

# STORIES OF HOPE FROM 2019

RESPONDING TO  
HUMAN NEEDS

EMPOWERING AMBITION,  
ENABLING GROWTH

BUILDING ROADS  
TO SUSTAINABLE  
GROWTH

A RIGHT TO LEARN,  
A DUTY TO EDUCATE

HEALTH LEADS  
TO WEALTH

SUSTAINING THE HEART  
OF DEVELOPMENT



*“There is no doubt that there are many difficult challenges that humankind is going through, but there are also an abundance of goodness, beneficence, sincerity, determination and innovation that can be relied upon. So, we must all commemorate goodness and human achievements wherever they are found.”*



*His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani,  
Amir of the State of Qatar, Doha Forum, 2019*



*“The State of Qatar has pursued a consistent policy to protect and promote human rights, on the basis of our Arab and Islamic principles and values that uphold human value, and we are keen to honour our commitment in this respect at the national and international levels to defend individual and collective rights and respect for human rights and dignity. Qatar has made significant achievements in terms of workers’ rights and work conditions in coordination with the International Labor Organization.”*

*His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani  
Amir of the State of Qatar, 74th Session of the United Nations General  
Assembly, 2019*

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*Empowered lives. Resilient nations.*

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



**H.E. Sheikh Mohammed  
bin Abdulrahman Al Thani**

Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

A glance at news headlines is enough to remind us that the world is facing compounding challenges that threaten the safety and security of millions of people. Experts' reports indicate that the number of people who need urgent humanitarian assistance is on the rise, primarily because of conflict and climate change.

As we witness a global decline in compliance with international law and human rights protocols, highly violent conflicts are causing widespread hunger, forced migration, social disintegration, and corrosion of years of successful development that will be hard to redo.

The other side of the spectrum is looming too. Extreme climatic events are on the rise, leaving people highly vulnerable to humanitarian crises. Infectious diseases are appearing more frequently and are harder to control. Weaker institutional safety nets and health systems, inadequate water and sanitation infrastructure, and access to development and aid in warring zones undermine local communities' resilience and cripple the international community's response.

**Despite these challenges, Qatar Fund for Development continued to upkeep its mission of spreading hope, peace, and justice** in areas that its aid reaches. Hand-in-hand with its strategic partners, the Fund has ramped up its emergency response, reconstruction programs, and development interventions in countries that have faced serious security challenges over the past decade.

With particular emphasis on long term sustainable development, the Fund has furthered its investments in spreading education to out-of-school children, thus bridging enrolment ratio gaps and mitigating the severe risks from leaving anyone behind. At an equal footing, and with rapid interventions to address deteriorating health situations, Qatar Fund's aid had saved thousands of lives from Cholera, war-inflicted diseases, and other health challenges through erecting hospitals and primary health care centers, training healthcare workers, and funding government programs.

**As it celebrates its fifth year in operation, Qatar Fund is gearing to embark on emerging challenges that need immediate attention and international cooperation.** In the years to come, and in line with the guidance of HH The Amir of Qatar, Sh. Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, more emphasis will be shed on tackling Climate Change. Efforts will not be spared to support developing countries' resilience plans and programs against extreme weather events such as droughts, flooding, and sprawling fires.

Last but not least, I want to express my gratitude to the international aid and development community in general and to Qatar Fund for Development and its strategic partners in particular, for their hard work, perseverance, and dedication to making the world a much better place.



**Mr. Khalifa bin Jassim Al-Kuwari**

Director General of QFFD

## FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

**Q**atar Fund for Development marks its fifth anniversary with several significant accomplishments that transformed the foreign aid and development sector in the State of Qatar. Since it was activated in 2014, Qatar Fund underscored in its corporate strategy important strategic objectives, operational practices, and principles that would facilitate a more coordinated, effective, and impactful aid to communities and countries that need assistance.

Primarily, Qatar Fund has worked on aligning efforts with key strategic donors and partners while focusing on results. In accordance with international humanitarian and development principles, the Fund has strengthened its coordination mechanisms and forged partnerships with the multilateral agencies of the United Nations, bilateral donors, NGOs, and civil society organizations. **As a result, hundreds of millions of dollars have been channeled to complement development interventions with lasting impact on improving health services, educational systems, eradication of poverty, and mobilizing fast and efficient life-saving humanitarian aid.**

In addition, we have put emphasis on contextualizing interventions based on developing countries' needs. Through joint assessment missions with Qatar-based partners, deep-dive analysis of beneficiary countries' needs and development plans has been a critical transformative initiative at Qatar Fund to devise effective development intervention strategies. This new approach

embedded tailored programming for country-specific situations and needs and allowed for unlocking larger aid budgets to beneficiary countries.

Ramping up institutional capacity through capacity building programs and empowering young Qatari professionals has been another important priority for Fund. Over the past five years, we have facilitated for training capable young professionals to further their knowledge and skills and advance on their career ladder. **Today we take pride that 65% of our workforce is comprised of young talented women – thereby walking the talk on women empowerment in office as it is on the field.**

Last but not least, Qatar Fund aimed at maintaining predictability and flexibility in financing development and humanitarian interventions. In 2019, as in previous years, the Fund maintained a contribution base of US\$ 577 million to over 78 countries worldwide. Through multi-year core contribution to United Nations agencies, contributions to specialized pooled funds, supporting joint development programs with partners, or through immediate relief aid in response to disasters, sustainable development results having been the primary end goal to Qatar Fund's contributions. Our funding, along with that of our partners, had been catalytic in supporting poverty eradication, social protection, economic growth, and overall sustainable development.

To this end, it is worth noting that the work we do takes a lot of teamwork. I am grateful to each member of the Qatar Fund's team, to our board of directors, and to our strategic partners for their support, dedication, and untiring efforts in making 2019 a year of accomplishments. Thank you for making the lives of millions of people better, one project at a time.

## Executive Summary

# WORKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE WE WANT

The year 2019 was not short of events and upheavals that put our collective humanitarian and development systems to the test. Heatwaves and wildfires, typhoons, the spread of infectious viruses, and the current state of geopolitics and conflict, have kept on pushing the global needs to grow faster than donors' funding.

There is clear evidence from practice that the humanitarian and development systems have been continuously improving in forecasting, planning, and coordinating timely interventions to save lives and instill durable and sustainable development. By and large, this is contingent on the support and funding of countries and other donors that believe in the effectiveness of collective action.

It is in this vein that the State of Qatar, through Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), has provided timely, predictable, and flexible financial support to the tune of US\$ 577 Million in 2019. This funding was spread across multiple development and humanitarian partners ranging from multilateral United Nations agencies, bilateral partners, INGO's and civil society organizations, to foster "peace, hope, and justice for all."

In response to the evolving humanitarian needs, Qatar Fund's emergency response touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of people who were affected by the intense tropical cyclone Idai that hit Mozambique in March 2019. In addition, relief aid continued to flow to IDPs in Syria and the neighboring host

countries, helping in alleviating the burdens of a destructive war that has stretched to enter its ninth year.

Other major life-saving humanitarian interventions included timely support to the blockaded citizens of Gaza, to the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, and several regions in Iraq and Afghanistan. Besides, Qatar Fund contributed to rapid response and coordination mechanisms that are managed by the United Nations. These include support to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), to World Food Program (WFP), and the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) as part of its un-earmarked multi-year core funding to the Office.

Similarly, Qatar Fund's development interventions contributed to the global efforts geared to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In health, the support to the Global Fund is capacitating local partners in their fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. Qatar's commitment to a new 5-years funding cycle of the Global Fund will ensure better predictability for financing programs that save millions of lives worldwide. Moreover, and in cooperation with UNICEF, Qatar Fund helped in curbing the Cholera outbreak in Yemen, particularly among children. Several other interventions included support to build a cancer hospital in Burkina Faso, Qatar Creating Vision initiative in partnership with Orbis organization for treating eye diseases, and upgrade of medical and health centers



in Syria and neighboring countries' refugee camps.

