Sport for peace and development

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Dignity for All

Qatar Charity is a leading international non-governmental organization working in the field of humanitarian aid and development since 1992; and was established in compliance with the laws regulating the non-profit sector in the State of Qatar.
The new issue of the “Ghiras” magazine comes out while the coronavirus pandemic is still a serious threat to humankind across the globe, which has posed further challenges to humanitarian and charitable organizations in delivering services to the affected. In this issue, readers will find a doctor, infected with COVID-19, from Qatar Charity’s field teams, setting an example in humanitarian action by continuing his work remotely despite the complications of the infection.

It should also be noted that the pandemic could not prevent these institutions from carrying out their humanitarian duties at the time of certain crises like the massive explosion that has rocked the port area of Beirut. Qatar Charity along with other Qatari bodies launched the “Lebanon in Our Hearts” campaign and delivered the urgent aid to the affected in the second day of the blast in Beirut where it still carries out humanitarian works.

Similarly, the pandemic could not stop Qatar Charity from the continued implementation of its development and seasonal projects like Udhiyah, defying the difficulties, as revealed by the reports released in the issue, which is in your hands.

We are delighted that Qatar Charity has managed, in spite of the aforementioned challenges, to achieve several feats, and has received many praises and appreciations during the past few months, concerning the fight against the coronavirus (COVID-19) and other crises, which we have documented in this issue.

The most significant ones are as follows:

- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has included the ‘Sport for Peace and Development in Darfur’ initiative, as a successful model for countering extremism in its technical guide on ‘Preventing Extremism through Sports’.

- Qatar Charity was chosen as one of Qatar’s top 10 most supportive brands that have participated in supporting the country during the current coronavirus (COVID19-) pandemic, based on phone interviews conducted by Ipsos.

- Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. Omar al-Razzaz has praised the contributions that Qatar Charity made in support of the kingdom’s efforts in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Qatar Charity won the Orphan Care Excellence Award (Kafel) for the current year 2020, from the Regional CSR Network.

Besides, the issue is rich material for anyone with an interest in charity and voluntary works, as it consists of interviews with officials at international and donor institutions, humanitarian and success stories, and book reviews.

Wish you happy reading!

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Sport for Peace and Development
The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has included the ‘Sport for Peace and Development in Darfur’ initiative, which was launched by the Qatar Fund Development (QFFD), Qatar Charity (QC), and Save the Dream of the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS), as a successful model for countering extremism in its technical guide on ‘Preventing Extremism through Sports’.

The guide was launched during an online event attended by more than 250 government representatives and experts from all over the world.

The technical guide considered this initiative as a ‘case study’ through which sport was used for integration into society, peacebuilding and reconciliation, targeting internally displaced persons and receiving communities in Darfur, Sudan. The Technical Guide on Preventing Violent Extremism through Sport, developed in consultation with international experts and other UN entities including UNESCO, recognizes the importance of promoting the well-being of children and youth and provides comprehensive guidance on how to use sport and sport-based programs effectively to prevent violent extremism.

The report said that the “field activities, which were primarily implemented in the city of El Fasher, North Darfur, comprised multiple sport and cultural initiatives, advocacy campaigns and training workshops on sport for development and peace, with the main aim of building participants’ capacity to design and manage sustainable projects in that domain.”

“To build trust and confidentiality with youth and their families, a local committee comprising 80 community leaders from Darfur was established to support the creation of a physical and cultural safe space where youth could meet and interact without any obstacles,” adds the report in the guide.

Besides, the report notes that 50 youth leaders from communities of internally displaced persons received training on project development, conflict resolution, strategic planning, sport tournament organization and the prevention of violent extremism.
When burnt fields turn into green playgrounds

By Fatah al-Rahman al-Bashir, Sudan

It was not easy for the fields burnt and destructed due to the conflict in Darfur, western Sudan, to turn into green playgrounds where displaced young people from different ethnicities can play football.

This transformation would not have been easy, if the efforts were not continuously made by the State of Qatar to bring peace and promote coexistence in Darfur, utilizing various means, including sports.

The sporting events, as a means for bringing peace, created the spirit of competition along with a sense of familiarity and solidarity among young people, which resulted in the formation of a team for the displaced.

**Sports Sector Development**

Dr. Hassan Bargo, Vice President of the Sudan Football Association (SFA) and Chairperson of the supreme committee for the team of the displaced in Darfur, said that the sports initiative came to develop the sports sector in Darfur, as Qatar funded 40 playgrounds and 5 main stadiums in Darfur.

He added that Qatar Charity has managed to direct the energies of the youth and was credited with restoring 80% of the social fabric in Darfur. He also noted Qatar Charity has removed the barriers that were between the different sections of the society within the camps on the one hand, and between the people of Darfur and the displaced on the other hand.

Bargo pointed out that after the competition and qualification of sport teams from 25 displacement camps in Darfur for the Amir Cup in Qatar, a team of the displaced was selected, which faced the big teams in Doha, such as Al Sadd and Al Gharafa, in addition to facing teams such as Al-Hilal and Al-Merreikh in Sudan. The initiative made many of the youth who were at risk of crime in the camps be interested in various sport activities.

**Peaceful Coexistence**

The former Hilal player and coach of the team of the displaced Mengistu said that sport has played a great role in achieving and promoting peaceful coexistence among the youth living in the camps, who came from different tribes and ethnicities that had conflict previously. Mengistu added that this initiative created fraternal ties among them, which contributed to preventing crime and extremism by utilizing their times in useful activities.

Besides, Mengistu praised Qatar’s role in bringing peace in Darfur through the unconventional initiative, which utilizes sport for peacebuilding, development and coexistence in a way that made the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) include the ‘Sport for Peace and Development in Darfur’ initiative, as a model for countering extremism in its technical guide.
As sport has become one of the most important tools in rebuilding the social fabric, bringing people together, and getting rid of tensions, the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS), through its ‘Save the Dream’ initiative, implemented a project to promote peace and development through sport targeting Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Darfur, Sudan.

This comes as a part of the cooperation agreement signed in May 2018 between Save the Dream, Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and Qatar Charity within the framework of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD).

The initiative was implemented with the participation of key partners such as Qatar Football Association, Aspire Academy, Qatar Stars League and Al Jazeera Center for Human Rights.

Mr. Massimiliano Montanari, CEO of the ICSS, said that the ‘Sport for Peace and Development in Darfur’ initiative has made a significant contribution to developing youth skills, empowering and protecting young persons, and raising awareness of the positive values of sport among the people, noting the role of sport in developing youth into «Agents of Change».

He pointed out that the initiative provided intensive training to 50 youth leaders from different IDP communities to develop their ‘Skills to act as Agents of Change’ and strengthen their abilities in the fields of capacity building, community engagement and social inclusion, as well as gender equality and empowerment of girls through sport.

Talking to the ‘Ghiras’ magazine of Qatar Charity, Montanari emphasized the importance of sport in bringing together communities, as it has a unifying power and positive impact on communities, especially those affected by wars and displacements.

He pointed out that the field activities, primarily implemented in Al Fasher City, North Darfur were led by Save the Dream Ambassador Tegla Loroupe, Kenyan long-distance runner and captain of the Refugee Olympic Team, and comprised multiple sport and cultural activities, an advocacy campaign and training workshops on ‘Sport for Peace and Development’.

Siham Alawami, Director, Special Projects at the International Centre of Sport Security said working in partnership with Qatar Charity helped ‘Save the Dream’ accomplish the greatest success in bringing peace and development in Darfur. She also noted the power of sport as a means to unify people from different backgrounds, in addition to its role in enhancing human rights and social and economic development, emphasizing the importance of working with partners to realize the dreams of children and youth.
International events to use sports for peacebuilding and development

Sport is one of the important and effective means to promote the values of peace and peaceful coexistence, as well as it is a cross-border and inter-community activity. Today, the sport, therefore, has become one of the main tools for promoting the values of social integration and economic development in various geographical, cultural and political contexts.

**Agenda for Sustainable Development**
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development emphasizes the increasing role of sport as a tool in achieving peace and promoting tolerance and respect. The agenda also highlights sport’s contributions to empowering communities as a whole, and individuals (especially women and youth), in the areas of health, education and social inclusion.

**International Day of Sport for Development and Peace**
The International Day of the Sport for Development and the Peace is observed annually on April 60. The UN invites states, the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, and international, regional and national sports organizations, civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and all other relevant stakeholders to cooperate, observe and raise awareness of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace.

**Security of Sporting Events**
The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), in partnership with the United Nations Interregional Crime Research Institute (UNICRI), the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the ICSS and in consultation with the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), launched the ‘Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism’ in February 2020.

**Peace and Sport**
Based in Monaco, Peace and Sport is an independent worldwide organization that is operational in using sport and its values as an instrument for peace. The organization calls for a safer, more equitable and inclusive world through sport.
Ann Cotton educates millions of girls within Africa

Among those who brought about a difference in the lives of nations and became a role model in the field of humanitarian action and education for girls, is Ann Cotton. She is the founder and president of Camfed, an international non-profit organization that catalyzes the power of the most vulnerable girls and young women to create the future they imagine by supporting girls to go to school and succeed, and empowering young women to step up as leaders of change.

