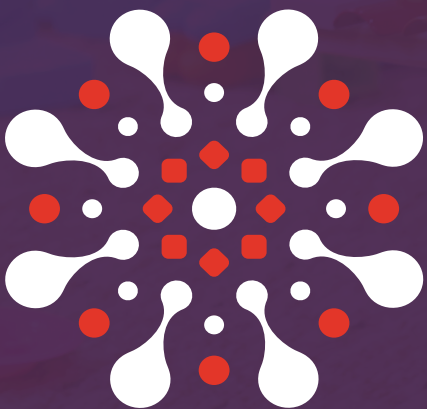
> **The conference also sought to come up with a common vision on the priorities of orphans' care, identify obstacles to the implementation of those priorities, and develop frameworks for change to improve their lives, in peace and war, and the first conference could achieve the following:**

1. Finding a platform for the meeting of researchers, professionals, and all those interested in orphans' sector around the world, and agreeing to continue to meeting regularly;
2. Discussing orphans' issues based on scientific evidence and field experiences;
3. Spreading knowledge and awareness of orphans' issues.
4. Sharing experiences between communities around the world.

Fadi Iskandarani
Conference Chair and CEO of the Orphans Care Federation

Day
1

Opening
Session

Fadi Iskandarani
Conference Chair and CEO of Orphans Care Federation

> Mr. Iskandarani inaugurated the first scientific conference for orphan care highlighting the importance and idea that led to organise the conference, from consultations, discussion sessions, research, and field visits, to set the main themes of the conference; nevertheless, the concerns for orphans differ from one place to another and from one case to another. However, the basic problem common to all groups of orphans is the natura "**loss of parental care**".

> Iskandarani also said that the objectives of the conference are to hold a "comprehensive" and "specialised" discussion that benefits orphans and considered that the first version of the conference is a meeting and acquaintance station laying the "**principled foundations for change and development**" and stressed the importance of involving everyone in this process without exclusion, and the need to listen to different opinions and views within its scientific and specialised framework. He said that the exchange of experiences among communities around the world is the most important value sought by the conference stressing the need to identify the effects of our previous experiences

in caring for orphans, review them critically, and continue to develop sustainable mechanisms for the care of orphans.

Walid Mashari Al-Saif
Director General of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Society

> **Mr. Al-Saif** began his speech titled "**Responsibilities of Donor Organisations Caring for Orphans**" stressing the importance of holding conferences and meetings continuously and following up on the implementation of the recommendations that come out of each meeting. He also stressed that caring for orphans needs to share work and efforts among all donors and implementing organisations, making it clear that the current sponsorship system and its aid to orphans is only symbolic support and does not meet all the needs of orphans and does not consider differences in geographical ages and areas for their needs. What institutions are currently doing has been called "orphan feeding" rather than sponsorship.

In that matter, Mr. Al-Saif mentioned the importance of reformulating a concept, including the subsequent care of the orphan and the support of their talents, and preserving the dignity of orphans in principles.

Salah Al-Jarallah
Secretary General
of Orphans Care
Federation

Dr. Hany Elbanna
President of the World
Humanitarian Action
Forum

> **Mr. Al-Jarallah,** talked about "**Faith as A Motive for Charity and Care for Orphans**", explaining that all religions urged the care of orphans and vulnerable groups in society, and stressed on the importance of this in achieving collective security, and avoiding the exclusion and marginalisation of the neediest segments.

Al-Jarallah also spoke about the diversity and expansion of attendance as evidence that the issue of orphans is not linked to a specific **region, culture, or geography; it is humanitarian issue that is of interest to large numbers around the world.**

> **Dr. Elbanna** then started a speech titled "**The Importance of Research in the Development of Humanitarian Action Work**", he stressed at the beginning of his speech that "an orphan is not a commodity and a widow is not a commodity", considering the behaviour of some organisations that rely on widows and orphans to fundraise, without paying attention to improving the lives of the beneficiaries.

He also stressed that what the organisations provide to orphans today does not rise to be sponsorship, as sponsorship means that the sponsor treats the sponsored as one of his children, and not only by providing them with money.

Elbanna also talked about the danger of orphanages and institutional care and its role in isolating orphans from society, as caring for orphans in their extended families helps orphans to integrate into society. About the research, Elbanna said, "**We do not use information well**". He criticised the great shortcomings in spending on studies and research, especially in developing countries, and he called for "**doing research and study should be the primary basis for work**" avoiding emotions and reactions in dealing with humanitarian issues. He considered that "**civilizations are established, and nations rise on the basis of research systems**".

Dr. Ibrahim Altan
Director-General of the Turkish Red Crescent

Abdul Rahman Al Mutawa
Deputy Director General of Projects at the International Islamic Charitable Organisation

> **Dr. Altan** talked about "**The Need for Change in Humanitarian Work**", elaborating on his personal experience as orphan and the suffering that orphans may feel because of the loss of their parents.

Since there is no appropriate alternative capable of fully compensating orphans for the loss they suffer, humanitarian organisations should at least try to care for orphans and meet their needs, not only the material needs but also the psychological and mental aspects, those aspects are a priority for orphans because of the traumatic calamity they suffer from.

Altan also stressed the need for the orphan care system to evolve and keep pace with social, economic, and technological developments, based on religious and scientific values that urge orphan care, which requires developing policies and approaches to intervene with orphans, focusing on supporting orphans in foster families, and supporting the orphan's mother and women as the head of the family.

> At the end of the opening session, **Mr. Al Mutawa** addressed "**The Role of the Media in Raising Awareness of Orphan Issues**", considering that the media has power over the culture of the masses and it should be invested in providing better care for orphans, and said that those interested in orphans issues should not be content with presenting the issues of orphans as abstract ones, or conveying them from a limited perspective, but that the media reporters should convey a message of reality, and emphasize the responsibility of all to protect orphans and compensate them for the loss.

The media should also consider the feelings of orphans and preserve their dignity and contribute to conveying the views of all parties involving them in providing solutions, the donors, orphans, and organisations.

Session 1:

Lecture - Crisis and Orphans Care Sector

Speaker: Dr. AbdelHalim Zeidan, Chairman, GDP Institute

Session moderator: Dr. Hanaa Al Banna, Senior Research Officer, Faith Regen Foundation

>**"Are we developing the Orphans' care sector? What are its Features?"**

Dr. Zeidan began to review the problems and challenges that affects the humanitarian system in general in light of the economic and health crises experienced worldwide and its effects on all sectors, most notably the sectors of care for vulnerable; he highlighted the problems and challenges faced by the humanitarian system in general, the recurrence of disasters, the change in state policies and donor priorities, the drying up of financial resources, in addition to the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, all of the

above constitutes the current reality and its new pattern, and we have to deal with it in all the circumstances.

> He stressed that humanitarian action work is currently operating in unstable conditions and variables, as the reality is now volatile / fluid, tangled / complex, ambiguous, and uncertain. Therefore, the current era needs a "different style of management" to deal with its "different nature", this requires quick action, reliance on information, and the distribution and delegation of powers in the decision-making system.
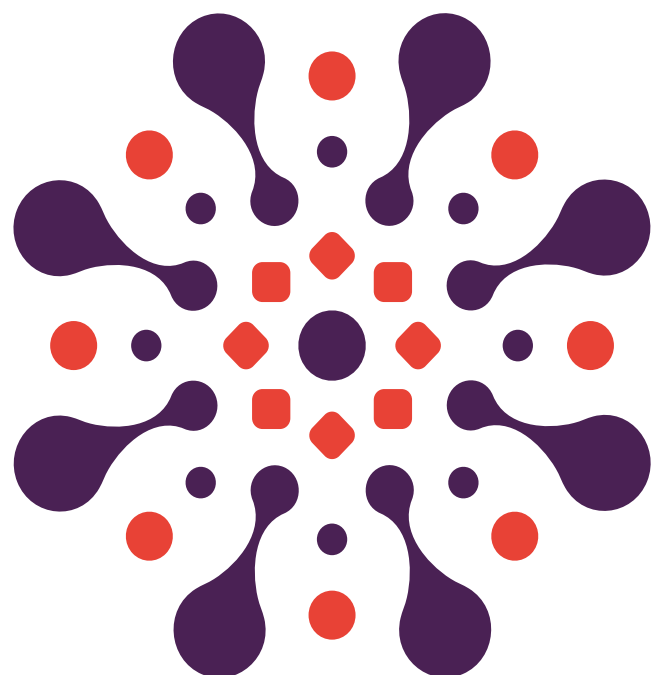
> He referred to the "major trends in global humanitarian action work", which summarised to social responsibility, good governance, disclosure and transparency, capacity-building, democratic guidance (freedoms / gender equality), advocacy and support for decision-making, and overall digitization. However, all these trends need to be re-examined and reconfigured to lead humanitarian action in the next phase.

> Ten important strategic transformations have been called for in reformulating major trends, namely the shift from enumeration of negatives to the creation of alternatives. The shift from improvisation to planning, implementation, and measurement, the shift from unilateralism and formality to systemic and network, from repetition and randomness to complementarity, from the temporary and hunch to vision and sustainability, from relief and development to leadership and advancement, from country to regional and international, and from dependence on aid to the charitable industry, from crisis management to management in crises, and from mixing concepts to specialization.

> To realize the desired transformation workers in the orphans sector must go through several stages: developing a strategic vision, formulating a strategic project, distinguishing time staging, working with pathways and specialties, institutionalisation and governance, monitoring and developing resources, building capacity, balancing the process and processing, and adopting periodic and detailed review, renewal and stabilisation checkpoints.

> At the end of the lecture, more studies were called for the transition to long-term sustainable investment thinking, raising the efficiency and capacity-building of implementers, and shifting from reliance on grants and donations to investing in endowments.

> The session was concluded by talking about the fact that the Covid-19 pandemic has put everyone up to the challenge of changing the way things work, and everyone should change the way we work in line with the new reality.

Session 2:
Educating Orphans

Session moderator: Cumana Habra, Director General of the Women's Support Association and Board Member of Orphans Care Federation.

▶ This session addressed the issue of Orphan's Education, the topic discussed ways for orphans to have access to modern and effective education, the ways of sociable and cultural raising of orphans, and the role of training and capacity building in promoting the well-being of orphans and widows.

Researchers reviewed experiments from **Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, and the Kingdom of Morocco.**

The first paper

"Orphan Education on values and the role of care institutions in their development: The Islamic Charity Society of Oujda-A sample",

> Presented by **Dr. Hamid Mesrar**, addressing the problem of orphan education on values and the extent of their applications in care institutions, the paper called for the use of modern teaching methods to educate orphans on values, orphans who suffer from psychological and social problems associated with the loss of values in the education of orphans, and the use of ineffective methods in educational and teaching curricula.

> By studying a selected sample of orphanages in the Moroccan city of Oujda, **Mesrar** found that orphans receive a value-based education in those centres, but there is a clear imbalance in the acquisition of values among orphans, reflecting the imbalance between the curriculum and the reality of what orphans acquire. This has been explained by several problems, namely, the absence of planning for an educational process that includes values, the lack of selection of specialized projects in education on values, the absence of a reference model for trainers in educating orphans on values, in addition to the absence of appropriate specialization and training for educational staff, and reliance on inappropriate educational means.

Mesrar also called for the training and rehabilitation of educational staff, reliance on modern methods and means of education, the activation of educational planning in care institutions, the conduct of educational projects and activities, and greater attention to psychological, social, and moral issues in the curricula provided to orphans.

The second paper was titled

"**The role of sponsorship among orphaned students in improving their educational achievement and reducing their school dropout (orphan students in Syria as a sample)**",

> The second paper is titled **"The role of sponsorship among orphaned students in improving their educational achievement and reducing their school dropout (orphan students in Syria as a sample)",** co-written by **Dr. Abdullah Ziyadeh and Mr. Ahmad Nassif,** the study was conducted on a sample of 368 families.

> **Nassif** began to review the humanitarian situation in Syria and the situation of orphans affected by wars, conflicts, and asylum and spoke about the difficulty of determining who is orphan in the Syrian context, especially with the presence of thousands of forcibly disappeared, imprisoned, absent and deceased without a declaration, and others whose fate is unknown, and those who leave children without care, while not recognized by most organisations that provide sponsorship of orphans. **Nassif** also spoke about the disruption and exhaustion suffered by Syrian society in general because of the decade-long crisis, which makes community solutions for orphan care difficult to achieve.

> **Ziyadeh** reviewed the systematic framework and the results of the research, where the study relied on the comparison between sponsored and unsponsored orphans on the one hand and between orphans and children on the other. In a general note, it was found that all families suffered from low incomes, that all families lacked an educated and competent person capable of supporting the educational process at home, and that families with foster children could not meet all the needs of their children because of the low value of sponsorship.

