

Last year, we spent 171 hours on our Hummingbird Garden and we managed to educate more than 6000 people about the importance of biodiversity and ethical food production (life on land). We were struggling with Covid restrictions so imagine our shock when, 6 months later, our little 10m by 5m garden was being featured in The Gulf Times and Marhaba Magazine (readership of 15000) and we were being partnered and mentored by the oldest organic farm in Qatar! This was possible because of partnerships with businesses so we decided to focus on "Partnerships for the Goal" so that we could learn more and actively protect the biodiversity in this desert nation.

Over our second year of doing this GSL project, most of the time, we were gardening. When we came back to school after being online, we busied ourselves with pulling out weeds and planting more plants as we wanted to have a Quranic garden. We even created a list of the people who are open to volunteering to water the garden.

In addition, we got to assist 5 classes of kindergarteners in making their own garden. While they watched bees pollinating their courgettes, it inspired them to feel passionate about gardening and creating a good impact on the planet. This activity will continue next year and the school board has allocated 40,000 QAR (11,000 USD) for us to develop the gardening education for next year.



The Quranic gardens donated a medical garden for us to have an outdoor class. We are currently growing and educating our community about the medical importance of biodiverse plants such as: miswak, frankincense, sidra, henna, figs, olives and citron trees. These plants were used for centuries by bedouins and are currently being researched as a cure for drug resistant bacteria. **The Quranic gardens has agreed to sponsor every school in Doha to have a garden similar to ours.** This was one of the biggest partnerships we've had so far through our journey. They have promised us additional donations of

bougainvillea trees and we returned their generosity by marketing their work to every school in Doha.

Last year, our projects were based in ISQH lessons and published online with over 500 readers. This year, French mother tongue continued the learning and expanded the project to three grade levels. It also allowed us to speak to French permaculturalists and highlight our cause to the French community.

Qatar National Museums invited teachers to create lesson plans to teach other schools about an important aspect of Qatar. We were the only children to volunteer and we worked with museum staff to create a "week without walls" biodiversity project where children throughout Qatar could create a fully sponsored biodiversity garden and learn more about bedouin medical

traditions and the importance of preserving our green heritage. By creating their own soap products, they would also reduce 1,2 billion items of waste from cosmetic use. This knowledge was only available in oral history sections of the museum and we were able to bring it back to public knowledge through this partnership.



**Our project was so successful that we got to tell our story to over 200 heads of school in Qatar and the minister of education (HE Buthaina Bint Ali Al Jabr Al Nuaimi). We were able to share our lesson plans and inform them that every school in Doha had sponsorship for a medical garden. We also presented to the director of museums Sheikha Mayassa Al Thani who features regularly on the list of top 100 people for Forbes and Times Magazine. She is also the sister of our country’s ruler. Sheikha Mayassa retweeted our story on her personal Twitter and Facebook where she has a following of over 500 000. We were also delighted to receive handwritten letters to let us know that our “passion for sustainability was truly inspiring”. She also mentioned that she is “looking forward to hearing more about our botanical projects”.**

**We asked Sheikha Mayassa if we could use the museums as a platform to create a biodiversity research magazine for children by children and she invited us to join a newly formed teenage action group from all over Qatar where we can launch our project nationwide under the patronage of Qatar Foundation and Qatar National Museums.**

The hard work will continue next year and we are excited to no longer have covid restrictions.

