

Ghiras

قطر الخيرية
QATAR CHARITY
qcharity.org

Periodic Magazine by Qatar Charity
Issue No. 20 - October 2019

22 years of partnership
between Qatar Charity
and UN agencies

Hosting annual gathering
of 'Start Network' in Doha



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L/N: 2019/377

Burkina Faso



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QR **2,810**

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قطر الخيرية
QATAR CHARITY

Director of Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) talks with “Ghiras”

“This is the first time ever that the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre’s (IDMC) report has been translated into Arabic. Strategically, this is a very important development in our history.” This is part of the answers given by the center’s director, Ms Alexandara Bilak during an interview with her conducted by “Ghiras”.



Qatar Charity initiates urgent humanitarian interventions for flood victims in Sudan and Nepal

Qatar Charity has initiated relief assistance for flood victims in Sudan and Nepal as of August, providing an urgent aid worth QR1mn to 3,752 families in many states of Sudan as a first stage.

It will also continue to implement relief projects with the support from the Qatar Fund For Development (QFFD) to benefit 110,000 people.



A fishing boat brings a dignified life to Ramazan

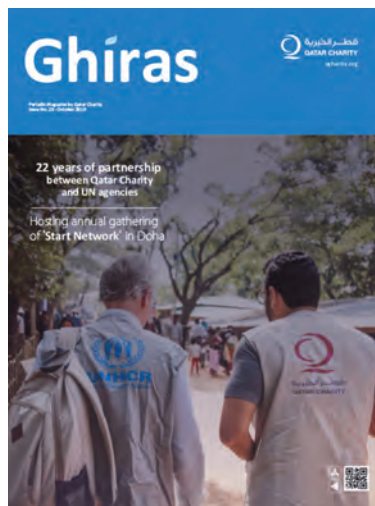
Mohammed Ramazan, a poor fisherman from a coastal city in Gampaha, Sri Lanka, lives with his parents and family in a modest little house next to the seashore. He works hard to earn a living for his family. However, a fishing boat provided by Qatar Charity contributed to bringing a dignified life to his family.



Naogaon’s wells improve living conditions of its populations

Naogaon, a district in northern Bangladesh, was suffering from a significant shortage of water for many months each year, which was badly affecting the health and living conditions of people in the area. However, Qatar Charity’s water project made a change in the lives of the people there, which led to the improvement of their living conditions. .





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qcharity      



Editorial

Tremendous Global Presence

By 2019, 22 years have passed on the continuous cooperation between Qatar Charity and UN agencies and organizations, witnessing the signing of 77 agreements worth 76 million US dollars.

Thanks to a long experience in humanitarian and development work, Qatar Charity became not only a funding partner but also an implementing partner of numerous UN agencies. It has executed many projects in cooperation with UNICEF, FAO, and WFP, in addition to many other projects in collaboration with several significant organizations.

Year after year, Qatar Charity affirms its position as an international charitable organization and reliable actor in the global humanitarian community by broadening and deepening cooperation relations with international and UN partners, and many local, regional and international organizations. For this purpose, Qatar Charity carried out the following:

- Signing more strategic cooperation agreements and memorandums of understanding to finance humanitarian interventions and development projects worldwide.
- Seeking membership in UN and international organizations, global humanitarian alliances and networks, such as consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), observer membership in the International Organization For Migration (IOM), and full membership in UK-based Start Network, and signing codes of conduct for humanitarian organizations.
- Participating in UN and international events and organizing activities like workshops and exhibitions on the sidelines of such events.
- Hosting and sponsoring international events.

In September and October of this year, Qatar Charity's program witnessed global attendance. In early October, Qatar Charity hosted the annual gathering of Start Network at its headquarters in Doha, with the participation of some 87 dignitaries representing 41 member organizations, comprising major international and regional humanitarian NGOs.

On the sidelines of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Qatar Charity held a side panel discussion entitled "The Role of Sport in Safeguarding and Empowering Refugees and IDPs" in September, at UN Headquarters in New York, in cooperation with the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and many international humanitarian organizations.

We consider this presence a reflection of the tremendous role played by Qatar Charity across the globe, especially in recent years, and the culmination of our enhanced cooperation with international organizations.

We firmly believe that concerted efforts, resources and joint humanitarian action at international levels can address key humanitarian challenges and bring about positive change in the world.

Chief Executive Officer

Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Kuwari



Director of Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) talks with “Ghiras”

The translation of our Global Report on Internal Displacement is important given the increasing displacement in the region

In cooperation with the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the Arabic version of the Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) 2019 has been published for the first time. The report was issued by IDMC.

To discuss the importance of this achievement and how beneficial is this report for decision-makers at the relevant government agencies and humanitarian and charitable organizations in the Arab world, “Ghiras” talked to Mrs. Alexandra Bilak, director of IDMC while she was in Doha to discuss the outputs of the report in two events organized by the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies and Al Jazeera Public Liberties & Human Rights Centre during June, 2019.

How important is this report?

IDMC’s Global Report on Internal Displacement serves as a wake-up call to governments, policy makers and the international community every year, reminding them that a huge group of people are still not receiving the political attention they deserve, namely internally displaced people (IDPs).

Despite the significant international debates on migration and refugee movements, displacement that happens within a country’s borders is not talked about sufficiently. By providing decision-makers across the world with accurate data and analysis on the number of people displaced across the world, the report aims to mobilize more political, financial and operational support for the issue of internal displacement.

Can you shed light on the Arabic version of this report?

This is the first time ever that IDMC’s report has been translated into Arabic. Strategically, this is very important development in our history that our report is finally available in Arabic, thanks to our partnership with Qatar Charity.

Given how important the phenomenon of internal displacement is in the Arab world, we want the report to be widely available. We want it to be shared with as many people as possible. We want many governments and civil societies read the report.





iDMC

To what extent, can humanitarian and development organizations benefit from this report?

The report allows charities to know where the humanitarian needs are the most severe and where they should redirect resources to the most vulnerable.

Many international organizations may not be responding in some of the worst crises across the world. We hope that our report will contribute to reducing this, and will assist in programming and planning. It also can help develop a strategic plan for the future.

To what extent, will the report play a role in improving the conditions of IDPs?

Obviously, we don't pretend to say that our report has a direct impact on people's lives. We speak to the people, who are responsible for making decisions about resource allocations, planning, and responding to this issue. We hope that our report would be taken up by right kind of people who can use information, data, and recommendations we make to develop the

new strategies and new responses from the national to the local level.

Can you talk about the partnership between Qatar Charity and IDMC?

We met with Qatar Charity few months ago and we decided there was a lot of common interests and collaboration opportunities, because Qatar Charity has programmes and operations on the ground in many of the countries affected by internal displacement, including Yemen, many sub-Saharan countries, and Middle East countries.

This culminated in signing an agreement this year, under which we will collaborate on information sharing and data collection, particularly in those countries like Yemen where do not have access to good data. We will also train some of Qatar Charity's staff to help us collect that data and get access, collaborate on some research projects, disseminate reports, organize joint events, and raise awareness of this issue on the international level.



