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OUTWARD BOUND OMAN™

OUTWARD BOUND OMAN

ANNUAL
REPORT

2025





“The overall approach is to continue empowering the education sector, linking educational curricula to the requirements of economic growth and broadening opportunities for our youth to help them engage in scientific expertise, and immersing themselves in the broad realms of science and knowledge. The youth of Oman are encouraged to utilise their cognitive and intellectual abilities for contesting creative and innovative endeavours, thereby laying a robust groundwork for authentic investment and establishing themselves as leaders in economic growth.”

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik,
may Allah protect him

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A Message from our Chairman



Suleiman bin Masoud Al Harthy
Outward Bound Oman's Chairman



In line with its ongoing commitment to empowering individuals and institutions and to advancing the development of national talent in the Sultanate of Oman, Outward Bound Oman continued to deliver impactful programmes that enabled participants to realise their potential and strengthen their personal and professional capabilities.

In 2025, our programmes reached more than 3,400 participants through 206 diverse training courses, spanning school and higher-education students, job seekers, employees, entrepreneurs, people with special needs and explorers. This brings the total number of participants in our programmes since our launch in 2009 to more than 33,000 participants.

This year, we broadened participation across age groups, engaging individuals aged 5 to 62 and reaffirming our belief that learning and experience have no age boundaries. Programme delivery expanded geographically during the year, spanning the Sultanate from the Musandam Governorate in the far north to the Dhofar Governorate in the south. This positive impact is reinforced by the continuity of our strategic partnerships with governmental and private institutions in delivering high-quality programmes for Omani youth.

Our training centres, located in the heart of nature, together with the unique environments in which our programmes are delivered, create a real impact by removing distractions and providing an ideal environment for strategic thinking and deep learning. This has enabled us to collaborate with public and private sector institutions to design and deliver development programmes

for employees and emerging talent, in support of their institutional objectives. Among these entities: The Royal Academy of Management, the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, the Social Protection Fund, Omantel, Nama Company, Sohar Port, OQ and Occidental Oman.

This year, we also contributed to the Sultanate of Oman's efforts to build a diversified and sustainable, innovation and knowledge-led economy, in line with Oman Vision 2040, by delivering programmes for entrepreneurs across various sectors in cooperation with the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority and the Rising Omani Startups Programme.

Guided by Outward Bound Oman's commitment to long-term impact, our programme design focuses on contributing directly to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 4 on quality education and lifelong learning, through comprehensive educational and experiential programmes that serve diverse age groups. All of this is achieved through effective strategic partnerships with public and private sector institutions, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 17 on partnerships for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

I would like to express my deepest thanks and profound gratitude to the individuals and institutions whose support has been instrumental in the growth of Outward Bound Oman. I extend my appreciation to the Board of Directors and the dedicated OBO staff members, whose leadership, commitment, and hard work continue to drive our success. We celebrate the significant achievements that fill us with pride. We look ahead to 2026 with confidence and optimism, committed to continuing our journey and delivering greater impact and achievement.

Founding Partners

大成 DENTONS



In Partnership With

وزارة التنمية الاجتماعية
Ministry of Social Development



وزارة التعليم
Ministry of Education





OBO's Distinctive Features



Are highly trained, passionate outdoor facilitators who skillfully challenge and impel people to realise they are capable of more than they think



Our immersive courses take place in inspiring, powerful locations, providing the perfect platform for strategic thinking and life mapping!




Developed over 85 years, our practical courses ease people out of their comfort zones and apply theory through a process of review and reflection

The Team

Our team is vibrant and dynamic, comprising 46 employees with an Omanisation rate of 82%, positioning us as the largest outdoor, experience-based training organisation in Oman and the region.

Our instructors undergo advanced training to serve as trainers and facilitators in outdoor learning environments, with the aim of developing participants' skills and contributing to positive, life-changing outcomes. The instructor training programme at Outward Bound Oman covers communication and leadership across different age groups and participant categories, safety and crisis management, wilderness first aid and a range of technical skills, including navigation, climbing and kayaking. These instructors work alongside an experienced team responsible for overseeing the organisation's administrative and financial operations.



