

Ghiras

Issue 25

Periodic Magazine by Qatar Charity
Ramadan 1442 AH - May 2021

**IDPs and refugees miss
homeland's Ramadan
atmosphere**

**10 years on largest
humanitarian crisis**

**Social Responsibility
Award for Qatar
Charity**

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QATAR CHARITY
qcharity.org

نوصلها
للمستحقين

Your Sadaqah
is a Gift

صدقاتكم
هدايا

We Deliver it
to Those Most
Deserving



+100,000
مستخدم
Users

+ 250,000
مستفيد سنوياً

Beneficiaries
Per Year

الآن

يمكنك أن تطلب
من مكانك خدمة
المحصل المنزلي
لتحصيل تبرعك
عبر مسح رمز
QR من جوالك

NOW

We Come to
Your Home Now
Scan QR Code
to Request a QC
Representative





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.

GENERAL SUPERVISOR
AHMED AL-ALI

Editor - in - Chief
Ali AL-RASHID

Managing Editor
TAMADOR AL-QADI

EDITOR - CUM- TRANSLATOR
MOHAMMAD ATAUR RAB

PHOTOGRAPHER
MOHEMED ENAS A. ALEEM
Musa Shorbaji

DESIGNER
KHADIR AL-SHEIKH HILAL

ADVERTISING & DISTRIBUTION
SALEH AHMED ABDEL-GABBAR

Coordination & Follow-up
IBRAHIM FETIAN ELSHARIF

P.O.BOX 1224 DOHA - QATAR

TEL:+974 44667711

FAX: +974 44667733

E.MAIL: ghiras@qcharity.org

WEB: www.qcharity.org

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Electronic copy

Please send us your email to :

ghiras@qcharity.org

Printed copy

Cost 10 QAR to benefit QC development projects. Please call : +974 44667711

As this issue comes out in the blessed month of Ramadan, it brings many humanitarian pieces related to the nature of the month, which is a season of solidarity and compassion, a time to create and restore hope, and an opportunity to intensify good deeds and give a reason to a grieving broken heart to rejoice.

Persons in debt and the humanitarian cases in Qatar were the focus of the drive launched by Qatar Charity within the framework of its 'Al-Aqraboon' initiative to relieve them of their troubles and reunite them with their families. The initiative stems from the Hadith "I think you should spend it on your nearest relatives", in which the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) has urged to do good for the benefit of relatives. The initiative, which is in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030, affirms Qatar Charity's attention towards the local community service.

At a time when refugees, the displaced, and the needy struggle to secure food for their children, due to no stable source of income, they welcome the holy month amid the continuing coronavirus pandemic for the second year in a row. Qatar Charity's 'Ramadan of Hope', therefore, comes to encourage the kind-hearted and benevolent people to 'Give the Gift of Hope' to the underprivileged and the destitute by supporting Qatar Charity's seasonal projects and humanitarian activities, as it aims to benefit 2.2 million people in 33 countries across the globe.

This issue brings many pieces on the Ramadan of refugees and the displaced, with reports shedding light on tough humanitarian and living conditions in the Syrian displacement and refugee camps, as well as, in the Palestinian and Rohingya refugee camps, and highlighting the Ramadan traditions of these vulnerable peoples. The issue also sheds light on a decade-long Syrian crisis, which remains a terrifying humanitarian tragedy and the largest displacement crisis globally.

The issue also documents the Social Responsibility Award 2021 for the Humanitarian Work Sector, which was granted to Qatar Charity in appreciation of its great role against the Covid-19 pandemic within and outside Qatar.

May Allah accept our acts of worship and good deeds.



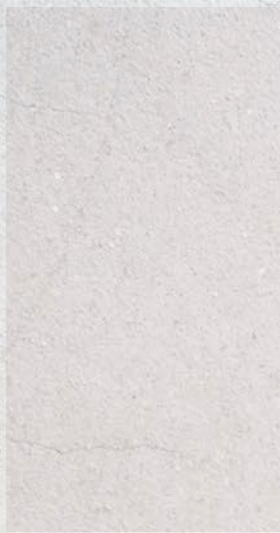
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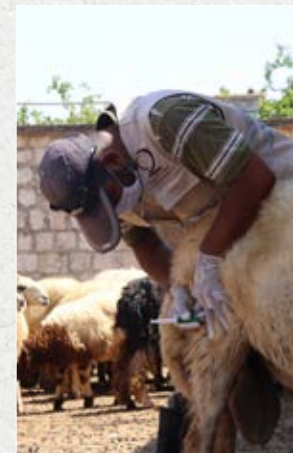
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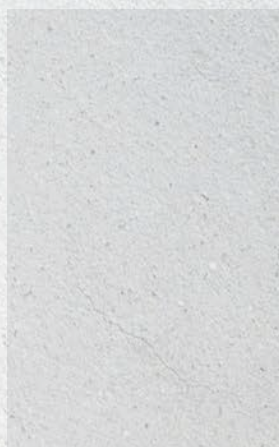
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Ramadan of refugees and IDPs in camps



Refugees and IDPs struggling to make ends meet in Ramadan

Muslims all over the world are getting ready to welcome Ramadan, the month of fasting and doing good deeds. Ramadan is a time to strengthen the relationship with Allah Almighty and connect with families, friends and neighbors, as it brings them together at Iftar tables, as well as in prayer times.

This year, with social distancing measures in place in many countries due to the coronavirus pandemic, Ramadan will be similar to the previous year and may feel like a lonely month and many unique and special traditions many not be celebrated.

However, Ramadan may also be a more challenging time, especially for internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees who live under a very tougher circumstance. The anxieties of these vulnerable people are mounting as they are struggling to meet their basic needs in the holy month of Ramadan, and millions of them go hungry with nothing to eat or drink. During this stressful period, they have to wait for help and support from benefactors to experience Ramadan spirituality that Muslims live across the globe.

In refugee camps of many countries across the



globe, a large number of families live miserable life under terrifying conditions caused by the coronavirus pandemic, in addition to economic crises and various other problems. These families lack access to water sources, food and health systems. Amidst this worrying situation, they have to welcome Ramadan, the month of



fasting.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) stated that millions of refugees and IDPs will observe the holy month of Ramadan amid poverty and suffering, while thousands of vulnerable families are unable to meet their food needs.

The pandemic and the global economic downturn have pushed many millions of people into extreme poverty. Many refugees and displaced families say they have lost their source of daily income, and are now facing high-level food insecurity, while Yemen is on the brink of famine again.

Coronavirus increases suffering of Palestinian refugees in Ramadan

Fadi AlHasani, Palestine

Mahmoud Shreim, a 59 - year old Palestinian refugee from Al-Shati Camp located in the northern Gaza Strip, fears that the camp's mosque will remain closed in the month of Ramadan like the last year, due to the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. "We wait for Ramadan desperately to intensify our acts of worship and good deeds by observing i'tikaf (seclusion) in the mosque," says Shreim, noting that this is not possible due to the pandemic.

Shreim, says that as a large number of family heads have no job opportunities, they want to spend their Ramadan time outside of their homes. "Ramadan is the month of kindness, generosity, giving, and relief aid that meet the needs of thousands of homes in this dilapidated camp," added Shreim. "We always have great hope for an improvement in these conditions.»

Nearly 1.4 million refugees live in eight camps



located in five governorates of the Gaza Strip, which has a population of more than two million.

For the second year in a row, the coronavirus pandemic has multiplied the suffering of refugees living in camps where the population density is a barrier to practicing social distancing and taking precautionary measures.

Abdel Halim Joudeh, 35, from Nuseirat Camp located in the Deir al-Balah Governorate, Gaza Strip, indicates that it is difficult to enforce social distancing rules in a 588 - dunum camp inhabited by more than 80,000 people.

Judah, a construction worker, noted that the population's needs are difficult to be met in light of the high rates of poverty and



unemployment. « Iftar and pre-dawn meal are more important than sanitizers and masks. Thousands of families in this camp can not afford a single mask. Due to this challenging situation, it is not possible to limit the spread of coronavirus in these camps.”

This is the painful story of each camp in the Gaza Strip where some women sew protective masks to protect their children from the coronavirus. Saida Al-Najjar, who is one of these women, from Khan Yunis, worked hard and sewed protective masks for her five children.

Saadia, 30, says, “As my husband has no work, we can not spend on masks, and we are fully dependent on relief aid through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). However,

this does not mean that we give up and do not take the necessary precautionary measures against the coronavirus. I sew masks for children to protect them from being infected with the coronavirus.”

When Ramadan comes, the needs of Saadia’s family increase. “The consumption of food and drink during Ramadan doubles. However, we believe that Allah will not deprive us of his bounty, and that benevolent people will not forget us.»

She pointed out that she has nothing to provide new clothes for her children on Eid al-Fitr, praying Allah for a better life for them and for their safety from the epidemic.

Under shadow of COVID-19, a tougher Ramadan for Syrian IDPs

**Ibrhim Abdulssalam Khankan,
Turkish-Syrian Border**

‘We are waiting for Allah’s mercy and relief’ is a sentence that expresses the plight and pain of the internally displaced Syrians living a terrible condition in the camps of Idlib. They are in dire need of humanitarian assistance in light of the continued coronavirus, especially they have welcomed the blessed month of Ramadan in the camps where many basic needs are not met. They, therefore, wait for the mercy from Allah and support from benevolent people.

Living away from their homes, the Syrian IDP community does not have a joyful Ramadan atmosphere in their makeshift tents and shelters. Now, they have no Musharati beating a drum to wake Muslims up to have the predawn meal before they start their long-day fast. They miss the family gathering every evening for breaking the fast, and the moment when they used to go individually and in groups to pray Tarawih. These all Ramadan traditions are missing in the camps where the Syrian refugees and internally displaced persons live.

The camps on the countryside of Idlib Governorate, in northern Syria, lack the necessities of life, including infrastructure and other requirements. The IDPs have no job opportunities, and live in a very problematic situation, waiting permanently for humanitarian assistance.