In partnership between IDMC & Qatar Charity

Arabic version of Global Report on Internal Displacement 2019 released

Qatar Charity (QC) has translated the Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) 2019, the world's most important annual report on monitoring internal displacement worldwide, in cooperation with the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

Qatar Charity also announced the release of the Arabic version of the report for the first time during a panel discussion held by Al Jazeera Public Liberties & Human Rights Centre on internal displacement issues, in which officials from Al Jazeera, IDMC and Qatar Charity took part.

The Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) provides an overview of the world's most significant situations of internal displacement and highlights the political and operational investments needed to address its impacts and reduce the risk of it happening in the future. The report also notes the scale of the human tragedy in the Arab region, where large communities are suffering due to disasters and conflicts.

A Source of Concern

During the panel discussion, Mohamed al-Ghamdi, assistant CEO for Governance & Institutional Development Sector of Qatar Charity, expressed his pride in Qatar Charity's contribution in releasing the first Arabic version of GRID.

He noted that the information and data contained in the report would help humanitarian workers identify areas in need and appropriate intervention and raise awareness about the phenomenon of tragic displacement and its figures growing year after year.

He pointed out that the year 2018 witnessed more than 28mn new internal displacements across the world, 10.8mn displacements due to conflict and violence and 17.2 displacements due to natural disasters in several countries, including Arab countries such as Syria, Yemen and Somalia.

He said the Arabic version of the report was one of the aspects of Qatar Charity's co-operation with IDMC and the result of a partnership agreement signed between two sides in Geneva last May, noting that the displacement issue has become a source of concern for charitable organizations, humanitarian workers and UN agencies.

The report highlights the suffering of people and their journey from living in dignity to becoming homeless, Al-Ghamdi added, calling on decision-makers to support the

displaced and address their issues.

Important Partnership

Tariq al-Ansari, director of the International Co-operation Department at the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs, applauded Qatar Charity for its important partnership agreement with IDMC and translating GRID into Arabic.

The phenomenon of internal displacement is a serious issue, with its impact on the regional and international level, al-Ansari added, emphasizing a great need to obtain correct data from specialized displacement and asylum monitoring centers including IDMC.

Significant Development

On the sidelines of the panel discussion, Alexandra Bilak, director of IDMC, considered the translation of GRID into Arabic as a significant development. "Strategically, this is very important development in our history that our report is finally going to be available in Arabic."

Hassan Saeed Elmogumme, head of the Partnerships and Research Section of Al Jazeera Public Liberties & Human Rights Centre, said the translation of GRID underscored the great role of Qatar Charity in sharing information with the Arabic-speakers, and its significant efforts in drawing the attention of decision-makers and humanitarian organizations in the region to the issue of internal displacement.

Strategic Cooperation

Qatar Charity signed a strategic co-operation and partnership agreement with IDMC in Geneva, Switzerland, in the field of training and capacity building to improve data collection and analysis and collaborate on research projects on internal displacement worldwide.

This relationship will also pave the way for both parties to promote joint research projects and activities, including translating IDMC publications into Arabic.





Information and Data from the Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID)

The year 2018 witnessed more than 28 million new internal displacements across the world, including 10.8 million displacements due to conflict and violence and 17.2 displacements due to natural disasters in several countries, such as Syria, Yemen and Somalia.

This is according to the Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) issued in May by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

Internal displacement is a global challenge, but heavily concentrated in a few countries and regions. The following is the most significant information and statistical data on internal displacement, which are provided in the summary of GRID 2019.

Conflict & Violence: New Displacement by Region

Conflict and violence contributed to triggering 10.8 million new displacements worldwide. Ethiopia, DRC and Syria accounted for more than half of the global figure. More than two-thirds of the new displacements associated with conflict occurred in Sub-Saharan Africa, which suffered not only new and ongoing violence but also drought and floods during the year. Africa also hosts some of the world's largest protracted displacement caseloads.

Conflict and violence continued to drive displacement and prevented returns in the Middle East. The conflict in Yemen in particular escalated significantly in the second half of 2018, heightening the vulnerability of a population already in crisis. The conflict in Syria subsided, but still contributed to some of the largest forced population movements in the world. Ongoing insecurity and widespread destruction meant people were unable to return to

their areas of origin.

Around 41.3 million people were estimated to be living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence in 55 countries as of the end of the year, the highest figure ever recorded. Three-quarters, or 30.9 million people, were living in only ten countries.

Disasters: New Displacement by Region

Heightened vulnerability and exposure to sudden-onset hazards resulted in 17.2 million new disaster displacements in 144 countries and territories. Storms, particularly tropical cyclones, and monsoon rains forced more people from their homes in the East Asia and Pacific region than anywhere else. The 3.8 million new displacements recorded in the Philippines were a reminder of the country's high exposure. The monsoon season took a heavy toll in South Asia, where 2.7 million new displacements were recorded in India alone.

The global number of people displaced by slow-onset disasters remains unknown. Drought conditions monitored in just nine countries – Afghanistan, Brazil, Burundi, Ethiopia, Iraq, Madagascar, Mongolia, Senegal and Somalia – were responsible for at least 760,000 new displacements during the year, a clear underestimate. High temperatures and low precipitation levels also contributed to unprecedented wildfires from the US to Greece to Australia, displacing hundreds of thousands of people, severely damaging property and preventing swift returns.

