



Prizes Collection

**Qatar Flag on the Top
of Kilimanjaro Peak**

**Qatar Charity
at the United Nations**



Editorial

Messages from the field

Each issue of 'Ghiras' brings different ideas and subjects. The focus of this edition is the field; the heartbeat of our work. A number of beneficiaries of Qatar Charity projects, from places as far and wide as the Gaza Strip to Indonesia will speak to you, the readers, directly, allowing you to witness first-hand the effects of your generosity on their lives and the society. We ask Allah that He rewards those who spent and made an effort in this cause.



From the city of Garut - Indonesia

Since the start of Qatar Charity's activities in the city the lives of the people (126,500 of Garut (Population have been continuously improving. The orphans are given monthly support and the families are happy and delighted when in Ramadan and Eid the helping hand of Qatar Charity reaches them. This year, we added a special element to 200 the campaign, with blind people in Garut receiving 'electronic brail editions of the Holy Quran' Basira Quran Perhaps this is the biggest intervention occurred during" the drought which had struck the city three years ago. At that time many organisations tried to comfort us and provide relief but it was Qatar Charity wells in 500 that came up with the radical and efficient solution of drilling .order to help those who were unable to access clean water A similar situation arose when floods swept Garut two months ago. The homes. 600 people and destroyed more than 25 catastrophic event killed Qatar Charity was on the ground the very next day, assessing the magnitude of the disaster and establishing the urgent relief needs. Three days later, as aid agencies were busy providing food assistance to those affected; Qatar Charity surprised us by launching a project for the construction of housing units for those who were displaced after the destruction of their homes. Five hundred homes were built, both from the central government " and humanitarian organizations

Mr. Rudy Jonuan
head of Garut city



An orphan from the Gaza Strip

year old orphan, Amr Abdel-Hamid 10 In the Gaza Strip, a Darwish, expressed his thanks to Qatar Charity, saying: " I thank God for the support of the State of Qatar after my father died when I was just three years old. I would like to tell the donors that I came first in my class last year and also won first place in a poetry contest at primary school and I hope to complete my studies up to the highest educational ranks, and to live a good life, making my mother proud assuring " a good future for my family

Amr Abdel-Hamid Darwish,



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A humanitarian mission to the top of Kilimanjaro:

volunteers have ventured to climb the summit of the highest mountain in Africa, Mount Kilimanjaro, in order to raise awareness of the crippling poverty threatening the lives of millions of people, particularly in Africa.

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'Al-Dhafer Tower':

Fifty Gaza families will soon be housed thanks to the Qatar Charity project that received funding from the Gulf Cooperation Council along with support of the Islamic Development Bank.

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Interview with the Kuwaiti humanitarian professional photographer, Abdul Rahman Al Terkait, who has made a living documenting the effects of natural disasters, wars, poverty and famine.

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قطر الخيرية
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In this Picture

Imam mosque in Garut village in Indonesia, he has a house donated by philanthropists in Qatar.

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Sometimes we take things for granted. The jobs we have, the food and water we eat and drink, the shelter that keeps us safe, the education that gives us wisdom. For others, such basics are often things that are out of reach, but you can help change that. Please help us lift the lives of those who need it most.

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Qatar Charity wins gold medals at Al Haitham Arab Media Awards

The third edition of the 'Safari Al-Khair 3' show, which is produced by Qatar Charity and broadcast on Qatar TV, won two gold awards presented in the eighth edition of the Al Haitham Arab Media Award. The first award was for the best Ramadan charity show and the other for the best show in terms of idea and implementation.

The prizes were awarded for the 'Safari Al-Khair 3' show which was won in the 'Charitable work' and 'The Best Idea and Implementation of Programs' categories.

The awards were presented during a special ceremony held in the Jordanian capital, Amman, in the presence of a number of Arab media stars. The award was presented to Saleh bin Mohammed bin Ghorab Al Marri, Advisor to the Chief Executive Officer of QC, and Madame Shaima Alsayed, General Director of Rita Production Company, the executing agency for

Executive Director of Operations at QC and General Supervisor of the program, Faisal Alfahad said: "We thank the management of Qatar TV and all the volunteers who took part in this show."

the show.

Success partners

QC expressed its pleasure at the awards, two accolades of which of such were presented in recognition of the organization's many and varied projects and programs in the humanitarian field.

Alfahad thanked the organizers of Al Haitham Arab Media Award for its encouragement of meaningful media work, expressing his gratitude and appreciation to Qatar TV- represented by Sheikh Abdul Rahman bin Hamad bin Jassim Al Thani, Head of Qatar General Broadcasting and Television Corporation and HE Sheikh Fahad bin Thamer Althani, Assistant Director of Qatar TV. He also praised all the technical teams working with them for providing all the necessary broadcasting facilities.

Alfahad also commended the efforts of the volunteers, highlighting the impact of QC development projects in the target countries during the past three years. He said that this award will give impetus to the development of the fourth edition of 'Safari Al-Khair', which in his opinion will be the best edition yet, thanks to a number of quality additions.

He explained that the next addition will focus on providing services in the areas of health and education, and will target needy groups in a country which will be announced at a later date.

The Al Haitham Arab Media Award was founded in 2008 in order to encourage meaningful Arab media work, activating the role of young people, supporting them and connecting them to an Arab organization. The Al Haitham Arab Media Award has now reached more than 100 Arab journalist and leaders in Media.

The eighth edition of the award was organized under the slogan: 'My culture is the essence of my career: the media represents the culture of society'. In light of the challenging lack of cultural content in the Arab media, a number of Arab celebrities were honoured, including the distinguished media personality Hassan Moawad, the young journalist Kholoud Alnimer, the journalist George Salibi, Dr. Nadine El-Assaad, journalist

Al Haitham Award

The award was launched in 2008 by the United Arab Media Council and aims at promoting the purposeful Arab media work and encouraging young media professionals. The award has so far honoured 100 media leaders and specialists.

Noordin Alzarouki, Ahmed Albayed, Safia Alshehhi, the young journalist Abdullah Talihi, and journalist Mohammed KhairAlbourini.

Safari Al-Khair – 3 Editions

The 'Safari Al-Khair 3' show, produced by QC, was aired throughout the holy month of Ramadan 1437 AH, in thirty episodes, each lasting for thirty minutes, with the participation of many famous TV and sports personas, celebrities, and renowned preachers in Qatar and Gulf countries.

The show is a voluntary reality TV show where teams of volunteers compete to design humanitarian projects. The program was filmed during a field trip to the Balkan countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and Kosovo).

The third edition focused on the need for schools and medical clinics, aiming to help develop the communities.

The first edition of the program, which aired in 2014, was filmed in Burkina Faso and the second edition was filmed in Indonesia in 2015.



QC receives five awards at the Technical Innovation Conference

Qatar Charity has received five awards at the 'Conference on Technical Creativity in Charity Work'.

The event was held in the Bahraini capital Manama last October, under the auspices of HE Jamil bin Mohammed bin Ali Humaidan, Bahraini Minister of Labour and Social Development.

The conference was held under the theme 'Digital Creativity Keys in Charity Work' and involved the participation of a number of specialists, activists and officials of charitable and humanitarian organizations. They attended a series of professional sessions aimed to promote exchange of experiences and showcase the latest technology products designed to help the organizations achieve their goals, in addition to reviewing a number of local, regional

and international success stories.

