

Ghiras

Issue 30

Periodic Magazine by Qatar Charity
Rajab 1445 AH – January 2024

Al Karama City
Paving Path to Dignity
for Syrian IDPs

**Unwavering
Kindness**

Mitigating 2023's
Disasters and Crises

**Prestigious
International Award**
for Qatar Charity



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Qatar Charity is a leading international non-governmental organization working in the field of humanitarian aid and development since 1992; and was established in compliance with the laws regulating the non-profit sector in the State of Qatar.

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Issue No. 30

Rajab 1445 AH - January 2024

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This year (2023), which came to an end, witnessed continuous natural disasters and crises, especially in the Arab world and its surroundings. This is why some called this year 'The Year of Disasters and Crises'.

The year began with a devastating earthquake that affected Turkey, and concluded with a horrific humanitarian catastrophe in Palestine, especially in the Gaza Strip. Besides, there were many other distressing events, such as an ongoing conflict in Sudan, an earthquake in Morocco, and floods in Libya. These crises have increased the burden of humanitarian interventions on charitable organizations.

In view of the importance of the matter, especially for humanitarian organizations in the Arab and Muslim worlds, we decided to dedicate a special feature in this issue of 'Ghiras', as the effects, even with the cessation of aggression and fighting, will continue for the coming years.

However, has the fulfillment of relief duties in the regions, afflicted by prolonged crises and disasters, impacted the developmental responsibilities of charitable organizations towards impoverished communities? This is a question we have sought to address in this issue as a complement to the special feature's topics."

The response from Qatar Charity, as a one of international humanitarian organizations, was reassuring and clear, which was given by Mr. Nawaf AlHammadi, CEO's assistant for the international operations and programs sector at Qatar Charity.

He stated that the increasing volume of natural disasters and crises in the region has not affected the implementation of Qatar Charity's development projects. Instead, this placed a significant responsibility on Qatar Charity, as it is one of the largest humanitarian organizations operating in this field. He added that in the event of a disaster in a particular country where we have ongoing developmental projects, the implementation of these projects is temporarily halted, and we focus on relief programs.

In the context of the same year 2023, it must be noted that Qatar Charity lost two prominent figures of the charitable work in the State of Qatar during this year. The first was Sheikh Abdullah Mohammed Al-Dibagh, one of the founders of Qatar Charity and former Chairman of its Board of Directors. The second was Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Al-Hammadi, former member of its Board of Directors. Qatar Charity mourned the two, who left an inspiring legacy for humanitarian workers."

May Allah have mercy on the souls of the departed and accept their significant efforts. May the coming years bring security, peace, and harmony to the people of the world.

Ghiras



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aims to reach approximately 1.5 million people in 21 countries, including Qatar, at an estimated cost of around QR 60 million.



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2023

Breaks Records: Unprecedented Surge in Disasters and Crises

Some have named 2023 as the year of record-breaking natural disasters at the global level, as the world grappled with a massive wave of fires, earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods. However, in the Arab world, commonly known as the Middle East, we could refer to 2023 as the year of disasters, crises, and wars. This year has been full – from its beginning to its end – with several disasters that many countries have not witnessed in decades. The year saw a huge number of victims, the injured, and the affected, as well as the damage inflicted on buildings and infrastructure. It also witnessed the other accompanying effects of the disasters, the wars, and the crises, some of which continue to persist, unfortunately.

Perhaps the most notable of these disasters and crises was the devastating earthquake that struck Turkey in early February, followed by the ongoing war in Sudan that began in April. Additionally, there was a major earthquake in Morocco in September, the deadliest since 1960. Then, heavy rains and flooding, generated by Storm Daniel in Libya, occurred in the same month. Furthermore, there was the war on Gaza in October, in addition to the protracted crises in countries like Syria and Yemen.

Undoubtedly, this situation imposes additional burdens and tasks on humanitarian organizations, in terms of focusing on providing immediate assistance, and then on implementing early recovery and reconstruction projects. This requires concerted efforts to deliver support received from individuals, charitable institutions, and donor agencies. Cooperation and partnerships with international organizations in funding and implementing projects are required to achieve the greatest impact by addressing the significant damage caused by these disasters and crises at all levels.





In an interview with **Ghiras**,
Head of OCHA's Office in Qatar:

MENA region faced a series of significant challenges in 2023

Mr. Ahmed Marii, the Head of OCHA's Office in Qatar, stated that coordination, cooperation, partnerships and alliances among the UN, international and local humanitarian organizations are pivotal for an effective and impactful humanitarian response, especially in the context of the escalating crises and disasters in the MENA region.

In an interview with the 'Ghiras' magazine of Qatar Charity (QC), he emphasized that donors and international organizations should explore and implement flexible funding mechanisms for a swift and adaptive response to emerging crises.

The Head of OCHA's Office in Qatar stated that Qatar Charity's commitment to sustainable development positions it to play a pivotal role in supporting the

recovery and reconstruction phases. He emphasized the significance of the upcoming Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) set to be signed between OCHA and Qatar Charity.

Below is the complete interview:

The MENA region witnessed the major earthquakes, floods, and conflicts in 2023. What, in your opinion, are the impacts of these escalating crises and disasters on communities and their infrastructure?

In 2023, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region faced a series of significant challenges, including protracted crises, disasters, earthquakes, floods, and, most recently, the conflict in Gaza. These events have had profound impacts on communities.

Firstly, the prolonged nature of several crises has strained the resilience of communities, leaving them vulnerable to multiple humanitarian needs. Essential services, such as health and education, are often disrupted, affecting people's well-being and future prospects.

People are increasingly fleeing their homes, both within their countries and across borders. This places burdens on host communities and leads to increased competition for limited resources – increasing the complexity of the humanitarian response.

Natural disasters, including earthquakes and floods, have exacerbated existing vulnerabilities. Already-strained infrastructure – such as roads and schools – has been further damaged, impeding access to essential services.

Conflicts in the region have profound and lasting effects on communities and their infrastructure. Displacement, destruction of homes and critical infrastructure, and disruptions to basic services have become persistent features of conflict-affected areas. The protracted nature of conflicts hampers recovery efforts and impedes the rebuilding of essential services and livelihoods.

In response to these challenges, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) continues to work closely with partners and others to coordinate and deliver effective humanitarian assistance. Addressing the diverse impacts of crises and disasters requires a comprehensive approach that considers the specific needs of affected communities, with a focus on building resilience, restoring essential services, and supporting recovery efforts.

Our goal is to ensure that humanitarian aid reaches

those most in need, and we advocate for increased support from the international community to mitigate the immediate and long-term impacts of crises on communities and their infrastructure in the MENA region.

Will this situation, with all its consequences, place additional responsibilities and tasks on United Nations agencies, particularly OCHA?

In the face of the evolving and complex humanitarian challenges in the MENA region, the role of the United Nations, particularly OCHA, is increasingly critical. The multifaceted crises – such as conflicts, natural disasters, and extended emergencies – place additional responsibilities on OCHA and UN agencies.

Coordination and Response Planning: With the complexity of crises necessitating a well-organized and collaborative response by various humanitarian actors, OCHA ensures effective coordination among UN agencies, NGOs, and others to avoid duplication, identify gaps, and deliver timely and efficient assistance.

Resource Mobilization: Escalating crises often result in increased humanitarian needs, necessitating additional resources. OCHA leads in mobilizing funding and resources, advocating for donor support and ensuring that the humanitarian response is adequately financed. This involves engaging with international partners, governments, and donors to secure financial support for humanitarian programs.

Advocacy and Humanitarian Diplomacy: OCHA advocates to heighten awareness of the humanitarian context, uphold humanitarian principles, and promote humanitarian diplomacy. Operating within the MENA region, where geopolitical intricacies frequently intersect with humanitarian issues, OCHA facilitates aid delivery access and champions the safeguarding of vulnerable populations.

Capacity Building and Preparedness: Crises are dynamic, requiring continuous capacity building and preparedness measures. OCHA works to enhance their capacity to respond to emergencies effectively through training, knowledge sharing and developing robust preparedness plans to mitigate the impact of future crises.

Data and Analysis: OCHA provides critical data and analysis to inform decision-making and response strategies. By monitoring and analyzing the humanitarian situation, OCHA helps identify trends, assess needs, and adjust response efforts accordingly. This ensures a more targeted and evidence-based

approach to humanitarian assistance.

Collaborative and Inclusive Approach

How, in your opinion, can international and local organizations play a more impactful role in addressing the damages and risks posed by these disasters and crises that have afflicted the region, especially this year?

Addressing the damages and risks posed by the escalating crises and disasters in the MENA region requires a concerted effort from both international and local organizations. This year, we witnessed major events – such as earthquakes, floods, and conflicts – which placed additional responsibilities on the United Nations, particularly OCHA.

The impacts on communities and their infrastructure are multifaceted. From my perspective as the Head of OCHA's office in Qatar, I believe that a collaborative and inclusive approach is crucial for an effective response.

Firstly, enhanced coordination and cooperation between international and local organizations are paramount. This involves improving communication, sharing information, and harmonizing efforts to avoid duplication and ensure a more cohesive response. Regular joint coordination meetings, information-sharing platforms, and unified planning processes contribute to a more effective overall response.

Investing in local capacities is also critical. International organizations should prioritize building the capacities of local partners and institutions through trainings, knowledge sharing, and technology transfer. This empowers local organizations to lead in disaster response and preparedness, ensuring a more sustainable and contextually relevant response.

Empowering communities to actively participate in their own resilience is fundamental. International and local organizations should collaborate to engage communities in risk reduction activities, disaster preparedness initiatives, and awareness campaigns. This fosters a sense of ownership and resilience.

The adoption of innovative technologies – such as artificial intelligence, remote sensing, and data analytics – can significantly enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of disaster response. Collaboration between international and local organizations can facilitate the adoption of advanced technologies for early warning systems, damage assessments, and

resource allocation.

Donors and international organizations should explore and implement flexible funding mechanisms for a swift and adaptive response to emerging crises. This includes multi-year funding, pooled funds, and contingency financing for the rapid deployment of resources based on evolving needs on the ground.

International organizations can leverage their influence to advocate for inclusive policies at both local and international levels. This involves promoting policies that prioritize vulnerable populations, uphold human rights, and address the root causes of crises.

Cornerstone

To what extent can coordination, cooperation, partnerships, and alliances between the UN, international, and local humanitarian organizations play a more effective role in this field?

Coordination, cooperation, partnerships and alliances among the UN, international and local humanitarian organizations are pivotal for an effective and impactful humanitarian response. As the Head of OCHA office in Qatar, I recognize the significance of these collaborative efforts, especially in the context of the escalating crises and disasters in the MENA region.

Coordination is the cornerstone of a successful humanitarian response. It ensures that the efforts of various organizations are streamlined, avoiding duplication of activities and maximizing the use of limited resources. Coordinated planning, joint assessments, and regular information sharing are essential components of this process.

Cooperation among organizations, both international and local, is equally crucial. By pooling expertise, resources and capacities, organizations can address the multifaceted challenges posed by crises more comprehensively. This collaborative approach fosters a synergy that enhances the overall impact of humanitarian interventions.

Partnerships with local organizations are instrumental in ensuring contextually relevant and sustainable responses. Local organizations possess invaluable knowledge about the communities they serve, and partnering with them enhances the cultural sensitivity and effectiveness of interventions. Moreover, empowering local partners strengthens the overall resilience of communities.

Alliances among the UN and international and local humanitarian organizations amplify the collective impact of humanitarian initiatives. These alliances enable the leveraging of each organization's strengths

Empowering communities to actively participate in their own resilience is fundamental

and resources, leading to a more robust and adaptable response to emerging challenges. Through strategic alliances, organizations can share best practices, enhance innovation, and collectively advocate for systemic changes that address the root causes of crises.

In the region, we have experienced the positive outcomes of strong coordination, cooperation, partnerships, and alliances. The collaboration between OCHA, Qatar Charity (QC), and other local partners has facilitated a more efficient and targeted response to humanitarian needs. By working together, we have been able to implement projects that address immediate needs while also contributing to long-term resilience-building efforts.

