2023

Celebrating 5 Cohorts of Empowerment and Impact

MIT | **Emerging Talent**

MIT | **ReACT** Refugee Action Hub

Opening Education Pathways for Underrepresented Talent Worldwide

There has never been a greater need to make MIT's globally focused educational innovation even more **accessible to talented and ambitious individuals facing challenging circumstances.** Geopolitical conflicts, environment crises, economic uncertainty and other global disruptions pose a **threat to the education and livelihood of millions of individuals.** For refugees, migrants, and other underrepresented communities around the world, **accessing inclusive education can be life changing.**
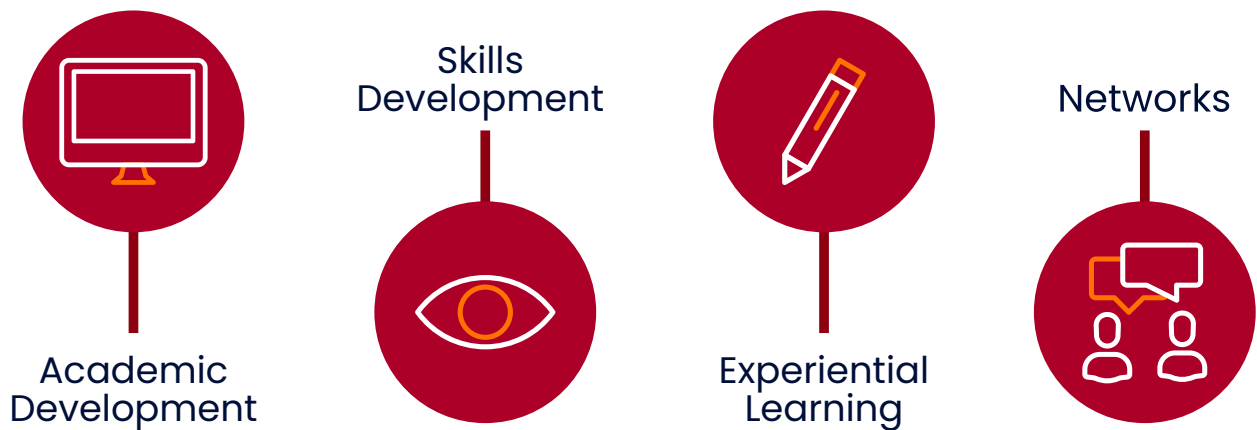
These were among the motivating factors for the founding of the **MIT Refugee Action Hub (ReACT) in 2017.** This year, in order to scale and provide opportunities to other marginalized populations, inspired and building on ReACT's proven model, the **MIT Jameel World Education Lab** launched **Emerging Talent.**

In the following pages, we invite you to reflect with us on the journeys and experiences of our Emerging Talent learners, alumni, instructors, staff, and supporters who have all played integral roles in the development of this program.

5th cohort: Certificate in Computer and Data Science

Expanding on the work of MIT ReACT, Emerging Talent leverages MIT content and resources along with local connections in key sites to **enable high-quality online learning experiences for talented learners.** This year, Emerging Talent launched the 5th cohort of the 9-month **Certificate in Computer and Data Science** which delivers 4 foundational elements:

Academic Development

Skills Development

Experiential Learning

Networks

We work with MIT collaborators such as: MIT Open Learning, MIT Bootcamps, MITx, MIT Micromasters, and more.

220
learners served in **past cohorts**

100
participants in the current cohort

5%
top talent admission rate

refugee or migrant **81**

19 IDP, conflict-impacted or low-income, first-generation

100 learners, from 25 countries, living in 31 countries

Collaborating with organizations in the field has been key to better serve Emerging Talent's global cohort of learners:

Empowering through Mentorship Opportunities: the **Global Mentorship Initiative (GMI)** tailors mentorship curriculum based on the needs of underrepresented talent to enter the workforce.

Enhancing Language Proficiency: Paper Airplanes delivers English language learning to support learners in their online studies.

Nurturing Employability Skills: Na'amal supports soft and employ-ability skills training, equipping learners with the expertise needed to thrive in diverse remote and professional landscapes.

Connecting Learners Globally: Give Internet and **Close the Gap** ensure that learners have access to computers, bridging the digital divide and fostering a conducive learning environment.

Closing the Connectivity Gap: Unconnected addresses the chal-lenge of internet connectivity for learners who wouldn't access it otherwise.