Born in 1950 in Cardiff to parents from mining communities in Aberdare, Cotton won a scholarship to a private girls’ school. She spent most of her career in working with children excluded from mainstream education, focusing on improving opportunities for children at the margins of education. Her early work involved setting up a center for girls excluded from mainstream education
in London, where she began her career.

Cotton’s commitment to girls’ education in Africa commenced in 1991, when she went on a research trip to Zimbabwe to investigate why girls’ school enrolment in rural areas was so low. Contrary to the common assumption that families were not sending them to school for cultural reasons, Cotton discovered that poverty was the main roadblock. She understood that if girls could be educated, they could change their communities and nations forever.

Cotton has adopted a modern approach to female education in cooperation with local communities to suit their needs. She spearheaded an internationally acclaimed model for girls’ education, which has placed education at the heart of development in Africa. Camfed’s innovative education programmes have already benefited millions of children in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Ghana, Tanzania, and Malawi.

**Honors & Awards**

Cotton is the 2004 Social Entrepreneur of the Year for the UK, Honorary Fellow of the Open University and a 2005 Beacon Prize winner. She has won the 2014 World Innovation Summit For Education (Wise) Prize for Education in Qatar. HH Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, chairperson of Qatar Foundation, presented the award to Cotton at the inaugural session of Wise 2014.

In 2005, Ann was awarded the prestigious Skoll Award for Entrepreneurship and in 2006 honoured in the Queen’s New Year List with an OBE. In June 2007 Ann received an honorary doctorate in law from the University of Cambridge.
It has been assisting the coastal people by providing them with fresh clean drinkable water through installing ‘Deep Tube Well’ near to their whereabouts. Playing a pioneering role in providing potable water to the vulnerable in the country, Qatar Charity’s water initiative significantly contributed to the efforts made by the government of Bangladesh to make available safe water and reduce morbidity and mortality from water-borne disease.

Pioneering Examples
Connecting these areas such as Khalshi, a tiny hamlet, and Shamgonj, an impoverished village, with water facilities, Qatar Charity set a pioneering example in bringing potable water to the doorsteps of the beneficiaries in the Bay of Bengal.

Tiny Hamlet
The tiny hamlet ‘Khalshi’, where most people work in agriculture, is located in the southern district of Bagerhat, and consists of approximately 1670
from other villages, with exerting a lot of physical efforts, “the chairman recalls, noting that due to the Qatar Charity’s intervention, the scarcity of the drinking water in Khalshi has become a part of the past.

**Impoverished Village**
`Shamgonj’, is an impoverished village of Laxmipur, another coastal district of Bangladesh, 200 kilometers away from the capital, with a population of 70,000 persons, most of whom earn their livelihood from agriculture and fishing. Due to the high-level arsenic poisoning in the water of ‘Shamgonj’, it was known as an ‘arsenic village over a long period.

The villagers suffered various types of diseases like skin problems, skin, bladder, kidney, and lung cancers, blood vessel diseases, diabetes, high blood pressure, and reproductive disorders.

In 2013, Qatar Charity extended support to solve the arsenic problem in the village, and since then, 25 deep tube wells were dug to provide pollution-free water.

**Eliminating Untold Hardships**
“We are lucky to have a deep tube well installed by Qatar Charity in front of our house, which has eliminated the untold hardships we used to go through to get pure water, ” said, Jesmin Akter, a young lady of ‘Shamgonj’.

A beneficiary Md. Rafiq Ullah, said, “It is really a blessing for us from the kind-hearted people in Qatar, who have protected us from the hazards of water-borne diseases.”

**Arsenic-Free Water**
When asked about the Deep Tube Well project of Qatar Charity, Imran Hussain Nannu, Chairman of Hamchadi Union, under which the village of Shamgonj comes, said, “Now, the people of the village can easily drink arsenic-free water, which was a distant dream a few years ago.” He also indicated that the installation of deep tube wells contributed to bringing a major decline in the rates of waterborne diseases.

**Total Water Projects & Beneficiaries**
Since 2009 and over the past 11 years, Qatar Charity has drilled 19,379 deep tube wells in the coastal areas of Bangladesh, benefiting 2,674,000 persons.

In the last 5 years, the Qatar Charity has successfully implemented nearly 15,330 deep tube well projects in different areas of the country.
Gaziantep's population saw 30 percent of growth due to refugee intake. Providing them with all the basic facilities has put a huge strain on the resources of the province.

Over 98% of Syrian refugees live across Turkey’s 81 provinces. Refugees and asylum-seekers in Turkey include almost 3.6 million Syrian nationals, close to 330,000 registered refugees and asylum seekers of other nationalities.

Qatar Charity (QC) is also active in Turkey by providing protection services to Syrian refugees and Turkish citizens. It has opened a community centre in Kogali in Turkey.

There are charity organizations and NGOs that sometimes surpass the governments in humanitarian works.

Helping refugees, who migrated from their home country in order to save their life and dignity, has numerous examples in the history of humankind, including Madinah example of Muhajirs and Ansars.

The word Muhajir comes from ‘hijrah’. It means ‘emigrant’. The word ‘Ansar’ means ‘helpers’. The Ansar were the people from Madinah who supported the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and the Muhajirs when they migrated to Madinah.

The Ansars embraced the migrants with love and sincerity, gave asylum to their Muhajirin brothers in their own homes, and comforted them with their wealth. They even divided their business and properties for a better life for their ‘guests’.

The time calls for more sympathetic approaches towards the refugees and internally displaced people, who were thrown out of their countries not due to their fault.
Understanding the Humanitarian World

Authors: Daniel G Maxwell & Kirsten Gelsdorf

Number of Pages: 222
Publisher: Routledge
First Edition: 2019

Book Description
Conflict and disaster have been part of human history for as long as it has been recorded. Over time, more mechanisms for responding to crises have developed and become more systematized. Today a large and complex ‘global humanitarian response system’ made up of a multitude of local, national and international actors carries out a wide variety of responses. Understanding this intricate system, and the forces that shape it, are the core focus of this book.

Daniel G Maxwell and Kirsten Gelsdorf highlight the origins, growth, and specific challenges to, humanitarian action and examine why the contemporary system functions as it does. They outline the main actors, explore how they are organized and look at the ways they plan and carry out their operations. Interrogating major contemporary debates and controversies in the humanitarian system, and the reasons why actions undertaken in its name remain the subject of so much controversy, they provide an important overview of the contemporary humanitarian system and the ways it may develop in the future.

“In this book, we first review some of the critical historical case studies that contextualize the origins of global humanitarian action, and then provide a synopsis of the contemporary system of humanitarian actors, architecture, and action,” says authors. “Finally, we outline the major operational and policy changes happening in today’s crisis response contexts.”

This book offers a nuanced understanding of the way humanitarian action operates in the 21st century. It will be essential reading for anyone with an interest in international human rights law, disaster management and international relations.

Editorial Reviews

“Understanding the Humanitarian World is an informed and intelligent analysis of the complexities of humanitarian action today. Dan and Kirsten have done an excellent job in providing a resource that is equally valuable for students who aspire to humanitarian careers, whether academic or operational, as well as for experienced practitioners and policy makers who work at the sharp end of humanitarian response.” - Sara Pantuliano, Overseas Development Institute, UK.

“Since Dan Maxwell and I published ‘Shaping the Humanitarian World’ the humanitarian world has gotten a whole lot closer, as the end point of unsustainable development floods cities, forces communities to migrate, renders farmland barren and replaces coexistence with conflict. Understanding these crises, and how to respond to them to reset development in a more sustainable direction, is now a vital part of mainstream politics and economics. Whether you are teaching, learning or practicing, ‘Understanding the Humanitarian World’, is the go to text to move from compassion to effective action.” - Peter Walker, Falk School of Sustainability and Environment, Chatham University, USA.

For more information:
To discuss the repercussions of the pandemic and the concerns of many people about how to contain its effects and ease the suffering of the most vulnerable people, the ‘Ghiras’ magazine talked to Mr. Khaled Khalifa, UNHCR Regional Representative to the GCC Countries.

- The coronavirus has posed major challenges to refugees and the displaced who have already been going through worsening humanitarian conditions. How do you assess the situation and what are the most significant relevant needs?

- Of course, the coronavirus pandemic has brought fresh sorrow and hardship to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees worldwide, causing...
The UNHCR Refugee Zakat Fund delivered assistance to more than one million beneficiaries in 2019.

How do you see the humanitarian role and contributions of the State of Qatar globally?

- In general, Qatar is at the forefront of the global humanitarian action, under the directives of His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar. We all see that it contributes significantly to helping the afflicted countries all over the world, especially since the outbreak of the coronavirus, and it has always been one of the first responders to humanitarian crises.

- In particular, Qatar has topped, for several years, the countries contributing to the UNHCR, with a contribution valued at 205 million.

- It is also one of the largest contributors and responders to humanitarian crises at the government and private sector levels. It was ranked 27th globally in late 2019 for its generous contributions to refugee issues in many countries.