Internal Displacements Worldwide in 2018

Displacements due to conflict

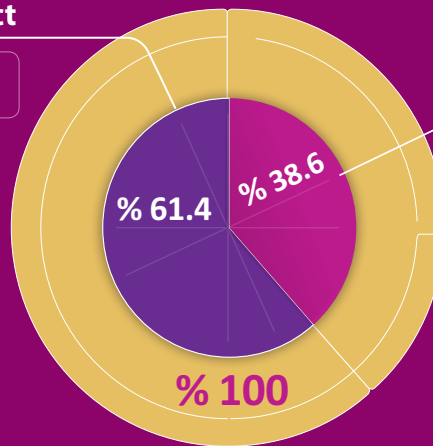
17,200,000

Displacements due to disasters

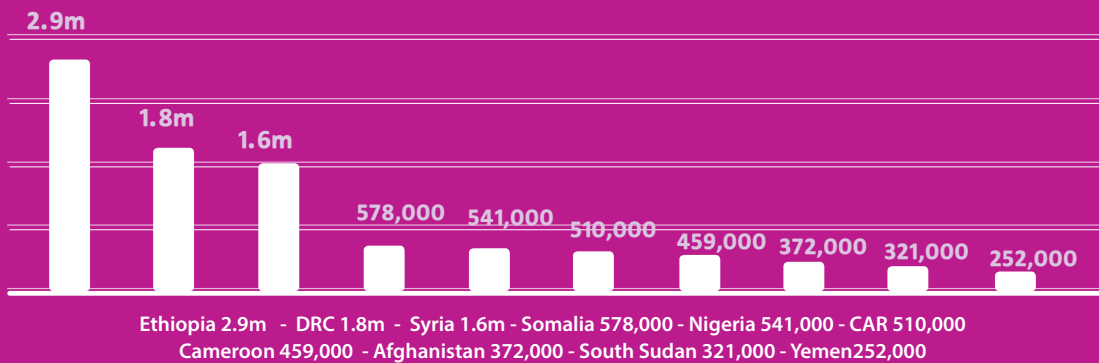
10,800,000

Total Internal Displacements

28,000,000

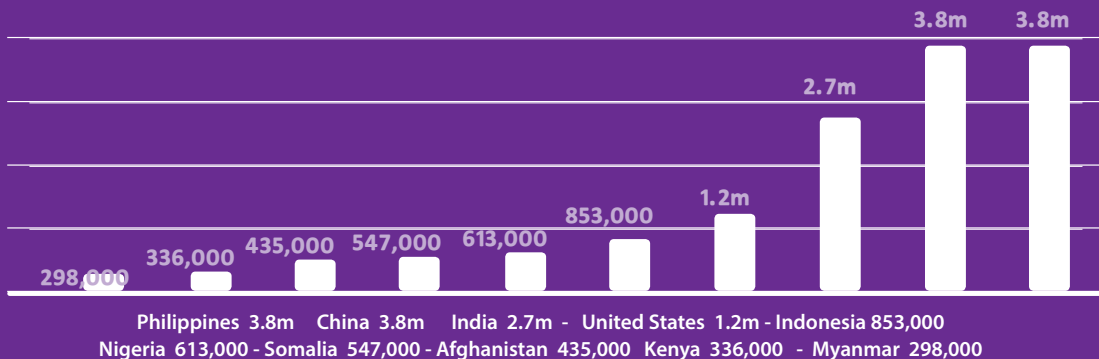


Displacements due to conflict



17,200.000
Displacements

Displacements due to natural disasters



10,800,000
Displacements

More than **22** years of cooperation and partnership between Qatar Charity and the United Nations

Qatar Charity partners with the following UN Agencies:



To enhance resilience of marginalized communities and strengthen their economic empowerment in Sudan, Palestine and Indonesia.



To promote protection to refugees and forcibly displaced communities and assist in their voluntary repatriation.



To provide assistance and protection for Palestinian refugees to help them achieve their full potential in human development.



To establish a roster of specialized personnel and technical specialists to field offices managed by OCHA.



To promote health services in Syria and Afghanistan.



To deliver food-assistance in emergencies, improve nutrition, promote food security and build resilience.



To provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.



To save and protect the world's most vulnerable children and provide health care, immunizations, nutrition, access to safe water and sanitation services, basic education, protection and emergency relief.



To contribute to efforts to defeat hunger and support small farmers in Niger, Pakistan, Somalia and Palestine.

77 Agreements with United Nations Agencies for a total of more than **76** Million USD



Consultative Status ECOSOC 1996



Associated Organization DGC/CSO 2019



Member START NETWORK 2017



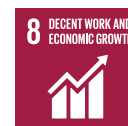
Observer Member IOM 2006



Member CHS Alliance 2019

Qatar Charity and the Sustainable Development Goals

Qatar Charity's current development strategy is aligned to support the following UN SDGs





With support from QFFD and in partnership with Kızılay

Qatar Charity opens community center for Syrian refugees in Turkey

Qatar Charity (QC) recently opened a community center in Kocaeli, Turkey, to provide protection services to Syrian refugees and Turkish citizens, at an estimated cost of 750,000\$, and is expected to benefit some 14,000 people.

The opening of the Kocaeli Community Center came with support from the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and in partnership with the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay).

The implementation of the project comes as part of the Qatar Upholding Education for Syrians' Trust (QUEST) initiative, which was launched by the State of Qatar to alleviate the suffering of Syrian refugees.

Many officials from Qatar Charity, the governor and the mayor of Kocaeli, and the general manager of the Turkish Red Crescent attended the inaugural ceremony.

Numerous Services

The center provides psychological and social support and protection to prevent abuse, neglect, and violence against vulnerable people, create an integration mechanism for social services provided by government authorities, and raise host communities awareness on matters related to Syrian refugees.

The Case Management Programme (CMP) aims to identify and monitor vulnerabilities among Syrian refugees in all areas of protection and education, such as gender-based violence, child labor, dropout of education, domestic violence, and other forms of violence against children.

After studying the case, it is monitored either by a team at the center, if it is within the competence of the supervisor, or referred to other bodies providing this service, whether the government or a civil society organization.

The center also offers activities for youth and children aged 4 to 18 years, provide legal, medical and educational assistance, in addition to supporting livelihoods through vocational training, job search, joint courses.

Furthermore, it provides health services like physical examination of children and the assessment of child malnutrition, and raises mother awareness of nutritional care in children.

Besides, the center offers voluntary activities to encourage Syrian and host communities to participate in the events of the community center, and raise community awareness, and promote cultural and social activities.

Enrichment classes are held for Arabic and Turkish languages, in addition to other courses that are offered to learn basic computer skills, Turkish food and candy making skills, and simple handicrafts, such as embroidery, sewing, and pottery.

The center also has a gym for various physical sports such as Taekwondo, Kickboxing, Karate, and Judo, in addition to outdoor games like basketball and football.





QUEST Initiative

The QUEST initiative, launched by the State of Qatar in 2016, aims mainly to ensure that children and young people, who have suffered the Syrian crisis, are able to get the necessary education and skills that enable them to find good jobs in the future and become active members in their community.

The five-year initiative seeks to provide education and training to nearly 400,000 Syrian refugees within Syria and in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey. The total amount of the initiative exceeds USD 150 million.



Figures

The Syrian crisis has led to the displacement of millions of refugees to neighboring countries. Turkey hosts the largest number, with 3,572,000 Syrian refugees currently living there, of whom 222,000 live in camps.

As a result of a large number of Syrian refugees in Istanbul and their desperate need for social services, mental health services, and many other services, the Kocaeli Community Center was established in Istanbul where some 55,000 Syrian refugees are concentrated.



Qatar Charity-hosted annual gathering of Start Network concludes in Doha





Hosted by Qatar Charity (QC) at its headquarters in Doha, the annual meeting of Start Network concluded with the participation of some 87 dignitaries representing 41 member organizations, comprising major international and regional humanitarian NGOs.

The two-day annual gathering organized for the first time in the Middle East on 1 - 2 October and discussed the network strategy, the proposed action plan, governance and transparency issues, as well as, many other matters related to its effectiveness, capabilities and co-operation among its members on humanitarian issues.

New Memberships

During the meeting, 12 charity organizations from India, Pakistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo were welcomed into the membership of Start Network, increasing the number of Start Network's

members to 53.

"We take pride in being an essential player in the development of many African, Asian and Middle Eastern countries and we know that it was all thanks to partnerships and alliances", Mr. Mohammed Al-Ghamdi, CGO, Qatar Charity, said in his opening remarks, pointing out to the role of Qatar in supporting the vulnerable, the oppressed, and the needy across the globe.