Resource Mobilization

While international and local humanitarian organizations are more effective in the immediate response phase, they tend to be slower in the recovery and reconstruction phases. How, in your opinion, can the second and third phases be activated, particularly considering the extensive infrastructure damage in the affected countries during 2023?

In addressing the challenges of recovery and reconstruction after crises, it's crucial to acknowledge the complexity of these phases and the need for sustained and collaborative efforts. The recovery and reconstruction phases often require longer timelines due to the intricate nature of rebuilding infrastructure and restoring communities. The initial rapid response is vital for saving lives, but the subsequent phases demand careful planning, resource mobilization, and a comprehensive understanding of the unique needs of each affected community.

I would like to emphasize the need for a continuum of support that seamlessly transitions from the immediate response to long-term recovery and reconstruction. This involves sustained engagement with affected communities to understand their evolving needs and aspirations. Collaborating with local organizations, which possess invaluable knowledge of the affected areas, is instrumental in expediting the recovery process.

Resource mobilization is a critical aspect of the recovery and reconstruction phases, necessitating continued support from the international community.

Innovations in financing mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships, can attract investments for large-scale infrastructure projects. The use of technology, data-driven approaches, and flexible adaptive planning are essential elements to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of recovery efforts.

Qatar Charity's commitment to sustainable development positions it to play a pivotal role in supporting the recovery and reconstruction phases. In addressing the challenges of recovery and reconstruction post-crisis, I would like to emphasize the significance of the upcoming Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) set to be signed between OCHA and Qatar Charity (QC). In this landmark agreement, to be signed on the margins of the 2024 Global Humanitarian Overview launch from the Doha Forum platform on 11 December 2023, Qatar Charity has committed to providing generous funding of US\$10 million to OCHA for 2024, marking a transformative collaboration.





Qatar Charity's efforts to address disasters and crises in 2023

Qatar Charity (QC) makes unremitting efforts to mitigate the impacts and consequences of humanitarian disasters and crises faced by many countries around the world. It has been actively present on the ground, providing urgent relief aid to the affected and supporting the afflicted in various fields. Its humanitarian programs for those affected by various crises and disasters are distinguished by their diversity, quality, and early access to the targeted beneficiaries.

Qatar Charity has not limited itself to just providing immediate humanitarian responses but always strives to play an active role in the early recovery and reconstruction phases.

Here are examples of Qatar Charity's humanitarian interventions in several countries and a summary of its most significant efforts in this field during this year 2023.

Qatar Charity's Interventions for Sudanese Refugees and IDPs

Urgent Response in Sudan
(April-September)

Total Beneficiaries	Total Cost
126,560 Persons	14,395,515

Areas

Food Supply

Shelter And Non-Food Items

Health

WASH

1/ Food supply

Total Beneficiaries	Total Cost	Types of Assistance
40,098 Persons	4,664,765	Ready-to-eat meals dates food packages

2/ Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

Total Beneficiaries	Total Cost	Types of Assistance
2,994 Persons	988,484	Tents mattresses fans household essentials

3/ Health

Total Beneficiaries	Total Cost	Type of Assistance
73,368 Persons	6,680,122	equipping clinic operating hospital medicines medical supplies mobile clinics

4/ WASH

Total Beneficiaries	Total Cost	Type of Assistance
10,100 Persons	2,062,144	Waste barrels water tanks temporary toilets handwashing units

Assistance for Sudanese refugees in Chad

Total Beneficiaries	Total Cost	Areas of Intervention
23,890 Persons	3,302,124	Shelter Health Food Supply

Assistance for Sudanese refugees in Egypt

Type of Aid	Total Cost
A - Multi-purpose cash assistance for Sudanese refugees in Egypt in cooperation with UNHCR	1,278,413
B - Cash assistance for Sudanese refugees in Egypt in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross	2,552,266

To build the Al Karama City in northern Syria, an agreement was signed in the Turkish capital, Ankara, by Mr. Yousuf bin Ahmed al-Kuwari, the CEO of Qatar Charity, and Anil Alkal, the Deputy Governor of Gaziantep, in the presence of the Mayor of the Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality Fatma Shahin and representatives of Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) and Turkish Red Crescent. At the same time, the foundation stone of the city was laid in northern Syria.

Al Karama City, A safe haven for 8,500 IDPs in northern Syria

The Al Karama City, for which the foundation stone was recently laid in northern Syria, is considered a positive step towards improving the lives of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and affected individuals in the region and achieving sustainable development goals. The city provides a safe haven, model housing, dignified life, and comprehensive basic services for around 8,500 Syrian IDPs in northern Syria.

Location: Sarimsat Village in Countryside of Aleppo

Area: 500,000 square meters

Number of beneficiaries: Approximately 8,500 Syrian IDPs

Components of City:

- 1,680 residential units
- Establishment of integrated service, educational, recreational, and infrastructure facilities

- 4 schools and a kindergarten
- A primary healthcare center consisting of examination rooms, a reception area, a pharmacy, and an inpatient ward
- A mosque with a capacity for 600 worshippers
- A market
- Sports club
- A bakery
- Electricity grid for the entire city and homes
- Water and sewage network, a well, and a water reservoir
- Public service building, a multi-purpose hall, a public park, and children's playgrounds



One Heart Qatar Charity's 2023-2024 Winter Campaign

Qatar Charity (QC) launched the 2023-2024 winter campaign titled "One Heart", aiming to reach approximately 1.5 million people in 21 countries, including Qatar, at an estimated cost of around QR 60 million.

The campaign focuses on Palestine due to the current challenging humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip, which has further worsened with the onset of winter. It also targets crisis-stricken regions, as well as those experiencing extreme cold.

Areas of Campaign

The campaign aims to provide essential winter necessities in the areas of shelter, food, health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

The campaign also aims to provide winter assistance to 4,100 workers within Qatar. This assistance includes winter kits, food packages, and medical aid, in addition to awareness activities.

Mr. Ahmad Yousef Fakhroo, CEO's assistant for the Resources Development and Media Sector at Qatar Charity, stated that Qatar Charity has consistently launched winter campaigns to provide the necessary supplies for vulnerable groups, including internally

displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, impoverished families, and those in need, with a focus on the affected individuals in Palestine and the Gaza Strip. He emphasized that the campaign will also concentrate on countries facing crises, disasters, and extreme cold.

Fakhroo urged the benefactors in Qatar to support the winter campaign to reach the largest possible number of crisis-affected and needy people worldwide, especially those in Palestine, given the current challenging humanitarian conditions, which have worsened significantly with the onset of winter, low temperatures, and rainfall.

He thanked the donors, including individuals, companies, and others, who contributed to Qatar Charity's previous winter campaigns for the benefit of millions of the affected, especially in crisis-stricken regions and impoverished communities.

Targeted Countries

The "One Heart" campaign targets 21 countries, which are Palestine, Syria, Sudan, Jordan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Somalia, Yemen, Afghanistan, Albania, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Turkey, Central Africa, Chad, Tunisia, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Morocco, and Qatar, in addition to Rohingya refugees.

Disaster and Crisis Management: From Prevention and Preparedness to Early Recovery and Reconstruction

Abdelgader Galal Mohamed

Emergency and Relief Expert, Qatar Charity

Crises take various forms and patterns and affect humans, animals, and the surrounding environment. They can be natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and floods, and man-made crises like armed conflicts that are the most destructive to communities. Therefore, it was necessary to innovate methods and strategies to confront these crises and disasters, mitigate their impacts, preserve the survivors' dignity, and enhance their ability to recover amid the toughest challenges. This is known as "Disaster and Crisis Management".

Crisis and disaster management requires pre-plans that can be implemented immediately. These plans outline broad guidelines and necessary immediate actions, making it easier for officials, experts, and workers in this field to carry out their duties effectively. In this article, we present the most important stages of crisis and disaster management to ensure better efficiency and greater effectiveness.

Cycle and Stages

It consists of four fundamental stages, two before the disaster or crisis occurs, which are prevention and mitigation, and preparedness and readiness, and two after, immediately after, or during the disaster or crisis, which are urgent life-saving response and early recovery and reconstruction.

First Phase: Disaster Prevention and Mitigation

Risk prevention and mitigation are the necessary capabilities and measures aimed at preventing disasters or minimizing their occurrence to reduce the loss of lives and properties. Examples of these measures include building dams or floodwater control structures and making firebreaks in wildfire-prone areas before the fire season, as well as improving environmental and social policies and raising public awareness.

Mitigation - These are measures taken (usually in the form of specific programs) to reduce the impact of disasters on society. For example, the development and implementation of building systems can reduce the damages and losses in the case of earthquakes and hurricanes. This term usually indicates that, although it may be possible to prevent some disaster effects, other effects will still exist and can be adjusted or reduced if appropriate actions are taken.

Second Stage: Preparedness and Readiness

Preparedness, according to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, is "the knowledge and capacities developed by



governments, response and recovery organizations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to and recover from the impacts of likely, imminent or current disasters. In practical application, preparedness can include early warning systems, emergency planning, equipment and supplies stockpiling, establishing coordination mechanisms, and training teams to respond quickly and effectively to disaster situations.

Third State: Urgent Life-Saving Humanitarian Response

Response is defined as "Actions taken directly before, during or immediately after a disaster in order to save lives, reduce health impacts, ensure public safety and meet the basic subsistence needs of the people affected." Disaster response is predominantly focused on immediate and short-term needs and is sometimes called disaster relief. Disaster response should encompass the implementation of pre-prepared measures that rely on an understanding of disaster risks.

Fourth Stage: Early Recovery

Early Recovery or Reconstruction is the process by which communities are assisted in returning to their normal levels after a disaster. The early recovery and reconstruction process can be lengthy and continuous, taking from 5 to 10 years or even more. Early recovery typically includes other aspects of reconstruction that pave the way to a sustainable development phase, which can be defined as the gradual progress and modernization of communities. The general focus of the Early Recovery approach, as defined by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is on restoring national capacity, institutions, and communities to recover from armed conflict or natural disasters and entering a transitional phase and rebuilding in a more improved manner.

Figures of Damages Caused by Disasters

Turkey Earthquake

More than **60,000** people were killed.

More than **110,000** people were injured.

More than **500,000** buildings were destroyed.

Libya Floods

More than **4,000** people were killed.

More than **8,540** people are missing.

43,059 people were displaced.

More than **16,000** children were displaced.

More than **2,000** homes were destroyed.

(WHO, IOM, UNICEF)

Morocco Earthquake:

Nearly **3,000** people were killed.

5,674 people were injured.

100,000 children were affected.

329 houses were damaged.

(OCHA, UNICEF)

Sudan Conflict

7 million people have so far been displaced to all states and neighbouring countries, including the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, and South Sudan.

80% of the country's hospitals are out of service and millions have been pushed to the brink of starvation.

More than half of the population needs humanitarian assistance to survive.

(United Nations, UNHCR, UNICEF)

Qatar Charity's Humanitarian Interventions in Palestine (Gaza Strip)

(October 7, 2023 – 15 December)

A Urgent relief projects under implementation



Number of Beneficiaries
936,000
people



Cost
Over **21.5 Million**

Areas of Intervention

- Food Supply (Ready-to-Eat Meals and Food Packages)
- Shelter, Non-Food Items (Tents)
- Health (Medicines, Medical Supplies, and Hospital Fuel)
- WASH (Personal Hygiene Kits)
- Comprehensive Relief in Cooperation with UNRWA: (All sectors including Food, WASH, Shelter, Non-Food Items, and Health)

B Relief Aid via Airlift from Doha to Arish



Number of Beneficiaries
224,000
people



Total Quantity
225
Tons



Cost
Over **2.8 Million**

Areas of Intervention

- Food Supply: (Baby Milk and Wheat Flour)
- Shelter and Non-Food Items: (Tents)
- Health: (First Aid Kits)
- WASH: (Personal Hygiene Kits)





Community engagement should lie at the heart of humanitarian approach

Abdur Rahman Jahangir,
Bangladesh

It is an undeniable fact that humanitarian crises have always been around and will not go away anytime soon. So, the international community and different national international organizations, including non-governmental ones, are giving special attention to humanitarian sufferings by enhancing their assistance and support in various ways in different parts of the world.