The papers

-QC launched its "Bawabet Elkher" initiative during the conference, which represents a huge leap in the third sector's performance, seeing it taking full advantage of technical expertise.

A QC delegation headed by CEO Yusuf Bin Ahmed Al Kuwari, actively participated in the conference sessions and discussions, presenting four papers, in addition to taking part in the exhibition which was held on the margins of the conference.

-Al Kuwari presented a paper entitled: 'The role of technology in supporting charity sector'. He spoke of the launch of the project "Bawabet Elkher" which

he said enables the organization to utilize a -30years' worth of experience in 30 minutes."

Al Kuwari announced that the project will be available to other charities at the beginning of 2017 and noted that the system provided QC with the equivalent of 2081 collection points and 12 different ways of donating.

-QC Executive Director of Financial Resources, Mohammed Abdullah Al Yazidi, spoke of the digital revolution and its impact on promoting charitable work, using the example of the 'Aldal Ala Elkher' project, a QC initiative which allows social network users to create charity projects in their name or in the names of their dearest without costing them one rial.



A leading role

Qatar Charity advanced experience in the technical field has been met with a lot of interest and praise from the participants at the conference. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh founder and chairman of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization, spoke of the role of QC in the development of charitable and humanitarian work and the contributions of actors in the field, saying: "I hope that the result of this conference is that a study is prepared concerning the best procedures in technical creativity for charities, and that Qatar Charity can lead the way."

Previous awards

QC has won a number of awards in the technical field, including an award for 'The best smart application in terms of positive interaction with the real needs of beneficiaries', in Kuwait in 2014.

-QC Ambassador, Mohammed Saadoun Al Kuwari, presented a paper called: 'The role of targeted and technical media in promoting philanthropy', during which he spoke of television programmes produced by QC, such as 'Kalb Wahid' and 'Safari Elkher' and radio shows such as 'Tarawih', 'Tafrij Korba' and 'Almotanafissoun'

The exhibition

Through its involvement in the exhibition, QC provided a summary of its innovative applications which have facilitated means of donation and payment methods, with four separate sections: The first to introduce the projects (Safir wa Tasada') in addition to the website (Tassawak wa Tassadak), the second included the service provided by QC for philanthropists through communication and customer service center 'Abchir'. The third was dedicated to the introduction of advanced projects and sponsorships system in operations management. The fourth section was dedicated to electronic collection system. It also included state-of-the-art screens introducing "Mubashir Qatar Alkhairia," and 'Elkher Bain Yadaik' service, allocated to QC programs, applications and projects,

as well as a screen dedicated to field offices projects. Follow-up projects and benefactor reports and ways of direct communication and instantaneous information collection of all 25 Qc offices round the world.

The ceremony

In a ceremony held on the second day of the conference, bin Ali Humaidan the Minister of Work and Development in the Kingdom of Bahrain presented five awards to QC who came first in four categories and second in another category:

- First place - smart media application award 'Best Electronic Application QC Application',
- First place -websites award 'Best Website',
- First place- best electronic initiative award «Aldal Ala Elkher Initiative.»
- First place- smart mass media campaigns award «Calculate Your Zakat Campaign»
- Second place- best electronic initiative award «self-payment service through the use of application of smart phones».





QC receives 'Qatar Sustainability Award'

Qatar Charity has been awarded the 'Qatar Sustainability Award'.

The award, organized by the Qatar Green Building Council, Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, was

presented in recognition of QC's 'Taif' project.

The announcement was made during Qatar Green Building and Sustainability Week held this month.

The 'Taif' project is a leader in its field

and involves the collection of in-kind donations ranging from clothes, furniture and electrical equipment to cars and gold, from individuals, schools, businesses, and organizations. The items are then auctioned off at nominal prices with the revenues going towards



QC humanitarian projects inside and outside the State, or to be donated directly to beneficiaries inside and outside the state.

Abdul Rahman Al Kuwari, QC Director of In-kind Donations Department said: "Qatar Charity is extremely happy about having won the Qatar Sustainability Award for its 'Taif' project whose purpose is to draw attention of society to the importance and value of their excess items which they may just throw away. In fact, these items can be used for the benefit of humanitarian projects, such as offering support for workers and low-income people within the state as well as the needy abroad."

Al Kuwari explained that the award was overseen by a panel of judges composed of senior sustainability academics and experts.

He also highlighted the objectives of 'Taif' project, which he said are: contributing to the establishment and development of QC projects in Qatar and other countries, using project revenues of up to QAR1m per month, preserving the environment by making use of old clothes and excess furniture which may otherwise be discarded in open places causing damage to the environment. The project has a societal goal of urging members of the community to participate in the

donation collectively, in addition to educational and moral purpose of consolidating the idea of donating.

Previous award and setting a Guinness Record

In 2012, Qatar Charity's 'Taif' project won an award from the Gulf Cooperation Council as a pilot project in the Gulf region. The project also gained a further recognition for its setting a Guinness World Record for the largest amount of clothing ever collected in 24 hours.



At the 71st session of the UN's General Assembly

Qatar Charity pledges 20\$ m for education of Syrian children, as part of QUEST initiative

A delegation from QC led by Mr. Mohammed bin Ali Al-Ghamdi, Executive Director of Development, attended the UN's 71th session held in September.

QC also organized a side event entitled 'The role of education in promoting social harmony in post-conflict zones', and attended a number of sessions on humanitarian crisis in the countries affected by ongoing conflicts.

Syria and Chad

The side event was preceded by the participation of Qatar in the special Session on providing support for Syrians at humanitarian level. QC also participated in the launch of Syrian children education QUEST project that was announced by HE Sultan Al-Mareikhi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, at the 71st session of the UN's General Assembly. To the tunes of 100\$m, the project was jointly funded

by Qatar Development Fund, and Qatari NGOs (QC, Education Above All, ROTA, Silatek, and RAF) as well as other main project partners such as UNICEF, OSH and UNHCR.

With QC's contribution of 20\$m, the project aims to improve the future of Syrian children who are displaced within the country as well as those living as refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey.



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On the margins of UN meeting, QC holds a special event to discuss the role of education in promoting social harmony in post-conflict areas

QC holds a special 'education and social harmony' event'

An educational awareness event was held on the margins of a United Nations meeting, and was attended by a number of important figures and representatives of international organizations, including the Secretary-General of the United Nations Assistant for partnerships in the Middle East and Central Asia, Rashid Khalikov. It involved the participation and support of the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, which provided all the facilities and technical and logistical support for the event.

Mr. Mohammed bin Ali Al-Ghamdi, Executive Director for International Development at QC, said that the event was widely hailed, pointing to the importance of QC's desire to highlight the role of education in promoting social harmony in post-conflict areas such as Somalia, Sri Lanka and Bosnia.

Rashid Khalikov congratulated QC on its efforts and thanked the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar for its contribution.

He added "Education during emergencies is a human subject, pointing out that provision of education decreases the risk of violence and conflict. He then stressed that importance of education is not exclusively for children and young people, but it should include parents as well, for its significance in life generally.