Qatar Charity's entry into alliances and partnerships with many global organizations, including Start Network, comes in response to the humanitarian appeal to support communities and individuals in need, Al-Ghamdi added, underlining the importance of concerted efforts to overcome the problems faced by humanitarian action.

Catherine Sneath, Acting CEO of Start Network, said she was pleased to attend the network's first meeting

Chairman of the Board of Start Network:

Qatari people's love for charitable work and the use of modern technologies by Qatar Charity are impressive

CEO of Qatar Charity:

We call for concerted efforts and resources to bring about positive change in the lives of underprivileged communities





in the Middle East hosted by Qatar Charity. She also emphasized the importance of the annual meeting of Start Network in Doha, as an independent charity organization to discuss the strategy, action plan, and achievements of the network, which adopts a methodology of innovation and cooperation in an attempt to reduce human suffering. She also pointed out that this requires new and innovative ways to address the challenges facing the Network.

Accompanying Events

On the sidelines of the meeting, Qatar Charity organized a dinner party in co-operation with a number of bodies in the country at National Museum of Qatar, where the guests came to know about the Qatari identity, heritage and history, in addition to providing them with an opportunity to know about Qatar Charity's humanitarian efforts across the world.

Speaking at the Qatar National Museum, Mr.

Christophe Gabriel Maetze, Chairman of the Board of Start Network, expressed his happiness with the wonderful hosting by Qatar Charity for the annual gathering of Start Network. He also thanked Qatar Charity for organizing the event that provided an opportunity to the members of the network to learn more about the culture, history, and tradition of Qatar, expressing his great pride that Qatar Charity is part of the network.

"We are delighted to attend the event in Qatar, and we are honored by the hospitality of the Qatari people, whose generosity and the use of modern technologies by Qatar Charity have extremely impressed me", added the chairperson.

Memento

In his speech at the Museum, Mr. Yousuf bin Ahmed Al Kuwari, CEO of Qatar Charity, said, "In 1992, Qatar Charity was established and today, we are proud to



say that as a leading NGO in the MENA region, we have contributed to saving millions of lives in more than 50 countries worldwide.”

“Qatar Charity achieved many milestones by working with several governments, UN agencies and International NGOs,” added CEO, urging everyone to make concerted efforts, utilize resources and work together to accelerate positive change in the world.

The delegation then toured the museum where they came to know about the Qatari heritage, tradition and history. The event also included Qatari cultural activities and performances carried out by children.

At the end of the event at the museum, Mr. Christophe Gabriel Maetze, Chairman of the Board of Start Network, and Mr. Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Kuwari received memento from each other.

Start Network

The UK-based Start Network is made up of 41 aid agencies across five continents, ranging from large international organizations to national NGOs. It aims to change the current international system of humanitarian aid and deliver more effective aid to support people affected by crises.

It develops innovative ways for aid agencies to work together, with new forms of financing and methods to give local organisations greater decision-making power and funding. Start Network’s impartial approach is grounded in its commitment to universally shared humanitarian ideals, such as those enshrined in international humanitarian law.

Qatar Charity joined Start Network in February 2016 as observers, and in November 2017, it was granted full membership by the Start Network Board of Directors on the basis that all membership conditions are met.





CEO of Start Network:

We expand our reach, particularly to the places of crises and disasters

The diversity in our membership makes us stronger

On the sidelines of Start Network's annual general meeting held recently in Doha, "Ghiras" talked with Christina Bennett, CEO of the Network, focusing on the criteria for developing the current international system of humanitarian aid, the importance of expanding the Network's reach to bring more local and national organizations from across the world into its membership, and the future prospects for cooperation between Qatar Charity and the Network.

What is the importance of the Start Network, and how does it develop the current international system of humanitarian aid to deliver more effective aid to support people affected by humanitarian crises?

There is no doubt that international aid organizations are constantly making wonderful humanitarian interventions across the globe, but working through a network of international, national and local organizations to provide assistance and make decisions as close to the ground as possible is the most appropriate and the quickest way to reach those affected by crises.

From this point of view, Start Network represents a

new model of humanitarian assistance. It is a London-based membership organization, but it operates in a more decentralized way through networks and members worldwide rather than in its own right.

The Network considers its member organizations one of its most significant strengths that enables them all to be as close to the ground as possible to deliver more effective humanitarian assistance to communities affected by crises and disasters and make more appropriate decisions and quick humanitarian intervention at the time of disasters and crises.

New Members

Currently, how many humanitarian organizations are members of Start Network and how does it expand its reach?

By the end of the Network's annual general meeting in Doha, the number of its member organizations from all five continents of the world increased to 53, representing some of the biggest humanitarian organizations of the world, as well as, some of the much smaller organizations from across the globe.





By working with our members and accepting new organizations into our membership, we are expanding the reach of Start Network worldwide, particularly to those places that suffer chronic crises, whether they are natural disasters, crises or conflicts.

As we believe that, the diversity in our membership makes us stronger, we welcome humanitarian organizations from anywhere and of any size to apply for the membership into Start Network, which accepts applicants as members on the basis that membership conditions are met.

Future prospects

How do you see the importance of Qatar Charity as a member of the Network?

Qatar Charity, as a member of Start Network since 2017, has been a great supporter of the Network and its work. It has recently hosted the annual general meeting of the Network in Doha, providing a valuable opportunity to learn more about Qatar Charity and its area of work and promote Doha as a center for humanitarian action, which brings

together relevant organizations from all over the world. I also believe that Qatar Charity adheres to the Network's due diligence procedures and policies.

What are the prospects for future cooperation between Qatar Charity and Start Network?

I hope that the cooperation with Qatar Charity will last for a longer time and be fruitful. While I was in Doha to attend the annual gathering of the Network, I came to know about various programmes, projects, and activities of Qatar Charity, which are implemented within Qatar and across the globe. This will make our collaboration much stronger and much closer.

We also hope that in the future there will be more other initiatives, in which we will cooperate. We can collaborate on future meetings that we plan to organize in Doha and London. We can also allow Qatar Charity as member of the Network to get involved in making some decisions.



Qatar Charity highlights the role of sports in empowering refugees at UN Headquarters



On the sidelines of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Qatar Charity held a side panel discussion entitled “The Role of Sport in Safeguarding and Empowering Refugees and IDPs” in September, at UN Headquarters in New York, in cooperation with the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and many international humanitarian organizations.

Stories of Hope

In his opening statement, Mr. Yousef Bin Ahmed Al Kuwari, CEO of Qatar Charity, thanked the attendees for joining him to celebrate sports. “Today, we celebrate sports differently, not with scores and goals but with life-changing stories, stories of hope, survival and dreams”, Al Kuwari said.

“Today, we have with us organizations and people seeking to bring about global peace and development through sports and I would like to thank them for honoring our invitation. Some of the people present with us today are real-life heroes, who challenged hardships of displacement and poverty. They will share their stories with us today,” Al Kuwari added.

