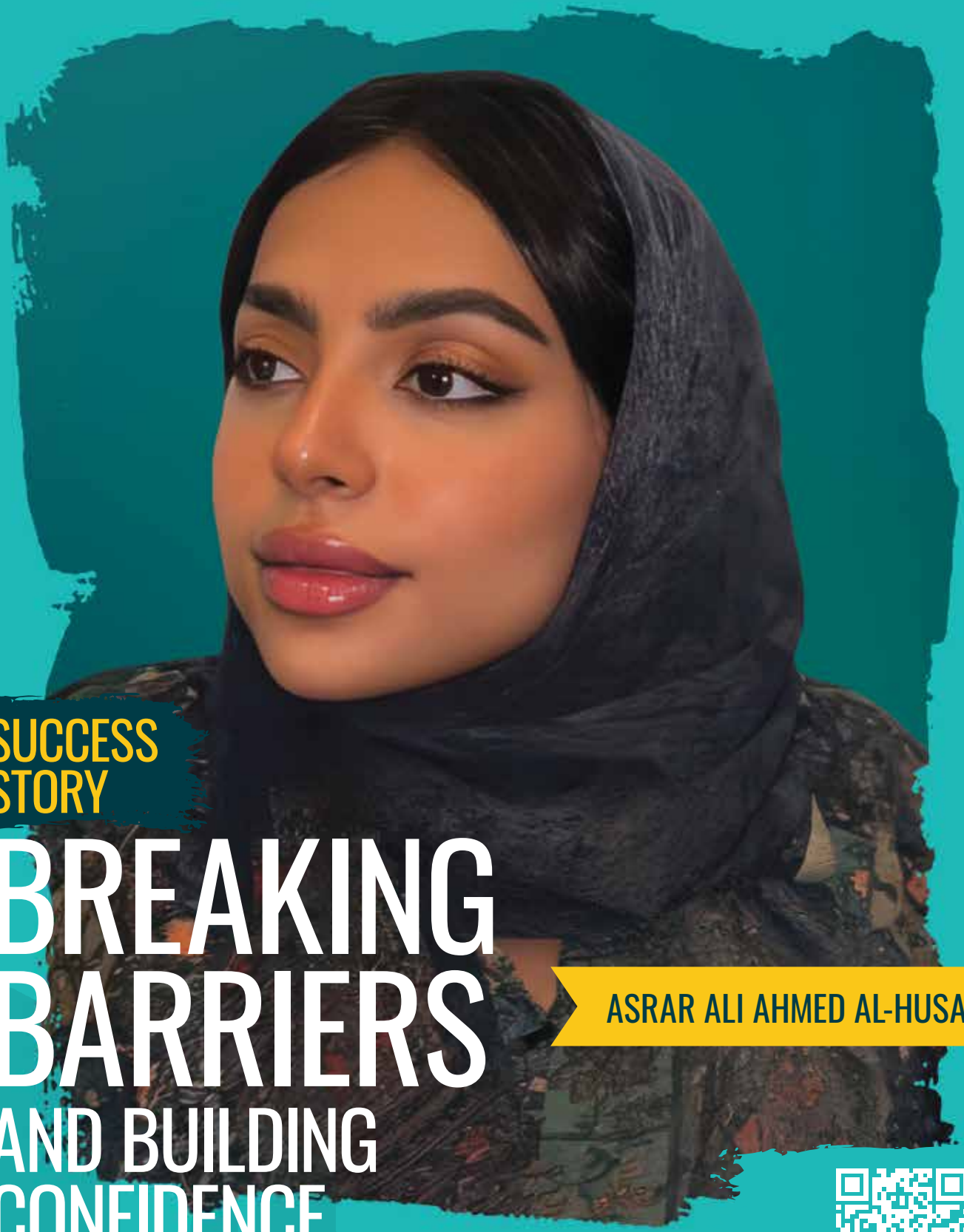
IsDB-ISFD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR BACHELOR OF SCIENCE & TECHNICAL DIPLOMA FOR IsDB LEAST DEVELOPED MEMBER COUNTRIES (LDMCs)

معاً لمكافحة الفقر
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Islamic Development Bank