Program of the session

The session was opened by Al-Ghamdi who welcomed the attendees before playing an introductory video about QC, followed by the presentation of papers by experts from international organizations, institutions and

academics from four universities. 'The role of education in promoting social harmony' was the theme of the first presentation, giving a general background on the event, while the second was entitled 'what is expected from education in terms of the re-modelling of social harmony in the post-conflict areas?'. The third presentation included case studies from Somalia, Sri Lanka, while the fourth presentation covered education and its impact on conflicts as well as society.

The first theme

"The role of education in promoting social harmony" was the main theme of this event, covering a range of issues, namely: the reality of conflicts across the world and their effects, conflict resolution and peace-sustainability efforts. It also touched on conflict and the issues connected to social cohesion, education and promotion of social harmony and the challenges facing the harnessing of education in promoting social harmony." Al Ghamdi said, concluding that the first theme posed a range of questions that were answered by the next theme.

The second theme

The second theme was presented by Dr. Mohammed Sharqawi, Professor of Conflict Resolution at George Mason University. It included a definition of social harmony in terms of academic and research based social theories. Sharqawi discussed the relationships between social harmony, identity, economic interests, marital status and belonging to a group or community.

Prof. Sharqawi spoke of a Bosnian case,

providing a practical example of how to adapt the tool of education in order to achieve and promote social harmony in a country like Bosnia which suffered from ethnic and religious conflict for over five years, leading to the murder and displacement of hundreds of thousands of people and tearing apart the social fabric of the communities.

The session ended with proposals for education re-modelling before social harmony, by focusing on three key factors: redesign of the curriculum and reviewing the curricula of existing decisions, with focus on primary and secondary education as a sustainable Peace factor, and finally, promoting and inculcating the culture of equal citizenship.

The third theme

As for case studies, Mr. Abdul Rahman Sharif, Head of Non-Governmental organizations in Somalia, used Somalia as a model, giving a background on the country and explaining that in reality the country is divided into three areas; Somaliland (independent), Puntland (autonomous) and southern Somalia, including the capital, Mogadishu.

Sharif spoke about conflict in Somalia and the different types of conflict. His paper highlighted the implications of the collapse of education system in many areas of Somalia. He went on to consider some of the initiatives in the revival of the educational process and the use of different types of education as a tool to promote social harmony and a culture of peace. He concluded with recommendations and proposals on enhancing and standardising educational system in order to promote a culture of peace and social harmony.



Miss. Stephanie Licht, head of evaluation and follow-up in the German agency GIZ, gave a presentation on the Sri Lankan case, covering the German experience through the program supported by the German government, which has been in place since 2005, i.e. during and after the conflict. The program achieved outstanding results in terms of social harmony through education. The Sri Lankan situation can be characterised by its similarity to the current conflicts in countries such as Syria, Iraq and Yemen in terms of ethnic, religious, sectarian and ethnic diversity, with differences in culture, religious beliefs and even language.

The program focused on secondary education, where numerous approaches and curricula were used at the beginning of the program through its application to a sample of 200 before ruling out a number of these approaches that have proven to be of no importance or unfeasible in achieving social harmony. Approaches

that have proven feasible as far as social harmony is concerned were adopted. .

Among the most important factors of program success were the contribution and participation of the government having realised the importance of the program, the desire of local authorities for the success of the program, the contribution and participation of local communities in the program and their interaction with it, and finally the use and adoption of a multi-level approach (government, region (province), schools) during the design and implementation.

The program focused on three issues involving curriculum design: social and psychological care (to address the effects of violence and conflict on the target groups), education of the second nationality (Sinhala, Tamil) in secondary education and peace and the values of education. At the end of the paper Licht spoke of the positive results achieved, backing them up with numbers and statistics.

The fourth theme

The fourth and fifth themes were introduced by Dr. Alan Codman, President of the International Institute of Education in New York. Codman presented some important information about education and the conflict-affected and vulnerable people, particularly students and teachers.

He spoke of the importance of involving local people in the planning of finding solutions to the problems of education in their respective countries. He also highlighted the need to support political administration of the educational process and to support resumption of education in conflict zones.

Codman's talk focused on three key issues in education in conflict zones: protecting training and empowering teachers, and focusing on bringing back to school those who dropped out as well as seeing to their needs of reintegration into education.





“The Role of Education in Promoting Social Harmony in Post-conflict Zones”

Prepared by: Department of International Development - Qatar Charity

Many regions of the world have experienced conflicts and crises that have seriously damaged the social fabric and led to the disintegration of social cohesion, leaving communities unable to face the heavy consequences of the effects of the continuing challenges of the pace of those disputes and conflicts. Schools and education facilities have faced destruction and repeated violations in more than 70 countries in the world. According to a report by

the Global Alliance for the protection of education, during the past five years, there have been many blatant violations of the norms of international humanitarian law (The report, Education under Attack 2014, by the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA)) In light of the current conflicts in the Middle East and parts of Africa, the education system is facing a rift and structural imbalances that affect social values, such as the concept of citizenship and the values of coexistence between the spectra of the society in many variations of texture

and composition, which requires a high degree of sensitivity and care. The education system can become an essential part of the transition from conflict to social harmony and civil peace, preventing the continuing tensions and conflicts after it was noted that some of the parties to the conflict adopt curricula that deepen divisions in the identity of society and establish concepts that are not consistent with the established principles of social harmony and coexistence through history. The theme of the role of education in post-conflict areas and the obstacles



and challenges arising as a result of crises and conflicts, their causes and the grave consequences for the education system and its impact on society in the Arab region and North Africa needs a serious review. It is necessary to highlight the impact on all practical educational outputs levels, dealing with the continuing polarization between the narratives of the involved parties and the different forms of conflict (historical, political, human rights, sectarian, etc.) that lead to the weakening of the role of education in achieving the level of social cohesion necessary for the transition from conflict to peace and community cohesion.

It is necessary to seek solutions and approaches in societies affected by crises and conflicts, shedding light on the state of social imbalance resulting from acts of violence and destruction and contributing to the development of the education process. This is essential

as a means of structural treatment of the conflict, in addition to the importance of the exercise of education as a fundamental right as it yields important development benefits to the affected people.

Conflict often goes hand in hand with exploitation and the recruitment of young people to violence and extremism, and females are often subjected to the worst acts of sexual exploitation and violence in light of the fragility of the protection measures for vulnerable groups against persecution and exploitation and the absence of the necessary systems, principles and codes for the protection of children, women and girls, in respect of the rules of international humanitarian law and human rights.

The construction of a system of learning in a conflict environment should be done in accordance with the purposes of the methodology and must take into account the protection of citizens, working to promote

respect for human dignity, human rights and contributions as well as cultural sensitivities and specificities. This will undoubtedly have a pivotal role in easing the tensions which result from conflicts and in achieving social cohesion and integration of the education process with the social and cultural reconstruction efforts in those environments. These efforts should be linked to the role of education in achieving social cohesion in conflict and post-conflict environments in all phases of the humanitarian response, with a firm plan in place of how to deal with emergencies and crises and their affect on the education sector. It should be noted that the humanitarian coordination system has developed a so-called cluster approach to education; the Global Education Cluster, Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies INEE developed the, a number of guides and illustrations for education strategies,



taking into account the sensitivities of conflicts as well as highlighting relevant principles that ensure that the subject of education remains important at all stages, including the early recovery phase and into the reconstruction and development stage, in light of the transformations this enables at the social level and its importance in terms of stability and security. This system provides a stimulating environment of people eager to achieve their vision of a national joint union, renouncing differences and fragmentation and seeking cohesion and national unity by all parties of the targeted community and concerned stakeholders, based on an awareness that education has a fundamental role in the consolidation of stability.

