



Purposeful Giving: Women Shaping Philanthropic Impact in Saudi Arabia

Roundtable Discussion

Monday, 18th February 2025

10:00 AM to 01:00 PM

Musa & Palm, Riyadh, KSA

The Governance in Philanthropy Program at the Pearl Initiative (PI), in collaboration with The Zovighian Partnership (ZP), convened a select group of women leaders from the philanthropic, entrepreneurial, government, and civil society ecosystems for a strategic roundtable discussion on advancing women-centered philanthropy. The session focused on our next-generation research findings, particularly the barriers to funding for women and girls, and explored opportunities to unlock transformative giving.

Hosted at the Saudi cultural diplomacy venture Musa & Palm, the session provided a platform for meaningful dialogue, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange on leveraging data-driven insights, and ensuring intentional investment. The Pearl Initiative remains committed to facilitating these discussions and expanding engagement to strengthen the governance and philanthropic ecosystem in the Gulf.

Key Takeaways from the Roundtable Discussion:

1. Next-Generation Philanthropy and Giving Toward Women and Girls

- 41% of next-generation philanthropists surveyed prioritize giving to women and girls, yet less than 20% of male respondents support women and girls-focused initiatives.
- A call to bridge this gender gap in philanthropy and increase male engagement in advancing gender equity.
- Independent giving versus family institutional philanthropy remains a key consideration, as 80% of respondents engage in their giving individually. The lack of engagement with family foundations is a cause for concern as it distances donors from collaborative giving opportunities.

2. Strengthening the Ecosystem for Collaborative Giving

- Participants emphasized the need to build a robust ecosystem for women-centered philanthropy to maximize impact and avoid duplication of efforts. Encouraging



collaboration among donors, organizations, and policymakers is essential for sustainable change.

3. Addressing Workplace Challenges and Male Allyship

- The discussion explored challenges women face in professional environments and the role of male allies in driving change.
- Participants highlighted the importance of showcasing positive male role models who advocate for gender equity in philanthropy and the workplace.

4. Recognizing Women's Contributions to Philanthropy

- The event highlighted HRH Princess Nourah Bint Mohammed Al Faisal, who provided insights into historical giving in Saudi Arabia, the cultural values driving philanthropy, and her vision for the future of the philanthropic ecosystem in the country.
- The importance of documenting and sharing the historical role of women in philanthropy in Saudi Arabia was emphasized as a key factor in inspiring future generations. Participants recognized the need to preserve and elevate narratives that highlight women's contributions to social impact and philanthropy.

5. Creating a Safe Space for Philanthropic Dialogue

- The session reinforced the need for strategic networking platforms where women leaders can share insights and collaborate. Building a trusted community for women philanthropists in the region is essential for open discussions on giving, challenges, and opportunities.

6. Intentional and Data-Driven Investments in Women and Girls

- Participants underscored the importance of investing in women and girls with intentionality and precision, ensuring resources are effectively allocated.
- Data-driven approaches and qualitative research are critical for designing initiatives that address the real needs of women and girls in the region.