SUCCESS STORY

# BREAKING BARRIERS AND BUILDING CONFIDENCE

ASRAR ALI AHMED AL-HUSAINI

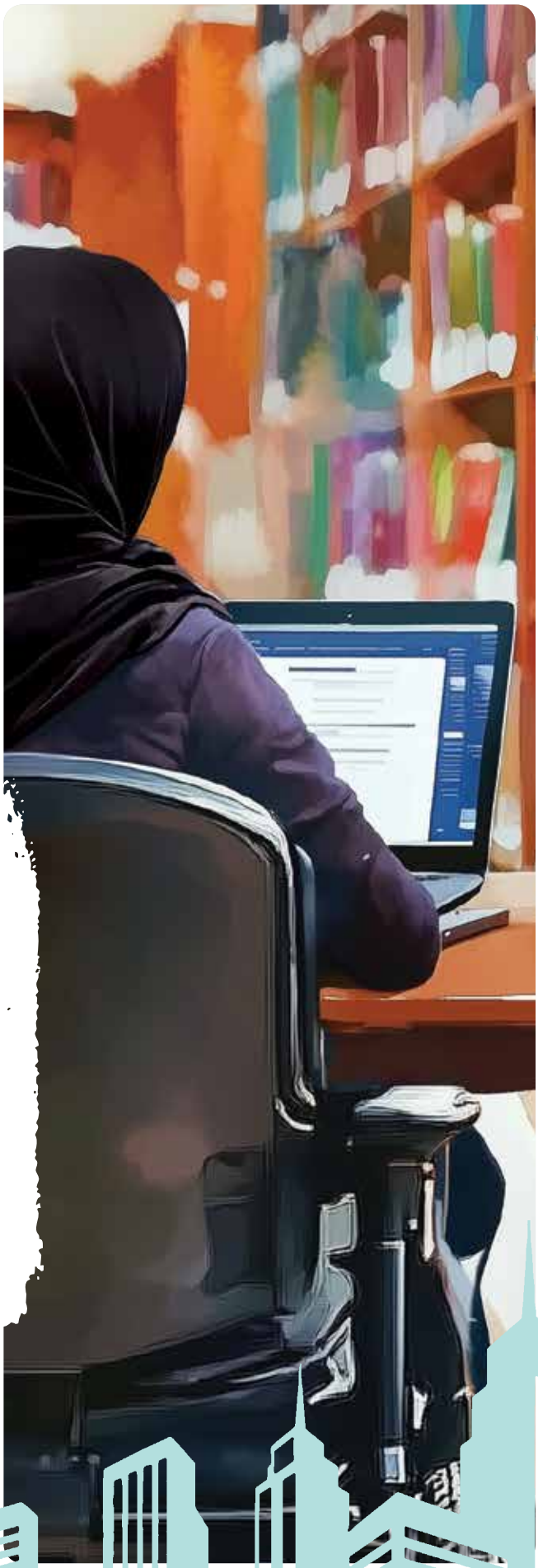


“It opened new doors for me. It has also inspired me to embrace my potential and strive for excellence in all my endeavors. The scholarship has had a profound impact on me,  fostering independence, self-confidence, and resilience.”

Asrar Ali Ahmed Al-husaini is a determined and ambitious student from Yemen who overcame significant financial and personal challenges to pursue her dream of higher education. With support from the IsDB-ISFD Scholarship Program, she studied Banking and Finance at Ankara Yildirim Beyazit University in Türkiye. Her journey reflects resilience, growth, and a strong sense of purpose, both academically and beyond the classroom.

# BREAKING BARRIERS AND BUILDING CONFIDENCE

**Name:** Asrar Ali Ahmed Al-husaini
**Nationality:** Yemen
**Scholarship:** IsDB-ISFD Scholarship Program
**Field of study:** Finance and Banking
**Year of scholarship award:** 2019
**University:**
Ankara Yildirim Beyazit – Türkiye
**Current position:** Assistant Manager



**“It opened new doors for me. It has also inspired me to embrace my potential and strive for excellence in all my endeavors. The scholarship has had a profound impact on me, fostering independence, self-confidence, and resilience.”**

Asrar Ali Ahmed Al-husaini, from Yemen, was awarded a scholarship under the IsDB-ISFD Scholarship Program in 2019. The award allowed her to study Banking and Finance at the College of Business Administration at Ankara Yildirim Beyazit University in Türkiye – something that had once felt out of reach.

“As a graduate with special needs, I faced significant challenges in accessing higher education,” she explains. “After finishing high school, I was eager to continue studying, but university tuition costs made that impossible, despite my strong academic record.”

The scholarship was transformative. It not only removed the financial barrier to education, but also enabled her to study abroad, which was an experience that brought immense personal growth. “It opened new doors for me,” she says. “It has also inspired me to embrace my potential and strive for excellence in all my endeavors. The scholarship has had a profound impact on me, fostering independence, self-confidence, and resilience.”



