



## **Blossom Hill Fellowship Framework**

Investing in Peace through Innovation

***Our Vision: A world where conflict-affected children thrive.***

***Our Mission: We fund innovative ideas to help children and youth affected by conflict in the Middle East.***

Blossom Hill believes in the importance of engaging and empowering war-affected children from the Middle East.<sup>1</sup> We introduced our Social Entrepreneur Fellowship Program for this singular purpose: to encourage individuals to develop innovative and solution-focused initiatives that create opportunity for conflict-affected children and help to break the cycle of violence that plagues their communities.

Through the Fellowship Program, Blossom Hill is investing in the next generation of leaders who will play a pivotal role in the reconstruction and advancement of their own communities. At best, these solutions are informed and spearheaded by those who understand the situation intimately – individuals who hail from the region or are deeply connected to the Middle East and comprehend the multi-generational impact of war.

### **The Fellowship**

Blossom Hill offers fellowships to social entrepreneurs who have developed an innovative approach, program, or product that positively impacts war-affected Middle Eastern communities, either in-country or displaced due to conflict. The application process includes a comprehensive vetting, not limited to 1) a thorough review of the proposed idea and work plan; 2) submission and approval of the Year I budget; and 3) an in-depth interview with all final candidates. All candidates are also required to submit two (2) written letters of recommendation, a headshot, and a two-minute pitch video.

This is a highly competitive program. Award payments are made in two installments; the first payment is made after the initial proposal has been approved, and the second payment is made after three (3) months of implementation, contingent upon approval

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of the Blossom Hill Fellowship Program, the Middle East is defined by the following countries and communities: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Northern Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian AR, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

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by the Fellow's assigned "thought partner." A Blossom Hill "thought partner," who provides regular check-ins with the Fellow to advise and provide feedback on project management, supports each of our Fellows. Blossom Hills aims to further support our Fellows by connecting them to experts in the field and to each other, and by conducting site visits to support their initiatives firsthand wherever possible. Fellows are also featured prominently on the Blossom Hill website and through our global social media networks to highlight their work in the field.

Fellowships are up to \$50,000 a year and are renewable on a yearly basis depending on assessment and evaluation of the project's impact. Fellows who demonstrate significant impact in the community and who comply with Blossom Hill's requirements may be eligible to re-apply at nine (9) months for additional funding the following year.

### **Our Model**

Each application is vetted by the Blossom Hill staff and its Board of Directors, as well as external experts, when necessary. Our process is guided by criteria developed to identify the most promising ideas for positive social change. We look for Fellows with personal integrity, a deep commitment to the cause they propose, and an idea for an approach, program or product that has the potential for profound community impact. Ideas can integrate various disciplines including education, health, environment, business, science, technology, art and others to respond to humanitarian needs. While some NGOs may wish to nominate candidates, all applicants must be deemed to be of high caliber, and have secured a reputable registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization to serve as the Fellow's fiscal sponsor.

### **Eligibility**

- We fund programs or products that aim to positively impact the lives of communities (children, youth, families, etc.) affected by conflict and war in the Middle East.
- Initiatives can take place in the Middle East or another country where war refugee populations are prevalent and are the primary program beneficiaries, i.e., Syrian refugees now displaced in Europe. (Refer to definition of Middle East in footnote on page one.)
- Applicants should have significant experience and close ties with the community and culture their idea is designed to serve.
- Applicants should possess the language skills necessary for the successful implementation of their proposed initiative.
- Applicants must have a partner NGO registered as a U.S. 501(c)(3) charitable organization to serve as a fiscal sponsor.
- Applicants must reach children and youth beneficiaries ages 24 and under to qualify for funding.

Blossom Hill seeks passionate, committed individuals with innovative ideas about how to improve the lives of war-affected children from the Middle East. We are looking for ambitious candidates who:

- Demonstrate an ability to succeed and commitment to social change
- Present bold, innovative and viable approaches that address an authentic need and have potential for exponential impact
- Are accessible, responsive, articulate, proactive, and take initiative to further expand their reach

### Evaluation of Fellows' Ideas

Blossom Hill's evaluation committee is looking for the following in the proposal and work plan:

- Personal Integrity
- Commitment to Social Change
- Demonstrated Need
- Innovation
- Impact

We also look to see that Fellows measure the effectiveness of their idea and demonstrate promise for potential continued support when they:

- Show both quantitative and qualitative notable measurement of impact
- Craft a thoughtful plan to sustain the program or product
- Promote a scalable model to increase impact
- Have received significant request from the community to continue
- Demonstrate fundraising plan and/or goal to increase voluntarism

Key Dates	2020 Application & Fellowship Deliverables
September 16, 2019	Applications for 2020 Fellowship available on Blossom Hill's website
March 27, 2020	2020 Blossom Hill Fellowship applications due
April 6 - May 4, 2020	Round I and II interviews conducted
June 30, 2020	Applicants are notified; contracts sent out shortly after
July 16, 2020	First installment of Fellowship funds disbursed to fiscal sponsor upon receipt of signed contract
August 1, 2020	Public announcement of Fellowships awarded
October 15, 2020	Three-month progress report due
October 30, 2020	Second installment of Fellowship funds disbursed
March 27, 2021	Nine-month progress report and renewal request due to determine Year 2 funding eligibility
June 30, 2021	Applicants are notified on Year 2 renewal requests; contracts sent out shortly after
July 16, 2021	Year 2 Fellowships awarded, at the discretion of Blossom Hill's Board
August 17, 2021	Final project report due



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*The criteria of Blossom Hill's Fellowship Program are subject to change at the discretion of the Board of Directors of Blossom Hill. All decisions of the Board of Blossom Hill are final.*

**If you have any questions, please email our Deputy Director, Rosy Nimroody at:  
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