- We are proud to work with Qatar Charity, which has been one of our most important partners in Qatar for several years. More than a million refugees and displaced persons have benefited from donations provided by Qatar Charity. This partnership has also helped deliver basic aid and cash assistance, support infrastructure, and provide water, sanitation, hygiene supplies and relief aid.

- UNHCR is proud to work with many partners in Qatar, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar Fund for Development, Education Above All, Qatar Charity, Thani Bin Abdullah Bin Thani Al Thani Humanitarian Fund, Silatech, Qatar Airways, and others.

- The State of Qatar, through donations made by private and public sectors, has contributed more than $ 70 million so far during 2020.

To what extent do Qatar’s humanitarian and development initiatives contribute to enhancing the work of UN agencies, particularly relating to the displaced and refugees across the globe?

- The State of Qatar is one of the most important partners and supporters of the UNHCR on the international level, and we are proud of the role played by its government, institutions and people. We are proud of their generosity, especially in support of refugees and the displaced worldwide. Qatar and its institutions support various sectors and programs of the UNHCR such as education, shelter, health, cash assistance, livelihoods, health
education, economic inclusion and cash assistance. The latter was identified as the best fit for Zakat distribution; assuring funds are received by the most vulnerable beneficiary families.

UNHCR is covering overhead costs associated with Zakat distribution from non-Zakat sources. The cash assistance is not only necessary support for those in need, but it also has a great positive impact on the economy of the host countries, because this money is used in local markets and projects, extending indirect support to traders, according to several studies on this type of assistance. In Lebanon, for example, every US dollar given to a refugee in cash increased US $2.3 in GDP, with no higher prices. Consequently, we see this impressive impact in distributing more than $20 million of Zakat as cash assistance to refugees and the displaced in Lebanon, Jordan, Yemen, Iraq, Egypt and Mauritania. This indicates that the host community benefits from the distribution of Zakat to refugees in their countries.

- UNHCR's Refugee Zakat Fund follows a 100% Zakat distribution policy, ensuring 100% of Zakat contributions are delivered directly to eligible families most in need. Through the Fund, vulnerable families, including women and children, are supported with cash assistance to cover basic needs.

- In 2019, the Refugee Zakat Fund succeeded in delivering cash and in-kind assistance to more than one million beneficiaries (191,497 families), to meet their urgent needs such as shelter, food, education, health care and debt repayment. This became possible, due to a total of $43,165,000 that the Refugee Zakat Fund has received from individuals, partners, and philanthropists, the majority of whom are from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Donors in MENA countries, notably from the GCC, contributed a significant 99% of Zakat contributions in 2019. The Fund is one of the most successful means of delivering aid to needy families.

Qatar is among the largest responders to humanitarian crises.
The need for good governance in the charitable sector

The charity work seeks to contribute effectively and efficiently to addressing major development and humanitarian challenges faced by people in need across the globe, by offering services and implementing projects in the various humanitarian and development sectors. Given the growing role played by humanitarian and charitable organizations and the volume of support, they receive from society, their responsibility to fulfill their role, make the expected impact, meet the requirements of accountability are on the rise. Hence, the good governance for charitable organizations is needed, as it has become a significant criterion for categorizing and evaluating institutions.

Governance in the charitable sector focuses on two aspects, which are to achieve the humanitarian, development and social goals set by the organization, and ensure its sustainability and long-term viability. Both of these responsibilities are linked to the responsibility of the Board of Directors of charitable organizations or its equivalent for establishing a system to make decisions wisely and manage the organization efficiently and effectively.

The source of commitment to transparency and accountability in good governance is that the trust of the public and society served by the organization is the strength of the organization to achieve its goals. The principles of good governance are based on the existence of a vision, a strategic plan, a specific mission, and goals, and applying a participatory approach, efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, financial integrity, compliance with laws and legislations, justice, equality, and accountability.

The best practices of charitable organizations rely on the existence of a basic system of the organization, an effective general assembly, which is the highest decision-making body, an elected board of directors that exercises the overall supervision of the organization’s management and is accountable to the general assembly. The best practices of charitable organizations also need the existence of an executive department, which is concerned with the day-to-day management of the organization under the supervision and accountability of the Board of Directors, and works according to policies and procedures approved by the Board of Directors.

Furthermore, these practices require the presence of an effective, professional, and independent internal audit system that reports to the Board of Directors, the risk management, and the evaluation, accountability and learning function. The role supported by the facts of making the governance of charitable organizations one of the most important determinants to realize their humanitarian and development goals, bring about the desired impact, and achieve sustainability, has made pioneering organizations, headed by Qatar Charity, pay more attention to upgrading their governance system, and strive to keep pace with the latest standards and practices at the level of the international NGO community.
Rofaq: The World’s largest Family for Orphans

By Ali Abualnassr AlRachied - Abdullah AlAshwal
Publisher: Qatar Charity
Year of Publication: 2020
Number of pages: 144 pages

Nearly 10,000 children become orphans every day in the world, due to wars, conflicts, droughts, epidemics, famines, etc. The latest figures released by the United Nations organizations indicate that there are approximately 140 million orphans worldwide, while other estimates raise the number to 165 million.

The orphans in many Arab and Islamic countries represent a significant percentage of this figure, due to the crises that happened or are happening in countries like Iraq and Syria.

Reasons for Authorship
Perhaps this calls for a greater focus on carrying out the human duty towards this vulnerable section of society that needs protection and social care. This also calls for documenting the experiences of charities in the field of orphan care and sponsorship, which represents an important volume of their activities, and for finding a better model to improve sponsorship and care of orphans.

Two Main Parts
The book entitled “The World’s largest Family for Orphans” is divided into two main parts. The first section, which is theoretical, is about orphans in general (concepts of humanistic visions), and includes main headlines, such as definitions of an orphan, the size of the phenomenon, the reasons, the need of orphans for social care and psychological support, the patterns of orphan sponsorship and care in the present era.

The first part also includes an invitation to develop an orphan sponsorship model for charitable organizations, and great orphans throughout history.

Another section covers the experience of Qatar Charity in the orphan sponsorship and care, and includes main headlines such as beginnings, turning points, major developments, monthly and periodic assistance, services activities, and qualitative projects.

The second section also includes the «Rofaq» initiative, the reasons for its launch, its most important achievements, easy steps, quick sponsorship services through modern technologies, the experience of realizing orphans’ wishes, and success stories.

The book concluded with a reference to the compassionate human gesture from His Highness the Emir of the State of Qatar, Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, for the orphans sponsored by Qatar Charity.

Additions
What distinguishes the book is that it covers orphan-related topics from various angles, giving useful information, important statistics, models, and examples. It also documented the experience of Qatar Charity, one of the largest sponsors of orphans in the region, and the story of the “Rofaq” initiative, and more importantly, it sparked a discussion on the development of the orphan sponsorship model for charitable organizations, after it gave remarks on the currently prevailing sponsorship models.

We hope that the book will be an addition for all those who are concerned with this phenomenon, including the sponsored, sponsors, philanthropists, decision-makers at charitable organizations, researchers and those interested in this regard.
A Quest For a Better World

Over the past twenty years, my job has required me to travel all over the world to report on conflicts, violence, hunger and poverty.

What struck me most earlier in my career was discovering a common thread among the countries afflicted by conflict and instability.

Places like Afghanistan, Sudan, Yemen and parts of Africa, which all share one thing in common a lack of access to education.

Ultimately, those on the margins of society pay the price. Especially those who are poor and have been internally displaced, will likely continue to suffer as long as the status quo remains.

And this where as a Journalist, I am constantly grappling with a dilemma, and I assume my colleagues face the same issue.

Our role is to cover events, tell stories and show facts. But shouldn’t we ultimately be committed to doing whatever it takes as Journalists to showcase the suffering of people hoping one day their plight might come to an end?

So, how do we articulate our reporting make it powerful, so that it resonates for a long time and maybe prompt world leaders and other powerful figures into taking action.

But as you get involved in covering humanitarian catastrophes, you realise that a lot needs to be done so that people won’t forget what’s happened.

We live in a fast-moving world. Stories that start with a flash on our computer screens, get massive coverage only to fade away a few days later.

I have seen the desperation in the faces of many refugees in Yemen, Syria and Afghanistan as well as other parts of Africa.

The moment you get into a desolate camp, curious children show up, delighted to be able to touch your microphone or get a chance to look into the viewfinder our camera.

The adults have other concerns, they don’t say it but you can tell through the despair in their gaze wondering when the suffering will end and they’ll be able to go home.

Unfortunately, on many occasions you can easily tell that their stay may be indefinite for the simple reason that their countries are bogged down in conflicts and those conflicts result in staggering levels of pain, malnutrition and brutality.

Our quest as Journalists for a world free of pain and conflicts will continue. It is in telling these stories about loss, death and deprivation that we hope one day to change attitudes, perceptions and build a world consensus. The time is now to take action to help those whose stories are either under-reported or cannot get their voices heard.