Every organization has its own strategy for managing humanitarian responses to crises. However, many experts now recommend putting a community engagement approach at the heart of humanitarian and development initiatives to get effective outcomes. Community-led development approach involves the participation of local people in the selection, planning, implementation and maintenance of any development project to ensure maximum benefits even in highly complex situations. This approach not only can help reinforce the self-esteem of people in the community, but also empower all stakeholders to achieve the desired goals. Various studies suggest that projects implemented based on a community-led development approach yield greater results even in fragile situations like war-torn Iraq and Afghanistan.

Community-led development allows people to participate in and feel ownership of their own development. The United Nations also now advocates for an increased critical role for local communities and civil society in getting the world back on track and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. On various occasions,

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres emphasized the involvement of communities in development and humanitarian activities as he believes that development must focus on empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality.

Community ownership is a fundamental principle of the community-led development approach. So, community members should be allowed to actively participate in planning, implementing, and evaluating development initiatives that will have an impact on their lives. This process encourages people to fulfill their needs and desires in self-aware and informed ways. There are many instances of community ownership in community-led development all over the world. Bangladesh's Grameen Bank, which provides microfinance to poor communities to change their fortunes, is a glaring example of the success of community-led development.

This bank works closely with local communities to find out the needy borrowers. It empowers the borrowers to initiate and grow a business or take a profit-making venture by providing them with necessary training and financial and other support. The community members own the bank and they can play a role in the bank's decision-making process. The bank has long been playing an important role in empowering marginalized women and lifting many of them out of the vicious cycle of poverty.

The local community's active participation in any development and humanitarian project can provide a wealth of indigenous knowledge and insights from its members. It can also give a scope to learn experiences of the community which is crucial for the successful

implementation of any project. This approach also helps create meaningful connections among all stakeholders and find new mentors, collaborators, and overseers who own the project for their own benefit.

Communities provide a supportive environment and necessary help for the smooth execution of any program or project. They better know what their communities need and can provide valuable insights and feedback that can lead to more effective and sustainable outcomes. They also can ensure access to resources that in some cases cannot be discovered without their participation. Communities also can help build confidence and, improve the communication skills of other actors. The results of various studies indicate that a community-led approach is very effective as it helps to harness the knowledge of local experiences and to get insights into the real needs of the community and how to address them in the best possible way.

In addition to the many positive outcomes of this approach, it also raises several challenges that need to be addressed. Many community members may not be aware of how their community can benefit from development efforts. They may feel uncomfortable sharing their opinions and experiences freely for various socio-political reasons. Motivation, education, and outreach can help to increase their knowledge and engagement. Some community members may oppose any change in their status quo because of their traditional point of view or unknown fear, making it difficult to implement any project that requires collective effort. It is necessary to enhance communication with them and try to gain their trust through discussions and providing them with credible information.

Sometimes lack of human resources, expertise, skills, and infrastructure can also be a challenge to implement the program based on community involvement. Developing partnerships with outside organizations or adopting creative strategies to leverage existing resources is necessary to address this challenge. There are disparities in terms of caste, gender, education level and financial and social status in most of the communities which can hinder any development project. Discrepancy within a community can create divisions and hamper the efforts to build trust and collaboration. An organization that undertakes any project for implementation based on a community involvement approach must be creative and efficient to recognize and address these issues to promote successful development.

Strong leadership is also needed to identify and address community needs. Political instability and a hostile political environment, mainly in third-world countries, can also be a barrier to involving local

communities, but this problem can be overcome through effective communication and understanding with local elites and administrations. Community development approaches require collaboration and coordination among multiple stakeholders, including government agencies, community-based organizations, and private sector actors and other service providers. Lack of effective coordination among these stakeholders can hamper project activities and duplicate efforts.

Sometimes community members can feel detached from project activities if they are not properly evaluated and engaged in the decision-making process. So, a meaningful engagement should be built and the dignity of the community members should be protected. The above-mentioned challenges are not exhaustive, but these key issues may arise in community development efforts. A collaborative, comprehensive, and inclusive approach focusing on the needs and perspectives of community members is necessary to overcome these obstacles.

There are several strategies and policies that can be followed to address the challenges of community engagement. First of all, gaining the trust of the community is vital for fruitful community engagement. This trust can be achieved through transparent, honest, and respectful interactions with community members. There can be a language barrier to communicating with the local community and understanding their messages. So, there should be someone in the team of development partners who can communicate with the community in their dialect. The capacity, knowledge, and communication skills of community members can be improved by providing them with training so that they can participate efficiently in community development activities. It is also necessary to empower community members to play leadership roles and enable them to be involved in the overall development process, including planning, decision-making and implementation.

Development agencies have followed a 'top-down' approach for the past few decades, largely ignoring the indigenous knowledge and contributions of local communities. Many recent studies suggest that the results of donor-driven projects are insignificant compared to community-led development projects because of wide gaps between what the donors assumed as the needs of the community and the actual needs on the ground. Community-led development approach puts local people in the driving seat as agents of change in their own development because they know better the causes of their problems and ground realities. This participatory approach is now considered highly effective in addressing social problems and humanitarian crises, alleviating poverty and achieving the SDGs.

Global Perspectives on NGO Communication for Social Change

Title: *Global Perspectives on NGO Communication for Social Change*

Editor: *Giuliana Sorce*

Published: 2021

Pages: 222

Publisher: Routledge

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) face an increasingly challenging and complicated context to achieve social change, especially in these circumstances, when the critical role played by NGOs in civil society has only been heightened.

Given this backdrop, "Global Perspectives on NGO Communication for Social Change" comes to provide us with a timely and comprehensive examination of the key role that communication plays in enabling NGOs for social change to engage with their stakeholders and to impact society.

This book explores how different forms of communication are used, not only featuring the traditional form of media relations or indeed a focus on the use of social media, but also examining the use of other channels of communication. The book considers how NGOs also look for practical, if sometimes unconventional, channels to



communicate with their audiences

It critically deals with a large number of social issues, from workers' rights to climate change and refugees. It succeeds in taking a holistic approach, giving samples of many communication strategies, and offers an effective balance between broader themes and case studies. It, therefore, brings together common issues including communication management, media relations and resource management.

This book examines the central role media and communication play in the activities of NGOs around the globe, how NGOs communicate with key publics, engage stakeholders, target political actors, enable input from civil society, and create participatory opportunities.

Important Topics

An international line-up of authors first discuss communication practices, strategies, and media uses by NGOs, providing insights into the specifics of NGO programs for social change goals and reveal particular sets of tactics NGOs commonly employ.

This book, with its cases and examples from across the globe—ranging from Sudan to China, from Turkey to Brazil, from South Africa to the United States, from the Netherlands to Bangladesh—is an exciting investigation into the organization and practice of

contemporary NGOs communication for social change. This book seeks to strike a balance between detailing media uses and communication practices for social change organizing while highlighting the particular contexts that make NGO advocacy necessary.

Part I of this book discusses communication practices, strategies, and media uses by social change NGOs. Part II of the book presents a set of case studies of NGO organizing from across the globe.

Author

Giuliana Sorce is a postdoctoral scholar in the Institute of Media Studies at the Eberhard Karls University Tübingen, Germany, and a member of IAMCR.





Qatar Charity allows all to get involved in humanitarian work

Qatar Charity (QC) always makes significant efforts in engaging various segments of the community in charitable and work and motivating them to support it. The most important initiatives are listed below:

Ezdehar, The Incubator for Initiatives and Volunteering

It was Launched in October 2022 by Qatar Charity to develop its volunteering programs and support volunteer initiatives.

- 21,000 volunteers are registered in Ezdehar's database.
- 610,133 volunteer hours since the launch of the incubator.
- 55 volunteer opportunities have been provided by the incubator.
- 3,321 training hours have been offered.

- 9 volunteer initiatives received support
- 12 volunteer initiative programs were supported.

Charity Partner (CP) Program

This is a program launched in 2021 by Qatar Charity, as the first trademark given to companies in exchange for supporting and endorsing charitable and developmental activities as part of their corporate social responsibility. 21 companies and institutions have received this trademark so far.

Humanitarian Ambassador

Humanitarian Ambassador: This is a title that Qatar Charity bestows upon local and international figures



who possess the ability to influence, with the aim of leveraging their fame to spread awareness about humanitarian issues and support charitable campaigns.

The 2023 Humanitarian Ambassador: Qatari Champion Mutaz Barshim

Former Ambassadors: Frédéric Oumar Kanouté, a professional footballer, and Mohammed Saadoun Al-Kuwari, a prominent media figure

Engaging Journalists and Social Media Influencers in Supporting Humanitarian Campaigns and in Field Visits

Collaboration with Community Initiatives, Clubs, and Universities in Implementing Charitable Projects

Producing Awareness Programs and Media Materials

Radio and TV Programs

(Qatar Charity produces radio and television programs in collaboration with media outlets)

Social Media Programs

(Stories and others)

Printed Materials

- 30 Issues of the Ghiras Magazine
- 15 books have been published (several of them have been translated into English)

Charity Trips

A 'Charity Trip' is a program organized by Qatar Charity for different age groups. Its aim is to provide them with an opportunity to have a unique experience that combines tourism, entertainment, and close interaction with humanitarian fieldwork. Two trips to Bosnia and Herzegovina have been completed.

Youth Leadership Training / Fazat Shabab Ladaam

Qatar Charity cooperated with the Ministry of Sports and Youth in developing the program, preparing its training kit, training the participants, supervising and assessing their projects, organizing the program's field trip.

Development and Innovation in Humanitarian Work

Dr. Moza Mohammad Al-Rabban
President of Arab Scientific Community Organization

Humanitarian and charitable organizations in the Gulf Arab region operate in various humanitarian and developmental fields, such as education, health, water, economic empowerment, and relief.

Undoubtedly, these organizations have been able to enhance their efficiency and improve their work by utilizing the outputs of science and modern technology. Those in charge of them always strive for further development, efficiency, access to sustainable development, enrichment, and the provision of a dignified life for all.

On the other hand, our Gulf countries have heavily invested in education, higher education, and research centers. Thanks to these investments, there are now numerous scientific institutions with researchers performing at a good level.

Sustainable Solutions

The scientific community, with its individuals and institutions, is an integral part of the larger society that includes charitable and humanitarian work, as well as other aspects such as health, economy, security, and social aspects, etc. In this larger society, collaboration and the exchange of experiences and knowledge are essential to create a strong and interconnected social fabric.

Charitable organizations face various challenges and issues in implementing their

humanitarian projects in different countries and on different occasions. It is no longer acceptable in this era to rely solely on the distribution of money, food, and other immediate aid, despite their importance. Instead, there is a need to find sustainable solutions to address these crises. This approach would reduce the burden on charitable organizations in the future, enabling them to continue benefiting people. As resources are limited, and crises and needs are increasing, sustainable solutions not only save efforts and money but also preserve human dignity and improve the quality of life in vulnerable communities. I will provide some examples for clarification:

First: Water-Related Crises and Disasters

The water-related crises and disasters include droughts, floods, water pollution, and increased salinity in wells and surface water. These situations may occur during natural disasters, displacement, or in remote villages.

Researchers can support charitable organizations in finding sustainable solutions through scientific tools in the fields of energy, communications, networks, artificial intelligence, data and image analysis, and modeling. All of them are tools with diverse capabilities in mitigating the effects of disasters, saving lives, preserving property and human dignity, combating poverty, hunger, and thirst, and addressing the resulting economic and social problems, as well as the absence of security.

Second: Poverty-Related Crises

Here, scientists can assist in various forms depending on the nature of the targeted community. If the community is agricultural, the focus will be on land reclamation, pest control by environmentally friendly and health-preserving methods, suitable irrigation methods, seed selection, plant

types, and the application of modern technologies such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, communication networks, and data analysis, all according to capabilities and locations. Then comes scientific support in the stages of crop harvesting, packaging, transportation, and storage, as well as in the construction of modern and advanced smart farms. This extends to the food industries.

