

Ghiras

Issue 28

Periodic Magazine by Qatar Charity
Jumada I, 1444 AH - December 2022

**Internal
displacement
awaits sustainable
solutions**

**Qatar FIFA atmosphere
at IDPs, refugee camps**

**Unexpected
moments:**

**Orphans meet
Sponsors**



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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.

Qatar Charity believes that sport is the right of every human being, and that its role goes beyond that of entertainment, with its power being utilized in post-conflict zones to bring people together, achieve rapprochement and social cohesion, and provide protection and psychological support.

Qatar Charity, therefore, continues to place focus on the Sport for Development and Peace (SPD) initiative launched by Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) along with Qatar Charity (QC) and other partners. It takes the initiative forward by establishing new partnerships and implementing its projects and program on a larger scale in other countries. It takes advantage of global events, including the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, to hold activities under this initiative to serve internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and fragile communities.

After the successful implementation of the initiative in Darfur, the initiative is now heading through Qatar Charity towards Puntland, a state in northeastern Somalia to support young men and women and children to build local communities and support the role of sport to achieve the sustainable development goals. The initiative is expected to be expanded and implement projects in other countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan, and several African countries.

We are pleased that the initiative has an important humanitarian presence at a Qatari national event and an international sporting occasion at the same time, namely the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. In conjunction with this mega global sporting event, the 'Qatar FIFA 2022 for All: Celebrating Football with Refugees and Displaced people' initiative was launched to bring joy to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in camps by setting up the FIFA fan zones in the camps of several countries. Besides, many orphans sponsored by Qatar Charity in Sudan and Bosnia and Herzegovina took part for the first time in the Street Child World Cup (SCWC) held in Doha.

In this issue of 'Ghiras' you will find a variety of pieces on global humanitarian topics, including a special feature on durable solutions to internal displacement and a symposium on challenges facing humanitarian organizations.

We hope that 'Ghiras' continues to deliver its message to promote the culture of humanitarian work and raise awareness of humanitarian causes, in addition to highlighting and documenting remarkable feats achieved by Qatar Charity globally.



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Internal displacement, a persistent humanitarian crisis awaiting sustainable solutions

There were 59.1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) across the world at the end of 2021 according to the 2022 Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) released by Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). This huge number of internal displacements was triggered by conflict, violence, natural disasters, and climate change.

“The number of people forced to flee their homes has increased every year over the past decade and stands at the highest level since records began,” UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, said in June 2022.

This is a cause for continued concern, as the years and decades pass with no permanent and durable solutions to the internal displacement and the problem of IDPs, and without addressing the root causes of internal displacement that forces them to flee their homes and areas of origin.

‘Ghiras’ through this issue, attempts to draw attention to one of the solutions, which are achieved in practice through three different ways: either IDPs return permanently to their places of origin, or they integrate locally where they are, or they settle in another part of the country. The issue also seeks to highlight the importance of mobilizing collective efforts locally and internationally to address the problem and provide solutions, in line with the strategies and plans of national government institutions and development actors.

The issue includes:

- An interview with Mr. Robert Piper, the UN Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, to know the United Nations’ point of view and efforts in this arena
- A follow-up to a virtual panel discussion entitled ‘Famine in Somalia: Towards an Effective and Urgent Response, organized by Qatar Charity and Rasd Centre for Humanitarian and Development Studies. It includes the opinions of the prominent international participants, and a special statement by the director of the center on how to deal with the problem
- A report on Qatar Charity’s efforts in this regard, and practical models for its contributions in several countries.





Mr. Robert Piper, UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement:

Collective action needed to better resolve, prevent and address internal displacement

Crisis and disaster displacement remains a grave concern for governments, United Nations agencies, and international and local humanitarian organizations, requiring them to join the forces to find durable solutions to displacement and support the development of solutions strategies and related financing strategies.

In the following interview with Mr. Robert Piper, the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, we are trying to know the United Nations' point of view on these solutions and the powerful role that humanitarian and development organizations can play in this field, including the mode for humanitarian-lead



The early response lays the ground for the solutions that will hopefully lead to the resolution of a displacement situation once-and-for-all

early response to displacement.

This aims to minimize the length of the displacement, maximize the resilience of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and of communities hosting them, and lays the



Local integration and to a lesser extent settlement elsewhere in the country should be part of the solutions menu.

ground for a durable solution to the displacement and other relevant issues.

Can you tell us about the UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement which was launched in June 2022?

The Action Agenda on Internal Displacement is the culmination of a reflection process which looked at improving the way the international community addresses internal displacement. At the end of 2019, in response to a request from close to 60 Member States across regions, the Secretary-General set up a High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. In its report to the Secretary-General, the Panel called for an approach that recognizes solutions to internal displacement as a development priority in which national ownership is crucial, and for enhanced focus on internal displacement in Government policies, joined-up strategies on solutions, predictable and enhanced development financing for solutions, improved data and evidence, and private sector engagement. In the report, the Panel added that "we fear that without dedicated, high-level attention to this issue, embedding a development-oriented approach and joined-up action for solutions will not succeed." The Secretary-General shared this assessment. As a follow-up to the report, he developed an ambitious Action Agenda on Internal Displacement (launched in June). Featuring concrete UN commitments, the Action Agenda lays out the Secretary-General's commitment not to accept the status quo but to mobilize collective action to better resolve, prevent and address internal displacement. It stresses the importance of Government ownership and of development actors to take a strong part in solutions to internal displacement, but also the central role of UN Resident Coordinators to lead on solutions and to drive joined-up UN approaches at country level. It also includes strong calls to States to adopt a whole-of-government approach drawing in all relevant ministries and levels of government to better address displacement, to International Financial Institutions, the private sector and on the importance to include civil society in devising and implementing solutions.

In your opinion, as the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal



Displacement, what are solutions to internal displacement in practice?

In the first instance, solutions are achieved in practice through three different ways: either IDPs return permanently to their places of origin, or they integrate locally where they are, or they settle in another part of the country. The choice must always be theirs – this is the key starting-point. And realizing any of these options requires national government leadership. It requires a cross-section of Government actors to engage, especially at the local level. It requires development partners and often development financing. Solutions to internal displacement need to be found in national development plans if we are serious about solutions.

As millions of IDPs live globally in protracted displacements with little prospect for return to their home areas, do you think that either local integration or settling IDPs elsewhere can be a solution to displacement?

Yes, local integration and to a lesser extent settlement elsewhere in the country should be part of the solutions menu. Often, return is considered as a first option by Governments, maybe because this would be a way to turn back the clock to prior to the conflict or disaster. But in practice, many people find refuge in cities for example, and – particularly for the young generation who may never even have lived in their families' areas of origin – going back to their original, maybe remote locations in the country becomes impossible to envisage. And with the impact of climate change, areas which have been hit again and again by disasters are being submerged by rising waters or on the contrary have become so hot that they cannot accommodate the return of people. Therefore, supporting people to overcome the obstacles they are facing to settle where they are, is one important option in the IDP solutions menu.

Do you think that UN bodies and international organizations have made progress in supporting solutions to internal displacement, whereby people enjoy their human rights without discrimination, and live in dignity without the need for help or protection?

In my short time in this role so far, I am already struck by the tireless passion and dedication of so many actors around the world working to better address internal displacement – and who are all, equally, pressing for change. UN organizations and partners have made tremendous progress, by developing projects in various areas such as

livelihood, civil documentation, permanent housing and land restoration to accompany displaced people to find solutions. And more and more, this project approach has been replaced by more ambitious initiatives, through community-based programming for example, leading to the return of many people. But the pattern is clear - in cases where situations of internal displacement are considered to have been fully resolved, in places like Uganda, in East Timor or in Peru for example, it has been with strong Government leadership. That is the essential piece we need to support in many contexts.

In your perspective, how can humanitarian and development organizations cooperate in providing durable solutions to internal displacement?

Humanitarian and development organizations both have a strong role to play, as do peace actors in many contexts. They can cooperate under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator to work on joint analysis of the environment as well as on the IDPs' needs and capacities, and the specific issues facing different population groups such as women, girls, or ethnic minorities. They can work together to support the development of solutions strategies and related financing strategies. The humanitarian-lead early response to displacement should be designed in such a way as to be 'solutions-friendly', with a view to minimizing, for example, the length of the displacement and maximizing the resilience of those who are displaced and of communities hosting them. This way, the early response lays the ground for the solutions that will hopefully lead to the resolution of a displacement situation once-and-for-all. Governments and their development partners need to follow-through on this phase of the response.

A panel discussion on investment in long-term solutions to Somalia's displacement

The total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Somalia is 3 million, according to United Nations estimates. In addition to infighting and instability, drought and floods caused by climate change are main reasons for this figure, which is expected to rise.

As Somalia is the country most affected by climate change compared to all the African countries, and in light of the increasing drought in recent years, the massive displacement towards areas where services are available and those close to major Somali cities is expected to continue.

The foregoing raises a fundamental question about how to address the continuous displacements and its great effects. A virtual panel discussion entitled 'Famine in Somalia: Towards an Urgent and Effective Response', organized by Qatar Charity and Rasd Centre for Humanitarian and Development Studies in July 2022, attempted to highlight the issue. The participants of the panel discussion said that durable solutions require long-term investments that go beyond humanitarian funding, and that attracting development finance requires a multi-year plan.

The director of Internal Displacement Monitoring

Centre (IDMC) Alexandra Bilak emphasized that sustainable solutions will only be effective if they are owned and implemented by national actors, and that humanitarian aid is linked not only to food security but also to peacebuilding efforts and the involvement of civil society and the IDPs in planning and finding durable solutions like the IDPs' integration in new places of residence. She noted the case of Somalia, where many areas of origin have become uninhabitable and therefore voluntary return of the IDPs is no longer an option.

Nawaf Abdullah al-Hammadi, CEO's assistant for the International Operations and Programs sector at Qatar Charity, stressed the importance of investing in long-term, sustainable, and durable solutions to address the root causes of displacement to increase the impact and effectiveness of humanitarian and development assistance. He noted the projects implemented by Qatar Charity, which focus on providing sustainable livelihoods and building the resilience of communities through economic empowerment, in addition to water projects that ensure sustainable water solutions, and the construction of housing complexes that support the resettlement of IDPs and returnees.

Director of Rasd calls for integrating IDPs into local communities

As we see the continued internal displacements in Somalia, which hosts one of the largest IDP populations globally, and the inadequate searches for sustainable solutions to internal displacement, we sought the opinion of Mr. Muhammad al-Mahdi al-Maqbool, director of Rasd Centre for Humanitarian and Development Studies, which attaches significant attention to the humanitarian situation surveys in fragile countries and conflict-stricken regions. He emphasized that the strategic framework for dealing with the displacement crisis on the ground is still deficient.

He believes that reflecting on sustainable solutions to displacement in Somalia should not be apart from local governments. «It is unlikely that any of Somalia's internally displaced persons (IDPs) will return to their areas of origin, which makes it imperative for regional and international organizations, donors in particular, and the Somali government, whether at the federal or state level, to adopt long-term projects to settle these people and allow them to lead a normal life as city dwellers, and this requires several procedures," he said.

He talked about proposals for sustainable solutions to displacement in Somalia. He explained that the current situation of the Somali IDPs populations is the process of 'urbanization', the main cause of which is climate change, while the secondary cause is the ongoing war, armed conflicts in some regions of Somalia, food insecurity, and lack of rain, He added that, given the reality of field monitoring of displacement in Somalia by RASD, initiating planning for sustainable solutions requires the partnership of regional and international organizations with the United Nations in Somalia to better use the outputs of the Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU), which provides important indicators about rainfall rates, crop productivity, the levels of dryness and humidity, and drinking water availability. These indicators will be very useful when designing sustainable projects for IDPs.

He noted some pilot projects were carried out by the United Nations in Somalia, where the first project to settle these people was implemented, targeting 100,000 persons in Baidoa located in the South West State of Somalia. He hoped that if this project succeeds, other organizations will implement it in other areas highly populated by IDPs. He called on Arab and Islamic organizations



Muhammad al-Mahdi al-Maqbool



**Director of Rasd Centre
for Humanitarian and
Development Studies**

for the engagement of the United Nations and the Somali government in the National Durable Solutions Strategy. He considered that this strategy represents a comprehensive framework for long-term strategic projects to settle the IDPs and consider them as urban dwellers by integrating them into local communities. He added that humanitarian aid alone cannot address long-lasting issues such as mass displacement, droughts, and recurrent floods, according to some field readings carried out by RASD in several camps around the capital, Mogadishu. Therefore, proper planning for sustainable projects such as providing affordable housing and job opportunities through economic empowerment, markets, and community facilities, can contribute to addressing food insecurity.