There are no 'off the shelf' courses at Outward Bound Oman; all of our immersive, outcome-driven programmes are tailored to the specific needs of the participants, using our proven, experiential approach to learning that has been refined over 85 years at Outward Bound schools around the world.

Designed for your needs

Our Year at a Glance in 2025



Total number of participants

3482



1926

Male



1556

Female

From

05



To

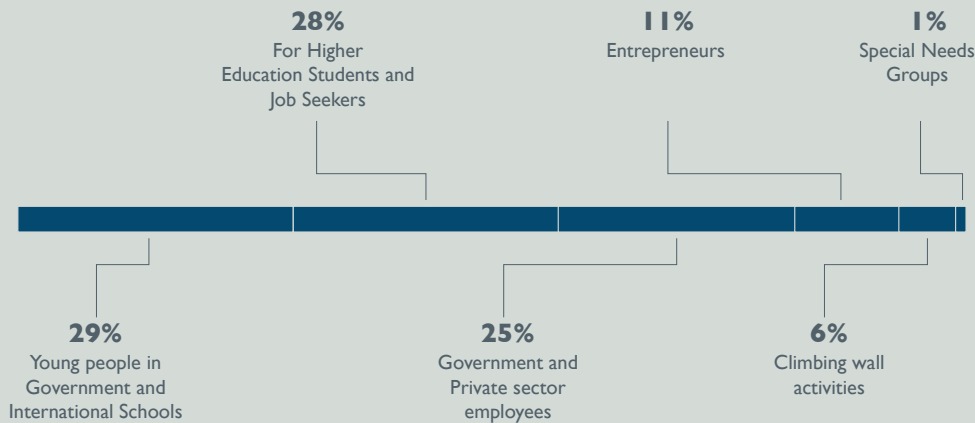
62

years old



Total number of courses

206



Geographical Reach of participants



Strategic Partnerships for National Talent Development

Strategic partnerships are a key pillar in achieving sustainable impact and maximising the value of development initiatives, enabling institutions to align efforts and share expertise and resources beyond the limitations of individual action. Through effective partnerships with public and private sector institutions, the academic sector and civil society, our capacity to design and deliver more comprehensive and innovative programmes that respond to real societal needs is strengthened.

Our partnerships with public and private sector institutions expand the scope of impact, ensure the sustainability of outcomes and foster a collaborative, trust-based operating model.



Programmes
Demonstrating a Model for
**Strategic Partnerships
and Maximised Impact**





Youth Skills Development Programme (Musated)

Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, CC Energy Development, Petroleum Development Oman and Outward Bound Oman


The programme aims to equip Omani youth with future-ready skills, in line with the Omani National Framework for Future Skills, by offering a non-traditional learning environment beyond the classroom. This environment features a diverse range of activities and events, including creative and critical thinking, life skills, scientific and technical applications, and cultural and creative activities.



 Year of launch:
2022

 Number of beneficiaries until the end of 2025:
2700

 Year of launch:
2022

 Number of beneficiaries until the end of 2025:
211



Shell Nawafidh Programme

Shell Oman, German University of Technology in Oman and Outward Bound Oman

The programme is a flagship initiative by Shell Oman, designed to empower Omani youth with a clear understanding of the future of energy through integrated technical learning and personal skills development. The programme enables participants to explore the latest innovations and applications in modern energy technologies and provides opportunities to engage in dialogue and discussion with experts and industry leaders in the Sultanate of Oman.




Sidrah Programme

Lahunna Oman and Outward Bound Oman

Sidrah aims to empower a new generation of women leaders by equipping them with the adaptability, insight and leadership skills required to shape the future. This is achieved through an integrated programme of experiential learning, training workshops, follow-up sessions, and career guidance that fosters a passion for learning and builds a supportive community for growth and development.