> In the results, the two researchers found that the average scores of orphans receiving sponsorship were higher than those of unsponsored orphans, and therefore the lowest dropout rate of education compared to unsponsored orphans. The researchers also found that orphans have fewer personal problems than their peers who do not receive sponsorship.

> **Ziyadeh** concluded with the need to pay attention to the educational aspect in projects of sponsoring orphans, as the evidence presented in the research proved that the value of sponsorship has a decisive role in educating orphans and their academic achievement.

The third paper, titled
"Education of Orphans and the Efforts of Civil Society Organisations (Problems and Solutions)",

> Was presented by **Ms. Questan Amin,** who examined the education of orphans in the context of the Iraqi city of Kirkuk, which suffers like other Iraqi cities because of successive wars, violence, and instability, which led to an increase in the number of orphans and exacerbated the problems they suffer.

> The paper discusses the problem of the low educational level of orphans, and the role of civil society organisations in providing educational services to orphans, and the obstacles to that. The paper presented a package of problems that hinder the education of orphans. Funding problems, social and cultural problems that reduce the importance of education and do not trust the role of non-governmental organisations, and family problems, especially for families who are fostering orphans, especially since large numbers of mothers of orphans do not improve reading and writing, and educational problems related to educational curricula, and problems in the infrastructure of educational facilities, and finally, problems with the policies of humanitarian and charitable organisations and the government's educational policies.

> Using qualitative and quantitative tools; it included a review of previous studies, interviews, and a questionnaire of the respondents. The paper developed a set of proposed solutions that are summarized in attracting funding, community awareness campaigns, developing educational curricula, encouraging orphans to engage in education, in addition to training teachers and developing their skills and abilities.

The fourth paper, titled
"Orphans' satisfaction with education, skills development, and training in orphanages in Pakistan",

> Presented by **Mr. Amir Alam,** dealt with the case of orphans from Pakistan residing in five different care homes. The study aimed to identify the level of satisfaction of these orphans in the educational training and skills development programs they receive in their care homes through a survey of 190 orphans.

> In Pakistan, earthquakes, natural disasters, and factors of terrorism and violence are on the rise, with more than 4 million orphans, according to a scientist based on UNDP statistics.

> The study found that all orphans in the orphanages surveyed had been involved in and organised in the education and training process. However, most of them have suffered from delays in education and learning difficulties. He said that this happened because of the fact the orphans' homes cannot meet most of the orphans' needs.

> As a result, at the end of the session, **Alam** recommended the adoption of institutional care as a "last resort", as well as the appointment of well-trained and professional teachers, staff in all orphanages, and called for a focus on teaching the life skills of orphans with a view to integrating them into the surrounding communities.

Session 3:

Orphans Health

The session was moderated by Dr. Hanaa Al Banna, Senior Research Officer, Faith Regen Foundation

▶ The session discussed the different aspects of the health of orphans, focusing on aspects of mental health and discussing mental disorders that orphans may experience because of loss, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, mood disorders, sadness, and loss. Experiences in this axis have also varied, and different contexts have been discussed in **Syria, Iran, Algeria, and Palestine.**

The first paper, titled
"**The academic situation of orphans after the painful loss and post-traumatic development phase**",

> was co-written by **Dr. Azam Naqvi and Zahra Al-Asgari,** and the research included a sample of 12 orphans from Iran living in an orphanage, aged between 13 and 18, who were interviewed regularly.

> **Naqvi** indicated that orphans suffer from stress, depressive mood, anxiety, and long sadness as a result of losing parents and that these disorders have long-term and severe effects on the orphan child. Through the research, Naqvi spoke about the features of the "new life" of orphans that appear as symptoms of PTSD. These features are summarized in: increasing communication and relationships with peers, strengthening self-abilities, gaining a higher level of self-esteem, and thinking about what is new and the academic future.

> According to **Naqvi**, the research sample showed an interest in expanding relations with peers, as orphans showed activity and cooperation with teachers and students in the school, which was explained by the desire of orphans to overcome the effects of loss, and the fear of not succeeding if they neglected participation, these activities fill their void. These orphans also showed more internal capacities, expressing a change in their vision of life after loss, and sought to better define and develop their identity. The orphans also worked to create a positive self-concept and increased their sense of self-worth, achievement, and satisfaction, and they had a reflection on future opportunities and options before them for provisional study and career goals.

> **Naqvi** says that the loss was a severe shock to the orphans, and it led to major transformations in their lives, and they responded to that by trying to "create a new life", in which they do not depend on the guardian, i.e., their natural parents, and the school environment has contributed to recovering from the effects of loss and adapting to a new reality. This paper summarizes that interest in boosting strengths is beneficial in parallel with addressing weaknesses and that despite the loss, there are opportunities that can be utilized to achieve the best for orphans.

The second paper was titled
"**Mental health of widows in Palestine and their relationship to certain variables - a field study on the beneficiaries of the Ministry of Social Development and civil society institutions**",

> co-written by **Dr. Monawwar Najim, Iman Najim, and Amal Najim.**

> In this paper, the researchers examined the relationship between the level of mental health of widows in Palestine and its relationship to the variables of personal planning, religious commitment, and economic empowerment, and **Najim** started the beginning of her paper by reviewing the situation of widows and the difficulties they face as a result of the loss of the breadwinner of the family in dealing with their children, in light of the lack of support required by government institutions and humanitarian organisations in the Gaza Strip.

> The research sample included 182 women who participated in the research through a questionnaire of the three variables mentioned above, in addition to religious commitment, they were asked about issues related to their spiritual stability, and in the aspect of personal planning, the researchers questioned the ability of widows to manage their lives and organise future plans, as well as economic empowerment, which examined the extent of independence and the ability to manage financial resources.

> The researchers inquired about the needs of these widows to enhance their mental health level, and they found that a number of courses and sessions should be provided to achieve this: emotional release sessions and recreational activities, courses in methods of dealing with children, courses in personal planning and prioritization, courses in spiritual health, courses in small business management and marketing, computer courses and business management courses.

> In addition, **Najm** recommended the need for widows to be involved in community work and for them to have an active role that contributes to enhancing their own health and community service at the same time. The researcher also emphasized widows' need for guidance to invest in foster care in ways that are beneficial to their children. Her speech was concluded by affirming that the mental health of the widow is reflected in the health of the orphans.

The third paper
by researcher **Huda Abdel-Al** titled **"Post-traumatic stress disorder and the factors affecting it in Syrian orphans"**,

> dealt with the effects of loss on orphans and the trauma it causes to them, and the detection of accompanying mental disorders such as depression and anxiety, and the relationship with variables: sex, housing pattern, and type of educational   program.

> She discussed the importance of mental health as a central aspect in the well-being of orphans, in parallel with other basic needs such as food and clothing. She spoke about the consequences of neglecting the mental health of orphans and the dangers resulting from this and stressed the importance of health education for the community and for humanitarian organisations.

> In the Syrian context, **Abdel-Al** said that many Syrian orphans had witnessed the death of their parents, which has increased their suffering, and some orphans have been forced to migrate and take refuge in Turkey, further complicating their situation. The researcher compared four situations in which orphans and other children were found in when they sought refuge in Turkey. Interruption of education, or learning in Turkish schools, or intermittent and mixed education, and finally temporary schools that were closed at a later time.

> By researching a sample of 131 orphaned children, **Abdel-Al** found moderate symptoms of PTSD among the sample members, but these symptoms were not affected by a statistical

function of gender variables, housing pattern, and type of educational program. Although there are slight differences, such as that females showing more disorders than males, the researcher attributed that to females' sensitive nature and that those educated in temporary schools suffered less than those educated in Turkish public schools, without any indications in the digital analysis.

The fourth paper titled
"Family resilience and its relationship to the quality of psychological life of orphan families (a mixed study on a sample of adolescents)"

> presented by **Dr. Sabah Ayesh,** she began her speech by emphasizing the importance of caring for children and adolescents, as a vital matter that determines the future of the world.

> **Ayesh** agreed with the other researchers on the importance of caring for mental health disorders in orphans, and the long-term risks to the psychological and social aspects of orphans, saying that "those who lose their parents have fewer opportunities in society".

> The researcher sought to examine the relationship between family resilience and the quality of psychological life of the families of orphans by shedding light on the reality of the families of the interviewed orphans and the most important challenges facing them. The research

sample included (14) male and female adolescents living in Chlef Province, Algeria. By relying on quantitative and qualitative tools in examining the relationship, **Ayesh** reached conclusions that the families of orphans suffer from a fluctuation in family roles as a result of the absence of parental authority at home, and thus there are additional burdens that the mother bears because she is forced to carry out the duties of the father. The families of orphans also suffer from financial problems and difficulties in adapting to the new reality with the loss of a breadwinner, and these families depend heavily on charitable aid and the assistance of relatives, extended families, and friends to meet their needs.

> **Ayesh** recommended further research and knowledge development on ways to enhance family resilience and provide services to orphan families to help them survive and adapt to the new reality in which they lose their breadwinners.

Session 4:
Priorities for Orphans Care

Moderated by: Fadi Iskandarani - Conference Chair and CEO of the Orphans Care Federation

▶ The fourth session dealt with **"Priorities for orphans care",** where the speakers discussed five interrelated topics focused on improving the life of the orphan and meeting their basic needs, educating orphans, their health, especially mental health, protection, reducing the employment of orphans, and supporting small and infinite projects for the foster families. These needs overlap and are linked to each other: education is necessary to reduce the employment of orphans, which is part of their protection, while at the same time it is a way to maintain their health, and what is mentioned above requires the economic capacity of the foster families to prevent them from sending their children to work.

On the other hand, the caregiver — often the mother of the orphan — also needs attention through her training, education and mental health, and support in taking on the paternal roles left by the loss of the breadwinner, like many families that incubate orphans are headed by children or women.

Dr. Suad Al-Bishr
Associate Professor in the Faculty of Basic Education - Department of Psychology

> The session began with a speech by **Dr. Suad Al-Bishr** titled **"Professional Interventions to Improve the Mental Health of Orphans",** in which she talked about what she called "the art of dealing with orphans", which is to cultivate love and self-confidence in the orphan, introduce joy and pleasure, and encourage their strengths, in order to achieve their well-being in their mental health.

> **Al-Bishr** discussed the concept of the orphan, alternative family, and alternative care, as well as the theories of positive psychology, expansion, construction, reality therapy, choice theory, cognitive and behavioural theories, and psychological needs in Maslow's pyramid of needs.

> In applying positive psychology, **Al-Bishr** said that the caregiver should show care and gratitude to the orphan, promote joy and optimism, and boost their strengths, and this falls within the scope of promoting the positive reactions of the orphan rather than the negative reactions, which are generated because of the threat, deprivation, and punishment to which the orphan may be subjected. As for the reality therapy
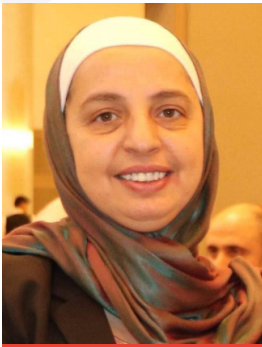
theory, it requires focusing work on engaging and integrating orphans, avoiding excuses and penalties, and providing commitment. As for cognitive-behavioural therapy, it is considered a treatment method for mental disorders such as anxiety and depression.

> **Al-Bishr** has also talked about how this therapy begins to change the pattern of thinking, which is reflected in feelings and emotions, and then behaviour.

> She also spoke about the importance of balancing the psychological and material needs and said that the provision of modern means is not enough, and the orphan child is often in need of kindness and compassion primarily. **Al-Bishr** has compared between a case of a care centre in the United States of America that has the latest technologies and facilities, but does not provide orphans with what it called "touch and tenderness", and a case from Brazil of a care home that lacks these modern means, but in return provides the required emotional attention and satisfies the needs of the orphan.

> **Al-Bishr** has concluded her session by emphasizing the importance of mental health, and a specialty in orphan care must be developed specifically and recommended that all persons connected with orphans show love and attention to orphans, train caregivers and build their capacities, and raise awareness about the psychological needs of orphans.

Dr. Maha Katta
Head of the Regional Office for Iraq at the UN International Labour Organization (ILO)

> **Dr. Maha Katta** dedicated her speech to speak about the reality of child labour in general and orphans in particular, the risks and efforts to combat this phenomenon, and began her speech by defining the concepts of children, orphans and work.

> **Katta** said that the child's work in general "places a heavy burden on them and threatens their safety and health", as the intended employment is the one that benefits from the child's vulnerability and exploits it and hinders their normal sleep and education. She spoke of statistics that estimated that 150 million children are working around the world, contrary to domestic legislations in most countries of the world and international agreements such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child signed in 1989 and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Agreement in 1999. The international community, following these legislations, was optimistic about the elimination of child labour in the current century. However, conflicts, displacement, and asylum have put many children out of school and thus direct them towards work.

