



CELEBRATING

15

Years of

IMPACT

ANNUAL REPORT
2025/2026



WHAT IS THE GLOBAL SHAPERS COMMUNITY?

An initiative of the World Economic Forum, is a network of more than 11,000 inspiring young people and alumni driving dialogue, action, and change in more than 450 city-based hubs in over 140 countries and territories around the world. The network, adopting a hub model, aims to provide a platform for young leaders under 30 years old to connect and collaborate.



11K+

GLOBAL SHAPERS



450

LOCAL HUBS



140

COUNTRIES

MOMENTS THAT MATTER.

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FOREWORD



Dr. Yasar Jarrar
Founding Curator
Global Shapers Dubai Hub

Fifteen years ago, when we established the Global Shapers Dubai Hub, we believed that leadership was becoming less about institutions and titles, and more about the ability of individuals to bring people together, challenge conventional thinking and create practical solutions to real problems. That belief has only become stronger with time.

Since then, I have had the privilege of watching the Hub grow into one of the most vibrant communities of young leaders in the region. Its members have launched initiatives, built organisations, influenced public policy, supported communities and, perhaps most importantly, developed lifelong relationships based on trust, curiosity and a shared commitment to public purpose.

The success of the Dubai Hub has never been measured simply by the number of projects it has delivered. Its real achievement lies in the culture it has created: one that values ideas over hierarchy, collaboration over competition and action over rhetoric.

In many respects, the Hub reflects the city in which it was founded. Dubai has built its reputation by looking ahead rather than looking back, by embracing change rather than resisting it, and by creating opportunities for people with ideas and determination. It is no coincidence that a community built around innovation, openness and optimism has flourished here.

The world the next generation of Shapers will inherit is likely to be more complex than the one we entered fifteen years ago. Artificial intelligence, demographic change, climate pressures and geopolitical uncertainty will reshape economies, governments and societies in ways that are still difficult to predict. Yet these challenges also create an unprecedented opportunity for a new generation of leaders to rethink old assumptions and build institutions that are more resilient, more inclusive and better equipped for the future.

Looking back, I feel a deep sense of pride in what this community has achieved. Looking forward, I am even more optimistic. The greatest contribution of the Global Shapers Dubai Hub may not be found in its first fifteen years, impressive though they have been, but in the leadership, ideas and impact that its members will create over the next fifteen.

That, ultimately, is the purpose of communities such as this: not simply to respond to the future, but to help shape it.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CURATORSHIP TEAM

Mohammed Mishal, Curator:

My heart is full reflecting on the journey and adventures we have had together. One of my favorite phrases is, “People support most what they help create,” and I am proud of our shapers, who poured their hearts into bringing ideas to life by connecting with our partners and community to create meaningful experiences and impact through our projects.

Marwa AlBlooshi, Vice Curator:

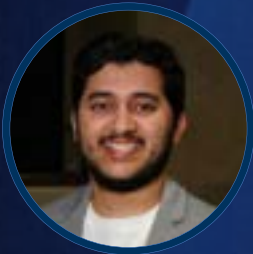
This year showed me how much impact can be achieved when people are surrounded by an inspiring community united by a shared purpose. Leading the Hub during its 15th year of impact has been a transformative journey, both for the community and for me personally. I’m proud of the lasting impact we created together, and I look forward to continuing this journey and witnessing even greater impact ahead, inshallah.

Isra Tirmizi, Impact Officer:

Working alongside such a dynamic Core Team and learning from them was truly enlightening. I learned that the impossible may seem distant, but never truly is. Being part of leading the Hub allowed me to explore my own potential, while also witnessing what happens when Shapers unleash theirs. The result is impact - positive, defiant and transformative impact.

OUR TEAM 2025/2026

THE CURATORSHIP TEAM



Mohammed Mishal
Curator



Marwa AlBlooshi
Vice Curator



Isra Tirmizi
Impact Officer

THE GOVERNANCE TEAM



Aida Al Awadhi
Recruitment



Alyazia Al Marzooqi
Data



Fay Khaless
Marketing



Faiza Sultana
Partnerships



Abdullah Al Salmani
Events

AT A GLANCE • 2025/2026

GLOBAL SHAPERS DUBAI

A youth-led community empowering young leaders to shape the future of Dubai and the UAE by driving inclusive, measurable, and sustainable community impact through collaboration, innovation, and strategic partnerships aligned with national and global priorities.

FOUNDED IN
 **2011**

18+
NATIONALITIES



415K+

DIGITAL REACH



2,093+

BENEFICIARIES



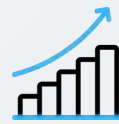
22

PROJECTS & INITIATIVES



34+

PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS



40%

AUDIENCE GROWTH ON SOCIAL MEDIA



11/17

SDGS ADVANCED



11+

CROSS HUB COLLABORATIONS

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE IMPACT



31+

ACTIVE SHAPERS

First feeling when
Hearing Global
Shapers:

'Growth'

PROJECT MIX 2025/2026



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

35%



WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

30%



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

20%



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

15%

*The data in this report reflects the reporting period from July 2025 - June 2026. All figures are based on the data collected during this period.

KEY MILESTONES

15 YEAR JOURNEY

2015-2019

- Hosted SHAPE MENA 2015, the official regional event with focus on strengthening MENA-wide collaboration including projects.
- Membership expanded across diverse industries and nationalities.



- Dubai Hub founded by Dr. Yasar Jarrar.
- Launched the first youth-led community initiatives aligned with the World Economic Forum.

2011-2014

2022-2024

- Became the Official Youth Partner of the 1 Million Learners Programme.
- At **COP28**, the Dubai Hub and EY co-hosted a Climate Fresk workshop for youth.



