

A Path to Higher Education and Employment for Refugees



WHO WE ARE

The Global Education Movement (GEM), an initiative of Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU), offers higher education to refugees and other vulnerable populations so that they achieve what for many of them would feel like an impossible dream: A US accredited degree, dignified work, and the ability to drive change for their communities by being at the decision making tables.

CHALLENGE

There are currently more than 70 million people displaced worldwide - double the population of Canada. This number has continued to increase in recent years - resulting in dramatic life upheavals that destroy health, security, and the potential to get an education, pursue a career or earn a livelihood. Refugees have few educational opportunities, and their ability to work is often restricted, allowing for very few pathways to economic mobility. An Oxford Refugee Studies Center study found that each additional year of primary and secondary education corresponds with average income increases of 3.3%. In comparison, each additional year of tertiary education results in an increase of 27%.

Research clearly shows that higher education is a far-reaching solution with the potential to halt and reverse potent seeds of hopelessness and despair, **yet only 3% of refugees have access to higher education.**

SOLUTION

Through GEM, refugees and displaced communities have the opportunity to pursue a US-accredited degree and access pathways to employment. Since its launch, GEM has served more than 1,500 students in Africa and the Middle East, over half of whom are women.

SNHU works with respected local partners and employers to infuse degree programs with competencies designed for the labor market needs of the countries where learners will remain in the short or long-term while ensuring their skills are transferable across geographies.

The success of GEM learners extends beyond the classroom. GEM graduates have significantly higher learning outcomes, employment rates, and earnings compared to local university graduates. Our primary indicators of success are extremely high academic progress and employment rates. Over 95% of GEM graduates complete their bachelor's degrees in four years or faster. This success extends beyond the completion of the degree. An independent evaluation found that GEM graduates earn more than double the monthly income of a matched comparison group, with 88% of learners employed within six months of graduation.



Only 3% of refugees have access to higher education

*UNHCR has set an ambitious global target of increasing access to at least **15%** of the world's university-age refugee population by 2030*



Over 95% of GEM graduates complete their bachelor's degrees in four years or faster

Compared to 33.3% of U.S. students attending public universities



88% of GEM learners employed within six months of graduation

Compared to 67% of local university graduates



SUSTAINABILITY

To ensure sustainability and drive down costs of the GEM program, we have built upon SNHU's innovative approach to lowering degree costs by developing the GEM Hub, an income-generating social enterprise based in Rwanda and South Africa. The GEM Hub employs talented individuals - many of whom are GEM graduates - to provide high-quality assessments of students' academic work. In addition to serving SNHU students, the GEM Hub offers fee-for-service contracts with third-party universities and education providers in need of high-quality assessment services. In recent years, the GEM Hub has expanded its service offerings beyond assessment to curricula development, tutoring, and IT support. The GEM Hub's revenue model is on track to cover up to 70% of GEM's total operational costs at our existing sites by 2022.

VISION

By 2030, GEM aims to achieve full financial sustainability through our social enterprise model and to transform the lives of more than 25,000 refugee learners. To achieve this goal, GEM will accelerate its impact over the next five years to create higher education pathways for over 5,800 learners by 2026. Additionally, we will expand our global footprint by doubling the total number of countries we work, including growing our four-year degree program and experimenting with new service models to reach more women, individuals with disabilities and other marginalized learners, and significantly enhance our career mentorship and alumni programs to support learners beyond graduation.