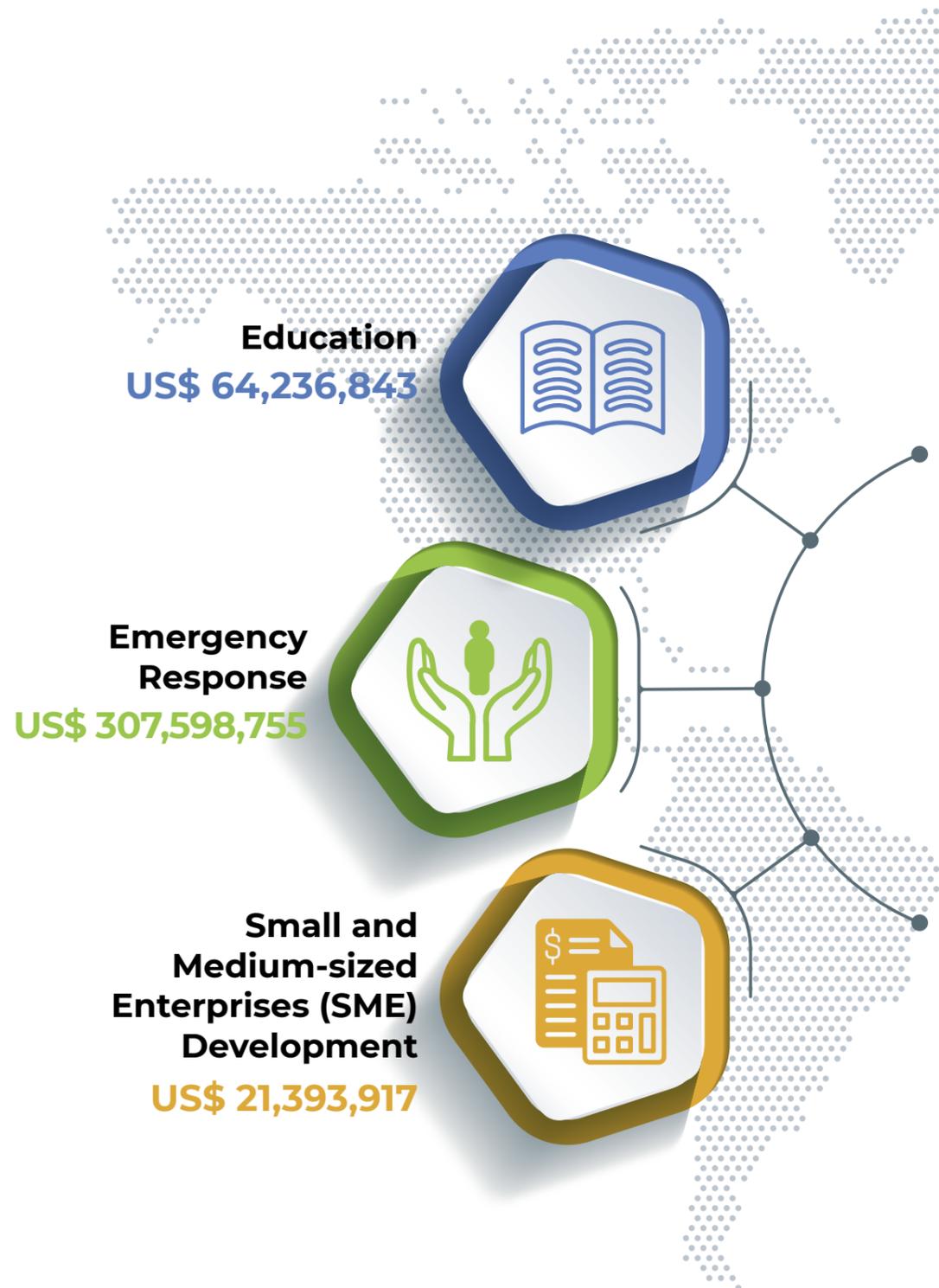
In Education, Qatar Fund initiatives reached hundreds of thousands of out-of-school children in over 78 countries through its annual core funding support to its strategic partners, including Education Above All organization. In Italy, the Fund completed the erection of a school following the Central Italy Earthquake that hit the center of the country in 2016. This is among many other educational support projects in Bangladesh, e-Swatini, Palestine, and Sudan, that involved providing scholarships and TVET programs.

Qatar Fund's support to entrepreneurs and small, medium enterprises (SME's) goes hand-in-hand with broader macroeconomic support packages that involved infrastructure development, thereby facilitating economic exchange and access to major financial centers and cities. For instance, in Somalia, contributions aimed to support microfinance projects for youth and women, while extending significant support to building roads and rehabilitation of public buildings. In Tunisia, entrepreneurial funding initiatives have continued to generate quality jobs and bringing down high unemployment rates.

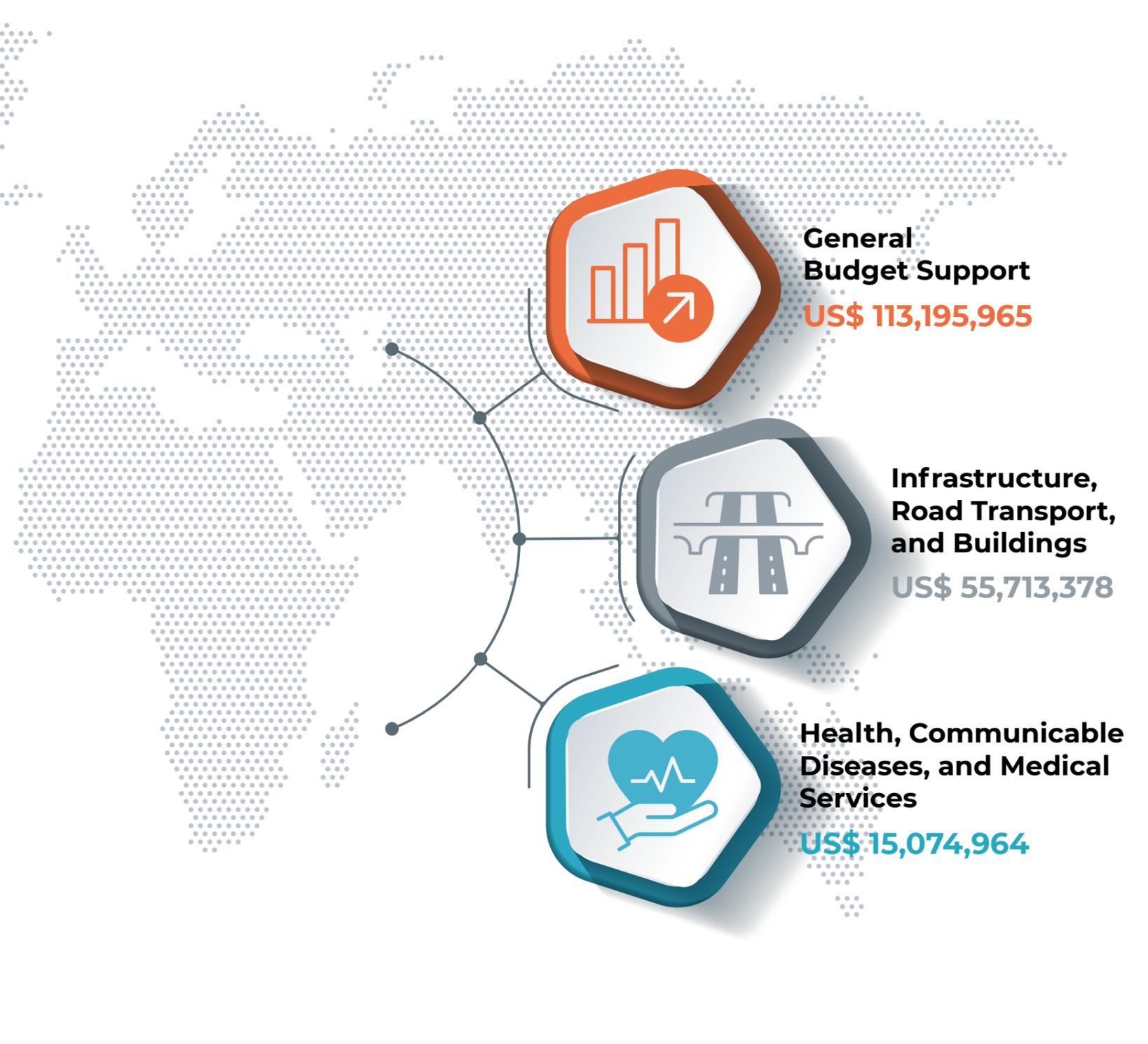
With just a decade left to meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, several countries are lagging. Quick and innovative measures are necessary to ensure that everyone achieves them in time. Qatar Fund has actively sought to provide budgetary support to governments and core funding to several UN agencies to ensure that organizational resilience and growth are maintained vis-à-vis surmounting global challenges.

In our report for 2019, you will read many stories of people who find relief, assistance, and empowerment through the support of Qatar Fund and its strategic partners. Many of their stories are inspiring, even those that are coming out of refugee camps and war zones. They are a true inspiration for us to continue in our march towards a better world – a world filled with hope, peace, and justice.

