

GIVE **HOPE** AND **PROMOTE PEACE AND JUSTICE**
THROUGH **SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT**





“The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us that we live on the same planet, and that multilateral cooperation is the only way to address the challenges of epidemics, climate and the environment in general, and it’s also preferable to remember this when dealing with the issues of poverty, war and peace, and realizing our common goals for security and stability.”

His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani
Amir of the State of Qatar, 75th Session of the United Nations
General Assembly, 2020



“Realizing the importance of international cooperation in addressing the pandemic, we have supported the efforts of the international community and provided necessary assistance to more than seventy countries and international organizations. We will continue to support international efforts to accelerate the development of a necessary vaccine and make it affordable in a fair way to the neediest countries.”

His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani
Amir of the State of Qatar, Speech at the Opening of the 49th Advisory
Council Session, 2020

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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



As we come to the end of an eventful year, we contemplate with heavy emotions on the suffering of millions of people from the COVID19 virus, and the families who have endured the loss of a beloved member. But we also reflect on this unprecedented challenge with a lot of hope that this situation will soon end with the breakthrough achievement of effective vaccination against this virus. Perhaps the most important lesson that this pandemic has engraved in our collective consciousness is that humanity is stronger together, and that there is no substitute to collective action while facing global challenges at scale.

The State of Qatar strongly believes in international cooperation, and through the Qatar Fund for Development, Qatar has already supported many countries, and international organizations, in their efforts to respond to, and contain, the deadly spread of the pandemic. Over US\$ 140 million were provided to national and international healthcare institutions with the objective of strengthening their capabilities to develop a vaccine, and to ensure equitable access to it, especially in the least developed countries.

But COVID-19 was not the only issue at hand. One of the past year's catastrophic tragedies was the horrifying explosion in Beirut's port. The devastating explosion, that took away hundreds of lives, left thousand injured and inflicted severe destruction of property and public spaces, only served to exacerbate an already trembling political, economic, and financial situation in Lebanon. The State of Qatar was among the first countries to respond with immediate humanitarian support, setting up several field hospitals to treat the injured, and to extend healthcare to surrounding affected

populations. In addition, QFFD and civil society organizations in Qatar have mobilized development aid for reconstructing schools, hospital, and damaged residential units. Side by side with the international community, support was marshalled to restore affected areas and bring it back to normalcy.

Climate change had its share of our attention too. Widespread wildfires, severe hurricanes, floods, landslides and drought had spared no country – both developed and developing. Juxtaposed with COVID-19, millions of people have lost their habitat, jobs, and other means to bring bread to the table.

That's why, and under the guidance of H.H. The Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Qatar Fund has mobilized support to tackle climate change and promote green growth, especially in least developed countries and Small Island States. Along with our strategic partners, QFFD is committed to helping these nations in establishing resilient strategies and implement programs to cope with extreme weather events as well as rising ocean levels.

All these adversities have not slowed or stopped ongoing deadly conflicts in different parts of the world. Disregard to international law and non-compliance with human rights protocols, have continued to be a rising trend, particularly against vulnerable populations, unarmed civilians, and journalists. In poorer regions and states, this has resulted in deepening the poverty gap, and forcing millions to migrate to new countries with the hope of a better future. Others have decided to take the streets to make their voices heard. This is a serious ongoing issue, and if left unchecked, will soon spread like wildfire across borders. To this end, the plight of refugees, especially in the Middle East region, continues to heavily weigh on both the refugees and their host communities. That is why the State of Qatar continues to spare no effort to address this priority area through its programmatic interventions in health, education, and economic empowerment with local and multilateral partners.

Fully cognizant of the magnitude and complexity of the aforementioned global issues, we believe that there are no viable alternatives or substitutes to international cooperation and joint action. Addressing the ever-growing challenges of human displacement as well as epidemics, poverty, and environmental degradation need our collective and coordinated action. And with that at hand, I would like to express our gratitude to all our strategic partners, other international donors, the humanitarian and development community, and to QFFD's employees for their continuous perseverance and enthusiasm in bringing hope and change to the world.

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

H.E. Khalifa bin Jassim Al-Kuwari

Director General of QFFD



The year 2020 was by far one of the most challenging for human development. While this year marks the 5th anniversary of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, decades of development were derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Even as the world reeled under the effect of the virus, the global health systems and aid and development workers were on the forefront of the fight against its spread, particularly in countries that have chronic vulnerabilities and limited capacities and resources.

For us at QFFD, it was truly an exceptional year. The response to the pandemic did not only stretch our resources, it also put pressure on our institutional setup, operations and systems. But with the challenge also came opportunities. At QFFD, we set our minds to try new approaches, to learn to be lean, nimble, and efficient in our delivery model. It was time for us to bring onboard institutional changes and technology to help us weather through the journey smoothly.

Programmatically, we continued to honor our commitments and to provide the needed resources to implement our strategic projects. Unsurprisingly, spending on relief and humanitarian projects surged. Urgent medical relief in response to the COVID-19 pandemic spread was delivered to around 30 countries in close coordination and support from our national strategic partners. In this context, the Fund supported highly affected countries and regions to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, especially in hunger eradication and unemployment.

In parallel, the support to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has not faltered. Stemming from a firm belief in the long-term development impact of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Fund bolstered its commitment to multilateral platforms that delivered

humanitarian and development support around the world. Our un-earmarked core funding gave crucial support to multiple UN organizations which helped them organize and intensify rapid humanitarian response to the most vulnerable people in fragile countries and dire contexts.

But needless to say, it remains a matter of concern that while the pandemic triggered an increase in the volume of support needed by countries, the availability of adequate support from international donors should not be taken for granted. Particularly that the number of crises and growing humanitarian and development needs are increasing. To this effect, and in the recent release of the Global Humanitarian Overview 2021, it was pointed out that despite the generosity of donors, the financing gap continues to grow, with an expected 160 million people to attend to in 2021, at the global cost of US\$ 35 billion.

To this end, and as solutions to overcome the pandemic become available, countries will need to shift their focus towards addressing the collateral issues, especially in assisting the most vulnerable, while enhancing economic activity and employment. In close collaboration with our strategic local and global partners, the Fund continues to fine-tune its operating model and practices to extend more effective and impactful aid to communities and countries around the world.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to highlight that the achievements of the Fund are a tribute to the dedication and efforts of its team. I would like to end by thanking each member of the team, our Board of Directors, and our strategic partners, for the abundant support, commitment, and tireless efforts that made 2020 such a momentous year. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of millions of people around the world.



BUILDING BACK BETTER, COMING BACK STRONGER

Executive Summary

The year 2020 will be remembered in human history as the year of the pandemic. The risks and consequences of COVID-19 tested our ability to stay united and stretched to the limits the humanitarian and development systems put in place over the years. Many development activities were delayed due to the pandemic, causing unimaginable stress to the people they should have benefitted. To add to the world's trials, the year saw its fair share of natural disasters, armed conflict, and the resultant human suffering and displacement.

The unprecedented challenges of the pandemic have illuminated the fact that the world is ill prepared to handle disease outbreaks at such a large scale. The events of the past year have also tested the strength of shared human values, especially at a time when empathy and solidarity should have been at their strongest. The evidence from 2020 indicates that the world's humanitarian and development mechanisms are in urgent need of scaling up and enhancement to save lives and achieve enduring, sustainable development. This is feasible only if there is support, funding and unity of action among donor countries that are committed to effective and collective action.

The State of Qatar, through Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), has been on the front lines of the efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. The humanitarian aid delivered through QFFD was over 247 tons, which included medical supplies and equipment, and personal protective equipment. Six field hospitals were transported and set up from Qatar to Italy and Lebanon.

As humanitarian needs kept increasing around the year, Qatar Fund stepped up emergency response measures in collaboration with multiple institutional partners. From winterization support for refugees and displaced persons, providing basic healthcare in areas that most need it, to feeding famine-affected children, QFFD supported several humanitarian projects in the last year.

The Fund also supported relief efforts in earthquake-affected Albania and typhoon-troubled Philippines and blast-hit Lebanon. Life-saving interventions included support to Palestinian residents and Syrian refugees. QFFD also contributed to rapid response and coordination mechanisms such as the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the World Food Program (WFP), and the UN Office of Coordination Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Beyond emergency response and humanitarian aid efforts, QFFD focused on assisting countries in strengthening institutional capacity in the health, education, and economic sectors to build resilience, enhance systemic preparedness for calamities, and promote overall sustainable development. All these efforts are in harmony with the UN Sustainable Development Goals agenda for 2030.

In the health sector, the Qatar Fund continued to support the Global Fund in the fight against Aids, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. Partnerships with UNICEF are helping fight famine in Yemen and provide drinking water for returning families in Iraq. QFFD is also supporting the WHO in eliminating neglected tropical diseases in Africa, and the UNHCR in providing basic health services to refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Palestine, Bangladesh, and Malaysia. Other interventions include the establishment of a kidney treatment center in Ethiopia and the continuing support for the Qatar Creating Vision initiative in partnership with Orbis.

With economic development severely affected by the pandemic, QFFD supported several projects aimed at strengthening entrepreneurs as well as small and medium enterprises, in an effort to create more jobs and boost local economies. Continued funding for infrastructure development was aimed to brighten economic outlooks and employment prospects in their areas, while sustainable job-creation initiatives focused on enhancing economic resilience among refugees in their host countries. In the field



of education, QFFD supported increased access to learning for out-of-school children in Bangladesh, Somalia, Mali, and Sudan. The Fund also helped distribute millions of textbooks to students in Syria, reconstruct educational institutions in Lebanon after the blast, and provided support to children in Syrian refugee camps in Turkey.

Climate action has become critical more than ever and many developing countries need urgent support in planning for its consequences. In partnership with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), QFFD has launched several projects to support climate resilience and sustainable development in 13 highly climate-vulnerable Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). QFFD has also contributed funding to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) to channel climate and environmental finance to 8 million vulnerable smallholder farmers in 43 countries.

The Qatar Fund has always stressed the importance of strengthening the multilateral system and bolster global partnerships for sustainable development. In 2020, QFFD made several new commitments to provide core funding to multilateral institutions and UN agencies. Further, in order to enhance the effectiveness from these funding

commitments, QFFD joined several thematic networks and communities of practice including that of OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

There remains less than a decade left to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and the pandemic has jeopardized the progress made by several countries. In this context, QFFD continued its support to UNDP's Accelerator Labs to ensure that the SDGs are achieved on time, and all countries are able to accomplish their goals in this global mission.