If the community is pastoral or rural, the health of livestock and poultry, their breeding, and veterinary care, along with all the industries based on them, require scientific intervention to improve production and make optimal use of available resources. This, in turn, contributes significantly to enhancing economic levels and mitigating the effects of poverty. Additionally, training, quality improvement, and capacity building are essential.

Third: Health Crises and Epidemics

Here, the role of doctors and healthcare professionals is evident. It is complemented by providing safe drinking water, ensuring proper and balanced nutrition, sanitation and hygiene, and special care for vulnerable groups. All these require the contribution of science and scientists to achieve the best results.

And the scientific community has a significant contribution to providing foods and fruits free from chemicals and pests, clean water suitable for human use, and unpolluted air, and combating mosquitoes and insects through natural methods as much as possible. All of these contribute to good health, and thus increase productivity and reduce treatment costs.

Fourth: Displacement and Refugee Camps

All crises converge in these camps and the need to activate and apply science and health and technical outcomes emerges. This requires finding innovative and practical solutions in which internally displaced persons (IDPs) with scientific and practical expertise and innovative minds, can participate. They will work alongside engineers of various specialties for environmentally friendly housing, clean water and energy, protection from winter cold and summer heat, vertical farms, and water recycling, etc.

Fifth: Production and Dissemination of Knowledge

Scientists from various disciplines can collaborate with

charitable organizations in developing, applying, and disseminating specialized knowledge. This presents a great opportunity for charitable organizations seeking to enhance their work, as well as for the scientific community, which suffers from the limitation of its research and the decline of its output on library shelves. This involves producing innovative work and owning specialized knowledge that we produce, not import."

To support this process, this could mean allocating a platform for scientific resources containing advanced knowledge that supports or regulates charitable work. This platform will provide a mutual learning environment for scientists and practitioners, as well as an environment for exchanging expertise and experiences and deepening the understanding and use of knowledge. It is not surprising that in this atmosphere, a volunteering movement may emerge among scientists to expand participation in charitable work, bringing together theoretical knowledge and practical experiences for the greater good.

It is also a convergence of knowledge and money in a system aimed at sustainable good. It entails training and building the capacities of individuals and communities, and it spreads awareness practically in those environments and makes it a way of life.

These are some examples where charitable organizations can collaborate with the scientific community through universities, research centers, scientific societies, and volunteers, especially for capacity building, training, providing specialized expertise, and awareness. This is a fertile ground for joint programs, where charitable organizations can present their needs based on specific cases and goals during dedicated workshops or bilateral meetings. Researchers then will analyze the problem and possible solutions, developing strategic plans agreed upon by both parties, funded by charities and universities may also contribute to them through community service. The result is sustainable scientific solutions to recurring problems, in which short-term and situational aid is insufficient in a world where privatization and various crises are increasing.

Qatar Charity's Projects and Aid for Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh Over 5 Years (2019-2023)

1.5 Million Refugees

2 Districts Where Aid Was Provided (Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char Island)

Area	Project / Assistance	Beneficiaries
Health	Health center in Cox's Bazar camps	904,714
Food	Food Packages	115,001
Non-Food Items	Cooking gas Cylinders	199,200
Shelter	Homes (891 Homes)	4277
FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Fan Zones	Live Broadcasting of Matches and Accompanying Activities"	238,800

International and Local Praise for Qatar Charity's Relief for Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh

Since the Rohingya refugees sought refuge in Bangladesh until now, Qatar Charity continues to provide assistance to them in the fields of food, health and shelter. The total number of beneficiaries of these projects and assistance during 5 years (2019-2023) reached approximately 1.5 million refugees.

These projects and aids provided by Qatar Charity have praised by the relevant authorities of Bangladesh and international organizations operating in the country.

Government Authorities

- Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner: The support of Qatar Charity

(provided in several phases) till now for the Rohingya people living in Bhasan char, Noakhali has been crucial for them and helped the government of Bangladesh to carry out relief operation smoothly. We express sincere gratitude to Qatar Charity, recognizing Qatar Charity as one of the foremost responders in delivering humanitarian aid in Bhasan Char.

International Organizations

- The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) mentioned in a report that switching from firewood to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for cooking not only alleviates the fuel crisis for Rohingya refugees but also reduces the environmental burden.

Significant Figures

- Now, more than 960,000 Rohingya refugees are living in Bangladesh
- More than half of all Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh (52 percent) are children
- The current refugee population accounts for one-third of the total population in the Cox's Bazar region

(Source: UNHCR Website)



Nawaf AlHammedi to Ghiras:

We are committed to the sustainability of our developmental projects worldwide

Mr. Nawaf AlHammedi, CEO's assistant for the international operations and programs sector at Qatar Charity, emphasized that the increasing volume of natural disasters and crises in the region has not affected the implementation of Qatar Charity's development projects. Instead, this placed a significant responsibility on Qatar Charity, as it is one of the largest humanitarian organizations operating in this field.

In an exclusive interview with "Ghiras", he revealed that Qatar Charity has a plan to expand its field offices in several countries next year, and it is working on the sustainability of its developmental projects to make a continuous impact on the beneficiaries. He added that Qatar Charity has gained the trust of UN and international organizations to a large extent and is almost the largest organization working with UN organizations in terms of funding and receiving funding in the Gulf countries. Below is the interview:

What are the main guidelines of Qatar Charity regarding its humanitarian interventions and the implementation of its development programs and projects?

Our plan at the International Operations and Programs sector stems from Qatar Charity's strategic objectives. As for the guidelines of our humanitarian interventions, they aim to meet needs and save lives based on field assessments conducted through our offices, partners, or international reports issued during disasters. Regarding our development programs and social care initiatives, we strive to align our plans with the countries where we operate by signing agreements with the relevant authorities.

Successive Crises

Has the increase in natural disasters and crises in the region over the past decade placed an additional responsibility on you to focus on humanitarian interventions?

The increase in the volume of natural disasters and conflicts in the region in recent years has placed a significant responsibility on Qatar Charity, as it is one of the largest organizations working in this field. Therefore, its responsibility has multiplied, as the Arab and Muslim world has been experiencing successive crises in recent years, such as the ongoing crisis in Syria, drought in Somalia, floods in Sudan, earthquakes in Turkey and Afghanistan, floods in Pakistan, and the current humanitarian situation in Gaza. This has made everyone to look to the State of Qatar and Qatar Charity for a quick and effective intervention. This is exactly what we have done, as we have made substantial and effective contributions to mitigate the impact of these disasters on the affected populations.

Has the increase in disasters and crises affected the implementation of your plans in the field of development projects?

The increase in disasters and crises has not directly affected our work because what distinguishes Qatar Charity is that

it has two separate departments for projects and relief. The project department is responsible for implementing its regular developmental programs. However, in the event of a disaster in a particular country where we have ongoing developmental projects, the implementation of these projects is temporarily halted, and we focus on relief programs. However, the issue of limited funding often arises. Typically, donors allocate an amount for building schools or mosques, but in crisis situations, these funds may be spent on relief aid. However, in general, there is no shortage in the volume of our developmental interventions.

New Offices

What are the key features of your plan for expanding field offices?

We are currently working on the phase of reactivating the activities of five new offices, which in the previous period were exclusively working on orphan sponsorship. These offices are located in Senegal, Djibouti, Mauritania, Ivory Coast, and Sri Lanka. As part of our plan, we will also open new offices in Iraq, Afghanistan, Rwanda, and Lebanon. These offices are currently in the process of obtaining work permits, and they are expected to be opened in the first quarter of 2024. There are specific criteria that determine the opening of field offices, including the size of projects expected to be implemented in the country, as well as the strategic countries that require Qatar Charity's presence.

What is the importance of the roles of Qatari General Supervisors at the field offices?

The presence of Qatari supervisors at the field offices is a strategically importance for Qatar Charity. The purpose is to support the offices in terms of their relationships with the institutions of the countries where we operate. They also play an official representation role for Qatar Charity in project inaugurations, event attendance, and conferences in the countries. Additionally, they monitor the projects from a



We will open several field offices in 2024

The increase in disasters and crises did not affect the implementation of our developmental projects

strategic perspective, and the types of interventions. The role of the Qatari supervisors is supervisory and not executive. The Qatari supervisors convey the extent of the needs of the communities in the countries they reside in, as they are a trusted source for donors.

Sustainable Projects

What are your orientations regarding the sustainability of Qatar Charity's development projects?

We are committed to the sustainability of Qatar Charity's developmental projects, and we aim to have our administrative offices around the world owned by us. In the coming year, we will focus on operating projects and programs in a sustainable manner. We are in the process of establishing major projects, including Qatar Charity's office in Ghana, which will be owned by Qatar Charity and will accommodate all activities and programs. We have also begun constructing our office in Nigeria, which will be the largest project, encompassing services and

income-generating projects. Additionally, we have a sewing workshop and an orphanage project in Turkey, a poultry project in Kyrgyzstan, apiaries projects in Albania, and several other projects. Through these projects, we aspire to contribute to operating the offices at a rate of 60 percent within two years.

To what extent has Qatar Charity been able to gain the trust of international and United Nations organizations?

Qatar Charity has been able to gain significant trust from international and UN organizations, and we are almost the largest organization working with United Nations organizations in terms of funding and receiving funding in the Gulf countries. For example, we are working on implementing the largest project in Pakistan to rehabilitate and train healthcare staff, with funding from WFP amounting to 30 million Qatari riyals. Currently, the project is in the trial contracting phase.



Qatar Charity's Forum for Its Field Offices 2023

Under the patronage of Minister of State and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Qatar Charity, HE Sheikh Hamad bin Nasser bin Jassem Al Thani, Qatar Charity (QC) organized a forum for its field offices.

The forum was held during November 5-11, 2023, under the slogan 'Let us Leave a Mark' to enhance coordination between Qatar Charity's headquarters and its field offices and improve the capabilities of its field offices' staff.

The opening ceremony of the forum was attended by many dignitaries, including Sheikh Dr Abdulaziz bin Abdurahman Al Thani, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the OIC Humanitarian Funds, in addition to many officials from government bodies and humanitarian organizations, as well as the staff from Qatar Charity's headquarters and its 32 field offices around the world.

Poverty Alleviation

During his opening remarks at the forum, the CEO of Qatar Charity, Yousuf bin Ahmed Al-Kuwari, said, "We consider our field offices as the eyes through which Qatar Charity sees. We, through these offices, assess needs, carry out appropriate humanitarian interventions in a timely manner, implement high-quality poverty alleviation projects and programs, and promote sustainable development, in accordance with the governmental policies and plans of the countries we operate in, and

Capacity-Building Workshops

The forum included 15 specialized workshops, delivered by experts and specialists from the various sectors and departments of Qatar Charity. The workshops covered a variety of topics, including child and family care, emergency and relief management, financial affairs management, international program and development management, information technology management, governance, procurement, tenders, and resource development and media. These activities will develop work mechanisms at field offices of Qatar Charity.

The Director of the Licensing and Support Department at RACA Mr. Rashid Hamad Al Nuaimi delivered a workshop on working between RACA and the organizations in a digital manner without papers.

governance procedures and risk management in charitable work."

Rashid Hamad Al Nuaimi, director of the Licensing and Support Department at the Regulatory Authority for Charitable Activities (RACA), praised the significant role played by Qatar Charity at both the local and international levels. He noted that the value of its aid and programs carried out within Qatar in 2022 amounted to QR194 million, indicating that Qatar Charity has been able to provide developmental and humanitarian assistance to more than 10 million beneficiaries in over 50 countries around the world.

Development Goals

He highlighted Qatar Charity's contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and the development goals of the countries, in which Qatar Charity's field offices are located, as well as its contribution to achieving the Qatar National Vision regarding the international context.

In a statement at the conclusion of the forum, Mr. Manaa Al-Ansari, Director of the Field Offices department at Qatar Charity, said that the forum provided an opportunity to discuss the obstacles of working in the field, overcome associated difficulties, develop capabilities, and exchange successful experiences and practices. He also mentioned that the training workshops for all sectors were highly important and received significant response from the participants.

Dr. Nesma and the incomplete article!