## Disbursed in 2019



## Grand Total US\$ 577,213,821



## Emergency Response, Reconstruction, Relief and Rehabilitation

# RESPONDING TO HUMAN NEEDS

The current state of global crises mandates that humanitarian assistance covers all stages of response, to reduce vulnerability to shocks and improve the response capacity of local actors to manage future crises more predictably and with better resources. One of the persistent crises worldwide is food scarcity and hunger. Globally, there is a trend shift from food aid to food assistance – rather than feeding people when they are hungry, food assistance devises diverse approaches to meet people’s long-term nutritional needs. This shift in thinking is significant, because it balances the urgency to alleviate hunger through emergency interventions with the broader objective of ending hunger once and for all.



School project under the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) by UNICEF and UNDP, supported by QFFD. This is part of the 12 Foundational and Short Term (FaST) projects for the development of Darfur in Sudan



# EVERYTHING LOST, EXCEPT HOPE

"I had a wonderful life in my amazing home in Homs," says Somaia. "I enjoyed being around my family and neighbors, [and] eating fresh food from our land. I woke up every morning to the sound of birds singing".

Today, those birds no longer sing for 30-year old Somaia. She fled her

home in Homs, Syria during the civil war and escaped to Idleb and currently lives in Ma'arrat An Nu'man. In partnership with Qatar Charity, QFFD was able to provide newly arrived refugees, like Somaia and her family, food and shelter in response to the emergency.



***"Partners like QFFD  
make our work  
possible with their  
strong support..."***

***- Ayman Gharaibeh,  
Director of the UNHCR Middle  
East and North Africa Bureau***



## Surviving Winter in Syria's Camps

In the early weeks of 2019, internally displaced Syrians faced one of the harshest winter seasons. Biting cold temperatures and heavy rains struck in Northern Syria, where most of the refugee camps are situated.

QFFD collaborated with Qatar Charity in order to provide urgent winter relief to these families. The Fund was able to provide them with food, shelter and winter supplies, including insulated tents to keep them warm. As a result, around **73,000 people** found warmth and comfort during the winter season.

The beneficiaries included thirty-year-old Ahmad and his family of four, who have been displaced three times. Finally, the family set-

tled in Azaz camp in Syria's Aleppo. The camp flooded in the winter due to heavy rain, which resulted in a drastic drop in temperature. Materials to keep warm were available; however, like most families living in the camp, Ahmad and his family were unable to afford them.

Families like Ahmad's are extremely vulnerable in the Azaz camp, with most of them having endured multiple displacements. Qatar Charity, supported by QFFD, stepped in to assist such families who needed urgent support to get through the winter. Over **83,000 people** received kits with blankets, fuel and heaters, bringing warmth to the families residing in the camp.



## Sheltering Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

Many displaced people who fled from Syria to Aarsal, Lebanon, ended up living in make-shift Informal Tented Settlements (ITSs). The winter of 2019 was especially harsh; the ITSs were not made to withstand brutal winter conditions. Consequently, the tents, infrastructure, transportation, water, electricity and communication were damaged. Food security was at risk as well, and several fatalities were reported.

QFFD teamed up with Qatar Charity to fix damaged tents in these settlements and distribute heating fuel, mattresses and blankets. Food was also provided to the impoverished families and vouchers were distributed to purchase winter clothing for their children. The project benefited **73,000 Syrian refugees and vulnerable locals**.



*Thousands of people were given support through a winter relief project by Qatar Charity and QFFD in Northern Syria. Vulnerable Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Southern Syria received lifesaving food items and emergency shelter from Qatar Red Crescent and QFFD's collaboration, with over **78,000 beneficiaries***



## Backing Up the White Helmets

The White Helmets are impartial volunteers in Syria who save lives through evacuation of civilians, search and rescue in bombed areas and delivery of essential services. While saving over 114,000 lives, many of the White Helmet volunteers have lost their own lives in the process.

QFFD provided budgetary support to the White Helmets through the Mayday Rescue Foundation, in order to finance their critical needs, with a portion of the funds earmarked for activities that are unfunded or incompletely funded.

## The Goats That Sent Five Kids to School

Zebenaye Getachew is a mother of five who lives in a village in West Harage, Ethiopia. Her husband cultivates grains, but their land is not very productive because of the scarce rainfall. The farm's harvest does not cover their basic living expenses or school fees for their children.

Through funding by QFFD, Qatar Red Crescent was able to provide Zebenaye with five goats. Income from selling the goats' offspring helped her send her children to school.

Zebenaye is now saving to build her own house, she also hopes to move to a nearby city and learn to trade. Zebenaye's change in financial status is the result of the work facilitated by QFFD in Ethiopia, benefiting over **62,000 people** so far.



*"I am so happy with the goats I was provided. This has increased my income, and guarantees a good education for all my children."*

*- Zebenaye Getachew  
West Harage, Ethiopia*

## Keeping Girls in School

Seventeen-year-old Saboule Ousmane comes from a nomadic family of stockbreeders in the Central African Republic (CAR). In 2013, when violence broke out in CAR, close to 600,000 people took refuge in neighboring countries, Saboule's family ended up in the Danamadja refugee camp in Southern Chad. Among the thousands of vulnerable girls here, many of them were forced to drop out of school due to lack of sanitation facilities and basic hygiene supplies.

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which is the United Nations' global emergency response fund, got to know of the plight of these girls. Thus, in 2017, acting through UNICEF and supported by QFFD, CERF distributed 'dignity kits' to girls, which consisted of soap, bleach, water buckets and sanitary pads. With their basic hygiene needs taken care of, girls including Saboule were able to go back to school with confidence.



***"I could not go to school in the Central African Republic," says Saboule, "and as nomadic people, we do not really mix with the rest of the people in the camps. But here in school we are all the same. I was given 'dignity kits' and I am more confident when I am in class."***

*– Saboule Ousmane, Grade 4, Danamadja School, Southern Chad*



Photo: HARAF/ishaya David

## Rebuilding Hope for Families in Nigeria

Non-state armed violence in parts of Nigeria have led around 2 million people to flee their homes. Around 1.8 million of them remain internally displaced and are in need of humanitarian assistance due to malnutrition, food insecurity and shortage of shelter facilities.

A single mother of four and grandmother of eight, 65-year-old Maryamu Joshua, is one of the fortunate ones. When her home was damaged she received help from an OCHA project, which was supported by QFFD. Maryamu's house was quickly repaired and her family were able to return home. Along with Maryamu, **1,000 families** benefited from receiving rehabilitation shelter kits.

More than just shelter, projects like this give families a sense of hope that their lives can eventually return to normal.

*Maryamu Joshua stands outside her house, to which she was able to return*

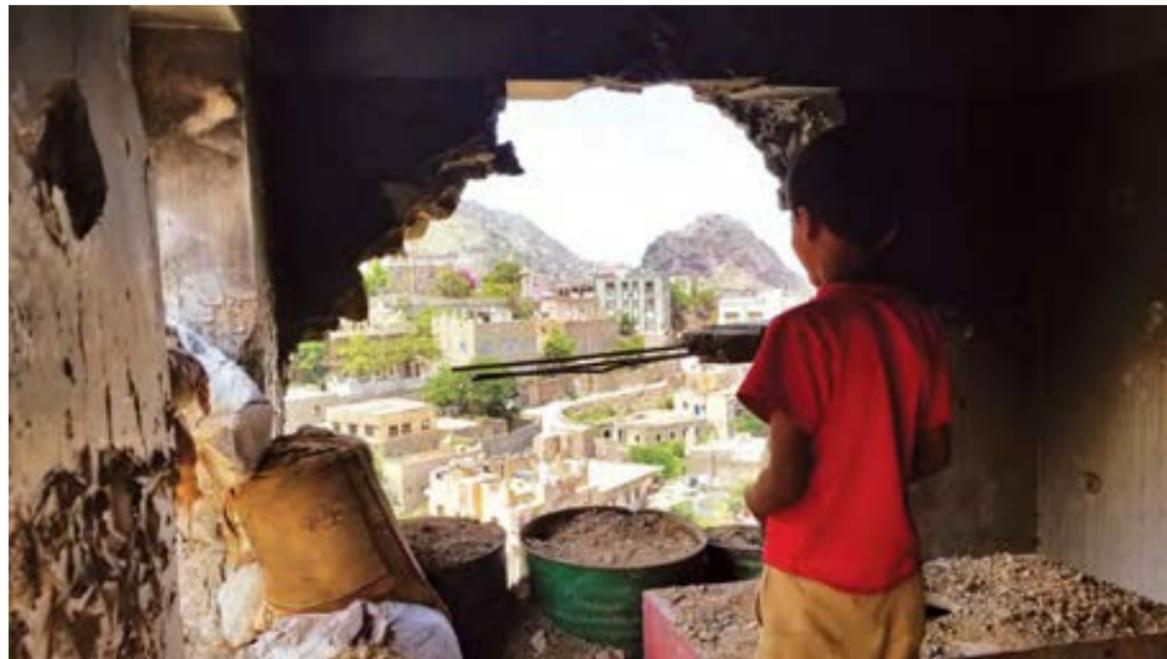
***"Before, we had to find a way to stay together in the room even though the roof was leaking. When rain fell, we would use containers to collect the water. This project really benefited us, since we were able to fix the leaking roof and can now stay in our home comfortably."***

## Impacting the Displaced

In coordination with the International Organization for Migration and Qatar Red Crescent, QFFD began providing healthcare through primary health clinics in Mosul, Iraq. Other outreaches include mobile medical teams, distribution of urgent medical supplies, food, drilling of wells and setting up an emergency camp to receive new arrivals and provide basic services. A total of over **375,000 people** were reached.