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Qatar Charity's remarkable to internal displacement



Qatar Charity (QC) contributes to finding sustainable solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have been forced to flee their homes due to violence, conflicts, and disasters. It works under an integrated approach that combines development, peacebuilding, human rights, and disaster risk reduction to alleviate human suffering and build a better future for the IDPs globally, in line with the plans of governments, United Nations agencies, and international and local humanitarian organizations.

Qatar Charity managed to contribute to providing solutions to internal displacement by implementing a variety of projects in several countries where it contributed to efforts to encourage voluntary return and provide protection for families who wish to return to their homes. Qatar Charity made tremendous efforts

in Darfur, as well as it played a significant role in resettling and integrating the IDPs locally by building alternative villages for them in Somalia and northern Syria.

Shelter Projects

In northern Syria, Qatar Charity has implemented several shelter projects that have contributed to providing solutions to the plight of millions of Syrian IDPs who became homeless due to the ongoing crisis in Syria and integrating them into the host communities.

Al Rayyan Model City, which was established by Qatar Charity on the Turkish-Syrian border, is one of the largest cities for the Syrian IDPs. The city includes 10 villages with 1,000 prefabricated housing units (caravans), housing 7,000 IDPs.

Qatar Charity also built the Dohat Al-Khair city on the Turkish-Syrian border. This city has 1,000 housing

efforts in durable solutions



A long-Awaited Hope

In Somalia, Qatar Charity is contributing to the national strategy for sustainable solutions 2020-2025, launched by the Somali government to provide alternative solutions that promote the integrating of the IDPs where they are by building an integrated residential village for them in Somalia's Baidoa, which has the second largest hub of settlements for IDPs.

The construction of the residential village is a long-awaited hope for Baidoa's IDPs who live in makeshift camps. The village is expected to contribute to improving their conditions, rehabilitating, and integrating them into the local community. The project will also provide the protection for the IDPs and allow them to live with dignity.

The village will have 67 housing units, a health center, a school, a mosque, and a vocational training center. It is expected to benefit more than 12,000 IDPs in Baidoa.

Qatar Charity has worked to encourage the voluntary return of the IDPs who fled their homes due to the war in Darfur, by implementing various projects as part of Qatar's initiative for the development of Darfur in partnership with the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD).

Darfur Projects

The projects of the initiative's first phase that has been completed included eight service complexes in four villages in the four Darfur states (Central Darfur, South Darfur, North Darfur, and East Darfur). Each village has four schools, a kindergarten, a health center, a mosque, a police station, housing units, and a source of safe drinking water, in addition to public facilities and roads.

The most important projects of the initiative's second phase include the a village in the klamndu district and another village in Mellit district in North Darfur state. The number of beneficiaries of the project in the two villages is 111,605. These projects also include two service complexes in South Darfur. The number of beneficiaries of both complexes is nearly 174,523.

These projects have contributed to promoting the IDPs' voluntary return, safety, and stability.

units.

By 2023, approximately 13,800 Syrian IDPs in Aleppo will be able to receive safe homes in Alamal City, the 280,000 square-meter housing project with 1,400 housing units for the IDPs. The city will have schools, a mosque, kindergartens, a health center, a market, playgrounds for children, and other facilities. It will have an integrated infrastructure and necessary services and facilities for the IDPs, such as potable water, electricity and sewage networks, and roads.

Qatar Charity also sought to meet the needs of the Syrian IDPs returning to their cities and villages after a long period of displacement. It, therefore, implemented a 400-apartment project in Wadi Deif, located in Maarat al-Numan, a city in northwestern Syria, to benefit 2,400 IDPs who found their homes destroyed after returning to their areas of origin.



How did the Qatari Model Village bring hopeful colors to the life of Syrian IDPs?

The suffering caused by displacement casted a deep gloom on the life of Abu Mahmoud, especially at the beginning of displacement. Although his main occupation was related to agriculture, he loves drawing, coloring, and painting, and he used to help the people of his town 'Qalaat Al Madiq' in Hama countryside in painting their homes, before being displaced from the town.

With the beginning of 2019, the countryside of Hama, including the town of 'Abu Mahmoud', has heavily been bombed, which forced 'Abu Mahmoud' and his family to flee the town immediately to save their lives. He moved, by car, north towards the Turkish border to find a tent, as shelter for himself and his family. By down, he

reached a camp where one of his relatives lives.

Agricultural Trailer

"When we arrived, everyone was in a state of extreme psychological and physical fatigue, and everyone fell asleep. I went looking for a place where we can live," said Abu Mahmoud recalling those difficult moments. "After searching, I found an old agricultural trailer and I put a tent on top of it. We lived in it for more than a month. I do not want to remember those days that were as terrifying as the days of the bombing of our village," he added.

Abu Mahmoud stayed in this camp for a period, thinking constantly about a solution that would bring him and his family back to their normal lives - as much

as possible - since returning to his town was not possible, due to the continuing crisis in his country. While he was in this sorrowful situation, he heard about a model residential village built by Qatar Charity for displaced families near Kafer-losin, a village north of Idlib, near the Turkish border. The village was at that time about to be completed.

He liked the village that has well-planned housing units and other basic facilities that include a mosque, a school, a health center, and a market, so he prayed to Allah to have a housing unit in it.

"Allah did not disappoint me, and I got a house in the village," Abu Mahmoud says. "Our happiness was indescribable when we were receiving the house, we are currently living in." "Finally, we will live in a house that has a door and a roof, will protects us from rain and cold, and maintain our family privacy."

Passion for Colors

Abu Mahmoud was not only happy with getting the house, but also with the return of his children and all the children of the village to school, because the light of knowledge means the beginning of a bright future for them. He also was satisfied with other services available at the village, especially the health center and the market.

Make a Living

Abu Mahmoud's life changed. Because of the free time, his love for painting, and his passion for colors, he decided to develop his talent in drawing in general and in drawing on walls in particular. He bought feathers and colors. Now this talent has become a profession that helps him make a living and meet his family needs.

Abu Mahmoud worked on coloring the model village school. Then he decorated the walls and domes of the mosque, with joyful colors that made it more beautiful.

"We are lucky to live in this village that has adequate housing and basic facilities," said Hikmat Abdel Rahman, a resident of the Qatar Charity Model Village. "There is no doubt that Abu Mahmoud's friendly smile, beautiful colors and feathers give us hope and positivity despite the difficulties caused by the continuous displacement that separated us from our homes and our loved ones."





Mohammad Gulam Rabbani

Social and economic justice to be ensured for IDPs

Internal displacement has emerged as one of the greatest human crises in the world today. In most cases, the root causes of displacement are those that have triggered, or at least contributed to, armed conflict or situations of violence in the first place. Apart from the above, poverty, the effects of climate change, scarcity of resources, political instability, weak governance, and justice systems may all be catalysts for conflict-induced displacement. These same factors often hamper the end of displacement and make the task of rebuilding lives and restoring the livelihoods of people affected by displacements all the more difficult.

59.1 Million Displacements

The number of people living in internal displacement around the world reached a record 59.1 million at the end of 2021, up from 55 million a year earlier. The unprecedented figure is the result of new waves of violence and protracted conflict in countries ranging from Ethiopia and Afghanistan to Syria, Myanmar, and the

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)'s annual global report.

Around 38 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) were reported during 2021, the second-highest annual figure in a decade after 2020's record-breaking year for disaster displacement. Conflict and violence triggered 14.4 million movements, an increase of almost 50 per cent on the year before.

Most Affected Countries

Sub-Saharan Africa is the most affected region, with more than five million IDPs in Ethiopia alone, the highest figure ever for a single country. The DRC, Afghanistan and Myanmar also registered unprecedented numbers in 2021. The Middle East and North Africa recorded its lowest in ten years as conflict in Syria, Libya and Iraq de-escalated, but the region's overall number of IDPs remained concerningly high by the end of the year.

After the Russian-Ukraine conflict, the displacement gets a new shape across the world. It caused the

fastest and one of the largest forced displacement crises since World War II. At least 12 million people have fled their homes since the beginning of the Russian-Ukraine conflict, the United Nations (UN) said in July 2022.

People who are the victim of any kind of displacement face a terrible situation in the next phases. They take shelter in different camps with the empathy of others. They depend mainly on the humanitarian aids provided by different charity organisations for their livelihood.

No opportunity

IDPs when they are forced to flee their homes and land, in most cases, there is no opportunity for the IDPs to pursue any work in the refugee camps. As a result, a significant drop in their income becomes visible. Livelihood loss leads them to reduced access to food and an increase in malnutrition.

Poor housing conditions have been damaging effects on IDPs' physical and mental health. Tents and inadequate housing expose them to heat, cold, damp and natural hazards. Lack of safe water and sanitation facilitates the spread of communicable diseases, sometimes to neighbouring communities. Apart from this, in most refugee camps there is no systematic educational facility for the children. As a result, the children are growing up in the camps with a great uncertainty. They are unable to make a future plan for their lives.

Lack of coordination between the government, international agencies and NGOs in interventions aimed at supporting the return or local integration of IDPs currently hinders the creation of conditions for a durable outcome. Search for durable solutions is a complex process that requires the timely and coordinated intervention of humanitarian, development and peace-building actors. Solutions-oriented responses to displacement require a wide variety of stakeholders, potentially significant resources and a comprehensive analysis of the situation on the ground.

Think Anew

Governments across the world must think anew for a permanent or durable solution to this problem.

Initiatives can be taken to reintegrate the persons, who are displaced due to war situations or other conflicts, in their home countries for ensuring their normal life. Because there can be no better way to bring back a normal life to IDPs. No matter how many facilities you provide in IDPs camps, a person does not have a chance to lead a life with all rights there. Life in the IDPs camps is like a life in the open imprisonment.

United Nations, different international and regional organizations have been trying for many years to find a durable solution for the IDPs. These organizations and the leaders of different countries have taken various initiatives at different times. But most of those initiatives have gone in vain as the agreements and proposals accepted at the negotiating table are not complied by the concerned countries and parties later. This is one of the major obstacles to a permanent solution. The concerned countries and parties have to comply with the conditions of agreements and proposals.

Integration Processes

Following the conditions, the IDPs can be included in different kinds of integration processes. For this purpose, stakeholders concerned can engage into peace agreements among themselves for spontaneous returns of the IDPs. However, an agreement alone is not sufficient to achieve durable solution for them. Safety and security, an adequate standard of living, access to livelihoods, restoration of land and property, reconstruction of houses, access to documentation, family reunification, participation in public affairs, and access to effective remedies and justice have to be ensured in these integration processes.

Apart from this, the United Nations and other international and regional forums can work on how to stop and reduce war, conflict, and ethnic conflict among the ethnic groups and nation states. Economic disparity has to be reduced between the conflicting ethnic groups in the same country. Focus should be given on building a society with humanitarian values.



Sports

for Development and Peace

Expanding Globally...



From Darfur to Puntland:

Sports for Development and Peace takes steps forward

The Sports for Development and Peace (SDP), an initiative launched by the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and Qatar Charity (QC) is taking another step forward, through the 'Save the Dream' initiative to reach more communities.

This aims to invest in the positive values of sports and reach the target groups of young men and women and children to promote the concept of building local communities in the beneficiary countries and support the role of sports in achieving sustainable development goals.

This time, the SDP initiative will implement the 'Empowering Youth and Saving Children's Dreams in Somalia through Sport' project in the city of Garowe located in Puntland State in northeastern Somalia. This comes after the initiative made a great impact on the youth of Darfur, who took part in sporting competitions that promoted the values of coexistence among the people in the region. The SDP initiative was appreciated by the local community and the United Nations for its Darfur's efforts, as United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has included the SDP initiative as a successful model for countering extremism in its technical guide on 'Preventing Extremism through Sports'.