In light of these challenging situations, the IDPs did not enjoy the atmosphere of Ramadan, as Salim Primo, an IDP living in a camp of

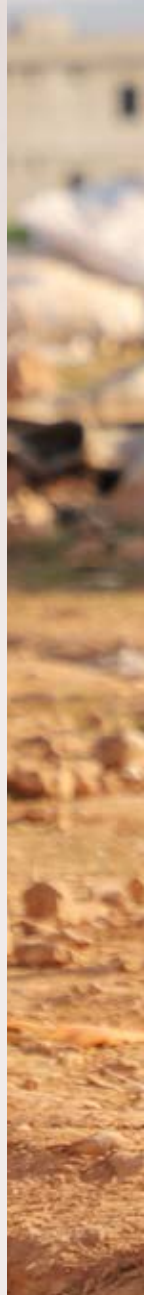
Idlib, says, “Ramadan is a month of great joy and worship, but in the camps, we live in a nightmare during this month. We used to celebrate this month, inviting families and friends. However, in these days, we have no homes, and live in this tent amid this mud. We have no gas, and use firewood to cook. We do not have cooking materials such as oil, rice and lentils. We used to share food with neighbors during Ramadan, but due to the coronavirus, this practice is also missing.”

“We pray Allah to lift us out of this plight, in addition to praying for those who extend a helping hand to us. We are truly living in tragic conditions, due to the displacement and the lack of the necessities of life,” Primo added.

Jamal Al-Ali, an IDP also living in a camp of Idlib, says, “There are many difficulties, due to the lack of money, and we have no work in the camp, in addition to the coronavirus that has further worsened the situation.”

«We were living a dignified life, sharing the food with others during the month of Ramadan, recalls Al-Ali. “Now, we do not have enough food for our family members, and we wait for the mercy from Allah and the support from benefactors.”

This is how the Syrian IDPs spend their Ramadan, looking forward to a month of fasting in the future without any plight caused by displacement and coronavirus.





Hunger is scarier than coronavirus for Rohingyas in Ramadan

Mohammad Moin Uddin Khan, Bangladesh

Even a few years ago, the Rohingyas people had a tidy life. However, the brutal and cruel violence, which was committed against them in the Rakhine state of Myanmar on August 2017, shattered their dream, snatched their citizenship, forced them to flee their home to many parts of the world where they have to live a miserable life as refugees.

Most of those, who were lucky to survive the genocide and ethnic cleansing, have taken refuge in Bangladesh. In Teknaf and Ukhiya Upazila in southeastern Cox's Bazar District of the country, more than 1.2 million Rohingyas live in the world's largest refugee camp.

A number of the refugees were recently shifted to the Bashan Char, a remote Bay of Bengal island in the Noakhali district where there are facilities to accommodate 100,000 refugees out of million Rohingya refugees who fled waves of violent persecution in their native country.

The coronavirus pandemic has indeed made the life of Rohingyas more miserable in the camps since last year. According to the Cox's Bazar District Civil Surgeon's Office, as of March of this year, only 432 Rohingyas have been infected with COVID-19, and 10 of them died. At present, there are only 26 people in isolation.

Many government and non-government organizations are working door to door in the camps to raise awareness among the refugees and urge them to take precautionary measures to stay safe from the coronavirus.



UNHCR says COVID-19 caused the greatest disruption of education in history, threatening to destroy the dreams of millions of children, especially refugees. In Bangladesh, 52% of Rohingya refugees are children.

The Rohingyas refugees have expressed that for them, the hunger is more frightening than the coronavirus, and they are more concerned with finding some food to feed their families than anything else.

Ramadan and Their Terrible Reality

As they are already struggling to survive in light of the continued coronavirus, depending on the relief aid, the holy month of Ramadan is approaching, which is a very significant month for the Rohingya people as Muslims. They used to observe this month in a very special manner in their country before their displacement that caused the loss of their homes and the disappearance of their Ramadan traditions. However, they



attempt to relive some of these traditions in the refugee camps where they barely meet the demand for three meals a day and they have to wait for relief to survive.

Abdul Malek, a 40 year-old Rohingya refugee, says, "In Myanmar, welcoming the holy month of Ramadan used to be a special moment overwhelmed with joy. I used to have many delicious foods on the Iftar table. However, due to no work here, I am not able to buy Iftar items."

Abdul Malik adds "I faced great difficulties during the first two years in the camp, then I tried to cope with them. The food aid provided by Qatar Charity, the World Food Program and other governmental and non-governmental organizations helped us survive."

Each of Saleha, Julekha, and Sanjida, who live in the Rohingya refugee camps, has lost one of their family members.

"Whenever Ramadan comes, I miss my mother very much, especially at the Iftar time, and the joyful moments of breaking the fast with the family members come to my mind. However,

we are all trying to start over," with sobbed voice, said Saleha, who lost her mother in the cruel massacre committed against the Rohingya people in Myanmar

Food Shortage

When Lokman, a Rohingya in Bangladesh, was asked about his Ramadan in Myanmar, he said, "There was certainly no food shortage for us. We used to send Iftar meals to our mosques. However, Iftar is not available here in the refugee camp for most families, which is painful."

"There are nine members in my family, with no sons. As My husband is very old, he is not able to earn a living for us. We only wait for the relief aid. We lost all our savings and belongings when we fled Rakhine, Myanmar," said Zulekha, a 55 - year-old Rohingya woman. "Here in Ramadan we hardly have enough Iftar and sahour meals."

Grabbing media attention for a noble cause



Mohammad Al-Masum Molla

As millions of people, across the world, still suffer from hunger, deprivation, and poverty, the press must pay close attention to the underprivileged to keep the world aware of their challenging living conditions.

When the press, whose role is that of an ombudsman, brings more reports on the humanitarian issues, it will eventually help the humanitarian organizations to come forward with more aid for the voiceless and marginalized, helping the vulnerable emancipate from the restrictions that prevent them from living in dignity.

As a watchdog and the fourth organ of the state, it is the press that serves the public interest to inform, educate, and entertain the people, and thereby probes to find inconsistencies and irregularities. It tries to bring out the issues that directly or indirectly affect public life. Given this huge role of the media, it can help uplift the standard of living for the deprived by covering their stories.

Volunteerism and humanitarian activities should be what societies aspire for. It is humane and natural to help the distraught, feed the hungry, house the impoverished. Those principles are at the core of every country's constitution and the charter of every organization.

It is not, however, natural or expected when we deviate from such principles. Even when there is no such prior commitment, it is considered among the social values and customs that the wealthy will stand beside their poorer brethren in times of need.

They are regular and routine unless there is a heroic element. Volunteer doctors risking their lives in a battlefield, aid workers braving violent frontlines to bring food and water to the hungry will certainly get coverage. But they would only capture the imagination of the readers for a couple news cycles.

Many organizations and individuals carry out voluntary work round the year. However, only a few of them get media attention.

The newness has a strong motivation in media coverage. When an organization or individual does the same voluntary job over and over again it loses appeal. So, when the noble causes were publicized, there must be something new. And, only a newsperson or a seasoned journalist knows how to portray an ordinary thing in an extraordinary way.

For example, many kids, across the world, are still out of school. So, if a humanitarian organization comes forward with an online class for kids, providing electronics devices and internet connections free of cost for a certain group of underprivileged kids, then this is a new issue and certainly, media will get interested to cover it and replicate it in their respective countries.

Uniqueness or novelty is also a big draw. Media highlights unusual work or incidents or phenomena as readers are curious to know about it. As every initiative has some uniqueness, it should be on focus. For example, a humanitarian organization launches a program titled "Food for Learning". If a kid attends school, that kid will receive a meal of the day. This is something new as it serves two purposes—learning and providing food.

The most important thing is that the impact of interventions, a change made in a vulnerable persons' life by the organization, or expected significant results of the humanitarian activities should be on focus. Besides, the involvement of dignitaries in the humanitarian and volunteering activities promotes the noble work, and grabs media attention. This eventually will serve a noble humanitarian cause.

Another important point is that the people at the humanitarian organizations should come forward and open up with the media personnel. The more they will establish a relationship with them, the more coverage the organizations will get.

Finally, there is no alternative for engaging professional people in media coverage. Organizations must engage media professionals with innovative ideas in writing press releases, and organize press conferences whenever they launch campaigns and implement a significant project.

Qatar Charity's Relief Interventions for Syrian Refugees and IDPs in 10 Years (2011 - 2020)



Total Cost of Provided Aid

898.2 Million
Qatari Riyals



Total Beneficiaries

22.8 Million
Refugees and IDPs

Areas of Interventions:



Shelter & Non-Food-Items



3,105,938
Beneficiaries



348,567,262
Qatari Riyals



Social Cohesion & Livelihoods



37,654
Beneficiaries



7,269,319
Qatari Riyals



Education



3,518,711
Beneficiaries



99,737,135
Qatari Riyals



Psychosocial Support



31,023
Beneficiaries



59,163,000
Qatari Riyals



Health



3,622,397
Beneficiaries



123,484,065
Qatari Riyals



Food, Nutrition and Food Security



10,843,050
Beneficiaries



220,154,984
Qatari Riyals



Water & Sanitation



434,906
Beneficiaries



10,841,430
Qatari Riyals



Multi-Sector



1,198,547
Beneficiaries



87,475,790
Qatari Riyals

Interventions by Country (IDPs and Refugees)



In Syria (IDPs)

65%

16,187,878

583,771,045



Countries of Asylum

(Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Other Countries)



6,604,349

314,350,572

35%

Give the Gift of Hope through 'Ramadan of Hope' Drive

Slogan & Goal

Although the vulnerable like the displaced, refugees, and the poor are suffering extremely due to the coronavirus, they hope for a better life for themselves, their families, and children.

Qatar Charity has, therefore, chosen 'Give the Gift of Hope' as a slogan for its 'Ramadan of Hope' drive to encourage the kind-hearted and benevolent people in the month of compassion and solidarity to contribute to creating and restoring hope to the poor and the needy, and bringing about a change in their lives.