- Launched **Project ME**, a cross-hub mental wellbeing initiative.
- Launched financial literacy initiative
- Launched COVID campaign cross-hub collaboration projects.

2020-2021



- Launched flagship initiatives including LevelUp Series powered by PwC Academy, Meet-the-Leader and Youth in STEM.
- Grew to 30+ active Shapers representing 18+ nationalities.
- Celebrated **15 Years of Impact**.

2025-2026



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Empowering the next generation requires more than knowledge, it requires access, opportunity, meaningful dialogue, and a strong ecosystem of partners. Throughout the year, Global Shapers Dubai worked with national and international stakeholders to shape partnerships, develop strategies, co-create initiatives, and build platforms that connected youth with new opportunities. Our efforts extended across programmes, community engagement, knowledge exchange, and cross-sector collaboration, strengthening youth capabilities, expanding their networks, and creating pathways for meaningful participation and long-term impact.

By bringing together the private sector, educational institutions, government entities, and the wider community, our work transformed collaboration into tangible opportunities for youth. These efforts equipped youth with the confidence, connections, perspectives, and practical tools to lead with purpose, contribute to their communities, and play an active role in shaping the UAE's future.

YOUTH.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

YOUR FUTURE: THROUGH LENS OF STEM

 Dubai Hub's Nomination for the Global Innovation Prize 2025/26

Project Overview

A collaborative youth empowerment initiative connecting schools, universities, industry leaders, and Global Shapers Hubs to prepare young people aged 12–25 for future careers. Through hands-on workshops, mentorship, industry exposure, and cross-hub collaboration, participants explored robotics, AI and machine learning, sustainable design, product development, and entrepreneurship.

Key insights

- Hands-on learning strengthened youth engagement with emerging technologies.
- Mentorship and industry exposure helped connect learning to real career opportunities.
- Cross-sector collaboration created a stronger ecosystem for youth innovation and development.

Our intention

To bridge education and industry by equipping youth with future-ready technical, creative, and entrepreneurial skills while expanding access to mentorship, networks, and career pathways.

Our Partners & Collaborators



285+
STUDENTS EMPOWERED

9
SESSIONS DELIVERED

12
PARTNERS



Students didn't just learn about STEM - they experienced how it can **shape their future**"

Participant Outcomes

94%

LEARNED
NEW SKILLS

72%

RETURNING
PARTICIPANTS

~35

STUDENTS
PER SESSION

SDGs TARGETED



Abdullah at Sharjah Entrepreneurship Festival 2026 focused on making satellite development more accessible to students and highlighted his journey building "Made-in-the-UAE"

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

AUDIT YOUR THINKING

In collaboration with Deloitte Youth Council
Part of the Connect Youth Initiative

The Workshop

Audit Your Thinking was an interactive creative workshop delivered in collaboration with the Deloitte Youth Council, combining creative reflection, facilitated discussions, and collaborative activities to support youth development and career readiness.

Deloitte.


مكتبة دبي العامة
Dubai Public Library

35
PARTICIPANTS

SDGs TARGETED



Our Intention

To empower young professionals with practical, future-ready skills that enhance reflective thinking, communication, collaboration, adaptability, and problem-solving, while fostering meaningful engagement between Global Shapers Dubai and the national youth councils.



Key Insights

- Strengthened confidence in critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and problem-solving.
- Reinforced creativity and adaptability as essential future-ready skills.
- Empowered young professionals to apply their strengths toward career and personal growth.





YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY PANEL

In collaboration with AIESEC UAE at the Ignite event at Abu Dhabi University Dubai Campus

AIESEC

30+

PARTICIPANTS

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

DESIGN YOUR FUTURE

In collaboration with Pakistan Association Dubai at the Annual Future Fest 2025



30+

PARTICIPANTS

The Workshop

As part of Future Fest 2025, we facilitated an interactive Design Thinking workshop, introducing students to a human-centred approach to problem-solving. Through hands-on activities, participants explored empathy, creativity, and innovation while discovering the skills and mindsets needed to navigate the careers of the future. The session encouraged students to think beyond traditional career paths and empowered them to design meaningful solutions for tomorrow's challenges.

Our Intention

Help students build confidence in problem-solving and future thinking by introducing them to human-centred design, creativity, and innovation as tools to shape meaningful solutions for tomorrow's challenges.



The Panel

As part of the International Youth Day celebrations, we took part in the panel discussion, "Youth in a Globalised World: Navigating Purpose, Career & Impact." Drawing on shared experiences and insights, the discussion encouraged young people to pursue purpose-driven careers, develop future-ready skills, and create meaningful impact in their communities. It also sparked valuable conversations on leadership, personal growth, and the opportunities shaping the next generation.



Our Intention

To inspire young people to reflect on their purpose, career pathways, and personal growth by creating space for honest conversations with leaders, partners, and peers on the opportunities available to the next generation.



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

At Global Shapers Dubai, skills development is about more than acquiring knowledge. It is about building confidence, strengthening career readiness, and helping young professionals recognise and apply their potential. Throughout the year, our Skills Development initiatives created practical opportunities for participants to learn directly from experienced leaders, industry experts, and fellow community members.

At the heart of this work was the LevelUp series, which delivered interactive sessions across leadership, communication, facilitation, financial wellbeing, artificial intelligence, and other future-focused skills.

Each session combined practical tools, open discussion, and hands-on learning to help participants translate ideas into action. By encouraging curiosity, self-reflection, and collaboration, the series supported participants in becoming more adaptable, confident, and prepared for evolving professional environments. These experiences were designed not only to strengthen technical and interpersonal capabilities, but also to equip emerging leaders with the mindset and confidence needed to pursue opportunities, navigate challenges, and lead with purpose.