Reasons for Selection

The selection of Somalia where the project will be implemented came due to many reasons. Children under 18 make up over half of the population of the country, which is one of the world's the poorest countries, where out of 10 people, 7 suffer from poverty. Access to education is lowest for those in rural areas, and in IDP camps.

As in other countries, sport is one of the most popular leisure activities in Somalia. Despite this, there are very few opportunities for people to get involved through sports associations. A lack of cultural and sports activities is considered a significant challenge facing children and youth in their daily lives in Somalia. According to a joint IDP site verification exercise led by local government counterparts, NRC and UNHCR in Garowe in June 2021, 25 IDP sites were identified hosting 8,535 households or 51,670 individuals.

As such, a unique and urgent opportunity exists to invest in peace and development efforts in the country. Therefore, by developing and supporting spaces, inside and outside of schools, for social interaction and participation in sport, opportunities for children and youth to engage constructively in social and civic life will increase.

Implementing the Project

The project will be implemented by the International Centre

for Sport Security (ICSS) within the framework of QFFD-Qatar Charity Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) Programme and through the 'Save the Dream' initiative, as well as with the engagement of international partners, trainers, renowned sport ambassadors, and other stakeholders. It will apply sport to promote a positive change among youth in Somalia making full use of the power of sport to build more fair and inclusive societies. This project also calls on youth in Somalia to play a more prominent role in promoting the values of sport in their communities.

The project will focus on Puntland State and will be implemented in Garowe City. It will train up to 50 male and female participants from different parts of Puntland.

The trainers will receive high-level training on international frameworks and available tools related to sport for development and peace, the use of sport to prevent violent extremism, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The project aims to reach more than 10,000 children and youth in Garowe through various events and activities during the implementation.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the relevant administrations in Garowe, the ICSS through its 'Save the Dream' initiative will select 10 schools/sport facilities that will receive sport equipment and materials to implement sport for peace and development and allow more young people to participate in sport and educational activities.

Nevertheless, some activities will take place in the IDP settlements in the outskirts of Garowe city to promote community engagement and advocacy in the field of sport for development and peace. There will be some cultural shows, exhibitions, and traditional sport activities by the IDP community and local talents.

The project will focus on the use of sport and the power of its values to promote peace and reconciliation and prevent violent extremism, as well as on the education and empowerment of youth, women and girls, the inclusion of persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups and fostering social cohesion and harmony.

Main Outcomes

The project is expected to deliver four main outcomes:

1. Identified local agents of change including sport coaches, educators, role models in sport and youth leaders are to be trained to become the official and certified trainers of the project and to prepare them as agents of change to implement sport for development and peace activities in their respective communities and schools.
2. Identified schools, sport, and grassroots organizations in Garowe are to be equipped in terms of sport materials and educational approaches.
3. Identified teachers, educators, coaches, operators and volunteers are to be connected through a common digital platform to facilitate access to and exchange of information, synergies and forms of mutual assistance in the long-term.
4. Awareness will be raised locally, nationally and internationally on the role of sport in the field of development and peace.

The project is expected to contribute to achieving many sustainable development goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, which are Good Health and Well-being (GOAL 3), Quality Education (Goal 4), Gender Equality (Goal 5), Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (Goal 16), and Partnerships to Achieve the Goal (Goal 17).

About SDP

The Sports for Development and Peace (SDP) initiative focuses on working in post-conflict areas to use the power of sport in uniting peoples and achieving social cohesion. The initiative is expected to work in several countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan, in addition to many African and Middle Eastern countries.

The project seeks to empower a group of young men and women to become 'agents of change', and train other young people to contribute to the development of approaches to promoting development and peace through sport.





Why did we Participate?

Participants' opinions

To find out the impact of this participation on Qatar Charity's team members and the most important benefits they received, 'Ghiras' received the following opinions:

The captain of Qatar Charity's Sudan team: The SCWC 2022 was not just a football game, but rather a sports and humanitarian event which had spaces for free expression through cultural activities, arts and conferences to mobilize and advocate for children's rights.

Omar Fadel El-Sayed from Sudan Team said that he benefited from the accompanying events and training workshops that made him rethink more deeply about his life, better understand what he should do, how to overcome obstacles and move at a steady pace to achieve the goal.

Othman Shabeika, a 12th grade student who has been sponsored by Qatar Charity since 2014, considered his participation in the tournament an opportunity for him to develop his football skills and drawing, through the training he received.

The captain of Bosnia and Herzegovina Mirza Ibrahimasic: We were happy with the participation in this tournament and the result we achieved.

We are fortunate to have this experience, obtain different knowledge, and acquire great skills.

Qatar Charity's orphans participate in Street Child World Cup

In an initiative that is the first of its kind, Qatar Charity (QC) participated in the Street Child World Cup (SCWC) 2022, which was the fourth football World Cup and took place from October 8-15 in Doha, Qatar. This came within the framework of the Sports for Development and Peace (SDP) initiative, and in cooperation with Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and many other partners.

Sudan and Bosnia Teams

The SCWC 2022 was participated in by the two teams of orphans sponsored by Qatar Charity's Sudan and Bosnia and Herzegovina offices, along

with other 26 teams from 25 countries.

The SCWC 2022, which was held prior to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, was participated in by 28 teams from many countries, including Qatar. Amongst the 28 teams, 10 will have refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to take part in the tournament. The fourth SCWC took place at Qatar Foundation's (QF) Education City, in co-operation with Street Child United and Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD). The sporting event included an arts festival and conference to advocate for children's rights to education around the world.

The Street Child World Cup, which is organized

annually, is a platform to advocate for children's rights. The power of sport, specifically major international sporting events, is used to change negative perceptions and enable participants to overcome adversity and obstacles they face to become widely recognized inspiring models in their communities across the globe.

The Qatar Charity teams' participation was not limited to the football tournament, but also included participation in a conference to advocate for children's rights, as well as in an arts festival that allowed the participants to convey their voice to the world, with the aim of bringing about positive change in their local communities.

Visits and Training

The two teams also visited Second Assalam School supported by Qatar Charity. The visit included a training workshop, sports activities, drawing, modern technology to instill values in young leaders through practical exercises. The Bosnia and Herzegovina team qualified for the semi-finals of the SCWC 2022.

Mr. Mohammed Al-Ghamdi, CEO's Assistant for the Governance Sector and Director of the External Affairs Office of Qatar Charity, highlighted Qatar Charity's keenness to participate in the SCWC 2022

"Our participation is part of our keenness and great interest in children's rights on the one hand, and sports on the other hand, as a lever for humanitarian action and an affirmation of our commitment to a child-centered approach," said Al-Ghamdi.

"This means putting children's rights at the heart of our activities, empowering them and training them on how to make their voice heard and influence decision-makers to improve their situation in their communities by using sport and its power to have the desired positive impact."

He added, «I believe that this opportunity was very important for the orphans sponsored by Qatar Charity to develop their leadership capabilities through training and exposure to the cultures of the participating teams and benefiting from this unique global experience."



Sports for Development and Peace backs youth leaders' projects

A new experience has brought together Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), Qatar Charity (QC), and Street Child United within the framework of the Sports for Development and Peace (SDP) initiative. This experience is a grant program designed to support youth leaders and allow them to compete in implementing projects that employ the power of sports to address key social issues and serve a wide range of communities.

On the sidelines of Street Child World Cup (SCWC) 2022, which was held in Doha in October 2022, the grant program competition took place. The 10 young leaders, who participated in the SCWC, and represented seven countries (Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Egypt, India, Pakistan, and Tanzania), submitted their work plans, through Street Child United, to a committee of judges to evaluate them based on how they use sport to address key social issues in their countries. The senior specialist of external affairs at Qatar Charity's Foreign Affairs office Hajar Abdulla Al-Hajri was a member of the committee of judges.

Project Grant

Each youth received a grant of £2,500 while two youth leaders were nominated for a higher grant of £10,000 to implement their projects in their communities. Mr. Sadiq John was declared as winner for his 'Street Stars Foundation' project, while Drica Santos and Jesicado Valle are winner for their 'Play Like a Girl' project.

The youth leaders will implement their projects in their countries, and Street Child United, through comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of all projects, will ensure effective and impactful spending to achieve the goals sought by QFFD. At the same time, Qatar Charity, the strategic partner, will study the projects of the winners and consider financing and implementing their projects in their communities.

The program is expected to contribute to enhancing the capabilities of young people through sport.



FIFA World Cup fan zones in IDPs and refugee camps

The 'Qatar FIFA 2022 for All: Celebrating Football with Refugees and Displaced people' initiative, launched in conjunction with the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, contributed to bringing joy to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in camps, and allowed them to watch the world cup matches and events by setting up fan zones in several countries.

Qatar Charity (QC), in cooperation with its partners, supervised the fan zones in the camps of six countries, which are Jordan, Syria, Sudan, Kenya, Bangladesh, and Somalia.

The fan zones aim to alleviate the suffering of the refugees and IDPs, give them hope for a better life, restore normalcy to their lives, contribute to building positive relations between refugees and their host communities, and enhance social cohesion through entertainment and cultural programs.

A Variety of Events

The fan zones had live broadcasts of the world cup matches daily and held sports and entertainment activities for children and youth, in addition to distributing sportswear, footballs, and meals to the refugees and DPs, encouraging the families

to attend the event, in addition to holding virtual tournaments.

In addition to Qatar Charity, the initiative was participated in by many bodies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Qatar Fund for Development, the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC), the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS), and beIN SPORTS.

Sharing the joy of world cup with the IDPs and refugees

«This initiative aims to share the joy of the Qatar World Cup 2022 with the IDPs, refugees, and vulnerable communities, and highlight their issues and conditions, based on our belief that sport is the right of everyone, and its role in the peace and development of all communities,» said Nawaf Abdullah Al Hammadi, CEO's Assistant for the International Operations and Programs sector at Qatar Charity. He also emphasized the importance of sport as more than just a recreational activity for the IDPs and refugees, noting its ability to provide an opportunity for integration, protection, development, growth, and psychological support.

Qatar Charity's voluntary efforts for FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022

Qatar Charity (QC), through the Volunteering and Initiatives section at the Programs and Community Development Department, was keen to engage thousands of volunteers in voluntary work to benefit from their capabilities in organizing the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. It also concluded cooperation partnerships with several bodies to facilitate the participation and training of volunteers and support efforts that ease the movement of fans.

Training Workshops

Qatar Charity, in cooperation with the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, organized a series of training and introductory workshops for volunteers on the events associated with the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, aiming to develop their capabilities by training them in various fields.

Organizing and Guiding

Qatar Charity provided more than 2,000 volunteers to contribute to organizing and guiding the spectators during the World Cup event, in cooperation with Mowasalat (Karwa). This came to support the company's efforts during the major sporting events, within the framework of the agreement signed with Karwa.

Qatar Charity also provided volunteers for guiding

the visitors of the 'Safar' exhibition, which highlights the experiences of Afghan refugees following their evacuation from Afghanistan. This comes in cooperation with the Museum of Islamic Art.

The volunteers also contributed to receiving and guiding the guests wishing to know about Islam in several tourist destinations around the Qatari capital.

Wheelchairs

Qatar Charity also handed over 53 wheelchairs to the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy to facilitate the movement of elderly and disabled fans of the world cup to the stadium seats.



New partnerships support sports and development in marginalized communities

Under the Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) initiative, the strategic partnerships are expanded in scope to enhance the role of sport as a tool for peace and development in vulnerable communities, and to support sports-led projects as part of this joint initiative of Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and Qatar Charity (QC). A memorandum of understanding was recently signed by QFFD, Qatar Charity, and Generation Amazing Foundation.

Under this strategic collaboration, all parties will have access to locally and internationally established global stakeholders and partners in connection with implementing one or more sporting-related projects through active engagement and campaigns that promote peace and development to aid the most vulnerable communities.

The project aims to impact more than 6000 lives through sports, specifically to bring lasting impact to the lives of refugee children in Palestine. The goal is to work alongside the 'Palestine Sport for Life' to strengthen teachers' capacities in delivering sport-based activities for youth and equipping young adults and children with disabilities with global competency skills. Through the program,

it is intended to improve their circumstance and well-being by providing safe spaces, especially for young girls to play sports.