## PERSONAL GROWTH

Studying in a new country pushed her to adapt quickly, both personally and academically. She developed key life skills such as time management and problem-solving, and learned to navigate a different educational and cultural system. “Living abroad helped me approach challenges with a more solution-oriented mindset,” she says. “And working with classmates from diverse backgrounds enriched my perspective and enhanced my teamwork skills.”

**“Living abroad helped me approach challenges with a more solution-oriented mindset, and working with classmates from diverse backgrounds enriched my perspective and enhanced my teamwork skills.”**

## ENGAGING WITH ISSUES

The scholarship also deepened her engagement with issues she cares about. Asrar became an advocate for people with disabilities, particularly in the context of education and inclusion. “My academic journey gave me the confidence to speak up and be a role model,” she says.

She organised workshops and discussions to raise awareness of the challenges faced by people with disabilities and to promote the idea that, with the right support, everyone can achieve their potential. “My desire to assist individuals with disabilities has become a vital part of my identity and professional journey.”

One powerful outcome of this work was the development of a new idea – an app concept called Al-Mu’jiza (The Miracle). “The app is designed to support people with disabilities by enhancing their independence and promoting social inclusion,” she explains. While still in the concept stage, the project has already received recognition within her academic community, affirming its potential impact.



> **“Despite my own challenges, I tried to stay positive and help those around me. Many of my classmates told me that seeing my determination helped them face their own difficulties.”**

## SUPPORTING PEERS

Throughout her time as a student, Asrar also found herself in a supportive role to others. During the COVID-19 pandemic, like many of her peers, she struggled with feelings of anxiety and frustration. But rather than retreat, she chose to be a source of encouragement.

“Despite my own challenges, I tried to stay positive and help those around me,” she says. “Many of my classmates told me that seeing my determination helped them face their own difficulties.” She often organised informal study sessions, helping friends walk through complex material. “Explaining things in simple terms not only helped them – it helped me grow as well. It showed me the power of mentorship and supporting one another.”

Looking back, she says the IsDB Scholarship has had a profound impact on her life – not only as a student, but as a person. “It supported my long-term career goals by giving me the education and experience I needed in my field,” she reflects. “But more than that, it helped shape who I am today.”

## ADVICE TO OTHERS

Her message to current and future scholarship recipients is simple but powerful: “Make the most of every opportunity. Get involved, connect with others, and keep learning. And once you’ve graduated, give something back. Share your experiences, mentor others, and take part in initiatives that make a difference. With resilience and determination, there’s no limit to what you can achieve, or to how many others you can inspire along the way.”

# IsDB-ISFD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR IsDB LEAST DEVELOPED MEMBER COUNTRIES

Launched in 2019, the IsDB-ISFD Scholarship Program is a joint initiative of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD). It aims to support academically talented but financially disadvantaged students from IsDB's Least Developed Member Countries (LDMCs), enabling them to pursue undergraduate degrees or technical diplomas in key development-related fields.

More than just financial aid, the program is a human development initiative. Students commit to returning to their home countries after graduation, contributing to national development through their professions and community engagement.

## COULD YOU BE NEXT?

**We hope this story has inspired you. If you're a bright, motivated student from one of the IsDB's Least Developed Member Countries (LDMCs) and would like to access higher education but face financial challenges, this scholarship could be your gateway.**

**To be eligible, you must:**

- **Be from an eligible LDMC**
- **Be under 24 years old**
- **Have completed secondary education with strong academic results**
- **Demonstrate financial need**
- **Be committed to returning home after graduation to contribute to your country's development**

**The scholarship covers tuition, a monthly stipend, a books/clothing allowance, health costs, and travel support for study abroad.**

**Applicants must also commit to repaying the interest-free loan to a local education trust and actively contributing to their communities after graduation.**

# TAKE THE NEXT STEP

READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP?
LEARN MORE AND APPLY AT:
**www.isdb.org/scholarships**



# EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS THROUGH IsDB SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS



**“Make the most of every opportunity. Get involved, connect with others, and keep learning. And once you’ve graduated, give something back. Share your experiences, mentor others, and take part in initiatives that make a difference.”**

Asrar Ali Ahmed Al-husaini

## GET INVOLVED

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Special Assistance Division
Scholarship Program
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(966-2) 646-6842; Fax 646-6887

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