Number of Beneficiaries Worldwide

Qatar Charity, with the support of benefactors, aims to implement the QR 168 million Ramadan drive to benefit 2.2 million people worldwide.

Countries Worldwide

33 Countries, including Qatar

Method of Implementation

Through field offices around the world and partners.

Key Projects and Assistance:

Feed the Fasting (Food Baskets and Meals)

Zakat Al-Fitr

Eid Clothing

As part of the Ramadan drive, projects will be implemented in crisis-stricken regions, in addition to providing aid to those in debt and coronavirus-hit families in Qatar.



For the second year in a row, Muslims welcome the holy month of Ramadan amid the continued coronavirus pandemic, hoping to overcome it soon.



Projects in Qatar

Number of Beneficiaries:

The projects under the "Ramadan of Hope" campaign are expected to benefit nearly 600,000 people in debt, low-income families, workers and expatriates, in Qatar at an estimated cost of 111 million Qatari riyals.

Types of Projects:

A- Feed the Fasting: This project includes Mobile Iftar for Workers (food baskets and ready-to-eat meals), Mobile Iftar (snacks for those waiting at traffic lights and some other places at the time of Maghrib prayer), and Ramadan Supply (food supplies for the families of orphans and families with limited income):

B - Eid Clothing

C - Eid Gifts for Orphans D - Zakat al-Fitr

E - Assistance in Qatar

The assistance is to be provided to those in debt and their families to help them overcome their financial problems and preserve family cohesion, in



addition to providing aid to the families affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Qatar Charity hopes to provide aid worth QR100 million to these sections of society, with the support of donors in Qatar.

F - Community Programs

These programs include set of awareness and heritage projects, and support voluntary initiatives and community solidarity. The most important ones are as follows:

‘Initiatives’ Challenge 2’ is a competition between several youth initiatives to promote humanitarian projects innovatively.

‘5%’ aims to strengthen social solidarity and support the students and families affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

‘Eid Gifts’ are provided to the sick and the elderly on Eid Al Fitr.

‘Grandma Stories’ are for children and families to learn new values.

Projects outside Qatar

Number of Beneficiaries

Qatar Charity, with the support of donors in Qatar, seeks to benefit 1.6 million people at an estimated cost of 56.7 million Qatari Riyals.

Types of Projects

A- Feed the Fasting

The project includes the distribution of ready-to-eat Iftar meals and food baskets that contain essential foodstuffs for a family for the month of Ramadan. It seeks to benefit 539,590 people at an expected cost

of 22.2 million Qatari Riyals.

B- Zakat Al-Fitr

The distribution of Zakat al-Fitr aims to reduce the financial burden on needy families and share the joy of Eid with them. Some 456,700 people are expected to benefit from the project at an anticipated cost of 5.9 million Qatari riyals.

C - Eid Clothing

This project provides clothes to orphans to share the joy of Eid with them. Some 4,390 children are expected to benefit from the project, at an estimated cost of more than 878,000 Qatari riyals.

D - Relief Aid to Crisis-Hit Regions

Refugees, the displaced, and the poor are expected to benefit from the relief aid in 25 countries, especially in Syria and neighboring countries, Yemen, Somalia, and Palestine.

The assistance will include the distribution of food baskets, in addition to operating bakeries in some countries like northern Syria to provide bread for free. Some 552,000 people are expected to benefit from the aid at an estimated cost of nearly 26.8 million Qatari riyals.



CHARITY PARTNER
شريك إنساني

Charity Partner (CP), world's first trademark to support humanitarian action

In January this year, Qatar Charity (QC) launched Charity Partner (CP), the world's first certificate in the field of humanitarian work support, which is granted to companies within the framework of social responsibility. This comes as part of Qatar Charity's strategic objectives aimed at extending a helping hand to the needy and working on building a better society.

Definition

The CP program is the world's first trademark given to support charitable and development activities, within legal frameworks registered under international provisions, and contributes significantly to developing the community partnerships system.

Goals

The CP program aims to operationalize corporate social responsibility (CSR) and raise awareness in society about the societal roles of companies and institutions. Thus, the product, which has a CP mark, supports humanitarian activities.

Qatar Charity, through this program, aims to expand cooperation with local companies to implement

sustainable charitable projects and social responsibility programs and initiatives. It is also keen to build lasting relationships based on trust and credibility with various individuals and institutions willing to contribute to noble causes.

Benefits of Joining CP

The CP program has many advantages for those joining it, as they can receive free training, and human resource support through volunteers, in addition to delivering assistance to a partner's workers, employees and their families.

Companies with CP

Qatar Charity has welcomed three companies into the CP trademark family under the agreements signed from February to mid-April. They are as follows:

Unilever represented by Almana and Partners under the gold category

Lulu Hypermarket Qatar under the gold category

Al Hattab For Food Stuffs under the bronze category

Al-Aqraboon, an initiative to relieve persons in debt and humanitarian cases of their troubles

Qatar Charity (QC) announced the launch of a campaign for persons in debt and humanitarian cases under the 'Al-Aqraboon' initiative, and launched the 'Al-Aqraboon' app.

This comes in conjunction with Ramadan, the month of kindness, giving, solidarity and compassion, and within the framework of the continuing implementation of projects under Qatar Charity's 'Ramadan of Hope' campaign.

The Al-Aqraboon initiative, with the support of benevolent people in Qatar, aims to provide QR 100 million aid to those in debt and humanitarian cases in Qatar to relieve them of their troubles.

Local Community Service

The Al-Aqraboon initiative and app stem from the Hadith "I think you should spend it on your nearest relatives", in which the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) has urged to do good for the benefit of relatives. The initiative and app came to contribute to the achievement of Qatar National Vision 2030, in the cultural, societal, economic, health and environmental fields. Both, the initiative and app, affirm Qatar Charity's attention towards the local community service, as well as, its keenness to use digital tools to carry out its work transparently and quickly.

Al-Aqraboon App

The Al-Aqraboon app, which is the first of its kind in Qatar, and the new updates of Qatar Charity's app will contribute to easily submitting aid applications for urgent humanitarian cases, and meeting donation and urgent assistance requests.

The app will make it easier for those in debt, humanitarian cases, widows, divorced women, patients and families with limited income to submit their application for assistance online.

How App Works

Applications can be submitted online. The app allows applicants to know required documents that have to be attached to their applications, and follow up them electronically. The app can be downloaded through the link <http://qch.qa/aqraboon-android> and the link <http://qch.qa/aqraboon-ios>.

New Icons to Qatar Charity's App

To support the Al-Aqraboon initiative, Qatar Charity has added four icons to the 'Qatar Charity' app to remind the app users of humanitarian cases, which are humanitarian cases in your area, humanitarian cases in Qatar, give your zakat for persons in debt, and donate periodically for humanitarian cases, respectively.

If a user opens the humanitarian cases page meant for a certain area, a map will appear, showing humanitarian cases in the area. The app also has a reminder feature to urge benefactors to donate for the benefit of humanitarian cases, in addition to encouraging benevolent people to support humanitarian cases close to their place of residence, according to the Hadith "Gabriel kept on recommending me about treating the neighbors in a kind and polite manner, so much so that I thought that he would order (me) to make them (my) heirs."

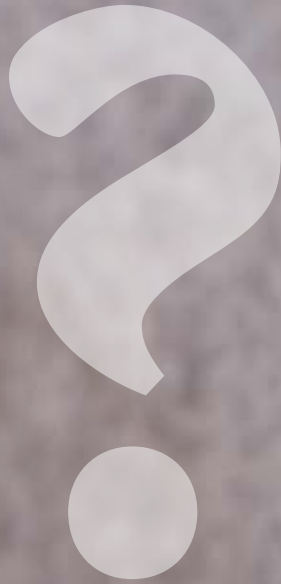


Apple
store



Android





**Any end to the
century's biggest
humanitarian crisis?**



10 years on, daily suffering of Syrians 'worse than ever'

Even after a decade of the Syrian crisis, it remains a terrifying humanitarian tragedy and the largest displacement crisis globally. The humanitarian situation is more problematic than ever. The crisis has left behind widespread destruction and massive damage to infrastructure, and affected the economy badly. Many sectors, especially health and educational facilities, went out of service.

According to UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, 6.6 million people have fled Syria since 2011, of whom 5.6 million hosted in countries near Syria, and another 6.7mn people remain displaced inside the country. As many as 13.4 million people in need of humanitarian and protection assistance in Syria. The UN agency said that 70% of refugees are living in a condition of total poverty, without access to food, water and basic services. The agency also called on the international community to redouble collective efforts to support Syrian refugees and the communities hosting them.

Poverty Levels

"The impact of COVID- 19 on poverty levels among Syrian refugees and host communities in Jordan, Lebanon and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) has been severe and profound in 2020. An estimated 4.4 million people in host communities, close to one million Syrian refugees and 180,000 internally displaced Iraqis in KRI were newly affected by poverty after the beginning of the crisis," according to a new joint study by the World Bank and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) published on the Reliefweb website.

As in previous years, women and girls continue to suffer the worst impacts of the Syrian crisis. Trauma is common among the women and girls of Syria. "The situation for women and girls in Syria is dire and only getting worse," said UNFPA Executive Director, Dr. Natalia Kanem. "With every day, month and year that passes with this conflict, the rights of women and girls are being eroded – and with devastating and long-lasting impacts."

Entire Generation

An entire generation of Syrians has been scarred and is often denied an education, along with suffering from malnutrition and poor living conditions, and thus they had to give up their dreams.

According to the UN agency, children and teens are the most vulnerable individuals: 45% of refugees are under 18, and 1.6 million of refugee children are under 10, including one million living in exile.

"Inside Syria, there are over 2.4 million children out of school, nearly 40 per cent are girls. This number has likely increased in 2020 due to the impact of the COVID- 19 pandemic which exacerbated the disruption to education in Syria. One in three schools inside Syria can no longer be used because they were destroyed or damaged," according to UNICEF. "Children who are able to attend school often learn in overcrowded classrooms, and in buildings with insufficient water and sanitation facilities, electricity, heating or ventilation."