Al-Kuwari reaffirmed Qatar Charity’s commitment to making sports an essential component of its interventions, especially in the most conflict-stricken areas of the world. He also reiterated Qatar Charity’s commitment to promoting ideals of peace, fraternity, solidarity and non-violence.

QFFD’s Statement

For his part, Mr. Khalifa bin Jassim Al Kuwari, Director General of Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), said, “From the FIFA World Cup to the small pitches in remote villages, sport in its different forms has proven to be a powerful tool for forging social inclusion, breaking down barriers and promoting understanding between people.”

“Sport in such situations is an opportunity to provide a safe environment and supportive haven for refugees and IDPs. It could be a tool to build their individual skills and capacities and to boost their physical and psychosocial well-being and their self-esteem. It is indeed a mean to help them live a dignified life,” Mr. Khalifa added.

Peace & Development

The panel discussion organized by Qatar Charity, in collaboration with the Qatar Fund For Development (QFFD), UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, International Organization for Migration (IOM), the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), and SAVE THE DREAM, covered many sports-related topics.

It talked about the shift towards sports in conflict-torn communities, the importance of the use of sports as a tool to achieve peace and development goals, and strengthening the global framework for leveraging sport for development and peace. It also discussed the perspectives and horizons that sports can create for a more dignified life for refugees and IDPs and the challenges that face the use of sports as a tool for development.

Several officials from many international humanitarian organizations, humanitarian experts, and sports stars from Kenya, Somalia and Afghanistan, who fled their countries, settled in other countries and made achievements, also took part in the dialogue.

Accompanying Exhibition

The event also included an accompanying exhibition with different pictures and materials showing humanitarian programs and projects that use sports for peace and development, like Qatar Charity’s initiative entitled “Sports for Peace in Darfur” launched in cooperation with QFFD, in addition to GIZ Sports for Development in refugee camps in Jordan and Palestine, and ‘Save the Dream’ projects.

The visitors of the exhibition had the opportunity to see and understand the refugees’ situation through VR video shots.



810,000 crisis-affected people benefit from Qatar Charity's educational projects

Some 810,000 people, affected by crises and natural disasters, benefited from educational projects implemented by Qatar Charity from 2015 to date, at an estimated cost of QR107mn. Also, Qatar Charity took part in many international educational initiatives that serve these people.

Qatar Charity's intervention in this area comes due to the worsening educational situation of refugees, growing school dropout rates, and the destruction of educational institutions caused by natural disasters and crises in many countries worldwide.

According to a report released by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, of the 7.1 million refugee children of school age, 3.7 million – more than half – did not go to school in 2018.

Qatar Charity implements projects for education in emergencies in Turkey, Syria, Palestine, Sudan, Lebanon, Bangladesh, Yemen and Indonesia. Qatar Charity's interventions included maintenance and reconstruction of damaged educational institutions, improvement of students' level, printing curricula, distributing textbooks and school bags, and giving scholarships. Its interventions also cover providing educational relief needs for schools of refugees and the displaced, and offering urgent relief aid to earthquake victims by building schools and implementing other projects.

Educational Initiatives

Also, Qatar Charity has joined several international educational initiatives that serve this segment of people, including the QUEST initiative sponsored by Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD). The initiative aims to educate and train children affected by the ongoing Syrian crisis.

This initiative seeks to improve the capacities and competencies of Syrian refugees and displaced persons and give them the opportunity to get the necessary education and skills that enable them to find good jobs in the future and become active members of their community.

World Refugee School (WRS)

Qatar Charity has also contributed to the World Refugee School (WRS) initiative, as a founding member of its global board of directors. It was announced during the Aid & Trade London, the fastest growing humanitarian event of its kind.

The World Refugee School (WRS) is a global initiative that aims at providing high quality continuing education to refugee and displaced children around the world and offering solutions to education in conflict-stricken areas.





Qatar Charity initiates urgent humanitarian interventions for flood victims in Sudan and Nepal

Qatar Charity has initiated relief assistance for flood victims in Sudan and Nepal as of August, providing an urgent aid worth QR1mn to 3,752 families in many states of Sudan as a first stage.

It will also continue to implement relief projects with the support from the Qatar Fund For Development (QFFD) to benefit 110,000 people.

Concurrently, it launched a campaign to garner support to reach out to the largest number of affected people.

First Batch

The launch of the first batch of relief aid witnessed the attendance of Dr. Mohamed Al-Sinari Mustafa, Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid, Major General Abu Bakr Sayed Ahmed, Secretary of the National Council for Civil Defense, Mr. Ahmed Al Senousi, Chairman of the Forum of Arab and Islamic Organizations, and directors of international organizations, in addition to Hocine Kermache, director of Qatar Charity's office in Sudan. The assistance included food, blankets, tarpaulins and floor mats.

Dr. Mohamed Al-Sinari Mustafa, Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid, praised the relations between the two brotherly countries and the leading role of Qatar Charity in the field of rapid response to disasters, thanking it for its rapid intervention in the fields of food and shelter. He also applauded the efforts of the State of Qatar, especially its role in supporting peace efforts in Darfur.

For his part, Acting Chargé d'affaires at the Embassy of Qatar in Sudan, Mr. Abdulla Mohammed Al Subaie, lauded the strong Sudanese-Qatari relations, valuing

the role of Qatar Charity in the implementation of various development projects in the country.

Hocine Kermache, director of Qatar Charity's office in Sudan, explained that Qatar Charity's efforts would continue in assessing the magnitude of the disaster and providing more relief assistance in many affected areas in coordination with the government authorities represented by the Federal and State Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) to prioritize interventions. He also mentioned Qatar Charity's keenness to intervene immediately after the occurrence of disasters in recent years and respond urgently to humanitarian emergencies.

Support from QFFD

Qatar Charity, with funding from the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), continued to provide relief assistance to flood victims in Sudan.

The aid aims to rescue and support 110,000 flood victims in Sudan's White Nile, Al Jazirah, and Kassalā states. Of them, there are 49,500 children, including 8,000 children under five, in addition to 31,000 women.

The assistance also includes 13,650 food baskets for 4,000 families, and sheltering aids such as blankets, tarpaulins, and floor mats for 4,000 families. Also, health, water and sanitation services are provided, in addition to six mobile clinics for medical services.

Relief Campaign

In conjunction with the provision of such assistance, Qatar Charity launched an urgent relief campaign for flood victims of Sudan and Nepal to provide further food, shelter, health, and education assistance.





Qatar Charity seeks to provide food baskets consisting of eight types of basic food supplies, in addition to providing health services for people injured by the floods. It also aims to provide safe drinking water to the affected people, in addition to providing shelter aids that include tents, a bag with living necessities, and floor mats, and supporting education.

Ways to Donate

Benefactors can contribute to the campaign by donating through Qatar Charity's website (Qch.qa/SS), and App (Qch.qa/App). They can also donate by sending an SMS. To contribute QR100, QR150, QR200 and QR500, one can send an SMS with code (SS) to 92015 ,92014 ,92642 and 92428, respectively.

