

A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW OF FOUNDERSGAP

FoundersGap Your Gateway to Canada's Startup Ecosystem

Connecting Middle Eastern investors
with Canadian startups for success

August 2025



FoundersGap

Who We Are

Bridging Canada ↔ MENA for founders & capital

- Ontario-based nonprofit startup community and cross-border venture bridge
- Focus: newcomer & multicultural founders (strong Persian/Iranian network)—inclusive by design
- What we do: curated deal flow, investor-readiness programs, and MENA market entry
- For investors: sourcing, screening, and diligence in Canada + post-investment support across MENA
- For founders: mentorship, funding navigation, and partnerships with incubators/VCs
- Edge: cultural fluency, cross-border operations, curated pipelines, and two-way market access

350+ members • 42 startups • \$4.5M facilitated



350+

Active community members



42

Startups supported (idea → Series A)



10+

Events hosted annually



25+

partnerships with incubators,
accelerators & corporates



4.5M

Funding facilitated for member startups



3+

International Presence

MENAsurable Growth

In just one year, FoundersGap has built a thriving, results-driven founder network that delivers tangible outcomes for both entrepreneurs and investors.



The Opportunity in Startup Growth

**Explore the synergy
between Canadian
startups and MENA
investment opportunities.**

Booming Canadian Startup Ecosystem

Canada's startup scene is experiencing **rapid growth**, attracting global attention and funding. C\$7.86B across 592 VC deals in 2024; seed rounds were C\$510M / 201 deals. We prioritize ICT, Life Sciences, and Cleantech at Seed–A, where pricing is rational and MENA market pull exists.

MENA Investment Surge

MENA venture capital firms are **eager** to diversify portfolios through Canadian startups. MENA startups raised US\$1.9B in 2024.

Expansive Market Potential

The connection between Canada and MENA offers **unlimited market potential** for innovative solutions.

- GCC population: 61.2M (end-2024)—a growing consumer base.
- Canada–GCC trade: US\$8.5B (2023) underscores the bridge you can scale.





Our Role for MENA VCs

**Connecting the Middle
East & Africa with
Canada's startup
ecosystem**

Deal Flow Partner

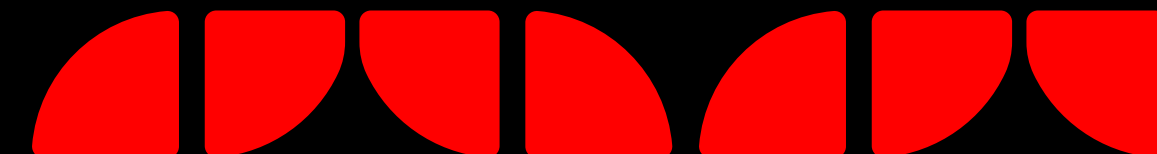
Streamlined access to promising startups, ensuring quality investment opportunities.

Cultural Bridge

Facilitating **understanding and collaboration** between diverse business cultures and practices.

Market Expansion Partner

Helping VCs navigate **Canadian markets**, optimizing growth and investment potential.



Value Proposition: MENA Investors vs Startups

Lower sourcing risk • Faster diligence • Post-investment MENA expansion



High Returns

C\$5.2B exits across 40 deals in 2024, including AstraZeneca's C\$3.26B acquisition of Fusion Pharmaceuticals



Diverse Opportunities

Canada's 2024 VC investment: ICT C\$4.5B, Life Sciences C\$1.4B, Cleantech C\$1.1B — total C\$7.86B across 592 deals.



Cultural Synergy

Canada's diaspora bridge: 280,805 Iranian-origin, ~690,000 Arab-origin, 508,410 Arabic speakers. Canada-GCC trade = US\$8.5B.

Our Process: Connecting Founders and Funds

**A streamlined approach to fostering
valuable partnerships**

At **FoundersGap**, we follow a clear step-by-step process to scout high-potential Canadian startups, conduct rigorous due diligence, and select only the most investment-ready ventures for funding — delivering high-quality deal flow, reduced risk, and stronger returns.





Partnership Models Overview

Explore our strategic
frameworks for
**collaboration and
investment.**

Representation

We facilitate **local representation** for MENA firms in Canada, enhancing visibility and opportunities.

Co-Investment

Joint investment opportunities allow for **shared risk** and increased capital for startups.

Strategic Advisory

Our expertise provides **insightful guidance** to navigate the North American startup ecosystem.





Success Potential: Focused Sectors

Exploring opportunities in AI,
cleantech, and healthtech

Our pipeline showcases high-potential startups in **AI, cleantech, and healthtech**. By leveraging these sectors, we connect investors with innovative solutions that address global challenges, ensuring growth and sustainable success in the **North American and MENA markets**. We prioritize these sectors at Seed-A, where pricing is rational and MENA market pull exists.



Next Steps for Partnership

**Clear actions to
establish collaboration
and launch our pilot
program.**

Partnership Setup

Initial discussions to define roles and expectations for a successful collaboration.

Pilot Launch Timeline

Timeline outlining key milestones from agreement to implementation.

Ongoing Support

Continuous engagement to ensure mutual growth and success during the project.





Do you have any questions for us?

Feel free to reach out anytime!