In a similar vein, many Rohingya refugees have sought shelter in Malaysia, with 85,000 of them registered with UNHCR. QFFD is supporting Malaysia in hosting them while working through Qatar Charity and local Malaysian NGOs. Agreements have already been signed to implement six healthcare projects and an evaluation is underway for implementing several education projects for the refugees.

As famine spreads in Yemen, the World Food Program, Qatar Charity and QFFD, launched an integrated sustained response through provision of lifesaving food assistance. A total of over **250,000 food-insecure people** benefited from this project.



It is the desire of every displaced person to return home. In Yemen, returnee families find it hard to afford rental payments, making it difficult to find suitable shelter. UNHCR, Qatar Charity and QFFD signed a tripartite agreement to support rental payments, meeting the needs of over **225,000 beneficiaries**.

## WHEN NATURE ROARS, FRESH THINKING HELPS IN THE RESCUE



As soon as a natural disaster strikes, people and organizations are quick to respond, by providing resources for immediate relief. Once these initial responses reach a natural conclusion, the question remains: what next?

Thinking from the community's perspective

leads to different results. The focus shifts to empowering the affected population to rebuild their lives, livelihoods and communities. While QFFD contributes extensively towards providing immediate relief, the Fund's efforts also focus on rebuilding communities to restore the livelihoods of people.



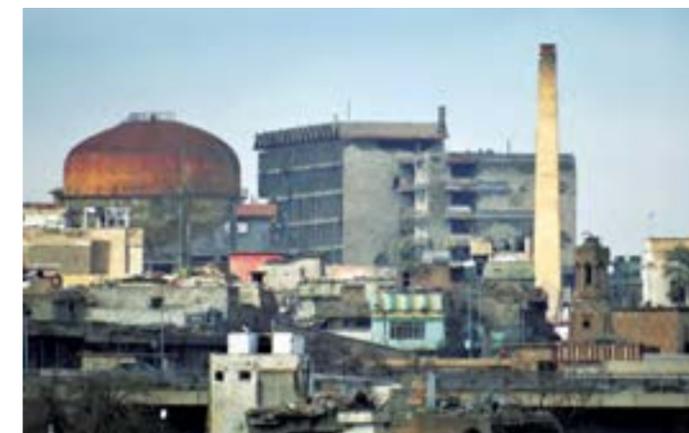
*QFFD supported the Government of the Bahamas on several rehabilitation projects after Hurricane Dorian*



*A tornado hit Cuba in January 2019, with wind speeds that reached 300 kmph. Landslides destroyed several homes and many schools and healthcare facilities were damaged. QFFD extended funding for rehabilitation under Qatar-Cuba government-to-government support*



One of the worst tropical cyclones on record, Cyclone Idai struck Africa in March 2019, leaving a humanitarian crisis in its wake. The cyclone made landfall in Mozambique twice, creating flooding and destroying communities and communications. QFFD provided in-kind assistance through Lekhwiya (Qatar's Internal Security Force), and supported the World Food Program to provide lifesaving food assistance to over 11,000 people in vulnerable communities in the worst-affected areas.



### Resurrecting Mosul

A unique UNHCR project supported by QFFD provided cash for shelter, in a move to encourage homeowners to return to the old city of Mosul, Iraq.

## Comfort in Time of Grief

In March 2019, a gunman opened fire on worshippers at the Al Noor and Lynwood mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand killing 51 people and several others injured. QFFD reached out to support families of the victims through Qatar Charity and the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand.

## Rapid Relief

August 2019 saw heavy rains and flooding across several areas in Sudan, disrupting life, damaging homes and leaving people scrambling to find shelter. Qatar Charity, supported by QFFD, carried out a rapid intervention program to benefit over **256,000 people** in the White Nile and Kassala regions. Mobile health teams were set up, water and sanitation measures implemented, and both food and non-food items were distributed to those affected. QFFD also funded in-kind assistance through Lekhwiya (Qatar's Internal Security Force), whose cargo flights delivered 120 tons of non-food items and health assistance.

## Picking Up the Pieces After Harvey

Hurricane Harvey inflicted billions of dollars in damage in the United States. While instant relief measures helped put people back on their feet, it will take years to rebuild all that was lost in the storm. Qatar established the Qatar Harvey Fund to support relief and construction efforts in the affected areas.

The funding was used to rebuild communities, especially facilities that provide services to people, like community centers. Several Boys and Girls Clubs in Texas were affected by the hurricane, and funds were granted for the restoration of these clubs and for providing program support. The clubs play a vital role in the community, as they empower young people from low-income backgrounds to realize their potential through personal development, sports and recreation programs.

Funds were also disbursed to projects targeted at vulnerable people of society, including a long-term housing plan for up to **135 homeless individuals**, and a hospital project to restore medical care to neighborhoods which faced a shortage of medical services. Between 10,000 and **15,000 patients** are benefited each year from these services.

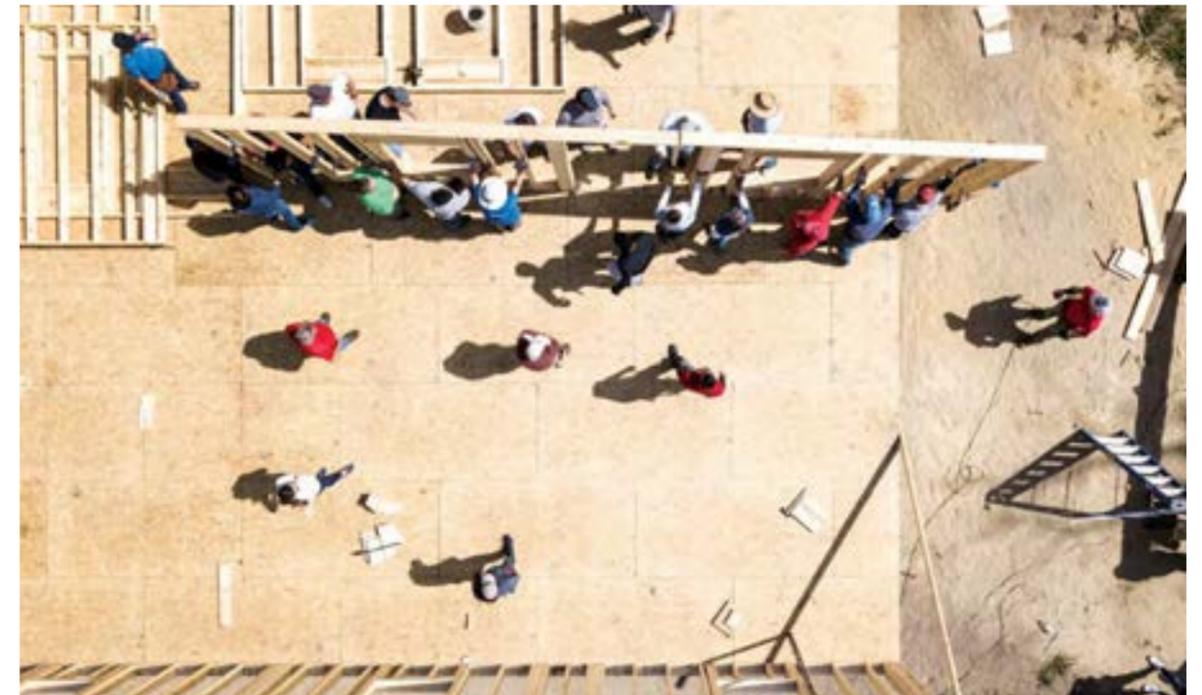
Furthermore, QFFD funded a scholarship program to support students in Texas who were forced to withdraw from universities following the hurricane. The Fund also supported the restoration of a historic church so that it could resume serving over **500 members and the broader community**.