SKILLS.



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

LEVEL-UP! SERIES

235+

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

12+

SHAPERS INVOLVED

10

SESSIONS

POWERED BY
pwc



Project Overview

LevelUp! was created to address a simple but pressing challenge: while the demand for new skills is accelerating, accessible and relevant upskilling opportunities remain limited for many. The series bridges that gap by bringing industry professionals directly to the community - offering hands-on, interactive sessions completely free of charge and open to everyone.

"In today's world, the need to continuously upskill isn't limited to any one group - it's universal. LevelUp! was built on the belief that real-world skills change lives, and that access to quality learning should be open to all. The energy and commitment we've witnessed over the past year proves that people across our community are ready to learn, grow, and lead. We're proud to power this initiative alongside the Global Shapers and look forward to scaling its impact further."



Taimur Mir
Partner, PwC Academy
Middle East

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SDGs TARGETED



01 THE ART OF FACILITATION
FT. JESKO VON DEN STEINEN

Explored how great facilitation creates the conditions for better dialogue, creativity, and collaboration.



02 VISUAL STORYTELLING
FT. JEAN-BAPTISTE VINCENT

Helped community turn ideas into clear, compelling visuals that communicate with impact.



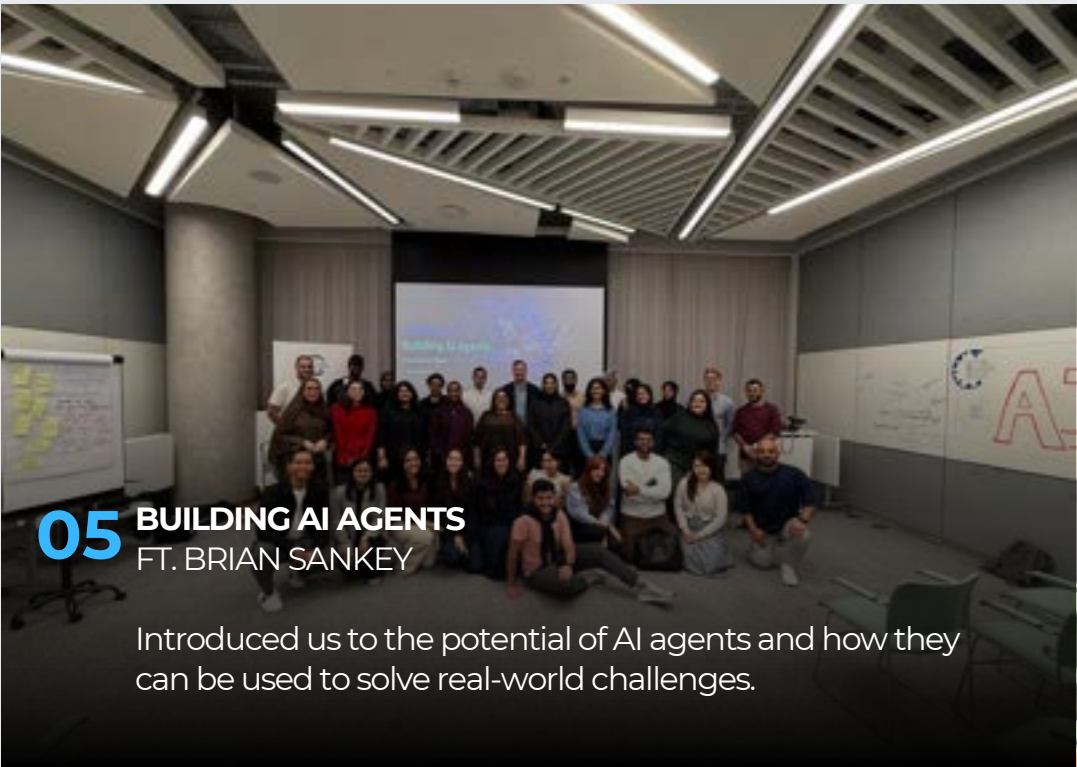
03 UNLOCKING THE COLLABORATION CODE
FT. ANNA KUNZ

Anna shared practical tools for building stronger collaboration across teams, cultures, and working styles.



04 10 RULES OF GREAT LEADERSHIP
FT. GAVIN ASPDEN

Offered timeless leadership lessons on trust, clarity, presence, and leading with purpose.



05 BUILDING AI AGENTS
FT. BRIAN SANKEY

Introduced us to the potential of AI agents and how they can be used to solve real-world challenges.



06 PRESENTATION SKILLS W/ CASABLANCA HUB
FT. HISHAM JIFFRY

Built confidence in structuring, delivering, and refining presentations that engage and influence audiences.



31

TOTAL
PARTICIPANTS

18

PARTICIPANTS
ATTENDED
THE FULL SERIES

3

SESSIONS
FACILITATED



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

MONEY JOURNEY SERIES

In partnership with Money Health Collective and PwC Academy



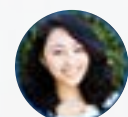
Our Intention

To create a safe, inclusive space for open conversations around financial wellbeing. Through interactive discussions and practical exercises, participants explored their relationship with money while developing healthier financial habits and greater confidence in managing personal finances.

SDGs TARGETED



Special Thanks To



Lin Shi
Founder of MHC



Joseph Kachiliko
MHC Community Steward



Our Commitment

As the only Youth Partner of the **DIFC 1 Million Learners Programme** - we are bringing the programme vision to life through our interactive sessions.