\$5,682

GEM's average cost per student per year

\$9,678

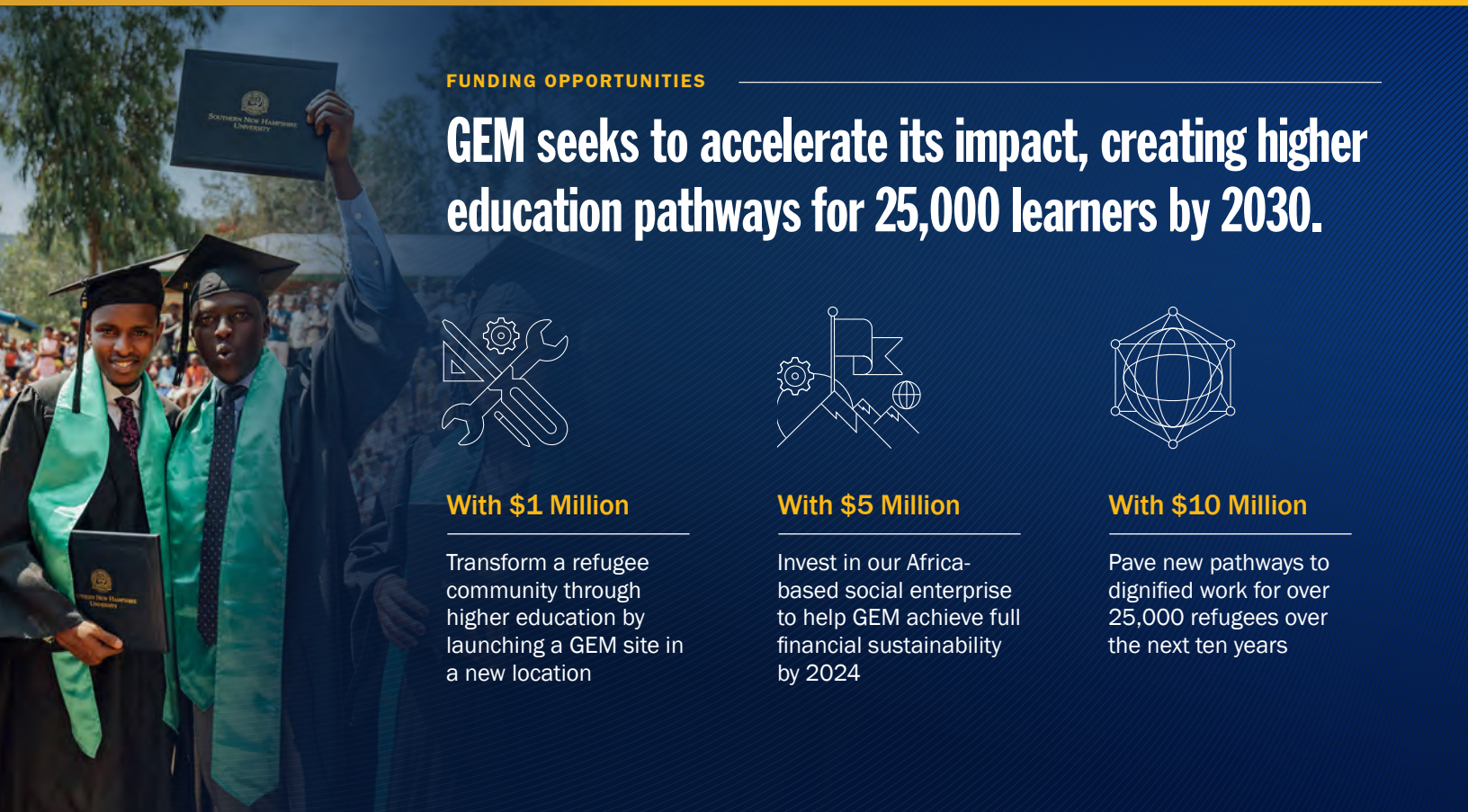
US public in-state average cost per student per year

\$21,184

US public out-of-state average cost per student per year

\$35,087

US private average cost per student per year



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

GEM seeks to accelerate its impact, creating higher education pathways for 25,000 learners by 2030.



With \$1 Million

Transform a refugee community through higher education by launching a GEM site in a new location



With \$5 Million

Invest in our Africa-based social enterprise to help GEM achieve full financial sustainability by 2024



With \$10 Million

Pave new pathways to dignified work for over 25,000 refugees over the next ten years