 Year of launch:
2022

 Number of beneficiaries
until the end of 2025:
257

The Young Shapers Programme




Ominvest, Outward Bound Oman, and Global Shapers Muscat

The programme aims to empower young people with a deeper understanding of global issues and challenges, as well as their role in addressing and mitigating their impacts, through an immersive educational journey focused on leadership, individual responsibility, and community engagement.



 Year of launch:
2024

 Number of beneficiaries
until the end of 2025:
200

An Experience with a Lasting Impact for Generations

Since Outward Bound was launched in Oman in 2009, we have maintained a close partnership with the Ministry of Education to deliver tailored programmes for school students from across the Sultanate's governorates. The Directorate General of Scouts, Guides and Student Activities has played a key role in coordinating with the various educational directorates and in selecting programme participants.

In 2025, our school student programmes included several notable initiatives, including:

Our participation in the British Embassy's Sports Ambassadors programme in Muscat, which aimed to enhance the leadership and personal skills of schoolgirls in the fields of sport and health.





The Jawhar programme, which focused on supporting self-discovery and developing a balanced and resilient personality among schoolgirls, was supported by Al Renaissance Services.



“From the discussions, activities, and dialogues, I gained a lot of knowledge. I plan to change my mindset and perspective about myself and others”.

Sara Al Balushi
Participant



The summer programme, Journey of Challenge, engaged more than 700 male and female students from across the Sultanate's governorates, in cooperation with the Career Guidance and Student Counselling Centre at the Ministry of Education.

“The course made me feel a real sense of achievement. I used to think that hiking long distances was difficult, but when we finished, I realized that I am capable of much more. I want to invest my time wisely, avoid delaying my work, and start planning and setting my goals before beginning anything.”

Habiba Al Manji
Participant



Our courses are designed to help individuals realise their latent potential and are closely aligned with defined outcomes. At Outward Bound Oman, we believe that the impact of our courses is not instantaneous, but rather an impact that stays with the participant for a long time and touches his personal, academic and professional life. To prove this, our specialised team measures impact using participant feedback forms at the end of training courses. During the past 16 years, the results of the courses have always had a positive impact on the participants.



96%

of participants reported increased self-confidence after completing the programme



97%

of participants recognized that careful planning and clear communication are critical to achieving success



99%

said the programme strengthened their awareness of their responsibility to protect and preserve Oman's natural environment