Shelter, a dream of Syrian IDPs to preserve dignity and dispel fears

The particular concern to refugees is the shelter, as many times, they have to live in an open area or overcrowded tents where they have nothing to meet their necessities of life.

The refugees, therefore, have a dream of having something they can name it home. They make utmost efforts to have shelters where they can live, but their dream is not realized many times, due to their challenging and dire situation. To make their dream come true, Qatar Charity has established 11 model villages and a residential city to house tens of thousands of Syrians affected and internally displaced people and refugees.

These modal villages and the residential city, built at an estimated cost of QR 96.5 million, are part of the relief projects aimed at preserving the dignity of displaced and refugee families, securing a safe haven for them, and easing their hardship by providing housing, education, healthcare, and other essential services.

The model villages and the residential city include 5,368 pre-fabricated or concrete housing units to benefit 5,368 families. Some villages have other facilities like schools and health clinics.

Realizing Dreams

The model villages and residential city established in northern Syria have fulfilled the aspirations of a good number of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) to find housing that preserves their dignity and dispels their fears of the bitter winter, heavy rains, and strong winds that used uproot their tents to multiply their suffering. The beneficiary IDPs were extremely delighted with receiving the housing units that protect them from weather fluctuations.

Villages & Cities

These residential facilities established by Qatar Charity to alleviate the suffering of the displaced and refugees are as follows:

The 'Al Rayyan Humanitarian City, which is located in the village of Shamarin in Aleppo countryside,

Qatar Charity's Model villages and residential cities for Syrian IDPs and refugees

is one of the largest shelter projects carried out by Qatar Charity so far. The city includes 1,000 pre-fabricated housing units (caravans), which provide shelter for 6,000 displaced persons. It also has a health clinic, schools consisting of 30 classrooms, a mosque and playgrounds for children.

The 'Competitors Village', situated in Azaz, in a city in northwest Syria, includes 300 pre-fabricated housing units for the benefit of 1,800 displaced persons.

The village in Jarabulus, which is located near the Syrian-Turkish border, has 72 concrete housing units.

The village in Al-Dana, which is located in Idlib countryside, includes 400 concrete housing units for the benefit of 2,400 people, in addition to a medical unit, a school, a well, a mosque and shops.

The Shamarikh Village consists of 1,200 residential units 'caravans', to benefit 1,200 families. There are also three villages in northern Syria, each consisting of 100 housing units 'caravans', to benefit 100 affected families, in addition to another village consisting of 1,000 residential units 'caravans' for the benefit of 1,000 families.

In Camps

In the camps of Aleppo and Idlib governorates, 796 housing units (caravans) were provided to 796 affected families in northern Syria. In the Zaatari Refugee Camp in Jordan, Qatar Charity provided 200 housing units (caravans), a mosque and a health center for the benefit of 200 families. It also contributed to providing 100 housing units (caravans) to 100 Syrian refugee families in a camp in Bar Elias, a town in the Bekaa Governorate,







**In an interview with 'Ghiras' Magazine,
Mr. Kasper Engborg, Deputy Head of OCHA Office, Gaziantep, Turkey:**

3.1 million people in acute need

Speaking to Qatar Charity's magazine, Mr. Kasper Engborg, Deputy Head of OCHA Office, Gaziantep, said that the level of humanitarian need in northwest Syria is increasing due to a decade long conflict and the continued coronavirus pandemic. He also stated that Qatar Charity plays a key role in the coordinated response in Syria, indicating that it has been in Syria for a number of years and its expertise in the area will remain important.

Below is the complete interview:

Based on the humanitarian situation on the ground, what are the biggest challenges facing the humanitarian work in northern Syria, especially after 10 years since the start of the Syrian Crisis and in light of the continued coronavirus pandemic?

The level of humanitarian need in northwest Syria is increasing. There are 4.2 million people in the area, 2.7 million of whom are IDPs, but the overall number



Qatar Charity plays a key role in the coordinated response in Syria

of people in need has increased to 3.4 million this year from 2.8 million last year. 3.1 million of these people are in acute need.

The reason for the increase in need is the cumulative effects of a decade of conflict combined with economic deterioration and COVID19-. One million people were displaced from December 2019 to March 2020, primarily to areas that were already crowded with inadequate services, on top of the millions of displacements before that. Adequate shelter is a particular concern in these areas. Due to the economic downturn brought on by COVID- 19 and other factors, the Syrian pound continues to

fluctuate around an all-time low, making basic supplies almost impossible to afford for many people. More than 21,000 cases of COVID- 19 have been confirmed, and more than 600 deaths.

The largest challenge at the moment is that needs are increasing for the above reasons, while funding may be more challenging to obtain due to the global economic situation. The extension of the Security Council Resolution that enables UN cross-border assistance from Turkey is also up to be vote on in July and is crucial to continue to make sure that the millions of people in humanitarian need in the northwest continue to receive the support they need.

What is your assessment of the current response to the needs of the IDPs and those affected by the conflict in northern Syria? Is there a gap? What is its size and what is your strategy to work on bridging that gap?

Unfortunately, there has always been a gap in meeting needs, with the Humanitarian Response Plan for Syria (which is the humanitarian community's plan to respond to needs each year) usually funded at just over 50% throughout the year.

This year, although the Humanitarian Response Plan is still being created and we don't yet have a total figure, several sectors have highlighted specific funding gaps. Critical funding gaps in the WASH sector could leave some 3 million people without humanitarian WASH support. To meet these needs, US\$ 61 million would be needed over the next six months. In the health sector, eight treatment centres for COVID- 19 have been deactivated since January, due to a lack of funding. Further gaps risk disrupting services, including for surveillance, laboratories, hospitals and primary health centres in the coming months. Funding is also needed for COVID- 19 vaccinations. Gaps in funding protection activities are increasingly leading to the interruption or closure of services, such as services for women and girls, including in relation to gender-based violence. To bridge this gap, sectoral experts are doing an analysis of the funding situation and gaps for the next three months. This will be used to advocate for more funding, and also to help prioritize what the most urgent needs are and how they might best be addressed. The Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund is also about to provide tens of millions of dollars in urgent funding.

From OCHA perspective, what are the priorities that UN agencies and international organizations should focus on in the foreseeable future; keeping in considerations the following factors among others: the large numbers of IDPs residing still in camps, the donors fatigue, the COVID - 19 pandemic continuation and the Syria humanitarian crisis being prolonged for more than 10 years.

Increasingly, humanitarian response needs to focus on needs that are a result of a protracted Situation

The level of humanitarian need in northwest Syria is increasing

of need. This includes better shelter for displaced people, many of whom have been displaced multiple times or for many years; protection services, for people who are more vulnerable in the economic downturn, such as the disabled or female-headed households; livelihoods opportunities, to give people a chance to meet their own needs; nutrition support, for the women and children who are increasingly malnourished due to food insecurity; and education, for children who have been displaced for many years. Support for COVID-19 vaccination is also urgently needed.

Given the global economic situation, it is also important to prioritize the most important activities and coordinate together to bring value for money.

The renewal of the Security Council Resolution that enables UN assistance cross-border from Turkey is also vital, which comes up for a vote in July. At least 40% of assistance into northwest Syria is estimated to be through UN funding, and losing this support would have immediate and catastrophic impacts on people in northwest Syria.

How do you see Qatar Charity's role in responding to the humanitarian needs in northern Syria and its cooperation with OCHA?

As a partner in both the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund and the Humanitarian Response Plan, doing health, WASH, nutrition, food security

and education, Qatar Charity plays a key role in the coordinated response in Syria. It has been in Syria for a number of years and its expertise in the area will remain important.

As coordination improves the overall response and brings value for money, Qatar Charity's continued role in coordination will be crucial to ensure the best possible response.

How does your mission of coordinating between humanitarian actors reflect meeting the IDPs' needs?

Coordination across sectors is important as it improves overall response. For example, if there is not enough food assistance, malnutrition increases, and if malnutrition increases, there is an increased risk of other health complications. If this can be anticipated and planned around, then the impacts can be mitigated.

Coordination also avoids gaps in response and duplication of efforts. It identifies areas where no one is responding and helps to cover these, while it also identifies areas where several organizations may be doing similar work, which can be adjusted to make sure that everyone's needs are met.

Coordination helps identify priorities so that the most urgent needs and funding gaps can be filled. This makes sure the people most in need receive the support they need, and maximizes the value of the funding that humanitarian organizations receive.



10 Years on Syrian IDP and Refugee Crisis

6.6 Million
IDPs

1.6 Million
Refugee Children
(Under the Age of 10)

12.2 Million
IDPs and Refugees

3 Million
Refugee and
Displaced Women
and Children

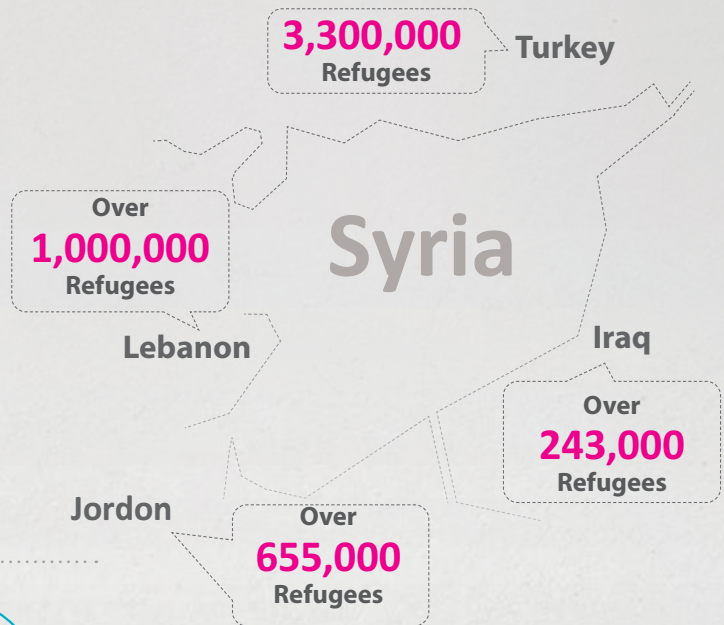
5.6 Refugees
(Turkey, Lebanon,
Jordan, Iraq and
Other Countries)

Host Countries for Syrian Refugees in MENA Region

More than

**13
million**

people need
humanitarian
assistance and
protection



92%

of refugees in
neighboring
countries live in
rural and urban
settings

8%

of them live
in refugee
camps

**6
million**

people are
in desperate
need

80%

of the IDPs
and refugees
live below the
poverty line

Over
**12.4
million**

people in Syria
are struggling to
find enough food
to eat

60%

of all children
in Syria are
now facing
hunger

Over
**2.4
million**

million children
out of school in
Syria

**1.6
million**

children are at
risk of dropping
out



Supporting livestock in northern Syria

As livestock farming in Syria is one of the basic occupations that provide livelihoods for poor families, Qatar Charity extended support to protect the assets of the productive livestock owners and enhance opportunities for increasing income to secure food for these families.