"With the signing of this memorandum of understanding, we look forward to growing our strategic collaboration, as we collectively seek to build a stronger and more unified network of global stakeholders and partners," said Reem Ghanim Al-Sulaiti, Acting Deputy Director General for Planning of Qatar Fund for Development.

Mr. Nasser Al Khor, Executive Director of Generation Amazing Foundation, said, "We are happy to join Qatar Fund for Development and Qatar Charity in this vital effort to create positive change in the lives of the vulnerable, contribute to achieving social peace among people, and overcome differences and obstacles."

"Over the past years, we have taken important steps through this initiative, in cooperation with QFFD and a group of partners, and made remarkable achievements," said Mr. Nawaf Abdullah Al Hammadi, CEO's Assistant for International Operations and Programs at Qatar Charity. He hoped to achieve more impact by expanding cooperation.



Experts and specialists discuss humanitarian-development-peace nexus

Organized by Qatar Charity (QC) in partnership with the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies, a symposium on the 'Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus', discussed the concept of approach to humanity, development, and peace, as well as the qualitative development in humanitarian action policies, to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of current humanitarian, development, and peace-building programs.

Triple Nexus

At the outset, Dr. Ghassan Elkahout, Director of the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies (CHS), spoke about the developmental concept of humanitarian action policies in the shift from theorizing to linking relief with development to work with the triple nexus approach. "The

humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach was presented as an initiative to reform the global aid architecture and improve responses to conflict," said Elkahout.

He added that the term 'Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus' offers an integrative concept in recognizing that humanitarian, development, and security assistance in fragile states has often been provided in the absence of a comprehensive framework to address drivers of conflict, build the resilience of communities, enhance their capacities, and reduce humanitarian needs.

He noted that the State of Qatar has increasingly participated in conflict-affected settings, in line with the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. He described it as an 'interconnected actor' that

is the distinctive feature of Qatar's response to conflict and crises, which has enabled the Qatari aid and development sector, particularly non-state actors, to become diverse and resilient and offer a comparative advantage in the international aid system to engage in non-traditional and innovative programs. He noted that the State of Qatar retains these characteristics compared to the countries of the region.

He indicated that Qatar Charity has worked in Darfur and other places effectively to address the humanitarian-development gap, and that its projects in Darfur are not limited to the traditional areas of humanitarian and development assistance. This makes the organization flexible to be a significant partner in the international aid system.

Increasingly Aware

Mr. Mohamed AlGhamdi, CEO's assistant for the Governance sector and director of the External Affairs office at Qatar Charity, explained that the humanitarian-development-peace nexus is a new concept. "While we have attached our significant attention to providing urgent relief assistance, we have become increasingly aware of the need to include resilience building in our interventions and complement humanitarian efforts with efforts that seek to build the capacity of fragile communities to adapt and recover," AlGhamdi said.

He pointed out that conflicts, especially in fragile settings, have become more frequent and increasingly prolonged. In addition to that, disasters and humanitarian crises may affect communities differently, as they are associated with several factors that determine the ability of the individual and communities to cope and adapt. These challenges may also pose a major threat to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

He stressed that there is an increasing need to focus on efforts that contribute to building and enhancing the capacity and resilience of communities to ensure that countries are more resilient to future shocks and can recover in a faster and more sustainable manner. He noted that there are more than 1.8 billion people living in fragile or conflict-affected settings.

"From this point of view, development programs and projects had the largest share of our interventions, as our total development assistance in 2021 amounted to 305 million US dollars, %84 of our total spending," AlGhamdi said. "We focused on economic empowerment, education, health facilities, social care, and income-generating projects.

He pointed out that Qatar Charity implemented the 'Support Wheat Value Chain' project, which is a pioneering development project and the first of its kind in northern Syria. He noted that the project extends comprehensive support, from providing agricultural inputs to offering bread to the local community and distributing it to beneficiaries in the region. Such projects aim to enhance the ability of the local community to meet its basic needs.

He added that Qatar Charity's approach included focusing on preventing the outbreak of conflicts by addressing their root causes. For example, the acute lack of services and livelihoods (like the lack of clean drinking water and the deterioration in public health) was one of the biggest obstacles to the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

In this regard, he said that Qatar Charity worked to build many villages and service complexes through which it provided safe drinking water, health facilities, and housing units. Qatar Charity's response was based on two pillars: facilitating and encouraging voluntary return and supporting development. He stated that Qatar Charity is currently implementing a similar project in Syria by building Alamal City for the Syrian IDPs in the northern countryside of Aleppo.

Mr. Biplove Choudhary, Technical Representative and Head of Office in Doha, United Nations Development Programme, stressed that the necessary solutions to humanitarian crises come from the communities themselves to overcome their crises, emphasizing that peace comes by creating a development and humanitarian environment in which humanitarian organizations join forces with each other.



Sadio Mané, World-class footballer and humanitarian off the field

Sadio Mané is not only a world-class footballer and top scorer playing for European teams and a contributor to winning local, European, and international titles, but also well-known for humanity, generosity, and sincerity off the field. He left an important impact in the humanitarian and charitable fields, earning the love of people and the honor of the relevant authorities.

Childhood

Mané lived a simple life in a poor rural town called Bambali, 400 km from Senegal's capital, Dakar. His father was the imam of the village mosque, and he lived most of his childhood with his uncle due to the tighter financial conditions of his parents.

The football talent of Mané appeared early with the children of his village. Although he lost his father at a young age, Mané never stopped dreaming. At the age of 15, he ran away from his home village and went to Dakar, the capital of Senegal, to pursue his ambition of becoming a footballer.

As the goals and tireless work of Sadio Mane have won the hearts of fans, his work for charity and humanity and his great generosity to help the people of his town in Senegal and elsewhere have won him plaudits. He emphasized more than once that he is a human athlete before he was a footballer



A Change

His small town, Bambali, has changed thanks to his support and the projects he implemented there, which include a hospital, a school, and a petrol station. His village and other neighboring villages have begun to benefit from the basic services. Besides, he gives 70 euros per month to each family of his town (whose population is approximately 2000). He supported the outstanding students by providing them with money and laptops. He also periodically distributes sportswear to the children of his country to give them the opportunity to practice sports, especially football.

Utilizing Vacation

Sadio spends important times of his vacations pursuing his charitable projects in his town by himself, unlike many world stars, who enjoy their time in charming tourist destinations and luxurious places.

Among his most prominent humanitarian stances is that he entered a mosque in Liverpool and participated in cleaning toilets. This prompted the English newspapers to ask: «What drives a player

who earns a salary of more than 100,000 euros a week to do this?»

Preference

“I do not need to display luxury cars, luxury homes, trips, and even planes. I went hungry and had to work in the fields; I survived difficult times. I played barefoot. Now I can help people. I prefer to build schools and give poor people food or clothing. I prefer that my people receive a little of what Allah has given me,» Mane said.

Awards

Sadio Mane won the first-ever Socrates Award for charity works and several huge investments in his country and developing the infrastructure for his hometown, Bambali village. Sadio Mane clinched the first-ever Socrates Award at the 2022 Ballon d'Or award ceremony in Paris, France. It is presented annually by the 'France Football' magazine. The award is the first of its kind in the history. It is presented by the magazine to players who contribute significantly to charity work and community service.

'Rofaqa'

hosts orphans from Sudan and Bosnia and Herzegovina

A compassionate humanitarian moment that brought together orphans sponsored under Qatar Charity's orphan care initiative 'Rofaqa' and their sponsors can not be forgotten. A group of sponsors from Qatar and the sponsored orphans from Sudan and Bosnia and Herzegovina had long been waiting and longed for a meeting, but the distance had not allowed such a meeting between the sponsored and their sponsors.

However, the Street Child World Cup (SCWC) 2022 held in Doha was an opportunity for Sudan and Bosnia and Herzegovina teams, who are sponsored by Qatar Charity, to meet their sponsors at Qatar Charity's headquarters where the sponsored were honored by the organization.

The event was attended by HE Ahmed Adam Bakheet, Sudan's Minister of Social Development, HE Ahmed Abdel-Rahman Siwar Al-Dahab, Ambassador of Sudan, HE Abdulah Skaka, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. John Wroe, Founder and CEO of Street Child United, and Mr. Youssef Al-Kuwari, CEO of Qatar Charity. Besides, several officials from Qatar Charity, many orphans sponsored by Qatar Charity's Sudan and Bosnia and Herzegovina's offices, who took part in the SCWC, were also present at the event.

A large family

"Today, you are part of a large family that includes 188,000 children from 40 countries, and hundreds of employees, who work at Qatar Charity's headquarters and around the world to enable you to have your right to education, health, food, and



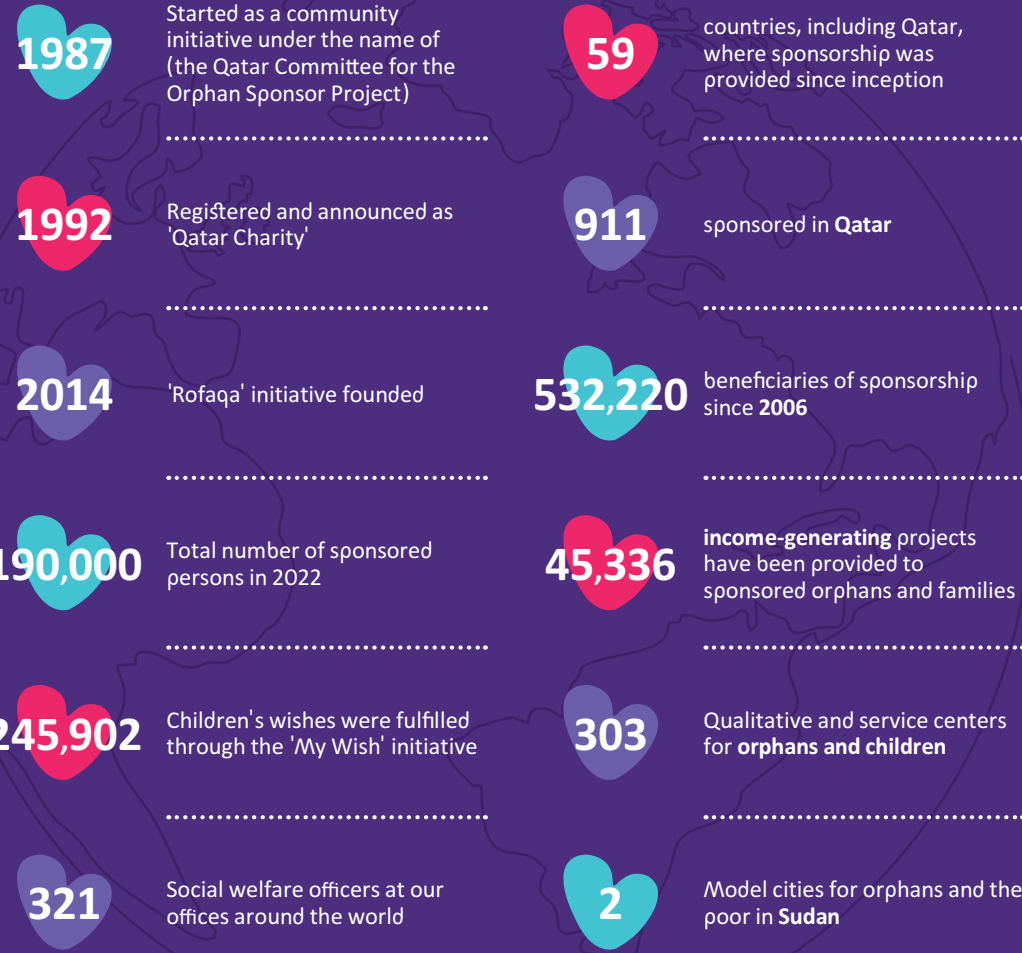
protection," said Mr. Yousef Al-Kuwari, CEO of Qatar Charity while addressing the children at the event. He explained that the 'Rofaqa' initiative has achieved remarkable success by helping tens of thousands of children realize their dreams and aspirations. He emphasized that support will continuously be extended to the children whenever they need help. He advised the children to focus on their studies and ambitions to build a better future for themselves, as well as for their families, communities, and countries.