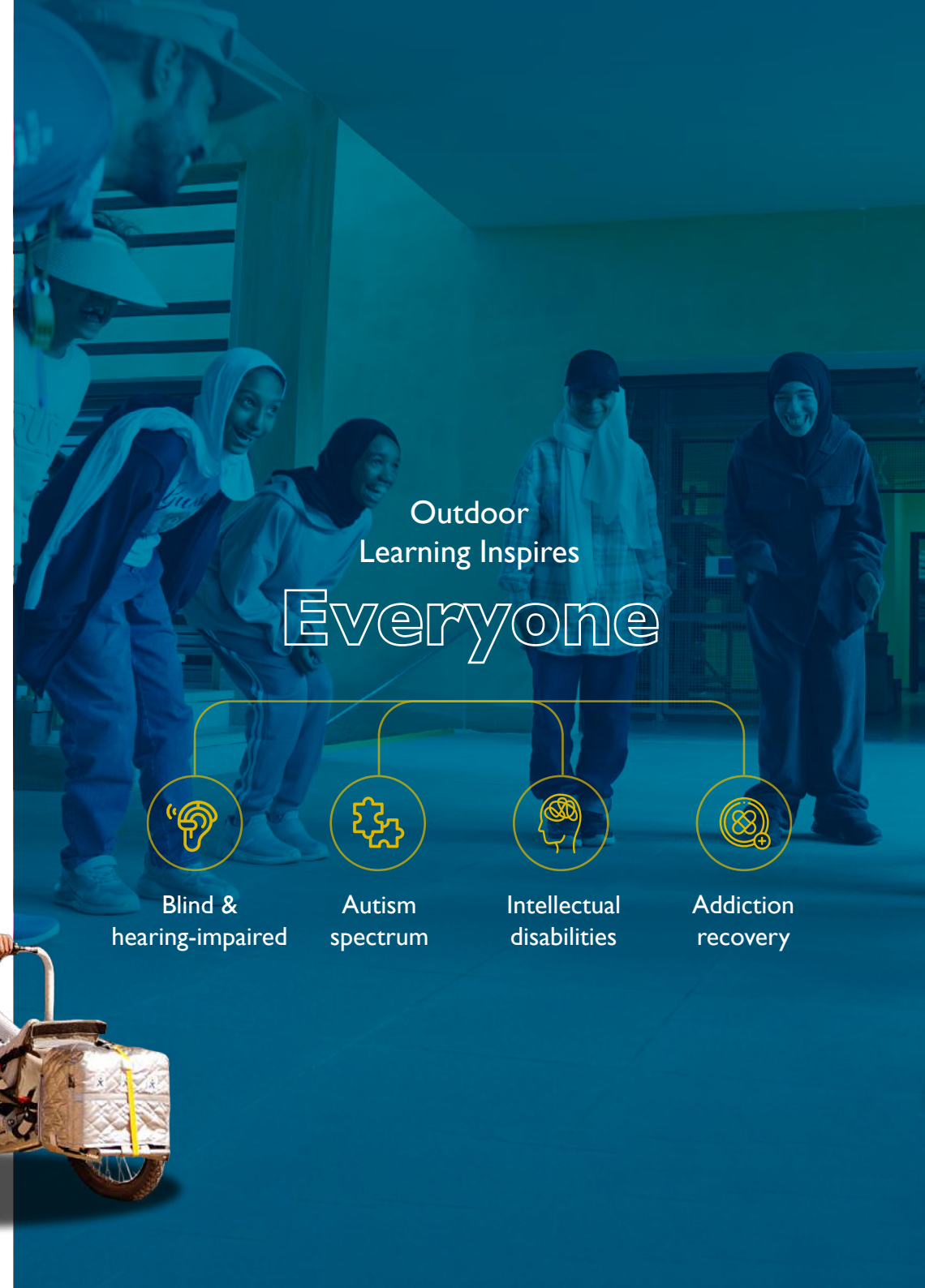


An Impact for Everyone

During the early years of OBO, priority was placed on equipping Omani youth with essential life skills and supporting job seekers in preparing for the labour market. Over the years, our work has broadened to increasingly concentrate on nurturing emerging talents and national forces employed across various public and private sector institutions, both within and beyond the Sultanate of Oman.

Driven by our belief that outdoor learning can inspire individuals of all abilities, we have invested in strengthening our resources and building staff capacity to work effectively with people with special needs, including those who are blind or hearing-impaired, individuals with autism spectrum disorder or intellectual disabilities, and people in recovery from addiction. By providing safe environments, flexible activities, and expert support, OBO enables all participants to access equitable learning experiences that foster self-confidence, initiative, and active community engagement.

At the beginning of 2025, we received generous support from His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said through the provision of an electric wheelchair specially designed for desert environments, enabling individuals with mobility disabilities to participate in Outward Bound Oman programmes and experience its activities.



Outdoor Learning Inspires
Everyone



Blind & hearing-impaired



Autism spectrum



Intellectual disabilities



Addiction recovery

All our instructors also completed specialised, hands-on training delivered by the leading organisation Equal Adventures, focused on working with people with disabilities. This training enhanced their professional capabilities and strengthened their understanding of appropriate and effective approaches for engaging with different types of disabilities.

While reaffirming our continued commitment to investing in team development and inclusive service delivery, we welcome partnerships that share our ambition to promote inclusivity and create equal opportunities for all through outdoor programmes in inspiring natural environments.

Sami Al-Sulaimi was the first participant to benefit from the wheelchair in the Next Generation course in Sharqiyah Sands. After an accident that resulted in the loss of his ability to walk, Sami remained confident and determined to pursue his ambition of becoming a national handcycling team athlete for people with disabilities



Empowering Work Teams and Entrepreneurs

Outward Bound Oman's corporate programmes offer a training environment that is distinctly different from conventional office and formal settings, enabling participants to step away from daily routines into open natural spaces that encourage free thinking and open, authentic communication. This creates a safe space for experimentation, breaks down barriers, and fosters deeper interpersonal relationships among team members. The experience goes beyond a traditional professional training workshop, becoming a transformative journey that leaves a lasting impact, as participants return to their institutions with renewed energy and a fresh perspective.