Qatar Charity, therefore, launched a project to support livestock owners to increase their income, and enhance food security for the displaced and host community in northern Syria.

Qatar Charity first surveyed some areas, which were given preference according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the first standard allocation for 2020.

The survey revealed that the population of the

surveyed area is 40%, 457,000 of whom are displaced, livestock is the source of income for nearly 45% of them, 12% of these families are headed by women who work in the livestock sector, and the region has 94,500 goats and 6350 cows.

Project Activities

After the survey, Qatar Charity launched a project in Azaz and Idlib in northwestern Syria, aiming to enhance the local community capacity by establishing two veterinary laboratories to provide services to all livestock breeders without exception in Azaz and Idlib. The existing laboratories will be developed, and new equipment will be brought to turn them into integrated laboratories to detect the diseases of livestock.



The project will also support sheep and cattle farmers by distributing fodder and providing veterinary care and immunizations, in addition to providing technical guidance regarding health care and nutrition. Support will be extended to 30,000 sheep and 200 dairy cows, in addition to establishing a cattle farm in Azaz. The farm will have 25 dairy cows to provide high-quality dairy products and cheeses at reasonable prices.

The project will increase livestock owners' access to veterinary services, fodder, immunizations, and technical guidance, in addition to improving their access to alternative energy by installing 50 biogas units to produce cooking gas from animal dung, to reduce the cost of production in particular. The project will also support the self-reliance of the affected families by protecting and building productive assets and restoring and creating income opportunities. As part of the project, 200 families in the countryside of Azaz will receive laying hens along with fodder, in addition to providing veterinary care.

Beneficiaries' Feedback

Yousef Hamid Al-Shami, a sheep breeder in northern Syria:

Sheep breeding is our main source of income, and I have 35 sheep. In the past years, we have faced great difficulties, due to the high price of feed and the scarcity of natural pasture, in addition to the tough marketing. We also suffer from the difficulty of obtaining medicines and periodic vaccinations for livestock because of their high cost and scarcity.

This was a good year. I received a ton of feed from Qatar Charity in addition to the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccine. This helped me increase profits and benefit from this money to improve other aspects of my work, and took away from me the hassle and hardship of finding the vaccine and securing its price.

Mr. Abdo Rahim Sudan, president of the Peasants Association and official of the Agriculture Office in the Killi village:

The Syrian crisis had a major impact on the livestock sector in northern Syria where the Killi village had approximately 5,000 sheep before the crisis. Today, the number has completely halved. The village used to have more than 200 hectares of natural pastures, which decreased very sharply due to the establishment of camps or factories, in addition to other reasons.

We thank Qatar Charity that contributed to overcoming and addressing part of these challenges, especially in light of no veterinary services for livestock in northern Syria, especially those related to periodic vaccinations.

In its first year, the project provided veterinary services, through mobile veterinary clinics, for livestock in Azaz and Idlib, in addition to distributing fodder to livestock keepers, then it expanded its services to cover the costs of veterinary treatment and establish veterinary clinics and laboratories, in addition to a cattle farm.



Al-Shifa Health Center improves quality of lives in Somalia

Many beneficiaries of the Al-Shifa Clinic, which was established by Qatar Charity (QC) in 2018 in the Yaqshid District of Somalia, expressed their satisfaction with the medical services they receive free of charge.

Before the clinic was set up by Qatar Charity, the 150,000 inhabitants of Yaqshid did not have an easy access to health services, as they had to walk long distances to benefit from primary care services and medical treatment. However, the situation changed when Qatar Charity built the clinic.

Mrs. Fatima Muhammad Ali recalls the problematic

health situation in the area before the clinic was established, as she says «We had to walk a long distance to receive health services for our children.”

She noted that the free health services and medicines provided by the clinic contributed to the improvement of health conditions of the local people, thanking the benefactor in Qatar for supporting the needy and poor.

Mrs. Maida Issa Kahwi, a mother of seven, said that she was not able to bear the costs of treatment and medicines. She is now delighted with free health services she receives for her children from the clinic.



The health care services and free medical treatment provided by the Al-Shifa clinic have contributed to enhancing healthcare services in the area and reducing morbidity and mortality rates among mothers and children under five years.

The 600sqm clinic consists of 11 rooms, a waiting area, an outpatient clinic, a maternity room, patient rooms, a pharmacy, a doctor's room and a laboratory. It provides health services, medical consultations and free medicines to patients. The clinic receives daily more than 80 cases. The clinic has benefited 36,000 patients since its inception until the mid - 2020.

It is worth mentioning that Qatar Charity implements various health and medical projects in Somalia, such as building clinics, organizing medical caravans for disaster relief, and providing first aid, giving priority to the neediest areas and people. Qatar Charity implements these health

projects in coordination with the Somali Ministry of Health, Mogadishu University and international organizations.

Al-Shifa Health Center

Foundation Year: 2018

Area: Nearly 600 square meters

Facilities: Outpatient clinics, delivery room, patient rooms, laboratory, and waiting areas

Services: Providing consultations, treatments, and medications for more than 80 cases daily for free

Beneficiaries: 36,000 patients since its inception until the mid - 2020

Humanitarianism and the Quantification of Human Needs

Minimal Humanity

Authors: Joël Glasman

Number of Pages: 260

Publisher: Routledge

First Edition: December 2019, 6

Language: English

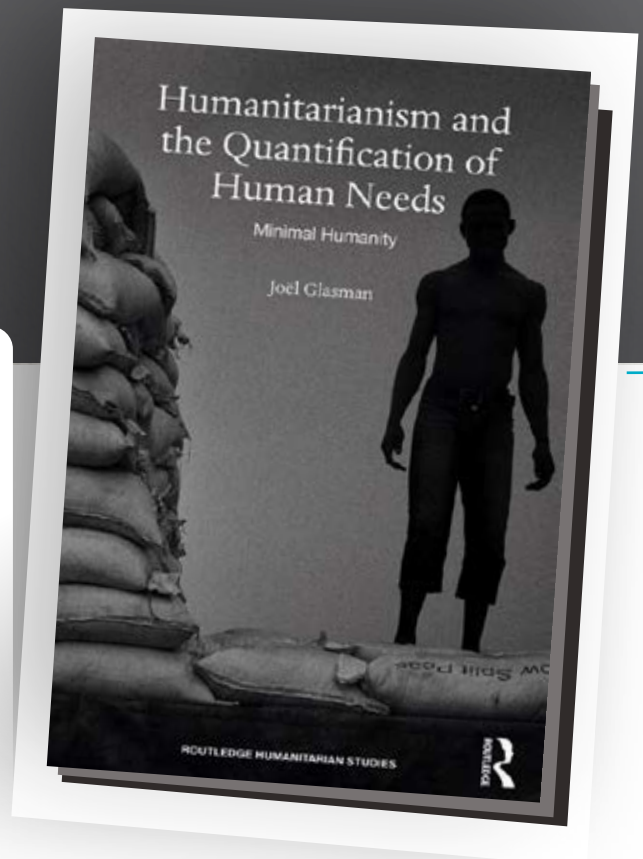
Pages: 274

This book provides the first historical inquiry into the quantification of needs in humanitarian assistance. Ultimately the book argues that we cannot understand the global humanitarian aid movement, if we do not understand how humanitarian agencies made human suffering commensurable across borders in the first place.

The book identifies four basic elements of needs: as a concept, as a system of classification and triage, as a form of material apparatus, and as a codified standard. Drawing on a range of archival sources ranging from the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), and the Sphere Project, the book traces the concept of needs from their emergence in the 1960s right through to the modern day, and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's call for «evidence-based humanitarianism». Finally the book assesses how the international governmentality of needs played out in a recent humanitarian crisis, drawing on detailed ethnographic research of Central African refugees in the Cameroonian borderland in 2014 - 2016.

This important historical enquiry into the universal nature of human suffering will be an important read for humanitarian researchers and practitioners, as well as readers with an interest in international history and development.

The book includes a 27 - page introduction and six chapters ranging from 24 to 48 pages, in addition to a 13 - page conclusion. The introduction is entitled



as 'Minimal humanity – the commensuration of human suffering on a global scale'. The six chapters are as follows: (1) Concepts. Elements for a genealogy of needology, (2) Classifications. UNHCR and the legibility of refugees in Central Africa (3) Measures. Malnutrition, MUAC, and the materialization of anthropometry (4) Standards. The 'Sphere project' and the universalization of the vital minimum after Goma, (5) Registration. Refugees and the emergence of a humanitarian field in Cameroun, and (6) Vulnerability. Impartial algorithms and analog malnutrition. The conclusion has the title of "Infrastructures of commensurability".

Author

The author of the book Joël Glasman is a professor of African History at the University of Bayreuth, Germany. He is a historian with a focus on West and Central Africa. He is interested in the history of governmentality and humanitarianism in the 19th - 20th Century. His current work focusses on the history of humanitarian governmentality -in which statistical knowledge plays an increasingly important role.