A Difference

Mr. Yousuf Abdulla Al-Khulaifi, head of the Child Protection Section at Qatar Charity, said, Rofaqa sponsors orphans, people with disabilities, families, students, and teachers. He added that Rofaqa was launched as an initiative in 2013 to make a difference in the field of caring for those most in need through active and pioneering programs aimed at achieving social solidarity. Speaking at the event, Muhammad Al-Shazly Suleiman, a child from the Sudan team, thanked the sponsors and Qatar Charity, urging them to continue their support for orphans. He indicated that he and his brother are sponsored by Qatar Charity, which helps them continue their education and live in dignity.

Rofaqa Initiative

Prolonged Achievements Qualitative Projects



Unexpected Moment Orphans meet sponsors

Qatar Charity (QC) arranged an emotional and unexpected meeting between orphans sponsored through its Sudan and Bosnia and Herzegovina offices and their Qatari female sponsors in Doha.

The meeting came on the sidelines of an event organized by Qatar Charity's orphan care initiative 'Rofaqa' at its headquarters in honor of the sponsored orphans who participated in the Street Child World Cup (SCWC) held in Doha in October 2022.

Ripe fruits

A Qatari female sponsor nicknamed 'Umm Abdallah' expressed her delight with meeting with Azem Durakovic, an orphan from Bosnia and Herzegovina, whom she has been sponsoring since 2011. The orphan termed this meeting as the mother's meeting with her son, who was absent from her for a long time. "In my opinion, the most beautiful gift that we can give to an orphan is to take care of him throughout his childhood," said the sponsor.

"I had thought to visit Bosnia and Herzegovina to see him and his family, but due to some reasons, I could not do go there. It is a nice feeling to see the ripe fruits of your action, and today, I find him as a secondary school student," said the sponsor. "I consider him like my children, hoping that he will complete higher education and serve his nation, and I am ready to continue to sponsor him until he achieves his goal."

"I feel like I am in a dream that I have not yet woken up from," the sponsored orphan Azem Durakovic describes his feeling. "It never crossed my mind that I would be able to meet someone who has helped me since I was very young."

"I dream of becoming a professional footballer or a computer programmer if I will not be able to achieve my sports dream," said Azem Durako. "I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to my sponsor for her generously giving and her willingness to continue supporting me until I complete my university study."

Pleasant Surprise

The second meeting was between a Qatari sponsor, nicknamed 'Umm Rakan' and Mohammed Al-Shazly, an orphaned 11th grade-student from Sudan. Umm Rakan expressed her happiness with seeing him, considering the occasion a pleasant surprise. "I am happy to meet my son Muhammad, whom I have been sponsoring since his childhood, and I am very grateful to Qatar Charity, which arranged this beautiful meeting."

"I used to pray to Allah that he would allow me to meet with someone who sponsors me, so that I can express my gratitude to the sponsor face to face, but I did not think that it would ever happen," said Mohammed Al-Shazly.

"I am indebted to my second mother 'Umm Rakan', who took care of me at a time when I was most in need of support and assistance after my father's death," A-Shazly added, thanking Umm Rakan. "She told me during the meeting that she will sponsor me during my studies at a university."

"I am an outstanding student, and I am working hard to achieve two wishes in the future, the first is to become a doctor and the second is to be a sponsor of other orphans," A-Shazly revealed to Umm Rakan, whom he considered a role model in giving and supporting.

Meanwhile, the Qatari sponsor, Fatima Yaqoub Al-Ali, could not hold back her tears when she saw for the first time Meho Bajric, an orphan from Bosnia and Herzegovina, whom she sponsors. "I thank Allah for helping me to sponsor him, since he was young," she said. "I feel as if I met one of my children after a long absence and wait, and I was keen to advise him to take care of his mother and sister."

Meho Bajric thanked the sponsor Fatima, who supported him and his family after his father's death, in addition to thanking Qatar Charity that arranged this great meeting for the sponsor and the sponsored

How to utilize novels to draw young persons' attention to humanitarian causes?

'The Boy at the Back of the Class' as Model

By Ali AlRachied

Stories and novels are among the most beautiful means that can attract the attention of children and young persons. Therefore, those interested in humanitarian work should utilize them to instill the values of humanitarian work and raise awareness of its importance at all levels.

Authored by Onjali Q. Rauf, and told with humor and heart, 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' is a novel that offers a child's perspective on the refugee crisis, shedding light on the importance of friendship and kindness.

The novel, through Ahmet, a Syrian refugee child, who joined a British primary school, addresses a sensitive humanitarian issue related to refugee children and families, and the risks they face in their journey to reach European countries, as well as the risk of the separation of children from parents and other cultural shocks and social problems refugees go through.

Kid-Friendly

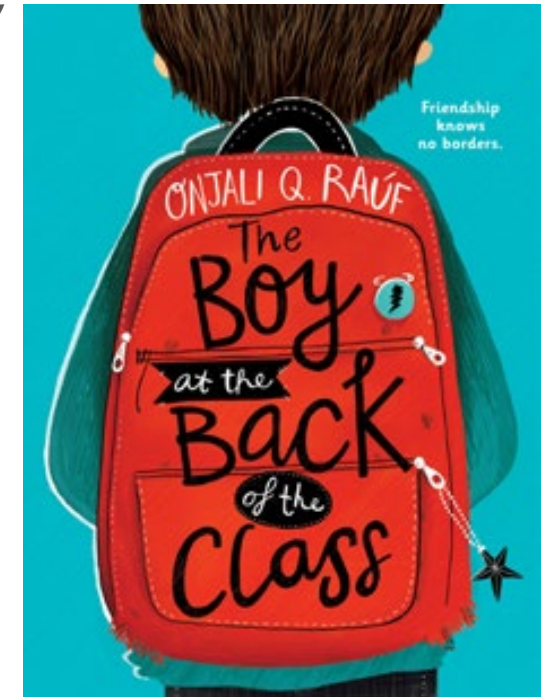
This kid-friendly story about the refugee crisis, which is written in English for the British and European readers, highlights the community-changing potential of standing as an ally and reminds readers that everyone deserves a place to call home.

The story, in general, contributes to educating adolescents and youth in Europe about global humanitarian issues, and draws their attention to the importance of discharging humanitarian duty by everyone for the benefit of refugees affected by crises, wars, natural disasters, especially for the benefit of children, given that they are the most affected ones.

Ambiguity & Adventures

Although the idea of the novel and its events at the beginning were normal, it was able to draw attention through the ambiguity in the first part and the adventures associated with the reunion of Ahmet with his family in the second part. This made us follow up to the last line, admiring Ahmet's friends (Alexa, Michael, Tom, and Josie) who sympathized with him and searched for his family who were separated in the journey of asylum. Finally, the happy ending of the novel come after many difficult challenges.

The language used in the novel is interesting to the children.



Story Success Factors

One of the factors that contributed to the success of the story is that the writer is a British Muslim of Asian origin. She lives in the West and knows the various contradictions in dealing with refugees and immigrants.

Besides, she is a young woman and humanitarian activist who visited the camp of refugees and listened to their children's stories.

The story of drowned Syrian boy Alan, whose image made global headlines, was the main motive for her interest in the refugee issue, and then thinking of writing this novel, as she mentioned.

Important Additions

The book has brought many important additions to its pages. The last pages of the book provide enriching information and statistics for children about refugees in the world and ask questions to adolescents and youth to encourage them to care about their refugee peers and pay attention to humanitarian issues as a moral duty.

The writer decided to allocate part of the book's profits to saving refugees and providing them with aid such as food, warm clothes, and gifts. This is a beautiful gesture.



The humanization of media

Maliha Al Shafee, Director of Public Relations and Communication, RACA

When crises afflict people in this world, humanitarian work acts as a rescue ship, a firewall, and a safety message.

And from the midst of the vast humanitarian field, the light of specialized humanitarian media emerges as a spot in a dark ocean, and a pure jewel in a heap of waste. It deserves to be given its right of development, strengthening, and leadership.

Before we get into the questions about the reality of humanitarian work in our Arab world, and the aspirations of its development and advancement to reach effective performance and fruitful achievement, here an important question arises: What is the importance of the media for humanitarian organizations?

To answer this question, the humanitarian media is closely linked to the humanitarian work itself, as it is the voice of the organizations and their messenger to the world, especially when we talk about the humanitarian sector that is closest to

people's needs and associated with noble goals and lofty values.

Humanitarian media is an effective tool for serving societies, and an auxiliary means to convey the suffering of people and mobilize efforts to support humanitarian and development work in all its forms and shapes, starting with relief, urgent response, and humanitarian interventions in various areas of disasters, crises, and conflicts, to saving the lives of victims, helping the needy, and restoring a smile to the faces of the miserable.

Not only that, but the importance of this media sector lies in building bridges between people in need and donors, expanding charitable and humanitarian work sector, and spreading goodness for the benefit of the largest segment of the vulnerable, the needy, and the poor.

Certainly, we can not overlook the role of humanitarian media in conveying the bright image of humanitarian work and creating a positive mental image of the work of charitable and humanitarian

organizations, and their prominent roles in relief, development, assistance, protection, health and food care, and providing for refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and those fleeing areas affected by fiery conflicts and natural disasters.

Today, the work of the humanitarian media is no longer limited to creating an image, informing people of the humanitarian need, and actively contributing to urging them to meet those needs, but it has gone beyond that to being a soft and influential power at the international level in resolving crises, stopping conflicts, mitigating damages, and contributing to protecting human in any part of the world.

As a result of this significant importance, and the great need for this vital and important sector, the humanitarian media needs active efforts and creative modernization tools to create a vital and effective model of influential, organized, and disciplined media to serve various humanitarian, societal and development issues.

We are at a time when conflicts have increased, wars have flared up, the list of humanitarian needs, waves of displacement and asylum requests have increased, and the efforts of humanitarian organizations have become incapable of covering so many needs, and responding to disasters everywhere. This matter requires urgent responses and comprehensive development in the frameworks of humanitarian action, especially media plans and tools to serve humanitarian action and improve the quality of its activities.

The message of humanitarian media is sublime, and it presents lofty meanings in a very complex field fraught with tragedies, and therefore it needs sobriety, balance, quality, inclusiveness, and facts based on professional foundations that reach a broader horizon, make more comprehensive impact, and bring better results.

We need a humanitarian media that promotes optimism, spreads smiles, and creates joy. We require a media that describes the humanitarian need without categorizing the needy, and aims to provide relief aid and assistance to people regardless of their color, gender, language, religion, or affiliation, preserving their dignity, maintaining their privacy, and honoring their rights and freedom.

The need of humanitarian work for an influential media necessitates optimal investment in this

important field to combat negative messages and attempts to distort the noble and lofty message of humanitarian work, document pioneering humanitarian work, and create a culture of humanitarian work firmly rooted in people's hearts.

This will not be achieved unless technical developments and modern platforms are kept abreast of, media expertise is developed, strong relationships with various media institutions and platforms are forged, joint programs that serve humanitarian work are implemented, and sufficient resources are harnessed to build balanced and influential humanitarian media.

Here is a moral and ethical responsibility of various media institutions and platforms towards charitable and humanitarian work and those in charge of it, which is to cover humanitarian, charitable, and development programs and projects to ensure the achievement of human solidarity and societal peace.

The various media institutions are also concerned with actively contributing to protecting this charitable and developmental sector from any exploitation or illegal gain, considering this sector as a safety valve for societies and a human connection for different peoples

A last point, which should not be overlooked by those who work in the field of humanitarian media, is that the media in this sensitive sector needs a balance in image and content. It is important to focus on the quality of work, maximize the benefits achieved by humanitarian work, and expanding the geography of benefit to beneficiaries. When the quality of humanitarian work is balanced with the quality of humanitarian media, a good impact and a good reputation are achieved.

On this occasion, I do not forget to express the pride of the State of Qatar and its leadership in the humanitarian work sector, led by Qatar Charity, whose humanitarian impact has reached most parts of the world to form a link to provide organized Qatari aid in the fields of relief, development, care, health, food security, education, economic empowerment, and various other humanitarian areas.

Ezdehar, an incubator for creative and volunteering ideas

Qatar Charity's (QC) Ezdehar, an incubator for initiatives and volunteering, aims to sponsor voluntary initiatives and events, provide advice on volunteering in line with the goals of Qatar Charity, the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Ezdehar, which was launched in October 2022, is part of Qatar Charity's keenness to engage volunteers in humanitarian and development services. It provides a harmonious youth environment to attract initiatives and volunteers.