This is what makes me determined to travel long days through rugged terrain or under the scorching sun, because I know many are there waiting for me to tell their stories to the world, and abandoning them in the time of their need, would be an act of betrayal.
We work on enabling UN and international organizations to achieve sustainable and comprehensive development
The assistance, which is provided by the Qatar Fund For Development (QFFD) in the period 2021-2017 through the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) amounted to $5 million. The move comes to intensify the rapid humanitarian response to those affected by natural disasters and armed conflicts. The QFFD’s support as a donor, in cooperation with its strategic implementing partners within and outside Qatar, reaches more than 78 countries around the world.

To shed light on the QFFD’s global efforts, significant position among international donors, active role in supporting Qatari humanitarian and charitable organizations, and evolving partnership with Qatar Charity, the ‘Ghiras’ magazine talked to Mr. Khalifa bin Jassem Al-Kuwari, Director General of QFFD.

The QFFD is the frontage of the State of Qatar with regard to providing urgent relief aid to areas affected by disasters and crises worldwide and contributing to reconstruction efforts and poor community development. How do you evaluate this role and its importance at the regional and international levels?

The State of Qatar attaches great importance to both humanitarian and development work, and in this context, the QFFD seeks to implement the United Nations Agenda 2030, and achieve sustainable development goals by working jointly with UN and international organizations, most notably the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The QFFD signed a 40$mn partnership agreement with OCHA for the period 2020-2017, to enable the latter to raise the level of readiness and intensify efforts to coordinate an effective and rapid response to the affected areas around the world.

Thanks to this contribution, the State of Qatar became the ninth-largest donor to OCHA. The QFFD also provides urgent assistance through CERF, which plays an obvious role in extending support during the first days of a disaster to save the largest number of lives. The support, which is provided by QFFD in the period 2021-2017 through CERF, amounted to $5 million to intensify rapid humanitarian response to those affected by natural disasters and armed conflicts.

On the other hand, our support is extended to the Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPF) to enable aid workers to provide immediate, effective and rescue assistance to the most needy people in the most fragile countries. The CBPF allow for a rapid humanitarian response through the effective and optimal use of available resources. It also contributes to reducing project costs and provides transparency and accountability through the in-depth evaluation of implementing and receiving organizations and bodies, monitoring projects, and issuing periodic reports on achievements and challenges. The CBPF covers 18 countries, including Myanmar, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, Nigeria and Lebanon.

In June, the State of Qatar, represented by QFFD, assumed the presidency of the donor countries group to OCHA. This is the first time when an Arab country has assumed the presidency of the group, which reflects Qatar’s position among international donors and their confidence in its capability of promoting international collective action regarding humanitarian interventions.

The QFFD has cooperation and partnership relations with international organizations in the field of financing relief and development projects. What is your evaluation of this cooperation and what is the contribution to the efforts made by the international system to bring peace and stability and achieve the sustainable development goals adopted by the United Nations?

The QFFD cooperates with the United Nations agencies and international organizations in the framework of strategic partnerships, and provides funding for the UN organizations as part of a pledge of $ 500 million over a period of 10 years, which began in 2018 to contribute to enabling these organizations to achieve sustainable and comprehensive development.

The State of Qatar is one of the first countries to support the establishment of the UNDP Accelerator Labs Network, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Federal Republic of Germany. This included support worth $ 20 million to create innovative mechanisms to solve sustainable development problems by engaging youth, entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized companies through the establishment of 60 labs to serve 78 developing countries.

In cooperation with the Islamic Bank, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), and a group of other development funds, the QFFD contributed to the establishment of the Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF) with a joint capital of $ 500 million. The QFFD finances quality projects through LLF, with a total of $ 50 million, aiming at empowering and assisting the poorest and the developing countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), in the sectors of healthcare, agriculture, and basic infrastructure development.

Similarly, the QFFD cooperates with the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs to facilitate the opening of the offices of UN agencies to enhance the strategic partnership between them and the various aid partners. The Local contact points of organizations facilitate their work and their link
with the QFFD and Qatari charitable institutions effectively to coordinate support and develop initiatives.

**Capacity-Building**

QFFD cooperates with Qatari humanitarian and charitable organizations. What is the size of this cooperation and how do you see their performance in achieving QFFD’s goals?

The strong strategic relationship of the QFFD, as a donor, with its strategic implementing partners within and outside the State of Qatar is the cornerstone on which QFFD has established innovative programs and support reaching more than 78 countries.

The cooperation between the QFFD and its local strategic partners comes in the context of completing a long journey of the relationship that connects the State of Qatar with humanitarian charitable organizations, which have been working in the field of international development for decades. This cooperation culminates in solid and complementary strategic partnerships, upon which many innovative programs and initiatives with significant development and humanitarian impact are based.

For example, the QFFD, through its Quest initiative launched in cooperation with its local strategic partners, seeks to make sure that children and youth, who experienced the Syrian conflict, have access to education and basic skills, in addition to healthcare that will ensure their well-being, achieve stability, peace, and justice, and build and improve their future and that of their societies.

The initiative targets displaced youth within Syria and the countries hosting Syrian refugees, namely Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey. The program is implemented through the local strategic partners in Qatar such as Qatar Charity, Silatech, Education Above All and the Qatar Red Crescent.

The QFFD also works on enhancing the role of Qatari charities by designating them as primary partners for joint projects with the United Nations.

QFFD, through bilateral meetings with partners like multilateral organizations, seeks to emphasize the importance of building the capacity of the QFFD and Qatari charities by holding capacity-building workshops for Qatari NGOs and relevant entities and bodies in the country.

**Challenges due to COVID-19**

What are the challenges faced or expected to be faced by the QFFD in the period ahead in light of the growing volume of crises in the region, especially in the last decade, and what are the implications of the coronavirus pandemic?

In the past months, we at the QFFD managed to address the difficulties to make remote work possible and available to all. We continue to provide unlimited support to our strategic sectors such as education, health, economic empowerment and infrastructure, in addition to relief and humanitarian projects through our local and international partners to restore hope and promote peace and justice through sustainable and comprehensive development.

The volume of aid needed by countries in light of the mounting crises and conflicts is a major challenge to donor countries, development funds and humanitarian organizations alike. The international community has expressed a fear that the economic repercussions of the coronavirus may affect the growing international need for humanitarian and development interventions in light of the possibility of a decline in the volume of support provided or a reconsideration of directing it due to the economic recession, from which the donor and recipient countries suffer alike.

On the other hand, we managed to provide the necessary medical equipment and supplies to several countries witnessing an increase in the number of infections with the coronavirus (COVID19-), and offer medical services to the infected, aiming at preventing the pandemic, which is a threat to the whole world. We are working with our local and international strategic partners to mitigate the epidemic and the unemployment resulting from it, by providing food aid and other assistance.

Under the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, urgent medical aid was sent to brotherly and friendly countries, in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Health, the Emiri Armed Forces and Qatar Airways, via an air bridge in response to the outbreak of the pandemic in several countries numbering 21. The QFFD has also contributed to innovative initiatives to fight the coronavirus through the UNDP Accelerator Labs Network supported by the State of Qatar.

Qatar Charity has many significant partnerships with the QFFD to implement relief and development projects in various countries. What is your evaluation of this cooperation and what are the prospects for it?

We hope to develop the partnership with Qatar Charity and expand our cooperation to cover the basic sectors such as education, health and economic development in a good number of countries, aiming at delivering aid to those most in need. Through this partnership, we hope to achieve the goals of the QFFD and Qatar Charity regarding sustainable and comprehensive development.
Qatar Charity has been keen to carry out humanitarian interventions since the second day of the massive explosion that has rocked the port area of Beirut, aiming at delivering the urgent aid to the affected through its field teams in Lebanon.

**August 4**
A massive explosion rocks the port area of Beirut.

**August 5**
Qatar Charity distributes urgent food aid.

**August 6**
The ‘Lebanon in Our Hearts’ campaign kicks off.

**August 8 - 7**
Qatar Charity participates in a live transmission by TV channels and radio stations to garner support and raise funds for the ‘Lebanon in Our Hearts’ campaign. QR 94 million riyals were raised.

**August 13 - 9**
Two planes carrying over 100 tons of food aid are sent, in cooperation with Qatar Airways.

Overwhelming response from more than 80 banks, companies, health institutions, restaurants, cafes and others.
The miserable life of the displaced

“We did not live days harder than these.” This is how the aged Syrian mother of Fatima, who became homeless, started to describe her sorrowful life. Eighty-four years have drawn the wrinkles on her face, and left the signs of the agriculture work on her hands. The illnesses caused by the old age and the hardship arising from the displacement and poverty come together in her life.

The Tragedy of Two Generations

The mother of Fatima spent nearly sixty years with her husband in the town of Al-Bara, and then he died, leaving her alone to struggle in life. She along with her children and grandchildren face the tragedy.

The displacement forced her to leave behind her husband’s grave and her beautiful memories associated with the home she spent years to build with stones and mud, with the help of her life partner. Unfortunately, homelessness has made her live in a camp located in northern Syria.

Unfolding the story of her problematic life, she says, “I along with the family of my married daughter came to the camp, where we lived in a tent for nearly one month, facing the bitter cold of winter.”

