Ghīras

Periodical Magazine Published by Qatar Charity
Issue No. 18 - February 2019

Qatar is a Leading Torch in the Humanitarian Aid

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OCHA has built strong ties and partnerships with Qatar Charity. In alignment with the UN emergency relief plans, together we are carrying out projects in Yemen, Syria and Iraq.

Stéphane Dujarric
Spokesperson for the Secretary-General - United Nations.
Rehabilitation of agricultural lands in Gaza supports hundreds of Palestinian farmers

The rehabilitation of farmlands in the Gaza Strip is one of the qualitative projects implemented by Qatar Charity for the benefit of the people there. The project includes the rehabilitation of 7,750 dunums of agricultural lands in Gaza and the provision of electrical transformers to operate 42 wells for irrigating these farmlands. Almost 75 percent of the project’s work has already been completed and is expected to be fully ready within three months.

Model Village for Displaced Syrians

The «Model Village for Displaced Syrians» is one of the qualitative projects implemented by Qatar Charity in the north of Syria near the Turkish border. This project is being implemented due to an increase in the number of those recently displaced to these areas. It includes 400 residential units, a school, health center, an artesian water well, and other facilities. The project is expected to be fully completed within three months.

Qatar’s Initiative for the Development of Darfur: Second Phase

The second phase of Qatar’s initiative for the development of Darfur is under the implementation within the ongoing efforts of Qatar Charity to promote stability in Darfur. This phase includes the establishment of eight multi-service complexes in the four states of Darfur. Each complex includes kindergartens, four basic and secondary schools for boys and girls, a health center, a police station, a mosque, 15 homes for employees, and a water station.

Solar technology solves water crisis in Sindh’s villages (Success Story)

The residents of the village of “Beb Jobar” in Sindh, Pakistan, consider water more expensive than gold, because they suffer from the scarcity of water and the lack of electricity in the same time. Getting water manually from the wells of the village and other nearby places brings great difficulty, as they are usually about 250-ft deep in these areas. However, the water problem of the village was solved due to solar-powered pump project implemented by Qatar Charity.
The year 2018 was marked by many achievements, as millions of people worldwide have benefited from our immediate humanitarian response, emergency relief intervention, development projects and sponsorship programmes through our “Rofaq” initiative.

The year 2018 also witnessed our presence at international humanitarian conferences and exhibitions, strengthening partnerships constantly, building cooperative relations with the relevant UN agencies, international organizations, local partners, ministries, institutions, sponsors and civil society organizations within Qatar, and keeping up with the latest technology in order to facilitate the process of donations and improve relations with relevant individuals and organizations.

Furthermore, the year 2018 brightened up with the awards and the certificates of honor we received at the regional, Arab and international levels in recognition of our humanitarian services across the globe.

We attribute the accomplishments that we made during 2018, to benefactors, partners, sponsors and our dedicated team of professionals, who worked sincerely for our successes.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all, promising everyone that our journey of giving will continue with tireless efforts and we will celebrate greater and better achievements at the end of 2019.

Chief Executive Officer
Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Kuwari
These projects are broken down into education, health, water, sanitation and income-generating and other projects.

2018 in Review

22 million people benefit from development projects
The total number of development projects, which were completed or started during the past year, and are currently under implementation, reached 21,505 projects in 42 countries around the world at a total cost of more than QR558,566,000.

It is expected that the total number of beneficiaries will reach more than 21,673,000 people, and these projects are broken down into education, health, water, sanitation and income-generating and other projects.

These projects are carried out under the direct supervision of our field offices (Qatar Charity has 28 offices and representatives around the world) or through our partnerships with UN agencies, international humanitarian organizations and local partners.

In the field of education and culture, which includes constructing, rehabilitating, and running schools, building mosques, and printing curricula, Qatar Charity has completed 299 projects in 2018, while it is working on 1533 projects. The total cost of these projects amounts to around QR210mn.

Qatar Charity has built 21 houses for the poor, while there are 309 houses under construction. The total cost of these houses is about QR15.7mn.

The list of projects, on which Qatar Charity worked last year, includes multi-service centers that have many service facilities such as school, health center, well and others. Qatar Charity has completed the implementation of two centers, while there are 69 centers under implementation at a total cost of more than QR168mn.

Health projects (building, equipping and running health centers and units, providing medical equipment and treatment, and implementing health programmes, for example, blindness control programmes, etc.) are considered an important part of Qatar Charity’s activities, as 545 projects were completed, while 824 projects are under implementation at a cost of more than QR21.7mn.

Qatar Charity has handed over 3,377 income-generating projects to poor families to economically empower them, while 1676 projects are still under implementation at a cost of nearly QR23mn.

Qatar Charity has implemented 6490 projects in the field of water and sanitation, which includes providing potable water, drilling wells, setting up water purification plants, and building toilets, while 5802 projects under are implementation.

Qatar Charity attaches great attention to social projects, such as collective weeding, providing clothes for orphans, distributing financial and in-kind assistance to poor families and others. In the social field, Qatar Charity has carried out 77 projects, while 121 projects are under implementation at a total cost of QR14.5mn.
The number of beneficiaries of Qatar Charity’s (QC) relief projects, implemented in 2018, reached nearly 13 million people affected by crises and disasters in a number of countries.

These projects were carried out with the generous support from the people in Qatar at a total cost of over QR209mn. Syrian displaced persons and refugees received major share of the projects.