It also aims to raise the efficiency of volunteers through training and support, and creating qualitative initiatives, in addition to promoting innovation and creativity and providing a database of initiatives and volunteers.

Terms & Conditions

Qatar Charity has set terms and conditions for accepting initiatives, noting that they include the necessity of full commitment, seriousness in implementing the initiative project, and clarity of the idea and the plan, in addition to matching the goals of the initiative with the goals and principles of the incubator and meeting the deadline.



Incubator Headquarters

Qatar Charity has provided a place for Ezdehar at its headquarters to facilitate their work and programs and integrate them with Qatar Charity's culture through training and supporting. "We deemed it necessary to find a headquarters for the volunteers to facilitate their work and programs daily, after we found a large number of volunteers registering through Qatar Charity's website, and their great desire to participate in the events and activities implemented by Qatar Charity," said Mr. Faisal Rashid AlFehaida, CEO's Assistant for the Local Programs and Community Development Sector at Qatar Charity. He added that the number of volunteers registered with Qatar Charity has reached more than 25,000, indicating that Ezdehar contributes to acquainting the volunteers with the work and culture of Qatar Charity, better using their efforts, promoting a sense of belonging among them, and linking them with partners from the public and private sectors to engage them in major activities and events.

Training Courses

Various intensive training programs have been designed to help volunteers acquire leadership and management skills to build their capacities and utilize them in local development. From these programs, a volunteer acquires the basic skills



of voluntary and community work and gets a lot of knowledge and experience. These programs include courses for self-development, presentation, effective communication, and time management skills, as well as supervisory skills and leadership development, in addition to specialized courses in the future in public relations and media, ceremonies and protocol, ceremonial arts, new media skills and professional photography, volunteers and event management, and humanitarian and relief work.

The supervisor of Ezdehar Ms. Fatima Jumah AlMohannadi, Head of the Initiatives and Volunteering section at Qatar Charity, said that it is the first incubator for initiatives and volunteering in Qatar, and creates a homogeneous and safe environment for volunteers to grow, builds their capacities, and provides an incubator for initiatives for development, expansion, and continuity.

Below is an interview with the Head of the Initiatives and Volunteering

- What is the importance of having a place for the incubator for initiatives and volunteering?

It was important to allocate a headquarters for the incubator, which would permanently provide volunteers and members of the initiatives with a suitable place for gathering, working, and meeting, and strengthen their relationships in a positive

environment that reinforces the importance of volunteer work and giving in the community.

- What is the first step you will take?

Among the first steps we will take are:

- Hold training camps to build the capacities of youth initiatives with societal goals and important international issues
- Launch capacity-building programs at the foundation level for volunteers by volunteer trainers
- Take the 'Volunteer in Your Profession' program from its first phase to the consulting implementation phase in the legal and financial fields for the beneficiaries by specialized volunteers, in cooperation with the Social Welfare Department.
- Establishing long-term partnerships to support the goals and programs of the incubator and achieve integration between state institutions and the private sector

- What are the prospects for the incubator?

What we aspire to at Qatar Charity is to digitize the work of the incubator to facilitate access to all volunteers easily, as well as to expand the geographical area of beneficiaries of volunteers and qualitative initiatives, through the launch of an electronic platform.



Warm Hearts winter campaign

In a press conference, the 2022-2023 winter campaign 'Warm Hearts' was launched in October 2022

Campaign's Slogan:
‘Winter is looming. Let’s not wait’

Target Groups:

Internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and underprivileged families in the crisis-stricken areas, and poor communities

Campaign's Areas:

Food, winter essentials, shelter, health, and education

Campaign's Products:

Food packages, winter clothes, blankets, heaters, fuel, tents, house rent and maintenance, necessary medicines, medical supplies, personal hygiene kits, and child and youth education support

Total Cost: QR 8 Million

Number of Beneficiaries: Over 1.2 Million

Countries: 15 countries, in addition to Qatar

Outside Qatar:

Total Cost: QAR 75,900,00

Number of Beneficiaries: Nearly 12,000,000

Number of Countries: 15 worldwide

Target Countries outside Qatar:

Syria, Palestine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, India, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo, Jordan, Albania, Lebanon, Morocco, Bangladesh, Turkey, and Tunisia, in addition to Rohingya refugees

In Qatar:

The campaign includes the following initiatives, aid, and events for the community.

- An initiative to garner support for those in debt, families with low-income, families of prisoners, divorced and deserted women, widows, the elderly, people with special needs, orphans, patients, and students

- Rapid Intervention Initiative

- Right and Duty Initiative

- Winter Aid for Workers

- Community Programs and Activities

Campaign’s Aid:

The aid includes winter clothes, food baskets, medical checkups, and health awareness.

- Aid (food baskets and medical examinations) for 4,000 workers

- Awareness events

Early response to protect IDPs, refugees from winter risks

Qatar Charity (QC), with funding from Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), launched an early winter response project in northern Syria to deliver relief aid to internally displaced persons (IDPs), meet their basic needs and provide shelter assistance to them. This project, which is part of Qatar Charity's 'Warm Hearts' winter campaign, came as a proactive step to protect from the severe cold of winter. It aims to mitigate the coming winter's risks that are associated with extremely low temperatures, floods, rainfall, and snow.

Northern Syria

Under this project, the first consignment of aid has been distributed in seven camps of the IDPs most in need in northern Syria, aiming to replace damaged tents for nearly 33,000 IDPs living in the camps, in addition to distributing 6,600 winter bags containing warm clothes and 6,600 winterized NFI (non-food item) kits consisting of plastic sheeting for tents, ground insulation, blankets, mattresses and carpets.

This assistance is an integral package for the targeted families to help them survive this year's harsh winter and give them life-saving warmth. A second consignment is expected to be distributed soon, which is expected to include 600 tents and 1,600 winter bags containing warm clothes, as well as 1,600 winterized NFI kits.

Spread Hope

QFFD, in conjunction with the 'Warm Hearts' campaign, emphasized the importance of preparedness to provide urgent humanitarian

assistance and spread hope at the regional level.

«Supporting the Syrian people is a core priority for QFFD,» said Nouf Al Kaabi, director of QFFD's Programs and Projects Department.

«Their suffering is elevated every year in the camps due to the extreme cold, floods, rain, and snow which all pose major challenges to their life and put a heavy burden on them.» She added that the rapid early intervention, therefore, comes within the framework of adequate preparation for the winter season, with the aim of alleviating the suffering of the IDPs, especially in unsafe areas, which have difficult access to supply chains and the capabilities of the IDPs do not allow them to meet their basic needs.

Proactive Step

Mishaal Al Hajri, the regional coordinator of QC's Turkey office, valued the continued strategic partnership between Qatar Charity and QFFD to serve humanitarian causes.

«We, through this project, aim to reduce the effects of the cold on the IDPs in the camps of northern Syria,» Al Hajri said.

He noted that the early aid comes as a proactive step to protect the IDPs from the winter risks in the coming months, which may see harsh cold, rain and snow. He also indicated that the provided aid reflects the bright aspect of Qatar's people in terms of helping the needy and supporting the vulnerable.

Delegation Visit

A delegation from QFFD and Qatar Charity supervised the distribution of aid to IDPs in the camps of northern Syria as part of Qatar Charity's 'Warm Campaign'. The delegation also inspected several other projects funded by QFFD and implemented by Qatar Charity for the benefit of Syrian refugees in southern Turkey.

Arsal

Besides, a delegation from Qatar Charity distributed winter aid to many Syrian refugee camps in Arsal near the Syrian-Lebanese border, where the refugees live in harsh conditions in dilapidated tents that do not protect them from the increasing cold, storms, heavy rains, floods and snow. Some 6500 people (nearly 1300 families) benefited from the aid.

The aid, which was distributed to the targeted families in the camps, included plastic sheeting for tents, food packages, and non-food items such as carpets, warm clothes, toys, fuel, blankets, mattresses, heating devices, and gas cylinders.



Charity race to refurbish damaged houses of Gaza

In a noble humanitarian gesture, Qatar Cyclists and Qatar Charity (QC), in cooperation with Palestinian Experience House, launched 'Ride for Palestine', a charity cycling tour campaign, to garner support for a project aimed at restoring damaged houses in Palestine. The campaign aims to collect QR1mn to implement the project to ensure a dignified life for the targeted Palestinian families.

Ride for Palestine

The launch of the 'Ride for Palestine' campaign was participated in by nearly 400 people, including citizens and residents, wearing specially designed dresses bearing the colors of the Palestinian flag.

The bicycle race kicked off at the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha and covered 16 kilometers on the Doha Corniche.

The charitable project will restore 40 houses of the families of orphans, the poor and the needy in the Gaza Strip. The families will be selected in co-operation with the Ministry of Social Development and Family.

The project aims to enhance the living conditions of the expected beneficiaries and alleviate their economic suffering.

The event organizers emphasized the importance of linking sport to charitable work, and made it clear that the event achieved its main objectives, which are spreading awareness of the importance of sport, collecting donations for the charitable project, and shedding light on the Palestinian cause, which is considered the most important issue for Arabs and Muslims.

How to Donate

The riders made their contribution to the charitable campaign in the form of registration fees, ranging

from QR250 to QR1,000 per person. They were registered through QC's website. People can donate to the campaign through this link: <https://qch.qa/CyclingForPLS>.

Continued Cooperation

There is continuous co-operation between Qatar Charity and Qatar Cyclists, which has resulted in the completion of many projects, especially in the field of education. The completed projects include Al-Shaimaa Secondary School for Girls in Palestine and two primary schools in Somalia, in addition to other projects.

Qatar Charity has signed a co-operation agreement with Qatar Cyclists in June, aiming to support humanitarian work through sports activities based on social responsibility.



Unforgettable memories From the heart of the field

By Saoud Ali AL-Maadeed

During my various humanitarian trips, I came across a lot of situations on the ground that shook my conscience. I saw closely those who have been wracked by the harsh living conditions caused by disasters, crises, and poverty. This made me more adherent to the importance of everyone's participation in providing aid to vulnerable communities.

Somalia

One of these situations happened to me in a camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Somalia, where a person, when he heard my name, rushed to me to eagerly make sure whether I belong to the Al-Maadeed tribe. He immediately asked me about a specific person from Al-Maadeed.

I know him and he passed away some time ago, I said. Once he heard this news from me, he was in tears, which increased my confusion. "He sponsored me when I was young," he told me when I wanted to know how he knows the person from Al-Maadeed and why he is crying intensely after hearing his death news. There, I was sure that the effect of doing good remains, and it transcends the limits of time and place. The sincere supplications for mercy and forgiveness for the deceased come from this far place. His good deeds continue as ongoing charity.

Another unforgettable situation, which happened to me during the same visit, is about a woman, who along with her three children walked 3,000 kilometers to reach the IDP camp to provide her children with food and drink that would keep them alive. However, her first son died on the way, and once she reached IDPs camp, her second son passed away. As for the third, he survived and received

treatment. This scene touched me a lot. I contemplate the painful condition of the mother as she loses her beloved ones one by one before her eyes due to drought and the dangers during the journey of fatigue and suffering. They would all have survived if a helping hand had been extended to them at the right moment. I was happy for her third son, who survived after his treatment with the support of benefactors.

Bangladesh

I saw many painful situations in Bangladesh when I visited the country for the follow-up to a medical camp at a children's hospital, which conducted device closure procedures for children suffering from congenital heart diseases.

I remember how the children with their families were lined up to wait for their turn to get into the hospital. Among them was a family who traveled by boat for twenty-four hours to reach the hospital. There were families who had to sleep on the sidewalk of the hospital for a week to get the entry card.

During an operation on a child, I suddenly heard screaming and wailing in the corridor. I rushed with the team to see what happened. We found a mother carrying her child, whose heart stopped. The doctors intervened urgently and performed a cardiac catheterization. The child's heart came back to life again. I was overwhelmed with joy when I saw the joyfulness of the family. The life was saved due to the support of the benefactors who contributed to holding this medical camp. At that time, a Quranic verse came to my mind immediately, which says "And whoever saves a life, it is as if he saved all



mankind."