The total funding committed by QFFD during 2020 was US\$ 533.1 million, with the funds assigned through several development and humanitarian partners, including multilateral United Nations agencies, bilateral partners, and civil society organizations.

As you go through this year's report, you will read stories of human beings who find solace, relief, assistance, and empowerment through the efforts of QFFD and its strategic partners. These stories of hope come from refugee camps, conflict zones, and disaster struck areas. Each story inspires us at QFFD to further our action, in our collective journey towards a better, more sustainable world where people can experience peace, hope, and justice for all.

DISBURSED IN 2020



Education
\$121,364,059



Budget Support
\$84,266,118



Infrastructure
\$12,089,029

GRAND TOTAL US\$ 533,106,323



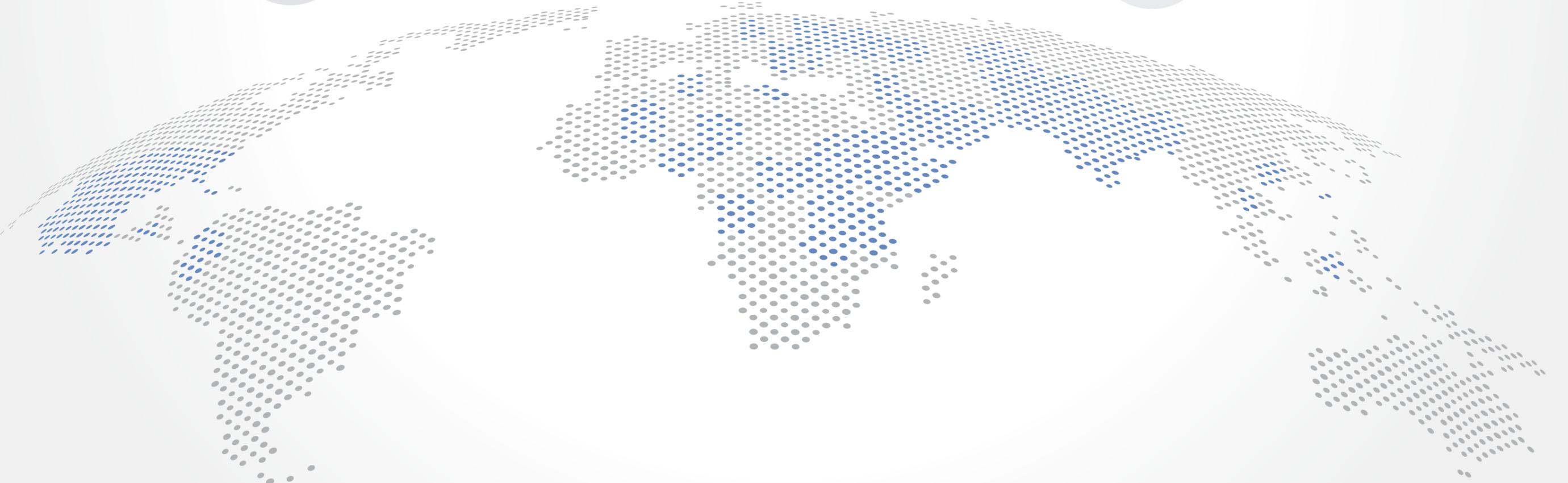
Economic Development
\$29,125,618



Healthcare
\$101,828,459



Humanitarian Efforts
\$184,433,040



EDUCATION TRANSFORMS LIVES

Education, Facilities, Training, Primary, and Secondary Education



Ending the global education crisis is the aim of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4), a goal that is essential to the achievement of the other 16 SDGs. There are about 260 million children around the world who are not enrolled in school, a number that is rising due to adverse influences on education, which include climate change effects and disruptions caused by COVID-19. UNESCO reports that school closures have affected over 90% of the world's student population — 1.6 billion children and youth. Nearly 369 million children who rely on school meals need to find other sources for their daily nutrition.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has far-reaching consequences that may jeopardize hard-won gains made in improving global education. Today, there is an urgent need to implement contingency plans to ensure learning continuity. The innovations in delivery of education through digital platforms has opened new channels for more out-of-school children to resume learning. Considering the critical importance of education in enabling upward socio-economic mobility, a more determined effort needs to be made in enhancing inclusion, access, quality, and empowerment in the global education sector.



"Children and youth have had their education interrupted because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, we at QFFD will aim to ensure that everyone comes back better, stronger and has access to quality education."

Dana Al-Misnad
Development Projects Department, QFFD

IN THE MIDDLE OF DESPAIR, A RAY OF HOPE



A Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh

Since 2017, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have fled Myanmar due to ethnic cleansing by the military. Braving flooded rivers and treacherous terrain, most of them crossed into Bangladesh. These refugees are allowed to live in camps, but their children have no access to formal education. Together with Education Above All Foundation, QFFD is providing non-formal primary level education to these forcibly displaced children. This US\$ 1.5 million project is targeting **35,000 out-of-school children** and is expected to achieve the target by April 2021.

The project is implemented through **442 learning centers in 26 refugee camps**, with **42 centers** being built and established in 2020. Half the children enrolled are girls, and they are taught by 84 teachers who are trained in basic pedagogy, psychological and psychosocial support, and basic life skills on health and hygiene. During the pandemic, teachers and parents were sensitized to viral infection methods, symptoms, and measures to prevent the spread of infections.



Audrey Azoulay
Director-General of UNESCO

“UNESCO’s work for education and culture in post-conflict areas would not be possible without the support of committed countries like Qatar. As a major partner of Education Above All, a donor to the UNESCO Emergency Heritage Fund, and a key player in the establishment of the UN International Day to Protect Education from Attack, Qatar is committed to helping communities affected by conflicts and disasters. By financing emergency preparedness and response initiatives in the area of culture and education, the Qatar Fund for Development’s support makes reconstruction a reality.”

RESTORING DIGNITY TO THE LIVES OF REFUGEES



Panoramic view of Kocaeli in Turkey

The Syrian crisis has led to the displacement of millions of refugees, of whom more than 3.5 million now live in Turkey. Recognizing their desperate need for social and mental health services, QFFD supported the opening of a community center in Kocaeli, to benefit around **14,000 people**. The project, part of the Qatar Upholding Education for Syrians’ Trust (QUEST) initiative, is implemented by Qatar Charity in partnership with the Turkish Red Crescent.

The community center provides a host of services to refugees in education, health, handicrafts, and economic empowerment projects to preserve human dignity. For young people and children aged 4 to 18, the center delivers legal, medical and educational referral services, vocational training, joint courses, and various health services. The center also offers voluntary activities to encourage the participation of both Syrian and host communities in the activities of the community center, and to provide community awareness and cultural and social activities.

ANSWERING THE NEED FOR TEXTBOOKS

Another project in Qatar Fund’s QUEST initiative focused on printing and distributing school textbooks in northern Syria. One of the major challenges facing the country’s education sector is the lack of textbooks, which negatively affected the learning process and led to a lack of compliance with the curriculum. Aiming to improve the education infrastructure and create an appropriate environment to promote the return of children to schools, QFFD supported Qatar Charity in printing more than **9 million textbooks to benefit over 1 million students** by the end of the 2019-2020 academic year.

The project was implemented in coordination with all educational bodies and institutions in Syria, including OCHA and the United Nations Education Cluster for Syria. The textbooks were distributed free of charge to all students in northern Syria. The project resulted in an increase in school enrollment as well as improvement in teachers’ academic performance.



QFFD funded Qatar Charity in printing and distributing over 9 million textbooks to students in Syria

Photo: Qatar Charity



Students at a school run by Tomorrow's Youth Organization

REVIVING EDUCATION IN LEBANON

In collaboration with Education Above All and UNESCO, QFFD signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education in Lebanon to rehabilitate and **reconstruct 55 schools, 20 TVET institutions, and 3 universities** affected by the Beirut port explosion. QFFD has signed a MOU worth US\$ 9.8 million to restore the 41 buildings.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION IN PALESTINE

Qatar Fund continues to support projects in Gaza and the West Bank aimed at keeping children in school and increasing opportunities in higher education.

TOMORROW'S YOUTH ORGANIZATION

Since 2017, QFFD has been supporting Tomorrow's Youth Organization in implementing several programs in education, health, and economic empowerment in the West Bank. **The project addresses the needs of 11,500 children, youth, and women in Palestine.**

WAJD PROGRAM

QFFD supports the WAJD program in providing orphans with comprehensive care in education and health. **A total of 2,114 orphans in Gaza have benefited in the past year.**

INSTITUTE OF PALESTINE STUDIES

Since 2016, QFFD has supported the Institute of Palestine Studies in expanding its programs and publications. The institute plays an important role in documenting the Arab-Zionist conflict and raising public awareness regarding the Palestinian issue. In October, QFFD signed an agreement to rehabilitate the institute's building in Beirut.

BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1924, Birzeit University is home to around 14,000 students in nine faculties. QFFD has been providing scholarships for deserving students since 2013, with **920 beneficiaries in the past year.** An additional US\$ 2.5 million in funding has been earmarked for enhancing the university's infrastructure.

TEN VILLAGES IN DARFUR



A view of a QFFD-funded project under construction in Darfur

A complex of 10 villages in Darfur, Sudan is being upgraded to provide better education, water, health, cultural, and recreational facilities to residents. A contribution of US\$ 35.4 million from QFFD is helping Qatar Charity and Qatar Red Crescent implement the project, which will **improve the lives of 800,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries.** Among other infrastructure, each village will have 2 primary schools, 2 secondary schools, a kindergarten, and a health center.

HELPING CHILDREN GET TO SCHOOL IN SOMALIA...

Thousands of children in different regions of Somalia are out of school due to instability, displacement, social exclusion, and poverty. To give these children a chance at getting an education, QFFD in collaboration with Education Above All launched a project with Somalia's Ministry of Education to **educate 57,600 out-of-school children.** Half the project funding of US\$ 14 million is contributed by QFFD.

...MALI...

Qatar Fund is supporting the Ministry of National Education of Mali with a program to provide access to education for all children in the country. The project, Access to Education for All Children in Mali program (PACETEM), covers all of Mali's 18 education regions, including those in conflict zones. The program strategy is to increase access to school by implementing innovative strategies to provide education. The overall aim is to ensure that **596,597 out-of-school children** in Mali have access to quality primary school education.