> The term "worst forms of child labour" includes forms of slavery, the sale of children, trafficking, coercion, forced labour, recruitment for military action and involvement in armed conflicts, the use, operation, or display of the child for prostitution, the production of pornographic acts or pornography, and the conduct of illegal activities within the scope of the crime, or those involving dangerous circumstances that lead to harm to children's health, safety, behaviour, and morality.

> Orphans, in their broad sense, are usually at the head of families and are therefore obliged to work to meet the needs of the family, especially the older child in the family, and families with their own work gradually involve the child in work until he is dropped from education and turned to work at an early age. And according to Katta, the efforts of combating child are based on four foundations: strengthening legal protection and legislations, improving the management of the labour market and family establishments, strengthening social welfare, and investing in free and quality education.

> According to **Katta**, the International Labour Organization is currently working on the integration between the efforts of governments, civil societies, and employers to eliminate child labour, and national frameworks are being formulated for this, through which priorities are defined in each country, and the shift towards a case-based approach that includes referring every working child to social support centres to determine the circumstances that led to their involvement in work, and to provide alternatives that guarantee protection for them, as part of what the spokeswoman called "integrated services".

> At the end of her speech, **Katta** recommended the need to provide protection services for all children to reduce their employment and called for the provision of health services for children and orphans, taking into account the significant psychological effects of child labour in the long term, as well as the need to improve the opportunities for children to attend education, and providing vocational and technical training to caregivers and staff in organisations to deal

with these situations and to launch community awareness campaigns on the seriousness of this phenomenon.

Ahmed Al-Batsh
Coordinator — Productive Loans Department at Islamic Welfare Association in Saida, Lebanon

> The third statement in this session was made by **Mr. Ahmed Al-Batsh;** he provided an experience to support Small and Micro-Projects for orphaned families and other vulnerable families in society.

> **Al-Batsh** began by talking about the value and motivations of this type of project, stressing that these loans are given with humanitarian motives and the goal of empowerment, away from profit and interest calculations, so that the goal is to transform the family benefiting from need and reliance on sponsorship to production and the ability to meet basic needs, which reflects positively on society and the economy.

> **Al-Batsh** detailed the mechanisms for the operation of small projects, and after the family proposes the project, a five-person committee will discuss each case, looking at the feasibility of the project and the prospects for its continuation, based on that, voting is done, and the decision of accepting or rejecting the project is taken. Upon accepting the project, an employee takes the responsibility of the follow-up of the project.

regularly and gives report to the managers, to measure the effectiveness of the project. The organisation gives loans of up to $3,000, covering the assets of the required projects and equipment, and part of the operational budget. The mechanism of repayment of the loan and the arrangement of payments is agreed within a maximum of 15 months, and the beneficiary families must seek a sponsor who will be responsible for the payment in the event of their inability to do so, and the recipient is required to refrain from receiving aid from third parties.

> Regarding the challenges, Al-Batsh says, for example, in the Lebanese case, the weakness of markets and purchasing power in Lebanon and the Middle East in general hinders the success of these projects, as small capitals cannot bring competition in most cases. Despite this great challenge, some families have succeeded in setting up productive projects and applied for other loans to expand their businesses, as this is permitted as long as the project is fruitful. Al-Batsh recounted a number of success stories for some families until the end of the session.

Mr. Jahanger Akhtar,
Executive Director of Read Foundation

> Mr. **Jahanger Akhtar** participated in a speech titled **"Investing in Orphan Education",** during which he spoke about his organisation's experience, objectives, and vision in adopting orphan education as a key area of work.

> He began to emphasize the importance and necessity of education not only to individuals but also to the building of societies and the rise of nations and people, where he said that a strong education system "builds generations", and quality education helps to combat poverty and help individuals achieve their aspirations, and the future depends on the quality of education provided to young people and children today, and without an interest in education, a good future for society cannot be predicted.

> **Akhtar** then proceeded to talk about the specificity of orphans' condition and their need to learn more differs from children in the normal situation, as the orphan has no family to support them and help with the rearing and educational process, in addition to the trauma that causes suffering and depression, and changes their lives in a way that may lead to neglect of education, although these traumas sometimes lead to positive results, as they push the child to excel, develop their ability to deal with crises, and help them recover.

In a related context, **Akhtar** spoke about the services provided by the Read Foundation and its education-based approach as the gateway out of poverty, a contributing factor to economic empowerment, health well-being, community cohesion, and gender equality, and the organisation is concerned with providing sustainable education to disadvantaged children and displaced children.

Dr. Deirdre Blackie
Executive Director of Courage Child Protection in South Africa

Dr. Deirdre Blackie then discussed the protection of orphans and spoke about her project, called Courage, which uses a range of tools to help meet the challenges of implementing child protection.
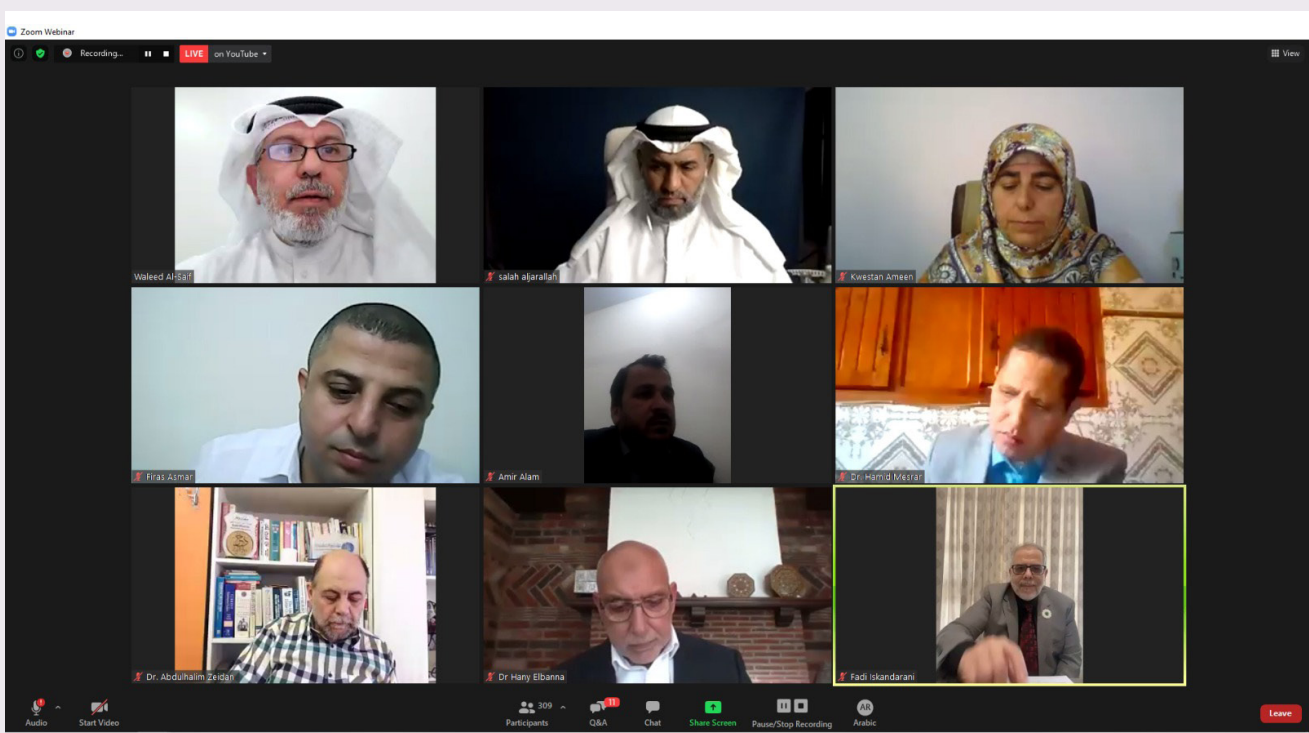
Blackie says the idea of the Courage Project helps achieve protection by identifying the rights and needs of all children, identifying where children are abused and neglected, and designing strategies to solve the challenges faced by protection projects.

Blackie also spoke about the negative effects children suffer as a result of exploitation and neglect, such as depression, anxiety, stress and exhaustion, drug use and suicidal thinking, learning difficulties and cognitive development, developmental delays and behaviour problems, and children may also be exposed to poor self-regulation, excessive alertness and aggressive antisocial behaviour which makes the matter of children protection the responsibility of everyone.

Through what **Blackie** calls "the engines of personal and community empowerment, "the Courage Project seeks to make a difference and transform into a child-friendly environment, shift from violence and inequality to values, from exploitation to partnership, from low self-esteem to high self-esteem, from abuse to love, from indifference to the adoption of a vision, and finally from ignorance to knowledge."

The fourth session of the first scientific conference of Orphans Care was concluded, and the speakers agreed that education, health, protection, and the empowerment of the family are all interrelated, cannot be focused on one side and neglect the other aspects, as the imbalance in education necessarily leads to work and violates protection and affects mental health, and so, the empowerment of the family, is a guarantee of education and good health for the orphan and to achieve their protection.

Session 5:
Children of Unknown Parents

The session was moderated by Dr. Ahmed Al-Oqabi, General Director of the Yemeni Friendship and Cooperation Association and a member of the Board of Directors of the Orphans Care Federation.

▶ The fifth session was concerned with children of unknown parentage, who lack parental care and are among the most vulnerable and need attention and care more than other children. The researchers dealt with cases of belonging to children of unknown parents, their identity, and the laws governing their affairs.

The first paper titled
"The pattern of alternative care for the orphan child (unknown parents model) and its impact on their sense of belonging to the homeland and their attachment to the cultural identity - a field study in some Algerian states"

> **by Dr. Said Suleiman Al-Awasheria,** where the researcher compared two groups of children of unknown parents, the first group, consisting of 36 children, receives care in alternative families, and the second group is subject to institutional care and also has 36 children, ranging in age from 13 to 16. **Al-Awasheria** also sought to measure a sense of national belonging and to measure adherence to cultural identity.

> The researcher began to recount the pain and challenges faced by the unknown child in society, as they are excluded and deprived within the society, and they have a sense of non-belonging, loses ties and relations with their surroundings, and dissociate themselves from their national cultural identity, especially if the child of unknown parents receives their care in one of the shelter foundations, and does not grow up in a foster family, as they leave these institutions when they are 18 years old without another shelter.

> The researcher has concluded that care in alternative families helps the child in their sense of belonging to their homeland and adheres to the national cultural identity, as that alternative care in foster families is better than institutional care in this respect.

> **Al-Awasheria** concluded by recommending the integration of community families and care institutions in protecting this group of children and called for raising awareness and motivating families to take care of the cases of children of unknown parents, and considering institutional care as their last resort, in which a major role is placed on the media institutions for awareness and community education.

The second paper is titled
"Sponsoring orphans of unknown parents and the controversy of identity and citizenship",

> A joint paper **by Dr. Siham Abbasi** with **Dr. Shahira Boulehia. Abbasi** presented the problems that the child of unknown parents suffers from, especially after turning eighteen and trying to search for their family, which raises legal and social dimensions of the issue, as international laws and local legislation usually stipulate the need for the child to preserve their identity, including their nationality, their family connections, their language, their religion, etc., which leads to questions about the impact of the sponsorship system on the identity of the child of unknown parents.

> The two researchers sought to verify that the Algerian legal system guarantees the child's right to preserve their identity and citizenship, identify legal gaps in this, and provide possible solutions to fill these gaps. According to the study, Abbasi says that orphans of unknown parents who are subject to foster care usually suffer from problems with identity and citizenship, especially in the

psychological and societal aspects, although the child of unknown parents retain their full legal rights as stated in Algerian law and obtains full citizenship. In this way, this group of children suffer from a lack of complete integration into their surroundings. The researcher also said that socialization, both in the family and in care institutions, plays a central role in developing the feeling of a child with unknown parents in their identity and citizenship.

> She concluded her speech by emphasizing that the problem of children of unknown parents is not limited to Algeria, and in most welfare systems, this group continues to suffer, and laws, institutions, and community culture still need to be constantly developed to achieve a state of full integration of children of unknown parents into their surroundings, taking into account all psychological, social, cultural and legal aspects.

The third paper, titled
"Alternative Family Care for Children of Unknown Parents in International Texts and Algerian Legislation",

> Presented by **Dr. Leila Yebda,** aimed at highlighting the images of alternative family care contained in international texts and the extent to which they correspond in Algerian legislation.

> At the beginning of her speech, she stressed the importance of care in a family setting for children in general, based on the decision of international legislation and the relevant covenants, and on the consideration of the family as the basic unit of society, yet millions of children around the world lack this supposed family care, especially children of unknown parentage.

> Those with unknown parents are considered among the most vulnerable, but they do not have adequate legal protection, as laws place them in the category of "children deprived of a family", although these children are special, they are more vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, and neglect. The researcher considered that the failure to address international and local texts explicitly for children of unknown parents is unfair to them.