There are many examples of the

contribution of education in conflict transformation and social harmony, for example, where a generation that believed in peace built a united, strong and stable country after the civil war that gripped the country in 1994 (Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies - INEE).

An important study indicated the role of education in achieving social cohesion in both Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ireland, where education was proven to have made a positive shift in promoting national cohesion (Dr. Dawood Al Haddabi - Paper presented during the global humanitarian summit in Istanbul, May 2016).

It should be emphasized here that there is a need for urgent evaluation and revision of the educational process system (educational policies), curricula (courses), schooling (the

learning process) and the training and development of teachers with an awareness of the sensitivities of the dispute, in addition to the involvement of families and parents with panel discussions and communicating and consulting with schools on a consistent basis in order that the importance of the educational process in achieving social cohesion and the shift towards a new context of societal peace is fully understood.

Qatar Charity believes that building a scientific model depends on building on successful experiences from around the world and that taking into account the particular contexts in the Arab region is only the beginning of the road towards the completion of a civilizational project that saves development gains and turns it into a sustainable balance.

Challenge of providing access to educational services for all in post-conflict areas: the role of e-learning in bridging the educational gap in post-conflict areas

On the other hand, it has been observed that as a result of the continuation of the pace of conflict, the refugee situation and forced displacement, there are an increasing number of children of the education age who do not find opportunities for education or places for study and so are not able to integrate into the education system. It is vital that interested parties keep pace with the increasing volume of needs in order that the problem not be overlooked and overtake us. This issue was stated as one of five responsibilities in the report of the Secretary General of the United Nations during the Global Humanitarian Summit held on May 2016, 24-23 in Istanbul, Turkey. The global sustainable development goals have pointed to the importance of harnessing technology as part of accelerating the implementation of these objectives in light of the tremendous progress and the absorptive capacity of current available telecommunications technology to bridge the digital gap and achieve educational goals, particularly within fragile environments and areas of conflict.

Given the difficulties associated

with the reconstruction or operation of destroyed schools in areas of continuing conflict, the absence of educational administration to run schools and cases where schools are used by militant groups, as havens to fuel the conflicts, making the inclusion of children in the process traditional education impossible, we must clearly search for suitable alternatives.

In the context of the desire to link the achievement of the goals of education and sustainable development objectives raised during The Global Humanitarian Summit, we find it important to raise the issue of e-learning as a means of harnessing modern communication technology models in order to accommodate the growing numbers of displaced children and refugees via the open education system of the Internet, using Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) in conflict and otherwise fragile areas.

Given the importance of burden-sharing and the need for regional and international solidarity to ease the pressures and ensure the success of these efforts, especially through the constant and effective participation in the donors' conferences as well as

a the reconstruction and international humanitarian coordination, the harnessing of the communication technology seems to be one of the effective solutions to integrate children who are of school age into the educational system. This requires concerted efforts and partnerships between international and local organizations and private sector companies, who together can search for appropriate solutions.

The issue of expanding the scope and role of modern technology to serve humanitarian purposes due to the acceleration and massive advances in the media technology used in humanitarian and development areas is extremely important in achieving the goal of accommodating large numbers of children into the educational system. There must be a review of the experiments and models present to expand the scope of the new opportunities to bridge the huge gap and the trend towards this new route. There has been an evolution of the relationship between international organizations and major private sector companies in recent years, for example the partnership between MasterCard

establish wi-fi networks that can take advantage of educational platforms that can be launched to accommodate the large numbers of asylum camps.

accommodate school-age children in the education system by taking advantage of modern technology and realizing the link between the Global Humanitarian Summit outcomes and goals on education for sustainable development in post-conflict and vulnerable areas, opening the door to financing partnerships and cooperation in the field of capacity building and bridging the digital divide to accommodate school-age children, taking into account the urgent need for building educational systems in accordance with successful historical experiences to promote social harmony in post-conflict areas.



Ali Gharib:

QC encourages Qatari youth to volunteer in order to spread awareness about different causes, and participate in relief efforts around the world

QC volunteers on top of Mount Kilimanjaro

A group of QC volunteers managed to climb the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in the African continent above sea level, in a bid to raise awareness about the extreme poverty threatening the lives of millions of people worldwide.

The group was comprised of volunteers, mainly Saud Aleidi the team Captain,, Ali Al Gharib, Saleh Hussein, Mohammed Hamad Al Yafei, Mohammed Salem Al Yafei, Yakoub Yusef Azadi, Mubarak Al Gharib, Mukhtar Alkhayat and Mohammed Altbaliand Ibrahim Al Doubaili, who pegged the flag of the State of Qatar into the top of the mountain.

The journey lasted for 10 days, with 8 days climbing and two days descending from a distance of 47 kilometres and a height of 5,895 meters.

Ali Al Gharib, QC Executive Director of

Traveller Aleidi:

"The main outcome of Altahadi journey was inculcating confidence in participants and helping them achieve their goals in spite of having faced challenges."

Programs and Centres at the Executive Management of Local Development explained that the Kilimanjaro trip was carried out in order to combat world hunger. He said that the team had achieved their desired objectives and completed the climb in a safe and orderly manner.

Itinerary

He added that QC encourages Qatari youth and others to carry out voluntary work, raising awareness about the on-going human tragedy.

Challenges

The Team leader, traveller Saud Aleidi, said: "The physical preparations each participant underwent included a month long program of health and fitness in order to fully prepare them for the level of fitness and strength required for such a climb.

Aleidi explained that the greatest difficulties faced by the team were the long walk, the cold and harsh conditions, saying: "The trip really built confidence in the participants and helped them work as a team."



Previous voluntary challenges

A Journey of a Lifetime Challenge

This is the second time QC volunteers have climbed a mountain. In 2013 the Journey was made under the auspices of Barwa Bank by young Qatari volunteers Fahad Mohammed Al Buainain and Talal Abdulaziz Al Emadi, who climbed mountain to raise awareness about the food crisis that threatened the lives of millions of people in West Africa.

"Kimati" journey

In 2014 young people from Qatar travelled to the Himalayas in Nepal under the slogan 'Kimati'. The journey took 11 days and participants covered a distance of 110 kilometres.

On the way back

The 2016 volunteers expressed their happiness about having contributed to the challenge that did not only serve humanitarian work, but allowed them to gain many valuable experiences and skills.

-Yakoub Yusef

"The idea of the trip is to serve humanitarian purposes, but it also allowed us to strengthen our physical ability and achieve many personal goals. We thank Qatar Charity for having availed me and my colleagues this valuable opportunity," said participant.