This aid was distributed to the affected people in 41 countries, especially those going through exceptional circumstances such as wars, crises and natural disasters, primarily internally displaced Syrian people and refugees in Turkey and Lebanon.

The relief assistance was also provided to those in need in Yemen, Palestine, Somalia, Iraq, and other countries where relief projects have been carried out in several humanitarian areas.

Humanitarian projects were implemented through Qatar Charity’s offices, or in partnership and cooperation with UN agencies, international organizations and local partner.

These projects included comprehensive relief, basic winter needs, food supply, shelter, health, education, water and sanitation, social cohesion and livelihoods, protection, training and capacity-building.

Around 4 million Syrian displaced and refugees, who received QC’s relief projects worth QR85mn, emerged as the top beneficiaries, followed by the Rohingya people benefiting from QC’s relief aid worth QR46mn. However, the people of Palestine occupied the third place, as the projects implemented for them amounted to around QR17mn.

Food supply, education and health projects were given top priority by Qatar Charity in most of the countries covered by the aid. The amount of assistance provided in the field of food supply reached QR59mn, benefiting more than 3 million people, while the size of the overall relief projects amounted to QR58mn.

The cost of educational projects such as running schools, printing curricula, and training teachers, amounted to more than QR30mn while 7 million people benefited from health projects at cost of more QR28mn.

The shelter projects, which included housing units, tents and rents, were implemented at a cost of about QR14mn, benefiting more than 108,000 people in India, Palestine, Indonesia, Somalia, and other countries.

Qatar Charity also implemented water and sanitation projects, social cohesion and livelihood programmes, and training and capacity building projects, in addition to distributing the basic winter requirements to the needy in a number of countries suffering from cold waves, benefiting more than 178,000 people.
Around 4 million Syrian displaced and refugees have benefited from the relief projects implemented by Qatar Charity (QC) in Syria and other neighboring countries during the past year 2018. These projects were carried out at a total cost of more than QR85mn in the fields of shelter, food, health, education, water and others.

More than 3.4 people inside Syria have benefited from the aid provided at a cost of about QR65mn, while over half a million beneficiaries living in the countries of asylum such as Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan, availed themselves of the assistance worth QR20mn.

Some 76 percent of the assistance was provided inside Syria, given the dire needs of the displaced, their difficult living conditions, and the magnitude of the challenges that face they there, while some 24 percent of the aid was distributed in the countries of asylum.

Food and education projects have occupied a big part of QC’s assistance, due to the scale of suffering and damages caused by the Syrian crisis.

The food aid amounted to more than QR24mn, benefiting over 2 million people, while the education projects were implemented at a cost of around QR29mn, benefiting 18,000 people.

Food aid included providing food baskets and ready-to-eat meals, operating bakeries and kitchens. However, education projects included training teachers, running schools and providing curricula.

The health projects included the construction and operation of health units and hospitals and the provision of medical devices and medicines, which benefited more than one million people.

The shelter projects, which benefited about one million displaced persons, contributed to the payment of rents for displaced persons’ homes, the distribution of cooking utensils, and the establishment of residential villages in Jarabulus in addition to other projects.

As the cold waves got tougher, basic winter requirements have been provided, which included food baskets, winter clothes, blankets, heaters, fuel, tents, caravans, and others. This aid amounted to over QR3mn, benefiting 84,000 people.

Also, Qatar Charity has implemented water and sanitation projects for the families of the displaced and refugees in order to provide them with safe and clean water and better sanitation and hygiene facilities, benefiting more than 89,000 people.

Qatar Charity also carried out other projects for training and capacity building of Syrian displaced persons and refugees in and outside the country.
Qatar Charity signed nine cooperation and partnership agreements with UN agencies in 2018 to fund humanitarian projects for the displaced and refugees. Eight agreements were signed with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and one with the UN Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC).

The agreements reveal Qatar Charity’s keenness to cooperate, and shows the size of the projects and programmes financed and implemented by the charity across the world in cooperation with its partners.

Collaborative Initiative
The QC4HCR, a collaborative initiative, 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 to achieve their common humanitarian goals.

Both parties agreed that Qatar Charity would raise 30$mn annually to fund UNHCR’s humanitarian programmes for at least five consecutive years.

Syrian Refugees
Qatar Charity also signed two agreements with UNHCR. Under first agreement, Qatar Charity will provide UNHCR with a financial aid worth 5$mn to distribute cash assistance to the most vulnerable Syrian refugees in Jordan. According to the second agreement, the charity will also provide a similar financial assistance worth 5$mn to UNHCR for giving cash aid to the Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Some 27,780 refugees will benefit from the first agreement, while around 31,439 refugees will avail themselves of the second agreement.

Under an agreement signed with UNHCR, Qatar Charity has funded a relief project worth over 3.2$mn to provide shelters for 31,092 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mosul, Iraq.

Rohingya Refugees
As part of the agreement worth 6.5$mn signed with UNHCR, Qatar Charity has funded the programmes and activities to provide Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh with basic services in the area of shelters and camps.

Under an agreement signed with UNHCR, Qatar Charity is committed to provide a financial assistance in the form of a grant to UNHCR to support the
reintegration and livelihood programme for Somali refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities in Somalia, at a cost of more than 9.6$mn.

Qatar Charity also signed an agreement with UNHCR to provide UNHCR with a $ 500,000 grant to support Somali refugees in Ethiopia.