## Arming Veterans with Hope

The Bob Woodruff Foundation and Qatar Harvey Fund partnered to support American veterans who were impacted by Hurricane Harvey. With the Fund's financial support, the foundation works to identify and support organizations that provide services to over **400,000 veterans** and their families in areas affected by Hurricane Harvey.



The Qatar Harvey Fund is supporting the construction of eight new soccer fields in Harris County, Texas. These fields will provide much needed athletic and recreation space for the community and also serve as flood mitigation basins that can safely retain water in the case of future floods.



QFFD partnered with Habitat for Humanity in Texas to rebuild **64 homes** that were damaged during Hurricane Harvey



## SMEs and Economic Empowerment

# EMPOWERING AMBITION, ENABLING GROWTH

**E**conomic empowerment is about enabling marginalized groups to achieve full and productive employment, especially traditionally vulnerable groups (women, youth and refugees). These groups are typically employed by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, which means that empowering such businesses expands economic development. There is also a global need to empower women, who have less access to basic financial products and affordable credit than men, putting them at a disadvantage when starting a business. At a macro-economic level, more efforts are needed in strengthening domestic capital, trade, regulatory and institutional systems, and process reforms that can accelerate private sector-led growth. This will contribute to structural economic stabilization, stimulation, transformation and growth across vital sectors.



## Fresh Hope for a New Generation

The Arab Spring that began in Tunisia reflected the disillusionment among youth in the region. To instill new hope in the young generation, H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the then Amir of Qatar (now the Father Amir), pledged US\$ 97 million to support the economic development of Tunisia.

The goal was to create **100,000 direct and indirect job opportunities** for Tunisian youth

by 2021. QFFD built an ecosystem along with seven partners, to deliver funding and training for micro and small and medium enterprises in the country.

The initiative has so far created more than **36,000 jobs**, and supported around **7,000 small and medium enterprises (SMEs)**. In 2019 alone, over **6,400 beneficiaries** received training, technical support and capacity building workshops.



*A Tunisian entrepreneur in her store, one of the beneficiaries of the QFFD initiative*

## Starting Up in Africa

Today, across Somalia, youth and women benefit from a unique project funded by QFFD, in partnership with Silatech and Kaah Islamic Microfinance Services (KIMS). The project provides loans to ambitious entrepreneurs willing to start their new businesses.

The youth loan portfolio is soon expected to reach **10,000 youth**, providing them with technical assistance and mobilizing loan capital. An impressive total of almost **5,000 jobs** were created in 2019, and more than **3,000 SMEs** were financed.

## Operating FAST in Darfur

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and QFFD are partnering on several Foundational and Short-Term Activities (FAST) projects for the development of Darfur. These projects are grouped under three pillars.

### Pillar 1

#### Governance, Justice and Reconciliation

- Promote reconciliation, coexistence for sustainable peace in Darfur – **126,000 beneficiaries**
- Darfur community-based reintegration and stabilization program – **3,000 former fighter beneficiaries**
- Strengthening land management for peaceful co-existence in Darfur – **527,000 beneficiaries**

### Pillar 2

#### Reconstruction

- Rehabilitation and construction of access roads and crossing points – **260,000 women, 240,000 men, 125,000 internally displaced people (IDP) and 100,000 returnees beneficiaries**
- Construction of public facilities and housing in return sites and urban settings
- Improved access to sustainable water and the use of sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in Darfur
- Upgrading and rehabilitating health facilities and basic health services in return sites
- Promotion of sustainable return and reintegration of IDPs and refugees in Darfur
- Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) and improved access to employment opportunities for out-of-school children and youth
- Darfur Solar Electrification project

### Pillar 3

#### Economic Recovery

- Microfinance for young and poor producers in rural areas in Darfur
- Recovery of livelihoods of vulnerable farming and pastoral communities in Darfur





## Infrastructure, Road Transport, and Buildings

# BUILDING ROADS TO SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Investing in infrastructure, especially in developing countries, has been proven to create employment opportunities and drive long-term economic growth. This infrastructure also enables access to central services that could reduce inequality, foster inclusion and reduce poverty. However, there is still a gap between infrastructure needs and availability of funding. Meeting this gap is a key challenge, especially in Africa and Asia, where infrastructure constraints reduce businesses' productivity by as much as 40%. A notable global trend has been the shift to greener infrastructure, which is more cost-effective and aligned to sustainable development goals.

## Shoring Up Africa's Infrastructure



*The opening of a new road in Somalia*

QFFD is backing several projects in Somalia to build roads, including the 100km Jawhar Mogadishu Road and the 22km Afgoye Mogadishu Road. The Fund is also helping renovating four governmental buildings, including the presidential office building.

In Sudan, QFFD and its partners, Qatar Charity and Qatar Red Crescent, are building 10 model villages. Each village includes a kindergarten, 2 primary schools, 2 secondary schools, a health center, a mosque, a water station, a solar energy plant, 15 houses and a police station. The project will benefit over **800,000 people**, increasing access to education, basic healthcare and potable water.

Investing in a nation's infrastructure is also investing in its people. As everyone in the world gets connected, whether by transport networks or communication networks, economic growth will ensue. Consequently, this raises the quality of life, helping communities achieve sustainable development.



## Educational Facilities, Training, Primary and Secondary Education

### A RIGHT TO LEARN, A DUTY TO EDUCATE

**W**hile education is vital to achieving sustainable development, there remain three key challenges: improving learning outcomes, ensuring education provision in fragile states, emergencies and protracted crises; and tackling inequality in education access and outcomes, especially among children from lower socio-economic groups, ethnolinguistic minorities and girls. The outlook on meeting these challenges is optimistic in the light of encouraging global trends such as the emergence of systems-based approaches to delivering education and the growing importance of non-state education providers.





## THE FIRST-RANKER FROM BALATA

**T**he Balata refugee camp in West Bank was built to house 5,000 Palestinian refugees. Today, 27,000 people are crowded into the same space, making it the largest and most congested refugee camp in West Bank. Tomorrow's Youth Organization (TYO) operates a school under a QFFD-funded agreement to implement programs in education in West Bank among other fields.

The UNRWA was forced to cut back on projects in West Bank due to budgeting reasons. The high unemployment rate in the camp meant that a lot of parents could not afford to educate their children. TYO stepped in to provide free kindergarten to such children, giving them a happy space away from the challenging environment they live in.

*Layan Amireh, 8, is a third-grader from the Balata camp. "I have been coming to TYO since I was 5 years old," says Layan. She is an excellent student and ranked first in her class each year. Her mother says TYO played a huge role in the development of Layan's character, making her more outgoing and social*

**"When I first come from school I study. Then if I have Dabkeh\* training, I go to it and train other girls."**

**- Layan Amireh**

*Third-grader in the TYO school*

*\*Dabkeh is a traditional Palestinian folk dance*



## Sending Children to Class

QFFD has supported and continues to support several projects that are aimed at putting children back in school. In Gaza, the Fund has supported the WAJD program, that aimed at providing care and education to **3,532 orphans** in 2019.

Elsewhere in Palestine, in the West Bank, QFFD has partnered with Tomorrow's Youth Organization (TYO) to implement several programs in education, health and economic empowerment. The project reached **4,555 children, youth and women** in 2019, taking the total number of beneficiaries from the start of the project until 2019 up to **11,500**.



## Learning Does Not End in School

The Fund's support for education goes beyond primary schools, with universities and other institutions in need receiving assistance. For instance, Beirzit University, which dates back to 1924, has around 14,000 graduate and post-graduate students. Since 2013, QFFD has provided scholarships for deserving students in Palestine. In 2019, over **600 students** have benefited from the financial aid.

## Training for Better Healthcare

Enhancing public health education is critical in order to improve healthcare systems. The Carter Center, with funding from QFFD, is implementing the Sudanese Public Health Training Initiative. Over the past 5 years, the project has **trained 2,000 midwives, 10,000 community health workers and 9,000 medical assistants**. Additionally, 24 skill labs were conducted, over 5,000 reference books distributed and thousands of curricula produced. The project also **trained 195 faculty members in effective clinical teaching skills**.