...AND SUDAN

In order to help reduce the increasing number of out-of-school children in Sudan, QFFD signed a memorandum of understanding with the country's Ministry of Education and Education Above All to implement a project to **put 50,000 children back in the education system.**

SUHIRA REBUILDS HER HERITAGE

"I remember how my house used to be. I need to bring it back. Despite the crisis, it is filled with memories that I will never forget." – Suhira



The breathtaking tower houses in Al-Qassimi used to be one of the most admired aspects of the Old City of Sana'a in Yemen. This UNESCO-designated world heritage site suffered extensive damage during the Yemeni conflict, with several of the tower houses destroyed. The picturesque tower houses of Sana'a are the most complex structures in Yemen's highland, in terms of variety, décor, and building techniques, reflecting various historical influences.

One of these houses belonged to Suhira, a widowed teacher and mother of two, who was forced to leave the 100-year-old home she inherited from her mother. She moved into a small apartment to shelter her two children but found it very difficult to meet their daily needs. All the while, she kept trying to find a way to rebuild her ruined house.

Finally, in February 2017, Suhira decided to start rebuilding the house herself. She used up all her savings and sold her gold jewelry to begin the work. Family members and friends loaned her small amounts of money. Sadly, the work could not progress beyond the first floor, due to the accumulation of debt and exhaustion of funds. It seemed to be the end for Suhira.

Fortunately for Suhira, UNESCO's Heritage Emergency Fund for Al-Qassimi, implemented in partnership with local organizations, selected her house for urgent repairs and restoration. "I was surprised and cried," says Suhira. "And I felt that God heard my calls and released my family from our sacrifice." The emergency intervention allowed for urgent stabilization of the tower house, which was essential to ensure the historical building's integrity. Additional works were carried out under a cash-for-work project that allowed local youth to earn daily incomes from their work in the rehabilitation efforts.



Suhira's 100-year-old home

THE VIRTUAL WORLD IS HER NEW DOMAIN

Haneen is a young, visually impaired woman who lives with her family of eight in one of the most densely populated camps in Gaza. She graduated from high school with honors and now studies English Literature at the Islamic University in Gaza.

"I wanted to follow my passion and beat the stereotype of the visually impaired studying Arabic, Islamic Studies or History in Gaza," Haneen explained. "I had a dream to work in academia and serve my community, particularly youth, while working on development interventions. I wanted to go into a challenging field where I can show my skills. For me, the English language is the window where I can see the external world, get to know more about other cultures, societies, and people with different perspectives. I still dream of pursuing my master's and PhD as soon as I complete my university studies."

In 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic spread around Gaza, universities had to shut their doors. As the university shifted to e-learning, Haneen realized she needed to rely more on her computer. She received special support in learning computer skills and is now reading study materials using NVDA – NonVisual Desktop Access software.

Haneen is a beneficiary of Al Fakhora, a program designed to offer talented young students in Gaza with learning opportunities that meet today's global market challenges with quality and innovative education. Al Fakhora targets more than 1,000 youth and their families and is run by Education Above All (the project is part of the UNDP Accelerator Labs initiative funded by the State of Qatar and the Federal Republic of Germany). After receiving support from Al Fakhora, Haneen said she felt that she had an equal opportunity to succeed in life.

In her desire to give back to the community, Haneen volunteered with "Global Shapers", a network of young people driving dialogue, action, and change. She joined efforts to develop a social media campaign to make people aware of the risks of COVID-19 and how to protect themselves.



"E-learning is an opportunity rather than a challenge. As a visually impaired person, I have started to move away from Braille language and use new digital tools such as NVDA (NonVisual Desktop Access software), which is now my eyes to the world of knowledge," says Haneen Sabbah, a 22-year-old from Gaza

Photo by Ahmad Mashharawi for UNDP/PAPP

ONE HUMANITY, ONE PLANET

Mitigating the Effects
of Climate Change

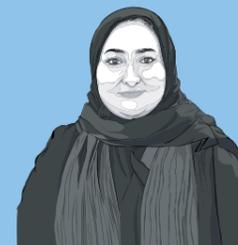


Today, there is an increased sense of urgency to combat climate change. Millions around the world are suffering due to the catastrophic impact of calamities exacerbated by climate change.

Climate action is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations. It aims to help developing countries adapt to climate change and invest in low-carbon development. Beyond aiding economic growth, climate action will also help eradicate extreme poverty. According to the World Bank, climate shocks hit vulnerable areas the hardest, destroying homes, medical facilities, and other essential services. Many people living in rural areas do not easily recover from floods or droughts as it destroys their main sources of living.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) climate change and health are closely linked. Due to extreme weather trends and rising sea levels, many vulnerable countries have been exposed to changing infectious diseases patterns. Climate change also affects the social and environmental aspects of health such as clean drinking water, fresh air, and food security. WHO studies estimate that in the next two decades, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year.

Many countries, including Qatar, have taken major steps in combating climate change. During the United Nations Climate Action Summit in 2019, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani pledged US \$100 million to support developing countries and small island states to counter climate change impacts.



"Addressing climate change is a worldwide responsibility in ensuring global sustainable development. Therefore, we at QFFD seek to establish an effective global mechanism for the next 10 years to address the effects of climate change on Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States."

Rwodah Al-Naimi
Planning Department, QFFD

THE COUNTRY THAT IS IN DANGER OF BEING DROWNED

Kiribati, an island nation in the central Pacific Ocean, is expected to be the world's first country to lose all its land territory to climate change. Kiribati is facing the irreversible impact of rising sea levels, increasingly frequent storms, permanent erosion of the shoreline, frequent flooding of freshwater resources by seawater, and reduced food security.

To assist nations like Kiribati in tackling the impact of climate change, His Highness the Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani pledged \$100 million in support for affected countries. In partnership with the Global Green Growth Institute, QFFD is supporting a program in Kiribati to enhance food security by increasing production of locally grown vegetables through a climate smart agriculture support program.



View from the air of South Tarawa, capital of Kiribati

Photo: Government of Kiribati

SUPPORTING NATIONS IN TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

The Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) is an inter-governmental organization dedicated to supporting countries in transforming their economies into a green growth economic model. QFFD and GGGI signed a partnership agreement in 2020 to support climate resilience and sustainable development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

QFFD and GGGI will collaborate on country projects, knowledge-sharing, and advocacy activities. They will also work to strengthen the link between humanitarian assistance and climate action support. The initial projects will cover 14 highly climate-vulnerable member SIDS and LDCs that have been hard-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. These projects will directly contribute to capacity building and resilience of local economies and communities from adverse impacts of climate change while contributing to greenhouse gases (GHG) mitigation.

EASTERN CARIBBEAN GREEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP INITIATIVE

PACIFIC GREEN ENTREPRENEUR NETWORK

Supporting green entrepreneurship, innovation, and employment in 12 Caribbean and Pacific countries with a focus on developing viable SMSEs in locally relevant green industries; Providing business incubation, development support, grant, and no-interest loan financing through a revolving Green Investment Fund.

These two projects, both fully funded by QFFD, will create 2,370 direct jobs within 3 years and a total of 12,260 direct, indirect, and induced jobs within 13 years. They will also support 6 innovation hubs, train 600 entrepreneurs, provide seed capital or loan financing to 174 companies, match 30 companies with funding opportunities, and improve the livelihoods of over **49,000 beneficiaries**.

SOLAR-POWERED IRRIGATION FOR CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE IN THE SENEGAL RIVER VALLEY

Providing income support and improving crop yields as well as incomes for farmers through deployment of Climate Smart Agriculture and solar irrigation programs in Senegal, a LDC bordering Sahel region of Africa.

Majority-funded by QFFD, this project will generate 6,354 direct jobs in 3 years and a total of 12,691 jobs in the long term. The project will provide farmers with 21 grid-powered pumps, train 3,000 of them on CSA, provide cash transfers to 460 people, and reduce operating costs for 5,833 rice farmers. The long-term impact of the project is estimated to improve the lives of **45,000 beneficiaries**.

“GGGI is looking forward to partner with QFFD, Small Island Developing States, and Least Developed Countries to green the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic to create tens of thousands of green jobs, and fight poverty and food insecurity for the most vulnerable people while increasing their resilience to the impacts of climate change.”



Dr. Frank Rijsberman
Director-General of Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)

Initiative for Sustainability, Stability, and Security in Africa

This initiative seeks to create green jobs for vulnerable groups, especially young people, migrants, displaced populations, and individuals targeted by extremist groups. It attempts to strengthen access to land and tenure rights to increase the sense of belonging to a specific community and place, particularly in fragile areas. It also seeks to prevent displacement by improving preparedness and early warning systems for drought and other natural disasters.



NO ONE IS SAFE UNTIL EVERY BODY IS SAFE

Health, Infectious Diseases, and Medical Services



The year 2020 will be remembered as the year when the COVID-19 pandemic transformed from a health crisis into a human and socio-economic crisis. Even as the pandemic has jeopardized progress towards achieving targets on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it emphasizes the urgency and importance of delivering the 2030 SDGs. With an estimated 10% of the world's population already infected by COVID-19, it remains uncertain how the pandemic will develop or what impact it may have, particularly on developing economies.

There are several significant takeaways from the pandemic, firstly, response efforts to crisis must be collective and the most vulnerable people must be protected concurrently. Secondly, while focusing on recovery efforts, it is also necessary to work on mitigating future risks. Thirdly, there is an urgent need to invest in health security measures and emergency preparedness globally. Lastly, there is a continued need for sustainability and cross-sectoral coordination to accelerate the achievement of global health goals.

As the world continues to be subjected to unprecedented changes, it is necessary to keep evidence-based practices updated. Even as emerging issues and early warning signs have been identified, we need to enhance the readiness of public health systems to prepare communities to better respond and recover from health emergencies.



"We at QFFD strive with all our efforts and abilities to improve and develop healthcare systems in developing countries around the world. Blended interventions responding to sudden onset emergencies with a medium- and long-term lens enable us to not just address current crises, but also reduce future needs and the impact of disasters. Health system strengthening and support of country preparedness for crises empowers countries around the world to provide equitable, quality access to healthcare services and the ability to target those most in need."

Yousef Al-Mulla
Humanitarian Aid Department, QFFD

WATER FOR RONAK



“We have water at our school too, now I can study and make my dream to become a doctor when I grow up come true.”

Ronak, 12, Iraq
Photo: UNICEF Iraq

In 2014, Ronak and her family were forced to leave their home in Iraq after they heard that ISIS was getting close to their town. They lived in the mountains overlooking Bartella for one year as they waited for the conflict to end.

When the war ended, the family returned home to a house with no water and walls that were destroyed by gunfire. The only accessible water was about a kilometer away, making it difficult to bathe the children, clean the house or rebuild the damaged walls.