-Hamad Mohammed Al Yafei

"This was a very special trip and it was also first time for me to have such an experience. I accepted the challenge with enthusiasm, despite what we had expected of hardship and fatigue. Yet, we insisted, because of the important humanitarian goal, and I was overwhelmed with pleasure to raise the flag of Qatar over Kilimanjaro, because this reflects the bright face of our beloved country," said Participant.



A QC funded research published in international scientific journal

'Ib hath' project, a research funded by Qatar Charity, has been published in an international scientific journal, in clear recognition of its importance and originality.

The research was funded by an Ib hath project grant through QC's Gaza Strip office.

The research was published under the title: «Favism, the commonest form of sever hemolytic anemia in Palestinian children, varies in severity with three different variants of G6PD deficiency within the same community».

This research is an important part of a research project carried out by Professor Mahmoud Sirdah of Al-Azhar University in Gaza, entitled:

«The clinical effects of genetic variants that cause deficiency of G6PD: A study of the risks leading to hospitalization as a result of acute hemolysis in children.

The research is expected a leading contribution to defining the relationship between the laboratory and clinical condition of patients suffering from the genetic mutation of the above mentioned disease, which enhances the effectiveness of intervention, medical treatment, follow-up of these patients and also contributes to the monitoring and follow-up of their siblings. It will help make updated records that include the medical history, the type of mutation and a protocol for therapeutic intervention. The Ministry of Health can also adopt a

comprehensive national program that aims to conduct compulsory screening of newborns based on the results of the research.

Professor Sirdah stressed that without the grant from 'Ib hath', he wouldn't have been able to continue his research due to the high costs involved.

He explained that the study problem lies in the results of comparing the mutations of Favism disease in a control group consisting of 466 adults who were not compatible or match up with results obtained from childhood samples in the Children's Hospital due to anemia lytic. There have been no such cases in adults, compared with %19.6 in children in the hospital.



Sirdah said: "This may be linked to a strong mutation linked to a sharply severe disease that may lead to the death of children."

Sirdah is professor of hematology and molecular genetics, Dean of Research at Al Azhar University in Gaza City, member of the Supreme Council for creativity and excellence in Palestine and member of the Board of Directors of the Future Palestine Foundation.

Sirdah finished second place at the Arab level in the Parliamentary Union of Research Excellence Contest in 2014 for his research in the field of «molecular biotechnology.»

The 'Ibath project' was implemented by QC with funding

from the Gulf Cooperation Council for the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip. It is valued at over QAR 7 million. The project finances development projects in Palestine and stimulates innovation and utilization through creating a conducive environment for conducting scientific research and providing financial and technical support to its implementation. This research is one of the 66 scientific papers that won a grant from 'Ibath', with Sirdah being awarded QAR 175,000.

Director of QC's Gaza office, Mohammed Abu Halloub, congratulated Professor Mahmoud Sirdah and his team for their hard work and stressed that the Ibath project's grants will enhance the quantity and quality of scientific

research in the Palestinian territories and will eliminate dependency on research based on intellectual and superficial stereotypes from foreign scientists.

He said: «It is clear that researchers are beginning to reap the fruit of their efforts and this is a source of great pride for Qatar Charity."

"We are confident that the research results will contribute to the application of creative ideas that exploit science and knowledge and human energies to achieve development and progress, and aim to bridge the gap between theoretical ideas and their application," he added.

'Baseerah'...The greatest gift

: Indonesia

Mahindra, a blind Indonesian man, considered it «the greatest gift» he had ever received in his life. **Rahmat**, who is also a blind man, left his house in the middle of the night and went to Qatar Charity headquarters where he spent the night, waiting for the distribution ceremony to take place at 10 O'clock next day. For he was afraid of being late and missing his chance to get a copy!

So what made Mahindra describe the 'Baseerah Quran' in this way? And why was Rahmat so keen to get his hands on a copy?

The answer lies in the massive impact this project has had on the lives of the blind.

The 'Baseerah Quran' is a booklet in braille which allows the user to request the Sura (chapter) he wants to hear and repeat certain verses. He can also choose the voice of certain Sheikh reciting the Quran, and listen to the interpretation of verses. To date QC has distributed some 2,000 copies of the booklets which were produced in collaboration with a Malaysian company. The reasoning behind the production was the fact that the vast majority of blind people in Indonesia, estimated at around three million six hundred thousand people, do not have copies of the Quran in braille, due to the exorbitant costs of printing.

Beneficiaries Impressions

The following are a sample of beneficiaries' impressions, and the opinions of a group of experts and interested parties:

Queenisa (8 years old)

"My wish is to memorize the Quran... this was difficult because I had to rely on the voice of the teacher and some audio tapes. I am very excited to memorize it now!"

Mrs. Nini

"I am very happy to receive this Quran... words do not flow from my mouth, but my joy with it is like the joy I felt for my first born child."

Mrs. Hurley

"The society for the blind in Garut told me that philanthropists from a country far away from ours... from a state named Qatar, donated this Quran. So, I told them, this country is close to our hearts because they knew our needs without us having to even ask."

The views of experts and interested parties

Dr. Mehrson, Chairman of the center for the disabled at the University

"I hope that this Quran is printed in greater numbers, because it really gives hope for the blind, and brings them closer to the Quran. God bless those who contributed to this project."

Mrs. Tarina, director of Vince Foundation for the Blind, and a trainer on the use of the Baseerah Braille Quran.

"The size of the normal braille Quran is usually in the range of half a cubic meter, and carrying, storing and dealing with it is very difficult. That is why the electronic Baseerah Quran is such a great idea, as it makes it easier

for the blind to deal with the Quran, through listening, memorizing and understanding. As a trainer I truly feel the blind's real need for this product."

Mr. Muharram Ibrahim, director of religious administration-Lampung city-Sumatra Island

"I almost cried when I saw the highly motivated blind people and their eagerness to learn how to use the Quran to help them memorize and interpret it. If the non-blind had the same eagerness, most of them would have memorized the whole Quran by now. I thank Qatar Charity for this idea and I also thank the distinguished contributors."

Mr. Didi Hidayat (head of the Indonesia Blind Compound in West Java)

"If we were denied the gift of sight, we hope that Allah would light our lives and our hearts with such a Quran. I pledge that the blind will memorize at least one section of the Quran every year, and I'll start with myself, despite my age."

HE, Mohammed bin Khater Al-Khater - Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Indonesia

"I would like to thank Qatar Charity for caring for this category of the population, which enhances the status of the State of Qatar at the level of non-governmental organizations. I feel immense joy and pleasure today."





QC rebuilds Al Dhafir Tower in Gaza

Qatar Charity is rebuilding the Al Dhafir Tower in Gaza, allowing 450 families displaced by the recent Israeli aggression to return home.

The QAR10 million project is being carried out in cooperation with Ministry of Public Works and Housing, with funding from the Gulf Cooperation Council and support from the Islamic Development Bank.

Director of QC's Gaza office, Mohammed Abu Halloub said: «We are continuing the building of Al-Dhafir tower and we have achieved significant progress, despite a number of difficulties relating to the entry into Gaza strip of building materials.»

Abu Halloub explained that QC is eager to finish the tower in accordance with the required technical specifications, maintaining safety and security at all times and ensuring the quality of the raw materials used.

He revealed that QC is playing a prominent role in terms of reconstruction of the Gaza Strip following the destruction of over 100,000 housing units during the 2014 conflict.

