

Teenage Earth Prize winners Tala and Farah Mousa featured on CNN



▲ Build Hope on CNN's 'Connect the World'

- Teenage sisters Tala and Farah Mousa appeared on CNN International's *Connect the World with Becky Anderson* on 21 October 2026.
- Their project, Build Hope – Palestine, transforms building rubble into reusable blocks for garden beds, pavements and partitions.
- The sisters were named The Earth Prize 2026 Middle East Regional Winners, receiving \$12,500 to develop and scale their solution.

Tala and Farah Mousa, teenage sisters from Gaza and The Earth Prize 2026 Middle East Regional Winners, were recently interviewed by Becky Anderson, a prominent British journalist and anchor of CNN International's flagship news and current affairs programme, Connect the World with Becky Anderson.

The four-minute segment aired on 21 October 2026 as part of the programme's coverage ahead of COP31, the United Nations climate conference. With circularity and resource reuse central to the upcoming COP31 discussions, Build Hope was selected as a powerful example of youth-led innovation, demonstrating how waste materials can be repurposed.

Pre-recorded through CNN's studio connection in Abu Dhabi, the interview gave Tala and Farah opportunity to share their story with CNN's international audience, with an estimated potential live audience of more than 200,000 viewers.

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Tala and Farah's project was developed after their family home was bombed and they witnessed widespread destruction across Gaza. Build Hope offers a practical way to reuse building rubble - the sisters crush the debris, mix it with locally

available materials such as clay, ash and glass powder, and mould it into reusable, non-load-bearing blocks. These can be used to build garden beds, pavements and partitions. By using accessible materials and simple techniques, the project aims to make the process possible for communities with limited resources.

Beyond making the blocks themselves, a key part of the project is teaching other young people how to reproduce the process and share their skills with others. Through hands-on workshops, Tala and Farah hope are already extending the project's reach and helping more people turn rubble into useful materials for their communities.

In May 2026, the sisters were named The Earth Prize 2026 Middle East Regional Winners, receiving \$12,500 to develop and scale their solution. Their CNN appearance represents another step in bringing Build Hope's work to a wider audience and sharing their vision of creating practical, sustainable solutions that communities can take part in as they rebuild.

About The Earth Prize

The Earth Foundation is a Geneva-based non-profit that empowers, educates and inspires young people to tackle environmental challenges. Founded in response to the 2019 student-led climate rallies, it launched its flagship initiative, The Earth Prize, the world's largest environmental competition and 'ideas incubator' for young people. The competition aims to inspire and empower the next generation of environmental innovators, supporting participants with the tools they need to develop eco solutions for real-world impact, including one-on-one mentoring, learning resources and \$100,000 shared funding for the winners. Since 2019, The Earth Prize has reached over 21,000 students across 169 countries and territories, and awarded over \$500,000.

The Earth Prize: <https://www.theearthprize.org/>

The Earth Foundation: <https://www.earth-foundation.org/>

Impact PDF: <https://tinyurl.com/tep2026>

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