Reviews

«Combining a provocative perspective with a meticulous eye for detail, Joël Glasman's insightful history traces humanitarian efforts to define human suffering through an index of vital needs. Minimal Humanity reminds us of the fundamental complexity of apparently simple matters.» — Peter Redfield, author of *Life in Crisis: The Ethical Journey of Doctors Without Borders* (2013)

«This is a fascinating historical study of how and why humanitarian organizations quantified basic human needs over the course of the 20th century. Glasman (Univ. of Bayreuth, Germany) provides an engaging intellectual genealogy of the transition from subjective approaches to evaluating suffering to relying on allegedly objective and universal measurements.» — J. M. Rich, *Marywood University, Choice Review, Highly Recommended, November 2020 Vol. 58 No. 3*

«In his insightful and wonderfully jargon-free book, *Humanitarianism and the Quantification of Human Needs*, Joël Glasman delves into the history of what he calls the «bookkeeping of human suffering on a world scale (...) Glasman's book is much richer than can be described here. It is highly recommended for scholars of refugees, humanitarianism, data, and the production of knowledge. Given his extremely readable writing style, the book can also be recommended to those engaged in the humanitarian field who may not have the time or patience to slog through other academic critiques of their work.» — Brett Shadle, *African Studies Review*

For limited view, click or scan the code:



Social Responsibility in Times of Crisis

“Social responsibility means that individuals and companies have a duty to act in the best interests of their environment and society as a whole. Social responsibility, as it applies to business, is known as corporate social responsibility (CSR), and is becoming a more prominent area of focus within businesses due to shifting social norms,” says investopedia.com. It is one of the means that contributes to the development of society, where the value of an individual or institution in society is measured by the extent of bearing responsibility towards others.

Social responsibility has a very important role during times of crisis, and it goes beyond the concept of donating or undertaking voluntary work. It is an approach or behavior that an organization adopts to carry out its duties towards society, being committed to ethical behavior, respecting laws and governmental roles and integrating this with the daily activities of the institution.

In times of crises, the important and main role of social responsibility is to lessen the severity of those crises and address their repercussions and effects. Although working to provide benefit and welfare is important, it comes in the next stage after limiting the damage. Its aim is to extend a helping hand to those who suffer regardless of the nature of their suffering. Hence, when a crisis or a disaster happens, these socially committed companies rush to reduce the scale of the suffering and the effects of the disaster.

Therefore, social responsibility is a requirement and a social need. As the whole society and its institutions need a socially responsible individual, the high degree of sense and commitment of the society members to social responsibility is the criterion by which the development and growth of that society is judged.



Dr. Hany El Banna, a tireless humanitarian activist working for the world's poorest people

Among those who were selected by Allah to meet the needs of the people is Dr. Hany El Banna, a tireless humanitarian activist working for the poorest people in the world.

Dr. Hany El Banna began charitable work in his twenties when he established a fund in the United Kingdom with a few dollars aimed at helping the needy. Then with his determination and endeavor to achieve a noble goal, this fund resulted in the establishment of an international aid agency that delivers humanitarian aid and implements development programs in over 40 countries, serving communities in need regardless of race, political affiliation, gender or belief. This made El Banna one

of the prominent humanitarians globally.

Education

Born in Cairo, Egypt in 1950, Dr. Hany El-Banna completed his MBChB Medicine at Al Azhar University, Cairo, where he also obtained a Diploma in Islamic Studies in 1976. He was awarded the Hamilton Bailey Prize in Medicine at City hospital in 1981, Birmingham UK, and completed a Doctorate of Medicine (MD) in foetal pathology from the University of Birmingham Medical School in 1991.

Dr. Hany El-Banna is the co-founder of Islamic Relief, the largest Western-based international relief and development NGO, established in 1984



Dr. Hany El Banna: The operationalization of civil society organizations in Arab and Islamic countries has become an urgent requirement.

beginnings, Islamic Relief has become today one of the most famous humanitarian organizations in the West, working to save and transform the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable people.

Charitable Work Philosophy

Humanitarian work, according to Dr. Al-Banna's philosophy, is a craft, a profession, and an industry, not a spontaneous and fundraising matter. Rather, it is a process to empower communities by setting a strategic vision in the fields of health, education, development, awareness, and creating a volunteer system. Charitable work must not be specific to a certain group of people. In-depth knowledge of good governance standards, transparency, institutionalism, and building community-based partnerships are required, in addition to integration between charitable organizations and governments that manage the affairs of societies.

Al-Banna adds that the youth energies must be invested and employed in volunteer work, and that volunteering should be a compulsory subject in a course of study so that a graduate can think in an institutional way. Charitable work has become a profession that requires a professional in the same manner as medicine, engineering, law and other professions. The West understood this well at an early date, which encouraged Western governments to support their charitable work because it opens up economic, political, cultural and media horizons for major countries within the lands of poor peoples.

The operationalization of civil society organizations in Arab and Islamic countries has become an urgent requirement, as the only indicator of the growth of any country is the number and effectiveness of its organizations in civil society, especially as charitable work provides job opportunities for the needy and the poor and as well as for professionals.

Dr. Hany El Banna: Humanitarian work is a craft, occupation, profession, and industry, not a spontaneous and fundraising matter.

in Birmingham, UK. El-Banna founded the Muslim Charities Forum and the Humanitarian Forum which seeks to foster partnerships and cooperation among humanitarian and charitable organizations across the Global South and North. He also founded Zakat House to aid the growth of new charities and is the Chairman of the Muslim Charities Forum which aims to improve British Muslim Charities' contribution to international development.

The activities of the organizations run by Dr. Hany El-Banna spanned 46 countries worldwide, with their offices in 15 countries.

Al-Banna's humanitarian efforts appear through Islamic Relief, as the faith-inspired humanitarian aid and development agency. Despite its humble

How Asian expatriates in Qatar observe Ramadan here, and abroad



Jafar Ampuan Abdulhamid



Jubair Ahmad Chowdhury



Prihandoko Saputro

Ramadan, the holy month of fasting, is an opportunity for Muslims worldwide to grow spiritually and build stronger relationships with Allah Almighty, and it is the time for piety and self-reflection. However, this month, which is observed by Muslims all over the world, has some traditions and habits different from one community to another and from one country to another. To know how Asian expatriates in the State of Qatar observe the blessed month here in Qatar, as well as in their countries, the 'Ghiras' magazine talked to the following expatriates:

Jafar Ampuan Abdulhamid, President, the Philippines Muslim Federations in Qatar

In the Philippines, we have a tradition in Ramadan that after the Fajar prayer, people go outside. Children and youth play and others walk, as they do not feel hungry in the early morning of the blessed month of Ramadan. This is a strange habit found only in the blessed month of Ramadan in our country where Muslims focus more on the prayer and the recitation of the Holy Quran in this month. Besides, Muslims send iftar meals to mosques and invite a fasting passerby for Iftar.

In the State of Qatar, the blessed month brings an opportunity for our community members to pay night visits to each other and take care of everyone. Before the coronavirus pandemic, some community members used to hold Iftar gatherings in Ramadan, and organize Ramadan programs. We, as an expatriate community in Qatar, extend a helping hand to our members with limited income, especially in the blessed month to share the joy of fasting with all.

Jubair Ahmad Chowdhury, Acting President, Bangladesh Quran Sunnah Parishad (BQSP) in Qatar

In the holy month of Ramadan, we share Iftar meals to neighboring families here in Qatar, as well as in our country, Bangladesh where people send Iftar meals to mosques where the underprivileged and travelers gather to break the fast at the time of sunset. We also invite people, relatives, and friends for

Iftar gatherings in Ramadan. Our children focus on reciting the holy Quran, attempting to complete it as many times as possible.

However, we, as a community organization in Qatar, arrange community Iftars in different places where our community members listen to speeches and lectures on different topics related to our daily life and Ramadan, in addition to organizing Quran learning classes, which also continue throughout the year. Our community members in Qatar make efforts to take care of each other, especially in Ramadan when we support those in need, as well as send money back to Bangladesh to share the joy of Eid al-Fitr with all.

Prihandoko Saputro, Former President, Indonesian Community in Qatar

Ramadan is the most anticipated month of the year. Before the coronavirus pandemic, the most common tradition in Indonesia was community iftar. Iftar is time to meet business partners, school friends, or big family. Ramadan is also the time when we remember our relatives who passed away and seek forgiveness from Allah for them. Sahoar on the roadside is popular for the youth, as well as iftar on the roadside to share the food with drivers, especially during heavy traffic. The last 10 days of Ramadan, is the time to stay in mosques with friends for i'tikaf.

During the pandemic, larger gatherings are not possible and allowed. However, we continue to enjoy distributing and sharing the food with our community on a smaller scale. We hold online Quran competitions for kids and organizes speeches in preparation for the blessed month of Ramadan.

Qatar Charity wins social responsibility award

Qatar Charity (QC) has won the Social Responsibility Award 2021 for the Humanitarian Work Sector at the eighth Social Responsibility Conference and Awards organized by Dar Al Sharq under the slogan «Community Responsibility Against Covid- 19». The award went to Qatar Charity in appreciation of its great role against the Covid- 19 pandemic within and outside Qatar.

The award aims to raise awareness about social responsibility and its positive impact on building cooperative societies, and encourage companies and governmental and private institutions to pay attention to this aspect for the benefit of the nation.

Humanitarian Mission

Qatar Charity has been keen to carry out its humanitarian duty since the beginning of the pandemic last year, in cooperation with the relevant authorities, in Qatar and worldwide. It continues its humanitarian mission as the pandemic continues for the second year in a row, and will keep supporting local and international efforts against this epidemic.

Qatar Charity has focused on raising awareness among individuals and communities of the coronavirus, the need to take precautionary measures to limit the spread of Covid- 19, and delivering health and food aid to alleviate the suffering of those affected by the pandemic.