“Qatar Charity is seeking to improve the

chances of a decent life for citizens of Gaza Strip,” Halloub added, saying that the work is expected to be completed by end of the year.

QC has recently renovated 100 housing units, benefitting 373 people whose homes were damaged. It also distributed 343,000\$ to the owners of the new houses. In addition 20 people whose houses had been severely damaged were given 139,000\$ for the reconstruction of their homes. 400 housing units were built at a cost of QAR five million. The work was all carried out in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Public Works and Housing

The total amount spent on the reconstruction of homes has now reached QAR 20 million, while QAR 24 million was spent on 1000 housing units, QAR 3 million on the construction of mosques and QAR 23 million on the reconstruction of destroyed industrial plants.

Minister of Public Works and Housing, Dr. Mufid Al Hasayna, thanked Qatar's Emir, government and people. He praised QC and its supporters for their important efforts in the reconstruction of Gaza Strip, particularly the rebuilding of Al-Dhafir Tower.

Al Hasayna expressed his appreciation of the work, stressing that it has been carried out in the best manner according to the required specifications and with full cooperation from the Ministry of Public Works and Housing.

Project beneficiaries expressed their happiness regarding the near completion of the project and their imminent return to their homes in the tower.

Amer Ja'farawi said: “The war had disastrous results for my family, who lost our only home, but today we can say that we will continue to dream of a better future with the building being almost completed.

«I thank the State of Qatar and Qatar Charity's office in Gaza for their continuing efforts to help the victims of conflict and their support to improve the lives of those who lost their homes.”

Hajjah Mariam Abu Rayya said that she was dreaming of the moment she would return to her apartment. Journalist Hisham SaqAllah said: “I am very happy about returning to my home. The reconstruction of the tower serves as a testament to the determination of the Palestinian people to continue living.”



QC lends Aleppo a helping hand

Over the last six months Qatar Charity has carried out a sustained campaign of relief for the benefit of around one million people in Aleppo, Syria.

The support has covered the areas of health, nutrition, water and sanitation, shelter and other non-food items at a cost of more than QAR 17 million.

This assistance stems from QC's desire to alleviate the suffering of the population of the city of Aleppo, who are facing extremely complicated humanitarian conditions. With persistent bombardment leading to the destruction of homes and infrastructure, and blockades, there have been severe shortages of food shelter and medicine, while health staff has left for their safety.

Health projects have included provision of a number of ambulances, renovating hospitals, providing medicines and supplies and supporting medical staff at an estimated total value of around QAR 3.5 million.

In the area of food QC has distributed infant formula for around 8,500

children, food baskets containing ready meals and flour, in addition to special food baskets throughout the month of Ramadan this year. QC also operated a mobile bakery in Jarablos which benefitted around 300,000 people and a kitchen in Kelis which benefitted around 50,000 people.

Water and sanitation projects have included the distribution of tanks, containers of water and hygiene baskets at a cost of QAR 2,330,879 million.

Shelter projects have included distribution of blankets, mattresses, rain insulation, clothing, cooking utensils and other household items at a total cost of approximately QAR 2,651,703 million.

QC also launched its 'Relief for Aleppo' campaign in early May when it allocated an initial QAR 10 million to meet the urgent needs of the population of the city.

The campaign continues and QC urges philanthropists to continue to donate. Donations can be

deposited at Rayan Bank, IBAN / QA40MAFR0000000000311111001, via the website qcharity.org site, and can be handed in cash at the QC headquarters and branches across the state, as well as collection points in a number of shopping malls.

Donations can also be made via SMS by sending 'MS' to 92632 to donate QAR 50, to 92642 to donate QAR 100, to 92428 to donate QAR 500 and to 92429 to donate QAR 1000. You can also donate a food basket for QAR 150 by sending an SMS containing 'ES' to 92652.

A dedicated campaign hotline of 44667711 may be used to donate and make related inquiries.

The money raised will be used for the benefit of medical and health services, including the treatment of the wounded and rescue of the injured.

Between April 2011 and May 2016, QC provided supported over 8 million Syrian people inside and outside Syria at a cost of around QAR 450 million.



Orphan care centers in Bangladesh

QC's pioneering orphans care program is one of the most important of our projects, with just under 5,700 orphans cared for in total. Around 2,000 of these orphans receive comprehensive care covering housing, food, health, education and vocational training through four large centers, while the remainder stay at home and receive extensive support.

Each center includes a variety of facilities, including public, religious and professional education services and health care. The centers also carry out seasonal projects such as Iftar, Zakat and Qurbani for sponsored orphans and their families, as well as training in areas such as sewing and embroidery and providing support to local committees through the rehabilitation of agricultural land and livestock.

In Bangladesh QC runs four centers; Girls orphanage in Bhirob, hosts approximately 1000 girl orphans. It provides them with accommodation, a primary school and high school, hospital and an institute for auxiliary medical professions. In addition, there are also vocational training for sewing and handcrafts, mosque, social lounge, food, drink, shelter and clothing for orphans and members of their families.

The second center is Khubayb bin Udai, which is 400 km from the capital, Dhaka. It hosts 450 orphans, providing them with housing, primary school, health center, as well as agricultural land. The centre also has playgrounds, mosque and staff accommodation for forty employees.

The third center is the social welfare center in the Directorate

of Almunirhat, hosting around 200 orphans. It also supports 49 orphans who stay with their families and sponsors 9 families as well. The center includes a school with pupils from grade 1 to grade 10. It accommodates 200 children, health center, vocational training center, mosque and agricultural land, as well as staff accommodation.

The fourth center is the Sheikh Hamad bin Ali bin Jaber Al Thani center, which is located in Rajshahi district. It has been expanded in order to accommodate 300 orphans and 20 staff. The center includes a school, health center, vocational training center, mosque, agricultural land, as well as accommodation for employees.



Thanks to QC, poor families receive new homes in the Comoros

Qatar Charity has built five houses for poor families living on the Comoros Islands.

The houses are located in the village of Mlabanda in Gando area of Mohiluo island, 16 km from the capital of Comoros, Fomboni. The new homes were handed over in a special ceremony held in the presence of the local mayor and a number of community dignitaries. The homes were built as part of QC's mission to fight poverty and encourage community development on the Islands.

Khalid Al-Abdullah Al Yafei, QC Director of Operations Management, said: "QC's aim was to build a number of dwellings in the Comoros in order to provide housing and preserve the human dignity of the poor and needy, as

well as those of low-income."

Dr. Mahfouz Zimirin explained that the housing program is focused on the construction of small and medium-sized houses for the benefit of poor families. Each residential unit features a lounge, kitchen and bathroom, and is designed to the specifications that befit the lifestyle and architectural style of the Comoros.

Beneficiary Hadomati Attiya Manazir, a mother of three, had previously lived in a mud hut with an old zinc roof. After the death of her father she and her husband took over the responsibility for her mother and sisters in addition to their three daughters. She needed to provide a home for them all, but their old house was too small. "My husband has no steady income and

he cannot even afford the smallest treat for my daughters, let alone the cost of building a new house for us" She said, "I submitted a request to the Qatar Charity office and we received help."