Ali AlRachied

In May, last year, "Nesma" was on track to realize her dream, which she had been eagerly awaiting to achieve after years of hard work, challenge, and anticipation. Thus, she would be the first visually impaired woman to obtain a doctorate in the Gaza Strip. Her thesis was about aspects of corruption in social relationships within the family and ways to address them.

Nesma Al-Ghoula had a strong determination that enabled her to overcome the challenges of her disability, her limited income, and that of her family, as well as the harsh conditions of the over 17-year siege, in addition to the repeated risks of occupation attacks. Therefore, her joy was beyond description.

Qatar Charity (QC) celebrated Nesma's achievement, as she was one of those sponsored by the organization through its 'Rofaqa' initiative since she was a preparatory school student. The director of Qatar Charity's office in Gaza honored her, presenting her with the organization's shield at that time. Additionally, her success story was featured in the Qatari newspapers, including a statement from Mr. Yousef Al-Khulaifi, General Supervisor of the 'Rofaqa' initiative. In the statement, Al-Khulaifi considered that Dr. Nesma's distinction is a source of pride for the 'Rofaqa' Initiative, which provided care and support to this talented woman with disabilities, and this is one of the blessed outcomes of the initiative.

When we were preparing for the Issue 30th of the "Ghiras" magazine, we saw that the best honor for Dr. Nesma is to highlight her success story for her sponsors and philanthropists, as they are the partners in this success and excellence. It was agreed that this would be done through an article she would write for the magazine, focusing on one of the aspects related to people with disabilities, as she is interested in this field. She worked as a coordinator for the Disability Services and Inclusion Center at the Islamic University of Gaza, in addition to her participation in the specialized conferences.

Dr. Nesma was delighted with this invitation and immediately expressed her agreement to contribute to the magazine. She suggested some titles for us, and

we were due to receive the article approximately a week later (on October 10), if the aggression on Gaza had not happened.

In the first three days of the aggression, the magazine's team stayed in touch with Dr. Nesma, ensuring her safety. However, the war rapidly escalated, leading to a complete loss of communication with Dr. Nesma until the writing of this article. We pray to Allah for her well-being, safety, and security. We hope that the war on the people in Gaza will soon come to an end, and Dr. Nesma will appear in the upcoming issues of the magazine, if not in this issue.

Despite the continuous siege on the Gaza Strip and the recurring aggression on it for many years, which Dr. Nesma has lived through and suffered greatly because of the aggression, she remained infused with hope and ambition. After obtaining her doctorate, she aspired to become a lecturer at universities in Gaza to disseminate Islamic knowledge among students. Additionally, she looked forward to intensifying her participation in conferences and publishing various research papers addressing issues related to people with disabilities. She also aimed to enhance her skills through training sessions, intending to share her expertise with students with disabilities.

However, this hope did not conceal her concern due to the unstable conditions. She feared that she might not be able to complete her academic journey due to the exceptional circumstances in the Gaza Strip in particular, and in Palestine in general.

Her personal experience, which I documented in 2017 and recorded in the book "The Glowing of Success" published by Qatar Charity, revealed that among the challenges she faced during her master's studies was the aggression on Gaza in 2014.

Her house was bombed, and her books and thesis references were burned. This forced her to exert extra efforts after the war ended. Yet, with determination, she continued her journey and successfully defended her thesis at that time.

As we are required to rebuild the land with our knowledge, experiences, capabilities, and skills, we will remain with Dr. Nesma and our people in Gaza and Palestine, hoping to realize their noble aspirations as individuals and communities. We wish that they, along with their children and families, attain their rights to a dignified life, education, prosperous living, development, and progress on all levels. Dr. Nesma's article, which we eagerly await in the "Ghiras" magazine, alongside our readers, will represent a title of hope that transcends the boundaries of place and time.

Fatima Jibrell

Champion of Sustainability and Humanitarianism

In the heart of the Horn of Africa, particularly in Somalia, where the challenges of environmental degradation and humanitarian crises often intersect, one woman has dedicated her life to making a profound and lasting impact in the region where her name is synonymous with environmental conservation and humanitarian action.

She is the 2014 UN Environment Champion of the Earth Fatima Jibrell, who has become a beacon of hope for the marginalized communities of Somalia and beyond. She is among those who put aside personal risks for the betterment of generations to come.

Fatima's personality emerged in the environmental and humanitarian arena when Somalia's natural environment was in dire need of someone to advocate for it, protect it, and defend it. That environment found a strong advocate in Fatima Jibril, who challenged the status quo in the country with the goal of protecting ordinary Somalis, their way of life, and the sustainability of the environment.

Challenges

Born into a nomadic pastoralist family in Somalia, Fatima Jibrell's early years were marked by the stark realities of a country grappling with both environmental degradation and political turmoil. She grew up witnessing the devastating effects of deforestation, droughts, and the erosion of traditional agricultural practices on her homeland. It was this stark reality that fueled her unwavering commitment to make a difference.

Adeso

In 1991, Fatima founded African Development Solutions (Adeso), formerly known as the Horn of Africa Relief and Development Organization (HARDO), to turn her

vision of peace and conservation into a tangible reality. The organization was initially dedicated to providing relief aid to communities affected by conflict and drought. However, her vision expanded beyond immediate relief efforts. She recognized that environmental conservation was not separate from humanitarian action but an integral part of it.

From the very beginning, Adeso, with Fatima at its helm, mobilized local and international resources to protect Somalia's fragile pastoral environment. Fatima saw the connection between peace, women's empowerment, resource protection, and the need to equip communities with skills – an understanding that continues to drive the work of Adeso today. Today, her work with Adeso and several other NGOs means Fatima is regarded as one of Somalia's most notable and respected environmental activists.

Pioneering Work

Fatima also worked hard to coordinate environmental groups in Somalia to bring about greater change. One of her most notable accomplishments was ending the charcoal trade in Northeast Somalia. Through her advocacy and coordination, the Puntland Government prohibited the export of charcoal through the Bosaso Port in 2002.

In advocating for a charcoal ban, Fatima quickly realized that she needed to find an alternative fuel for household cooking. She co-founded Sun Fire Cooking to promote the use of the butterfly-design parabolic solar cooker. The organization has widely distributed their solar cookers in Northeast Somalia and Djibouti.

A Unique Approach

Fatima's focus on using local resources and encouraging community-led change has driven much of her work and

that of Adeso. Her introduction of the "rock dam" initiative in Somalia exemplifies this approach. By organizing communities to pile rocks where the water gathers, Fatima's rock dams create the conditions needed for plants, shrubs and small trees to germinate.

Empowering Women

As Fatima firmly believes in the pivotal role of women in environmental conservation and community development, Fatima played a fundamental role in establishing the Women's Alliance for Peace to encourage more women's participation in politics and social issues. Through training and capacity-building programs, she enabled women to take leadership roles and actively participate in decision-making processes. Fatima Jibrell's advocacy efforts have resonated on a global scale. Her powerful voice has drawn attention to

the environmental and humanitarian challenges faced by the Horn of Africa.

Awards

In recognition of her efforts to build peace, advocate better environmental practices, and protect the livelihoods of Somalia's pastoralists, Fatima has been recognized with several prestigious awards. In 2002, she was awarded the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize. In 2007, she was honored with the National Geographic/Buffer Award for Leadership in African Conservation. In 2014, she received the United Nations Environmental Programme Champions of the Earth award. Furthermore, in 2016, she was presented with the Takreem Award for Environmental Development and Sustainability.



Qatari supervisors enhance field office performance



Saleh Mohammed Al-Mari



Youssef Al-Hamadi



Hasan Al-Nuaimi

General Supervisors of Offices:

1. Engineer Hasan Al-Nuaimi - Bosnia and Herzegovina Office
2. Mr. Abdul Nasser Fakhro - Kyrgyzstan Office
3. Mr. Turki Al-Subaie - Mauritania Office
4. Mr. Saleh Mohammed Al-Mari - Jordan Office
5. Mr. Abdullah Al- Naama - Malaysia Office
6. Mr. Youssef Al-Hamadi - Türkiye Office

Appointing several Qatari general supervisors to Qatar Charity's offices in different countries constituted an added value to follow up on its projects in countries. This is in line with its commitment to enhancing and developing the work in these offices by strengthening partnerships and relationships with governmental bodies and international organizations and ensuring the highest standards of transparency and integrity in their operations.

"Ghiras" talked to Mr. Saleh Mohammed Al-Mari, the General Supervisor of Qatar Charity's office in Jordan, Engineer Hasan Al-Nuaimi, the General Supervisor of Qatar Charity's office in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Mr. Youssef Al-Hamadi, the General Supervisor of Qatar Charity's office in Türkiye, to understand their contributions to fieldwork and the most significant situations they have encountered.

When did your mission in this field begin, and what are your most significant contributions?

Mr. Saleh Mohamed Al-Marri:

I have kept pace with Qatar Charity's work in Jordan since the beginnings, and I have contributed to supporting Qatar Charity's programs and activities and building various

partnerships to achieve the charitable and humanitarian objectives of Qatar Charity until the office was established in 2021. I continue to do so until now. Through my supervision of the office, I closely follow the implementation of Qatar Charity's relief and development projects in Jordan.

Engineer Hasan Al-Nuaimi:

My mission as a supervisor of the office of Bosnia and Herzegovina began in February 2023. Through my presence in the field, I seek to provide quality services to the beneficiaries, assess their needs, and implement projects according to the highest international standards. I also ensure continuous monitoring of projects and activities to uphold the dignity of the beneficiaries. Additionally, I work on building positive relationships with government entities and local and international organizations.

Youssef Al-Hamadi:

I have been at Qatar Charity's office in Türkiye since the beginnings of the establishment of the Ankara office and the Gaziantep field office in 2016. The period during which I took over the supervision of the office, which started at the beginning of June, was challenging due to the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that struck Türkiye in February

this year. Since that time, we have been effectively working to develop the office, recruit new staff and expertise, and expand projects that contribute to the earthquake recovery efforts in Türkiye.

What are the most impactful situations you encountered during your fieldwork?

Mr. Saleh Mohamed Al-Marri: There is no doubt that many of the cases we encounter are impactful and have a significant effect on the heart, especially those related to orphans, families who have lost their breadwinners. There are also family heads who are unable to support their families due to illness or disability, and you see them feeling lost and broken because they are unable to meet the needs of their families and children. On the other hand, there are something that brings happiness to the heart. Some impoverished families managed to improve their living conditions after working hard to make their small income-generating projects, which were provided to them by Qatar Charity, a success.

Engineer Hasan Al-Nuaimi: There are many situations that affect those who provide support and assistance to the needy

and bring joy and pleasure to widows and orphans and there are things that seem insignificant to some, but to others, they mean a lot.

Mr. Youssef Al-Hamadi: I have been working in the humanitarian field for over 25 years, during which I have witnessed many situations that are still etched in my memory. One of the most challenging situations I encountered was in 2005 when I was part of delegation to provide relief aid in Pakistan during the Kashmir earthquake. We could hear the voices of those trapped under the rubble, but we were unable to help them due to a lack of rescue equipment at that time. The devastation was terrifying and horrifying.

I feel pain when I see a child under the legal working age toiling and struggling, wiping tables in a restaurant, or working in some place to support their family or make ends meet for the day. It pains me to see the sight of torn tents and shattered camps that can barely shield their residents from the cold of winter. There are many other situations.



Sponsored orphans on Umrah trips

A total of 126 orphans, who are sponsored by Qatar Charity (QC), along with their mothers, have had the opportunity to perform Umrah. The Umrah trips are part of Qatar Charity's continuous efforts to provide comprehensive care to the children sponsored under the "Rofaqa" initiative.

Countries:

Pakistan - Somalia - Ghana - Tunisia - Turkey

Number of Beneficiaries:

126 orphans and their mothers

Criteria for Selecting Beneficiaries:

The orphans were selected based on their excellence in the memorization of Holy Quran, academic achievements, and behavioral discipline.