The lack of safe water is common across Northern Iraq where water networks have been damaged or destroyed by the war. UNICEF Iraq, with support from UNICEF Thematic Funds and other funding partners, has been working with Qatar Fund to improve water access for over **400 families** in the Ashoor, Ronak's neighborhood.



“UNICEF and QFFD are joining forces to provide life-saving support and services to children across the globe. Our joint work on water, sanitation and hygiene in Iraq and Yemen is a good example. With the generous support from QFFD we can support more children in need around the world, and reimagine a safer world for children.”

Henrietta Fore
Executive Director, UNICEF



Aisha Umar and Maimunat Isah, both 11, best friends and residents of an IDP camp in Nigeria's Borno state. Maimunat was fortunate to receive timely treatment for FGS, thanks to WHO's ESPEN project, supported by QFFD

SETTING GIRLS FREE FROM SUFFERING

Aisha Umar and Maimunat Isah, both 11 years old, are friends who live in an IDP camp in Nigeria's Borno state. About 6 years ago, both girls lost their fathers to insurgency on the same day, sending them to the camp. Since then, Aisha has lived with Maimunat's family as an adopted child.

“It is in this camp that I first heard of female genital schistosomiasis... we thought it was early menstruation or something normal,” said Maimunat. “It was also in this camp that we first took the medicines to help us out. My mother is a community distributor working with the people who are helping us and that was how we got the medicine for free. I no longer have symptoms and I am grateful.”

Female genital schistosomiasis (FGS) is a neglected tropical disease that causes unbelievable suffering for millions of women and girls in Africa. Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a group of diseases that primarily affect the poorest, most marginalized, and most vulnerable people in the world. The World Health Organization (WHO) established the Expanded Special Project for Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (ESPEN) in a public-private partnership with Member States and NTD partners to mobilize resources to accelerate the elimination of the five most prevalent NTDs. The ESPEN project is supported by QFFD in the hope of providing needed treatments for FGS and other NTDs to help protect **600 million people in Africa.**

“We are grateful to QFFD and other partners for their generous support which will contribute enormously to the global fight against NTDs in our region. The elimination of these diseases will give rise to healthier, happier and more productive people and economies.”



Dr. Matshidiso Moeti
WHO Regional Director for Africa

BRINGING HEALTHCARE TO REFUGEES IN LEBANON

It is almost a decade since vast numbers of Syrian refugees fled to Lebanon. While they would have depleted the little savings they may have had, the restricted access to the labor market means they have little hope of earning money. This makes it extremely difficult for them to access healthcare, especially since they cannot afford private hospitals, which account for a large part of health services in Lebanon.

QFFD supported UNHCR with funding of US\$ 2 million to support access to secondary and tertiary health care for **3,414 Syrian refugees** in Lebanon. The contribution goes towards subsidizing the costs of hospital care for obstetrics and life-saving and emergency interventions. UNHCR provides these services through a network of contracted hospitals which commit to providing services to refugees at rates determined by the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health. Hospital bills are covered under a cost-sharing scheme, with UNHCR covering as much as 75 per cent or US\$ 15,000 of the cost per patient.

...IN JORDAN...

Across the border in Jordan, Zaatari hosts the world's largest camp for Syrian refugees. More than half of the inhabitants are children, with nearly 20% of them under five years of age. About a third of the households are headed by women. While refugees have access to healthcare through UNHCR, those with medical complications prefer to stay in the camp instead of moving to urban areas where they might receive the appropriate care.

UNHCR manages a project, supported by a US\$ 3 million contribution from QFFD, that provides quality access to healthcare services for around **40,000 people across Jordan**. Basic health services are provided free of charge, while those who need advanced care are referred to partner facilities. UNHCR even covers the costs of the expensive referral interventions, like heart surgeries.

...AND IN MALAYSIA

Malaysia also houses thousands of Rohingya refugees, who face a pitiable existence and an uncertain future. To meet the health needs of these people, a purpose-built medical center, Klinik QFFD, was recently opened in Kuala Lumpur. The project, funded by QFFD, is managed by MercyMalaysia with the support of Yayasan Kebajikan Negara. The first-of-its-kind clinic offers outpatient treatment, vaccinations, and health education programs to refugees. QFFD aims to open four other clinics and launch four mobile clinics to serve refugees and migrants.

ENHANCING SYRIA'S HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Northern Syria has many health centers and hospitals, all controlled by different organizations. They lack a unified information system that organizes patient information in a meaningful and easily accessible way. The health directorates in the region, with funding from QFFD and support from WHO, launched the QUEST Health 2020 initiative.

Implemented by Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS), the initiative seeks to enhance systems for the collection, analysis, and management of health information in the region. QRCS offers maintenance of equipment, and technological support through training workshops and courses for the personnel of health directorates. The two-year initiative is estimated to benefit over **4 million locals and displaced people**.

A HEALING TOUCH FOR DISPLACED SYRIANS

The QUEST Health initiative is also implementing a project that operates four primary healthcare centers in northern Syria, benefiting **201,600 people**. These patients, mostly women, children and the elderly, receive free healthcare services in the medical centers.

The project aims to rehabilitate, restore, equip, and support health centers with medical personnel and supplies, provide primary health services, organize health awareness campaigns, and promote public health. As part of the project, ten ambulances have been provided, and three hospitals will also receive support in offering health services to the local population, especially women and children.

A NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR KIDNEY PATIENTS

QFFD signed an US\$ 18 million agreement with the Ethiopian government in March to finance the construction of a Kidney Treatment Center in Addis Ababa. The 6-floor facility will have 77 beds, an intensive care unit, 4 operating rooms, 10 consultation rooms, and 6 hemodialysis stations. When completed, the facility may help save the lives of an estimated **7,000 people**, most of them below the age of 55, who die annually due to chronic kidney disease, exacerbated by poor access to kidney medical care.



Qatar Red Crescent, with funding from QFFD, supplied a range of medical devices to three health centers in the old city of Mosul in Iraq. The project benefited around **12,000 people**.

EASING THE STRESS OF GIVING BIRTH



Giving birth to a baby ought to be a cherished and joyful experience. But it can be a traumatic and fearful time for Syrian refugees in Lebanon due to the difficult economic situation, harsh living conditions, and the effects of the pandemic.

Manal, a 27-year-old Syrian refugee from Idlib, lives in Arsal camp. Her husband is currently unemployed due to the pandemic, adding to the family's stress. Manal was apprehensive about giving birth and her newborn's health. Fortunately, she was a registered beneficiary of the Pregnant Women Care Project funded by QFFD and Qatar Charity in cooperation with UNHCR. The project supports underprivileged Syrian female refugees during pregnancy, providing check-ups, medicines, nutrition supplements, and all childbirth services free of charge.

The project is implemented through several clinics across Lebanon, benefiting around **4,000 women**. The women also receive cash based on their needs, and personal protective equipment for their safety. The unanimous feedback from women is that the project has greatly eased their psychological and economic suffering.

CARING FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES IN COX'S BAZAAR

A field hospital has been operating in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh since 2018, to meet the need for secondary healthcare interventions for Rohingya refugees. With other organizations providing secondary healthcare services, the field hospital has been changed to a primary healthcare complex, focusing on mother and newborn care, as well as dental and ophthalmology services which are greatly needed. A total of **191,992 refugees** have been benefited so far.

PREPARING SUDAN'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM FOR EMERGENCIES

Meanwhile in Africa, multiple health emergencies are straining Sudan's fragile health system. Besides the pandemic, Sudan is also facing the reemergence of polio and epidemic-level malaria. The recent floods, the worst-recorded in history, put millions of people at risk of infectious diseases. An estimated 8.6 million people are in need of lifesaving and life sustaining health activities.

Emergency preparedness in Sudan needs strengthening of existing health system preparedness and response at multiple levels. Sudan's Federal Ministry of Health and WHO are spearheading initiatives in this regard, with the support of Qatar Fund. The immediate aim is to update existing emergency preparedness systems at federal and state levels, build capacity of human resources for emergency response, and implement a pilot project to ensure a robust solution. QFFD has signed a US\$ 1 million agreement to fund the initiative, aimed at benefiting **2,617,650 people**.

Such projects are being implemented in Sennar state, benefiting **2,222,156 beneficiaries**, and in Kassala state, benefiting **2,452,800 people**.



RESTORING VISION, RESTORING HOPE

It can be a devastating experience for someone to lose their eyesight, but often it can be rectified with timely treatment. Sadly, in the Gaza Strip, access to eye care services can be difficult, especially because of travel restrictions and the pandemic lockdowns. Fortunately, the Saint John Eye Hospital in Gaza continues to offer services to residents, restoring their vision, and giving them new hope. QFFD contributed US\$ 4 million to rebuild and operate the hospital. The contribution covers the operation cost for patients, and the services of a consultant ophthalmologist, with over **6,300 patients** benefited to date. Here is one of those stories of vision, and hope, restored at the Saint John Eye Hospital Gaza.

REGAINING MORE THAN EYESIGHT

Fifty-six-year-old Shaban Al Shamaly is a proud father of 4 and a school security guard in the Gaza Strip. He loves watching historical documentaries. Last April, Shaban was taken to Saint John Eye Hospital in Gaza because he was experiencing cloudy vision. He was eventually diagnosed with a cataract which can lead to permanent blindness if left untreated.

Cataract, a leading cause of blindness in Palestine, affected Shaban's work as the sole provider for his family. Although his cataract operation was scheduled in May, he was unable to undergo the surgery, mainly due to the pandemic lockdown.

It was July when Shaban finally underwent a 20-minute procedure to treat his cataract. Now he wears glasses and can move freely around, work, read, write, and most importantly, he can see his children. He is fully recovered now and back at his old job as a school security guard.

KEEPING CHILDREN FROM FALLING SICK

The streets were reeking in Rada'a, an area south east of the Yemeni capital, Sanaa. Walking on the street was a challenge, because of wastewater everywhere. Children were getting sick because of the dirty surroundings, and due to lack of access to clean water.

Realizing that Rada'a needed immediate intervention, UNICEF Yemen, in partnership with QFFD, moved fast to rehabilitate and conduct major extensions to the sewage network in the district, benefiting over **15,000 people**.

Half of Yemen's population does not have access to clean water. The sanitation system in most of the country is on the brink of collapse. There is an urgent need to reduce the level of contamination and control the spread of diseases especially cholera and water-borne diseases that proliferate due to damaged sanitation systems. The work in Rada'a is just a small part of the extensive effort that still needs to be made to protect water systems for Yemen's children.