Praise

Qatar Charity's efforts against the Covid- 19 pandemic received praise. It was chosen as one of Qatar's top 10 most supportive brands that have participated in supporting the country during the coronavirus pandemic, based on phone interviews conducted by Ipsos, one of the world's largest market research organizations. Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. Omar al-Razzaz praised Qatar Charity last year for supporting the kingdom's efforts in fighting the Covid- 19 pandemic.



Previous Awards for Volunteering & Social Responsibility

- QNB Volunteer Award from the Qatar National Bank (QNB) and the Social Development Center (NAMA), 2008
- Values Award from the Arab Institution for Values, 2013
- Best Initiative Award for Social Responsibility for Civil Society Organizations from Dar Al Sharq, 2014
- Best Project Award for Qatar Charity's Volunteering Program, 2015
- Best Report Award for Social Responsibility in Qatar, 2015
- Sanabel Award for Community Responsibility in Orphan Care Institutions of GCC Countries, 2015
- Social Responsibility Award for Best National Initiative for its 'Future's Writers' Program



Income-generating projects change lives of beneficiaries in Pakistan

Remla Tosee, Pakistan

Qatar Charity's interventions, especially income-generating projects, have managed to bring about a significant change in the lives of the beneficiaries, who were affected by a powerful 5.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Mirpur in the Pakistan-administered Kashmir on September 2019, 24.

The high-intensity earthquake caused severe to

moderate damages to houses, buildings, and other infrastructure in Mirpur where 2,206 houses were fully damaged while more than 6,000 houses were partially destroyed during the disaster, in addition to the death of 39 people and more than 1,600 injured persons.

The health facilities in different rural parts of Mirpur



sustained damages due to the earthquake, which severely affected the infrastructure of Basic Health Units and Rural health centers. Moreover; there was a destructive impact on livelihood resources of the poor population living in the disaster-stricken areas.

Qatar Charity's income-generating projects have played a significant role in uplifting the standards of living for the beneficiaries. Now, **Mr. Jahangir**, a sole breadwinner for a family of six, who received an auto-rickshaw from Qatar Charity and started to run it as public transport, earns sufficient and good income for his family to live in dignity. When he could not find more passengers to ride his auto-rickshaw, due to the COVID19- pandemic, he turned it into a goods vehicle and started a fruits and vegetable business. Jahangir says, "Now, I spend good and quality life with the grace of Allah Almighty. I am thankful to Qatar Charity and the people in Qatar for supporting me in such a difficult time".

For his part, **Mr. Amjad Ali**, a deaf beneficiary and father of 3 daughters, is a tailor who lost his house and his sewing machine in the earthquake. Qatar Charity provided him with a sewing machine along with the necessary tailoring equipment and an embroidery machine. Today, Mr. Amjad runs his shop and small set up of tailoring and embroidery dresses.

Mr. Amjad said "I lost my all hopes due to the earthquake, I lost my house and my old sewing machine, Allah granted me two machines (sewing and embroidery) through Qatar Charity. Now, I send my all 3 daughters to a good school. I also started

to construct my home with the savings. My income is now much better after I got two machines from Qatar Charity."

Mr. Ikhtlaq Ahmad, a beneficiary, said, "I am very thankful to Qatar Charity for providing a new auto rickshaw, as my rickshaw was damaged due to the earthquake, which also destroyed the water facility. Thus, my village fellows had to fetch water from a place 5 kilometers away from the village."

He also noted, "after receiving the auto rickshaw I saved some money, and received contributions from the villages to install water well in my village."

Relief Project for Earthquake-Jolted Mirpur

Qatar Charity (QC), in cooperation with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), a government institution in Pakistan, hastened to implement a relief project in the earthquake-jolted Mirpur where it provided tents for shelters, and rickshaws, sewing machines, poultry, and goats for income generation. Besides, it handed over medicines, ambulances, and medical equipment to the basic health unit which was majorly damaged. Some 2,260 individuals benefitted from Qatar Charity interventions.

The small-size project that restored hope to Khairiah's family in Indonesia

Muhammad Anas, Indonesia

When Khairiah, a forty-eight-year-old woman, woke up one morning, she found her family in a tragic situation because of the fire that burnt her house along with her all belongings and memories.

As Khairiah faced a worsening situation and was worried about her family's life, she decided to leave her hometown and move to Banda Aceh, which is the capital and largest city in the province of Aceh, Indonesia, because she has relatives who might support her and provide safety for her.

No Choice

In the crowded city of Banda Aceh, a stranger Khairiah found a small house that could not accommodate her family of seven, and she had no money to rent a bigger house. She needed to provide food for her children in this new place. The family head had no choice to earn a living for children, but to carry goods on a motorcycle with many malfunctions, hoping for a better future of his children by ensuring the continuation of their education.

The living condition of Khairiah became further worse due to her children's growing needs, which made her work as a domestic help, and sew clothes to help her husband meet the necessities of the family.

Source of Income

The living condition of Khairiah began to change after she contacted Qatar Charity for assistance. It provided her with two sewing machines along with sewing supplies, which gave her a stable source of income to lead a dignified life by meeting the needs of her family and supporting the education of her

children.

After the assistance provided by Qatar Charity to Khairiah, her family started a new stable life. When her sewing occupation became popular among the people, and she began to earn enough money, she started extending a helping hand to those in need in her area, in addition to supporting her children to continue their education.

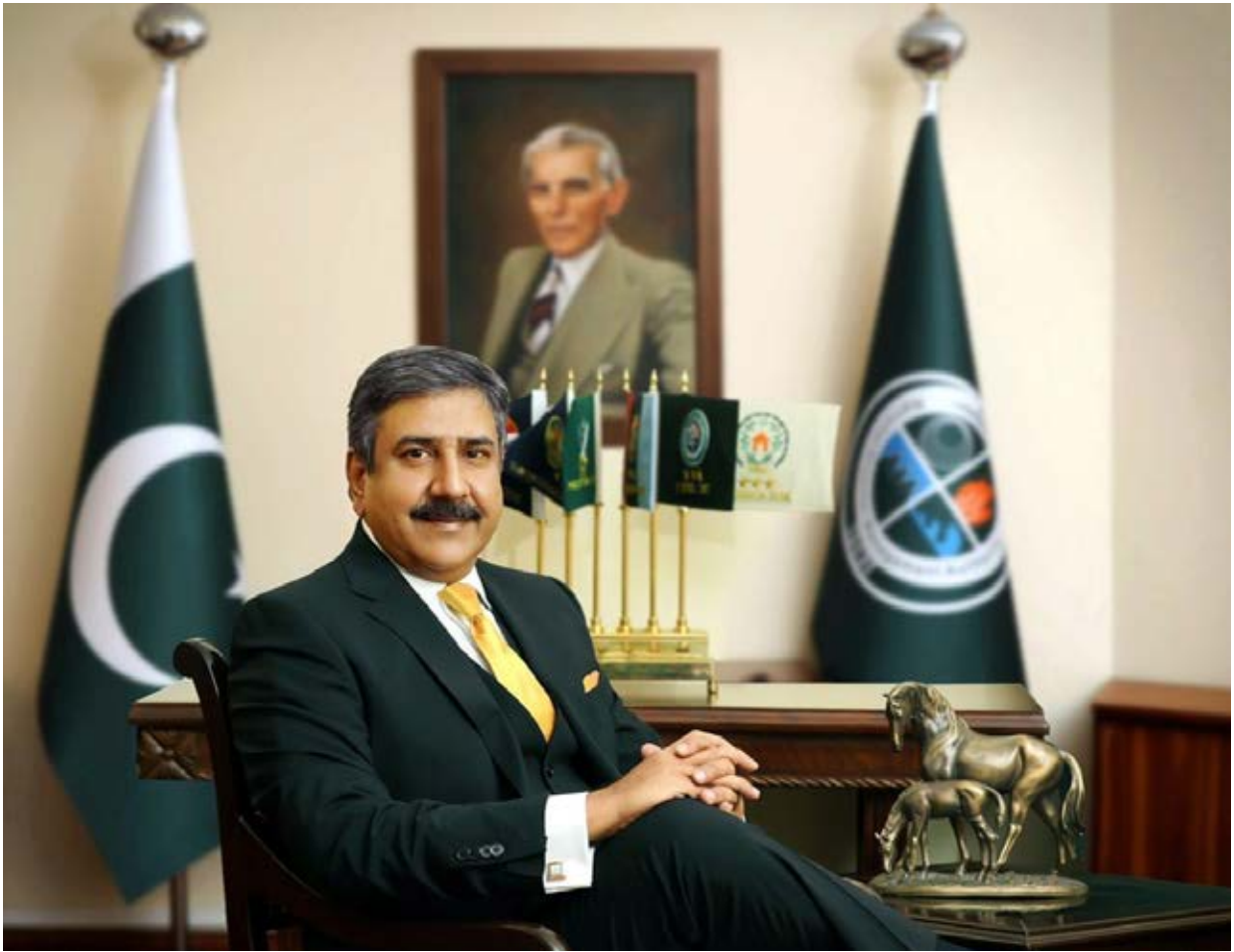
Seeking to pay back to those who helped her in the time of adversity, Khairiah designed courses free of charge for orphans to teach them sewing skills and provided assistance to many in the sewing field to ensure that they earn a living. The course benefited many poor and needy families.

Khairiah achieved great success in her project, which helped her five children perform well academically. Her two children completed their university studies, with one majoring in accounting, and another specializing in education, while other children are about to graduate.

"There are no words that can express my gratitude to the benevolent people of Qatar, who have extended a helping hand to my family, lifted us out of a miserable reality, and realized our dreams of educating our children. The assistance provided by Qatar Charity helped us started a dignified life once again and put an end to asking others for help," Kharia said, praying Allah for those who helped her get those two sewing machines that made a difference in her family's life.