Extent of Damage

The number of those affected by floods in 15 states of Sudan has risen to 245,700, while some 32,815

houses were completely or partially demolished. However, 59 people were killed, according to a report released by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in August.

The United Nations said an additional \$150 million was required to combat the damage caused by rainwater, in addition to \$1.1 billion needed to help resolve the humanitarian crisis in Sudan.

In Nepal, nearly 384,950 people have been affected by floods and landslides caused by heavy monsoon rains, according to a report released on July 17 by the Nepal Red Crescent. The death toll stood at 78, while some 22 people went missing. Besides, 18,694 houses were totally or partially damaged.



77 agreements worth more than 76 million US dollars

22 years of partnership between Qatar Charity and UN agencies

Recognizing the importance of building partnerships with UN and global organizations, Qatar Charity has been keen to strengthen such cooperation by signing 77 cooperation and partnership agreements with UN agencies and organizations over the past 22 years, with a total value exceeding 76 million dollars.

This cooperation started in 1997 in many fields to serve humanitarian and development issues worldwide, especially in disaster and crisis-stricken areas.

Agreements

With a long experience in humanitarian and development work, Qatar Charity is not only a funding partner but also a strategic and implementing partner of numerous UN agencies. It has implemented many projects in cooperation with UNICEF, OCHA, FAO, WFP, and UNHCR.

Qatar Charity is proud of concluding agreements and memorandum of understanding (MoU) with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP), International Organisation For Migration (IOM), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), World Health Organization (WHO), and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC).

Fields of cooperation

These agreements cover various humanitarian and developmental fields such as relief, resettlement of the displaced, livelihoods, water, sanitation, logistic cooperation, food, agriculture, food security, health, social welfare, exchange of experts, and resource mobilization.

Many countries including Palestine, Somalia, Pakistan, Iraq, Sudan, Yemen, Niger, Syria, and Bangladesh, benefited from these projects implemented under this cooperation.

Qatar Charity is one of the civil society organizations that contribute most internationally to supporting humanitarian and development issues to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, coordinating joint efforts in areas of humanitarian interventions, and sharing experiences to maximize impact.

The partnership between UNHCR and Qatar Charity has culminated in concluding many pacts, with 32 cooperation and partnership agreements to fund humanitarian projects for the internally displaced and refugees.

The QC4HCR, a collaborative initiative, is one of the most significant agreements, which was signed last year to co-ordinate partnership and co-operation between Qatar Charity (QC) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian action with a view to achieving their common humanitarian goals.





This cooperation included several projects for the displaced and refugees in Iraq, Yemen, and Somalia, in addition to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

Memberships

It is worth mentioning that Qatar Charity has been in a consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1997,

while it has been enjoying observer membership of the International Organisation For Migration (IOM). It was also selected as an associate member of the Department of Global Communications (DGC) this year, in addition to becoming a member of Start Network in 2017.





Qatar Charity and UNHCR's joint initiative 'For Humanity' supports refugee relief worldwide

The 'For Humanity (4H)' initiative launched by Qatar Charity (QC) and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is the largest humanitarian relief initiative to provide emergency assistance to vulnerable refugees across the globe.

The initiative aims to reach out to more than 300,000 refugees and displaced persons in Yemen, Syria, Iraq, and Somalia as well as Rohingya Refugee in Bangladesh, provide emergency assistance to them, and ensure they are safe, healthy and well fed.

Leading Model

The urgent campaign, which was launched live on Al Rayyan TV within the framework of the initiative, managed to raise funds worth up to QR25mn within two hours to help thousands of refugees, the displaced, and the poor in these countries.

The 'For Humanity' initiative seeks to provide a leading model for global emergency support, consultation and joint action to enhance humanitarian response and field cooperation between the two parties.

Through its strong partnership with UNHCR, Qatar Charity works to alleviate the disastrous humanitarian conditions in the affected areas around the world by providing emergency medical, food, and shelter assistance to the most vulnerable refugees, including children, women and old persons.

In Yemen

The initiative provides protection, shelter and emergency humanitarian assistance to displaced Yemenis living in difficult conditions and struggling to survive, as more than 18 million of them currently

need humanitarian assistance and more than 2 million people live in difficult conditions away from their homes and they are deprived of basic needs.

In Iraq

The 'For Humanity' initiative also seeks to help the Iraqi people and alleviate the suffering of 6.7 million Iraqis facing many humanitarian crises due to the displacement and the lack of basic needs. A large number of Iraqi families still live with minimum spending. More than 3.3 million children are severely deprived of education, and suffer malnutrition, poor living conditions and less health spending. What makes the situation further worse is that 60 percent of these people are under the burden of debt and that a large number of young people aged 25 - 18 years have no jobs.

Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh

The 'For Humanity' initiative also seeks to support the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, as they suffer systematic discrimination in Myanmar, which caused the displacement of more than half a million refugees fleeing violence in their country. The violence has greatly harmed women, girls, boys and men and forced them to move to Bangladesh.

In Somalia

The 'For Humanity' initiative aims at supporting Somali refugees at the Dadaab camp in Kenya, helping them return voluntarily to their homeland, and providing food, education, healthcare, housing, clean water and sanitation services to nearly 100,000 refugees.

The 'For Humanity' initiative also seeks to reintegrate





Somali refugees by building public infrastructure helpful to rehabilitation in order to promote peaceful coexistence and self-reliance and give access to basic services in areas of return, so that Somali returnees, displaced persons, and receiving communities can achieve the stability.

For Humanity - Syrian Refugee Relief

The 'For Humanity' initiative aims to provide support and assistance to Syrian refugees to alleviate their suffering, as the Syrian crisis is one of the worst of our time.

According to the Regional Response Plan for 2018, some 12.8 million Syrians require humanitarian assistance, including 6.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). The crisis is worsening, as a large number of children are facing tragic humanitarian situations due to the shortage of food, the lack of shelter, and the absence of health care.





Partnership & Cooperation Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding

During the first half of this year, Qatar Charity (QC) has inked many partnership and cooperation agreements with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, several other agencies, government bodies concerned with humanitarian and development work, and civil society organizations, to support humanitarian efforts in and outside Qatar.





Agreements



With UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency

Qatar Charity (QC) inked three agreements worth USD 4 million with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, in support of displaced persons and refugees in Iraq and Yemen as well as Rohingya people in Bangladesh. Some 100,000 people are expected to benefit from these pacts.

Signatories:

Mr. Khaled Khalifa, UNHCR's regional representative to the Gulf Co-operation Council countries

Mr. Faisal Rashid Al Fehaida, Assistant CEO for International Operations and Partnerships Sector - Qatar Charity

Terms:

The first agreement focuses on providing around 80,000 vulnerable Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh with essential assistance for shelter, energy and water and sanitation, with a total contribution of USD 2 million.

The second agreement worth USD 1 million was signed to provide long-term shelter rehabilitation support for 300 families (approximately 1,800 individuals) of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Iraq.

The third agreement was inked based on which Qatar Charity will contribute USD 1 million to provide rental assistance for returnee families and communities in Yemen, in the form of cash grants. Around 12,000 individuals in Yemen will benefit from this project.