**Shelters for displaced Yemenis**
The latest agreement was signed by Qatar Charity with UNHCR in partnership with the Qatar Fund For Development (QFFD) in 2018 to provide shelter to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Yemen, at a total cost of 3$mn.
The agreement aims at providing rental assistance to IDPs, returnees and local communities in Yemen to support sustainable return, promote the reconstruction of damaged homes and provide services for these people. The project is expected to benefit more than 26,000 people in the governorates of Abyan, Lahij and Hodeidah.

**Sanitation Services in Darfur**
In 2108, Qatar Charity signed a cooperation agreement with the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC). Under the agreement, Qatar Charity has supported the people of Darfur in Sudan by providing sanitation services worth up to 10$mn, with the funding by the Qatar Fund For Development (QFFD).

UNHCR and Qatar Charity have a long record of accomplishment of co-operation for the benefit of refugees and displaced persons, which began in 2001. QC has funded 14 projects of UNHCR with a total value of more than 33$m in Syria, Yemen, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Iraq, Somalia, Jordan and Lebanon.

**Within 18 Years**

It is worth mentioning that Qatar Charity signed 59 agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoU) with the United Nations organizations during the period 2018-2000. These organizations are mentioned as follows: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), World Food Program (WFP), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), and World Health Organization (WHO).

During the same period, Qatar Charity signed 40 agreements with international charitable and other organizations.
Qatar Charity has boosted its presence within the global humanitarian system and its keenness to coordinate international aid efforts throughout the world by joining the Somalia NGO Consortium in the second half of 2018. The charity participated in the recent meeting of the consortium, which was held in the Somali capital Mogadishu at the end of November.

In the same month, the charity sponsored AidEx 2018 in the Belgian capital Brussels and took part actively in this event through the exhibition, meetings and panel discussions, as it was an opportunity to build relationships, search for new partnerships, and cooperate with humanitarian and development actors.

In April, Qatar Charity’s delegations led by its chairperson Sheikh Hamad bin Nasser Al Thani, took part in the Aid & Trade Conference and Exhibition that brings together the global aid and development community in case of emergencies. Qatar Charity’s participation came as a strategic partner of the Aid & Trade London, which took place on the 25th and 26th of April 2018.

**Somalia NGO Consortium**

Established in 1999, the Somalia NGO Consortium has currently 98 local and international humanitarian bodies as members. It has evolved into an effective network of non-governmental organizations, which works together to improve the coordination of international aid, raising the presence of non-governmental organizations in the structure of aid coordination in Somalia. The consortium runs its local affairs in Somalia through its offices in Hargeisa, Garowe, Mogadishu and Nairobi.

The consortium also works closely with the International NGO Safety Organization (INSO), as well as it is a member of many significant international organizations including the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), a global network of non-governmental organizations, which was founded in Geneva in 1962.

Qatar Charity’s joining the Somalia NGO Consortium will provide opportunities for it to join other humanitarian alliances and collaborate with major international organizations. This kind of coordination platform provides a more secure framework in terms of law enforcement and operations, enhances Qatar Charity’s image within the humanitarian system, and opens the door for the charity to be member of many international humanitarian organizations including the
International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), which has special status at the United Nations. Qatar Charity’s office in Somalia participates in a number of coordination meetings of humanitarian organizations in the country, such as the monthly meetings of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), coordination meetings of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and coordination meetings organized by Somali governmental bodies.

**Start Network’s Membership Certificate**
Earlier, Qatar Charity received Start Network’s full membership certificate at a ceremony held in London in February, which was attended by Sean Lowrie, director of Start Network, Yousef bin Ahmed al-Kuwari, CEO of Qatar Charity.

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.

The UK-based Start Network is made up of 42 aid agencies across five continents, ranging from large international organizations to national NGOs. It provides quick and effective assistance to those affected in the areas of humanitarian crisis.

**AidEx 2018 Brussels: Sponsorship & Participation**
Qatar Charity sponsored AidEx 2018 in the Belgian capital Brussels in November and took part in its exhibition held on humanitarian and development action.

The charity also organized panel discussions on the role of the digital revolution in providing access to education and employment for refugees, displaced people and vulnerable communities.

The AidEx 2018 came as an opportunity to build relationships, search for new partnerships, and cooperate with humanitarian and development actors. The event also came in line with the charity’s focus in recent years on the investment of new technology and smart apps to develop its resources and increase its revenues in order to reach out to the largest possible number of the people in need around the globe. This also came in accordance with launching a number of innovative humanitarian initiatives such as Taqat, Rofaqa, and World Refugee School.

**Aid & Trade Conference and Exhibition**
Qatar Charity participated in the Aid & Trade Conference and Exhibition with the following:

**Pavilion at Exhibition:**
It reflected Qatar Charity’s role and efforts at the international level over the last five years in the areas of relief, development and social welfare, as well as it showed the development achieved by Qatar Charity in the technical programmes.

This event also introduced the initiative of the World Refugee School (WRS), which is the first global initiative launched with aim of providing high-quality education to refugee and displaced children around the world through e-learning technologies. Qatar Charity is a founding member of the school and member of its global board of directors.

**Participation in the education-related main programme:**
Qatar Charity presented a paper on scientific and technical innovation in providing education to the displaced and refugees worldwide through the e-learning system. The charity also organized a side event (seminar) on the role of education in promoting social reconciliation and achieving social harmony in post-conflict zones.
Some 5,000 orphans benefit from Sheikha Aisha Bint Hamad Bin Abdullah Al-Attiyah City in Sudan.

