

BARAA ABU DRAZ

Backend Developer - Laravel, PHP

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Backend Developer with 4+ years of experience designing, building, and optimizing scalable web applications using Laravel, PHP, and modern JavaScript frameworks including Vue and React. Proven record of improving backend performance by up to 40%, reducing error rates by up to 50%, and delivering secure, multi-role systems for finance, logistics, and humanitarian platforms. Skilled in RESTful API design, database optimization (MySQL, PostgreSQL), and third-party/payment integrations, with additional experience founding and leading a small development team and managing client relationships through freelance and agency work.

CORE TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages & Frameworks: PHP, Laravel, JavaScript, Vue, Node.js, Express.js, React, jQuery, HTML5, CSS3, Bootstrap, Tailwind CSS

APIs & Integration: RESTful API Design & Development, AJAX, Third-Party API Integration, Payment Gateway Integration, Firebase, Webhooks

Databases: MySQL, PostgreSQL, SQL, Eloquent ORM, Sequelize ORM, Database Design & Optimization

DevOps & Tools: Git, GitHub Actions, CI/CD Pipelines, Caching, Query Optimization, Rate Limiting, Audit Logging

Practices: Clean Code, MVC Architecture, SOLID Principles, Authentication & Authorization, Multi-Role System Architecture, Agile Collaboration, Team Leadership

Design Tools: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder & Lead Backend Developer | Up Lancer | Gaza, Palestine

2021 – Present

- Founded and led a software development agency, overseeing end-to-end delivery of client web projects built with Laravel and modern web technologies.
- Directed and mentored a technical development team, ensuring consistent code quality and on-time delivery across multiple concurrent projects.
- Served as primary client liaison, translating business requirements into practical digital solutions and building long-term client relationships.
- Established development standards that reduced production issues and improved delivery quality.
- Took on select freelance/contract development engagements in parallel (see below), maintaining hands-on technical skills alongside agency leadership.

Backend Developer (Freelance/Contract) | T8nat | Remote — Saudi Arabia

Feb 2025 – May 2025

- Freelance contract engagement completed in parallel with Up Lancer leadership role.
- Built an AI-enhanced e-learning platform with a Laravel admin dashboard and a documented mobile API, improving backend efficiency by 40%.
- Resolved critical Firebase push-notification failures on the Darb ride-hailing platform, increasing system stability by 35% and cutting error rates by 50%.
- Optimized backend logic and admin tooling for a car-rental system, improving overall performance by 30–40%.

Backend Developer (Freelance/Contract) | Aatene Store | Remote — Palestine*Oct 2023*

- Freelance contract engagement completed in parallel with Up Lancer leadership role.
- Designed and implemented an advertising module supporting both store-level and individual product ad campaigns.
- Built a dynamic, scalable pricing engine to manage product pricing across the platform.
- Integrated third-party APIs to ensure reliable, real-time data exchange across the system.

Backend Developer (Freelance/Contract) | Custom Clearance System | Remote — Iraq *Jun 2023 – Sept 2023*

- Freelance contract engagement completed in parallel with Up Lancer leadership role.
- Architected a secure multi-role system with isolated dashboards, permission-based access control, and complete business modules for contract and import/export operations.
- Delivered financial workflows, dynamic reporting dashboards, and PDF export functionality with real-time UI interactions and server-side filtering.
- Improved system reliability through caching strategies, query optimization, rate limiting, and audit logging.

Backend Developer | Bani Square | Gaza, Palestine*Mar 2020 – May 2020*

- Developed and maintained Laravel-based web applications, building and optimizing backend services with PHP.
- Integrated and managed RESTful APIs to support core application features and external data exchange.
- Conducted database analysis and SQL query optimization, improving overall application performance.
- Collaborated with cross-functional teams to deliver high-quality solutions on schedule.

FEATURED PROJECTS

Backend Developer | Mueen - Humanitarian Management System | Gaza, Palestine*Oct 2025 – Dec 2025*

- Developed a web-based platform to manage data for displaced families and coordinate aid distribution under crisis conditions.
- Structured beneficiary records, assistance-tracking, and reporting tools, improving coordination accuracy for relief teams.
- Enabled local teams to streamline data entry, reducing manual errors in humanitarian aid tracking.

Vibe Coding | Hairvana - Salon Booking System | Gaza, Palestine*Jun 2025 – Sept 2025*

- Led development of a modular React/TypeScript admin dashboard (shadcn/ui, Tailwind CSS, Zustand), reducing logic duplication by approximately 40%.
- Extended a Node.js/Express backend with standardized Sequelize repositories and robust validation, cutting API runtime errors by 30%.
- Built reusable dashboard components (appointments, KPIs, subscriptions), cutting front-end code duplication by approximately 40%.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Founder & Lead Trainer | Up Lancer Field Training Initiative | Gaza, Palestine*Nov 2024 – Feb 2025*

- Launched and led a field-training program in partnership with a Saudi training center, developing web and mobile development skills for university students.
- Designed a hands-on curriculum simulating real corporate workflows, enabling students to work on live projects and sustain professional growth under wartime conditions.

Community Support Volunteer | Gaza Displacement Camps | Gaza, Palestine*Oct 2025 – Jan 2026*

- Supported humanitarian relief efforts by organizing and managing data for displaced families, improving accuracy and efficiency of aid workflows.
- Facilitated communication and coordination between community groups during crisis response operations.

- Developed and deployed the Mueen platform free of charge for displacement camps, enabling structured data management and improved tracking of aid distribution.

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree in Multimedia and Information Technology

University of Palestine | Gaza, Palestine | 2018 – 2022

LANGUAGES

- Arabic - Native
- English - Professional working proficiency (reading, writing, and technical communication)