Visit Program:

Apart from performing Umrah and visiting Masjid al-Haram (the Grand Mosque) and Al Masjid an Nabawi (the Prophet's Mosque), the program encompassed other visits to the holy sites, historical places, mosques, and museums

in Mecca and Medina, in addition to having opportunities to participate in the cultural activities and competitions.

Trip Results:

The trips played a significant role in deepening the understanding of Islamic culture and Islamic history among the participating orphans. These visits were connected to important milestones in the Prophet's biography, thus enhancing the spiritual dimension of their behavior.

Impressions:

The orphans who performed Umrah, along their parents, expressed their happiness and gratitude to their sponsors in Qatar, indicating that it was their greatest wish, which came true.

Shayan Khan from Pakistan, said, "I am very happy because I am reading the Quran in Medina. It has been my wish and dream to read the Quran in the city of the Prophet –Peace Be Upon Him–, and I never expected it to come true without the grace of Allah and the support of the donors and Qatar Charity."

Sudais Shafi Ahmed from Somalia said, "I cannot describe my

longing for visiting the Kaaba. We thank Qatar Charity and our sponsors, who have made every effort to bring happiness to our hearts."

Shamsuddin Musa from Ghana added that the trip was full of acts of worship, prayers, supplications, Quran recitation, and visits to holy places. This provided them with a wealth of important information about Islamic culture, history, and religion.

Islam from Tunisia said, "Today I am in Mecca, and I never expected that one day we would come here."

The mother of Ammar from Syria said, "The first look at the Kaaba brought a different feeling to me. Thanks to Allah, we visited many places, including the Quran printing press, the factory that makes the Kaaba's covering, and other places. She prayed to Allah to reward all those who contributed to their visit to these holy places.





Health initiatives that restore smiles to the lips of the vulnerable

Qatar Charity (QC), as part of its 2021-2025 health strategy, contributes to improving the healthcare situation in several developing countries suffering from low primary healthcare service coverage. This is achieved by increasing the coverage of primary and secondary healthcare services, thus promoting sustainable healthcare development.

Based on that, in 2023, Qatar Charity implemented five health initiatives in several countries, benefiting tens of thousands of children and impoverished families.

Alquloob Alrahimah (Compassionate Hearts)

It is an initiative specialized in repairing congenital heart defects in children using cardiac catheterization without the need for open-heart surgery.

Initiative's Projects: **9 Projects**

Targeted countries: **5 (Senegal, Somalia, Bangladesh, Ghana, and Pakistan)**

Number of beneficiaries: **265** children

Ibsar (Eyesight)

An initiative specialized in combating preventable blindness Initiative's Projects: 65 projects and **5,600 cataract surgeries**.

Targeted countries: 10 (Senegal, Somalia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Tanzania, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Nepal, and Nigeria)

Number of beneficiaries: **5,665 beneficiaries**.

Sinaeat Alibtisamah (Making a Smile)

It is an initiative specialized in treating children with cleft lip

Initiative's Projects: **20 projects**.

Targeted countries: **5 (Ghana, Somalia, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Nigeria)**

Number of beneficiaries: **1,000 children**.

Man Ahyaha (Who revived it?)

It is an initiative specialized in treating children under the age of

five who are suffering from severe and acute malnutrition.

Target countries: **2 (Somalia and Pakistan)**

Number of beneficiaries: **5,607**

Initiative's Projects: **6 projects** that aim to:

1. Provide nutrition services to three health centers in Somalia
2. Conduct medical survey of **1,200 individuals** from the target groups to assess the malnutrition rate, health impact, and the degree of growth impairment in Somalia and Pakistan
3. Offer life-saving therapeutic nutrition services to **600 children** under the age of five who suffer from acute malnutrition in Somalia and Pakistan
4. Provide improved therapeutic and preventive nutrition services to pregnant and lactating mothers suffering from severe malnutrition in the targeted areas and

communities in Somalia and Pakistan

5. Increase the level of awareness and knowledge of the targeted communities regarding optimal nutrition and child care practices in Somalia and Pakistan.

Chronic Diseases Treatment

This is an initiative dedicated to providing support and care for patients suffering from non-communicable diseases (chronic diseases). These diseases encompass four main categories: cardiovascular diseases (such as heart attacks and strokes), cancer, chronic respiratory diseases (like chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma), and diabetes.

Initiative's Projects: **7 projects**.

Target countries: **4 (Somalia, Ivory Coast, Pakistan, and Ghana)**.

Number of beneficiaries: **2,500 patients**.

Ghanaian student Jamal regains vision through *Ibsar*

The child Jamal was not different from his young peers from the rural area of Kumasi, a city in Ghana, who help their parents in herding cattle. One morning, he took his small stick and went out on his usual herding journey. However, he had a serious accident that left him unable to see. His eyes could no longer even shed tears due to pain, and the darkness suddenly surrounded him from all sides. As for his stick, which he used to guide the family's cattle, it had another task, which was to help him return to his small home.

Jamal's humble family earns their livelihood by herding a small number of cattle, and despite their limited resources, they did not lose hope of treating their son and restoring his eyesight. His father, the most determined in this matter, visited, with a fatherly affection, many hospitals, hoping to find a cure for his son's eyes. However, all his attempts failed, and his hopes of treatment were shattered due to the high cost of the recommended medical procedures, which far exceeded their modest means.

Jamal says, "Losing vision in both eyes is a challenging experience, especially if you knew the meaning of sight before. I have learned to imagine the world with my other senses, but it saddens me to think that I might spend my entire life this way."

Unable to afford expensive medical expenses, Jamal's small family had no choice but to send him to a school for the blind located in Wa, a town in Ghana, away from his family. There, Jamal lived for five years, which passed slowly and hardly despite his attempts to adapt to the environment there.

After all these years of waiting, hope is renewed for Jamal and his family through "Ibsar" a specialized initiative aimed at preventing avoidable blindness. It is implemented by Qatar Charity in several countries, including Ghana, with the support of Qatar's philanthropists.



Through this initiative, the same surgeries that Jamal had been waiting for were performed, benefiting many of his fellow students at the school for the visually impaired.

Jamal underwent the long-awaited surgery. These were the moments of hope and anticipation. However, they culminated in his overwhelming happiness when he discovered that he could once again enjoy the blessing of light and perceive shapes after the surgery. Further improvements in his vision are awaiting him in the coming weeks, coinciding with his medical follow up appointments.

After his successful surgery, he expressed his gratitude to the benefactors with the following message:

"I hope you accept my heartfelt thanks. I can smile a little now, and I believe brighter days are awaiting me and many of those like me."



Bidding farewell to Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Al Hammadi

Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Al Hammadi, one of the most prominent humanitarian and social workers in the State of Qatar and a former member of Qatar Charity's board of directors, passed away on October 14, 2023 at the age of 56 after a life filled with giving and extensive activities in charitable, educational, preaching, and guidance fields. At the time, Qatar Charity and many others in the State of Qatar mourned him.

Sheikh Al Hammadi was one of the prominent volunteers of Qatar Charity. Due to the trust of major donors, he was able to support the implementation of many educational and cultural projects and provide relief assistance to areas affected by disasters and crises. The projects were implemented by Qatar Charity. Additionally, he served as a member of boards of directors of Qatar Charity and its General Assembly on multiple occasions.

In addition to his charitable work, Sheikh Al Hammadi worked as a professor of Islamic Jurisprudence at the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies of Qatar University. He also served as a Friday sermon preacher in the mosques of Doha. Furthermore, Sheikh Al Hammadi had participated in radio and television programs in Qatar, presenting many Islamic and educational programs. He also participated in conferences and forums.

Dr. Al-Hammadi was known among his peers and admirers for his cheerful and humble nature, which was evident in his behavior. He was also known for his good manners, actions, and words. He became famous for his gentle and constant smile; may Allah have mercy on him.

We pray to Allah to bestow His vast mercy on Him, to accept effort, and to grant him a place in the highest levels of Paradise. May Allah compensate the Ummah with goodness for his loss.



Taher Al-Haj Mohammed

A remarkable journey of small business and international exports

Taher Al-Hajj Muhammad, from the city of Aleppo, used to work in cosmetics and essential oils in his homeland, Syria. However, due to the challenging circumstances caused by the Syrian crisis, he was forced to leave his country and look for new opportunities in Türkiye. In 2018, he started working in Türkiye and licensed his company in 2019.

Taher faced several challenges as a manager of a small new company in a new country, due to different laws and general business culture, but he never stopped looking for opportunities to develop his company and achieve success.

Meanwhile, Taher heard about the "Scale Up" project implemented by Qatar Charity in partnership with the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) with technical support from the SPARK organization. This project is part of Qatar Charity's Economic Empowerment Program, which aims to expand the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises in Turkey and provides comprehensive technical support to the participants.

Taher applied to participate in the project and was accepted as one of the 200 participating companies. Over three consecutive months, he participated in

intensive training courses in a variety of fields including financial management, risk management, product marketing, and brand management.

However, the most important thing provided by the project to Taher's company was the guidance and support he received. Visits were organized for trainers to his workplaces. They helped him overcome several obstacles and challenges. He also managed to enhance his digital system to make it more efficient and secure.

In addition to the training and guidance, Taher also participated in a businessmen forum organized by Qatar Charity at the end of the training program. There, he met several companies and investors. This helped him to conclude several agreements with other companies, in addition to the exchange of knowledge and experiences.

Thanks to the technical support and training provided by the "Scale Up" project, Maxonal Cosmetics was able to expand its business to many regions in Turkey and even go beyond to export its products to other countries such as Australia, England, Germany, and Egypt.

The company has achieved the required success and is determined to continue expanding and developing its activities in the future.



On the sidelines of Expo 2023 Qatar Charity organizes panel discussion on water security

Several experts and specialists in the field of the environment, water security, and climate change participated in a panel discussion organized by Qatar Charity (QC) under the title "Water Security and Climate Resilience". The panelists discussed topics related to water security and practical and sustainable strategies to address climate change and water scarcity. The panel discussion took place on the sidelines of the "QFFD Sustainability Summit 2023" launched by Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), in cooperation with Qatar Charity as part of the events of Expo 2023 Doha.

The panel discussion included many points, including how to empower local communities to take control, particularly in the realm of water scarcity, and how can we leverage technology for sustainable water practices, in addition to the strategies and criteria that funding organizations prioritize when allocating resources to ensure the greatest impact in terms of addressing water scarcity and climate change, as well as other relevant topics. The session featured discussions by several experts and specialists.

Speakers

During his opening remarks at the panel discussion, **Mr. Manaa Al-Ansari**, Director of the Field Offices department at Qatar Charity, said, "the impact of climate change is placing immense pressure on very limited water supply. We all witnessed the raging floods in Pakistan and Sudan and the drought in Somalia. In the face of these challenges, we, at Qatar Charity, recognize the importance of implementing effective strategies to ensure water security."

He added, "We quickly mobilized ourselves to provide

immediate response, proudly reaching more than 5 million people last year. We also provided more than 2 million people with access to WASH services across 49 countries in 2022."

Mr. Biplove Choudhary, UNDP Technical Representative and Head of office Qatar, "We need everyone's collaboration to address climate change: Governments, INGOs, UN and communities."

Mr. Mohammed Kamel, Lead Operations management specialist at Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), said "Many of IsDB's member countries are water-stressed, and severely affected by climate change. Substantial work is needed to secure water resources for future generations."

Mr. Denis Vanhontegem, Middle East & EE Climate change & resilience advisor, Save the Children, said that the organization places a lot of importance on empowering local communities, as they are the most affected by water scarcity and climate change, emphasizing the importance of empowering local communities to take control, particularly in the realm of water scarcity. He noted the importance of documenting the impacts of climate change and water scarcity, as this central strategy raises awareness, drives action, and mobilizes funding to enhance the resilience of both systems and communities.

Mr. Tarik Hassan, Climate Change Specialist, UNICEF MENA Regional Office, said that UNICEF is a long-time advocate for addressing water scarcity, while emphasizing practical and sustainable strategies to strengthen community resilience.