> **Yebda** also says that the problem of identity and descent of these children raises many problems in their future, especially with regard to their belonging to the foster family and their relationships with the society in which they live; the problem of descent puts them in a challenge when they are married, and whether their children will carry the same unknown descent.

Yebda concluded by emphasizing the need for more studies and research on children of unknown parents and the importance of the law protecting their right to own the identity and culture of their society, just as they have the right to have decent and acceptance from society.

The fourth paper, titled
"Legal protection for children of unknown parents; a declaration of rights and balance in society (a study according to Algerian legislation)"

> Was by **Dr. Nabil Ounoughi**. His study aimed to clarify the legal system that protects the category of children of unknown parents and to highlight the bodies and efforts involved in this category.

> In his speech, **Ounoughi** tried to answer the main question of his research: what is the legal system that protects the category of children of unknown parents in the Algerian legislation? In this way, **Ounoughi** finds that the legal system, although covered by this category in the text, cannot address all the legal, social and cultural problems of this category, especially with regard to the sponsor granting their surname to the orphan which goes against the customs and traditions of Muslim societies such as Algerian society, and the researcher describes that the whole legal texts protecting this category were "more theoretical than practical".

> The researcher recommended that the current laws should be reviewed in Algerian legislation, and that legislation should be redrafted based on the rights and interests of these children, and that it is adapted to the culture and conventions of society.

Session 6:
Institutional Care

The session was moderated by Dr. Selman Selim, University Lecturer and Head of the Research Team - Turkish Red Crescent (Turkey).

▶ The sixth session addressed the topic of institutional care, and the theme discusses the negative and positive effects of institutional care and interventions of humanitarian organisations on the lives of orphans; the researchers presented experiences from Uganda, Russia, Pakistan, Syria, and Iraq, and discussed the reform of care institutions and minimum standards in orphanages and the homes of humanitarian organisations during crises.

The first paper, titled
The Impact of Islamic Organisations on The Care of Orphans in Uganda",

> Was presented by **Dr. Jimba Haruna;** he began his speech by presenting a general presentation of the difficult conditions of orphans in Uganda and around the world and talked about the problems facing organisations and institutions and the great need for repairs in care homes, and the need to integrate and coordinate the efforts of the humanitarian and governmental sector in the service of orphans.

> **Haruna** also spoke of the difficulties faced by minorities in caring for orphans, such as Muslims in Uganda, where the country has experienced wars, conflicts, and instability, creating thousands of orphans without care.

> In order to understand the conditions of care institutions and orphans in Uganda, and by interviewing care officials of government organisations and institutions, Haruna recommended the need to develop a stakeholder action plan to improve the quality of care, design a care framework that would involve attracting external and local partners, and coordinate and share information between different agencies and actors.

> **Haruna** also stressed the need to activate the role of training and capacity-building centres, especially in the field of planning and strategic thinking, and attract funding for it, in addition to stressing the importance of education for orphans and attention to the educational aspect, as the only way out of poverty and need for orphan families. He concluded his speech by recommending to look at orphans as partners

and human resources, and and that they need to hone their talents and enhance them to serve the community.

In the second paper, titled
"Minimum standards of accommodation in orphanages in Pakistan",

> **Mr. Nadim Khan** began the speech by talking about the importance of setting standards in alternative care homes to take into account the quality of the service and improve it, and to reach the best possible outcomes in the care and protection of orphaned children within a healthy environment.

> Based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the United Nations Guidelines on Alternative Care, Khan has developed several criteria and considered them to be minimum limits to be observed in care homes; there are 25 criteria in different subjects, and integrated orphan care will be reached through their application.

> **Khan** introduced his criteria, divided into seven chapters; the first chapter included criteria related to eligibility, registration, and allocation of supplies, chapter 2 deals with nutrition and health, chapter 3 is about daily activities, chapter 4 deals with the subject of education and self-development, chapter 5 shows the standards of facilities and buildings, chapter 6 includes staff and management standards, chapter 7, the final one, contained general standards.

> **Khan** concluded his speech by calling for minimum standards and limits to be adopted by care institutions, and widely disseminated, to ensure that the rights and growth of orphans are protected naturally and preserves their dignity.

The third paper,

"Institutional Reform in Orphan Care: A Russian Perspective",

> Presented by **Yevgenia Federova,** dealt with reform attempts adopted by the Russian government since the 1990s, the last of which was in 2012.

> **Federova** began her statement by talking about the various causes of loss of care, which are not limited to the death of biological parents but may be the result of various reasons, such as restrictions on parental rights as a result of abuse; the long absence of parents; the severe inability to care for the child; or the presence of parents in places of detention, Federova spoke about the history of institutional care in Russia and the world, and its multiple disadvantages that constantly drive researchers towards the creation of alternative care systems.

> In her study, **Federova** said that the state's active policies that aim at reforming the welfare system had led to a 42% reduction in the number of children in residential care facilities (by 42% from 2007 to 2011). In 2012, a number of laws entered into implementation and aimed at reorganising the institutional system, developing a database on orphans and caregivers, identifying requirements for potential alternative families, intensifying cooperation with NGOs, non-profit organisations, and volunteers as third parties, providing incentives to families housing disadvantaged children, and rehabilitating families wishing to incubate orphans through psychological and educational training as well as a legal course.

> At the end of her speech, **Federova** stressed the importance of resorting to family reform as a priority for child care, to prevent all psychological and social problems that may be experienced away from their biological parents, and stressed that the need for reform in Russia remains despite the achievements.

The fourth paper,

"The Impact of the Corona Crisis on Orphans benefiting from the services of NGOs in Syria and Iraq",

> Was presented by **Saberin al-Qaisi,** co-author of the paper was Anas Abolpin. According to **Al-Qaisi,** the research aimed to explore the effects of the Corona pandemic on orphans benefiting from NGO services in Syria and Iraq.
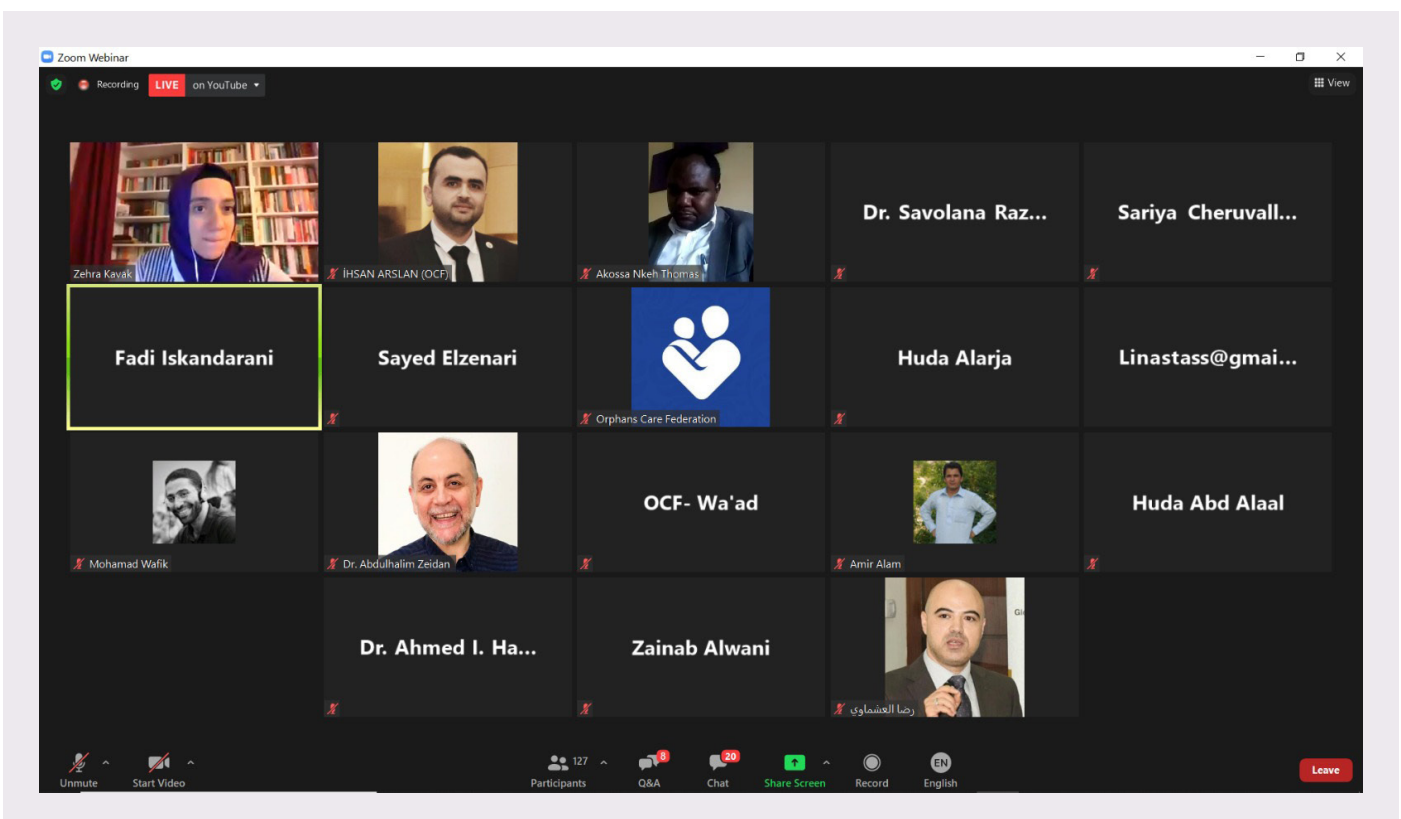
> **Al-Qaisi** began her speech by talking about the Covid-19 epidemic and its impact on children and the special situation of orphans in crises in general, where a number of previous experiences have shown that orphans have less access to quality education and nutrition and are at a higher risk of abuse than other children. In both Syria and Iraq, al-Qaisi says the crisis has had long-term effects on orphans benefiting from NGO services, requiring urgent and thoughtful interventions to recover from them, especially since the political and humanitarian situation in both countries is considered to be very serious, and the current crisis has deepened the suffering of orphans.
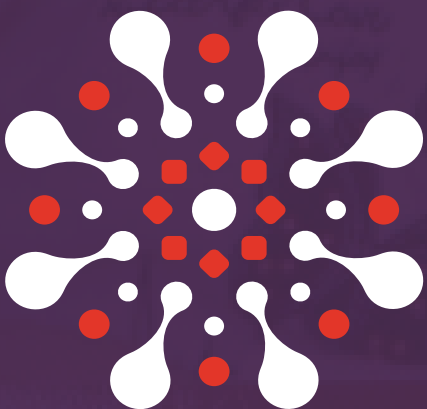
> **Al-Qaisi** summarized that the spread of the Covid-19 epidemic and the subsequent isolation measures and movement restrictions had an impact on the performance of humanitarian organisations, families, and society, which had negatively impacted orphans, as they suffered five major effects: first decline in academic performance; second, violence and mental health disorders for orphans and their mothers; third, increased employment opportunities for orphaned children, fourth, economic effects of increased material needs, and fifth, social effects that led to the isolation of orphaned children.

> In conclusion, **Al-Qaisi** called for more research aiming at proposing appropriate interventions to recover from the crisis and stressed the seriousness of the current situation for this group of orphans, especially as the unstable world is reporting more crises and disasters, which requires the development of strategies to deal with crises and respond to them in a planned manner.

Day
2

Session 7:

Orphans in Conflict Zones

The session was moderated by Saberin Al Qaisi, Training Program Coordinator and Researcher at the Orphans Care Federation.

▶ The seventh session specialized in orphans in conflict zones, where orphans and their families are increasingly suffering from the effects of war, violence, migration, and asylum, as well as the loss of care. The session was attended by diverse researchers who presented various experiences from Palestine, Syria, and Pakistan and discussed the care of orphans in conflict zones and in the post-conflict environment.

The first paper, titled
"Investing religious capital to protect orphaned children in conflict zones, a case study: Islamic Relief in the Gaza Strip",

> presented by **Mr. Mohammed Siyam,** whose speech focused on the extent to which organisations benefit from religious capital in caring for orphans, and the challenges of using religious discourse in charitable and humanitarian work.

> **Siyam** spoke about the situation of orphans in general and the difficulties they face in Gaza in particular, as well as the role of humanitarian organisations in protecting them and the large gap between the needs and resources allocated to their care. Through extensive interviews and reviews of Islamic religious texts, Siyam says that religious capital in the Islamic context contains "many tributaries that drive Muslims to give, such as the general call for beneficence, zakat, and charity", but that humanitarian organisations often neglect to invest in it, while sponsorship does not meet the needs of orphans.