With the Municipality of Mitrovica in Kosovo

Qatar Charity (QC) has signed a cooperation agreement with the municipality of Mitrovica in Kosovo to build an integrated village, at a total cost estimated at more than 2 million euros.

Signatories:

Khalid Abdullah Al Yafie, Director of Projects Management, Qatar Charity

Agim Bhatiri, Mayor of Mitrovica, in the presence of Ali bin Hamad Al Marri, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Albania and Kosovo and HE Abduselami Shkodra, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo.

Terms:

The project includes 40 houses, a school, health clinic, service center, mosque, shops, and green spaces.

Under the agreement, Qatar Charity contributes 1.5€mn of the total cost of the project, estimated at 2.25€mn, while the Municipality of Mitrovica contributes the rest.

With the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Albania



Qatar Charity (QC) has signed a cooperation agreement worth € 200,000 with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Albania.

Signatories:

Director of Projects Management, Qatar Charity

Jillardina Prudani, Secretary-General of the Albanian Ministry of Health

Terms:

Provide medicines for Albanian hospitals





Agreements



With the Municipality of Štimlje in Kosovo

Qatar Charity (QC) has signed a cooperation agreement with the Municipality of Štimlje in Kosovo to drill drinking water wells for the people of the region at a total cost of more than 60,000 euros.

Signatories:

Director of Projects Management, Qatar Charity
Naim Ismajli, Mayor of the Municipality of Štimlje

Terms:

Drill 30 potable water wells



With the Ministry of Social Development - Palestine

Qatar Charity signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Social Development in July on developing and

strengthening cooperation to serve marginalized and vulnerable groups, and lifting them out of destitution and poverty towards development and production.

Signatories:

Mr. Daoud AL Deek, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development, Palestine

Mr. Huthayfa Jalamna, Director of Qatar Charity's Office in Palestine

In the presence of HE Dr. Ahmed Majdalani, Minister of Social Development

Terms

Define the role and responsibilities of the two parties in respect of the mechanisms for cooperation to provide assistance and projects for the development of low-income families, based on information and data provided by the Ministry of Social Development through the unified portal.

With the Municipality of Lipljan



Qatar Charity has signed a cooperation agreement with the Municipality of Lipljan to implement 140 projects in the areas of economic empowerment and the provision of safe drinking water.

Signatories:

Director of Projects Management, Qatar Charity
Imri Ahmeti, Mayor of the Municipality of Lipljan

Terms:

Drill 70 drinking water wells

Implement 70 income-generating projects





Agreements



With the Ideal Solutions Company

Qatar Charity and Ideal Solutions Company signed a partnership agreement to sponsor a series of projects and programmes implemented by Qatar Charity as part of its "Ramadan, The Gift of Giving"

campaign for the year 1440 AH.

Signatories:

Mr. Ali Al Ghareeb, Director of Resources Development Department, Qatar Charity

Engineer Mahmoud Amer, Chairman of Ideal Solutions Company

Terms:

Support a range of activities and programmes offered by Qatar Charity

Sponsor the series of «Read .. Help .. Learn», a project to produce premium quality books for children, in addition to sponsoring the Moneybox App, interactive Hayat exhibition to educate about the human cause and asylum across the world.

Sponsor the "Renovation" project for low-income families, Layali Al Khair, a cultural entertainment programme at the Hyatt Plaza shopping mall, and initiatives and programs of Qatar Charity.



With the Qatar Red Crescent Society

Qatar Charity (QC) and the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the aim of organizing cooperation and achieving common goals efficiently and effectively in the field of building capacities, mobilizing resources, cooperating in the implementation of humanitarian programmes and projects, benefiting from experiences and sharing experiments, information and knowledge between the two parties.

Signatories:

Mr. Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Kuwari, CEO, Qatar Charity

Mr. Ali bin Hassan Al Hammadi, Secretary-General,

Qatar Red Crescent Society

Terms:

Cooperate in the implementation of joint initiatives and exchange of information on relief and humanitarian conditions within the affected areas, and crises, and in the implementation of humanitarian programmes and projects in places where any of the two parties has the lawful presence.

Benefit from the capabilities of the two parties, exchange experiences, and help in the management of institutional work. Mutually recognize respective capabilities and preferential advantages of each party, serve the joint interests and mutual benefits embodied by the objectives of cooperation, and organize joint campaigns.



Quantum leap in Qatar Charity's projects in Kosovo

Qatar Charity (QC) signed a cooperation agreement with the municipality of Mitrovica in Kosovo in July to build an integrated village for families suffering from poor economic conditions, at a total cost of more than 2 million euros.

The deal was signed by Director of Projects Management at Qatar Charity, Khalid Abdullah Al Yafie, and Mayor of Mitrovica, Agim Bhatiri, in the presence of the Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Kosovo, Ali bin Hamad Al Marri, and HE Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo Abdulselami Shkodra.

The village, which will be built on an area of 3.27 hectares, includes 40 houses, a school, health clinic, service center, mosque, shops, and green spaces, providing an integrated environment.

Under the agreement, Qatar Charity contributes 1.5 million euros of the total cost of the project estimated

at 2.25 million euros, while the municipality of Mitrovica contributes the rest. Around 6,000 people are expected to benefit from the project.

Distinguished Relations

In a speech at the signing ceremony, Ali bin Hamad Al Marri underscored the strong relations between the two countries and their people.

"We in the State of Qatar are keen to strengthen our relationship with Kosovo and give it great attention," he said.

"Today we are in this municipality to sign an agreement to implement an integrated social humanitarian project to serve our brothers in Kosovo, with whom we have distinguished relations," he added.

For his part, Bhatiri expressed his pleasure at concluding this agreement. He also praised HH the





€2 mn pact inked for integrated village in Kosovo

Amir, the government, and the people of Qatar for their keen interest in assisting their brothers in Kosovo, applauding the role of Qatar Charity in its cooperation and seriousness in previous projects.

Quantum Leap

Eng. Khalid Al-Yafei expressed his great happiness over attending this significant ceremony, noting that building a residential complex is quantum leap in Qatar Charity's development projects in Kosovo.

He also emphasized that this project would provide integrated services to the inhabitants of this city, contribute to the development and well-being of its citizens, and meet some of their aspirations and expectations in the areas of health, education, and entertainment.

This project will provide an integrated environment in all areas, Al-Yafei further said, pointing out that this project is a gift from the people of Qatar to the

people of Kosovo.

Qatar Charity's projects in Kosovo cover different segments and diverse areas, most notably, the care and sponsorship of orphans, the disabled, and families with limited income.

Qatar Charity sponsors some 3,000 persons there. In the field of education and training, more than 4,500 people benefited from the Qatar Training Center.

The number of income-generating projects increased to over 500, while more than 800 projects were implemented in the field of water and sanitation. Furthermore, the number of development projects stands at 50, in addition to building homes for the poor.



Sri Lankan

A fishing boat brings a dignified life to Ramazan

Mohammed Ramazan, a poor fisherman from a coastal city in Gampaha, Sri Lanka, lives with his parents and family in a modest little house next to the seashore.