Syrian Child

In a viral video clip, Muhammad, an 11 - year-old internally displaced Syrian child, is seen crying bitterly because his father is sick, and he is unable to meet the needs of his brothers and his family, even though he left his school to start working at his young age. This painful situation forced the family to eat dry and spoiled bread. I was happy to meet this child through Qatar Charity's Turkey office to encourage and back him. I was also overwhelmed with greater joy by urging the philanthropists who extended a helping hand to him. With the support of benefactors, a house was allocated to his family in the Alamal City, which is currently being built by

Qatar Charity and is nearing completion. The house will be furnished and the family will be sponsored, given that their breadwinner is sick.

There, I saw the impact of charitable deeds that bring joy to the needy, provide them with a dignified life, take care of homeless children, save them from unpleasant situations, and realize their dreams. Thanks to this support, there was new hope in the life of the child Muhammad, the smile was restored to his face, and he became able to fulfill his dream of continuing his studies to be a doctor.

Earlier, he used to work in a tailoring shop for long hours, then he was fired from the job, as the shop owner wanted him to work for much longer hours.

Self-Assessment

Qatar Charity undertakes its first ever self-assessment to measure the application of the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality & Accountability

Qatar Charity (QC) continues to strengthen its leading role in adhering to the best Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality & Accountability (CHS), as part of its endeavor to improve the quality and effectiveness of the aid provided to the target communities.

It has started a self-assessment project with the support of the CHS Alliance in September 2022, as an essential step to support and enhance its commitment to these standards in its humanitarian and development programs.

Importance of Self-Assessment

Self-assessment helps measure the application of the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality & Accountability (CHS) to an organization’s work.

Self-assessment enables organizations, including Qatar Charity, understand their capacity and performance against the CHS, and builds an

improvement plan to make the services they deliver work better for the people affected by crisis.


“Self-Assessment is an important step to develop standards for humanitarian action to achieve the highest commitment and improve performance,” said Mohamed Al Ghamdi, CEO’s assistant for the Governance Sector at Qatar Charity.

“This step will greatly contribute to enhancing the status and reputation of Qatar Charity at the international level,” said Hajar Abdulla Al-Hajri, the in-charge of the self-assessment project. “Efforts to improve systems, including international partnership agreements, and services provided to the affected to meet their requirements, are the best evidence of our keenness and commitment to international humanitarian standards, which are a key requirement to build effective relationships and partnerships with donors like international humanitarian organizations.”

Assessment Phases

First: Planning and preparation

Prepare a plan and work team





Minimum Sample



Number of Countries



Number of Partners



Number of Staff



Employee training







Headquarters






Fields Offices

Second: Data collection and systems review

			
Assessment of 250 employees on their awareness of humanitarian standards	6 Field offices	Assessment of 20 implementing partners about their relationship with the organization	Assessment of 120 people affected by crises about the services provided to them by the organization

Third: Data analysis and improvement plan

	Developing a Self-Assessment Report		Data Analysis
	Certificate of Completion		Developing an Improvement Plan

Nine Commitments

The Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS) sets out Nine Commitments that organizations and individuals involved in humanitarian response can use to improve the quality and effectiveness of the assistance they provide. It also facilitates greater accountability to communities and people affected by crisis.



The CHS Alliance is a global alliance of more than 150 national and international humanitarian and development organizations committed to making aid work better for people.

3 years of enhancing food security

 Project budget \$5 million	 Project Duration 36 months (July, 2019 - August 2022)	 Project location Northwest Syria (Azaz - Marea - Al-Rai)
 Beneficiaries 352000 people	 Implementing agency Qatar Charity	 Donor Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF), Qatar Charity

Achievements

- Supporting 1004 wheat farmers
- Growing 1004 hectares of irrigated wheat
- Producing more than 40 million kg of wheat
- Supporting 4 seeds multiplication stations for the production and improvement of local wheat seeds
- Rehabilitating 3 wheat silo facilities
- Producing 800 tons of seeds
- 2 Flour production line (with a production capacity of 50 tons per day)
- 2 Syrian bread production line (with a production capacity of 5000 loaves per hour)
- Supporting wheat marketing and encouraging farmers
- Distributing free bread to families per day for 6 months

Pioneering community projects: ‘Khair Homes’ as a model

There is great importance for innovative projects and initiatives that serve the community, instill the values of humanitarian and voluntary work in children, and promote the culture of volunteering among the community members, so that this can be the behavior of individuals from childhood and continue throughout the life, encouraging community entrepreneurship in charitable work and humanitarian action.

Qatar Charity, therefore, has adopted and supported qualitative programs that contribute to community service, promote a sense of giving and encourage participation and competition to do good.

Among such important programs is ‘Khair Homes’, which is a competition for Qatari families to do good, promote humanitarian values, and support charitable projects. This program contributes to developing capacities, engages participating families in voluntary work, and endorses innovation in humanitarian action.

The Idea of the Program

The program is implemented in Ramadan. Each participating family designs a corner, as a charitable exhibition, at home, where home-made materials are sold. The family invites relatives and their children to visit the corner and buy the items. The profits are collected to implement a charitable project, chosen by the families.

Criteria for Competition

There were many criteria for the participants to win the competition, including production by participating families, getting children involved, selling products, and using recyclable materials in designing the corner. The participating families are honored in a ceremony.

Positive Values

The program demonstrated the positive values in the community and promoted solidarity with each other among the participating families.



Mrs. Sheikha Al-Sada, who participated in the three versions of the program, said, the program encourages people to do good, contributes to helping others, practically engage family members in implementing a joint charitable project, urges children to take initiative, volunteer and compete in doing good, motivates them to participate in charity work and instills human values in them.

“I did not expect such a great interaction from the family, and when I was arranging items in the corners, I felt the happiness and joyfulness in our children,” added Al-Sada. “Children played a big role, each child was responsible for his corner, and marketed his products in his own way. We focused on making the corners organized by the children themselves.”

She indicated that the children benefited greatly from this experience, as they learnt about the need of other children for food, clothes, education, health, and shelter that protects them from the bitter cold and the scorching sun.

Al-Sada urged each family to participate in this program because its idea is wonderful and unique, and it acquaints children with the importance of helping others, so that they can live a better dignified life.

“The program motivates and encourages people to do good deeds, and instills human values in children,” said Mrs. Fatima Al-Mutawa, who participated in the second edition of the program.

She said that the program is very important to educate children and engage them in doing good, and it instills in them the value of volunteering and taking initiative, and makes them feel the suffering and needs of other peoples, especially those suffering from crises and conflicts. She indicated that she engaged her children in choosing the project that will be implemented from the proceeds of their products, stating that the project is about building house for the poor in Yemen to contribute to alleviating the suffering of families.

Support poor housing, Let the hope continues!

The right to adequate housing is a basic human right recognized by all the international laws.

The United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has stated that the right to proper adequate housing should not be interpreted narrowly, it should be rather perceived as the right to live somewhere in security, peace, and dignity. Despite the importance of this right in every country’s legal system, the statistics reveal that almost one billion people are not properly housed around the world, while there are millions of people who live in life threatening conditions, in overcrowded slums and urban jungles. Millions other evict, flee, and leave their houses to become homeless due to wars, conflicts, epidemics, and natural disasters.

Donate QR 6266 to provide a safe shelter for a low-income family





Mohamed Al Ghamdi,
CEO's assistant for the Governance and Institutional Development Sector, Qatar Charity



Owais Khan,
Deputy CEO, Human Appeal UK

Challenges Facing Arab and Muslim Humanitarian Organizations, and Ways to Overcome Them

Even though conflicts, disasters and crises in the world have greatly increased during the past few years, humanitarian organizations have limited resources to meet the needs of the affected. These humanitarian organizations in general, and Arab and Islamic humanitarian organizations in particular, face complexities and difficulties, which are related to the lack of funding for projects, money transfers, and the delivery of aid to those who deserve it. This draws attention to the responsibility of these organizations with regard to their commitment to international humanitarian standards and their application of the concepts of governance, transparency, compliance, due diligence, and others.

To discuss the issue and the appropriate ways to

address the obstacles that impede the development of charitable work, 'Ghiras' organized a symposium entitled 'Challenges Facing Arab and Muslim Humanitarian Organizations, and Ways to Overcome Them'. The speakers of the symposium were:

Mr. Mohamed Al Ghamdi, CEO's assistant for the Governance and Institutional Development Sector at Qatar Charity

Mr. Owais Khan, Deputy CEO, Human Appeal UK

Major Challenges

Mr. Mohamed Al Ghamdi, CEO's assistant for the Governance and Institutional Development Sector at Qatar Charity said, in the Arab and Muslim worlds, humanitarian work faces many challenges such



Mohamed Al Ghamdi:
Qatar Charity is one of the first Arab and Islamic organizations to establish a governance sector and provide it with material and human resources.



as many disputes, conflicts, wars, and natural disasters, which have caused the need to grow very large, offset by the insufficient number of the organizations that keep pace with this need. He added that there are also complexities and difficulties facing humanitarian work, not only in this region, but also globally, regarding financial access or money transfers through international intermediaries, which have become more difficult and complex over the few past years. He noted that this multiplied the responsibilities of the organizations to make a great effort in terms of administrative work and compliance to deliver assistance. He mentioned that any organization may not be able to carry out its work due to the lack of financial or human capabilities, and thus the volume of their interventions will be reduced.

Mr. Owais Khan, Deputy CEO, Human Appeal UK, for his part, said, "The main challenges facing charitable and humanitarian organizations in the West, including Muslim charities, are directly related to recent global events. COVID had an immense impact on all charities and NGOs. The health-related restrictions that were put in place not only curtailed normal office operations but also greatly limited the ability of all charities to host fundraising events, collect donations from local communities as well as hampered the movement of humanitarian workers in field offices. This was followed by the current inflation and cost-of-living crisis that is impacting all charities and humanitarian organizations in the West due to negative fluctuations in the usual levels of donations made by both individual and institutional donors."

Face Challenges

Regarding the efforts that organizations must make to address these challenges, Mr. Muhammad Al-Ghamdi explained that humanitarian work is a large system rooted in history, as it has been known since ancient times, and Islam came to strengthen its rules and foundations. He further said that there are international efforts that have laid the foundations and frameworks for charitable and humanitarian work, which must be consistent with global humanitarian concepts. He noted that the organizations should see advanced experiences in

this regard to improve their knowledge and build their capabilities in terms of systems, procedures, policies, and the use of technological solutions that facilitate work and reduce costs and risks facing charitable work.

He adds, "We, at Qatar Charity, have significantly utilized technology and smart solutions for the governance of charitable work and set up clear and solid rules for its management and for follow-up of all its activities. We invested in human capabilities and strengthening leadership. We recruited competencies to occupy leadership positions."

Mr. Owais Khan, Deputy CEO, Human Appeal UK, for his part, said, "Most donors are feeling the pinch and will cut back in some form. The way forward for both Muslim and non-Muslim charities in the West is to enhance their focus on donor loyalty and engagement. All charities need to better understand the topics that are most relevant to their donor base. At the same time, engagement and communications with the segment of donors who are maintaining their level of support needs to be emphasized. There is a still a large appetite amongst donors in the West for both online and offline charity events and activations, but more innovation is needed on the part of charities to sustain this throughout the inflation crisis, which appears to be long term."

International Humanitarian Standards

Elaborating on the organizations' commitment to international humanitarian standards, Al Ghamdi emphasizes that Qatar Charity is one of the first Arab and Islamic organizations to establish a governance sector and provide it with material and human resources. He indicated that there are global concepts that we must strive for, because they have become solid rules of humanitarian action, and these rules need tools within the organizations, such as policies, procedures, standards, and qualified personnel to be able to bring about change and a quantum leap.

Regarding the reflection of the commitment of the Arab and GCC organizations to these standards, Al-Ghamdi says, «After four years of implementing governance standards at Qatar Charity, we have noticed a significant change in the issues of compliance, risks, due diligence and transparency. Thus, our opportunity for global presence, international financing, expansion, and deployment became much greater than it was previously, and this was greatly reflected in the services we provide. We began to receive funding from various donors, and the number of bodies funding Qatar Charity increased more than it was previously. Donors, international organizations, and UN agencies began to feel a sense of safety and security."

