

THE DAFI PROGRAMME

Established in 1992, the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Programme (DAFI) provides scholarships for young refugees to study at universities and colleges in their host country and, at times, in their country of origin upon return. Over 7,000 eligible students have benefitted from the scholarship to date.

Financed by the Government of Germany, DAFI is a unique opportunity for refugees to pursue or continue higher education while in exile. Through university scholarships, DAFI contributes to the search for solutions under UNHCR's protection mandate, and provides vital support towards the reconstruction of conflict-affected countries.

DAFI pioneers a new approach to education in emergencies, moving beyond basic education by opening up access to tertiary education for outstanding students and empowering them to become leaders and change-makers in their communities. This focus promotes a wider recognition of the importance of academic education for refugee communities.

THE DAFI STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 1 To achieve self-reliance of the sponsored students and their families and empower them to find gainful and qualified employment;
- 2 To develop qualified human resources in order to contribute to the reconstruction of the country of origin upon repatriation;
- 3 To contribute to the development of the refugee community pending a durable solution;
- 4 To facilitate integration, temporary or permanent, and contribute skills to the host community if repatriation is not or not yet possible;
- 5 To provide role models for other refugee students, particularly female students, to continue their education.

Photo: A Syrian refugee is showing her previous diplomas at Adiyaman camp, Turkey.
© UNHCR / B.Sokol / 2012



The Albert Einstein
German Academic
Refugee Initiative



UNHCR
The UN
Refugee Agency

PRIORITY

The principle aim of the DAFI programme is to contribute to the personal and professional growth of young refugees with potential for leadership in the context of UNHCR's broader strategy to promote self-reliance and durable solutions for refugees.



UNHCR
The UN
Refugee Agency

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Division of International Protection
Geneva, Switzerland

www.unhcr.org/pages/49e4a2dd6.html

DAFI
Higher Education
in Emergencies



© UNHCR / O.K.Afridi / 2013

From school...



© UNHCR / N. Ncube / 2012

...to university...



© UNHCR

... to supporting the community

2013 – 2014 **FACTS AND FIGURES**

2,718 Enrolled students



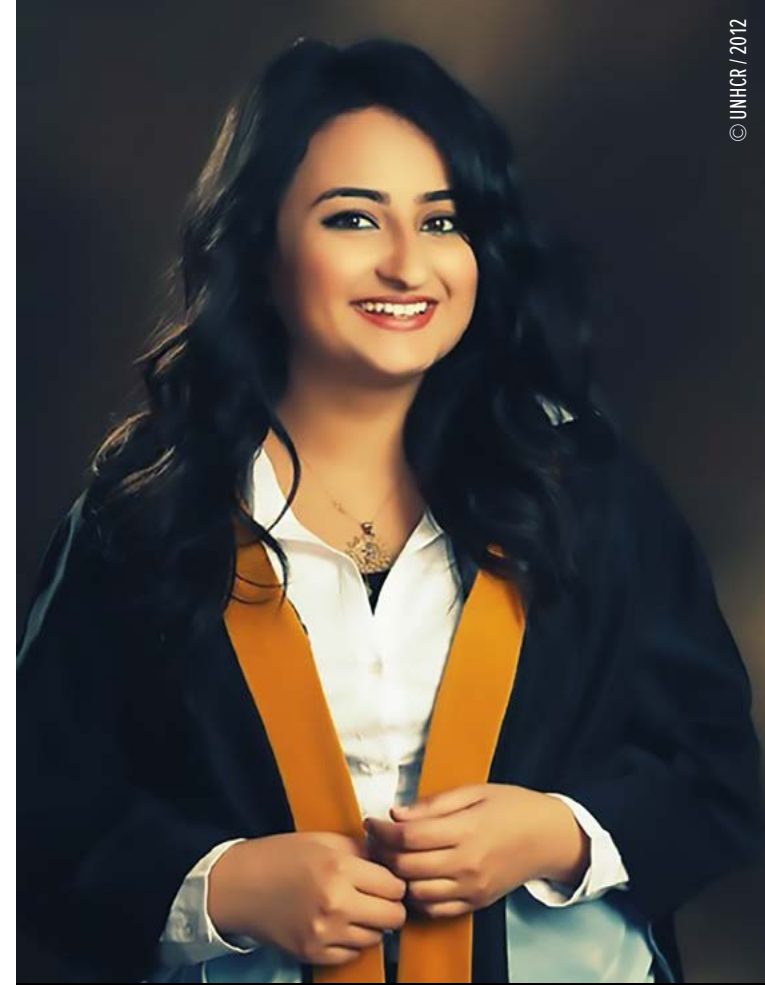
42 Countries of study
(mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa, but also in the Middle East, Asia, Latin America and Europe)

40 Countries of origin
TOP FIVE:
Afghanistan (497), Somalia (420),
Democratic Republic of the Congo (345),
Syria (171), Sudan (160)

- Main study subjects:**
- Commerce & Business Administration
 - Medicine & Health-Related studies
 - Social & Behavioural Sciences
 - Mathematics & Computer Sciences
 - Engineering

FOCUS ON SYRIAN REFUGEES

With the support from the German government and the U.K.-based Saïd Foundation, DAFI continues to expand scholarship opportunities for Syrian students. In 2014 the programme helped 171 young refugees from Syria to enroll in institutions of higher education in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and Turkey. This number is set to triple in 2015.



© UNHCR / 2012

THE DAFI IMPACT

The DAFI strategy continuously exhibits extraordinary results, with a very high rate of DAFI students successfully employed upon graduation. DAFI scholars work in businesses and governments, schools and hospitals and are often the only doctors or teachers in their communities. Others work in non-governmental organisations, bilateral development agencies and the United Nations system.