Key Insights

- Highlighted the growing need for accessible financial wellbeing initiatives in Dubai.
- A three-part progressive experience from reflection to confidence and action.
- A Ghaf tree gift for each participant as a reminder of steady growth, deep roots and resilience.

“The reason it worked is because the room actually felt safe.”

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

FINANCIAL LITERACY & WELLBEING

2
SESSIONS
DELIVERED

2
EXPERT
FACILITATORS

SDGs TARGETED



“Financial wellbeing is about perception, awareness, and emotional safety.”



01 THE MONEY CONVERSATION, WITH LIN SHI: MONEY HEALTH COLLECTIVE.



02 MONEY TALKS WITH SYED AMAAN ALI

Our Intention

To promote financial wellbeing by encouraging self-reflection, reducing stigma around conversations about money, and equipping participants with practical tools to build healthier financial habits and greater financial confidence.

18+
PARTICIPANTS
EMPOWERED

Our Intention

To improve financial literacy among young professionals by providing practical tools and knowledge that promote responsible financial decision-making and long-term financial wellbeing.

26+
PARTICIPANTS
EMPOWERED

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

BUILD WITH REPLIT

In Partnership with Replit & Heriot-Watt EBS Incubator



Build with **Replit** introduced participants to the power of AI-assisted software development also known as vibe-coding through an immersive, hands-on workshop. Guided by live demonstrations and collaborative exercises, attendees transformed ideas into functional applications using Replit Agent, while gaining practical experience with modern AI development tools.

50+

PARTICIPANTS

96%

REPORTED GAINING
NEW SKILLS

SDGs TARGETED



Our Intention

To empower young professionals with accessible AI development skills by demonstrating how emerging technologies can accelerate creativity, problem-solving, and innovation.



Key Insights

- Introduced participants to AI-powered software development.
- Encouraged collaborative problem-solving through practical activities.



LEADERSHIP & DIALOGUE

Leadership and dialogue are central to how Global Shapers Dubai connects people, ideas, and action. Throughout the year, the Hub created inclusive platforms where youth engaged with experienced leaders, explored emerging issues, and strengthened their confidence to shape their careers, communities, and wider society. Through policy dialogues, podcasts, cross-Hub collaborations, workshops, campaigns, and strategic partnerships, the Hub elevated diverse perspectives and turned meaningful conversations into opportunities for learning, connection, and action.

These initiatives addressed critical themes, including artificial intelligence and education, sustainable food systems, financial well-being, inclusion, career development, and the future of work.

Together, they strengthened relationships across Dubai's innovation and impact ecosystem, amplified diverse voices, and encouraged deeper knowledge exchange. By making leadership more accessible and participation more meaningful, the Hub transformed dialogue into stronger networks, shared understanding, and community-driven impact.

DIALOGUE



LEADERSHIP & DIALOGUE - 1

MEET THE LEADER SERIES

Launched in January 2026..

SDGs TARGETED



4

LEADERS

155+

TOTAL ATTENDEES



Project Overview

Inspired by the World Economic Forum's Meet the Leader initiative, Global Shapers Dubai launched a UAE edition connecting emerging professionals with influential leaders across sectors. Through intimate and candid conversations, participants gained direct access to leadership journeys, pivotal decisions, industry insights, and practical career guidance.

Our Intention

To bring young people closer to the leaders shaping the UAE, creating trusted spaces for dialogue, mentorship, and meaningful connections that inspire ambition, accelerate growth, and empower the next generation of leaders.

LEADERSHIP & DIALOGUE - 1

MEET THE LEADER HIGHLIGHTS 1/2

“Love is what keeps me going. It sustains passion overtime...”

-Paolo Petrocelli



01 MEET THE LEADER WITH DR. PAOLO PETROCELLI, HEAD OF DUBAI OPERA



02 MEET THE LEADER WITH MEDEA NOCENTINI, SENIOR PARTNER, GLOBAL VENTURES.

About the session

We launched the inaugural Meet the Leader series with a Dr. Paolo heading Dubai Opera, exploring leadership rooted in culture, diplomacy, and civic imagination. The evening included a guided tour of the opera house followed by an intimate conversation with the community. Discussions centered on humility, values, and how culture shapes societies and futures.


35
PARTICIPANTS



About the Session

Hosted with Medea, this Meet the Leader session brought together UAE Global Shapers for meaningful conversations on leadership, collaboration, and community building. It concluded with an Ecosystem Gathering celebrating Dubai’s founders, partners, and changemakers.


30
PARTICIPANTS



MEET THE LEADER HIGHLIGHTS 2/2

“If I could sum up our session in one word, it would be: Stay relevant.”

-Hamed Kazim.



03 MEET THE LEADER WITH DR. YASAR JARRAR, MANAGING PARTNER AT GOV CAMPUS, FOUNDING CURATOR, DUBAI HUB.



04 MEET THE LEADER WITH HAMED KAZIM SENIOR ADVISOR, PWC MIDDLE EAST.

About the session

The session explored career transitions, the power of place, and the opportunities Dubai offers to next-gen leaders. Reflections on artificial intelligence and its impact on future leadership and governance added depth to the conversation. The evening was hosted at the Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government, bringing together young professionals for a candid, unmatched dialogue.

40

PARTICIPANTS



About the Session

This session brought young professionals into a candid conversation with Hamed Kazim on leadership, career growth, and remaining relevant in a rapidly changing world. Drawing on his extensive experience and the UAE's growth journey, he encouraged participants to stay curious, embrace uncertainty, build multidisciplinary skills, and lead with discipline and adaptability.

53

PARTICIPANTS



LEADERSHIP & DIALOGUE

MORE IDEAS, VOICES & LEADERSHIP IN ACTION (1/2)

A collection of dialogues, collaborations, and learning moments that shaped how we think, lead, and contribute.