Former chairperson of NDMA Pakistan:

Qatar Charity reliable partner in Disaster Management and Reduction

Qatar Charity (QC) pays a close attention to the domain of disasters and humanitarian emergencies, and whenever, and where a catastrophic situation arises, it hastens to help the affected, in addition to extending humanitarian support in many countries worldwide, including Pakistan. Qatar Charity's "Ghiras" magazine talked to Lieutenant General Omer Hayat Mehmood Hayat, HI (M) (Retd), former chairperson of the National Disaster Management Authority Pakistan (NDMA) to know about Qatar Charity's humanitarian performance and the

 **Qatar Charity interventions have created positive impact in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.** 

impact of its projects and urgent assistance, as well as the importance of partnership and collaboration between local and international organizations in Pakistan.

Qatar Charity's contributions remain vital to various fields in Pakistan.

What is the positive impact of Qatar Charity's projects implemented in the field of humanitarian work in Pakistan?



Qatar Charity was awarded by NDMA for being a valued partner in various projects

Qatar Charity has been a reliable partner of National Disaster Management Authority Pakistan (NDMA), in the field of Disaster Management and Disaster Risk Reduction. Their valuable contributions during various mega disasters in Pakistan are noteworthy. Whether it is at the federal or provincial level, or even at the district and community level, Qatar Charity interventions and response have created positive impact in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

How do you evaluate Qatar Charity's intervention and response to disasters and crises in Pakistan?

For a disaster-prone country like Pakistan, working closely with International organizations and international donor community becomes essential. National capacities are often tested to the limit, in times of national disasters. In our case, this has happened numerous times in the last two decades. It was only possible to deal with these disasters with the help of our friends and international partners, Qatar Charity being one of them.

There are many international organizations from around the world, as well as several organizations from Muslim countries working in Pakistan? What is the value-added for international organizations from Islamic countries?

Organizations from Muslim countries play a very important role on the humanitarian side in Pakistan. With a large segment of the population being deeply religious, their acceptance of the such humanitarian organizations is much more. These organizations have played a key role in all aspects of disaster management in Pakistan during the last few decades.

Qatar Charity received honor from NDMA. For what does Qatar Charity deserve such an honor?

Qatar Charity was awarded by National Disaster Management Authority for being a valued partner in various projects through the last decade or so. Their contributions in terms of poverty alleviation, disaster risk reduction, community-based disaster risk management and livelihood programs remain vital to these fields in Pakistan.

How do you see the size of the interventions of Qatar Charity and how do you evaluate its performance and projects?

The most common type of disasters in Pakistan are hydro-meteorological. According to a conservative estimate, Pakistan loses over 2 Billion US dollars annually on such disasters. The support of international humanitarian community becomes essential to deal with the aftermath of such colossal losses.

What is the importance of partnerships and cooperation between international organizations and local organizations and bodies in the field of relief and humanitarian intervention?

During 2017 to 2019, the biggest challenge that NDMA faced was that of a severe drought in areas of Sind and Baluchistan with over 4 million people affected. We were able to mobilize international organizations and deal with this challenge.

In cooperation with NDMA

Qatar Charity is working with the collaboration of the Deputy commissioner Offices in the relevant districts directly who are representative of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority at district level and head of the District Disaster Management authority (DDMA) for its all regular development projects. Some emergency projects were also implemented during the COVID response in 2020.

Qatar Charity distributed 4000 hygiene kits, 5200 dry food packages across Pakistan. 1700 dry food packages, 1700 hygiene kits were distributed in Afghan Refugee camps where as Personal Protection Equipment handed over to the Rescue 1122, an emergency service across Punjab, Pakistan. Additionally; in collaboration with UNICEF, Qatar Charity implemented "WASH in Emergency" project in the province's two districts, which are severely affected from the covid- 19 pandemic, benefiting more than 100,000 from emergency hand washing stations, hygiene items and massive level awareness raising campaigns (TV, Radio, Press media, bill boards, poster, brochures) regarding precaution from COVID.

Qatar

Agreement with Al Ahli Sports Club in support of humanitarian work

Qatar Charity (QC) signed a cooperation and partnership agreement with Al Ahli Sports Club to support charitable initiatives and promote humanitarian projects.

This comes as part of the common keenness to strengthen the role of Qatari institutions and bodies in supporting



charitable work and utilizing the sports activities for this noble cause.

This agreement is an affirmation of the continuous active role of Al Ahli Sports Club in supporting Qatar Charity's humanitarian projects and campaigns in Qatar over the past years, as well as it is an assertion of the depth of co-operation between the two sides.

The pact was signed by Mr. Youssef bin Ahmed Al-Kuwari, CEO of Qatar Charity, and Mr. Abdullah Yousef Al-Mulla, chairperson of Al-Ahli Sports Club.

Al-Kuwari expressed happiness at signing the agreement with Al Ahli Sports Club, emphasizing the importance of this partnership between sports activities and volunteers.

Al-Mulla said, «We at Al Ahli Sports Club are happy that there is a partnership and co-operation agreement with one of the most significant charitable organizations on the regional and continental levels to support its great humanitarian efforts.»

Qatar



MoU with Qatar University for cooperation in areas of development and humanitarian work

Qatar University (QU) and Qatar Charity (QC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for joint co-operation in the areas of development and humanitarian work.

The MoU emphasized on the co-operation and methods of collaboration between the two entities, especially in the fields of development and humanitarian work and utilization of co-operation in other possible fields of mutual interest for both parties.

Mr. Yusuf bin Ahmed Al-Kuwari, CEO of Qatar Charity, welcomed the joint cooperation in the field of development and humanitarian work with Qatar University. He said, «This agreement will play a fundamental role in developing and enhancing community participation

towards Qatar National Vision 2030. This agreement encourages students to work as volunteer for their community.»

Dr. Hassan Al-Derham, Qatar University President, said: «The signing of this memorandum comes within the framework of Qatar University's constant endeavor to cooperate with all institutions interested in supporting the university's march towards the betterment of the Qatari community. This MoU seeks to organize and develop distinguished relation between Qatar University and Qatar Charity in many areas.»

Kyrgyzstan

Open-heart surgeries for children

Qatar Charity (QC) has started performing open-heart valve surgeries for children with congenital



heart disease in the Kyrgyz Republic. As many as 21 surgeries have been performed successfully, with an additional 81 surgeries scheduled for a total cost of more than QR1.3 million.

Some 60 surgeries will be conducted during the coming period, in coordination with the Ministry of Health and the Heart Hospital management. In order to provide the appropriate support for these surgeries, Qatar Charity has purchased the necessary equipment, provided medical care to patients at the hospital, and handled laboratory tests, in addition to undertaking to provide the required medicines to the patients during the period of medical care.

Kyrgyzstan

Qatar Charity honored for combating Covid- 19

The Kyrgyz Republic honored Qatar Charity (QC), in appreciation of its efforts to prevent the Covid- 19 pandemic, limit its economic and social impacts,



and contribute to alleviating the suffering of those affected by the pandemic.

Qatar Charity received a certificate of thanks and appreciation from the Kyrgyz government and people for the generous donors in the State of Qatar, who have extended support amidst the continued current pandemic.

Mr. Balbak Tulobaev, mayor of Bishkek city, praised the efforts made by Qatar Charity to support the Kyrgyz Republic in fighting the coronavirus pandemic. He thanked the donors in Qatar for delivering aid to the Kyrgyz people, which played a great and effective role in lessening the hardship of those in need, especially in this time of adversity. He expressed his pride in the deep relations between the two countries.

Turkey

Hearing aids for Syrian refugees

Qatar Charity (QC) has provided hearing aids to Syrian refugees with hearing impairment in Al-Bayli camp, Kilis province, southern Turkey, to enable them to live normally within their community and families.

The cases were assessed in co-ordination with the camp administration and then examined. Some 62 patients needed 84 hearing aids. Qatar Charity has fully paid for the checkups and the hearing aids in addition to physical therapy and the purchase of necessary medicines for some cases.



Kosovo

Foundation stone laid for health center

Qatar Charity (QC), with support from benefactors in Qatar, laid the foundation stone for a health center in Kosovo. The QR860,000 project is expected to benefit some 4,000 people. Qatar Charity will provide a fund of QR645,000 for the project, while the municipality of Ferizaj will contribute the rest.

Speaking at the ceremony, the minister of health Armend Zemaj thanked the people in Qatar for their continuous assistance, especially for this health center that will contribute to improving the basic health infrastructure in the region.

He also thanked QC for its uninterrupted cooperation with the municipalities, pointing out that the Qatari people have previously provided health assistance in the most challenging time of the coronavirus pandemic.



Kosovo

Kosovo's largest mosque inauguration

Qatar Charity (QC) has participated in the inauguration of Kosovo's largest mosque, a unique



architectural masterpiece.

Present on the occasion were Sheikh Naim Ternava, the Grand Mufti of Kosovo, and Ali bin Hamad al-Marri, Qatar's ambassador to Albania and Kosovo, in addition to Nawaf al-Hammadi, CEO's assistant for the International Operations and Programmes Sector at Qatar Charity.

The mosque, which is named 'Sheikh Shuaib Arnaout' mosque, located in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo. The five-storey mosque can accommodate 2,500 worshippers and includes classrooms, a library, a computer lab and a play area for children.

Sudan

Sudanese Minister praises Qatar Charity's humanitarian efforts

HE the Minister of Social Development in Sudan Ahmed Adam Bakhit praised Qatar Charity's humanitarian roles in his country and worldwide, noting that it has been contributing to filling important gaps in the country's humanitarian



and development fields. He also applauded Qatar Charity's partnerships with the United Nations and major international organizations, hoping that this would bring goodness to the people of Sudan.

Bakhit commended Qatar Charity's efforts to provide relief aid to those affected by the recent rains and floods through its 'Peace for Sudan' drive, noting that the recent visit of Chairman of the Sovereignty Council and Minister of Finance of Sudan to the State of Qatar had a good sign in terms of developing cooperation between the two countries during the coming period. The two sides agreed to study and sign a framework technical agreement during the next period for close coordination and partnership between the government and Qatar Charity.