Tamkeen, a training program to enhance capabilities of productive families in Qatar

Qatar Charity (QC) places its community programs at the top of its priorities to refine the capabilities of individuals, empower them to develop their skills and experiences, and shape their well-rounded personalities capable of improving the living conditions of low-income families, enhancing their financial and social stability, and taking them towards development. This is in support of the Qatar National Vision 2030 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this context, Qatar Charity has completed two editions of the 'Tamkeen' program, a business incubator designed to empower individuals to create and own opportunities that ensure them a stable life at all levels and dimensions.

Program definition

"Tamkeen" is a comprehensive training program that focuses on developing and enhancing necessary practical skills and capacities in the areas of economic, psychological, and social empowerment. It is delivered remotely through social networks or by providing directly training sessions, tailored to the targeted groups and their specific circumstances.

Beneficiaries

- Individuals with small business ideas and projects
- Those looking to develop stalled projects

- Those in need of training for the labor market
- Low-income families
- Persons with special needs
- Others

Key Components of the Program

The training program comprises several specialized technical, managerial, and skill-building workshops, including:

- Project Establishment Procedures
- Business Model
- Digital Marketing
- How to Prepare a Marketing Plan for Your Project
- Product or Service Pricing
- Accounting
- How to Design Your Identity

Terms and Conditions for Participations

1. Participants should have an idea for a project or an existing project
2. There must be a desire and seriousness to continue in the program to receive the appropriate support and qualify for a

real investment opportunity

Program Phases

1. Register
2. Attend the training program and workshops
3. Submit projects to be evaluated
4. Launch a marketing campaign to support outstanding projects
5. Closing ceremony in the presence of entrepreneurs in Qatar

Partners

(First Phase)

Etliaq Business Management

Bedaya Center

(Second Phase)

- Ministry of Social Development and Family
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Qatar Development Bank
- Nama Social Center

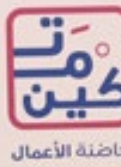
- Qatar University
- The First International Development Center for Consulting
- Confuso for Technical Solutions

Achievements of the First Edition (October-December 2020)

- 6 training workshops covering various topics for developing and enhancing essential practical skills
- 45 participants, both male and female. The final projects included 8 participations, of which 4 projects qualified
- Follow-up on the winning projects and their related activities

Achievements of the Second Edition (August-October 2023)

- Benefited 30 productive households (women and men) with limited income, as well as families receiving financial aid
- Provided technical training for the targeted individuals on their existing crafts and projects in need of development and marketing
- Conducted 10 training workshops to enhance and develop essential practical skills



حاضنة الأعمال



Mohammad Qasim, Pakistan Branch:

Humanitarian scenes from flood remain etched in my memory

My name is Mohammed Qasim. I am from the Khipro sub district in the Sangar district of the Sindh province. It is one of the most flood-affected areas in the province. I have been working since 2012 as a development project officer and team leader at Qatar Charity's office in Khairpur district, Sindh. Here, I record my unforgettable observations about the devastating floods that occurred in the province in August, 2022, especially those in relation to my hometown.

I had been monitoring the continuous heavy

monsoon rains since July 2022 through the media and office meetings, and I was determined to contribute to addressing the devastation caused by the escalating floods. I was thinking what should be done, but I knew very little about the challenges that awaited me, both at home and at work.

Swift Flood Response

Within just one week of rainfall, access to our field areas became nearly impossible. Therefore, as the team leader at Qatar Charity's office in Khairpur, I had to halt all our development projects in the area and shift our focus on coordinating with government

offices and conducting field assessments of the current situation in the flood-affected areas. The water had submerged the entire area, and people were rushing to reach temporary government shelters or higher ground alongside the roads. We provided all the support and assistance we could to transport people to safer locations.

Fortunately, Qatar Charity was one of the first organizations to respond humanitarily to the flood disaster, specifically in the Khairpur district. The family tents, dry food packages, and personal hygiene essentials were immediately provided.

Over the years, due to my fieldwork, I have witnessed many cases of poverty and hardship, and saw those affected by diseases and epidemics. However, this was the first time I had seen destruction, suffering, and death up close during my work.

Daily, after distributing the aid, we attended funerals with the affected local community members. It was particularly heartbreaking for me to see the mothers mourning the loss of their children due to the diseases transmitted by water during and after the floods, which could have been prevented.

Saving the Stranded

When we moved by boats to remote areas on the outskirts of the area to distribute aid, we encountered people who had not left their homes when the floods began. So it was our duty to assist them and ensure their safety.

I once met a group of men on the rooftops of their houses, stranded amid the water. I remember they started shouting and waving for help as we moved towards them. When we reached them, we discovered they had elderly individuals with them who were exhausted by hunger. We had to take them with us on our boat.

After the second week of our emergency relief response operations, we discovered that the water had also entered my district Sanghar. Fortunately, it didn't enter my village extensively, but many of my relatives in the area had to move to safer locations. It was extremely challenging for me. During the day, I was assisting beneficiaries as a relief worker. At night, I was consoling my family through long phone calls. There were no injuries in my family, but we lost our entire crops, which we had planned to preserve and use for the entire next year. However, this loss cannot be compared to the ordeal of the people in the area where I work and getting drinking water was an extremely precious commodity.

Happiness & Blessing

It has been a year since the flood disaster, but I still find myself unable to erase the images of destruction and suffering from my memory. At the same time, I feel proud, happy, and content because I was one of the first to contribute to helping the affected people.

It is indeed a great blessing from Allah Almighty to make you a means of delivering goodness to those deserving individuals who left their homes, schools, and sources of livelihood, and were waiting for a tent to live in with their families and children, along with a living to feed them.

Unfortunately, due to Pakistan's geographical location and the global climate change affecting the entire world, this country is exposed to numerous natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, and droughts, in addition to the spread of diseases and epidemics. Therefore, what I emphasize as a humanitarian worker is the importance of building a culture of safety and security, as well as the ability to confront risks and early warning systems to mitigate the effects of these risks. This helps the affected community members enhance their capabilities on how to prepare and respond to potential disasters that may occur in the future, and how to confront their risks and reduce their impacts.



Qatar Charity's policies, programs, projects, and activities for environmental protection within and outside Qatar

Qatar Charity (QC) has developed a clear environmental protection policy that integrates with other policies related to the governance of the organization in various areas of its work. This policy is in harmony with what is stated in the permanent constitution of the State of Qatar, which stipulates that the country works to "protect the environment and its natural

balance in pursuit of comprehensive and sustainable development for all generations." It also aligns with what was stated in the fourth pillar (environmental development) in the Qatar National Vision 2030, "Development will be carried out with responsibility and respect, balancing the needs of economic growth and social development with the conditions for environmental protection." Furthermore, this

policy is in line with the trends that require concerted international efforts to address the risks posed by global climate change and the damage it causes to the environment.

Environmental Protection Policy of Qatar Charity

The environmental protection policy of Qatar Charity, as stated in its introduction, stipulates that: Qatar Charity realizes the extent of the impact of the environment and its associated changes on the lives of individuals and communities. It is aware of the extent of the environment's connection to humanitarian crises and developmental problems that Qatar Charity seeks to contribute to addressing.

The purpose of this policy is to establish a framework

governing Qatar Charity's commitment to integrating environmental concerns into its policies, programs, and projects. This is achieved by pursuing the following objectives:

- Compliance with all environmental laws and regulations in the State of Qatar and the countries in which we operate.
- Integration of environmental considerations into all programs, projects, and activities implemented by Qatar Charity.
- Raising awareness within the organization's work environment about the relationship between the environment, development, humanitarian crises, and natural disasters.



Countries in terms of thier global vulnerability to climate change

The following table contains the ranking of the countries, in which Qatar Charity operates, in terms of climate change, starting with the most affected.

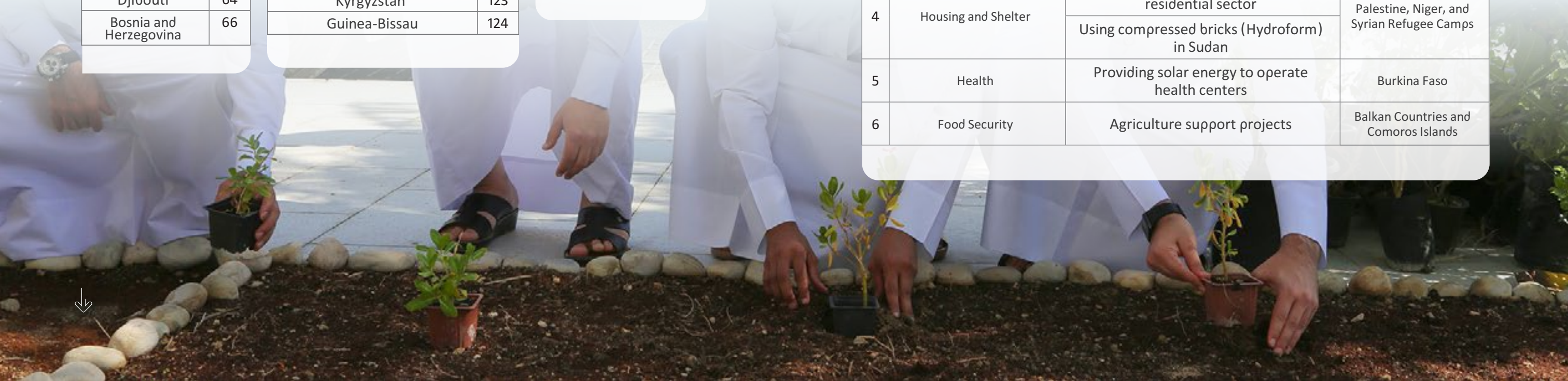
Country	CRI	Country	CRI	Country	CRI
Myanmar	2	Kosovo - Serbia - Montenegro	69	South Sudan	125
Haiti	3	Burundi	71	Albania	129
Philippines	4	Niger	73	Tunisia	130
Pakistan	5	Yemen	74	Tanzania	130
Bangladesh	7	Indonesia	77	Turkey	132
Nepal	9	Malawi	80	Jordan	133
Cambodia	12	Mauritania	81	Mali	135
Mozambique	14	Greece	82	Zambia	137
India	17	Gambia	86	Lebanon	138
Sri Lanka	22	Sudan	101	Comoros	140
Afghanistan	24	Burkina Faso	106	Congo	141
Zimbabwe	36	Morocco	107	Senegal	142
Kenya	37	Chad	110	Benin	149
Tajikistan	49	Rwanda	111	Ivory Coast	153
Mongolia	53	Ghana	113	Togo	160
Ethiopia	56	Malaysia	114	Liberia	165
Namibia	60	Nigeria	117	Gabon	174
Uganda	62	Guinea	120	Qatar	181
Djibouti	64	Kyrgyzstan	123		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	66	Guinea-Bissau	124		

Previous Development and Humanitarian Interventions by Qatar Charity (Outside Qatar)

Mitigation

The mitigation interventions carried out by Qatar Charity aim to address the root causes of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Qatar Charity's contribution in this context focusses mainly on providing clean energy for use instead of fossil fuels, which result in climate change, such as:

	Area	Activity	Country
1	Infrastructure	Solar street lighting	Bangladesh and Palestine
		Providing solar energy for residential and service complexes in Darfur (Schools, Water Stations, Health Institutions, Houses)	Sudan
2	Education	Providing solar energy for schools	Gaza Strip
3	Water and Sanitation	Providing solar energy to operate water sources	Yemen, Sudan, Tunisia, Niger, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal
		Generating biogas from sewage waste	Bangladesh
4	Housing and Shelter	Providing solar energy for the residential sector	Palestine, Niger, and Syrian Refugee Camps
		Using compressed bricks (Hydroform) in Sudan	
5	Health	Providing solar energy to operate health centers	Burkina Faso
6	Food Security	Agriculture support projects	Balkan Countries and Comoros Islands



Adaptation

This is the adaption of groups, systems, and individual institutions to climate change to reduce vulnerability and thus enhance the capacity to cope with and minimize the negative effects of climate change. Qatar Charity's main contribution in this context is primarily in responding to the effects of climate change-induced disasters, alongside projects aimed at compensating for resources lost due to climate change, such as:

#	Field	Activity	Country
1	Humanitarian Work	Responding to the effects of hurricanes and floods	Asia & Africa
		Responding to the effects of frost and severe cold during winter	Balkan Countries
		Projects supporting the voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons ((IDPs	Somalia & Sudan
		Supporting people displaced due to desertification and drought	Sahel and Horn of Africa Countries
2	Development Projects	Constructing desalination and water treatment plants to compensate for the loss of fresh water	Palestine, Bangladesh, Comoros Islands, and Sudan
		Building rainwater tanks and networks	Yemen

Proposed Future Climate Change Interventions (Outside Qatar)

- Select the countries most affected by climate change from among the countries where Qatar Charity operates.
- Conduct environmental studies to determine the best interventions to reduce climate change.
- Design projects related to climate change according to the needs of the countries.
- Prepare advocacy papers on climate change issues at the international and local levels.
- Prepare advocacy papers on climate change issues at the regional level and participate in conferences and workshops.
- Build capacity to address climate change and mitigate its effects.