AI & EDUCATION POLICY DIALOGUE

In partnership with Chengdu Hub China

Participated in a panel discussion in collaboration with six Global Shapers Hubs across five countries, the AI & Education Policy Dialogue convened young leaders, researchers, and technology experts to examine the opportunities and challenges of integrating artificial intelligence into education systems.



SCAN ME

 [Click here to watch](#)



CITIES LEADING FOOD PRODUCTION

In partnership with Goumbook UAE

We contributed to a youth engagement roundtable at VIV MEA 2025, exploring how young people can help shape the future of food systems, and community resilience across the MENA region. The discussion underscored the importance of youth leadership, agri-innovation, and cross-sector collaboration in building more sustainable and resilient ecosystems.



 [Click here to watch](#)



GEN-Z PODCAST CONVERSATIONS

In partnership with CP Media



Dubai Hub amplified youth voices through podcast features with Climate Penpal Media, exploring cross-generational leadership, entrepreneurship, authenticity, and the future of work. The conversations created space for honest dialogue on the issues shaping young leaders today.



SCAN ME

 [Click here to watch our podcasts](#)

LEADERSHIP & DIALOGUE

MORE IDEAS, VOICES & LEADERSHIP IN ACTION (2/2)

A collection of dialogues, collaborations, and learning moments that shaped how we think, lead, and contribute.



FUTURE50 & INTERGENERATIONAL FORESIGHT

World Economic Forum Initiatives

One of the hub's members was selected to join the Future50 2025 Cohort, a WEF and Global Shapers initiative advancing intergenerational foresight. Through this participation, MENA youth perspectives were brought into global discussions on innovation, governance, visibility, and long-term ecosystem resilience.

 [Access the full report here](#)



SCAN ME



LONGEVITY ECONOMY TASKFORCE

World Economic Forum Initiatives

The hub participated in the WEF Longevity Economy Taskforce, contributing to the development of the Longevity Economy Playbook. The contribution brought a youth-centred, design-led perspective to discussions on ageing, wellbeing, and long-term societal resilience.

 [Explore the Longevity Economy Initiative here](#)



SCAN ME



#IAMREMARKABLE SESSION

In partnership with PwC

Facilitated by Khamael Al Nuaimi from PwC as part of Google's global #IamRemarkable initiative. It empowered participants to recognise and celebrate their achievements, challenge the stigma surrounding self-promotion, and build confidence through open discussion and guided reflection.



LEADERSHIP & DIALOGUE

FINANCIAL WELL-BEING & BUILDING PERSONAL RESILIENCE IN THE GCC

About the Panel

A panel discussion exploring how employers, insurers, and communities can support financial well-being, savings awareness, and personal resilience across the GCC.



Key Insights

- Financial well-being is becoming a core workplace priority.
- The GCC has a major opportunity to strengthen savings and pension solutions.
- Employers can use education, technology, and data to support employee resilience.
- Financial literacy should be accessible, practical, and embedded into everyday support.
- Collaboration between employers, insurers, and communities is key to lasting impact.



300+

PARTICIPANTS



SDG'S TARGETED



Our intention

To highlight the role of workplace financial literacy in reducing stress, improving long-term planning, and building a more resilient workforce.

LEADERSHIP & DIALOGUE

DUBAI SHAPERS PODCAST

About the Project

The Global Shapers Dubai Podcast was launched in April 2026 to extend the Hub's impact beyond in-person events by sharing conversations with Shapers, community leaders, and industry experts. Through authentic storytelling, the series explores leadership, innovation, and community impact while encouraging listeners to engage with topics shaping Dubai's future.



500+

VIEWS SINCE RELEASE

2

EPISODES
LAUNCHED

3

FEATURED
GUESTS



[Click here to watch](#)

SDG'S TARGETED



Our Intention

To strengthen community engagement by creating an accessible platform for sharing stories, fostering meaningful conversations, and showcasing the diverse perspectives shaping Dubai's innovation and social impact ecosystem.



Key Insights

- Released **two episodes** featuring community leaders and inspiring changemakers.
- Expanded the Hub's digital outreach through accessible, on-demand conversations.

LEADERSHIP & DIALOGUE

OFFICIAL HUB VIDEO

The Video

The Global Shapers Dubai Official Hub Video was created to showcase the people, partnerships, and purpose behind the Hub's work. Through cinematic storytelling, the film highlights how Dubai Hub transforms global challenges into meaningful local impact while celebrating 15 years of community-driven impact. Serving as the official introduction to the Hub, the video also launched the countdown to the 15 Years of Impact Report.