"Children found it difficult to walk to school and so did adults because the waste water was all over the streets," said Ahmed Al-Ashi, a beneficiary from Radaa' district

CLEANING OUT YEMEN'S WATER INFRASTRUCTURE



Sustainable solutions to water and sanitation problems in Rada'a and other parts of Yemen are best achieved through strengthening the resilience of local institutions and capacity building of local communities. UNICEF is currently implementing a US\$ 142.5 million intervention to enhance sanitation and water infrastructure across 20 governorates of Yemen, focusing on the rehabilitation and upgrade of water supply systems, including the installation of solar-powered pumping systems.

The intervention includes 8 water supply projects to provide access to clean water without interruption, 5 sanitation projects aimed at decreasing the incidence of water related diseases, 4 projects to rehabilitate critical assets, and provide equipment and training for staff. QFFD has signed a US\$ 70 million agreement to fund about half of the project cost. When completed, the 3-phase project will meet the needs of **8.5 million people, including 4.25 million children**.

BETTER HEALTHCARE FOR YEMEN'S MOST VULNERABLE

Besides water and sanitation, the continuing crises in Yemen and the weakened healthcare infrastructure are taking a great toll on vulnerable people, who are experiencing very high levels of morbidity and mortality.

A project implemented by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) seeks to improve access to integrated healthcare services and strengthen access to advanced health services when needed. The project will provide comprehensive primary and secondary health care services in 10 health facilities in various regions of Yemen. The project will also help in providing tertiary health services in Khalifa Referral Hospital in Taiz governorate.

QFFD has signed a US\$ 5 million agreement to support the 30-month project, which is expected to benefit **796,691 vulnerable people**.



QATAR CREATING VISION – ILLUMINATING LIVES

Qatar Creating Vision (QCV), a QFFD initiative implemented by Orbis, delivered vision screenings and treatments to 6.6 million children between 2016 and 2020. The initiative provides easier access to quality eye health services for children across India and Bangladesh, whose vision problems would otherwise stay untreated.

In January 2020, QFFD employees along with some Qatar University students went on a visit to India to observe an Orbis program in action – QCV’s Refractive Error Among Children (REACH) project. The team engaged with the project personnel and gained experience in assisting with eye screenings in schools.

QCV-REACH projects continued despite the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown in India. Plans are underway to extend the QCV initiative, to reach even more children, in the hope of improving their lives with clearer eyesight.



Students at a QCV-REACH school screening



“In only four years since its inception, Qatar Creating Vision has become a lifeline to millions of children across India and Bangladesh.”

Her Royal Highness
The Countess of Wessex
Global Ambassador for the
International Agency for the
Prevention of Blindness
at the World Innovation Summit
for Health 2020

THE LITTLE BOY WHO SAW FOR THE FIRST TIME

Vignesh, a 10-year-old boy, was born with congenital cataract in both eyes. His parents took him to a local hospital as soon as they realized his condition. However, the hospital could not operate on him as he was an infant at the time.

As Vignesh got older he stayed home most of the time. His parents found a special school for him, and he grew used to not seeing the world clearly. One day, Vignesh was detected at an Orbis school screening. A social worker then spoke to his parents and explained how Vignesh’s condition could be corrected through the QFFD-supported REACH project.

After an operation on both his eyes, Vignesh could see, for the very first time in his life. He can now walk on his own and move about independently.



10-year-old Vignesh, shortly after his eyes were operated upon to restore his vision



A doctor operates on a 2-year-old child’s eye

“As phase one of Qatar Creating Vision draws to a close, we are immensely proud of the great success of our partnership with the Qatar Fund for Development and the 6.1 million eye tests and 427,000 spectacles provided to children across India and Bangladesh, with over 24,000 surgeries and 82,000 people trained, in addition to the opening of vital services for the Rohingya refugees and local host community in Cox’s Bazar.

2020 has been a year of unprecedented challenges for us all and we have successfully worked with our Qatar Creating Vision partners to continue services where possible, to keep in touch with isolated patients via telemedicine, and to re-establish services as we emerged from lockdowns.

We look forward to phase two of Qatar Creating Vision working with the Qatar Fund For Development, expanding into more countries and treating many more people, in the sure knowledge of the philanthropic achievements which can be accomplished through our continued partnership.”

Robert Walters,
Chairman, Orbis in the Middle East



QFFD'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19



A RAPID RESPONSE TO A GROWING CRISIS

The COVID-19 pandemic created an unprecedented global health crisis causing devastating ripple effects, with significant disruptions to communities, health systems, industries, and economies. The State of Qatar was one of the first to respond to the crisis, through joint efforts between government institutions, NGOs, and multilateral organizations. Medical and financial aid was provided to around 30 countries around the world in an effort to control the spread and effects of the pandemic. Delivery of the aid was achieved through the Qatar Fund for Development, the Amiri Air Force, Qatar Charity and Qatar Red Crescent. The total aid delivered through QFFD has exceeded 247 tons of medical supplies and equipment, in addition to food and personal protection gear.

OVERALL STATUS:



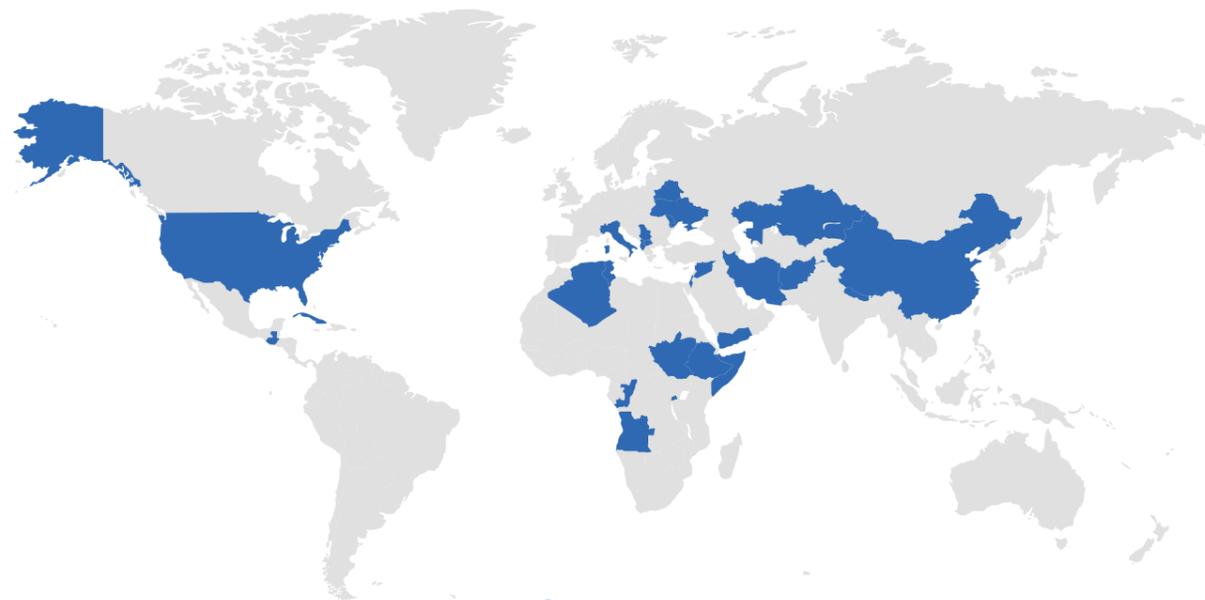
28
Countries
(GOV. and NGO)



247.85
Tons of medical aid
(GOV.)



6
Field Hospitals
(GOV.)



● Financial and Medical aid to around 28 countries around the world

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Afghanistan | Ethiopia | Serbia |
| Albania | Iran | Somalia |
| Algeria | Italy | South Sudan |
| Angola | Kazakhstan | Syria |
| Belarus | Lebanon | Tunisia |
| Bosnia | Macedonia | Ukraine |
| China | Moldova | USA |
| Cuba | Nepal | Yemen |
| DR Congo | Palestine | |
| El Salvador | Rwanda | |

PARTNERSHIPS

QFFD initiated pandemic-response efforts in collaboration with several international development partners. Risk mitigation measures were incorporated into the implementation of all the projects considering the risk of the spread of COVID-19.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS



Palestinian Health

The Palestinian Ministry of Public Health received US\$ 6 million as urgent financial aid to help contain the outbreak and assist medical staff in taking necessary measures for treatment and prevention.

A total of US\$ 150 million was allocated to the Gaza Reconstruction Committee, to be distributed as financial assistance to Palestinians in Gaza. The assistance was provided to support families in obtaining food, basic necessities, furniture, and to procure the fuel required to supply electricity to households.



Jordan Health Fund for Refugees

QFFD contributed US\$ 4.2 million to support the Government of Jordan in the implementation of the Jordan Refugee Health Fund



Syrian Refugees

Through the QUEST initiative, QFFD continued to support the health and wellbeing of Syrian refugees in Lebanon through a program to support and provide ante-natal and post-natal care to Syrian refugee women and ensure the safety of mothers and infants during the virus outbreak.



UNRWA

As the pandemic spread, QFFD continued to contribute funding to support 26 health centers and mobile clinics across camps inside Syria to ensure the health and wellbeing of refugees.



Accelerator Labs Network

The Accelerator Labs initiative, which is co-funded by QFFD, has devised several innovative solutions to cope with the COVID-19 crisis.



World Health Organization

The State of Qatar has pledged US\$ 10 million to the World Health Organization in support of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator.



GAVI

To enhance efforts to cope with pandemics, QFFD contributed US\$ 20 million to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI).

STRATEGIC PARTNERS



PROGRESS TOWARDS HIGHER LIVING STANDARDS

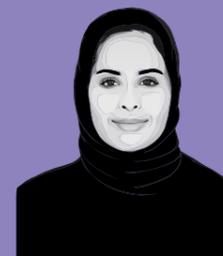
Economic Development



Even as the COVID-19 pandemic derailed the global economy, it has also exposed inherent systemic and structural weaknesses in economic development policies, priorities, and intervention mechanisms. The upside is that this may turn out to be an opportunity for world economies to think collectively and creatively about how best to build more inclusive, equal, and sustainable economies that are resilient to global crises.

The labor market has been severely disrupted, mainly due to lockdown measures, causing hardships especially to those who live on a daily income basis. The International Labour Organization estimates that 1.6 billion workers in the informal economy, which makes up nearly half of the global workforce, are at immediate risk of having their livelihoods shattered.