Qatar Charity (QC) has successfully managed to sponsor 156,325 orphans in 35 countries through “Rofaqa”, a QC’s initiative for orphan care, by the end of 2018, exceeding the target, set for the second phase of the strategic plan for the initiative in 2017, by an increase of 6,325 sponsored persons.

Integrated Care
In November 2017, Qatar Charity launched the second phase of the strategic plan for “Rofaqa” under the slogan “Rofaqa Continues to Give”, targeting the sponsorship of 150,000 orphaned children by the end of 2018.

More than three decades ago, Qatar Charity has embarked on its journey of sponsoring orphans within the framework of its social welfare services. At the end of 2013, the charity launched the «Rofaqa» initiative that focuses exclusively on the issues of children and orphans around the world, with a view to achieving social solidarity, serving humanity and contributing to accomplishing sustainable development.

In five years, the «Rofaqa» initiative has enabled Qatar Charity to become the largest orphans care organization, as the number of those sponsored by QC has increased to 156,325 orphans by the end of 2018, while the number of the sponsored could not exceed 107,500 until the end of 2017. This means that Qatar charity managed to sponsor some 49,000 orphans in 2018, an average of 134 orphans a day, who receive integrated care in various fields.

Sponsor within Seconds
Qatar Charity extended thanks to those, who sponsored orphans through its “Rofaqa” initiative. Since statistics indicate that three children lose one or both parents every 3 minutes around the world, Qatar Charity continues to open the door of sponsorship for philanthropists.
Sponsorship procedure can be completed within seconds through Rofaqa’s website (rofaqa.com), credit card, Rofaqa app available at the Apple Store and Google Play, QC’s collectors, bank deduction, ‘home collector’ service available through QC’s app or by dialing QC’s hotline 44667711.

A sponsor receives a detailed report on a sponsored person (twice a year). He can directly contact the sponsored person, have access to an online account to manage the sponsorship process, and track deductions, in addition to providing the sponsor with photos and video on his sponsorship. He can also meet a person, sponsored by him, to know the services provided to that person.

**Qualitative Projects**

In addition to increasing the number of sponsored persons, the “Rofaqa” initiative is keen to implement quality projects for the benefit of orphans such as Sheikha Aisha Bint Hamad Bin Abdullah Al-Attiyah Model Orphans City in Sudan, which benefits 5,000 orphans, orphanages and institutes in Bangladesh, benefiting 2,000 orphans there.

In recognition of its role and achievements, the “Rofaqa” initiative has received a number of awards, including Al Sanabel Award for Community Responsibility in Orphan Care Institutions of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) for the year 2015.

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**“Rofaqa in Review”**

- The number of those sponsored through “Rofaqa” increased from 107,500 at the end of 2017, to 156,325 by the end of 2018.
- Some 49,000 orphans, an average of 134 orphans a day, have been sponsored in 2018.
- “Rofaqa” exceeded the target set for the second phase of its strategic plan at the end of 2017, by an increase of 6,325 sponsored persons.
During the last year 2018, Qatar Charity (QC) has received a number of awards, medals, and certificates of honors at the Arab and international levels in recognition of its professional performance in the field of humanitarian and development work and due to its programmes, projects, services and initiatives.

**Arab Best Charity Organization**

For the second year in a row and as part of the Arab Best Award, Qatar Charity (QC) won the award of the Arab Best Charity organization of 2018 in November, due to its professional excellence in the field of humanitarian and development work.

The charity also won the Best Arab Programme award in the category of charity work for the World Refugee School (WRS), which it co-founded with international partners.

The ‘Arab Best Award’ is organized in the Kingdom of Morocco to reward the excellence in the Arab world, in the categories of leadership, business and community stars.

In a letter sent to Qatar Charity, the General Secretariat of the Award says, ‘We congratulate you on this great achievement that crowns your outstanding efforts and significant sacrifices that you made to support the people of Qatar and Arab and Islamic nations.’

Qatar Charity (QC) has also won the award of the Arab Best Charity organization of 2017, and the Arab Best Management team in the category of charity work for the same year.

**List of honors**

In 2018, Qatar Charity received the flowing honors:

- Certificate of Excellence and Shield of Honor from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), a government institution in Pakistan, in recognition of its humanitarian and development roles in the country.

- Certificate of Excellence from the Ministry of Health of Niger, in recognition of its efforts to combat blindness, contribution to alleviating the suffering of poor patients and funding for the operations necessary to restore their eyesight.

- “Change Maker Award” was received by Sheikh Hamad bin Nasser al-Thani, chairperson of Qatar Charity, from the Aid & Trade Conference and Exhibition in London in April. This honor came in recognition of his role in the service of humanitarian work and his leadership, under which Qatar Charity’s development and humanitarian efforts reached 70 countries around the world.

The chairperson has dedicated the award to the people of Qatar, as they are the true change makers through their continued support for humanitarian and development projects.
“Future’s Writers” receives best national initiative award

Doha: Qatar Charity (QC) received the Social Responsibility Award (SRA) for its “Future’s Writers” programme in the category of the best national initiative as part of the 6th Social Responsibility Awards of 2018, which is organized by Dar Al Sharq.

The awards ceremony was attended by the Minister of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs HE Yousef bin Mohammed Al Othman Fakhro. Yousif bin Ahmed Al Kuwari, CEO of Qatar Charity has received the award at the ceremony held to honor 11 governmental and private institutions, the winners of the Social Responsibility Awards.

Dar Al-Sharq, through organising the awards ceremony, aimed to raise awareness about social responsibility and its positive impact on building cooperative societies, and encourage companies as well as governmental and private institutions to pay attention to this aspect for the benefit of the nation.