“Then, I had a separate tent near that of my daughter. As the tent can not protect us from the scorching sun, I go out every day to stay under the trees until the evening,” she described her suffering in the camp.

She also added that “We did not live days harder than these, and the last Ramadan was the was the most difficult one to me in my life, as we never took iftar meals from anyone, rather we used to prepare iftars to distribute to the neighbors.”

Before I die, I wish…

When asked about her children, she said, “I have four daughters, who got married. Due to the displacement, I came to the youngest daughter and lived with her in the camp and she is the one who takes care of me. The oldest daughter, who has nine orphaned children living in a camp far from me, became a widow a year ago. The husband of the second daughter was killed by bombing while being displaced two months ago. I do not know about the whereabouts of the third daughter. Before I pass away, I just wish to meet all of my daughters together.” Saying the last sentence, the mother of Fatima burst into tears.

She further describes the worsening condition of her life as she says, “Due to the high blood pressure, I lost one of my eyes, and have no money for its treatment. The doctors have informed that the vision of my second eye might be badly affected.”

She termed the camp as a real cemetery where people came with only clothes, which were on their bodies at the time of displacement. Men have no job opportunities in the camp. If they receive water and food assistance, which are only delivered, they eat and drink, otherwise, they sleep on empty stomachs. The wastewater flows between tents, causing intolerable odors, while insects eat our bodies at night. “In short, we live in a cemetery,” the mother of Fatima says.

The story of the mother of Fatima represents thousands of stories that tell the torments of the displaced and sorrowing situations of the elderly with chronic diseases. They hope humane people would support them as they are the most vulnerable and fragile ones.
Al Talib Complex brings stability to returnee families in Somalia

Kismayo, the capital of the Jubaland region in Somalia, is a port city situated 528 kilometres southwest of Mogadishu. The infrastructure of the city, which is inhabited by about 170,000 people, has been severely damaged due to the civil wars that made some of its residents homeless and internally displaced, and forced others to find a safe place in other countries like Kenya and Ethiopia.

The Somali refugees lived for 25 years in Kenyan camps, hoping for returning to their homes in one day. When the Kenyan government decided to close the refugee camps in May 2016 and send these refugees back to their countries, the arduous journey of return, fraught with fear and anxiety, commenced.

The city of Kismayo, which was shaking off the dust of the civil war, had not come back to its normal state yet. However, it received the returnees, who had nothing to shelter themselves. They, therefore, began to build primitive homes from tree branches and remnants of clothes, to protect themselves from the scorching heat of the summer and the bitter cold of the winter. They started over without the slightest necessities for life.

A Helping Hand

Monitoring the challenging living situations of the returnees, Qatar Charity contacted the official authorities in Somalia to extend a helping hand to the vulnerable.

In October 2018, Qatar Charity laid the foundation stone for the 4400 square-meter Al Talib Residential Complex Project worth QR 1.8mn. Each of 24 housing units of the complex consists of two bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom, a dining hall, corridors, and a yard. The project, which also has spaces for other activities and passageways, is expected to benefit 144 people belonging to the families of the orphans sponsored by Qatar Charity. There is also a large mosque, which accommodates 750 worshipers.

The complex aims to provide a permanent shelter for displaced families living in the camps, support the efforts of the Somali Federal Government in finding a sustainable solution to the displacement, contribute to improving the living conditions and social environment for poor families, and promote education among the returnees.

This project is part of Qatar Charity’s strategy to meet the basic needs of the most vulnerable section of society in the fields of health, education, social care and others.

Inauguration

In June 2020, Qatar Charity inaugurated the residential complex, under the patronage of HE Hassan bin Hamza Hashem, Ambassador of Qatar to Somalia. First Deputy President of Jubaland state of Somalia Mohamud Sayid Adan, deputies, and ministers in the federal and state government attended the inauguration ceremony.

Appreciation & Thanks

The First Deputy President of Jubaland State Mohamud Sayid Adan expressed thanks and appreciation to Qatar for its constant endeavor to assist the needy groups and establish qualitative projects. He also commended Qatar Charity’s role and initiatives in the state. In a speech on this occasion, he called for increasing development projects to meet the needs of the population, describing the projects that were opened as a qualitative shift in education and housing.

The Interior Minister of Jubbaland State Mohamed Warsame Darwish expressed thanks and gratitude to Qatar Charity for having responded to the state’s call to implement these projects. He stressed that Jubbaland State was in urgent need of such services and that the state was ready to provide all logistical and security facilities for the establishment of other projects.

Qatar’s ambassador to Somalia Hassan bin Hamza Hashem underlined the support and standing of Qatar with Somalia to implement development projects, stressing the importance of the country’s stability and sovereignty.

Since 2018, Qatar Charity’s Somalia Office has implemented several humanitarian projects in the fields of education, culture, water, environmental sanitation and food security.
returnee families in Somalia
Mizanur Rahman, once an orphan, shines in studies and career alike

By Mohammad Moin Uddin Khan

The dream of excellence and distinction brought Mizanur Rahman, an orphaned meritorious student, to the race of success, facing all challenges to achieve his feats. Earning a degree from Bangladesh's top engineering college was not so easy for a student like Mizanur Rahman coming from a remote village-school, but his concerted efforts, determination and perseverance along with support from Qatar Charity made it easier for him to realize his dream.

Mizanur Rahman, who is from the ‘Achuavata’ village located in ‘Rajshahi’, a northern city of Bangladesh, became an orphan at the age of 4. Her mother, a homemaker, had no source of income to feed and raise her five children.

Among his brothers, Mizan had a great inclination towards studies since his childhood. Seeing this interest of her child, the mother's mind was filled with joy. She got him enrolled in the Sheikh

Hamad Orphan Center also known as the Godagari Orphanage, run by Qatar Charity since 1995, where 8-year-old Mizan was admitted to the third grade.

Brilliant student Mizan passed the SSC (Secondary School Certificate) examination in 2008, and the HSC examination in 2010, both with the highest-grade point GPA5+, which opened the door for him to higher education.

To make his dream come true, Mizan moved to Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh to study at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), the country’s best engineering university.

Mizan said, “Qatar Charity had borne all the expenses of university admission and provided him with a scholarship, which helped him meet all other expenses easily.”

He earned an Honors Degree in ‘Materials and Metallurgical Engineering (MME)’ and got a job at Walton, one of the renowned electronics companies in the country.

He works as a successful senior assistant director of that company, drawing a smile on the face of his mother through his achievements and becoming a source of pride for the villagers.

“We want to convey thanks to Qatar Charity to fulfill the dreams of my offspring,” the mother of Mizanur Rahman says, while he notes, “I am indebted to Qatar Charity and I want to repay this debt by dedicating myself to humanitarian activities.”
“Future’s Writers” nurtures creative talents in children
Winners in “Future’s Writers-4” express delight and ambitions

The fourth edition of the «Future’s Writers» program, organized by Qatar Charity in cooperation with partners, concluded in a ceremony held remotely, in compliance with the precautionary measures aimed at curbing the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID19-) pandemic. Qatar Charity declared the names of winners in the edition and honored the partners and the sponsor of the program during the ceremony.

Some 28 male and female students out of 2,355 participants from 287 private and government schools, Audio Education Complex, and Qatar University were declared winners in this edition of the program.

The winners were extremely delighted with their feats. The first winner Aisha Al Mansouri from the secondary school category said that the program benefited her greatly in relating the events of the story, noting that this honor would motivate her to work harder in the future.

The third winner Hasina Fadlallah from the primary school category said that she feels so proud to win this competition and wants to be writer, noting that she learned how to use imagination in her story and create new ideas during the training workshops held as part of the program.

The third winner Noura Al-Kuwari from Qatar University indicated that the program helped her know about her strengths and weaknesses in writing, adding that the instructions and activities broadened her thinking and knowledge.

The second winner Abdul Rahman Al-Rimi from Qatar University said that he participated in the competition to explore his literary writing ability, describing the victory, as an incentive to improve his writing skills further. He hopes to become an Arab literary icon with an outstanding and unique style.

The second winner Falah Zafer Al Ahbabi from the preparatory school category, expressed his pride in being a winner once again, as he also won in the same category previously, pointing out that he received many invitations to attend cultural events that bring together many well-known writers at the level of the Arab world. He aspires to become a distinguished and ambitious writer.
The “Future’s Writers” has achieved many feats during its four seasons in the period from 2017 to 2020. It has managed to nurture 63 young talents of both male and female students in the field of short story writing during these seasons.

Qatar Charity has printed 36 winning stories during the three seasons and get some stories translated into the Russian language, expecting the number will rise to 63 printed stories by completing the works of the fourth season.

Some 137 female students from 32 government preparatory and secondary schools took part in the first season of the programme, while its second season recorded the participation of 375 male and female students from 55 preparatory and secondary schools.

The third season of the programme saw a steep increase in the number of applicants, recoding 1697 male and female participants from 259 primary, preparatory and secondary schools.

The fourth season witnessed the participation of 2355 male and female students from 287 all schools, in addition to the students of Qatar University, and the students with special needs from the Audio Education Complex.