Our courses are carefully designed to meet the needs of diverse career stages, ranging from trainees and job seekers to executive teams and boards of directors. Our specialist team works closely with each organisation to understand its objectives and needs, and to design an integrated training experience aligned with those priorities, whether focused on strengthening work ethics, building cohesive teams, or achieving alignment with the organisation's vision and values.

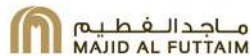


Our courses are delivered across all regions of the Sultanate of Oman, drawing on its diverse terrains and inspiring natural environments. Our three training centres, in Muscat, Sharqiyah Sands, and Jabal Akhdar, add significant value to the learning experience. Set within inspiring natural environments and supported by purpose-built facilities, they enable the delivery of distinctive experiences, such as indoor climbing, that energise work teams at the start of a new quarter or provide a meaningful culmination to a year of achievement.

To support entrepreneurs, we delivered targeted training programmes designed to strengthen the growth and sustainability of their businesses and teams, in cooperation with the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority and the Rising Omani Startups Programme. These included the Wa'ed Programme, which engaged approximately 100 participants from startups and student companies in the technology and innovation sectors. This programme enabled participants to develop leadership skills, strengthen strategic planning capabilities, and enhance resilience and adaptability.

Wa'ed Programme **100** participants

We delivered
human capital development programmes
to the following organisations in 2025



Our National Training Centres

Muscat Centre



Jabal Akhdar Centre



Desert Centre





If you are interested in offering the

Outward Bound Oman experience

to your team,

we would be delighted to collaborate
with you to make this happen.

Please contact us:

enquiry@outwardboundoman.com

Innovative Programmes and Initiatives

Over sixteen years of operation, we have built the resources and expertise required to work with a wide range of organisations, and with individuals pursuing specific ambitions, to design and deliver carefully tailored experiences that meet their needs. Our programmes are rooted in our core mission and values, which guide our efforts to create lasting and sustainable impact.

Among the innovative programmes we support and collaborate on are expeditions and research missions that advance environmental sustainability objectives. In 2025, we recorded two notable contributions in this area. The first was our participation in the scientific expedition across the Empty Quarter (Rub' al Khali), Mission Spiritus, which aimed to advance environmental research and raise awareness of microplastics and nanoplastics in remote environments.



Mission Spiritus and Jewel of Arabia Expedition teams

SAFETY CHAMPIONS PROGRAMME



Members of our team also participated in the expedition 'Oman: Jewel of Arabia', which aimed to enhance young people's understanding of biodiversity and sustainability. One of the key outcomes of this expedition was the launch of our Biodiversity Gems programme for Omani youth aged 14–25, designed to raise awareness of biodiversity and promote their role in its conservation.

Target Age Group

12 13 **14** 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 **25** 26 27

As part of our investment in young talent within the organisation, we have trained a number of instructors to become qualified providers of first aid training for individuals and organisations. Accordingly, we launched our latest training initiative, the Safety Champions Programme, which aims to equip students with essential first aid knowledge and skills to support themselves and others at home and at school. Specialised first aid programmes have also been developed for employees of companies and government institutions, with accredited certificates and official licences awarded upon completion.



On a study conducted by KPMG to assess the social return on investment (SROI) for Outward Bound Oman's courses, the results showed that for every Omani Riyal invested in Outward Bound Oman courses, the societal return is an impressive 10.5 Omani Rials.



A key element in the success story of Outward Bound in Oman is the corporate community who, through their social investment programmes fund Omani young people on the Outward Bound training courses, so developing their key life skills, and enhancing their employability.

We thank the following organisations for their most generous support in 2025;

OUR PARTNERS



OUR SUPPORTERS





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