SDG'S
TARGETED



4,800+

VIEWS SINCE RELEASE

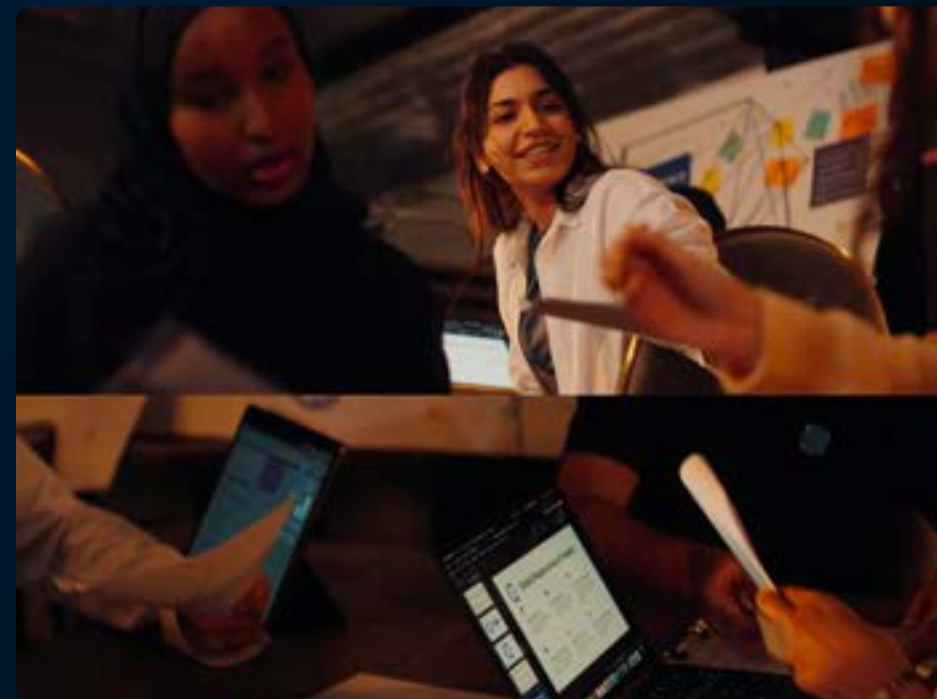


305+

SHARES



[Click here to watch](#)



Our Intention

To increase awareness of Global Shapers Dubai by communicating the Hub's mission, showcasing its impact, and inspiring greater community engagement through authentic storytelling.



Key Insights

- Strengthened the Global Shapers Dubai brand through impactful visual storytelling.
- Successfully launched the campaign leading to the 15 Years of Impact Report.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Strong communities are built through meaningful connections, shared experiences, and collective action. At Global Shapers Dubai, we create inclusive spaces that bring together young people, community leaders, and partner organisations to exchange ideas, foster collaboration, and address local challenges. Through networking events, community initiatives, volunteer activities, and dialogue-driven programmes, we strengthened relationships across sectors while encouraging youth to play an active role in shaping more connected, resilient, and inclusive communities.

By empowering individuals to engage with one another and contribute to causes that matter, we continue to transform community participation into lasting social impact.

ENGAGE.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CONNECTING ENTREPRENEURS, BUILDING COMMUNITY

Al Quoz Creative Entrepreneurship Forum
powered by Dubai Culture

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Global Shapers Dubai participated in the Al Quoz Creative Entrepreneurship Forum through an interactive community booth and a separate entrepreneurship-themed networking BINGO. The activations combined community awareness with guided networking, helping participants identify and connect with relevant people across the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

500+

BOOTH VISTORS

60

NETWORKING BINGO
PARTICIPANTS

30+

TARGETED CONNECTIONS
FACILITATED

“ This was so much fun, I got to meet
like-minded people! ”



KEY INSIGHTS

- Delivered two complementary activations over two days.
- Introduced Global Shapers Dubai, its initiatives, and engagement opportunities to more than 500 booth visitors.
- Welcomed 26 new Friends of Shapers to the community.
- Engaged 60 participants through an entrepreneurship-themed networking BINGO.
- Six participants completed the full challenge, each making at least five relevant connections.

دبي
للثقافة Culture



**SDG'S
TARGETTED**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MORE IDEAS, VOICES & LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

A collection of dialogues, collaborations, and learning moments that shaped how we think, lead, and contribute.



SHAPERS @ GOALKEEPERS

In partnership with Goalkeepers

Shapers attended Goalkeepers Abu Dhabi, the first gathering in the UAE and wider MENA region. The event brought together leaders, partners, frontline workers, and storytellers to spotlight urgent action on child survival, maternal health, and polio eradication — reinforcing the role of partnership in turning global health challenges into collective action.



MEET & GREET WITH COMMUNITY

Getting to know Global Shapers

The Dubai Hub hosted a community meet and greet to share the Dubai Hub's mission, and the people behind its projects. The session created space for open conversation, connection, and curiosity - helping prospective future shapers better understand how they can contribute to community-led impact in Dubai and be part of the broader Global Shapers community.



DUBAI SUSTAINABLE FINANCE FORUM

Hosted by DIFC

Shapers joined the Dubai Sustainable Finance Forum 2025, engaging in conversations on how finance can support climate action, responsible investment, and long-term sustainability. The forum offered a platform to explore how community voices can contribute to more resilient, inclusive, and future-ready financial systems.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MORE IDEAS, VOICES & LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

A collection of dialogues, collaborations, and learning moments that shaped how we think, lead, and contribute.



ANNUAL MEETING OF FUTURE COUNCILS

World Economic Forum Event

Dubai and Abu Dhabi Hub Shapers attended the Annual Meeting of Global Future Councils (AMGFC), hosted by the UAE Government and the World Economic Forum, joining conversations on the trends, systems, and ideas shaping the future.



DUBAI FUTURE FORUM

Hosted by Dubai Future Foundation

Shapers and extended community members joined Dubai Future Forum 2025, connecting with foresight leaders, innovators, and changemakers exploring the future of society, technology, governance, and human progress.



VISITING SHAPERS IN DUBAI

Global Shapers Community

The Dubai Hub welcomed visiting Shapers from around the world, creating space for connection, knowledge exchange, and shared community across the wider Global Shapers network.

1.5K+

WEBSITE VISITORS

20+

PROJECTS SHOWCASED

24/7

COMMUNITY ACCESS

SDG'S TARGETED



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WEBSITE LAUNCH

The Hub's Digital Front Door

Our central digital home for the community - bringing together projects, events, partners, stories, and opportunities in one accessible place.

Designed to make the Hub easier to discover and engage with, the interactive website gives a clear view of what the community does, how to get involved.