> In doing so, **Siyam** called on scholars and researchers in sharia and sociology to conduct further studies on the term religious capital, seek access to community resources, move away from solutions that depend on the west as the only way out, and he called on to intensify work during religious seasons and to seize opportunities in those times to attract more resources. He also stressed the need to review the concept of protection and its "common" definitions and the importance of protection to include the intellectual and educational dimensions of the orphan child.

> on the other side; **Siyam** recommended conducting the necessary training, building the capacities of those in charge of religious discourse, and improving their skills in persuasion, based on the values advocated by all religions and human ideas, in addition to his recommendation to train those responsible for financial resources and develop their capabilities in motivating donors.

> **Siyam** concluded his speech by talking about the urgent need for humanitarian organisations to work together in reformulating the sponsorship system, including mechanisms to calculate its value, as well as sharing information between organisations, and reviewing policies and approaches that rely on external solutions and neglect local sources in attracting donations.

The second paper, titled
"Orphanages in Jerusalem between the hammer of occupation and poor funding",

> Was presented by **Mr. Firas Asmar** and co-written by **Mr. Emad Pharaon;** it focused on the difficulties faced by orphanages in Jerusalem, which are summarized in the lack of funding and obstacles that the Israeli authorities place in the face of the development of care.

> Based on the analysis of the results of a questionnaire that 80 workers in care homes in Jerusalem responded to, **Asmar** spoke of the existence of a statistically significant relationship that proves the negative impact of the Israeli authorities on orphanages in Jerusalem with regard to the movement of orphans and workers from and to orphanages, interference in the policy of orphanages, the prevention of any additions to existing buildings except under very difficult conditions, and the establishment of barriers to prevent movement except with the permission of the authorities, and interference with the educational curriculum used in the educational process.

> **Asmar** also says the lack of funding has been a factor in the decline of orphanages in Jerusalem, namely low salaries for workers and a lack of incentives and rewards for workers, with the inability to change the furniture in those homes due to lack of funding, and medium to low-level health, education, and housing services.

> At the end of his speech, **Asmar** made a number of recommendations, which consisted of activating the role of the community to improve orphanages, which requires education and awareness through the media, in addition to discussing ways to empower the relevant government institutions, including the Ministry of Jerusalem, the Governorate of Jerusalem, the Ministry of Social Affairs, and also recommended building relations with human rights bodies to advocate for the cause of orphans in Jerusalem.

The third paper, titled
"Investing orphans' funds in strengthening reconstruction efforts and developing the care sector for orphans in conflict zones (with reference to the Syrian situation),"

> presented by **Dr. Omar Hotia**, aimed at examining the possibility and legitimacy of investment in reconstruction and post-war development efforts, and the benefits of this.

> **Hotia** began to review the Syrian crisis and its impact on orphans and spoke about the fact that there are nearly one million orphans in Syria who have lost one or both parents, 90% of whom are not covered by the sponsorship system, and in return, humanitarian organisations allocate millions of dollars to sponsor orphans, and according to Hotia, these funds are not properly invested, and he calls for the utlization and reallocation of these resources to benefit more orphans.

> **Hotia** spoke of controls for the investment of orphans' funds, including conforming to the shariah provisions and customs of the target country, spending them in legitimate works, subjecting projects to quality and effectiveness measures for the best profit, ensuring that risks are reduced, that projects are formulated to benefit orphans, and that they are also accountable and monitored. He also stressed the importance of legal aspects in the establishment of projects, including documenting and registering contracts.

> At the end of his speech, **Hotia** stressed the need for coordination and innovation in working with orphans to bridge the gap between poor

resources and high needs and also recommended the need for training and rehabilitation to engage in the reconstruction of war-affected countries.

The fourth paper

was presented by Dr. Asif Ali, titled "Developing an integrated welfare framework for war-affected children in the care of orphans in Pakistan",

> Addressing the issues of orphan survivors of war, the pressures and disorders they are subjected to, the interventions needed to confront them, and institutional obstacles to it.

> After talking about the social, psychological, and emotional challenges facing orphans as a result of war, he moved on to talk about the family and society, the need for programs and projects to reintegrate orphans into their surroundings, which would require examining the negative effects of institutional care and the shift towards alternative community care, in parallel with the training and education of relevant persons in the care of orphans.

> **Ali** has recommended that the primary concern be given to foster families of orphans in post-war societies and to rehabilitate these families and address their trauma to achieve better care for orphans. He also recommended that children affected by war should be involved in the reintegration and rehabilitation process through counseling sessions. **Ali** also stressed

the importance of the role of institutions in care, whether governmental or otherwise, especially with regard to building monitoring and control systems capable of sensing situations of risk to orphans, and addressing sources of threats through an effective referral system, in addition to the importance of qualifying and developing their knowledge of orphan issues, and post-war effects. At the end of his speech, Ali called for strengthening the resilience of orphans, coordination, and unified work by building a common database between those who are concerned.

Session 8:

Empowering Orphans and Their Families

The session was moderated by Mr. Ahmet Wafaoglu, General Manager of Messaraat and a member of the Board of Directors of the Orphans Care Federation.

▶ The eighth session, titled **"Empowering orphans and their families",** is focused on ways to enhance the independence of benefited orphans and their families and to eliminate the manifestations of dependence in economic and social aspects. Participants presented various researches on ways to enhance the resilience of orphans' families and build their capacities to get rid of dependency in order to achieve the concept of orphan sponsorship and care. The session contained multiple experiences from the United States of America, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the Kingdom of Morocco.

The first paper
"rebuilding the concept of sponsorship from an Islamic perspective"

> The session began with the participation of **Dr. Zainab Al-Alwani,** and she talked about **"rebuilding the concept of sponsorship from an Islamic perspective",** to reformulate the basic concepts in the orphan care sector, and to study ways to develop a vision in identifying orphans, and to determine the best system for their care, based on Islamic heritage and religious texts.

> **Alwani** stressed that the financial support for the orphan is not in any way a sponsorship, but only material support and this support does not fall within the "framework of helping the widow", as it is assumed according to Islamic teachings. The concept of sponsorship includes achieving sufficiency for an orphan and meeting all of their needs and is not limited to a sum of money only.

> According to **Alawani**, sponsorship in the Muslim community is a culture and community behaviour in order to achieve solidarity and compassion among the members of the community, and this is represented in the city community clearly, where the house was not free of an orphan guaranteed by the families at that time. Alwani relied in her speech on many Quranic texts, which contain many of the values that frame the concept of sponsorship and care for an orphan.

> **Alwani** concluded her speech by talking about the explanations of the verses, in an attempt to derive the meaning and value behind them, such as the Qur'anic verse: "They will question you concerning orphans. Say, doing good for them is best", which was considered a call for a general strategy in dealing with orphans, the purpose of

which is the wellness of their conditions, as stated in verse: "So as for the orphan, do not oppress [him]", which she mentioned emphasizing the importance of mental health and the sponsorship of the orphan.

The second paper
was titled "The role of women's charities in empowering widows economically",

> Presented by **Dr. Doaa Abdul Hamid,** whose study aimed at identifying the role of women's charities in empowering Saudi women economically and identifying the constraints that limit their role.

> Based on extensive interviews with 57 women beneficiaries of the services of the organisations, **Abdul Hamid** concluded that the role of women's charities in the economic empowerment of Saudi women is to educate women about available employment opportunities, and to train on income-generating projects, in addition, the boundaries of their role represent multi-level issues, involving women beneficiaries and associations aspiring to empower, those working in those associations, and the community in general.

> In order to increase the effectiveness of women's charities in the economic empowerment of Saudi women, **Abdul Hamid** recommended that women be provided with the skills necessary for their participation in the labour market, adopt a policy of incentive to increase women's participation in the labour market, integrate gender issues into ministries of economic character, encourage programs of women's productive families, develop women's organisational capacities in economic activities, expand non-traditional work patterns

in line with global changes, and provide jobs commensurate with women's economic burdens. In addition to increasing the number of women's empowerment and career development workers.

with disabilities of the acquired type, and train and rehabilitate the disabled and their families to achieve the psychological and social acceptance of the disabled.

The third paper, titled
" The role of family psychological counseling promoting the process of social integration among orphaned children with special needs",

The fourth paper, titled
"Social welfare institutions for children on the street in The Kingdom of Morocco: from a charitable approach to professional intervention and self-empowerment",
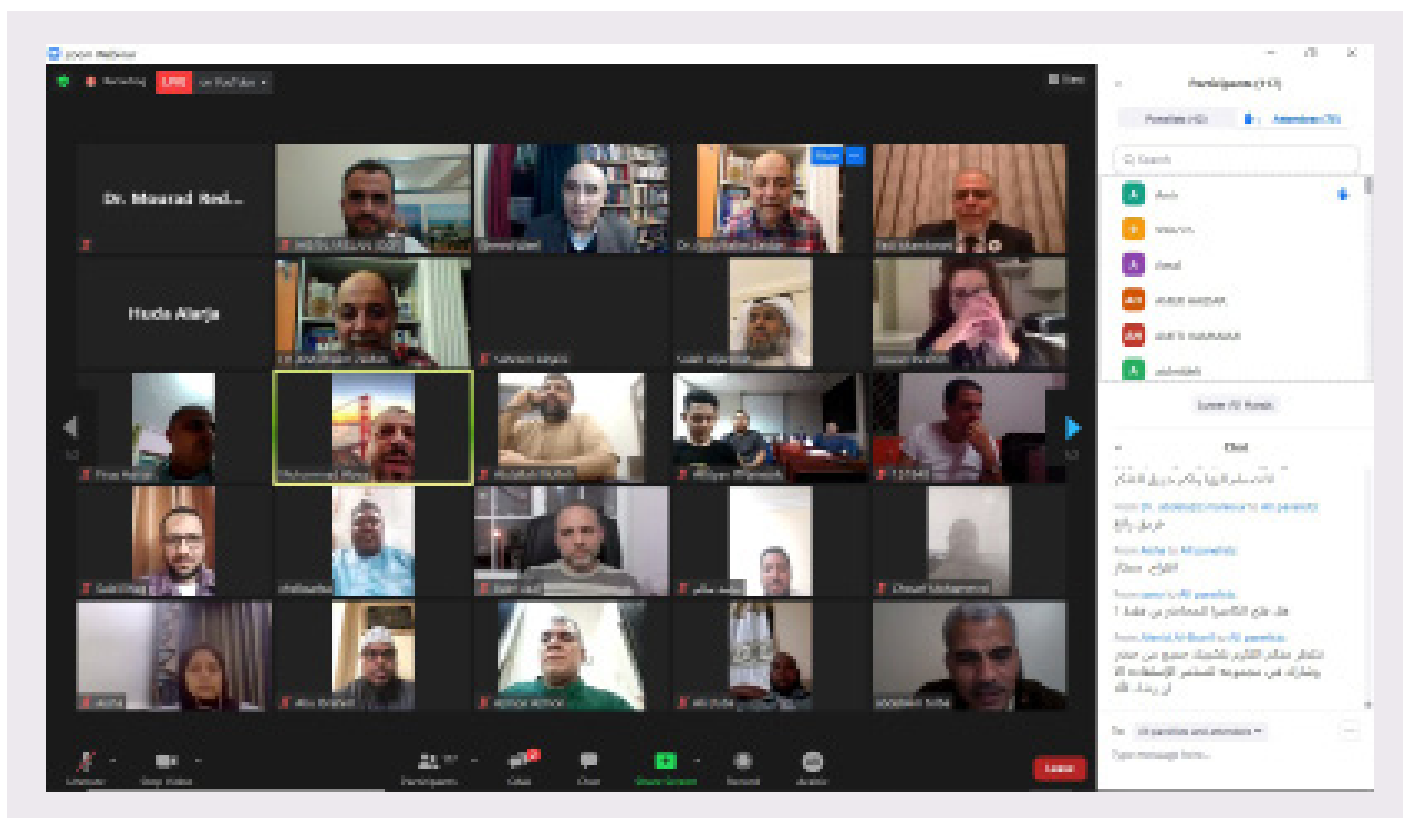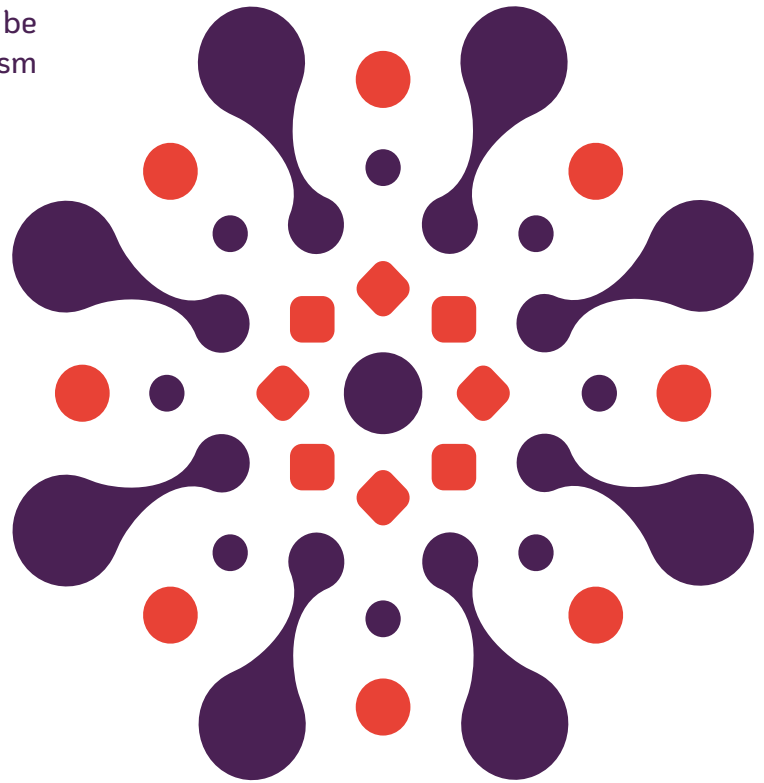
> Presented by **Dr. Hussein Zaidan,** aimed at revealing the role of family counseling supporting social integration provided to children with disabilities, and finding statistically significant differences for social integration according to the variable type of special need (acquired, hereditary).