Skills Development
The ‘Future’s Writers’ programme, which was launched in 2017, is one of QC’s programmes, implemented within Qatar. It seeks to develop the writing skills of school students to enable them to write a story within the framework of the Qatari cultural heritage. The programme is also concerned with nurturing young talents to become promising writers. The idea of this programme is based on organizing story-writing competitions for students, and holding relevant workshops to sharpen their writing skills.

Some 137 female students from 32 preparatory and secondary schools took part in the first edition of the programme, while the number of participants in its second edition increased to 375 male and female students from 55 schools. However, the third edition witnessed a vast rise in the number of participating students, as it reached 1697 students; both male and female, from 259 primary, preparatory and secondary schools.

The ‘Future’s Writers’ programme is implemented in cooperation with many partners including the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Ministry of Culture and Sports, Qatari Forum for Authors, Qatar University, Khair Jalees Book Club, Dar Rosa Publishing and the programme’s sponsor Barwa Bank. The stories of the first edition of the programme have been translated into the Russian language in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Sports and presented at the Moscow International Book Fair.
Ministers and local officials in Kosovo have lauded Qatar Charity (QC) for its projects implemented by QC’s Kosovo office in the country.

**Mahir Yagcilar, Minister of Public Administration:**
Qatar Charity’s projects and activities are an important addition in terms of quality and size, and contributed to meeting the needs of the community in Kosovo. I hope such giving would continue in the future with the support of benefactors in Qatar.

**Burim Berisha, Mayor of FushëKosovë:**
The achievements of Qatar Charity in the municipality of FushëKosovë are important,
especially in providing water, building houses and distributing relief aid. More than 90 projects have been implemented in the municipality.

Agim Bahtiri, Mayor of Mitrovica:
I am very impressed with the nature and the quick implementation of Qatar Charity’s projects. This reflects the keenness of this leading organization’s officials to deliver high-quality projects and services in record time. We consider Qatar Charity the most serious and accomplished partner.

Track Record

- In 2018, Qatar Charity managed to implement 373 projects in the areas of sustainable development, education, water and sanitation, relief aid and home construction in Kosovo at a total cost of QR6mn. These projects included 74 income-generating projects and 279 water and sanitation projects, in addition to 20 other projects, involving the construction of houses for the poor and educational projects.
- Some 23 agreements were signed with various governmental and local authorities in Kosovo in 2018. The number of municipalities cooperating with Qatar Charity has increased by 30 percent.
- Qatar Charity’s projects reflect remarkable growth of up to %50 in terms of number and cost, especially in income-generating projects and water projects, benefiting 30,000 people.
Rehabilitation of agricultural lands in Gaza supports hundreds of Palestinian farmers

The rehabilitation of farmlands in the Gaza Strip is one of the qualitative projects implemented by Qatar Charity for the benefit of the people there. Qatar Charity, through his project, aims at contributing to strengthening the steadfastness of Palestinian peoples in Gaza, enhancing their attachment to their land, and lifting them out of the economic hardship.

The project works on the reclamation of a number of farmlands, as the agriculture is an important source of income that contributes significantly to meeting the needs of the people in Gaza.

Components of the Project
The project includes the rehabilitation of 7,750 dunums of agricultural lands in the Gaza Strip and the provision of electrical transformers to operate 42 wells for irrigating more than 7,500 dunums of farmlands of affected farmers. The cost of the project amounts to nearly QR1mn, benefiting 200 affected farmers.

Percentage of Completion
The project is under implementation in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Electricity Company. Almost 75 percent of the project’s work has already been completed and is expected to be fully ready within three months.

To date, the electrical transformers and an electricity grid have been installed in the northern Gaza Strip and 200 dunams (open field) have been rehabilitated and planted with fruit seedlings and vegetables to support the affected farmers.

The work is under way on the implementation of the final phase of the project, namely the operation of wells using solar energy, which will be used to operate two agricultural wells, to help pump water to irrigate more than 150 dunums of farmlands.

The project aims to support affected farmers in the Gaza Strip and promote local agriculture in order to attain food self-sufficiency and reduce unemployment rate by providing work opportunities for farmers in the agricultural sector.

The project also helps ease the economic burden on the citizens by providing vegetables at reasonable prices. Moreover, the project helps farmers export their crops abroad after they were denied this because of the difficulty of marketing their agricultural crops due to lack of resources.
Model Village for Displaced Syrians

The «Model Village for Displaced Syrians» is one of the qualitative projects implemented by Qatar Charity with the support of benefactors in Qatar. The project has been carried out by %75 and is expected to be fully completed within three months.

Location:
North of Syria near the Turkish border

The Reasons of Construction:
• The number of those displaced to these areas has recently increased
• Rents of homes have increased due to demographic density and housing shortage.
• Many people are not able to pay rents because of scarcity of employment and low income.
• Many camps are not suitable to live, as they are overcrowded and damaged.

Goals
To ease the suffering of the displaced by providing housing that preserves their human dignity and gives access to health care and education

The Components of the Village
400 residential units, with each of them spreading over an area of 50m2, a mosque, a medical center, a school with two floors, shops, administrative building, an artesian water well, and pavements for all the roads inside the village.