QFFD's overarching economic development strategic goal is to tackle poverty by promoting the creation of sustained income generating opportunities and enterprise development. The Fund is working with strategic partners to support the sectors most adversely affected. These include measures to sustain microfinance institutions, improve employment and income-generation opportunities for displaced persons, enhance education and social services in refugee camps, implement localized economic models to generate employment and income to stem poverty, and support vulnerable nations in mitigating the impact of climate change on economic development.



"Most of Qatar Fund's projects and programs happen to be in countries where institutional governance, bureaucracy, and overall business practices carry several forms of financial and operational risks. For this reason, the Risk and Compliance Department at Qatar Fund focuses on monitoring, managing, and controlling these risks to ensure compliance with national and international laws, regulations, and best practices while supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals."

Al-Anoud Al-Attayah
Risk & Compliance Department, QFFD

RESTORING DIGNITY TO SYRIAN YOUTH

One of the challenges facing Syrian youth is empowering them economically, so they can work with dignity and play an active role in building their society. An innovative project called ISRAR is helping provide education and training to around **400,000 displaced Syrian youth** across Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Turkey. This US\$ 150 million project is a joint venture between QFFD, Qatar's QUEST initiative, Silatech Foundation, and the Assistance Coordination Unit. ISRAR has implemented four centers across Turkey to provide training and employment services for Syrian youth between 18-35 years of age, regardless of their educational level or background.

All services provided by ISRAR are free of charge. The project implements creative solutions to challenges facing the youth, providing them with free training, guidance, follow-up, counseling, and linking them to the Turkish job market. Among the programs offered are courses in project management, accounting, writing project proposals, data analysis, conversational English, logistics, HR management, presentations and using software like AutoCAD, Microsoft Office, and specialized graphic design software.

PUTTING ABDEL WAHAB BACK ON HIS FEET

The conflict in Syria brought the education of the young Abdel Wahab to an abrupt end. Along with his family, he fled to Turkey, where he faced an enormous challenge in finding a way to earn enough to support his family. He found work with a local municipality, paving roads, but an accident put him in hospital for almost a month, making his family's plight miserable. ISRAR came to know about Abdel Wahab's situation, and placed him in a position with a Turkish factory, where he would benefit from opportunities for professional development.



"Their support has made a marked difference to my life," says Abdel Wahab, 22, about ISRAR. "I was happy getting a new job. It gives me the opportunity to acquire new skills and improve the standard of living for me and my family"

HELPING FATIMA SEW HER DREAM TOGETHER

Fatima Al Zahraa, 33, moved to Turkey with her husband and three children following the war in Syria. After her husband was injured in a workplace accident, Fatima struggled to find a suitable job and take care of her family. To add to their troubles, they were forced to move from Istanbul to Gaziantep, because they did not have proper documentation.

Both Fatima's mother and sister are seamstresses, and a sewing machine was part of her childhood in Syria. She dreamed of getting an education in fashion design to follow in their footsteps. Through social media, she got familiar with ISRAR, and soon she was doing a course in fashion design. At the end of her training, she was rewarded with a sewing machine.

Trying to market her services, Fatima got a break when a Turkish neighbor asked her to make a dress. Today, her sewing machine has secured her livelihood, earning enough to support her family and plan her children's education.



"We are stronger than our circumstances," says Fatima Al Zahraa, an ISRAR beneficiary

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE HELPLESS

The Dutch NGO SPARK and QFFD have agreed on a joint project aimed at supporting economic resilience for refugees, IDPs, and vulnerable host communities through sustainable job creation in Syria and countries of the surrounding region. The 4-year project focuses on Syrian refugees and vulnerable host communities in Turkey and Jordan and is funded by QFFD to the tune of US\$ 10 million.

The project aims to match beneficiaries to jobs through vocational education and internships, facilitate access for SMEs to finance and markets, and support potential entrepreneurs with training and mentoring. The project will create a total of **4,380 jobs, help 350 MSMEs, support 300 entrepreneurs** with their start-ups, and build entrepreneurship skills for **250 beneficiaries**.

EMPOWERING YOUTH IN TUNISIA

With the aim of empowering Tunisian youth and increasing their employment levels, Qatar Friendship Fund, sponsored by QFFD, has provided financial assistance to **66,335 young entrepreneurs** in setting up small businesses. The initiative has created or sustained over **39,000 jobs** and trained over **2,500 youth**. Over half the beneficiaries are women, and a large proportion of the businesses funded are in poorer rural areas.

BRINGING WOMEN TO THE FRONT

The digital divide in Afghanistan is leaving women and girls behind in technological advancement. The Digital Citizen Fund, supported by QFFD, aims to secure equality and close the gender gap for women in the workforce by facilitating high-quality education and training. A training program focusing on business and entrepreneurial skills will allow women to enter the workforce, lowering poverty rates and improving the economic future of their communities. The program is estimated to benefit **1,200 girls and women**.



ENABLING YOUTH TO BUILD THEIR OWN FUTURE

The Rural Youth Enterprise Graduate Program in Ethiopia, implemented by Silatech, QFFD, and local microfinance institutions; supports youth in establishing and running their own small businesses. The project offers technical assistance, micro funding and partial credit guarantee schemes, and enhancing opportunities for self-employment. The project will create and sustain **180,000 jobs** in rural areas, enabling beneficiaries to graduate from poverty and pervasive inequalities.

INCREASING STUDENT EMPLOYMENT RATES

QFFD is supporting many UNRWA projects inside Syria, including an initiative to provide Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to Palestinian students. A total of **515 students** have completed long-term vocational training courses and **1,271 students** are enrolled in long-term training. The student employment rate among the population has reached a high of 88%.

EMPOWERING TUNISIA'S MOST VULNERABLE

Since 2013, QFFD has been working with Tunisian government bodies and institutions to enable the most vulnerable groups in the country, including women and youth, in achieving economic advancement. These projects strengthen the economy by creating **100,000 jobs** and providing funding opportunities worth millions of dollars for entrepreneurs through financial institutions like Enda Tamweel. The projects also help to achieve development balance between different regions to reduce economic disparities, which in turn engenders hope, positivity, and a sense of pride among the youth.

MAKING MONEY FROM HONEY

From an early age, Mohamed helped his family with their beehives, and gathered the expertise he needed to make a living from beekeeping. In his early twenties, Mohamed approached Enda Tamweel for a US\$ 3,300 loan to start his own beekeeping business. Today, at 26, he has 60 beehives yielding honey and a rewarding annual income.



TURNING WASTE INTO PROFIT

As a fresh graduate in mechanics and industrial computer science, Zied underwent several internships in plastic packing and waste recycling companies. Being keenly aware of the environmental problem of plastic waste in Tunisia, he decided to start a small business in recycling plastic waste. His family helped him purchase his first plastic-grinder, and Enda helped with a US\$ 6,600 loan along with business advice.

The business expanded rapidly, Zied soon added a pellet plastic processing unit to meet local demand. Today, 28-year-old Zied has bought his own lorry for transportation, employed 9 workers, and is looking forward to the next phase of growth.



LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

Humanitarian Efforts:
Emergency Response,
Reconstruction, Relief,
and Rehabilitation



One of our planet's persistent humanitarian crises is the millions of people around the world who are on the verge of starvation, requiring urgent food aid and assistance. As the two are inextricably linked, assisting countries in meeting their food needs will help end global poverty and hunger. Zero hunger is an important Sustainable Development Goal that many countries believe could be possible if the world works together.

Hunger and malnutrition not only have health consequences – they also slow down development. Lack of food security affects sectors such as education and or employment. Undernourishment especially in children will affect their cognitive abilities and future. In developing countries around 45% of child deaths under the age of five are due to lack of adequate nutrition. Although the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition called for policies on child malnutrition there is still more to do as this is a global responsibility. The promotion of nutrition governance and accountability is vital to achieving long term food security, ending hunger and poverty.

The biggest trend now is the focus on long-term food programs. According to the United Nations a profound change needs to occur to provide access to food especially to the vulnerable population. Many countries have taken a systematic approach to ensure adequate food security all year round. One of the ways to achieve this is through broad-based agricultural development and optimizing the resources of each country to create sustainable and resilient agriculture. Furthermore, development of human resources is essential for building a safe and supportive environment for nutrition. A collective effort is vital to address the huge risk that comes with lack of food security in the long run.



"The essence of our humanitarian work lies in providing unlimited support through urgent and sustainable projects, to mitigate the effects of conflicts, natural disasters, and provide innovative financing mechanisms to those individuals most affected."

Fatima Al-Thani
Humanitarian Aid Department, QFFD



FINDING WARMTH IN WINTER



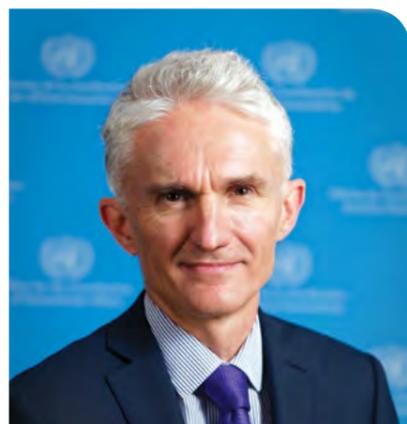
Amira, a Syrian refugee from Raqqa, removes snow from outside her makeshift home in the Bekaa Valley

© UNHCR / Diego Ibarra Sánchez

Winter is a harsh ordeal for displaced families, especially when rain and snow make life miserable in the makeshift shelters in informal refugee settlements.

For these families, winter expenditure increases by US\$ 75 to US\$ 150 per month, to pay for essentials like heaters, jackets, blankets, and sleeping bags. Sadly, 73% of Syrian refugees in Lebanon live on less than US\$ 3.84 per person per day. Moreover, 90% of households are indebted, with the average debt per household increasing by almost 10% year on year. The majority of refugees here depend on winterization assistance from aid agencies to survive the cold winter.

QFFD contributed US\$ 4,000,000 to UNHCR Winterization Support for over **40,000 refugee families** in Jordan and Lebanon, which provided them with desperately-needed cash assistance.



Mark Lowcock
Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

“Qatar is helping save lives and protect people affected by some of the world’s worst humanitarian emergencies. We deeply value our multi-year partnership with Qatar, which supports vital humanitarian action and ensures pooled funding when and where it’s most needed.”



80-year-old Mariam, like thousands of other vulnerable Syrian refugees in Lebanon, will be able to stay warm and dry through the harsh winter thanks to UNHCR’s winter program, supported by QFFD



REMEMBERING REFUGEES INSIDE SYRIA

Meanwhile, in Syria, 445,000 Palestinian refugees received critical support through UNRWA programs for health, education, vocational training, and cash assistance, thanks to a contribution of US\$ 20,720,520 from QFFD. To improve healthcare delivery among refugees, UNRWA rolled out an e-health system, improving quality of data and clarity on patient tracking. UNRWA also provided cash assistance to **16,431 refugees** belonging to the most vulnerable categories, including orphans and households headed by females, persons with disabilities, and older persons.