> Was presented by **Mr. Mohamed Schauff,** through which he sought to highlight the ways of interventions with orphans, and ways to develop them, including empowerment, and develop the capacities of orphans.

> **Zaidan** talked about the procedures he followed in the research, including the fifty study-sample of primary and middle school students with disabilities for the 2017-2018 academic year. Through the analysis of the results, Zaidan concluded that there is an acceptable level of support for family counseling to achieve social integration of the sample members, and it also showed that there are statistically significant differences in favor of people with disabilities at birth compared to those with acquired disabilities.

> **Schauff** spoke of what he called the "basic principles of social service", namely "acceptance", in the sense of notifying the orphan of acceptance, "the right to self-determination" and "participation", by involving orphans in the design of interventions based on their empowerment, as well as "confidentiality" that ensures the protection of the orphan. He also talked about the nature of the required relationship between the social worker and the beneficiary; according to Schauff, the social worker is obliged to deal with each case personally, without adopting generalization in dealing with orphan issues, and the social worker should provide the opportunity for the beneficiary to express their opinion, feelings, and ideas, and be comsidered the primary source of information, in addition to the need for the specialist to adopt the principles of "consultation", "flexible contracting", "time limit" and "context of knowledge", and the social practitioner should possess central

> Accordingly, **Zaidan** recommended the need to establish psychological and educational counseling centres for orphaned children with disabilities and their families, which will contribute to the required social integration, provide material, academic and educational support to orphans

skills such as communication, silence skill, and concentration skill.

> **Schauff** recommended that "professional frameworks" should be developed in organisations working with orphans and that staff should be trained in more competence and professionalism in dealing with orphans.

Session 9:

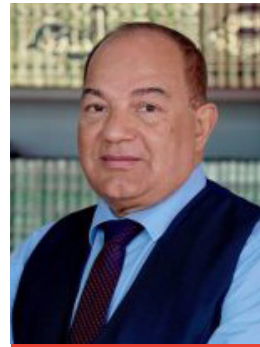## Discussion Session— The Concept of Orphans Sponsorship

Moderated by: Fadi Iskandarani - Conference Chair and CEO of Orphans Care Federation

▶ The ninth session was a discussion focused on the system of sponsoring orphans, which was participated in by **Alpaslan Durmus, Dr. Sayed Zenari,** and **Fadi Iskandarani.** It aimed to see the picture of the current sponsorship system and ways to develop it.

Alpaslan Durmus
President of the Turkish Red Crescent Academy

Dr. Sayed Zenari
Humanitarian Academy for Development MENA Rep,

> The session began with a speech by Durmus, in which he talked about the dangers of abuse that orphans are exposed to, especially in care homes, and he added to that the attempts that were applied in Turkey to reduce these risks, such as: improving care homes facilities and buildings and facilitating orphans' access to education. Durmus also raised the issue of eligibility criteria for choosing orphans and considered that all children lack care and need attention and assistance, including abandoned orphans, refugees, and migrant children.

> **Durmus** also spoke about the concept of care and the objectives behind it, which is to provide support and protection to the orphan, to maintain the role of the family in the life of the orphan, to reduce the risk of loss, and to ensure their access to health, psychological and educational services.

> **Zinari** then talked about an approach to the concept of foster care, which requires a shift in the number of trends in the current sponsorship system, with what he calls "the required qualitative shifts", which is to move from "sponsoring" an orphan to a state of "sufficiency", giving the community a greater role in caring for orphans as an alternative to civil society organisations, integrating care objectives into government and private businesses to integrate with community roles. In addition to the shift from separate community-based interventions to comprehensive community-based interventions and the transformation of the equation from a person who sponsors an orphan to systems that sponsor families.

> **Zenari** called for the necessity of focusing research on past experiences, documenting and transmitting cases from different regions of the world, and sharing data and experiences between societies and organisations. He also stressed the importance of applied research and the need to develop it, relying on the field and experimental methods that contribute to addressing the various challenges on the ground. **Zenari** suggested working on a project to build a model of the care system, monitor it, and study its effects.

> After that, **Iskandrani** raised a number of points related to the sponsorship system, related to the care of orphans in the south of the continent, in addition to the fact that 72% of orphans in the world live in the countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, where he raised a number of questions and doubts about the practices of humanitarian organisations that serve orphans and foster families in a number of countries.

> In this matter, **Iskandrani** wondered about the extent to which the current sponsorship system conforms to its essence on which it was built, which is a relationship between the sponsor and the orphan akin to the relationship of the father with his child, given that the sponsorship received by the orphan hardly meets their needs, even economic ones at least.

> **Zenari** also commented that the behaviour of donors is what usually dictates that as they prefer orphans' sponsorship with a lower value in low-income countries for example, and he called for organisations to rely on field offices in determining
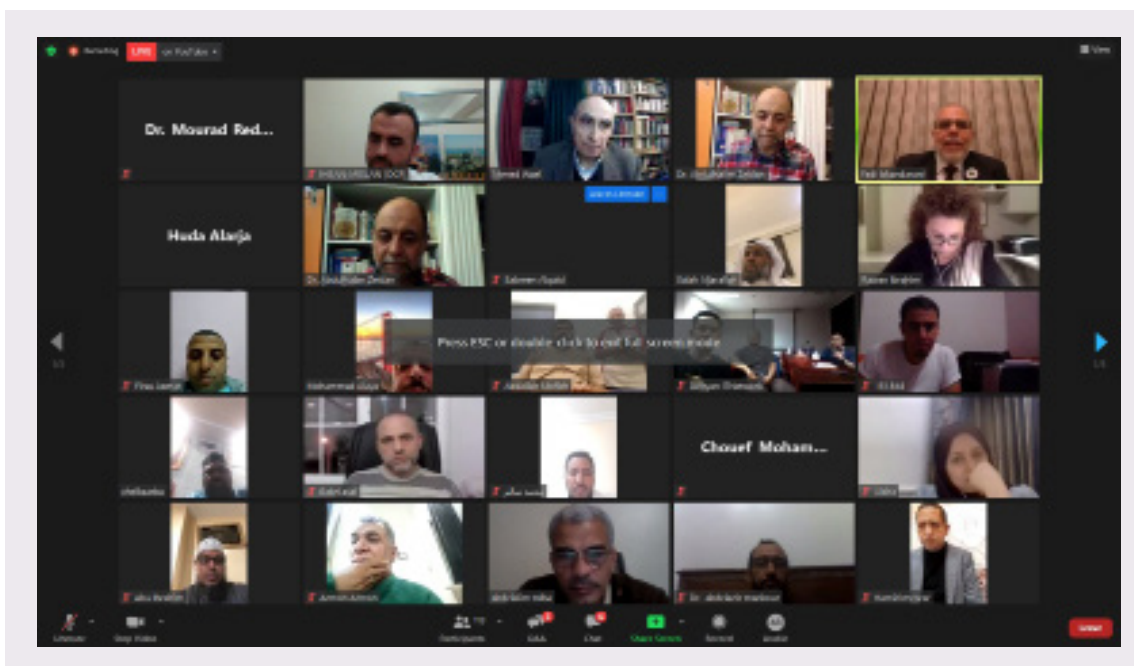
the value of sponsorship because they have the ability to evaluate cases and see the economic and social aspects.

> In another context, **Iskandrani** touched upon ways to eliminate the negative competitiveness among the organisations implementing sponsorship projects, which often lead to the transfer of donor funds to a kind of bidding, which organisations are trying to obtain by accepting insufficient bail, without thinking about the actual needs of the orphan. **Zenari** said that the solution lies in the transition from orphan care to orphans' care, by raising funds for orphans and developing protection and care projects involving several families and orphans. Even if the sponsor cannot meet all the orphan's needs, the opportunity is available for other donors to meet these needs.

> A third issue raised by **Iskandrani** regarding the organisations' entitlement to provide conditional sponsorship, which is represented in exercising power and forcing orphans and their families to join in specific programs and courses in exchange for sponsorship. **Iskandrani** also inquired about cases of loss of care for other children, such as cases of missing, imprisoned, or forcibly disappeared persons, especially in conflict

areas. In this regard, **Zenari** called for deepening research on who is an orphan, as there are texts and evidences confirming that the orphan is without care, which calls for efforts by scholars to expand the concept of the orphan.

> On the other hand, **Iskandarani** stressed that the most important thing is the orphan's dignity, and the beneficiary must always be consulted. To evaluate this or other methods, the orphan must be involved and their opinion recognized, and he referred to negative experiences that do not depend on policies or research and testing the beneficiary's satisfaction with the interventions. **Zenari** ended his speech by saying that those working with orphans do not need more work, as much as they need to study the existing work in order to improve it.

Session 10:

Violence against Orphans

The session was moderated by Zahra Kavak, Senior Researcher at the Turkish Red Crescent and a Ph.D. student in humanitarian diplomacy.

► This session addresses violence against orphans, including the physical and mental violence against orphans, and was attended by researchers from different regions, who presented experiences from the United Kingdom, Madagascar, Cameroon, and Morocco.

The first paper

was by Dr. Saria Cherovalil-Contractor, whose intervention was titled "Muslim children in care in the UK - questioning the meaning of violence",

> Which focuses on the cases of Muslim children and orphans in Britain, problems they face and involve cultural violence.

> **Cherovalil-Contractor** began her speech by talking about her personal experience of adopting and caring for orphans and then moved to the British context, where children usually lose the care of biological parents due to behavioural problems in parents. As for orphans in Britain who are subject to institutional care, their numbers are increasing, and there are no studies and research discussing their conditions, and they suffer from clear neglect of their food, clothing, and the environment around them.

> According to **Cherovalil-Contractor**, the cycle of violence begins in these children when their parents abandon them and neglect them, as they are subjected to psychological trauma through which they lose a sense of security and reassurance, and this is an expression of violence that is not limited to the physical side only but goes beyond the mental and psychological aspects. This is the case for children in the United Kingdom. They do not carry weapons or are beaten, but they are insecure, and many of them are refugees or migrants.

> In Britain, there is a shortage of foster families who adopt and care for Muslim children, these children wait for exceedingly long periods, and eventually, they are embraced by non-Muslim families, threatening their right to grow and develop

into their biological parents' culture, and contrary to their best interests. Experience has shown this, as Muslim children in non-Muslim families often flee.

> According to **Cherovalil-Contractor,** the situation of Muslim children in non-Muslim homes and environments is a form of violence against these children, but Muslim families refuse to adopt and care for these children because of a misperception of religious texts, according to **Cherovalil-Contractor,** on the issue of adoption, where there are many indications that the Islamic religion is keen to care for children.

> **Cherovalil-Contractor** concluded by emphasizing the need to move from institutional to alternative families, where the family environment provides the child with the way to meet their needs and meet all their requirements and protection, but that the foster family culture must be commensurate with the culture of an orphan or child without care.

The second paper, entitled

"Research on Juvenile Justice and Legal Rights of Children in a Dispute with the Law in Bamenda in Northern Cameroon",

> Was presented by **Akosa Nke Thomas**. It deals with the case of violation of the rights of children who are in violation of the law by legal practitioners in Cameroon.

> **Thomas** began his intervention in talking about the conflict in Cameroon and its machinery for orphans and children, many of whom were involved in arms and violence, many of whom left their education and normal lives and engaged in other acts classified as criminal offenses such as

drug use, rape, or kidnapping. Many of them were arrested by law enforcement forces, which violated their internationally and locally agreed upon rights.