# AN ARTIST AND AN ENTREPRENEUR

The unemployment rate among youth in Palestine is almost 40% among men and 63% among women. Tomorrow's Youth Organization (TYO), is making a difference by training young men and women in employable skills and by empowering young entrepreneurs. Supported by QFFD, TYO has enabled dozens of entrepreneurs, providing them the needed support to establish their small businesses and generate much-needed income.

"God gifted me with the talent of drawing... I want to use art to share issues about women's rights", says Rawshan Malhis, a Palestinian artist and an entrepreneur who participated in the TYO training.

*"Always focus on your goal. Don't listen to anything being said around you. Compare yourself to the future you, the better you, and keep looking at the future."*

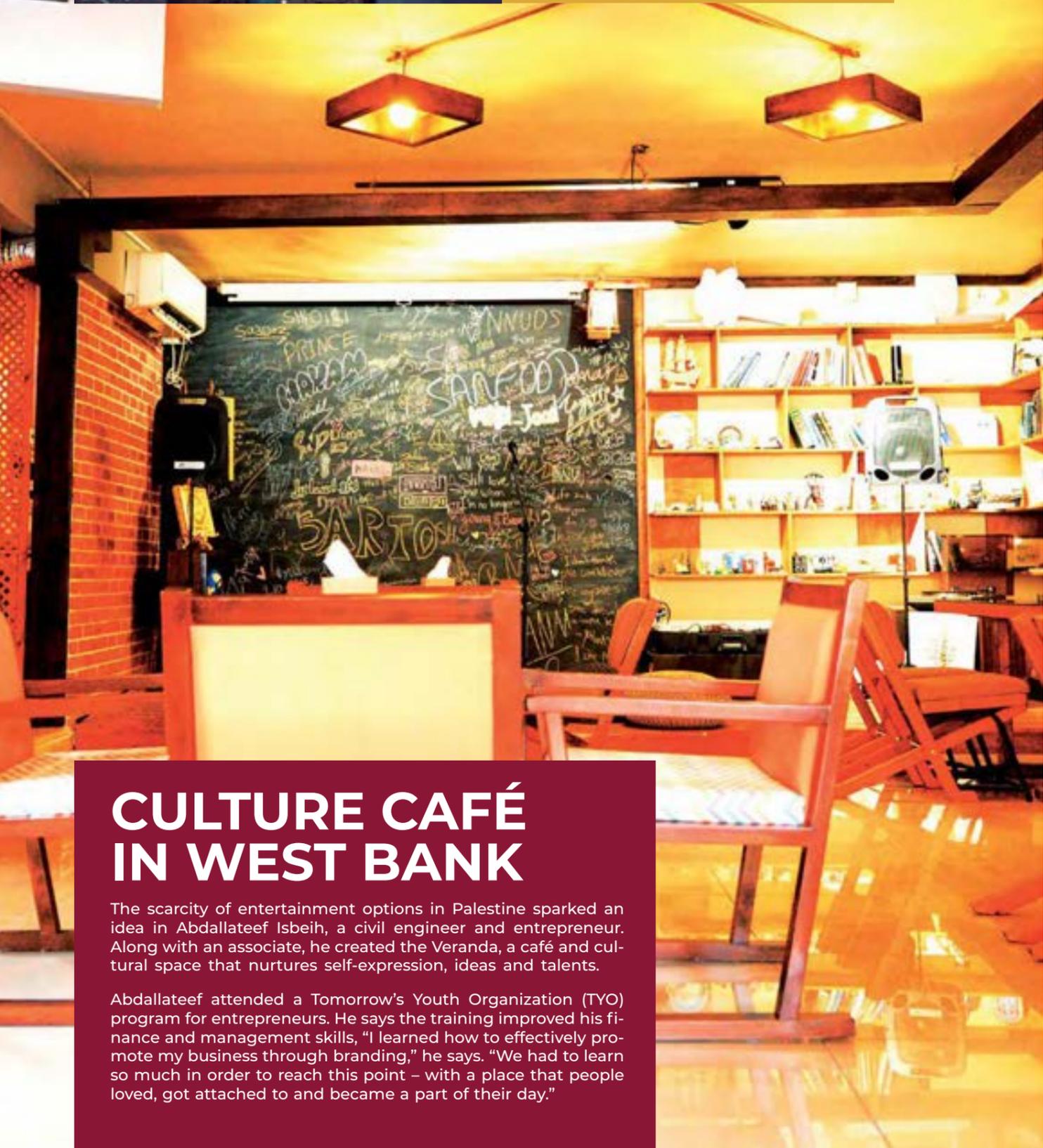
*- Rawshan Malhis  
Artist and entrepreneur from Palestine*





*“The TYO training really changed the way I think, and facilitated creating our business.”*

*- Abdallateef Isbeih  
Co-owner of Veranda*



## CULTURE CAFÉ IN WEST BANK

The scarcity of entertainment options in Palestine sparked an idea in Abdallateef Isbeih, a civil engineer and entrepreneur. Along with an associate, he created the Veranda, a café and cultural space that nurtures self-expression, ideas and talents.

Abdallateef attended a Tomorrow's Youth Organization (TYO) program for entrepreneurs. He says the training improved his finance and management skills, “I learned how to effectively promote my business through branding,” he says. “We had to learn so much in order to reach this point – with a place that people loved, got attached to and became a part of their day.”

# TALA, THE LITTLE TEACHER

Tala Abdel-Rahim, a tenth-grade student at the UNRWA Jabal El-Hussein School in Jordan, is also a teacher.

Her school launched the ‘Little Teacher Initiative’ to raise student scores in the second and third grade. The school also addresses behavioral challenges through the mentorship of older student teachers. Involving 25 ninth and tenth graders to teach their juniors has resulted in increased performance in reading, writing and mathematics.

“Today, I can read and write very well,” said Dana Hussein, a second grader who attends the program, “I want to be a policewoman when I grow up!” Dana happily exclaimed. Amneh Gwanmeh, a school

support teacher, states that more than 70% of students who have taken part in the program have improved both behaviorally and academically.

“When this programme was launched, it was aimed at improving the educational performance of elementary school students” said Tala. “But it turned out that it really helped me to fulfill my dream of becoming a teacher in the future”.

Tala’s school is one of the 169 schools operated by UNRWA across Jordan, providing education to over **118,000 refugee students**. QFFD contributes generously to the UNRWA effort in maintaining core services for refugees, including education, healthcare, relief and social services.



*The Little Teachers and their students at UNRWA Jabal El-Hussien School in Amman, Jordan*



*QFFD is supporting a SPARK project to train Syrian refugees for employment opportunities in local agribusinesses in Turkey*

## Putting the SPARK Back in Their Lives

Turkey has become the largest host nation for Syrian refugees in the region. Most of these refugees are from traditionally rural backgrounds, who made a living by farming and animal rearing. The southern and eastern region of Turkey is rich in fertile soil, so employment opportunities in the agricultural and livestock sector are abundant. However, there was a need to bridge the gap between agribusiness that needed skilled employees and Syrian youth in need of work.

In this scenario, SPARK, a non-governmental Dutch organization, with the support of QFFD, worked with Harran University in the Turkish city of Sanliurfa to launch Short Agronomy Courses. These courses are aimed at young Syrians aged 18-24 years, and take 2 to 9 months to complete. So far, almost **900 Syrian students** have been supported in becoming fully qualified agronomists.

The courses, made possible by Al Fakhoora, QUEST and QFFD, train students in the latest techniques and technology in dairy production, greenhouses, chicken breeding, mushroom production and reproduction of local seeds. Students receive theoretical training at two university campuses, surrounded by rolling brown and green hills where the young people can apply what they have learned.

The objective of SPARK initiating these courses, with the support by QFFD, is to enable beneficiaries to develop entrepreneurship skills, create real job opportunities and stabilize refugee youth as they rebuild their future.



*Ahmed Hasan, a Syrian refugee, received industrial vocational skills training from SPARK. He now sorts wool in a textile factory, where wool is produced into clothing in Gaziantep, Turkey*



*Rad Çuval packaging factory in Gaziantep, Turkey, has offered jobs to graduate Syrians from SPARK's Short Agronomy Courses, which are supported by QFFD*

## Health, Communicable Diseases, and Medical Services

### HEALTH LEADS TO WEALTH

**A** healthy population is crucial to achieving economic growth, social stability and sustainable development. It has been proven that investing in health yields returns that compare favorably with returns from other sectors. The global trend over the past two decades has been to shift focus from tackling specific diseases to a broader approach that strengthens entire health systems. The outcomes have been positive: increased life expectancy, lower child mortality rates and better control of communicable diseases. However, challenges still remain, such as shortages in the healthcare workforce and the rise of new and reemerging infectious diseases, which exert more pressure on health systems, besides causing adverse economic impact.