FIGHTING FAMINE IN YEMEN



With little sign of improvement in the Yemeni conflict, the crisis in the country entered its fifth year, putting as many as 24 million people in need of humanitarian assistance or protection. In this, the world’s largest humanitarian crisis, large segments of Yemen’s population are facing unprecedented levels of food insecurity, malnutrition, and disease.

A contribution of US\$ 1,472,500 from QFFD helped the World Food Program (WFP) and Qatar Charity provide food assistance to **286,692 people** in Yemen through commodity vouchers. The beneficiaries redeem commodity vouchers for food at participating retail outlets, making this the largest program of its kind within WFP.



Filippo Grandi
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

“In times of dire need, humanitarian partners like QFFD are there to offer timely, generous and life-saving support allowing UNHCR to respond to emergencies, save lives, and improve the well-being of those most in need.”



Arafat pushes a wheelbarrow through the streets of Sana'a, back to the rented room he shares with his wife and four children. The food he is wheeling home from a WFP distribution — flour, dried beans, oil, sugar, and salt — is what is keeping them from going hungry. Because of severe budget cuts, the family now receives food assistance only every alternate month

Photo: WFP/M. Nasher

THE STRUGGLE TO FEED SULTAN

A warehouse worker in Yemen's port city Hodeida, Arafat was forced to flee to the capital Sana'a due to the conflict. The 37-year-old now works odd jobs, though he cannot make enough for his family of six. The four children are bearing the brunt of the crisis: the youngest, Sultan, was diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition. Like Arafat's family, two-thirds of Yemen's 30-million population are unable to put food on their tables, relying instead on food assistance.

Fortunately, due to the supplementary food he is receiving through the World Food Programme (WFP) with contributions from QFFD, Sultan has started to gain weight and has more energy than before. However, he is still in need of treatment. Nearly half of Yemen's children are stunted due to malnutrition, which permanently affects their physical and mental development. 360,000 of those children are at risk of dying if they do not receive the necessary treatment.



"Sultan was very weak when he was born. I was expecting that he would be better off for breastfeeding, but he didn't improve," says Arafat's wife, Om Sultan. "I was very afraid — afraid that I might lose him. How would a mother not fear for her child?"

Photo: WFP/Mohammed Awadh



Photo: WFP/Mohammed Awadh



FIGHTING A BIGGER THREAT THAN COVID-19

Even as the world was grappling with COVID-19, for millions of people in fragile high-risk countries the virus was not their most formidable fear. The consequences were more frightening: missed vaccinations, missed education, and the missed daily income that meant a family could not eat. The resulting famines caused global alarm in the second half of 2020, prompting emergency relief efforts.

In November 2020, the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which QFFD strongly supports, released US\$ 100 million to fight hunger in the most vulnerable countries. Since CERF was established in 2005, it has proved to be one of the fastest and most effective ways to help people affected by crises. The fund has provided almost US\$ 7 billion for life-saving humanitarian action that has helped hundreds of millions of people across more than 100 countries and territories.



A mother and child rest in a makeshift shelter in Bakassi Camp, north-east Nigeria. The camp houses over 30,000 displaced persons, including more than 15,000 children and over 2,700 infants

Photo: OCHA/Maryam Ibrahim



SHORING UP ROOFS FOR THE HOMELESS

Syrian refugees who fled to Lebanon are struggling harder than ever to meet their most basic needs, especially shelter. UNHCR reports that 57% of refugees live in overcrowded shelters, shelters below humanitarian standards, and shelters in danger of collapse. Paying rent is also among the top three expenses for refugees and reasons for borrowing money. QFFD supported a UNHCR project to provide shelter assistance to meet the most acute needs.

UNHCR, through its partners, carries out rehabilitation and repair work to restore sub-standard buildings, and distributes emergency shelter materials in cases of flooding, freezing temperatures, heavy snowstorms, evictions, and fires. The project has so far benefiting a total of **53,194 Syrian refugees** across Lebanon.



14-year-old Nour happily carries the new shelter kit her family received through a QFFD-supported UNHCR project. The kit contains materials like tarpaulin & plywood, which will help them reinforce their tent to stay dry and warm during the cold, wet winter

Photo: UNHCR

SWIFT RELIEF FOR BLAST VICTIMS

The blast in Lebanon's Beirut Port had devastating consequences, especially for healthcare, with the destruction of three hospitals and severe damage to another two. With intensive care units already filled with COVID-19 patients, medical workers resorted to treating patients on sidewalks.

The Lebanon Humanitarian Fund disbursed US\$ 8.5 million to provide rapid support that **benefited over 180,000 people**, helping to immediately begin the process of rebuilding their lives and supporting their recovery. The funds support eight NGOs in delivering assistance to damaged primary health-care centers, so they can continue to provide essential health care, mental health support and manage the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The organizations also provide hot meals, food parcels, hygiene and baby kits to affected families, and emergency cash to the most vulnerable.

The quick release of the funds demonstrates how UN pooled funds enable humanitarian partners to deliver timely and life-saving assistance whenever and wherever needed.

AIDING FAMILIES WHOSE WORLD HAS SHUDDERED

A few months ago in Albania, when a strong 6.4-magnitude earthquake rocked several areas of the country, causing many deaths and casualties, and inflicting heavy damage, QFFD and its partners rushed emergency assistance to the affected people in coordination with local authorities.

While the country's government provided housing to the affected in hotels, Qatar Charity, with funding from QFFD, distributed hot meals, food baskets and different non-food items, including folding beds, blankets, heaters, hygiene kits, winter clothes, and wood-fired ovens; benefiting **4,300 people**.

DELIVERING RELIEF IN THE STORM

The fifth storm to hit the Philippines in three weeks, Typhoon Vamco made landfall south of Manila, causing massive floods, landslides, and significant damage, affecting thousands of people. Qatar Red Crescent, along with the Philippines Red Cross and funding from QFFD, distributed essential food and non-food items to the affected people. Among the items distributed were food parcels, inflatable boats, water purification units, electric generators, family tents, blankets, mosquito nets, tarpaulins, and shelter toolkits. A total of **26,445 people** benefited from the outreach.

CLINIC ON WHEELS CARRIES HOPE TO TALL ED-DAMAN



Every Thursday in Tall Ed-daman, a small group of people gather in the early morning, peering with anticipation out at the road. They are looking out for the mobile clinic that will bring three doctors and three nurses to give them essential medical assistance.

Tall Ed-daman, a group of 44 villages in Aleppo, Syria, has no permanent healthcare facilities. Many of the inhabitants are internally displaced due to conflict, several of them displaced multiple times. The closest health services are about an hour's drive away, though most of the families here cannot afford to travel or pay for medical care.

The free mobile clinic is funded under a US\$ 200,000 grant from the Syria Humanitarian Fund. It provides basic medical services and psychological support to about **12,000 people**.

"There is no medicine for me in my village," says 11-year-old Koutiba, who has come to the clinic with his family. "But these doctors who visit us always have it, and it makes my allergy go away."

HELPING REFUGEES COPE WITH COVID-19



As COVID-19 emerged in Lebanon, Qatar Red Crescent and QFFD embarked on a project in the Palestinian refugee camps, to contain the spread of the virus and alleviate the social and economic impact on families. The project distributed personal protective equipment to medical personnel, provided five ambulances to transport patients from camps to hospitals, and supplied hygiene baskets to 1,000 families. The project also included equipping and preparing a hospital to serve camp residents infected with COVID-19. Over 139,000 refugees, mostly children, were benefited under the project.



Philippe Lazzarini
Commissioner-General of UNRWA

“The generous support of the QFFD in 2019-2020 allowed the Agency to provide vital humanitarian assistance to Palestine refugees in Syria, and in other fields of operation. Qatar is a reliable partner that stepped up its contributions when Palestine refugees in the region risked losing access to basic health, education and other services in 2018. I am counting on the QFFD to continue its pioneering role in support of Palestine refugees, especially as essential services such as health and education are under threat because of insufficient funding. In 2021 and beyond, UNRWA looks forward to a strong partnership with QFFD.”

AMPLIFYING POSSIBILITIES FOR SUCCESS



The State of Qatar is committed to the unwavering pursuit of SDG 17, Partnerships for the Goals, with its stress on strengthening implementation methods and revitalizing global partnerships for sustainable development. To this end, QFFD in the past year has made several new commitments to multilateral organizations to provide budget support, core funding, and resources for implementation where they are most needed.



"In QFFD, we believe in the saying 'united we stand, divided we fall'. Hence, we focus on the importance of establishing solid partnerships with influential players to help the international community achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals."

Buthayna Al-Muftah
Strategic Partnerships Department, QFFD

GLOBAL FINANCING FACILITY FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS (GFF)



GFF invests in Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH), with the goal of reducing infant and maternal mortality rates in low and lower-middle income countries by 2030. In April 2020, QFFD signed an agreement with GFF to contribute US\$ 30 million over a five-year period. The agreement is part of a pledge from the State of Qatar to GFF to help raise a total of US\$ 1 billion to meet financial needs and expand the project to 50 countries.



Muhammad Pate
Director, Global Financing Facility (GFF)

“The Global Financing Facility (GFF) was delighted to welcome the Qatar Fund for Development as a partner in 2020. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the QFFD’s strong commitment to the GFF has contributed greatly to maintaining essential health services for women, children, and adolescents. Our partnership with QFFD will be invaluable in helping GFF partner countries to get back on track as quickly as possible in 2021 and accelerate progress so every woman, child and adolescent can access the quality, affordable health care they need to survive and thrive.”

LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS FUND (LLF)



The LLF was established by QFFD along with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Islamic Development Bank, and other major donors. This innovative fund focuses on three main sectors: agriculture, health, and basic infrastructure. QFFD has signed a US\$ 50 million agreement to fund the LLF. During QFFD’s leadership of the Impact Committee, LLF was able to help bring on board a new donor: The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).



GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is committed to helping save 16 million lives, and help end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria by 2030, in addition to helping build resilient and sustainable health systems. QFFD has pledged a contribution of US\$ 50 million to the Global Fund, helping it reach a total funding of just over US\$ 14 billion for the period 2020-2022.