> **Thomas** noted that 83% of children imprisoned in the minors' area of the prison are either orphans or children from broken homes, these children may be imprisoned without trial, which they may receive after more than a year, and children are detained, placed alongside adult criminals, and tried just like them, in flagrant violation of Cameroon's laws.

> **Thomas** says the violation is caused by a lack of knowledge, experience, and capacity on the part of government agencies, the difficulty of recruiting lawyers to defend children, and the low level of prisons in general. However, social workers, the police, judges, lawyers, legislators, and media professionals need to be trained and educated with regard to the rights of children in conflict with the law.

> **Thomas** recommended that juvenile justice be reformed, that violations continue to be reduced, that orphans' causes should be advocated by putting pressure on state agencies and policymakers for better cooperation between government and civil society, and strengthening the capacity of society, civil society organisations, and local NGOs to respond to children's needs.

> In the absence of a sophisticated culture of formal mediation or alternative solutions to conflicts within the official government in Cameroon, only civil society organisations and NGOs can provide this, and instead of borrowing external models, traditional mediation can be used to develop more culturally appropriate models in the formal sector.

The third paper, titled
"The Policy of the Well-Known Child (Zaza Tsara Anarana) and Its Harm to Orphans",

> Presented by **Dr. Savolana Onitiana Razafintsalama,** addressed cultural practices in Madagascar that are considered a form of violence against orphans.

> She began her speech about the general culture of the "Antishanaca" region in eastern Madagascar, and they say "zaza tsara anarana" to any child or young person under 18 whose parents are still alive. The term is an expression of good name and qualities and constitutes an appreciation of the child, but for those who have lost their parents or one of them, they are denied that title. Orphans are also excluded from participating in cultural and religious rituals and ceremonies or engaged in a humiliating manner that is not equal to other children.

> **Savolana** explains that an orphan's hatred and exclusion are the results of old practices inherited by the present society, resulting in the orphan child losing their self-confidence, which she believes is not perfect and is evil. In schools, in particular, children suffer from such phenomena. Savolana recommended that all practices of excellence between orphans and children should be reviewed and that there should be public awareness and education on the rights and status of orphans.

The fourth paper, titled
"The work of the orphan child with salary and possibilities for integration into society",

> Was attended by **Dr. Zahra Al-Khemlishi.** She spoke about child labour in Morocco, the conditions of poverty that drive them to work, and the exploitation and abuse they are subjected to because of work.

> **Al-Khemlishi** began by talking about the harms of child labour and anti-child projects and stressed that Morocco's constitution provides for children to be placed in school instead of their work, but that the proportion of working children is increasing, and many of them work in dangerous occupations, both male and female.

> Relying on extensive interviews that included 62 working children, Al-Khemlishi says that reaching the category of working girls and talking with them freely is difficult, given the working conditions that they perform, and that many girls have lost their confidence in society and do not want to talk about their circumstances. Their ages ranged between 13 and 18 years, and most of them did not have access to basic education, and most of them work in the informal sector.

> **Al-Khemlishi** talked about the role of these girls in helping themselves and their families in most cases, which constitutes an opportunity for employers to exploit their circumstances to achieve material gains in the first place, to benefit from their low wages, and to ensure obedience and submission to this category, in addition to the speed of learning for girls at young ages. Al-Khemlishi also spoke of difficult and degrading work conditions that often confront working girls in the context of unequal relations between the two parties and the absence of written contracts that prove the rights and duties of each party.

> **Al-Khemlishi** also called for the need to reduce the phenomenon of child labour by combating vulnerability and poverty among women in general and empowering them, providing material assistance to widows and needy families to spare them from the salaries of their children's work, and providing stable employment opportunities for these mothers so that they can take care of their children. Raising parents' awareness of the dangers of working for their children, especially girls. She also stressed the need to pay attention to the education of these girls, monitor the market to limit their employment, expand the services of civil society organisations and encourage research in this area.

> The violence session was concluded, and the researchers agreed that mental violence was as dangerous as physical violence, and all of them spoke of the need to reform legislation, practices, and cultures that initiate violence against orphans.

Session 11:

Governance and Development of Organisations Working with Orphans

The session was moderated by Dr. Reza Ashmawy, Director of the International Centre for Philanthropy Studies, International Islamic Charitable Authority.

▶ The 11th session addressed governance and development in organisations working with orphans. The researchers discussed various topics on the mechanisms for applying the principles of governance in shelter institutions, mechanisms for applying comprehensive quality standards as a mechanism for institutional excellence in orphanages, and the role of strategic partnerships in the development of the charitable sector for orphan care. The session contained three scientific papers discussing various experiences from Palestine, Algeria, and Saudi Arabia.

The first paper
was titled "Applying the principles of governance in shelters to preserve the rights of orphans: The Institute of Hope for Orphans a case study",

> Co-written by **Dr. Abdelkader Hammad, Nasrin Al Qaisi, and Dr. Ahmed Hammad.** A comprehensive survey method was used for all employees working in The Institute of Hope for Orphans, whose number is (53) employees, and to achieve the objectives of the study, the researchers used the questionnaire as a tool to collect data.

> **Hammad** spoke about the importance of the study as one of the few studies that deals with governance and examines the extent to which the principles of governance are applied in shelter institutions to ensure the rights of orphans, where **Hammad.s** goal through the study is to identify the extent to which the principles of governance are applied in shelter institutions, by highlighting the theoretical concepts of governance, identifying the advantages of the governance and its benefits, assessing the ability of institutions in the Gaza Strip to apply governance principles to ensure and protect the rights of orphan children, in addition to revealing the most important challenges facing shelter institutions in the Gaza Strip In order to apply and adopt the principles of governance.

> **Hammad** noted their reliance on UNDP governance standards during the study, which are: participation, transparency, justice, equality, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness, the rule of law, responsiveness and strategic vision, and the direction towards consensus-building. The results of the questionnaire showed that the nine principles of governance examined were included in an excellent category due to the awareness of the Institute of

Hope for Orphans of the importance of following the standards of governance to ensure the organisation of work and the preservation of the rights of orphans, and Hammad added that the Foundation is making efforts to reach its humanitarian goals and mission despite the fact that Palestinian institutions are considered to be new to the concept of governance.

> **Hammad** provided a series of recommendations, the most important of which were: the formation of a higher body dedicated to the care and follow-up of orphans in Palestine, the need to adopt the principles of governance in various Palestinian institutions, including child shelters, attention to clarifying the concept of governance among all staff in children's shelters, and introducing the criterion of participation because it is considered the cornerstone of governance in addition to responding to the requirements and needs of beneficiaries with high quality and speed to ensure their satisfaction.

The second paper, titled
"Applying comprehensive quality standards as a mechanism for institutional excellence in orphanages"

> By **Dr. Murad Radawi,** through which he talked about using the concept of comprehensive quality management and its principles in the field of organising. and managing institutions and organisations active in the field of ensuring and caring for orphans in order to qualify organisations to achieve the level of leadership and excellence to achieve practical quality to ensure themselves, in a way that makes the beneficiaries of this sponsorship (orphans) happy with the service provided to them in a way that suits their needs.

> **Radawi** stressed that the management of comprehensive quality as a culture and a strategic choice must be adopted by the institutions of orphan care by always focusing on the first beneficiary, which is the orphan, and identifying their needs and requirements, as well as considering quality as a key part of the organisation's strategy and focusing on the participation of all, management, staff, and volunteers to implement high-quality rates to focus on the strategy in improving.

> **Radawi** provided a set of proposals and recommendations that will contribute to pushing the institutions concerned with orphans towards advanced degrees of excellence: all leaders of institutions, organisations and associations sponsoring orphans should be satisfied with the philosophy of comprehensive quality management and be aware of its necessity and aware of its importance in improving the performance of the institution and its excellence in providing sponsorship, He also recommended the need to find appropriate mechanisms for cooperation between local, regional and international organisations and institutions in the field of ensuring orphans and benefiting from previous experiences in the field of care, and then he concluded by talking about the need to generalize the pioneering and distinguished experiences of some institutions and organisations caring for orphans - **including the experience of the of Orphans Care Federation, which is a model to follow in adhering to standards of quality and excellence.**

The third paper titled
"The role of strategic partnerships in the development of the charitable sector to care for orphans and enable them to achieve sustainable development   goals",

> Presented by **Prof. Dr. Fawzia Al-Zubair**, aimed at identifying the reality of strategic partnership in associations and charities specialized in the care of orphans, and their effectiveness, and their role in achieving the objectives of the strategic plans of these associations and charities, where efforts are explored by charities specialized in the care of orphans in successful partnerships.

> According to **Zubair**, partnerships are one of the most important principles of quality and excellence and one of the possibilities in institutional creativity, so she chose to review the experience of the Charity for Orphan care (Benaa) in partnerships as an existing model by displaying the partnerships held by the association and its importance. The results of the study showed that the Charity Association for the Care of Orphans (Benaa) has moved to involve the private sector in its development projects through the application of the concept of cooperative participation, where the association found that this type of cooperation is the best to achieve sustainable development in the association and eliminate many problems.

> **Al-Zubair** indicated that the strategic partnerships held by (Benaa) have diversified to include all sectors with the aim of developing its various programs and activities to support the needs of orphans and widows. At the conclusion of her intervention, **Dr. Al-Zubair** recommended

the need to focus on creating more convergence between the public and private sectors in order to achieve the strategic goals of the parties participating in these activities and targeted initiatives by intensifying the role of charities and other non-governmental sectors. She also recommended the necessity to provide incentives to the sectors that contribute to achieve the concept of a strategic partnership between the two sectors and to work on developing this idea. And finally, strengthening the role of partnerships in developing the quality of services provided to orphans and keeping pace with their future needs, and making use of specialized information and statistics centres in the orphan sector and their role in the success of national and global partnerships efforts.

> Emphasizing the importance of relying on governance standards and strengthening strategic partnerships, a session on governance and development of organisations working with orphans was concluded,

> Where the participants agreed on the necessity of adopting the most important modern methods and means to develop the charitable sector for orphan care in light of adherence to governance and quality standards and their application in field.

Session 12:

The Future of Orphan Care: What is Next?

The session was moderated by Fadi Iskandarani, conference chair and CEO of the Orphans Care Federation.

▶ The 12th session focused on various topics on the future of orphan care, during which it addressed policy-making in humanitarian organisations, mechanisms for a transition from institutional to community care, how to develop and diversify financial resources, as well as the importance of technology in caring for orphans by emphasizing the need for automation, especially today, to the subject of training and building the capacity of humanitarian workers.

Tarek Abdelalem,
Director-General
of Islamic Relief
(Germany)

> The session began with a speech by Professor **Tarek Abdelalem,** titled **"Policy-Making in Humanitarian Organisations",** in which he talked about the types of policies in humanitarian work, which include working policies that are of interest to the sector in general, and internal policies that guide institutions to certain specific issues and include the vision, mission, and objectives of the organisation. **Abdelalem** pointed out that philanthropy is intertwined and complex, and therefore there is a need for regulatory policies that control the work and frame it under the condition that the policies are public, valid, and applied and not just written, because the policies written without any application in reality complicate the matter and do not reform it.

> As for working with orphans, we must link the issue of orphans to the Sustainable Development Goals, as the issue of caring for and protecting orphans covers eight of the 17 goals. Also, setting and writing policies protects the institution and its beneficiaries alike, as it clarifies a general direction for the institution that helps it achieve its goals. Therefore, there must be basic policies concerning the organisation's work in caring for orphans, including a moral charter on how to deal with orphans, a child protection policy that explains how to deal with the child, ensure that they are not exploited, and so on, in addition to laws that include those who resort to the child if they feel violated and what the most important criteria are for dealing with cases of abuse, to include the basic orientation of the organisation, protection procedures, monitoring and control procedures, and punishment procedures.

> **Abdelalem** added that there is a financial policy in organisations working with orphans that regulate sponsorships, a project policy that examines needs and protects them, evaluation and monitoring policy and the policy of learning from past experiences and how to use them to make programs and projects related to the service of orphans and meet their needs.

> In the conclusion of his speech, **Abdelalem** said that "it is important in these policies that there is a person in every institution of all sizes to manage and follow-up policies and alert in cases of breach". He likened the policies to danger signs on the road, as large institutions suffered and are still suffering from ineffective policies with a slow response. In this context, he recommended the necessity of annual training programs for institutions that include members of the Board of Directors, executive departments, employees, volunteers, and relevant stakeholders, so that they are familiarized with the policies, their importance, and their effective role in controlling the work of organisations.

Dr. Rawan Ibrahim,
Assistant Professor,
Department of Social
Work - German
University of Jordan

> **Dr. Rawan Ibrahim,** who delivered her speech titled **"From institutional care to community care",** stressed at the beginning of her speech that the primary goal is to reduce the overreliance on institutional care and replace it with family care, as there is an excessive reliance on institutional care, and noted that family care is not adoption or semi-adoption as some claim but is only an alternative to institutional care.

