



CIRCLE لسيركل



Strategic Philanthropy Conference

## Private Philanthropy for Development in the Middle East & North Africa

6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Ras Al Khaimah

In partnership with the OECD and Al Qasimi Foundation

### Summary:

According to the latest OECD report "[Private Philanthropy for Development: Data for Action](#)," there is a lack of collaboration and coordination in the philanthropic sector, especially in the MENA region. This makes it challenging for donors to identify like-minded partners and engage in joint learning. Now more than ever, there is an urgent need for donors to join forces to create a more dynamic impact.

In light of this, the conference sought to bring together invited donors to discuss how to build on existing partnerships, form new ones, and consider challenges which hinder collaboration in the region. The forum hosted 4 panels, 3 of which were closed sessions. Below are the key takeaways from the 4<sup>th</sup>, open-door panel.

#### *Key Insights | Panel 4: The Role of the Private Sector in Philanthropy*

- Social impact programmes that have proven to be effective should look to engage with local government, ministries, and other institutionalised pathways in order to best and most effectively scale their projects.
- Solutions and strategies must be multi-sectoral and hyper-specific to the local context to truly be able to make an impact from the community's perspective.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects need to integrate best practices in philanthropy – by ensuring that interventions are community-driven and focused, and that recipients have an open line of communication with the donors.
- CSR teams and programmes should be built to be flexible and open to change through a feedback loop with recipients.
- Social impact programmes at private sector organisations need C-Suite level and management buy-in to be most effective.
- The long-term goal of CSR programmes should be to ensure that an intervention can eventually become sustainable and self-reliant, without the need for external funding.
- Social interventions must first envision the kind of impact they wish to create within their target communities then collaborate and partner with local institutions doing similar work.
- Integrating a corporate giving strategy into the core business case gives social impact initiatives the potential to turn into profit-making investments.