Peter Sands
Executive Director of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

“We are tremendously grateful to Qatar for its increased commitment to the Global Fund, which was critical to achieve the target of mobilizing US\$ 14 billion for the period 2020-2022. The stakes are extraordinarily high. Our partnership has achieved great impact against HIV, TB and malaria, but COVID-19 is threatening to wipe out decades of progress. We need an extraordinary mobilization to improve global health security and protect hard-won gains towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. If we do not act with urgency, we will go backwards.”

ORBIS-QATAR CREATING VISION (QCV) INITIATIVE



QCV is a joint initiative between QFFD and Orbis completed its first phase in 2020. QFFD has now signed an agreement with Orbis to implement the second phase of QCV for the period 2020-2022 with funding of US\$ 8 million. This phase will see QCV expanding into new cities in India and Bangladesh, in addition to operating in new countries like Vietnam, Zambia, Ethiopia, and the displaced Syrian people in host communities such as Jordan.



SPARK

The Dutch non-governmental organization SPARK and QFFD signed a partnership to support and empower Syrian refugee youth and internally displaced persons in host communities. SPARK creates sustainable job opportunities and helps develop entrepreneurship to empower and stabilize refugee youth.

CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

As part of its continuing endeavors to strengthen capacity building and achieve impactful development, QFFD joined several multilateral networks in 2020.



MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT NETWORK (MOPAN)

QFFD sees MOPAN's evidence-based approach as an opportunity to engage with organizations at the highest level, gain unique insights into critical issues, benefit from analytical tools, and enhance capacity building.

DAC ENVIRONET

By being part of the DAC Network on Environment and Development Co-operation (ENVIRONET), Qatar Fund aims to focus development cooperation in countries where it is most needed. Contributing to sustainable development while integrating sound environmental management principles, to lead to effective and impactful development.

GenderNET

In order to strengthen its collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC), QFFD joined the DAC Network on Gender Equality (GenderNet). GenderNet aims to ensure that implementation of development cooperation matches international commitments to gender equality. This also reflects the significant progress in gender equality in the State of Qatar, which is committed to the empowerment of women and girls in the realm of international cooperation.



EVALNET

QFFD also joined the DAC Network on Development Evaluation (EvalNET), which shares comprehensive evaluation exercises and work programs. The collective learning will help reinforce QFFD's evaluation systems and advance multilateral effectiveness.

REPORTING QATAR'S ODA

In 2020, QFFD reported Qatar's foreign assistance to the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), for the first time since the country joined the DAC.

Official Development Assistance (ODA), regarded as the "gold standard" of foreign assistance, is verified by the DAC annually. The ODA/GNI ratio is the global benchmark for reporting a country's public expenditures on development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

The State of Qatar's reported ODA in 2019 amounts to US\$ 567.35 million. The level of ODA over the Gross National Income (GNI) stands at 0.32.

ACCELERATING SUSTAINABLE CHANGE FOR A NEW DECADE



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Funded by the State of Qatar and the Federal Republic of Germany, the UNDP Accelerator Labs represent a new approach to development. The Labs work with people, governments, and the private sector to reimagine development for the 21st century. The Accelerator Lab Network is made up of 60 teams in Africa, Eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The Labs work on development challenges in parallel.

As they work together, the Labs accelerate the speed of learning about what works and how to land solutions in local contexts. While traditional monitoring and evaluation methods might take two years or more to understand whether a solution is working, the Accelerator Labs can bring this time down to months or weeks.

This innovative approach is an ambitious effort to help those nations that are lagging in the race to achieve SDGs by 2030, which is less than a decade away. The work of the Labs is already demonstrating sustainable impact on people in several countries.

“As the COVID-19 pandemic engulfed the world in 2020, Qatar’s investment in UNDP’s flexible core resources allowed us to react quickly to the crisis and drive forward the vital socio-economic recovery in 170 countries -- ultimately to help re-build lives. And Qatar’s next generation investment in the UNDP Accelerator Labs network also bore fruit. The labs rapidly developed a range of practical solutions – everything from helping to roll-out a mobile app to track the virus in Cabo Verde, to launching a new online platform to keep SMEs afloat in Uganda, to using technology to assess the scale of the crisis amongst vulnerable populations in the Philippines in real-time. Now, using this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build forward better from the crisis, UNDP is helping countries to insert the “DNA” of a green, low-carbon economy into all recovery and stimulus measures. The continued support of key partners like Qatar is needed more than ever as UNDP supports countries to get the Global Goals firmly back on track -- to realize that greener, more inclusive, and sustainable future.”



Achim Steiner
Administrator, United Nations
Development Programme (UNDP)

PROTECTING UGANDAN FORESTS WITH DATA

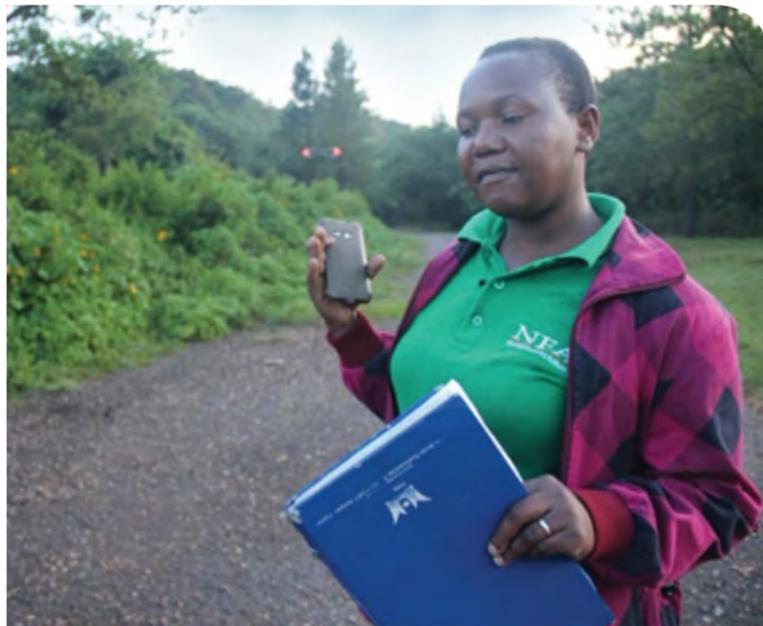
Because of illegal felling of trees, Uganda's forests are in danger of disappearing within the next 20 years. This will threaten biodiversity, increase risks of natural disasters, and jeopardize food security for millions. No wonder Ugandan authorities are in a desperate struggle to track down and end illegal tree logging.

Florence Nadunga, a Forest Supervisor in Eastern Uganda, is on the front lines in that effort. Every day, she monitors the state of the West Bugwe Forest, tracking tree species by hand and making notes when trees are illegally logged and burnt. When it rained, the ink in her handbook would fade, making it impossible for her to report back to the National Forest Authority.

UNDP Accelerator Lab Uganda found a solution to help Florence move away from this tedious and unreliable manual process. By tapping into real-time satellite data and joining forces with other UN agencies and the forest authorities, the Lab co-designed a platform that collects and visualizes reliable data.

The new platform provides reliable evidence of forest coverage in one month instead of one year – which means that forests can be protected more effectively. The data can also be used to detect early signs of natural disasters like landslides.

Florence today uses a mobile app to upload information in real-time, which helps validate the analysis done from the satellite data. Thanks to this new way of working, she now has the time to focus on more impactful activities such as bee-keeping and eco-tourism.



Florence Nadunga, Forest Supervisor in Eastern Uganda, a critical actor in fighting against deforestation empowered by real-time data with help from UNDP Accelerator Lab Uganda

STEMMING THE LOSS OF PRECIOUS WATER

Engineer Issa Dababat cares a lot about water. As executive manager of the Tubas water council in the West Bank, his role is to ensure high quality water is properly distributed to the local population and wastewater is correctly treated.

Every day Issa faces two harsh realities. First, water is scarce, many Palestinians survive with only 73 liters per capita per day, far below the 100 liters recommended by the World Health Organization. Second, to make things worse, US\$45 million worth of water is lost every year because of physical leakages in the public water networks, metering inaccuracies, or theft.

As the Tubas water expert, Issa needs to know real-time where the issues are in the water network, so his team can fix them quickly and minimize the loss. But tracking a water leakage in kilometers of pipelines can be like finding a needle in a haystack.

The Accelerator Lab at UNDP Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People identified a solution developed by a local start-up called FlowLess. Harnessing the Internet of Things (IoT) and artificial intelligence (AI), FlowLess uses smart sensors across the water network to detect irregularities in water flow. Now Issa can find leaks in minutes instead of months, and his costs are down by over two-thirds.



A BRACELET THAT COULD PREVENT CHILD MORTALITY

Every year in Nepal, almost 50% of children below the age of five lose their lives as a result of poor nutrition, inappropriate feeding, and lack of information. Bonita Sharma was inspired to invent a life hack called Nutribeads to address this problem. Nutribeads is a bracelet with beads of different colors that inform mothers about how to feed their child in the first two years of life.

Bonita, 28, is a local innovator in Kathmandu, Nepal, raising awareness about children's nutrition. She is co-founder and CEO of The Social Changemakers and Innovators (SOCHAI), a youth-led organization formed to support women, children, girls, and families reach their full potential in life by improving their health and breaking the vicious intergenerational cycle of malnutrition.

UNDP Accelerator Lab Nepal is championing the efforts of Bonita and her team to amplify grassroots innovations like these outside the country. The Lab has also co-created the Kathmandu Business Hub (K-Hub), an enabling space for young entrepreneurs to scale their grassroots innovations.



Each color of the beads in the Nutribeads bracelet represents a specific type of food that should be included in the child's meal

Photo courtesy SOCHAI

BUILDING HOMES OUT OF SEAWEED

When sargassum seaweed began washing up on the shores of the Riviera Maya in Mexico, most people saw it as a problem. But Omar Vázquez saw an opportunity, and within a year, he was employing 300 families to clean the beaches of local hotels and resorts.

Omar then created the Sargablock, an adobe building block made from sargassum. He built a machine that can make 1,000 blocks a day, which are ready for use after drying for four hours in the sun. The Sargablock is a low-cost building material that could help build affordable housing throughout the area, making a dream come true for many families.

UNDP Accelerator Lab Mexico is helping mobilize resources to scale Sargablock. Omar and other local innovators are also being connected to the national innovation ecosystem so they can continue to create more sustainable livelihoods and development opportunities for the community.



Converting invasive seaweed into low-cost bricks, Omar Vázquez turned a problem into a sustainable solution that serves those who need it most

Photos by Emily Mkrtychian for UNDP Mexico

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