Unfair Charges

In response to a question about the charges of terrorism, which are still slapped on Muslim

charitable organizations, Al Ghamdi says, these are only media tools that are used to harm the good reputation of the organizations and distort charitable work, and these charges of terrorism are slapped on many organizations without any legal basis. “I advise any institution to draw on expertise, competencies, and governance tools to confront such malicious media campaigns,” added Al Ghamdi.

Field Work

Al Ghamdi believes that there are three issues related to field work, which pose a challenge for humanitarian field workers and humanitarian organizations. He added that these issues include the increase in the scale of the need that organizations are unable to meet, the scarcity of resources allocated for this need, whether by donors, international organizations, or individuals, and prolonged and protracted crises that have become a burden on organizations in providing relief work.

For his part, Khan believes that the challenges facing humanitarian work in the field can be broken down into the following three key areas:

Access: Being able to access deserving beneficiaries being negatively impacted by security challenges (e.g., conflict and drought combined in Somalia). Disruption of proper transport temporarily or long term (e.g., massive flooding in Pakistan).

Financial: The international banking system often bouncing humanitarian payments needed for conflict zones due to bank policy of de-risking or the intermediary banks policy. The unpredictable currency exchange rate fluctuations which make it difficult to plan financial needs well in advance. Inflation with a rapid increase of prices over short time periods, creates a negative impact on the overall amount of humanitarian goods and services that can be provided to beneficiaries.

Human Resources: Finding skilled and trustworthy professionals to operate in crisis zone environments with a solid understanding of the local areas.

Self-Reliance

Regarding the possibility of overcoming the problem of aid access and the challenges facing field workers in many crisis-hit regions, Al-Ghamdi notes the importance of investing more in advocacy and endorsement of just humanitarian causes, through which change can be made in a sustainable manner, and therefore, a shift from relief work to sustainable work must begin to support the self-reliance of people.

Khan emphasized that it is also important to give a certain degree of empowerment of field offices within a framework of solid processes and policies to address operational developments. Speed in decision making is also vital. Swift communication



Mr. Owais Khan:

The way forward for both Muslim and non-Muslim charities in the West is to enhance their focus on donor loyalty and engagement.



with the HQ management to discuss and agree any necessary changes in the approach due to any challenges or changes. Another way to overcome challenges in field deployment is to identify and use of quality partners to complement the Field offices implementation when geographical reach needs to be expanded or enhanced.

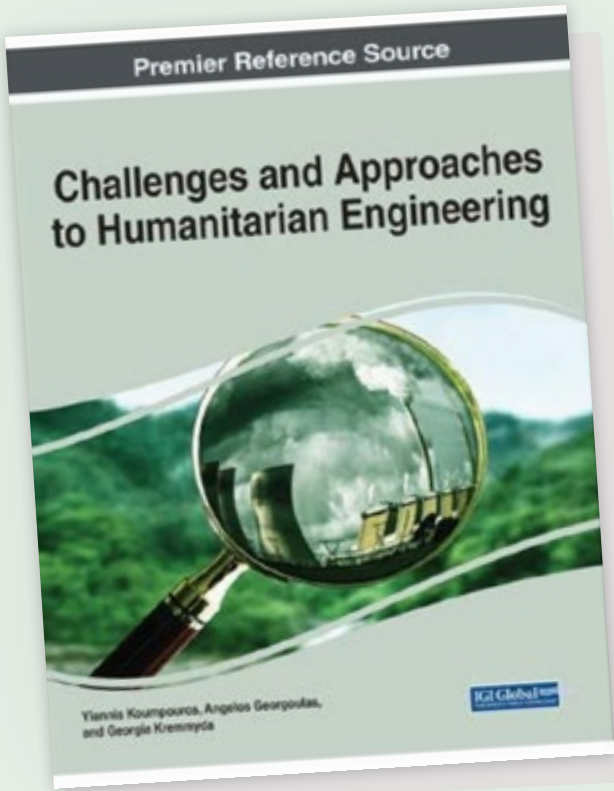
Development & Partnership

Regarding the financial obstacles facing Arab humanitarian organizations, Al Ghamdi says, as the organizations see the growing need and the difficulty of money transfers, there is a great necessity and need to enhance partnership and cooperation to find a solution to many crises and provide better services to those in need across the globe.

With regard to the appropriate ways to address the obstacles to charitable work, Owais Khan says, it is important to keep an open-minded approach to avoid getting stuck on a position that may result in no progress for long periods of time. We can list some key approaches that can support the advancement of charitable work as follows:

- The need to focus on instilling in all charity staff a can- do attitude and amindset that approaches work beyond silo thinking and cooperates cross-functionally for the greater mission.
- The need to maintain a sense of urgency of our interventions with issues related to staff and stakeholders.
- Complementing the building of coalitions and partnerships to address our own limitations or to strengthen own positions.
- Compliance with local and international regulations even if these are sometimes heavy and resource intensive
- Question the status quo for the sake of the beneficiaries
- Ensure local authorities understand your principles of humanitarian action, respect them, and allow you to work within that framework
- Actions based on principles, ethics and values

“The more we invest in development, the better, more effective, and more impactful our services and interventions will be for the beneficiaries,” Al Ghamdi believes.



Book Name: Challenges and Approaches to Humanitarian Engineering

Authors: Yiannis Koumpouros, Angelos Georgoulas, and Georgia Kremmyda

Publisher: IGI Global

Language: English

Release Date: March, 2022

Pages: 321

The 21st century is associated with several environmental, social, and economic challenges spanning from globalization and migration to climate change, global health, urbanization, and natural hazards. These challenges of the modern age command our immediate reaction towards an equal society. There is an urgent need for scientists, researchers, and politicians to take the reins by providing immediate solutions to tackle this harsh reality.

The need for a more human approach has recently led to what we call humanitarian engineering. Humanitarian engineering is to provide individuals and communities facing global challenges with solutions, tools and processes that improve lives and livelihoods. The provision

of water, energy, food, shelter and information are some of the issues targeted by this “discipline”. Humanitarian Engineers could be the key towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

This book titled ‘Modern Challenges and Approaches to Humanitarian Engineering’ aims to provide relevant frameworks and the latest research findings in the theme of humanitarian engineering. It is written from researchers and professionals who want to improve the strategic role of humanitarian engineering at different levels of the modern world and the various challenges facing our society.

The book investigates the most recent challenges and approaches in the field of humanitarian engineering. A wide variety of topics that fall under the domain are technology-based solutions that tackle humanitarian problems. Pandemics, ageing of population, climate change, social inclusion, education for all, are some indicative topics that could be addressed by technology.

The book’s approach is highly interdisciplinary covering a wide range of topics, like: sustainable development, climate emergency,globalhealth,water,sanitationan denvironmentalmanagement,natural disasters and risk reduction management, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, information and communication technologies in health, as well as some more general but also critical aspects of humanitarian challenges e.g. education, health status and socio-economic issues.

The interdisciplinarity of the authors combined with the chapters that analyze and focus on real events and conditions in the most vulnerable countries (e.g. Indonesia, Bangladesh, Vietnam, etc.) makes it a valuable tool and essential resource for engineers, government officials, scientists, activists, humanitarians, emergency management agencies, students and educators of higher education, researchers, and academicians

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For limited view:



Qatar

'Biggest Winner' kicks off

Qatar Charity (QC) launched 'Biggest Winner', an awareness, health, and entertainment program for primary school students, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Naseem Healthcare, Qatar Women's Sports Committee, and the Sport. Kha team. The program targets 100 male and female overweight students from eight primary schools. The program, which are held under the supervision of specialized trainers, includes health, sport, entertainment, and awareness activities. It seeks to promote a healthy and balanced lifestyle and healthy eating habits among the participants.



The 2021 annual impact report

Qatar Charity (QC), in cooperation with the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies, launched its 2021 annual impact report shows the achievements made by Qatar Charity during 2021. In 2021, Qatar Charity managed to implement projects that contributed to making a positive change in the lives of 10 million people in 49 countries around the world thanks to generous donations from the people in Qatar. Qatar Charity allocated \$363 million for the implementation of humanitarian and development projects that made it occupy an advanced position among international organizations. Qatar Charity has also responded to humanitarian crises in more than 30 countries to help victims of floods, earthquakes, displacement, and armed conflicts at an estimated cost of \$59 million.



Kosovo

Laying foundation stone for two major health projects in Kosovo

Qatar Charity (QC) laid the foundation stone for two major health projects that include a health center in the Gjilan municipality and an emergency center in the Podujeve municipality in Kosovo. The foundation stone laying ceremony for the QAR 10-million projects was attended by high-level government officials, the Qatari ambassador, and the officials of Qatar Charity.



Pakistan

Relief aid to 300,000 flood-hit people

Funded by Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), Qatar Charity (QC) has distributed relief aid to 300,000 flood-affected persons in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan provinces. The aid was delivered to the beneficiaries, including Afghan Refugees, in 18 badly flood hit districts of Pakistan. Some 40,000 food packages, 6,690 tents, and 5,000 family size hygiene kits were delivered by Qatar Charity's field teams to the most affected people in Pakistan where many homes were destroyed by the ravaging flood that hit many provinces of the country.



Bangladesh

Conducting device closure procedure for 92 children



Qatar Charity (QC) has concluded a week-long free medical camp that succeeded in conducting device closure procedure for 92 children with congenital heart diseases. The medical camp treated the children, whose families were completely incapable of affording the expenses of the treatment and the procedure. Qatar Charity's medical team conducted this medical intervention, in cooperation with the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) located in the capital Dhaka.

Northern Syria

Haq Alsham School

Qatar Charity inaugurated the 'Haq Alsham School' in Elbab, northern Syria, with generous support from the people in Qatar. It came as part of the 'Sham Deserves' drive launched by Qatar Charity at the beginning of 2020. This is a secondary school for boys, and consists of 18 classrooms, offices, and laborites for the benefit of nearly 1,260 students from the IDPs and host communities living in the area. Some 60 teaching and administrative staff are expected to work at the school.



Yemen

Running health center

Qatar Charity (QC) has resumed the operation of a significant health center in Ibb, a governorate of Yemen, after its eight-year interruption caused by the exceptional conditions of the country. Furniture, equipment, medical supplies, and necessary medicines were provided for the recommencement of the health center's operation, in addition to paying the monthly salaries of the center's staff. The health center is the lifeline for many districts,

Somalia

Somalia's PM praises Qatar Charity's efforts

HE Prime Minister of Somalia Hamza Abdi Barre praised the continuous Qatari support for the Somali people during their plight, noting the strength of relations between the two countries. He also applauded Qatar Charity's constant humanitarian efforts and relief and developmental assistance for the Somali people, saying that Somali people will never forget this favour. This came during a visit by a delegation from Qatar Charity to Somalia. During the visit, the delegation has laid the foundation stone for an emergency department at Di Martino Public Hospital in the Somali capital, Mogadishu.



due to its strategic location linking the two governorates of Yemen, Hodeidah and Ibb. It provides health services to tens of thousands of Yemenis in the countryside.



Gambia

Urgent Relief

Qatar Charity, through its office in Banjul, the capital of Gambia, provided food aid to those affected by the floods and torrential rains that hit the country October 2022. The aid included 1,895 food packages for the benefit of 18,000 people in the Upper River and Middle River regions. It was distributed in coordination with Gambia's National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA)



Sudan

Inaugurating a water station

Qatar Charity has completed the drilling of a well and the construction of a new water station in Tegmala, South Kordofan State, Sudan, which contributed to solving the problem of water and stability in the region. It is expected to benefit

more than 26,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), as well as more than 700 refugee families from South Sudan.



Nigeria

Al Noor Center Inauguration

Qatar Charity (QC) has inaugurated the Al Noor Islamic Center, which is one of the most important Islamic centers in Okene, Nigeria. The center includes a mosque, a school, a library, a water well, and other facilities. Some 2,300 people are expected to benefit from the center, thanks to the expansion works.



Bosnia and Herzegovina

New students at university housing

At the beginning of the current academic year, Qatar Charity (QC) received a new batch of orphaned students and students from low-income families from remote areas at its well-furnished and quipped female student housing, which was built by Qatar Charity in 2022, and is located near the most important universities in the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo. Some 100 female students have been accepted this year to support them to continue their education in a comfortable environment.