Success Story from Bangladesh

Qatar Charity has launched a solar-powered deep tube well project to provide water in the coastal areas of Bangladesh. In 2019, the first solar-powered tube well was drilled in Khulna, a city in

Bangladesh. From 2019 to 2023, 40 solar-powered projects were implemented in that area, benefiting 100,000 people.

Qatar Charity continues its efforts to provide safe drinking water to the residents of coastal areas. Over the past five years, it has drilled more than 15,500 deep tube wells in the coastal areas, providing safe drinking water to hundreds of thousands of people in vulnerable local communities in the Bay of Bengal where unsafe water poses serious health risks to the population.

Environmental Projects, Initiatives, and Activities (Within Qatar)

The Programs and Community Development Sector at Qatar Charity prioritizes environmental issues and climate change-related challenges within Qatar. Among the significant efforts in this context are the following:

1 - Ezdehar, Incubator for Initiatives and Volunteering

It has implemented several projects and activities

that focus on the environment and environmental aspects since its launch in 2022, as follows:

A-Preparing and Supporting Voluntary Environmental Initiatives

Ezdehar has hosted various initiatives, including environmental ones, and collaborated with proactive volunteers in developing ideas and plans for launching environmental initiatives, in addition to community and development initiatives.

Some of the initiatives that have been supported or developed in the field of the environment include:

- Youth Forum Initiative "Inspiring Youth for a Sustainable World" - Green Skills.
- Giving Tree Initiative - Recycling Paper and Cardboard.
- Klaakia Initiative - Recycling Plastic Sheeting.

B - Environmental Symposium

In celebration of International Youth Day 2023, Ezdehar, in collaboration with the "Youth Forum" initiative, organized a symposium to discuss the issues and challenges facing young people in the world today. The symposium took place on August 12 and targeted individuals interested in green skills and the green economy. This event was in line with International Youth Day 2023's theme "Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World". It also aligned with the theme of Expo 2023 Doha.

2 - Providing Water to Birds Project

This project focuses on preserving natural life and the environment to protect birds from heat-related deaths during summer. It came at the initiative of Al Shahaniya Municipality and involved collaboration with other municipalities. Qatar Charity's participation in this project came through models with a Gulf urban and sustainable design to provide water to birds. These models were marketed to individuals and organizations to increase their numbers and were placed in various locations, such as walking paths, parks, and public areas. Through this project, more than 115 models were installed in various areas across Qatar.

3 - Beach Cleaning Project

The project involved 75 participants who cleaned the beach on Ben Ghannam Island. It was implemented to contribute to protecting the marine environment from deterioration and pollution, safeguarding

biodiversity, and enhancing the sustainability of natural resources.

4 - Qatar Charity's participation in 'One Million Trees' initiative

In line with Qatar Charity's keenness to contribute to achieving Qatar National Vision 2030, Qatar Sustainability Week (QSW) was activated. Qatar Charity took part in the 'One Million Trees' drive, in cooperation with the Public Parks Department of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC).

Several employees of Qatar Charity contributed to implementing the initiative, planting a variety of shrubs and flowers in Qatar Charity's headquarters in Lusail.

5 - Participation in National Environment Day

As a contribution to the National Environment Day activities, Qatar Charity organized a workshop to raise awareness among female students of Al Khor Preparatory School. The organization set up a live model for the participating students to showcase the roles of community and student initiatives in preserving the environment and reducing pollution.

6 - Khuzama Program for Girls

As part of the Khuzama (Lavender) Program for Girls, several educational and entertainment activities were organized. These activities aimed to:

- Promote the concept of sustainability and recycling.
- Develop local industries and create empowerment opportunities.

The girls were given a range of technical skills to make decorative items and personal and household toiletries and accessories.

7 - Hayyehum Project

To establish direct interaction between students and the environment and create a connection between them, events were organized for children and teenagers as part of the "Hayyehum" program. Thirty students participated in cleaning the beaches from plastic containers and other waste. Additionally, the participating students were involved in repainting and maintaining benches and planters in Al Khor Park.

Qatar

Medical Camp for Workers

Qatar Charity (QC), in partnership with Centre for Indian Community (CIC) - Qatar organized a medical camp for workers who are in the process of searching for work. Approximately 1,488 workers from various Asian nationalities benefited from the medical camp.

This medical camp was held to provide healthcare services and conduct essential examinations for the workers most in need, as well as foster a sense of social solidarity among community members.

The camp was implemented with the support of the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC), Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), the Ministry of Municipality, and Wellcare Pharmacy, in co-operation

with the Indian Pharmacists Association Qatar (IPhAQ), the Qatar Diabetes Association (QDA), the General Directorate of Traffic, the Indian Doctors Club (IDC)- Qatar, and the United Nurses of India - Qatar (UNIQ).



Qatar

General Assembly Meeting

The General Assembly of Qatar Charity (QC) held its 31st ordinary annual and 32nd extraordinary meetings at its headquarters. The meetings were held in the presence of Qatar Charity's Chairperson, His Excellency Sheikh Hamad bin Nasser bin Jasim Al-Thani, the members of the Board of Directors, and the members of the General Assembly.

During the 31st ordinary annual meeting of the General Assembly, the annual report of the Board of Directors on Qatar Charity's performance, financial statements, and its work results for the past year 2022 were reviewed. The final statement of account for the same fiscal year were approved. The participants also approved the

estimated budget proposal for the current year 2023.

At the end of the 31st Ordinary Meeting of the General Assembly, a Board of Directors of Qatar Charity was elected by acclamation.



Qatar

Forum on Food Security

Qatar Charity (QC) participated in the 2nd IOFS High-Level Forum on Food Security, which started on the first of October and lasted for three days.

A memorandum of cooperation was also signed between Qatar Charity and the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS). Mr. Ahmed Al-Rumaihi, Director of the External Affairs Office, delivered a speech during the forum on the role of civil society organizations in agricultural development and food security.



Yemen

Agreement with OCHA

Qatar Charity (QC) has signed an agreement with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Yemen to implement two projects in the field of water and sanitation services and improving access to health services in the Taiz and Ibb governorates, with a total cost exceeding five million Qatari riyals. The projects are expected to benefit approximately 200,000 people.



Libya

Relief Aid

As part of its "Libya Appeal" campaign, Qatar Charity (QC) distributed urgent relief aid to those affected by the floods and storms in eastern Libya to alleviate their suffering and meet their basic needs in the areas of food, shelter, and healthcare. Approximately 10,000 people benefited from this assistance until November, 2023.



Pakistan

Winterization Kits

Qatar Charity (QC) distributed 100 winterization kits to the students of an Orphan hostel in the Muzaffargarh district, one of the coldest areas of Pakistan's Punjab province in winter. The initiative aims to provide the beneficiaries with warmth requirements in preparation for the imminent winter season. The winterization kits comprised of quilts, pillows, mattresses, warm shawls, and warm clothes.



Albania

Two agreements to drill 110 wells

Qatar Charity (QC) has signed two agreements to dig 110 wells at a cost exceeding 2 million Qatari Riyals. These wells will benefit more than 20,000 people in Albania. In conjunction with the signing ceremony, Qatar Charity laid the foundation stone for a mosque in the Shkodra region, which will be built with an estimated cost of 1.5 million Qatari Riyals.



Ghana

Multi-service center in Ghana

Qatar Charity (QC) inaugurated a multi-service center in Abokobi of Accra, the capital of Ghana, as part of its continued efforts to establish qualitative projects in the country. The multi-service center, named "Al-Rahmah Center", has a large mosque, a Quran education center, a water well, and a spacious hall for educational, cultural, and charitable activities.



Bangladesh

Building schools

Qatar Charity (QC) is building four new schools in Gaibandha, Gopalganj, Meherpur, and Bogra, all districts in Bangladesh, to benefit more than 1,000 children.

The schools are part of Qatar Charity's ongoing efforts to build and equip more schools with residential facilities for the students from underprivileged communities. These schools will provide a supportive learning environment for orphaned children, as well as those belonging to disadvantaged families, to help them continue their education.



Northern Syria

Rehabilitating

Qatar Charity (QC) has rehabilitated and operated the Babilit water station in northern Syria. It has also rehabilitated and cleaned all its main and subsidiary irrigation channels. This station provides irrigation water to approximately 5,000 hectares of cultivated land in the region. The project is part of Qatar Charity's efforts to empower the local community and support the resilience of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in northern Syria.

The significance of this project has become more pronounced in recent times due to the region's exposure to drought waves and scarcity of other water sources. Additionally, the deterioration of food security in northern Syria highlights the importance, as the region relies on the agricultural sector for 90% of its income sources.



Somalia

Graduation Ceremony for Sponsored Students

Qatar Charity (QC) organized a graduation ceremony for 161 of its sponsored students at Mogadishu University in Somalia. The ceremony was attended by members of the Cabinet and the House of the People in Somalia, the Qatari Embassy staff, the Head of the Child Protection Department at the Family and Childhood Care Department at Qatar Charity, and the President of Mogadishu University. The ceremony was also attended by several graduates who had received scholarships from Qatar Charity and now hold important positions in the Somali government.

Speakers at the ceremony praised Qatar Charity's educational efforts in Somalia, which has benefited more than 3,000 Somali students since the opening of Qatar Charity's office in the country.





Qatar Charity honored with awards and prestigious certificates in 2023

In 2023, Qatar Charity (QC) was honored with an international award and multiple certificates pertaining to administrative systems, all compliant with international standards and specifications.

Excellence Award

Qatar Charity has been awarded the Excellence Award (Islamic Social Responsibility) 2023, as part of the 13th Global Islamic Finance Awards (GIFA) 2023. The winners were honored in a ceremony, which was held in Dakar, Senegal and attended by the Senegalese President Macky Sall and several senior officials and experts in the field of Islamic finance from around the world.

The award was bestowed on Qatar Charity, in recognition of its outstanding contributions to Islamic finance through various instruments like Zakat and almsgiving (Sadaqah), distributed to low-income families and other vulnerable people. The award was received by the Director of Field Offices at Qatar Charity Mr. Manaa Al Ansari during the ceremony.

5 ISO Certificates

Qatar Charity was awarded ISO certificates by Bureau Veritas in five management areas, which are Quality Management, Information Security Management, Risk Management, Compliance Management, and Customer Service Management.

At the conclusion of the opening session of Qatar Charity's forum for its field offices, held during November 9-13, 2023, ISO certificates, granted by Bureau Veritas, were handed to the departments of Qatar Charity.

Validation Letter

Qatar Charity (QC) obtained a 'Validation Letter' from the Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) Alliance after completing a self-assessment conducted by Qatar Charity with support from the CHS Alliance in July 2023. The letter confirmed that Qatar Charity has demonstrated its official commitment to learning to apply the Core Humanitarian Standards for quality and accountability. Accordingly, it was officially recognized and listed among the verified organizations on the CHS alliance's official website.

Shield

The Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH) honored Qatar Charity (QC) for its efforts during the earthquake crisis in Turkey. Mr. Nawaf al-Hammadi, CEO's assistant for the International Operations and Programs sector at Qatar Charity, received a certificate of appreciation and a shield in recognition of Qatar Charity's outstanding contributions in search and rescue operations and disaster management.