"Emerging Talent was a revealing experience for me, showing me the type of work I want to do, the kind of people I want to engage with, and how much I am worth. On a personal level, I met incredible people, with whom I still stay in touch, who supported me in my growth and adaptation during my internship."

María Valeria Aquino

Venezuelan migrant living in **Uruguay**

Internship as a Backend Developer at Talanta

Working as a Regional Site Merchandising for Microsoft

Emerging Talent
in the news

J-WEL launches Emerging Talent effort and Certificate in Computer and Data Science

Learner in Afghanistan reaches beyond barriers to pursuecareer in data science

Empowering Education: Unlocking Potential for Refugee and Migrant Populations

Migration Summit:
a community of practice

Centering on the perspectives and experiences of refugees, migrants and displaced persons, the Migration Summit event, co-organized by **MIT ReACT, Na'amal** and **Karam Foundation,** builds a space for collaboration between communities of displaced learners, universities, companies, nonprofits, researchers, policymakers, employers, and governments to work around the key **challenges and opportunities faced by refugee and migrant communities.** The first edition took place in 2022 and focused on **Education and Workforce in Displacement** with the second edition taking place in 2023 focusing on **Co-creating Pathways for Learning, Livelihood, and Dignity.**

2023 Co-Creating Pathways for Learning, Livelihood and Dignity
READ THE REPORT

120 Countries represented

2400 Registrants

80 Virtual and in-person events

95 Participant organizations

220 Speakers

10 In-person events in **8** countries

NIGER NIGERIA KENYA TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MEXICO TURKEY UNITED KINGDOM UGANDA

430 In-person attendees

Thematic Areas

The Migration Summit not only **shed greater light on the migration crisis,** but more importantly **explored viable and sustainable solutions through a collective journey of discovery.** Session hosts and participants discussed existing and novel approaches to challenges in the fields of higher education, workforce development, digital livelihoods, research and more. **Explore each theme:**

Experiences with Displacement	**Importance of Inclusive Research**	**Education Pathways**
Refugee Livelihoods	**Understanding our own Learning**	**Ecosystem Building**

In-Person Events

The Migration Summit sponsored **10 in-person events,** providing small grants to support local hackathons, workshops, open mic sessions, panels and film festivals, enabling meaningful and accessible engagement to those without reliable internet or electricity connectivity. **Learn more:**

Open Mic session of Poetry, Music & Storytelling

Kakuma Art, Fashion and Creative Day Forum

Designs of Refugee's – ready programs: Practices in Kenyan universities

Future Forward:
Celebrating our Alums

Entrepreneurial Mindset

Jospin - Cofounder of Africa Deep Artificial Intelligence (ADAI) Circle based in Malawi, providing training to marginalized communities in the topics of data science, innovation, AI, programming, and entrepreneurship.

Jessy - Cofounder of Solidarity Initiative for Refugees (SIR), community based organization aiming at empowering the community through innovative approaches to education through digital technology and livelihoods training.

Jerry - Cofounder of EverPesa Technologies Limited, a forward-thinking fintech company specializing in developing innovative SAAS (Software-as-a-Service) products.

Further Education

Mary - Masters in Cybersecurity with Data at Rowan University (full scholarship)

Ruqayya - Masters in Urban Planning and Policy at Northeastern University (Fulbright scholarship)

Habibullah - MBA at the American University of Central Asia (full scholarship)

Transitioning to new jobs

Pavel - Software Engineering at NYC Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity

Valeria - Regional Site Merchandising for Microsoft at Tata Consultancy Services

Gloria - Big Data Analyst at Accenture Colombia

Eslam - Product Owner at Subul

"I have gone through a refreshing self jour-
ney where I got to know myself better, my
weaknesses, strengths, and I defined what
I want in life. It solidified my background.
I am also now more confident in myself as
an engineer and I know my value."

Yaqout Iqnebi

Palestinian origin, living in **Jordan**
Working as a Senior Software
Developer at Kepyer

These are only some of the many successful Alumni stories. **Join us in 2024** as we celebrate these achievements, **MIT Emerging Talent looks forward to building on this momentum.** With a commitment to excellence, accessibility, and innovation, **we aim to further expand our reach,** empowering even more talented individuals to become leading change agents in their communities and enhance their livelihoods.

emergingtalent.mit.edu   **jwel.mit.edu**

MIT | Emerging Talent

MIT Jameel World Education Lab