The “Future’s Writers” programme won the Social Responsibility Award in the category of the best national initiative during the 6th Social Responsibility Awards organized by Dar Al Sharq in 2019.

The “Future’s Writers: 4 years of achievements”
Appreciations and Commendations

The «Future’s Writers» program has received praise from officials and those interested in the cultural and educational arena.

**HE Salah Bin Ghanim Al Ali,**
*Minister of Culture and Sports*

I have been following the program since its inception. It has succeeded in launching many books written by winning students, which is a good indication of their promising future, and requires us to continue to pay attention to them to make a real addition to our country’s cultural arena.

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**Ibrahim Al Nuaimi,**
*undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education*

We have clearly seen the contribution of the “Future’s Writers” program to creating the spirit of the expressive art and the imaginative style among our students, and it has enhanced each participant’s talent to write a story uniquely.

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**Fawzia Abdulaziz al-Khater,**
*assistant undersecretary for educational affairs at Ministry of Education and Higher Education*

“Future’s Writers” is among the most significant programs that the Ministry focuses on, in co-operation with Qatar Charity, as it supports human thought, and enhances the skills of students and motivates them to read.

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**Dr. Hassan bin Rashid Al-Derham,**
*President of Qatar University*

I am delighted with the participation of hundreds of our students in the “Future’s Writers” program, which aims to discover talents in the field of story writing. I thank Qatar Charity for this program.
Heroes against Corona

The first awareness-raising partnership between Qatar Charity and UNICEF

‘Heroes against Corona,’ an awareness campaign, kicked off on the website and social media pages of Qatar Charity, as well as on the social media accounts of the United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF).

The drive came in cooperation, the first of its kind, with UNICEF and Qatar Charity (QC) in the field of awareness-raising campaigns, aiming at educating children, families, and the members of society on preventive and preventive measures, which should be taken to curb the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19)

Target Groups
Children, adolescents, parents and members of society

Campaign Period: June - September 2020

Campaign Languages: Arabic and English

Campaign Goal

General objective:
Contribute to promoting the special precautionary measures to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

Sub-objectives:
- Encourage children and adolescents to follow preventive behaviors and take precautionary measures against the coronavirus.
- Provide advice to parents on psychosocial support and how to deal with children and adolescents and provide them with the necessary support in light of the abnormal conditions associated with coronavirus, their stay at home for unusual periods, and their incapability of practicing motor and recreational activities, in addition advising on keeping children safe online.

Campaign Products
- Illustrated awareness brochures and pamphlets published on social media pages
- Awareness booklet and interactive coloring booklet for children entitled: “Do’s and Don’ts»

To download, click on the link below:

-Awareness booklet and interactive coloring booklet for children entitled “Discovering the Treasures of Our House»

To download, click on the link below:

A specialized team at Qatar Charity produced the educational materials, which have very easy-to-use phrases and sentences and attractive graphics, designs and colors, taking into account the characteristics of the Gulf and the Arab environment.
Coronavirus, a shock of isolation and uncertainty for children

Unexpectedly, the spark of life dimmed, and then the movement of people on streets was restricted forcefully when the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic hit countries across the globe.

The pandemic came to ask questions that science could not provide it with answers so far, although scientific research centers have been working very hard on finding a solution to put an end to the pandemic.

The pandemic, which caused the lockdown in almost countries of the world and forced everyone to stay home, affecting the lives of all very badly.

Children, who are the present and the whole future of a society, are the most affected by the pandemic. The coronavirus has posed major challenges to their future, and caused a systematic change in their behaviors, because they could not meet their friends, and had to stay home due to the closure of schools.

Some children also lost one of their relatives, which doubled their sorrows, and became unable to adapt to the new reality that offers nothing but sadness, grief, a shock of isolation and internet addiction for those who have this service. To earn a living for their families affected by the coronavirus, underprivileged, displaced and refugee children worldwide have to work for longer hours, which, hence, leaves devastating physical and psychological impacts on them.

Implications of Coronavirus
Some 19 million displaced children in the world, according to UNICEF statistics, are at risk of being affected by the disastrous implications of the coronavirus. The organization, therefore, warned of the consequences of the current situation in refugee communities scattered in crisis-hit areas.

On the other hand, the professional community indicated that children might suffer from mental disorders, fear, anxiety and lack of experience in dealing with such conditions.

Dr. Mohamed Al-Enezi, a professor of psychology, told the ‘Ghiras’ magazine that each crisis affects individuals, whether old or young, but its impact on children is associated with the impact it has on parents. He also emphasized the importance of a family’s role in creating a positive and safe environment for their children, which will provide them with comfort and psychological support.

Dr. Mohamed Kamal, Community Psychological Counselor at the Mental Health Friends Association (Weyak) expressed his concern about the negative impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the mental health of children. He noted that the closure of schools and staying home made children more violent, aggressive, crying, and addicted to electronic devices, pointing out that all this is an indication of the low level of their mental health.

Child Rights Crisis
Building on this reality, international organizations affirm that, despite the decline in the spread of the coronavirus in some countries, the social losses resulting therefrom will follow rapidly and fatally, especially the most vulnerable children will bear the greatest losses. However, other organizations are apprehensive that the health crisis will turn into a child rights crisis.

According to a report released by UNICEF, the coronavirus is one of the main causes of child labor, forced labor, limited access to decent work opportunities for legally eligible persons, social marginalization, discrimination, and lack of quality education.

These elements are likely to be double in the future, as the massive global imbalance in education caused by reservation measures, high unemployment rates, poverty, and lack of
services will cause an increase in child labors, and families, with no sources of income, may use their children to earn a living.

According to the International Labor Organization, of more than 152 million children engaged in the labor market globally, 72 million children carry out hazardous work, face challenging situations, and work for longer hours in light of the coronavirus pandemic, and one in every 10 children worldwide is involved in the labor market.

**Human Dignity**

Human rights activists called for the need to pay attention to children’s rights in these circumstances. Dr. Hassan Saeed Al-Mujammar, a human rights activist, said, “Everyone, spearheaded by governments, international organizations like the United Nations, and stakeholders from society, should give a priority to children and their rights in such critical humanitarian conditions, because they depend on adults and always need support and care, especially in the time of the pandemic.”

He added that, in the time of adversity like the coronavirus, there is an urgent need to adopt strict and effective national enforcement policies and mechanisms to ensure that children enjoy their rights and safeguard their human dignity.

It is essential to give more attention to children living in camps, as they are in dire need of assistance, especially in the time of a pandemic, because in the camps of refugees and the displaced, there is very limited access to basic health care and facilities.
Dormitory for female students

In the heart of Sarajevo, capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a place has been wisely chosen for a four-storey building near the four universities that have various scientific disciplines.

The building, which is well-furnished, is a dormitory for female students studying at these universities, and provides them with a safe, calm, and comfortable atmosphere for study and educational achievement.

Qatar Charity constructed it for female-orphaned students who enroll in universities, and for girls of low-income families, who come from rural areas to the capital to continue education to achieve their aspirations for a better future.

In the eyes of the students, the dormitory provides a better shelter and superb services similar to that of hotels, giving them the warmth of family, due to the existence of bonds between students, in addition to promoting the exchange of culture and knowledge among students coming from different backgrounds.

The following opinion poll sheds light on the importance, the role, and the impact of this university housing, in which 96 female students live.

Calm Atmosphere

Fahira Delalic, a computer science and engineering student, belonging to Travnik in Central Bosnia, says, “Having an opportunity to live in the ladies dormitory provided by Qatar Charity during my studies means a lot to me and my family.”

She added that this dormitory has played a major role in easing a financial burden on her father and realizing her wish to study at a university in a safe and calm atmosphere, thanking Qatar Charity for this great grant bestowed upon the students.

One Family

“It is still unbelievable that someone has provided this marvelous dormitory for us, which is more likely to be a hotel,” said Nedzma Hrvat. “Qatar Charity not only gave all of us an opportunity to live for free at the dormitory, but also offered us a chance to make friendships with new people from all over the world and different parts of our country,” she added.

She also noted, “It is a great experience to live together with students from different countries, cultures and universities. I enjoy sharing information and knowledge with all of them, and we have already became one family,” indicating that this dormitory is exceptionally valuable to the girls and their families.

Wonderful Action

Aisha El Mansoury says, “My brother and I remained under the sponsorship of Qatar Charity until we turned 18, as we were orphans,” adding that “Now I continue my studies by living in this dormitory, and it is a wonderful action, which eased our worries and made our lives better.”

Safe All Time

Felicity Mariam Kyebure, a foreign student living in Sarajevo, expressed her delight at having the opportunity to live at Qatar Charity’s dormitory. “I am immensely grateful to Qatar Charity for providing us with board and lodging, and the dormitory has a profound security system that make us feel safe all time,” said Kyebure, adding that the staff at the dormitory ensure that students are comfortable.

