

**SAMA FOR ALL NAMED BRIDGEBUILDER™ TOP IDEA BY GHR FOUNDATION
TO HELP MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PEOPLE**

- One of five Top Ideas to share \$1 million in seed funding and receive mentorship
- Voices, perspectives and ideas of people on the move at the heart of the Challenge which engaged those with displacement experience as innovators, experts and reviewers
- Winners include initiatives helping migrants in the US access community services and providing economic opportunities for refugees worldwide

[PARIS], 10th DECEMBER 2019: SAMA FOR ALL was today announced as a winner of GHR Foundation's BridgeBuilder global innovation challenge, awarding \$1 million to the best ideas that address urgent global issues relating to 'People on the Move'

There are currently more than 70.8 million men, women and children who are forcibly displaced worldwide. More than at any time in the past 70 years and there is an urgent need for radical, innovative solutions.

This year's BridgeBuilder Challenge saw social innovators, including currently or previously displaced persons, design approaches that will improve conditions for those displaced or better support host communities.

The five Top Ideas have been selected for their promise to promote meaningful engagement, greater social cohesion and sustainable, community-led change. They will each receive a share of \$1 million in seed funding from GHR Foundation and will join a cohort of innovative organisations working to address urgent needs.

The BridgeBuilder 2019 Top Ideas [WATCH VIDEO] are as follows:

- Top Manta (**Barcelona, Spain**) activating a migrant-led streetwear movement for opportunity and solidarity
- Five One Labs (**Mosul & Baghdad, Iraq**) incubating the post-conflict potential of youth- and women-founded start-ups
- SAMA For All (**Paris, France**) transforming cultural exchanges by training newcomers as art interpreters
- Faith Action (**United States**) reimagining the i.d. card to foster trust and safety among new neighbors
- Talent Beyond Boundaries (**Jordan, Lebanon & Canada**) unlocking global pathways to international employment and safety for refugees

Minneapolis-based GHR Foundation runs the annual Challenge in collaboration with OpenIDEO, the open innovation practice from global design firm IDEO. In its third year, BridgeBuilder gathered over 450 ideas from 30,000 participants in 165 countries. Materials were translated into 11 languages resulting in 71 ideas submitted by people who are currently or have previously experienced displacement. Submissions were collaborative, principles-based, community-rooted and people-centered—all building bridges in unique, innovative ways.

Souad NANAA, President OF SAMA FOR ALL, said:

The BridgeBuilder Top Idea SAMA For All will expand its specialized training in art mediation—enhancing skills of newcomers to serve as interpreters at Paris art museums while positioning them as leaders in cultural spaces in additional cities.

Amy Goldman, chief executive officer and chair of GHR Foundation, added:

“For our third BridgeBuilder, People on the Move was a natural focus. We wanted to spotlight and support ideas that are desperately needed to improve the lives of migrants and refugees. More than that, though, we wanted to help change the narrative to elevate the status of those who have experienced displacement as skilled and creative innovators themselves.”

For more information, please visit: <http://ghrfoundation.org/BridgeBuilder>

About GHR Foundation

GHR Foundation is an independent philanthropy of service to people and their limitless potential for Good. Alongside its partners around the world, GHR reimagines what’s possible when pursuing impact on issues related to children in Families, Education, Alzheimer’s Disease and more. The Foundation designed BridgeBuilder to be a powerful movement for good—a unifier and lever for social change, and a driver for bridging between people, issues, networks, and resources.

www.GHRfoundation.org

About SAMA FOR ALL

Founded by a Syrian refugee and two French citizens, SAMA for All creates unique employment opportunities for refugees and migrants in the cultural sector while facilitating meaningful interactions and shifting perceptions. The BridgeBuilder Top Idea will expand its specialized training in art mediation—enhancing skills of newcomers to serve as interpreters at Paris art museums while positioning them as leaders in cultural spaces in additional cities.

www.samaforall.org