## Clean Water: No Longer a Pipe-Dream in Yemen

As the rain falls in Dar Saad district of Yemen's Aden, the narrow streets flood rapidly with muddy water from sewer drains. The open sewage makes life miserable for residents, including Zakaria and his friends, who play barefoot among the muddy terrain, oblivious of the risk, having been used to it for years.

"I have two children," said Mohamed Awad, a 52-year old resi-

dent of Dar Saad, "for years we have all been suffering the consequences of the open sewage. We get infected by cholera and other diseases".

The war-torn country of Yemen is witnessing modern history's largest and fastest-spreading outbreak of cholera – one of the most dreaded infectious waterborne diseases. QFFD partnered with UNICEF to initiate a quick response project which has **trained 250 medical personnel**, who are now treating over **15,000 patients**. Hygiene awareness camps are also being held which have, to date, reached out to more than **210,000 people**.

Yemen is not the only country to experience the damage of cholera. Half-way across the world, Haiti, the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF) and QFFD signed an agreement to reduce the spread of cholera in Haiti.



A Yemeni girl reads an awareness message during the Cholera Response in Yemen by UNICEF. The project is funded by QFFD and will eventually benefit **500,000 people** in Yemen



Workers install new sanitation pipes in Dar Saad as part of the QFFD-funded UNICEF project for Strengthening Sanitation and Water Systems in Yemen

"In Yemen, QFFD's three-year contribution of up to US\$ 70 million covers 20 governorates. The contribution aims to secure uninterrupted access to safe drinking water through rehabilitation and augmentation of water supply systems and strengthening the capacity of local institutions."

-Ted Chaiban, Regional Director, MENA, UNICEF

## Thinking Long-Term

The long-term solution to problems such as those faced by Yemen lies in improving the water infrastructure. QFFD has contributed to UNICEF's 3-year program to rehabilitate the water distribution and drainage networks in Yemen, along with water supply stations. **Over 8.5 million people** will benefit from these programs, including **4.25 million children** like Zakaria and his friends.



Kayan, 13, uses the power of music to fight cholera in Yemen

## Using Music to Fight Cholera

It was an unforgettable day for Kayan, a 13-year old Yemeni girl living in Aden. The talented musician received a surprise from UNICEF and QFFD – a case containing a brand-new pink guitar. As she picked up the guitar and began playing the chords she knows by heart, she joined a string of musicians in the Artist Forum to receive musical instruments.

The Artist Forum is one of the means that UNICEF uses to raise awareness about hygiene in the fight against cholera in Yemen. The forum trained **25 children and teenagers** to use their talents to promote lifesaving hygiene and sanitation practices in their communities. They take part in live performances

such as concerts, exhibitions and open dramas to engage with the populations in high-risk areas and during immunization campaigns and events.

**Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria**  
 QFFD has pledged **US\$ 50 million** to help save **16 million lives** and help end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis and Malaria by 2030, in addition to help build resilient and sustainable systems for health.

## A Helping Hand in Gaza

In cooperation with the Ministry of Public Health of Qatar, QFFD is operating **His Highness Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani Hospital** in Gaza for a period of 5 years. The hospital provides comprehensive rehabilitation services and complements other medical efforts being made in Gaza. The hospital includes Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Rehabilitation Department, Speech and Swallowing, Audiology and Outpatient Departments. As of December 2019, the hospital served **8,300 patients**.



Photo by St John Eye Hospital

**2 million people** in Gaza are expected to benefit from QFFD funding to rebuild and operate the Saint John Hospital, which provides charitable eye care for Gaza's residents

QFFD partnered with Burkina Faso's national government to set up a Radiotherapy Center in Bogodogo district hospital in Ouagadougou. When operational in 2020, the facility will benefit at least **1,700 patients** in Burkina Faso, eliminating the need to seek treatment abroad



## SEEING FOR THE FIRST TIME



***"I am able to see everything clearly!"***

*- Dai, a 9-year old from Vietnam, beneficiary of an Orbis eye-care service*

If Dai was an ordinary 9-year old, he would be playing with his friends outside or exploring the riverbanks near his home in Vietnam's Hau Giang province. However, Dai was born with cataracts in both eyes and the world around him was just a blur. It was

dangerous for him to walk outside alone, because he could not see vehicles coming toward him. The energetic little boy was forced to spend most of his days inside.

Fortunately, all that changed when Dai received sight-restoring surgery that allowed him to see clearly for the first time in his life. "Dai was not afraid at all of the surgery," his mother proudly said, she is thrilled at her son's transformation. Today, as a result of the life changing surgery, Dai rides his bike every day, his grades at school have improved and he is much happier.

## Qatar Creating Vision



Qatar Creating Vision, an initiative supported by QFFD, signed an US\$ 8 million agreement with Orbis to scale up services to reach more children like Dai. The initiative will now expand to new cities in India and Bangladesh, along with new

countries, which include: Zambia, Ethiopia, Vietnam, and displaced Syrian people in host countries such as Jordan. Qatar Creating Vision provides eye screenings and treatments to millions of children, setting them on their way to a bright future full of opportunities.

*"Since we began our journey with Qatar Creating Vision, we have reached more than **5.9 million children** exceeding our goals. In partnership with Orbis, [we] will continue to provide access to eye-care services and training for doctors, teachers and community workers because there is still a long way to go."*

*-Khalifa bin Jassim Al-Kuwari, Director General of QFFD*



## General Budget Support and Core Funding

### SUSTAINING THE HEART OF DEVELOPMENT

Historically, donors worldwide have been more open to project funding rather than core funding, which is critical in order for NGOs to keep functioning, independent of projects being implemented. However, core funding is a more effective strategy for long-term financial sustainability of an NGO, as it improves project quality and delivery, increases operational efficiency and allows them to respond faster in emergencies. Core funding also has the advantage of encouraging innovation, flexibility and long-term thinking, unlike project funding which is skewed towards short-term, easily measurable results. Governments and UN agencies also benefit from unearmarked budget support, which includes funding to support macroeconomic reforms and sustainable development plans across multiple sectors. Budget support fosters transparency and good governance, helps mobilize domestic revenue and reduces dependency on foreign aid. Core funding and budget support are strategies that increase the effectiveness of development cooperation and help achieve long-term sustainable development goals.

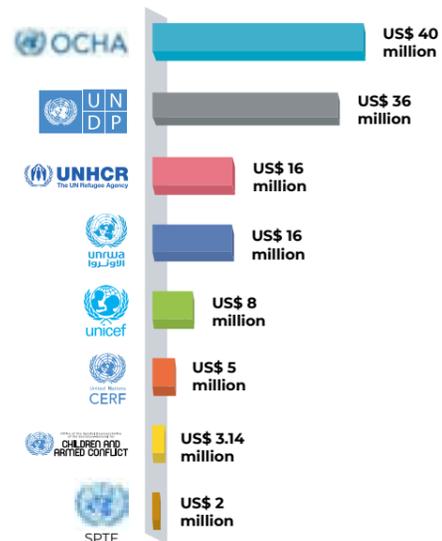
## Augmenting the Means to Succeed

Sustainable Development Goal 17 calls for strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. QFFD is working closely with many multilateral organizations to provide budget support, core funding and resources for implementation where they are most needed.

## QATAR COMMITS US\$ 500 MILLION TO THE UN

Under the guidance of H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of Qatar, QFFD's Chairman H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, announced the support of the State of Qatar in financing UN organizations with a total of US\$ 500 million to strengthen the strategic partnership. Many of the UN developmental initiatives were signed in December 2018.

## Qatar's Pledges to the United Nations



## The Power of Partnerships

### UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

US\$ 40 million – \$10 million annually from 2017 to 2020 – to support the core budget of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). (Qatar ranked eighth as of January 2019 in the list of top donors.)

### United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and UNDP's Country Acceleration Labs Network

US\$ 16 million core resource funding over a 2-year period to UNDP. Qatar became the first country to support UNDP Accelerator Labs as their Launch Partner.

### United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

US\$ 16 million over a 2-year period to UNHCR to help support refugees and displaced persons.

### United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)

US\$ 16 million over a 2-year period to UNRWA to support the basic resources and to strengthen UNRWA's pivotal role to protect the rights of Palestinian refugees and help them obtain basic services.

### UNICEF

US\$ 8 million over a 2-year period to UNICEF to promote the rights and well-being of the children in all fields all around the world.

### United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

US\$ 5 million over a 5-year period (2017-2021) to support rapid humanitarian response for people affected by natural disasters and armed conflict.

### Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (UN SRSG CAAC)

US\$ 1.5 million to support the core resources of the UN centre, and US\$ 1.64 million over a 3-year period to open and finance a centre in Doha for children affected by armed conflict.

### SPTF

US\$ 2 million over a 2-year period to UNDOCO to support the Special Purpose Trust Fund for reinvigorated resident coordinator system.

# ACCELERATED ACTION FOR THE NEXT DECADE

With just a decade remaining to meet the 2030 goals, innovative measures to achieve SDGs are necessary to help those that are behind. The Accelerator Labs are UNDP's new approach of operating in development. With investment from its two core partners, the State of Qatar and the Federal Republic of Germany, UNDP has set up **60 Accelerator Labs serving 78 countries**. These labs work together with national and global partners to discover new approaches that fit the complexity of current development challenges.



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

**“Qatar’s continued investment in UNDP’s core resources and as an early champion of the cutting-edge UNDP Accelerator Labs initiative is delivering much-needed, ground-up solutions that are accelerating progress towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.”**

*- Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*

## On the Road With the Caravan of Innovation

The UNDP Accelerator Lab in the Republic of Congo launched a unique campaign: the 'Caravane de l'Innovation' or Caravan of Innovation, which went on the road to find inspiring and scalable solutions developed by citizens to meet the needs of their communities.

These are 3 out of the 120 innovations that have been discovered so far:

**1. Plant-based electricity:** Vital Vitium, an entrepreneur and self-taught resident from Pointe-Noire, created a portable light solution using chlorophyll and carbon dioxide produced by plant leaves as raw materials. This solution is now serving to meet his family's electricity needs.

**2. Generating energy from household waste:** Destin Biblia, a young university graduate, created a business that collects organic waste from streets and public landfills, crushes and mixes it with water and coal ash or dust, producing bio-coal briquettes that are used for cooking.

**3. Peanut shellers:** Judicaël Mampouya, a mechanic and farmer, created a mobile peanut huller that cuts processing time for farmers, boosts their yields and increases their incomes.



## Understanding the Digital Divide in Ukraine

While Ukraine is known to have some of the best programmers in the world, there is a digital gap between the old and the young in Ukraine – largely due to lack of basic digital skills.

The UNDP Accelerator Lab decided to look at the issue of digital literacy through the eyes of citizens aged over 55. They discovered that the key drivers behind

wanting to improve digital skills was keeping in touch with loved ones and gaining opportunity to earn extra money. An interesting discovery was that grandchildren, not children, are usually the ones who bring the older generation into contact with the latest technology. The participants also offered their own ideas for raising digital literacy. This approach provided valuable insights into emotional experiences, real user needs and yielded a clearer understanding of the issue – beyond demographic statistics and bar-charts.

## Clearing the Fog in Kyiv

In October 2019, residents of Kyiv in Ukraine woke up to an unusual phenomenon – thick fog and an unpleasant smell in the air. The fog lasted several days and caused a great deal of anxiety among residents.

UNDP Ukraine's Accelerator Lab decided to track down the source of the thick fog, visiting various stakeholders in affected areas, to identify possible solutions. They realized that the cause was burning of agricultural waste, which farmers felt was the cheapest and quickest way to clean up after the harvest and prepare the land for the next growing season.

The lab now plans to partner with different stakeholders to design and conduct experiments in various communities to tackle the habit of burning grass and organic household waste. Some of the recommended solutions were to promote a non-burning habit among young people, making them agents of change and encouraging uses of alternative agricultural waste.

## Discovering Viable Alternatives to Plastic Straws

Cambodia generates more than 4.09 million tons of solid waste each year. More than 20% of it is plastic, including single-use plastic straws. All that plastic takes up to 500 years to decompose, and in the meantime, they lie in landfills, clog drains and cause respiratory problems when burned.

UNDP's Accelerator Lab is carrying out an experiment on grass straws, both imported and home-grown Xyris Indica grass straws. The experiment includes studying the grass straw production line, quality, hygiene, cost, working with suppliers and manufacturers, testing the grass straws at cafés, getting real time feedback from users and sharing conclusions with other labs across the globe.

**“The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is driving positive, transformational change in areas of critical importance for people and our planet. UNDP is very proud to partner with Qatar in this ambitious effort.”**

*- Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*

## Creating Pocket Parks in Nepal

In Nepal, UNDP's Accelerator Lab chose to convert barren ground into pocket parks as its first intervention project, consequently creating green breathing spaces that are environmentally sustainable.

The team first brought together different stakeholders, which include community members, government



officials, the private sector and architects. Participants realized that the key to success was for both local government and the community to work together to make the pocket parks a reality.

The city of Kathmandu has over 30 abandoned spaces, of which the Accelerator Lab plans to convert at least 7 into pocket parks in the near future.

## Using Data to Understand Serbian Out-Migration

Serbia is among the world's ten fastest shrinking populations due to low birth rates, high out-migration and low immigration.

Reframing the depopulation challenge is one of the first initiatives of UNDP's Serbia Accelerator Lab. The team is exploring data from the World Bank's LinkedIn Dataset. While the data does not reflect the entire workforce, it is close to real-time and has the unique ability to capture the latest employment and



industry skills. The data and insights are useful for various stakeholders in Serbia who need to understand more about emigration dynamics in decision-making.

## The Challenge of Electronic Waste – the Silent Killer

In many European countries, electronic waste (e-waste) has been banned from landfills because such waste has been proven to have toxic components which are linked to cancer and other health problems. Such safety measures, however, are not practiced in developing countries like Tanzania even though such countries account for the majority of e-waste disposal.

An Accelerator Lab visit to Tanzania's Mwanza landfill revealed that there was no electronic waste in the landfill, which prompted the question about where electronic waste was going. They realized that old electronic devices are most often kept in homes. This implies that a majority of the population is exposed to the negative effects of the toxic components used in these electronic devices.



Fast growing cities such as those in Tanzania are generating large quantities of electronic waste, leading to calls for consistent approaches to counter the issue. The Accelerator Lab is exploring ways to raise awareness on how to manage e-waste, the negative effects of living with e-waste in homes and the possibility of converting this challenge into a business opportunity.

## Crowdsourcing Innovation

While the challenges facing the Palestinian people are many, equally numerous are the attempts to resolve them. Initiatives for improvement have been scattered and exist in silos, leading to duplicated efforts and wasted resources in some cases.

UNDP's Palestinian Accelerator Lab, along with the Prime Minister's Office, launched an online crowdsourcing platform called 'Solve It', which offers an opportunity for citizens to independently present ideas on social innovation that may solve their community's most pressing problems.

## Water Solutions for Palestine

In Gaza, only 10% of the population has access to safe drinking water. Recognizing this challenge, UNDP's Palestinian Accelerator Lab set about searching for new and innovative ways to improve equitable access to quality water.

Together with the Palestinian Water Authority, the Lab launched a new water challenge, asking for innovations that proved to be efficient and effective in confined labs or geographical areas. The 'Ready to Go' Water Solutions Challenge generated responses with diverse ideas, some with promising potential. Two solutions were chosen for community testing.



## Seaweed: Weaving a Global Web of Collaboration

The networked structure of UNDP's Accelerator Labs allows for new and diverse approaches to solving challenges. As a result, the labs are able to unlock insights in real-time amongst each other and create cycles of continuous sharing and learning. A case in point is the potential role of seaweed and other aquatic plants in sustainable development.

Several of UNDP's Accelerator Labs are studying the impact of seaweed on livelihoods around the world. In Namibia, a local solution, NamKelp, is repurposing seaweed from the country's vast coast lines into a highly nutritious, low-cost poultry feed. While UNDP's Accelerator Lab in South Africa is attempting to unearth indigenous knowledge regarding the use of seaweed. So is UNDP's Pacific-Fiji Lab,

in its work to find scalable solutions to climate security and ways to prevent coastal erosion.

In the Caribbean, UNDP's Accelerator Lab is testing the possibility of using sargassum seaweed as a biodegradable alternative to single-use plastic. While UNDP's Mexico Lab is working on promoting innovative homegrown solutions and initiatives that approach seaweed from the female perspective.

Aquatic plants are just one such "cluster" micro-issue that the UNDP's Accelerator Labs are teaming up to tackle. By creating the space for people to explore, create and learn together, UNDP's Accelerator Labs are exhibiting how people from different countries can work together to tackle development challenges at scale.



Fax: +974 4036 0316  
E-mail: [info@qatarfund.org.qa](mailto:info@qatarfund.org.qa)  
[www.qatarfund.org.qa](http://www.qatarfund.org.qa)