"Hamavun" a success story

Qatar Charity previously built 50 houses made of brick and cement. The houses were located in Hamavun village, on Moheli Island. Due to its position between two mountains and the sea, the village was regularly flooded, destroying its houses of palm trees and mud. After the construction was completed, the local government decided to bring electricity and water to the village and built a bridge over the valley, significantly improving the lives of local people.



Professional photographer of humanitarian work, Abdul Rahman Turkait, talks to 'Ghiras' about how photos can open hearts....

Abdul Rahman Turkait has worked in the humanitarian field for many years. His work has had a huge impact on humanitarian work in the countries suffering from wars, disasters, crises, poverty and hunger.

In the following interview the Kuwaiti photographer shares his rich experience in the field, in addition to a number of useful ideas with those working in the voluntary and charitable field....

What is the difference between a regular image and one taken in the context of humanitarian work?

Humanitarian photographs are the ones that change the lives of people, or their reality. They seek to uplift the community. They are not just a snapshot to share with friends, or to remember a trip. They are a short message that reaches the heart before the eyes.

What do photographs add to humanitarian work in your opinion?

In our current visual world an image is worth more than a thousand words. A powerful image can immediately explain an issue and deliver the

message.

Ethical standards

Tell us about the ethical and technical standards the photographer interested in humanitarian work needs to take into account, and what are the things that he must avoid?

The technical standards of a photographer of humanitarian work are the same as those for a regular photographer, but are accompanied by ethical standards. A photographer should have patience and good listening skills, creativity, agility and love for the subject. He/she must also have optimism for a better life for that subject, maintain their dignity, preserve their safety and respect their culture.

The things that should be avoided by a photographer of humanitarian work are: anger, arrogance, exploitation, ridicule and lack of respect for the culture of others.

How important is the role of charities picture today compared with the past?

Charities today are more aware of the importance of the picture than in the past. They desire to keep abreast

of developments in the world of communication and the results of this have had a massive effect on the ground. NGOs have today realised the strong communicational impact of the picture and are using it professionally to get their humanitarian message across.

When taking pictures what should a professional experienced photographer focus on?

He has to understand that the human value of the picture rests in safeguarding the dignity of the people. I personally focus on childhood because I believe children are the future of the planet.

Challenges

What are the most important challenges that you experience in the field, particularly when visiting disaster and conflict zones?

Physical and verbal harassment are often expected in countries experiencing conflict where unrest and fear of the camera is common. People do not have in photographers and are concerned about how the pictures will be used.



Baby girl 'Mo'mina'

They say that every picture tells a story. What is the story behind this shot?

The story is of a baby girl named 'Mo'mina'. She was born on the very day we visited her parents' house of iron sheets in a hot African country. People reacted to the girl's picture and in the end they were motivated to build six residential villages in that country, thanks to the power of the picture.

Moving situations

How important is the establishment of a network of photographers for humanitarian action launched by Qatar Charity a few months ago? And what is expected of them in your opinion?

The initiative recognizes that humanitarian photography work is different than that which is carried out by photographers in other areas. It confirms that this is more than just an art, and a number of criteria must be taken into account. The Photographers for Humanitarian Action initiative must be taken seriously as an initiative in a form of humanitarian action and it can change or save lives.

What is the importance of holding exhibitions in the humanitarian sphere, both for the artists and humanitarian works?

Promoting humanitarian work is vital

for the spread of the humanitarian cause.

Tell us about a touching and memorable situation you faced in the field?

When I was taking photographs of a child in Syria who was screaming out of pain, I asked him what happened to him. He answered me with one word: «a rocket». That word hit me like a rocket because the child was too young to know about weapons. Yet, the war taught him the details of the weapons that had been used against him by war criminals, and childhood killers.

An image that made me cry

Have you ever ended up crying while shooting something particularly moving?

I was once taking a photograph of a child in an orphanage and when I asked about him I was told that his mother had sold him! I could not control my tears, but I gathered my strength and spoke with him. Until now I do not know why his mother sold him. Did she do so in order for herself to live or for him to live?! The situation was incomprehensible, but I know one thing: poverty is ruthless.

Can you tell us about a funny situation that you come across while shooting?

There are many, but I will always

remember the time when tried to meet with Mr. RecepTayyip Erdogan, the then Prime Minister of Turkey, but all my attempts went in vain. A few years later I was invited in Kuwait to receive an award for a photograph of Recep Tayip Erdogan. I was surprised that the one who honoured me on the stage was Mr. Erdogan himself!

No comment

Do you usually make some kind of comment on your photographs?

Not often; most of the images speak for themselves, others may need a few words or sentences to explain what is happening and then the words become another aspect to the piece and contribute to the delivery of its mission.

Work to be cherished

What would you say has been the most important of your humanitarian photography projects to date and why?

There are many and all of them are important, but I would give special mention to two projects: the China Caves Project (people living in caves who were provided with proper houses) and the Artificial Limbs for Children Project (installation of artificial limbs for children amputees as a result of wars).



QC's Executive Director of Operations speaks to Ghiras

"In addition to relief, the organization's plans for 2017 will focus on health and educational projects as well as economic empowerment."

"We will open overseas field and regional offices to oversee our projects, serve the beneficiaries directly and promote the support and funding of our donors."

Qatar Charity's Executive Director of Operations, Faisal Rashid Al-Fahidh, spoke to Ghiras about the organisation plans for 2017 in terms of future programmes and projects he explained that the organisation's expansion strategy aims to establish offices, representations and branches. The need for this expansion comes from QC's desire to execute and oversee its projects directly and to increase collaboration opportunities with its partners. You can read the full interview [here](#)....

What is the main focus of the Department of Executive Management for the implementation of Qatar Charity's overseas programs for 2017?

The focus will be on education, health and economic

empowerment, in addition to relief projects as and when necessary. We must ensure that every field office carries out field surveys to assess needs in accordance with the strategic development plans of the countries, so that appropriate interventions can be developed. We will continue to expand, creating new offices and new projects, as well as implementing projects on behalf of other humanitarian institutions. This will include drilling of boreholes, (in which we are very experienced), in countries such as Niger and Mali.

This year, Qatar Charity opened a regional office in Turkey and you will open a regional office in Kyrgyzstan soon, what are the reasons for the opening of representations and regional offices abroad?

Our expansion in the establishment of representations and offices is done in order to increase the number of projects and sponsorships that can be implemented via partners in the countries. Having a QC representative or office in the country gives us the opportunity to implement and follow-up on these projects directly. Besides, it provides good opportunities for collection of donations and increase of service delivery to beneficiaries faster and efficiently.

Usually, in same country the capital office could have more than one branch office, due to the size of projects and activity in some regions and areas.

The establishment of regional offices is a regulatory action that reduces the burden on the QC headquarters, and also reduces expenses.

Required Standards

What motivates you in considering establishing a regional office?

For a country to be chosen as the base for a regional office depends on the number of QC projects

-QAR1,3b spent on relief and development projects since the beginning of 2016 until end of October Total number of beneficiaries of overseas relief, development projects and sponsorships was 11,105,558 people.

running in those countries. The facilities provided by the State for the office and the momentum of humanitarian activities in the field, as well as the strategic location of the country are good motives for opening a regional office. This is in addition to safety and security procedures, infrastructure, and presence of offices of international organizations and UN agencies.