Sincere Thanks

Lamija Kabulovic extended sincere thanks to everyone who help her overcome obstacles in her life. “It is a nice feeling to be part of this organization that aims to support education and promote the culture of knowledge, which is essential to the development and prosperity of any country.”
in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Mahar Dewi, a 60-year-old Indonesian widow, was suffering from illness and going through financial hardship. She had to travel a long distance twice a week from her village to reach a hospital in Jakarta for dialysis.

Mahar said that she lost the taste of life because she had to need a sum of money equal to 300 Qatari riyals for each dialysis, which was a very heavy amount of money for her. Therefore, she used to go to the hospital for dialysis when she such an amount of money, which caused the deterioration of her health and psychological condition. It was a journey of sorrow and suffering.

However, a ray of hope loomed to her, when she came to know about the RS Rumah Sehat Terpadu Dompet Dhuafa in Bogor, which registered her name in the category of poor patients to cover the costs of her treatment. Since then, Mahar Dewi receives her treatment regularly at the hospital and thanks those who did this great deed that changed her life completely.

**Free Medical Services**
The story of Mahar Dewi is that of hundreds of poor patients receiving free medical aid and services from the hospital built completely by Qatar Charity due to the needs of Bogor and the economic and social conditions of its residents.

«We are very pleased that Qatar Charity has constructed this hospital in the northern area of Bogor, which did not have such a health facility,» says Chief of the Health Bureau in Bogor, Dr. Triwaiwo Harini.

For his part, Dr. Zakaria, the director of the hospital, said that he has no words to express his feelings of gratitude for this precious gift and noble deed funded by donors in the State of Qatar.

**Facilities**
It is noteworthy that the hospital, which was built in 2012, has integrated health facilities such as operating rooms, emergency rooms, an intensive care unit, a nutrition center, and other units. Qatar Charity began expanding this hospital, which has 60 free beds for the poor and orphans. The 1,200-square-meter hospital worth QR 4 mn, at its full capacity, benefits approximately 9,500 patients every month.

**Qatar Charity’s Health Projects in Indonesia**
Since 2017, Qatar Charity has so far implemented 11 health projects in eight provinces of Indonesia, including the Vulnerable Dumbet Hospital in Bogor, which has benefited tens of thousands of people.
patients in Indonesia
Qatar Charity among top brands to support battle against COVID-19

Qatar Charity (QC) has achieved another distinction to add to its series of distinguished successes in the humanitarian and community service field, with being ranked as one of Qatar’s top 10 most supportive brands that have participated in supporting the country during the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

This came based on phone interviews conducted by Ipsos, a global multinational market research and a consulting firm, with 500 respondents between April 23 and May 2020,12. As per the interviews, Qatar Charity, Qatar Red Crescent, Al Meera, Qatar National Bank, Doha Bank, Qatar Airways, Qatar Foundation, Ministry of Public Health, Ooredoo, and Qatar Petroleum are perceived as the most supportive brands in Qatar.

Syria

Printing 9 million textbooks for displaced Syrian children

Qatar Charity (QC) has completed the second phase of the ‘Printing and Distributing School Textbooks’ project in northern Syria, with support from the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) within the framework of the ‘Quest’ initiative.

By printing and distributing nearly 4mn textbooks to children, Qatar Charity has benefited 472,925 male and female students during the 2020-2019 academic year, according to a press statement.

The project comes within the framework of the ‘Improving the Level of Education for More Than One Million Children’ project launched by Qatar Charity in 2017, aiming to improve the education infrastructure in northern Syria and create an appropriate environment to promote the return of children to schools.
Qatar Charity wins Orphan Care Excellence Award

Qatar Charity (QC) won the Orphan Care Excellence Award (Kafel) for the current year 2020, from the Regional CSR Network in co-operation with regional and international organizations and bodies.

This come during its participation in the activities of the 3rd World Conference on Orphan Care 2020, which was held remotely and attended by an elite of international humanitarian experts and advisors and organized via digital remote technologies.

Qatar Charity was honored with the award for its role in supporting comprehensive orphan care services in the social, health, educational and entertainment fields.

Prosthetic eye project restores smile to 20 faces

Some 20 people, who lost one of their eyes because of direct injuries, benefited from the prosthetic eye project, which was implemented by Qatar Charity in coordination with the Ministry of Social Development and organizations specialized in rehabilitating the visually impaired in the Gaza Strip.

The project contributed to easing the economic burdens on the beneficiary families with the visually impaired, in addition to providing them with glass eyes to improve the aesthetic shape of their faces due to their inability to purchase and install these eyes.

The project also brought about a change in the lives of the visually impaired by improving the aesthetic facial shape. Besides, the beneficiaries of this project were trained to take care of the glass eye by the manufacturer.
Kyrgyzstan

Pact with health ministry

Qatar Charity (QC) signed a cooperation agreement with the Embassy of Qatar in the Kyrgyz Republic and the Ministry of Health of the country to provide 420 oxygen concentrators, aiming at supporting the country’s fight against the coronavirus (COVID-19).

The singing of the agreement took place in the presence of His Excellency Abdullah Al-Sulaiti, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Kyrgyzstan, the State Secretary of the Kyrgyz Health Ministry Kalysbek Shadykhanov, and the director of Qatar Charity’s office in the country, Engineer Hasan Ali Ovda.

The agreement falls within the scope of Qatar Charity’s relief efforts aimed at reducing the spread of COVID-19 in Kyrgyzstan, where its office has carried out a variety of relief activities in the fields of health and food security.

Syria

Operating four health centers

Four primary health care centers have been developed and operated within Syria with funding from the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and in partnership with the Qatar Charity, at an estimated cost of 7,300,000 Qatari riyals, to support 144,000 people in northern Syria. The medical centers, which have been in operation since August 2019, are located in Idlib.

This project aims to improve the medical situation in northern Syria, in coordination with local and international organizations operating in the health sector and United Nations coordination and technical bodies such as UN Health Cluster, World Health Organization (WHO), and UNICEF.
The event was also attended by the representatives of the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS), Start Network, OCHA, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The participants in the event agreed on the need to use knowledge tools to address crises in the future as required, especially in the case of fragile societies unable to cope with epidemic shocks and sudden risks.

Event on building resilience in fragile countries

Qatar Charity (QC), in cooperation with Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), organized a virtual side event on “Building Resilience in Fragile Countries to COVID-19 and beyond: A Qatari Perspective” on the sidelines of the 2020 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which was held in New York on July 2020, 16-8.

Annual forum for field offices across world

Qatar Charity (QC) has held the annual forum for its field offices remotely in cooperation with the Regulatory Authority for Charitable Activities (RACA). The forum was attended by Ibrahim bin Abdullah Al Dehaimi, general manager of RACA, Youssef bin Ahmed Al Kuwari, CEO of Qatar Charity, and a large number of its officials, experts, and field managers as well as staff in 34 countries across the world. Besides, experts from RACA and the National Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Committee (NAMLC) also participated in the forum. The forum aims to enhance coordination between the headquarters of Qatar Charity and its field offices around the globe, develop staff capabilities and strengthen the role of field offices in coordinating at the local, governmental and international levels.
Qatar Charity (QC) has signed a cooperation and partnership agreement with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Turkey, to provide nutrition services to some 24,000 children under the age of 5 and nearly 11,360 pregnant and breastfeeding women in rural Aleppo, where these internally displaced persons suffer from severe malnutrition. The project, valued at QR900,000 provided by OCHA, will be implemented, monitored and regularly followed up by the Qatar Charity Regional Office and its field teams in Turkey. The implementation of the project, which began in early July 2020, will continue until the end of June 2021.

Jordanian Prime Minister Dr Omar al-Razzaz has praised the contributions that Qatar Charity (QC) made in support of the kingdom’s efforts in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic.

This came in a letter of thanks from the prime minister, in which he expressed pride in the depth of relations between Qatar and Jordan under their wise leadership, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn al-Hussein.

As part of its global efforts aimed at curbing the Covid-19 outbreak and extending support to the affected, Qatar Charity has equipped 400 caravans for quarantine services and medical checkups on the southeast borders of Jordan, at an estimated cost of QR4mn and with a capacity of 3,600 people, aimed at examining those arriving through the borders.
Syria

Second phase of the «Sham Deserves» campaign

Qatar Charity (QC) continues implementing the second phase of the «Sham Deserves» campaign launched in cooperation with Qatar Media Corporation (QMC).

The second phase, which consists of six multi-sector projects valued at QR 50mn, is expected to benefit more than 800,000 displaced people in northern Syria.

Qatar Charity managed to deliver 88 relief trucks to northern Syria in June 2020. The relief aid consists of food baskets, hygiene kits, drinking water tanker trucks, fuel for water stations. Some 340 trucks are expected to be delivered.

Pakistan

Assistance delivered to COVID - 19, quake-hit people

Qatar Charity (QC), through its office in Pakistan, has distributed 4,000 hygiene kits to government quarantine centers and other health facilities across the country, and delivered aid to those affected by the 2019 earthquake and the current year’s heavy snowfall in Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

This assistance comes from Qatar Charity within the framework of its global efforts to curb the spread of Covid19 in various parts of the world.