Cost;
QR6mn
Funded by benefactors in Qatar

The Percentage of the Completion of the project:
Implemented by %75

The Completion of Project:
The project is expected to be fully completed within three months.
“Arsal Relief”: an urgent response to storms-hit Syrian refugees

Qatar Charity (QC) has allocated the ‘Arsal Relief’ campaign to provide immediate assistance to the Syrian refugees affected by snowstorms, frost and rain in Lebanon. Through this campaign, the charity aims at contributing to meeting their basic needs by proving heating facilities, food and medicines.

The campaign was launched in response to the difficult conditions faced by Syrian refugees in the town of Arsal and other Lebanese areas due to Storm Norma, which lashed Arsal in January 2018.

Press Conference
Speaking at the conference held on this occasion, Faisal al Fehaida, assistant to the CEO in the Operations and International Partnerships Sector at Qatar Charity:

• Appealed to benefactors in Qatar to stand by Syrian refugees in their plight and donate to the campaign in order to provide them with immediate assistance.
• Urged media persons, social media influencers and the public, in general, to interact with the campaign and support it by all possible means.
• Noted that QC was one of the first humanitarian organizations that managed to reach the storm-hit camps in Arsal in the first two days of the Strom Norma. In extremely difficult circumstances, the charity provided aid, which included heating fuel, blankets, winter clothes and other items to protect tents from rain and wind, in addition to the distribution of food aid to the affected families. The aid benefited nearly 17,000 Syrian refugees, mostly children, women, the sick, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Early Start
• Pointed out that Since the beginning of the winter, Qatar Charity, through its regional office in Turkey directly or in cooperation with UN agencies, international humanitarian organizations, and local partners, has implemented major relief projects for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan as part of its “Below Zero” campaign.

The cost of the projects, which have been implemented or are under implementation, amounted to nearly QR70mn. Some 2 million refugees and displaced people are expected to benefit from these projects during this winter.

Field Visit
On January 15, the campaign carried out a live television broadcast, which received great interaction from benefactors in Qatar. Meanwhile, QC's relief team, led by Faisal Al-Fehaida, assistant to the CEO in the Operations and International Partnerships Sector at Qatar Charity, visited nine camps with 4,500 - 4,000 Syrian refugees in Arsal in addition to visiting the Arsal Medical Complex, the only such facility in the region.

Medicines were distributed to children and mobile clinics were sent to snow-covered places to provide medical care to patients. The damages have closely been assessed in preparation for the implementation of the upcoming relief projects for Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

On-Air Campaign
Within three hours, the ‘Arsal Relief’ campaign raised more than QR214mn, including a donation worth QR5mn made by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar.

The campaign also received a great public interaction through the media and social networking sites. It also witnessed a significant interaction from the commercial, medical, media, sports and educational sectors that allocated part of their sales and services revenues for the campaign or garnered support for it.

The campaign was accompanied by several cultural, awareness and interactive activities, in which a number of students from primary and preparatory schools participated. These activities came with the aim to make the public aware of the suffering of Syrian refugees because of snowstorms.

Qatar Charity extended its sincere thanks to all the supporters of the ‘Arsal Relief’ campaign for their “overwhelming response” to it.
The campaign received an overwhelming response and its live broadcast raised QR214mn within 3 hours. Al-Fehaida: More relief projects will be implemented for affected Syrian refugees in Lebanon.
Qatar Charity’s delegation delivers aid to Syrian refugees in Lebanon

Under its “Arsal Relief” campaign, A Qatar Charity’s (QC) delegation arrived in Lebanon to deliver urgent aid to Syrian refugees in the country, who suffer harsh humanitarian conditions as a result of displacement and the cold winter weather.

During the three-day visit, the delegation visited many camps in Beqaa, Aarsal and Akkar, where they met several families affected by the storm and distributed food, medicine and heating aid to them, in addition to paying a visit to a number of facilities that provide services to the affected families.

Visit Programme

The first-day programme included visits to the Jasmine Camp, al-Awda Camp and a squatter camp in Beqaa, where food, heating fuel, winter clothes and children’s gifts were distributed, including 560 fuel rations, 1120 blankets, 280 food baskets, 700 bread bundles, 140 mattresses, and 70 other items for tens, in addition to winter clothes and some gifts for children, benefiting 3150 refugees.

The second-day programme included visits to the Nakheel and Umm al-Qura camps in Arsal, where aid was distributed, which included 221 food baskets, 170 fuel rations, 153 mattresses, 153 blankets, winter clothes and gifts for children, as well as a mobile clinic, benefiting 2,605 refugees.

The delegation also visited the Aarsal Hospital, where gifts were distributed to sick children and a number of medical supplies and medicines were provided. A floor will be built for maternal and child health services at the hospital.

The delegation also visited the Aarsal Municipality’s building, where they distributed 300 food baskets to poor Lebanese families in coordination with the municipality, in addition to honoring the mayor of Aarsal for supporting Syrian refugees.

On the third day, the delegation visited Al-Enmaa Camp in Akkar, where they distributed aid to 1225 refugees, including 245 food baskets, 245 fuel rations, in addition to providing winter clothes for 600 children. On this occasion, a programme on psychosocial support was held for children and orphans living in the camp.

15 Camps

The Al-Awda Camp in Beqaa, and the Al-Enmaa Camp in Akkar are among 15 camps supported by Qatar Charity under a programme that helps secure a dignified life for 1,500 families in need.

Earlier, Qatar Charity has supported the Al-Enmaa Camp with a number of food, non-food and economic empowerment projects. Al-Awda Camp was supported by the charity with a medical clinic and economic empowerment projects such as a sewing workshop, a women’s empowerment center and children’s games projects, in addition to building 100 residential units.