> **Dr. Rawan** talked about Jordan's experience in shifting towards family care. The Jordanian Ministry of Social Development launched the Alternative Caring Families Program to integrate children without family bonds into alternative foster families as an alternative to institutional care. The reasons behind this shift were mentioned: the weak social work, the poor fulfillment of psychological and family needs, the challenges facing care homes, in addition to the stigma of children, and the useless financial cost of care homes. **Ibrahim** has worked on a program to support alternative care systems, which aims to "integrate the largest number of children without family support and juveniles into alternative natural families, as it is a better alternative to institutional care". The many challenges cannot be overlooked, which include poor follow-up and reduced material support for foster families, lack of clinical supervision for specialists, constant change of practitioners and specialists, unqualified staff, and poor coordination between organisations. **Ibrahim** presented a set of suggestions to help the transition towards an alternative family system, which included good planning, especially for emergency events, anticipating costs, and providing them.

> The project proposal must necessarily include (evaluation, follow-up, clinical supervision, financial support for families and emergency services, accounting, and accountability), in addition to verification, continuous leadership and direction, and the development of regulatory policies for financial, legal, and accountability matters, and a policy to protect privacy.

Mr. Christian Meyer Zu Natrop
Founder and Managing Director of MzN International

> **Christian Meyer Zu Natrop's** statement followed, in which he spoke about **"the development and diversification of financial resources"** and stated that funding is not the only important topic, many organisations are experiencing problems with funding and poor funding, but there are some easy solutions that can be applied.

> Good work needs good funding, but you should stress that funding is not the first priority, but your mandate is the priority. In his view, funding should be driven by delegation, not the other way around. We, therefore, need to be smarter about funding. Zu Natrop said there are diverse financing opportunities, bilateral funding, World Bank funding, institutional and private sector funding, and funding from some donor countries, but the question we have to ask ourselves is what funding is best for you as organisations and what funding serves my goals?

> **Mr. Zu Natrop** concluded his speech by making a set of recommendations for funding and investment in opportunities, relying first on analysis by looking for funding that is appropriate for the organisation and where it can be obtained, secondly, using the appropriate tools to obtain all the opportunities offered and to assess the appropriate opportunities, and thirdly, the use of experts, which he has focused a lot on, through these experts we can turn projects into convincing proposals for donors and thus gain access to

funding, in addition to the ability of experts to develop many proposals at the same time, and their ability to produce convincing negotiations with new donors to gain funding oppurtunities.

> He noted that the process of building the financial stability of organisations depends on a good analysis of the amount and type of funding they need, ensuring that organisations have the right tools and experts to invest and look for opportunities, and making an investment in the long term since there is no quick solution to obtain funding.

Dr. Ahmed Moussa
An expert in automation and information technology

> In his speech titled   **"Technology in the Care of Orphans: Automation to Increase Capacity"**, **Dr. Ahmed Moussa** mentioned that the needs of individuals have become increased and varied, especially in the light of the corona pandemic crisis, which makes us think as workers in the charitable sector about how to respond to them with non-traditional tools,   the most important of which is technology, which has begun to be in high demand recently, and the competition of public, private, charitable and community institutions to employ them in order to work in the required form. He pointed out that many of the problems presented during the two days of the conference are problems that have been experienced by many industries, and their solution lies in the technology of information.

> During his speech, he raised a range of questions about how to allocate capacities to include everyone for sponsorship? How can we gather all the important experiences and deliver them to employees for use and application? Two questions about how and how much? In **Moussa's** view, if we provide a high-quality model in orphan care, it will lead to an increase in the number of orphans guaranteed, using knowledge and experts.

> **Dr. Moussa** pointed out that the lack of experts is a natural subject and should not hinder the work of the organisation, as the experiences in the orphan sector are large but scattered and do not benefit everyone, and this is due to several factors, the most important of which is the difference of language, culture, currency, and place: all factors weaken the care of the orphans, in addition to that, the supervisor of orphans cannot know all those factors, and reports and their contents constitute a crisis for workers and can negatively affect the work. But through automation systems, all these problems can be overcome, as technology can revolutionize and leap the way in orphan care. It is true that technology costs but it saves time, effort and money in other ways, so we should invest in this area.

> **Moussa** concluded his speech on the importance of activating technology and automation in humanitarian and charitable organisations working with orphans. Just as technology and modern scientific techniques help improve the performance of institutions and individuals in various fields of life, the more humanitarian organisations employ technology, the more they achieve an impact and benefit on the beneficiaries of their services and projects as well as the community that provides its services to them.

Darryl Foster
Head of Learning and Development at the Human Academy for Development

> The discussion session was concluded with a speech by **Darryl Foster** who is the head of department of learning and development (UK), titled **"training and building the capacity of humanitarian workers"** which focused on

the importance of training or education and development as he preferred to refer to; training is particularly important for organisations regardless of the current epidemic that has hindered much of the work in those organisations.

> In a question he asked about the importance of training for non-governmental organisations, he pointed out that we live in a changing world in which needs are increasing, and thus training provides an opportunity to keep pace with these needs and deal with them in the most appropriate way, and that training provides individuals with modern skills, and helps people who work for us to acquire the necessary skills and experiences to support the work.

> On the importance of training and learning, he stated that "we need to increase employees' knowledge of government regulations to gain protection for employees and employers, and donor confidence, and to do things right".

> "No one gets to his "perfect" job and then not need anything else, even CEOs in some of the biggest companies who have reached the limit of what you can achieve in their careers, want something more," **Foster** says, "it's the way we

are and make us human, learning and pursuing progress and development is a constant human need, evolution - whether spiritually, personally, professionally or intellectually - is an urgent need, especially in the humanitarian sector! He noted that, therefore, continuous training, learning, and development of staff is central to maintaining a happy workforce and in ensuring that we continue to be flexible in the sector to respond to those ever-changing needs.

> The challenge we all face is: What is required? Why? And how is it delivered? And when? And who? We must make sure that we keep learning, as development is the key so that people do not "switch from learning and development to considering it "just another training course".

> He concluded his speech by emphasizing the idea that training, learning, and development cannot be a "one size fits all" approach — The needs are often different for individuals because of the circumstances under which they work and their own needs — and thus affect training plans that must be carefully developed to serve individuals.

Closing
Session

> **Fadi Iskandarani,** conference chair, concluded the conference with a speech in which he spoke about the most important events and activities that took place over the course of two days, papers and discussion sessions that were presented in order to achieve the goals of the conference and improve the lives of orphans and empower their families.

> **Iskandarani** spoke about the diverse and large attendance, the diversity of the experiences presented in terms of geographical location and topics, and inquired about how to move from theory to practice, and how to translate the conference's recommendations to reality.

> **He then invited Dr. AbdelHalim Zeidan to present the recommendations issued by the conference:**
Speakers and researchers presented rich and varied experiences from different regions of the world (Africa, Asia, Europe, and America) and conveyed different experiences and cases related to the orphan's care sector (education, health, institutional care, children of unknown parentage, orphans in areas of conflict, empowerment, violence, development, and governance of organisations).

> The conference participants provided rich materials in thought and knowledge and bold ambition for change; the most important question to achieve this was: How will we move **from theory to practice? Or in other words, how will we be able to translate the research and discussions that accompanied it to reality?** There is no doubt that this will require a continuous effort to accomplish, achieve goals and develop them. Recommendations from lectures, discussion sessions, and working papers were collected, especially common issues that were shared and emphasized by researchers.

The recommendations were as follows:

The need to develop and adopt an educational curriculum that relies on modern educational methods, taking into consideration the pecularities of the sector from a practical point of view, and evokes the concept of sustainable action in care, guidance, and community cohesion.

The need to achieve social responsibility in the field of educating orphans and helping them, preparing programs to rehabilitate orphans' families, and develop their intellectual abilities.

The need to make institutional care a last resort, not first or best, motivate professional and well-trained employees, and focus on education, training, and development of life skills for resident orphans, as well as activating social communication for them and for sponsors, especially among their peers, and focusing on a higher level of self-esteem to help them overcome the painful loss they went through.

When it comes to widows' mental health, several recommendations focused on holding emotional release sessions, involving widows in community service, and holding multiple training courses to increase the level of economic empowerment, as well as following up the provision of psychological support programs for displaced orphans, regardless of the demographic differences between them, and recommends studying several variables related to the level of trauma in children.

As for orphans of unknown parents, the researchers direct the necessity of uniting the efforts of the legislators, the media, and civil society organisations, in order to ensure adequate training and awareness of the foster families and to educate society as a whole about the importance of exerting efforts aimed at achieving the identity and citizenship of the orphan of unknown parents.

Concerning violence against orphans, we recommend collaboration to combat vulnerability and poverty among women in general and enable them to benefit from all available developments that they are entitled to, to strengthen their abilities, impose compulsory education for children in the first place, and educate the family on the role of education in raising their competencies and capabilities, and the opportunities it provides for them to be better in the future, and engage various media platforms in raising awareness of the dangers of child labour and exploitation. Children employers should be monitored closely, penalizing violators of the labour law, with strict implementation of such penalties.

As for orphans in conflict zones, there is a need for coordination and unification of efforts among institutions providing care for orphans. It is imperative to devise modern methods that are effective and able to influence society, to benefit from investing in orphans' money. And work to rehabilitate orphan's health and education so that they have an active and effective role by participating in projects that are run by their sponsoring funds and to have a role in the development of their affected areas.

For the empowerment of orphans and their families, researchers are interested in working to empower the widow economically, through the expansion of unconventional work patterns, in line with the global changes and developments of the era. And the importance of developing the social service profession and promoting social work through the establishment of specialized institutes and the introduction and generalization of this knowledge-applied field to universities. Likewise, gender issues must be incorporated, and laws must be put in place to ensure women's economic participation. And to provide an attractive environment for widows' work by amending labour laws to achieve fairness and equality with males' wages and to facilitate widows' access to part-time work and paid vacations.

Researchers also recommended the necessity of establishing psychological and educational counseling centres for orphan children with disabilities and their families, which would contribute to achieving the required social integration as well as providing academic and educational support for orphans with disabilities. And work to train and rehabilitate the disabled and their family to achieve psychological and social acceptance, provide opportunities for integration in its various educational, psychological, cultural, and family aspects, and create opportunities for work, marriage, and health care.

On governance and development of organisations working with orphans, the participants see that the concept of orphan's sponsorship lies within the areas of performance that has a great need to apply standards of total quality management, whether in planning, implementation, or in monitoring processes. As well as the importance of applying comprehensive quality management standards as a mechanism for transferring organisations sponsoring orphans from traditional organisations governed by randomness and personal orientations to excelent organisations that run according to professional mechanisms avoiding negativities, face challenges, and meet the emerging needs of orphans.

In this respect, we call on researchers, specialists, and research centres to carry out academic research and field studies that establish the concept of comprehensive quality in sponsorship systems, processes, components, and outputs, and the need to find appropriate mechanisms for cooperation in achieving this between local, regional and international stakeholders, and benefit from experiences of pioneering institutions in the field of sponsorship and its various programs.

On the other hand, considering the donor-implementor organisation partnership as a guarantee of achieving higher merit, longer-term practical slovency ranges and considering the diverse global experience in donation, as deserving of extending the study, and funding extensive research on how to link donation to different progressive and transformative agendas, and to study the determinants, standards, and differences between the agendas.

As for the implementing organisations, researchers see the need to work according to a systematic sectoral and specialized classification and to establish specialized network systems to achieve interests, advancement, strength, and coordination. And the need to move from reports, research, and monitoring of reality, to futuristic studies, for the change that can be brought in the medium and long term, and to work on transforming it into feasibility studies with a comprehensive sustainability-aiming mentality, and not purely a limited socio-economic mentality.

As well as the gradual shift in financial dependency, from total dependence on grants and donations for spending to their dependence on spending and investment together, and to building future endowment assets to liberate and guarantee the decision, and to secure business continuity in times of crisis and influencing variables.

Considering future studies, with a connected link to reality and its needs, creating capital of forming a critical mass, effective, capable, and productive for a generation by focusing on (children and youth) and attribution groups (parents/schools/community facilities), to build a character capable of participating in making the future, then in excelling and later leading it.

Researchers and participants present their gratitude to the Orphans Care Federation for organising and executing this distinguished conference rich in research, experiments, and cases, which has achieved a quantum leap in ways of thinking, application, and professional practice, and they recommend the repetition of organising this conference, turning it into a periodical, progressive, developmental event, and a space dedicated to the exchange of practical experiences, guiding ideas, and future visions.

Participants also recommended holding executive workshops following this conference to study and develop ways to put in effect the outcomes of the conference, generalize them, and work to adopt them among various organisations and partners sharing the same interest, work, and service.

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