High-Level Officials Meeting Intervention
(Run Time: 3:05)

Excellencies, Honorable Chair, UNHCR, and esteemed colleagues:

Amal Alliance's programs have not only fulfilled our 3 pledges to prioritize psychosocial support, strengthen the capacity of teachers and caregivers, and encourage open quality resources, but have exceeded our original goal fivefold. We are grateful to the Global Refugee Forum for fostering inclusive educational opportunities to the most vulnerable children.

Since the onset of the pandemic, our team has worked tirelessly to mitigate long term psychosocial damage to children's education, bridging the learning gap with holistic and innovative programming. Seeing that this complex issue required an equally comprehensive response, we spearheaded a COVID-19 Response Consortium, including Qatar Foundation International, Karanga, Salzburg Global Seminar, and Learning in Times of Crisis; producing "We Are in This Together," a podcast series available in 4 languages that supports the well-being of caregivers and their children through practical activities and coping mechanisms. It was distributed across 543 organizations, reaching an estimated 160,000 beneficiaries.

Amal Alliance was selected as a finalist for UNHCR's Humanitarian Education Accelerator COVID 19 Challenge, giving life to "Colors of Kindness." It is an innovative hybrid approach to classroom instruction during and post-pandemic, designed to help children grow their social and emotional competencies. Combining audio-based learning with interactive digital materials, it is available as Open Educational Resources.

The program was piloted in Bangladesh with a cohort of Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazaar and children of the host community. The results showed a dramatic 16.5% increase of the children's wellbeing.

Since its debut, Colors of Kindness has been nominated as one of the top 3 models for Crisis and Conflict Response in 2020 by the mEducation Alliance, and was most recently named one of 13 of the TOP global solutions in SEL by the LEGO Foundation and HundrED.

Amal Alliance will be launching Colors of Kindness in Uganda, as well as creating an evidence-based case study in Greece in partnership with Porticus, the EASEL Lab at Harvard Graduate School of Education, and Learning Equality to grow the field of research in education

in emergencies. This SEL intervention will sediment an evidence-based model ready for scale for governments and organizations to easily adopt.

Lastly, in partnership with Education Above All, our SEL home-based learning projects have reached children in approx. 177 countries through EAA's Internet-Free Education Resource Bank.

Despite its challenges, this global health crisis has presented us with a unique opportunity to reimagine learning. Amal Alliance understands that re-engaging the learner post-COVID will require a coordinated, cross-sectoral approach. We welcome strategic partnerships to bring quality holistic learning to all out-of- school children.

We strongly believe that "Colors of Kindness" will complement the efforts of educational stakeholders to provide the foundational skills children need to be resilient, reach their full potential, and flourish.

Thank you.