Mohammed Ali Al Ghamdi, assistant to QC’s CEO in the Governance and Institutional Development Sector, said, “This delegation continues to provide assistance within the framework of the “Arsal Relief” campaign to contribute to meeting the needs of Syrian refugee families in the camps.

Ground-Based Observations

Sheikh Hamad bin Fahd Al-Thani said, “The visit revealed to us that the need is greater than what people think”, considering the supporting of affected persons is a humanitarian duty.

For his part, Dr. Abdul Rahman al-Harami said, “The situation is very challenging here. We came here to give affected people hope and warmth. The day aid was distributed, was Eid for those affected.”

Iman al-Kaabi, a media figure, stated that as part of the “Arsal Relief” campaign, we tried to contribute to easing
the suffering of Syrian refugees affected by snowstorms in Lebanon.

Asmaa al-Hammadi, a media figure, said "I can not imagine how Syrian refugee families faced these blizzards, while living in places lacking the most basic amenities, safety and heating", pointing out that the aid, they received from benefactors in Qatar, brought some pleasure to them.

Dr. Ayesh Al-Qahtani said, «We are distributing aid to Syrian refugees in the field, to contribute to easing their hardship, especially in their moments of distress."

**Members of the Delegation**

The delegation comprised a group of media persons, social activists, social media influencers and Qatar Charity’s officials.

The delegation members were HE Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bin Jassem Al Thani, HE Sheikh Hamad Bin Fahd Al Thani, Mohammed Al Ghamdi, assistant to CEO in the Governance and Institutional Development Sector at Qatar Charity, Nasser Al Mughaisib, director of Relief Department at Qatar Charity, Ahmed Al Ali, director of Media and Communication Department at Qatar Charity, Mohammed Ghanem Al-Muhannadi, Nasser Abdul-Jabbar, Dr. Abdulrahman Khalid Al- Harami, Asma Al-Hammadi, Mohsen Al-Hajri, Iman Al Kaabi, Ahmed Abdullah, Nadine Al-Bitar, Fahid Al-Adhba, Dr. Nayef Al-Shammari, Hassan Hamoud, Fawziaa Ishaq, Asmaa Al Kaabi and Fatihia Al Mal, Ahmed Al Shirawi and Abdullah Al Halabi from Qatar TV.
Victims of Storm Norma from Arsal camps tell stories of suffering
In each winter, many painful stories and pictures are added to the list of hardships Syrians go through during their bitter journey of asylum, especially under the rainstorms and blizzards that hit their tents, forcing them to suffer the severe cold that endangers their lives.
When the Storm Norma lashed Lebanon in January 2019, carrying accumulated snow, heavy rain, violent winds and a significant decrease in temperature, the Syrian refugees in Lebanon’s camps were the worst hit by this low temperature. They have nothing to protect themselves from the frost except tents lacking the minimum necessities of life, which further worsens their situations after their tents were covered by snow in the areas of Beqaa, especially in the town of Arsal bordering Syria under a severe shortage of heating materials.

In coordination with the Union of Relief and Development Associations (URDA), Qatar Charity’s relief team travelled long distances, which were covered with dark fog and accumulated snow, towards Arsal to help those affected by the blizzard, to be the first team to deliver emergency aid under its «Below Zero» campaign to help the affected cope with the freezing cold of winter.

Jehan Al-Qaisi, the project supervisor says, “The suffering can not be described. The tragic scenes we saw there has been a huge shock for us. We have heard the cries of mothers and children because of the cold and hunger. Their hardship became evident after the storm hit these camps.

Women and children, affected by the Storm Norma
that lashed the refugee camps in Arsal, describe their suffering as follows:

- My 7-month-old daughter died of hunger and cold. I did not have the money to buy milk or take her to a hospital. The situation is very difficult under the storm, and the frost has badly affected my children.
- I have lost my husband in Syria, leaving behind very young children. I walked all the way to arrive here in difficult circumstances, but living here in the camp lacks all that my children and I need, especially in the midst of this freezing cold. My children are deprived of everything.
- I am not like other children. I am afraid to die of cold. I do not have clothes or food. I need warmth. These clothes do not protect me from the cold. I am afraid to wake up in the morning and find my little brother dead because of freezing cold. However, I think that my family and I will feel the warmth tonight after we received the help (Mazout and clothes) from the benefactors in Qatar. Our heartfelt thanks go to them.
Qatar Charity, in cooperation with the Qatar Fund For Development (QFFD), completed the projects for the first phase of Qatar’s initiative for the development of Darfur in 2017, at a total cost of QR22.6mn, while the second phase of the initiative has been being implemented since October 2018 (stage of laying foundations and drilling wells).

The second phase includes the establishment of eight multi-service complexes in the four states of Darfur. Some 250,000 people are expected to benefit from the complexes.

These projects come as part of Qatar’s initiative for the development of Darfur and within the ongoing efforts of Qatar Charity to promote stability in Darfur through supporting development and reconstruction programmes.

**Cost:**
The total cost of the eight complexes is QR 126,144,000

**Location:**
South Darfur (Mershing and Sani Deliba) - East Darfur (Abu-Dangal and Abu-Karinka) - Central Darfur (Arawala and Fassi) - North Darfur (Alsayyah and Sani Crow)

**Components of the Project:**
Each service complex includes kindergartens (pre-school education), four basic and secondary schools for boys and girls, a health center, a police station, a mosque, 15 homes for employees, and a water station. All units are powered by solar energy.