Our Intention

To strengthen Global Shapers Dubai's digital presence by creating an accessible platform that showcases our impact, connects the community, and serves as a gateway for future engagement and collaboration.

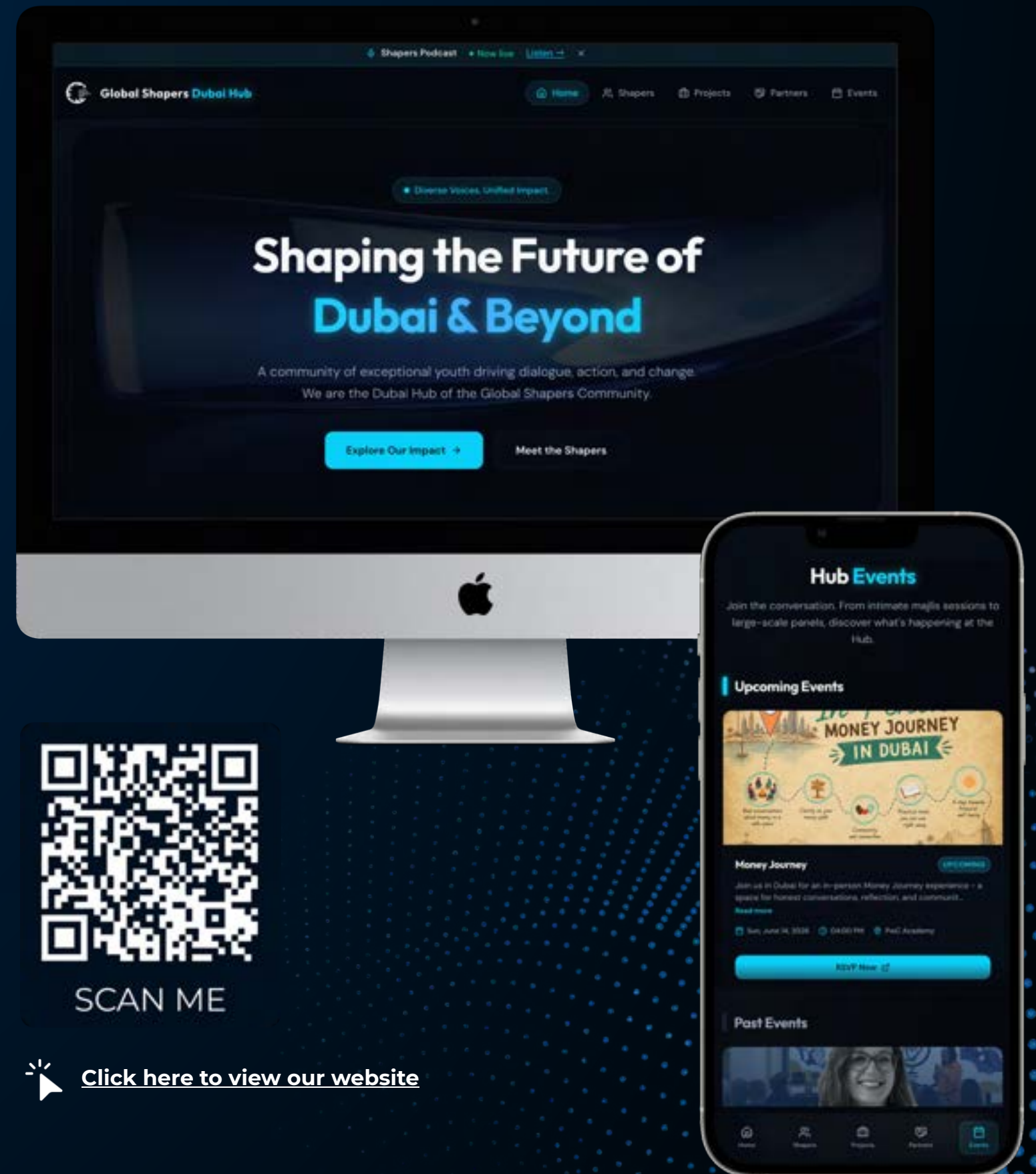


Key Insights

- Improved accessibility to upcoming events, initiatives, and partnership opportunities.
- Increased visibility of Global Shapers Dubai's mission and long-term impact.



Our website is built with AI capabilities using Replit



[Click here to view our website](#)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ANNUAL HUB RETREAT

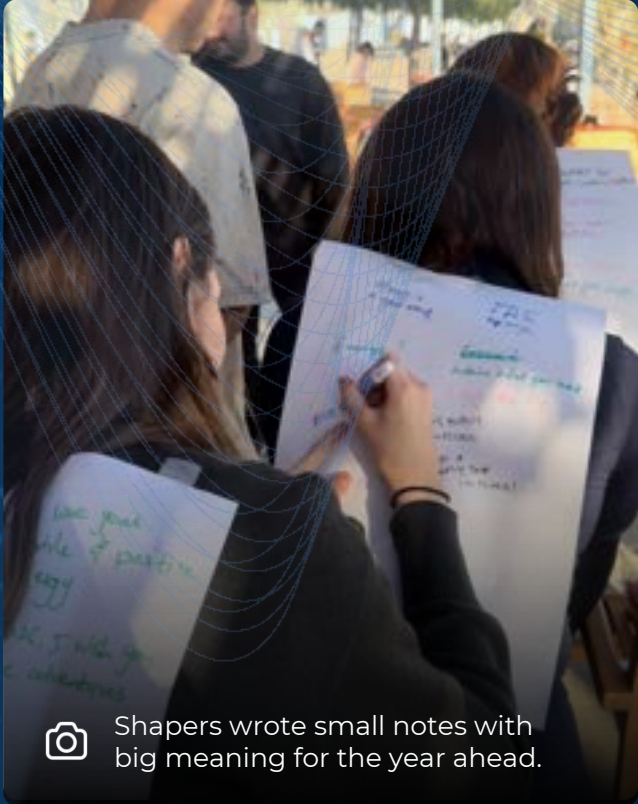
From Dubai to Hatta: A Day to Reset

The Annual Hub Retreat brought the Global Shapers Dubai community together in Hatta for a day of connection, reflection, and team building.