The distribution of the assistance took place in all provinces of the country, in co-operation with the local authorities and in co-ordination with the State Disaster Management Authority and Provincial Disaster Management Authority.
In Qatar

Besides, the Udhiyah project, valued at more than QR3mn, has benefited 77,435 persons within the State of Qatar where the beneficiaries comprised low-income families, widows, the families of orphans registered with Qatar Charity, workers, and the Asian and Arab expatriate communities residing in the country.

Worldwide

1.7 million beneficiaries of ‘Udhiyah’

Qatar Charity’s (QC) Udhiyah (sacrificial animals) campaign has benefited more than 1.7 million persons in need in 32 countries worldwide, especially in crisis and coronavirus-hit regions, at a total cost of more than 24 million Qatari riyals. The beneficiaries included orphans, poor families, and the sick, and persons with special needs sponsored by Qatar Charity, as well as the poor, the needy, the displaced, refugees, and those affected by the coronavirus (COVID19-) pandemic.
Infected with COVID-19, Dr. Mustafa sets example in humanitarian action

At a time when everyone left their workplace to stay safe at home from the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought our lives to a standstill, the medical community including doctors, nurses and the medical staff, as well as volunteers and aid workers are true warriors who are fighting the pandemic on the frontlines and putting their own lives at risk to keep others safe.

Dr. Mustafa Haj Omar, who works as a health official at Qatar Charity’s office in Gaziantep, Turkey, is one of those heroes who were infected with the virus while delivering humanitarian service to the vulnerable in an exceptional situation on the Syrian-Turkish borders.

Due to the spread of the disease in Turkey at that time, the Crisis Cell allowed for work remotely from home. However, after controlling the situation, Dr. Mustafa returned to his office and began to work, taking all safety measures.

One of his colleagues at the office become indisposed and was treated with some painkillers, and that is why he did not take more precautions towards his colleague and continued to work as usual. When his colleague’s condition worsened and tested positive for the coronavirus, he realized that he was infected with the virus as well, which required him to be completely isolated from his pregnant wife and his three-year-old daughter.

Dr. Mustafa says that it was very challenging to make the little daughter understand the critical situation when she tries to come close to the father.

He was not only responsible for his family, but also was in charge of the coronavirus response projects implemented by Qatar Charity in Syria.

Due to this huge responsibility, Dr. Mustafa had to continue his work with the help of some painkillers, especially since his infection with the virus coincided with the announcement of the first cases of the coronavirus in northern Syria.

A sense of responsibility allowed this humanitarian hero to continue humanitarian work despite being infected and risks.
Qatar Charity marked World Humanitarian Day (WHD) 2020 under the theme ‘Providing life-saving support during the pandemic’ to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service. This day is observed on 19 August every year.

On this day, the world commemorates humanitarian workers who have lost their lives working for humanitarian causes or became injured in the course of their work, and honors all humanitarians who continue to provide life-saving support and protection to people most in need.

**Constant efforts to fight COVID-19 globally**

The most significant humanitarian efforts made by Qatar Charity within and outside the State of Qatar are as follows:

**Within Qatar**
- The number of beneficiaries of all the aid is more than 1,168,952 persons.
- Qatar Charity fully equipped -852 bed quarantine facility for workers in the Industrial Area of Qatar.
- It organized awareness and preventive campaigns for workers, during which personal hygiene kits, sanitizers, masks, and multilingual awareness leaflets were distributed.

**Worldwide**
- It established 14 community isolation units in northern Syria, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- It sent 7 ton medical aid for medical personnel in Sudan.
- It provided medical aid for several countries, including Lebanon, Tunisia, Palestine, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Yemen, Mali, Chad and Kenya.

**International Agreements**
- A 1.5 mn agreement with UNHCR to provide emergency assistance to Syrian refugees throughout Lebanon
- Two grant agreements with UNICEF for a total of 2 mn to provide water, sanitation and hygiene services for Syrian refugees in Jordan, and support UNICEF’s efforts to improve Covid19-preparedness and response in Syria

**Awareness Campaign**
‘Heroes against Corona’, a social media awareness campaign for children, families, and the members of society, launched in cooperation with UNICEF to protect them from the coronavirus (COVID19-) pandemic by encouraging them to follow precautionary and preventive measures

**Supportive Brands**
Qatar Charity was ranked as one of Qatar’s top 10 most supportive brands that have participated in supporting the country during the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, based on phone interviews conducted by Ipsos, a global multinational market research and a consulting firm.
Creative Volunteering: The value-added humanitarian action

Ali AlRachied

Nearly 18 million people follow the «Humans of New York» Facebook page and more than 10.6 million people follow the same page on Instagram. Despite this huge number of its followers, the page tries to present their true stories realistically and reflect their human conditions, through which they go, using truthful words and insightful pictures. 

Humans of New York

The page also allows everyone to communicate with each other and share their suffering and situations in a greater manner. It adopts many successful and popular charitable initiatives to help people in times of adversity, or the sick to ease their sorrow and hardship.

Brandon Stanton, the owner of the page, which was created in 2010, not only photographed hundreds of New Yorkers, shedding light on the social and humanitarian aspects of their lives, as well as their problems, but also photographed the lives of people in more than 20 countries, including Iraq And Uganda, Vietnam, Congo, Iran and others.

In 2013, Stanton gathered materials from his Facebook page in a book bearing the same page name, which became the Number One New York Times non-fiction bestseller. In the same year, Stanton was named one of the TIME’ magazine’s 30 Under 30 World Changers.

As literature and art can deliver a noble message and express lofty ideas and feelings, both can be supportive of charitable work by publicizing humanitarian issues, highlighting the pains of the vulnerable, and restoring their hope in engaging and attractive ways through novels, stories, plays, films and paintings.

Wonder

Among such influential works, to name but a few, is Wonder, a children’s novel penned by R. J. Palacio. Wonder has been a bestseller in the United States and has won several awards. Many schools are using it to start discussions about bullying, friendship and being different.

The Novel was adapted for the 2017 film that received positive responses, many of which described it as one of the best films of the season at the time. The film discusses the topics emotionally presented by the book, bringing a mix of happy and sad tears and keeping viewers light-hearted with plenty of good laughs.

The Wonder novel and film tell the incredible story of August Pullman (Jacob Tremblay), a boy born with facial defects, who underwent many surgeries, but none of them helped him look «normal».

He was home-schooled. When his mother realizes she is not smart enough to continue teaching him at home and thinks he should go to school. At first, Auggie hates the idea of going to school. However, at the end, he decides to do so.

Like many kids, Auggie is frightened on the first day, as he knows that people will be afraid to look at or even touch him. Fortunately, he makes friends at schools, and then a frightening and dramatic event at his school changes things completely.

Perhaps the secret of the work (the book and the film) lies in its painful reality that shows children being bullied and annoyed by their peers, and, at the same time, provides real and lasting hope to those going through hardship due to the existence of good individuals in society.

Like ‘Wonder’ many other literary and artistic works addressed humanitarian issues effectively and creatively, leaving a positive impact on people and urging them to do good and support those in need.

The works similar to the aforementioned one can fall under what might be named «Intellectual or Creative Volunteering». Therefore, those with literary, cultural, media and artistic talents can contribute directly or indirectly to humanitarian action and raise awareness of humanitarian issues such as poverty, diseases, epidemics and their social, economic and psychological impacts on individuals and societies.

Other Models

In addition to the aforesaid, the intellectual and creative volunteering includes others like an artist giving some or all profits of his paintings to charity work, an actor or a signer supporting humanitarian campaigns of charitable organizations, a researcher allocating the profits of a book for a charitable project, or an inventor designing a product for the needy or an instrument to facilitate relief work.
I, my siblings as well as my mother suffered the difficulties like every grieved family. It was not easy to attend school, arrange clothing against harsh winters and manage other things,” Stated Mehran.

Mehran is the eldest among his six siblings and for him, all this was beyond his imagination. Their lives had changed forever. Recalling the miseries of being a small child in need of support, Mehran terms that state of dealing with the trauma as the biggest challenge of his life.

Fortunately, Mehran and his younger sister were enrolled into Qatar Charity’s Orphan Care & Welfare Program when a Qatar Charity Team visited them. This enabled them to continue their education without facing much difficulties.

“When we received the support, we were very happy because we had no problem in getting clothes, buying school material and having good beds,” recalls Mehran.

With support from Qatar Charity, Mehran continued his education with zeal and after completing his Faculty of Science, he enrolled into a three year electrical engineering course that he completed successfully. After that, he received appointment in the same department where his father had worked and died while serving the people.

“It is a matter of satisfaction that I am part of department that brings light into their houses when it is dark,” says Mehran.

When asked about his experience with Qatar Charity, Mehran said, “It is my home and my family. I am what I am today because of the much-needed support that came from Qatar Charity. I will remain grateful to it for all what it does for children.”

Mehran himself remained sponsored with Qatar Charity for over 8 years. Now he is supporting the work of Qatar Charity voluntarily in terms of contacting orphans for activities, and referring needy and deserving orphans to Qatar Charity for sponsorship and participation in events like Ramadan, Qurbani, Eid gifts, zakat ul Fitr, Qatar Sports Day, and Global Hand Washing Day activities, etc.