Like most people of his town who depend on fishing for their livelihood, Ramazan was working hard as an assistant fisherman to meet his family's daily needs. In exchange for his tireless efforts, he was receiving a simple payment that was barely enough to cover his everyday expenses mounting with the increase of his family members.

Ramazan was working on a fishing boat owned by others. Proceeds from the fish were divided into three portions, one-third for the boat owner, another one-third for fuel and other expenses, and the rest for Ramazan and his colleagues fishing with him in the sea. If Ramazan and his companions returned with a small amount of fish, they were indebted to the boat owner.

Ramazan had been dreaming of owning a boat for a long time, but due to its high cost amounting to 800,000 Sri Lankan rupees, his dream remained distant and impossible for many years. However, thanks to Allah the Almighty, his dream came true when Qatar Charity provided him with a fishing boat.

The boat made of fiberglass is of good quality and equipped with Suzuki engine, fishing nets and other relevant supplies. Receiving the boat, Ramazan said, "Now I can provide complete meals to my family and buy good medicine for my parents and clothes for my wife and children."

"Such projects not only reduce the difficulty of an individual's life, but also change the living conditions of an entire family, which in turn works on the development of society," Ramazan added.



Ramazan tries to improve his project and increase his income by installing a secure GPS device on his boat from his savings. He also plans to buy additional fishing nets and intends to carry out necessary maintenance in his humble little house.





Naogaon's wells improve living conditions of its populations

Naogaon, a district in northern Bangladesh, suffers from a significant shortage of water for many months each year, despite the availability of water in most parts of the country due to hundreds of rivers and tributaries, in addition to the eight-month rainfall in some areas.

Naogaon is dryland due to the lack of water resources, both surface and ground water. It is therefore different from most parts of Bangladesh, where people grow plants twice or thrice a year because of the availability of water. However, the people of Naogaon can only cultivate their land once a year owing to a short rainy season.

The suffering of the people of Naogaon is not only limited to the lack of water for agriculture, but also extends to a great difficulty in obtaining potable and domestic use water. They rely heavily on the storage of rainwater in wells that are specially dug for this purpose. However, this water is contaminated very often and becomes unsuitable for human consumption and yet they have to use it due to no alternative resources, which cause the spread of many diseases in the region.

However, because of the 13 irrigation and drinking water projects implemented by Qatar Charity in Naogaon, the lives of its populations have changed for the better. They can now access safe drinking water that contributes to protecting them from waterborne diseases.

Thanks to the new wells, farmers became able to increase their agricultural production, as the wells enable them to grow plants in more than one season a year, which was not possible in the past, increasing their income and improving their living conditions.



The 13 wells have made a significant change in the lives of the people in Naogaon. A single well provides water for the population of a village, consisting of 1,000 families, to drink, irrigate their farmlands, and water their livestock.





Small agricultural projects take refugees back to their land





Hossam al-Mar'i, a Syrian citizen from the city of Khan Shaykhun, is the breadwinner of a family of 10. The crisis in his country forced him to flee internally to the city of Atimah, a town in northern Syria located north of Idlib and just east of the border with Turkey.

Because of no income sources, he had to cross the Turkish border in search of job to support his family, where he worked in the construction work for six months.

The difficult living conditions in Turkey made him return to Syria to build two small rooms to house his family and look for a job that meet their necessary needs.

When Qatar Charity launched an agricultural project in April 2018 to grow summer vegetables, Hossam received an agricultural basket containing cucumber seeds, fertilizers, a knapsack mist blower, amino acids to spray papers, and other agricultural inputs. The basket was sufficient to grow plants over one dunum of the land.

"Through this agricultural basket, I became able to get fresh summer vegetables for my family and provide them with a source of income for three months during the growing season", says Hossam.

Hossam was blissful and glad to receive this basket, which prevented him from living abroad far away from his family to earn money in order to meet their basic needs. He belongs to a farming family, from which he inherited the profession of agriculture.

Hossam hopes that agricultural baskets would continuously be provided for families in the north of Syria, as it is an agricultural area where more than 70% of people earn a living from the agriculture.

He also hopes that the proportion of support per household would be increased by providing agricultural baskets for more dunums to improve the incomes of farming families and better meet their needs.

This year, Qatar Charity intends to distribute agricultural baskets to more than 500 families to help them earn a living by farming.



Worldwide displacement tops 70 million, UN Refugee Chief urges greater solidarity in response

The number of people fleeing war, persecution and conflict exceeded 70 million in 2018. This is the highest level that UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, has seen in its almost 70 years.

Data from UNHCR's annual Global Trends report,

released today, shows that almost 70.8 million people are now forcibly displaced. To put this in perspective, this is double the level of 20 years ago, 2.3 million more than a year ago, and corresponds to a population between that of Thailand and Turkey.



The figure of 70.8 million is conservative, in particular as the crisis in Venezuela is still only partly reflected in this number. In all, some 4 million Venezuelans, according to data from governments receiving them, have left their country, making this among the world's biggest recent displacement crises. Although the majority need international refugee protection, as of today only around half a million have taken the step of formally applying for asylum.

"What we are seeing in these figures is further confirmation of a longer-term rising trend in the number of people needing safety from war, conflict and persecution. While language around refugees and migrants is often divisive, we are also witnessing an outpouring of generosity and solidarity, especially by communities who are themselves hosting large numbers of refugees. We are also seeing unprecedented engagement by

new actors including development actors, private businesses, and individuals, which not only reflects but also delivers the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees," said UN High Commissioner for Refugee Filippo Grandi. "We must build on these positive examples and redouble our solidarity with the many thousands of innocent people who are forced to flee their homes each day."

Within the 70.8 million figure in the Global Trends report are three main groups. The first is refugees, meaning people forced to flee their country because of conflict, war or persecution. In 2018, the number of refugees reached 25.9 million worldwide, 500,000 more than in 2017. Included in this total are 5.5 million Palestine refugees who are under the care of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

The second group is asylum seekers – people outside their country of origin and receiving international protection, but awaiting the outcome of their claim to refugee status. At the end of 2018 there were 3.5 million asylum seekers globally.

The third and biggest group, at 41.3 million, is people displaced to other areas within their own country, a category commonly referred to as Internally Displaced People or IDPs.

Overall growth in displacement continued to exceed the rate at which solutions are being found for people who become displaced. With refugees, the best solution is being able to return home voluntarily, in safety and dignity. Other solutions include being integrated into the host community or being resettled to a third country. However, only 92,400 refugees were resettled in 2018, less than 7 per cent of those awaiting resettlement. Some 593,800 refugees were able to return home, while 62,600 became naturalized.

"With every refugee situation, wherever it is, however long it has been going on for, there has to be an enduring emphasis on solutions and removing obstacles to people being able to return home," said Grandi. "This is complex work in which UNHCR is constantly engaged but which also requires all countries to come together for a common good. It is one of the great challenges of our times."

from: UNHCR