Moments That Mattered

- **Drive Out:** Two-hour road trip from Dubai to Hatta.
- **Kayak Together:** Started the morning on the water with laughs, teamwork, and friendly chaos.
- **Shared lunch:** Informal conversations to reconnect beyond projects.
- **Write With Heart:** Wrote appreciation notes and new-year wishes for fellow Shapers.
- **Return Recharged:** Ended the day with stronger bonds, shared memories, and renewed energy.

“It was such a great day together!”



Shapers wrote small notes with big meaning for the year ahead.



A shared lunch gave everyone space to catch up and reconnect.



The morning on the water brought teamwork, laughter, and a little chaos.



The Hub ended the day recharged, connected, and ready for what's next.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CLOSING CEREMONY

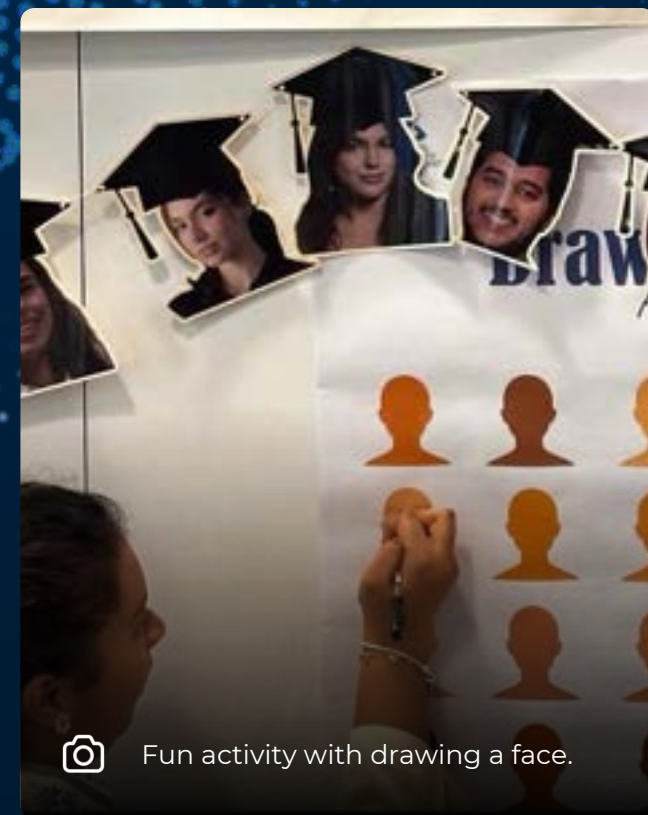
A celebration of legacy, gratitude, and continuity

The 15 Years of Impact Closing Ceremony brought the community together to celebrate the legacy of the Global Shapers Dubai Hub.

The evening reflected on the Hub's journey, recognised those who helped shape its story, and celebrated the collective achievements that continue to inspire positive change across Dubai and beyond.



Memory Wall in the making.



Fun activity with drawing a face.

Moments That Mattered

- **Celebrated 15 years** of community-driven impact and leadership.
- **Honoured individual contributions** through recognition moments, certificates, and plaques.
- **Created a Memory Wall** to capture stories, faces, and milestones from across the Hub's journey.
- **Passed the torch** through a symbolic candle handoff to the Incoming Curatorship, representing continuity and shared ownership of the Hub's future.

“A day full of amazing memories”



A recognition moment celebrating our Shapers who helped carry the Hub's mission forward.



Fifteen years of impact, carried forward by one connected community.

STRONGER TOGETHER, GREATER IMPACT

Our partners and cross-hub collaborators extend our reach, strengthen our work, and help us build a more connected, inclusive, and impactful community.



OUR PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS













OUR CROSS-HUB COLLABORATIONS



Our Twin Hub



INCOMING CURATORSHIP

2026/2027

THE CURATORSHIP TEAM



Alyzyah Al Marzooqi
Curator

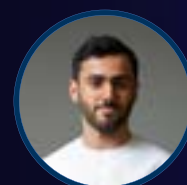


Aida Al Awadhi
Vice Curator



Faiza Sultana
Impact Officer

THE GOVERNANCE TEAM



Majed Al Ali
Narrative & Design



Tamara Al-Mihmadi
**Community
& Culture**



Zainab Abdulla
Recruitment



Nicole Russo
Partnerships



Ikea Palaypu
Innovation

SAY HI TO OUR INCOMING CURATORSHIP!

As the 2026–2027 Curatorship, we are committed to delivering high-impact projects that build on the strong foundation of the past fifteen years. Our initiatives will address urgent social, economic, and environmental needs, while developing scalable and self-sustaining models that create impact beyond the current year.

Collaboration will remain central to our approach. We aim to build strategic partnerships that maximise resources, expertise, and opportunities for shared knowledge and collective action.

Our diverse Shapers are our greatest asset. We will provide continuous mentorship, skill development, and professional opportunities, while strengthening our alumni network to ensure their experience continues to guide and support the Hub.

The Curatorship Team, 2026/2027.



15 YEARS
of Impact



SCAN TO CONNECT

SHAPE WHAT'S NEXT.

Because the future is never built by one person.
It is **SHAPED** together.



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