**Project Goals**
The service complexes project aims at contributing to development efforts to promote peace in Darfur and make it an attractive option for all parties by providing basic services to the population, such as increasing access to basic health services and education, offering potable water services, and providing religious, cultural and recreational facilities.
for the people of the region.

**Project Results:**
Each complex will bring many positive impacts to the areas in which it is established.

**In the Field of Education**
- Improve educational conditions in the region
- Benefit nearly 2,000 students, as they will study in good conditions
- Increase the percentage of students, both male and female, in secondary school
- Promote the stability of teachers, by providing housing for them
- Promote sports at school by providing an artificially grassed playground

**In the Field of Health**
- Improve health services by constructing and equipping a medical center
- Provide medicines at low prices, especially for returnees and displaced persons
- Improve health awareness among pregnant women through the presence of 4 midwives at the health center
- Enhance the availability of the medical staff in the rural areas by providing adequate housing and incentives

**In the Field of Water**
- Benefit approximately 4,000 people by providing clean water in significant quantities to the population neighboring the complexes
- Reduce the rate of diseases caused by unclean water to residents of the area surrounding water stations
- Increase the per capita water supply in the area around service complexes
- Supply solar energy to all units
Baghi, 50, lives in a village called “Beb Jobar”, which is located in Tharparkar, the poorest region in the Sindh province of Pakistan. The region suffers from poor rainfall (average annual rainfall is 9 mm), low levels of groundwater, (400-250 feet), and lack of electricity or frequent power outages, making drinking water a distant dream for the villagers. Thus, access to water there requires physical effort in primitive ways that take many hours. As a result, only less than %5 of the region’s population gets fresh water.

Baghi sums up the suffering of her villagers in getting water in the absence of electricity or frequent power outages. She says «You need a camel or a pair of donkeys to pull a bucket of water from wells, which are about 250 feet deep in our village and other nearby places, otherwise no one alone can pull a bucket of water from these wells.”

Baghi describes the hardships faced by villagers to get water, which is an essential element of life “a rope is tied around the neck of the camel, which is slowly led by a young boy or girl moving forward from the well at a distance equal to its depth. Through this procedure, the villagers get a bucket of water.

Then, a man carries the bucket and unloads it elsewhere, while another man absorbs air from the other end of the tube to make the water flow directly into the reservoir built just steps away from the well, says Baghi.

She further describes this difficult situation «We spend 4 – 3 hours to bring 12 – 10 liters of water, and no family can fill its tank in one day, while others wait for their turns.»

Baghi regards water as more precious than gold. She states «People close these tanks to ensure that no one can use them or steal them for domestic consumption, so we consider water more expensive than any money or gold ornaments loved and kept by people in bank lockers.”

Water is not only necessary for an estimated 1.5 million people in Tharparkar, but it is also essential for an estimated 5 million livestock. However, the water problem of Beb Jobar has been solved due to the interventions made by Qatar Charity, which has drilled an artesian well equipped with a solar-powered pump.

The charity, through its office in Islamabad, adapts various technologies to provide suitable solutions to water problems faced by some areas of Pakistan.

Mohammed Ali, a resident Beb Jobar, says «the water problem of our village has been overcome, due to the well and solar-powered pump, and now it seems unbelievable that freshwater flows through the pipes to our homes.»
Some 600 million children – or 1 in 4 children worldwide – will be living in areas with extremely limited water resources by 2040, according to a UNICEF report.

The report, Thirsting for a Future: Water and children in a changing climate, looks at the threats to children’s lives and wellbeing caused by depleted sources of safe water and the ways climate change will intensify these risks in coming years.

“Water is elemental; without it, nothing can grow. But around the world, millions of children lack access to safe water -- endangering their lives, undermining their health, and jeopardizing their futures. This crisis will only grow unless we take collective action now,” said UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake.

According to the report, 36 countries are currently facing extremely high levels of water stress, which occurs when demand for water far exceeds the renewable supply available. Warmer temperatures, rising sea levels, increased floods, droughts and melting ice affect the quality and availability of water as well as sanitation systems.

Population growth, increased water consumption, and higher demand for water largely due to industrialization and urbanization are draining water resources worldwide. Conflicts in many parts of the world also threaten children’s access to safe water.

All of these factors force children to use unsafe water, which exposes them to potentially deadly diseases like cholera and diarrhoea. Many children in drought-affected areas spend hours every day collecting water, missing out on a chance to go to school.

The poorest and most vulnerable children will be most impacted by an increase in water stress, the report says, as millions of them already live in areas with low access to safe water and sanitation.

The report also notes that:

• Up to 663 million people globally do not have access to adequate water sources and 946 million people practice open defecation.

• Over 800 children under the age of five die every day from diarrhoea linked to inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene;
Globally, women and girls spend 200 million hours collecting water every day.

The impact of climate change on water sources is not inevitable, UNICEF says. The report concludes with a series of recommendations that can help curb the impact of climate change on the lives of children. Such measures include:

• Governments need to plan for changes in water availability and demand in the coming years; Above all, it means prioritizing the most vulnerable children’s access to safe water above other water needs to maximize social and health outcomes.

• Climate risks should be integrated into all water and sanitation-related policies and services, and investments should to target high-risk populations.

• Businesses need to work with communities to prevent contamination and depletion of safe water sources.

• Communities themselves should explore ways to diversify water sources and to increase their capacity to store water safely.

From the Website of UNICEF - 2018