What does the word regional office really mean and what exactly is their role?

Regional offices oversee the implementation and monitoring of projects and activities in the country. They also oversee QC representatives in neighbouring countries and focus on:

- Ensuring quality of humanitarian services and accomplishing their missions
- Improving procedures and processes
- Optimal use of physical, financial and human resources
- Communicating projects to QC headquarters, whether to be carried out by regional office in the country of its operation or in neighbouring countries. Once projects are communicated to the QC's Headquarters then funding can either be allocated directly,

- Currently, we have 27 offices across the world, including a regional office in Turkey. We are seeking to open two regional offices in Kenya and another in Ghana, field offices in Morocco, Nepal and Sri Lanka, and representative offices in India, Jordan and Iraq, as well as the completion of the procedures for the establishment of the regional office in Kyrgyzstan.

or raised locally and regionally through partners.

Which countries are supervised by the regional office in Turkey and which countries will be supervised by the Kyrgyzstan regional office?

Turkey's regional office directly oversees displaced Syrians within Syria and Syrians living as refugees in the neighbouring countries (Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq), as well as development projects within Turkey, in order to ensure better and faster response when urgent disaster occurs and to provide the best quality we can.

The Regional Office in, Kyrgyzstan, when it opens, will oversee QC projects in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan.

What about the establishment of other offices and representations in the coming year?

Currently we have 27 offices across the world, including a regional office in Turkey, and we are seeking to open two regional offices in Kenya and another in Ghana, field offices in Morocco, Nepal



and Sri Lanka. This is in addition to representative offices in India, Jordan and Iraq, as well as the completion of the procedures for the establishment of regional office in Kyrgyzstan.

Achievements

What have achieved so far since the beginning of 2016?

QC is one of the largest Arab organizations working in the field of relief and development, particularly in terms of sponsorships (of

orphans, families, students, people with special needs, teachers, Quran memorization teachers (Muhafiz) and preachers). on the value of our relief and development projects since the beginning of 2016 until end of October has reached the total sum of QAR1.3 b, covering more than 70 countries around the world. Total number of beneficiaries of overseas relief, development projects and sponsorships was 11,105,558 people. In the field of development alone QC has spent over QAR 950m for the benefit of

more than 7 million people through 13,357 projects, some of which are still on-going.

The cost of relief projects amounted to more than QAR138m and benefited more than 4 million people, in the areas of food, nutrition, health, education, shelter and non-food items. Syria, Yemen and Iraq occupied the largest share.

Qatar Charity has also sponsored some 105,558 people at a cost of around QAR245m since the start of the year.





قطر الخيرية
QATAR CHARITY

In this Picture

Abdulaziz from Sudan, him and his family gather around the well to fill jugs pots with clean water.

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Troubled waters

The Mediterranean is becoming even more deadly for migrants

BY: Kristy Siegfried and Tom Westcott

Kristy is IRIN Migration Editor. Tom is a freelance journalist based in Libya and a regular IRIN contributor

Over the last two years, search-and-rescue efforts in the Central Mediterranean have been ramped up significantly and have undoubtedly saved countless lives. On Sunday alone, the Italian coastguard rescued 1,100 migrants from a total of 11 different vessels. And yet, the first half of 2016 saw a 67 percent increase in the number of migrants who died or disappeared trying to cross the Mediterranean compared to the same period last year, according to figures released in a report by IOM last week.

Far deadlier route

The vast majority of deaths occur in the Central Mediterranean, where one in 29 migrants lost their lives attempting the crossing between January and June. This is compared to one in 410 who used the much shorter Eastern Mediterranean route between Turkey and Greece.

But the longer length of the Central Mediterranean route is not the only reason it has become so risky. Experts say smugglers are using increasingly dangerous strategies to maximise their profits.

Libya remains the main gateway to the Central Mediterranean, and officials there claim the country's severe cash crisis is driving a surge of new entrants into the migrant smuggling trade.

"Every day, we see more young people are getting involved in smuggling," a senior official from Libya's Department for Combatting Illegal Immigration told IRIN on condition of anonymity. "There is no work, no cash in the banks, and all the young people know that they can get easy cash from this type of work."

Bargain prices

The migrant trade on Libya's Mediterranean shoreline has always operated on the basis of supply and demand, but, with black market exchange rates for foreign currency

soaring to more than double the official exchange rate, smugglers have also now dropped their prices, making the journey more affordable.

"A journey that once cost around 1,000\$ now costs as little 200\$ or 300\$, and we are hearing that some new smugglers are accepting as little as 100\$ per person," the official told IRIN.

"There are so many migrants waiting to go that often smugglers are now putting five or even 10 boats out to sea at a time from one departure point, where before it was maybe one or two."

This practice of launching multiple boats at once is complicating search-and-rescue efforts and has contributed to this year's higher death toll, according to the IOM report.

Last Sunday (21 August), a vessel operated by Médecins Sans Frontières was in the process of rescuing migrants from a wooden boat that was taking on water when



it received word that another boat carrying migrants, this time a small inflatable one, also needed saving.

"We took in a total of 551 people in one combined operation, instead of two operations. It was more difficult and made the situation more urgent," said Jacob Goldberg, a medical coordinator with MSF.

Overloading

Not only are more boats being launched simultaneously, but they are also being packed with more migrants.

"They've gone up from 100 [people] on the rubber boats to 150 or 160. On the wooden boats, from around 450 to 550 [before], we're now seeing 550 to 800," said Peter Sweetnam, director of the Migrant Offshore Aid Station, a Malta-based NGO that operates two search-and-rescue vessels in the Mediterranean.

Fernando Calero/MSF

"People aren't normally wearing life jackets and the rubber boats often start to deflate when there are so many people on them," Sweetnam

added.

Smugglers began using inflatable boats last year when the supply of wooden, former fishing boats started running low.

The EU's Operation Sophia, launched last year with the aim of disrupting smuggling networks, destroys wooden boats following a rescue operation so they cannot be retrieved and reused by smugglers. But the smugglers have simply switched to using cheaper, rubber boats, which, according to the senior official, are imported illegally from Tunisia.

"These boats are meant for 10 people maximum, but the smugglers usually put 120-100 people into each one," he said. "They don't care about what happens to them at sea. They are just thinking about the money."

Desperate to leave

Despite the risks, the demand for smugglers' services has remained high, in part because many people are so eager to escape the chaos in Libya.

New routes

IOM recently launched a campaign that uses migrants who've made the journey to Europe to warn would-be migrants back home about the dangers they're likely to encounter in Libya, as well as what they may experience during the sea journey.

Migrants from the Horn of Africa, particularly Eritreans, appear to have already started steering clear of Libya and increasing numbers are now attempting to set off for Europe from Egypt. Arrivals from Egypt now make up about 10 to 15 percent of all arrivals to Italy, said di Giacomo.

MOAS and MSF are among several NGOs that between them are now operating 13 search-and-rescue vessels in this stretch of the Mediterranean. Operation Sophia makes use of five ships from four different countries as well as several aircraft, and the Italian coastguard also plays a crucial coordination role.

And yet, despite all this effort, the deaths have continued and appear to be on the rise..